

# Summary Bird Report 2015-16

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## Summary

Birds are the only group to be recorded throughout the year. The summary below is based on early morning surveys at roughly weekly intervals.

During the year 71 species were recorded on the reserve or making use of the airspace above it e.g. hunting kestrel or swifts. A further three species were only recorded flying over (greylag goose, Canada goose and mandarin duck) and seven species were recorded just outside the marsh (tufted duck, green sandpiper, common sandpiper, turtle dove, fieldfare, linnet and lesser redpoll). This makes a total of 81 species recorded on, over or near Hambrook Marshes. About 23 species probably bred.

## Highlights

Teal	Up to 11 were present from late February to late March. There had only been one previous record of a single bird.
Little grebe	Up to three were present on the Stour most weeks from October to February.
Red kite	One flew over in June; one previous record of two birds.
Peregrine	One briefly hunting over the marshes in January. One previous record.
Water rail	Two November records
Lapwing	11 feeding in Tonford Field during a cold spell in January.
Jack snipe	Single bird in February; one previous record.
Snipe	Up to 20 in Tonford Field every week from October to March.
Kingfisher	One, occasionally two, birds recorded sporadically, mainly in winter and the following autumn. No evidence of breeding on the marshes.
Meadow pipit	Up to 15 were present most weeks October to February on the hay field.
Stonechat	Single record in November. In previous winters one or two pairs have overwintered in the hay field area, but because this field was mown in the autumn it no longer had the right structure, with frequent perches, for the birds.
Cetti's warbler	Occasional records in spring, autumn and winter, but no suggestion of breeding.
Coal tit	One on the old embankment in October was a new species for the marshes.