

## BIRD COUNTS

September 2012 - October 2014

Species	Notes	Winter	Summer
<b>Blackbird</b>	Commoner in winter, but a few generally present through summer.	1-15	1-7
<b>Blackcap</b>	A summer visitor, breeding in scrub on edges of the reserve.	0	1-5
<b>Black-headed gull</b>	Almost exclusively a winter visitor, mainly seen flying over. The numbers spending time roosting or feeding on the reserve depends on the degree of flooding: numbers are lower in dry winters and higher in wet winters.	Up to 450	0
<b>Blue tit</b>	A few birds are resident, particularly on the disused railway embankment.	Up to 11	Up to 10
<b>Bullfinch</b>	Single birds recorded very rarely at any time of year.		
<b>Buzzard</b>	Single bird very rarely		
<b>Canada goose</b>	1-6 rather scarce flying over		
<b>Cetti's warbler</b>	Heard occasionally.		
<b>Chaffinch</b>	Up to four birds fairly frequent all year round.	1-4	1-2
<b>Chiffchaff</b>	Essentially a summer visitor, but sometimes seen in winter. An occasional pair breed in scrub.		
<b>Collared dove</b>	One or two occasionally fly over from the SE side of river, and sometimes feed in the fields.		
<b>Common gull</b>	Strictly a winter bird here. Always scarce, with a peak of 23.	1-20	0
<b>Common sandpiper</b>	Seen twice, in spring - one bird on riverbank and one on nearby lake.		
<b>Cormorant</b>	Small groups of 1-4, occasionally up to 10, fly up and down the valley. Very rarely one lands on the river.		
<b>Coot</b>	Up to 7 on neighbouring lake, mainly in winter. Single bird very rare on the river.		
<b>Crow</b>	Small number of residents	0-3	0-4
<b>Cuckoo</b>	Single bird occasional near reserve		
<b>Dunnock</b>	Scarce resident		
<b>Feral pigeon</b>	A small colony on the railway bridge that crosses over the Ashford line. Up to 16 regularly present, and occasionally a few descend onto the reserve fields to feed.		
<b>Fieldfare</b>	Winter visitor. Occasional flocks of up to 60 feeding in fields.	0-60	0
<b>Gadwall</b>	One on neighbouring lake in winter 2012-3		
<b>Garden warbler</b>	Unmated male present in May and June 2014.		
<b>Goldcrest</b>	Scarce winter visitor, occasionally seen in summer		
<b>Goldeneye</b>	See on neighbouring lake in winter 2012-3		
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Small groups of up to nine recorded in all months. More frequently recorded flying over the reserve, with the largest flock in flight being 17.		
<b>Goosander</b>	One on river upstream from reserve in 2012.		
<b>Goshawk</b>	One flew over in October 2014		
<b>Great crested grebe</b>	One on neighbouring lake in winter		
<b>Great spotted woodpecker</b>			
<b>Great tit</b>	Scarce resident, mainly on the disused railway embankment.	Up to 11	Up to 5
<b>Green sandpiper</b>	Single record		

<b>Green woodpecker</b>			
<b>Greenfinch</b>	Up to five birds very scarce in winter.		
<b>Grey wagtail</b>	1-2 recorded reasonably regularly, mainly along the river or flying over. Not known to have nested on the reserve yet, but at least three pairs bred further downstream into Canterbury in 2014.	1-2	1-4
<b>Greylag goose</b>	1-6 flying over occasionally; larger flocks rare		
<b>Heron</b>	Single birds occasionally present in field ditches or flying over; rarely two.	1-2	0
<b>Herring gull</b>	A few birds always flying over, but occasionally much bigger movements of up to 120. Occasional birds land on the reserve, particularly in winter.	Up to 120	0
<b>Hobby</b>	Single record in October 2014.		
<b>House martin</b>	Rarely seen in summer months, flocks of up to 34 flying or feeding over the reserve. As numbers nesting in Canterbury have declined, so this species is seen less frequently.		
<b>House sparrow</b>	A few birds often present in nettles and other tall vegetation fringing the river, particularly in early summer when they are feeding young.		
<b>Jack snipe</b>	Single record		
<b>Jackdaw</b>	Small flocks fly over in all months, but feed in Tonford Field mainly in winter, when up to 107 have been recorded.	10-100	0
<b>Jay</b>	One or two birds can turn up occasionally at any time of year, but more frequently in autumn.		
<b>Kestrel</b>	Single bird hunting over fields occasionally.		
<b>Kingfisher</b>		1-2	1-4
<b>Lapwing</b>	Rare visitor during severe weather, recorded on six dates in two years, with flocks of 10 and 25 nearby on two further occasions. Maximum of 25 resting on reserve.	0-25	0
<b>Lesser black-backed gull</b>	The scarcest of the three gulls recorded at Hambrook, and almost exclusively in summer. 1-5 overflying birds occasionally, and a few records of 1-2 birds resting on the marsh.		
<b>Lesser redpoll</b>	Single birds very occasionally fly over in winter.		
<b>Lesser whitethroat</b>	Single bird occasional just off reserve in summer 2013		
<b>Linnet</b>	1-3 very rare on spring or autumn passage.		
<b>Little egret</b>	One, occasionally two, birds present, mainly in winter, feeding in the fields.	1-2	0
<b>Little grebe</b>	Up to six on river in winter	3-6	0
<b>Long-tailed tit</b>	Fairly scarce resident, but with winter flocks of up to 17 passing through.	Up to 15	Up to 17
<b>Magpie</b>	About 5-8 present all year around, but in winter numbers can increase to as much as 26.	Up to 26	2-10
<b>Mallard</b>	In winter up to 80 may feed in wet meadows. In summer they may disappear altogether from the fields, but there are always 10-20 on the river. A few birds breed in damp, rank vegetation.	5-80	5-10
<b>Mandarin</b>	Up to 3 present in summer and autumn 2013, and one brood seen.		
<b>Meadow pipit</b>	Up to 24 present in winter	Up to 24	0
<b>Mistle thrush</b>	Mainly winter visitor, scarce, but more frequent in 2012-13 than in 2013-14.	1-2	0
<b>Moorhen</b>	Regular on the river all through the year. In winter, small numbers are also seen in wet patches in any of the fields. Several pairs nest alongside ditches and in damp areas of dense vegetation.	10-20	10-20

<b>Mute swan</b>	1-2 occasional at any time of the year, mainly on the river		
<b>Night heron</b>			
<b>Nightingale</b>	Heard but not seen		
<b>Peregrine</b>	Single record in February 2013.		
<b>Pheasant</b>	1-2 occasional in the fields		
<b>Pied flycatcher</b>	Single record of migrating bird in April 2013.		
<b>Pied wagtail</b>	1-2 birds recorded fairly frequently, but usually flying over, and not believed to nest on the reserve.		
<b>Raven</b>	Single birds and pairs are now infrequently recorded around Canterbury.		
<b>Red kite</b>	Two flew over in April 2013.		
<b>Redwing</b>	Winter visitor. Variable numbers, with up to 74 in 2012-13, but hardly any the following winter.	0-75	0
<b>Reed bunting</b>	Apart from one November record, the reed bunting is only recorded at Hambrook during the spring and summer, when a pair may breed in wetter scrub.	0	2
<b>Reed warbler</b>	A scarce summer visitor. A pair breeds on Bingley Island, just NE of the reserve, and an occasional pair may nest on boundary ditches.	0	0-2
<b>Robin</b>	A few present all year, mainly on the perimeter and the disused railway embankment.	1-6	1-4
<b>Rook</b>	Birds regularly overfly the reserve to reach the rookery in Thanington, and in winter flocks of up to 95 sometimes feed in Tonford Field.	10-100	0
<b>Sand martin</b>	Single record		
<b>Sedge warbler</b>	One on territory in railway ditch in 2013		
<b>Siskin</b>	Very scarce winter visitor, mainly overflying the reserve. Very occasional 1-9 in alders near the Whitehall Lane level crossing.		
<b>Skylark</b>			
<b>Snipe</b>	Regular winter visitor with flocks of 1-46 feeding in soft mud close to wet features.	1-50	0
<b>Song thrush</b>	Scarce, mainly in winter.		
<b>Sparrowhawk</b>	Single birds hunting occasionally over the reserve at any time of the year.	1	1
<b>Spotted flycatcher</b>	4 on autumn migration in 2013		
<b>Starling</b>	Up to 120 have been recorded flying over. In winter flocks of up to 55 occasionally feed in Tonford Field, often in the company of rooks and jackdaws. In May and June up to 74 juveniles and adults sometimes feed in Tonford Field.	Up to 55	Up to 75
<b>Stock dove</b>	Up to six present for most of 2013, mainly in the disused embankment trees, but occasionally feeding in the fields. In 2014 mainly present in summer. No evidence of breeding, and probably no suitable nest sites.	1-6	1-3
<b>Stonechat</b>	1-2 overwinter in ungrazed central field	1-2	0
<b>Swallow</b>	Very few recorded in 2014, up to 30 occasional in 2013, and a flock of 220 one evening in September 2012.		
<b>Swift</b>	Small groups very occasional overhead May-July. Maximum count 23.		
<b>Teal</b>	Single record in October 2014.		
<b>Tree creeper</b>	A fairly scarce visitor at any time of the year. More often recorded from the mature willows and poplars on the far bank of the river.		
<b>Tufted duck</b>	Up to 21 on neighbouring lake each winter. Family group once on the river.		
<b>Turtle dove</b>	Single bird occasional just off reserve in summer		

<b>Water rail</b>	Only two records from the reserve itself, but present immediately to NE of reserve in winters of 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.		
<b>Whitethroat</b>	Summer visitor, with several pairs breeding in small scrubby corners.	0	1-8
<b>Willow warbler</b>	Occasionally recorded on spring or autumn migration.		
<b>Wood pigeon</b>	Present all year but numbers fluctuate markedly with occasionally up to 64, but more usually 5-20. Occasional much larger autumn movements involving hundreds of birds. One or two pairs may nest.	5-60	1-20
<b>Wren</b>	A few present all year, mainly on the perimeter and the disused railway embankment.	1-9	1-9