

HOC News - May 2026

The quarterly news for
Herefordshire birds

Buzzard - Croft – Bob North

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Goshawk – Gloucestershire -Mick Colquhoun

Editors Notes

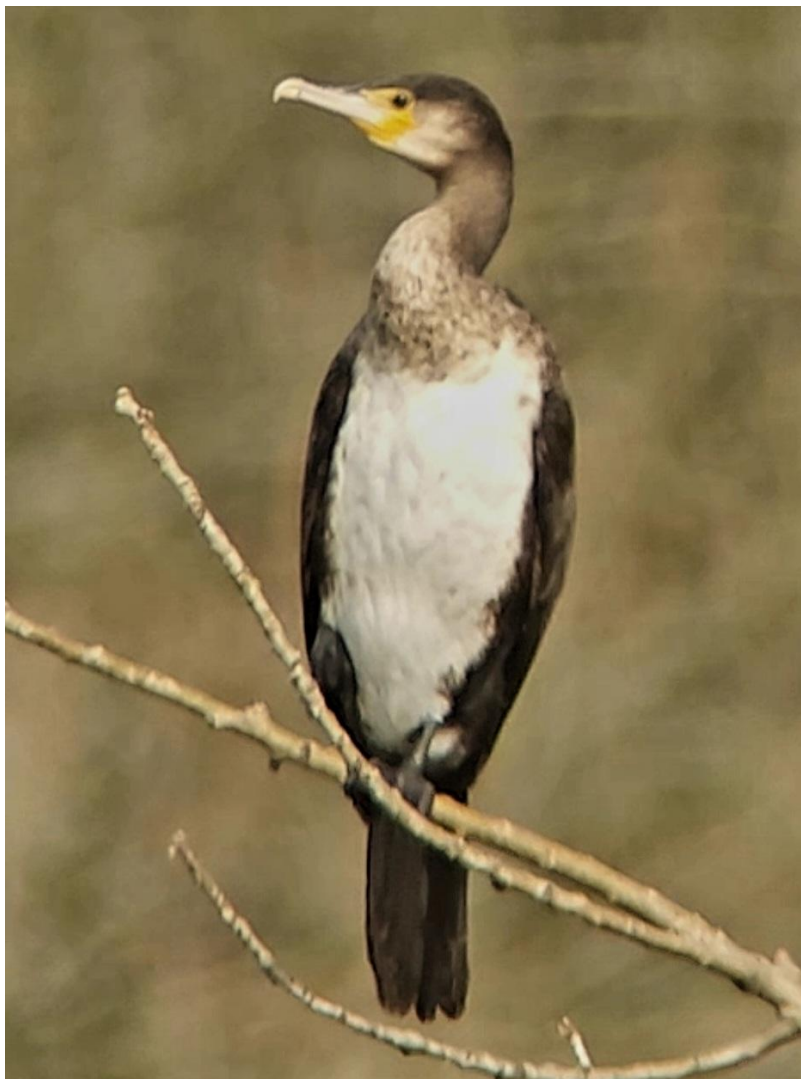
Hello ,welcome to Spring with Summer temperatures in mid-March, what a topsy world after snow not long ago ! Birds are preparing nests, in my case Blue Tits in a nestbox and Robins & Dunnocks in the hedge. Also had a grandstand view of over 20 frogs mating furiously in my pond generating a huge amount of spawn to be gobbled up by newts also spotted. On the 31st of March I had my first confirmed sightings of Sand Martins & Swallows on the River Lugg , with a bonus sighting of a Dipper flying away.

Spring in full swing now , no Martins or Swallows in the garden unfortunately but do seem to be getting a regular pair of Greenfinches which is surprising as for the last 4 years they have been uncommon. I seem to be getting more Song

Thrushes & Sparrowhawks which again I get very infrequently. It appears there are fledging Sparrows Robins and Blackbirds jumping around my garden.

It's wonderful to go out and hear 7 types warblers at Wellington all in full throttle in 30 mins , only the Garden warbler evaded the binoculars. However Hirundines seem to be very sparse which is concerning. I'm still waiting to hear the elusive Cuckoo ,which many others seem to have heard and also jealous of the Osprey sightings in the county. A friend was lucky to see an Osprey taking a fish down on the Newport Levels , despite the presence of a noisy child !

I have another contributor to my new thread "My Local Patch" and I hope it encourages other members to contribute, as we all have a favoured area and sometimes surprises in a familiar area are just as welcome as travelling far and wide for that special bird. I would like to thank the contributors to this newsletter, I'm always surprised by the great photos even of common species , keep them coming.



Cormorant -Brockhall- Nick Pegler

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

As spring arrives, we look forward to welcoming our summer visitors back, that first Swallow or hearing the call of the Cuckoo is something that all birders and wildlife lovers look forward to, as we know the longer warmer days are on their way. The very wet winter put a lot of water into the Lugg valley and as a result gave many records of interesting birds, a very good area just as the water levels start to subside, and great to hear the Curlew again!

The club has been involved in a few promotional events, we were invited to meet Ellie Chowns MP North Herefordshire (see photos) on her venture through the River Lugg valley, members of the committee met with Ellie at Leominster to discuss what the club does and our concerns with river conditions and birds, she was very interested in our activities and managed to do a bit of birding along the Kenwater and Lugg, Mike Bound pointing out a Grey Wagtail to Ellie along the Lugg by the level crossing area.



Another event the HOC took part in was joining up with the Ledbury Community Hub Youth Spaces Project, we were invited to meet the group on a canoe trip along the Wye at Wye Dean on the 30th March to include birdwatching on the trip, we are lucky in that we have an expert in river navigation in David Allen our Annual Report Editor, who with his daughter accompanied the group down the Wye.

At the AGM on the 17th March, we honoured our two retiring Presidents John Pullen and Susanna Grunsell (Vice) who have been a font of knowledge and have been of great support for the committee and Club, we wish them all the best for the future. Another important member is stepping down Stephanie

Greenwood who was our events Secretary and will be sadly missed, I would like to express the Clubs thanks to Stephanie for all her hard work in this role.

At the AGM we managed to fill most of the vacant positions, we welcome Mervyn Davies who will be the new Club President and Mick Colquhoun has taken the Vice Presidents position, both have vast knowledge of the HOC and will be of great support for the committee. Another post filled is Vice Chair and Sue Griffin has taken this position and will be a great addition with her wildlife expertise, we have also fallen on our feet with Trevor Hulme who is also joining the committee as an Ordinary Member, no introduction needed as we all know of Trevor's past experience in all matters wildlife, a big welcome to the new committee members. We have a really strong committee and I look forward to working with them.

The HOC's Nick Smith Award this year had a joint winner! This went to Ann Wilkinson and Frances Riddell, you will always see these ladies at our indoor events, taking the entrance fees and organising the raffle, Ann also plays a big part in the annual Garden Bird Watch scheme, congratulations to Ann and Frances and thank you for all you do.

Finally, we have secured a new venue for the indoor meetings starting in September, we have got our Thursday evenings back and the facility has use of the kitchen and plenty of parking, the new venue is St Pauls Community Hall Tupsley HR1 1RT.

I will send the dates through once we have confirmed the speakers and event type. My apologies for the long "Chairs notes" but as you can see a lot happening.

Terry

Terry Downes

Chair HOC

Terrybirds59@gmail.com



Treecreeper –Bircher- Kieth Smith

Field Reports for April Newsletter 2026

10th February 2026 - Docklow Pools

Nineteen members braved recent flooding to visit Docklow Pools near Leominster. This was a new site for HOC and is best described as 'hybrid.' The site comprising 110 acres was established as a fishing venue 1972 – an early foray into farm diversification. The owners are working towards establishing a woodland wildlife trail alongside the fishery and have planted several acres of mixed woodland to encourage a variety of species.

The walk followed their woodland trail which took in the new plantings, some old woodland, the old Bromyard to Leominster railway track, flooded at this time, and the fishing pools. Members' identification skills were challenged by a 'resting' heron which turned out to be a very life-like model! The trail also included some ancient oaks, of interest to some members who were happy to measure their girth for recording purposes.

The site is treading a fine line between being commercially attractive and family friendly while maintaining conservation integrity. Hence we encountered a few model owls on the trail. It will be interesting to see how the site develops with the new plantings.

Despite it being a dreary winter day, we did manage to clock up **33 species**. The meeting finished with an enjoyable lunch at the Fisherman's Arms – the restaurant attached to the site.

Leaders note: This site is well worth a visit in high summer when the Swifts and Martins are nesting in the buildings surrounding the restaurant – a good way to spend a Summer Evening with a glass of wine!



Old railway line -Docklow



Veteran Tree girth measuring - Docklow

5th March 2026 - Credenhill Park Wood and Brockhall Gravel Pit

A bright sunny morning with blue sky and some mist still around greeted eight HOC members for a walk around Credenhill Park Wood.

A good number of small birds greeted us at the car park. As we ascended into the wood several Robins were heard and were soon joined by a Blackcap and several Chiff-chaffs. Five Goldfinches were added to the colour and a good number of Goldcrests were having territory disputes at the tops of some conifers. A number of Siskins were found singing from several trees but were also very mobile. A very observant member of the group spotted a flock of seven Crossbills as they flew over, but unfortunately they did not stop. Four Buzzards were circling overhead and mewing to each other, probably establishing breeding rights to the particular area. A brief view was made of a Treecreeper as well as a Nuthatch. To finish off the morning a very confiding male Bullfinch gave close views of this very striking little bird.

After lunch in and around our cars, we moved on to Brockhall GP. The afternoon was equally good weather, with panoramic views of Brockhall GP. However, we discovered that many of the winter ducks had now departed. We counted 35 Tufted Ducks which were still around together with 9 Wigeon. There were also Great Crested and Little Grebes as well as 3 Oystercatchers. A pair of Buzzards and also a pair of Red Kites were circling overhead. A Green Woodpecker was calling from a nearby wood, putting a final touch to an excellent spring day. Altogether **43 species** were found from both sites. With many thanks to all who attended.

Gerald Parker

24th March 2026 Grove walk

14 members met in the Grove car park on a mild but increasingly breezy day; Terry met with Roger the owner of the Grove GC and who said we could go anywhere on site and he was delighted the HOC were going to do a bird walk/survey and looked forward to the results.

Terry had a planned route to incorporate the best areas and habitats, before we set off 2 Mandarin were spotted and Wendy and Eden had had a couple of Greylags probably heading for the River Lugg area which is close by. Greenfinch were in song, with a cock Pheasant showing well, common birds Robin, Wren and Blue Tit were added, we got to the area of some woodland where Terry said he had had Lesser-spotted Woodpecker in the past, unfortunately the

birds were quiet with the wind starting to pick up although Chiffchaff were in full song. A bonus was a large Peregrine came through heading down the Lugg valley.

A small brook winds itself through this area and the wet woodland is very good for a variety of birds and Trevor had located a Treecreeper who showed very well to the group, joined by Long-tailed Tits, Blue Tits and Chiffchaff in good numbers. As we walked up to the 5th green Terry explained this course was called “Badgers” and showed the small woodland where the sett is, other birds noted in this area were Siskin, Chaffinch and a Moorhen on the small pool hidden by a coppice. Good showing of Buzzard all through this section gave good views, we headed up to the pools which were created when the top course named “The Deer Run” was made, we quickly added Coot, Mallard and Canada Goose, Little Grebe were heard but difficult to see, Joan then spotted one close to the far shoreline, in full summer plumage, they did breed here last season but unfortunately the 4 young were predated, hopefully they will have more success this year.

As we walked to the woodland that borders the course to the northern side we had Pied Wagtail and good views of a pair of Great-spotted Woodpeckers, a Rookery at the far end of the site where the birds were busy building their nests and mobbing a Buzzard, the wind had picked up by now as we followed the path through the woodland, Goldcrest, Coal Tit and a Jay were all added with wild daffodil and primrose all around.

Ten of the group stayed for lunch at the Hickory Stick restaurant where two more birds were added Red Kite and Grey Heron, spotted through the windows, an interesting walk with 41 species recorded, some birds normally seen Green Woodpecker, Skylark did not show but the group said it was an interesting area. The owners would like us to do another walk when the summer visitors are in. A big thanks to all who joined the walk.

Terry Downes Leader



Carrion Crow -Bircher – Kevin Smith

Field Meetings Planned

There is now an easy way to book your place on all Events and Meetings which we would prefer you to use.

Go to our website: www.herefordshirebirds.org/events2 (Don't forget to first login to the website as a member of HOC) to find the meeting in the calendar. Click on the RSVP button and this will take you to where you can book your place and find more details about the event. This will make it much easier to contact you if there are last minute changes or a cancellation. If you do not have web access then please continue to ring the leader to book a place. Need a lift? Wish to car-share? Contact our transport coordinator: Janette Ward

01432-890532 or janette.ward3@btinternet.com

Please do not bring dogs on any of our field trips.

Hergest Ridge & Park Wood, Kington - Saturday 9th May 9.30 am

The walk will take in the eastern slope of Hergest Ridge where species like Stonechat, Yellowhammer, Willow Warbler and a few other summer migrants should be present, along with Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Linnet plus a raptor or two on the moorland.

We will then drop down and walk through Park Wood where we will look for Wood Warbler and other woodland species. Expect around 3 hours in total.

Option for a short visit to nearby Bradnor Hill in the early afternoon. In which case bring **lunch**.

Meet at the top of the lane by Hergest Croft Gardens, parking by the gate near the top of Ridgebourne Road (SO281:567; W3W: clubbing.patio.lasted). Park below the gate leading on to the ridge.

Leader: Mervyn Davies; mobile: 07887 485984

Somerset Levels – RSPB Ham Wall - Wednesday 17th June 9.30 am

Easy walking around the reserve looking and listening out for Summer breeding birds - Bittern, Reed and Sedge and Cetti Warblers and Hobby overhead. We will then walk over the road to **Shapwick Reserve** and spend time visiting the main hides with a chance of **Bearded Tit**. If time allows we will also visit **Grey Lake RSPB**. All walking is on good level paths.

Lunch to be carried.

Meet: RSPB Ham Wall car park (charges apply if you are not an RSPB member – carry your card) BA6 9SX

Leader: Toby Green 07725 409074 email: toby_green@btinternet.com

Please car share if you can.

Rotherwas to Bartonsham Meadows - Thursday 18th July 8:30am

This is a circular walk, proceeding towards the River Wye via Canary Bridge to Bartonsham Meadows. Mixed habitats, including, riverbank/scrub and floodplain meadows, should provide a good variety of birds and if not, hopefully lots of butterflies.

We may also take an optional walk through a small wooded area – the terrain for this part of the walk is on very narrow very uneven paths. For those who would like to we can finish our walk in The Munitions coffee lounge.

The walk should take around 2/3 hours and cover around 3 miles

Meet: The Shell Store, Rotherwas. Enter Skylon Park, turn left off Vincent Carey Road onto Skylon Visusangriffin31@yahoo.co.uk and follow the road through to the end where there is plenty of free parking right outside the building.

Satnav HR2 6SR w3w - sting.deputy.ocean Ordnance Survey SO 526385

Leader: Sue Griffin 07572 308056 susangriffin31@yahoo.co.uk

WWT Slimbridge - Tuesday 8th September 9:30am

This should be a 'wader fest' with many species returning from their arctic breeding grounds. We will visit all the hides scoping the potentially large wader flocks, hoping for something out of the ordinary. Easy walking on the reserve tracks.

Lunch to be carried and eaten on the reserve, as per our usual plan. Those who would like can meet for coffee and cake in the café at the end of our visit.

Meet: Slimbridge car park GL2 7BT - Please car share if you can.

Leader: Toby Green 07725 409074 toby_green@btinternet.com

Eaton Hill, Leominster - Saturday 26th September 10:00am

Our walk will be along public footpaths through both farmland and woodland. There will be a few styles, and steps over the railway line. A mixture of habitats, urban, farmland, riverine and woodland should produce a good mix of birds and butterflies.

Lunch to be carried.

Meet: Leominster's Broad St, long stay carpark, Arkwright Close HR6 8DD at 10.00am (Charges apply)

Leader Viv Quinn

Details tbc. Check HOC website.

The Darrens, Olchon Valley -Saturday 24th October 9:30am

We will be looking for Autumn passage birds, particularly Ring Ouzel on their return passage. It is also a good venue for raptors with Buzzard, Red Kite, and Peregrine possible. This is a difficult walk with some steep uphill climbs. Walking boots and warm waterproof clothing is recommended.

Lunch to be carried.

Meet: The Red Darren carpark (a signed area off a rough mountain track)

SO 298 299

Nearest town – Longtown

Leader: Terry Downes 07756 499451 terrybirds59@gmail.com



Siskin -Bircher – Keith Smith

Member Articles & Announcements

Peregrine Encounter

Years ago, whilst at Rhayader Dams one fine sunny morning, I spotted one of the area's Peregrine falcons way up in the sky. I trained my bins on the bird as it rose higher & higher into the air, to then begin its plummet downwards with folded wings in that classic streamlined missile mode. I had a job following it with my binoculars, it was travelling so fast in its downward stoop! It went on down behind the side of a nearby hill & I lost sight of the bird for half a minute or so, only for it to reappear & perch on the branch of a nearby tree, looking for its next opportunity.

As if this was not enough to make my day, a man came running over to me asking what I had been looking at, was it a Peregrine? I told him it certainly was & pointed to the group of crows circling overhead making the most awful racket with their squawking like they were having a nervous breakdown at the sight of the bird! The guy jumped up & down shouting, *'It's a PEREGRINE!! It's a PEREGRINE!! I've been watching a PEREGRINE!!'* After he'd calmed down a little, he explained he'd only taken up birdwatching months previously & never expected to see a Peregrine for quite so soon. He was ecstatic, so overwhelmed! He explained he'd travelled from Birmingham in the vain hope he might see a Red Kite or some such, but he never expected a Peregrine falcon! It had made his day, & also mine to see this chap so excited. He was so pleased to have witnessed the Peregrine & in a dive!

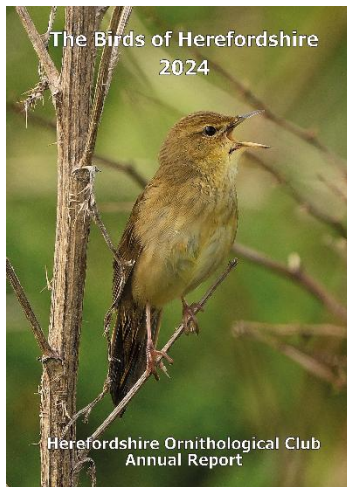
Ray Borge



Willow Tit – John Tilby

Annual Report 2025 – looking for help

With the 2024 report now complete and distribution underway, thoughts are turning already to production of the next one.



As with all of the club's activities, this relies very heavily on volunteers. Several of our regular contributors have done long service on the report and are understandably looking to step away. I am therefore looking for a few new individuals, who would be interested in contributing to the writing of species texts for the systematic list section of the report. If anyone fancies giving this a go, please get in touch and I can provide further details.

In addition to the species texts, the report typically also includes a selection of articles about particular projects, sites or other observations. If anyone is interested in writing an article for the 2025 report or has an idea for an article they'd like to discuss, I'd be happy to talk to them about it.

Thank you.

David Allen, davidallen651@outlook.com

Duckling Watch 2026

Hannah Coburn from the University of Essex is running Duckling Watch again this spring. The first year of the project was a great success, with over 950 records across Britain.

Duckling Watch is a citizen science project in which people can submit their records of mallard ducklings anywhere in Britain. The team uses this data to estimate duckling survival rates, a key measure of productivity, as part of research on mallard population dynamics. The results from last year are already helping them better understand what may be driving trends in the mallard population, but they need more data to track how this changes between years, particularly as duckling survival is partially driven by weather conditions.

Hannah would be very grateful if HOC members could participate in the project again this year. The data submission page and more information can be found at <https://citsci.org/projects/ducklingwatch>. This includes a poster and a guide

to estimating duckling age, in case these are useful, as well as a report summarising the results from last year for those interested in our findings.

If anyone prefers not to use the online platform, they are welcome to send records by email (ducks@essex.ac.uk) – please include a location, date, duckling count and approximate age. Repeated records of individual broods over multiple days provides particularly valuable data, so assigning a name to each brood is also useful to allow them to track changes in the number of ducklings in broods recorded more than once.



Cattle Egret – John Tilby

House Martin Conservation – Call for records

House Martin Conservation is an independent charity that aims to increase knowledge of the house martin and create a channel for support throughout the UK and Ireland.

The 2026 season sees the charity make a renewed call for all nesting records of this declining species. In partnership with Coreo, House Martin Conservation have developed the ‘House Martin Mapper’ app. The app allows you to record details of yours, or other colonies, along with a facility to record mud collecting data. Data is shared with Local Environmental Record Centres (LERCs), the National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Atlas and bird clubs, upon request to Dean Cornish, Data Lead at datasharing@housemartinconservation.com, to maximise the data use for conservation locally and nationally and informing planning decisions/mitigation.

Although our social media accounts allow us to see your reports of national locations of house martin colonies across the UK and Ireland, we needed a more consistent and accessible way of collecting and utilising data, to enable us to refine and enhance our conservation efforts. For further details on the work of our charity and for instructions on downloading and using this free app please visit <https://housemartinconservation.com/house-martin-mapper-app>



We also welcome new members to the charity. We are hugely grateful to our membership family. Membership is entirely free and members will receive a welcome pack, a twice-yearly digital newsletter and will be invited to take part in charity events as we grow and increase our activities. Members will also be able to attend our AGM and vote to elect trustees and officers. We have very active social media groups attracting members and followers from all over the world. For more information on membership please visit

<https://housemartinconservation.com/join-us>

Russ Malin – House Martin Conservation

Swift Mapper

If you are not already aware of it, there is a website available to help map swifts in the UK, it is called Swift Mapper and is done in partnership with the RSBP and several swift conservation groups. It can be accessed via this link - [Swift Mapper](#)

It is a conservation mapping tool and can be used by anyone to submit records of breeding swifts. The records are then available to local authority planners, ecologists and developers as well as conservation groups and individuals.

You can record nest boxes and their activity and screaming parties.

Please take a look and help provide records of where swifts are nesting.



Water Pipit -Kentchester Pools – John Tilby

My Local Patch

The Weir Garden (NT)

My local patch is just two miles from home – The Weir Garden is where I work as a volunteer gardener one half-day each week and get there on my bike. Since 2012, I have observed the birds of the garden on a weekly *ad hoc* basis, but have also done regular structured surveys approximately once a month in the early days to construct a bird species list. The site consists of a 10-acre mainly south-facing, riverside and woodland garden with ancient trees and fantastic views of the Black Mountains. The site also has a parkland with a rich history of Roman artefacts and a walled kitchen garden.

The one-hour survey route started near the office at the highest point in the garden, walking along the higher level pathways to the west end of the wood, down the hill to the riverside and back along the river wall, past the rockery to the car park and finally crossing the parkland and encircling the gardener's cottage and walled garden.

The woodland holds one of the biggest rookeries in Herefordshire, numbering around 80-100 active nests each year, which together with the other corvids ensure a good level of decibels from March to June! The sloping nature of the relatively open woodland affords good visibility with a pair of binoculars, with tit species being numerous and regular singing/calling of Nuthatch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Song and Mistle Thrush and the usual summer migrants.

Riverine species on the Wye include Mute Swan, Moorhen, Goosanders in spring, Cormorants flying past and Sand Martin examining the drainage/nesting holes in the wall are regular sightings, together with the occasional Kingfisher, Grey Wagtail and Mandarin Duck.

The parkland, with numerous ant hills, guarantees the regular 'yaffle' of Green Woodpecker during summertime and reasonable numbers of winter thrushes and Starling are present most years. Buzzard and Red Kite are regularly seen together with an occasional flypast of Sparrowhawk and Peregrine. The walls on three sides of the vegetable garden, with their many nooks and crannies are a real draw for nesting passerines, and in addition to breeding tits, Redstart have successfully bred here for the past five years.

A typical one-hour survey of the site yields around 25 species and this is boosted to 40-45 species by the end of a season. After 10 years of monitoring, my bird list numbers 74 species (65 during summer and 52 during winter), including 14 migrant species, and breeding has been confirmed or probable for 31 of these species.

In 2016, I erected 12 nestboxes (mainly for tits) and an occupancy rate of 75% is achieved on average. A Barn Owl box was also erected in an Oak tree in the park in 2018, and occupancy was confirmed on two occasions in 2022, but squirrels like it as a home too! However, both Tawny Owl in the woodland and Little Owl in the parkland have also been spotted.

Having a local patch that is regularly visited does add interest and extra knowledge to your birding, in that you come to associate species with particular habitats and areas of the patch and actively look for them and their changing behaviours at different periods of the season.

Mervyn Davies

The Birdfeeder Garden Bird Watch Report for Quarter 4 2025

Sunday 28th September 2025 – Saturday 3rd January 2026

Records were received from 25 gardens (26 in Q4 2024) and 52 (56) species were recorded. The total number of records was 3794 (4246).

Most Frequently Occurring Species as % of total no. of weeks

Most Frequently Occurring Species as % of total no. of weeks			
Q4	2025	2024	Average 2020-2024
Blue Tit	87	86	85
Robin	84	84	84
Woodpigeon	80	78	82
Blackbird	79	87	84
Great Tit	73	75	71
House Sparrow	68	70	69
Dunnock	63	67	69
Magpie	61	61	61
Coal Tit	51	50	48
Goldfinch	45	46	48
Chaffinch	42	46	42
Wren	37	34	37
Collared Dove	33	42	36
G S Woodpecker	31	35	35
Carrion Crow	30	30	35
Long-tailed Tit	29	31	28
Greenfinch	27	30	25
Jackdaw	27	26	24
Starling	24	26	27
Stock Dove	21	17	10

Frequently Occurring: the Stock Dove average has been steadily increasing over the years but the species which are at their lowest average for this quarter are Blackbird, Dunnock and Collared Dove. All the others in our 'Top 20' fluctuate in frequency.

Comments: Archie Buttriss counted over 100 Woodpigeons on a very wet day, Keith Culham counted 22 Collared Doves and Mervyn Davies noticed an increase in Long-tailed Tits and House Sparrows. Dennis Chapple mentioned seeing less birds this quarter but was not surprised and Julian Potter commented that he thought there were less birds over the past 3/4 years. Large flocks of House Sparrows were seen in a number of gardens with maximum of 52 in Richard Bavin's garden.



Meadow Pipit by Trevor Hulme

Summer Visitors						
Species	First Sightings			Last Sightings		
	2025	2024	2023	2025	2023	2022
Chiffchaff	09-Mar	14-Mar	21-Mar	16-Nov	26-Nov	30-Nov
Cuckoo	09-May	09-May	08-May	28-May	06-Jun	08-May
Garden Warbler	27-Apr	09-May	31-Jul	13-Aug	23-May	31-Jul
House Martin	16-Apr	18-Apr	03-Apr	15-Oct	09-Oct	27-Sep
Redstart	23-Apr	23-Jul		17-Sep	12-Sep	
Spotted Flycatcher	26-Jun	25-May	18-Apr	13-Aug	18-Jul	07-Aug
Swallow	28-Mar	06-Apr	07-Apr	27-Sep	21-Oct	10-Oct
Swift	30-Apr	05-May	05-May	30-Aug	02-Aug	24-Aug
Whitethroat	25-Apr	30-Apr	28-Apr	09-Jul	25-Jun	19-Jul
Willow Warbler	16-Apr	16-Apr	30-Mar	17-Sep	25-Sep	11-Oct

Summer visitors: for those birds for which we have records from more than 4 gardens, our data show that Chiffchaff and Swallow arrived a little earlier and left earlier, House Martin dates were similar to previous years and Swift was recorded a little earlier and left later.

Weekly Average: the stand-out figure for this quarter is the abundance of House Sparrows but this is not the highest we have recorded. The three species down on weekly average compared with last year are Greenfinch, Stock Dove and Carrion Crow but three species recorded their highest ever average (in HOC data) Blue Tit, Jackdaw and Magpie.

Top 20 by Weekly Average of no. of birds seen			
Q4	2025	2024	5 Year Average
House Sparrow	8.9	7.0	8.0
Blue Tit	4.3	3.3	3.3
Woodpigeon	2.4	2.2	2.4
Goldfinch	2.3	2.0	2.2
Great Tit	2.0	2.0	1.7
Blackbird	1.6	2.2	2.1
Starling	1.6	1.7	2.5
Jackdaw	1.4	0.9	0.9
Long-tailed Tit	1.3	1.3	1.1
Magpie	1.3	1.0	1.1
Dunnock	1.2	1.2	1.2
Robin	1.2	1.1	1.2
Chaffinch	1.1	1.0	1.1
Collared Dove	0.9	0.9	0.9
Coal Tit	0.8	0.7	0.7
Greenfinch	0.7	1.0	0.9
Stock Dove	0.6	0.8	0.3
Carrion Crow	0.5	0.6	0.6
Fieldfare	0.4	0.4	0.4
Wren	0.4	0.4	0.4



Woodpigeon by Trevor Hulme

Unusual sightings: Mervyn Davies recorded rare visits from Goldcrest, Grey Wagtail and Green Woodpecker and Stephen Potter had a Meadow Pipit. Two people recorded having 2 Sparrowhawks – Selena Cambers had 1 adult plus a juvenile and Archie Buttriss had 2 most days.

Gardens with 21 or more species			
	RECORDERS	GARDEN LOCATION	No. of Species
1	Mike Attwood	Birtley	36
1	Stephen Potter	Burghill	36
2	Archie Buttriss	Pencoyd	34
3	John Bailey	Weobley	26
4	Ann Wilkinson	Linton	24
5	Gerald Parker	Credenhill	23
6	Anne Cooke	Stretford Bridge	22
6	Elfi Ing	Breinton	22
6	Mervyn Davies	Bishopstone	22
7	Selena Cambers	Wellington	21



Oystercatchers -Kentchester Pools – Nick Pegler

Sightings of Note Jan- Mar 2026

Date	Bird		Site	Finder
1st Jan	Ring-necked Duck	1	BL	P&T Downes
1st Jan	Egyptian Goose	4	WGP	P&T Downes
1st Jan	Egyptian Goose	3	Whitney Sawmills	P&T Downes
1st Jan	Whooper Swan	4	Whitney Sawmills	P&T Downes
1st Jan	Woodcock	1	Wilton river Wye	D Webb
1st Jan	Jack Snipe	1	Wilton river Wye	D Webb
2nd Jan	Whooper Swan	5	WGP area	P&T Downes
3rd Jan	Cattle Egret	1	WGP	C Jones
3rd Jan	Egyptian Goose	2	BL	C Jones
5th Jan	Golden Plover	5	Bradnor Hill	P Downes
10th Jan	Scaup	1	BL	Bird guides
13th Jan	Great Northern Diver	1	BGP	N Pegler & M Davies
15th Jan	Yellow-legged Gull	1	Whitney Sawmills	P&T Downes
19th Jan	Baikal Teal	1	Lower Lugg Meadows	P Downes
21st Jan	Golden Plover	46	A49 Bullinghope turn	J Tilby
21st Jan	Little Gull	1	Lower Lugg Meadows	J Tilby
24th Jan	Great Black-backed Gull	2	Lower Lugg Meadows	P&T Downes
25th Jan	Great Black-backed Gull	6	Ross-on-Wye	J Tilby
26th Jan	Pink-footed Goose	1	Criftin Ford Bridge	P&T Downes
8th Feb	Knot	1	Lower Lugg Meadows	N Pegler
8th Feb	Great White Egret	9	Letton	P Downes

9th Feb	Black-redstart	1	Hereford Cathedral	J Tilby
14th Feb	Yellow-legged Gull	1	Lower Lugg Meadows	N Pegler
14th Feb	Great Black-backed Gull	2	Lower Lugg Meadows	N Pegler
14th Feb	Ring-necked Parakeet	1	Kington	S Ellis
18th Feb	Whooper Swan	1	Letton	J Tilby
23rd Feb	woodcock	1	Dulas	IB Hart
23rd Feb	Brent Goose	1	Lower Lugg Meadows	G Bibao
25th Feb	Red-crested Pochard	1	Lower Lugg Meadows	G Bibao
26th Feb	Jack Snipe	1	Gamber Meadow	J Pullen
26th Feb	Water rail	1	Gamber Meadow	J Pullen
28th Feb	Red-crested Pochard	2	Lower Lugg Meadows	GB,NP,JT
28th Feb	Redshank	2	Lower Lugg Meadows	GB,NP,JT
28th Feb	Black-tailed Godwit	1	Lower Lugg Meadows	GB,NP,JT
3rd Mar	Cattle Egret	1	Lower Lugg Meadows	N Pegler & J Tilby
3rd Mar	Dunlin	1	Lower Lugg Meadows	N Pegler & J Tilby
8th Mar	Brambling	15	Wapley Hill	C Lamonby
8th Mar	Redshank	1	BGP	N Pegler
10th Mar	Cattle Egret	1	WGP	P&T Downes
10th Mar	Glossy Ibis	1	WGP	P&T Downes
19th Mar	Redshank	1	Shelwick	V Quinn
20th Mar	Redshank	1	BGP	G Parker
20th Mar	Marsh Harrier	1	Mansell Lacy	R Hemming
21st Mar	Cattle Egret	1	BGP	N Pegler & J Tilby
21st Mar	Ring-necked Duck	1	BL	M Harber
21st Mar	Egyptian Goose	2	BL	M Harber
24th Mar	Water Pipit	1	Kenchester pools	N Pegler & J Tilby

Please note; these are reported sightings and not confirmation that they have been accepted by the rarities subcommittee.

BGP=Brockhall GP, WGP = Wellington GP, BL= Bodenham lake

John Tilby



Knott – Lugg Meadows – Nick Pegler

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