THE ESSEX Bird Report 2017

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THE ESSEX Bird Report 2017

Editor: Simon Wood

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List of Officers and Committees

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(Founded 1949)

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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.

IDENTIFICATION PANEL

D. Acfield, C. Atkins, G. Ekins, S, Grimwade, R. Neave, S. Nixon, P. Wood.

CONSERVATION SUB-COMMITTEE

C/O. Essex Records partnership in association with the Essex Field Club.

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

Acknowledgements and Editorial

by Simon Wood

This is the second Essex Bird Report to be published within the space of six months. It has taken a fantastic effort from all the sub-section writers and sub-editors, as well as countless others who have helped in the background. With 2017 now complete, we aim to publish the annual bird Reports for a particular year by no later than the end of the next.

The Annual Summary has once again taken a holiday; if I cannot find someone who is prepared to write it, it may well head off into the sunset and retire. Thus, a summary of the weather is again included which will give some background to the year's ornithological events.

Once again our Recorder, Mick Tracey, has provided me with much support and done a magnificent job collating, consolidating and sorting all the data. Alf Mullins has, after a lot of continuing toil and frustration, automated the production of Wetland Bird Survey tables and Gazetteer, which means that sub-editors (should) get these rapidly in future. 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 Entwistle summarised the Mersea Island data and Andy Field the data for Friday Wood Colchester, whilst Paul Griggs kindly provided records from SOGnet and Kas Aldous the data from the Holland Haven website. Thanks also to David Darrell-Lambert and Pete Lambert for fielding questions in respect of London records and for the latter in arranging for me to see a draft of the 2017 London Bird Report prior to publication.

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

Members of the Editorial and Identification Panels have provided me with invaluable support throughout. Particular thanks go to David Jobbins for managing our file-sharing facility, which still has a life of its own!

Dr Simon Cox has again produced an informative report on the birds ringed or colour-ringed in Essex during 2017 and some of the more noteworthy recoveries or sightings. David Blurton has produced a short paper on the first breeding in Essex during 2016 of Red Kite for over 150 years and also included is a short paper on the breeding birds of Audley End, a good example of what can be produced by small local avifauna studies. The main paper is a report on sea-watching off the north-east coast by Paul Brayshaw, particularly in the Frinton-on-Sea and Holland Haven area, all based on a decade's observations.

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 now meets twice a year and has become more pro-active on identification matters in this new era of rather fluid avian taxonomy. Just when you think you knew everything to know about bird identification, someone comes along and moves the goal-posts!

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 on all things Essex birding.

Front cover photograph: Kingfisher, Heybridge Basin, January (SIMON WOOD)

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	Water Rail to Crane
Paul Brayshaw	Stone-curlew to Turnstone
Alf Mullins	Knot to Greenshank
Simon 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
Max Hellicar	Ring-necked Parakeet to Raven
Ian Woodward	Waxwing to Bearded Tit
John Sutherby	Woodlark to Swallow
Neil Murphy	Cetti's Warbler to Dartford Warbler
Mark Bridges	Firecrest to Starling
David Hutley	Ring Ouzel to Mistle Thrush
Kate Williams	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 Reed Bunting
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.

The Identification Panel

David Acfield
Russell Neave (retired March 2019)
Sean Nixon
Bob Pease
Mick Tracey
Paul Wood
Simon Wood

Artists

Richard Allen
George Brown

Photographers

David Acfield
David Blurton
Paul Chamberlain
Simon Cox
Jeff Delve
Steve Grimwade
Glen Moore
Sean Nixon
Simon Patient
Simon Wood

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

UK Weather 2017

The year began with a northerly incursion introducing mostly dry, settled and fairly cold conditions with some overnight frost. The weather turned mild and unsettled from 6th January, but there was a cold snap between the 11th and 14th with snow for most places, although lying snow tended to be short-lived on low ground. There was a prolonged settled spell with high pressure in charge during the second half of the month, which brought mild temperatures to the north and west of Scotland, but cold frosty weather to the south-east. It turned mild, cloudy and changeable towards the end of the month.

At the start of February, a south-westerly flow brought mild and unsettled weather with wet and windy weather frequently sweeping north-eastwards across the UK. Conditions became colder and quieter from the 4th onwards, with frequent easterly winds and snow for some in the second week, although the snow did not generally lie for long at low levels. From the 13th onwards it was generally mild, and after a fairly quiet spell, it turned wet and windy from the 21st onwards. Storm Doris brought damaging winds to parts of England and Wales on the 23rd, and significant snow to parts of Scotland.

March began changeable with westerly and south-westerly winds, and mild for most but with some wintry showers in Scotland, mainly over higher ground. The first half continued mild and changeable but with some quieter interludes, particularly in the second week and in the south-east. The UK escaped the storm that brought damaging winds to northern France on the 6th.The weather briefly turned colder between the 20th and the 22nd, with some snow in the north, but several dry sunny days followed under high pressure. It turned wetter during the last four days.

The first day of April saw a weakening area of low pressure bring a showery day, but pressure quickly built from the south. It was often warm until the 9th, especially on the weekend of the 8th/9th, with plenty of sunshine for much of the country although it was often cloudier in Northern Ireland and north-west Scotland. From the 10th onwards temperatures were mostly close to average, with some cool nights, but the dry, anticyclonic theme continued. There was a late cold snap between the 24th and 27th when a northerly outbreak brought scattered wintry showers and some overnight frosts. The 30th was very wet in parts of the south-west.

At the start of May, a slackening low pressure system brought rain and showers to the south but it was mostly dry and sunny in the north. During the first 11 days, the weather was anticyclonic with mainly easterly winds, which brought plenty of warm dry sunny weather especially to Northern Ireland and western Scotland, but it was often cooler and cloudier in the south-east and in counties bordering the North Sea. It turned unsettled around mid-month with bands of rain interspersed with brighter showery weather. There was a notable hot sunny interlude for much of the UK between the 24th and 26th, with temperatures widely in the mid to high 20s Celsius, followed by widespread thunderstorms on the 27th-28th.

The first part of June was largely unsettled, bringing significant amounts of rainfall to most areas. England and Wales became more settled after the 10th, with a build in pressure, though rain-bearing fronts continued to steer round the northern edge of the high pressure with western Scotland remaining wet at times. Very warm air was drawn up from the south from the 16th onwards, and every day from 17th to 21st somewhere in the UK exceeded 30 °C. The highest value recorded during this spell was 34.5 °C, at Heathrow Airport on the 21st, and this was the UK's highest temperature reading in June since 1976. Fresher air moved in over the whole UK within the following two days, and low pressure became established for the last four days of the month bringing plenty of rain in many areas.

A generally westerly flow brought cloud and rain at times at the start of July but weak ridges of high pressure brought warmer and drier conditions at times for the south-east. It was a generally unsettled month, with only brief fine spells. The first half of the month was warm in the south-east but cool in the north-west, and it was mostly warm and sunny on the 17th and 18th, followed by

a thundery breakdown. From the 21st it was wet and often quite cool, with some heavy persistent rain at times especially in the south, while in Scotland and Northern Ireland the weather was mostly bright and showery.

The start of August saw a continuation of the generally westerly flow which had been in place through the second half of July. This brought cloud and rain at times, with only brief intervals of fine weather, and it was mostly cool. It was rather warmer for a time around the 17th to 23rd, and the highest temperatures of the month occurred in south-eastern areas during 27th to 29th which also saw some fine weather. The close of the month saw a return to cooler showery conditions.

September began with a weak ridge of high pressure which brought dry sunny weather to many parts, although there were some sharp showers in the east. However, the rest of the month was unsettled, with an unusually high number of rain days across England in particular. Frequent north-westerly winds brought rain belts interspersed with bright showery weather until the 19th, and it was windy at times, notably on the 12th and 13th with the passage of Storm Aileen. From the 20th onwards it was generally warmer with mostly southerly winds, which brought mainly cloudy weather with rain at times and some morning fog patches.

A changeable westerly regime persisted through the first week of October with a succession of frontal systems moving across the British Isles and brighter showery weather in between. Most of the rest of the month was dominated by a warm moist south-westerly type, and there were some unusually high temperatures at times, notably on the 16th associated with ex-tropical hurricane Ophelia. It was often cloudy, but rainfall amounts in southern and eastern areas tended to be small. There was some colder brighter weather towards the end of the month, and a northerly outbreak on the 29th was followed by a widespread ground frost.

November started with a ridge of high pressure in the south, which brought relatively quiet weather, but most of the month had a mobile westerly type interspersed with short-lived northerlies. It was briefly mild for most on the 20th-22nd, when it turned very wet in parts of Wales and north-west England. The last week was generally cold, with widespread overnight frosts, though no outstandingly low temperatures. Snow showers were mostly restricted to high ground, but penetrated widely to low ground in eastern areas on the 30th.

December began cold and frosty in a northerly outbreak, but the rest of the first week was mostly mild and cloudy. There were strong winds associated with Storm Caroline on the 7th, and this was followed by a cold wintry spell from the 8th to 16th, which brought widespread frosts, and snow for some, especially the Midlands. It was generally mild from the 17th to 25th, but after Christmas there was further snow for some, this mainly affecting the north. The last third of the month was increasingly unsettled and Storm Dylan brought further strong winds on the 30th/31st.

With thanks to the Met Office

Systematic List 2017

Introduction

In all, a total of 254 species was recorded in 2017 approximately 65% of the Essex List, which remains at 392 (264 and 67% in 2016).

The only abbreviations used in the Systematic List (except for the much-used St for Saint in place names) 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 153–156. 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 176). This will be the last year that the British Vernacular names are used, as from 2018 we will follow the BOURC list completely. We hope that the membership appreciate the reason for the change, and please note that for those species for which the new International Name is very different from the familiar vernacular, the latter has also been given.

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 unknown 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)
REX denotes the Essex Red Data species
BBRC (5, 0 5) – the species requires a description that should be forwarded to the British Birds Rarities Committee (see page 176).
EBSIP (3, 2, 5) – the species requires a description that should be forwarded to the Essex Identification Panel (see page 176).

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 relate 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 2017.

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. **INT 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 including sites 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 REX

Dark-bellied Brent *Branta bernicla bernicla*

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were only two inland records. The first of these came via Birdtrack and was simply an indication that the species was 'present' at Abberton Reservoir on 28th January, with no numbers or other information given. While this is a valid way of entering information on Birdtrack, if Birdtrack users want their records to be included in the *Essex Bird Report*, it would be helpful for more detail, in particular numbers, to be given. The other record was of one at Walthamstow Wetlands on 29th October.

Inner Thames: In the first winter there were single birds at Rainham Marshes on several dates from 1st January to 28th February and groups of 12 on 30th January and four on 15th February. The only other first winter records were at Thurrock Thameside Mucking, one on 1st January and two on 5th February. In the second winter there were 45 at the latter site on 24th October, 11 at Tilbury on 8th November and, at Rainham Marshes, 1-2 on five dates between 24th September and 10th December with 12 on 17th November.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 910 INT 2,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**33320**	**24308**	**24535**	**3107**	**6**	**1017**	**15161**	**26073**	**15708**
Stour Estuary	626	**1579**	**1849**	**1933**	2	1	**1179**	**2788**	**2041**
Hamford Water	**5696**	**4133**	**2702**	0	nc	544	548	**5219**	**3985**
Colne Estuary	**491**	545	**1060**	59	0	0	80	**999**	**1331**
Blackwater Estuary	**11825**	**7349**	**7366**	826	2	1	**1791**	**6067**	**3614**
Dengie	**2050**	**1563**	675	4	2	0	411	**1648**	510
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	**3837**	**5758**	837	0	0	1	15	**1217**	890
Foulness/Thames	**8795**	**2929**	**10042**	285	0	470	**11137**	**8128**	**3315**

The figures for the autumn/second winter show a fall from recent years. It was an exceptionally poor breeding season. Hopes had been high for the opposite in what looked, at least initially, to be a bumper lemming (Lemmus sp.) year, but a late snow-melt, coupled with the lemming population (at least in some areas) not booming as expected, appears to have led to disastrous breeding, with zero success reported in at least one part of the breeding grounds (per DLo). 2015 had also been a very poor breeding season and breeding failure in two out of three years no doubt impacted on numbers.

The only non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 3,000+ not otherwise mentioned below were 3,000 at Foulness Island on 5th January and the same number at Wallasea Island on 3rd March.

No sample counts of juveniles were received in the first winter. In the autumn and second winter those received reflected the breeding slump mentioned above: Bradwell Bird Observatory in November, one out of 400 on 15th and four out of 500 on 19th; Blue House Farm, three out of 500 on 15th December; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, four out of 224 on 6th November; South Woodham Ferrers, one out of 171 at Clementsgreen Creek and seven (one brood of four and three singles) at Marsh Farm, both on Christmas Day. One count which bucked this trend involved 27 juveniles out of 501 at Shoeburyness on 30th October but, prior to that, the same observer had counted almost 10,000 Brent in the Thames/ Foulness area by 3rd October without seeing a single juvenile and by mid-October in the same area he had only seen 11 juveniles out of 11,883 birds.

The pattern of spring departure was similar to recent years. The species remained widespread in small numbers for the first three weeks of May, slowing to a trickle by the last ten days of the month, when there were records from 12 sites, all of 1-25 apart from 78 at Wrabness on 24th and 48 at Mistley the same day, while numbers on northward passage at Frinton-on-Sea in that period peaked at 269 on 23rd, dropping to eight on 31st. In June the last sighting at Frinton-on-Sea was 12 on 3rd, other records coming from: Canvey Point, four on 4th; Heybridge Basin, three on 1st; Colne Point, a

bird with a damaged wing on 10th; Mistley, two on 6th. There were five July records, all of 1-2 apart from five at Canvey Point on 31st.

The last-mentioned birds at Canvey Point perhaps accounted for reports in August from the same site of 1-3 on four dates between 2nd and 26th, while one at Old Hall Marshes on 12th could also have been a summering bird (there had been one there also in July). The only other records, perhaps involving the first returnees, were of five at Frinton-on-Sea on 26th and two at Tollesbury Wick on 28th. There was then a lull for the first three weeks of September when, apart from four passing Frinton-on-Sea on 9th and one at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 10th, there was none until a steady daily trickle past Frinton-on-Sea began with six on 18th, building to 363 on 23rd and an impressive (for September) count of 3,596 in 6.5 hours the next day. Meanwhile the species was becoming widespread in small numbers elsewhere. In October the usual mid-month gathering at Leigh-on-Sea/Two Tree Island built to a peak of 5,600 on 11th but at Frinton-on-Sea passage was quite modest, peaking at 2,108 on 19th and 1,928 on 30th, these relatively low numbers foreshadowing the poor late-autumn Wetland Bird Survey counts mentioned above.

Pale-bellied Brent *Branta bernicla hrota*

Uncommon winter visitor.

After just two reports in late 2016, it was perhaps surprising that this subspecies was reported from 12 sites in the first half of 2017, although conceivably just 4-5 birds could have accounted for all the records. All reports were of single birds apart from records of two at Brightlingsea on 14th January (one or the other of which was then seen intermittently to 18th February), at Potton Island Great Wakering on 12th February (with one still on 12th March) and Fingringhoe Wick on the unusually late date (for this race) of 6th May. Records of single birds came in January from Foulness Island (15th), Bradwell Bird Observatory (4th), South House Farm Maldon (26th), Tollesbury (29th), West Mersea (15th to 28th), and Holland Haven (5th-6th, also 10th February). Later singles were at East Mersea on 7th March, The Naze on 13th March and Old Hall Marshes on 2nd April.

In the second winter reports came from five sites, as follows: Frinton-on-Sea, one flew south on 24th December; Brightlingsea, one on 17th November, one on 2nd and two on 24th December; Tollesbury Wick, one on 3rd, 14th and 18th December; Potton Island Great Wakering, one on 17th December; Southend Seafront, one on 19th November.

Black Brant *Branta bernicla nigricans*

EBSIP (32, 28, 60)

First winter period:

The Naze	One – presumed one of below	4th and 17th February	SCo BCo
Holland Haven	Two adults and a juvenile	All three seen on 29th and 31st with singles on 6th, 27th and 28th January and 3rd and 10th February	mo
Frinton-on-Sea	One of the Holland Haven birds	31st January and 2nd February	PBr
West Mersea	One adult	15th January-9th March	mo
East Mersea	One	1st February	SEn
Goldhanger	One	19th January	DLo
Steeple	One	1st March	DLo
Maldon area	One	24th and 26th January and 13th March	GBB, SDW
Mundon	One	22nd March	DLo
Wallasea Island	One	28th January-14th February	TBo JDe
Foulness Island	One	15th January	CLe
Potton Island	One	12th February and 12th March	
North Fambridge/Blue House Farm	One	8th, 17th and 20th February	DLo

The Foulness/Wallasea/Potton Island bird was probably one of those seen on the South Dengie in December 2016. The records from Steeple, Goldhanger and Maldon probably refer to one bird.
Second winter period:

The Naze	One	8th and 25th November	GMo, BCo
West Mersea	Adult	5th November to the end of the year	mo
Tollesbury Wick	One	5th November, 3rd, 14th and 18th and 26th December	mo
Bradwell-on-Sea	One	19th November	DLo
Deal Hall Dengie	Two	22nd November-13th December	DLo
Leigh-on-Sea	One	27th September-19th October	DLo

A very small number of unsubstantiated records from other locations were also received, which probably refer to individuals in the tables above.

The West Mersea bird returned for its fourth winter in the autumn of 2017 and was probably the bird sometimes seen at Tollesbury and possibly Bradwell. Whether the Leigh-on-Sea bird stays in the County once the big Brent flocks dispersed from the Thames is unknown.

This sub-species is no longer a very rare bird in the County. Calculating the numbers recorded annual is now difficult given the number of returning birds but it now seems that a typical winter will see at least five individuals present. It is assumed two "new" birds occurred in 2017, the one at Wallasea/Foulness/Potton and the one around Maldon.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE *Branta ruficollis* BBRC (7, 5, 12)

Vagrant, but status blurred by escapes from captivity.

2016 Addendum:

The Naze	One	8th and 25th November	GMo, BCo

Like the Lesser White-fronted Goose later in the year, this bird remained elusive for much of its stay.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis canadensis*

Common, naturalised, resident.

Breeding records were received from 43 sites (51 in 2016). At Walthamstow Wetlands, 87 young were reared from 27 broods (a big decline from 2015, when there were 165 from 48). On Foulness Island 45 pairs reared 56 young and at Rainham Marshes 54 pairs produced 23 broods. Five broods were seen at both Hamford Water and Roding Valley Meadows Chigwell and there were three broods at Connaught Water Epping Forest. All other records were of 1-2 broods and there was again no 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	**2635**	**2106**	**1950**	**1433**	**2990**	**4450**	**4791**	**3749**	**2554**
Stour Estuary	387	273	350	290	429	406	29	430	170
Hamford Water	4	4	46	0	nc	82	110	11	6
Colne Estuary	0	29	35	21	0	0	42	14	0
Blackwater Estuary	209	168	209	118	0	5	781	85	32
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	474	153	137	54	24	1008	816	984	489
Foulness/Thames	304	194	206	235	405	502	329	512	482
Abberton Reservoir	247	12	40	46	967	810	576	144	70
Hanningfield Reservoir	123	314	90	93	350	528	808	373	127
Lee Valley	251	345	355	243	277	402	423	386	565

Single-site counts of 350+ (excluding those made during the Wetland Bird Survey counts tabulated above) were as follows (site maximum in each case): Broomhouse Flash Langham, 510 on 2nd January; Cattawade Marshes, 586 on 31st August; Manningtree, 360 on 16th January; Judas Gap Flatford, 400 on 25th November; Abberton Reservoir, 1,601 on 18th July; Old Hall Marshes, 410 on 24th October; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 430 on 23rd August; Blue House Farm, a non-Wetland Bird Survey peak of 600 on 17th November; South Fambridge, an estimate of 1,000+ on the River Crouch on 6th November; Rainham Marshes, 413 on 16th November; Wanstead Flats, 410 on 19th August; Walthamstow Wetlands, the moulting flock peaked at 619 on 9th July. In addition, counts of 250+ were received from West Canvey Marsh, Bowers Marsh, South Park and Valentine's Park (both Ilford) and Hayes Hill Farm Holyfield. It will be seen that a few of the sites listed above are close to each other and the flocks may well have moved between them.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* UK

Scarce winter visitor but fast increasing naturalised population.

Reports of breeding were only received from Horsey Island Hamford Water. Reports of 1-3 at five sites in the summer months (May-August) all presumably related to escapes or feral birds, as indeed may the great majority of records of this species in the County at all times of year.

In the first winter, and according to the Horsey Island residents the Hamford Water feral flock began to return from mid-late February and peaked at 190 on 12th March; birds are often seen flying south past Languard at this time, so it is assumed these originate from North Warren Suffolk. Also in the first winter, there were up to 20 at Abberton Reservoir in late January/early February. On Wallasea Island there were 35 on 26th February and 37 the next day. Reports of 1-9 came from a further eight sites.

In the second winter there were no double-figure counts. In the Crouch/Roach area 1-2 were seen at several sites while, in the north of the County, one mobile group of four probably accounted for records from St Osyth, Cudmore Grove East Mersea, Old Hall Marshes and Tollesbury Wick.

BARNACLE/CANADA GOOSE *Branta leucopsis/canadensis*

The hybrid flock at Blue House Farm peaked at 83 on 16th January, after which numbers remained fairly constant throughout the year, with maxima of 45 on 22nd May, 54 on 11th August and 55 on 6th December.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser anser* UK

Common, naturalised, resident.

Breeding was reported from 30 sites (40 in 2016, 25 in 2015). At Walthamstow Wetlands there were 21 broods for the second year running, this year totalling 71 young (74 young in 2015). At Rainham Marshes 19 pairs produced 11 broods (eight pairs producing seven broods in 2015). No more than four broods were found at any other site, there again being no full surveys at Hamford Water or Old Hall Marshes, both of which have held high numbers in the recent past.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 1,400*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**1488**	**1194**	**1429**	**766**	**1016**	**2902**	**2537**	**1504**	**1331**
Stour Estuary	181	43	64	73	161	563	367	319	159
Hamford Water	126	195	318	0	nc	253	381	25	67
Holland Haven	0	31	60	0	112	172	131	17	186
Colne Estuary	226	110	112	23	0	0	152	165	0
Blackwater Estuary	236	266	351	294	0	0	349	496	478
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	124	68	83	34	1	187	197	106	176
Foulness/Thames	47	35	29	47	35	0	27	1	44
Abberton Reservoir	164	72	62	26	372	1026	531	101	62
Hanningfield Reservoir	239	145	93	107	266	535	160	59	0

Single site counts of 350+ (excluding any made during the Wetland Bird Survey counts tabulated above) were as follows (site maximum in each case): Elm Hall Farm Faulkbourne, 315 on 19th November; Old Hall Marshes, 520 on 21st August; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 440 on 23rd August; Danbury Common, 400 on 26th November; Fishers Green Holyfield, 420 on 28th January. In addition, counts of 250+ were received from Cattawade Marshes, St Osyth, Wivenhoe, Elmstead, Bowers Marsh and Rainham Marshes.

BEAN GOOSE *Anser fabalis* — UK EBSIP (518, 166, 684)

Taiga Bean Goose *Anser fabilis fabilis* — EBSIP (33, 4, 37)

Rare winter visitor.

Deal Hall Dengie	Four	2nd November	DWa

The first Taiga Bean Geese since 2003 when 11 were at Old Hall on 7th January.

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

Scarce winter visitor

There were no confirmed records, although two unsubstantiated records were received.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* — UK

Scarce passage migrant winter and visitor.

All records are given.

In the first winter in the north of the County, one was at Holland Haven intermittently from the start of the year to 31st March, with possibly the same bird being seen at Garnham's Island Hamford Water on 12th February. Further south, one was at Bowers Marsh on 2nd January.

The second autumn/winter started strongly, with September records of a flock of 26 flying north at Frinton-on-Sea on 14th and two there on 23rd. Nearby at Holland Haven, five arrived on 7th October, with presumably the same group then being seen there three days later and then intermittently from 2nd November until at least 9th December. The same group could conceivably have accounted for October records of four at Deal Hall Dengie on 3rd and five flying into the Blackwater Estuary at Bradwell Bird Observatory the next day.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* — UK

European White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons albifrons*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

As was to be expected after the influx in late 2016 there was a respectable (but by no means exceptional) showing at coastal sites in the first winter. All records are given.

In the north of the County, the year started with 23 at Broomhouse Flash Langham on 2nd January, with 15 seen there again on 12th February. At Holland Haven small numbers were present intermittently from the start of the year to at least 16th February, peaking at nine on 31st January-4th February. At Howlands Marsh St Osyth there were 12 on 17th January and several sightings of four birds in February/March. Elsewhere in January, up to eight were at Old Hall Marshes on several dates and 31 were at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 4th, while the only inland record from the north of the County at this season was of one at Abberton Reservoir on 1st.

Further south inland, 14 flew over Boreham and one was at Hanningfield Reservoir, both on 19th January, while in the Lee Valley, 1-2 were at Holyfield Marsh or nearby on several dates from 24th January to 11th March with three on 18th-20th February. One was at Walthamstow Wetlands on 1st March.

On the coast in the south, numbers were at their highest in January, when a flock on Foulness peaked at 34 on 15th, with presumably some of these birds accounting for 22 at Wakering Stairs on 9th, ten on Potton Island Great Wakering on 14th and 29 on Wallasea Island on 26th, while there were up to 18 on Bowers Marsh on many dates in the first half of the month, ten still being present

on 29th. Most of these birds had gone by February, though ten were seen both on Foulness Island and on Potton Island on 12th. Five were at Rainham Marshes on several dates in the first half of February.

The second winter was much quieter. Apart from four birds considered to be feral near Upminster on 27th August, the first arrival was one at Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing on 7th October. Still in October, this was followed (surprisingly in the context of the rest of the autumn) by the largest flock of the year, 50+ at Coryton on 25th, with one at Fobbing on 27th and two flying south at Frinton-on-Sea on 30th. However, any suggestion of another arrival then came to an abrupt halt, the only records in the remainder of the year being one at St Osyth on 18th November and three at North Fambridge on 11th December.

Please see Appendix II for an apparent feral pair in south Essex.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser erythropus*

Vagrant. **BBRC (3, 1, 4)**

Wakering Stairs/Foulness Island/ Wallasea Island	One as below	1st January-26th February	CBr, Cle, JD

2016 Addendum

Crouchside Foulness Island	One	18th December-31st December	JBo

This bird, which was seen just four times during its stay (18th December, 9th and 15th January and 26th February), and much to the frustration of Essex listers, is assumed to have spent almost all of its time out of sight of prying eyes on Foulness Island, with the flock of White-fronted Geese mentioned above. It is only the second Essex occurrence, the first (involving three birds) having also been on Foulness Island, on 12th October 1986.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* UK

Common resident and winter visitor.

In total, 81 pairs were counted at 66 sites (76 at 56 in 2016). There were seven pairs at Walthamstow Wetlands (eight in 2016) and three pairs at both Foulness Island (two) and Rainham Marshes (five). No other site held more than 1-2, with just one pair at Old Hall Marshes (where there had been seven as recently as 2015).

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 740 INT 320	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**534**	**477**	**451**	**377**	**545**	**577**	**442**	**467**	**231**
Stour Estuary	242	168	197	145	78	249	133	216	42
Hamford Water	42	47	22	2	nc	13	33	47	37
Colne Estuary	0	13	2	0	0	0	2	19	6
Blackwater Estuary	47	26	8	18	3	13	38	20	5
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	58	69	51	12	52	55	38	36	4
Foulness/Thames	43	45	46	37	18	21	13	10	24
Abberton Reservoir	41	33	48	90	267	76	25	32	19
Hanningfield Reservoir	2	5	2	9	42	60	30	29	17
Lee Valley	28	44	57	43	65	76	105	38	65

Apart from 220 at Abberton Rseervoir on 20th July, the only other sites reporting three-figure non-Wetland Bird Survey counts were Mistley, with a maximum of 180 on 22nd October and Paglesham Lagoon, 132 on 22nd January.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* UK

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the first winter, the bird which had been at Abberton Reservoir from 23rd November 2016 remained until 30th January, numbers there being briefly swollen to ten on 5th January and two the next day, with two also on 10th February. Further south in January, there were seven on Wallasea Island on 7th and one at Hanningfield Reservoir on 21st-22nd, while at Bowers Marsh, one on 1st increased to nine on 2nd, falling to two by 4th and one the next day, which remained to 10th and re-appeared for one day on 21st. In February there was one at Wat Tyler/Vange Marsh intermittently between 5th and 17th.

In the second winter the only records concerned three at Abberton Reservoir on 11th November and, in December, six at Wanstead Flats on 16th (a notable record for the site) and one drifting south on the sea, seen from both Frinton-on-Sea and Holland Haven, on 21st.

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* UK

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the first winter the only records involved the single bird, possibly feral, which had been in Hamford Water for much of 2016. In 2017 it was seen again on the Wetland Bird Survey counts in the first three months of the year but it was not reported subsequently.

In the second winter there were three early birds at Hanningfield Reservoir on 6th October and, at the end of the same month, six at Holland Haven and three at Rainham Marshes, both on 29th. One, of uncertain origin, was seen on and off from 21st November until the end of the year associating with 60 Greylag Geese just to the south of Danbury Common, while six flew over Burnham-on-Crouch on the first date and three flew south at Frinton-on-Sea on 29th. The only December record was one at Walthamstow Wetlands on 1st.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Fairly common, and increasing, resident.

Breeding was confirmed from 15 sites (11 in 2016) with single broods at each site unless stated: Langham, Cattawade Marshes, Abberton Reservoir, Heybridge Gravel Pit, Shoeburyness Park, Thurrock Thameside Mucking (two broods), Stubbers Adventure Centre Corbetts Tey, Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing, Eastbrookend Country Park Dagenham, Barking Park (two broods), South Park Ilford (one pair raised two broods), Valentine's Park Ilford, Walthamstow Marshes, Walthamstow Wetlands (six), Three Mills Bromley.

Reports without confirmation of breeding came from a further 83 sites (68 in 2016). As usual many of these were close to each other: 15 were in the Lee Valley and a further 22 were within the M25. It is likely therefore that the same birds were seen at several different sites but the increase in the number of sites involved was striking.

As in 2015, the most impressive evidence of the continued growth in numbers of this species was the proliferation of larger groups. For the second year running, the County record for the largest flock was broken, this time convincingly, with up to 53 at Wanstead Flats on 30th September (previous largest flock 40 at Abberton Reservoir in 2015). And the number of sites reporting double-figure counts shot up from nine in 2015 to 21 in 2016. Of these, no fewer than 11 sites held 20 birds or more. Apart from Wanstead Flats, these were as follows (site maximum in each case): Abberton Reservoir, again 40, this time on 14th September; Chigborough Lakes, 32 on 10th January; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 24 on 28th October; Hanningfield Reservoir, 22 on 19th August; Brook Farm Upminster, 26 on 25th October; Barking Park, 26 on 11th August and 11th September; Valentine's Park Ilford, 24 on 15th June; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, 32 on 3rd September; Walthamstow Wetlands, 30 on 9th July; Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield, 24 on 3rd December. No doubt there was duplication between several of these sites. Other sites reporting double-figures (here with some clear duplication) were Langham, Cattawade Marshes, Frinton-on-Sea, Holland Haven, Lofts Farm Gravel Pits Heybridge, East Tilbury, Mayesbrook Park Dagenham, Stubbers Adventure Centre Corbets Tey, Hayes Hill Farm Holyfield and Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey.

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna* UK

Locally common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Coastal breeding was confirmed at 20 sites (15 in 2016). A full survey at Old Hall Marshes revealed 55 pairs, which between them fledged 28 young. On Foulness Island there were 33 pairs but only 19 young fledged. Otherwise there were at least five broods at both Mistley/Manningtree and East Tilbury, four pairs on Wallasea Island and three at Alresford, all other sites reporting 1-2 broods.

Inland there were single broods at Walthamstow Wetlands and Broomhouse Flash Langham (the latter very close to the Stour Estuary, so arguably coastal).

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 610 INT 3,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**8300**	**6858**	**4831**	**2099**	**146**	**215**	**2582**	**7043**	**6634**
Stour Estuary	**1800**	**1683**	**692**	**644**	72	64	**718**	**2175**	**1889**
Hamford Water	**1105**	**779**	**914**	0	nc	98	152	850	**954**
Colne Estuary	242	365	229	101	0	0	44	383	223
Blackwater Estuary	**3264**	**2370**	**1822**	**679**	1	36	**1372**	**2686**	**2483**
Dengie	14	3	178	36	13	8	56	15	12
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	**647**	**918**	494	156	26	8	182	437	510
Foulness/Thames	**1228**	707	392	388	30	0	58	486	553

Single-site non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 200+ were as follows (site maximum unless stated): Mistley, 1,198 on 16th January; St Osyth Stone, 290 on 18th January; Alresford Creek, 250 on 1st December; Fingringhoe Wick, 450 on 21st November: Tollesbury Wick, 300 on 25th December; Southey Creek Mundon, 450 on 24th November; Wallasea Island, 520 on 10th February; Hole Haven Creek Canvey Island, 200 on 8th January; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 557 on 22nd October; East Tilbury, 470 on 4th June and 514 on 9th December; Rainham Marshes, 200 on 9th May.

Inland records away from the breeding sites came from a further 28 sites (33 in 2016).

Several of the major reservoirs reported double-figure counts again, with maxima of 40 at Abberton Reservoir on 15th March, 50 at Hanningfield Reservoir on 13th April and 50 at Walthamstow Wetlands on 26th March, while counts of ten or more also came from the following sites: Langham Treatment Works, ten on 20th April; Widdington, 12 on 21st May; Walthamstow Marshes, an impressive maximum of 60 on 18th March (but presumably largely the same birds as at Walthamstow Wetlands). Otherwise all reports were in single figures and mainly either at other reservoirs or close to the estuaries or in the Lee Valley. Away from those areas the only records were four at Bradwell Gravel Pit Coggeshall on 14th April and singles at Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley on 9th May and 30th November.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* REX

Slowly increasing, naturalised resident.

Breeding was proved at four sites, all different from those where breeding had occurred in 2016. However, two of the sites were in the usual favoured area of Epping Forest: two broods were found at Connaught Water and one at Wake Valley Ponds. The other breeding sites were both near Colchester, at Boxted and at Kingsford Marsh in the Roman River Valley Layer-de-la-Haye (one brood at each).

Double-figure counts came only from two traditional locations in Epping Forest, Connaught Water and Strawberry Hill Pond. At the former there were seasonal maxima of 23 on 15th January, 14 on 22nd July and 44 on 6th November (well down on the 2016 peak of 69). At the latter the highest count in the first winter was 39 on 16th January but there were no double-figure counts in the second half of the year.

Elsewhere the species was seen at a further 29 sites, all records being of 1-5 birds apart from eight at Heath Drive Gidea Park on 2nd January. As usual the majority of these were in the south of the County. In the west the only locations north of the Lee Valley were Hatfield Broad Oak and Audley End Gardens.

GARGANEY *Spatula querquedula* UK

Breeds occasionally. Uncommon, but annual, passage migrant.

Breeding was proved at Rainham Marshes, where a brood of three was seen on 30th June and a recently fledged juvenile on 3rd August. A ♂ seen there on three dates in June was presumably from the breeding pair, while single ♂♂s in June at Vange Marsh on 9th and Bowers Marsh on 19th perhaps related to summering birds.

There were March records, both ♂♂, at Abberton Reservoir on 19th and at Walthamstow Wetlands on 29th. In April there were pairs at Holland Haven on 3rd and at Abberton Reservoir on 7th (a ♀ also being seen there on 13th). There was a single bird at Paglesham Lagoon on 7th. A pair then arrived at Fleet Head Great Wakering on 9th, one remaining until 14th, when one ♂ arrived at (or moved to) nearby Wallasea Island, increasing to two ♂♂ on 17th, which were seen intermittently to 21st.

There was then a gap until 9th May, when one was seen at Dagenham Chase, followed by the first of a series of records at Rainham Marshes, a ♂ on 12th being joined by another on 16th and one or the other showing on and off till 23rd, these perhaps foreshadowing the breeding record (see above). Also, in May there were two at Bowers Marsh on 21st, one there on 24th, it or another at Vange Marsh on 24th and 27th and one at Dagenham Chase on 28th.

The first return-passage bird was at Hanningfield Reservoir on 19th July. Thereafter numbers were generally very low apart from one count of 11 birds at Abberton Reservoir on 30th August, most of which seem to have been present just for one day. There were three at Vange Marsh in late August/early September but all other reports away from Abberton Reservoir were of single birds.

In total, autumn birds were seen at 12 sites (16 in 2016) and can be tabulated as follows (breeding record excluded):

	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	2	2	3	2	2	8	14	6	4	3	1
Locations	2	2	3	2	2	3	4	4	4	3	1

October records, both of single birds, came from Rainham Marshes on 2nd-3rd and Hanningfield Reservoir on 8th.

SHOVELER *Spatula clypeata* UK REX

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

The only sites reporting broods were: Old Hall Marshes, where only five fledged young were found from 42 pairs; Blue House Farm, four broods; Rainham Marshes, 15 pairs produced ten broods. Elsewhere in the breeding season (taken as May/June) reports came from a further 20 sites but with no evidence of breeding and no other sites reporting more than single pairs.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 180 INT 400	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**1135**	**1044**	**1193**	**464**	**658**	**881**	**1119**	**909**	**862**
Stour Estuary	7	71	100	32	0	2	0	2	0
Hamford Water	49	53	49	1	nc	21	2	11	11
Holland Haven	0	3	7	22	0	1	0	0	3
Colne Estuary	1	40	41	0	0	0	1	3	13
Blackwater Estuary	**241**	**399**	**564**	168	0	0	151	13	82

GB 180 INT 400	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dengie	7	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	0
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	74	93	**239**	72	8	3	42	18	39
Foulness/Thames	67	45	31	6	2	0	3	33	48
Abberton Reservoir	**577**	**245**	97	99	**621**	**788**	**522**	**696**	**569**
Hanningfield Reservoir	14	2	10	40	24	16	64	50	45
Lee Valley	63	65	41	13	3	31	**282**	58	43

Non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 150+ came from the following sites (only the highest counts being given unless stated): Abberton Reservoir, 550 on 28th November; Blue House Farm, 187 on 27th March; Paglesham Lagoon, 350 on 22nd January and 400 on 29th October; Bowers Marsh, 160 on 21st March; King George V Reservoir, 200 on 1st October; Holyfield Weir 200 on 28th January.

GADWALL *Mareca strepera strepara*

UK **REX**

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

Breeding was confirmed at nine sites (seven in 2016). At Rainham Marshes five broods were found from 12 pairs. Six broods were seen at Abberton Reservoir and two at Langham Lagoons. Single broods were reported from Broomhouse Flash Langham, Walton Hall Marshes, Chigborough Lakes, Hanningfield Reservoir and Blue House Farm. A nest was found at Cattawade.

At Old Hall Marshes there were 13 pairs, on Foulness Island three and at St Osyth Priory two but in each case no broods were seen and breeding was not confirmed. Singles pairs were seen at a further 11 sites in May/June but again without proof of breeding. In the same period, reports of 2+ birds, but with no mention of pairing, came from 12 additional sites.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 250 INT 600	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**494**	**673**	**422**	**184**	**694**	**454**	**347**	**347**	**518**
Stour Estuary	10	43	11	14	2	0	2	0	18
Hamford Water	59	79	67	1	nc	37	76	40	59
Colne Estuary	6	6	0	0	0	0	20	28	18
Blackwater Estuary	64	28	11	24	3	20	2	0	4
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	11	49	32	8	15	2	4	7	31
Abberton Reservoir	186	71	146	61	**403**	203	89	66	71
Hanningfield Reservoir	111	**266**	95	23	235	148	51	50	97
Lee Valley	32	99	39	26	26	36	81	151	212

The only three-figure non-Wetland Bird Survey count came from Wanstead Park, where there was a November peak of 120 on 5th.

WIGEON *Mareca penelope*

UK

Erratic breeder. Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no records of confirmed or suspected breeding in 2017. As usual a few groups lingered into the first half of May, though most then departed. However a few stayed on into the second half of that month and some into June, as follows: Abberton Reservoir, two on 16th May, one on 12th June and four on 19th June; Old Hall Marshes, a ♂ on 21st May and 12th June; Tollesbury Wick, one on 16th May; Hanningfield Reservoir, a ♀ on 27th June; Bowers Marsh, a ♂ on 23rd-26th May; Vange Marsh, three (a pair and a ♂) on 24th May and 1st June; Rainham Marshes, one on three dates in 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	**19702**	**14148**	**10367**	**438**	**5**	**312**	**7293**	**11133**	**13693**
Stour Estuary	2154	2032	1583	228	0	14	534	1281	1878
Hamford Water	1255	897	494	0	nc	45	388	1813	1253
Holland Haven	650	720	415	8	0	0	48	150	315
Colne Estuary	10	1005	1237	3	0	0	85	692	1182
Blackwater Estuary	**9060**	**5157**	4190	154	0	31	2513	2579	4292
Dengie	250	55	0	0	**0**	10	140	482	189
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	3302	**2272**	1105	5	0	0	580	2237	2024
Foulness/Thames	956	693	566	4	0	134	2592	690	1251
Abberton Reservoir	1680	846	306	36	4	76	310	923	918
Hanningfield Reservoir	265	406	420	0	1	2	100	273	331
Lee Valley	120	65	51	0	0	0	3	13	60

There were very few four-figure non-Wetland Bird Survey counts, as follows: East Mersea, 1,500 on 22nd January; Old Hall Marshes, an impressive 3,000 on 12th January and 1,600 on 19th February; Tollesbury Wick, 1,200 on 26th January; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 1,350 on 5th February.

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos platyrhyncos* UK

Common and widespread resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding season counts of pairs and/or broods (with 2016 figures in brackets where available) came this year from: Braintree and Bocking, 30+ pairs (about 30 pairs); Old Hall Marshes, 58 pairs fledged 21 young (85 fledged 41); Blue House Farm, ten broods (19); Wallasea Island, eight pairs; Foulness Island, 32 pairs fledged 23 young (46 pairs, no count of fledglings); Rainham Marshes, 43 pairs and 32 broods (24 and 17); Walthamstow Wetlands, four 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	**3961**	**2848**	**2324**	**1575**	**2557**	**2655**	**2734**	**2993**	**3424**
Stour Estuary	158	88	186	65	157	103	83	106	341
Hamford Water	649	402	308	68	nc	801	717	611	643
Holland Haven	4	8	0	8	1	9	13	36	8
Colne Estuary	43	87	69	23	8	42	75	88	111
Blackwater Estuary	383	198	334	350	34	119	306	512	463
Dengie	55	68	38	38	18	32	48	102	106
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	301	294	151	77	83	295	245	298	248
Foulness/Thames	323	395	347	244	83	142	82	302	437
Abberton Reservoir	881	376	295	215	1383	386	349	212	320
Hanningfield Reservoir	315	85	73	81	100	131	103	205	278
Lee Valley	333	302	279	224	246	243	317	271	283

The largest non-Wetland Bird Survey count came from Old Hall Marshes, where 360 were present on 20th January during a cold spell and 349 at Hanningfield Reservoir on 24th July.

Other three-figure counts (site maximum in each case) came from a further 13 sites and were remarkably consistent in numbers, as follows: Mole Hall Widdington, 129 on 27th August; Broomhouse Flash Langham, 100 on 17th August; St Osyth Stone, 110 on 18th January; Prestons

Lake Pebmarsh, 107 also on 18th January; Tollesbury Wick, 108 on 17th December; Chigborough Lakes, 105 on 27th November; North Dengie, 106 on 3rd December; Blue House Farm, 100 on 18th October; Paglesham Lagoon, 120 on 24th December; Belhus Woods Aveley, 105 on 8th October; Rainham Marshes, 133 on 12th March; Wanstead Flats, 117 on 15th January; Leyton Flats, 125 on 20th December; Connaught Water Epping Forest, 130 on 3rd December; Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey, 103 on 26th October.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta* UK

Breeds occasionally. Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no records indicative of breeding. There were several records in the first half of May but these were probably all late departures, as none of them was seen further into the summer: Abberton Reservoir, three on 11th; Old Hall Marshes, one on 15th; Rainham Marshes, two on 9th; Connaught Water Epping Forest, one on 1st and 4th. In similar vein, one at Abberton Reservoir on 23rd July was either a summer wanderer or a very early returning bird. One at Copperas Bay Wrabness on 26th August was the only record in that month, otherwise the first trickle of returnees came in the second week of September.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 290 INT 600	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**1548**	**1223**	**472**	**24**	**0**	**51**	**412**	**950**	**935**
Stour Estuary	**304**	174	55	19	0	14	129	142	155
Hamford Water	37	27	13	0	nc	0	2	104	91
Blackwater Estuary	**859**	**860**	**360**	4	0	0	87	229	**428**
Dengie	152	70	0	0	0	0	0	**313**	146
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	**28**	**69**	29	0	0	0	14	9	80
Abberton Reservoir	166	18	0	1	**0**	37	156	116	24
Hanningfield Reservoir	0	**0**	0	0	0	0	24	37	2

The Blackwater Wetland Bird Survey figures for February include a flock of 425 in Southey Creek Mundon, off the south end of Northey Island, and also 354 in Collier's Reach Heybridge, which could potentially have included some of the Northey birds. The Dengie Wetland Bird Survey count in November included 313 on the north Dengie, which was an unusually high count for the area.

Non-Wetland Bird Survey counts included the highest of the year at Abberton Reservoir, 250+ on 21st January and, in the second winter, a high of 170 on 2nd December. Other three-figure non-Wetland Bird Survey counts were as follows (site maximum in each case): Pyefleet Channel Mersea Island, 122 on 1st March; Salcott Creek, 127 on 28th December; Old Hall Marshes, 186 on 3rd January; Bridgemarsh Island Crouch Estuary, 270 on 15th December.

TEAL *Anas crecca* UK REX

Breeds occasionally. Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Single pairs bred at Broomhouse Flash Langham and on Foulness Island, both fledging two young. Small numbers (1-3) were seen at Rainham Marshes up to 28th May and from 22nd June and two were at Old Hall Marshes up to 15th May but with no later sightings. There was a surprising count of 25 at Abberton Reservoir on 19th June but the only other bird reported there in May/June was one on 12th June. Elsewhere, birds were seen in May at a further ten sites, all coastal apart from four at Hanningfield Reservoir on 1st May and all for only 1-2 days. Other June records came from Cattawade, one on 19th; Holland Haven, three on 4th; the Ingrebourne Valley, one on 15th; and Barking Bay, two on 3rd.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 2,100 INT 5,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**20743**	**14416**	**9182**	**1779**	**1568**	**2981**	**6979**	**10856**	**13651**
Stour Estuary	1177	1188	892	380	21	141	365	698	1382
Hamford Water	**2757**	**2587**	1051	49	nc	761	912	**3204**	**3026**
Holland Haven	55	15	45	38	20	50	175	550	375
Colne Estuary	152	623	309	3	0	13	77	495	456
Blackwater Estuary	5738	**4055**	**4402**	551	4	79	**2362**	1707	**3089**
Dengie	0	16	0	0	0	0	15	8	7
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	1527	1379	582	74	23	242	840	1209	1788
Foulness/Thames	1495	1838	1088	250	35	35	115	823	1583
Abberton Reservoir	**7042**	1750	475	387	1435	1518	1730	2013	1298
Hanningfield Reservoir	578	650	242	19	25	80	225	88	284
Lee Valley	171	279	80	20	5	42	123	43	297

Much the highest non-Wetland Bird Survey counts came from Stow Marsh North Fambridge, where there were 1,300 on 6th January and 1,350 on 5th February. Nearby, at Blue House Farm, there were 700 on 17th November and 890 on 6th December, while at Old Hall Marshes there were 800 on 19th February and 750 on 2nd October. At Abberton and Hanningfield Reservoirs there were no counts exceeding their highest Wetland Bird Survey counts (as shown in the above table). Other sites reporting non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 500 or more were as follows (site maximum in each case): West Mersea, 500 on 16th January; East Mersea, 500 on 22nd January; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 500 on 6th December; Tilbury, 628 on 14th February; Rainham Marshes, 500 on 29th-30th December.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina*

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

In total 16 pairs were reported from six sites. Hanningfield Reservoir remained the stronghold with 36 young fledged from seven pairs, while seven pairs were present at three sites within the Lee Valley.

Most records came from Hanningfield Reservoir, with a ♂ on 24th January the first, then monthly peaks of five on 18th February, 16 on 17th March, 27 on 9th April, 18 on 14th May, 33 on 17th June, 55 on 24th July, 57 on 13th August, 44 on 3rd September, reducing to two on 8th October with the only subsequent records in early November, peak of eight on 6th. Elsewhere: Abberton Reservoir, monthly peaks of four on 16th February, seven on 17th August, one on 17th September; Vange Marsh, 2nd April; Bowers Marsh, 7th January; Ingrebourne Valley, up to two from 27th March to 29th July; Wanstead Flats, 26th February to 1st March; Walthamstow Wetlands, four on 13th March with up to three remaining into April; Olympic Park Stratford, four on 9th May.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	2	10	23	32	22	33	57	66	45	2	9	0
Locations	2	3	4	4	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	0

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

UK REX

Uncommon breeder. Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Breeding reports totalled 56 pairs from 19: sites (30 from 13 in 2016, five from five in 2015). Sites holding more than two pairs were (previous year in brackets): Howlands Marsh St Osyth, three; Old Hall Marshes, ten (one); Foulness Island, four (five); Blue House Farm, five (two); Belhus Woods Aveley, one (four); Rainham Marshes, six (four); South Park Ilford, three; Walthamstow Wetlands, eight.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

Ring-necked Duck, Abbotts Hall, November (SEAN NIXON)

Garganey, Hanningfield Reservoir, July (DAVID ACFIELD)

Scaup, Blackwater Estuary, January (STEVE GRIMWADE)

Great Northern Diver, Blackwater Estuary, March (STEVE GRIMWADE)

GB 380 INT 3,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**2040**	**1235**	**689**	**317**	**3497**	**463**	**693**	**736**	**1115**
Blackwater Estuary	21	2	168	107	4	0	1	28	5
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	18	9	22	7	3	4	23	0	1
Foulness/Thames	5	12	55	35	3	0	0	0	0
Abberton Reservoir	**1735**	**954**	239	20	**3255**	**416**	**513**	**533**	**809**
Hanningfield Reservoir	144	88	81	109	80	6	27	12	91
Lee Valley	101	142	75	22	142	18	121	156	201

Overall numbers reported were low, with only six other counts of 200 or more, all from Abberton Reservoir. The monthly peaks were 500 on 10th January, 330 on 13th February, 336 on 20th July, 200 on 10th August, and 306 on 6th December.

2016 Addendum:
Five pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 29 pairs at 12 sites.
One pair bred on Wallasea Island, revising the year's figure to 30 pairs at 13 sites.

RING-NECKED DUCK *Aythya collaris*

Vagrant. **EBSIP (8, 3, 11)**

Abberton Reservoir	♂	2016-10th January	mo
Tollesbury Wick	♂	19th March	mo
Old Hall Marshes	♂	15th May	mo
Tollesbury Wick	♂	16th May	mo
Abberton Reservoir	♂	19th October, on and off to year end	mo
Abbotts Hall Farm	♂	24th October, on and off to year end	mo

It is assumed that all the records relate to the same individual, which is also assumed to be the 2016 bird, and may have been present in the area throughout the year.

On 15th May it was with a pair of Pochard, whilst the next day it was with a ♀ Pochard; on the later date the observer commented that it had been present for eight consecutive days.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Common, resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The fluctuations in reported breeding pairs/broods continued with a drop to 67 from 30 sites (86 from 38 in 2016, 39 from 13 in 2015), although there remains a lack of consistency from individual sites year on year. The only sites with more than five pairs were: Foulness Island, 11; Rainham Marshes, 13 (12 in 2016); Walthamstow Wetlands, eight (ten).

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 1,100 INT 12,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**3321**	**3931**	**2628**	**2028**	**6717**	**3326**	**3046**	**1988**	**2556**
Hamford Water	73	59	134	13	nc	77	19	35	61
Colne Estuary	39	37	41	17	0	2	0	37	25
Blackwater Estuary	56	19	110	91	0	1	17	1	50
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	0	2	12	12	12	7	4	0	0
Foulness/Thames	10	13	39	21	5	0	0	0	0
Abberton Reservoir	**1833**	**1102**	1074	833	**2971**	526	339	250	270
Hanningfield Reservoir	307	349	420	438	**1439**	671	496	624	182
Lee Valley	811	**2064**	524	336	**2231**	**2000**	**2075**	925	1877

Peak counts reported showed a continued improvement with 21 non-Wetland Bird Survey reports in excess of 200 from six sites: Abberton Reservoir, 670 on 20th July; Hanningfield Reservoir, 200 on 19th May, 420 on 20th September, 400 on 19th November; Blue House Farm, 630 on 23rd November; King George V Reservoir, peak of 1,100 on 21st July, 540 on 16th December; William Girling Reservoir Chingford, 300 on 25th September; Walthamstow Wetlands, 439 on 8th January, 327 on 7th July increasing to a peak of 2,113 on 6th August (down from 2,265 in 2016), 500 on 25th September, 510 on 12th October.

2016 Addendum:
Four pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 86 pairs from 38 sites.

SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant; occasional in summer.

The start of the year saw the good totals from 2016 further augmented in the Abberton Reservoir and Blackwater Estuary area with respective site January peaks of 35 on 18th and 25 on 20th. Analysis of the reports identifies apparent daily fluctuations at the former site in particular (although potential lack of full coverage is acknowledged), hence a conservative minimum of 57 birds is estimated to account for the sightings in January.

Numbers further increased in February, with Abberton Reservoir recording peaks of 70 on 12th, 81 on 21st, 96 on 24th and 100+ on 28th (by far the largest count ever recorded on an inland water in the County, 22 here in December 1972 being the next highest before 2017), corresponding with a marked reduction in reports from the Blackwater complex. Thereafter numbers slowly reduced to 72 on 15th March, and in April, 38 on 8th and 22 on 19th. A single was then sporadically reported through May until 24th June, with possibly the same bird accounting for sightings on 6th August, 22nd September, 9th-12th October, and finally two on 15th November.

Elsewhere, more typical numbers were noted as follows: Frinton-on-Sea, southbound movements of five on 25th February and one on 20th November; Old Hall Marshes, one on 19th November; Tollesbury Wick, two on 16th December, with possibly a further single seen off the eastern end of Osea Island Blackwater Estuary the same day; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 1st November; Hanningfield Reservoir, two on 2nd January with a single remaining to 16th, three on 4th February with one remaining to 14th, ♀ on 11th July and 13th August, two on 23rd November; Ingrebourne Valley, one on 21st January; King George V Reservoir, one sporadically reported from 11th November to 21st December; Walthamstow Wetlands, the ♂ from 2016 remained to 11th March, being joined by a second on 22nd January, one on 18th October, then presumably the same returning ♂ from 3rd December to the end of the year.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	62	119	73	38	1	1	1	2	1	2	8	5
Locations	6	5	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	6	4

Reports from the Blackwater Estuary are included as a single location due to many different sites that birds were reported from.

EIDER *Somateria mollissima mollissima* UK

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

A total of 60 records was received from 16 sites in the year with seven double-figure counts from a moderate late autumn passage (six in 2016, two in 2015, three in 2014).

Early winter and spring records comprised one or two birds at sites along the Stour, Colne and Crouch Estuaries, and in the Thames between Westcliff-on-Sea seafront and East Tilbury. Passage birds in May comprised two at Colne Point on 14th, with a pair passing Holland Haven and Frinton-on-Sea on 31st.

The only summer record comprised three at The Naze on 11 August, with a single also reported there on the last day of the month.

Autumn passage commenced with two at Deal Hall Dengie on 8th October, with a single at East Tilbury on 19th the only other record before 12 passing Frinton-on-Sea and Holland Haven on 30th. The latter two sites recorded the largest counts in November with a peak on 9th when 42 and ten were noted out of monthly site totals of 55 and 22 respectively. Elsewhere a single was noted at Gunners Park Shoebury on 3th and 9th, whilst two at Tollesbury Wick on 24th were, surprisingly, the only birds reported from the Blackwater Estuary in the year. December commenced with 12 past Holland Haven and a single at Canvey Point on 1st; with two at Mistley Quay on 3rd remaining in the area to the year's end. The final flush of autumn was provided by 22 north past Frinton-on-Sea on 10th.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	5	4	1	2	6	0	0	3	0	18	61	37
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

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca* UK

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, rare in summer.

The good numbers present in late 2016 remained into the first winter period: Stour Estuary (Wrabness to Manningtree), one from 6th January, increasing to three on 20th and then reported sporadically until two on 4th April; Frinton-on-Sea and Holland Haven, two flew past on 10th February; Brightlingsea, one on 23rd March; Fingringhoe Wick, one on 25th January; Goldhanger, one on 15th February, possibly the same seen off Tollesbury on 23rd March; Roach Estuary, two present from 1st-8th January generally in the Roper's Farm Barling area; Canvey Point, one on 2nd January, two on 15th February.

The only inland record concerned a spring passage bird at Abberton Reservoir from 5th-10th April.

By contrast, autumn passage, which commenced with two south off Frinton-on-Sea on 19th October, was very poor: the only other records being two past Canvey Island on 16th November, and three at Tollesbury Wick on 28th November and 3rd December.

An average year with an estimated total of, approximately, 21 birds (34 in 2016, eight in 2015, 26 on 2014).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanita nigra* UK

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

A good year with a more protracted autumn passage that typically peaked in November.

There were five inland records: Abberton Reservoir: two on 13th April, one on 20th July, one on 29th September; King George V Reservoir, two on 23rd and six on 25th July. Inner Thames records came from East Tilbury/Thurrock Thameside Mucking: regular in January to early April peaking at 29 on 7th January, singles on 25th July, 8th and 19th October, and in November, three on 4th, 16 on 12th and 64 on 16th; and Rainham Marshes: eight on 23rd March, one on 28th March, two on 30th April, two on 6th July, singles on 10th and 14th July and 9th-10th August, ten on 22nd August, one on 30th August, one on 24th September and 12 on 20th November.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017	99	32	25	66	91	148	256	291	110	528	1385	202
2016	147	10	48	18	13	35	16	48	292	142	2727	270
2015	4	16	82	42	163	0	6	57	148	648	281	369

Autumn/early winter passage past Frinton-on-Sea noted 2,118 between July and December (2,582 in 2016, 1,274 in 2015). Passage peaked in late October and early-mid November with daily maxima of: 118 on 26th July, 169 on 8th August, 299 on 30th October, 130 on 8th November, 290 on 9th November, 294 on 13th November. While coastal passage was widely noted from other watchpoints, the only other three-figure counts occurred in November and comprised 225 at Holland Haven on 13th and 110 at Canvey Island on 16th.

The highest winter counts from the Blackwater Estuary were 52 on 15th January and 32 off Tollesbury on 3rd December.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis* UK

Declining, scarce, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The large numbers present in late 2016 reduced slightly in early 2017 but still provided an excellent opportunity to observe this species. Birds were noted from five sites: Hamford Water, an immature ♂ reported intermittently to 25th March; Abberton Reservoir, two to 10th January, one remaining until 20th, one on 18th March; Blackwater Estuary, up to 18 in January, increasing to 20 in mid-February with 19 still present on 23rd March when last reported, most commonly found between Steeple and Goldhanger; Althorne, one on 9th February; Westcliff-on-Sea seafront, one from 4th January to 19th February.

Late October saw the first autumn passage birds, with a ♀ tracked north past Colne Point, St Osyth Beach and Holland Haven on 29th, and two north at The Naze the following day. The remainder of the year was more typical with further sightings of singles only: Mistley, 3rd November; Hamford Water, 16th-19th November; St Osyth, 12th November; Abberton Reservoir, 3rd-5th December; Blackwater Estuary (Tollesbury), 3rd December.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017/16	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	Average
Totals	62	4	10	15	14	8	12	2	15	12	15.4

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	**639**	**554**	**326**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**4**	**163**	**281**
Stour Estuary	120	66	27	1	0	0	0	8	87
Blackwater Estuary	61	10	2	0	0	0	0	8	73
Abberton Reservoir	**429**	**414**	**274**	2	2	2	3	112	81
Hanningfield Reservoir	20	25	18	0	0	0	0	28	7
Lee Valley	9	35	5	0	0	0	1	5	33

The last reported bird of the spring was at Abberton Reservoir on 14th April with the first returning birds in July: a single at King George V Reservoir from 16th with four at Abberton Reservoir on 22nd.

There were only seven other non-Wetland Bird Survey counts in excess of 50: Stour Estuary (Wrabness to Mistley), 64 on 17th January, 70 on 29th January, 84 on 16th February, 54 on 15th November; Abberton Reservoir, 54 on 10th January, 65 on 7th February; Blackwater Estuary (boat count), 100 on 15th January.

Autumn/early winter coastal movements were noted between 19th October and 16th December from Frinton-on-Sea, Holland Haven, Canvey Point and East Tilbury. The peak count was 15 at the first named site on 20th November.

SMEW *Mergellus albellus* UK

Uncommon winter visitor occurring in variable numbers.

Another poor year with low numbers in both winter periods.

Birds were reported from six sites during the year as follows: Blackwater Estuary, ♂ off Steeple on 5th January, then a pair noted at Old Hall Marshes 20th-30th January with two redheads on 5th February, one on 12th December increased to three (all redheads) by 20th; Abberton Reservoir, 1st January to 15th March, peaks of ten on 18th January, eight on 15th February, seven on 12th March, a single from 23rd November increasing to four on various dates in December; Bowers Marsh, ♂ on 3rd January; Ingrebourne Valley, one on 17th January; Lee Valley, 28 reports from 11 sites with some degree of overlap likely. All records comprised singles bar up to four in the Friday Lake Waltham Abbey and Fishers Green Holyfield area in early February.

One at Gunpowder Park Waltham Abbey on 28th March was the last of the spring, with the first returning bird at Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield on 18th November.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	16	14	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Locations	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2

Estimates of numbers have assumed the largest single count from any Lee Valley site is that for the entire area.

See Appendix II for details of a long-staying Smew from the Epping Forest area that is considered a feral bird.

Smew (RICHARD ALLEN)

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	**110**	**74**	**58**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**49**	**127**
Abberton Reservoir	69	47	35	0	0	0	2	44	89
Hanningfield Reservoir	0	14	5	0	0	0	0	0	8
Lee Valley	14	12	16	0	0	0	5	4	21

Monthly maxima (in addition to the Wetland Bird Survey counts) at sites holding double figures were as follows: Wivenhoe, 17 on 15th January; West Mersea, 17 on 30th January; Abberton Reservoir, 29 on 7th and 10th January, 40 on 7th February, 23 on 12th March, 47 on 30th November, 80 on 3rd and 19th December; Langford, 18 on 27th January; Chelmsford (Baddow Road), 11 on 27th January; Hanningfield Reservoir, ten on 19th March, 17 on 29th December; Weald Park, 14 on 15th February; Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield, 13 on 3rd December; King George V Reservoir, 12 on 15th December; Walthamstow Wetlands, 13 on 4th March.

The last reported birds of the spring were two ♂♂ at Abberton Reservoir on 15th April.

A ♂ was present at Lexden Park Colchester throughout the year; it appeared to have a damaged wing.

The first returning birds were two at William Girling Reservoir Chingford on 17th September.

Coastal movement was noted during late autumn as follows: Frinton-on-Sea, three on 19th October, six on 9th November; Holland Haven, two on 5th November, one on 13th November; Canvey Point, one on 12th November.

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	**239**	**150**	**216**	**30**	**0**	**0**	**24**	**127**	**227**
Stour Estuary	74	60	**90**	26	0	0	24	13	45
Hamford Water	5	6	2	0	nc	0	0	5	0
Colne Estuary	4	6	9	0	0	0	0	14	13
Blackwater Estuary	**151**	77	**101**	0	0	0	0	**92**	**164**
Dengie	1	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	**0**

The last of the spring was a ♂ east past East Tilbury on 4th May, with the first returning bird passing south past Frinton-on-Sea on the early date of 8th August. There were no summer records received.

Inland records came from: Abberton Reservoir, a ♂ from 2016 remained until 7th March, being joined by a ♀ in early January, and three birds on 7th February, two on 15th November with one remaining to the year-end; Hanningfield Reservoir, one on 19th November; King George V Reservoir, two on 4th April with a single remaining to the following day; Walthamstow Wetlands, 25th November to 8th December, with presumably the same bird being reported from Banbury Reservoir Highams Park on 3rd. Additional Inner Thames records comprised (singles unless stated): East Tilbury, three on 4th November; Rainham Marshes, 11th March, five on 27th March, two on 30th March, 8th April, 14th October, two on 27th December.

Autumn passage was light with 45 and 31 passing Frinton-on-Sea and Holland Haven respectively, with a peak of ten on 1st December.

The highest non-Wetland Bird Survey counts were: Stour Estuary (Wrabness to Manningtree), 80 on 7th January, 62 on 31st October; Blackwater Estuary, 60 on 12th February (boat count), 70 on 14th February and 1st March (Tollesbury and Goldhanger respectively), 68 on 3rd December (boat count).

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Now rare, naturalised, 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.

Four records were received relating to two birds at two sites, all in the late winter period. A ♀ was reported from one site on three dates between 3rd and 14th December, with a single day observation at another site on 19th November.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa rufa*

Fairly common and widespread, naturalised, resident.

In total 490 records were received (485 in 2016) from around 141 sites (135 in 2016), encompassing all corners of the County. A minimum of 59 pairs was reported from 20 sites (35 from 13 in 2016), an increase due to a series of records from localities close to the Suffolk border. Reports of more than 1-2 pairs came from: Braintree and Bocking, 15+; Fleet Head Great Wakering, eight; Colne Point/ Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, four; Elmdon, four; Redlands Chrishall, four; Middleton, three; Cross End Pebmarsh, three. In addition, two or more birds were reported from 17 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, coveys of 25+ were reported as follows: January: Kelvedon, 25 on 2nd; Elmdon Forest, 34 on 5th; Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey, 50+ on 10th; Abberton Reservoir, 30 on 20th. February: Orsett Fen, 30 on 3rd; Bulmer, 30 on 9th. August: Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 150 on 22nd. October: Mundon, 25 on 8th; Bulmer, 35 on 12th; November: Braxted Park, 30 on 3rd; Bulmer, 30 on 6th; Belchamp Walter, 70 on 14th; December: Borley, 40 on 15th; Elmdon Forest, 26 on 20th; Ingrebourne Valley, 25 on 28th.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix perdix* UK EX REX

Much declined and now scarce resident.

In total 58 records were received from 34 locations (57 from 39 in 2016). A pair with ten chicks was seen at Deal Hall Dengie on 29th August and three adults and two juveniles at Alresford on 28th September, whilst a pair bred but raised no young on Foulness Island. Otherwise, single pairs were seen during the breeding season (May-July) at just three further sites: Lamarsh, Redlands Chrishall and Langham.

Outside the breeding season, double-figure counts were as follows: January: Orsett Fen, ten on 3rd and 11 on 26th. February: Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 20 on 24th. October: Birchanger Wood, 15 on 4th; Maydays Farm West Mersea, 12 on 22nd. November: Cudmore Grove East Mersea, 13 on 8th; The Naze, 12 on 25th. December: Goldhanger, ten on 29th.

2016 Addendum:

One confirmed breeding record was received: adults with 5-7 young were seen at Farnham on 18th August

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix coturnix* UK

Scarce passage migrant, subject to influxes.

Ten birds were reported from seven sites (four from four in 2016, five from five in 2015).

Rainham	One	6th and 8th-24th May
Rainham	Two, assume one as above	7th May
West Canvey Marsh	One	12th May
Earls Colne	One	24th May-11th July
South Woodham	One	23rd June
Foulness Island	Two	One on 4th June, then one with covey of young during August
St Osyth	One	27th-29th July
Little Baddow	One	20th August

A good year. Breeding is rarely confirmed in the County, the last time being in 2010. Annual minima for singing ♂♂ plus confirmed breeding pairs are:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Numbers	10	4	4	4	3	9	12	7	9	7	6.9

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 1,641 records received (1,582 in 2016, 1,554 in 2015). There were no reports of confirmed breeding.

Counts of 25 or more were reported from: Canewdon, 28 on 20th January; Bulmer, 25 on 28th April, 58 on 27th September and 30 on 19th November; Wallasea Island, 28 on 4th February; Rainham Marshes, 26 on 16th March; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 26 on 8th October; Orsett Fen, 50 on 3rd November; Great Henny, 30 on 4th December; Great Loveney Hall Mount Bures, 25 on 16th December; Bulmer to Belchamp Hall, 25 on 16th December, Marks Hall Arboretum, 25 on 19th December.

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.

There were no truly inland records though one did visit Heybridge Gravel Pit on several occasions between 21st November and 3rd December.

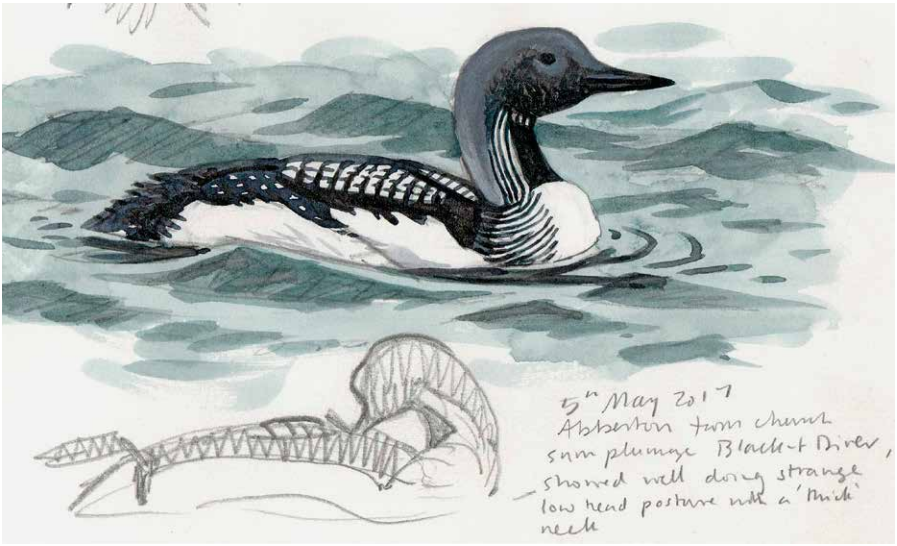
Coast and estuaries: records were received from The Naze/Hamford Water south to Canvey Island on the Thames. Typically, the largest numbers were off the north-east coast with counts in the opening quarter from Frinton-on-Sea peaking at 244 on 13th January, then smaller three-figure counts on five more dates to 3rd February and 40-70 on five dates to 21st February. Nineteen were recorded there on 29th March, none anywhere in the County in April, but a late bird was seen off Frinton-on-Sea again on 12th May. Elsewhere, there were 80 off Bradwell on 19th February and a maximum of 23 in the Thames off Canvey Island on 13th February.

There were two September records—singles off Frinton-on-Sea on 16th and Canvey Island on 24th—then small numbers until December when a larger than usual influx for that month was noted as follows: Canvey Island, 140 on 1st including a single group of 78; Frinton-on-Sea, 159 on 5th, 82 on 24th, 205 on 26th and 79 on 29th.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica arctica* UK

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Inland: Abberton Reservoir, one from 30th April-5th May.



Black-throated Diver (RICHARD ALLEN)

Coast and estuaries: scarce in the first winter with singles off Skippers Island Hamford Water, on 15th January; at various sites in the Colne Estuary from 2nd-10th January; at Old Hall Marshes on 3rd and 5th and West Mersea on 8th January, and between Southend Pier and Canvey Island on eight dates from 2nd January to 12th February, then two on 13th.

The first returning bird passed Frinton-on-Sea on 24th September but no more were reported until one on 4th November at Holland Haven. There followed a series of sightings of 1-2 at that location and nearby Frinton-on-Sea through to 5th December when no less than ten passed the latter site with two conceivably additional birds recorded at Holland Haven. The only previous higher Essex count was that of 25-30 off Bradwell-on-Sea on 13th April 1979. Otherwise, there were single birds at Manningtree on 28th December, Brightlingsea on 2nd December, Gunners Park Shoebury on 24th November – also two there on 4th December – and Canvey Point on 30th December.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer* UK

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

Inland: single birds were seen at Hanningfield Reservoir on 11th April and 3rd and 31st December; King George V Reservoir on 25th November and on 13th then 18th-22nd December; Fairlop Waters Barkingside on 18th December.

Coast and estuaries: as in recent winters, the Blackwater Estuary was especially favoured with multiple reports from 4th January-13th March, maximum seven on 12th February, then again from 5th November to the year's end, maximum eight on 3rd December. Elsewhere, there were sightings of single birds unless stated otherwise as follows: Stour Estuary, 4th January, 24th February and several dates from 14th November-28th December when two present; Hamford Water, 15th January; Frinton-on-Sea, 28th January (two), 9th October, 9th November and, including Holland Haven, 1st (two). 5th, 26th (three) and 29th (two) December; Colne Estuary, 15th and 22nd January; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 8th January (two); River Crouch, 6th-11th January; Thames Estuary, Gunners Park Shoebury to Westcliff-on-Sea, 1-2 on many dates from 4th January-13th February, also three on 10th February, and one on 20th December.

STORM PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus pelagicus*

UK

Very scarce, principally autumn, passage migrant.

EBSIP (62, 10, 72)

Frinton-on-Sea	One	7th June	PBr
Holland Haven	One	17th October	MTu

The first since two in 2012, which were the first County records for the month of June.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	0.6

LEACH'S PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa*

UK

Scarce, principally autumn, passage migrant.

EBSIP (201, 34, 235)

Deal Hall Dengie	Two	3rd October	DWa
The Naze	One	19th October	CJM-G
Frinton-on-Sea	One	20th October	PBr
Deal Hall Dengie	One	22nd October	DWa

The Naze individual was moving south and what was assumed to be the same bird was seen shortly afterwards passing Frinton-on-Sea (PBr) and Holland Haven (DSt).

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	5	2	0	0	7	6	1	0	1	1	2.3

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*

UK

Uncommon passage migrant and non-breeding visitor.

There were no inland sightings.

Estimated monthly totals from the coast were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	7	9	8	20	28	3	2	1	1	2	0

Most of the sightings came from Frinton-on-Sea where 1-4 were seen on many dates; also, seven on 3rd May and five on 6th June. Additionally, there were a few reports from The Naze and Holland Haven, one each from Colne Point and Foulness Point and two from Canvey Point.

In the above table, sightings from a single location on different days are summated though it is possible that in some cases the same individuals are recorded passing the north-east coast on more than one day.

CORY'S SHEARWATER *Calonectris borealis*

Vagrant.

EBSIP (4, 7, 11)

Canvey Point	One	23rd August	RHo

This constitutes the 11th County record and is the first to be noted in the Thames Estuary by Essex-based observers since 1989 when one passed the same vantage point.

Above: Black-throated Diver, Abberton Reservoir, May
(SEAN NIXON)

Right: Red-necked Grebe, Roding Valley Meadows, Chigwell, September
(PAUL CHAMBERLAIN)

Peregrine, juvenile, Colchester, June (SIMON PATIENT)

Red Kite, Essex, June 2016. The first modern nesting record (DAVID BLURTON)

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

Uncommon, principally autumn, passage migrant. **EBSIP (152, 81, 233)**

Canvey Point	One	25th September	JSa
Frinton-on-Sea	Four	1st October	PBr
Holland Haven	Two	1st October	DSt
Holland Haven	Two	16th October	DSt

The observers involved on 1st October, a day with a fresh southerly wind and occasional rain, felt that one of the two sightings at Holland Haven was additional to the four seen at nearby Frinton-on-Sea, based on the times of the observations.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	8	9	6	1	1	3	6	12	3	6	5.5

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus* UK

Uncommon, principally autumn, passage migrant.

Inland: King George V Reservoir, singles on 21st-22nd July and 13th September.

Coast and estuaries: Holland Haven, one on 19th October was also seen from Frinton-on-Sea; Old Hall Marshes, one found dead on 14th September; Gunners Park, two on 14th September; Canvey Point, one on 13th September, three on 15th September and one on 29th October.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	11	7	3	0	3	9	48	9	18	15	12.3

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

If reports of territorial pairs, trilling males and birds deemed to be in breeding habitat are added to the relatively few cases where fledged young or a nest were recorded, around 130 pairs were located in the breeding season, a similar number to recent years but probably an under-estimate of the true County total.

Numbers were, however, slightly down at the most important sites (2016 figures in brackets): Rainham Marshes 29 territories (35), Blue House Farm 15 pairs (17), Old Hall Marshes 2+ pairs but probably incomplete data (ten). In addition, the count of four broods at Walthamstow Wetlands was the lowest there for several years.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 160 INT 4,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**410**	**413**	**211**	**83**	**143**	**144**	**282**	**328**	**435**
Stour Estuary	40	30	7	1	3	13	19	42	71
Hamford Water	118	115	49	7	nc	26	56	89	120
Blackwater Estuary	81	57	28	6	2	1	40	39	83
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	25	44	24	13	27	24	22	5	0
Foulness/Thames	102	93	51	36	32	17	36	56	73
Abberton Reservoir	6	15	26	6	31	23	25	7	4
Hanningfield Reservoir	9	3	1	2	16	4	8	18	4

As in recent years, the largest non-Wetland Bird Survey gathering at a single site was at Paglesham Lagoon where 83 were present on 22nd August.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena grisegena* UK

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Inland: Hanningfield Reservoir, one on 5th February; Roding Valley Meadows Chigwell, a juvenile from 22nd September-16th December.

Coast and estuaries: Stour Estuary, conceivably the same individual was seen on ten dates from 2nd January-4th April in the Bradfield to Wrabness stretch; Holland Haven, one on 9th October; Colne Estuary, one at The Hythe Colchester, on 1st January; Blackwater Estuary, probably the same individual was seen from both shores on four dates from 5th-17th January.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017/16	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	Average
Totals	6	5	4	8	5	10	4	6	5	5	5.8

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus cristatus*

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The number of pairs for which an active nest or young were reported was 49 if one assumes that the ten broods totaling 17 young at Walthamstow Wetlands were all from different pairs. A further eight pairs were noted in suitable breeding habitat giving rise to a slightly lower overall total than that suggested in the two previous years. There were four pairs at both Ardleigh Reservoir and Thurrock Thameside Mucking with the remaining sites all holding one or two pairs.

At Abberton Reservoir, there were several reports of a single brood—assumed to refer to the same one—though there were counts there of 467 on 19th April and 450 on 29th June, thus a large number of non-breeders, perhaps due to a shortage of safe nesting sites in the County?

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 190 INT 3,600	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**1438**	**746**	**861**	**600**	**1037**	**1419**	**1477**	**2310**	**1503**
Stour Estuary	27	22	99	23	8	25	85	21	39
Colne Estuary	3	2	4	7	1	2	9	71	10
Blackwater Estuary	81	102	**214**	32	1	0	54	52	28
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	0	8	20	3	0	2	15	3	4
Foulness/Thames	122	14	42	3	0	0	4	58	43
Abberton Reservoir	**1116**	**515**	**375**	**467**	**762**	**1071**	**1059**	**1953**	**1241**
Hanningfield Reservoir	16	8	27	21	**212**	**245**	88	31	1
Lee Valley	71	71	70	40	48	71	160	114	130

The count of 1,953 at Abberton Reservoir on 15th November far exceeds the previous record of 1,276 just two days later in 2015, making this one of the most important inland waters for this species in the country.

Large gatherings on tidal waters in the early months have been noted frequently in the recent past and this year 450 off West Mersea on 16th January was the most recorded.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus auritus* UK

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

The incidence and distribution are summarized below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Abberton Reservoir	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Hanningfield Reservoir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
William Girling Reservoir Chingford	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fishers Green Holyfield	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stour Estuary	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Frinton-on-Sea/Holland Haven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0
Colne/Blackwater Complex	9	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Southend/Canvey Point	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Monthly Totals	**16**	**9**	**15**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**10**	**8**

In the above table, the highest monthly count at each location is shown but this may underestimate the number of birds involved. The Colne and Blackwater records have been combined as it seems probable that certain sightings off East and West Mersea referred to essentially the same wandering groups. Nine off West Mersea on 21st January was the year's largest single count. The sightings at Fishers Green Holyfield and the William Girling Reservoir Chingford may have involved the same individual though they are counted as different in the January total.

No reports were received between 15th March (two at Abberton Reservoir) and 8th August (one offshore at Frinton-on-Sea).

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis* UK

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

No reports indicative of breeding were received though an adult in summer plumage was present at East Tilbury on 25th June and again on 1st July.

The incidence and distribution are summarized below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Abberton Reservoir	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	2	2
Hanningfield Reservoir	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
William Girling Reservoir Chingford	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	14	4	5
Other Lee Valley waters	2	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	8	2	1
Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stour Estuary	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Mersea	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Blackwater Estuary	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Thames Estuary	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Monthly Totals	**10**	**11**	**10**	**7**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**31**	**23**	**10**	**11**

Reports from the William Girling Reservoir Chingford in 2016 were fewer than usual, thus it was pleasing to have confirmation that this site remains the County stronghold for this grebe. The count of 26 was on 19th September. It is established that birds sometimes move between the various Lee Valley waters, therefore there may be some duplication in the amalgamated totals from these sites, though only the highest count in a single month is used for all locations.

The six at Hanningfield Reservoir were on 12th April and the single bird on Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley remained from 19th-27th April.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

Rare, but increasing, and now almost annual, visitor. **EBSIP (14, 34, 48)**

Reports were received on 47 dates up to 23rd April and from 13th July. All were of single birds apart from three low south over Rainham Marshes on 25th March, clearly with much duplication.

The sole inland record came from Abberton Reservoir on 23rd April.

Coastal or estuarine records came from Fingringhoe Wick on 3rd, 4th and 22nd January, Brightlingsea on 4th February and Frinton-on-Sea on 13th July with the remainder all from various locations around the Blackwater Estuary and Mersea Island on 15 dates from 1st January-22nd April and 27 dates from 24th July-28th December. Favoured sites were Abbotts Hall Farm, Copt Hall Marshes Little Wigborough, Old Hall Marshes, Tollesbury Wick and Mersea Strood.

In 2012, a colour-ringed individual appeared at several widely separated locations in the County and it seems likely that perhaps 5-6 birds were involved in the opening months with 2-3 (perhaps including returning birds) from July onwards.

Annual totals (new birds only) over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	7	5	2	2	3	3	3	0	7	1	3.3

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia leucorodia* UK

Uncommon passage migrant and rare winter visitor.

In the first half of the year, single birds, unless otherwise stated, were seen at Blue House Farm on 13th March, Rainham Marshes on 22nd March and three on 10th May, Abberton Reservoir on 2nd April, Holland Haven on 11th April, The Hythe Colchester, on 30th April, Wallasea Island on seven dates from 30th April-15th May with two from 2nd-5th and Old Hall Marshes on 23rd May.

As is often the case, there were many more sightings from July onwards, details (singles unless stated otherwise) as follows: Frinton-on-Sea on 10th July, Vange Marsh two on 15th-16th July, Rat Island Colne Estuary three from 28th-30th July, Abberton Reservoir on many dates from 31st July-16th September including two frequently from 21st August onwards, Fingringhoe Wick on nine dates from 2nd August-12th September, Mersea Island on 4th and 13th August, Old Hall Marshes 1-2 on many dates from 6th August-4th September, Rainham Marshes five on 31st August then 1-2 on many dates from 18th September-25th October, East Tilbury two on 16th September, Hamford Water nine in flight on 3rd October, Hullbridge, two on 18th October and King George V Reservoir on 1st November.

It seems likely that some individuals were recorded from more than one location.

The nine in Hamford Water in October is the joint largest flock yet recorded in the County, the previous record of nine being at Harwich in June 1877.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris stellaris* UK EX REX

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no reports between 25th April and 21st September.

Records, singles unless stated otherwise, were as follows:

First winter: Abberton Reservoir, on four dates from 2nd-23rd January; Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield, on 6th and 27th January, also four on 22nd; St Osyth, on 25th January; Ingrebourne Valley, on 24th January, 7th February and two on 20th February; Chafford Gorges Grays, on 2nd and 10th February; Brook Farm Upminster, on 7th March; Holland Haven, on 12th March; Ingatestone, in flight seen from a train, on 25th April.

Second winter: Abberton Reservoir, three on 12th December, then 1-2 to 25th; Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield, on five dates from 2nd November-17th December, also two on 18th November; Holland Haven, on 21st September; Walthamstow, on 28th September; Rainham Marshes, on five dates from 10th-29th December.

NIGHT-HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

EBSIP (14, 5, 19)

Very rare migrant.

Walthamstow Wetlands	One adult	8th May	DCa

Flushed from reeds on No. 3 Reservoir, this individual was never seen again. The last record was in 2014 at Burnham-on-Crouch on 30th December.

CATTLE EGRET *Bubulcus ibis*

Very rare migrant.

EBSIP (2, 26, 28)

Rochford	Four	17th June	SAr
Ingrebourne Valley	One	22nd July	DJe
Vange Marsh	One	28th August	TBo
Wat Tyler	One	4th September-21st October	mo
Rainham Marshes	One	2nd November	KLa BGo

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	6	4	0	0	1	2	2	4	1	1	2.1

The four on 17th June flew over the observer's garden. Records at Vange Marsh and Wat Tyler, and possibly Rainham Marshes, probably all relate to the same individual.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea cinerea*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Details of occupied nests are given below:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
St Osyth	10	9	17+	18	9+	11	10
Foulness Island	2	5	5	4	4	4	6
Beazley End	nc	nc	nc	7	18	18	19
North Fambridge Hall	18	14	8	6	7	6	4
Barrow Wood Highwood	4	nc	5	nc	nc	5	6
Mayesbrook Park Dagenham	nc	nc	nc	3	nc	3	3
Ingrebourne Valley	nc	nc	nc	4	6	12	3+
Holyfield Lake	8	4	nc	nc	nc	nc	4
Waltham Abbey	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Walthamstow Wetlands	5+	nc	33	30	15	nc	71
Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing	39	32	38	35	38	32	28
Chigborough Lakes	13	10	10	5	6	7	8
Langham Treatment Works	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	3
Abberton Reservoir	25	19	20	14	6	1	nc
Warren Gorge Chafford Gorges	10	7	7	7	7	8	5
Paglesham	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
Childerditch Pond	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	3	2
Fairlop Waters Barkingside	nc*	nc	nc	nc	nc	0	1

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Valentine's Park Ilford	1	nc	2	1	1	1	1
Hylands Park	nc*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Danbury Park	nc*	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**136+**	**100**	**144**	**134**	**117+**	**111+**	**174**

The three sites marked nc* definitely had active nests but these were not counted, hence it is not possible to give an accurate total for the County. By allocating one nest for each of these three sites, the minimum total of 136 is a welcome increase on 2016 though that was probably incomplete also. Some of the sites marked nc are probably inactive but confirmation is lacking.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 610 INT 2,700	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**93**	**100**	**128**	**106**	**76**	**121**	**202**	**141**	**96**
Stour Estuary	2	4	2	2	4	8	15	9	2
Hamford Water	6	6	7	0	nc	10	17	11	8
Colne Estuary	0	3	3	3	0	0	13	3	1
Blackwater Estuary	14	10	6	2	2	9	22	3	7
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	8	9	4	8	6	11	18	21	7
Foulness/Thames	16	14	12	13	10	10	14	19	18
Abberton Reservoir	15	11	37	39	22	28	25	23	22
Hanningfield Reservoir	2	5	7	1	7	24	47	9	1
Lee Valley	22	33	44	32	11	11	19	33	26

Away from the heronries, Hanningfield Reservoir held the highest numbers, peaking at 47 on 18th October.

GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba alba*

Rare, but increasing in all months.

Recorded in every month except January and June; all single birds unless otherwise stated.

First quarter: Mardyke Valley, 2nd February; Earls Colne, 12th-22nd February and perhaps same Halstead, 9th March; Beckton, 12th March.

Second quarter: Blue House Farm, 3rd and 17th April; Beckton, 11th May; Hanningfield Reservoir, 17th May (two); Leigh-on-Sea, 22nd May; Abberton Reservoir, 25th May.

Third quarter: Cattawade, 5th and 10th July and 15th August; Abberton Reservoir, frequently from 8th July with two from 24th September; Rainham Marshes, 15th July (two) and perhaps same Mardyke Valley 16th July (two); Blue House Farm, 3rd-4th August; Hanningfield Reservoir, 4th September; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 6th September; Beckton, 24th September; Canvey Island, 28th September.

Fourth quarter: Abberton Reservoir, 1-2 on many dates and three on several occasions from 6th November; Dagenham Chase, 14th October; Frinton-on-Sea/Holland Haven, 17th and 31st October and 2nd November; The Naze, 18th October (two); Rainham Marshes, an amazing 14 photographed in flight on 19th October—by far the largest group ever recorded in the County—then one on several dates to 31st October; Chafford Gorges Grays, one south on 24th October; King George V Reservoir, 25th October; Beckton, 29th October; St Osyth, 31st October; Bradwell area from 14th November-3rd December; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, from 25th November to year's end with two from 18th December; Bowers Marsh, 14th December; Wallasea Island, 31st December.

Another record year for this rapidly expanding species although the exact number of individuals involved is impossible to ascertain, although a very careful analysis of the numbers occurring annually over the last decade suggests surprisingly stable numbers until 2016:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	c35	c20	5	6	6	5	5	2	6	5	9.5

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 2016 figures in brackets: Foulness Island, eight (12); Chigborough Lakes, ten (ten); St Osyth, 15 (20); Paglesham, seven (20); Walthamstow Wetlands, 17 broods totaling 46 young (17 broods totaling 39 young); North Fambridge Hall, 12 (seven); Warren Gorge Chafford Gorges, 12 (ten); Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing, seven (five); Abberton Reservoir, 27 (active but no count); Benfleet Downs, five (three).

As is now the norm, this species was recorded in a wide variety of sites with peak numbers generally occurring during July-November. A notable exception was a count of 44 at Walthamstow Wetlands on 2nd January.

Peak counts from sites that recorded 40 or more were: Manningtree/Mistley, 110 on 25th August; Fingringhoe Wick, 128 on 26th September; Mersea Island, 59 on 19th November; Goldhanger, 87 on 9th October; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 40 on 7th September; Maldon, 50 on 23rd October; St Lawrence to Marsh House Outfall, Dengie, 66 on 10th September; Crouchside Foulness Island, 57 on 13th August; Wakering Stairs, 51 on 8th October; Southend Pier, 125 flying west on 20th September; Canvey Point, 43 on 6th September; Westcliff-on-Sea, 54 on 10th November; Leigh Marsh Leigh-on-Sea, 76 on 13th August; Two Tree Island, 100 on 20th September; Vange Marsh, 54 on 9th July; Mardyke Valley, 44 on 16th July; Abberton Reservoir, 57 on 12th August.

Some of the listed sites are in close proximity and no doubt some of the same individuals were involved in the various totals.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB ? INT 800	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**167**	**152**	**254**	**187**	**558**	**772**	**1102**	**555**	**222**
Stour Estuary	3	4	21	15	142	205	175	84	5
Hamford Water	24	24	24	5	nc	135	112	77	30
Colne Estuary	3	4	21	7	0	13	99	63	15
Blackwater Estuary	41	30	75	53	34	135	292	111	46
Dengie	11	8	5	14	52	53	68	52	31
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	25	19	29	7	59	78	77	36	10
Foulness/Thames	48	55	69	70	215	111	242	115	68
Abberton Reservoir	0	2	2	3	37	21	18	4	6

2016 Addendum:

12 pairs bred on Foulness Island, not 11 as stated.

GANNET *Morus bassanus* UK

Common passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Row A	0	20	121	2	15	3	60	56	103	1962	187	16
Row B	22	0	10	2	1	9	0	38	94	1020	120	17

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

Row B refers to the Thames Estuary from Wakering Stairs to Rainham Marshes and includes four flying over Dunton Road Leyton, on 6th June and two juveniles past Rainham Marshes on 19th October.

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

Heavy passage in the final four days of October peaked on 29th when 622 were counted passing Frinton-on-Sea and 650 passing Canvey Point. The count of 144 at Bradwell on that day has not been added to the Row A total as it seems likely that most, if not all, of these birds would have been observed elsewhere but it is possible some were different. On 30th, 524 were seen at Frinton-on-Sea but only 110 in the Thames Estuary.

A count of 69 off Frinton-on-Sea on 24th March was notable for that month.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis* UK

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were no inland records.

Estimated monthly totals from coastal and estuarine sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Totals	13	5	9	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	4	9

Reports were received from the Stour Estuary, Frinton-on-Sea, the Colne/Blackwater complex, Crouch Estuary and Wallasea Island, and the Thames Estuary between Shoeburyness and Canvey Island. All records were of 1-2 individuals apart from three in the Stour Estuary in January, and in the Crouch Estuary five on 10th January and in March a maximum of six on 25th (on Stow Marsh North Fambridge).

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo carbo/sinensis*

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

Nest counts were as follows:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Abberton Reservoir	179	195	150	137	145	184	144	160	166	296
Walthamstow Wetlands	133	129	159+	113	178+	226	142	nc	125+	263
Netherhall Gravel Pit	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
Holyfield Lake	38	35	32	45	31	27	28	nc	nc	nc
Lofts Farm/Chigborough	12	6	13	0	2	10	3	2	0	0
Warren Gorge, Chafford Gorges	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**363**	**365**	**354+**	**299**	**356+**	**447**	**318**	**?**	**291+**	**562**

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 350 INT 1,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**1486**	**1612**	**734**	**581**	**1892**	**1827**	**1852**	**2361**	**1117**
Stour Estuary	17	20	18	13	47	46	86	56	10
Hamford Water	**624**	**468**	44	0	nc	57	83	**888**	146
Colne Estuary	0	17	21	4	0	2	34	15	36
Blackwater Estuary	338	**628**	130	29	15	28	253	195	96
Dengie	6	0	15	2	0	2	8	96	7
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	21	19	7	4	9	13	30	7	10
Foulness/Thames	68	51	65	62	51	46	93	158	58
Abberton Reservoir	211	158	184	278	**1279**	**1344**	299	**544**	**412**

Non-Wetland Bird Survey counts at coastal sites included 400 at Colne Point on 8th January, 532 passing Frinton-on-Sea on 29th January and 550 off Osea Island Blackwater Estuary on 8th December. There were also 650 at Hanningfield Reservoir on 27th September whilst at Abberton Reservoir on the same day one observer reported 'a huge flock resting on a bank off the dam' which he estimated to hold about 2,500 birds.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus* UK

Uncommon, but increasing, passage migrant.

An excellent year with more than 40 individuals reported (32 in 2016, 18 in 2015, 36 in 2014, 30 in 2013). While most were passing through, there were several lingering individuals with up to three in the Stour Estuary area regularly reported from August into October and another in the Blackwater Estuary area from September into October.

There were 13 spring records, including two seen from Bradwell Bird Observatory on 23rd April. Autumn migration began with one at Abberton Reservoir on 28th July and possibly the same bird at Brightlingsea the same day. The final sightings of the year were at Manningtree and at Leez Reservoir Hartford End, both on 9th November.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	0	1	5	5	1	4	7	18	6	2	0
Location	0	0	1	6	5	1	4	7	15	5	2	0

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivoris* UK

Uncommon passage migrant. EBSIP (312, 57, 369)

Fingringhoe Wick	One	29th August	SGr
Gidea Park	One	22nd September	SBa

Just two accepted records, with a further ten (of 11 birds) unsubstantiated ones received.

There appears to be a remarkable reluctance to submit records of the scarcer raptors – is there a reason for this?

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus nisus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

In excess of 1,800 records were received, approximately the same as in 2016 (1,800 in 2015), confirming a wide distribution in a variety of habitats, including coast and countryside, suburb and town centre.

Just five pairs were reported in suitable habitat but, in addition, there were 11 reports of display. There were five reports of possible and nine of probable breeding, based on observed behavior. Breeding was confirmed in 16 instances (14 in 2016, seven in 2015 and 14 in 2014).

Prey targets included Starling, Collard Dove, Woodpigeon and Great Spotted Woodpecker (unsuccessful). One unsuccessful hunting attempt involved a Starling snatched from the back of a cow, only to escape albeit injured.

GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis gentilis*

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

Regrettably, none of the 13 reports received by the County Recorder were supported by a description so 2017 will go down as another blank year.

Marsh Harrier (RICHARD ALLEN)

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus* UK REX

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

At least 20 potential breeding pairs were reported, comparable with 2016.

Six juveniles fledged at Rainham Marshes, while the Hanningfield Reservoir pair again produced three.

At the main roosts, peak numbers in the first winter were at Old Hall Marshes, with 32 on 15th, 15 on 19th February, and 20 on 20th March. The Langenhoe Marshes/ Fingringhoe Ranges roost held 14 on 19th February.

In the second winter Old Hall Marshes held 23 on 15th October, 22 on 19th November, and 24 on 17th December; up to 17 were at the Langenhoe Marshes/Fingringhoe Ranges roost during November and December.

There was an increase in the number of sites from which birds were reported, from 97 in 2016 to 104 (130 in 2015).

In addition to the breeding pair at Hanningfield Reservoir, inland records came from seven sites (Abberton Reservoir, Great Baddow, Ingatestone, Ingrebourne Valley, Orsett Fen, Fairlop Waters Barkingside and Holyfield Lake).

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus* UK REX

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Only eight individuals were recorded in January, significantly less than the 17 in the same month of 2016; eight in February and seven in March. There were, as in 2016, only four April records.

While coastal areas were favoured, there were four inland sightings, at Bulphan Fen on 22nd January, a ringtail (probably female) at Brook Farm Upminster, on 27th January, Wicken Bonhunt on 13th February and Hanningfield Reservoir on 17th March.

In the first winter, coastal areas, especially on the Colne, Blackwater and Crouch, hosted a few lingering individuals, with Wallasea Island, which held three, the stand-out place to see this species in the County. No roosts were noted.

A harrier, seen at Colne Point in June, was considered to be this species. Interestingly, the first of the autumn, on 15th September, was also reported here.

Sightings in the second winter were meagre, with only a single bird recorded at the County hotspot of Wallasea Island, and barely a dozen elsewhere in November and December.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	8	8	7	4	0	1	0	0	3	6	6	7
Location	6	6	6	4	0	1	0	0	3	5	5	7

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus* UK

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

Disappointingly the single report of this species was not supported by a description.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	0	2	0	1	2	3	2	1	5	7	2.1

RED KITE *Milvus milvus milvus*

Uncommon, but increasing, passage migrant and winter visitor. Recent (re) colonist.

From a handful of records barely 20 years ago to in excess of 500 in 2017, this species is once again a well-established feature of the County's avifauna.

The first modern breeding record, at an undisclosed site, in 2016 was reinforced by the fledging of two young in the same nest as in 2017. Prior to 2016, the last documented breeding in the County was in 1854 (Wood 2007). With probable breeding at three other scattered locations and suspected at four others, it is to be hoped the trend will continue.

There were records in all months of the year, with obvious spring passage beginning in March and continuing into June. The highest count was of six in the Ingrebourne Valley on 10th April, with five at Rainham Marshes on 11th April and at Upshire on 4th March. With the number of resident birds, it is difficult to be as precise about autumn migration, but eight were seen near Wendens Ambo on 24th November, which looked as if it could have been a pre-roost gathering.

2016 Addendum

The number of young raised during the first confirmed breeding attempt since the 19th Century was omitted from the text; three young were, in fact, raised.

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans migrans*

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

A blank year with just four unsubstantiated reports received.

ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD *Buteo lagopus lagopus*

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. **EBSIP**

A blank year, with just one unproven record and three unsubstantiated records.

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo buteo*

Common resident, passage migrant and possible winter visitor.

Buzzard have supplanted Sparrowhawk as the County's most frequently reported raptor with some 3,000 records in the database, although many represent repeat sightings of resident birds.

Reports were received of 92 pairs in suitable territories during the breeding season (73 in 2016, 74 in 2015, 48 in 2014). Of these breeding was confirmed in 33 instances, while a further 27 pairs probably bred. There were records of 16 recently fledged young (five in 2016, 15 in 2015, 14 in 2014).

Areas	Breeding Pairs
North-east	16
North	11
North-west	3
Central	16
South-east	2
South-west	12
TOTAL	**60**

Double figure counts in the first three months of the year were recorded at Moverons Brightlingsea (11 on 3rd February); Bradwell Gravel Pit Coggeshall (11 on 26th February); Copped Hall Warren Epping Forest (11 on 26th March); Ford End (ten on 15th March); Rainham Marshes (ten on 15th March); Black Notley (ten on 7th March); Noak Hill Basildon (ten on 6th March); Upshire (15 on 4th March); Brightlingsea (14 on 4th March); Walthamstow Wetlands (14 on 4th March).

Notable autumn migration was recorded at: Frinton-on-Sea (41 on 30th September) and was described by the experienced observer as "unprecedented"; Epping Forest (20 on 22nd September); Rainham Marshes (14 on 2nd September, 12 on 17th September, and ten on 22nd September).

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus aquaticus* REX

Scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Sightings were reported from 96 sites across the County. Four territories were recorded at Rainham Marshes, with young birds observed here and also at Bowers Marsh, Two Tree Island and Vange Marsh.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	158	51	42	39	17	8	4	13	29	53	124	110

Counts of 4+ came from 11 sites with five at Rainham Marshes on 28th December and, in the Ingrebourne Valley, six on 13th November and seven on 12th December.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex* UK EBSIP

Rare passage migrant. Last bred in 1948.

Wanstead Flats	One	22nd October	NCr

The last record was in 2013, at Holland Haven on 22nd September. There have been only seven records in the last 30 years.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana* UK EBSIP (76, 9, 85)

Rare passage migrant.

Ingrebourne Valley	Juvenile	16th September-2nd October	TBe

The first since 2014. There was one further, unsubstantiated, record

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0.5

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus chloropus*

Very common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

At least 118 pairs/territories were reported from 61 sites (120 from 60 in 2016, 106 from 47 in 2015). Summering was reported from a further 135 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	**444**	**514**	**423**	**164**	**225**	**216**	**314**	**375**	**390**
Stour Estuary	16	13	29	3	10	7	15	9	17
Hamford Water	41	41	38	0	nc	53	33	49	62
Holland Haven	7	8	8	6	8	8	6	5	5
Colne Estuary	3	57	54	2	0	1	19	35	37
Blackwater Estuary	39	39	29	15	22	19	62	37	31
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	22	26	18	8	20	29	25	13	5
Foulness/Thames	69	40	50	46	28	7	16	25	45
Abberton Reservoir	9	7	19	6	8	5	9	5	5
Hanningfield Reservoir	21	18	18	3	25	11	5	3	5
Lee Valley	110	99	80	37	36	41	61	91	99

Non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 50 or more were reported from: Sudbury to Brundon, 50 on 6th January and 74 on 29th January; Rainham Marshes, 50 on 1st March; Wick Country Park Basildon, 50 on 15th January.

This remains a significantly under-reported species.

COOT *Fulica atra atra*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

At least 213 pairs were reported from 79 sites (149 from 67 in 2016, 139 from 106 in 2015). Reports of more than ten pairs came only from: Foulness Island (13) Blue House Farm (28–30) and Rainham Marshes (48). Summering birds were reported from a further 74 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	**2237**	**2372**	**1791**	**1135**	**8700**	**5377**	**3747**	**2238**	**2738**
Hamford Water	28	88	35	38	nc	59	82	51	40
Colne Estuary	22	39	46	14	6	12	28	97	21
Blackwater Estuary	23	34	144	64	10	12	33	18	11
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	31	87	158	86	76	63	56	37	25
Foulness/Thames	84	133	87	149	45	15	30	25	34
Abberton Reservoir	922	438	504	271	**6044**	**2719**	163	185	136
Hanningfield Reservoir	144	224	166	85	**1657**	**1371**	**1296**	455	364

Non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 150 or more were reported from: Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 189 on 2nd July, 186 on 9th July, 158 on 16th July and 153 on 23rd July; Bowers Marsh, 220 on 11th June; Abberton Reservoir, 1,400 on 8th July, 400 on 20th July and 200 on 15th August; Hanningfield Reservoir, 500 on 3rd and 9th September, 1,200 on 27th September, 200 on 31st October and 700 on 16th November; Walthamstow Wetlands, 170 on 1st March, 250 on 31st July, 250 on 12th October and 400 on 30th October; Belhus Woods Aveley, 150 on 12th February.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus* UK

Scarce, less than annual, mainly autumn passage migrant. EBSIP (125, 44, 169)

Thorpe-le-Soken	Nine	17th March	KMa
Rainham Marshes	One	21st-22nd May	AGo
Langenhoe Marshes/Fingringhoe Ranges	Two	27th October	RHu

A total of 12 birds is the best since 2003 when a record 30 individuals occurred. One further unsubstantiated report was received.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	12	5	1	0	2	3	6	8	0	1	3.8

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicnemus oedicnemus* UK EX

Very scarce passage migrant. Last bred in 1999. EBSIP

The Naze	One	17th August	BCo

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	1	3	0	0	2	2	4	1	1	2	1.6

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus* UK

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

In total 86 confirmed breeding pairs were reported from 17 sites (144 from 24 in 2016, 76 from 12 in 2015), although information was again lacking from some traditional locations. The largest breeding populations reported were (2016 figures in brackets): Cattawade, nine (seven); Hamford Water, "substantial" (no count); Colne Point, ten; Cindery Island Brightlingsea Creek, 20; Wallasea Island, 28 (13); Foulness Island, 58; Rainham Marshes, seven (seven).

Inland birds showing evidence of potential breeding comprised single pairs at Hanningfield Reservoir, Russell Green Gravel Pit Boreham and Langham. Possible breeding was also reported at The Hythe Colchester and Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe.

Over 170 other records came from inland areas away from tidal waters, including: Langham, 7th March to 10th June, peak of four on 29th March; Abberton Reservoir, reported from February to October, peak of ten on 19th April; Writtle, one on 16th April; Hanningfield Reservoir, reported from 5th March to 24th July, with a peak count of eight on the latter date, then singles on three dates in September and on 3rd October; Lee Valley, one or two reported from seven sites on 32 dates between March and July. In addition, nine records from Thames Barrier Park, including four on 26th March, were notable.

Diurnal passage past Frinton-on-Sea was heavy with monthly totals of 77 and 330 in July and August respectively with a clear peak of 141 on 8th August.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 3,200 INT 10,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**13797**	**6170**	**8170**	**3157**	**2365**	**13819**	**12241**	**13582**	**12103**
Stour Estuary	428	738	376	360	264	536	778	691	521
Hamford Water	485	655	1066	0	nc	677	341	425	567
Colne Estuary	256	683	435	68	0	289	233	300	50

GB 3,200 INT 10,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackwater Estuary	1295	509	839	670	626	722	846	1114	764
Dengie	2120	1040	383	179	14	1007	2220	1350	2106
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	79	121	208	54	49	23	10	23	14
Foulness/Thames	**9134**	2424	**4852**	1806	1412	**10563**	**7811**	**9679**	**8081**

Non-Wetland Bird Survey four-figure counts were received from two sites: Shoeburyness, 1,000 on 5th February; Bradwell Bird Observatory, monthly peaks of 2,000 on 27th August, 3,500 on 24th September, and 1,700 on 4th October.

2016 Addendum:
43 pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 131 pairs at 23 sites.
13 pairs bred on Wallasea Island, revising the year's figures to 144 pairs at 24 sites.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

Rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (22, 34, 56)**

For the second year running birds arrived in the south-east of the County in early spring. A pair arrived at Bowers Marsh on 30th March, with a ♂ then at Vange Marsh on 1st April. There was then a gap in sightings before four at the latter site on 8th April, with up to three present at these two sites until 10th May. Thereafter a pair and three well grown juveniles, presumed from just over the river in Kent, were present at Bowers Marsh from 4th-8th August, with the youngsters remaining until 16th.

Elsewhere:

Blue House Farm	One	9th May	GSm
Rainham Marshes	Two	10th May	ATa *et al.*

One further unsubstantiated report was received.
The increase continues.
Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	7	3	6	4	1	0	4	1	0	2	2.8

Note that it has been assumed that none of the individuals are returning individuals for the purpose of calculating numbers involved (young have not been included); the species is very nomadic.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

UK **REX**

Increasing summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Confirmed breeding records comprised 253 pairs from 15 sites (187 from 11 in 2016). Estimated numbers from the key sites (2016 total in brackets) were: Old Hall Marshes, 20 (ten); Wallasea Island, 75 (101); Foulness Island, 7; Bowers Marsh, 120 (ten).

Inland reports away from tidal waters were as follows: Broomhouse Flash Langham, two on 18th May, four on 31st May, one on 28th July, five on 7th August; Abberton Reservoir, two on 12th May, two on 1st August then present to 27th September with a peak of seven on 27th August; Hanningfield Reservoir, two on 18th April, one on 27th June, five on 10th July; Ingrebourne Valley, one, 28th March; King George V Reservoir, two on 30th April; Walthamstow Wetlands, five on 11th March.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 75 INT 730	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**2618**	**3216**	**2800**	**468**	**17**	**230**	**691**	**1047**	**1713**
Stour Estuary	134	200	28	10	0	12	245	120	122
Hamford Water	541	867	683	0	nc	189	90	336	724
Colne Estuary	77	2	16	0	0	0	152	32	12
Blackwater Estuary	675	630	261	193	0	12	156	70	541
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	120	156	222	24	2	17	2	143	70
Foulness/Thames	1071	1361	1566	217	15	0	46	346	244

As usual the largest non-Wetland Bird Survey counts came from the favoured area around East Tilbury, where there were peaks of: 1,385 on 26th February, 2,408 on 10th August, and 3,113 on 21st September. The only other count of note was 500 at Fingringhoe Wick on 6th December.

2016 Addendum:
Five pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's totals to 101 from 11 sites.

2016 Revision
101 pairs bred on Wallasea Island (not 15), revising the year's totals to 187 from 11 sites.

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus* UK REX

Uncommon resident. Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding was again under-reported with a minimum of 166 pairs from 17 areas (127 from 16 in 2016), including 53 at Old Hall Marshes, 17 at Blue House Farm and 68 at Rainham Marshes. No co-ordinated site counts were received from some key locations such as Cattawade Marshes. Confirmed breeding from inland pairs (single unless stated otherwise) occurred at Langham (two), Abberton Reservoir (no count), Bocking (three), Little Baddow, Hanningfield Reservoir, and Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 6,200 INT 20,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**16612**	**28119**	**2558**	**361**	**1071**	**1617**	**3114**	**3520**	**6198**
Stour Estuary	506	2001	347	74	195	269	549	122	529
Hamford Water	1745	4448	1236	0	nc	300	222	554	1196
Holland Haven	25	310	28	12	15	34	80	35	335
Colne Estuary	170	2009	37	8	0	0	155	149	151
Blackwater Estuary	7004	11503	457	163	215	561	1032	865	1513
Dengie	67	536	0	0	0	1	150	76	650
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	2747	4674	223	29	179	142	274	765	181
Foulness/Thames	2771	1400	165	27	185	145	222	526	1492
Abberton Reservoir	1366	958	45	40	155	127	340	368	98
Hanningfield Reservoir	202	267	10	3	65	38	38	36	30
Lee Valley	9	13	10	5	62	0	0	24	23

There were few non-Wetland Bird Survey counts exceeding 1,500 as follows: Wallasea Island, 2,000 on 16th February; Rainham Marshes, monthly peaks of 1,600 on 20th January and 2,000 on 12th February.

Inland, counts of 250+ came from three sites: Broomhouse Flash Langham, 750 on 12th February; Abberton Reservoir, monthly peaks of 500 on 7th January, 350 on 7th February, 340 on 19th October, and 320 on 7th December; Hanningfield Reservoir, February peak of 300 on 8th.

Observed diurnal movement was light with Frinton-on-Sea recording a peak of 102 flying south on 7th November.

2016 Addendum:
Four pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 127 pairs from 16 areas.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Late spring and summer records came from Fingringhoe Wick, 15 on 9th May, and Stone Point Mersea Island, one on 7th June. Returning birds were then noted from early July with five at South Woodham Ferrers on 5th, two at The Naze on 7th, and 36 at Stow Marsh North Fambridge on 12th.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 4,000 INT 9,300	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**11994**	**23340**	**2834**	**90**	**186**	**2698**	**9909**	**5620**	**10825**
Stour Estuary	0	0	74	13	26	0	122	33	0
Hamford Water	2452	**4672**	2272	0	nc	400	592	271	2831
Colne Estuary	0	480	8	0	0	20	62	148	202
Blackwater Estuary	**6547**	**8048**	221	2	83	220	2950	3151	2652
Dengie	40	**8000**	40	0	58	2012	**5890**	1250	3500
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	2030	1337	10	0	3	1	110	436	0
Foulness/Thames	925	803	209	75	16	45	91	80	1633

As usual, the highest non-Wetland Bird Survey coastal counts came from the Dengie and Blackwater Estuary area: Marsh House Dengie, 3,000 on 26th February, 5,000 on 24th December; Heybridge Basin, 3,150 on 6th February.

The highest inland counts (50+) were: Stambourne, 75 on 1st January; Abberton Reservoir, peaks of 100 on 7th-8th January, in October, 275 on 19th increasing to 500 on 24th, 84 on 11th November, 150 on 6th December; Boreham, 180 south on 19th January with 88 present on 20th and 26th; Blackley Lane Gravel Pit Willows Green, 70 on 4th March; Wormingford, 110 on 16th March, 70 on 26th October; Richmond's Green Thaxted, 120 on 26th November; Belchamp St Paul, 310 on 28th November; Ingrebourne Valley, 60 on 9th and 100 on 16th December; Walthamstow Marshes, 100 on 16th December.

American Golden Plover
(GEORGE BROWN)

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

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

Fingringhoe Wick	First winter	10th October	CPo
Heybridge Gravel Pit	Adult	19th October	SDW

Only the second and third to be recorded in the County, both in the Colne-Blackwater estuary and nine days apart, but neither accessible to virtually anyone other than the finders.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

A high total of 52 records was received from 15 sites during June and July, of which 24 related to double-figure counts. Notable site maxima included: Colne Point, 60 on 10th June; Fingringhoe Wick, 40 on 18th July; East Mersea, 47 on 24th July; Mersea Island, 50 on 15th July; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 100 on 12th July; Foulness Island, 40 during June; East Tilbury, 36 on 29th July; Roach Estuary, 60 on 5th June.

Diurnal autumn migration was again light with Frinton-on-Sea recording a total of just 60 from July to November (39 in 2016, 135 in 2015) with peaks of 12 on 17th August and 17 on 20th October.

Inland records comprised singles at: Walthamstow Wetlands, 29th March, 16th April; Hanningfield Reservoir, 12th April; King George V Reservoir, 30th April, 8th October; Rayleigh (Grayson's Close), 20th May; Abberton Reservoir, 7th October.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 430 INT 2,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**6055**	**7703**	**10063**	**1380**	**852**	**3173**	**4472**	**5251**	**8600**
Stour Estuary	**430**	**1164**	**1351**	115	331	260	**914**	**964**	541
Hamford Water	**732**	**1940**	**1648**	38	nc	389	**875**	**1394**	**1588**
Colne Estuary	25	402	248	118	0	164	184	93	79
Blackwater Estuary	**2060**	**2224**	**1834**	106	42	**477**	**1462**	**1149**	**1775**
Dengie	**1405**	**515**	**3997**	**647**	22	**675**	570	141	1577
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	72	**659**	33	67	1	188	300	**727**	**563**
Foulness/Thames	**1331**	**799**	**952**	289	**456**	**1020**	167	**783**	**2477**

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

UK REX

***C. h. hiaticula* is an uncommon resident and common passage migrant and winter visitor whilst *C. h. tundrae* is a common passage migrant and winter visitor. No ringing recoveries to suggest *C. h. psammodromus* has occurred as a passage migrant.**

Likely breeding pairs comprised 12 pairs from five sites (16 from eight in 2016) as follows (2016 figures in brackets): Stone Point The Naze, two (four); The Naze, four (two); St Osyth Stone, two (two); Colne Point, three (one+); Bradwell Bird Observatory, one. Observers are requested to check all potential breeding sites as this species remains under-reported.

Inland records came from five sites during the year (singles unless stated): Abberton Reservoir, three on 12th January, 12th March, 18th April, present between 9th and 11st May peaking at four on the latter date, 17 on 22nd August with birds then present to 18th December with monthly peaks of 70 on 27th September, 105 on 24th October and 71 on 15th November; Hanningfield Reservoir, 11th February, 7th and 19th May, in September, ten on 3rd with two remaining to 23rd, 6th October, six on 23rd October, ten on 4th November, with one remaining to 19th; King George V Reservoir, 21st May; William Girling Reservoir Chingford, six on 17th September; Walthamstow Wetlands, 12th March, three on 17th September. In addition, birds were reported from Beckton on 28th March (two), 7th May (two), 31st May and 3rd September.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 340 INT 730	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**666**	**488**	**243**	**93**	**354**	**1286**	**882**	**618**	**545**
Stour Estuary	56	31	0	0	6	184	226	31	94
Hamford Water	50	76	114	0	nc	**350**	47	85	41
Colne Estuary	2	2	2	11	0	128	23	7	14

Spotted Crake, Ingrebourne Valley, September (PAUL CHAMBERLAIN)

Grey Plover, St Osyth, October (SIMON COX)

Bonaparte's Gull, Abberton Reservoir, April (SEAN NIXON)

Caspian Gull, Snaresbrook, December (DAVID DARRELL-LAMBERT)

GB 340 INT 730	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackwater Estuary	127	47	18	12	153	94	180	73	90
Dengie	68	0	0	0	9	230	130	16	0
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	76	50	14	0	0	101	97	92	28
Foulness/Thames	287	282	95	70	186	199	154	242	265

There were only two non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 250+ reported, both from The Naze: 400 on 26th August and 250 the following day.

2016 Addendum:
One pair bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 15 pairs from seven sites.
Two pairs bred on Wallasea Island, revising the year's figures to 16 pairs from eight sites.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius curonicus* REX

Uncommon summer resident and passage migrant.

Breeding was confirmed at nine sites with 14 pairs reported. This was a return to the levels reported in 2014 and 2015 after the marked reduction in 2016.

The first birds of the spring were two at Blue House Farm on 12th March, with the main arrival in the last week of the month. Site counts in excess of four were: Abberton Reservoir, eight on 11th May; Wallasea Island, five on 30th April; Rainham Marshes, five on 24th and 30th April and 5th May; Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, six on 11th May; Walthamstow Wetlands, five on 5th April.

The only double-figure reports in autumn came from: Abberton Reservoir, 13 on 31st August; Bowers Marsh, 12 on 12th and 11 on 20th July; Coryton, 12 on 12th July. Elsewhere, notable site maxima were: Blue House Farm, six on 7th July, five on 31st July; Rainham Marshes, nine on 4th July. A single at the latter site on 23rd September brought passage to an end, bar two late birds at Abberton Reservoir on 15th October, one of which remained to the 19th.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	0	33	72	62	35	71	32	18	2	0	0
Locations	0	0	14	30	23	13	19	13	6	1	0	0

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*

Rare passage migrant. EBSIP (52, 5, 57)

The Naze	♂	29th April	BCo

The second year running that this observer has found a male Kentish Plover at The Naze; was it a returning bird?

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.4

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus* UK

Scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn. EBSIP (294, 43, 337)

Wallasea Island	♂	17th April	JDe
Colne Point	♂ and ♀	13th-19th May	CBa
Frinton-on-Sea	Juvenile	9th September	PBr

Dotterel (RICHARD ALLEN)

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	4	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	14	1	2.6

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus* UK

Common passage migrant; occasional in winter.

First winter records related to the two birds remaining from 2016, specifically at Fobbing Marsh, recorded on seven dates up to 29th March, and Old Hall Marshes on 23rd January.

Spring passage commenced with a single at The Hythe Colchester on 7th March but the next was not until West Canvey Marsh on 1st April. More widespread passage commenced a week later, with the first double-figure count of 21 at Old Hall Marshes on 17th April. There followed a strong spring passage with nine sites holding groups of 20+ until passage eased in mid-May. Site maxima comprised: Frinton-on-Sea Golf Course/Holland Haven, 61 on 9th May; Abberton Reservoir, 26 on 3rd May; Abbotts Hall Farm, 25 on 21st April; Old Hall Marshes, 46 on 21th April; Blackwater Estuary upstream from Osea Road Heybridge, 40 on 1st May; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 27 on 14th May; Blue House Farm, 44 on 20th April; Wallasea Island, 22 on 2nd May; East Tilbury, 27 on 22nd April.

In addition, there was very heavy offshore passage noted at Frinton-on-Sea with monthly totals of 82 and 627 in April and May respectively, with peaks in the latter month of 125 on 2nd and 236 on 10th.

Return passage commenced in late June and whilst widespread, generally comprised single figure reports. Counts of 20+ came from: Holland Haven, 40 on 22nd July; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 73 on 27th August; Ramsey Marsh St Lawrence, 23 on 10th August; Tollesbury, 22 on 1st September; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 25 on 28th July; Canvey Point, 20 on 10th August. Further strong diurnal passage was noted at Frinton-on-Sea with totals of 346 in July and 385 in August, and

monthly peaks of 154 on 23rd and 170 on 2nd respectively.

The final passage birds departed in mid-October leaving wintering birds at: Mersea Island, five on 23rd December; Old Hall Marshes, two on 14th November remained into 2018; Bradwell-on-Sea, two on 12th November; Outer Crouch Estuary, 24th November and 8th December, presumably the same seen at Stow Marsh North Fambridge on 6th November and 28th December and Blue House Farm on 10th November; Fobbing Marsh, three dates in November. There is the possibility of some duplication in the Blackwater Estuary records.

Additional inland records (singles unless stated) were received from: Abberton Reservoir, up to eight reported between 19th April and 17th May, three on 23rd June, five on 20th July, six on 17th August; Boreham, two on 11th July; Hanningfield Reservoir, 15th April, two on 19th April, 1st May, 9th July, Ashingdon, 10+ on 22nd August; Chafford Hundred Grays, a nocturnal migrant on 25th July; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, one on 23rd April; King George V Reservoir, two on 17th April, 22nd April, 1st May, 18th and 26th July; Walthamstow Wetlands, 19th April, two on 1st May, 7th July.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata arquata* UK

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Inland counts came from (singles unless otherwise stated): Dedham, four on 25th November; Abberton Reservoir, reported from 1st January to 12th March, 30th August and from 11th November to the year end with peaks of 44 on 18th January and eight on both 15th February and 31st December; Boreham, 11th July; Sewardstone Marsh, 11th April; King George V Reservoir, 19th September; Banbury Reservoir Highams Park, 25th February; Walthamstow Wetlands, 3rd December.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 1,500 INT 8,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**3051**	**3716**	**4887**	**3234**	**2764**	**3398**	**4433**	**3895**	**3588**
Stour Estuary	461	640	820	893	665	745	1124	946	497
Hamford Water	621	450	383	1	nc	505	334	667	666
Holland Haven	1	40	46	0	0	0	0	2	32
Colne Estuary	40	121	180	9	0	25	107	309	93
Blackwater Estuary	820	936	1200	598	177	495	**1548**	601	758
Dengie	124	100	7	102	19	27	97	162	88
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	104	223	190	3	32	37	252	107	157
Foulness/Thames	836	1198	**2061**	**1628**	**1871**	**1564**	971	1099	1297
Abberton Reservoir	44	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

Coastal passage was again prominent in late June and early July with a peak of 55 south past Frinton-on-Sea on 11th June. In addition, a movement of 156 north was noted on 29th March. The only notable non-Wetland Bird Survey counts were from Two Tree Island with 500 on both 26th August and 9th September.

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: Heybridge Basin, three on 1st; East Tilbury, three on 4th; Old Hall Marshes, one on 13th.

Inland records (of singles unless stated otherwise) came from three sites: Abberton Reservoir, in April, five on 19th, two on 29th, 9th May; Hanningfield Reservoir, 21st February; King George V Reservoir, 30th April.

Inner Thames records came from: Thurrock Thameside Mucking, recorded in every month with peaks of 1,385 on 18th January, 315 on 12th February, 211 on 10th September, 560 on 8th October, 300 on 19th November; East Tilbury, recorded in all bar February, maxima of 34 on 22nd-23rd April, 32 on 17th August; Grays, singles on 10th May and 8th July; Barking Bay, one on 22nd April.

Spring passage was unremarkable, with the peak count of 150 at Hamford Water on the late date of 27th May. Observed autumn diurnal passage was also poor, 58 south past Frinton-on-Sea on 2nd August the highest count. Numbers increased rapidly from mid-August as demonstrated by observations of 500 at The Naze on 21st (up from 88 four days previous) and 600 at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 27th (after just four on 13th).

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 620 INT 1,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**4347**	**7349**	**915**	**64**	**113**	**2064**	**1428**	**2177**	**1376**
Stour Estuary	58	**942**	245	1	14	25	16	460	11
Hamford Water	**726**	**667**	339	2	nc	426	**694**	**787**	**653**
Colne Estuary	2	4	0	0	0	2	2	1	65
Blackwater Estuary	297	**1750**	114	0	4	7	11	30	10
Dengie	**750**	**2250**	30	3	0	**1328**	145	450	55
Foulness/Thames	**2514**	**1736**	187	53	95	272	560	449	582

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 generally low with the highest 2,000 at Manningtree on 12th February. Spring passage saw an upturn from mid-March, peaking in early-mid April as follows, Heybridge Gravel Pit, 2,500 on 6th-7th, Tilbury to Mucking, 3,340 on 8th, East Tilbury, 3,330 on 15th.

Late summer and autumn peaks were from traditional sites as follows: East Tilbury, 2,000 on 4th August; Two Tree Island, 2,200 on 9th September; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 2,000 on 3rd October, whilst 1,500 crammed onto Vange Marsh on 28th August is notable for a not truly coastal site.

Inland records (singles unless stated) came from: Broomhouse Flash Langham, up to four 2nd January to 12th February, 7th March, 23rd and 25th April, 20 on 31st May with 16 remaining to 23rd June, then building to 50 on 28th July, and in August, 52 on 7th and a peak of 66 on 29th, with a maximum of five remaining to 12th November; Abberton Reservoir, recorded from 1st January to 12th February, peak 23 on 7th January, then from 24th June to 6th December, monthly maxima of 76 on 28th July, 150 on 12th August, 46 on 29th September, 73 on 24th October, 71 on 15th November and 24 on 6th December; Russell Green Gravel Pits Boreham, 1st January; Hanningfield Reservoir, up to six between 8th January and 12th February, 29th March, 2nd April, 12 on 2nd May, seven on 9th July then present to the end of the year, monthly peaks of 17 on 30th July, 14 on 30th August, 17 on 9th September, seven on 15th October, 16 on 19th November and 24 on 8th December; Sewardstone Marsh, nine on 12th August; Walthamstow Wetlands, 27th-29th March, two on 18th April, 30th July.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 150 INT 470	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**5644**	**8619**	**11487**	**6635**	**2410**	**3089**	**4984**	**4057**	**3298**
Stour Estuary	**1787**	**3618**	**2786**	**2520**	**1333**	**1388**	**1857**	**894**	**1475**
Hamford Water	**207**	**203**	**225**	12	nc	**1023**	**683**	**360**	**438**
Holland Haven	0	0	4	0	7	1	6	3	0
Colne Estuary	3	25	8	46	0	2	33	44	23
Blackwater Estuary	**1488**	**1634**	**3750**	**265**	**232**	**500**	**1894**	**500**	**867**
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	**252**	**585**	**248**	94	139	**152**	77	552	**169**
Foulness/Thames	**1883**	**2554**	**4466**	**3698**	**535**	9	**384**	**1617**	**322**

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres interpres* UK

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recorded throughout the year, with 14 records in June spread throughout the month: Stour Woods and Copperas Bay Wrabness, four on 18th; The Naze, five on 1st, six on 10th; Colne Point, 17 on 2nd, seven on 10th, two on 13th; Cudmore Grove East Mersea, 20 on 1st; Old Hall Marshes, two on 3rd and 12th; St Lawrence, seven on 11th; Fingringhoe Wick, six on 7th; Gunners Park Shoebury, six on 26th.

Inland records came from four sites (singles unless stated): Abberton Reservoir, 10th May, two on 11th May, 22nd August; Hanningfield Reservoir, 24th July, 27th August, 3rd and 17th September; King George V Reservoir, 5th May, two on 26th July, 27th and 31st July, 8th August; Walthamstow Wetlands, 4th, 9th and 10th May, 30th-31st July. In addition, a single at Bow Creek Ecological Park on 28th July was notable.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 640 INT 700	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**1189**	**1048**	**1102**	**427**	**219**	**952**	**1458**	**1442**	**1061**
Stour Estuary	197	274	380	273	146	221	443	472	113
Hamford Water	158	123	131	0	nc	132	59	131	121
Holland Haven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Colne Estuary	34	31	37	16	0	15	76	62	74
Blackwater Estuary	425	357	415	41	17	155	521	292	424
Dengie	89	52	20	14	37	53	147	20	0
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	35	34	14	21	13	0	9	11	15
Foulness/Thames	251	177	105	62	5	376	203	453	314

KNOT *Calidris canutus islandica* UK

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

Inland records were received from: Abberton Reservoir, singles on 9th May and 6th October; Hanningfield Reservoir, two on 12th February.

June records were: East Tilbury, two on 4th; Colne Point, two on 11th; Rainham Marshes, one on 20th. In July there were records from four sites (ten in 2016) with double-figure counts at: The Naze, 30 on 1st; Frinton-on-Sea, 12 on 30th; East Mersea, 37 on 24th.

The only five-figure count not included in Wetland Bird Survey table was of 10,000 at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 5th November.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 3,200 INT 4,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**53236**	**56371**	**13063**	**1450**	**12**	**277**	**1429**	**47355**	**32429**
Stour Estuary	**10062**	**9547**	**7069**	150	0	7	109	**6157**	**5526**
Hamford Water	**3225**	**3398**	1009	290	nc	17	144	2503	1599
Colne Estuary	191	360	62	6	0	3	0	221	181
Blackwater Estuary	**22067**	**25661**	2338	0	0	6	35	**5349**	**10690**
Dengie	**4400**	**10200**	150	1000	2	92	510	**14593**	1800
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	76	3	0	0	0	0	20	2	10
Foulness/Thames	**13215**	**7200**	2435	4	10	152	611	**18530**	**12623**

RUFF *Calidris pugnax* UK

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the first winter period, double-figure counts came from (maximum counts): Abberton Reservoir, 14 on 8th January; Old Hall Marshes, 25 on 1st March; Vange Marsh, 12 on 2nd April; Rainham Marshes, 12 on 11th March.

In autumn and the second winter period, double-figure counts came from six sites (one in 2016). Maximum counts were: Mersea Strood, 11 on 19th November; Abberton Reservoir, 69 on 14th September; Old Hall Marshes, 18 on 13th-14th November; Hanningfield Reservoir, 17 on 6th October; Vange Marsh, 18 on 23rd September; Rainham Marshes, 15 on 29th September.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 7 INT 12,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**16**	**12**	**28**	**3**	**15**	**72**	**57**	**29**	**12**
Hamford Water	0	0	**9**	0	nc	**0**	4	**9**	4
Holland Haven	**0**	0	**0**	0	1	0	0	0	0
Colne Estuary	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	11	0
Blackwater Estuary	6	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	0	0	6	1	1	**1**	**8**	0	0
Foulness/Thames	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
Abberton Reservoir	4	5	**8**	1	**12**	**69**	**35**	**7**	1
Hanningfield Reservoir	6	5	0	0	0	2	8	2	**7**

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea* UK

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

There were no records in the first winter period.

Spring passage was light, with records from (singles unless stated): The Naze, 20th May, two on 1st June; Holland Haven, 10th May; Colne Point, 2nd June, two on 11th June; Rainham Marshes, 30th April-5th May.

Autumn passage was much lighter than 2016 with no sites having double-figure counts (seven in 2016). The only counts of five or more were: Mistley, five on 23rd-24th September; The Naze, seven on 17th August.

Inland autumn records came from (maximum site counts): Abberton Reservoir, three on 23rd September; William Girling Reservoir Chingford, two on 19th September.

The only November records were singles at: Mistley Walls on 13th; Abberton Reservoir on 24th.

Estimated minimum monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	0	0	0	1	6	5	2	15	74	40	2	0
Locations	0	0	0	1	3	2	2	6	17	11	2	0

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Scarce, almost annual passage migrant. EBSIP (193, 49, 242)

Abberton Reservoir	One adult	9th-10th May	SHe
West Canvey Marsh	Two adults	18th August	JKi

In addition, there were three unsubstantiated records involving four birds.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	3	2	5	1	0	9	4	1	4	7	3.6

SANDERLING *Calidris alba alba* UK

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

June records were received from: The Naze, 14 on 1st, 15 on 10th; Colne Point, ten on 2nd, 27 on 10th.

Inland records were (singles unless stated): Abberton Reservoir, 23rd April, 2-4 on 8th-16th May, two on 23rd September; Hanningfield Reservoir, 8th November; King George V Reservoir, two on 14th May, 25th-31st July; Walthamstow Wetlands, three on 17th May.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 160 INT 1,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**1037**	**1160**	**61**	**889**	**15**	**925**	**1089**	**1102**	**1396**
Hamford Water	42	46	53	0	nc	56	15	35	45
Colne Estuary	4	1	8	2	0	0	4	0	7
Dengie	0	0	0	0	0	79	**200**	0	0
Foulness/Thames	**989**	**1106**	0	**887**	15	**790**	**870**	**1067**	**1344**

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 below (maximum monthly counts):

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Abberton Reservoir	100	3	0	58	5	0	6	2	12	44	387	22
Broomhouse Flash Langham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Hanningfield Reservoir	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	6	3	4	9	12
King George V Reservoir	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	5	2	1	0	0
Walthamstow Wetlands	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	4	1	1	0
William Girling Reservoir Chingford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

June records came from seven coastal sites with double-figure counts at: The Naze, 11 on 1st; Cudmore Grove East Mersea, ten on 1st; Colne Point, 17 on 2nd.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 3,500 INT 13,300	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**59579**	**50849**	**19267**	**3726**	**915**	**2655**	**8233**	**38043**	**46896**
Stour Estuary	**7351**	**8325**	2017	1087	158	196	1864	**5009**	**4145**
Hamford Water	3006	3206	2618	0	nc	1120	1180	**5019**	2895
Colne Estuary	750	3360	1112	602	0	8	392	1267	2362
Blackwater Estuary	**17427**	**15173**	**3646**	64	2	37	2840	**15471**	**22763**
Dengie	3000	1430	877	1446	292	915	1325	1315	820
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	**4153**	**4395**	159	49	0	121	173	2222	2333
Foulness/Thames	**23812**	**14960**	**8837**	478	456	254	442	**7349**	**11563**
Abberton Reservoir	80	0	0	0	0	4	15	387	3

Apart from Wetland Bird Survey data, the only five-figure counts were from East Tilbury with 10,160 on 14th January and 11,850 on 26th February.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima* UK

Uncommon, and declining, passage migrant and winter visitor.

First winter records came from (singles unless stated): Colne Point, 23rd and 30th April; Frinton-on-Sea, 12th February; Holland Haven, 12th and 16th February, two on 28th February, 12th March, two on 19th April; Goldhanger, 16th-17th January; Wallasea Island, 10th January; Canvey Point, 27th-29th January, 12th-21st February.

In the second winter period: Stone Point The Naze, 19th November; The Naze, 19th August, five dates from 4th November to 28th December; Frinton-on-Sea, four on 20th October; Holland Haven, 1-2 on ten dates between 27th September and 20th December; Brightlingsea, two on 14th August; Gunners Park, 20th-21st October; Canvey Point, 10th August; Hanningfield Reservoir, 2nd September.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta*

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

The only first winter record was a single at Rainham Marshes on 3rd January.

Spring passage was light with reports from (singles unless stated): The Naze, two on 1st June; East Tilbury, 16th March, two on 18th March, 29th March; Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers, 27th March; Rainham Marshes, 1st-6th May.

In autumn there was a minimum of 130 from 32 sites (122 from 21 sites in 2016 based on maximum site counts.

Estimated minimum monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	1	0	3	0	1	2	13	16	74	87	8	5
Locations	1	0	2	0	1	1	7	9	16	19	6	2

Sites recording ten or more were (maximum counts): Mistley Walls, ten on 13th October; Abberton Reservoir, 27 on 29th September; East Tilbury, 15 on 4th October.

Second winter period records were (singles unless stated): Stow Marsh North Fambridge, two on 17th December; Two Tree Island on 1st November; Bowers Marsh on 11th November; East Tilbury, 16th-18th November; Rainham Marshes on 25th November; Abberton Reservoir, 1-4 from 4th November to 13th December; Hanningfield Reservoir, 4th-11th November.

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

Very scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn. **EBSIP (65, 47, 112)**

Rainham Marshes	One juvenile	29th-30th July	MHe HVa
Abberton Reservoir	One juvenile	20th, 25th-29th and 31st August and 2nd, 20th-25th, 27th, 29th and 30th September and 3rd October	AKn
Abberton Reservoir	Two juveniles	13th, 14th, 16th and 17th September	
Abberton Reservoir	Three juveniles	16th September	GBB
Hanningfield Reservoir	One	27th September	BJo
Abberton Reservoir	One juvenile	25th October	DHa

It is assumed that there were at least three birds at Abberton in August-early October with a fourth one arriving in late October.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	6	3	2	3	3	6	4	6	1	3	3.7

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola* UK

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

There were no sightings indicative of breeding.

There was a marked increase with a total of 172 records (125 in 2016), with an apparent influx during January.

Estimated minimum monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	63	24	20	1	0	0	0	0	1	18	29	16
Locations	31	11	19	1	0	0	0	0	1	6	18	13

There were 25 occurrences involving more than singles (23 in 2016), 18 of these being in the first half of the year (two unless stated): Garnham's Island Hamford Water, four on 15th January; West Mersea, six on 28th January; Benfleet Downs on 6th January; Canvey Island on 8th January; Fairlop Waters Barkingside on 2nd and 12th February; Great Loveney Hall Mount Bures, seven on 28th January; Hadleigh Downs, three on 6th and four on 7th February; Hardys Green on 2nd January; Tiptree Heath on 1st January; Bungate Wood Braintree, four on 22nd January; Boreham Gravel Pit on 19th January; Landermere on 12th February; Hanningfield Reservoir 16th January and four on 30th January; Ingrebourne Valley on 20th January; Wanstead Park on 8th January.

During the autumn, six arrived in off the sea on 30th October at Frinton-on-Sea with two more arrivals on both 28th and 29th October as well as two in off at Holland Haven on 30th. Otherwise, during the second half of the year multiple occurrences were (two unless stated): Mardyke Valley on 6th December; Ingrebourne Valley on 24th November; Epping Forest Burial Park, six on 8th November.

JACK SNIPE *Lymnocryptes minimus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

There was a decrease in numbers with 54 records from 28 locations (65 from 46 locations in 2016).

Estimated minimum monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	14	4	12	12	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	7
Locations	12	4	8	5	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	7

Multiple records in the first winter period were (two unless stated): Vange Marsh, 2nd April; East Tilbury, 11th March, 1st April, five on 8th April; Rainham Marshes, 2-3 from 4th March to 10th April; West Thurrock Marshes, 6th January; Abberton Reservoir, 20th-22nd January; Ingrebourne Valley, 6th April.

There were no multiple records in the second winter period.

SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago gallinago* UK REX

***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, although one was displaying at Bowers Marsh on 1st May but not seen subsequently.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB ? INT 20,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**109**	**58**	**40**	**5**	**1**	**7**	**37**	**40**	**39**
Stour Estuary	46	6	8	0	0	1	3	16	15
Hamford Water	19	1	0	0	nc	5	2	7	12

GB ? INT 20,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Holland Haven	0	0	4	0	1	0	5	0	0
Colne Estuary	1	8	1	0	0	0	9	2	2
Blackwater Estuary	14	1	14	1	0	0	5	6	2
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	1	18	1	0	0	1	3	0	0
Foulness/Thames	16	17	7	3	0	0	3	4	7

The only count above 50 throughout the year was of 60+ at Bowers Marsh on 22nd December.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

UK

Very scarce passage migrant.

EBSIP (76, 15, 91)

Abberton Reservoir	Juvenile	24th August-4th September	PHa
Abberton Reservoir	A second uvenile	27th August-4th September	mo
Holland Haven	1st winter	10th-14th October	PDa

The best year since 2010.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	3	1	1	1	2	0	0	3	1	2	1.4

Red-necked Phalarope (RICHARD ALLEN)

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Scarce passage migrant. **EBSIP (96, 24, 120)**

King George V Reservoir	One	13th-17th September	NSm ILy
William Girling Reservoir Chingford	One	19th September	AWi
Deal Hall Dengie	One	16th September	DWa

Presumably the King George V Reservoir bird relocated to William Girling?

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	2	1	0	4	0	0	1	2	2	1	1.3

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos* UK

Common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Estimated minimum monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	22	12	18	68	101	11	288	281	106	27	15	11
Locations	13	8	13	25	39	8	60	62	44	13	8	7

The only double-figure counts in spring were: Rainham Marshes, 14 on 30th April, ten on 6th May; King George V Reservoir, 10-12 on 1st-4th May.

In autumn, double-figure counts were received from eight sites (ten in 2016). Maximum counts were: Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 17 on 10th August; Potton Island Great Wakering, 17 on 13th August; Beckton, 17 on 17th August; Bow Creek Ecological Park, 30 on 28th July; Abberton Reservoir, 12 on 17th August; Hanningfield Reservoir, 17 on 27th July; Walthamstow Wetlands, 14 on 12th July; King George V Reservoir, 45 on 23rd July.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus* UK

Common passage migrant and much increased winter visitor.

Estimated minimum monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	36	23	52	59	5	19	123	161	90	39	63	30
Locations	23	15	23	27	4	11	28	49	31	24	29	17

In the first winter the maximum count was five at Hanningfield Reservoir on 4th February.

Spring passage was similar to last year with 135 records in March-June (126 in 2016). The maximum counts were eight at: Ingrebourne Valley on 4th and 10th April; South Chingford on 1st April.

Autumn passage was very light with 413 records in July-October (564 in 2016 and 1,800 in 2015). Double-figure counts came from (maximum site counts): The Hythe Colchester, 15 on 14th August; Old Hall Marshes, 15 on 11th July; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 11 on 28th July; Vange Marsh, ten on 26th August; East Tilbury, ten on 8th July; Bowers Marsh, ten on 23rd July; Ingrebourne Valley, 11 on 26th August; William Girling Reservoir Chingford, 12 on 31st July.

In the second winter period, the highest count was ten at King George V Reservoir on 10th November.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus totanus/robusta* UK REX

***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.**

Nine sites had probable breeding pairs, but breeding was confirmed at just three. A total of 223-226 pairs was reported (151 in 2016) from the following locations (2016 figures in brackets): Broomhouse Flash Langham, five (two); Cattawade Marshes, eight (13); Hamford Water, 15 (15), this is probably a significant under-estimate given the area of saltings; Holland Haven, three; Old Hall Marshes, 65 (19); Tollesbury Wick, 16; Wallasea Island, 18 (17); Foulness Island, 27 (14); Blue House Farm, 12-15 (ten); Aveley, one; Rainham Marshes, 53 (60).

The only non-Wetland Bird Survey four-figure count came from Marsh House Dengie with 2,900 on 15th March.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 1,100 INT 1,500	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**7099**	**5734**	**6146**	**1964**	**3269**	**6409**	**8838**	**7786**	**6916**
Stour Estuary	959	**1101**	791	402	820	**1430**	1838	**1213**	877
Hamford Water	1079	1093	1071	117	nc	**1277**	1131	1091	**1187**
Colne Estuary	230	725	559	207	0	200	649	**1252**	409
Blackwater Estuary	**2361**	**1310**	**1964**	387	343	**1123**	2887	**1374**	**2327**
Dengie	625	89	290	112	184	252	200	221	254
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	662	618	288	60	190	935	714	878	490
Foulness/Thames	**1179**	798	**1179**	671	**1728**	**1192**	1419	**1750**	**1371**

2016 Addendum:

14 pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 134 pairs from eight locations.
17 pairs bred on Wallasea Island, revising the year's figures to 151 pairs from nine locations.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola* UK

Scarce passage migrant.

Estimated minimum monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	0	0	1	12	0	14	21	1	1	0	0
Locations	0	0	0	1	5	0	7	11	1	1	0	0

In spring, the earliest was at Vange Marsh on 30th April, with reports of more than singles from: Rainham Marshes, 2-5 on 5th-9th May; Vange Marsh, 2-4 on 4th-6th May.

In autumn, reports of multiple occurrences were: Holland Haven, 2-7 from 25th July to 9th August with peak counts of 31st July and 3rd August; Abberton Reservoir, two on 1st August; Bowers Marsh, two on 10th August; Lower Raypits Canewdon, three on 18th August; Rainham Marshes, two on 21st and 29th July. The last was at Hanningfield Reservoir on 8th October.

SPOTTED REDSHANK *Tringa erythropus* UK

Fairly common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Estimated minimum monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	17	11	25	22	14	21	53	60	136	16	12	6
Locations	10	7	10	9	6	4	11	16	16	5	6	3

The only double-figure counts during the spring were from Old Hall Marshes, 11 on 13th March and 13 on 17th April.

Double-figure counts in autumn came from four sites (three in 2016), with peak totals as follows: Abberton Reservoir, 30+ on 2nd September; Abbotts Hall Farm, 22 on 30th September; Old Hall Marshes, 52 on 2nd September; Vange Marsh, ten on 23rd July.

Apart from Abberton Reservoir, the only inland records were 1-2 at Walthamstow Wetlands from 26th August to 16th September.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia* UK

Common passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Estimated minimum monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coastal	24	18	18	89	93	2	158	369	493	175	62	28
Inland	0	0	0	12	30	0	16	13	15	4	0	0
Total	24	18	18	101	123	2	174	382	508	179	62	28
Locations	15	11	11	36	30	2	40	58	43	34	11	11

In spring, double-figure counts came from: Wivenhoe, 12 on 8th May; Vange Marsh, 28th April-7th May with a maximum of 23 on 2nd May; Bowers Marsh, ten on 5th May; Abberton Reservoir, ten on 9th May.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 6*+ INT 3,000	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**7**	**6**	**2**	**24**	**105**	**201**	**65**	**17**	**5**
Stour Estuary	5	3	1	7	**55**	**101**	**20**	**13**	4
Hamford Water	0	0	0	1	nc	**40**	**19**	0	0
Blackwater Estuary	2	1	0	1	3	**31**	**8**	0	0
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	0	0	0	1	**10**	**23**	4	1	0
Foulness/Thames	0	2	1	**8**	**30**	1	**14**	3	1

In autumn, counts of 20 or more were reported from (maximum site counts): Cattawade, 27 on 3rd September; Mistley Walls, 40 on 11th September; Frinton-on-Sea, 62 south in 2.5 hours on 9th September; Colne Point, 28 on 23rd July; Fingringhoe Wick, 61 on 22nd August; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 45 on 5th September; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 24 on 10th August; Potton Creek Great Wakering, 20 on 16th September; Two Tree Island, 60 on 20th September.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla tridactyla* UK

Common passage migrant and winter visitor: occasional in summer.

A much quieter year overall than last, with no significant influxes.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	126	11	3	3	7	9	3	5	0	200	13	200

During January, the only counts of more than two came from Frinton-on-Sea where southerly passage was noted: 56 on 9th; 16 on 10th and 11th; 31 on 14th.

Thereafter numbers were very sparse with the five heading north on 20th June off Frinton-on-Sea the highest count until October. As in other years, a very small movement occurred during late spring-early summer off the north-east coast.

Numbers in autumn and winter were generally below average with none at all in September. October saw a reasonable movement on 29th during north-east to north-west winds. About 50 were observed heading north at Frinton-on-Sea and Holland Haven, whilst along the Thames an absolute minimum of 150 birds, equally split between adults and juveniles, were noted from Gunners Park Shoebury, Southend Pier and Canvey Point. Numbers were very low in November with the highest count being just three off East Tilbury on 12th.

During December there was a small influx around 10th-11th with a final flourish on the last day of the month. During the earlier period, 38 headed north at Frinton-on-Sea during east-south-easterlies on 10th with at least 40 off Canvey Point the next day, seven of which made it as far up-river as Rainham Marshes. The 31st saw 73 heading south off Frinton-on-Sea with five off Canvey Point the same day.

The sole inland records were two at Walthamstow Wetlands on 22nd March whilst one was present at King George V Reservoir from 27th April-4th May with, presumably, a different bird on 15th May. In addition, birds made it up-river as far as Beckton on 15th January, 23rd March and 2nd May (three) and Thames Barrier Park on 10th August.

SABINE'S GULL *Xema sabini*

Scarce, almost annual visitor, mainly in autumn. **EBSIP (113, 37, 150)**

Frinton-on-Sea	One	14th October	PBr

A single bird with a further two unsubstantiated records received.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	1	2	0	2	4	5	2	2	10	3	3.1

BONAPARTE'S GULL *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*

Vagrant. **BBRC (1, 4, 5)**

Abberton Reservoir	First-winter/summer	22nd April-9th May	mo
Becton Creekside and Rainham Marshes	First summer	Intermittently 14th-23rd May	mo

Coming fairly close on the tail of the two records in 2012, these two birds were, none-the-less, much appreciated by their admirers. The Abberton record was the first for the site, whilst the Beckton/Rainham bird also appeared on and off at Crossness Kent.

BLACK-HEADED-GULL *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* UK

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding records from the main colonies included 2016 figures where known:

Hamford Water:	404+ pairs, a big reduction on recent years; there were 2,150 nests in 2015, the last year the site was counted.
Stone Point The Naze	17 pairs bred on rafts
Abberton Reservoir	25+ pairs, although this was possibly an underestimate; 30 chicks were ringed in 2016.
Cindery Island Brightlingsea Creek	5-6 pairs bred on east section compared to about 200 pairs in 2016, albeit these were flooded out.
Heybridge Gravel Pit	about 600 nests compared to 500 in 2016.
Wallasea Island	623 apparently occupied nests (197)
Foulness Island:	134 pairs raised 75 young (192).

Blue House Farm	34 pairs nested but just one chick survived, possibly due to Foxes although this may have been just a contributory factor; 90+ pairs bred in 2016.
Paglesham Lagoon	78 pairs; 80 in 2016.
Russell Green Gravel Pit Boreham	150+ pairs; 100 were present in 2016.
Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield	12 young on rafts.

It appears that many colonies are not counted regularly.

Interestingly, a total of 717 flew north off Frinton-on-Sea on 10th May, an unusual time of year for such movements to take place, albeit consistent with a regular up-channel movement of immature/non-breeding birds (PBr pers. comm.).

Non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 1,500 or more came from seven sites: Hamford Water, 2,000 on 27th May; Tollesbury Wick, 1,500 on 28th April and 5th May; East Tilbury, 1,800 on 14th January; Rainham Marshes, 1,500 on 27th December, 2,000 on 26th January, 2,500 on 21st December and 5,000 on 23rd February; Abberton Reservoir, 1,800 on 19th April; Writtle College New Reservoir, 1,500 on 27th August; King George V Reservoir, 1,600 on 26th 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	**8764**	**8813**	**9876**	**11093**	**9293**	**13151**	**9933**	**7845**	**10132**
Stour Estuary	427	557	621	275	5475	1593	523	625	379
Hamford Water	1011	1296	2164	662	nc	2520	1953	1577	1715
Holland Haven	35	60	325	170	60	65	80	36	105
Colne Estuary	86	103	365	250	1	64	113	118	49
Blackwater Estuary	675	251	932	850	343	1081	511	369	310
Dengie	29	18	15	15	152	670	769	33	110
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	110	44	539	308	174	275	693	65	29
Foulness/Thames	3616	2844	1969	1965	1886	5323	3279	2701	2404
Hanningfield Reservoir	320	98	276	870	538	763	537	161	64
Lee Valley	680	1580	283	70	7	6	317	141	3499

2016 Addendum:
192 pairs bred on Foulness Island.
197 pairs bred on Wallasea Island

LITTLE GULL *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

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

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	1	1	8	23	18	0	1	5	8	13	19	3
Locations	1	1	4	6	5	0	1	4	7	3	1	2

A very quiet year overall, with just one double-figure count, ten at Rainham Marshes on 18th May. The only other counts of five or more were: seven at King George V Reservoir on 9th April, and Frinton-on-Sea on 12th and 13th November; six at Abberton Reservoir on 29th April; five off Frinton-on-Sea on 28th October.

There were just two records during the first winter, singles at Rainham Marshes on 31st January and 9th February.

The first spring migrant involved four over Walthamstow Wetlands on 11th March and the last of

the spring was a first-summer bird at Bowers Marsh on 20th May. The first returning autumn migrant was on the River Crouch, off Blue House Farm on 31st July, with the last of the year being three off Canvey Point, and presumably two of these off Rainham Marshes, all on 11th December.

LAUGHING GULL *Leucophaeus atricilla**

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

Rainham Marshes	Adult	9th May	AGo ASh

The third Essex record, the previous being in 1999 and 1974, was found whilst surveying Redshank. This species continues to elude most Essex birders, all the individuals having been fly-by records.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* UK

Increasing resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding records came from: Hamford Water, seven possibly eight adults and a first-summer present but nesting sites flooded by high tides; Wallasea Island, ten adults with two juveniles in the main gull colony. In addition, juveniles were seen around one or two sites in Southend-on-Sea during the summer, suggesting local breeding (although there are colonies in north Kent, not far across the Thames), whilst two or more birds were noted summering at each of around 20 coastal sites from May-July.

Given the numbers now breeding in southern England (1,736 pairs in Langstone Harbour, Hampshire alone in 2018), numbers breeding in the County are likely to increase.

Numbers in the south-east of the County were smaller than last year and indeed the highest count of the year did not occur in the mid-late summer period, but on 3rd May when there were 200 off Canvey Point. Later on, the only three-figure counts were: 115 on Wallasea Island on 22nd June, 188 on the Roach Estuary on 1st September and 118 on Canvey Seafront on 7th September.

Away from the south-east, there are signs that the build-up in numbers breeding in the south of England and East Anglia is producing a regular, predominantly southerly summer passage off Frinton-on-Sea:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	1	2	5	2	46	93	11	9	36	13	0

Peak movements here were 20 in three hours on 24th June, 16 on 18th June in 1.25 hours and the same number in 0.75 hours on 11th July, with a further four double-figure counts all in July and 15 in 0.75 hours on 8th October.

Away from the south-east of the County and Frinton-on-Sea, double-figure counts remain rare, albeit steadily increasing every year: Colne Point, 15 on 16th June; Mersea Island, 22 on 6th October with ten the next day; Cudmore Grove East Mersea, ten from 7th-11th August; Beckton, 18 on 22nd April.

An apparent hybrid adult Mediterranean x Black-headed Gull flew south past Frinton-on-Sea on 20th July.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus* UK

Common Gull *Larus canus canus*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Seemingly lower numbers present than in 2016 with non-Wetland Bird Survey counts of 200 or more coming from just seven locations, and no four-figure counts: East Tilbury, 240 on 14th January; Abberton Reservoir, 750 on 10th January; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 200 on 20th March; Woodham Mortimer, 200 on 20th February; Wormingford, 250 on 19th September; Belchamp St Paul, 200 on 6th February; Wanstead Flats, 686 on 15th January, a peak of 700 on 14th February, 750 on 1st March, 400 on 20th November and a peak of 350 on 31st December.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 7,000 INT 16,400	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**910**	**788**	**711**	**548**	**437**	**816**	**1303**	**634**	**551**
Stour Estuary	34	73	255	4	55	36	29	38	11
Hamford Water	10	8	11	0	nc	23	11	9	17
Colne Estuary	2	3	18	1	0	1	1	0	0
Blackwater Estuary	29	10	15	0	5	27	26	22	17
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	6	12	2	0	1	4	2	6	4
Foulness/Thames	461	238	266	540	335	604	332	282	139

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus* UK

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

An apparently better year than 2016 with non-Wetland Bird Survey three-figure counts coming from five locations: Frinton-on-Sea, where southerly passage was noted during October, 804 in eight hours on 28th, 150 in 4.5 hours on 29th and 169 in 3.75 hours on 31st; Wakering Stairs, 103 on 9th January; Abberton Reservoir, 180+ on 10th January and 100 on 22nd October; Hanningfield Reservoir, 100 on 27th January.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 760 INT 4,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**415**	**344**	**146**	**59**	**76**	**150**	**529**	**752**	**194**
Stour Estuary	10	12	9	7	26	11	16	17	24
Hamford Water	16	29	25	1	nc	46	14	60	30
Holland Haven	3	2	0	0	0	0	2	12	2
Colne Estuary	1	1	32	17	0	6	7	0	1
Blackwater Estuary	32	13	5	2	1	16	15	3	8
Dengie	1	1	11	1	3	23	8	20	11
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	0	12	2	0	0	0	5	3	5
Foulness/Thames	185	149	52	27	23	19	365	499	53

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus hyperboreus*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. EBSIP

Bowers Marsh/Pitsea Landfill/Hole Haven Creek	Juvenile	5th-24th January at least	mo
Leyton	Second winter	21st January	
Leyton	Juvenile	28th January	
Barking	Juvenile	22nd January	
Olympic Park Stratford	Second winter	22nd January	mo
Rainham Marshes	Juvenile and second winter	26th January	mo
Walthamstow Wetlands	Juvenile	28th-30th January	
Mouth of Colne/Blackwater	Third winter	On and off from 4th-19th March	mo
Bowers Marsh/Pitsea Landfill/Hole Haven Creek	Juvenile	On and off from 24th March-7th April	mo
Abberton Reservoir	First winter	On and off from 9th-24th December	mo
East Mersea	Assumed same as Abberton	31st December	

A particularly good influx in the first winter involving seven individuals. It is interesting to note the complete lack of records in February; where did they go?

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017/16	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	Average
Totals	7	2	3	4	5	0	2	3	3	6	3.5

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoides*

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides glaucoides* UK

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. **EBSIP (99, 58, 157)**

Bowers Marsh/Tilbury/Pitsea Landfill	Second winter	3rd-19th January	mo
Barking	Juvenile	19th April	
Thames Barrier Park	Juvenile	4th June	JPa
The Naze/Frinton-on-Sea/Holland Haven	First winter	18th November/19th November/7th December	DSt/PBr/HHa

The latter bird was generally present in the Stour Estuary and regularly reported from Languard, where it would have been visible from Essex. Four records is a respectable show, and included an unusual summer record, only the second County record during June, after one on 13th at Glebe Outfall Dengie in 1999.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017/16	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	Average
Totals	3	2	6	3	3	18	3	5	2	5	5.0

2016 Correction:

The observer for both the Canvey and West Canvey Marsh birds on 24th April and 2nd May was CSh, not as stated.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus argenteus/argentatus* UK

***L.a. agenteus* 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 (2016 figures in brackets where available): Hamford Water, 213 gull nests in a mixed colony with Lesser Black-backed Gull (100-200); Frinton-on-Sea, two pairs fledged six young; Cindery Island Brightlingsea Creek, 40+ pairs but low success due to high tides (50-60 pairs) plus one pair with a nest on a buoy off St Osyth Stone; Wivenhoe, a pair with well-grown chick; Colchester Town Centre, adults during mid-summer suggested breeding nearby; Maldon, several pairs bred on industrial buildings; Foulness Island, 18 pairs (5); Braintree and Bocking, two probable pairs; Purfleet, one pair/nest; Walthamstow Wetlands, three pairs nesting on western island, six young; Olympic Park Stratford, five territories; Mill Meads Stratford, one pair/nest.

The species is probably a more widespread breeder in built-up areas than the records suggest, as noisy, aggressive adults appear to be a feature of many inland sites during the summer.

The largest non-Wetland Bird Survey count by some way was 2,940 south in eight hours at Frinton-on-Sea on 28th October. The next highest non-Wetland Bird Survey counts were just 300, reported from Hamford Water on 27th May (the breeding colony), Rainham Marshes on 10th May and Old Hall Marshes on 2nd April, with a further six counts of 200 or more.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 7,300 INT 10,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**1638**	**1723**	**1660**	**1477**	**830**	**1552**	**1591**	**2275**	**1907**
Stour Estuary	33	108	163	138	186	96	163	46	100
Hamford Water	149	63	95	4	nc	189	75	94	59
Holland Haven	85	60	45	40	75	210	60	56	50
Colne Estuary	7	30	84	69	0	20	27	5	7
Blackwater Estuary	141	207	242	192	79	83	107	113	73
Dengie	182	24	78	56	39	113	340	96	149
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	126	118	118	26	12	30	42	40	32
Foulness/Thames	739	963	778	930	289	795	725	1620	1284
Abberton Reservoir	83	57	16	2	147	12	29	119	77
Hanningfield Reservoir	25	66	17	15	2	0	0	62	10
Lee Valley	59	20	1	1	0	0	9	0	45

2016 Addendum:
Five pairs bred on Foulness Island.

CASPIAN GULL *Larus cachinnans* UK

Locally common late summer visitor, mainly along the Thames; occasional in winter. EBSIP

As is typical, almost all records came from along the Thames. Estimated monthly totals at the three main sites, together with County totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pitsea Landfill area	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rainham Marshes	5	2	1	0	3	0	2	0	0	3	0	3
Thames Barrier Park	12	7	4	1	1	0	2	0	2	2	2	0
Other sites	3	5	3	2	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	4
Totals	21	13	8	2	6	0	5	0	3	6	3	6

The area around Thames Barrier Park is clearly attracting the species in increasing numbers.

In all the species was reported from a total of 16 sites, although some of these are close together and almost certainly involved birds moving between them: Barking Bay; Beckton area; Bowers Marsh; East India Dock Basin; East Tilbury; Leyton Flats/Snaresbrook; Hole Haven Creek; Holland Haven; Hullbridge; King George V Reservoir; Pitsea landfill; Rainham Marshes; Thames Barrier Park; Southend Pier; Wat Tyler; West Thurrock.

The only Caspian Gull recorded away from the south of the County was a first winter on the scrape at Holland Haven from 22nd February to 27th March and another first winter there on 27th October and 7th November.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	25	25	15	20	15	15	20	20	20	30	20.5

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis michahellis* UK

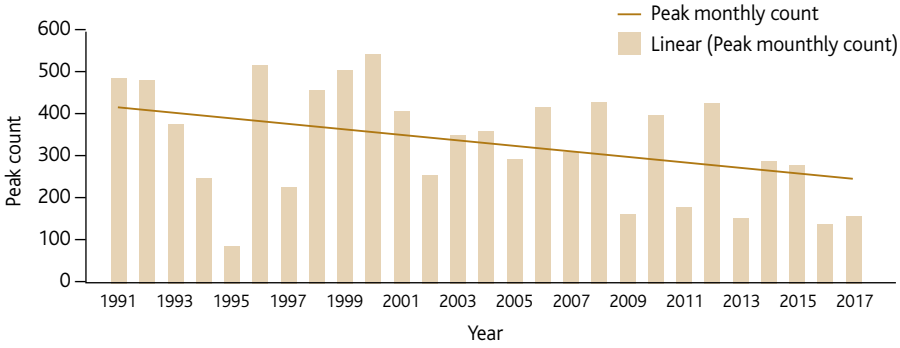
Fairly common late summer visitor, mainly to the Thames and scarce winter visitor.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rainham Marshes	5	1	0	0	0	4	30	25	0	0	0	0
Barking Bay	6	0	0	3	0	2	21	0	6	11	0	0
Thames Barrier	1	2	4	2	2	3	13	4	0	5	5	4
East Tilbury/Thurrock Thameside	0	0	0	0	1	8	71	79	8	0	0	0
Other sites	15	6	4	1	5	1	19	18	15	7	6	5
Total	26	9	8	6	8	18	154	126	29	23	11	9

Analysis of the peak annual monthly accounts available suggest that the species is in decline, a fact also noted in London (LBR 2017). Although observer coverage can cause distortions from year to year, there is a clear downward trend.

Peak monthly counts of Yellow-legged Gull 1991–2017



The vast majority of birds were in along the Thames Estuary with regulars also in the Lee Valley, where, like Caspian Gull, the mobility of the species means they must be recorded at more than one site; the totals above should perhaps be viewed with caution.

The highest counts came from: Thurrock Thameside Mucking, a peak of 71 on 23rd July; East Tilbury, a peak of 56 on 15th July and a peak of 79 on 5th August; Barking Bay, 21 on 17th July and 11 on 23rd October. There were no other double-figure counts. Numbers were low during the second winter; the majority of the December total being made up of a count of eight at West Thurrock on 12th December.

Away from the favoured areas, the species is genuinely scarce. At Hanningfield Reservoir 1-4 birds were present from July to the end of the year with month peaks of: September, four (on 4th); July, August and October, two; November and December, one. North of the Blackwater the species was noted at just six sites, all records involving singles: Mistley/Manningtree, intermittently from July to November; The Naze, in September and November; Holland Haven, in March, July and September; Mersea Island, in July; Abberton, in August; Old Hall Marshes, in July.

The EBSIP panel has now removed Yellow-legged Gull from the list of species it considers.

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 (2016 numbers in brackets where known):

Hamford Water, 213 gull nests in a mixed colony with Herring Gull (200-300); Mistley/Manningtree, pair seen in copulation and display; Cindery Island Brightlingsea Creek, about ten pairs nested but no young seen due to high tides (about eight pairs); Maldon, several pairs bred on

industrial buildings; Foulness Island, one pair (four); Blue House Farm, 15 recently fledged young on 29th June; Braintree and Bocking area, about five pairs summered; Walthamstow Wetlands, 11 pairs bred on west island; High Beach Epping Forest, three pairs/nests; Leyton Flats/Snaresbrook, pair on territory; Dagenham, one pair/nest; Olympic Park Stratford, display and territorial behavior noted.

The only three-figure non-Wetland Bird Survey counts were: Hamford Water, 250 on 27th May (nesting colony); Abberton Reservoir, 200 on 10th January; Orsett, 140 on 1st September; Epping Forest Burial Park, 231 on 6th September; Roding Valley Meadows Chigwell, 180 on 6th August, 110 on 7th January and 100 on 26th July; Walthamstow Wetlands, 126 on 10th April.

Principal monthly Wetland Bird Survey counts were:

GB 1,200 INT 10,200	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WeBS Total	**277**	**238**	**218**	**185**	**251**	**259**	**299**	**206**	**299**
Stour Estuary	20	47	37	41	159	60	78	43	27
Hamford Water	15	18	60	0	nc	44	18	24	13
Holland Haven	3	0	1	1	2	11	0	3	1
Colne Estuary	0	0	5	5	0	1	1	0	0
Blackwater Estuary	8	11	11	69	34	69	33	32	16
Dengie	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	0
Crouch/Roach/Wallasea	8	1	8	2	2	3	3	3	1
Foulness/Thames	82	65	50	40	39	33	63	72	66

2016 Addendum:
Four pairs bred on Foulness Island.

SANDWICH TERN *Thalasseus sandvicensis* UK

Local summer visitor and common passage migrant.

The first spring record involved what were presumably the same three birds off Gunners Park Shoebury and Canvey Point on 23rd March, two days later than in 2016. Spring passage was generally light with only one double-figure count, 28 off Canvey Point on 3rd May.

Autumn passage built from mid-July when there were double-figure counts from The Walton backwaters, 12 on 8th and 15 on 15th, building to a peak of 80 roosting birds, many being juveniles, on 30th.

Counts in August of up to 100 (13th) at The Walton backwaters clouded the movements that were occurring off Frinton-on-Sea at this time: were those seen at the latter site just birds from this temporary gathering at The Naze, (which appeared to number 50-60 throughout the month) moving backward and forward from the roost, or individuals moving down the coast? Peak counts from Frinton-on-Sea were 136 south in three hours on 13th, 66 south in two hours on 12th and 54 north in 2.5 hours on 20th with a further seven double-figure counts during the month. Further south in the Thames Estuary, peak counts occurred around 21st-23rd with 19 off Canvey Point on 21st, 40 off Canvey Point the next day and 12 the day after. There were also ten off Coalhouse Fort East Tilbury on 22nd and the final double-figure count of the month came once again from Canvey Point, where there were 11 on 30th.

There were a further five double-figure counts off Frinton-on-Sea in September, the highest being 49 heading south in 1.25 hours on 3rd and 32 south in two hours on 2nd and the last, 19 mostly south in 6.5 hours on 24th. A flock of 30 on 11th was also off The Naze, from where there was just one further double-figure count in September. Apart from 12 off East Mersea on 17th, all other double-figure counts came from the Thames Estuary. On 1st, 11 were upriver at Gallions Reach Beckton. On 4th, at least 45 passed Canvey Point whilst there were a further seven double-figure counts up to and including ten off Gallions Reach Beckton on 24th and the last, of 11 off Canvey Point and Rainham Marshes (the same birds?) on 25th.

There were just ten October records, all of 1-2 birds apart from 14 in a single flock off Thurrock Thameside Mucking on 1st. The last record of the year was one off The Naze on 11th November.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	0	15	43	73	12	165	600	425	25	1	0

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons* UK REX

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons albifrons*

Declining summer visitor and passage migrant.

Breeding records came from at least three sites but, typically, success was not high: Horsey Island Hamford Water, 22 pairs fledged eight young; Stone Point The Naze, three pairs probably failed; Old Hall Marshes, seven nests washed out by high spring tides.

The first birds of the spring were all inland on the exceptionally early date of 9th April, with one at Hanningfield Reservoir and two at Walthamstow Wetlands. Thereafter, the next bird(s) was seen off Gallions Reach Beckton and Rainham Marshes on 21st April.

Double-figure post-breeding and autumn passage counts came from five locations: Horsey Island Hamford Water, 36 on 11th August; The Naze, a total of six double-figure counts the highest being 40 on 14th July, 21 on 8th July and 13 on 15th July; Colne Point, 11 on 23rd July; East Mersea, 19 on 24th July; Deal Hall Dengie, ten on 22nd August and 40 on 2nd September.

Inland records, in addition to the ones mentioned above, came from: Hanningfield Reservoir, two on 30th April; King George V Reservoir, singles on 28th April and 27th July. Single birds were upriver as far as Gallions Reach Beckton on 21st April and Rainham Marshes on 21st and 30th April, 3rd and 5th May and 30th August.

The last record of the year was of three off Stone Point Mersea Island on the relatively early date of 7th September.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii dougallii* UK

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

A blank year with just two unsubstantiated records received.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo hirundo* UK

Common summer resident and passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding came from: The Naze, at least three chicks; Daltes Lane Gravel Pit St Osyth, about ten pairs nested but abandoned before hatching; Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, three pairs on rafts; Stone Point Mersea Island, two pairs nested; Ardleigh Reservoir, one pair; Abberton Reservoir, 10+ pairs on rafts; Broomhouse Flash Langham, one pair; Prestons Lake Pebmarsh, one pair; Old Hall Marshes, 24 apparently occupied nests and 25 young recorded fledged; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 31 nests, many fledged; Russell Green Gravel Pit Boreham, eight nests with two broods; Hanningfield Reservoir, at least ten young fledged on rafts; Wallasea Island, 26 apparently occupied nests (8); Paglesham Lagoon, seven nests on rafts with three juveniles; Burnham-on-Crouch, one juvenile; Blue House Farm, pair hatched two young; Wat Tyler, at least 17 fledged young; Bowers Marsh, birds seen carrying food/faecal sacs; Walthamstow Wetlands, six birds sitting, three broods but none appeared to fledge; Barking Bay, about 46 bred on disused piers; Fishers Green Holyfield, at least five pairs.

Other sites where breeding probably took place but further details not available; Fingringhoe Wick; Wallasea Island; Foulness Island, two pairs present (ten); Braintree and Bocking, two pairs probably bred; Brook Farm Upminster; Dagenham Chase;

The first of the spring was in Barking Bay on 30th March.

Three-figure counts during spring migration were reported from: Abberton Reservoir, 100 on 23rd April; Canvey Point, 120 on 3rd May; Rainham Marshes, 104 on 30th April.

Autumnal passage was not as strong as in 2016, but none-the-less there were some notable counts both off the north-east coast and in the Thames Estuary with all the three-figure counts coming during August: Frinton-on-Sea, 195 on 5th, 313 on 8th, 112 on 9th, 208 on 14th and 294 on 20th; Canvey Point, 150 on 10th, 102 on 21st, 250 on 23rd and 200 on 30th; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 274 on 30th; East Tilbury, 100 on 22nd and 154 on 25th; Tilbury, 556 on 14th and 146 on 23rd; Rainham, 275 on 30th.

During September the only counts of 50 or more came from: Bradwell Bird Observatory, 59 on 6th; Thorney Bay Canvey Island, 60 on 4th; Canvey Point, 60 on 13th.

There were just seven records in October, all of singles apart from four south past Frinton-on-Sea in seven hours on 20th. The last bird of the year was off Frinton-on-Sea on 29th October, although a tern heading south past Holland Haven on 7th November could have been of this species.

2016 Addendum:
Ten pairs bred on Foulness Island.
Eight pairs bred on Wallasea Island.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea* UK

Fairly common passage migrant. Bred in 1959 and 1960.

A relatively average spring but numbers in the autumn and particularly in August were impressive:

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coastal	0	0	0	95	31	0	8	716	100	2	0	0
Inland	0	0	0	90	96	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	185	127	0	8	716	102	2	0	0

The first bird of the spring was at Rainham Marshes on 1st April, although the next was not until 15th when another occurred at the same site. Double-figure counts came from: Frinton-on-Sea, 23 north in 2.5 hours on 30th April; Rainham Marshes, 27 also on 30th April; Thames Barrier Park, 13 on 18th April; King George V, Reservoir/Sewardstone Marsh, 19 also on 18th April; Walthamstow Wetlands, 74 on 9th May, the only double-figure count in that month. The last birds of the spring were four off Two Tree Island on 28th May.

The first returning birds involved three off Rainham Marshes on 19th July. Thereafter, there were two significant three-figure counts off Rainham Marshes, 121 on 17th August and 325 on 30th August, the latter part of one of the best tern passages here in many years. Double-figure counts came from: Frinton-on-Sea, 15 on 20th August; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 11 on 6th September; Canvey Point, 40 on 18th August, 11 on 21st August, 16 on 23rd August, and in September, 31 on 3rd, 12 on 15th and 20 on 16th.

There were just two records in October, both singles from Beckton, on 3rd and (the last of the year) on 14th.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Very scarce passage migrant. **EBSIP (51, 16, 67)**

Abberton Reservoir	Moulting adult	3rd September	mo

A typical record.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Number	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0.8

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger niger*

Fairly common passage migrant.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Coastal	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	126	86	4	0	0
Inland	0	0	0	18	18	1	2	13	15	1	0	0
Total	0	0	0	20	25	1	2	139	101	5	0	0

The first of the spring was at King George V Reservoir on 18th April, after which passage was poor. During April birds were seen at just five locations with the highest counts being ten at Abberton Reservoir on 29th, the only double-figure count of the spring, and five at Hanningfield from 24th-25th. In May reports came from seven sites with the highest count being six at King George V Reservoir on 3rd with four there on 1st.

A single bird was at Abberton Reservoir on 29th June.

Autumn migration began with a single bird at Abberton Reservoir on 19th July, after which passage was generally light with double-figure counts coming from: Frinton-on-Sea, 13 on 8th August; Canvey Point, 46 on 23rd, 15 on 26th and 40 on 30th August, with 12 on 3rd, 29 on 4th and 14 on 13th September; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 31 in 30th August; Tilbury, 17 on 4th September; Rainham Marshes, 11 on 30th August.

There were four October records including three south past Frinton-on-Sea in four hours on 1st and the final record of the year, a juvenile at Hanningfield Reservoir on 29th October.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua* UK

Uncommon, principally late autumn passage migrant.

Overall, an average year, but with reasonable numbers of birds occurring into December.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	1	1	3	0	2	0	0	10	23	58	71	27

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Number	196	205	182	205	120	222	234	153	237	98	185

During the first winter period there were single birds off Gunners Park on 4th January and Frinton-on-Sea on 27th February. Small flurries of records in March and May hinted at passage along the coast, the last bird of the spring being off Frinton-on-Sea on 7th May.

The first returning bird was off Canvey Point on 10th August, although the next records were not until 21st August after which passage was evident all around the coast. Up until late October, the highest count was six from Frinton-on-Sea on 9th October; the first double-figure count was 14 past Frinton-on-Sea on 28th with 15 there the next day and 12 the next (seven off Holland Haven on both 29th and 30th were assumed to have been seen also off Frinton). During November, the only other double-figure count came from Frinton-on-Sea with 15 on 22nd. Counts of more than five came from Frinton-on-Sea, six on 4th November and eight on each of 20th, 25th and 27th November; Canvey seafront, nine on 11th December. Frinton-on-Sea, Holland Haven and Canvey recorded the species on and off throughout December suggesting a continuing coastal movement, or perhaps some individuals hang around and are seen on different days?

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Uncommon, principally late autumn, passage migrant.

Just about an average year, allowing for the exceptional influx in 2011. Once again, the species' generally later passage date than Arctic Skua is evident.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	4	14	5	0

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Number	29	16	19	45	16	79	100	18	44	54	42

The only spring passage birds were one south past Frinton-on-Sea on 22nd March and another north there on 12th May. Unusually, there was a mid-summer record, one being noted from a fishing boat ten miles off Mersea Island on 26th July, although there was one off Frinton-on-Sea on 4th August, which may potentially have been the same bird.

Aside from these individuals, autumn passage commenced with a light-phase adult and a dark juvenile off Canvey Point on 21st August, although the next record was not until 16th September, when one was off Holland Haven. Thereafter records came from: Frinton-on-Sea, in October, singles on 1st, 29th and 30th and in November, two on 20th, one on 21st and two on 22nd, the last birds of the year; Holland Haven, singles on 29th September and 1st and 16th October; Bradwell Bird Observatory, one on 8th and four on 29th October; Canvey Point, on 25th September and four on 29th October; East Tilbury, one on 29th October.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus* UK

Fairly common, principally autumn, passage migrant.

A better year than the last two but there were still substantially fewer recorded than just five years ago. Clearly the 81% decline in the UK's breeding population of this enigmatic bird between 1992 and 2015 (caused by a reduction in breeding success due to a lack of food at the crucial time that they need to feed their young ("Combined bottom-up and top-down pressures drive catastrophic population declines of Arctic Skuas in Scotland", Perkins *et al*. 2018)) is having an adverse effect on numbers passing down the East coast of the UK.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	19	113	21	2	1

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Number	160	89	87	203	128	253	369	252	271	311	212.3

Spring records all came from Frinton-on-Sea where birds, all heading north, were reported as follows: one on 30th April, two on 1st May and one on 3rd May.

Return passage began with one off Canvey Point on 10th August, with the next not until 21st August, when one was off East Tilbury. Passage was heavily concentrated in late August/early September, with 46% of the year's records occurring in the week commencing 29th August.

Estimated weekly occurrences were:

	August				September				October			
Week commencing	**8th**	**15th**	**22nd**	**29th**	**5th**	**12th**	**19th**	**26th**	**3rd**	**10th**	**17th**	**24th**
Numbers	2	1	1	74	5	15	30	4	3	5	6	7
Locations	2	1	1	4	2	4	3	3	1	1	2	4

Counts of more than five came from: Holland Haven, 19 on 3rd and 12 on 4th September; Canvey Point, 15 on 30th August and in September, 19 on 3rd, eight on 4th and six on 25th; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 17 on 24th September. Although Frinton-on-Sea appeared to miss out on the larger movements, this was simply due to poor coverage on those days.

Outside the weeks in the table above, there were just three records, singles off Frinton-on-Sea on 20th and 25th November and the last of the year off Canvey Island on 11th December.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Scarce autumn passage migrant. **EBSIP (147, 49, 196)**

Frinton-on-Sea	Sub-adult	24th September	PBr
Deal Hall Dengie	One	6th October	DLo DWa
Frinton-on-Sea	One	30th October	PBr

A better year after last year's blank. Two further, unsubstantiated, records were received.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Number	3	0	1	5	1	3	8	3	1	4	2.9

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle alle*

Scarce winter visitor, but subject to periodic influxes.

Frinton-on-Sea	Four	29th October
Holland Haven	One, eaten	29th October
Frinton-on-Sea	Three	30th October
Holland Haven	Two, one of which eaten	30th October
Holland Haven	One	30th November
Holland Haven	Three	1st December
Canvey Point	One	1st December
Bradwell Power Station	One	24th December

The fourth best year in the last decade but numbers remain very low.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Number	15	16	21	4	11	3	17	5	5	1	9.8

COMMON GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge aalge/albionis* UK

Both races are passage migrants and winter visitors.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	11	46	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	92	25	21

A relatively quiet year with a small influx during February and a slightly larger one in October and no sign of spring passage.

During the first winter, all January records were of single birds apart from two at Rolls Farm Tollesbury on 30th. One was off Gallions Reach Beckton on 29th.

A small southerly movement occurred off Frinton-on-Sea on 18th February, the total of 35 birds including flocks of 18 and 14, an unusual sight from this location. Otherwise, all February records were of singles apart from two off Tollesbury Wick on 4th and Gunners Park Shoebury on 13th. The last of the first winter period was off Southend Pier on 31st March.

After one off Southend-on-Sea seafront on 29th August, there were three single birds during September. During October, there was an influx late in the month with 45 at Holland Haven and 41 at Frinton-on-Sea on 29th and 30 at both locations the next; mostly the same birds at each site. In addition, there were 59 auk sp. off Frinton-on-Sea on 29th and 58 on 30th October which were just too distant too identify with certainty. These were thought to be Guillemots but given that there was a significant influx of Razorbill (see below) on 29th, this may not have been the case. Otherwise the only other counts of more than one were: Frinton-on-Sea, four on 28th; Canvey Point, three on 19th and four on 22nd.

Numbers in November and December were unexceptional, with counts of more than two coming from: Frinton-on-Sea, three on 12th and four on 13th November; Holland Haven, four on 4th and 5th November and nine on 13th November; Southend-on-Sea, three on 24th December; Canvey Point, four on 31st December.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda islandica*

UK

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

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	1	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	40	1	4

An average year, the records occurring on only nine days during the year, albeit boosted by a significant influx in the Thames in late October.

The only records of more than one came from: Gunners Park Shoebury, two on 4th and three on 6th February; Canvey Point, 40 on 29th October. All the other records, all of singles, came from: Frinton-on-Sea, 6th June; Holland Haven, 1st December; Southend Pier, 14th January; Southend-on-Sea, 24th December; Canvey Point, 5th November and 1st and 31st December.

The count of 40 off Canvey Point on 29th October is exceptional and, apart from 50 in the Thames Estuary on 5th January 1986, is the largest count of live birds (95 corpses were recovered following an auk wreck in 1983) recorded in the County.

PUFFIN *Fractecula arctica*

UK

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

EBSIP (97, 25, 122)

A blank year, with just one unsubstantiated record received.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Number	0	0	1	0	3	3	2	2	1	1	1.3

ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia livia*

Common resident.

There were again no breeding records worthy of mention. The largest flocks at other seasons were as follows: Westcliff-on-Sea, up to 135 in February, 130 in March, 115 in May, 175 in August, 245 in September, 216 in October, 195 in November, and 215 in December; Rainham Marshes, 189 on 3rd April, 300 on 13th October, and 250 on 16th November; Leyton Flats, 200 on 11th October; Ilford, 200 on 26th September; Mistley, 100 on 22nd October; Earls Hall Farm St Osyth, 220 on 3rd December; Wanstead, 100 on 18th 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 166 sites (131 in 2016, 168 in 2015), of which around 69 (63) were in the south of the County, 77 (62) in the north and north-east, and 20 (six) in the west and north-west. Evidence of breeding activity came from around 58 of these sites (50 in 2016) and involved a minimum of 96 breeding pairs or territorial males (111 in 2016). Counts of more than two pairs or singing ♂♂ came from Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, 11 nests monitored, some producing second broods; Braintree and Bocking area, ten; Westley Heights Langdon Hills Plotlands, six; Foulness Island, 11; Mardyke Valley, five; Wormingford, four; Great Bromley, four; Lamarsh, three; Abbotts Hall Farm, three; Bradwell Bird Observatory, three.

Reports of three-figure flocks came from Wallasea Island, 100 on 5th January and 110 on 28th December; Foulness Island, 150 on 10th January and an impressive 434 on 18th December; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 104 on 28th January, 280 on 9th March, and 120 on 22nd August; Rainham Marshes, 160 on 30th January; Bowers Marsh, 100 on 14th April with up to 220 in November and 100 in December; Orsett Fen, 145 on 6th August; Wat Tyler, 200 on 4th December.

Despite being protected by law this species is continuing to experience population declines and is now Amber Listed. It is, of course, a hole nesting species and a lack of suitable nest sites may be a contributory factor. Thus, notes on these, where known, would be welcome.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus palumbus*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

The only record worthy of note relating to the breeding season came from Foulness Island, where at least 30 pairs were located (30 in 2016).

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: Fingringhoe Wick, 500 on 10th; Foulness Island, 911 on 10th; Tillingham, 500 on 14th; Paglesham, 500 on 24th; Friars Park North Shoebury, 800 on 30th; Hanningfield Reservoir, 500 on 30th. February: Hanningfield Reservoir, 600 on 4th and 700 on 14th and 26th; Belchamp St Paul, 500 on 6th; Elmdon Forest, 500 on 21st. March: Kirby-le-Soken, 500 on 3rd; April: Bradwell Bird Observatory, 1,300 on 5th.

Spring passage was noted at Frinton-on-Sea, where 179 flew north in 31.75 hours during March.

As usual, autumn migration peaked during October and early November, and was most evident in the south of the County (all records of 500 and over are given): It began with counts of 658 on Foulness Island on 16th and 600 at Wanstead on 18th and gained momentum on 23rd, when 5,300 flew south at Barking Bay, 4,262 at Chafford Hundred Grays, 3,768 at Tilbury, 3,250 at Rainham Marshes, 1,000 at Wanstead, and 870 at Langdon Hills Plotlands. At Two Tree Island, 1,000 were seen on 26th while the movement peaked on 27th, when no less than 49,300 passed over Chafford Hundred Grays and 40,000 at Great Burstead, with smaller numbers at Wanstead (6,000), Langdon Hills Plotlands (3,755), Rainham Marshes (2,100), and Leigh-on-Sea (2,000). Subsequently, there were 5,700 at Wanstead, 1,500 at Canvey Wick and 545 at Beckton on 28th, 1,830 at Langdon Hills Plotlands on 29th and a further 1,500 at Wanstead on 30th. A final surge occurred in early November, peak counts being 2,100 at Grays on 1st, 7,000 at Brook Farm Upminster on 5th, and 2,533, also at

Grays, on 13th. Counts of 1,000 at Cudmore Grove East Mersea on 25th and 30th October, 545 at Boreham on 28th October, and 500 at Hanningfield Reservoir, on 8th November may have been related to this movement, while at Frinton-on-Sea 467 moved south in 40.25 hours during November.

The only count of more than 500 birds in December was 817 on Foulness Island on 18th.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur turtur* UK RED

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 unless there is a radical change in the way we farm. The number of territories or singing ♂♂ was slightly up on the previous year, 43 birds being reported (33 in 2016) from 30 sites (21 in 2016), but it is still a pathetically low figure compared with past decades. Garden bird feeders continue to gain in importance as a source of food, at least for adults, but it is unclear whether the seed available meets the more specialised dietary requirements of fledglings. At one such site in Boreham the number of birds visiting the feeders fell to eight this year, a marked decline when compared with the 14 seen in the past 2-3 years. One of the most successful nesting sites in 2017 appears to have been Essex Wildlife Trusts' Wrabness reserve, where 2-3 pairs bred and a flock of 14 was seen in adjoining game-cover on 3rd September. On Foulness Island the number of breeding pairs remained stable at ten pairs, while three pairs bred at Wycke Farm Tolleshunt D'Arcy and 2-3 purring ♂♂ were reported from Ashen, Wix, Fingringhoe Wick, Chigborough Lakes and Wakering Stairs. Juveniles were reported from just two sites, Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth and Old Hall Marshes.

In total, there were 222 reports from around 65 localities (61 in 2016, 90 in 2015, 100 in 2014) during the summer, of which 45 (39) came from the north and north-east, 13 (17) from the south, and seven (five) from the west and north-west.

The first sighting of the spring was made at Wrabness on 23rd April while the last of the autumn was seen at Deal Hall Dengie on 8th October.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*

Common resident.

The only report of note relating to the breeding season was of 60+ pairs in the Braintree and Bocking area,

At other seasons flocks of 25+ birds were reported as follows: Ashdon, 25 on 27th March; Brook Farm Upminster, 42 on 23rd September, 36 on 25th October and 34 on 2nd November and 10th December; The Naze, 48 on 26th September; Mundon, 90 on 8th October; Stanford Rivers, 60 on 18th October; Point Clear St Osyth 33 on 24th October.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus canorus* UK

Fairly common resident and passage migrant.

The number of territories/singing ♂♂/ pairs (122) and the number of sites (84) were lower than in 2016 (125 and 93 respectively). Of these, 45 (61) came from the north-east, 33 from south Essex (27), and six (four) from the north-west. Additional records, without any indication of breeding activity mentioned by the observers, came from approximately 63-68 further sites during May and June, compared with 72 last year. Three or more territories/singing ♂♂ were reported from: (with 2016 figures in brackets where available): Heybridge Gravel Pit, 3-4 (3-4); Foulness Island, 21 (15); Wakering Stairs, three; Canvey Wick, three; West Canvey Marshes, three; East Tilbury, three; Rainham Marshes, six (five). Unfortunately, many records do not distinguish between males and females. Later in the season juveniles were seen at: Holland Haven; Blue House Farm; Two Tree Island; West Canvey Marshes; Old Hall Marshes; Abberton Reservoir; South Weald;

The first bird of the spring was at Paper Mill Lock Little Baddow on 7th April.

Records of the scarcer rufous (hepatic) morph females came from just two sites: Abberton Reservoir on 16th May; East Tilbury on 31st May.

The last record of the year came from Lodge Farm Epping Green on 8th October.

There can be little doubt that this iconic species is continuing to decline in the County, especially in the intensively farmed areas of the north and north-west.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba* REX

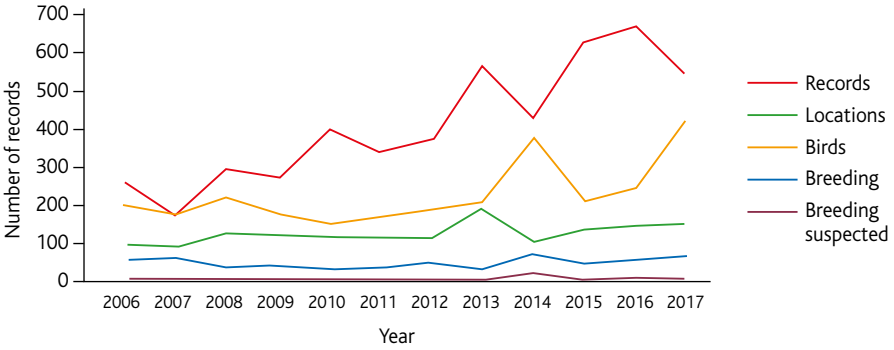
Barn Owl *Tyto alba alba*

Local resident, primarily in low lying coastal areas.

In total, 539 records involving at least 417 (173 juveniles) individuals were received from 147 sites (658 records of 243 individuals in 2016, 617 records of 206 individuals in 2015). The Society received reports of 77 breeding pairs, which produced 173 chicks. There were also three suspected breeders, (56 plus five suspected in 2016, 23 plus one suspected in 2015).

This has been the best year for reported breeding in a long time, the ten-year average being 43.

Number of records of Barn Owl from 2006–2017



Outside the breeding season, records peaked in January, when 33 were reported (48 in January 2016, 55 in January and February 2015).

Only 12 birds were seen in December, though December counts are often low.

Dead birds were reported from the hard shoulder of the A12 near Leyton Marsh on 24th June and two chicks found in a nest at Tolleshunt D'Arcy.

This species has its stronghold in the coastal low-lying areas between the Blackwater and Stour estuaries in the north-east, with far fewer records coming from the western part of the County. However, there may still be some under-reporting, so the species may be faring better than this report suggests.

All sightings will be welcomed by the Recorders.

SNOWY OWL *Bubo scandiacus*

Vagrant. BBRC (1, 1, 2)

2014 Addendum:

East Tilbury	Second calendar year (+)	24th March	PLa

The last record was an adult female at Sewardstonebury on 2nd-28th March 1963; clearly March is the month to look for the species in the County!

The finder was cycling along on his local patch when he saw what he thought was an egret flying; quickly stopping and raising his binoculars he was rather surprised to see it was a Snowy Owl!

The record was belatedly accepted in 2015 by the British Birds' Rarities Committee and overlooked in the 2015 Report.

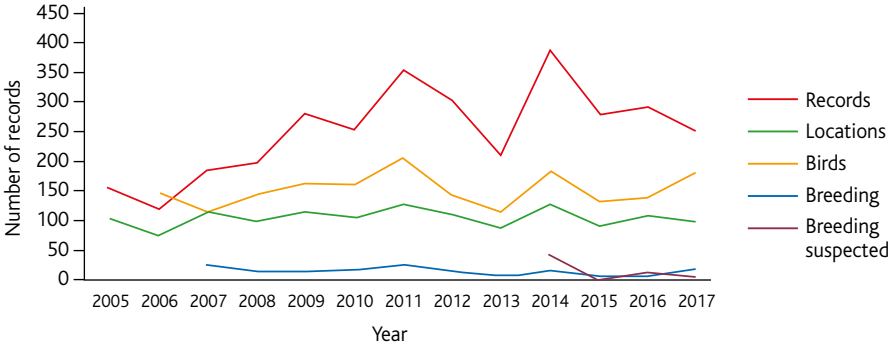
LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Fairly common and widespread resident.

There were 264 records concerning 178 individuals from 104 localities (298 records of 141 individuals from 112 locations in 2016, 282 records of 131 individuals from 92 locations in 2015).

In total 16 breeding records were submitted with a further four suspected (seven plus 12 suspected in 2016, six plus one suspected in 2015). Breeding was mostly in the north-east of the County. There was no breeding observed in the south-east of the County even though birds appeared to have territories. A better year for this species and an increase was evident for the first time since 2014, 178 is above the ten year average of 156.

Number of records of Little Owl from 2005–2017



One bird, taken into care after being in collision with a car wing mirror in Wix, was successfully released.

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.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco sylvatica* UK

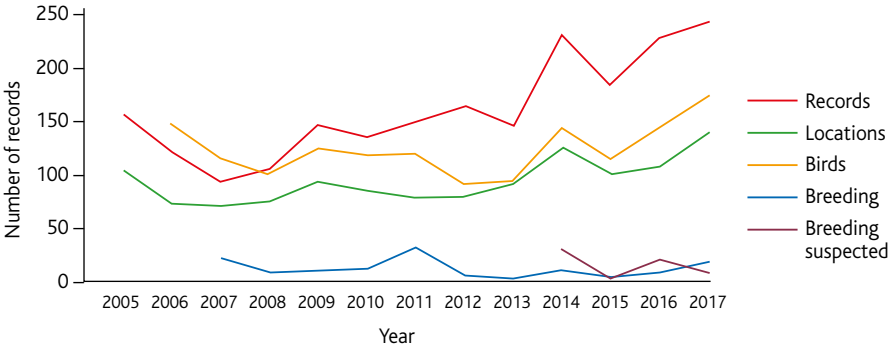
Common resident.

In total, 241 records were received concerning 181 individuals from 146 locations (226 records of 146 individuals from 109 locations in 2016, 183 records of 114 individuals from 101 locations in 2015). In general the species has a wide distribution in the County.

Breeding was proven for 21 pairs at 17 locations, with three juveniles confirmed. Breeding was suspected at a further seven locations. (11 pairs in 2015 plus 21 suspected, four in 2015 plus ten suspected). The north-east of the County appears to be one area where this species is doing well and the majority of breeding records received came from this area. As in previous years evidence of breeding was worryingly low, though it is acknowledged that it is not easy to confirm and the reality may be better that the results suggest.

In summary 2017 was a better year for this species, with a considerable increase in the numbers being observed and places they occur. There were 21 potential territories that had birds present during both halves of the year but showed no evidence of breeding and a further 57 locations that were only occupied for only one half of the year or the other. Fifteen birds were taken into care; all of them were successfully rehabilitated, including one trapped in a chimney, one found in a water butt and another entangled in fishing line. As ever the majority were road casualties. Dead birds were found at Bedfords Park on 8th January and Cattawade 24th March. Daylight calling was noted at seven locations.

Number of records of Tawny Owl from 2005–2017



All records are welcomed and hopefully this (coupled with the BTO Tawny Owl survey being undertaken in 2018/19) 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.

It is likely that that these figures are a significant underestimate of the County population and illustrate how little quality data is received on some species.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus otus* REX

Rare breeder, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

There were 45 records concerning 16 birds, from a total of five locations (17 records of 14 birds from seven sites in 2016, 15 records of six birds from four sites in 2015).

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

Once again there was no evidence of a winter roost in either winter period or any significant evidence of migrants.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus flammeus* UK REX

Rare breeder, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

In total, 270 records concerning 85 individuals from 47 locations were received (615 records of 111 individuals from 83 locations in 2016, 474 records of 119 individuals from 62 locations in 2015). As would be expected, the majority of records came from coastal areas.

Following breeding in the County in 2012 and 2013, this was the fourth year running without a breeding record, though two birds remained at one site until mid-May. Single birds were seen at various locations between June and August.

Monthly maxima in the past nine years have been:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2017 totals	33	23	16	23	10	1	1	2	12	17	16	7
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
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

The year started with the number of birds in the County similar to that in December 2016. Some of these had moved on by February, whilst the majority of the wintering birds departed in May. In the second winter period numbers were well down, with a maximum of two birds at Rainham Marshes on 28th December.

Migrant birds appeared from 14th September when loose flock of five birds was seen passing through Colne Point; they moved on rapidly.

The highest count for the first winter period was seven at South Fambridge on 10th January. In the second winter period there were no high counts.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus europaeus* UK

Rare passage migrant and summer visitor. EBSIP

A third blank year in a row.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0.4

ALPINE SWIFT *Tachymarptis melba melba*

Very rare migrant. EBSIP (17, 8, 25)

Blue House Farm	One	13th April	DWa GSm

Previous records came in each of the years 2010-2012 and before that in each of the years 2001-2003. Is this the start of another series of records followed by several blank years?

SWIFT *Apus apus apus* UK

Common summer resident and passage migrant.

Probable or confirmed breeding records totalled 36 pairs in ten locations (60-61 from 12 in 2016). The Braintree and Bocking area alone supplied one half of the records, repeating the 2016 figure of 18 pairs. Virtually all of the other submitted records were from one observer covering seven locations between Colchester and Sudbury. The availability of breeding evidence continues to be below expectations.

The first sighting for the year was of a single bird on the remarkably early date of 4th April at Brook Farm Upminster. The last sighting was on the unexceptional date of 30th September when five birds passed Frinton-on-Sea during the day.

Heavy passage was reported at Frinton-on-Sea in the periods 6th-7th June and again 28th July-4th August, including a particularly impressive passage of 16,082 birds over a period of four to five hours on 28th July and, in all, a total of 36,637 flew south in the eight day period. Previously counts of this magnitude have only been noted in May and June over the main reservoirs on single days, usually during unsettled weather here or on the Continent. An estimated 4,000 birds were noted hawking over Abberton Reservoir on 8th May.

The submission of all breeding evidence would be much appreciated.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis ispida* UK

Fairly common resident and passage migrant.

Confirmed or probable breeding totalled 13 pairs at 12 locations (14 from 13 in 2016). In the first winter period 101 records were received from 90 locations (121 from 100 in 2016) and in the second 122 records from 94 locations (126 from 97 in 2016). The database for the year stands at some 1,200 records, a little down from 2016 (1,350), with the usual caveats about duplication and likely observation of the same bird over successive days.

It follows that there is no discernably significant change in the status of the species in Essex between last year and this. The general trend over recent years has been one of increased reports,

but fewer breeding records. The burgeoning use of Birdtrack is clearly a factor in the increase of reports; the drop in breeding records is consistent with the national picture of decline. The submission of all breeding records would be welcome.

Five birds were observed at Stanford Warren on 13th March and five at Heybridge Gravel Pit on 1st November.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla torquilla*

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

2017 became only the second year in the Society's history that Wrynecks failed to occur in the County (1980 was the other), although there was one unsubstantiated record.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	0	3	4	8	13	4	5	10	5	9	6.1

One curious feature is that the two worst years in recent years were 1997 and 2007. In both these years there was just a single report. Following this sequence a poor year in 2017 could perhaps have been anticipated?!

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dryobates minor comminutus* **UK**

Scarce resident.

No confirmed breeding reports were received. Probable breeding amounted to just four records from four locations (eight from seven in 2016). As before, all the breeding evidence is confined to the presence of pairs and/or drumming activity.

Overall there were 53 reports from 22 locations (67 from 27 in 2016). The Langdon Hills area alone yielded one quarter of these records. Of particular note was the decline in reports from Shut Heath Wood Great Totham, the only known stronghold outside the south-west of the County (only three reports, one of a pair). This supports anecdotal evidence that the location is in decline as a reliable site for finding this elusive species.

Overall the figures are not encouraging for this Red Listed species and all records would be appreciated. On a more positive note one lucky observer noted multiple visits to his Halstead garden peanut feeder of a male and female, between 9th July and 8th August.

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.**

The number of records submitted was 1,950+ (1,850 in 2016). Confirmed or probable breeding comprised 128 territories from 82 locations (110 from 73 in 2016). The highest individual location count was 12 observed at Belhus Woods Aveley on 2nd June.

The species is ubiquitous in the County – even noted as a surprise visitor to Southend-on-Sea School for Girls on 6th January. Two records from The Naze on 26th September and 18th October were considered to relate to possible migrants.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis viridis*

Common resident.

Confirmed or probable breeding totalled 94 records from 51 locations (78 from 51 in 2016). The overall database for the year stands at 2,600 records (2,400 in 2016). The highest location count was 12 birds at Chigwell on 15th July.

The numbers therefore have remained stable with nothing to disturb previous conclusions that the species is very well established in the County, is observed widely and on most days of the year and breeds in significantly higher numbers than the available records would suggest.

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus* UK

Fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Breeding was confirmed for 39 pairs at 28 sites (18 at 18 in 2016, or 25 at 20 if breeding is assumed to have occurred at Foulness Island and Rainham Marshes – see Essex Bird Report 2016). All reports were of single pairs apart from seven at Foulness Island/Potton Island/Havengore Island (for these figures assumed all to have bred), three at Rainham Marshes (confirmed to have bred) and two each at New Hall Farm Little Wigborough and Abbotts Hall Farm. Fledging was confirmed at 14 sites, mainly of 2-3 youngsters but four at Tillingham and six at Cudmore Grove East Mersea, while a brood of five, still in a nestbox, was reported from Fingringhoe Wick. Just two fledged young were seen from the seven pairs in the Foulness area. In addition, a further 16 pairs were reported in the breeding season (taken as April-July) at 14 additional sites (25 at 22 in 2016) but without confirmation of breeding.

In total there were 2,857 reported sightings (2,882 in 2016), as usual mainly from Birdtrack and as usual mainly multiple sightings of the same individuals during repeated surveys. The monthly winter WeBS counts from the Foulness area included double-figure counts of 11 in March, ten in April, 19 in August and 13 in September. Elsewhere the highest counts came from (site maxima in each case) Rainham Marshes, eight on 6th August and 15th October, Wallasea Island, eight on 15th July and Orsett Fen, seven on 3rd January.

RED-FOOTED FALCON *Falco vespertinus*

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

A blank year, although one unsubstantiated record was received.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0.4

MERLIN *Falco columbarius aesalon* UK REX

Increasing passage migrant and winter visitor.

The number of observations during the year, at 208, was the lowest since 2009 (when there were 151) and down by almost a third since 2014 (when there were 296). Birds were reported from 47 sites (45 in 2016, 58 in 2015). No more than two birds were reported from any one site on any one day.

The last bird of the spring was at Rainham Marshes on 21st April, after which there were none until one at Deal Hall Dengie on 22nd August.

Inland Abberton Reservoir produced multiple sightings, on 30th September, 7th and 28th October (perhaps all of the same bird) and Wix on 26th and 28th December. Elsewhere inland all records were of single birds, as follows: in the Ingrebourne Valley and at Orsett Fen, both on 26th January; Hanningfield Reservoir, 2nd February; Brook Farm Upminster, 9th March; near East Hanningfield, 19th November; King George V Reservoir, 2nd November.

Estimated monthly totals are given below, using the same assumptions as made in the Essex Bird Reports for 2013 to 2016. In particular therefore they assume that birds seen on opposite sides of outer estuaries involved different birds but that there was movement between close or adjacent sites and that, at any given location, only one bird was involved in all the month's sightings unless proved otherwise:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	14	13	9	3	0	0	0	2	9	15	12	10
Locations	21	16	10	3	0	0	0	2	11	17	11	14

As with all the falcons, accuracy in estimating numbers is much improved if observers can give details of the age and sex of individual birds. In 2017 fewer than a fifth of records of Merlin (a difficult species to age in the field and not always easy to sex) included any of this information.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo subbuteo* REX

Uncommon breeder, fairly common passage migrant.

Breeding was confirmed from three sites where it had been recorded previously (one in 2016). In addition pairs were thought probably to have bred at two of the other breeding sites known from earlier years. There were no reports of confirmed or probable breeding (as distinct from possible breeding) at new sites in 2017. The table below gives details from 2017 for sites which have previously held confirmed or probable (but not possible) breeding pairs. It uses the same pair-numberings as Essex Bird Reports 2012-2016 and shows the status in 2017 of the pairs listed for the previous year(s). Sites where no birds were seen in the last two years (2016 and 2017) are omitted:

Pair one	Established	Singles on a few dates in June/July.
Pair two	Established	A pair bred.
Pair six	Established	A pair summered and probably bred.
Pair seven	Established	Single birds seen on a few dates in June/July, and three on 28th July but no proof of breeding.
Pair 13	First reported in 2012	None in June/July but 1-3 in late August.
Pair 18	First reported in 2013	2015 Addendum: Contrary to the statement in EBR 2015, a pair was present at Site 18 in 2015 and raised two young.
Pairs 21 and 22	First reported in 2014	One pair bred.
Pair 23	First reported in 2014	A probable pair on 30th June.
Pair 24	First reported in 2014	A pair bred and raised 1+ young.
Pair 25	First reported in 2016	No reports.
Pair 26	First reported in 2016	One bird on 28th July and three on 28th August.
Pair 27	First reported in 2016	A pair summered and probably bred. An adult with 2+ juveniles on 5th September.

In addition, courtship display was observed at two new sites but in each case only on one date, with no birds being seen subsequently. At a third site (where there is no suitable breeding habitat) a pair was seen feeding four fledged young on several dates in late August and it was thought likely that the young were locally bred. There were also records, with no indication of breeding, from a further 41 sites during the second half of June and July. While most of these probably just related to wandering birds, this species can be so inconspicuous while breeding that there must be a good chance that some at least were from otherwise undetected breeding pairs.

The first arrivals of the spring involved three unusually early (but not unprecedented) records in the first week of April, when a bird at Great Burstead on 1st was quickly followed by singles at Rainham Marshes and Brightlingsea, both on 3rd. A week later there were two more at Rainham Marshes and one at Old Hall Marshes, all on 10th, then singles at Hall Farm Holyfield, Doddinghurst and Fingringhoe Wick, all on 12th. The main arrival got underway in the last ten days of the month but still at a trickle rather than a flood, all records being of single birds apart from four at Rainham Marshes on 19th and two there on 30th.

The main spring arrival was again in May, though at a noticeably lower level than in the previous two years, with an estimated minimum in 2017 of 109 birds (166 in 2015, 138 in 2016). This lower total was also reflected in a single-site maximum of just ten, at Rainham Marshes on 18th, with six still there on 21st and an estimated minimum (see further below) of 17 passing through that site during the month (21 in 2015, 25 in 2016). The only other site to record more than 1-2 birds was Hooks Marsh Waltham Abbey, where there were four on 13th.

As in 2014-2016 there were no double-figure counts in the autumn, the monthly maxima being nine at Rainham Marshes on 28th August and six (presumably some of the same birds lingering) at the same site on 1st-4th September. Estimated minima moving through that site were 13 in August and 17 in September. Other sites recording more than three birds on any one day were (monthly

site maxima in each case): Bradwell Bird Observatory, seven on 23rd August; Blue House Farm, six on 30th and 31st August and four on 2nd September; Brightlingsea, four on 1st September and Canvey Point, four on 3rd September.

As in 2016, 11 birds were seen in October. All were in the first two days of the month apart from the last of the year, one at Old Hall Marshes on 15th.

The amazing consistency in the total number of reports submitted during the year continued, with 689 records in 2017 as against 691 in 2016. These came from 165 sites (144 in 2016). As in 2014-2106, 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 arrivals 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	31	109	74	51	117	144	11	0	0
Location	0	0	0	24	60	58	37	60	67	9	0	0

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus peregrinus*

Uncommon resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Pairs were observed in the breeding season at 11 sites (nine in 2016) while, at two further locations, an adult was observed feeding a recently fledged juvenile and had presumably nested nearby. Breeding was successful at six of the 11 sites (three in 2016) with 16 young being fledged in total (and the two young seen at the further locations mentioned above presumably being additional to these). Of the five other sites where pairs were present, there was no evidence of breeding in four cases. At the fifth, a pair was considered to be nesting but the female was found dead in early May. Two previously occupied sites were not used in 2017.

The total number of observations was very slightly down, at 914 records (951 in 2016). As usual the majority of these involved duplicate records of the same few birds seen by many observers on multiple dates at well-watched sites. Away from the breeding sites there were no records of more than three birds seen in any one day at any one site.

Inland observations came from 72 sites (47 in 2016) out of the total of 179 (134 in 2016), though what constitutes "inland" can be a matter for debate and there could be some duplication in all these figures, with some observers perhaps ascribing different names to closely connected locations. The only reports from the north-west came from Birchanger, Stansted Mountfitchet, Elmdon Forest, Richmond's Green Thaxted and Saffron Walden.

The minimum numbers of birds estimated to be present across the County in each month are shown in the following table. The figures have been prepared using the same assumptions as in 2014-2016, 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. It has also, as in the previous three years, been assumed, in the absence of evidence to the contrary that sightings at multiple locations along the Stour, Colne, Blackwater and Crouch/Roach estuaries refer to the same individual(s) hunting along the full length and on both sides 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 totals include birds reported near possible and probable breeding sites during the summer months but not confirmed breeders or their young (the figures for which are already given above).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	27	35	27	31	19	15	26	30	26	39	29	24
Locations	44	42	44	43	27	13	28	36	26	45	33	32

These figures could well be under-estimates and it would help greatly in producing more accurate figures if observers could give the age and sex of birds they are reporting. Obviously this is easier said than done and in 2017 only 165 reports out of 914 gave at least one or other element of this information and, out of these 165, only 51 reports gave both.

Many birds were observed hunting and reported prey species included Black-tailed Godwit, auk sp. (taken from a gull) and Mistle Thrush.

RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri borealis/manillensis*

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

Slightly fewer records were received in 2017 (687) than in 2016 (721), with the majority, as usual, from the south-west of the County.

Breeding was not confirmed in 2017, although probable breeding was recorded at Connaught Water Epping Forest.

Three-figure counts were received from three sites, all in the species' core range in the south-west of the County, the highest being 146 at Belhus Woods Aveley on 17th October. Other sites recording more than 100 were Hornchurch Park and the Ingrebourne Valley.

Away from the core area, nine records were received from seven sites in the south-east of the County, two records from two sites in central Essex and four records from four sites in the north.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

UK

Very scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn.

EBSIP

Frinton-on-Sea	♀	3rd June	PBr

After a blank year last year, just one record is, statistically, below average but occurrences over the last decade have been very erratic with five blank years out of the ten.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	1	0	4	0	4	0	3	1	0	0	1.3

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor excubitor*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

EBSIP

Ingrebourne Valley	One	5th-29th January	mo

A further unsubstantiated record was received.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017/16	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	Average
Totals	5	5	1	4	1	6	2	0	1	5	3.0

JAY *Garrulus glandarius rufitergum/glandarius*

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

A widely reported species with 1,473 records received throughout the year, however breeding was very under-recorded with just three records from three sites of confirmed breeding. Sixteen records of probable breeding were received from 11 sites along with 29 records of possible breeding from 15 sites.

Eighteen double-figure counts were received from nine sites, the highest of which was 21 at Hatfield Forest on 21st November.

MAGPIE *Pica pica pica*

Common resident.

A very well-reported species with 3,667 records from across the County throughout the year. Despite the number of records, breeding was largely under-recorded with only nine records of confirmed breeding from seven sites. Fifty-three records of probable breeding were received from 29 sites along with 82 records of possible breeding from 27 sites.

Fourteen counts of 30 or more birds were received from ten sites, the highest of which was 110 at Dagnam Park Harold Hill on 12th November, followed by 80 between Braintree and Bocking on 20th June and 74 at Chafford Gorges Grays on 11th October.

2016 Addendum:
65 on Foulness Island on 21st February.

JACKDAW *Coloeus monedula*
Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula monedula*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A well-reported species across the County with 2,390 records received. Breeding was under-recorded with just six records from five sites, along with 33 records of probable breeding received from 17 sites.

Thirty-three records of 200 or more birds were received, the highest of which were 700 at Brook Farm Upminster on 1st November and 14th December.

Passage was noted at Frinton-on-Sea with 16 south on 12th March and 63 south on 4th November.

"Nordic Jackdaw" *Coloeus monedula spermologus*

Status uncertain. **EBSIP (0, ?, ?)**

The Identification Panel is currently carrying out a review of the criteria for the identification of this race. Until this is complete any records received will be held pending and a summary published in due course. Two records were received in 2017 with supporting photographs but there were three further unsubstantiated records (see page 145); photographs and/or descriptions of these would by much appreciated.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus frugilegus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Throughout the year 1,325 records were received, however breeding records were received from just eight sites, the highest nest count of which was 110 at St Osyth Priory Estate. The only other nest count exceeding 50 was 66 at Felsted.

Nine records of counts exceeding 300 were received from three sites, the highest of which were 700 birds at Brook Farm Upminster on 5th July and 24th September, with 600 at the same site on five further dates throughout the year. Additionally 650 were recorded at Bulmer on 4th January.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone corone*

Common resident and migrant.

A very well-reported species with 4,157 records throughout the year. Despite this, breeding was under-recorded with confirmed breeding records from 13 sites across the County, as well as probable breeding from 27 sites and possible breeding from 29 sites.

Fourteen records of three-figure counts were received from 12 sites, the highest of which was 120 at Barking Park on 1st April.

Twenty birds noted heading north at Frinton-on-Sea on 12th March were presumed migrants, with 17 north at the same site the following day.

HOODED CROW *Corvus cornix cornix*

Rare winter visitor. **EBSIP**

Bulmer area	One	2016-11th March	HOw

Last year's bird continued to provide many with the chance to catch up with this species in the County. It spent its time with a large number of Carrion Crows.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017/16	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	Average
Totals	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0.4

There was one further, unsubstantiated, record.

RAVEN *Corvus corax corax*

Scarce resident and visitor.

Throughout the year 119 records were received (108 in 2016), mirroring the species' steady increase within the County in recent years. Breeding was confirmed from one site in the County, a different location to the previous pair, with a pair successfully fledging two young – the second recent record.

Away from the breeding area, the highest multiple occurrence was three at Rainham Marshes on 1st January and 14th June. Two birds were noted at a further 14 sites, the majority in the south and west of the County, although there were two over Friday Wood Colchester on 20th March, Thaxted on 15th September and Tiptree on 19th September. Singles were noted at a further 25 sites, and although the majority were again in the south and west, there are hints of a spread into the coastal areas in the east of the County with records from Fingringhoe, Wivenhoe (two), Alresford, Ardleigh, Roman River Valley Colchester and Thorpe Bay. Historically, Raven's clung on as a nesting species by retreating to the marshes along the coast; the signs are encouraging that they may be slowly returning.

It is now very difficult assessing the number of Ravens in the County. However, a careful analysis of the timing and geographical location of records suggests there were probably no more than ten Ravens in Essex at any one time (excluding young).

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	5	5	10	6	4	5	4	5	4	7	4	7

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus garrulus*

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

Following the small numbers seen in late 2016, birds were recorded at 33 sites in January and ten in February. Although it is difficult to accurately assess numbers for this very mobile species, the irruption was relatively small with overall numbers perhaps being in the very low hundreds. Several counts of around 50 or more were observed in January and February, but no flocks reached 100 and some counts almost certainly involved the same birds moving between sites: Pitsea, a peak of 70+ on 10th January; Chafford Hundred Grays, a peak of 50 on 26th January; West Thurrock, a peak of 50 on 27th January; Benfleet, 50+ on 3rd February; Hornchurch, peak of 55 on 11th February. It seems likely, given the timings, that birds from the Harold Hill/Gidea Park area moved to Hornchurch area around 4th February and it is quite possible that the Benfleet flock on 3rd February was the Chafford Hundred Grays/Thurrock flock moving north-east.

Numbers dwindled during February, and birds were recorded at just five sites in March with a peak of 29 in South Hornchurch on 4th, and two sites in April with the last record of six coming from South Hornchurch on 6th.

Right: Arctic Tern, Abberton Reservoir, April (SEAN NIXON)

Below: Turtle Dove, Canewdon, July (JEFF DELVE)

Waxwing, Rayleigh, January (JEFF DELVE)

Greenish Warbler, Colne Point, May (SEAN NIXON)

Estimated totals of birds present during each week, making due allowance for wandering between nearby sites, were:

	January					February				March				April
Week commencing	**1st**	**8th**	**15th**	**22nd**	**29th**	**5th**	**12th**	**19th**	**26th**	**5th**	**12th**	**19th**	**26th**	**3rd**
Numbers	78	128	87	103	103	59	49	19	29	25	0	23	20	7

No birds were recorded during the second winter.

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

Common resident.

A minimum of 75 pairs/territories/singing ♂♂ was reported from 41 sites (37 from 29 in 2016), including Alphamstone (four); Broak's Wood Gosfield (nine) and Braintree and Bocking (four). The increase in breeding records may again relate to improved reporting rather than a real change; however there was also an increase in the total number of sites with breeding season records compared to 2016 (97 versus 82).

Further possible evidence suggesting this may have been a good year for this species came from the fact that the highest counts were much higher than in 2016 (when the peak count was 12): Gernon Bushes Epping Forest, 25 on 15th November; Epping Forest Burial Park, 24 on 9th January; Marks Hall Arboretum, 17 on 19th December; Broak's Wood Gosfield, 14 on 19th November.

Coastal records suggestive of local movement/dispersion were received from Holland Haven on 16th September and 8th October, and Heybridge Gravel Pit on 18th October.

Continental Coal Tit *Periparus ater ater*

Rare migrant but subject to periodic influxes **EBSIP**

The Identification Panel is currently carrying out a review of the criteria for the identification of this race. Until this is complete any records received will be held pending and a summary published in due course. This sub-species can be quite distinct, if seen well, but many records are simply submitted on the basis that it "...it was a Coal Tit in an unusual location, hence it was a Continental Coal Tit". Whilst this is possible, it is equally likely that wandering local birds could be involved in the records. Likewise, obvious Continental Coal Tits can turn up at garden feeders...

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris dresseri* **UK REX**

Scarce, sedentary resident.

It was another good year for this species with the high reporting rates from 2016 (in comparison with the last decade) being maintained. It was observed at a total of 32 sites this year, with breeding confirmed at four sites and pairs recorded at a further four sites. The total of eight pairs was the highest since 2010.

A nest with young was found at Marks Hall Arboretum and fledglings were observed at Pebmarsh (where two pairs were present), Belchamp Otten and Brookes Reserve Greenstead Green. Pairs were also present at Parkhill Wood Alphamstone/Lamarsh, Twinstead, Thaxted and West Wood Great Sampford. Other records during the breeding season (March to July) came from a further 13 sites (singles unless stated): Chalkney Wood (two); Sudbury-Brundon area; Bulmer to Belchamp Wood; Rayne Hatch Wood Greenstead Green; Bovingdon Wood Gosfield; Lyonshall Wood Great Waltham; Garnetts Wood Great Dunmow; Churchend Great Dunmow (two); Elmdon Forest; Hatfield Forest; Hatfield Broad Oak (singing male); Birchanger Wood; Farnham.

Outside the breeding season, it was reported from ten additional sites (15 in 2016), including Broak's Wood Gosfield, a recent breeding site. One record came from the south-west of the County: Raphael Park Romford on 14th August.

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.

At least 187 pairs/singing ♂♂ were recorded from 11 sites, mostly in the south-west of the County (172 from 11 in 2016). Breeding was confirmed at a further 35 sites. Counts of ten or more pairs/singing ♂♂ came from (2016 figures in brackets): Wivenhoe, 18; Braintree and Bocking area, 40+ (40); Langdon Hills Plotlands, 26 (22); Orsett Fen, 17 (ten); Mardyke Valley, 20 (25); Belhus Woods, 31 (29); Warren Gorge, ten (eight), Lion Gorge Chafford Gorges, ten; Hangman's Wood Little Thurrock, 17.

Counts of 40+ birds were made at ten sites (five in 2016, 11 in 2015): Marks Hall Arboretum, 100 on 24th January; Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, 40 on 19th January; Friday Wood Colchester, 40 on 24th April; Gernon Bushes Epping Forest, 45 on 15th November; Langdon Hills Plotlands, 65 on 4th June; Mardyke Valley, 63 on 2nd June; Chafford Gorges, 49 on 17th January; Dagnam Park Harold Hill, 80 on 10th September; Belhus Woods Aveley, 95 on 2nd June, Leyton Flats/Snaresbrook, 45 on 21st August.

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 141 singing ♂♂/ territories was reported from 11 sites (137 from 11 sites in 2016). Breeding was confirmed at 28 further sites. Counts of 10+ territories were made at five sites (four in 2016) as follows (2016 figures in brackets): Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, ten; Braintree and Bocking, 30+ (30); Langdon Hills Plotlands, 17 (18); Mardyke Valley, 18 (25); Belhus Woods Aveley, 25 (24).

Counts of 30 or more were made at eight sites (six in 2016): Marks Hall Arboretum, 35 on 24th January; Fishers Green Holyfield, 30 on 15th January; Gernon Bushes Epping Forest, 50 on 15th November; Hainault Forest, 30 on 31st August; Langdon Hills Plotlands, 48 on 4th June; Mardyke Valley, 59 on 2nd June; Chafford Gorges Grays, 46 on 17th November; Belhus Woods Aveley, 47 on 2nd June.

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus biarmicus* **REX**

Variable breeding population. Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Breeding records came from seven sites: Old Hall Marshes, bred, no count; Osea Road Heybridge, two pairs bred; Hanningfield Reservoir, bred, juveniles seen 30th May; Blue House Farm, pair raised four young; Vange Marsh, three pairs; Bowers Marsh, at least three juveniles seen on various dates throughout the summer; Rainham Marshes, six pairs. Breeding may have occurred at Wat Tyler, present April to June and a juvenile seen on 20th July, and a pair also summered at Heybridge Gravel Pit but breeding was not confirmed. Additional records during the breeding season also came from: West Canvey Marsh, two on 4th June; Stanford Warren, six on 29th April and three on 9th June; Ingrebourne Valley, one on 18th June.

Wintering records occurred from 12 sites during the first winter (nine in 2016) and 14 sites during the second winter (16 in 2016). Double-figure counts were made at: Heybridge Gravel Pit, 19 on 5th and 21st January and 13 on 28th November; Bowers Marsh, 15 on 21st January and 20 on 19th November; Vange Marsh, ten on 1st January.

Observations of movement away from the regular breeding sites were sparse. Apart from two in the Ingrebourne Valley on 16th August and one in Mardyke Valley on 7th November, all autumn records were in October from four coastal sites, including the peak count of 20 at Holland Haven on 26th, and from one site on the Thames: Gallions Reach Beckton, singles on 19th and 31st.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea arborea*

Scarce passage migrant. Bred until 1990. **EBSIP**

There was just one confirmed record this year (eight birds from seven sites in 2016, three birds from three sites in 2015), although a further eight birds were reported, albeit without descriptions.

Wanstead Flats	One	23rd April	WBi

This is another species that observers seemed remarkably wary of sending in their descriptions of.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis arvensis*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. **UK EX REX**

The number of recorded territories for 2017 was 905 from 93 sites (799 from 95 in 2016, 582 from 47 in 2015). There were a further 14 sites where singing birds were recorded as "present" but no figure supplied.

There were 23 locations reporting ten or more singing/territorial birds (2016 figures in brackets): Tollesbury Wick, 24 (22); Old Hall Marshes, ten; Mayland Creek, ten; Northey Island Blackwater Estuary/Limbourne Creek Maldon, 12; Wallasea Island, 129 (213); Wakering Stairs, ten; Foulness Island, 138 (75); Bulmer, 21 (20); Henny Street, 17 (17); Twinstead/Alphamstone, 14; Wickham St Paul, 11; Ridgewell Airfield Ashen, 14; Coploe Hill Strethall, 14; Elmdon, 12; Redlands Chrishall, 12; Langham, 12 (ten); Great Horkesley, 18; Wormingford, 71 (68); Fordham, ten; Gosbecks Colchester, 30; Pebmarsh, 11 (12); Abberton Reservoir, 25 (30); Abbotts Hall Farm, ten; Rainham Marshes, 49 (46); Orsett Fen, 25 (28).

In addition, there were 19 double-figure counts of 25 or more birds from various sites during the spring and summer, from which no breeding numbers were received. Of these there were four reports of 50+: Kennel Wood Waltham Abbey, 80+ on 4th March; Upshire, 80 on 4th March; North Dengie, 51 on 9th April; St Lawrence to Marsh House Dengie, 166 on 14th May.

During the first winter period 42 reports of 25 birds or more were received, which is an improvement on last year (24). Of these reports 22 are of 50 or more, including seven reports of 100+, also an improvement on last year (one). All are in January and are as follows: Orsett Fen, 119 on 3rd, and 123 on 26th; Kennel Wood Waltham Abbey, c220 on 5th, and 150+ on 10th; Cornmill Meadows/Breaches Farm Waltham Abbey, 150 on 10th; Tollesbury Wick, 120 on 26th; Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, 120 on 27th.

The second autumn/winter period produced 38 counts of 25 birds or more (48 in 2016). Of these there were just two three-figure reports: Wormingford Airfield, c140 on 26th October; Wix, 105 on 28th December. Fifty or more were reported from: Frinton-on-Sea, 86 south in 7.5 hours on 30th September; Bulmer, c50 on 14th November; Bowers Marsh, 71 on 12th December; Foxearth/Borley, 60 on 15th December; Ingrebourne Valley, 70 on 20th December; Rainham Marshes, 57 on 15th October.

2016 Addendum:

75 singing ♂♂ were present on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 626 from 95 sites.
213 singing ♂♂ were present on Wallasea Island not 30, revising the year's figures to 799 from 95 sites.

SHORE LARK *Eremophila alpestris flava* UK

Scarce but annual visitor and passage migrant.

The species rarity status in the County continues with just two birds at one site, (two birds from two sites in 2016, one bird in 2015).

The Naze	Two	3rd and 8th December

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017/16	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	Average
Totals	3	1	2	3	1	5	13	5	1	1	3.5

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia riparia* REX

Locally common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Reports of five or more confirmed territories were received from: Brightlingsea, 30; Widdington, 24 from 53 holes in new sand bank; River Roding Barking, ten; Barking Bay/Marsh, 14; Olympic Park Stratford, nine. Further reports with breeding not confirmed, came from: Naze, 40+ birds including 20 around colony; Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, four birds at nesting habitat; Colchester Zoo, 20+ birds at nest sites in gravel pit; Blackley Lane Gravel Pit Willows Green, two birds visiting probable nest site; Russell Green Gravel Pits Boreham, 10+ probably breeding; Asheldham Gravel Pit, two birds at former breeding site, possibly breeding; Chafford Gorges Grays, one singing bird; William Girling Reservoir Chingford, 22 birds with one visiting probable nest site; Mill Meads Stratford, eight birds on suitable habitat or visiting probable nest site.

Also the following negative breeding reports were received: Ardleigh Reservoir, last year's colony "landscaped"; Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall Gravel Pit, again no sign of breeding at former colony; Walthamstow Wetlands, birds present all summer but no evidence of breeding where they may have bred before.

The first record of the spring was two birds at Brook Farm Upminster on 4th March. Single figures were then seen almost daily until 29th March when 36 were reported from Vange Marsh, followed by 25 at Walthamstow Wetlands on 31st.

The first few days of April heralded an arrival with many records received from around the County, notable being: Hanningfield Reservoir, 50 on 1st; Vange Marsh, 90 on 1st; King George V Reservoir, 75 on 5th. Arrivals increased during the rest of April with reports of 50 or more being: Abberton Reservoir, 60 on 10th, 50+ on 13th, and 60 on 17th; Hanningfield Reservoir, 750 on 13th and 100 on 26th; Vange Marsh, 120+ on 10th and 100 on 16th; Rainham Marshes, 60 on 13th; Beckton Creekside, 70 on 15th; Barking Bay/Marsh, 50 on 22nd; King George V Reservoir, 50 on 25th and 55 on 26th; Walthamstow Wetlands, 50 on 25th.

There were three reports in May of 50 or more birds: Abberton Reservoir, 50 on 1st and 100+ on 4th; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 50 on 4th; and there were two reports in June: Frinton-on-Sea, 79 south in three hours on 24th; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 50 on 25th.

Late summer produced some good numbers throughout the County, which could suggest that it was a productive breeding season. For Frinton-on-Sea records see table below.

Three-figure counts received for July were: Bowers Marsh, 150 on 2nd; Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, 100 on 20th; Abberton Reservoir, 200+ on 28th; East Tilbury, 150 on 25th; Paglesham Lagoon, 200 on 28th; The Naze, 200+ south on 31st.

Three-figure counts for August were as follows: Abberton Reservoir, 200+ on 2nd, 150 on 3rd, 100 on 10th; Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, 100 on 3rd; Paglesham Lagoon, 150 on 4th; Hanningfield Reservoir, 250 on 10th; East Tilbury, 300 on 10th; Rainham Marshes, 170 on 30th.

September three-figure reports were: Abberton Reservoir, 100 on 7th, 500 on 14th and 15th; Rainham Marshes, 100 on 14th.

Three/four-figure counts from Frinton-on-Sea during late summer were:

	Jul						Aug						Sep
Week comm.	**15th**	**17th**	**21st**	**23rd**	**25th**	**30th**	**4th**	**5th**	**6th**	**7th**	**9th**	**12th**	**19th**
Numbers	105	219	160	258	191	542	3406	236	221	210	1090	163	331
Direction	south	north	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south

As to be expected, numbers started to decrease towards the end of September with single figures being reported during the last week up to 4th October. Another 19 days were to pass before the last bird of the year was recorded at Bowers Marsh on 23rd October.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica rustica*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

As in previous years the Swallow was widely recorded around the County during the spring and summer months but there were only 191 confirmed breeding pairs or territories reported from 44 sites (201 from 73 in 2016, 149 from 29 in 2015) with some sites not only reporting multiple broods but nest failures too. There were also 22 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: Thorpe Cross, 24 nests, some multiple-brooded (18 in 2016); Foulness Island, 15 (five); Wormingford, ten; Braintree & Bocking, ten+ (ten in 2016).

Either an exceptionally early migrant or an overwintering bird was recorded at Walthamstow Marshes and Walthamstow Wetlands from 25th-28th January. Another very early bird was seen at Horsley Cross on 28th February.

From 17th March until the month's end ones and twos were recorded most days at widespread locations. From the end of March into April birds were being reported all over the County with exceptional counts during April being: Abberton Reservoir, 100 on 10th and 100+ on 14th; Hanningfield Reservoir, 250 on 13th. 26th April saw a big arrival throughout the County with many reports, some of quite large numbers, the pick being: Langham, 100+; Hanningfield Reservoir, 1,500; Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing, 120; Nazeing Gravel Pits, 180.

During May birds were continuing to arrive around the County, joining birds that had already started nest building and breeding. Counts of three-figures reported from: Abberton Reservoir, 100+ on 4th; Vange Marsh, 100 on 5th, and 7th; St. Lawrence to Marsh House Outfall Dengie, 114 on 14th; Frinton-on-Sea, 114 south on 16th.

By June and July most birds had settled down to breeding but several three-figure reports involved feeding birds and possibly some movement: St. Lawrence to Marsh House Outfall Dengie, 113 on 11th June; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 100 on 9th July and 100 feeding over the saltmarsh on 16th July; Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers, 221 west on 15th July; Abberton Reservoir, 100+ on 20th July.

Late summer saw many three-figure counts from around the County. Apart from Frinton-on-Sea (see table below), there were 18 in August and 26 in September. Counts of 500 or more during these months were: Holland Haven, 500 on 25th August; Abberton Reservoir, 700 on 30th August and 500 on 14th September; St. Lawrence to Marsh House Outfall Dengie, 1,000 on 10th September; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 800 south-west on 20th September; Gunners Park Shoebury, an incredible 20,000 moving west on 20th September; Coggeshall, 500 southwest on 27th September.

Numbers eased off during October with the only three-figure count coming from Frinton-on-Sea on 4th (see table). There were several double-figure counts in the month as well during the first three weeks but thereafter the numbers dwindled as would be expected.

Three/four-figure counts from Frinton-on-Sea during late summer were:

	Jul	Aug						Sep					Oct
Week comm.	**30th**	**1st**	**4th**	**5th**	**9th**	**24th**	**26th**	***9th**	**19th**	**20th**	**21st**	**30th**	**4th**
Numbers	261	127	2112	146	515	1390	254	619	553	272	329	678	157
Direction	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south

*In addition there were 120 recorded on the golf course late evening.

There were ten records in November of single birds, apart from three moving south at Frinton-on-Sea on 5th. The last birds of the year were singles reported from Rainham Marshes and at East Tilbury on 24th.

A hybrid Swallow x House Martin was at Fairlop Waters Barkingside on 10th April.

2016 Addendum:

Five pairs bred on Foulness Island revising the year's figures to 201 from 73 sites.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum urbicum*

UK REX

Common summer visitor and passage migrant.

Reports of 205 occupied nests were received from just 21 sites, (249 from 32 in 2016, 107 from 18 in 2015). This could indicate that the House Martin is either an erratic breeder in the County, or reporting fluctuates from year to year. However, to add, there were a further 19 sites where nesting was suspected at probable nest sites or in suitable habitat but with no additional information. All occupied nest records should be submitted to the County Recorder. Reports of double-figure breeding sites were: Tollesbury Marina, 16; Foulness Island, 19; Gunners Park Shoebury, 12; Lamarsh, 14 (15 in 2016); Braintree and Bocking, 60+ (70 in 2016); Stansted Mountfitchet, 15; Orsett Fen, 11; Chafford Gorges Grays, 13.

The first birds of the year were eight recorded at Walthamstow Wetlands on 29th March. The first two weeks of April saw the arrival of birds throughout the County, mostly single figures. Things started to gather pace during the second half of the month, producing 23 reports of double figures, most in the last week. The highest number recorded were four reports of 50 birds at: Langham Treatment Works and Walthamstow Wetlands on 25th; Langham on 26th; Saffron Walden on 28th.

Birds continued to be reported in varying numbers during May with some reports saying that breeding had already started. There were reports of 50 birds from: King George V Reservoir on 3rd; Abberton Reservoir on 4th; Vange Marsh on 5th; Wat Tyler on 20th; Blue House Farm on 29th.

In June and July a lot of birds had settled down to breed but there were several reports of 50 or more possibly involving late migrants: Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley, 80 on 8th June; Hanningfield Reservoir, 50 on 8th June, and 27th July; St. Lawrence to Marsh House Outfall Dengie, 63 on 11th June; Chafford Gorges Grays, 50 on 2nd July, and 82 on 10th July; Orsett Fen, 50 on 9th July; Grays, 79 on 10th July; Abberton Reservoir, 50 on 20th July; Bow Creek Ecological Park, 80 on 28th July.

Numbers started building up in August and there were ten three-figure reports, two of them involving 500 or more: Rainham Marshes, 500 on 30th; Frinton-on-Sea, 1,092 recorded going south on 9th (see table below).

Numbers peaked in September with 32 three-figure reports, six of these involved 500 birds or more: Walthamstow Wetlands, 500 on 5th; Hanningfield Reservoir, 3,000 on 11th; Abberton Reservoir, 700 on 14th; Frinton-on-Sea, (see table below).

The first week of October saw four three-figure counts: Easthorpe, 500 on 1st; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 112 on 1st; Frinton-on-Sea, (see table below).

Three/four-figure counts from Frinton-on-Sea during late summer were:

	Aug			Sep								Oct	
Week comm.	**9th**	**12th**	**24th**	**9th**	**13th**	**14th**	**16th**	**17th**	**19th**	**20th**	**21st**	**4th**	**7th**
Numbers	1092	223	110	210	153	200	1078	730	1038	192	123	625	134
Direction	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south	south

Thereafter until the 23rd there were just single figure reports apart from: Frinton-on-Sea, 11 south on 8th, and 51 south on 14th.

There were no more reports from the 23rd October until the last one of the year was reported going south at Frinton-on-Sea on 16th November.

2016 Addendum:

12 pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 249 from 32 sites.

RED-RUMPED SWALLOW *Cecropis daurica rufula*

Rare passage migrant.

EBSIP (19, 6, 25)

Once again a one-day bird recorded. Of the few birds seen in Essex, none has lingered for more than a day since 2002, when a bird was seen crossing occasionally over the River Stort into the County from Hertfordshire over a two day period on 28th-29th May.

Abberton Reservoir	One	27th April	mo

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti cetti*

Locally common and increasing breeding resident.

A total of 323 singing ♂♂/apparently occupied territories was reported from 105 sites (432 from 124 in 2016). Records were mainly from the coast, Lee and Ingrebourne valleys, with the Thames marshes again being a particular stronghold. Counts of six or more (2016 figures in brackets where available): Cattawade, six (eight); Flatford, six; Fingringhoe Wick, six; Abberton Reservoir, ten; Heybridge Gravel Pit, 12 (12); Canvey Wick, eight (eight); West Canvey Marsh, six (six); Bowers Marsh, eight (15); Vange Marsh, six (six); Rainham Marshes, 51 (66); Belhus Woods Aveley, six; Ingrebourne Valley, nine (26); Fishers Green Holyfield, six.

2016 Addendum:
Four pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 432 from 124 sites

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 40 sites (50 in 2016) but it was common and widespread throughout the County during the summer months. Several sites reported more than 1-2 pairs but many more must go unreported.

Counts of 30+ were recorded from 15 sites: The Naze, 50 on 18th October; Abberton Reservoir, 30 on 30th October; Old Hall Marshes, 32 on 31st July; Chigborough Lakes, 50+ on 13th November; Hazeleigh, 30 on 24th October; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 35 on 31st May; Wat Tyler, 51 on 8th June; East Tilbury, 40 on 14th October; Rainham Marshes, 40 on 18th December; Hanningfield Reservoir, 40 on 16th January and 40 on 1st October; Langdon Hills Plotlands, 47 on 1st November; Mardyke Valley, 61 on 2nd June and 44 on 19th October; Belhus Woods Aveley, 42 on 12th February and 58 on 19th November; Chafford Gorges Grays, 46 on 10th February; Roding Valley Meadows Chigwell, 36 on 14th August; Fishers Green Holyfield, 32 on 19th October; Walthamstow Wetlands, 60 on 15th September; Wanstead Flats, 40 on 9th October; Highams Park Lake, 30 on 19th October.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

UK REX

Scarce passage migrant. Bred until 1991.

Fingringhoe Wick	♂	17th April
Dagnam Park	One	10th August

A below-average year.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	2	4	5	10	6	6	7	10	2	0	5.2

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Uncommon passage migrant.

Wanstead Flats	One	2016-4th January
South Woodham Ferrers	One	22nd September
Bradwell Bird Observatory	One	26th September
The Naze	One	26th September
Frinton-on-Sea	One	4th October
The Naze	One	15th October
Belhus Woods Aveley	One	17th October

Hornchurch	One	24th October
The Naze	One	8th November
Rainham Marshes	One	13th-16th November
Gidea Park	One	15th November

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	10	38	8-10	5+	6	3	3	2	1	6	8.2

Although last year's numbers were not repeated, the increase in records over the last few years is maintained.

PALLAS'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (39, 15, 54)**

Hanningfield Reservoir	One	22nd November	JBr

Only the second inland record for the County, following one in 1985.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus trochilus/acredula* 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 125 pairs/singing ♂♂ were reported from 77 sites (87 from 57 sites in 2016) supporting potential breeding habitat. Counts of four of more came from: Boreham, four; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, five; Little Leighs, five; Ingrebourne Valley, six; Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing, six; Tiptree Heath, six.

The first spring record was from Fairlop Waters Barkingside on 19th March, with the main spring arrival in the County from the first week of April. Passage was fairly light but several counts of 8-16 were received around mid April.

Autumn passage peaked, as usual, in late August. All double-figure counts are listed and were all in August: Fairlop Waters Barkingside, ten on 13th; Frinton-on-Sea, 14 on 7th and 21 on 11th; Holland Haven, 20 on 7th; Rainham Marshes, 32 on 23rd; Sewardstone Marsh, ten on 28th; The Naze, 27 on 19th and 15 on 26th; Walthamstow Wetlands, 20 on 31st; Wanstead Flats, 15 on 5th and ten on 27th.

The last of the year was one at Rainham Marshes on 25th October.

2016 Addendum:

Three pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 87 from 57 sites.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*
Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita collybita/abietinus*

***P. c. collybita* is an abundant summer resident and passage migrant, whilst *P. c. abietinus* is probably a passage migrant. Small numbers, of uncertain sub-species, occur in winter.**

Between mid-April and June, around 816 pairs/singing ♂♂ were reported from 243 sites (668 from 211 in 2016). Double-figure counts of singing ♂♂ or pairs came from (2016 figures in brackets): Belhus Woods Aveley, 12 (14); Boxted, 15; Braintree and Bocking, 20 (20); Bures, ten; Chafford Gorges Grays, 12; Fingringhoe Wick, 17 (ten); Flitch Green Little Dunmow, ten; Fordham Hall, 24 (25); Foulness Island, 15 (seven); Friday Wood Colchester, ten (20); Hanningfield Reservoir, ten (14); Lamarsh, ten; Langdon Hills Plotlands, 12 (ten); Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing, 12; Orsett Fen, ten; Pebmarsh, 11; Rainham Marshes, 12 (12); Terling, ten.

Spring passage was as expected with large numbers reported from mid-March onwards.

During January and February birds were reported from 43 sites (52 in 2016), all 1-3 except for: exceptional counts of up to 25 at Beckton Creekside; eight at Colchester, seven at Walthamstow Wetlands.

Autumn double-figure counts were noted from August through to mid-October with peak counts of 20 or more seen at: August: Wanstead Flats, 20 on 27th. September: Bradwell Bird Observatory, 30 on 20th; Frinton-on-Sea, 23 on 17th; Gunners Park Shoebury, 20 on 26th; Holland Haven, 20 on 17th; Rainham Marshes, 25 on 17th; The Naze, 20 on 22nd; Walthamstow Wetlands, 30 on 22nd; Wanstead Flats, 20 on 25th; October: Frinton-on-Sea, 20 on 9th; King George V Reservoir, 20 on 1st; The Naze, 27 on 7th.

In November and December the species was reported from 31 sites (44 in 2016), all records involving 1-4 birds apart from: up to 12 at Beckton Creekside throughout the two months; nine at King George V Reservoir on 21st December; five at Rainham Marshes on 1st November.

2016 Addendum:
Seven pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 668 from 211 sites.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Rare passage migrant **EBSIP (?, ?, ?)**

The Identification Panel is currently carrying out a review of the criteria for the identification of this race. Until this is complete any records received will be held pending and a summary published in due course. Several unsubstantiated records were received this year (see page 145) and photographs and /or descriptions would be much appreciated.

GREENISH WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*

Vagrant. **EBSIP (2, 2, 4)**

Colne Point	Singing ♂	31st May	CBa

The second consecutive late spring record.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common summer resident and passage migrant.

Some 333 territories were reported from 80 sites (343 from 60 in 2016). Localities with six or more singing ♂♂ were as follows (2016 figures in brackets): Bradwell Bird Observatory, eight (15); Cattawade Marsh, 12 (11); Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey, six; Foulness Island, 13 (11); Heybridge Gravel Pit, 14 (ten); Netherhall Gavel Pit Nazeing, six; Limbourne-Southey Creeks Maldon, eight; Old Hall Marshes, six (12); Rainham Marshes, 112 (102); St Lawrence, nine; The Hythe Colchester, six; The Naze, eight (eight); Tollesbury Wick, 11. The species appears to be well recorded in a few main locations but is still showing worrying declines elsewhere.

The earliest report was from Rainham Marshes on 25th March, with the main arrival from about 11th April.

The last reported bird was at Rainham Marshes on 20th September.

2016 Addendum:
11 pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 341 from 59 sites.
Two pairs bred on Wallasea Island, revising the year's figures to 343 from 60 sites.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus scirpaceus*

Locally common summer resident and passage migrant.

Some 782 singing ♂♂/territories were reported from some 121 sites (901 from 96 in 2016), with ten or more (2016 figures in brackets) from: Blue House Farm, 14 (26); Bowers Marsh, 26 (20); East Tilbury, 12: Foulness Island, 15 (seven); Hanningfield Reservoir, 26 (19); Heybridge Gravel Pit, 27 (22); Olympic Park Stratford, 11 (ten); Mardyke Valley, 11 (11); Mundon, 26 (14); St Lawrence to Marsh

House Outfall Dengie, 13 (14); Rainham Marshes, 206 (193); Tollesbury Wick, 15; Wivenhoe, ten; Walthamstow Wetlands, 22.

The first report in spring was of one at Bowers Marsh, on 1st April, with the main arrival from about 15th April.

In autumn, there were very few large counts as follows: Bowers Marsh, 14 on 7th August; Holland Haven, 20 on 14th declining to ten on 25th August, but still ten on 9th September; Old Hall Marshes, 15 on 7th August and 16 on 21st August. The last record was one at Heybridge Gravel Pit on 8th October.

2016 Addendum:
Seven pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 901 from 96 sites.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*

UK REX

Breeds occasionally. Rare migrant and summer visitor.

EBSIP (22, 14, 36)

Rainham Marshes	Singing ♂: may have bred	25th May-2nd June	RSPB

The first record since 2014.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia naevia*

UK REX

Uncommon summer resident and passage migrant.

Only 17 reeling ♂♂ were considered to have established territories and these were reported from 13 sites (19 from nine in 2016), although several more were reported singing on spring passage. The only sites with more than one singing ♂ were Foulness Island and Wakering Stairs, both with two and Rainham Marshes with four (two in 2016).

The earliest report was from Rainham Marshes on 13th April.

There was only one autumn record, from Rainham Marshes, on 5th August.

In total, 126 records were received covering some 23 sites (125 from 24 in 2016).

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total	0	0	0	20	15	10	5	1	0	0	0	0
Locations	0	0	0	15	9	8	5	1	0	0	0	0

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. Small numbers winter.

Some 1,059 singing ♂♂/territories from some 234 sites were reported (897 from 227 in 2016), sites with 15 or more were (2016 figures in brackets): Belhus Woods Aveley, 22 (16); Boxted, 17; Braintree and Bocking, 15 (15); Chafford Gorge Grays, 21; Foulness Island, 11 (12); Friday Wood Colchester, 16 (17); Lamarsh, 15; Langdon Hills Plotlands, 22 (18); Mardyke Valley, 21 (18); Orsett Fen, 18; Sawbridgeworth Marsh, 23 (16); Rainham Marshes, 19 (17).

There were 80 reports of some 52 individuals from 35 sites (31 individuals in 2016) in the period from January to the first week in March, with two or more reported from: Benfleet, two; Colchester, six; Collier Row Romford, two; Rainham Marshes, three; Roding Valley Meadows Chigwell, three; Saffron Walden, four; Walthamstow, two and Wickford, two.

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: Mardyke Valley, 28 on 1st and 12 on 22nd August; Chafford Gorges Grays, 13 on 10th August; Dagnam Park, 12 on 21st and ten on 25th August; Langdon Hills Plotlands, 12 on 23rd August; Wanstead Flats ten on 25th September. Received counts at coastal watch-points were about average, the September maxima being: Gunners Park Shoebury, 17 on 3rd, 13 on 7th and 12 on 10th; Holland Haven, 15 on 17th; The Naze,

15 on 9th and 11 on 23rd; Two Tree Island, 18 on 19th. No double-figure counts were received for October.

In the last two months, there were 37 records of 30 individuals from 24 sites (31 individuals in 2016) with two or more reported from: Great Baddow, two; Lexden, three; Warley, two and Wivenhoe, three.

2016 Addendum:
12 pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 897 from 227 sites.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin borin*

Declining summer resident and passage migrant.

Reports of some 135 singing ♂♂/territories were received from 70 sites (118 from 74 in 2016). Sites with three or more (2016 figures in brackets): Bures, three; Danbury Common, three; Blake's Wood Danbury, eight; Fingringhoe Wick, four; Gosfield, three (seven); Fishers Green Holyfield, five (four); Friday Wood Colchester, five (three); Hanningfield Reservoir, 11 (nine); Mardyke Valley, six; Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing, three; Sawbridgeworth Marsh, three; Stondon Massey, three (three); Thaxted, ten; Thorndon Park, three. The earliest spring record was from Chigborough Lakes, on 3rd April, with the main arrival during the last week of April.

In autumn, several sites reported two birds during August and there were 16 reports from September.

The last record was from Bradwell Bird Observatory on 1st October.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca curruca*

Declining summer resident and passage migrant.

Reports of some 237 territories were received from 117 sites (172 from 78 in 2016). Sites with four or more (2016 figures in brackets): Braintree and Bocking, five (five); Cock Clarks, five; Cranham Marsh Upminster, five; Fingringhoe Wick, four (five); Friday Wood Colchester, four; Fordham Hall, four (four); Foulness Island, nine (nine); Hazeleigh, eight; Heybridge Gravel Pit, nine (six); Langdon Hills Plotlands, four; Old Hall Marshes, seven (five); Mardyke Valley, four; Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing, four; Rainham Marshes, five (four); Sawbridgeworth Marsh, five; The Naze, four; Wakering Stairs, four; Wanstead Flats, four; Wat Tyler, four; Wormingford, four.

In spring, the first record was from Bow Creek Ecological Park on 4th April, with the main arrival commencing on 13th April. Passage was fairly steady, with a high count of seven from Old Hall Marshes on 22nd April.

In autumn, the highest counts received were: August: Abberton Reservoir, 12 on 12th, Walthamstow Marshes, ten on 25th, The Naze, 12 on 26th, Old Hall Marshes, 15 on 31st. In September, the highest numbers were: Old Hall, ten on 4th. The last report was a bird at Olympic Park Stratford on 1st October.

2016 Addendum:
Nine pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 172 from 78 sites.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis communis*

Summer visitor and passage migrant.

Some 1,169 singing ♂♂/territories from 217 sites (1,135 from 175 in 2016) were reported. Sites with 15 or more singing ♂♂ being (2016 figures in brackets): Althorne, 18; Braintree and Bocking, 25 (25); Dengie, 20 (21); Fordham Hall, 28 (23); Wallasea Island, 14 (15); Foulness Island, 193 (105); Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing, 18; Orsett Fen, 15 (31); Rainham Marshes, 101 (93); Sawbridgeworth Marsh, 18 (22); Wormingford, 21 (15). The figure from Foulness Island is particularly notable.

In spring, the first record was a singing ♂ on 19th March at Frinton-on-Sea with the main arrival commencing around 12th April. Passage was good and peaked around 19th to 30th April, 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: Canvey Wick,

17 on 14th; East Tilbury, 20 on 25th; Gunners Park Shoebury, 20 on 28th; Old Hall Marshes, 30 on 28th; Rainham Marshes, 15 on 23rd; The Naze, 15 on 26th; Wanstead Flats, 24 on 5th. September: Gunners Park Shoebury, ten on 2nd; Old Hall Marshes, seven on 4th; The Hythe Colchester, ten on 1st. The last record was from Brightlingsea on 28th October.

2016 Addendum:
105 pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 1,120 at 174 sites.
15 pairs bred on Wallasea Island, revising the year's figure to 1,135 at 175 sites.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata dartfordiensis*

UK

Scarce, mainly winter, visitor.

EBSIP (46, 62, 108)

Rainham Marshes	♂	14th October	RSPB
Rainham Marshes	Juvenile	18th October	RSPB
Abberton Reservoir		6th December-2018	mo

One further unsubstantiated report was received.
Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017/16	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	Average
Totals	2	8	2	1	1	0	0	7	8	8	3.7

A slightly below-average year.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla ignicapilla*

REX

Breeds occasionally. Otherwise, uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Once again there were no confirmed breeding records, although singing ♂♂ were reported from four sites across the County (11 in 2016, four in 2015) between 29th January and 1st April.

Records were received from seven sites in January and six in February (15 in January 2016 and 11 in February 2016, six in January 2015 and five in February 2015). Long staying birds were at Woodford Green, Wanstead Park, Belhus Wood Aveley and Hockley Woods.

Records of up to four birds were recorded at six coastal sites in March but none in April. Up to four birds were recorded at eight inland sites in March, with a single bird at one inland site in April.

The first autumn record was a single bird at Bedfords Park on 17th September, with up to two birds at six coastal sites and single birds at a further two inland sites. The main passage movement took place during October with up to three birds recorded at three coastal sites and up to two birds at a further 16 inland sites.

In November and December, records came from 21 and 12 sites respectively. All records were of single birds except at four sites: Wivenhoe, two on 25th December; Waterworks Leyton, four on 28th November and 4th December, two on 15th December; Rainham Marshes, two on 8th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 24th November and 21st December, three on 19th November; Bedfords Park, two on 17th and 19th November. Long stayers were at Chafford Gorges Grays, Belhus Wood Aveley, Mardyke Valley, Waterworks Leyton, Epping Forest, Highams Park and Rainham Marshes.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	8	6	26	1	0	0	0	4	11	29	34	17
Locations	7	6	12	1	0	0	0	4	7	20	21	12

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

A minimum of 75 singing ♂♂/territories was reported from 66 sites (75 from 55 in 2016, 42 from 28 in 2015), but the species was observed during the period April – July at a further 70 sites.

In January and February, a minimum of 970 birds was reported from 164 sites (1,390 from 194 in 2016, 250 from 116 in 2015). Counts of ten or more were received from Knighton Wood Epping Forest, 11 on 29th January; Wanstead Park, ten on 3rd January; Hockley Woods, ten on 2nd January, 12 on 6th January, and 16 on 12th February; Belhus Wood Aveley, 11 on 4th January and 13 on 1st February; Hanningfield Reservoir, 14 on 2nd January, 20 on 8th January, 12 on 16th January and 11 on 26th February; Belfairs Wood Hadleigh, ten on 18th February.

Spring passage was light, the only double-figure count coming from Hockley Woods, 11 on 5th March.

Autumn passage was higher than recent years, six coastal sites reported double- figure counts through September and October; Old Hall Marshes, 12 on 6th October; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 15 on 20th September, ten on 27th September; Holland Haven, ten on 23rd and 24th September, 12 on 19th October; The Naze, monthly maxima of 16 on 30th September and 40 on 18th October; Frinton-on-Sea, 14 on 9th October, ten on 18th October and 24 on 19th October; Two Tree Island (east), ten on 14th October. Double- figure counts of between ten and 36 were received from a further 15 inland sites during October.

Following the autumn influx, numbers in November and December were, as in 2016, higher than usual for these months, with 1,127 birds reported at 136 sites (1,126 from 105 in 2016, 660 from 140 in 2015). The highest counts came from Langdon Hills Plotlands, 23 on 1st November; Belhus Woods Aveley, 30 on 6th November; The Naze, 39 on 11th November; Chafford Gorges Grays, 22 on 2nd November; Mardyke Valley, 19 on 1st December.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus/troglodytes*

***T. t. indigenus* is and 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, one in ten of the UK's breeding birds is a Wren. Abundance can vary sharply from year to year and numbers in the UK can be greatly depleted by cold winters.

Singing ♂♂ were reported from 145 sites, a noticeable increase in reports over recent years. Pairs/territories were reported from 23 sites including 28 pairs on Foulness Island, 30+ pairs in the Braintree and Bocking area and 73 territories at Rainham Marshes. Breeding was confirmed at Stansted Mountfitchet, Gobions East Tilbury, Brickfields Meadows Earls Colne, Tillingham, Olympic Park Stratford and Rainham Marshes. Additionally, recently fledged young were reported from Saffron Walden, Writtle, Heybridge Basin, Belhus Wood Aveley, Chafford Gorges Grays, Grays New Cemetery and Langdon Hills Plotlands.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea caesia*

Sedentary resident, currently stable.

Forty pairs/singing ♂♂ were reported from 26 sites. Breeding records were received from Stansted Mountfitchet, Belchamp Walter, Marks Hall Arboretum, Pebmarsh, Colchester and Westley Heights Langdon Hills with juvenile birds reported at a further three sites: Brookes Reserve Greenstead Green; Chalkney Wood Earls Colne and Thorndon Park (north). Breeding is almost certainly under-recorded for this species, which was seen at a further 29 sites between April and July, and at 67 more sites during the rest of the year.

Whilst 12 territories were located at Stansted Mountfitchet, elsewhere counts of between three and nine birds were reported from a further 36 sites and a highest count of ten received from Bury Wood Epping Forest on 18th March.

2015 Addendum:
Contrary to what is stated in the 2015 Report, Nuthatch breeding activity around Stansted Mountfitchet was recorded during 2015. In all a total of ten active nests were observed with all but two successful. Birds were also noted calling in suitable habitat at a further five locations in late March/early April.

TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris britannica* UK

Common resident.

In total 36 pairs/singing ♂♂ were reported from 30 sites. Breeding records were received from five sites: Stansted Mountfitchet; Marks Hall Arboretum; Pebmarsh; Wake Valley Ponds Epping Forest; Shalford.

Breeding is under-recorded for this species, which was seen at a further 45 locations between April and July, and at 76 more sites during the rest of the year.

Counts of between three and five birds were reported from 27 sites, with the highest count received from Shut Heath Wood Great Totham, eight on 26th 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 12 sites.

The largest post-breeding flocks containing juvenile birds reported were from Abberton Reservoir, 150 on 20th July; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 300 on 2nd July; Rainham Marshes, 150 on 30th July; King George V Reservoir, 2,000 on 1st August. Flocks of between 25 and 100 birds containing juveniles were reported from a further 13 sites.

Notable first-winter counts: West Mersea, 1,000 on 16th January; Rainham Marshes, 2,000 on 15th February; Wat Tyler, 1,000 on 27th February; Frinton-on-Sea, 1,919 on 15th March, a northerly spring passage movement. Counts of between 50 and 400 birds were reported from a further 40 sites.

The highest counts in the autumn were from: Colne Point, 1,000 on 3rd September; Wanstead Flats, 600 on 25th September; Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers, 750 on 4th September and 13th October; The Naze, 1,000 on 30th October; Holland Haven, 1,000 on 30th October; Frinton-on-Sea, 3,423 on 30th October. Starlings arrive on a very broad front and do not, as a general rule, pass along the coast at all – movement is south-east to north-west and on large arrival days there is likely to be little duplication from nearby sites. Counts of between 50 and 600 birds were reported from a further 48 sites.

During the second winter, the highest counts were reported from: Frinton-on-Sea, 950 on 9th November, albeit these are autumn arrivals still; Rainham Marshes, 1,000 on 16th November and 14th December; Bowers Marsh, 1,400 on 20th December. Counts of between 50 and 500 birds were reported from a further 36 sites.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus torquatus* UK

Passage migrant.

Records received during spring migration were slightly up on last year with 23 birds at 12 locations (16 at 15 in 2016 and 42 at 25 in 2015). The earliest arrival was on 28th March at Sewardstone Marsh and the latest one at Rainham Marshes on 12th May.

Most records were of singles, however, two were reported from; Foulness Island on 9th April; Rainham Marshes on 9th April; Cudmore Grove East Mersea on 13th April with three at Wakering Stairs on 13th.

In contrast to spring, autumn passage was down on last year with 25 individuals at 17 locations (80 at 27 in 2016 and 26 at 17 in 2015). The earliest was a single at Wanstead Flats on 26th September with the last, another single bird, on 8th November at Maydays Farm West Mersea. Apart from three at Wanstead Flats on 23rd October all other reports involved singles.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Totals	0	0	2	18	3	0	0	0	1	20	1	0
Locations	0	0	2	12	3	0	0	0	1	18	1	0

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula merula*

Abundant resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

This year saw a reduction in sites reporting double-figure counts of more than 15 singing/territorial ♂♂/pairs in the breeding season, down to only four (six in 2016) these were as follows: Foulness Island, 38; Braintree and Bocking area, 75+; Rainham Marshes, 23; Friday Wood Colchester, 17. Six other double-figure counts had less than 15 including two of the sites which last year held more than 15 (Olympic Park Stratford and Mardyke Valley).

In the first winter the highest counts were up slightly on 2016 with the largest being a peak of 75 at East Mersea on 8th February and 201 on Foulness Island on 15th January. Other counts in excess of 25 were: January: 51 from Sudbury to Brundon on 12th; 32 at Orsett Fen on 26th; 28 at Chafford Gorges Grays and Boreham on the 17th and 27th respectively. February: 40 at Colchester on 14th; 29 at Heybridge Gravel Pit on 8th.

Minimal visible spring migration was reported, however, with Frinton-on-Sea recording just 166 birds heading north during March.

October passage totalled 359 at Frinton-on-Sea, somewhat lower than in the last two years although clearly observer coverage and weather conditions are two factors that make such totals variable from year to year. The highest single report from Frinton-on-Sea was 150 south in 3.75 hours on 31st October. No other reports of note were received from elsewhere during October. In contrast to October, November counts from Frinton-on-Sea were up on the same period last year with 903 reported compared to 595 in 2016 and 279 in 2015. Elsewhere only three counts of 30+ were reported in November: 66 on Foulness Island on 19th November; 33 birds at both Langdon Hills Plotlands and The Naze on 1st and 11th respectively.

The only December counts of more than 30 came from Foulness Island, 112 on 17th December; Hatfield Forest, 30 and Mardyke Valley, 31 both on 1st; Chafford Gorges Grays, a peak count of 32 on 20th.

2016 Addendum:

17 pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figure to six sites with more than 15 singing ♂♂/territories.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris* UK

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Has summered.

Three-figure flocks reported in the first winter period were down for the second year running with records from 23 sites (27 in 2016 and 40 in 2015). The largest of these was 430 at Rivenhall Place Silver End on 26th February. The others, of 200+, were, in January: Fairlop Waters Barkingside, a peak of 300 on 7th; 215 at Holyfield Lake on 2nd; 250 at Walthamstow Marshes and 362 Orsett Fen, both on 26th; 200 at Tillingham on 28th. February: 206 at Perry Green Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall on 10th. The last reported sighting for the first winter period was one on 1st May at Colne Point.

The first record of the autumn was a single bird along the North Dengie between St Lawrence and Howe Outfall on 8th October. Unlike last year, there were no four- figure flocks reported (one in 2016) and three-figure flocks were also down with reports coming from 14 sites (24 in 2016). Three-figure flocks of 150+ were reported as follows, October: 230 at Wanstead Flats on 28th; 431 at Beckton Creekmouth on 31st; 585 flew west at Wivenhoe on 30th. November: 164 at Epping Forest Burial Park on 8th. December: a peak of 153 at Orsett Fen on 18th; 200 at Tollesbury Wick on 18th; a peak of 324 at Upminster, St Mary's Lane on 18th; 150 at Ingrebourne Valley on 25th.

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.**

Widespread in the first winter period in generally small numbers, with five three-figures counts (five in 2016 and 2015): Colchester, 100 on 18th February; Bulmer, 100 on 9th February; Thorndon Park, 200 on 25th February; Tylers Shaw Great Warley, 100 on 20th February; Orsett Fen, a peak of 406 on 26th January.

As in previous years there was a significant return movement during March, although birds were on the move at the end of February, with 140 north over Frinton-on-Sea on 27th. Much the largest count was of a spectacular movement before sunrise over Copperas Bay Wrabness involving 3,660 birds moving predominantly south-west between 06.00 and 06.30 on 13th. Otherwise the return movement was principally detected at Frinton-on-Sea. Here the monthly total of 1,684 birds included 284 north in half an hour on 9th and 649 heading north in an hour on 13th. Elsewhere, 150 were at Stubbers Adventure Centre Corbets Tey on 8th, 400 were over Wix heading north, once again on 13th, 100 birds on nocturnal migration were reported over Southend-on-Sea on 12th with 100 north-west at Wivenhoe on 9th and the same number west on 20th. Clearly a significant movement occurred over the 12th/13th; interestingly, whilst the huge movement over Copperas Bay Wrabness was south-west, all other movements noted that day were north.

The last report of the spring was an individual bird at East Mersea on 14th April.

The first report of the autumn was one over Frinton-on-Sea just before dawn on 15th September.

October, typically, saw the largest passage movements, with a total of 13 sites recording three-figure counts, with influxes around 9th, 19th, 23rd, 28th and 31st. Counts of 200 or more came from: Frinton-on-Sea, 608 south in six hours on 9th and a nocturnal passage of "thousands" on 19th; Wivenhoe, 209 west on 9th, 205 on 19th and 820 west on 30th; Rainham Marshes, 520 on 23rd; Mardyke Valley, 265 on 19th; Wanstead Flats, 250 on 20th and 23rd and 300 on 28th; Hatfield Forest, 250 on 31st.

Arrivals continued into November with 100 south in half an hour over Frinton-on-Sea on 6th, the same day that there were 175 west over Wivenhoe and 175 over Rainham Marshes. A day earlier 100 were at Walthamstow Wetlands. The only other three-figure counts in November were 154 at Mardyke Valley on 7th, and 110 at Walthamstow Wetlands the next day.

Fewer appeared to be present during December than in the same period last year with just four sites noting three-figure flocks during December: Clay Tye Road Upminster, 107 on 14th; St Mary's Lane Upminster , 237 on 18th (and perhaps including the Clay Tye Road birds); Abberton Reservoir, 136 on 14th; King George V Reservoir, 100 on 18th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos philomelos/clarkei* UK EX REX

***T. p. clarkei* is common and largely resident, whilst *T. p. philomelos* is a passage migrant and winter visitor.**

The total of possible, probable and confirmed breeders (using BTO criteria) was at least 348 at 217 sites. The former figure is very much a minimum as well over half the total comes from Birdtrack which does not require contributors, if giving a total number of birds seen, to indicate for how many of these some evidence of breeding was established. Where no further information is given, it has therefore been necessary to assume that every BirdTrack report, which gave a breeding code, involved just one singing ♂/territorial ♂/pair, regardless of the number of birds reported. In reality, no doubt, many counts will have involved several singing ♂♂ or pairs, so the actual total will have been higher.

However, as with many other common species, these totals are primarily a reflection of observer efforts and bear no relation to the actual breeding numbers in the County. They are included here only because this is a Red List species. Where breeding records have been sent direct to the Recorder, observers have in many cases given more detailed information. These submissions (along with other sources) show that double-figure counts of breeders were found at: Boxted, ten; High Beach Epping Forest, 11; Braintree and Bocking, 15+; Mardyke Valley, 13.

In the first winter, double-figure counts came from nine sites, the highest being 30 at Bowers Marsh on 22nd January. Notably, birds appeared to be on the move during February with 16 south in two hours over Frinton-on-Sea on 21st; the same day it was noted that an influx had occurred at Bowers Marsh where 15 were observed.

Autumn passage was again quiet this year with even Frinton-on-Sea only reporting a monthly October passage of 129, less than half of the 279 reported for the same period in 2016 (606 in 2015). Elsewhere, double-figure October counts were also down with reports from eight sites (15 in 2016) and the largest of these only totalling 20 birds at Wivenhoe and Wanstead Flats on 19th and 23rd respectively. Thirty moving south in half an hour on 7th November at Frinton-on-Sea was the second largest count of the autumn, with 20 there the next day. The only other November double-figure count was 14 at Langdon Hills Plotlands in 15th. December saw just two double-figure flocks, 12 at Mardkye Valley on 1st and 15 at Wrabness on 18th.

2016 Addendum:
Three pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figures to 298 at 237 sites.

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 115 at 79 sites. As with Song Thrush, the majority of these breeding records have been drawn from BirdTrack submissions. The comments made in relation to BirdTrack records under that species are also applicable here, though in the case of Mistle Thrush most of the BirdTrack records were 1-2 birds, so the degree of understating is probably lower. As with Song Thrush, the number of breeders reported here will bear little relation to the actual population in the County of this widespread species.

Ten sites reported two territories, doubling last year's total, with a further four locations reporting three or more, these were as follows: Lamarsh, Belfairs Wood Hadleigh and Belhus Woods Aveley, three; Mardyke Valley, four; Middleton to Great Henny, five.

Unlike last year, when only one post breeding flock held more than 15 birds, this year five flocks were reported. In June there were 35 at Great Leighs on 27th, July saw 40+ at Bures Hamlet on 13th and 17 at Phyllis Currie Reserve Great Leighs on 25th and in October there were 21 at Walthamstow Wetlands on 8th and 25 at Thorndon Park on 8th.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata striata* UK REX

Declining summer resident and passage migrant.

Seven pairs were proved to have bred, a slight reduction following the improvement of the previous year (eight in 2016, five in 2015). There were pairs, singing ♂♂ or single birds present at a further 20 sites (16 in 2016, 22 in 2015) in the breeding season, with singing ♂♂ or pairs showing nesting or feeding behaviour from 11 sites and single birds at a further nine sites. Most of the reports relating to breeding birds came from large gardens, churchyards, woodland or parkland.

Spring passage was light and took place during the second half of May. At the coast the first birds were recorded on 13th May at Frinton-on-Sea and The Naze followed by sightings at Great Holland, Fleet Head Great Wakering and Shoeburyness. Inland the first birds were recorded on 16th May at Ingrebourne Valley and Walthamstow Wetlands. During May there were single birds recorded at Hylands Park Chelmsford, Gestingthorpe and Henny Street.

The autumn passage was early this year, occurring mainly in late August but continuing through to 3rd October. Reports in August came from 37 sites (excluding for this purpose sites holding confirmed or probable breeders) and were mainly of one or two birds. Counts of three or more were made at seven sites with four at Canvey Wick, six at Dagnam Park Harold Hill, four at Hanningfield Reservoir, three at Henny Street, five at Shalford, 12 at Wanstead Flats (24th August) and three at Warley Place Great Warley. In September reports came from 23 sites and most records were of one or two birds with a single count of three at Bedfords Park on 17th September. The last birds of the year were reported from two sites on 3rd October: Abridge and Beaumont.

Estimated monthly totals, using maximum site counts per month, were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Totals	0	0	0	0	22	24	17	81	32	2	0	0

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.**

2017 saw the expected pattern, with wintering birds swelling the numbers which then dropped off through the summer, followed by a migratory influx mainly centred on late September and October with wintering birds remaining into the second winter period. The highest count of the year, of 53, on 9th October came from Frinton-on-Sea during the autumn migration.

There were several high counts during the early part of the year (site maximum in each case). January: Chafford Gorges Grays, 29 on 17th; Langdon Hills Plotlands, 26 on 19th; Orsett Fen, 26 on 26th. February: Highams Park, 22 on 17th. March: Colchester, 21 on 4th; Belhus Woods Aveley, 21 on 12th; Chigborough Lakes, 21 on 15th; Brundon, 24 on 22nd.

Singing birds were recorded in most months, including the winter, with streetlights often encouraging ♂♂ to sing, even at night. Counts of more than 20 singing ♂♂ or territories were as follows: Braintree, 25 pairs (considered stable); Chigborough Lakes, 21 singing on 15th March; Fairlop Waters Barkingside, 31 singing on 23rd May; Hooks Marsh Waltham Abbey, 13 singing on 26th May; Rainham Marshes reported 24 territories. High counts were received from other locations but it was not clear if these were singing birds: Mardyke Valley, 21 on 2nd April; Belhus Woods Aveley, 28 on 6th April; Friday Wood Colchester, 26 on 2nd May.

Observer effort at Frinton-on-Sea recorded the flow of the autumn migration with the first birds arriving on 28th August. During September a total of 143 were counted on six days observation and in October 110 on 23 days. The peak count was 53 on 9th October.

Away from the coast there were also sites that recorded higher than average counts suggestive of either a good breeding season or an influx of Continental birds. At Chafford Gorges Grays counts increased from an average of 20 birds per count in spring and summer to an average count of 32 in autumn. Increases were also seen, at Mardyke Valley from 14 to 22 and Bowers Marsh from 18 to 26. Olympic Park Stratford appeared to have an influx of autumn birds with 28 on 2nd September; 26 on 1st October and 33 on 8th October.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica svecica/cyanecula*

Rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (47, 3, 50)**

Old Hall Marshes	First year ♂	15th August	SCo

This was the first since 2013 (which was a White-spotted) and only the third in the last decade. This was the second record for the site, the last being back in 1968.

Found in a mist-net, this individual was aged as a first year bird; differences between subspecies are only obvious in breeding adult ♂♂ (Svensson 1992) so although the finder considered that it tended towards a Red-spotted Bluethroat, this individual is recorded here as being one of either sub-species.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos megarhynchos* UK REX

Summer resident and passage migrant.

The first record of the year came from Old Hall Marshes on 8th April.

In total, 97 singing ♂♂ were reported from 32 sites (2016: 119 at 47; 2015: 175 at 52). If the overall count is accurate, it would suggest a continuing drop in numbers over the last three years. Numbers appeared down at Friday Wood Colchester, 11 singing ♂♂ during an early May survey (19 in 2015) but at Fingringhoe Wick there was an improvement with a maximum of 25 singing ♂♂

Nightingale (RICHARD ALLEN)

when surveyed in early May (15 singing ♂♂ in 2016, 30 in 2015) with an estimate on 13th May of 40 to 45 in the whole reserve. Other counts of five or more singing ♂♂ were as follows: Wrabness, six; Hazeleigh Wood, five; Wakering Stairs, seven. There was little evidence of definite breeding.

The last records of the year were from Canvey Wick and were of single birds on 13th and 19th August.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca hypoleuca* UK

Rare spring, but fairly common autumn, passage migrant.

There were two spring records of single birds: Holland Haven, a ♀ type on 27th April and Walthamstow Wetlands on 29th April.

Autumn passage started on 20th August with a single bird at Dagnam Park Harold Hill. With a minimum of 14 birds at ten sites (2016: 27 at 16, 2015: 41 at 19) passage was exceptionally light. The stronghold in previous years has been Wanstead Flats with birds usually seen from late August to late September but this was not the case this year with no records from this site. Holland Haven had singles on four days between 23rd and 30th September and two birds were seen at The Naze on 26th September. The last bird of the year was a single on 30th September at Holland Haven.

Autumn passage is summarised in the table below:

	August		September			
Week commencing	**20th**	**27th**	**3rd**	**10th**	**17th**	**24th**
Numbers	2	3	1	0	3	5
Locations	2	3	1	0	3	2

RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula parva*

Rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (29, 3, 32)**

Holland Haven	One	30th September-2nd October	PBr

A popular bird, given that the majority of previous Essex records have not hung about and that the last Essex records were back in 2007. The ten records since 1990 have occurred at: The Naze (six); Holland Haven (one); Foulness (three).

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis* UK REX

Small breeding and wintering population. Passage migrant in small numbers.

In the first winter period there were two birds seen at Beckton Sewage Works on 24th January and single birds at three sites: Clacton-on-Sea 3rd January, Fullbridge Maldon 27th January and Walthamstow Wetlands from 13th January through to 28th February.

Reports of birds likely to have been on spring passage (as distinct from breeders) were received from 11 sites (18 in 2016, eight in 2015). Passage lasted from March to May and was mostly coastal through March and April with just one bird recorded inland at Great Leighs on 26th March. Through May most sightings were inland with regular records from the Olympic Park Stratford.

Reports of singing ♂♂ came from just two sites, on 10th June: Olympic Park Stratford and Stratford Westfield Shopping Centre. No breeding records were received but Black Redstarts have favoured these two locations for three years now. A single bird was recorded at Brightlingsea on 24th June, the only record in that month away from the metropolitan area. The only record for July was on 4th at Olympic Park Stratford.

Autumn passage was very light and occurred only through October and November. Just one bird was recorded in September at South Woodham Ferrers on 2nd. Singles were recorded at just two coastal sites in October. The bulk of the autumn records occurred in November, all singles at five coastal sites and mostly from Rainham Marshes. There were no obvious wintering birds recorded.

Estimated monthly totals, using maximum site counts per month, were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	7	2	5	2	5	6	1	0	1	2	5	3

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus* UK

Regular passage migrant in small numbers. Bred until 1993.

There was very little spring migration reported. The first spring migrant was seen at Ingrebourne Valley on 6th April, the last at Frinton-on-Sea on 24th April. Other reports came from seven more sites (20 in 2016, 13 in 2015, nine in 2014) between 7th and 23rd April. All reports were of single birds with nine, possibly 11, birds involved, 4-5 occurring along the north-east coast, 4-5 inland and one in the far south-west of the County. No reports were received for May or June. A single bird was recorded at Wanstead Flats on 2nd July.

The first bird of the autumn was at Holland Haven on 10th August. Passage was light compared to previous years, with a minimum total of around 31 birds at 19 sites (75 at 33 in 2016, 89 at 36 in 2015). Birds were confined to the coast and south of the County. Counts of two or more birds were only recorded at Wanstead Flats, with two on 27th August and three on 15th September. The last birds of the year were singles seen on 26th September at The Naze and Wanstead Flats.

Red-breasted Flycatcher, Holland Haven, October (PAUL CHAMBERLAIN)

Bearded Tit, Heybridge Gravel-Pit, January (SIMON PATIENT)

Left: Mealy Redpoll, Wallasea Island, January (JEFF DELVE)

Below: Hawfinch, Hatfield Forest, November (PAUL CHAMBERLAIN)

Estimated monthly totals, using maximum site counts per month, were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	0	0	9	0	0	1	14	13	0	0	0

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra* UK

Regular passage migrant. Formerly bred.

The first spring record was a single bird at Fairlop Waters Barkingside on 12th April. Passage was light with a minimum of 19 birds seen at nine sites (2016: 40 from 22; 2015: 29 from 17). These were mostly 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 four dates with a maximum of nine on 30th April. There were two at Hatfield Broad Oak and two at Wanstead Flats on the same day. The last spring sightings were three at Rainham Marshes and one at Walthamstow Marshes on 10th May.

No breeding behaviour was observed and only one bird was seen between 10th May and 30th July, at Rainham Marshes on 15th July.

Autumn migration started on 30th July with two birds at Rainham Marshes but peaked in the last two weeks of August and the first week of September, two weeks earlier than 2016. Numbers were similar to 2016.

Autumn passage during the main period is summarised in the table below, showing totals of the highest count of birds at all sites in each week.

	July	August				September				October
Week commencing	**30th**	**6th**	**13th**	**20th**	**27th**	**3rd**	**10th**	**17th**	**24th**	**1st**
Numbers	2	9	19	53	52	47	23	22	12	4
Locations	1	6	8	24	21	22	8	10	9	4

Most sightings were coastal, including estuaries, or at reservoirs or gravel pits. Counts of six or more in autumn were as follows: East Tilbury, six on 25th August and six on 2nd September; Rainham Marshes, seven on 7th September; Bowers Marsh, six on 9th and seven on 10th September. The last bird of the year was seen on 16th November at Rainham Marshes.

STONECHAT *Saxicola rubicola hibernans* REX

Small breeding population. Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

A stable year with at least 14 pairs at eight locations, with three pairs at Foulness Island, East Tilbury and Rainham Marshes; single pairs at Bowers Marsh, Brightlingsea, Colne Point, Old Hall Marshes and Tilbury. Breeding was confirmed at all seven sites, with fledglings seen at: Foulness Island, two; Bowers Marsh, two; Brightlingsea, four; Old Hall Marshes, three; Tilbury, three.

Breeding records for recent years are summarized in the following table:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
Pairs/Territories	11	10-12	5	5	5	3	2	6	6	9	12
Locations	7	7	2	5	3	2	2	5	6	6	7

The highest counts of the first winter period were: January: Rainham Marshes, 12 on 18th; Barking Bay/Marsh, 12 on 20th; Tollesbury Wick, eight on 26th. February: Rainham Marshes, eight on 24th.

The highest counts in the autumn were: August: Brightlingsea, six on 24th; East Tilbury, six on 25th; September: Old Hall Marshes, 13 on 22nd; October: Bradwell Bird Observatory, 11 on 8th; Dengie St Lawrence to Howe Outfall, 12 on 8th; Rainham Marshes 12 on 14th and 11 on 25th; Blue House Farm, 11 on 18th.

The highest counts of the second winter period were: November: North Dengie, seven on 19th; Rainham Marshes, ten on 19th and 24th. December: Old Hall Marshes, seven on 5th; Bowers Marsh, eight on 22nd; Rainham Marshes, nine on 22nd; Tollesbury Wick 13 on 28th.

Estimated monthly totals, using maximum site counts per month, were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	145	84	54	15	18	21	14	29	66	183	129	99
Locations	59	39	27	8	7	9	8	9	25	59	46	32

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*

Occasionally breeds. Common passage migrant.

The earliest spring migrants were singles at Rainham Marshes and Wanstead Flats on 11th March. Spring passage is summarised in the table below:

	March			April					May		
Week commencing	**12th**	**19th**	**26th**	**2nd**	**9th**	**16th**	**23rd**	**30th**	**7th**	**14th**	**21st**
Numbers	8	10	15	5	64	110	122	50	27	12	2
Locations	6	5	11	3	23	26	28	17	10	9	2

Double-figure counts came from five locations, all in April: The Naze, ten on 15th; Frinton-on-Sea, 12 on 24th; Blue House Farm, 16 on 20th; Rainham Marshes, a peak count of 21 on 21st; King George V Reservoir, 11 on 23rd.

The last bird of the spring was at Rainham Marshes on 22nd May. There were no records in June or early July.

Autumn migration commenced at the end of July with single birds at: Wanstead Flats on 20th; Benfleet Creek on 27th; Brightlingsea on 28th; King George V Reservoir on 29th and Holland Haven on 30th and 31st.

Autumn passage is summarised in the table below:

	July		August				September				October
Week commencing	**23rd**	**30th**	**6th**	**13th**	**20th**	**27th**	**3rd**	**10th**	**17th**	**24th**	**1st**
Numbers	3	12	25	53	80	96	40	26	17	24	18
Locations	3	5	11	15	24	28	20	10	11	11	14

Double-figure counts came from four locations: Frinton-on-Sea, 16 on 18th August and ten on 24th August; Holland Haven, 15 on 19th August, ten on 28th August, 16 on 1st September; King George V Reservoir, 12 on 22nd August; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, ten on 1st September. The final sighting of the year was a single bird at Gunners Park Shoebury on 6th November.

Greenland Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*

Passage migrant.

Four birds showing characteristics of this race were reported (five in 2016), two in spring and two in autumn. In spring there were two birds at Walthamstow Wetlands on 9th May. The autumn birds were one at Gallions Reach Beckton on 18th October and one at Rainham Marshes on 25th October.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus domesticus* UK

Abundant resident.

A widely reported species across Essex with 2,849 records received throughout the year. Breeding remains under-recorded in the County, however, with breeding confirmation received from 14 sites, probable breeding from 38 sites and possible breeding from 26 sites.

In total 39 records of 100 or more birds were received from 12 sites (eight in both 2016 and 2015), the highest of which was 200 at Mersea Strood in July and August. A further 45 records of 50-100 birds were received from 22 sites.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus montanus* UK REX

Declining passage migrant. Bred until 1999.

A reasonable year, in recent terms, for this species, with 20 records from eight sites, involving a minimum of 65 birds.

At least 16 birds spent part of February in the north-east of the County, with six ringed at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, between 6th to 21st and an additional ten birds at Sladbury's Farm Little Clacton on 10th.

Autumn passage commenced on 28th August with four at Gunners Park Shoebury which went on to linger, increasing to eight on 1st September, and dropping back to four on 2nd with one from 9th-10th. Two were at Olympic Park Stratford on 2nd September, with six passing south through Frinton-on-Sea also on 2nd. Thirteen passed south at Frinton-on-Sea on 30th September, being the highest single count of the year. Holland Haven hosted four birds on 13th September and five on 24th October. A single bird was at Rainham Marshes on 14th October, with four at the same site on 19th. Four were at Colne Point on 15th October and the year's final record consisted of two birds heading south at Frinton-on-Sea on 2nd November.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	4	33	14	2	0

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 County with 2,802 records received throughout the year, however breeding was under-recorded with breeding confirmed from just eight sites. In total 79 records of probable breeding were received from across the County, with a further 315 records of possible breeding. The highest count of the year was 50 between Braintree and Bocking on 30th June.

Individuals recorded during autumn often blur the lines when attempting to determine whether birds are migrants or not; however minor influxes of over 15 birds were noted from two coastal sites as follows: 16 at Frinton-on-Sea on 19th September, 23 at Frinton-on-Sea on 1st November and 20 at Bradwell Bird Observatory also on the latter date. In addition to those mentioned above, a further 26 records of 15 or more individuals were received from 12 sites throughout the year.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*
Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima* UK REX

Declining summer visitor.

Just 72 pairs confirmed or probably breeding at 14 locations (80 at six in 2016), with 29 of these present on Foulness Island and 24 on Wallasea Island. There were a further 27 records of possible breeding at 18 locations, but this still appears to reflect a long-term decline, both in the County and nationally.

The first records of the year were on the 30th March when singles were noted at Abberton Reservoir, Wallasea Island and Clay Tye Lane Upminster.

Double-figure counts during April were at: Abberton Reservoir, 15 on 23rd, 12 on 5th; Wallasea Island, 20 on 7th, ten on 14th, 30 on 18th, ten on 19th; Bowers Marsh, 17 on 19th; Harold's Park Farm Bumble's Green, 16 on 21st;

Double-figure counts in May were as follows: St Lawrence to Marsh House Outfall Dengie, 13 on 14th; Wallasea Island, 12 on 4th, 25 on 11th, 14 on 10th, ten on 20th, 12 on 21st; Wormingford Airfield, 12 on 26th.

There were two June counts of ten: Wallasea Island on 3rd and Orsett Fen on 20th.

Notable July assemblies were: Abberton Reservoir, ten on 20th; Old Hall Marshes, ten on 31st; Deal Hall Dengie, 25 on 25th; Wallasea Island, 30 on 29th; Orsett Fen, ten on 9th.

Autumn migration was concentrated at 15 locations reporting 30 or more individuals, notably Barton Hall Farm Great Stambridge, 81 on 11th August; Blue House Farm, 35 on 13th August, 50 on 3rd September; Colne Point, 35 on 8th August; East Tilbury, 26 on 25th August; Fleet Head Great Wakering, 35 on 27th August; King George V Reservoir, 36 on 26th August; Maldon, 30 on 12th August; Old Hall Marshes, 30 on 25th August, 60 on 31st August, 150 on 2nd September; North Dengie, 39 on 13th August; River Crouch North Fambridge to Althorne, 39 on 12th, 35 on 25th August; St Lawrence to Marsh House Outfall Dengie, 40 on 13th August; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, 30 on 22nd August; Tollesbury Wick, 30 on 28th August; Wallasea Island, 30 on 14th August, 60 on 9th September; West Canvey Marsh, 30 on 19th August. In October there were records from just two sites, with the last past Frinton-on-Sea on 17th.

2016 Addendum:
55 pairs bred on Wallasea Island, revising the year's figures to 90 pairs from six locations.

Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

Scarce summer visitor.

King George V Reservoir	One	26th April
Wallasea Island	Two ♂♂	30th April
Pyefleet Channel Mersea Island	One	1st September

An average year.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	4	5	0	2	3	3	4	1	9	5	3.6

Channel Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava x flavissima*

Old Hall Marshes	One ringed	31st August

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea cinerea* UK

Increasing resident breeder and passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding was recorded at seven sites and considered probable at a further 12, with breeding possible in a further 17 (confirmed at eight and considered probable at 12 in 2016). At Fishers Green Holyfield, the observer felt the species was increasing whilst around Braintree and Bocking breeding numbers were thought to be stable or increasing.

Most counts in the first three months were of 1-2 birds, with the following exceptions: Beckton Sewage Works, five on 8th January; Beckton Creekside, a maximum of five on 30th March; Prittle Brook Leigh-on-Sea, three on 6th March; Tilbury, three on 7th January and 18th January; Vange Marsh, three on 8th March; Eastwood Southend-on-Sea, three on 11th March; Walthamstow Filter Beds, three on 25th January, three on 30th January, three on 9th February, three on 21st February, three on 1st March, four on 22nd March; Whetmead Witham, 12 on 2nd January; William Girling Reservoir Chingford, three on 21st March.

Spring counts of more three birds came from: Sawbridgeworth Marsh, six on 21st May (three pairs including one with fledged young); River Stort Harlow, four on 21 st May; Waltham Abbey, 4+ on 1st May (being two pairs present); Walthamstow Wetlands, four on 21st May; King George V Reservoir, five on 5th April; Beckton Creekside, five on 5th and 20th May

A total of 46 past Frinton-on-Sea between 30th August and 1st November, with peaks of four on 12th September, five on 16th September and seven on 14th October; an average year. Elsewhere, records of four or more birds during the autumn were: August: Walthamstow Wetlands, five on 23rd.

September: King George V Reservoir, eight on 15th; Walthamstow Wetlands, six on 17th.

At the end of the year, there were no records of two or more in November. The only record of three or more birds came from Walthamstow Wetlands, six on 12th December.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	96	54	85	61	56	37	30	53	150	207	126	83
Locations	67	46	55	42	31	16	19	30	52	68	56	36

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*
Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Common resident and passage migrant.

Confirmed breeding was received for 40 pairs at 22 sites (36 pairs at 21 in 2016) with possible breeding at a further 27.

Major roosts during the first winter period were reported from: Whetmead Witham, 200 on 2nd January; Copford Sewage Works, 90 on 20th February; Brentwood, 75 on 28th January; Epping, 75 on 4th and 6th February; Upminster, 64 on 19th January; Hanningfield Reservoir, 60 on 16th January and 4th February; The Naze, 60 on 17th and 19th February. Reports of roosts of 20-59 birds came from four other locations.

There was a light spring passage, with 15 past Frinton-on-Sea on 12th March the only substantive report.

Autumn migration past Frinton-on-Sea was also light with only three day counts in excess of 20: 21 on 30th September, 35 on 6th October, and 42 on 8th October.

Counts of 20 or more during September and October were as follows: Abberton Reservoir, 27 on 17th September, 40 on 22nd September; Braintree Freeport, 40 on 20th; Colchester, 40 on 1st September; Hanningfield Reservoir, monthly maxima of 50 on 9th September and 100 on 23rd October; King George V Reservoir, 30 on 4th October, Olympic Park Stratford, 30 on 1st October; Shenfield, 50 on 22nd September; North Dengie, 49 on 8th October; The Naze, a maximum of 50 on 9th September; Wormingford, 20 on 19th September.

Records of 50 or more birds at the end of the year came from: Whetmead Witham, 200 on 24th December; Epping, 130 on 13th and 20th December; The Naze, 60 on 11th November; Hanningfield Reservoir, 50 on 19th December.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Fairly common passage migrant.

The first of the year was a ♂ at Langham on 7th March. Spring passage continued through April into late May. In total around 71 were confidently identified with records from 21 sites (23 from seven in 2015).

There were ten at Bowers Marsh on 15th April (with eight the previous day and 6+ on 21st) and six at Walthamstow Wetlands on 13th April. In addition, there were records of five at King George V Reservoir on 15th March and four at Abberton Reservoir on 15th April and at Langham on 17th April 2017. Counts of three came from four sites.

There were no summer records and the first report of the autumn was three at West Canvey Marsh on 21st August. Passage was moderate, with 59 birds at 17 sites (31 from 12 in 2016, 17 from eight in 2015) including a flock of 18 grounded by rain at Frinton-on-Sea on 17th September. The last record of the year involved one at Canvey Point on the late date of 5th November.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	0	0	17	55	4	0	0	9	38	9	1	0
Locations	0	0	10	15	3	0	0	6	7	5	1	0

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis* UK

Common resident and passage migrant.

The number of breeding territories fell to 50 from 22 sites (86 from 19 in 2016, 144 from 12 in 2015), a worrying downward trend that requires careful observation.

Nevertheless, with more than 1,400 records, mostly of more than one individual, the Meadow Pipit remains a common bird in the County. First winter counts of 30 or more from January to mid-March came from Aveley Bay, 50 on 22nd January; Barking Bay, 40 on 20th January; Belchamp St Paul, 30 on 6th February; Colne Point, 50 on 5th February; Copt Hall Marshes, 30 on 6th February; Hanningfield Reservoir, 40 on 8th January, 50 on 16th January; Rainham Marshes, 110 on 24th January and 15th February; Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, 40 on 5th January, 55 on 27th January; Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 30 on 24th February; Wallasea Island, 30 on 11th February; Wanstead Flats, 36 on 12th March; Wivenhoe, 38 on 20th January. Counts of 20 or more came from another 12 sites.

Spring passage was light in contrast with 2016, with only 14 individuals noted on the move from Frinton-on-Sea.

Other significant counts included 50 at Walthamstow Wetlands on 21st April, and 30 at Blue House Farm on 8th April and at Wanstead Flats on 14th April.

Autumn migration was poor past Frinton-on-Sea with 1,766 during September, including 423 on 30th, and 764 during October.

Other counts in excess of 80 were reported from: Barking Bay, 103 on 23rd October; Colne Point, 81 on 20th September; Gunners Park Shoebury, 93 on 16th September, 145 on 23rd October; Rainham Marshes, 158 on 15th September, 145 on 15th October; Walton Hall Marshes, 100 on 18th October; Wormingford, 100 on 26th October.

Reports were received from 97 sites in the last two months of the year (91 in 2016). Counts of 40 or more came from King George V Reservoir, 75 on 17th November; Rainham Marshes, 52 on 1st November; Hanningfield Reservoir, 50 on 23rd December; North Dengie, 42 on 19th November; and Havering-atte-Bower, 40 on 17th November.

2016 Addendum:

Ten pairs bred on Wallasea Island, revising the year's figures to 86 from 19 sites.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis trivialis* UK REX

A rare and decreasing summer visitor and passage migrant.

There was no indication of breeding this year after hopes were raised in 2015 and 2016.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Localities	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	9	5	2	0	0
Number	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	15	7	2	0	0

The first reported migrant flew north calling over Braintree on 31st March.

There were no records of more than two birds together. Spring instances of two birds were at Sewardstone on 16th April and Wanstead Flats on 22nd April. In the autumn records of two birds came from Gunners Park Shoebury on 16th August, Frinton-on-Sea on 20th August, Leyton Flats on 21st August, and Wanstead Flats on 9th September. The last bird of the year was at Rainham Marshes on 15th October.

WATER PIPIT *Anthus spinoletta spinoletta* UK

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Localities	6	7	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1
Number	13	11	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	2

Water Pipit (RICHARD ALLEN)

All records were of one or two birds except for Rainham Marshes, which remains the hotspot for this scarce species in Essex. Peak counts there were five on 1st January, three on 16th February, four on 4th March, two on 30th October, three on 1st November, five on 19th November, four on 26th November, and two on various dates in December.

The last bird of the spring was at Rainham Marshes on 15th April, and the first of the autumn was on Wanstead Flats on 23rd 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 63 sites (51 in 2016), with counts of five or more recorded as follows (site maximum in each case): Althorne to Burnham, five on 13th February; Beckton, five on 8th February; Canvey Point, five on 28th January; Colne Point, ten on 18th January; Goldhanger, seven on 16th January, five on 13th February; Heybridge Gravel Pit, nine on 5th January; Lawling Creek Maylandsea, five on 22nd January; North Dengie, 18 on 14th January; Old Hall Marshes, five on 5th January, six on 28th February; Rainham Marshes, eight on 1st January, six on 6th January, five on 16th January; St Lawrence to Marsh House Outfall Dengie, 24 on 15th January; The Naze, six on 14th January; Two Tree Island, five on 15th January. The last of first winter was at Langham Lagoons on 29th March.

The first arrival of the autumn was at Rainham Marshes on 15th September. Counts of five or more were recorded at: Althorne to Burnham-on-Crouch, six on 23rd November; Colne Point, five on 26th November; Deal Hall Dengie, six on 8th October; North Dengie, five on 19th November; East Tilbury, six on 2nd November; Goldhanger, seven on 9th October, five on 20th November; Heybridge Gravel Pit, seven on 14th and 28th November; Old Hall Marshes, 18 on 2nd November; River Crouch North Fambridge to Althorne, 12 on 6th December; Rainham Marshes, monthly maxima of seven in October and six in November and December; Salcott-cum-Virley, six on 28th December; The Naze, five on 12th October and 19th November; Tollesbury Wick, five on 18th December; Two Tree Island, eight on 1st November; Walton Hall Marshes, five on 12th October.

The only passage count of note was ten past Frinton-on-Sea in seven hours on 30th October.

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 season reports do not call for comment.

The species was more numerous in the first winter than the corresponding period in 2016, spring passage was low key but autumn passage was stronger than for the last two years.

The first winter saw 13 (three in 2016) sites with counts in excess of 50, including eight (one in 2016) three-figure counts: Moverons Brightlingsea, 150+ on 10th January; Chigborough Lakes, 200 on 27th January; Langham, about 230 on 16th January; Gambles Green Terling, 100 on 4th February; Terling, 100 on 10th and 250 on 13th January; Littley Green, 150 on 14th January; Leez Priory Hartford End, 100 on 11th February; Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield, 100 on 28th January, 150+ on 4th February and 250+ on 12th January.

Small movements of Chaffinch were noted during February passing Frinton-on-Sea, including 20 heading north in 0.75 hours on 15th and 12 south on 17th and 24th in 0.75 and 1.25 hours respectively. These movements aside, passage did not really commence in any numbers until March, and compared to 2016, this proved to be lighter with only Frinton-on-Sea again seeing visible migration. Here, the peak count was 245 north in just one hour on 13th March; the next highest count from here being 86 on 26th March. The total of 381 from Frinton-on-Sea during March was much lower than in 2016 (906). Counts at other sites, both coastal and inland, tended to peak during March, with principal peak counts coming from: Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, 25 on 6th; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 35 round the feeders on 22nd; Chingford, 40 on 13th; Harold Wood, 50 on 4th March; Leyton Flats/Snaresbrook, 30 on 1st March; Woodford Green, 40 on 8th March.

The autumn movement was much more in evidence than in 2016. At Frinton-on-Sea, monthly totals were (2016 figures in brackets): September, 133 in 21 hours (92 in 57 hours); October, 1,987 in 82 hours (652 in 59.75 hours); November, 1,507 in 59.25 hours (377 in 40.25 hours). The total for the three months was 3,627 (1,121). September saw 108 south in 7.5 hours on 30th whilst three-figure counts in October and November occurred on six days in October and four in November, with the October peak being 832 south in six hours on 9th and in November, 684 in off the sea in 4.5 hours on 7th. Elsewhere three-figure counts of apparent migration were noted at: Hamford Water, c100 in-off the sea, 15th October; Holland Haven, 300 in-off the sea, 7th November; Gunners Park Shoebury, 120 on 23rd October; Rainham Marshes, 247 on 14th, 780 on 15th, 120 on 26th and 240 on 28th October; Beckton, 132 north-west on 14th, 130 the same direction the next day and 157 on 31st, all in October; Walthamstow Wetlands, 110 on 31st October; Walthamstow Marshes, 200 on 2nd November; Wanstead Flats, 263 on 14th, 200 on 15th, 150 on 18th, 200 on 28th and 100 on 30th October; Ingrebourne Valley, 100 on 7th November.

December was again relatively quiet with just three sites (four in 2016) recording counts of more than 50: Langham, 100 on 9th; Docura's Farm Little Horkesley, about 100 on 9th; Ingrebourne Valley, 250 on 1st and 25th.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor in variable numbers.

The species was recorded from just 19 sites (32 in 2015) in the first winter and 13 sites (32 in 2015) in the second, although autumn passage and winter numbers were slightly higher than last year.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Frinton-on-Sea	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	14	0
Elsewhere	24	33	82	0	1	0	0	0	0	90	45	30
Totals	24	33	83	0	1	0	0	0	0	165	59	30
Locations	10	9	12	0	1	0	0	0	0	27	26	13

In the first winter, double-figure counts came from just three locations: Hanningfield Reservoir, 14 on 20th January; Woodman Road Cemetery Warley, ten on 19th and 13 on 20th February; Epping Forest, ten on 8th January; High Beach Epping Forest, 12 on 14th January;

There was some evidence of returning birds passing through in March, mainly from the west of the County, where almost all of the month's records occurred, and including a flock which built from 20 on 13th to 50 on 21st in Bury Wood Chingford. Several other sites in the area saw higher numbers in March, although five at Highams Park on 1st and 2nd, Oak Hill Epping Forest on 3rd and Duck Wood Harold Hill on 4th were the highest counts. Apart from a very late straggler at Holland Haven on 12th May, the last record of the spring was one north at Frinton-on-Sea on 27th March, the only record from the latter location during spring.

The first bird of autumn flew south at Frinton-on-Sea on 4th October. Thereafter, passage was heavier than 2016 albeit the number of sites recording the species was lower. Double-figure counts came from just two sites, Frinton-on-Sea and Wanstead Flats. At the former, apart from ten south on 2nd November, all the counts were in October: 23 on 30th, 16 on 9th and 12 on 17th. At Wanstead Flats, there were ten on 15th. Elsewhere counts of five or more, all in October, came from: The Naze, nine on 8th and eight on 19th; Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, five on 31st; Bradwell Bird Observatory, five on 24th; Rainham Marshes, five on 28th.

Slightly higher numbers than in the last few years were present in the second winter with, in December, at least ten south of Leez Reservoir Hartford End on 30th, six at Alresford on 9th and two at Bowers Marsh, Layer-de-la-Haye and Ingrebourne Valley on 31st, 14th and 25th respectively. Singles occurred at a further seven sites.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes* UK REX

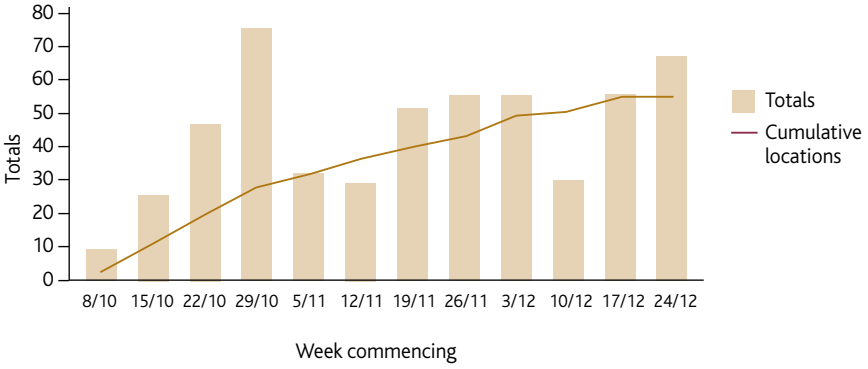
Very uncommon, and local, resident; rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

An unprecedented influx of Hawfinches occurred into the UK during the autumn, although the majority of records occurred during the last three months of the year. It has been suggested that the movement was caused by a poor berry crop in the species' usual wintering areas in Germany and Romania that sent flocks further north and west than typical.

In Essex, there were no records in 2017 until the second week of October when two were over Wansted Flats/Snaresbrook on 9th October, followed by one there the next day. The first signs of what could be considered visible migration were six south over Frinton-on-Sea on 14th. From then on, records came in from both the north-east coast and the woodlands of the south-west of the County with virtually none in other parts for another week or so.

Weekly numbers and distribution of records:

Weekly totals of Hawfinches and cumulative totals of locations where species recorded.



The graph appears to suggest that the initial influx through the County peaked around late October/early November and then, after a brief lull, numbers remained relatively constant as birds began to be located at sites at which they would spend the winter. The majority of records were in the west and south-west of the County and it was in these areas that numbers built at three main sites, Thorndon Park, Ongar Park Wood Epping Forest and Hatfield Forest. Peak monthly counts at each site were:

	October	November	December
Thorndon Park	0	13	30
Ongar Park Woods	0	8	14
Hatfield Forest	23	30	17

Away from the west and south-west, it was only in the north-east that similar numbers were reported with the majority of records coming from Frinton-on-Sea, where a total of 37 was recorded on passage between 14th October and 9th November, the peak count being 12 on 5th November, with nine on 30th October.

Away from these areas, peak counts of five or more came from: Rainham Marshes, six on 3rd November; Chalkney Wood Earls Colne, six on 6th December; Langdon Hills Plotlands, 11 on 23rd October, six on 1st November and five on 15th December; Woodford Green, seven on 31st and five on 30th October; Waterworks Leyton, five on 5th December; Wanstead Flats, nine on 28th October.

So how many Hawfinches occurred in Essex between October and December? A best estimate is probably in the region of 200-300 individuals, with a subsequent early winter population of 75-100.

Hawfinch (RICHARD ALLEN)

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula pileata*
UK REX

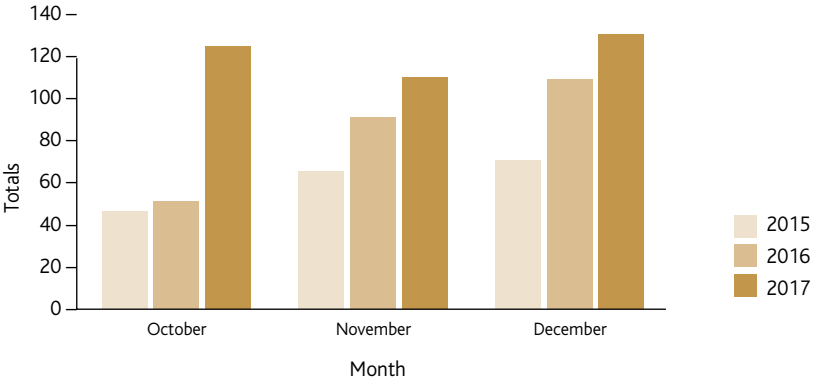
Declining resident.

Records came from just over 110 locations (100 in 2016) during the breeding season. This species is surprisingly elusive at all times, but particularly in the breeding season, and there were, once again, no records confirming breeding. There was a total of 50 pairs/territories reported from some 32 scattered localities mainly in central and northern Essex; one diligent observer identified 31 of these pairs/territories. All were of 1-2, except for three territories reported around Alphamstone and Lamarsh and four in the Braintree and Bocking area.

Encouragingly, there were reports from 18 (11 in 2016 and seven in 2015) locations during the first winter of five or more birds, with counts of seven or more birds coming from: Pebmarsh, seven on 20th January; Bulmer, seven on 9th February; Lamarsh, eight on 6th March; Brickfield Meadows Earls Colne, seven on 19th January; Heybridge Gravel Pit, eight on 8th February; Epping Forest, eight on 8th January.

Unusually, there were several observations hinting at movement through the County during the autumn. Five were noted heading south on 30th October at Frinton-on-Sea and the same day five were seen heading high west over Wivenhoe; the next day four flew high west calling over Alresford. High flying birds were also noted inland at Little Baddow flying west and calling strongly on 27th October, whilst one at Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth on the same day may have been a northern race individual as its call was considered harsher and noticeably louder; another the same day at Colne Point was also considered to have an "atypical call". The question is, did Bullfinches accompany the Hawfinches arriving from the Continent? It is difficult to be certain, but it is interesting to note that, when one compares this autumn/winter period with the last two, there were more Bullfinches reported this year than in 2015-16, and most significantly during October.

Number of Bullfinches recorded during autumn 2015-2017



Whilst this possible influx may not have involved truly "Northern Bullfinches", it would seem that they might have been of eastern European origin.

During the second winter, counts of more than five came from just two locations (seven in 2016): Thorndon Park North, seven on 2nd December; Hatfield Forest, eight on 30th, ten on 1st and 12 on 29th December.

GREENFINCH *Chloris chloris chloris*

Common but recently declined resident and passage migrant.

Recorded from just over 160 sites during the breeding season, which is somewhat lower than in the previous two years (c200). In, all a total of 530 records was received during the breeding season, also a decline on last year (761).

During the first winter, there was just one record in excess of 50, 100 in Priory Park Southend-on-Sea on 15th January. Otherwise, just four sites reported counts of 30 or more, all in January: Bradwell Bird Observatory, 30 on 4th; Blue House Farm, 30 on 30th; Lexden Hilly Fields, 40 on 30th; Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, 35 on 19th.

Aside from the traditional build-up around the Bradwell Bird Observatory feeders, where numbers peaked at 40 on 22nd March, the only sign of spring migration were 22 north at Frinton-on-Sea on 12th March.

As in 2016, there were barely any signs of significant post-breeding flocks with only three sites recording double-figures: Gunners Park Shoebury, 12 on 28th August (possibly migrants?); Brook Farm Upminster, a peak of 19 on 2nd August; Wanstead Flats, 30 on 5th August.

Autumn passage was generally poor, although an improvement on the last couple of years. At Frinton-on-Sea, monthly totals were: September, six; October, 352; November, 18; in all a total of

376 (2016 – 43, 118, 0 - a total 161). Peak counts were all in October: 112 on 14th, 99 on 4th, 73 on 30th and 32 on 17th, together with two further double-figure counts. Away from here, only four sites recorded 20 or more, all in November: Burnham-on-Crouch, 50 on 21st; Bowers Marsh, a peak of 50 on 21st and 26th; Gunners Park Shoebury, 25 on 7th; Rainham Marshes, 22 on 4th. Only four further sites reported double-figure counts.

As in 2016, there were just two counts in excess of 50 during December: West Thurrock, 112 on 12th; Priory Park Southend-on-Sea, 100 on 18th December. The next highest count was just 25 (at two locations).

A not very encouraging picture with numbers apparently still declining.

TWITE *Linaria flavirostris pipilans/flavirostris* UK

Both sub-species are uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.

The decline continues, the species now becoming genuinely rare in the County:

Wallasea Island	Four	1st January-10th February with two until 21st February
Old Hall Marshes	Two	23rd October

One further, unsubstantiated record, involving four birds was received.

The four Wallasea Island birds were presumably part of the flock of nine present at the end of 2016.

With just six individuals, this is the worst year by some way for the species in the County.

LINNET *Linaria cannabina cannabina* UK REX

Common but declined resident and passage migrant.

The species was recorded from about 300 sites, slightly more than in 2016 (about 250) during the year and from slightly under 200 during the breeding season.

Once again, very little can be said about breeding numbers apart from diligent recording again by one recorder who identified 74 territories, predominantly in the north of the County along the Stour Valley. At Rainham Marsh, 52 territories were identified, which clearly shows how common the species can be in suitable habitat.

During the first winter, three-figure counts came from 11 locations (five in 2016), with those in excess of 200 coming from (all in January): Mill Beach Heybridge, 220 on 17th; Littley Green, 250 on 14th; Holyfield/Seventy Acres Lake area, a peak of 300 on 28th; just north of Chigborough Lakes, 300 on 27th; Terling, 400 on 10th.

Three-figure flocks at two sites during March - Lamarsh where there were 120 on 6th March and Bluebridge Halstead where there were 120+ on 11th - could have related to either wintering birds or those passing through. However, on the coast, passage tends not to occur until mid-March at the very earliest, so the former seems more likely. At Frinton-on-Sea, monthly counts from March to May were 76, 125 and 128, a total of 329 (161 in 2016 and 157 in 2015). Peak counts were: 53 north in one hour on 27th April; 43 north in two hours on 2nd May; 42 north in two hours on 9th May. Elsewhere along the coast passage was barely discernible. More generally across the County, there were slightly increased numbers at most sites, mainly between early March and mid-April, but the only counts of 50 or more were: Wrabness, 50 on 13th April; Wivenhoe, 50 on 1st March; Wormingford, 70 on 6th April.

Post-breeding flocks began to build-up from mid-July, although it is of note that 28 flew south at Frinton-on-Sea on 6th July, suggesting that some birds are already arriving from further afield. Three-figure counts were noted from three sites: Mersea Strood, 100 on 18th and 25th August; St Lawrence to Marsh House Outfall Dengie, 130 on 13th August; Rainham Marshes, 100 on 4th August, 120 on 29th July, 150 on 6th August and 170 on 26th July. Counts of 50 or more came from a further nine sites, mostly from late July onwards.

By the end of August, passage was picking up over Frinton-on-Sea, with 50 south in two hours on 27th August marking the beginning of the main passage here, which was the strongest for several

years. Monthly totals from September to November were: 675, 973 and 5 respectively, a total of 1,653 (1,121 in 2016 and 607 in 2015). There were six days that three-figure counts were noted, with the three highest being: 253 south in four hours on 14th October; 184 south in 7.5 hours on 30th September; 161 south in three hours on 4th October. Elsewhere passage was also stronger than in recent years with double-figure counts coming from 19 sites, 13 on the coast (eight sites, seven on the coast in 2016). Counts of 200 or more were recorded from: Colne Point, 350 on 30th September; Mersea Island, 700 on 6th September; St Lawrence to Howe Outfall Dengie, 302 on 8th October; Gunners Park Shoebury, 200 on 23rd October; Barking Bay, 211 on 23rd October; Abberton Reservoir, 200 on 29th September; Leez Priory Hartford End, 200 on 17th November; Ingrebourne Valley, 200 on 24th October.

The stronger passage did not translate into larger numbers in the second winter period with just one three-figure count, 180 at Great Loveney Hall Mount Bures on 16th December. There were just three counts of 70 or more: Rolls Farm Tollesbury, 74 on 24th December; Rainham Marshes, 80 on 15th December; Hanningfield Reservoir, 80 on 31st December.

At Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe 119 were trapped between 19th January and 21st April, several being re-traps from the previous year.

COMMON REDPOLL *Acanthis flammea flammea*

UK

Scarce, but regular, winter visitor.

EBSIP

Wallasea Island	One	7th-11th January	mo
Rainham Marshes	One	20th October	HVa
Rainham Marshes	One	9th November	DSm
Holland Haven	Two ringed	26th October	SCo

An average year. One further unsubstantiated record was received.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017/16	2016/15	2015/14	2014/13	2013/12	2012/11	2011/10	2010/09	2009/08	2008/07	Average
Totals	2	4	0	6	0	0	1	0	26	4	4.3

LESSER REDPOLL *Acanthis cabaret*

UK REX

Formerly resident, now a scarce and decreasing passage migrant and winter visitor.

During the first-winter, just one site produced a three-figure count: a peak of 100 in Thorndon Park north on 12th February. Double-figure counts came from a further four sites but numbers were low, with the highest of these counts being a peak of 20 in Ingrebourne Valley on 10th January.

Apart from two south in 0.75 hours past Frinton-on-Sea on 17th February and two north there in two hours on 12th March, spring migration was not discernable.

The only mid-summer record was an unseasonal movement involving a single bird south on 7th July at Frinton-on-Sea, presumably a migrant?

The first birds of autumn were six at Cudmore Grove East Mersea on 3rd September, although the next was not until 21st when a single bird flew over Rainham Marshes. Passage got into full swing at the very end of September and early October and proved to be one of the strongest this decade. At Frinton-on-Sea, October totals of 346 in October and 38 in November included 94 south in three hours on 4th October and 60 south in six hours on 9th October. The only other counts of more than 50 came from: Gunners Park Shoebury, 86 on 23rd October and Barking Bay, 77 on the same day. Double-figure counts came from a further 19 sites of which ten were coastal.

Numbers in the second winter were higher than in 2016 with double-figure counts coming from a further nine localities, the highest numbers being 32 in Great Baddow on 28th, 30 in Colchester on 21st December and 23 at Leyton Flats/Snaresbrook on 21st.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Frinton-on-Sea	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	8	346	38	0
Elsewhere	128	139	109	5	0	0	0	0	27	960	198	226
Totals	128	141	111	5	0	0	1	0	35	1306	236	226
Locations	9	13	14	2	0	0	1	0	8	59	47	27

CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra curvirostra*

Has bred. Irregular visitor in very variable numbers.

There were no records in 2017, the first blank year since 1996.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis britannica*

Common but declined resident and passage migrant.

Records were received from nearly 250 sites during the breeding season (over 200 in 2016), but the Goldfinch's inconspicuous habits during this season preclude further comment.

During the first winter, counts of 50 or more came from just three sites (eight in 2016): South Woodham Ferrers, 70 on 15th February; Langdon Hills Plotlands, 50 on 24th and 65 on 18th February; Ashdon, 65 on 30th January.

Spring passage was barely discernable with just 16 recorded from Frinton-on-Sea during March and no obvious signs of passage at any other coastal sites. A very simple analysis of counts at all sites in the County suggest that birds were moving through the County in the largest numbers during March and the first week of April. Generally, counts were very low, with the highest just 50, at Paglesham East Hall on 30th May, although at this late date, whether these were migrants or locally breeding birds is not possible to say.

Post-breeding gatherings of 100+ were noted from three sites (two in 2016): Rainham Marshes, up to 200 during July and August; Abberton Reservoir, 100 on 10th August; Ingrebourne Valley, 100+ on 23rd August and 120 on 12th and 1st August.

There were no obvious signs of visible migration from the coast at this time, although by the very last days of August, an increase in double-figure flocks at many sites suggested the start of autumn passage which, although still perhaps clouded by post-breeding gatherings, was in full swing by early in September and proved to be one of the heaviest for many years.

At Frinton-on-Sea, passage was the heaviest recorded from there since regular recording began in 2006, with (2016 counts in brackets) in September a total of 978 (198), October 17,269 (3,954) and November 925 (434); the total of 19,172 being marginally higher than the next heaviest passage year, 2011 when 18,383 were recorded. Four-figure counts were reported on six days, all in October and all in a southerly direction: 1,212 in three hours on 4th; 1,616 in 4.5 hours on 6th; 1,532 in six hours on 9th; 1,245 in 1.5 hours on 12th; 1,589 in four hours on 14th; 1,080 in 2.5 hours on 15th. Passage involving more than 500 birds occurred on a further ten dates. Strong passage was also noted at Gunners Park Shoebury where seven counts of in excess of 100 were reported, the largest all being in October: 1,730 on 23rd; 660 on 18th; 536 on 26th. Other sites along the coast recording three-figure counts were: Holland Haven, six counts, the highest being 350 on 16th October; Old Hall Marshes, 100 on 30th September; Osea Road Heybridge, 100 on 4th September; Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers, 100 on 4th September; Two Tree Island, 200+ on 25th October; Gobions East Tilbury, 110 on 14th October; West Thurrock Marshes, 120 on 9th September; Rainham Marshes, three counts, the highest being 200 on 14th October. Three-figure counts from inland sites came from: Abberton Reservoir, 100 on both 7th and 14th September; Langdon Hills Plotlands, 120 on 23rd October; Gunpowder Park Waltham Abbey, 150 on 16th October; Olympic Park Stratford, 400 on 2nd September.

Despite the strong passage, there were no three-figure counts during December, with only Rainham Marshes, with a peak of 75 on 17th December and Old Hall Marshes and Roding Valley Meadows Chigwell, with 70 on 5th and 18th December respectively, recording more than 50 birds.

SERIN *Serinus serinus*

Rare passage migrant. **EBSIP (14, 17, 31)**

Frinton-on-Sea	One flew south	31st July	PBr

The species was also recorded from Frinton-on-Sea last year.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Average
Totals	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	7	1.5

SISKIN *Spinus spinus*

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

There was once again no evidence of breeding.

Following on from the end of 2016, the first winter was very quiet with double-figure counts received from just ten sites, mostly in the west of the County. Counts of more than 20 came from just three sites, assuming that flocks at the latter two sites below involved different birds: The Mores Wood Bentley, 25 on 1st January; Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield, 43 on 3rd February; Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey, 80+ on 21st February.

There was evidence of a small spring passage at Frinton-on-Sea with a total of 137 moving generally north during March, including a peak of 66 on 26th March. There were just four April records: one at Holland Haven on 1st, two at The Naze on 3rd; three over Gunners Park Shoebury on 5th.

A small movement was noted through the County during June and July with single birds reported from three sites with a small, intermittent, southerly movement at a fourth: Frinton-on-Sea, where a total of 29 birds occurred over five days and the highest count being 11 on 11th July; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 31st July; East Tilbury, 10th June; Langdon Hills Plotlands, 5th July. These early birds are presumably dispersing from nearby breeding areas in Suffolk and Norfolk.

Apart from a single bird at Rainham Marshes on 13th August, autumn migration did not get going until the second week of September, with 20 south over Frinton-on-Sea on 10th and a further four heading in the same direction there the next day out of a total of 30 there during the month. September records came from a further three sites, two inland and one on the coast with four at Langdon Hills Plotlands on 28th the highest. October saw a stronger passage than in 2016. At Frinton-on-Sea, a total of 539, included 251 on 31st and 88 on 29th while there were a further four double-figure counts in the month. Elsewhere, double-figure counts came from 11 sites, the largest being 30 at Gunners Park Shoebury on 23rd, 25 over Wanstead Flats on 15th and 23 at Beckton on 8th.

November saw a total of 132 past Frinton-on-Sea, including 38 on 19th, whilst double-figure counts came from a further nine sites, the highest count being 20 in Hatfield Forest on 24th and 25th, Chappel on 28th and Belhus Woods Aveley on 19th.

Numbers in the second winter were higher than in the same period in 2016 with double-figure counts coming from a total of 14 sites, with counts of 50 or more coming from three: Thurrock Thameside Mucking, 51 on 17th December; Gunpowder Park Waltham Abbey, a peak of 62 on 20th December; Weald Park, a peak of 80 on 26th December.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Frinton-on-Sea	0	1	137	0	0	16	13	0	30	539	132	0
Elsewhere	150	195	41	6	0	1	2	1	8	509	248	495
Totals	150	196	178	6	0	17	15	1	38	1048	380	495
Locations	19	18	16	3	0	2	3	1	4	48	38	30

LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus* UK

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant in varying numbers

On Mersea Island, two were at The Strood on 1st January with one there the next and six at Cudmore Grove. Singles were then recorded at The Strood on 10th and 19th and over Cooper's Beach on 5th February. At Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, three from 2016 were present on 3rd January with at least five on 8th, four on 27th, seven on 29th, eight on 10th and three on 11th February, nine on 4th March and, finally, 18 on 11th March, the last record of the first winter.

Autumn visitors were more widespread with the earliest report being one on Canvey Island on 20th September. Two passed Frinton-on-Sea on 6th October and another on 31st October, whilst singles were at Colne Point on 25th October and Holland Haven on both 25th and 26th October and the latter on 4th December, as well as The Naze on 11th November, Old Hall Marshes on 14th November and at Bradwell Bird Observatory on 3rd December. Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth held two on 15th December and three on 23rd.

There were singles at Rainham Marshes on 23rd September and 3rd November and at Gallions Reach Beckton on 25th October.

Estimated monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	15	9	18	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	3	5
Locations	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	3	3

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis/insulae* UK

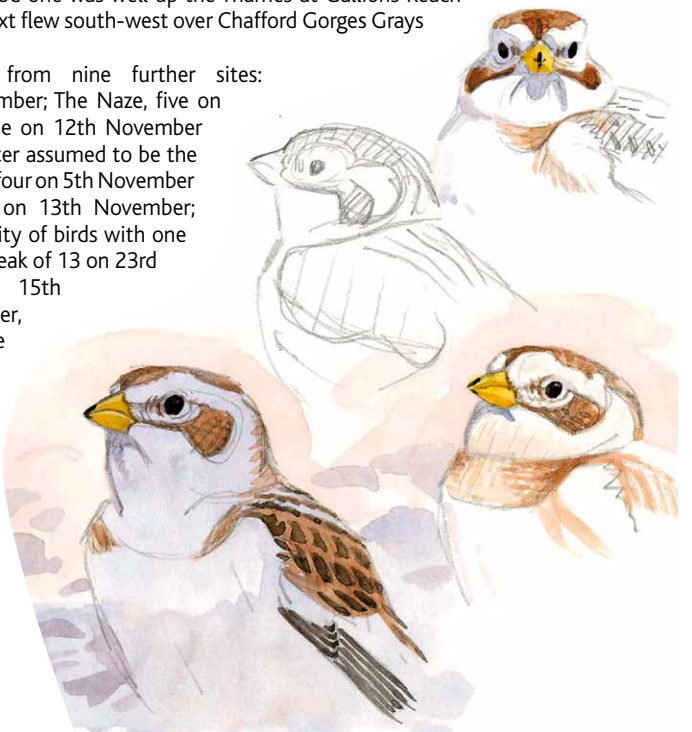
***P. n. insulae* is a passage migrant and local winter visitor with *P. n. nivalis* perhaps also, rarely, occurring.**

Early in the year Jaywick again was the best area for this species with 3-8 on several dates from 5th to 25th January and nine on 19th February. A single bird was by the Golf Course at Frinton-on-Sea on 12th February. Six were seen at Goldhanger on 10th March.

The first of the second winter period one was well up the Thames at Gallions Reach Beckton on 15th October and the next flew south-west over Chafford Gorges Grays on 30th October.

The remaining sightings cam from nine further sites: Hamford Water, one on 16th November; The Naze, five on 11th November; Frinton-on-Sea, one on 12th November and four on 15th November, the latter assumed to be the Holland Haven birds; Holland Haven, four on 5th November with three still on 12th and two on 13th November; Jaywick, which again held the majority of birds with one on 10th November, increasing to a peak of 13 on 23rd December; Colne Point, one on 15th October and four on 17th December, the latter assumed to be some of the Jaywick birds; Cobmarsh Island West Mersea, one on 5th November; Old Hall Marshes, one on 5th December; Heybridge Basin, one on 21st December; Rainham Marshes, one on 24th November.

Estimated monthly totals were:



Snow Bunting
(RICHARD ALLEN)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Numbers	8	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	14	15
Locations	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	4

It is quite possible that the birds at Jaywick in December included those, from Hamford Water, The Naze and Frinton-on-Sea/Holland Haven that had drifted south.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra calandra* UK REX

Declining resident.

A total of 151+ records of breeding pairs and or singing ♂♂ holding territory came from: Abberton Reservoir, six; Gosbecks Colchester, one; Maydays Farm West Mersea, one; Tollesbury Wick, one; Old Hall Marshes, one; Bradwell Bird Observatory, four; Tillingham, one; Burnham-on-Crouch, two; Cock Clarks, two; Blue House Farm, four; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, one; South Woodham Ferrers, one; Wallasea Island, 69 (120); Foulness Island, 19 (6); Fleet Head Great Wakering, 1+; Paglesham Lagoon, three; Hadleigh Marsh, two; Bowers Marsh, two; Rainham Marshes, two; Wix, 2+; Wormingford, 13; Great Chesterford, one; Coploe Hill Strethall, five; Redlands Chrishall, seven. This total is a substantial reduction on 2016 (130) but detailed counts were not received from several strongholds.

A total of 15 sites (13 on 2016) recorded numbers in excess of 20, the principal counts from each site being: Colne Point, a peak of 138 on 28th January; St Osyth, 85 on 27th January; Brightlingsea, 25 on 8th January; Mersea Island, 50 on 1st January; Abberton Reservoir, a peak of 165 on 1st March as well as 75 on 7th March, 60 on 30th January and 50 on 20th January and 18th February; Bounds Farm Goldhanger, 31 on 16th January; Iltney Farm/Cooper's Creek Mundon, 120 on 6th February; Bradwell Bird Observatory, 40 on 26th February; Althorne, 40 on 9th February; Blue House Farm, 40 on 6th January; Wallasea Island, a peak of 100 on 3rd January with 50 on each of 4th, 5th and 7th; Fleet Head Great Wakering, 30 on 29th January and 19th February; West Canvey Marsh, 21 on 21st February; Bowers Marsh, 70 on 2nd January; East Tilbury, 26 on 18th February.

During April, several large counts were still being reported: Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth, 31 on 17th; Abberton Reservoir, 60 on 5th; Limbourne Creek Maldon, a single flock of about 160 birds on 21st; Fleet Head Great Wakering, 30 on 11th and 13th.

In the autumn and second winter period flocks of more than 20 were reported from five locations: Colne Point, 36 on 29th November; Abberton Reservoir, 40 on 3rd November; Lawlings/Southey Creek Maylandsea, 30 on 8th November and 30th December; Stow Marsh North Fambridge, a peak roost count of 103 on 28th December, 60 of these having been feeding on nearby game cover; Wallasea Island, a peak of 50 on 28th December.

2016 Addendum:

Six pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figure to 130.
120 pairs bred on Wallasea Island, not 12, revising the year's figure to 238 pairs.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella citrinella/caliginosa* UK REX

***E. c. caliginosa* is a common but declining resident, whilst *E. c. citrinella* may be a scarce migrant.**

In the first winter period there were flocks exceeding 20 birds at 12 sites: Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, 35 on 30th March; Abberton Reservoir, 58 on 7th March; West Mersea, 30 on 28th January; Old Hall Lane Tollesbury, 30 on 8th March; Burnham Wick Solar Farm, 30 on 20th January; Great Loveney Hall Mount Bures; 26 on 25th March; Orsett Fen, a peak of 43 on 3rd January; Cross End Alphamstone: about 40 on 6th March; Goldstone Farm Ashdon, 30 on 21st January; Waltham's Cross Wethersfield, a peak of 75 on 3rd January; Shalford, 29 on 27th February; Leez Priory Hartford End, 100 on 11th, 140 on 16th and 60 on 24th February.

During April, the only count over 20 was 25 at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe on 21st April. At this site 63 were trapped between 6th February and 21st April, including several previous year retraps.

Confirmed breeding success came from Hanningfield Reservoir, Stansted Mountfitchet (two juveniles fledged), Waltham's Cross Wethersfield (one), Shalford where a ♂ fed a juvenile at the

nest, and St Mary's Lane Upminster where a pair was feeding two juveniles. Pairs on territories were noted at: Wrabness, four; St Osyth, one; Abberton Reservoir, eight; Ashen, 12; Belchamp Walter, two; Bulmer/Wickham St Paul, 21; Bures, one; Coploe Hill-Redlands Strethall, 13; Lamarsh, six; Langham, three; Little Horkesley, five; Middleton and Henny Street, six; Paul's Hall Farm Belchamp St Paul, four; Twinstead, one; Boxted, one; Fordham, 14; Wormingford, 21; Braintree and Bocking, five; Belhus Woods Aveley, one; Brook Farm Upminster, two; Orsett Fen, 7+; Nazeing, one. Singing ♂♂ were reported from a further 21 widely scattered sites, mainly in the northern half of the County.

The largest post-breeding count was 20 at Shalford on 26th July. Thereafter, counts of more than 20 in the autumn and second winter period came from six sites all, apart from one, in the north of the County: Alphamstone: 40+ on 2nd December; Twinstead 40 on 2nd December; Waltham's Cross Wethersfield, 25 on 2nd August; Wormingford 24 on 19th September and 40 on 26th October; Ridgewell Airfield Ashen: 22 on 28th November; Orsett Fen, 38 on 3rd November and 43 on 18th December.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus schoeniclus*

UK REX

Much declined resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.

Breeding was confirmed at just four sites: Wrabness-Mistley Quay; Hanningfield Reservoir; West Canvey Marsh; Rainham Marshes. A total of 196+ territories (266 in 2016) were recorded with more than one territory/pair noted at: Cattawade-Judas Gap Flatford, 7+; Holland Haven, three; Colne Point, three; Abberton Reservoir, six; Tollesbury, 23; Wallasea Island, 65 (67); Foulness Island, 34 (14); Bowers Marsh, three; Rainham Marshes, 47; Foxearth Meadows, three; Mount Bures/Bures Hamlet, four; Lamarsh-Bures, two; Langham, five; Broomhouse Flash Langham, three; Bowdens Wissington, three; Wormingford, five; Braintree and Bocking area, two; Walthamstow Marshes, five; Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey, four; Roding Valley Meadows Chigwell, two; Walthamstow Wetlands, two; Audley End Gardens, two; Coploe Hill/Redlands Strethall, three; Olympic Park Stratford, three. In addition, singing ♂♂ were noted at a further 39 sites.

Some idea of the numbers present in the coastal borrowdykes can be seen from counts of 46 from St Lawrence to Marsh House Outfall Dengie on 11th June and 20 along Lawling Creek Maylandsea on the same day.

Counts of more than 20 birds in the first winter period came from 12 sites: Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe, 26 on 6th February and 25 on 6th March; Mersea Island, 50 on 1st January and 70 on 29th; Goldhanger, 22 on 16th January; St Lawrence to Sales Point Dengie, 81 on a very high tide, on 14th January; Bradwell Bird Observatory to Marsh House Outfall Dengie, 23 on 14th January and 29 on 13th February; Wallasea Island, 30 on 8th January and 11th February; Old Hall Lane Tollesbury, 24 on 18th February and 48 on 9th March; Hampton Barns Great Stambridge, 22 on 4th March; Goldstone Farm Ashdon, 150 on 21st January; Pyrgo Park Havering, 50 on 19th January.

In total 73 were trapped at Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe between 19th January and 11th April, including some previous year retraps.

Autumn coasting movements reported over Frinton-on-Sea was subdued with monthly totals of just eight in September, seven in October and a two in November; the highest day count being five south in 7.5 hours on 30th September.

Autumn and early winter counts in excess of 20 came from nine sites: Holland Haven; 30 on 8th October; Old Hall Marshes, 23 on 18th December; St Lawrence to Howe Outfall Dengie, 54 on 8th October; Bradwell Bird Observatory to Howe Outfall Dengie, 24 on 19th November and 42 on 3rd December; Gunners Park Shoebury, 38 on 23rd October; Bowers Marsh; 33 on 17th September and 30 on 26th December; Rainham Marshes; 24 on 12th December; Ingrebourne Valley, 22 on 24th November; Seventy Acres Lake area Holyfield, 28 on 9th and 45 on 10th November.

At Holland Haven a total of 66 were ringed between 7th October and 3rd November with peaks 26 on 8th and 15 on 26th October).

2016 Addendum:

14 pairs bred on Foulness Island, revising the year's figure to 199.
67 pairs bred on Wallasea Island, revising the year's figure to 266.

APPENDIX I: Category D Species

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea*

South-east Europe, central and south-east Asia

Brook Farm Upminster	One	18th May

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa*

North America.

Mistley	♂	11th March
Hanningfield Reservoir	♂ and ♀	12th and 31st March
Harrow Lodge Park Hornchurch	One	13th February
Harrow Lodge Park Hornchurch	Two	16th August

The last two records presumably refer to the individuals reported in 2016.

APPENDIX II: Category E Species

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*

Australia and New Zealand.

There were no reports of breeding.

There were numerous reports throughout the year mainly from the Manningtree/Stour Estuary area where there was a maximum of five at Mistley Quay on 20th October. There were three at Broomhouse Flash Langham on 5th October and Wivenhoe on 19th October. Elsewhere, singles were reported from: Holland Haven; King George V Reservoir; Audley End Gardens; Rickling Green.

Annual totals over the last decade have been:

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Numbers	8+	10+	12	3-4	11	11	9+	16+	20+	12+
Locations	11	12	9	3	5	7	11	13	13	12

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

Northern Eurasia.

A pair with two young was at Brook Farm Upminster on 27th August. These did not breed at the site but earlier records of a pair at Orsett Fen on 3rd January and at Belhus Woods Aveley on 1st February were believed to be this feral pair. Further information on these individuals would be welcome.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus*

Central Asia

Walthamstow Wetlands	One	6th September

SWAN GOOSE *Anser cygnoides*

Northern China, Mongolia and south-east Russia.

Abberton Reservoir	One	1st, 5th 7th and 8th January, 14th May and 11th June

This was reported as the domesticated form that is also known as Chinese Goose.

EMPEROR GOOSE *Anser canagicus*

Bering Sea/Alaska and Kamchatka.

Abberton Reservoir	Six	18th July and 17th August
Abberton Reservoir	Five, as above	26th August

NENE *Branta sandvicensis*

Hawaii, USA – the world's rarest goose.

Thurrock Thameside Mucking	Seven	29th March

SOUTH AFRICAN SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana*

South Africa

Abberton Reservoir	One	20th and 25th October, 21st and 23rd November

LESSER or FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna javanica/bicolor*

Indian subcontinent and south-east Asia/Tropics of Africa, Asia and the Americas.

Connaught Water Epping Forest	Three	3rd December

RINGED TEAL *Callonetta leucophrys*

South America.

Connaught Water Epping Forest	Two	3rd February

PUNA TEAL *Spatula puna*

South America.

King George V Reservoir	One	25th July

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata*

Central and South America.

Abberton Reservoir	One	1st, 5th, 12th and 14th January
Rainham Marshes	One	5th February
Thurrock Thameside Mucking	'Present'	20th April
Rainham Marshes	One	22nd September
River Roding Woodford	One	11th, 19th, 23rd and 30th December
Hainault Forest	One	13th January, 10th and 13th February and 16th June

SMEW *Mergellus albellus*

Northern Eurasia

Connaught Water Epping Forest and nearby waters	One	4th, 9th and 16th January, 24th and 28th February, 1st May and 4th December
Woodford	One, presumed same as above	8th, 11th March and 23rd March

HYBRID DUCKS

Abberton Reservoir	Two Scaup-like Aythya	12th February
Abberton Reservoir	One Tufted x Pochard	21st December
Paglesham Lagoon	♂ Tufted x Scaup	12th-13th March
Paglesham Lagoon	♀ Gadwall x Pintail	12th March
Bowers Marsh	Two Scaup x Tufted	14th December
Vange Marsh	♂ Cinnamon Teal x Shoveler	16th April-22nd September
Thurrock Thameside Mucking	One ♀ Aythya	16th January, 5th, 12th and 19th February and 4th March
Thurrock Thameside Mucking	One ♀ – returning bird as above?	13th August

Hanningfield Reservoir	♂ Aythya	3rd, 7th and 9th January and 4th February
Hanningfield Reservoir	♂ Wigeon x Chiloe Wigeon	20th-21st July
Walthamstow Wetlands	♂ Ferruginous Duck x Pochard	22nd October

HARRIS'S HAWK *Parabuteo unicinctus*

South, Central and North America.

Witham	One	29th March
Witham	One	24th September
Mayland	One	20th December

The Witham records this year and one at Wickham Bishops last year suggest an elusive individual may be resident in the area, or its owner is just rather good at losing it!

HELMETED GUINEAFOWL *Numida meleagris*

Southern Africa.

Galleywood Common	20	19th August
Galleywood Common	Two	4th September

CALIFORNIA QUAIL *Callipepla californica*

Western North America.

Two Tree Island	One	10th October

INDIAN PEAFOWL *Pavo cristatus*

South Asia.

Away from Marks Hall Arboretum where several are resident, records were:

Tiptree Heath	One	9th April
Epping Forest Burial Ground	One	14th June
Sewards End	One	5th October

GREY PARROT *Psittacus erithacus*

Equatorial Africa.

Rainham Marshes	One	15th October

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula cyanocephala*

India and south-east Asia

Netherhouse Farm Sewardstone	One	25th August

BUDGERIGAR *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Australia.

Shoeburyness	One	25th August
Leigh-on-Sea	One	28th June

ZEBRA FINCH *Taeniopygia guttata*

Australia, Indonesia and East Timor.

Rainham Marshes	One	22nd and 26th August

Unsubstantiated records

Black Brant

Brightlingsea	One	5th and 8th January
The Naze	One	18th November

Tundra Bean Goose

Foulness Island	One	1st February
Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers	One	11th April

Green-winged Teal

Fingringhoe Wick	One	12th November

Glossy Ibis

Wat Tyler	One	2nd January
Vange Marshes	One	22nd January
Walthamstow Wetlands	One	16th September
Canvey Point	One	21st October

Honey-Buzzard

Romford	One	11th May
Romford	One	12th May
Eastwood	One	17th June
Belfairs Wood Hadleigh	One	23rd June
Wakering	One	20th August
Rainham Marshes	One	28th August
Fairlop Waters Barkingside	One	29th August
Beckton	One	10th September
Boreham	Two	12th September
Beckton	One	8th October

Goshawk

Weald Park	Two	20th January
Stow Marsh North Fambridge	One	5th February
Woodford Green	One	24th February
Havering Country Park	One	13th March
Beckton	One	2nd April
Woodham Fen South Woodham Ferrers	One	2nd April
Old Hall Marshes	One	6th April
Chingford Plain	One	17th June
Woodford Green	One	10th July
Romford	One	6th August
Leyton	One	15th August
Rainham Marshes	One	25th August
Brook Farm Upminster	One	25th September

Montagu's Harrier

West Mersea	Ringtail	4th June

Black Kite

Fobbing Marsh	One	5th April
Mill Meads Stratford	One	20th April
Gidea Park	One	10th May
Rainham Marshes	One	18th May

Rough-legged Buzzard

Saffron Walden	One	15th September
Thurrock Thameside Mucking	One	25th September
Whetmead Witham	One	26th December

Crane

Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth	One	3rd May

Corncrake

Wallasea Island	One	13th May
Wanstead Flats	One	22nd October

Spotted Crake

Stow Marsh North Fambridge	One	22nd September

Black-winged Stilt

Wallasea Island	♀	21st June

Temminck's Stint

Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers	One	24th August
Wallasea Island	One	10th May
King George V Reservoir	Two	8th August

Sabine's Gull

Canvey Point	Juvenile	15th September
Beckton	Juvenile	12th November

Iceland Gull

Rainham Marshes	Juvenile	17th April

Roseate Tern

Rainham Marshes	Adult	17th-18th August
Rainham Marshes	Adult	30th August

Long-tailed Skua

Canvey Point	Second summer	10th August
Canvey Island	One	18th September

Puffin

Canvey seafront	One	18th October

Red-footed Falcon

Bedfords Park	One	27th August

Great Grey Shrike

Foulness Island	One	19th February

Nordic Jackdaw

Little Waltham	One	21st January
Abberton Reservoir	One	22nd January
Frinton-on-Sea	One	7th October

Hooded Crow

Saffron Walden	One	26th January

Woodlark

Bedfords Park	One	17th September
Rainham Marshes	One	21st September
King George V Reservoir	One	24th September
Rainham Marshes	One	14th October
Wanstead Flats	Two	15th October
Gallions Reach Beckton	One	15th October
Wanstead Flats	One	1st November

Siberian Chiffchaff

Fairlop Waters Barkingside	One	6th January
South Woodham Ferrers	One	14th July
Rainham Marshes	One	24th October
Beckton Creekside	One	30th December

Dartford Warbler

Barking Bay		23rd October

Twite

Hanningfield Reservoir	Four	15th March

Common Redpoll

West Canvey Marsh	One	10th March

List of Contributors

mo = many observers

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Austin, D
Austin, T
Avery, J
Avery, M I
Avis, D V
Aylen, P
Aylward, J
Aylward, P J
Aylward, S

Bacon, S
Bailey, G
Bailey, M
Bailey, S
Baines, C
Baker, C
Baker, N
Baker, P
Baker, R
Balchin, C
Baldock, A
Baldwin, C
Banks, S
Barber, G
Barnes, R
Barnett, S
Barrett, D
Barrie, E
Barritt, T
Barry, S
Bartram, C R
Batho, G S
Bacon, S (SBa)
Bailey, G
Bailey, M
Bailey, S
Baines, C
Baker, C
Baker, N
Baker, P
Baker, R
Balchin, C (CBa)
Baldock, A
Baldwin, C
Banks, S
Barber, G
Barnes, R
Barnett, S
Barrett, D
Barrie, E
Barritt, T
Barry, S
Bartram, C R
Batho, G S
BBO
Beach, C
Beadle, D
Beard, P
Beardmore, M
Beckenham, P
Beischer, B
Belcher, G
Bell, A
Bell, D
Bell, T (TBe)
Bennett, J
Bessick, D
Bevan, M P
Bibbings, E
Bingley, J H
Bird, M E
Birdguides
Birdtrack
Birkett, J
Bissett, D J
Blackman, R
Blackman, T
Blackmore, K
Blackwell, A
Bleach, R
Blow, M
Bloys, I
Blurton, D L
Bodini, L
Bonacci, A
Bonsor, R
Boswell, S A
Botterill, N
Bourne, T (TBo)
Boyes, G
Braddock, R
Bradfield, S
Bradnum, D
Bradshaw, D
Bradshaw, I
Brady, L
Braun, A
Braun, M
Brayshaw, P (PBr)
Brazier, H
Bremner, J
Bridges, M
Brierley, S
Bright, J (JBr)
Brittain, P
Brooke, K
Brookes, C M (CBr)
Brown, B
Brown, D
Brown, G (GBB)
Brown, J
Brown, L
Brown, S
Brown, T
Buchanan, J
Buckley, A
Bufton, T
Bull, K
Bungay, P
Burfield, I J
Burfield, J R
Burgess, R
Burgum, N
Burkett, D
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Busby, M
Butler, J
Butler, T
Butson, P

Caldera, J & J
Callahan, D (DCa)
Camp, J
Campbell, D K
Carpenter, B R
Carson, B
Carter, N
Carter, P
Cawdron, D
Chamberlain, P
Chambers, D W
Chambers, N
Charles, P
Charleson, E
Chumley, D
Churches, B
Claiden-Yardley, K
Clancy, T
Clark, F C
Clarke, M
Clarke, T
Clitheroe, J
Coates, P
Cockerell, W
Coe, H
Cole, D J
Coleman, M
Collins, L
Collins, M
Collins, P
Collins, S
Colson, R
Combes, B (BCo)
Connor, S
Conway, G J
Cook, D
Cook, K
Cook, R
Cooke, I M
Coombs, T
Cooper, P
Copleston, K
Copp, J
Coppard, G
Corbet, P
Corbett, M
Corley, P
Cornwell, D
Cornwell, L
Corrigan, C
Cossey, S
Couch, Y
Cox, A
Cox, P
Cox, S (SCo)
Coxall, S
Cracknell, M
Cresswell, M
Croft, N (NCr)
Crooks, B
Cross, M
Crossley, M
Cummin, L
Curle, D
Cutting,K

Daley, J R
Dally, A
Daltrey, P
Adamant, A
Dandridge, P
Dangerfield, F
Daniels, M
Darrell-Lambert, D
Davidson, J
Davies, C
Davies, J
Davis, P (PDa)
Davis, R
Davis, T
Davison, M
Dawson, D
Dawton, B
Day, L
De Saint Esteban, E
Deane, G
Delve, J (JDe)
Dent, A
Dent, D
Dent, J
Dent, M
Dewey, R A
Dickens, A
Dickens, J
Dives, D
Dobbie, J
Dodd, B
Dodkin, M
Doe, J
Douglas, A N
Drake, S
Drew, R
Drummond, L
Dryburgh, P
Dunn, D
Dutton, S
Dwyer, P

Ebbs, L
Edwards, J
Edwards-Twist, J
Ekins, E
Ekins, G
ELBF
Ellam, C
Elliott-Moustache, G
Ellisdon, D
Elmes, J P
Elsey, N J C
Elwell, S
Embling, B C
Emerson, C
Emmens, R P
England, S
Entwistle, S (SEn)
Eva, J

Evans, L G R
Evans, M
Evans, R
Everingham, D
Evershed, T

Fahey, R
Fair, G
Fanshawe, J H
Farrar, A R
Farrell, C
Farthing, C
Faulkner, T
Feaviour, M
Fell, J
Fenton-Scott, D
Ferguson, J
Field, A
Field, J
Firmin, R J
Fisher, M
Fisher, S
Fletcher, D
Fletcher, P
Floyd, P
Foot, J
Ford, A E
Foulston, D
France, J
Francis, G J
Freedman, S
Furley, C

Gannaway, C R
Garland, S
Gates, J
Gee, C
Ghilks, S B
Gibbons, M
Gibson, M
Giddings, A
Gill, A P
Given, Q
Goldsbrough, P
Goldsmith, N
Gomer, D
Goodey, A
Goodey, B
Gooding, A
Gooding, J
Gordon, R L
Gouldstone, A (AGo)
Gram, G
Graves, B
Gray, P
Greaves, C
Greeb, N
Gregory, M
Gregory, S
Griggs, P
Grimwade, S (SGr)
Grimwood, S
Gross , J
Gruar, D J
Guiver, J
Gymer, P

Hack, R
Hale, B
Hale, D (DHa)
Hall, R
Halley-Frame, V
Halstead, S
Hamilton, S
Harding, G
Hare, M
Hargreaves, P (PHa)
Haringey Birder
Harris, A
Harris, M
Harris, N G
Harris, T
Harrison, D W
Harrison, H
Harrison, L
Harrison, R
Hart, P
Hartwell, C
Harvey, M S
Harvey, N
Harvey, S
Hatton, W A
Holland Haven Website (HHa)
Hawkins, P
Hawksworth, A
Haywood, M J
Headley, J
Heal, J
Healey, S (SHe)
Heath, P
Hellicar, M (MHe)
Heywood, M J
Hickman, A
Hill, D
Hilliard, D J
Hoare, J
Hobson, A
Holden, D
Holden, T
Hollis, R
Holmes, A L
Holter, C A
Honey, M
Hooper, M S
Hopkins, P
Hoskinz, B
Houston, T
Howard, R (RHo)
Howey, S
Huckle, S
Hudgell, K
Huggins, S
Hugh, K A
Hughes, M
Hull, R (RHu)
Humble, J
Humm, J
Hunnybun, M
Hunt, G
Hunter, J
Hunting, S
Hurley, J
Hurst, F
Husband, B
Hutchings, E
Hutley, D
Huxley, L
Hyatt, A
Hyland, P

Idol, M

Jackson, A
Jackson, B
Jackson, E D
Jackson, M
Jackson, P
James, G A
Jefford, S
Jeffree, D (DJe)
Jeffries, E A
Jeffries, P
Jellett, S
Jobbins, D
Jobson, J
Johnson, M
Jones, B
Jones, C
Jones, J F
Jones, R
Jones. D
Jordan, M
Jordan,T
Jukes, J
Jupp, C

Karunanayake, K
Keane, D
Keeble, E
Keeper, T
Kempa, M
Kennard, V
Kennedy, K
Kennelly, A D (AKn)
Kennelly, T
Keogh, N T
Kerrigan, S
Kerslake, I
Kettle, A
Khan, N
King, M
Kinnerman, J (JKi)
Kinsler, V
Kirkland, M
Kitchen, C
Kite, P
Knight, B
Kortlandt, D J

Laban, K (KLa)
Lacey, H
Lagged, W
Lambert, P
Lane, M
Lanfear, J
Larkin, C
Larkin, P (PLa)
Last, A J
Latham, M J
Lathey, P A
Laurie, P
Lawes, C
Lawler, G
Lawler, L
Lawson, A
Lay, N
Layfield, A R
Leach, D
Leavett, R
Ledgerton, R J W
Lee, D C
Lee, P
Leeder, E
Leerjet, E
Leifsen, T
Le-May, M
Leport, B
Lethbridge, J
Levene, J
Levy, S
Lewis, A
Lewis, C (CLe)
Lewis, D
Lewis, P
Lincoln, N
Linnell, A
Litston, J
Llewellyn, S
Low, D (DLo)
Lush, C G
Lycett, I (ILy)

Mackenzie-Grieve, C (CJM-G)
Mann, D
Mann, L
Mann, O
Marchant, J H
Marsala, T
Marsden, K. (KMa)
Marsh, S
Martin, J
Martin, P
Martin, P W
Maslen, S
Mason, T
Massey, A
Mathias, H
Matthews, D
May, K
May, N
McAvoy, S
McCafferty, A
McGeeney, A
McGilvray, K L
McGough, D
McLaughlin, J
McLaughlin, M
McManus, K J
Mead, C
Mee, G
Mellors, A
Mellors, F
Mercer, A J
Merchant, P
Merryweather, A
Messenger, M
Middleton, A
Middleton, S
Miller, B
Mitchell, D
Moates, G K
Moll, N
Moore, G (GMo)
Moore, S
Moran, N J
Morris, P
Morrison, D
Mortimer, N
Moss, B
Moss, D
Moss, L
Murphy, N
Murray, J
Murray, K
Myhill, R

Nash, C
Newbold, S E
Newton, D
Nichols, S
Nixon, S
Noble, S D
North, D
Nowers, M D
Nugent, F

Oakland, M
Oakes, G
Oakley, T
Oates, S J
O'Brian, T
Oliver, C
Osterberg, F
O'Sullivan, F
Outten, M
Overall, K
Owen, D
Owen, H J (HOw)
Owen, R H

Pedmore, M
Page, B
Painter, D
Paisley, K
Palethorpe, A
Pallash, D
Palmer, J
Palmer, M
Papps, S
Park, N
Partridge, J (JPa)
Partridge, T
Patient, S
Pattinson, M
Pearson, J A
Pearson, P
Peart, R
Pease, R
Peck, T
Peers, M F
Pell, E A
Petts, D
Piccolo, A
Pickford, G
Pinch, J
Piotrowski, S
Plume, A
Pollitt, M
Pont , S
Poole, C (CPo)
Porter, A
Powell, R
Preater, A
Price, G
Price, K
Prideaux, R H
Puttock, B
Pyrah, R J

Quit, A

Radford, M
Radford, P
Rae, R
Rafinski, A
Raper, S
Rawlings, N D
Rayment, K
Rayner, I
Read, D
Read, S
Redfern, M
Rees, D G
Regan, R
Reid, A
Reynolds, A
Rhymes, D
Richards, J
Richards, M
Richardson, J
Rigby, P
Rimmell, M
Rivoire, J R
Robertson, D A
Robertson, J J
Robinson, C
Robinson, E
Robinson, J A
Robinson, T
Robson, I
Rodger, A
Rolf, J
Roman, A J
Roscoe, A
Rose, I
RSPB
Rumsby, B
Rumsby, L
Rumsby, M
Rumsby, T
Rush, M
Russell, L
Rutt, P J
Ryland, C
Ryland, G
Rymer, C J
Rymer, T

Sabina, G T
Sanford, S
Satchell, S
Sattin, S
Saul, C A
Saville, D
Saward, J (JSa)
Scutchey, S
Seabrook, R J
Seaton, C
Self, A
Selley, D
Senior, N
Sharp, P
Shaw, I
Shayler, D
Shearman, A (ASh)
Shearring, A
Sheilds, C (CSh)
Sheldon, R
Shelley, S
Shepherd, D
Shepherd, I
Shepherd, J
Shepherd, M
Shepherd, N
Shepherd-Wells, M
Sherriff, R
Shilland, E
Shippey, S
Shorrock, A
Shrimpton, B
Shuter, M
Shuttleworth, P
Simmon, J
Simmons, W
Simpson, F
Singleton, M
Sirrett, J
Sketch, P A
Slee, J
Smart, J
Smith, D (DSm)
Smith, G (GSm)
Smith, K R
Smith, M
Smith, N (NSm)
Smith, P
Smith, R
Smith, S
SOG
Soor, S
Speller, T
Spence, I M
Spensley, D
Spicer, N
Spicer, S
Spinks, C
Spooner, B
Stachnicki, T
Stallard, B
Steele, A J
Steele, J
Stephens, D
Stevens, C
Stewart, A
Stewart, G
Stewart, I
Stile, D (DSt)
Stobart, E
Stratton, A
Street, P
Streeton, P
Stroud, A
Stylianou, J
Surridge, D
Sutherby, J
Swaby, S
Swan, J
Swanson, I
Swinney, S

Tanner, A (ATa)
Tarbin, I
Taylor, J F
Taylor, R E
Taylor, S
Thomas, A
Thomas, G
Thomas, K
Thorley, C M
Thorneycroft, T
Thornton, B
Thorogood, D
Thorogood, J
Todd, R
Torrice, D
Tracey, M
Tranfield, B
Triston, P
Trollope, C E
Tuck, D
Tunnicliffe, K
Turner, M (MTu)
Turner, R
Turton, M
Tusa, F
Tweed, A
Twyford, N
Tyler, G
Tyler, J P
Tyler, D
Tanfield, B
Teale, R
Taylor, G
Turner, H
Taylor, M
Trevelyyan, M
Thomlinson, C
Tustian, A
Tyler, P

Underwood, D
Undrill, C
Upton, G (Prof)

Vale, M
Vaughan, A
Vaughan, B
Vaughan, H (HVa)
Vaughan, L
Vaughan, P
Vonk, R
Vowles, G

Wakefield, L
Wagstaff, D (DWa)
Wakelin, V
Wallace, M
Waller, D
Wallis, G
Walsh, J
Walthamstow Birders
Wanstead Birders (WBi)
Want, C J
Wardman, M
Warner, N
Warren, D
Wasse, J
Watling, Y
Watson, I R
Watson, S
Watts, P
Weatherby, I
Webb, R
Webber, M
WeBS
West, S
Westwood, A D
Whele, J
White, A
White, G
White,S
Whitelegg, D
Whiteman, P (PWh)
Whitfield, D
Whitfield, J
Whitfield, M
Wilcock, A
Wileman, T
Wilkin, D R
Willett, J D
Wills, C
Wilson, A (AWi)
Wilson, P
Window, S
Winn, A C
Winstanley, A
Womack, G P
Wood, P
Wood, S D (SDW)
Wood, T
Woodhouse, A
Woodrow, L
Woodward, C
Woodward, I D
Woodward, R
Worsfold, S
Wright, C
Wright, D
Wright, J

Yates, K
Young, B
Young, S

Earliest and latest dates for Summer Visitors 2017

Species	Arrival Date	Location	Departure Date	Location
Garganey	19-Mar	Abberton Reservoir	08-Oct	Hanningfield Reservoir
Little Ringed Plover	12-Mar	Blue House Farm	19-Oct	Abberton Reservoir
Whimbrel*	07-Mar	The Hythe Colchester	10-Oct	Burnham-on-Crouch
Temminck's Stint	09-Mar	Abberton Reservoir	18-Aug	West Canvey Marsh
Wood Sandpiper	30-Apr	Vange Marshes	08-Oct	Hanningfield Reservoir
Sandwich Tern	23-Mar	Canvey Point	11-Nov	The Naze
Little Tern	09-Apr	Hanningfield Reservoir/ Walthamstow Wetlands	07-Sep	Stone Point Mersea Island
Common Tern	30-Mar	Barking Bay	29-Oct	Frinton-on-Sea
Arctic Tern	01-Apr	Rainham Marshes	14-Oct	Gallions Reach Beckton
Black Tern	18-Apr	King George V Reservoir	29-Oct	Hanningfield Reservoir
Turtle Dove	23-Apr	Wrabness	08-Oct	Deal Hall Dengie
Cuckoo	07-Apr	Paper Mill Lock Little Baddow	08-Oct	Lodge Farm Broadley Green
Swift	04-Apr	Brook Farm Upminster	30-Sep	Frinton-on-Sea
Hobby	01-Apr	Great Burstead	15-Oct	Old Hall Marshes
Sand Martin	04-Mar	Brook Farm Upminster	23-Oct	Bowers Marsh
Swallow*	17-Mar	Rainham Marshes	24-Nov	East Tilbury/Rainham Marshes
House Martin	29-Mar	Walthamstow Wetlands	16-Nov	Frinton-on-Sea
Wood Warbler	17-Apr	Fingringhoe Wick	10-Aug	Dagham Park
Willow Warbler	19-Mar	Fairlop Waters Barkingside	25-Oct	Rainham Marshes
Sedge Warbler	25-Mar	Rainham Marshes	20-Sep	Rainham Marshes
Reed Warbler	01-Apr	Bowers Marsh	08-Oct	Heybridge Gravel Pit
Grasshopper Warbler	13-Apr	Rainham Marshes	05-Aug	Rainham Marshes
Garden Warbler	03-Apr	Chigborough Lakes	01-Oct	Bradwell Bird Observatory
Lesser Whitethroat	04-Apr	Bow Creek	01-Oct	Olympic Park Stratford
Whitethroat	19-Mar	Frinton-on-Sea	28-Oct	Brightlingsea
Ring Ouzel	28-Mar	Sewardstone Marsh	08-Nov	Maydays Farm West Mersea
Spotted Flycatcher	13-May	The Naze/Frinton-on-Sea	03-Oct	Beaumont/Abridge
Nightingale	08-Apr	Old Hall Marshes	19-Aug	Canvey Wick
Pied Flycatcher	27-Apr	Holland Haven	30-Sep	Holland Haven
Redstart	06-Apr	Ingrebourne Valley	26-Sep	The Naze/Wanstead Flats
Whinchat	12-Apr	Fairlop Waters Barkingside	16-Nov	Rainham Marshes
Wheatear	11-Mar	Rainham Marshes/Wanstead Flats	06-Nov	Gunners Park Shoebury
Yellow Wagtail	30-Mar	Abberton Reservoir/Wallasea Island/Upminster	17-Oct	Frinton-on-Sea
White Wagtail	07-Mar	Langham	05-Nov	Canvey Point
Tree Pipit	31-Mar	Braintree	15-Oct	Rainham Marshes

* for winter records please see the Systematic List

Latest and earliest dates for Winter Visitors 2017

Species	Departure Date	Location	Arrival Date	Location
Pink-footed Goose	31-Mar	Holland Haven	14-Sep	Frinton-on-Sea
White-fronted Goose	12-Mar	Flag Creek St Osyth	07-Oct	Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing
Bewick's Swan	17-Feb	Vange Marsh	11-Nov	Abberton Reservoir
Whooper Swan	12-Mar	Garnham's Island Hamford Water§	06-Oct	Hanningfield Reservoir
Scaup*	19-Apr	Abberton Reservoir	09-Oct	Abberton Reservoir
Velvet Scoter	10-Apr	Abberton Reservoir	19-Oct	Frinton-on-Sea
Long-tailed Duck	25-Mar	Hamford Water	29-Oct	St Osyth Beach/Holland Haven
Goldeneye	14-Apr	Abberton Reservoir	16-Jul	King George V Reservoir
Smew	28-Mar	Gunpowder Park Waltham Abbey	18-Nov	Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield
Goosander	15-Apr	Abberton Reservoir	17-Sep	William Girling Reservoir Chingford
Red-breasted Merganser	04-May	East Tilbury	08-Aug	Frinton-on-Sea
Red-throated Diver	12-May	Frinton-on-Sea	16-Sep	Frinton-on-Sea
Black-throated Diver	05-May	Abberton Reservoir	24-Sep	Frinton-on-Sea
Great Northern Diver	11-Apr	Hanningfield Reservoir	09-Oct	Frinton-on-Sea
Red-necked Grebe	04-Apr	Wrabness	22-Sep	Roding Valley Chigwell
Slavonian Grebe	15-Mar	Abberton Reservoir	08-Aug	Frinton-on-Sea
Bittern	25-Apr	Ingatestone	21-Aug	Holland Haven
Hen Harrier	16-Jun	Colne Point	15-Sep	Colne Point
Purple Sandpiper	30-Apr	Colne Point	10-Aug	Canvey Point
Jack Snipe	06-May	Rainham Marshes	09-Oct	Ardleigh Green
Common Guillemot	31-Mar	Southend Pier	29-Aug	Southend Seafront
Merlin	21-Apr	Rainham Marshes	22-Aug	Bradwell Bird Observatory
Waxwing	06-Apr	South Hornchurch	~	~
Shorelark	~	~	03-Dec	The Naze
Fieldfare	01-May	Colne Point	08-Oct	North Dengie
Redwing	14-Apr	East Mersea	15-Sep	Frinton-on-Sea
Water Pipit	13-Apr	Rainham Marshes	23-Oct	Rainham Marshes/ Wanstead Flats
Rock Pipit	29-Mar	Langham Lagoons	15-Sep	Rainham Marshes
Brambling	12-May	Holland Haven	04-Oct	Frinton-on-Sea
Twite	21-Feb	Wallasea Island	23-Oct	Old Hall Marshes
Siskin	05-Apr	Gunners Park Shoebury	10-Jun	East Tilbury
Lapland Bunting	11-Mar	Wigboro Wick Farm St Osyth	20-Sep	Canvey Island
Snow Bunting	10-Mar	Goldhanger	15-Oct	Colne Point/Gallions Reach Beckton

* for summer records please see the Systematic List
§ Possibly a feral bird

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Totals for Essex 2017

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)	33320	24308	24535	3107	6	1017	15161	26073	15708
Canada Goose	2635	2106	1950	1433	2990	4450	4791	3749	2554
Greylag Goose	1488	1194	1429	766	1016	2902	2537	1504	1331
Mute Swan	534	477	451	377	545	577	442	467	231
Shelduck	8300	6858	4831	2099	146	215	2582	7043	6634
Shoveler	1135	1044	1193	464	658	881	1119	909	862
Gadwall	494	673	422	184	694	454	347	347	518
Wigeon	19702	14148	10367	438	5	312	7293	11133	13693
Mallard	3961	2848	2324	1575	2557	2655	2734	2993	3424
Pintail	1548	1223	472	24	0	51	412	950	935
Teal	20743	14416	9182	1779	1568	2981	6979	10856	13651
Pochard	2040	1235	689	317	3497	463	693	736	1115
Tufted Duck	3321	3931	2628	2028	6717	3326	3046	1988	2556
Goldeneye	639	554	326	3	2	2	4	163	281
Red-breasted Merganser	239	150	216	30	0	0	24	127	227
Little Grebe	410	413	211	83	143	144	282	328	435
Great Crested Grebe	1438	746	861	600	1037	1419	1477	2310	1503
Grey Heron	93	100	128	106	76	121	202	141	96
Little Egret	167	152	254	187	558	772	1102	555	222
Cormorant	1486	1612	734	581	1892	1827	1852	2361	1117
Water Rail	6	7	2	2	0	1	7	6	3
Moorhen	444	514	423	164	225	216	314	375	390
Coot	2237	2372	1791	1135	8700	5377	3747	2238	2738
Oystercatcher	13797	6170	8170	3157	2365	13819	12241	13582	12103
Avocet	2618	3216	2800	468	17	230	691	1047	1713
Lapwing	16612	28119	2558	361	1071	1617	3114	3520	6198
Golden Plover	11994	23340	2834	90	186	2698	9909	5620	10825
Grey Plover	6055	7703	10063	1380	852	3173	4472	5251	8600
Ringed Plover	666	488	243	93	354	1286	882	618	545
Curlew	3051	3716	4887	3234	2764	3398	4433	3895	3588
Bar-tailed Godwit	4347	7349	915	64	113	2064	1428	2177	1376
Black-tailed Godwit	5644	8619	11487	6635	2410	3089	4984	4057	3298
Turnstone	1189	1048	1102	427	219	952	1458	1442	1061
Knot	53236	56371	13063	1450	12	277	1429	47355	32429
Ruff	16	12	28	3	15	72	57	29	12
Sanderling	1037	1160	61	889	15	925	1089	1102	1396
Dunlin	59579	50849	19267	3726	915	2655	8233	38043	46896
Snipe	109	58	40	5	1	7	37	40	39
Redshank	7099	5734	6146	1964	3269	6409	8838	7786	6916
Greenshank	7	6	2	24	105	201	65	17	5
Black-headed Gull	8764	8813	9876	11093	9293	13151	9933	7845	10132
Common Gull	910	788	711	548	437	816	1303	634	551
Great Black-backed Gull	415	344	146	59	76	150	529	752	194
Herring Gull	1638	1723	1660	1477	830	1552	1591	2275	1907
Lesser Black-backed Gull	277	238	218	185	251	259	299	206	299

Gazetteer of place names used in the 2017 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

Abberton Reservoir (including EWT Visitor Centre)	TL 9817
Abbotts Hall Farm Great Wigborough EWT	TL 9614
Abridge	TQ 4696
Alphamstone	TL 8735
Alresford	TM 0621
Alresford Creek	TM 0619
Althorne	TQ 9199
Ardleigh Reservoir	TM 0328
Ashdon	TL 5842
Asheldham Gravel Pit	TL 9701
Ashen	TL 7442
Ashingdon	TQ 8692
Audley End	TL 5237
Aveley	TQ 5680
Aveley Bay	TQ 5378
Barking Park	TQ 4485
Barrow Wood Highwood	TL 6302
Barton Hall Farm Great Stambridge	TQ 9191
Beazley End	TL 7430
Beckton	TQ 4481
Beckton Creekside NR	TQ 4582
Beckton Sewage Works	TQ 4582
Bedfords Park Havering-atte-Bower (including EWT Visitor Centre)	TQ 5192
Belchamp Hall	TL 8240
Belchamp Otten	TL 8041
Belchamp St Paul	TL 7942
Belchamp Walter	TL 8140
Belhus Woods Aveley Country Park ECC	TQ 5782
Benfleet	TQ 7786
Benfleet Creek	TQ 7885
Benfleet Downs	TQ 7885
Birchanger Wood and Hall Farm	TL 5022
Black Notley	TL 7620
Blackley Lane Gravel Pit Willows Green	TL 7219
Blackwater Estuary	TL 9707
Blake's Wood Danbury	TL 7706
Blue House Farm North Fambridge EWT	TQ 8097
Bluebridge Halstead	TL 8229
Bocking	TL 7624
Boreham	TL 7509
Boreham Gravel Pit	TL 7410
Borley	TL 8442
Bounds Farm Goldhanger	TL 9008
Bow Creek Ecological Park	TQ 3980
Bowdens Wissington	TL 9433
Bowers Marsh Bowers Gifford RSPB	TQ 7586
Boxted	TM 0032
Bradfield	TM 1430
Bradwell Bird Observatory	TM 0308
Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall Gravel Pit	TL 8022
Bradwell-on-Sea	TM 0006
Braintree	TL 7623
Braintree Freeport	TL 7722
Braxted Park	TL 8515
Breaches Farm Waltham Abbey	TL 3801
Brentwood	TQ 6093
Brickfield Meadow Earls Colne	TL 8528
Bridgemarsh Island Crouch Estuary	TQ 8996
Brightlingsea	TM 0817
Brightlingsea Creek	TM 0916
Broak's Wood Gosfield	TL 7931
Brook Farm Upminster	TQ 5987
Brookes Reserve Greenstead Green	TL 8126
Broomhouse Flash Langham	TM 0334
Brundon	TL 8642
Bulmer	TL 8440
Bulphan Fen	TQ 6486
Bungate Wood Braintree	TL 8324
Bures	TL 9034
Bures Hamlet	TL 9033
Burnham Wick Solar Farm	TQ 9695
Burnham-on-Crouch	TQ 9496
Bury Wood Chingford	TQ 4096
Canewdon	TQ 9094
Canvey Island	TQ 8182
Canvey Point	TQ 8283
Canvey Seafront	TQ 8280

Canvey Wick	TQ 7683
Cattawade	TM 1033
Chafford Gorges Grays EWT Nature Park	TQ 5879
Chafford Hundred Grays	TQ 6079
Chalkney Wood Earls Colne ECC	TL 8727
Chappel	TL 8928
Chelmsford	TL 7007
Chigborough Lakes Heybridge EWT	TL 8708
Chigwell	TQ 4493
Childerditch Pond	TQ 6190
Chingford	TQ 3894
Chingford Plain	TQ 3995
Cindery Island Brightlingsea Creek	TM 0916
Clacton-on-Sea	TM 1715
Clementsgreen Creek South Woodham Ferrers	TQ 8296
Coalhouse Fort East Tilbury	TQ 6976
Cobmarsh Island West Mersea	TM 0012
Cock Clarks	TL 8103
Coggeshall	TL 8522
Colchester	TL 9925
Colchester Zoo	TL 9521
Collier Row Romford	TQ 4991
Collier's Reach Heybridge	TL 8707
Colne Estuary	TM 0617
Colne Point St Osyth EWT	TM 1012
Connaught Water Epping Forest	TQ 4095
Cooper's Creek Mundon	TL 9005
Copford Sewage Works	TL 9324
Coploe Hill Strethall	TL 4942
Copped Hall Warren Epping Forest	TQ 4300
Copperas Bay Wrabness RSPB	TM 1932
Copt Hall Marshes Little Wigborough NT	TL 9814
Cornmill Meadows Waltham Abbey LVRP	TL 3801
Coryton	TQ 7482
Cranham Marsh Upminster EWT	TQ 5787
Cross End Pebmarsh	TL 8533
Crouchside Foulness Island	TQ9991
Cudmore Grove East Mersea Country Park ECC	TM 0614
Dagenham	TQ 5084
Dagenham Chase Local Nature Reserve	TQ 5185
Dagnam Park Harold Hill	TQ 5593
Daltes Lane Gravel Pit St Osyth	TM 1315
Danbury Common NT	TL 7804
Deal Hall Dengie	TR 0197
Dedham	TM 0533
Docura's Farm Little Horkesley	TM 0233
Duck Wood Harold Hill Local Nature Reserve	TQ 5592
Earls Colne	TL 8528
Earls Hall Farm St Osyth	TM 1416
East Hanningfield	TL 7701
East Mersea	TM 0474
East Tilbury	TQ 6878
Easthorpe	TL 9121
Elm Hall Farm Faulkbourne	TL 8116
Elmdon	TL 4639
Epping	TL 4602
Epping Forest	TQ 4298
Epping Forest Burial Park	TL 3903
Waterworks Leyton	TQ 3686
Fairlop Waters Barkingside Country Park	TQ 4585
Farnham	TL 4724
Felsted	TL 6720
Fingringhoe Wick EWT Reserve	TM 0919
Fishers Green Holyfield LVRP	TL 3703
Flatford	TM 0732
Fleet Head Great Wakering	TR 9489
Flitch Green Little Dunmow	TL 6620
Fobbing	TQ 7183
Fobbing Marsh EWT	TQ 7184
Ford End	TL 6716
Fordham Hall	TL 9227
Foulness Island	TR 0092
Foulness Point	TR 0495
Friars Park North Shoebury	TQ 9386
Friday Lake Waltham Abbey LVRP	TL 3703
Friday Wood Colchester	TL 9821
Frinton-on-Sea	TM 2319
Fullbridge Maldon	TL 8507
Gallions Reach Beckton	TQ 4481
Gambles Green Terling	TL 7614
Garnham's Island Hamford Water	TM 2125
Gernon Bushes Epping Forest	TL 4802
Gestingthorpe	TL 8138
Gidea Park	TQ 5229
Glebe Outfall Dengie	TM 0305
Gobions East Tilbury	TQ 6779
Goldhanger	TL 9808
Goldstone Farm Ashdon	TL 5941
Gosbecks Colchester	TL 9622
Gosfield	TL 7829
Grays	TQ 6177
Grays New Cemetery	TQ 6378
Great Baddow	TL 7205

Great Bromley	TM 0826
Great Burstead	TQ 6892
Great Chesterford	TL 5042
Great Henny	TL 8637
Great Holland	TM 2119
Great Horkesley	TL 9730
Great Leighs	TL 7338
Great Loveney Hall Mount Bures	TL8931
Gunners Park Shoebury EWT	TQ 9384
Gunpowder Park Waltham Abbey LVRP	TQ 3798
Hadleigh Downs	TQ 8086
Hadleigh Marsh	TQ 8185
Hainault Forest Country Park	TQ 4793
Hall Farm Holyfield LVRP	TL 3803
Halstead	TL 8130
Hamford Water	TM 2225
Hampton Barns Great Stambridge	TQ 9091
Hangman's Wood Little Thurrock	TQ 6379
Hanningfield Reservoir (including EWT Visitor Centre)	TQ 7397
Hardys Green	TL 9320
Harold Hill	TQ 5492
Harold Wood	TL 5490
Harold's Park Farm Bumble's Green	TL 4104
Harrow Lodge Park Hornchurch	TQ 5386
Harwich	TM 2530
Hatfield Broad Oak	TL 5416
Hatfield Forest NT	TL 5419
Havering Country Park	TQ 5093
Havering-atte-Bower	TQ 5193
Hayes Hill Farm Holyfield LVRP	TL 3803
Hazeleigh	TL 8203
Hazeleigh Wood	TL 8304
Henny Street	TL 8838
Heybridge Basin	TL 8707
Heybridge Gravel Pit	TL 8606
High Beach Epping Forest	TQ 4097
Highams Park	TQ 3891
Highwoods Colchester	TM 0026
Hilly Fields Colchester	TL 9825
Hockley Woods	TQ 8391
Hole Haven Creek Canvey Island	TQ 7582
Holland Haven	TM 2117
Holyfield Lake LVRP	TL 3704
Holyfield Marsh LVRP	TL 3803
Hooks Marsh Waltham Abbey LVRP	TL 3701
Hornchurch	TQ 5386
Hornchurch Country Park	TQ 5382
Hornchurch Park Country Park	TQ 5384
Horsey Island Hamford Water	TM 2324
Horsley Cross	TM 1127
Howe Outfall Dengie	TM 0202
Howlands Marsh St Osyth EWT	TM 1116
Hullbridge	TQ 8194
Hylands Park Chelmsford	TQ 6804
Ilford	TQ 4486
Ingatestone	TQ 6499
Ingrebourne Valley	TQ 5384
Jaywick	TM 1513
Judas Gap Flatford	TL 8410
Kelvedon	TL 8618
Kennel Wood Waltham Abbey	TL 3802
King George V Reservoir Chingford LVRP	TQ 3795
Kingsford Marsh	TL 9721
Kirby-le-Soken	TM 2222
Knighton Wood Epping Forest	TQ 4093
Lamarsh	TL 8935
Landermere	TM 1923
Langdon Hills Plotlands EWT	TQ 6587
Langford	TL 8308
Langham	TM 0333
Langham Treatment Works	TM 0134
Lawling Creek Maylandsea	TL 9104
Leez Priory Hartford End	TL 7018
Leez Reservoir Hartford End	TL 7018
Leigh-on-Sea	TQ 8486
Lexden	TL 9725
Lexden Park Colchester	TL 9724
Leyton Flats	TL 3986
Leyton Marsh	TQ 3785
Limbourne Creek Maldon	TL 8705
Lion Gorge Chafford Gorges Nature Park	TQ 5978
Little Baddow	TQ 7807
Little Horkesley	TL 9632
Little Leighs	TL 7116
Little Waltham	TL 7012
Littley Green	TL 6917
Lodge Farm Epping Green	TL 4206
Lofts Farm Gravel Pits Heybridge	TL 8608
Lower Raypits Canewdon EWT	TQ 9294
Maldon	TL 8506
Manningtree	TM 1031
Mardyke Valley Stifford-Aveley	TQ 5679
Marks Hall Arboretum	TL 8426

Marsh Farm South Woodham Ferrers	TQ 8196
Marsh House Dengie	TM 0103
Maydays Farm West Mersea	TM 0215
Mayesbrook Park Dagenham	TQ 4684
Mayland Creek	TL 9103
Mersea Island	TM 0314
Mersea Strood	TM 0115
Middleton	TL 8739
Mill Beach Heybridge	TL 8807
Mill Meads Stratford	TQ 3883
Mistley	TM 1232
Mistley Walls	TM 1132
Mole Hall Widdington	TL 5431
Mount Bures	TL 9032
Moverons Brightlingsea	TM 0618
Mucking	TQ 6881
Mundon	TL 8702
Netherhall Gravel Pit Nazeing LVRP	TL 3908
New Hall Farm Little Wigborough	TL 9815
North Fambridge	TQ 8697
North Fambridge Hall	TQ 8597
Northey Island Blackwater Estuary	TL 8806
Oak Hill Epping Forest	TQ 3990
Old Hall Marshes Tolleshunt D'Arcy RSPB Reserve	TL 9811
Olympic Park Stratford LVRP	TQ 3784
Ongar Park Wood Epping Forest	TL 4902
Orsett	TQ 6481
Orsett Fen	TQ 6283
Osea Island Blackwater Estuary	TL 9106
Osea Road Heybridge	TL 8907
Paglesham	TQ 9293
Paglesham East Hall	TQ 9292
Paglesham Lagoon	TQ 9290
Paper Mill Lock Little Baddow	TL 7709
Hall Farm Belchamp St Paul	TL7943
Pebmarsh	TL 8533
Perry Green Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall	TL 8122
Phyllis Currie Reserve Great Leighs EWT	TL 7218
Pitsea	TQ 7488
Pitsea Landfill	TQ 7387
Point Clear St Osyth	TM 0914
Potton Creek Great Wakering	TQ 9490
Potton Island Great Wakering	TQ 9591
Prestons Lake Pebmarsh	TL 8532
Priory Park Southend-on-Sea	TQ 8787
Prittle Brook Leigh-on-Sea	TQ 8486
Purfleet	TQ 5678
Purfleet Marshes	TQ 5479
Pyefleet Channel Mersea Island	TM 0416
Pyrgo Park Havering	TQ 5293
Rainham	TQ 5282
Rainham Marshes RSPB	TQ 5280
Raphael Park Romford	TQ 5190
Redlands Chrishall	TL 4439
Richmond's Green Thaxted	TL 6229
Rickling Green	TL 6525
Ridgewell Airfield Ashen	TL 7542
Rivenhall Place Silver End	TL 8218
Roach Estuary	TQ 9893
Rochford	TQ 8790
Roding Valley Meadows Chigwell EWT	TQ 4395
Rolls Farm Tollesbury	TL 9508
Roman River Valley Layer-de-la-Haye	TL 9620
Romford	TQ 5289
Roper's Farm Barling	TQ 9290
Russell Green Gravel Pits Boreham	TL 7512
Saffron Walden	TL 5423
Salcott Creek	TL 9513
Sales Point Dengie	TM 0308
Sawbridgeworth Marsh EWT	TL 4915
Seventy Acres Lake Holyfield LVRP	TL 3703
Sewards End	TL 5738
Sewardstone	TQ 3898
Sewardstone Marsh	TQ 3798
Sewardstonebury	TQ 3995
Shalford	TQ 7229
Shenfield	TQ 6094
Shoeburyness	TQ 9383
Shut Heath Wood Great Totham EWT	TL 8513
Skippers Island Hamford Water	TM 2124
Sladbury's Farm Little Clacton	TM1917
Snaresbrook	TQ 3989
South Chingford	TQ 3692
South Fambridge	TQ 8595
South Hornchurch	TQ 5183
South House Farm Maldon	TL 8605
South Park Ilford	TQ 4586
South Weald	TQ 5793
South Woodham Ferrers	TQ 8097
Southend Pier	TQ 8884
Southend-on-Sea	TQ 8685
Southey Creek Mundon	TL 8805
St Lawrence	TL 9506

St Osyth	TM 1215
St Osyth Beach	TM 1212
St Osyth Priory	TM 1215
St Osyth Stone	TM 0815
Stambourne	TL 7238
Stanford Rivers	TL 5300
Stanford Warren EWT	TQ 6881
Stansted Airport Lagoons Takeley	TL 5521
Stansted Mountfitchet	TL 5125
Steeple	TL 9303
Stondon Massey	TL 5800
Stone Point Mersea Island	TM 0715
Stone Point The Naze Walton-on-the-Naze	TM 2425
Stour Estuary	TM 1733
Stour Wood Wrabness RSPB	TM 1931
Stow Marsh North Fambridge	TQ 8496
Stratford	TQ 3884
Stubbers Adventure Centre Corbets Tey	TQ 5784
Sunnymead Farm Wivenhoe	TM 0522
Terling	TL 7715
Thames Barrier Park	TQ 4179
Thaxted	TL 6131
The Hythe Colchester (and Lagoons)	TM 0124
The Mores Wood Bentley WT	TQ 5696
The Naze Walton-on-the-Naze (inc EWT Visitor Centre)	TM 2624
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
Three Mills Bromley LVRP	TQ 3882
Thurrock Thameside Mucking Nature Park EWT	TQ 6980
Tilbury	TQ 6376
Tillingham	TL 9903
Tiptree	TL 8916
Tiptree Heath	TL 8814
Tollesbury	TL 9510
Tollesbury Wick EWT	TM 0419
Twinstead	TL 8636
Two Tree Island Leigh-on-Sea EWT	TQ 8285
Tylers Shaw Great Warley	TQ 5791
University of Essex Colchester	TM 0223
Upminster	TQ 5687
Upshire	TL 4101
Valentine's Park Ilford	TQ 4387
Vange Marsh RSPB	TQ 7285
Wake Valley Ponds Epping Forest	TQ 4298
Wakering Stairs	TQ 9787
Waltham Abbey	TL 3800
Waltham's Cross Wethersfield	TL 6930
Walthamstow Filter Beds	TQ 3588
Walthamstow Marshes LVRP	TQ 3587
Walthamstow Reservoir – now called **Walthamstow Wetlands**	TQ 3589
Walthamstow Wetlands LVRP LWT	TQ3589
Walton Hall Marshes	TM 2623
Wanstead	TQ 4088
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
Wendens Ambo	TL 5136
West Canvey Marsh RSPB	TQ 7784
West Mersea	TM 0012
West Thurrock	TQ 5877
West Thurrock Marshes	TQ 5876
West Wood Great Sampford EWT	TL 6233
Westcliff-on-Sea	TQ 8686
Westley Heights Langdon Hills Country Park	TQ 6886
Whetmead Witham Nature Reserve	TL 8313
Wick Country Park Basildon	TQ 7591
Wicken Bonhunt	TL 4933
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
Witham	TL 8115
Wivenhoe	TM 0321
Wix	TM 1503
Woodford Green	TQ 4192
Woodham Mortimer	TL 9616
Woodman Road Cemetery Warley	TQ 5992
Wormingford	TL 9331
Wormingford Airfield	TL 9130
Wrabness	TM 1731
Writtle	TL 6706
Wycke Farm Tolleshunt D'Arcy	TL 9309

Map of Essex

TL TM
TM
TR
TQ TR
Sudbury
Haverhill
Saffron Walden
Stansted Airport
Lagoons
Hatfield Forest
Bishop's Stortford
Harlow
Nazeing G.P.
Fishers Green G.P.
King George V Res.
Girling Res.
Walthamstow Res.
Wanstead Park
Epping Forest
Hainault Forest
Fairlop
Dagenham Chase
Romford
Ongar
Chipsey Brook
Roding
Stort
Lea
Essex boundary
LNHS boundary
Stour
Colne
Brain
Ter
Blackwater
Roman
Holland Brook
Pant
Chelmer
Can
Wid
Crouch
Roach
Mardyke
Ingrebourne
Beam
Copperas Bay
Stour Estuary
Harwich
Horsey Is.
The Naze
Stour Wood
Manningtree
Mistley
Ardleigh Res.
Colchester
Friday Wood
Abberton Res.
Fingringhoe Wick NR
Colne Estuary
Mersea Is.
Colne Point
Claton
Bradwell Bird Obs.
Old Hall
Tollesbury Wick
Blackwater Estuary
Osea Is.
Chigborough Lakes
Maldon
Northey Is.
Dengie
Holliwell Pt
Maplin Sands
Foulness Is.
Maplin Bank
Halstead
Chalkney Wood
Marks Hall Wood
Braintree
Gosfield Lake
Coleman's Res.
Witham
Leez Res.
Danbury Ridge
Chelmsford
Hanningfield Res.
S. Woodham Ferrers
Marsh Farm
Hockley Woods
Burnham
Fleet Head
Wakering Stairs
Southend
Leigh NNR
Southend Pier
Basildon
Pitsea Hall Marsh
Canvey Is.
Stanford Warren
Thames Estuary
Norsey Wood
Billericay
Thorndon C.P.
Brentwood
Dagnam Park
Berwick Ponds
Belhus Woods
West Thurrock
Rainham Marsh
Mucking
East Tilbury
0
1
2
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4
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9

Essex Ringing Report for 2017

Simon Cox

The BTO database lists a total of 13,607 birds ringed in Essex during 2017, down from 2016 but broadly similar to the previous few 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 possible that a 'single-figure' number of birds ringed there may have been included in the total.

Table 1 Totals of birds ringed in Essex 2017

Species	2017 Total
Mute Swan	54
Gadwall	7
Mallard	1
Teal	6
Pochard	1
Tufted Duck	3
Little Grebe	1
Grey Heron	16
Little Egret	9
Sparrowhawk	6
Buzzard	5
Moorhen	4
Coot	15
Oystercatcher	4
Ringed Plover	11
Little Ringed Plover	2
Green Sandpiper	1
Black-headed Gull	580
Mediterranean Gull	1
Common Gull	37
Great Black-backed Gull	18
Herring Gull	493
Caspian Gull	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	10
Common Tern	23
Stock Dove	45
Woodpigeon	19
Collared Dove	7
Cuckoo	1
Barn Owl	220
Tawny Owl	11
Little Owl	24
Kingfisher	12
Great Spotted Woodpecker	38
Green Woodpecker	8
Kestrel	73
Ring-necked Parakeet	2

Species	2017 Total
Jay	6
Magpie	12
Jackdaw	12
Rook	3
Coal Tit	150
Marsh Tit	32
Blue Tit	3258
Great Tit	1027
Bearded Tit	7
Sand Martin	30
Swallow	648
House Martin	28
Great Tit	912
Bearded Tit	1
Skylark	3
Sand Martin	49
Swallow	737
House Martin	28
Cetti's Warbler	37
Long-tailed Tit	389
Willow Warbler	64
Chiffchaff	406
Sedge Warbler	80
Reed Warbler	217
Grasshopper Warbler	1
Blackcap	467
Garden Warbler	18
Lesser Whitethroat	42
Whitethroat	198
Firecrest	3
Goldcrest	282
Wren	234
Nuthatch	24
Treecreeper	31
Starling	228
Blackbird	429
Fieldfare	41

Species	2017 Total
Redwing	31
Song Thrush	55
Mistle Thrush	4
Spotted Flycatcher	1
Robin	347
Bluethroat	1
Nightingale	2
Redstart	1
Whinchat	2
Stonechat	3
Wheatear	1
House Sparrow	121
Tree Sparrow	6
Dunnock	339
Yellow Wagtail	57

Species	2017 Total
Grey Wagtail	5
Pied Wagtail	18
Meadow Pipit	52
Chaffinch	225
Brambling	5
Bullfinch	71
Greenfinch	558
Linnet	130
Common Redpoll	2
Lesser Redpoll	94
Goldfinch	1020
Siskin	36
Yellowhammer	58
Reed Bunting	189
Grand Total	**13607**

Table 2 Selected recoveries/controls involving Essex reported during 2017

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 2017, are included and dates in brackets are approximate. The term control refers to a bird captured and released by another ringer.

Species/ring number	Age/ details	Date	Locations	kms
Canada Goose	Adult ♂	01/07/14	Nunnery Lakes, Thetford, Norfolk	
5122951	Field record	07/09/14	Lackford Lakes, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk	14
	Field record	12/10/14	Nunnery Lakes, Thetford, Norfolk	
	Field record	08/10/16	Near Cranwich, Norfolk	18
	Field record	21/12/16	Thetford, Norfolk	
	Field record	07/08/17	Fairlop Waters Barkingside, Essex	102
	Field record	02/09/17	Fairlop Waters Barkingside, Essex	
Gadwall	Adult ♂	05/09/11	Abberton Reservoir, Essex	
FH19222	Shot	10/02/17	Thornham, Norfolk	131
Mallard	1st year ♂	10/09/11	Abberton Reservoir, Essex	
GR28852	Killed by car	23/10/17	Westmaas, Zuid-Holland, **THE NETHERLANDS**	252
Mallard	1st year ♀	19/11/12	Abberton Reservoir, Essex	
GC85293	Shot	24/12/17	Cap-Gris-Nez, Pas-de-Calais, **FRANCE**	117
Tufted Duck	1st year ♂	03/12/88	Abberton Reservoir, Essex	
FC41264	Shot	(22/10/17)	Merenskly District, Arkhangelsk Oblast, **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**	2,920
Little Egret	Nestling	13/05/16	Netherhall Gravel Pit, Nazeing	
GV37295	Field record	06/10/17	Lindisfarne, Northumberland	455
Little Egret	Nestling	07/05/16	Netherhall Gravel Pit, Nazeing	
GV37284	Field record	02/07/17	Site Confidential, West Sussex	117
Cormorant	Nestling	30/04/05	Abberton Reservoir, Essex	
5238326	Field record	12/07/07	Heerenkeet, Zierikzee, Zeeland, **THE NETHERLANDS**	209

Species/ring number	Age/ details	Date	Locations	kms
	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**	
	Freshly dead	09/02/17	Rive Colne, Alresford, Essex	9
Sparrowhawk	1st year ♀	30/08/10	Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire	
EJ41998	Freshly dead	04/02/17	Chipping Ongar, Essex	57
Buzzard	Nestling	16/06/17	Fingringhoe Wick, Essex	
GV46362	Killed by train	18/10/17	Audley End, Essex	57
Buzzard	Nestling	23/06/17	Westhorpe, Suffolk	
GR39213	Killed by car	30/11/17	St Osyth, Essex	55
Avocet	Nestling	06/07/16	Greenabella Marsh, Hartlepool	
EY98314	Field record	31/03/17	River Stour, Mistley, Essex	335
	Field record	15/04/17	Coalhouse Fort, East Tilbury, Essex	367
	Field record	18/05/17	Burton Mere, Wirral, Cheshire	193
	Field record	25/05/17	Blacktoft Sands, East Riding of Yorkshire	107
	Field record	10/09/17	near Upton Warren, Worcestershire	264
Avocet	Nestling	12/06/12	Seal Sands, Teesmouth	
EY04573	Field record	13/03/13	Two Tree Island, Essex	364
	Field record	23/11/14	Lytchett Bay, Poole Harbour, Dorset	436
	Field record	27/03/15	Pett Level, East Sussex	432
	Field record	22/10/15	Topsham, Exe Estuary, Devon	465
	Field record	04/11/15	Two Tree Island, Essex	364
	Field record	08/11/16	Two Tree Island, Essex	
	Field record	23/11/17	Kingsmill Lake, Cornwall	509
	Field record	28/11/17	Two Tree Island, Essex	364
Avocet	Nestling	28/06/16	Nosterfield, North Yorkshire	
EW28898	Field record	12/04/17	Coalhouse Fort, East Tilbury, Essex	335
	Field record	13/07/17	Snettisham, Norfolk	202
Dunlin	Adult	20/07/16	Ujscle Wisly, Swibno, Pomorskie, **POLAND**	
PLG JT58269	Field record	02/02/17	St Osyth Stone, Essex	1,229
Black-headed Gull	Adult	08/03/14	Pitsea Tip, Essex	
EY45811	Found injured	02/05/17	Viciebsk, Vitebsk Oblast, **BELARUS**	2,009
Black-headed Gull	1st year	01/06/01	Gomel, Gomel Oblast, **BELARUS**	
BYM GA00992	Field record	20/12/05	Abberton Reservoir, Essex	2,057
Black-headed Gull	Nestling	28/05/09	Ostrava-Hermanice, Ostrav, **CZECH REPUBLIC**	
CZP ES14274	Field record	26/07/11	Hanningfield Reservoir, Essex	1,270
	Field record	20/02/17	Hanningfield Reservoir, Essex	
Black-headed Gull	Full-grown	02/04/08	Lleida, Lerida, **SPAIN**	
ESI 5115372	Field record	15/02/15	Point Clear, St Osyth, Essex	1,132
	Field record	16/02/16	Point Clear, St Osyth, Essex	
	Field record	01/02/17	Point Clear, St Osyth, Essex	
Mediterranean Gull	Nestling	10/06/16	Kiesgrube, Rehbach, Leipzig, **GERMANY**	
DEH IA121586	Field record	22/06/17	Southend-on-Sea area, Essex	799
	Field record	12/09/17	Heysham Power Station, Lancashire	1,069

Species/ring number	Age/ details	Date	Locations	kms
Herring Gull	2nd year	13/07/91	Pitsea Marsh, Essex	
GG52693	Field record	27/04/17	Brennevinsmyra, Mandal, Vest-Agder, **NORWAY**	848
Herring Gull	1st year	03/12/16	Pitsea Landfill, Essex	
GV47649	Freshly dead	30/06/17	Farholmen, Grelsbyn, Overkalix, **SWEDEN**	2,068
Caspian Gull	1st year	22/10/11	Rainham Landfill, Essex	
GR15619	Field record	02/05/16	Rz. Wisla, Zastow Karczmiski, Lubelskie, **POLAND**	1,501
	Field record	29/09/16	Brouwersdam, Scharendijke, Zeeland, **THE NETHERLANDS**	253
	Field record	09/10/17	St Peter-Ording, Schleswig-Holstein, **GERMANY**	646
Yellow-legged Gull	Nestling	11/05/16	Fanel, Berne, **SWITZERLAND**	
HES M019889	Field record	01/09/16	Greenwich, Greater London	717
	Field record	04/01/17	Gantshill. Ilford, Essex	719
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Adult	16/01/16	Pitsea Landfill, Essex	
FH41120	Field record	21/04/16	Kirkuvegur, Sorvag, Vaga, **FAROE ISLANDS**	1,262
	Field record	24/06/16	At sea, **NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN** (62°49'N 6°19'W)	1,320
	Field record	12/08/17	Off **FAROE ISLAND**S	1,262
Barn Owl	Nestling	23/07/05	Near Cottenham, Cambridgeshire	
GC17021	In nestbox	08/07/17	Brookes Reserve, Greenstead Green, Essex	55
Barn Owl	Nestling	01/07/16	Site Confidential, Lincolnshire	
GV12961	Long dead	21/01/17	Tolleshunt Major, Essex	215
Peregrine	Nestling ♀	26/05/15	Maastricht, Daalhof, Zendtoren, **THE NETHERLANDS**	
NLA 6181285	Breeding	21/06/17	Colchester, Essex	351
Waxwing	1st year ♂	04/12/16	Westhill, Aberdeenshire, Scotland	
NW82918	Field record	10/01/17	Pitsea, Essex	645
Bearded Tit	Full-grown	19/09/17	Walberswick, Suffolk	
ABB0096	Controlled ♂	26/10/17	Holland Haven, Essex	63
Swallow	1st year	19/09/16	Holland Haven, Essex	
S479552	Controlled	21/07/17	near Hawnby, North Yorkshire	324
	Controlled	31/08/17	near Hawnby, North Yorkshire	
Swallow	Adult ♂	06/09/14	Pett Level. East Sussex	
D358436	Controlled	13/06/15	Newport Sewage Works, Essex	125
	Controlled	26/04/17	Newport Sewage Works, Essex	
Chiffchaff	1st year	01/10/15	Nanjizal, Lands End, Cornwall	
JAE835	Controlled	14/06/17	Clavering Farm Fish Lakes, Essex	461
Chiffchaff	Adult ♀	20/06/17	Heathbrook Farm, Hodnet, Shropshire	
DVP732	Controlled	24/09/17	Haven Point, Great Wakering, Essex	273
Chiffchaff	1st year	22/09/17	Walton-on-the Naze, Essex	
JNV773	Controlled	04/10/17	Litlington, East Sussex	144
Chiffchaff	1st year	30/09/16	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey	
JPC930	Controlled	15/03/17	Holland Haven, Essex	124
Sedge Warbler	1st year	01/08/17	Holland Haven, Essex	

Species/ring number	Age/ details	Date	Locations	kms
S602590	Controlled	05/08/17	Eindhout, Antwerpen, **BELGIUM**	274
Sedge Warbler	1st year	29/08/17	Holland Haven, Essex	
S930458	Controlled	31/08/17	Orfordness, Suffolk	40
Reed Warbler	1st year	15/09/16	Old Hall Marshes, Essex	
S479259	Controlled	15/07/17	Lancing, West Sussex	133
Reed Warbler	Adult ♀	13/07/17	Duddenhoe End, Saffron Walden, Essex	
S860061	Controlled	25/08/17	Pett Level, East Sussex	128
Reed Warbler	1st year	19/08/16	Holland Haven, Essex	
S272315	Controlled	11/05/17	Pepingen, Brabant, **BELGIUM**	236
Reed Warbler	Juvenile	14/08/17	Holland Haven, Essex	
S602060	Retrapped	02/09/17	Holland Haven, Essex	
	Killed by cat	16/09/17	Val-Du-Layon, Maine-et-Loire, **FRANCE**	519
Reed Warbler	Adult	10/08/15	Herdade Dos Forninhos, Beja, **PORTUGAL**	
POL A416653	Controlled	20/05/17	Holland Haven, Essex	1,746
Blackcap	1st year ♂	03/09/11	Pitsea Marshes, Essex	
L779181	Hit by car	(13/04/17)	Ingham, near Stalham, Norfolk	157
Whitethroat	1st year	15/08/17	Orfordness, Suffolk	
D879360	Controlled	16/08/17	Clavering Farm Fish Lakes, Essex	99
Robin	Full-grown	15/10/16	Gibraltar Point, Skegness, Lincolnshire	
Z913083	Freshly dead	20/03/17	Great Waltham, Essex	147
Rock Pipit	1st year ♂	07/09/17	Maletangen, Fraena, More og Romsdal, **NORWAY**	
NOS ED09901	Field record	17/10/17	Gunners Park, Shoeburyness, Essex	1,326
Lesser Redpoll	1st year ♂	03/03/16	Halstead, Essex	
Z944359	Controlled	20/08/17	Calliburn Corner, Argyll and Bute, Scotland	568
Lesser Redpoll	1st year ♂	27/09/15	Calf of Man	
Z075706	Controlled	10/02/17	Rowney Wood, Debden, Essex	411
	Retrapped	27/02/17	Rowney Wood, Debden, Essex	
Goldfinch	Juvenile	09/09/17	Mickley Square Football Field, Northumberland	
S640317	Controlled	31/10/17	Stocking Green, Radwinter, Essex	359
Goldfinch	1st year ♀	08/03/16	La Maladerie, Steenwerck, Nord, **FRANCE**	
FRP 7747666	Controlled	24/12/16	Little Clacton, Essex	170
	Retrapped	11/01/17	Little Clacton, Essex	
Siskin	1st year ♂	08/03/16	Halstead, Essex	
Z944376	Controlled	11/04/17	Near Kildary, Highland, Scotland	712
Siskin	1st year ♀	11/03/16	Halstead, Essex	
Z944408	Controlled	26/06/17	Fort Augustus, Highland, Scotland	671
Siskin	1st year ♀	23/03/16	Halstead, Essex	
Z944490	Controlled	15/04/17	Bogietang, Wardend, Durris, Aberdeenshire, Scotland	598
Siskin	Full-grown ♀	29/03/16	Halstead, Essex	
Z944499	Controlled	18/03/17	Bogietang, Wardend, Durris, Aberdeenshire, Scotland	598
Siskin	Adult ♂	30/01/17	Clavering Farm Fish Lakes, Essex	
S786533	Controlled	18/03/17	Peebles, Scottish Borders, Scotland	462

Red Kites breeding in Essex in 2016 for the first time since 1854

David R. Blurton

In north-west Essex in the present century there had been a limited number of scattered records of Red Kite prior to 2015 but without any confirmed breeding. In that year a presumed pair maintained a continuous presence on a private estate in the area and may have bred. There were regular sightings over woodland and surrounding arable, which included interactions with Common Buzzards. On 8th October four Red Kites were seen high over the site – unfortunately too high to verify whether the group included any juveniles.

The following year, on 20th March 2016, five adults were seen interacting over the same estate and subsequently there were encouraging signs of occupation of a territory by a pair in the same general area as the 2015 birds had been seen. This prompted regular checks for activity during the breeding season.

On 5th May I was observing an adult flying close to some woodland on the estate when I had the good fortune of seeing it transfer a small item of food from foot to bill just before entering the canopy. This seemed promising and indeed later that month on 29th May a nest was duly located high up in a Scots Pine. Viewing from a suitable vantage point it was exciting to find that small downy young were just visible in the nest. A piece of history seemed to be in the making!

During June the adults were watched from a distance visiting and leaving the nest site on a regular route. By 21st June three well-grown fully feathered juveniles were counted in the nest and by early July they had started to branch out into the canopy where the adults continued to feed them to the month end. Dispersal from the nest area occurred during August though three birds were present high over the estate on 30th September.

This is the first confirmed breeding record for Essex since 1854 (over a century and a half ago!) when eggs were taken from a nest in Maldon [Glegg 1929; Wood 2007].

Breeding occurred again in 2017 utilising the same nest – see the Systematic List in this Report.

Sea-watching off North-East Essex

Paul Brayshaw

Introduction

Recent years have seen a significant effort applied to sea-watching throughout the year in north-east Essex, primarily from Frinton-on-Sea, but now increasingly supported by observations at The Naze and Holland Haven. The almost daily effort from May 2006 to the end of 2017 has resulted in over 1.67 million identified birds observed, comprising a mix of sea passage and diurnal passerine migration. This has led to a rewrite of the status of certain species in the County, and the appreciation that, in the right conditions, significant sea passage can be observed. This paper considers the sea bird passage year, highlighting species and weather condition correlations identified through my personal experiences over the past 12 years. Passerine migration will be considered separately as part of an anticipated future paper.

Winter

Red-throated Diver are the dominant species offshore during the winter months. Observations reveal a marked influx from mid-December, with numbers typically dropping from early February to mid-March, when northbound passage occurs (Figure 1). The winter influx timing mirrors previous offshore studies, as does the apparent dispersal in February (Hall C. *et al,* 2003).

Birds can move at any time of the day and in any weather condition, often in pulses of passage associated with tide changes. Peak numbers can be hugely impressive, often close to the shore, with daily totals exceeding a thousand on three occasions: 1,232 on 29th March 2013, 1,086 and 1,019 on 2nd and 3rd February 2016. The land-based observations emphasize the importance of the Outer Thames Special Protection Area for this species: however, the total number offshore will be well in excess of these counts with aerial photography in February 2013 suggesting over 14,000 in the area (Goodship *et al*, 2015). The land-based observations do not appear to indicate any detrimental impact of the offshore windfarms, indeed the yearly totals show a marked increase since 2011.

Fresh-strong airflows from the west or south-west can provide good Kittiwake movement, but largely concentrated during late December and early January only (Figure 2). Three-figure counts are not unusual in these conditions, with a peak of 517 on 4th January 2014. The same conditions can also see large movements of other gulls – Greater Black-backed, Herring and Common in particular.

Figure 1: Seasonal Occurrence of Divers

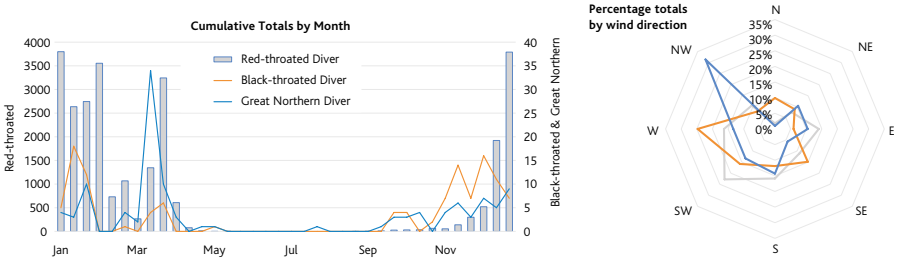


Table 1: Annual Totals of Red-Throated Diver

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Total Bird Days	2330	6914	1329	3699	4687	2242	2863	758	901	489	271	607

Figure 2: Seasonal Movements of Kittiwake and Gannet

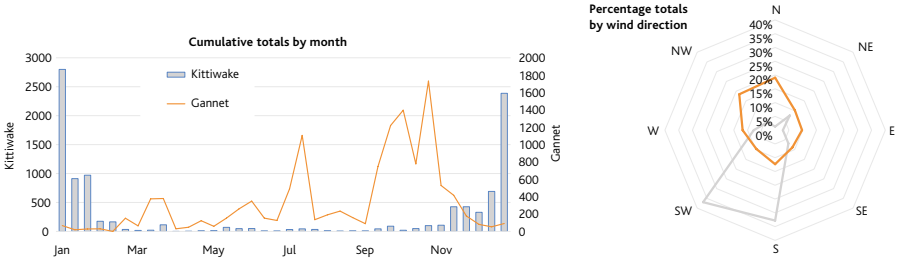
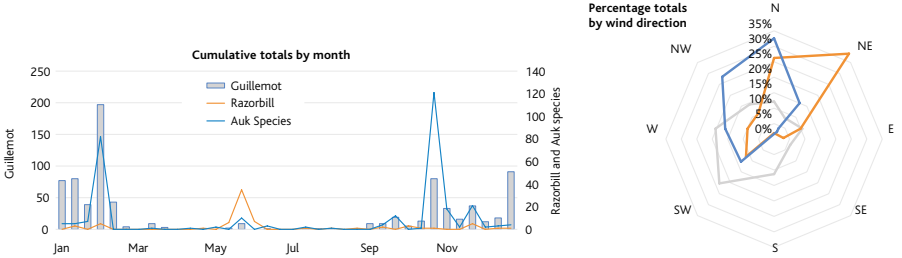


Figure 3: Seasonal Movements of Guillemot, Razorbill and Auk sp.



Other winter species are more hit and miss. Auks are typically uncommon and only in small numbers (Figure 3), the February peak largely due to 153 Guillemot and 82 Auk sp. in the first ten days during 2016 with a peak of 111 Guillemot (plus 43 sp.) on 2nd. The relative lack of Auk sightings is a surprise, particularly when considering the number of divers, but previous aerial surveys (*Goodship N. et al.,* 2015) suggest that the birds may well just be present further offshore where feeding conditions are more to their liking.

Skuas may be represented by the occasional young Pomarine or Great (Figure 6). However, the notably stormy winter of 2015-2016 resulted in unprecedented numbers of the latter, with over 230 during December and January, together with exceptional numbers of Little Gull (258 in the first ten days of 2017 alone).

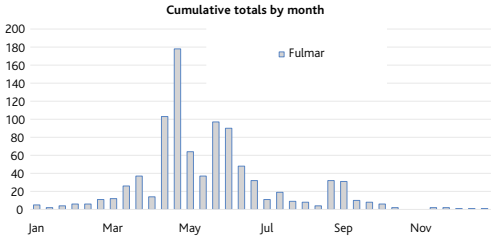
February is typically the quietest month of the year, often coinciding with settled weather, before the first hints of spring in early March.

Spring

Early spring movements comprise many of Essex's estuarine wintering birds departing to the east, typically during light south-westerly winds. Such passage can be very heavy, but short lived from first light until an hour or so after dawn, with large flocks heading east out to sea, illustrated by these movements not being observed further north at Landguard, Suffolk. Typical species in March are Red-throated Diver, Cormorant, Brent Goose and Black-headed Gull, together with scarcer species such as Great Northern Diver and Shag. Exceptional movements at an Essex level have included 25 Great Northern Diver north on 13th March 2010, and 14 Shag on 8th-9th April 2014 and 9th March 2015. Fresh onshore winds in March also often produce a previously unknown passage of adult Gannet, presumably breeders returning to their more northern colonies (Figure 2).

March also sees the return of the Fulmar to the coastline. Birds are most frequently observed between March and June, with small numbers coasting, often very close along the undercliff, providing a relatively easy Essex year tick. This pattern of occurrence suggests a small non-breeding population, perhaps originating from the south Suffolk cliffs, and it is likely that the same individuals

Figure 4: Seasonal Occurrence of Fulmar



are seen repeatedly day to day. Double-figure counts have been recorded on ten days, eight of which have occurred in the latter half of April with a peak of 20 on 19th April 2008.

By late March the first Sandwich Tern have usually been noted, but spring migrants are typically late to be observed, for example Whimbrel and Common Tern often not before mid-April, so this can be a quiet month. However fresh winds from the southerly quarter can result in some visible Common Scoter passage (e.g. 880 in April 2013, Figure 8) and skuas (e.g. ten Great in April 2012, Figure 7).

Early May typically produces the best spring passage variety, but observable movement is far from reliable – best conditions tending to be frontal systems moving north-east, with south-easterly winds ahead, or more settled conditions with an easterly airflow. Whimbrel passage can be strong (e.g. 627 in May 2017, Figure 5), some Common/Arctic Tern passage (although three figure day totals are less than annual) (Figure 6), and the occasional skua. There is evidence to suggest that a small passage of Pomarine Skua may occur off the County in settled conditions with winds from the easterly quadrant. This is supported by similar observations further up the coast in Suffolk.

Little passage is evident by mid-May, but a regular late Brent passage at the end of the month, with day totals exceptionally reaching four figures, brings the season to a close. There can also be a late auk passage in north-easterly winds (Figure 3) – predominately Razorbill, with an exceptional total of 21 noted on 27th May 2016. The unexpected can still occur though, with exceptionally stormy weather from the south-west producing two late spring/early summer sightings of Storm Petrel over the years.

Summer

Autumn passage comes quickly in June with the first returning Curlew noted before mid-month, fresh south-west winds revealing a steady southbound movement that builds during the month. These are joined by Whimbrel in July, but numbers and variety of other species only occur as July progresses (Figure 5).

Light onshore winds towards the end of the month can result in a distant Common/Arctic Tern passage (Figure 6), whilst Sandwich Tern can be prominent in some years though these early birds are considered likely to be local feeding movements associated with roosts at The Naze. Black-headed Gull numbers can show dramatic movements – 22nd July producing a huge count of 6,131 in 2008. One feature of the summer months in north-east winds is an evening passage of adult Kittiwake, presumably returning to their Suffolk breeding grounds, whilst a distant Gannet passage can sometimes be significant in number (Figure 2).

Variety increases further in August and into September, with flocks of Teal, Oystercatcher and Whimbrel in particular, but any rain and strong winds can reveal more duck, wader and tern movement, and the first autumn shearwaters and skuas.

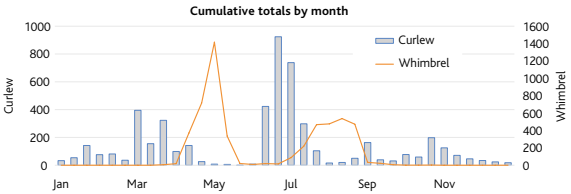
Autumn

While terns continue to pass south offshore, generally peaking in light onshore winds (Figure 6), offshore movement is now very much driven by the weather to the north and east of Essex –

tailwinds through the Baltic and southern North Sea can stimulate wildfowl passage, with Wigeon from early-September and Brent, sometimes en masse, from mid-month; while winds from the north-eastern quadrant lead to southbound passage of Gannet and duck, the former sometimes very distantly, and then re-orientating back north out of the Outer Thames at much closer range. Interestingly the strong tern passage noted into the River Thames has not been observed, with Black Tern scarce and often very distant.

Such conditions can lead to the scarcer seabirds being observed, with shearwaters, petrels, Long-Tailed Skua and Sabine's Gull noted over the years. The monthly distribution and frequency of these sightings are summarised in Table 2 below.

Figure 5: Seasonal Movements of Curlew and Whimbrel



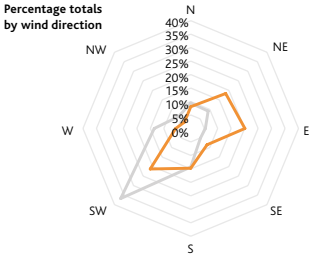
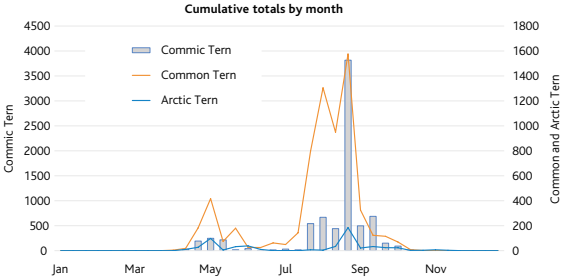


Figure 6: Seasonal Movements of "Commic", Common and Arctic Tern



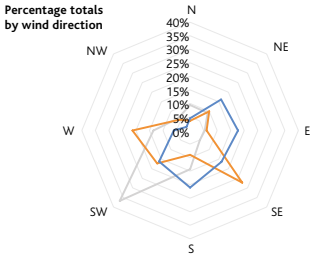


Table 2: Distribution, Frequency and Weather Conditions for Scarce Seabirds

Species	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total	Years observed	Best conditions
Leach's Petrel	-	3	4	2	9	7	Strong wind from N-E
Storm Petrel	-	-	-	1	3	3	Stormy SW in late spring
Great Shearwater	-	-	1	-	1	1	
Cory's Shearwater	-	2	2	-	4	3	
Sooty Shearwater	7	13	26	5	54	10	Fresh S-NE
Balearic Shearwater	2	3	-	-	5	4	Fresh S-E,
Manx Shearwater	8	17	10	1	49	11	
Long-tailed Skua	10	9	7	-	26	11	
Sabine's Gull	-	2	2	-	4	4	
Little Auk	-	-	20	122	143	12	Strong N airflow from Arctic late Oct/early Nov

The evidence suggests that Sooty Shearwater is uncommon but annual off north-east Essex in fresh winds from the east, with autumn numbers on a par with Manx Shearwater. Cory's Shearwater, whilst still rare, may be more regular than previously assumed – with four records prior to 2006 (*Wood S.*, 2007), and seven, four of which were noted from Frinton, since.

Particular days of note were: 1st October 2007, when 16 Sooty Shearwater were noted from Frinton-on-Sea and an estimated 22 from the north-east Essex coastline, exceeding the previous County day total from the unprecedented influx of 2002; and an unbelievable 16th September 2011 when Cory's, four Sooty, two Balearic and five Manx Shearwater were all noted (plus unsubstantiated Great Shearwater from Walton Pier (whilst I had a comfort break!)) and a not-proven Fea's type Petrel – quite an exceptional day of movement which was also observed at several sites in Suffolk!

The supporting cast to shearwaters are often skuas. Skua passage off the north-east coast was previously largely unrecorded – Wood (2007) cited a peak of 20 Arctic Skua reported from The Naze with counts of more than ten to be rare. Double-figure counts have been recorded on 12 days at Frinton-on-Sea since 2006, with several other counts from nearby sites, suggesting that such totals are not unusual, but that weather conditions and observer coverage have more of an influence.

Passage mirrors that observed in the Thames Estuary, with peaks typically in late August and September in winds between north-east and south (Figure 7) – e.g. 24 on 22nd August 2007, 22 on 18th August 2008, 22 on 16th September 2011, 32 on 23rd September 2012, and the standout maximum of 54 on 26th August 2014. Unlike the Thames, but perhaps more typical of this species generally, groups of more than three birds are rare. Whilst the annual numbers show some significant variation from year to year (Table 3), the frequency of sightings has noticeably reduced in recent years, no doubt linked to the dramatic decrease in the Scottish breeding population.

Great and Pomarine Skua passage is more protracted and peaks later (Figure 7) with the former showing a strong bias to fresh southerly winds. Double-figure counts of Great Skua are noted most years, with this species becoming the commonest skua in recent years (Table 3) although this may be primarily due to weather conditions and coverage on optimum days. The peak count is 52 on 8th October 2012 in a fresh SSE wind.

Pomarine Skua numbers very much reflect breeding success and weather conditions – some years see juvenile birds noted throughout the autumn and winter, whilst big influxes are rare. Two double-

Table 3: Annual Totals of Skuas

Species	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Pomarine Skua	11	7	14	17	7	61	50	11	14	6	10	5
Arctic Skua	23	10	26	69	30	72	68	64	22	102	49	27
Long-tailed Skua	2	0	0	5	1	2	3	2	0	1	6	3
Great Skua	125	106	147	55	37	82	79	23	24	14	7	4

Figure 7: Seasonal Movements of Pomarine, Arctic and Great Skua

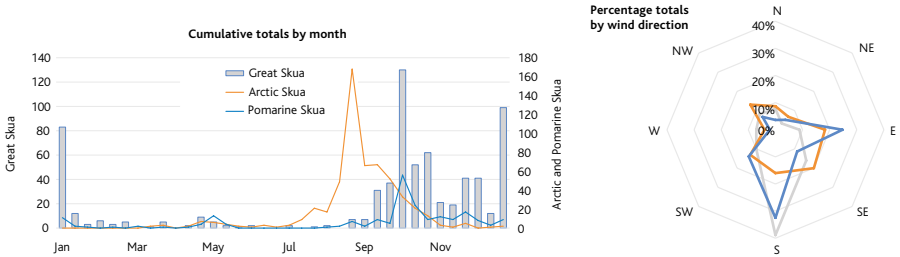


figure counts have been recorded, both in October: 16 on 13th in 2011 and 42 on 8th in 2012.

Sea-watching in October is dominated by Dark-bellied Brent Goose passage. Movement can occur in any conditions, although a decent easterly tailwind is most reliable, and flocks are often observed arriving from the east or south-east before then following the coast. Five-figure day totals have been noted on five occasions, with over 55,000 Brent logged during October 2014 alone, culminating in an incredible movement of 25,990 on 30th. Weather "windows" between Atlantic depressions can also see birds depart to our east, only to meet the next batch of strong winds, and it is these conditions that can also see daily wader passage peaks in excess of 2,300 Dunlin and 1,600 Knot noted passing in late-October and early-November.

November sees a reduction in quantity but, from an Essex perspective, the potential for quality is high, the variety is great and the identification often challenging. Sea duck peak with Common Scoter providing the numbers (Figure 8), four-figure day totals being noted on three occasions (1,443 on the early date of 17th August 2008, 1,008 on 17th November 2008, 1,023 on 12th November 2013) with support from Red-breasted Merganser (peaks of 103 on 12th November 2011 and 112 on 30th October 2014) and smaller numbers of Scaup, Goldeneye, Velvet Scoter, Long-tailed Duck and Goosander. Other diving ducks such as Pochard are noted most years, whilst Black-throated Diver peak at this time (maximum ten on 5th December 2017) (Figure 1). Eider passage (Figure 8) is typically northbound in winds from the eastern quarter, presumably of birds heading to north Norfolk wintering areas, peak count 80 on 12th November 2009.

Other species are very weather-dependent. Fronts moving south-east over the Country, with strong north-westerly winds following, have proved quite reliable for Whooper Swan; the birds presumably over-shooting East Anglia and then observed arriving in from the south-east and often pausing offshore for a while before continuing inland. Five herds totalling 60 birds on 21st November 2015 was exceptional. Similarly, strong winds from the Arctic down the North Sea are classic conditions for Little Auk, either moving along the coast or arriving off the sea with groups of Starling.

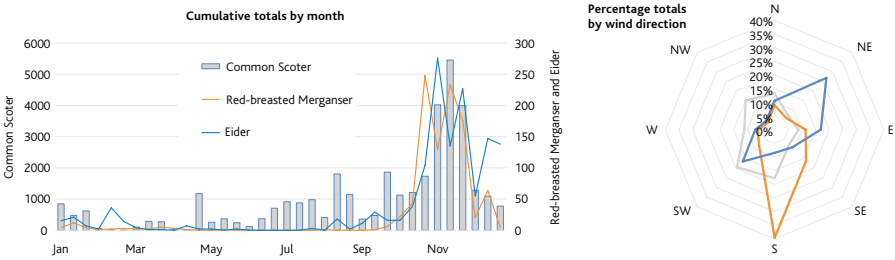
As with all sea-watching, birds can be distant and pass rapidly by, perhaps in contrast to watching in the Outer Thames in the Southend area, but with effort and patience the rewards are there for those who persevere.

Primary Flight Lines

The observations indicate a number of key flight paths in spring and autumn, subject to species and weather conditions that are illustrated in Figure 9.

Observations suggest that distant birds heading south may be deflected further away from the shore as they pass by, possibly due to the windfarms but also perhaps sensing the presence of north-east Kent that is over the horizon for land-based watchers. Indeed, high-flying flocks of waders have been noted heading, from Hamford Water, over Frinton-on-Sea and out to sea directly for the Thanet coastline.

Figure 8: Seasonal Movements of Common Scoter, Red-Breasted Merganser and Eider



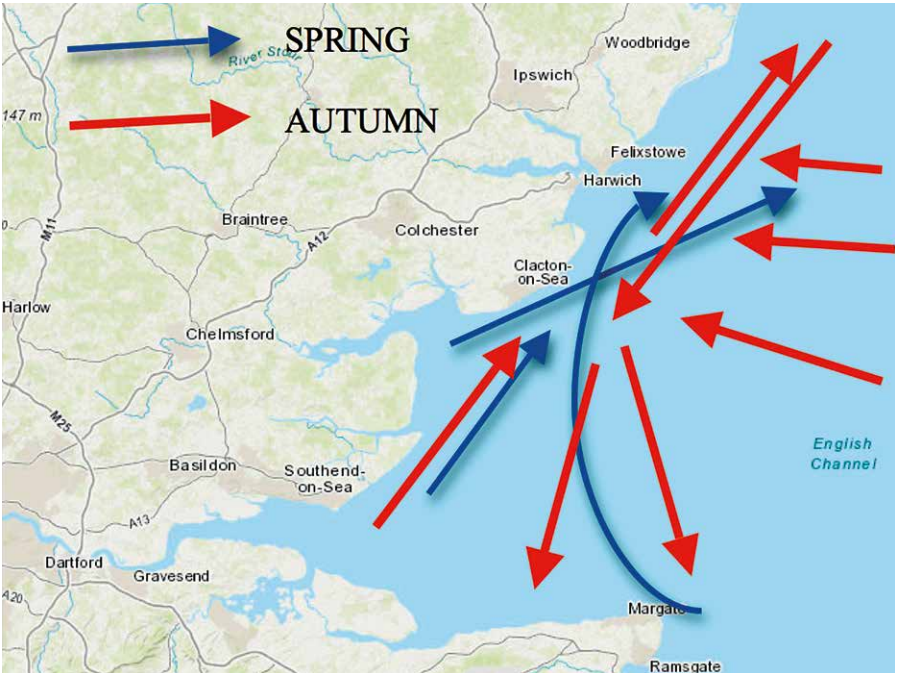


Figure 9: Primary Seasonal Observed Flight Lines

Observation Points

The coastline offers several potential observation points, each with their own characteristics.

The Naze - the height and location of The Naze provides a good vantage point for observations where watches can occur from the car park, or the shelter above Hipkins Beach. Northbound birds are liable to be deflected further offshore due to Walton Pier, where, on a clear day, the mid-Suffolk coast is clearly visible. This is demonstrated by many northbound birds at Frinton-on-Sea e.g. spring Red Throated Diver, Cormorant and Brent, and close Gannet passage in autumn rarely being visible from Landguard Point Suffolk. There is also strong evidence of ducks, waders and terns passing through Hamford Water before joining the coast between Walton and Holland-on-Sea. Wildfowl, waders and terns are all often noted coming directly overhead from my observation point at Frinton having taken this shortcut.

Walton Pier – whilst the pier protrudes a significant distance out to sea, the lack of shelter and height may be a key factor for observing passage. As with The Naze, birds cutting through Hamford Water are likely to pass behind observers, whilst the low horizon can lead to birds being "lost" in wave troughs during stormy conditions.

Frinton-on-Sea – on good days observers tend to gather at the shelter on the top of the Greensward (Figure 10) just south of Connaught Avenue (or join me on the house balcony just to the north!). Close birds may be missed due to the cliff edge but distant passage of birds heading out beyond the Gunfleet Sands and towards extreme north-east Kent, can often be observed here but is barely discernible further south. Watching from the lower promenade will provide better observation of close birds but the low horizon reduces visibility of passing birds in rougher conditions.

Holland Haven – the shelter by the car park is often the best attended sea-watching point in the area, with the sailing club café and veranda nearby providing a pleasant alternative! Many sightings

are now successfully tracked between here and nearby Frinton-on-Sea, but the range can vary significantly between the two sites. Northbound birds may track further out to sea as the coastline changes from east to north-east, whilst southbound birds often do likewise. Surprisingly, birds following the same line parallel to the coast at Frinton-on-Sea would be almost a mile and a half further offshore by the time they reach Holland Haven!

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all those who have observed and shared their experiences with me over the past 11 years, notably Gary Gardiner and Pete Davis for their early support and validation, and Darrell Stile for sharing the sea-watching passion in recent years. Also, the Holland Haven birders who have suffered my personal obsession and updates, and my family, who are used to me "just popping upstairs" only be to be found, some time later, eye to the telescope and click-counter in hand...

Any sea-watching records from Frinton-on-Sea would be welcome for inclusion in the daily log (to paulandsambrayshaw@gmail.com).

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Figure 10: Frinton-on-Sea Observation Shelter looking south-west

Audley End House and Gardens Bird Survey, 2017

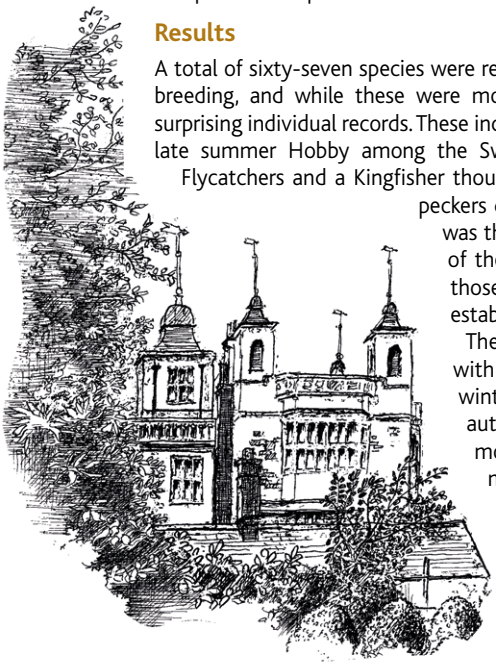
Hugh Coe, Andy Douglas & Ken Venus

Purpose

This survey was mooted by Hugh Coe following his experience gained from an on-going breeding bird survey at Hatfield forest over a period of forty years. With the habitats so different Hatfield forest, a unique example of a medieval forest and Audley End, a managed parkland originally created by Capability Brown it was thought that this English Heritage property would prove to be a promising and challenging exercise to a small team of volunteers with enough ability to identify birds by sight and by song. The main ambition is to create an annual record of species residing in or passing through the grounds each year so that data accumulated over the years, will be available for future research into the status of the populations of our native birds: in this case relating to managed parkland.

Method

During the first year (2017) three participants have been associated with the project: Hugh Coe, Andy Douglas and Ken Venus. Each member of the team has made regular visits to the property, recording birds seen or heard, 14 of these taking place during the breeding season. A map has been devised to enable participants to record the species observed and, during the breeding season, singing males or other evidence of territorial activity which might indicate breeding. An added feature of the maps includes a grid reference system to enable the identification of the area/s to which observations relate. Records have therefore been collated from these maps and a summary of species observed is bound into this report in taxonomic order to facilitate year-on-year comparisons of species in the future. A copy of the map is included in this report.



Results

A total of sixty-seven species were recorded during the survey, 38 of which were breeding, and while these were mostly thinly represented, there were some surprising individual records. These included roosting winter Snipe on the marsh, a late summer Hobby among the Swallows and Martins a family of Spotted Flycatchers and a Kingfisher thought to be breeding along the Slade. Woodpeckers did seem to be poorly represented but this was thought to be due to the excellent condition of the trees in the park. Notable however, were those parts of the gardens where the Yew was established.

These areas supported a wide range of species, with Goldcrests particularly well represented and winter thrushes feeding on the yew berries in the autumn. These thrushes then spent the early months of the year in the understory beneath many of the deciduous trees where the compost compound area was particularly favoured. No nocturnal visits were made to assess the status of the owl population, but it is hoped that this can be put in place during 2018.

Conclusions

While there was some disappointment at the relatively low species diversity, it must be recognised that the managed parkland does not offer the varied habitats compatible to such species as warblers. Several measures that might lead to a small improvement in these figures are given below. Having said that there are several good points to note.

- The stream that borders the northern boundary of the site is the Slade. The stream appears to be supporting a breeding Kingfisher which took advantage of the fish supply along the Cam. It also provides year-long support to both the Heron and the Little Egret. Unfortunately, the stream has become overgrown and would benefit from a management plan that would return it to a faster flowing watercourse which would both improve habitat and enhance the visitor experience. It is noted that responsibility for the Slade's maintenance is shared by English Heritage and Audley Estates.
- The marsh to the north of the pond provides an excellent diversification of habitat for Goldfinch, Reed Bunting and a late winter/early spring roost for Snipe.
- The substantial group of Alders surrounding the composting area provide a reliable feeding resource for the Siskins during the winter months where flocks of up to eighty birds were present.
- The other area of note is the strip of Yew that runs alongside the boundary stream referred to in this report as 'the Elysian Wood'. This area is notable for its Goldcrests, members of the Tit family and a Treecreeper. Because of its 'unimproved' character, it is possible that the number of deciduous species that have been allowed to occur here makes a considerable contribution to the diversity of the area as a whole. A Spotted Flycatcher was to be found in the Elysian Garden, but we were unsure if it was breeding on site or more likely in the neighbouring farm.
- And of course, the Cam and Place Pond provide support for many Canada Geese, Mallard, Coot, Little Grebe and others.

During the course of the year, participants have begun to put together some ideas on how the site might offer a more bird-friendly environment. These include:

- Introduction of more bird feeders
- Erection of more nest boxes together with re-siting of existing ones.
- The possibility of creating a Tern raft on the Cam. (The presence of a Common Tern feeding in the Cam during the late summer has been noted and would be an undoubted visitor attraction as a breeding species).
- Diversification of landscape management to the northern boundary which is flanked by a stream and which could include some small areas of coppiced woodland east of the composting operation, which could be supplemented by the introduction of Hazel & Hawthorn.
- The introduction of Phragmites Reed into the pond could create a more diverse wildlife habitat and begin to contribute to a wildlife corridor from the Elysian Wood along the northern boundary.
- Perhaps most importantly, participants noted that the eastern boundary fence currently makes no aesthetic contribution to the 'park' experience and it is here that a boundary hedge of a wide variety of species would provide a broader range of food and nesting opportunities for birds, mammals and insects as well as contributing to the site's greater security.
- It might also be possible to set up a Bird Ringing experience as part of a Bird Day at Audley End which might feasibly be run in conjunction with the Birds of Prey event.

Finally, this survey could not have been undertaken without the enthusiastic help and participation of the Head Gardener, Alan North, the Volunteer Co-ordinator, Louise Ellis and the fulltime and volunteer team. Many of their observations and comments have been incorporated into this report.

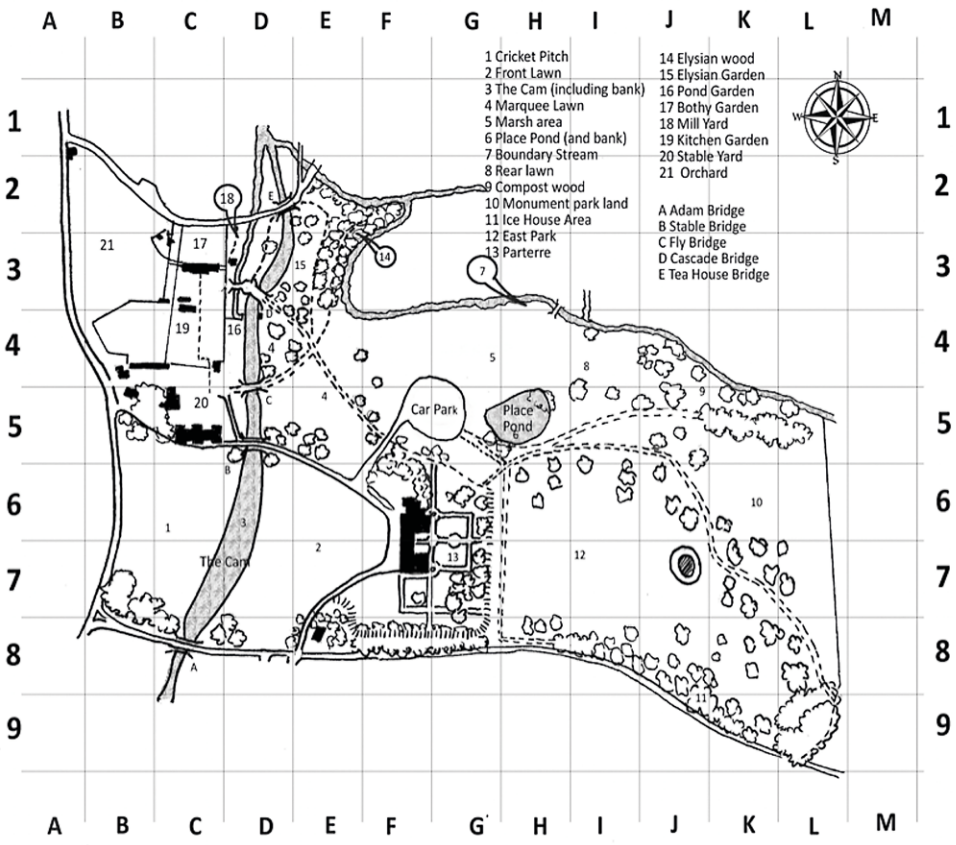
Audley End House and Gardens Species List – 2017

Species	Status
Little Grebe	Resident, breeding
Cormorant	Summer visitor
Little Egret	Resident
Heron	Resident
Mute Swan	Resident, breeding
Black Swan	Resident
Greylag Goose	Regular visitor
Canada Goose	Resident, breeding
Mallard	Resident, breeding
Tufted Duck	Resident, breeding
Red Kite	Frequent visitor
Buzzard	Resident, breeding
Sparrowhawk	Frequent visitor
Kestrel	Regular visitor
Hobby	Summer visitor
Pheasant	Resident, breeding
Coot	Resident, breeding
Moorhen	Resident, breeding
Snipe	Winter/Spring passage visitor
Black-headed Gull	Resident, breeding / Winter visitor
Common Gull	Occasional Summer visitor
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Winter visitor
Common Tern	Occasional Summer visitor
Stock Dove	Resident, breeding
Wood Pigeon	Resident, breeding
Collared Dove	Resident, breeding
Swift	Summer visitor
Kingfisher	Resident, breeding
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Resident
Green Woodpecker	Resident
Swallow	Summer visitor, breeding
House Martin	Summer visitor, breeding

Species	Status
Meadow Pipit	Passage visitor
Pied Wagtail	Resident, breeding
Grey Wagtail	Resident, breeding
Wren	Resident, breeding
Dunnock	Resident, breeding
Robin	Resident, breeding
Song Thrush	Resident, breeding
Mistle Thrush	Resident, breeding
Redwing	Winter visitor
Fieldfare	Winter visitor
Blackbird	Resident, breeding
Blackcap	Breeding summer visitor
Whitethroat	Breeding summer visitor
Willow Warbler	Passage visitor
Chiffchaff	Summer visitor, breeding
Goldcrest	Resident, breeding
	Summer visitor, breeding?
Great Tit	Resident, breeding
Coal Tit	Resident, breeding
Blue Tit	Resident, breeding
Long-tailed Tit	Resident, breeding
Nuthatch	Resident, breeding
Treecreeper	Resident, breeding
Magpie	Resident
Jay	Resident
Jackdaw	Resident, breeding
Rook	Resident, breeding
Carrion Crow	Resident, breeding
Starling	Infrequent visitor
Chaffinch	Resident, breeding
Goldfinch	Resident, breeding
Greenfinch	Resident, breeder (scarce)
Siskin	Winter visitor
Bullfinch	Occasional visitor
Reed Bunting	Summer visitor, breeding

Survey Map of Audley End House and Grounds

(Prepared for the volunteer bird survey 2017)



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 2017.

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 Society's history. Members can submit their records via

- The Essex Birdwatching Society website;
- The British Trust for Ornithology's BirdTrack website;
- 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 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 is also shown by coloured-squares preceding the species' name:

- 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 – see http://www.essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal/p/Essex+BAP+species
- X Essex Red List species – see essexfieldclub.org.uk/portal

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 is 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 is 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 **green** in the Essex totals column.

Similarly, those records of species that should be sent to the Essex Identification Panel (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 for which calculating total records is therefore 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 which have not been recorded subsequently.

Category C
Species that, although introduced, now derive from the resulting self-sustaining populations.

- C1 – Naturalised introduced species - species that have occurred only as a result of introduction, e.g. Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*
- C2 – Naturalised 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 – Naturalised re-established species – species with populations successfully re-established by Man in areas of former occurrence, e.g. Red Kite *Milvus milvus*.
- C4 – Naturalised feral species – domesticated species with populations established in the wild, e.g. Rock Pigeon (Dove)/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*.
- C5 – Vagrant naturalised species – species from established naturalised populations abroad, e.g. possibly some Ruddy Shelducks *Tadorna ferruginea* occurring in Britain. There are currently no species in category C5.
- C6 – Former naturalised species - species formerly placed in C1 whose naturalised 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 included throughout the *Essex Bird Report 2017* 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. *Phasianus 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 2017, with 33 additional sub-species identified. Note that two of the 'species' on the list are actually difficult-to-separate species pairs – Western and/or Eastern Bonelli's Warbler and Subalpine and/or Moltoni's Warbler, as none have, as yet, been identified to species level in Essex.

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 2017			
	R	A	E	X			Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
1				X	BRENT GOOSE	Brant Goose	*Branta bernicla*		1730	2017	0
					Dark-bellied Brent		*Branta bernicla bernicla*		1730	2017	0
					Pale-bellied Brent		*Branta bernicla hrota*		1879	2017	0
					Black Brant §		*Branta bernicla nigricans*	60	1957	2017	0
2					RED-BREASTED GOOSE		*Branta ruficollis*	12	1871	2016	1
3					CANADA GOOSE		*Branta canadensis canadensis*		1836	2017	0
4					BARNACLE GOOSE		*Branta leucopsis*		1830	2017	0
5					GREYLAG GOOSE		*Anser anser anser*		1822	2017	0
6					BEAN GOOSE		*Anser fabalis*	684	1838	2017	0
					Tundra Bean Goose		*Anser serrirostris*	320	1838	2016	1
					Taiga Bean Goose		*Anser fabilis*	37	1838	2017	0
7					PINK-FOOTED GOOSE		*Anser brachyrhynchus*		1841	2017	0
8					WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE	Greater White-fronted Goose	*Anser albifrons*		1845	2017	0
					European White-fronted Goose		*Anser albifrons albifrons*		1845	2017	0
					Greenland White-fronted Goose		*Anser albifrons flavirostris*	8	1962	1996	21
9					LESSER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE		*Anser erythropus*	4	1986	2017	0
10					MUTE SWAN		*Cygnus olor*		1247	2017	0
11					BEWICK'S SWAN	Tundra Swan	*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*		1837	2017	0
12					WHOOPER SWAN		*Cygnus cygnus*		1730	2017	0
13					EGYPTIAN GOOSE		*Alopochen aegyptiaca*		1868	2017	0
14					SHELDUCK	Common Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*		1730	2017	0
15				X	MANDARIN		*Aix galericulata*		1947	2017	0
16					BAIKAL TEAL§		*Sibirionetta formosa*	2	1906	2010	7
17					GARGANEY		*Spatula querquedula*		1835	2017	0

	Cons. status			English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	*Latin Name*	Essex Records to 2017			
	R	A	E	X				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
18					BLUE-WINGED TEAL		*Spatula discors*	6	1989	2006	11
19				X	SHOVELER	Northern Shoveler	*Spatula clypeata*		1835	2017	0
20				X	GADWALL		*Mareca strepera strepara*		1837	2017	0
21					WIGEON	Eurasian Wigeon	*Mareca penelope*		1714	2017	0
22					AMERICAN WIGEON		*Mareca americana*	2	1962	2004	13
23					MALLARD		*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos*		1714	2017	0
24					PINTAIL	Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*		1714	2017	0
25				X	TEAL	Eurasian Teal	*Anas crecca*		1714	2017	0
26					GREEN-WINGED TEAL		*Anas carolinensis*	28	1956	2015	2
27					RED-CRESTED POCHARD		*Netta rufina*		1844	2017	0
28					CANVASBACK		*Aythya valisineria*	1	1997	2001	16
29				X	POCHARD	Common Pochard	*Aythya ferina*		1730	2017	0
30					FERRUGINOUS DUCK		*Aythya nyroca*	44	1880	2015	2
31					RING-NECKED DUCK		*Aythya collaris*	11	1979	2017	0
32					TUFTED DUCK		*Aythya fuligula*		1821	2017	0
33					SCAUP	Greater Scaup	*Aythya marila*		1830	2017	0
34					LESSER SCAUP		*Aythya affinis*	2	2003	2006	11
35					KING EIDER		*Somateria spectabilis*	1	1977	1977	40
36					EIDER	Common Eider	*Somateria mollissima mollissima*		1865	2017	0
37					SURF SCOTER		*Melanitta perspicillata*	2	1997	2015	2
38					VELVET SCOTER		*Melanitta fusca*		1829	2017	0
39					COMMON SCOTER		*Melanita nigra*		1730	2017	0
40					LONG-TAILED DUCK		*Clangula hyemalis*		1832	2017	0
41					GOLDENEYE	Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula clangula*		1777	2017	0
42					SMEW		*Mergellus albellus*		1819	2017	0
43					GOOSANDER	Common Merganser	*Mergus merganser merganser*		1830	2017	0
44					RED-BREASTED MERGANSER		*Mergus serrator*		1826	2017	0
45					RUDDY DUCK		*Oxyura jamaicensis jamaicensis*		1958	2017	0
46					RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE		*Alectoris rufa rufa*		1777	2017	0
47			E	X	GREY PARTRIDGE		*Perdix perdix perdix*		1600s	2017	0
48					QUAIL	Common Quail	*Coturnix coturnix coturnix*		1777	2017	0
49					PHEASANT	Common Pheasant	*Phasianus colchicus**		1059	2017	0
50					RED-THROATED DIVER	Red-throated Loon	*Gavia stellata*		1777	2017	0
51					BLACK-THROATED DIVER	Black-throated Loon	*Gavia arctica arctica*		1840	2017	0
52					GREAT NORTHERN DIVER	Common Loon	*Gavia immer*		1813	2017	0
53					STORM PETREL	European Storm Petrel	*Hydrobates pelagicus pelagicus*	72	1801	2017	0

	Cons. status	English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	*Latin Name*	Essex Records to 2017			
	R A E X				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
54	A	LEACH'S PETREL	Leach's Storm Petrel	*Oceanodroma leucorhoa leucorhoa*	235	1823	2017	0
55	A	FULMAR	Northern Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis glacialis*		1834	2017	0
56		CORY'S SHEARWATER		*Calonectris borealis*	11	1978	2017	0
57		SOOTY SHEARWATER		*Ardenna griseus*	233	1969	2017	0
58		GREAT SHEARWATER		*Ardenna gravis*	3	1990	2012	5
59	A	MANX SHEARWATER		*Puffinus puffinus*		1866	2017	0
60	R	BALEARIC SHEARWATER		*Puffinus mauretanicus*	19	1975	2016	1
61		LITTLE GREBE		*Tachybaptus ruficollis ruficollis*		1838	2017	0
62	R	RED-NECKED GREBE		*Podiceps grisegena grisegena*		1837	2017	0
63		GREAT CRESTED GREBE		*Podiceps cristatus cristatus*		1838	2017	0
64	R	SLAVONIAN GREBE	Horned Grebe	*Podiceps auritus auritus*		1838	2017	0
65		BLACK-NECKED GREBE		*Podiceps nigricollis nigricollis*		1821	2017	0
66		BLACK STORK		*Ciconia nigra*	10	1881	2014	3
67		WHITE STORK		*Ciconia ciconia ciconia*	44	1842	2016	1
68		GLOSSY IBIS		*Plegadis falcinellus*	48	1872	2017	0
69	A	SPOONBILL	Eurasian Spoonbill	*Platalea leucorodia leucorodia*		1815	2017	0
70	A E X	BITTERN	Eurasian Bittern	*Botaurus stellaris stellaris*		1820	2017	0
71		AMERICAN BITTERN		*Botaurus lentiginosus*	1	1826	1826	191
72		LITTLE BITTERN		*Ixobrychus minutus minutus*	13	1835	1970	47
73		NIGHT HERON	Black-crowned Night Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*	19	1839	2017	0
74		SQUACCO HERON		*Ardeola ralloides*	1	2004	2004	13
75		CATTLE EGRET	Western Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	28	1995	2017	0
76		GREY HERON		*Ardea cinerea cinerea*		1594	2017	0
77		PURPLE HERON		*Ardea purpurea purpurea*	29	1839	2016	1
78		GREAT WHITE EGRET		*Ardea alba alba*		2002	2017	0
79		LITTLE EGRET		*Egretta garzetta garzetta*		1950	2017	0
80	A	GANNET	Northern Gannet	*Morus bassanus*		1830	2017	0
81	R	SHAG	European Shag	*Phalacrocorax aristotelis aristotelis*		1820	2017	0
82		CORMORANT	Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*		1600s	2017	0
		Cormorant		*Phalacrocorax carbo carbo*		1600s	2017	0
		Continental Cormorant		*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*		?	2017	0
83	A	OSPREY	Western Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*		1730	2017	0

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84					EGYPTIAN VULTURE		*Neophron percnopterus percnopterus*	1	1868	1868	149
85		A			HONEY-BUZZARD	European Honey Buzzard	*Pernis apivorus*	369	1837	2017	0
86					SPOTTED EAGLE	Greater Spotted Eagle	*Clanga clanga*	3	1891	1908	109
87					SPARROWHAWK	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	*Accipiter nisus nisus*		1835	2017	0
88					GOSHAWK	Northern Goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis gentilis*	106	1100s	2016	1
89		A		X	MARSH HARRIER	Western Marsh Harrier	*Circus aeruginosus aeruginosus*		1823	2017	0
90	R			X	HEN HARRIER		*Circus cyaneus*		1738	2017	0
91					PALLID HARRIER		*Circus macrourus*	2	1993	2011	6
92		A			MONTAGU'S HARRIER		*Circus pygargus*		1832	2016	1
93					RED KITE		*Milvus milvus milvus*		1768	2017	0
94					BLACK KITE		*Milvus migrans migrans*	31	1971	2016	1
95	R				WHITE-TAILED EAGLE		*Haliaeetus albicilla albicilla*	17	c991	2015	2
96					ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD		*Buteo lagopus lagopus*		1836	2016	1
97					BUZZARD		*Buteo buteo buteo*		1830	2017	0
98					GREAT BUSTARD		*Otis tarda tarda*	2	1879	1890	127
99					LITTLE BUSTARD		*Tetrax tetrax*	12	1823	1969	48
100				X	WATER RAIL		*Rallus aquaticus aquaticus*		1830	2017	0
101	R				CORNCRAKE	Corn Crake	*Crex crex*		1822	2013	4
102					LITTLE CRAKE		*Porzana parva intermedia*	4	1873	1973	44
103					BAILLON'S CRAKE		*Porzana pusilla*	3	1874	2012	5
104		A			SPOTTED CRAKE		*Porzana porzana*	85	1838	2017	0
105					MOORHEN	Common Moorhen	*Gallinula chloropus chloropus*		1863	2017	0
106					COOT	Eurasian Coot	*Fulica atra atra*		1819	2017	0
107		A			CRANE		*Grus grus*	169	1888	2017	0
108		A	E		STONE-CURLEW	Eurasian Stone-curlew	*Burhinus oedicnemus oedicnemus*		1832	2017	0
109		A			OYSTERCATCHER	Eurasian Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*		1730	2017	0
110					BLACK-WINGED STILT		*Himantopus himantopus*	56	1947	2017	0
111		A		X	AVOCET	Pied Avocet	*Recurvirostra avosetta*		1700	2017	0
112	R			X	LAPWING	Northern Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*		1668	2017	0
113					SOCIABLE PLOVER	Sociable Lapwing	*Vanellus gregarious*	4	1976	2005	12
114					WHITE-TAILED PLOVER	White-tailed Lapwing	*Vanellus leucurus*	1	2010	2010	7
115					GOLDEN PLOVER	European Golden Plover	*Pluvialis apricaria*		1845	2017	0
116					PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER		*Pluvialis fulva*	2	1896	2000	17

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117				AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER		*Pluvialis dominica*	3	2004	2017	0
118		■		GREY PLOVER		*Pluvialis squatarola squatarola*		1842	2017	0
119	■			X RINGED PLOVER	Common Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*		1838	2017	0
				Ringed Plover		*Charadrius hiaticula hiaticula*		~	2017	0
				Eurasian Ringed Plover		*Charadrius hiaticula tundrae*		~	2017	0
120				X LITTLE RINGED PLOVER		*Charadrius dubius curonicus*		1947	2017	0
121				KENTISH PLOVER		*Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus*	57	1876	2017	0
122				GREATER SAND PLOVER		*Charadrius leschenaultii**	1	1992	1992	25
123	■			DOTTEREL	Eurasian Dotterel	*Charadrius morinellus*	337	1830	2017	0
124	■			WHIMBREL		*Numenius phaeopus phaeopus*		1819	2017	0
125	■			CURLEW	Eurasian Curlew	*Numenius arquata arquata*		1826	2017	0
126		■		BAR-TAILED GODWIT		*Limosa lapponica lapponica*		1547	2017	0
127	■			BLACK-TAILED GODWIT		*Limosa limosa*		1834	2017	0
				Continental Black-tailed Godwit		*Limosa limosa limosa*	?	2007	2016	1
				Icelandic Black-tailed Godwit		*Limosa limosa islandica*		1834	2017	0
128		■		TURNSTONE	Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres interpres*		1826	2017	0
129		■		KNOT	Red Knot	*Calidris canutus islandica*		1777	2017	0
130	■			RUFF		*Calidris pugnax*		1833	2017	0
131				BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER		*Calidris falcinellus falcinellus*	7	1988	2010	7
132				STILT SANDPIPER		*Calidris himantopus*	1	1973	1973	44
133		■		CURLEW SANDPIPER		*Calidris ferruginea*		1826	2017	0
134				TEMMINCK'S STINT		*Calidris temminckii*	242	1835	2017	0
135		■		SANDERLING		*Calidris alba alba*		1828	2017	0
136		■		DUNLIN		*Calidris alpina*		1824	2017	0
				Scandinavian Dunlin		*Calidris alpina alpina*		~	2017	0
				Greenland Dunlin		*Calidris alpina arctica*		~	2017	0
				West European Dunlin		*Calidris alpina schinzii*		~	2017	0
137		■		PURPLE SANDPIPER		*Calidris maritima*		1833	2017	0
138				BAIRD'S SANDPIPER		*Calidris bairdii*	3	1972	2010	7
139				LITTLE STINT		*Calidris minuta*		1826	2017	0
140				WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER		*Calidris fuscicollis*	11	1964	2011	6

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	R	A	E X				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
141				BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER		*Calidris subruficollis*	16	1975	2007	10
142				PECTORAL SANDPIPER		*Calidris melanotos*	112	1949	2017	0
143				SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER		*Calidris pusilla*	2	2010	2011	6
144				WESTERN SANDPIPER		*Calidris mauri*	1	1973	1973	44
145				LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER		*Limnodromus scolopaceus*	9	1979	2011	6
146	■			WOODCOCK	Eurasian Woodcock	*Scolopax rusticola*		1735	2017	0
147				JACK SNIPE		*Lymnocryptes minimus*		1838	2017	0
148				GREAT SNIPE		*Gallinago media*	21	1825	1989	28
149		■	X	SNIPE		*Gallinago gallinago gallinago*		1735	2017	0
150				TEREK SANDPIPER		*Xenus cinereus*	3	1978	2002	15
151				WILSON'S PHALAROPE		*Phalaropus tricolor*	6	1977	2015	2
152	■			RED-NECKED PHALAROPE		*Phalaropus lobatus*	91	1842	2017	0
153				GREY PHALAROPE	Red Phalarope	*Phalaropus fulicarius*	120	1838	2017	0
154		■		COMMON SANDPIPER		*Actitis hypoleucos*		1819	2017	0
155				SPOTTED SANDPIPER		*Actitis macularius*	7	1978	2011	6
156		■		GREEN SANDPIPER		*Tringa ochropus*		1832	2017	0
157				SOLITARY SANDPIPER		*Tringa solitaria**	2	1967	1974	43
158				LESSER YELLOWLEGS		*Tringa flavipes*	15	1921	2016	1
159		■	X	REDSHANK	Common Redshank	*Tringa totanus*		1826	2017	0
				Common Redshank		*Tringa totanus totanus*		~	2017	0
				Icelandic Redshank		*Tringa totanus robusta*		~	2017	0
160				MARSH SANDPIPER		*Tringa stagnatilis*	11	1956	2015	2
161		■		WOOD SANDPIPER		*Tringa glareola*		1835	2017	0
162		■		SPOTTED REDSHANK		*Tringa erythropus*		1832	2017	0
163		■		GREENSHANK	Common Greenshank	*Tringa nebularia*		1738	2017	0
164				GREATER YELLOWLEGS		*Tringa melanoleuca*	2	1949	1995	22
165				CREAM-COLOURED COURSER	Cream-colored Courser	*Cursorius cursor cursor*	2	1858	1984	33
166				COLLARED PRATINCOLE		*Glareola pratincola pratincola*	3	1861	2005	12
167				ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE §		*Glareola maldivarum*	1	1981	1981	36
168				BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE		*Glareola nordmanni*	1	1960	1960	57
169	■			KITTIWAKE	Black-legged Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla tridactyla*		1835	2017	0
170				SABINE'S GULL		*Xema sabini*	150	1862	2017	0
171				BONAPARTE'S GULL		*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*	5	1994	2017	0
172		■		BLACK-HEADED-GULL		*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*		1662	2017	0
173				LITTLE GULL		*Hydrocoloeus minutus*		1845	2017	0
174				LAUGHING GULL		*Leucophaeus atricilla**	3	1974	2017	0

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175				FRANKLIN'S GULL		*Leucophaeus pipixcan*	3	2000	2016	1
176				MEDITERRANEAN GULL §		*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*		1866	2017	0
177				COMMON GULL	Mew Gull	*Larus canus*		1835	2017	0
				Common Gull		*Larus canus canus*		1835	2017	0
				Russian Common Gull §		*Larus canus heinei*	1	1984	1984	33
178				RING-BILLED GULL		*Larus delawarensis*	30	1979	2012	5
179				GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL		*Larus marinus*		1838	2017	0
180				GLAUCOUS GULL		*Larus hyperboreus hyperboreus*		1885	2017	0
181				ICELAND GULL		*Larus glaucoides*	158	1887	2017	0
				Iceland Gull		*Larus glaucoides glaucoides*	157	1887	2017	0
				Thayer's Gull		*Larus glaucoides thayeri*	1	2010	2010	7
182				HERRING GULL	European Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*		1730	2017	0
				Scandinavian Herring Gull		*Larus argentatus argentatus*		~	2017	0
				West European Herring Gull		*Larus argentatus argenteus*		~	2017	0
183				CASPIAN GULL		*Larus cachinnans*		1995	2017	0
184				YELLOW-LEGGED GULL		*Larus michahellis michahellis*		1973	2017	0
185				SLATY-BACKED GULL §		*Larus schistisagus*	1	2011	2011	6
186				LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL		*Larus fuscus*		1838	2017	0
				Common Lesser Black-backed Gull		*Larus fuscus graelsii*		~	2017	0
				Intermediate Lesser Black-backed Gull		*Larus fuscus intermedius*		~	2017	0
187				GULL-BILLED TERN		*Gelochelidon nilotica nilotica*	6	1901	2003	14
188				CASPIAN TERN		*Hydroprogne caspia*	7	1959	2015	2
189				SANDWICH TERN		*Thalasseus sandvicensis*		1738	2017	0
190			X	LITTLE TERN		*Sternula albifrons*		1820	2017	0
				Little Tern		*Sternula albifrons albifrons*		1820	2017	0
				Least Tern §		*Sternula antillarum*	1	1991	1991	26
191				BRIDLED TERN		*Onychoprion anaethetus**	2	1991	2006	11
192				ROSEATE TERN		*Sterna dougallii dougallii*	47	1973	2016	1
193				COMMON TERN		*Sterna hirundo hirundo*		1821	2017	0
194				ARCTIC TERN		*Sterna paradisaea*		1867	2017	0
195				FORSTER'S TERN		*Sterna forsteri*	2	1999	2016	1
196				WHISKERED TERN		*Chlidonias hybrida hybrida*	5	1967	2009	8
197				WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN	White-winged Tern	*Chlidonias leucopterus*	67	1912	2017	0

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198				BLACK TERN		*Chlidonias niger niger*			1829	2017	0
199		A		GREAT SKUA		*Stercorarius skua*			1820	2017	0
200				POMARINE SKUA	Pomarine Jaeger	*Stercorarius pomarinus*			1828	2017	0
201	R			ARCTIC SKUA	Parasitic Jaeger	*Stercorarius parasiticus*			1837	2017	0
202				LONG-TAILED SKUA	Long-tailed Jaeger	*Stercorarius longicaudus*		196	1842	2017	0
203				LITTLE AUK		*Alle alle alle*			1832	2017	0
204		A		COMMON GUILLEMOT	Common Murre	*Uria aalge*			1861	2017	0
				Scandinavian Guillemot		*Uria aalge aalge*			~	2017	0
				West European Guillemot		*Uria aalge albionis*			~	2017	0
205		A		RAZORBILL		*Alca torda islandica*			1840	2017	0
206		A		BLACK GUILLEMOT		*Cepphus grille arcticus*		10	1869	1995	22
207	R			PUFFIN	Atlantic Puffin	*Fratercula arctica*		122	1842	2015	2
208				PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE		*Syrrhaptes paradoxus*		90	1863	1908	109
209				ROCK DOVE/FERAL PIGEON		*Columba livia livia*			1886	2017	0
210		A		STOCK DOVE		*Columba oenas oenas*			1838	2017	0
211				WOODPIGEON	Common Wood Pigeon	*Columba palumbus palumbus*			1843	2017	0
212	R		X	TURTLE DOVE	European Turtle Dove	*Streptopelia turtur turtur*			1818	2017	0
213				COLLARED DOVE	Eurasian Collared Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto decaocto*			1957	2017	0
214	R			CUCKOO	Common Cuckoo	*Cuculus canorus canorus*			1818	2017	0
215			X	BARN OWL	Western Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*			~	2017	0
				Barn Owl		*Tyto alba alba*			1738	2017	0
				Dark-breasted Barn Owl		*Tyto alba guttata*		10	1843	2002	15
216				SCOPS OWL		*Otus scops scops*		3	1821	1888	129
217				SNOWY OWL		*Bubo scandiacus*		2	1963	2014	3
218		A		TAWNY OWL		*Strix aluco sylvatica*			1832	2017	0
219				LITTLE OWL		*Athene noctua viladii*			1865	2017	0
220				TENGMALM'S OWL	Boreal Owl	*Aegolius funereus funereus*		1	1877	1877	140
221			X	LONG-EARED OWL		*Asio otus otus*			1829	2017	0
222		A	X	SHORT-EARED OWL		*Asio flammeus flammeus*			1587	2017	0
223		A		NIGHTJAR	European Nightjar	*Caprimulgus europaeus europaeus*			1738	2014	3
224				WHITE-THROATED NEEDLETAIL §		*Hirundapus caudacutus caudacutus*		1	1846	1846	171
225				ALPINE SWIFT		*Tachymarptis melba melba*		25	1871	2017	0
226		A		SWIFT	Common Swift	*Apus apus apus*			1818	2017	0
227				PALLID SWIFT		*Apus pallidus**		1	2001	2001	16

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228				ROLLER	European Roller	*Coracias garrulus garrulus*	4	1865	1976	41
229		A		KINGFISHER	Common Kingfisher	*Alcedo atthis ispida*		1838	2017	0
230				BEE-EATER	European Bee-eater	*Merops apiaster*	58	1854	2016	1
231				HOOPOE	Eurasian Hoopoe	*Upupa epops epops*	222	1667	2016	1
232				WRYNECK	Eurasian Wryneck	*Jynx torquilla torquilla*		1818	2016	1
233	R			LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER		*Dryobates minor comminutus*		1830	2017	0
234				GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER		*Dendrocopos major anglicus*		1832	2017	0
235				GREEN WOODPECKER	European Green Woodpecker	*Picus viridis viridis*		1838	2017	0
236				LESSER KESTREL		*Falco naumanni*	1	1974	1974	43
237		A		KESTREL	Common Kestrel	*Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus*		1890	2017	0
238				RED-FOOTED FALCON		*Falco vespertinus*	33	1873	2016	1
239				ELEONORA'S FALCON		*Falco eleonorae*	1	2008	2008	9
240	R		X	MERLIN		*Falco columbarius aesalon*		1829	2017	0
241			X	HOBBY	Eurasian Hobby	*Falco subbuteo subbuteo*		1818	2017	0
242				PEREGRINE	Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus peregrinus*		1823	2017	0
243				RING-NECKED PARAKEET	Rose-ringed Parakeet	*Psittacula krameri*		1971	2017	0
				Asian Ring-necked Parakeet		*Psittacula krameri borealis*		~	2017	0
				Indian Ring-necked Parakeet		*Psittacula krameri manillensis*		~	2017	0
244	R			RED-BACKED SHRIKE		*Lanius collurio*		1818	2017	0
245				ISABELLINE SHRIKE		*Lanius isabellinus*	2	1988	2016	1
246				LESSER GREY SHRIKE		*Lanius minor*	3	1989	2008	9
247				GREAT GREY SHRIKE		*Lanius excubitor excubitor*		1827	2017	0
248				STEPPE GREY SHRIKE		*Lanius pallidirostris*	2	1994	1996	21
249				WOODCHAT SHRIKE		*Lanius senator senator*	23	1872	2016	1
250	R			GOLDEN ORIOLE	Eurasian Golden Oriole	*Oriolus oriolus*		1830	2016	1
251				JAY	Eurasian Jay	*Garrulus glandarius rufitergum*		1878	2017	0
252				MAGPIE	Eurasian Magpie	*Pica pica pica*		1838	2017	0
253				NUTCRACKER	Spotted Nutcracker	*Nucifraga caryocatactes macrorynchos*	26	1855	1968	49
254				CHOUGH	Red-billed Chough	*Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*	2	1888	1888	129
255				JACKDAW	Western Jackdaw	*Coloeus monedula*		1857	2017	0
				Jackdaw		*Coloeus monedula monedula*		1857	2017	0

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				Nordic Jackdaw		*Coloeus monedula spermologus*	?	2006	2017	0
256				ROOK		*Corvus frugilegus frugilegus*		1838	2017	0
257				CARRION CROW		*Corvus corone corone*		1835	2017	0
258				HOODED CROW		*Corvus cornix cornix*		1835	2017	0
259				RAVEN	Northern Raven	*Corvus corax corax*		c991	2017	0
260				WAXWING	Bohemian Waxwing	*Bombycilla garrulus garrulus*		1835	2017	0
261				COAL TIT		*Periparus ater*		1890	2017	0
				Coal Tit		*Periparus ater britannicus*		1890	2017	0
				Continental Coal Tit		*Periparus ater ater*	?	1952	2017	0
262				CRESTED TIT	European Crested Tit	*Lophophanes cristatus**	4	1829	1844	173
263	■			MARSH TIT		*Poecile palustris dresseri*		1890	2017	0
264	■			WILLOW TIT		*Poecile montanus kleinschmidti*		1912	2005	12
265				BLUE TIT	Eurasian Blue Tit	*Cyanistes caeruleus obscurus*		1884	2017	0
266				GREAT TIT		*Parus major*		1890	2017	0
				British Great Tit		*Parus major newtoni*		~	2017	0
				Eurasian Great Tit		*Parus major major*		~	2017	0
267				PENDULINE TIT	Eurasian Penduline Tit	*Remiz pendulinus pendulinus*	16	1982	2016	1
268				BEARDED TIT	Bearded Reedling	*Panurus biarmicus biarmicus*		1738	2017	0
269				WOODLARK		*Lullula arborea arborea*		1832	2017	0
270	■			SKYLARK	Eurasian Skylark	*Alauda arvensis arvensis*		1865	2017	0
271		■		SHORE LARK	Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris flava*		1862	2017	0
272				SHORT-TOED LARK	Greater Short-toed Lark	*Calandrella brachydactyla**	3	1965	1999	18
273				SAND MARTIN		*Riparia riparia riparia*		1818	2017	0
274				SWALLOW	Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica rustica*		1818	2017	0
275		■		HOUSE MARTIN	Common House Martin	*Delichon urbicum urbicum*		1818	2017	0
276				RED-RUMPED SWALLOW		*Cecropis daurica rufula*	25	1969	2017	0
277				CETTI'S WARBLER		*Cettia cetti cetti*		1976	2017	0
278				LONG-TAILED TIT		*Aegithalos caudatus*		1854	2017	0
				British Long-tailed Tit		*Aegithalos caudatus rosaceus*		1854	2017	0
				Northern Long-tailed Tit		*Aegithalos caudatus caudatus*	6	1912	2004	13
279	■			WOOD WARBLER		*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*		1821	2017	0
280				BONELLI'S WARBLER sp.		*Phylloscopus bonelli/ orientalis*	1	1988	1988	29

	Cons. status			English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	*Latin Name*	Essex Records to 2017			
	R	A	E	X				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
281				HUME'S WARBLER	Hume's Leaf Warbler	*Phylloscopus humei humei*	1	2004	2004	13
282				YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER		*Phylloscopus inornatus*		1957	2017	0
283				PALLAS'S WARBLER	Pallas's Leaf Warbler	*Phylloscopus proregulus*	54	1960	2017	0
284				RADDE'S WARBLER		*Phylloscopus schwarzi*	3	2000	2008	9
285				DUSKY WARBLER		*Phylloscopus fuscatus fuscatus*	7	1987	2016	1
286				WILLOW WARBLER		*Phylloscopus trochilus*		1818	2017	0
				European Willow Warbler		*Phylloscopus trochilus trochilus*		~	2017	0
				Eurasian Willow Warbler		*Phylloscopus trochilus acredula*		~	2017	0
287				CHIFFCHAFF	Common Chiffchaff	*Phylloscopus collybita*		1818	2017	0
				Common Chiffchaff		*Phylloscopus collybita collybita*		1818	2017	0
				Siberian Chiffchaff		*Phylloscopus collybita tristis*	?	1987	2017	0
288				GREENISH WARBLER		*Phylloscopus trochiloides viridanus*	4	1983	2017	0
289				ARCTIC WARBLER		*Phylloscopus borealis*	1	2004	2004	13
290				GREAT REED WARBLER		*Acrocephalus arundinaceus arundinaceus*	3	1965	2004	13
291				AQUATIC WARBLER		*Acrocephalus paludicola*	9	1957	2008	9
292				SEDGE WARBLER		*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*		1818	2017	0
293				PADDYFIELD WARBLER		*Acrocephalus agricola**	2	1987	1999	18
294				BLYTH'S REED WARBLER		*Acrocephalus dumetorum*	3	2003	2014	3
295				REED WARBLER	Eurasian Reed Warbler	*Acrocephalus scirpaceus scirpaceus*		1819	2017	0
296			X	MARSH WARBLER		*Acrocephalus palustris*	36	1983	2017	0
297				BOOTED WARBLER		*Iduna caligata*	1	2006	2006	11
298				MELODIOUS WARBLER		*Hippolais polyglotta*	10	1961	2012	5
299				ICTERINE WARBLER		*Hippolais icterina*	26	1962	2009	8
300			X	GRASSHOPPER WARBLER		*Locustella naevia naevia*		1819	2017	0
301				SAVI'S WARBLER		*Locustella luscinioides luscinioides*	5	1981	2011	6
302				BLACKCAP		*Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla*		1818	2017	0
303				GARDEN WARBLER		*Sylvia borin borin*		1819	2017	0
304				BARRED WARBLER		*Sylvia nisoria nisoria*	59	1961	2016	1
305				LESSER WHITETHROAT		*Sylvia curruca curruca*		1819	2017	0
306				ASIAN DESERT WARBLER		*Sylvia nana*	1	1975	1975	42
307				WHITETHROAT		*Sylvia communis communis*		1818	2017	0

	Cons. status			English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	*Latin Name*	Essex Records to 2017			
	R	A	E X				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
308				DARTFORD WARBLER		*Sylvia undata dartfordiensis*	108	1837	2017	0
309				SUBALPINE or MOLTONI'S WARBLER		*Sylvia cantillans/ subalpina*	12	1971	2016	1
310			X	FIRECREST	Common Firecrest	*Regulus ignicapilla ignicapilla*		1878	2017	0
311				GOLDCREST		*Regulus regulus regulus*		1738	2017	0
312				WREN	Eurasian Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus*		1874	2017	0
313				NUTHATCH	Eurasian Nuthatch	*Sitta europaea caesia*		1838	2017	0
314				TREECREEPER	Eurasian Treecreeper	*Certhia familiaris britannica*		1835	2017	0
315				SHORT-TOED TREECREEPER		*Certhia brachydactyla**	2	1975	2006	11
316				NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD		*Mimus polyglottos**	1	1988	1988	29
317				ROSE-COLOURED STARLING	Rosy Starling	*Pastor roseus*	18	1856	2015	2
318				STARLING	Common Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris vulgaris*		1832	2017	0
319				WHITE'S THRUSH		*Zoothera aurea aurea*	1	1894	1894	123
320				RING OUZEL		*Turdus torquatus torquatus*		1831	2017	0
321				BLACKBIRD	Common Blackbird	*Turdus merula merula*		1735	2017	0
322				RED-THROATED THRUSH		*Turdus ruficollis*	1	1994	1994	23
323				NAUMANN'S THRUSH §		*Turdus naumanni*	2	1990	1997	20
324				FIELDFARE		*Turdus pilaris*		1834	2017	0
325				REDWING		*Turdus iliacus iliacus*		1831	2017	0
326			E X	SONG THRUSH		*Turdus philomelos*		1676	2017	0
				West European Song Thrush		*Turdus philomelos clarkei*		~	2017	0
				Continental Song Thrush		*Turdus philomelos philomelos*		~	2017	0
327				MISTLE THRUSH		*Turdus viscivorus viscivorus*		1890	2017	0
328			X	SPOTTED FLYCATCHER		*Muscicapa striata striata*		1818	2017	0
329				ROBIN	European Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*		1838	2017	0
				British Robin		*Erithacus rubecula melophilus*		~	2017	0
				European Robin		*Erithacus rubecula rubecula*		~	2017	0
330				BLUETHROAT		*Luscinia svecica*	50	1936	2017	0
				Red-spotted Bluethroat		*Luscinia svecica svecica*	6	1957	2002	15
				White-spotted Bluethroat		*Luscinia svecica cyanecula*	14	1958	2013	4
331			X	NIGHTINGALE	Common Nightingale	*Luscinia megarhynchos megarhynchos*		1768	2017	0
332				PIED FLYCATCHER	European Pied Flycatcher	*Ficedula hypoleuca hypoleuca*		1822	2017	0

	Cons. status			English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	*Latin Name*	Essex Records to 2017			
	R	A	E	X				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
333					COLLARED FLYCATCHER		*Ficedula albicollis*	1	1979	1979	38
334					RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER		*Ficedula parva*	32	1959	2017	0
335	R			X	BLACK REDSTART		*Phoenicurus ochruros gibraltariensis*		1879	2017	0
336		A			REDSTART	Common Redstart	*Phoenicurus phoenicurus phoenicurus*		1818	2017	0
337	R				WHINCHAT		*Saxicola rubetra*		1819	2017	0
338				X	STONECHAT	European Stonechat	*Saxicola rubicola hibernans*		1831	2017	0
339					SIBERIAN STONECHAT		*Saxicola maurus**	4	1984	2012	5
340					WHEATEAR	Northern Wheatear	*Oenanthe oenanthe*		1819	2017	0
					Northern Wheatear		*Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe*		1819	2017	0
					Greenland Wheatear		*Oenanthe oenanthe leucorrhoa*		1952	2017	0
341					DESERT WHEATEAR		*Oenanthe deserti**	3	1958	2012	5
342					BLACK-EARED WHEATEAR		*Oenanthe hispanica**	2	1989	1997	20
343		A			DIPPER	White-throated Dipper	*Cinclus cinclus*	15	1830	2013	4
					Black-bellied Dipper		*Cinclus cinclus cinclus*	3	1950	2013	4
344	R				HOUSE SPARROW		*Passer domesticus domesticus*		1808	2017	0
345	R			X	TREE SPARROW	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	*Passer montanus montanus*		1833	2017	0
346					ALPINE ACCENTOR §		*Prunella collaris collaris*	1	1817	1817	200
347					DUNNOCK		*Prunella modularis modularis*		1890	2016	1
348	R			X	YELLOW WAGTAIL	Western Yellow Wagtail	*Motacilla flava*		1820	2017	0
					Yellow Wagtail		*Motacilla flava flavissima*		1820	2017	0
					Blue-headed Wagtail §		*Motacilla flava flava*		1834	2017	0
					Grey-headed Wagtail		*Motacilla flava thunbergi*	17	1954	2012	5
					Channel Wagtail hybrid		*Motacilla flava flava x flavissima*		1999	2016	1
349					CITRINE WAGTAIL		*Motacilla citreola citreola*	3	1976	2006	11
350	R				GREY WAGTAIL		*Motacilla cinerea cinerea*		1831	2017	0
351					PIED WAGTAIL	White Wagtail	*Motacilla alba*		1876	2017	0
					Pied Wagtail		*Motacilla alba yarrellii*		1876	2017	0
					White Wagtail		*Motacilla alba alba*		1836	2017	0
352					RICHARD'S PIPIT		*Anthus richardi*	30	1968	2016	1
353					TAWNY PIPIT		*Anthus campestris*	16	1951	2012	5

	Cons. status			English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	*Latin Name*	Essex Records to 2017			
	R	A	E	X				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
354		A			MEADOW PIPIT		*Anthus pratensis*		1838	2017	0
355	R			X	TREE PIPIT		*Anthus trivialis trivialis*		1818	2017	0
356					OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT		*Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis*	4	1992	2013	4
357					RED-THROATED PIPIT		*Anthus cervinus*	5	1982	1994	23
358					WATER PIPIT		*Anthus spinoletta spinoletta*		1923	2017	0
359					ROCK PIPIT	Eurasian Rock Pipit	*Anthus petrosus littoralis*		1835	2017	0
360					CHAFFINCH	Common Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*		1732	2017	0
					British Chaffinch		*Fringilla coelebs coelebs*		~	2017	0
					European Chaffinch		*Fringilla coelebs gengleri*		~	2017	0
361					BRAMBLING		*Fringilla montifringilla*		1835	2017	0
362	R			X	HAWFINCH		*Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes*		1600s	2017	0
363		A		X	BULLFINCH	Eurasian Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula		1838	2017	0
					Bullfinch		*Pyrrhula pyrrhula pileata*		1838	2017	0
					Northern Bullfinch		*Pyrrhula pyrrhula pyrrhula*	40	2004	2005	12
364					TRUMPETER FINCH		*Bucanetes githagineus**	1	1985	1985	32
365					COMMON ROSEFINCH		*Carpodacus erythrinus erythrinus*	18	1981	2016	1
366					GREENFINCH	European Greenfinch	*Chloris chloris chloris*		1871	2017	0
367	R				TWITE		*Linaria flavirostris*		1820	2017	0
					British Twite		*Linaria flavirostris flavirostris*		~	2017	0
					Scandinavian Twite		*Linaria flavirostris pipilans*		~	2017	0
368	R			X	LINNET	Common Linnet	*Linaria cannabina cannabina*		1832	2017	0
369		A			COMMON REDPOLL		*Acanthis flammea flammea*	38	1835	2017	0
370	R			X	LESSER REDPOLL		*Acanthis cabaret*		c1805	2017	0
371					ARCTIC REDPOLL		*Acanthis hornemanni exilipes*	11	1976	2008	9
372					PARROT CROSSBILL		*Loxia pytyopsittacus*	7	1861	2013	4
373					CROSSBILL	Red Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra curvirostra*		1826	2016	1
374					TWO-BARRED CROSSBILL		*Loxia leucoptera bifasciata*	2	1846	1866	151
375					GOLDFINCH	European Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis britannica*		1838	2017	0
376					SERIN	European Serin	*Serinus serinus*	31	1976	2017	0
377					SISKIN	Eurasian Siskin	*Spinus spinus*		1838	2017	0

	Cons. status			English Name	IOC: World Bird List Name	*Latin Name*	Essex Records to 2017			
	R	A	E	X				Nos	First	Last	Years since last record
378					LAPLAND BUNTING	Lapland Longspur	*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*		1872	2017	0
379					SNOW BUNTING		*Plectrophenax nivalis insulae*		1830	2017	0
380				X	CORN BUNTING		*Emberiza calandra calandra*		1838	2017	0
381				X	YELLOWHAMMER		*Emberiza citrinella caliginosa*		1877	2017	0
382					PINE BUNTING		*Emberiza leucocephalos leucocephalos*	1	1992	1992	25
383					ORTOLAN BUNTING		*Emberiza hortulana*	29	1908	2016	1
384					CIRL BUNTING		*Emberiza cirlus*	18	1854	1978	39
385					LITTLE BUNTING		*Emberiza pusilla*	6	1892	1995	22
386					RUSTIC BUNTING		*Emberiza rustica*	1	1966	1966	51
387					YELLOW-BREASTED BUNTING		*Emberiza aureola aureola*	1	2002	2002	15
388					BLACK-HEADED BUNTING		*Emberiza melanocephala*	3	1979	1998	19
389				X	REED BUNTING	Common Reed Bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus schoeniclus*		1890	2017	0
390					DARK-EYED JUNCO		*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*	1	2016	2016	1
391					BALTIMORE ORIOLE		*Icterus galbula*	1	1992	1992	25
392					ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK		*Pheucticus ludovicianus*	1	1975	1975	42

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	1
ROSS'S GOOSE	*Anser rossii*	9	1996	2015	2
RUDDY SHELDUCK	*Tadorna ferruginea*	126	1885	2017	0
WOOD DUCK	*Aix sponsa*	73	1960	2017	0
FALCATED DUCK	*Mareca falcata*	3	1994	2006	11
MARBLED DUCK	*Marmaronetta angustirostris*	2	2006	2007	10
WHITE-HEADED DUCK	*Oxyura leucocephala*	3	1995	2003	14
GREATER FLAMINGO	Phoenicopterus roseus	8	1963	2011	6
GREAT WHITE PELICAN	*Pelecanus onocrotalus*	4	1975	2000	17
SAKER	*Falco cherrug*	12	1984	2014	3
RED-HEADED BUNTING	*Emberiza bruniceps*	5	1958	2002	15

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	White-cheeked Pintail	Crowned Crane sp.
Red-winged Tinamou	Red-billed Teal	Sarus Crane
Magpie Goose	Yellow-billed Teal	Demoiselle Crane
White-faced Whistling Duck	Chestnut Teal	Spur-winged Plover
Black-bellied Whistling Duck	Brown Teal	Masked Lapwing
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Rosy-billed Pochard	Silver Gull
White-backed Duck	New Zealand Scaup	African Collared Dove
Red-breasted Goose	Barrow's Goldeneye	Red Turtle Dove
Nene	Hooded Merganser	Laughing Dove
Cackling Goose	Helmeted Guineafowl	Diamond Dove
Bar-headed Goose	Northern Bobwhite	White-cheeked Turaco
Emperor Goose	California Quail	Eurasian Eagle Owl
Swan Goose	Red Grouse	Rock Eagle Owl
Lesser White-fronted Goose	Chukar Partridge	Cockatiel
Black Swan	Japanese Quail	Galah
Black-necked Swan	Silver Pheasant	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Trumpeter Swan	Swinhoe's Pheasant	Grey Parrot
Ruddy-headed Goose	Reeves's Pheasant	Senegal Parrot
South African Shelduck	Golden Pheasant	Monk Parakeet
Australian Shelduck	Indian Peafowl	White-fronted Parakeet
Pink-eared Duck	Chilean Flamingo	Turquoise-fronted Amazon
Muscovy Duck	Marabou Stork	Burrowing Parrot
Maned Duck	African Sacred Ibis	Nanday Parakeet
Ringed Teal	American White Ibis	Scarlet-fronted Parakeet
Hottentot Teal	African Spoonbill	Mitred Parakeet
Puna Teal	Dalmatian Pelican	Blossom-headed Parakeet
Silver Teal	American Black Vulture	Alexandrine Parakeet
Red Shoveler	Booted Eagle	Red-rumped Parrot
Cinnamon Teal	Harris's Hawk	Crimson Rosella
Blue-winged Teal	Red-tailed Hawk	Eastern Rosella
Australian Shoveler	Common Buzzard	Red-flanked Lorikeet
Chiloe Wigeon	Black Kite	Budgerigar
Cape Teal	Purple Swamphen	

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 2017

Receipts	£
Subscriptions received	9,353
C.A.F	20
Donations	1,030
Gift Aid/Net Covenants received	4,927
Sales of *Essex Bird Reports*	122
Sales of *Essex Birding*	17
Book sales	0
Essex Field Club fees	4,836
Sales of *Birds of Essex*	0
Conferences	490
Victuals	140
Raffles	23
Field Meetings	4,468
Advertising	148
DVD Sales	0
Swift boxes	25
Calendars	0
G W Johnson fee	0
Sales of Essex Breeding Atlas	0
Car Stickers	0
Mugs	45
Swinton Insurance	76
Bank interest	3
	25,723

Payments	£
Postage and incidentals	
Officers' expenses	107
	107
Lectures	
Fees and films	679
Hire of rooms	312
	991
Publications	
Essex Birds	
No. 129	2,875
No. 130	2,948
Essex Bird Report	
2014	5,100
	10,923
Other expenses	
Fixture cards	134
Field trips	3,880
Conference expenses	26
Victuals	29
Bradwell Bird Obs - Tea	30
Bradwell Bird Obs - Bird Seed	1,083
Bradwell Bird Obs - Calor Gas	63
Bradwell Bird Obs - Rates	158
Bradwell Bird Obs - Roofing repairs	0
Bradwell Bird Obs - Elsan fluid	0
Swift boxes	229
Donations	0
Mugs	0
DVDs	37
Photo prizes	150
Raffle tickets	90
RSPB Stand	5
Feather Flags	0
Insurance	503
Accountancy fees	398
Website	60
Photocopying	32
Projector Screen	309
	7,216
Excess of income over Expenditure	6,486
	25,723

Essex Birdwatching Society

Cash Statement for the year ended 31st December 2017

1st January 2016	£
Balance of Current Account brought forward	6,187
Balance of Business Base Rate Tracker Investment Account brought forward	201
Balance on Business Saver Account brought forward	39,096
Balance on Field Meetings Cash Float brought forward	60
Balance on Bradwell Bird Observatory Account brought forward	1,005
	46,549
Excess of income over expenditure	6,486
	£53,035

31st December 2016	£
Balance of Current Account carried forward	6,974
Balance of Business Premium Account **7724 carried forward	19,100
Balance of Business Premium Account **0696 carried forward	201
Balance on Metro Bank Account carried forward	25,000
Balance on Field Meetings Cash Float carried forward	60
Balance on Bradwell Bird Observatory Account carried forward	1,700
	£53,035

Connah Goldsworthy
Chartered Certified Accountants
12 Station Court
Station Approach
Wickford
Essex SS11 7AT

January 2018

Reservoir Permit Holders 2019/20

The Essex & Suffolk Water Company, in conjunction with English Nature, has over recent years restricted access to Essex Birdwatching Society members at both Abberton and Hanningfield Reservoirs.

Abberton Reservoir

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. Society members and the public are requested to strictly observe any signage regarding access restrictions at all times on any part of the site.

Hanningfield Reservoir

There are up to ten, non-transferable, permanent permit holders, plus four "floating" day permits held at the Essex Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre. Essex Birdwatching Society 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 Essex Birdwatching Society member to accompany the permanent permit holder in restricted areas, as long as the current Essex and Suffolk Water Terms and Conditions are observed at all times by all parties.

The issuing of these permits by Essex and Suffolk Water to the advised chosen Essex Birdwatching Society 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 Essex and Suffolk Water for the permits, which are monitored annually by the Essex Birdwatching Society and Essex and Suffolk Water.

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 Essex Birdwatching Society Recorder, unless there are 'special' mitigating circumstances.

It is mandatory for the holders of all types of permit to:

- Note and observe the current Essex and Suffolk Water Terms and Conditions
- Notify the Hanningfield Control Room (01245-400132) when you enter and leave the site
- Notify the Essex Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre of any bird sightings
- Send their bird sightings to the Society

The following hold permanent, non-transferable, permits for Hanningfield Reservoir:
D. Acfield, G.R. Ekins, D. Jobbins, S. Satchell, S. Shippey, G. Snowden, W. Swift, J. Tayler, R. Widgery.

Special access conditions have been negotiated with Essex and Suffolk Water and Essex Wildlife Trust if a rarity should be present on either Abberton or Hanningfield Reservoirs.

The ESSEX BIRDWATCHING SOCIETY

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