

# ANNOTATED CHECKLIST FOR THE BIRDS OF AVON MEADOWS

Richard D E Stott

FRIENDS OF AVON MEADOWS CIO

## Contents

Species Index .....	2
Introduction.....	5
Using the List .....	5
Overall Population Trends .....	7
Species Section Layout .....	7
Glossary of Specialist Terms .....	8
Annotated Checklist .....	10
References .....	106

## Species Index

<i>Acanthis flammea</i> .....	101	Cattle Egret .....	48
<i>Accipiter nisus</i> .....	51	<i>Certhia familiaris</i> .....	82
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> .....	74	<i>Cettia cetti</i> .....	71
<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> .....	75	Cetti's Warbler .....	71
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> .....	38	Chaffinch .....	97
<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> .....	72	<i>Charadrius dubius</i> .....	33
<i>Aix galericulata</i> .....	14	Chiffchaff .....	74
<i>Alauda arvensis</i> .....	68	<i>Chlidonias niger</i> .....	47
<i>Alcedo atthis</i> .....	56	<i>Chloris chloris</i> .....	99
<i>Alectoris rufa</i> .....	21	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> .....	41
<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i> .....	13	<i>Circus cyaneus</i> .....	52
<i>Anas acuta</i> .....	18	<i>Circus pygargus</i> .....	52
<i>Anas crecca</i> .....	18	Coal Tit .....	66
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> .....	17	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> .....	98
<i>Anser anser</i> .....	11	Collared Dove .....	25
<i>Anser caerulescens</i> .....	11	<i>Columba oenas</i> .....	23
<i>Anthus pratensis</i> .....	95	<i>Columba palumbus</i> .....	24
<i>Anthus trivialis</i> .....	96	Common Gull .....	42
<i>Apus apus</i> .....	22	Common Sandpiper .....	38
<i>Ardea alba</i> .....	49	Common Tern .....	46
<i>Ardea cinerea</i> .....	49	Coot .....	29
<i>Aythya farina</i> .....	19	Corn Bunting .....	103
<i>Aythya fuligula</i> .....	20	<i>Corvus corax</i> .....	65
Barn Owl .....	54	<i>Corvus corone</i> .....	64
Barn Swallow .....	70	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i> .....	63
Bittern .....	48	<i>Corvus monedula</i> .....	63
Black Tern .....	47	Cuckoo .....	26
Blackbird .....	86	<i>Cuculus canorus</i> .....	26
Blackcap .....	77	Curlew .....	34
Black-headed Gull .....	41	<i>Curruca communis</i> .....	79
Black-tailed Godwit .....	35	<i>Curruca curruca</i> .....	78
Blue Tit .....	67	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> .....	67
<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i> .....	66	<i>Cygnus olor</i> .....	12
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> .....	48	<i>Delichon urbica</i> .....	70
Brambling .....	97	<i>Dendrocopus major</i> .....	56
<i>Branta canadensis</i> .....	10	Dunlin .....	36
<i>Bubulcus ibis</i> .....	48	Dunnoch .....	92
Bullfinch .....	99	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> .....	50
<i>Buteo buteo</i> .....	53	Egyptian Goose .....	13
Buzzard .....	53	<i>Emberiza calandra</i> .....	103
<i>Calidris alpina</i> .....	36	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i> .....	104
Canada Goose .....	10	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> .....	104
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i> .....	102	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i> .....	88
Carrion Crow .....	64	<i>Falco columbarius</i> .....	59

<i>Falco peregrinus</i> .....	60	Lesser Black-backed .....	45
<i>Falco subbuteo</i> .....	59	Lesser Whitethroat .....	78
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> .....	58	<i>Limosa limosa</i> .....	35
Fieldfare .....	87	<i>Linaria cannabina</i> .....	100
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i> .....	97	Linnet .....	100
<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> .....	97	Little Egret .....	50
<i>Fulica atra</i> .....	29	Little Grebe .....	30
Gadwall .....	15	Little Ringed Plover .....	33
<i>Gallinago gallinago</i> .....	37	<i>Locustella naevia</i> .....	76
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> .....	28	Long-tailed Tit .....	72
Garden Warbler .....	78	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i> .....	36
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i> .....	61	Magpie .....	62
Goldcrest .....	80	Mallard .....	17
Golden Plover .....	32	Mandarin Duck .....	14
Goldfinch .....	102	<i>Mareca penelope</i> .....	16
Goosander .....	20	<i>Mareca strepera</i> .....	15
Grasshopper Warbler .....	76	Meadow Pipit .....	95
Great Black-backed Gull .....	43	<i>Mergus merganser</i> .....	20
Great Cormorant .....	47	Merlin .....	59
Great Crested Grebe .....	30	<i>Milvus milvus</i> .....	52
Great Spotted Woodpecker .....	56	Mistle Thrush .....	84
Great Tit .....	67	Montagu's Harrier .....	52
Great White Egret .....	49	Moorhen .....	28
Green Sandpiper .....	39	<i>Motacilla alba</i> .....	95
Green Woodpecker .....	57	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i> .....	94
Greenfinch .....	99	<i>Motacilla flava</i> .....	93
Grey Heron .....	49	<i>Muscicapa striata</i> .....	87
Grey Wagtail .....	94	Mute Swan .....	12
Greylag Goose .....	11	<i>Netta rufina</i> .....	19
<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> .....	31	<i>Numenius arquatus</i> .....	34
Hawfinch .....	98	Nuthatch .....	81
Hen Harrier .....	52	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> .....	91
Herring Gull .....	44	Osprey .....	50
<i>Hirundo rustica</i> .....	70	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i> .....	21
Hobby .....	59	Oystercatcher .....	31
House Martin .....	70	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> .....	50
House Sparrow .....	91	<i>Parus major</i> .....	67
Iceland Gull .....	43	<i>Passer domesticus</i> .....	91
<i>Ichthyaetus marinus</i> .....	43	Peregrine Falcon .....	60
Jack Snipe .....	36	<i>Periparus ater</i> .....	66
Jackdaw .....	63	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> .....	47
Jay .....	61	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i> .....	22
Kestrel .....	58	Pheasant .....	22
Kingfisher .....	56	<i>Pheonicurus pheonicurus</i> .....	89
Lapwing .....	32	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> .....	74
<i>Larus argentatus</i> .....	44	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> .....	73
<i>Larus canus</i> .....	42	<i>Pica pica</i> .....	62
<i>Larus fuscus</i> .....	45	<i>Picus viridis</i> .....	57
<i>Larus glaucooides</i> .....	43	Pied Wagtail .....	95
<i>Larus michahellis</i> .....	44	Pintail .....	18

<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i> .....	32	Stonechat .....	90
Pochard .....	19	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> .....	25
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> .....	30	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i> .....	25
<i>Prunella modularis</i> .....	92	<i>Strix aleuco</i> .....	55
<i>Pyrrula pyrrula</i> .....	99	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> .....	83
<i>Rallus aquaticus</i> .....	27	Swift .....	22
Raven .....	65	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> .....	77
Red Kite .....	52	<i>Sylvia borin</i> .....	78
Red-crested Pochard .....	19	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> .....	30
Red-legged Partridge .....	21	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> .....	13
Redpoll .....	101	Tawny Owl .....	55
Redshank .....	40	Teal .....	18
Redstart .....	89	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i> .....	46
Redwing .....	85	Tree Pipit .....	96
Reed Bunting .....	104	Treecreeper .....	82
Reed Warbler .....	75	<i>Tringa nebularia</i> .....	40
<i>Regulus regulus</i> .....	80	<i>Tringa ochropus</i> .....	39
<i>Riparia riparia</i> .....	69	<i>Tringa totanus</i> .....	40
Robin .....	88	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> .....	81
Rook .....	63	Tufted Duck .....	20
Ruddy Duck .....	21	<i>Turdus iliacus</i> .....	85
Sand Martin .....	69	<i>Turdus merulinus</i> .....	86
Sandwich Tern .....	46	<i>Turdus philomelos</i> .....	83
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i> .....	89	<i>Turdus pilaris</i> .....	87
<i>Saxicola torquata</i> .....	90	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i> .....	84
<i>Scolopax rusticola</i> .....	36	Turtle Dove .....	25
Sedge Warbler .....	74	<i>Tyto alba</i> .....	54
Shelduck .....	13	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i> .....	32
Shoveler .....	15	Water Rail .....	27
Siskin .....	103	Waxwing .....	66
<i>Sitta europaea</i> .....	81	Wheatear .....	91
Skylark .....	68	Whinchat .....	89
Snipe .....	37	Whitethroat .....	79
Snow Goose .....	11	Wigeon .....	16
Song Thrush .....	83	Willow Warbler .....	73
Sparrowhawk .....	51	Woodcock .....	36
<i>Spatula clypeata</i> .....	15	Woodpigeon .....	24
<i>Spinus spinus</i> .....	103	Wren .....	81
Spotted Flycatcher .....	87	Yellow Wagtail .....	93
Starling .....	83	Yellowhammer .....	104
<i>Sterna hirundo</i> .....	46	Yellow-legged Gull .....	44
Stock Dove .....	23		

# ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF AVON MEADOWS COMMUNITY WETLAND AND LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Richard D E Stott

December 2023

## Introduction

Avon Meadows was created out of traditional water meadows in 2009. A volunteer group, The Friends of Avon Meadows (FoAM), was set up soon afterwards, in part to record the wildlife that occurs on the Meadows. FoAM set out to record all living things that occur on Avon Meadows. As part of this effort weekly bird surveys were organised which have been running since 2011. Casual bird records have been taken since the beginning in 2009 and data from these together have been used to compile this checklist.

The checklist records all birds recorded since 2009. In part, this bird recording is an exercise in recordability, that is, singing birds are generally easier to find, identify and count; silent, skulking species can be missed. However, the recording method has remained the same throughout the years to date so the results year on year are comparable.

As indicated above, data used in this checklist comes from two sources, the regular weekly bird count which runs for 3 hours on Thursday mornings and casual records submitted by the members of the birdwatching team. These latter records often comprise less common species or unusual events involving common species (such as larger than usual numbers, breeding evidence etc).

This checklist comprises a total of the 135 species recorded on Avon Meadows in the 14 years since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. The cut-off date for data for Version 1.0 of the checklist is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. Later versions will include updates either to individual species accounts or new species. In these cases the date of the update will be shown in the individual species account.

The status of birds visiting Avon Meadows is very much governed by their habitat preferences. Thus, gulls are likely to be recorded flying over and whereas Blue Tits will be feeding or breeding. Birds that are otherwise common within the UK may be scarce on Avon Meadows simply because the habitat is not right for them.

## Using the List

The British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) compiles the official British List of Birds which it updates regularly. Bird names, taxonomy and sequence in this checklist conform to the latest version (10<sup>th</sup> Edition) of this list. The names used in the popular Collins Bird Guide [ref. 6] are noted where they differ from those in the British List and where present the international name prefix is recorded (e.g. Moorhen becomes Common Moorhen).

The capital letters after the bird name refer to the BOU Categories used in the British List. Only Categories A, B and C are qualified to get onto the official British List. It is only these categories of species that are

included in the Avon Meadows list. A number of species have two letters to cater for records of truly wild bird arriving and feral populations.

The definitions of the 3 BOU Categories are:

**Category A:** species recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1 January 1950.




**Category B:** Species recorded in an apparently natural state at least once between 1 January 1800 and 31 December 1949 but have not been recorded subsequently.

**Category C:** Species that derive from human import and release resulting in the establishment of self-sustaining populations within Britain, and vagrants from self-sustaining populations outside of Britain which have derived as a result of human action.

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) compiles a list of birds of Conservation Concern within the United Kingdom are indicated by a coloured patch beside the name. This status is reviewed and updated regularly by the BTO. The purpose of the report is to update species and habitat conservation priorities so that resources can be targeted efficiently. The assessment criteria used are;

- Population decline – overall population and breeding population.
- Breeding range decline – breeding and non-breeding ranges.
- Local isolation of breeding and non-breeding populations.
- International importance of breeding and non-breeding populations.

The information here is based on the most recent report published in 2021.

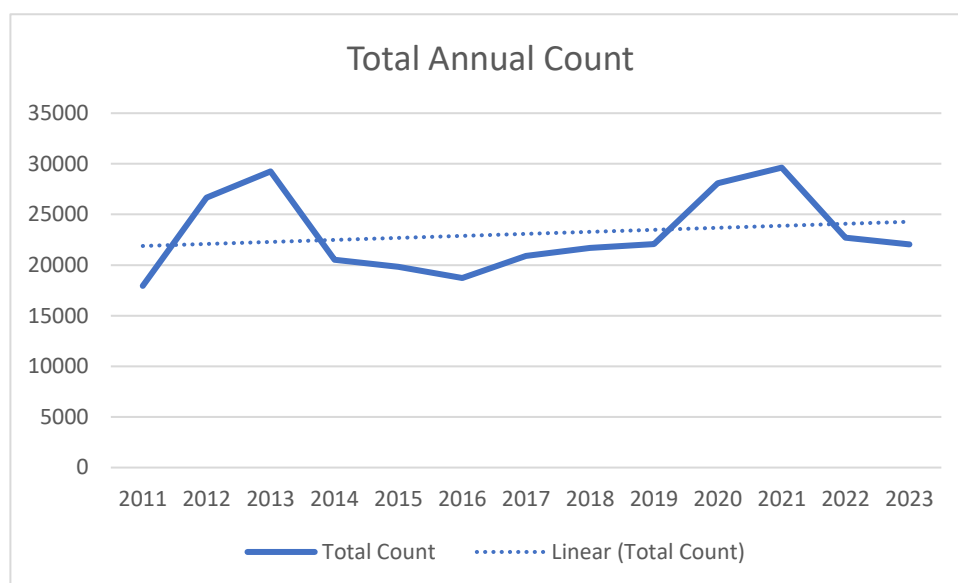
Red		Greatest concern.
Amber		Moderate concern.
Green		Least concern.

It is significant to note that that there are several Red Listed species which either breed or otherwise use Avon Meadows. These species demand our care and careful checking to ensure the sustainability of their populations on Avon Meadows.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) assesses species worldwide and refers to a specie's status over the whole planet. It uses a number of categories which are largely self-explanatory. The ones we are concerned with (in order of severity) are LEAST CONCERN, NEAR THREATENED, VULNERABLE, ENDANGERED & CRITICAL.

## Overall Population Trends

This graph shows the total number of individual birds counted each year. This shows a slight upward trend which will be reflected to some extent in individual species graphs below.



## Species Section Layout

The format for each species heading is as follows:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>BOU Category</u>	<u>IUCN Status</u>	<u>BTO Status</u>
<b>Little Grebe</b>	<b><i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i></b>	<b>A</b>	LEAST CONCERN	<b>GREEN</b>

Occasionally, an additional form of the name is added beneath the section heading. This can be the name that is used for the species internationally or the name used in the popular and authoritative Collins Bird Guide [ref. 6] when it differs from that in the heading.

Then there is an entry which indicates the variation within a species which indicates the number of subspecies and which of them occur in the UK and are likely to be encountered on Avon Meadows.

**Range & Taxonomy:** This section indicates the world range of the species, followed by the European range and that within the UK.

The status of the taxonomy, when it is relevant, is included as for many species it is quite dynamic and can effect the names used for birds recorded on Avon Meadows.

**Avon Meadows:** The meat of the matter; a summary of our records indicating species recorded on Avon Meadows and the use each species makes of our site.

**Status:** The status of a species on Avon Meadows. Occasionally, birds that are resident in the UK but only appear periodically on Avon Meadows may be described as migrants or summer/winter visitors. There are also notes of particular interest about breeding and the use a species makes of Avon Meadows.

**Maximum count:** This includes the maximum count on one day during the period 2009 - 2023.



**First recorded:** The date a species was first recorded. For common, resident species recorded before 2011 when formal records began simply the years 2009 or 2010 are used. Otherwise the exact date of the first record is shown.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** For true migrants, two pairs of dates are shown; the earliest and latest dates in spring and autumn are shown. For summer/winter visitors there is just one set of dates. These dates show earliest arrival and latest departure dates for Avon Meadows.

Most species accounts include a graph showing the frequency of sightings for each month for that species on Avon Meadows, that is the total number of birds recorded during the month. These graphs take information from both the regular Thursday bird counts and casual records. Graphs are not provided for species that have been recorded on less than 5 occasions as they would have little significance.

A few species have increased or decreased on Avon Meadows and graphs are presented for such species when there have been a significant number of records, enough to make the graphs meaningful. As with the other graphs, the total number of birds recorded during the year is shown.

## Glossary of Specialist Terms

**Binomial** – Used to describe a scientific name comprising 2 words. See Scientific Name below.

**British List** – This is the official list of birds recorded in the United Kingdom. It is compiled by the BOU and is updated regularly.

**Endemic** – Birds are described as endemic to a particular region or area when they are found nowhere else.

**Genus** – The ‘family’ to which a bird belongs. e.g. *Turdus* = Thrushes. (Note that in strict taxonomic terms a Family refers to a group of genera).

**Holarctic** – The region around the North Pole comprising the northern parts of America, Europe and Asia.

**Monotypic** – Refers to a species that has no Subspecies so individuals within the population cannot be distinguished one from another even if the Range extends to many parts of the world.

**Morph** – In birds mainly refers to different plumage colours which are well established and stable. Not to be confused with aberrant coloured individuals (e.g. Carrion Crows can be found with white feathers in their wings which are aberrations).

**New World** – A geographical term that refers to the Americas as discovered by Columbus.

**Nominate** – (see also Subspecies below) Usually appears as nominate subspecies, nominate race or nominate form. It is applied to a subspecies that has a species name and subspecies name that are the same. e.g. *Turdus philomelos philomelos* conventionally written *Turdus p. philomelos*. The nominate form is often the form that occurs where the species was originally found or is very numerous.

**Old World** – A geographical term that refers to Europe and Asia (the known world before Columbus discovered the Americas).

**Race** – Used here to be the same as Subspecies (q.v.)

**Range** – Refers to the geographical locations in which a species occurs naturally.

**Scientific Name** – The unique name used by scientists based on Latin which refers to a particular species. It normally consists of two words, the Genus and the Species and by convention is written in italics. For example, the Song Thrush is *Turdus philomelos*. This is described as a Binomial notation (i.e. 2 words). If humans used the same system John Smith would become Smith John!

**Species** - A biological species is a group of organisms that can reproduce with one another in nature and produce fertile offspring.

**Split** – When scientific investigation (today often using DNA analysis) shows that two similar subspecies should be regarded as separate species. The species is said to be split. This occurs surprisingly often.

**Subspecies** – Nature does not always divide itself up into neat compartments so the appearance of many species shows some variation although they are biologically the same. This variation can be indicated by adding a third word to the scientific name. (See also Nominate subspecies). For example *Turdus philomelos hebridensis* which is the race of Song Thrush that occurs on some Scottish islands.

**Taxonomy** – Is the science of giving scientific names to plants and animals. This has recently become much more evident to bird watchers with the introduction of DNA analysis. Originally when applied to birds this analysis used appearance, voice and habits to define species but more recently DNA analysis has provide a more forensic tool to indicate changes that need to be made to correctly name and identify bird species.

**Trinomial** – Refers to the Scientific Name for a Subspecies which has 3 parts.

## Annotated Checklist

### Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

AC LEAST CONCERN

Not  
assessed

#### GREATER CANADA GOOSE

7 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race that (which has been introduced into the UK and Europe) occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Essentially a New World species breeding in Canada and migrating south in winter to the southern United States. Some birds in the central US are resident. In the UK it is a fairly abundant resident breeding species where the original birds were introduced by man. Very occasionally truly wild birds arrive on our shores.

The taxonomy is complex and has been under recent review. A smaller race has recently been split and is now known as Cackling Goose, *Branta hutchinsii* which is a vagrant to the UK. Cackling Goose has not been recorded on Avon Meadows.

#### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Resident, common visitor and occasional breeder.

**Maximum count:** 105 on 4 Nov 21.

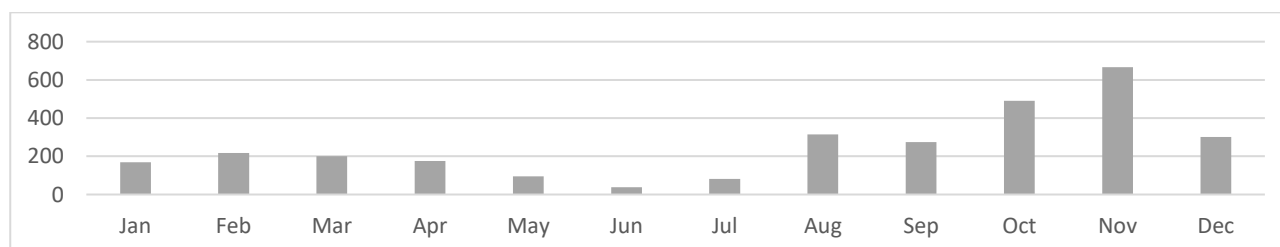
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

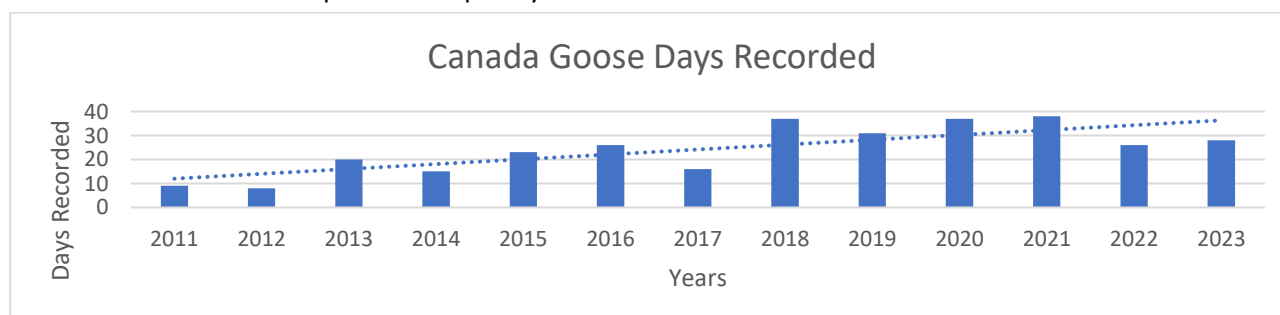
Regular visitors to Avon Meadows but most records are for birds flying over. Away from the breeding season they frequently use the scrape to roost and feed. There have been two breeding records involving observations of goslings recorded in May 2013, and May 2021. In May 2023 adults with 3 goslings seen on Avon Meadows although they were thought to have nested elsewhere. On 1 Jan 2023 adult found dead on the scrape. Several other breeding efforts have been predated by Red Foxes.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

CANADA GOOSE



As the wetland has developed the frequency of water bird records has increased.



**Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens*****AC** LEAST CONCERNNot  
assessed

2 races are recognised of which *Anser caerulescens atlanticus* occasionally reaches Western Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Migratory, breeding in the northern United States and Canada as far east as Greenland and wintering in the southern United States and Mexico. Vagrant to the UK and Avon Meadows, only a few birds each year visit the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Vagrant.

**Maximum count:** 1.

**First recorded:** 4 Apr 2013.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Single record.

The only record was of a single white morph individual flying over Avon Meadows on 4 Apr 2013 in the company of several Greylag Geese. The provenance of this record cannot be determined. Many unusual wildfowl records involve birds that have escaped from private collections.

**Greylag Goose *Anser anser*****AC** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in the UK and Europe.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The range extends from Western Europe through Central Asia to the east coast of China. Mostly migratory, moving south to overwinter from India to SE China. There is also a large feral population in the UK and Western Europe which is largely resident. Wild birds are a fairly abundant, resident breeding species and winter visitor to the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Resident and regular visitor and possible occasional breeder.

**Maximum count:** 100 on 24 Dec 2017.

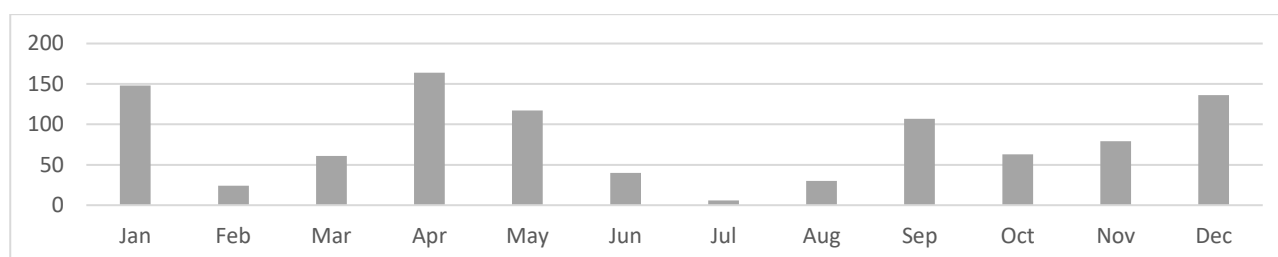
**First recorded:** 2009.

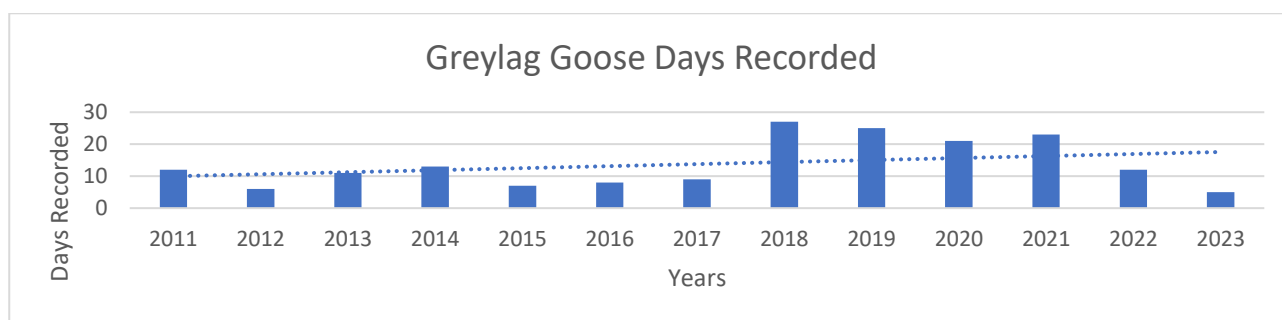
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

Most records are for overflying birds but they do visit Avon Meadows occasionally to feed or roost. A pair with 3 goslings reported on 18 May 2013.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

GREYLAG GOOSE





## Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

AC LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The world range extends from the UK to eastern Europe and then in east China. Resident abundant breeding species in the UK.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Common breeding resident.

**Maximum count:** 14 on 13 Sep 2018.

**First recorded:** 2009.

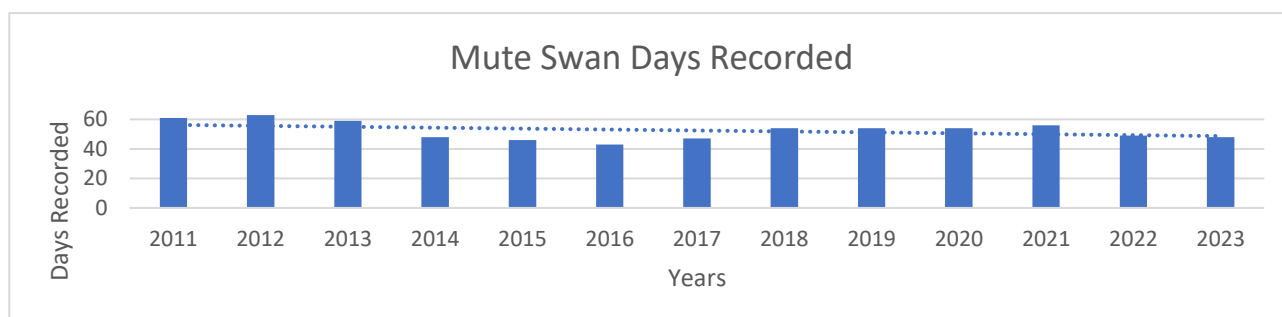
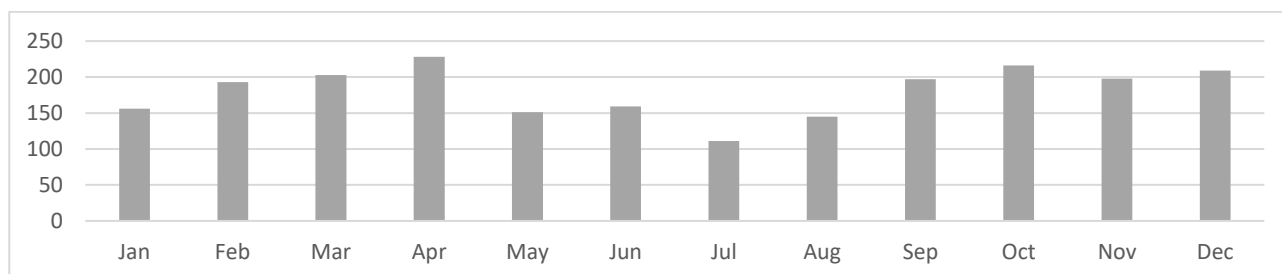
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

Commonly encountered and regular breeding bird on Avon Meadows. In recent years breeding has been interrupted by nest predation and human interference.

A number of birds have been fitted (now suspended) with orange, numbered leg rings which we record so that we can identify individual birds. A small number of birds use Avon Meadows regularly.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

MUTE SWAN



**Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*****C** LEAST CONCERNNot  
assessed

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Native to Africa south of the Sahara and the Nile Valley and widely distributed within this range. It has been introduced into Europe including Britain where it is a breeding species with an increasing population.

**Avon Meadows****Status:** Vagrant.**Maximum count:** 1.**First recorded:** 20 Apr 2018.**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Single record.

One record of a single bird on seen on the scrape on the morning of 20 April 2018.

**Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

COMMON SHELDUCK

Monotypic

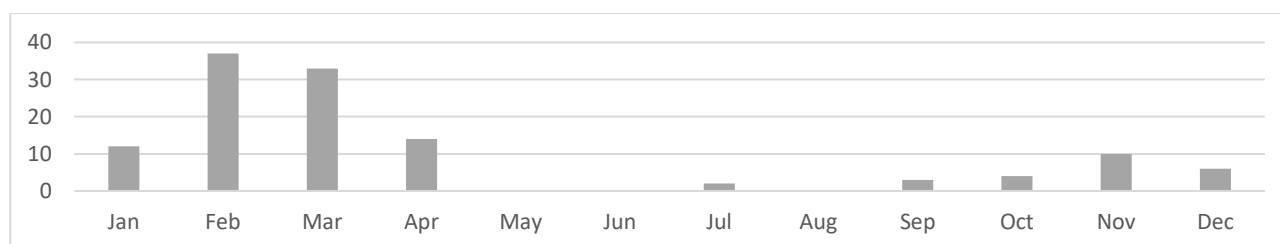
**Range and Taxonomy:** Its main range extends from coastal Europe east through Eastern Europe, Central Asia to NE China. It migrates south in winter from its inland breeding areas. Fairly abundant resident breeding species in the UK.

**Avon Meadows****Status:** Uncommon winter visitor.**Maximum count:** 2 on 23 Mar 2017, 26 Mar & 4 Jul 2019.**First recorded:** on 16 Mar 2016.**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

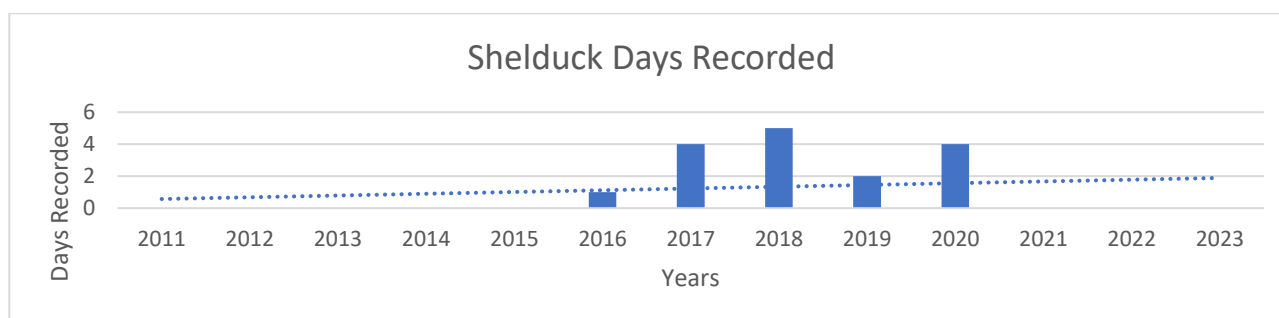
Mostly appears on the scrape but occasionally the main pool.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

SHELDUCK



The reason for the lack of sightings either side of the period 2016 to 2020 is unclear but may relate to the development of the scrape.



## Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

CE LEAST CONCERN

Not  
assessed

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Breeds in NE China and winters in SE China. It has been introduced to the UK where it has established a feral population and is regarded as a scarce resident breeding species.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Occasional visitor by members of a resident, local, feral population.

**Maximum count:** 4 on 3 Apr 2018.

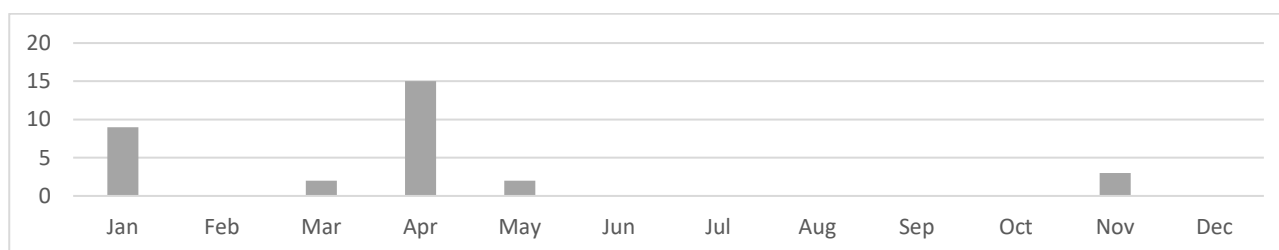
**First recorded:** on 28 Apr 2012.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

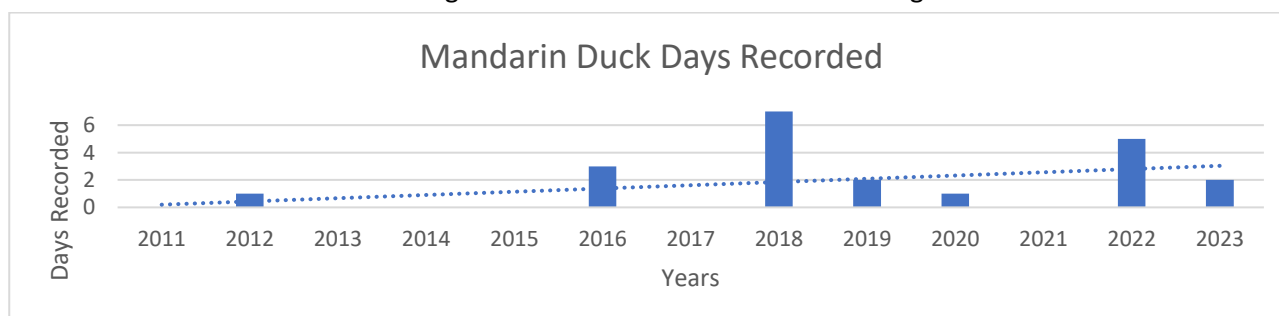
Recorded in 7 years since 2012. This species does breed along the River Avon but there have been no breeding records on Avon Meadows.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

MANDARIN DUCK



Visits of Mandarin Ducks are too irregular for the trend below to be meaningful.



**Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

NORTHERN SHOVELER

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Widespread in Europe, Asia and Northwest America wintering further south in California, Africa, India and SE Asia. Fairly abundant migrant and winter visitor to the UK. One pair bred in Worcestershire in 2023. (Eaton 2024).

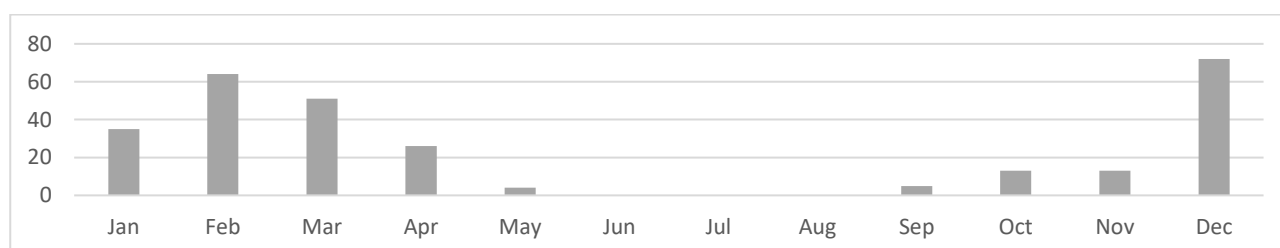
**Avon Meadows****Status:** Uncommon winter visitor.**Maximum count:** 46 on 30 Dec 2021.**First recorded:** 2010.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn arrival on 25 Sep 2021, latest spring departure on 21 May 2015.

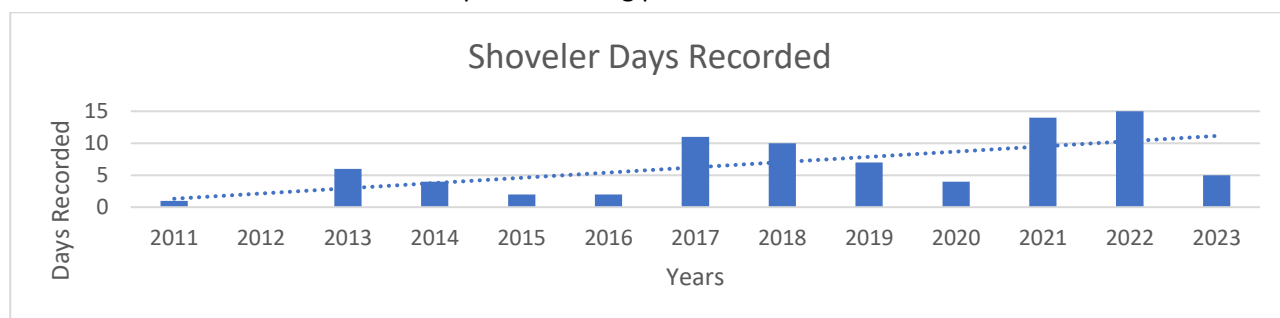
High counts come from overflying flocks. Birds recorded on the water are in small numbers

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

SHOVELER



The trend shows the effect of the scrape as a resting place for water birds.

**Gadwall *Mareca strepera*****AC** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Inhabits the temperate zones around the world, breeding further north and wintering in the south. Abundant migrant in winter to the UK but a scarce breeder.

**Avon Meadows****Status:** Frequent winter visitor.**Maximum count:** 11 on 24 Nov 2019.**First recorded:** 27 Jan 2011.

Judith Fulton

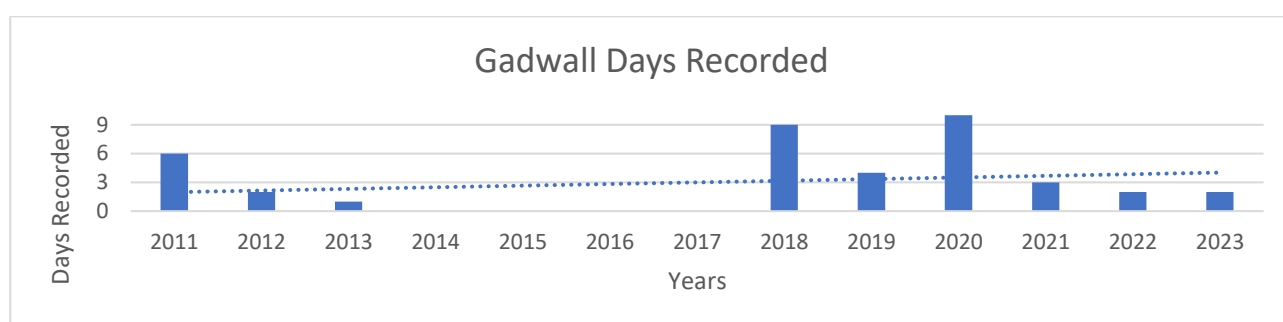
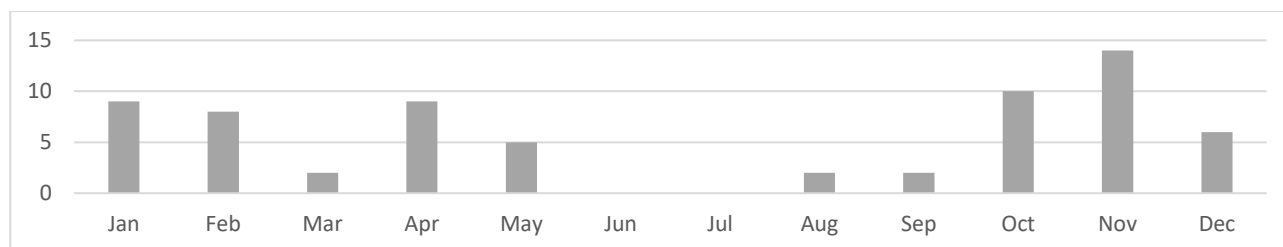


**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn arrival – 3 Oct 2023. Latest spring departure – 26 May 2020.

Recorded in every year since 2011 except for a 4-year period between 2014 and 2017. The reason for the absence of records during this period is not clear.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

GADWALL



### Wigeon *Mareca penelope*

AE LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

EURASIAN WIGEON

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Has a wide range over Europe and Asia, breeding in the north and wintering in the south. Abundant winter migrant to the UK and a scarce breeder.

#### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Occasional winter visitor.

**Maximum count:** 7 on 11 Jan 2018.

**First recorded:** 23 Sep 2012.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn arrival – 18 Sep 2021, latest spring departure - 16 Mar 2016.

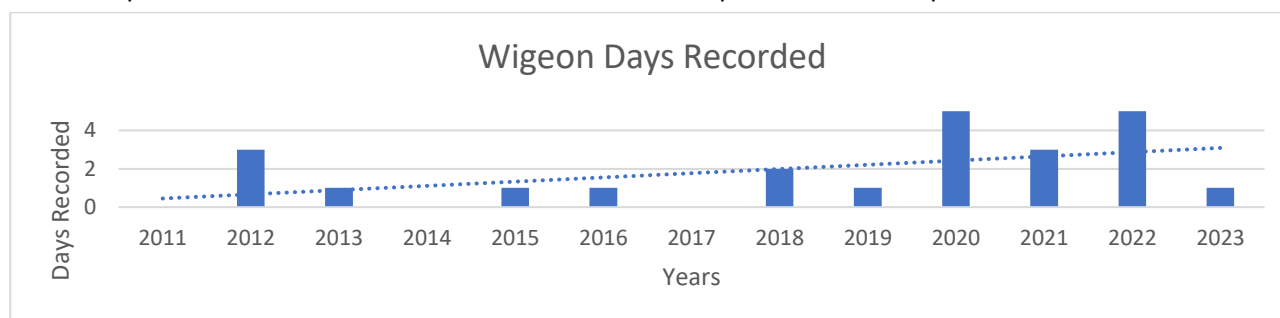
Recorded in all years from 2012 except 2014 and 2017.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

WIGEON



Another species of duck that has benefited from the development of the scrape.



## **Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos***

**AC** LEAST CONCERN

**AMBER**

2 subspecies are recognised and the nominate subspecies is the one that occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread range in Europe, Asia and North America. Introduced into Australasia. Partially migratory, breeding in the north and wintering further south. Abundant resident in the UK.

### **Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Abundant resident and breeder.

**Maximum count:** 132 on 30 Dec 2021.

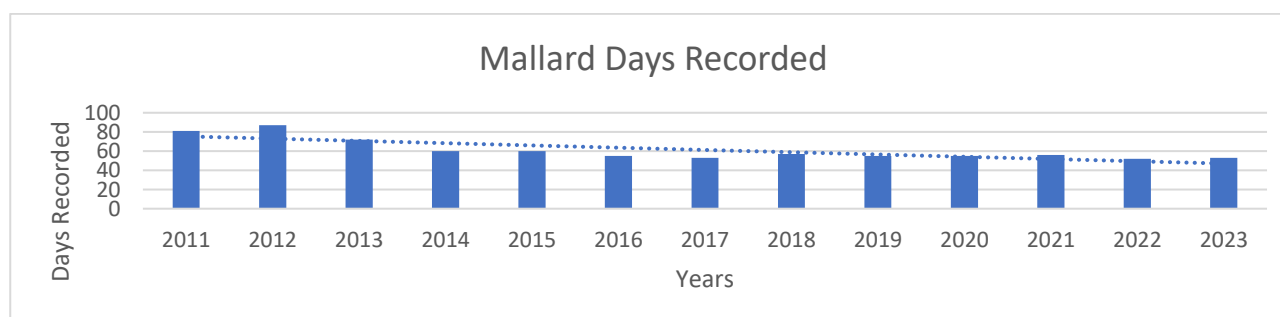
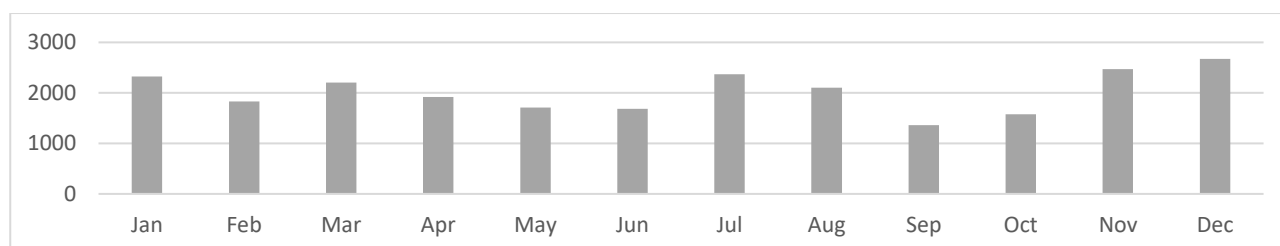
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

Mallards are the common “duck” species in the UK much loved by young people who like to feed them. In spring their brown and gold chicks are a common site in spring.

### **Total Counts 2009-2023**

MALLARD



**Pintail *Anas acuta***

AE LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

NORTHERN PINTAIL

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread range in Europe, Asia and North America. Partially migratory, breeding in the north and wintering further south. Rare breeding species and fairly abundant winter visitor in the UK.

**Avon Meadows****Status:** Very rare.**Maximum count:** 12 on 8 Oct 2020.**First recorded:** 3 Mar 2011**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A

Only recorded twice; a pair was seen on 3 Mar 2011 while the meadows were waterlogged and a party of 12 flew over on 8 October 2020.

**Teal *Anas crecca***

A LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

EURASIAN TEAL

2 subspecies are recognised and the nominate subspecies is the one that occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread range in Europe, Asia and North America. Partially migratory, breeding in the north and wintering further south. Abundant winter visitor to the UK and a scarce breeder. Green-winged Teal *Anas crecca carolinensis* from the USA is sometimes regarded as a separate species.

**Avon Meadows****Status:** Common winter visitor, rare in summer.**Maximum count:** 35 on 15 Nov 2014.**First recorded:** 4 Oct 2010.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn arrival – 6 Jul 2018, latest spring departure – 16 May 2021.

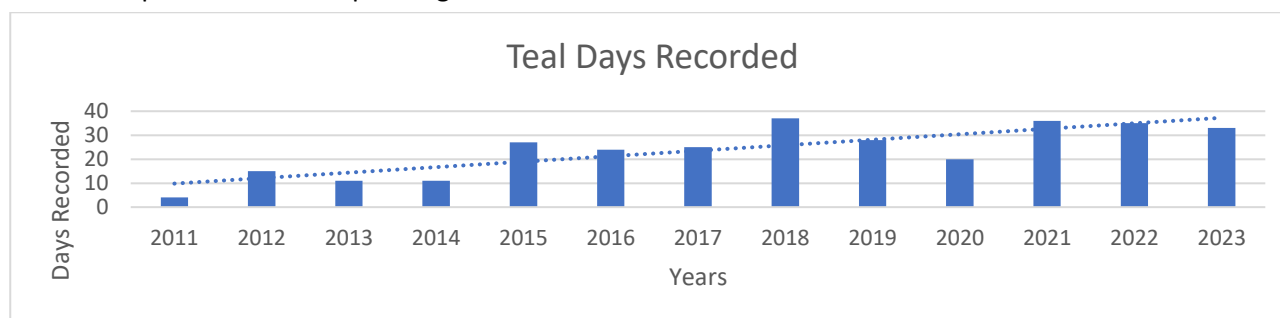
Our smallest duck and much smaller than the other ducks that visit Avon Meadows. Usually seen in small groups of 2 to 8 individuals mostly on the water.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

TEAL



The development of the scrape has given rise to an increase in visits from Teal.



### Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

AC LEAST CONCERN

Not  
assessed

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Breeds in western Europe east to Asia. Migrates south to north Africa, north India and parts of SE Asia. Vagrant and rare breeding species in the UK.

#### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Vagrant, one record only.

**Maximum count:** 1 on 31 Dec 2018.

**First recorded:** 31 Dec 2018.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A.

There has been just one record on Avon Meadows of a male recorded on 31 Dec 2018. There is a small feral population at the Cotswold Water Park.

### Pochard *Aythya farina*

AE VULNERABLE

RED

COMMON POCHARD

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread range breeding in western Europe and central Asia. Partially migratory, wintering further south in north and east Africa and Southeast Asia, east to Japan. Fairly abundant winter visitor to the UK.

Conservation concerns arise from drying water at breeding sites in eastern Europe and Asia together with severe winter weather on its wintering grounds. Hunting and habitat destruction also play their part.

#### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Vagrant, one record only.

**Maximum count:** 1 on 19 Jan 2017.

**First recorded:** 19 Jan 2017.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A.

A single record on 19 Jan 2017 on the River Avon. Generally, prefers larger lakes, brackish water and coastal flats.

**Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula***

A LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Breeds from 45° to 70° N across the northern Palearctic from Iceland eastwards to Kamchatka and south to Central Europe, Mongolia, rarely northern Japan. Winters in central and south Europe, Africa, Middle East, south and east Asia. Abundant winter migrant to the UK and a scarce breeding species.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Regular in small numbers, but declining (see graph).

**Maximum count:** 10 on 13 Mar 2013.

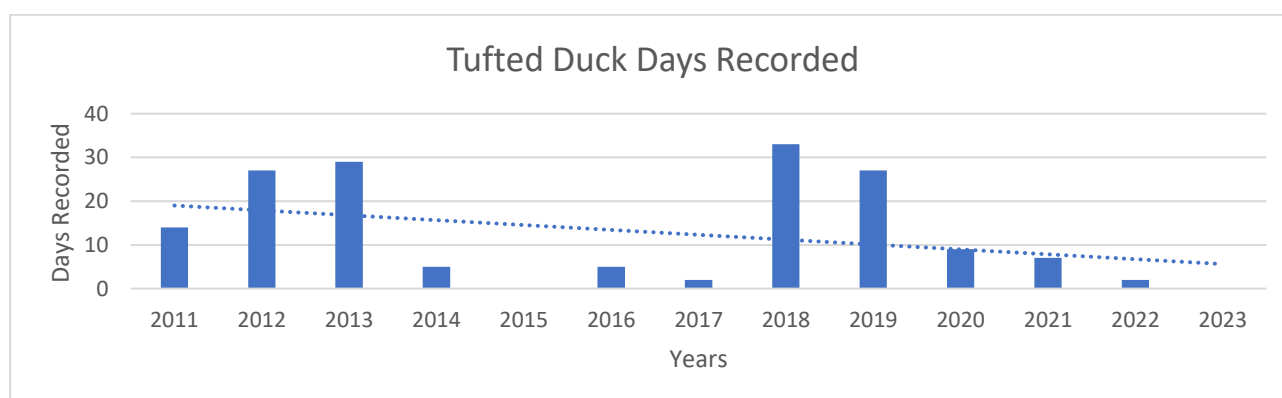
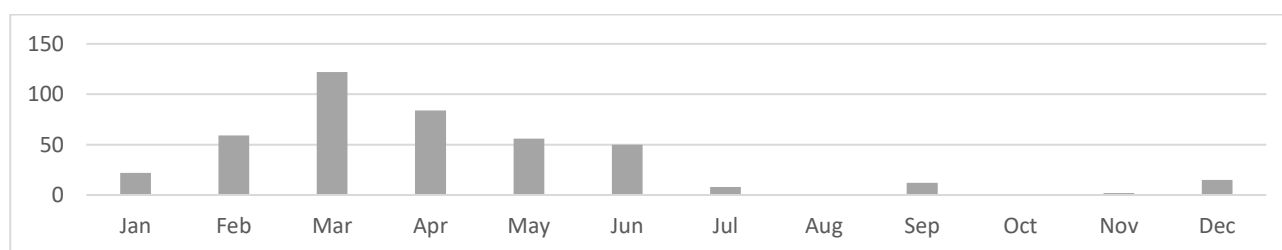
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

The occurrence of Tufted Ducks, once considered common, has recently become more erratic on Avon Meadows with no records at all in 2023. The reasons for this are not clear.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

TUFTED DUCK

**Goosander *Mergus merganser***

A LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A species of the Northern Hemisphere. Breeds in northern and central Europe, central and east Asia, North America and Canada. Winters further south. Scarce breeding species in northern England and Scotland, winters in southern England.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Rare and irregular winter visitor mostly flying over. Exceptionally, a small party was recorded on the river at Avon Meadows in April 2023.

**Maximum count:** 9 on 15 Apr 2023.

**First recorded:** 17 Nov 2016.

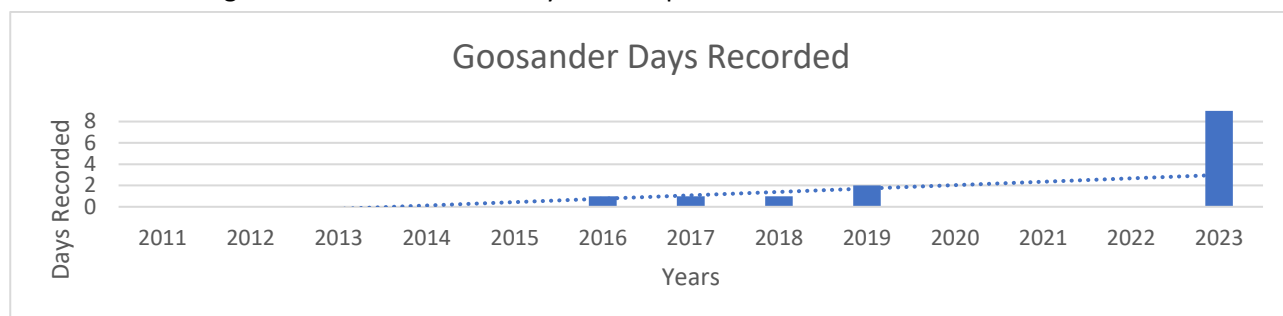
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn arrival – 17 Nov 2016, latest spring record – 15 Apr 2023.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

GOOSANDER



The trend is not significant as it is distorted by the exceptional count in 2023.



### Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

C LEAST CONCERN

Not  
assessed

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Summer breeding migrant in the western USA and Canada wintering as far south as Mexico. Introduced into the UK, Europe and North Africa. However, it interbreeds with the ENDANGERED White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* of south and east Europe so efforts have been made in the UK and Europe to reduce the population to eliminate the risk of hybridisation and the resulting loss of White-headed Duck as a 'true' species.

#### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Last recorded in 2008. Now practically extinct.

**Maximum count:** N/A.

**First recorded:** Before 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A

The RSPB have been actively removing the eggs from nests to reduce the UK population and help protect the White-headed Duck. It is thriving within its natural range in North America and Canada.

### Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

C LEAST CONCERN

Not  
assessed

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The main range is southern France and the Iberian Peninsula. Introduced into the UK where it is resident and an abundant breeding species, mainly bred for shooting.

#### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Rare or very occasional visitor.

**Maximum count:** 2 on 4 Apr 2013.

**First recorded:** 24 Mar 2011.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

Generally recorded away from the breeding season.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE



## Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

**C** LEAST CONCERN

Not  
assessed

COMMON PHEASANT

30 subspecies are recognised of which *Phasianus colchicus torquatus* that is the dominant race in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** This species range extends from East Europe, Central Asia to China. Introduced into the UK (and many other countries) where it is resident and an abundant breeding species, many bred for shooting.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Resident and regular visitor to Avon Meadows.

**Maximum count:** 16 on 11 Oct 2012.

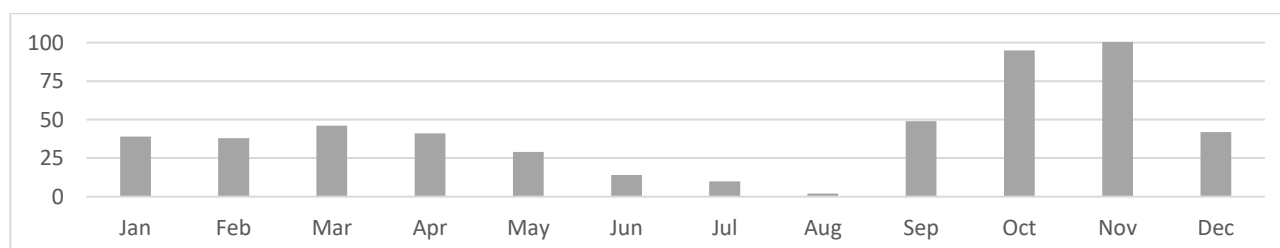
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

Visits regularly mostly outside the breeding season. Is bred nearby.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

PHEASANT



## Swift *Apus apus*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

RED

COMMON SWIFT

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** This species breeds throughout Europe and Central Asia and winters in central and southern Africa. An abundant breeding species into the UK.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Regular and common summer visitor. Breeds nearby. Showing a small reduction on Avon Meadows but this is not significant.

**Maximum count:** 60 on 26 June 2018.

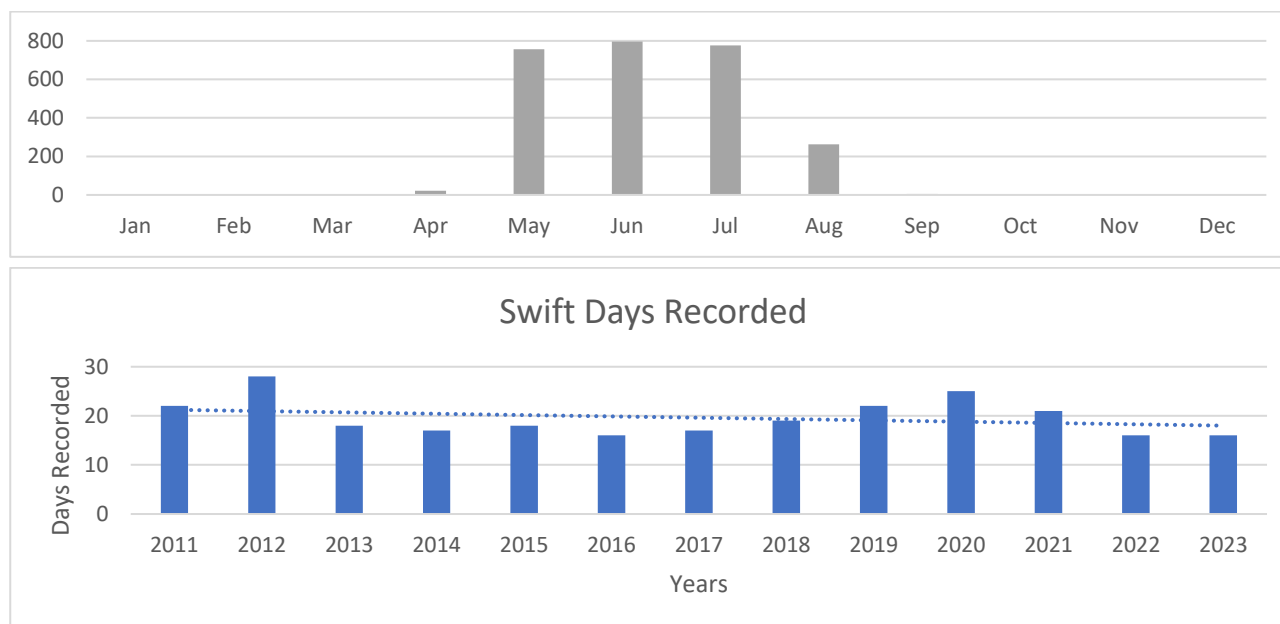
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring arrival - 20 Apr 2015. Latest autumn departure 10 Sep 2015.

Visits Avon Meadows in good numbers and breeds nearby but here are no suitable breeding sites on Avon Meadows.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

SWIFT



### Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**AMBER**

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** This species is resident in western and southern Europe. Those breeding in north Europe and winter around the Mediterranean. Its range extends through central Asia to west China. An abundant breeding species into the UK.

#### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Resident and common breeding species in small numbers. The population is generally stable but has increased recently on Avon Meadows.

**Maximum count:** 26 on 22 Dec 2022.

**First recorded:** 2009.

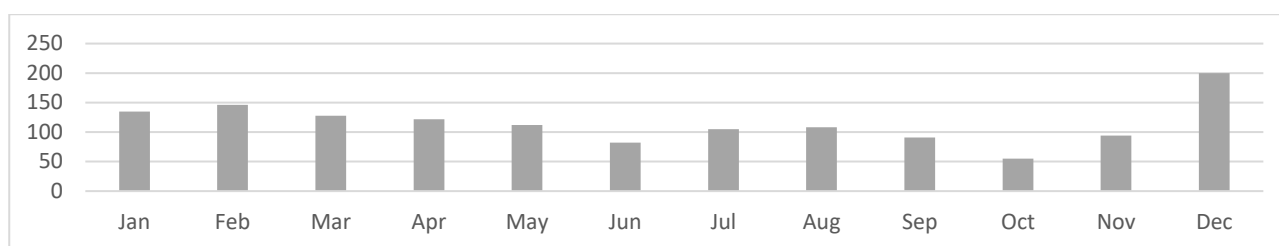
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

Monthly figures indicate some movement in the within our area.

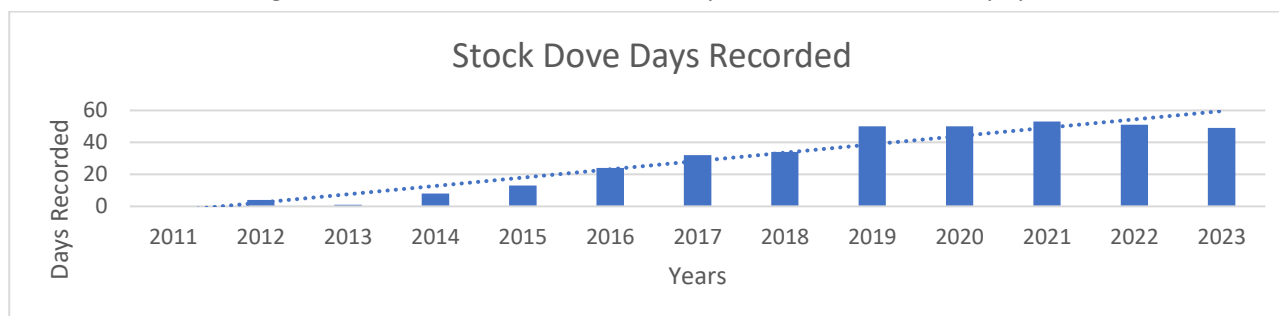


**Total Counts 2009-2023**

STOCK DOVE



The Stock Dove is a regular user of nest boxes and this is a possible reason for the population increase.

**Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

5 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** This species breeds throughout Europe where it is resident in the south. Northern breeding birds migrate south in winter. An abundant breeding species into the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Very abundant resident and breeding bird. The population is fairly stable.

**Maximum count:** 200 on 2 May 2013.

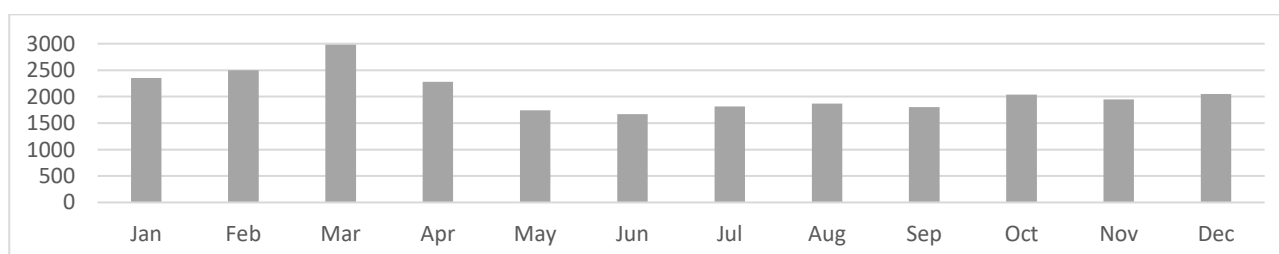
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

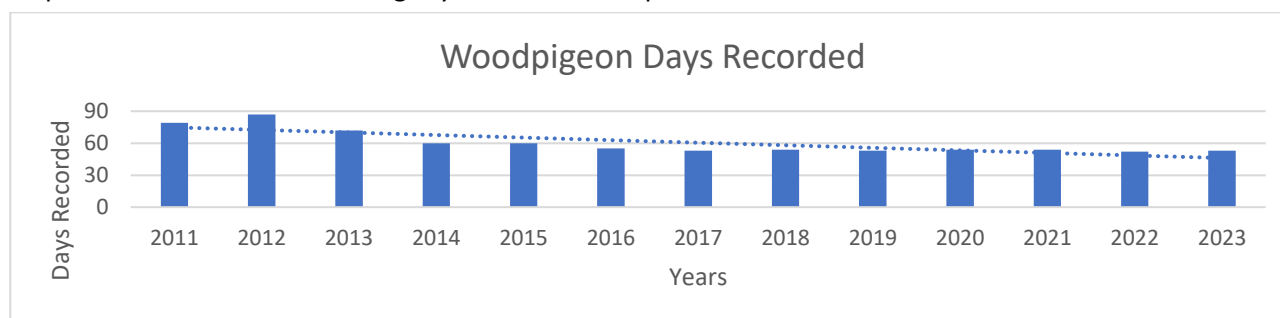
One of the most common and numerous birds on the meadows.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

WOODPIGEON



A species that has diminished slightly with the development of the wetland.



## **Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***

**A** VULNERABLE

**RED**

EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE

4 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** This species breeds throughout Europe and western Asia and winters in central Africa. A summer migrant and local breeding species in the UK. Numbers in the UK have dropped by 98% over the last 25 years. This in part because of habitat loss in the UK but mainly by hunting on its wintering grounds and during migration.

### **Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Very rare visitor.

**Maximum count:** 1 on all visits.

**First recorded:** 16 May 2021.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest arrival: 8 May 2022. Latest departure 4 Aug 2021.

Only recorded in 2021 and 2022. Believed to be a single individual that visited for these 2 years. Harassed by breeding Collared Doves nearby. It is a species that suffers from severe hunting pressure during its migration to Africa.

## **Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**GREEN**

EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** This species breeds throughout Europe and Central Asia and winters in central and southern Africa. An abundant breeding species in the UK.

It has an extraordinary colonising history in Britain. It was virtually unknown in the UK before 1953 and the first birds bred here in 1956. Since then it has flourished to the point that there are over 100,000 breeding pairs in Britain today.

### **Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Common resident breeding species. The population is stable.

**Maximum count:** 39 on 11 Nov 2021.

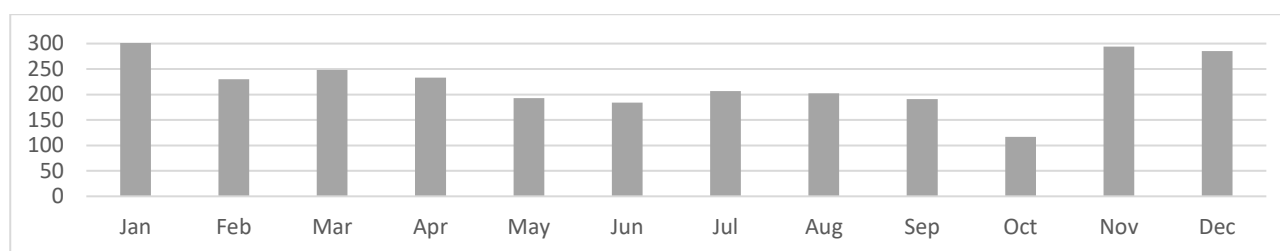
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):**

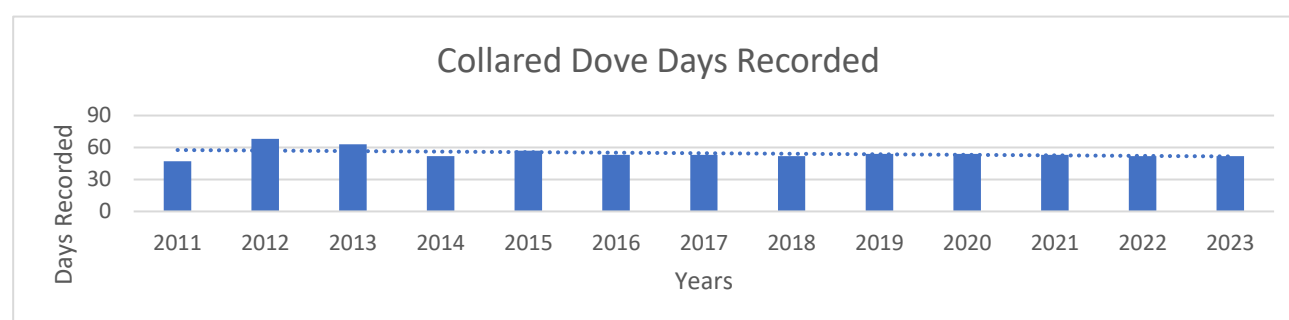
Frequently encountered throughout the year, particularly around houses.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

COLLARED DOVE



The graph below shows a particularly stable population.

**Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**RED****COMMON CUCKOO**

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** This is a migrant breeding species throughout Europe, North and Central Asia as far east as northern China. It winters in central Africa and south Asia, locally in India. A fairly abundant breeding species in the UK. Recent research by the BTO using satellite tagging techniques indicates that its food supplies are affected by climate change leading particularly to the birds migrating north in spring finding food on their journey being much reduced. This leads to a reduction in the number of birds returning to Europe in the summer to breed.



Jeff Steady ARPS

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Regular summer visitor and breeding species.

**Maximum count:** 4 (2 pairs present in the 4 years 2018 to 2021).

**First recorded:** 2009.

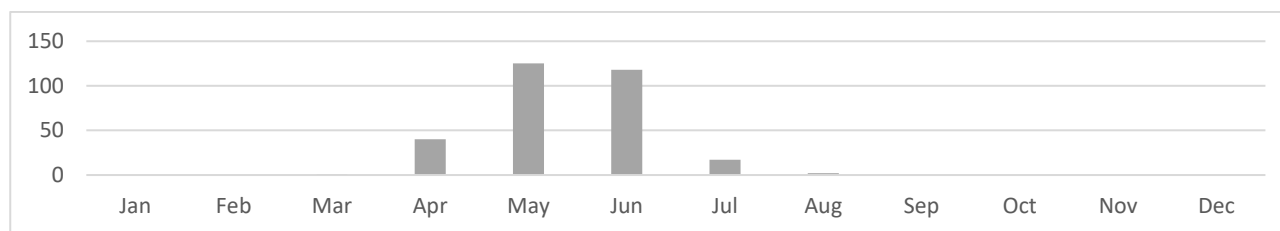
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring arrival on 14 Apr 2016, latest autumn departure on 6 Jul 2023.

The adults leave before the young are fledged, The young birds leave when they are ready and make their own way to their West African wintering areas. The latest Cuckoo chick departure was on 4 Sep 2014. One or two pairs breed annually. Recent research has shown that individual Cuckoos only parasitise one particular species and are able to lay eggs that closely match those of their host. The brood parasite of the Cuckoos on Avon Meadows is the Reed Warbler. Reed Warblers also migrate from Africa and our Cuckoos

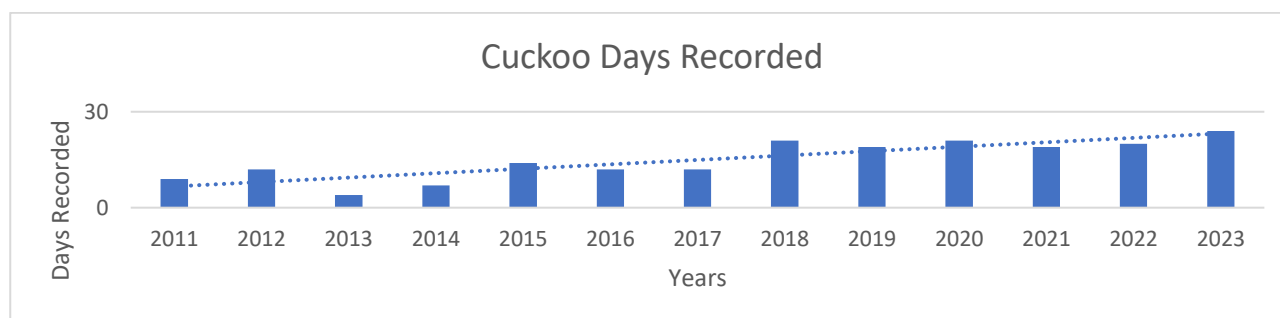
usually follow the Reed Warbler migration. Currently, Avon Meadows is one of the easiest places in our area to see Cuckoos as it has a good population of Reed Warblers in summer.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

CUCKOO



It is good to see the number of Cuckoo sightings increasing when in many parts Cuckoos are a difficult bird to see.



### Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**GREEN**

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident across Europe and Central Asia, east to China. In the UK it is a scarce or local breeding species. The UK population is boosted by winter visitors.

#### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Resident breeding species occasionally increased by visiting birds.

**Maximum count:** 6 on 26 Oct 2017.

**First recorded:** 2010.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

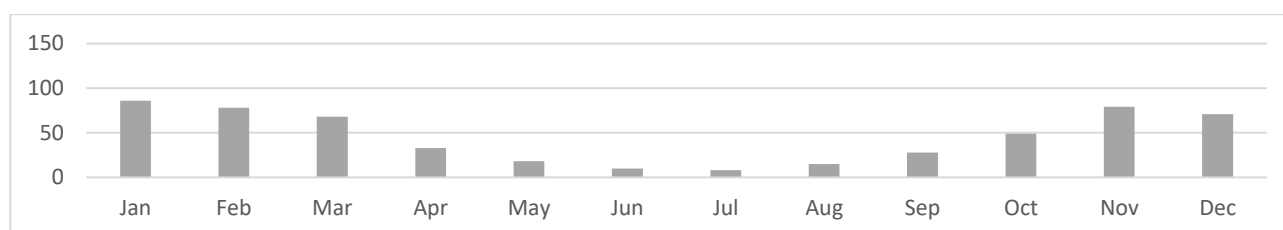
Resident of the reed beds in small numbers. Breeding has been confirmed by occasional sightings of chicks from time to time. The reduction of sightings in summer is due to the birds being quiet and very shy when they are nesting and have chicks. It is one of our key breeding species arriving because of the creation of Avon Meadows with its pools and reed beds.



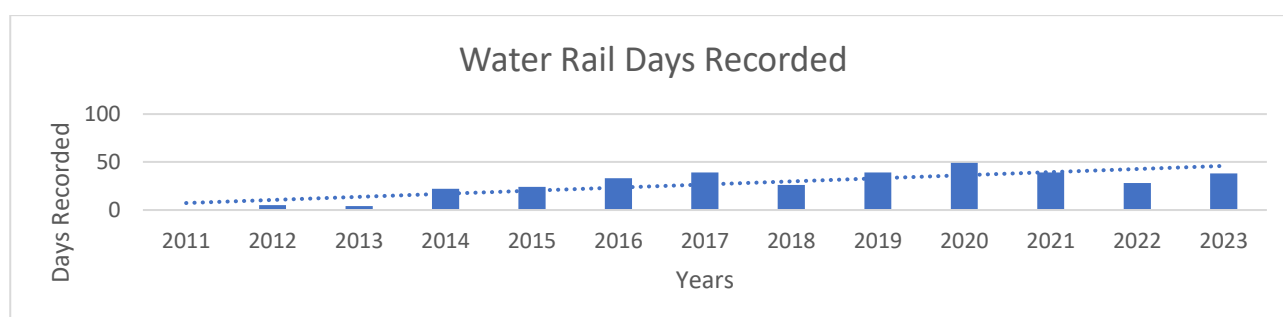
Jeff Steady ARPS

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

WATER RAIL



Graph showing the general increase in Water Rail population as the reed beds developed and the birds move into them.

**Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER****COMMON MOORHEN**

5 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident across Europe and Central Asia, east to China, Indonesia and Japan. Mostly resident but northern breeding populations move south in winter. In the UK it is a fairly abundant breeding species.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Resident breeding species.

**Maximum count:** 25 on 8 Dec 2011.

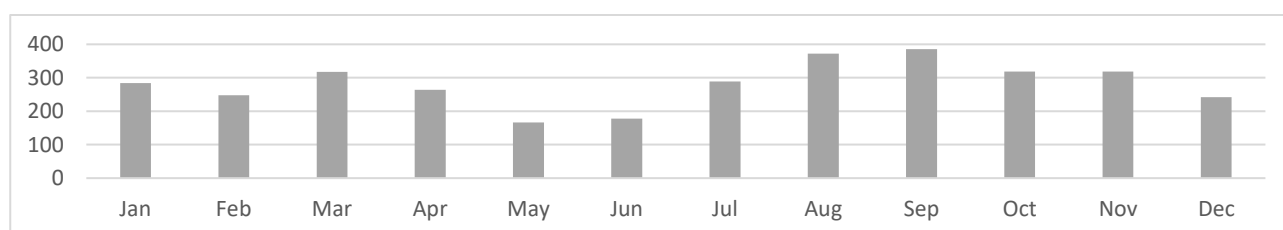
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

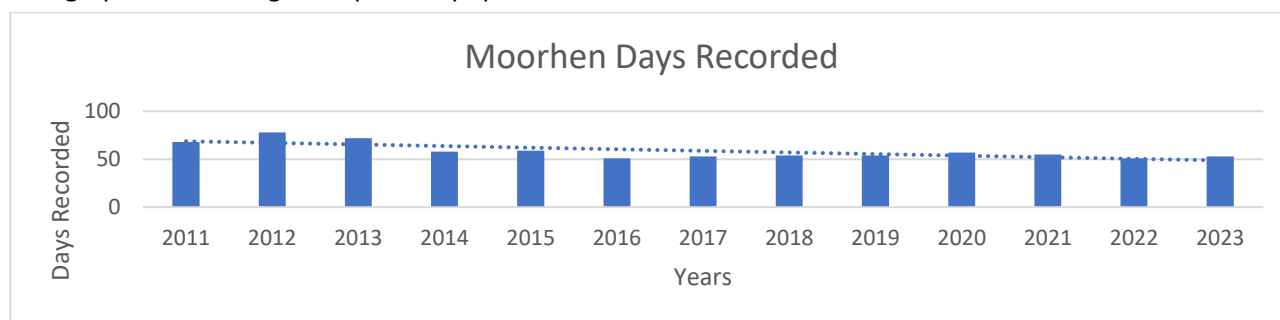
A common resident and breeding species in small numbers. The graph below shows a common pattern where in summer breeding birds are more secretive and stay within the reed beds. The young birds boost the numbers in late summer.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

MOORHEN



This graph shows a slight drop in the population on Avon Meadows.



## Coot *Fulica atra*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**GREEN**

EURASIAN COOT

5 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident across Europe and Central Asia, east to China, Indonesia and Japan. Mostly resident but northern breeding populations move south in winter. In the UK it is a fairly abundant breeding species.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Resident breeding species.

**Maximum count:** 25 on 8 Dec 2011.

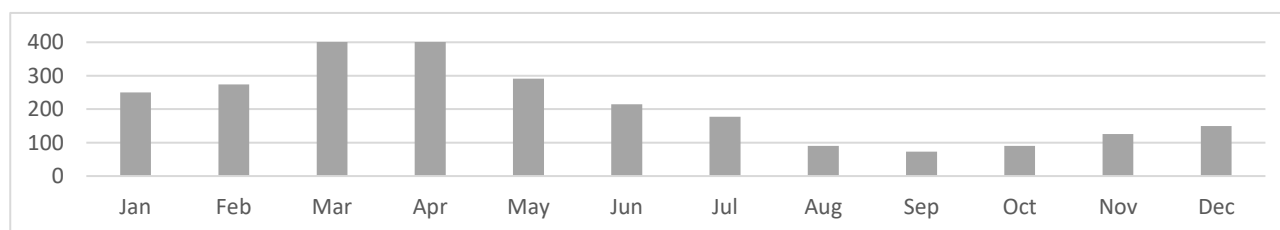
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

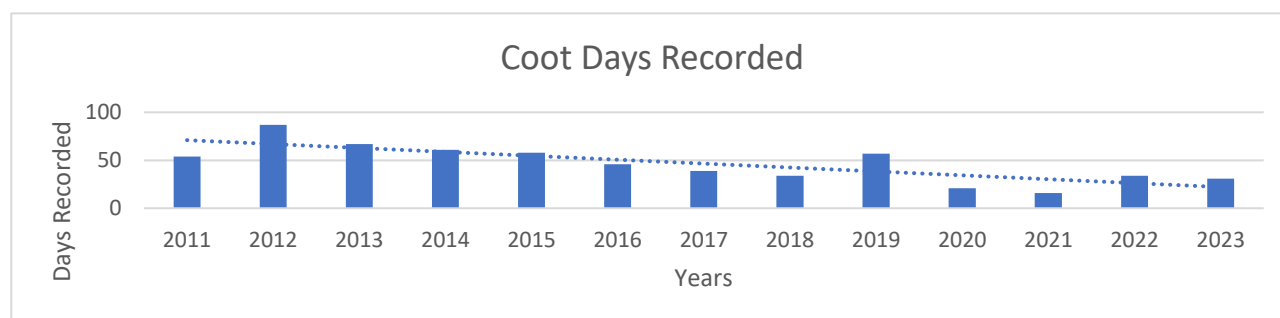
A common resident and breeding species in small numbers. The graph below shows a common pattern where in summer breeding birds are more secretive and stay within the reed beds. The young birds boost the numbers in late summer.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

COOT



As this graph shows clearly, there has been a significant drop off in Coot numbers which is reflected in the number of Coots breeding. The reason for this change is not clear.



**Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*****A** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

10 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Worldwide it is widely distributed from the UK in the west to Japan in the east. Fairly abundant resident breeding species resident in the UK and Western Europe. Breeds in small densely vegetated water bodies moving away to larger areas of water away from the breeding season.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Regular visitor in small numbers and occasional breeder. Resident in the county. Recorded in all years except 2015. Rare in summer, not recorded in June, July. Believed to have bred (14 Apr 2020). Preferred nest sites on Avon Meadows were believed to be in a drainage channel at the south end of the main pool since choked with reeds.

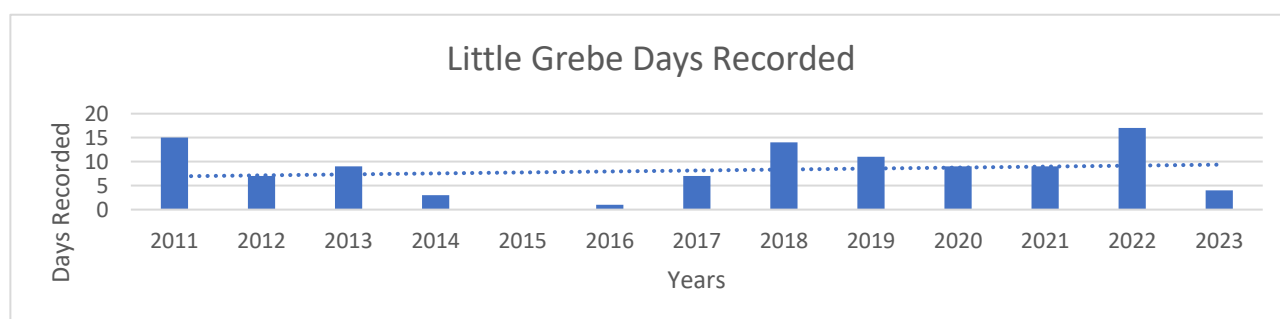
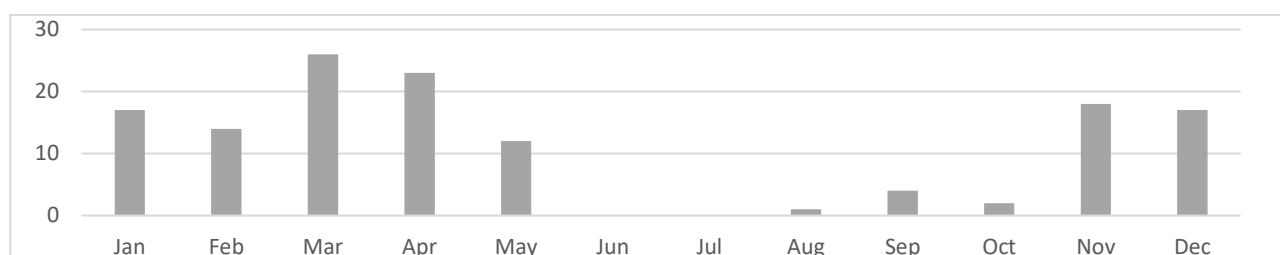
**Maximum count:** 3 on 19 Jan 2019.

**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

LITTLE GREBE

**Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*****A** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident over much of Western Europe but its breeding range extends through central Europe and Asia to northern China. It migrates south in winter as far as South Africa and Australia. Fairly abundant winter visitor to the UK, scarce breeding bird.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Very rare spring and summer visitor.

**Maximum count:** 2 on 2 Mar 2012.

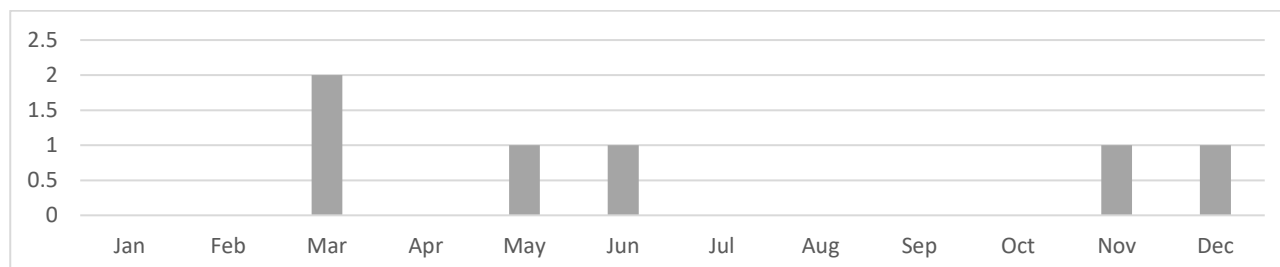
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring arrival on 2 Mar 2012, latest autumn departure on 23 Dec 2017.

Rare visitor, just 5 records. Recorded mainly in spring and autumn.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

GREAT CRESTED GREBE



## Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

A LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

EURASIAN OYSTERCATCHER

4 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range covers Europe and east Asia. It migrates south from Europe to North Africa and the Middle East. In the UK an abundant migratory breeding species.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Uncommon visitor mostly wandering to Avon Meadows in summer.

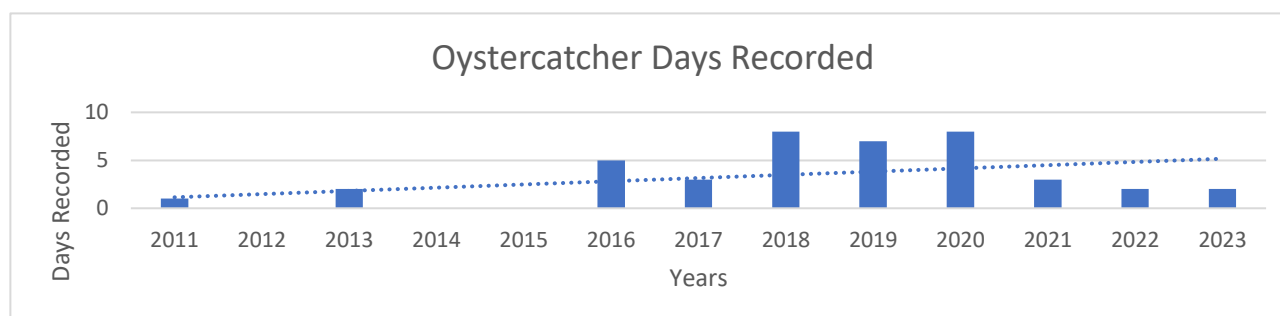
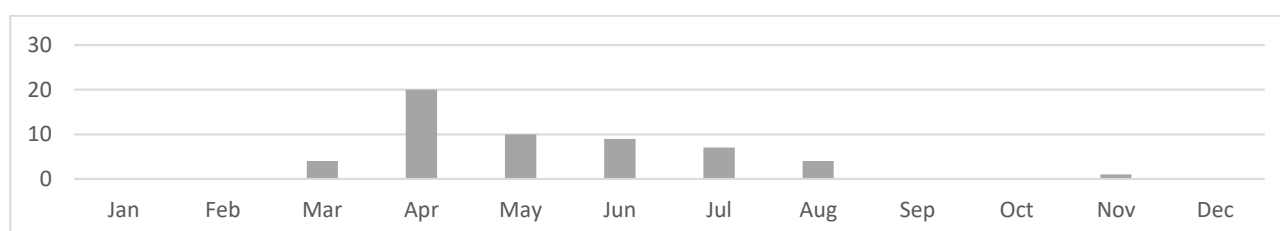
**Maximum count:** 4 on 24 July 2019.

**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring arrival on 26 Mar 2017, latest autumn departure on 9 Nov 2011.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

OYSTERCATCHER





**Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*****A** NEAR THREATENED**RED**

NORTHERN LAPWING

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range covers Europe and east Asia. It migrates south from Europe to North Africa and the Middle East.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Uncommon visitor mostly on passage.

**Maximum count:** 1170 on 9 Feb 2023.

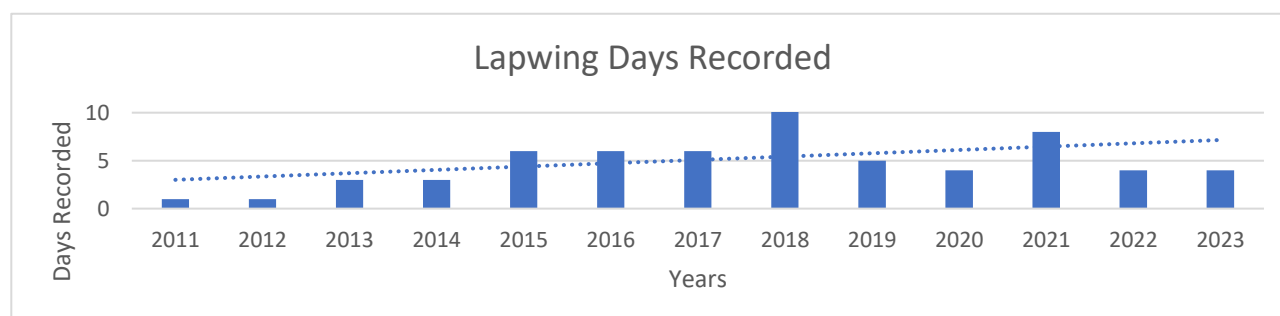
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn arrival on 26 Sep 2021, latest spring departure on 31 Jul 2014.

Mostly recorded flying over and only occasionally land. There was an exceptionally large flock of 1170 birds flying by on 9 Feb 2023.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

LAPWING

**Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*****A** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Western Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range covers Arctic Europe and north Asia. Outside the breeding season it migrates south to the Mediterranean coast. UK status is as a fairly abundant breeding resident in the north and an abundant winter visitor in the south.

In recent years two other subspecies have been split off as full, monotypic and closely related (similar to look at) species. Eastern birds are now Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* New World birds are now American Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*. While both these species are occasionally recorded in the UK there have been no records on Avon Meadows.

## Avon Meadows

**Status:** Occasional flocks cross Avon Meadows in the winter months.

**Maximum count:** 300 on 30 Nov 2018.

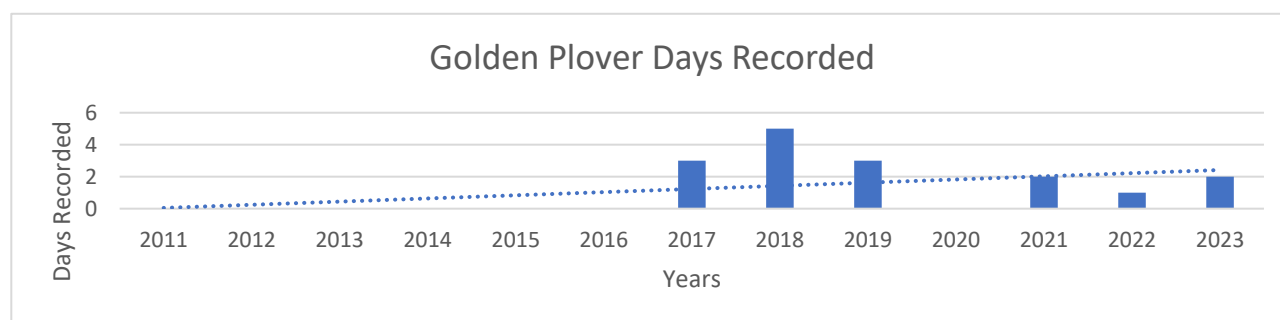
**First recorded:** 9 Mar 2017.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn record is 28 Sep 2019; latest spring record is 9 Mar 2017.

Flocks are known to use nearby ploughed fields to forage in winter.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

GOLDEN PLOVER



## Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

A LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

3 subspecies are recognised of which the race *C. d. curonicus* occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range covers Europe and east Asia. Outside the breeding season it migrates south to central Africa south of the Sahara and the islands of Southeast Asia. There is a resident population on the Indian subcontinent and mainland Southeast Asia. In the UK it is a scarce migratory breeding species, much more common in winter. 11 pairs bred in Worcestershire in 2023. (Eaton 2024)

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** A species that only arrived after the creation of the scrape. Regarded as a summer visitor to Avon Meadows, mostly recorded in pairs visiting in spring.

**Maximum count:** 2 on many occasions.

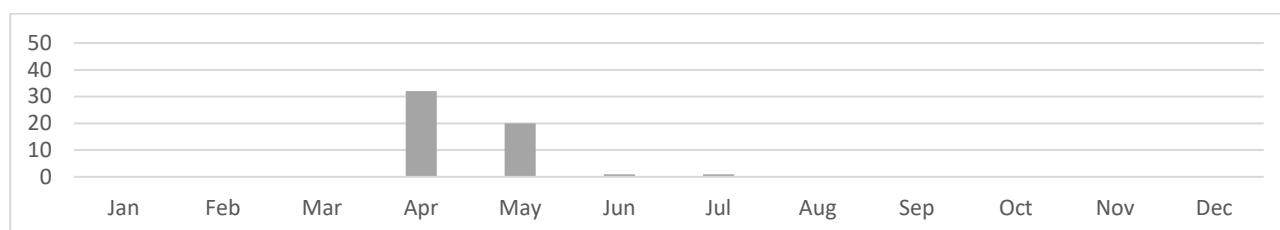
**First recorded:** There were reports of this species on Avon Meadows before 2009 but the first record since detailed records were collected was on 12 Apr 2016.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring record is 1 Apr 2017 and the latest summer record is 7 Jul 2019.

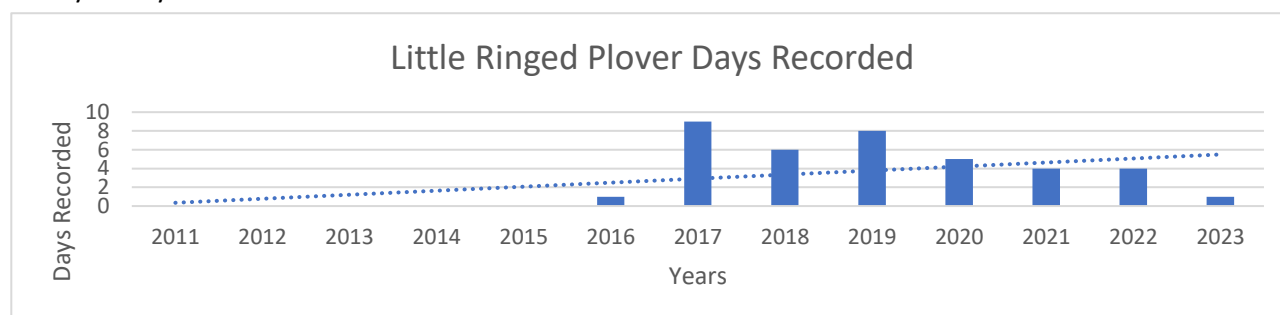
We believe breeding has been attempted on at least one occasion but persecution by Corvids deterred effective breeding attempts. The annual occurrence graph has been shown although the number of records is too few for the trend to be significant.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER



The graph shows that when the scrape was first created and the islands were clear of vegetation the open habitat suited the Little Ringed Plovers. However, the islands have become overgrown and they only stay briefly if they visit at all.

**Curlew *Numenius arquatus*****A** NEAR THREATENED**RED**

EURASIAN CURLEW

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range covers Europe and east Asia. It migrates south to the coasts of Africa, southern Asia and islands as far south as Indonesia. In the UK it is an abundant migratory breeding species whose numbers are increased by northern breeding birds in winter.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Uncommon migrant/summer visitor mostly on spring passage.

**Maximum count:** 5 on 4 Dec 2011.

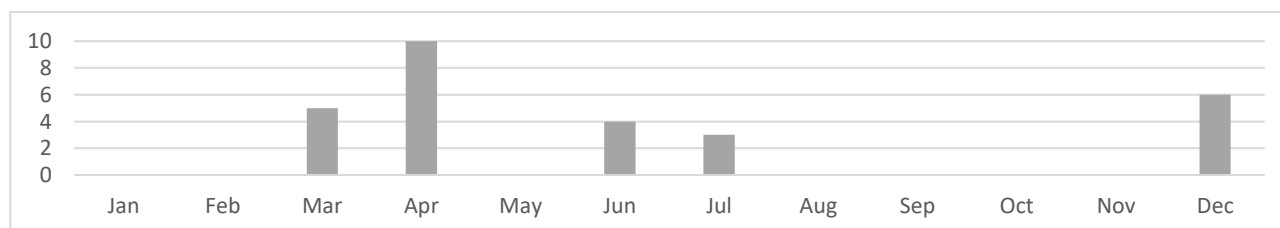
**First recorded:** 10 Dec 2010.

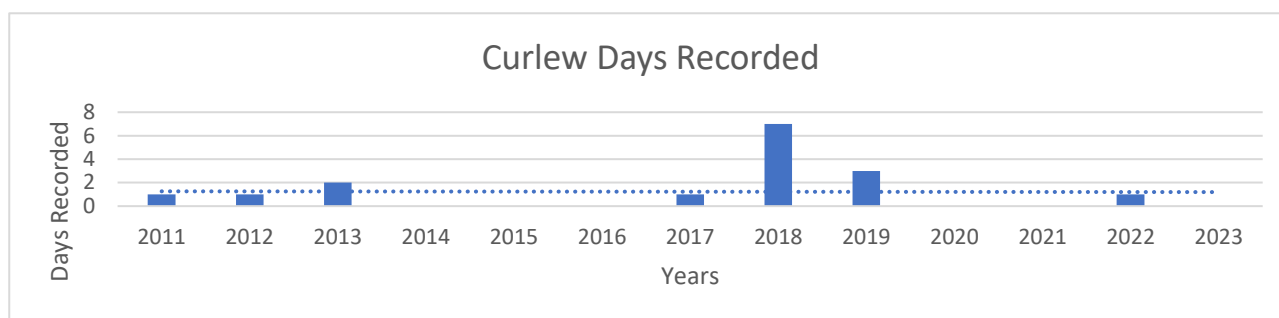
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** The earliest spring record is 15 Mar 2012 and the latest summer record is 4 Dec 2011.

It does breed in small numbers in Worcestershire, but it is a ground nesting bird and disturbance by humans and predators prevents breeding on Avon Meadows.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

CURLEW





## Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

**A** NEAR THREATENED

**RED**

4 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range covers northern Europe and parts of NE Asia. Outside the breeding season it migrates south central and east Africa, Southeast Asia and far as Australia. In the UK it is a migrant and scarce winter visitor.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Migrant making occasional visitor on passage.

**Maximum count:** 50 on 9 Apr 2020.

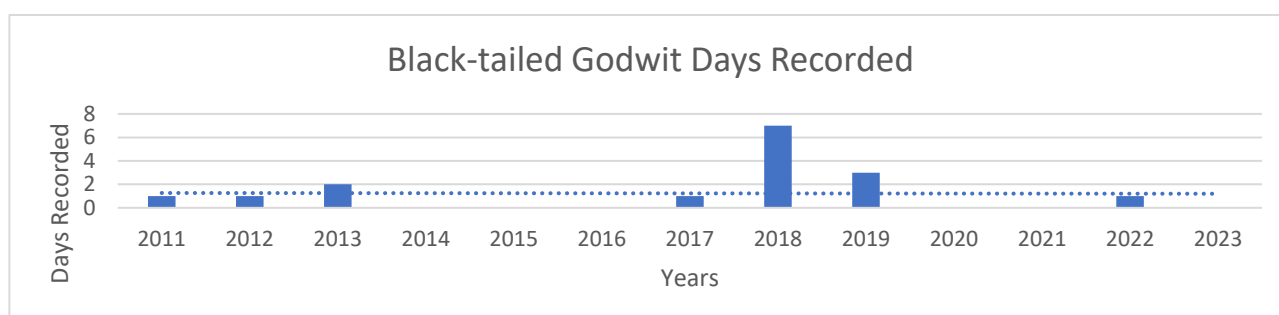
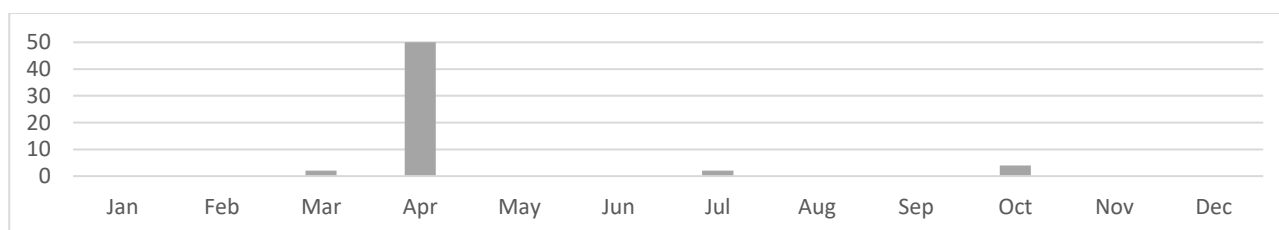
**First recorded:** 7 Jul 2011.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** The extreme spring dates are 16 Mar 2017 to 9 Apr 2020 and autumn dates are 7 Jul 2011 to 1 Aug 2015.

It has been recorded on the main pool and the scrape. The small number recorded means that the graphs mean less than they would if based on a larger number of records.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT



**Dunlin *Calidris alpina*****A** LEAST CONCERN**RED**

10 subspecies are recognised of which the subspecies *C. a. schinzii* is that mainly occurring in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range is Holarctic, covering North America, northern Europe and northern Asia. It migrates south to sub-tropical and tropical latitudes outside the breeding season. In the UK it is a passage visitor and abundant winter visitor.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Rare visitor and mainly spring migrant.

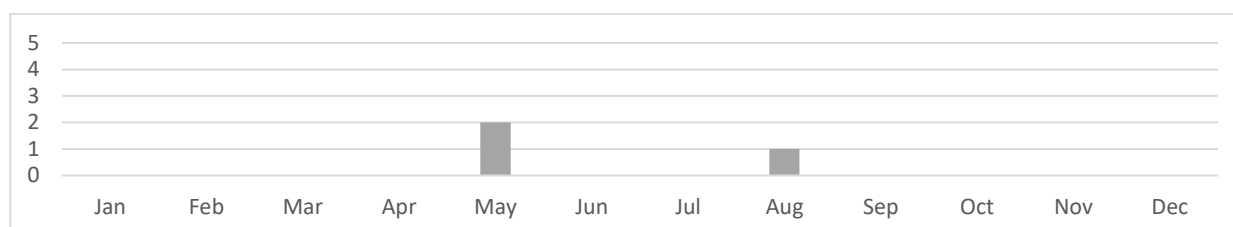
**Maximum count:** 2 on 14 Aug 2011.

**First recorded:** 11 Aug 2011.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring date 14 Apr 2011 and latest spring date 26 May 2018. Too few records to show an established pattern.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

DUNLIN

**Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*****A** LEAST CONCERN**RED**

EURASIAN WOODCOCK

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range northern Europe and central Asia. It migrates south in winter to western Europe and the UK and Southeast Asia. In the UK it is a fairly abundant passage visitor.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Rare visitor. Difficult to detect unless flushed.

**Maximum count:** 1 on 19 Nov 2019.

**First recorded:** 19 Nov 2019.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):**

A single record of a bird flushed from beside the scrape on 19 Nov 2019.

**Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*****A** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range covers northern Europe and Asia. It migrates south in winter to Western Europe, central Africa, northern India and parts of Southeast Asia. In the UK it is an abundant winter visitor.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Uncommon but probably regular migrant. Difficult to detect unless flushed. Will not flush unless you almost step on it!

**Maximum count:** 1.

**First recorded:** First recorded in 2010 but the first formal record was on 5 Dec 2019.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring record 10 Apr 2021, latest spring date 12 Apr 2021. Earliest autumn date 17 Oct 2017, latest autumn date 5 Dec 2019.

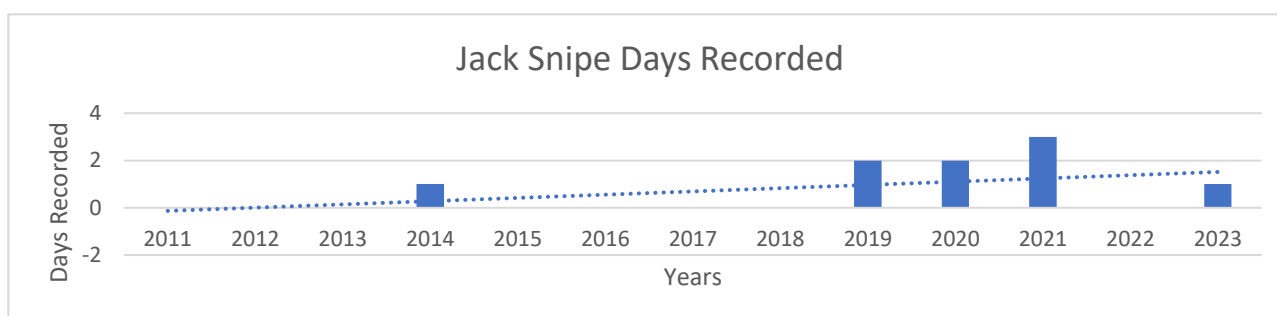
Mostly flushed from the wetter parts of the North Meadow although there was one record of a bird on the scrape.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

JACK SNIPE



The increasing trend due in part to increasing efficiency in detection as the birds' habits on Avon Meadows are better understood.



## Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**AMBER**

### COMMON SNIPE

2 subspecies are recognised both of which occur in Europe and the UK, *G. g. gallinago* and *G. g. faeroeensis*.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range is widespread in northern Europe and northern Asia. It migrates south to Europe to Central Africa, the Middle East, India, and Southeast Asia as far as the Philippines. In the UK it is an abundant winter visitor.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Scarce winter visitor.

**Maximum count:** 35 on 15 Nov 2012.

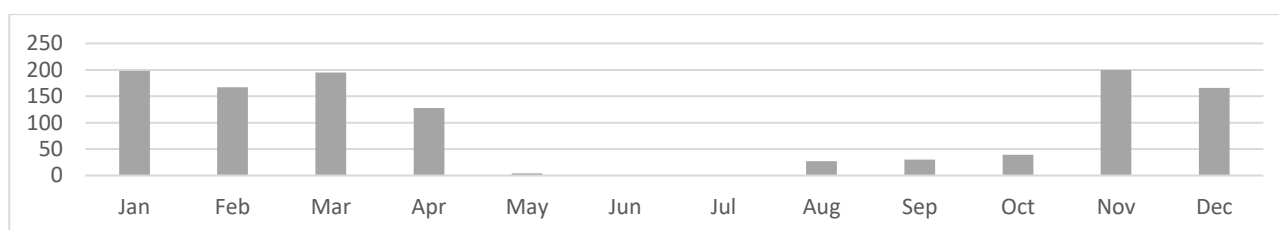
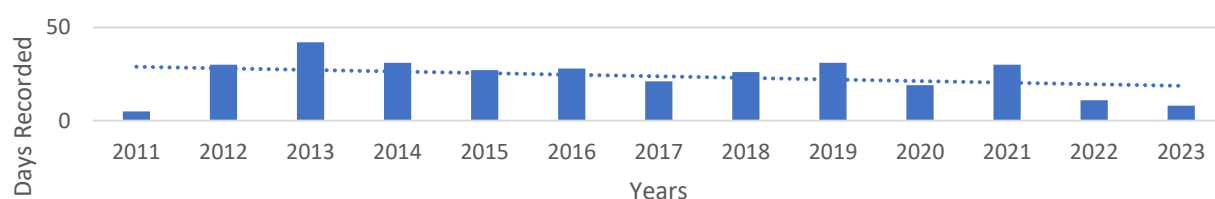
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn arrival 9 May 2019 and latest spring departure 9 Aug 2020.

Found in the North Meadow and most frequently the scrape. The slight decline over the period is not regarded as significant.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

SNIPE

**Snipe Days Recorded****Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range covers Europe and east Asia. It migrates south from Europe to North Africa and the Middle East. In the UK it is a scarce of local migrant and winter visitor.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Uncommon migrant, mostly recorded on passage.

**Maximum count:** 4 on 24 July 2019.

**First recorded:** 2009.

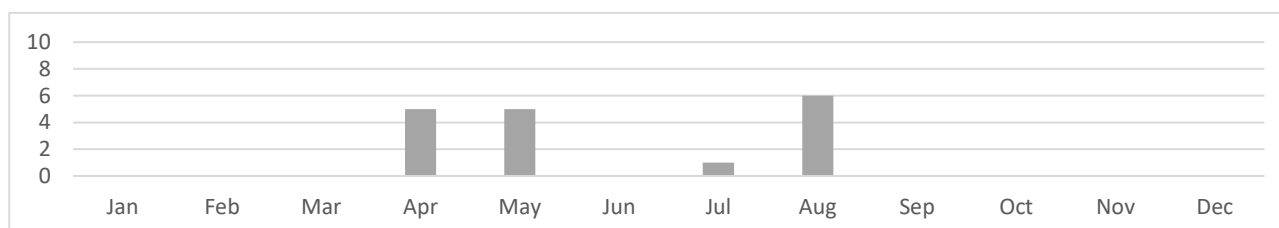
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring record 12 Apr 2016, latest spring date 12 May 2016.

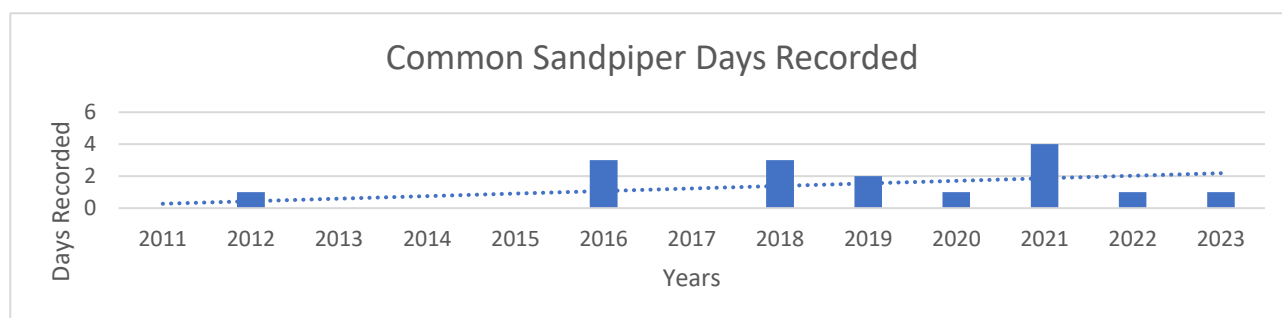
Earliest autumn date 7 July 2021, latest autumn date 26 Aug 2021.

Frequency of occurrence almost certainly limited by a lack of sufficient suitable habitat.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

COMMON SANDPIPER





## Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**AMBER**

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range covers northern Europe as far as east Asia (Siberia and north China). It migrates south from Europe to the Mediterranean, southern Africa, India and Southeast Asia. In the UK it is a scarce or local winter visitor.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Uncommon visitor mostly on passage.

**Maximum count:** 1.

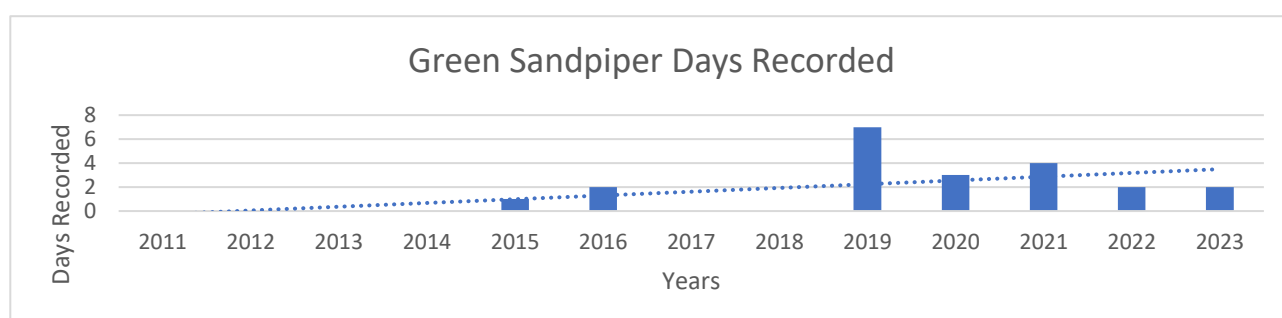
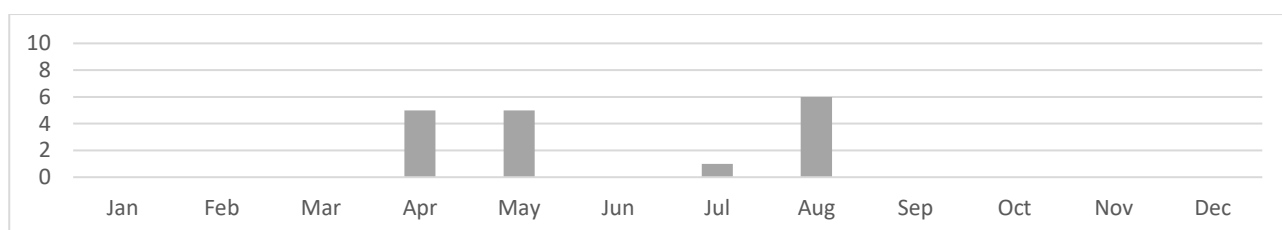
**First recorded:** 2010.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring record 20 Mar 2022, latest spring date 30 Jul 2019. Earliest autumn date 13 Aug 2016, latest autumn date 24 Nov 2019.

Frequency of occurrence almost certainly limited by a lack of sufficient suitable habitat.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

GREEN SANDPIPER





**Redshank *Tringa totanus*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

## COMMON REDSHANK

6 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies and the race *T. t. robusta* occur in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range covers north and central Europe and east Asia. It migrates south to southern Europe and northern Africa south to the Sahel, the Middle East, India and Southeast Asia. In the UK it is a migratory breeding species and abundant winter visitor.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Uncommon visitor mostly on passage. Has bred in Worcestershire.

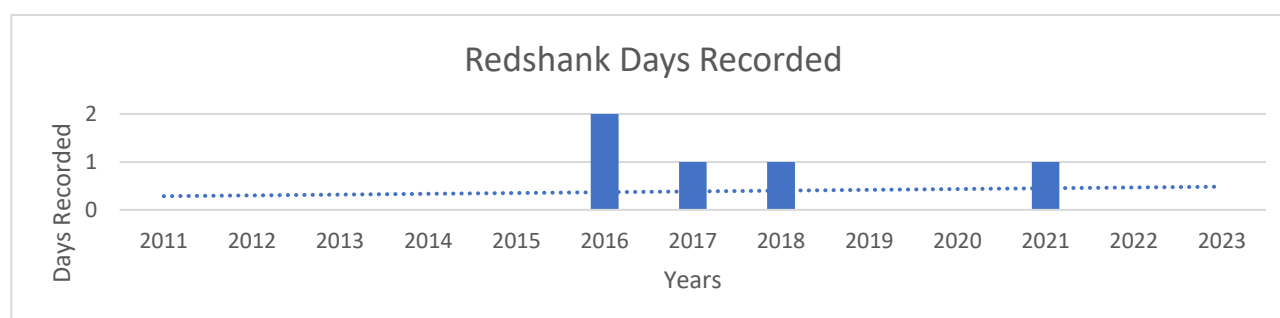
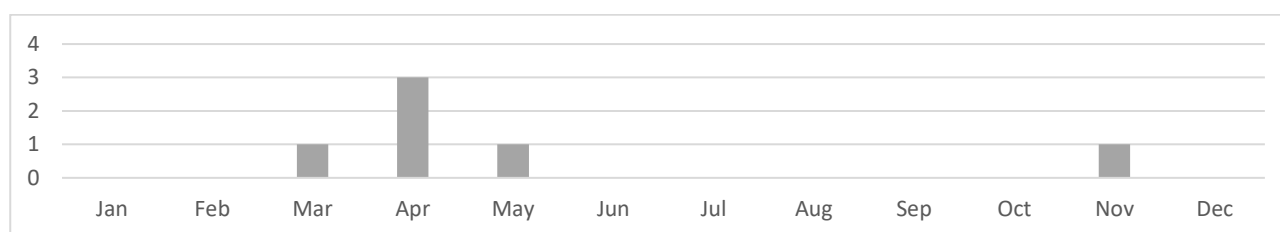
**Maximum count:** 2 on 14 Apr 2016.

**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring record 25 Mar 2016, latest spring date 20 May 2017. Earliest autumn date 9 Nov 2021, latest autumn date not available.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

REDSHANK

**Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

## COMMON GREENSHANK

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range northern Europe and north Asia east as far as Siberia and north China. It migrates south from to southern Africa, India and Southeast Asia as far south as coastal Australia. In the UK it is a scarce of local breeding species and a fairly abundant migrant.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Scarce migrant.

**Maximum count:** 1.

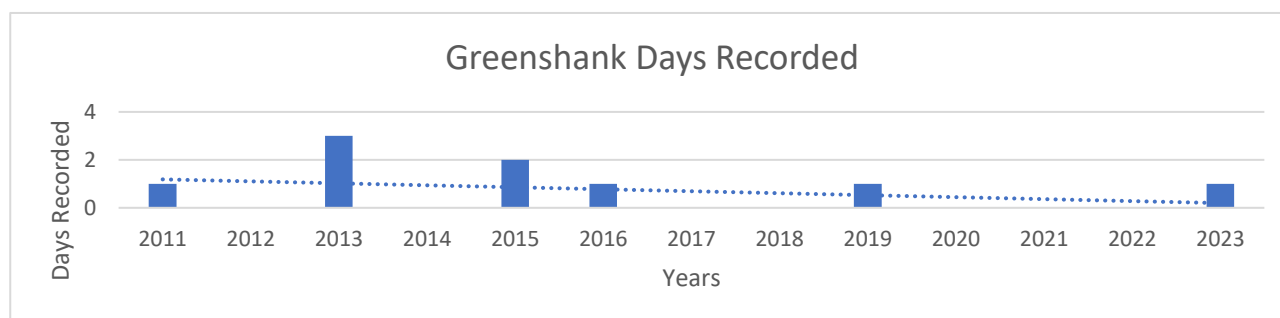
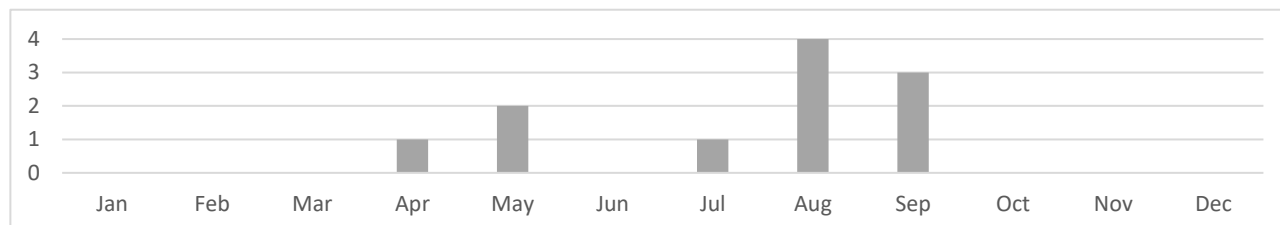
**First recorded:** 2010.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring record 28 Apr 2023, latest spring date 8 May 2019.  
Earliest autumn date 26 Jul 2016, latest autumn date 19 Sep 2015.

Frequency of occurrence almost certainly limited by a lack of sufficient suitable habitat. There are too few records for the downward trend to be significant.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

GREENSHANK



### Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* A LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range central Europe and central Asia. It migrates south and west in winter covering North Atlantic coasts (W to the USA) to the coasts of North Africa and the Middle East and Southeast Asia. In the UK it is an abundant breeding species and very abundant winter visitor.

#### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Very commonly recorded over Avon Meadows. There is a resident local population (breeding at Upton Warren) but most birds are recorded flying along the river. Much less frequent in summer. They occasionally land on the scrape and on wet or flooded meadows.

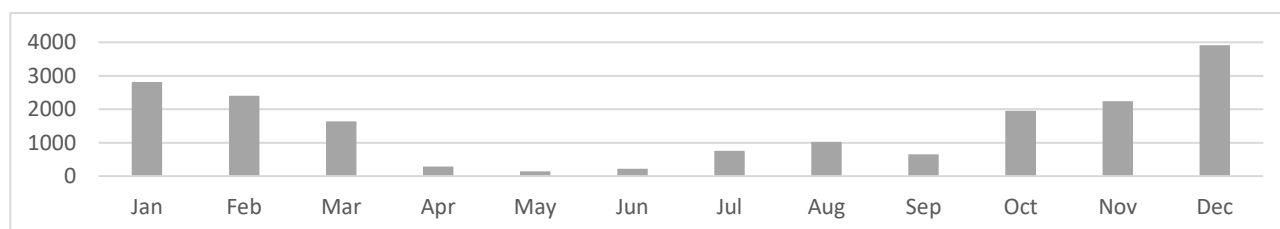
**Maximum count:** 350 on 24 Feb 2011.

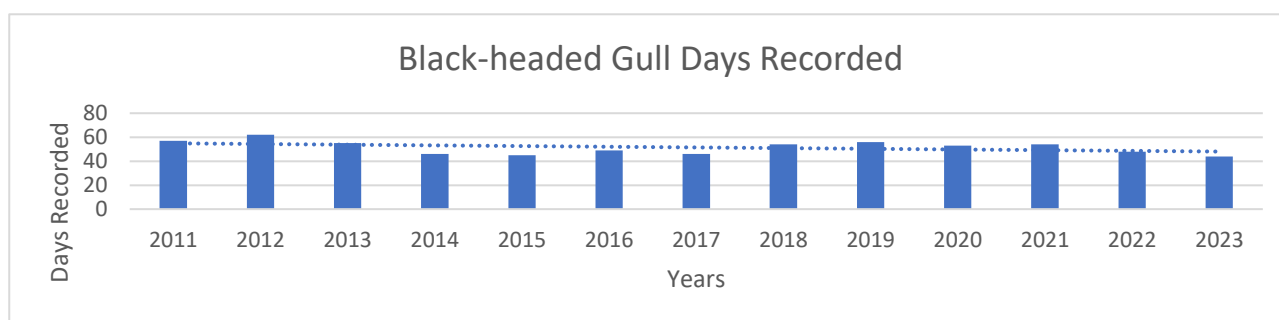
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

BLACK-HEADED GULL





## Common Gull *Larus canus*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**AMBER**

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It breeds across Europe and Asia wintering on the coasts of the western Atlantic and Southeast Asia. In the UK it is a fairly abundant breeding species and an abundant winter visitor, mostly along our coasts.

The taxonomy is complex but recently it has been split from the American species, the Mew (or Short-billed) Gull *Larus brachyrhynchus*. There is a further complication in that the Kamchatka Gull of northeast Asia is sometimes thought of as a different species, *L. kamtschatschensis*.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Uncommon visitor mostly on passage. They occasionally land on the scrape and on wet or flooded meadows.

**Maximum count:** 12 on 7 Jul 2022.

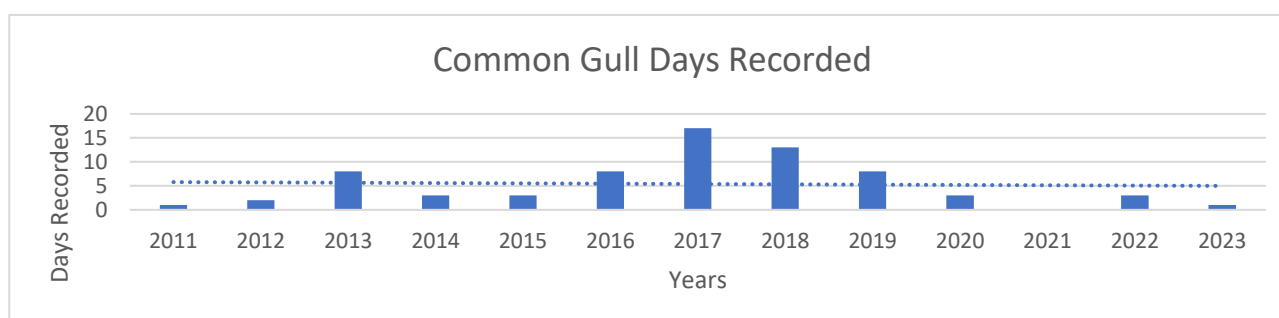
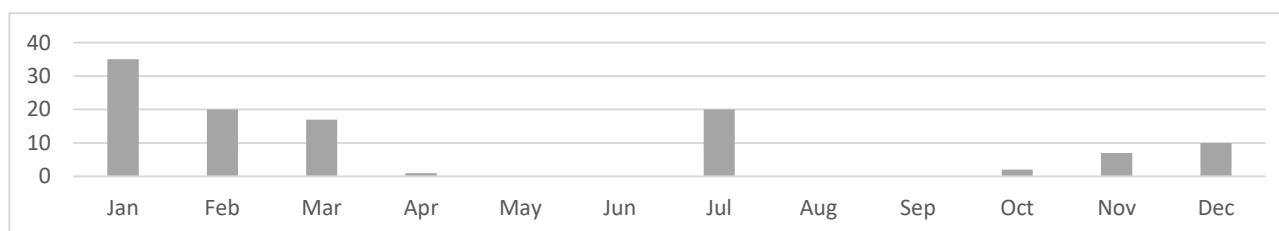
**First recorded:** 2010.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** The latest spring date is 4 Apr 2019 and the earliest autumn arrival date is 6 Oct 2016.

The July record is very unusual and is the only summer record.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

COMMON GULL



**Great Black-backed Gull *Ichthyaetus marinus*** A LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Restricted to the coasts of the North Atlantic.

Some authorities have left this species in its earlier genus as *Larus ichthyaeus*.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Uncommon winter visitor.

**Maximum count:** 2 on several occasions.

**First recorded:** 15 Jan 2015.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** The latest spring date is 11 Mar 2021 and the earliest autumn arrival date is 28 Oct 2019.

A huge gull with a jet black back making it easily picked out from other gulls. A coastal species that rarely ventures inland although has been recorded on the margins of flooded meadows.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

**Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*** A LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range is mostly in the Arctic of northern Canada and Greenland west to Iceland and Norway. It moves south to the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of North America and to the coasts of northern Europe. In the UK it is a scarce of local winter visitor.

Another gull species with a complex taxonomy. The Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* is that most frequently seen in the UK although the other two visit occasionally. Many authorities split the other subspecies as separate species, Thayer's Gull *Larus thayeri* (North America) and Kumlien's Gull *Larus kumlieni* (Russian Far East) while others maintain them as subspecies of Iceland Gull.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Rare migrant.

**Maximum count:** 1.

**First recorded:** 15 Mar 2018.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A

Just one record of an individual flying over with other gulls.

**Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*****A** LEAST CONCERN**RED****EUROPEAN HERRING GULL**

5 subspecies are recognised of which two occur regularly in Europe and the UK, the nominate subspecies and *L. a. argentatus*.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Herring Gulls have a wide breeding range across North America and Europe with scattered breeding sites in Asia. Southern populations are resident but northern ones move south to join their southern populations.

The taxonomy is complicated and today most authorities split the American population as American Herring Gull *Larus smithsonianus*. Although usually regarded as a subspecies some authorities split the eastern population as Vega Gull *Larus vegae*.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** One of the most commonly recorded gulls over Avon Meadows. Frequently recorded resident mostly flying over but occasionally landing on the scrape or on flooded meadows.

**Maximum count:** 65 on 21 Oct 2021.

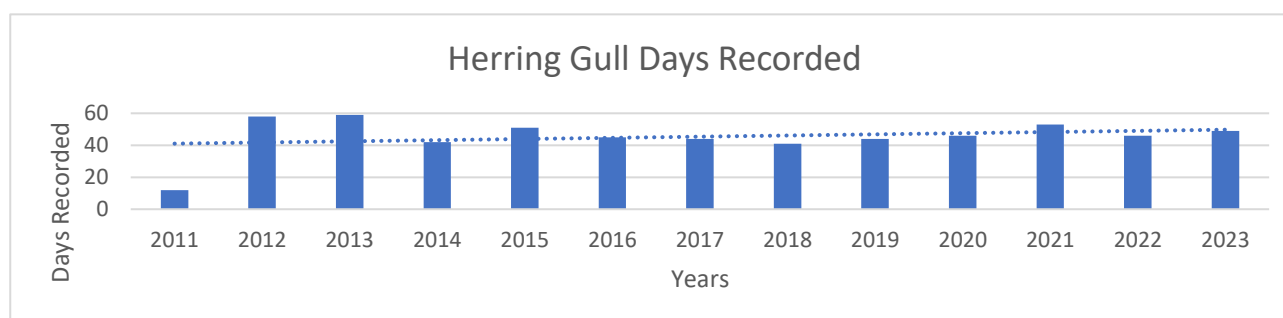
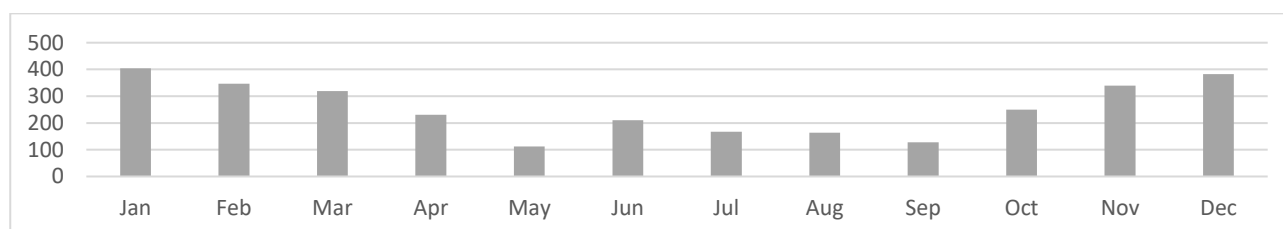
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

The gull with the call of the English seaside! Seen throughout the year often passing over very high up. Separated when flying over from the other common gull on Avon Meadows, the Lesser Black-backed Gull by pale 'windows' halfway along the trailing edge of the wings.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

HERRING GULL

**Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK although the subspecies *L. m. atlantis* can occur.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident over western and central Europe and the Mediterranean. Breeding is strictly coastal.

## Avon Meadows

**Status:** Rare visitor.

**Maximum count:** 1.

**First recorded:** 6 Dec 2012.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A

Just two records one of a bird standing on ice on the main pool on 6 Dec 2012 and a second flying over on 14 Sep 2021. Possibly under recorded as it is very difficult to separate from the much more common Herring Gull.

## Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

A LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

5 subspecies are recognised of which 3 occur in the UK; the nominate subspecies, *L. f. graellsii* and *L. f. intermedius*.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It has an 'old world' distribution breeding in northern Europe and Asia mainly along coasts along the arctic. It winters south into Europe and central Africa in the west and Southeast Asia in the east.

Two of the subspecies are restricted to Central Asia and the Far East only recorded as vagrants in Europe. The common species in the UK is *L. f. graellsii* distinguished by its slate grey back (not black). The other two black-backed subspecies are less common although individuals these subspecies, *L. f. fuscus* and *L. f. intermedius* have been recorded over Avon Meadows. They are difficult to tell apart but the likelihood is that *L. f. intermedius* has been recorded over Avon Meadows as *L. f. fuscus* breeds along the White Sea and winters in Africa.

## Avon Meadows

**Status:** *L. f. graellsii* is a very common visitor throughout the year, particularly in winter. *L. f. intermedius* is a very scarce migrant.

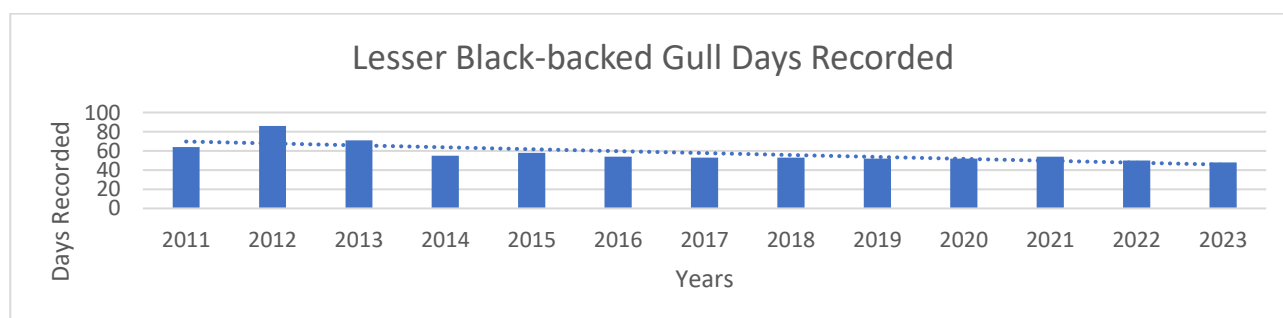
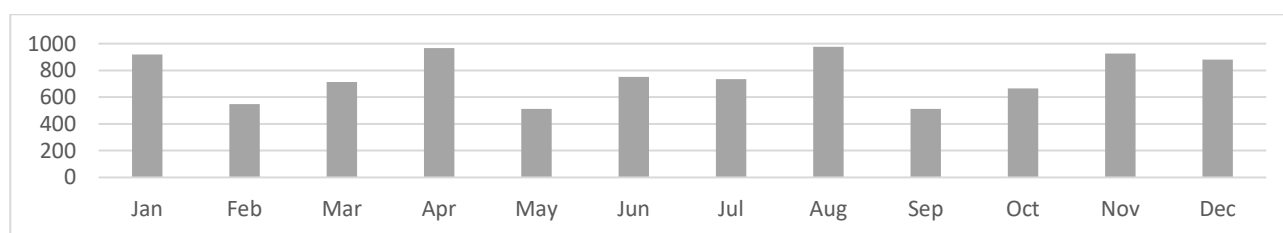
**Maximum count:**

**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL



**Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Its breeding range extends from the east coast of the USA east across Europe to the Caspian Sea. It winters on the coasts of South American and Africa. In the UK it is a fairly abundant breeding species and migrant.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** A coastal species which is a rare vagrant to Avon Meadows.

**Maximum count:** 1

**First recorded:** 9 April 2017.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A.

On record of a single bird flying down the river.

**Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range is huge covering North America, Europe and Asia. It migrates south from North America to coastal South America, Europe to coastal Africa and the Middle East and from East Asia and China to Australasia. In the UK it is a fairly abundant migrant breeding species and passage visitor.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Uncommon Summer visitor. They breed at Upton Warren.

**Maximum count:** 3 on 11 May 2014.

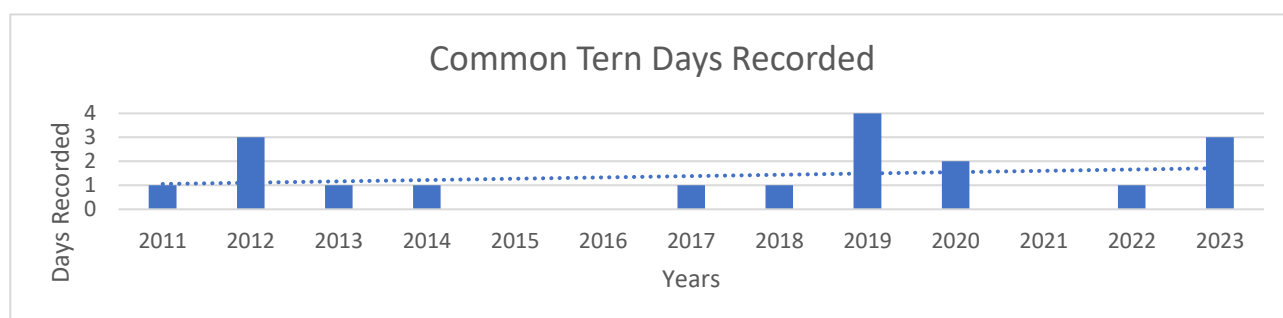
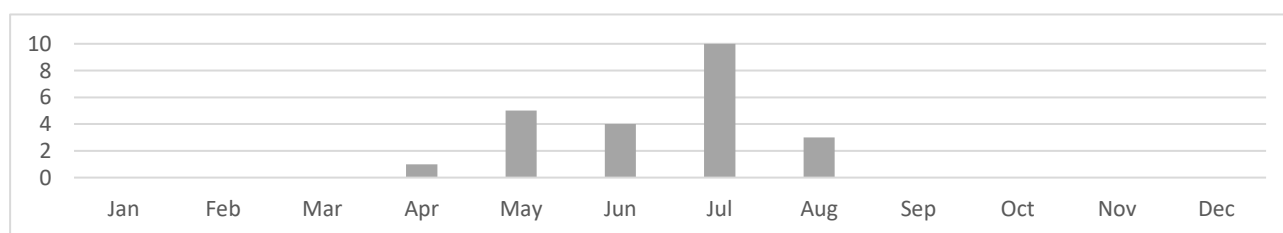
**First recorded:** 2011.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring record 22 April 2022, latest summer record 9 Aug 2012.

Not recorded every year but generally population is stable.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

COMMON TERN



**Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*****A** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in Europe and the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The breeding range covers North America, Europe and west Asia. It migrates south from North America to coastal South America, Europe to coastal Africa. In the UK it is a scarce passage visitor.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Vagrant.

**Maximum count:** N/A

**First recorded:** Before 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A

Only recorded from before formal records were made. They are recorded from time to time in our area.

**Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*****A** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

6 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A wide distribution from Europe through Asia, southern Africa, India and Australasia where it is mainly a resident species. Resident in parts of Northern Europe where it breeds on rocky coasts. Further south in Morocco breeds beside inland water bodies. In the UK it breeds in some coastal habitats but is a common winter and passage visitor.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Common winter visitor.

**Maximum count:** 16 in 5 Dec 2019.

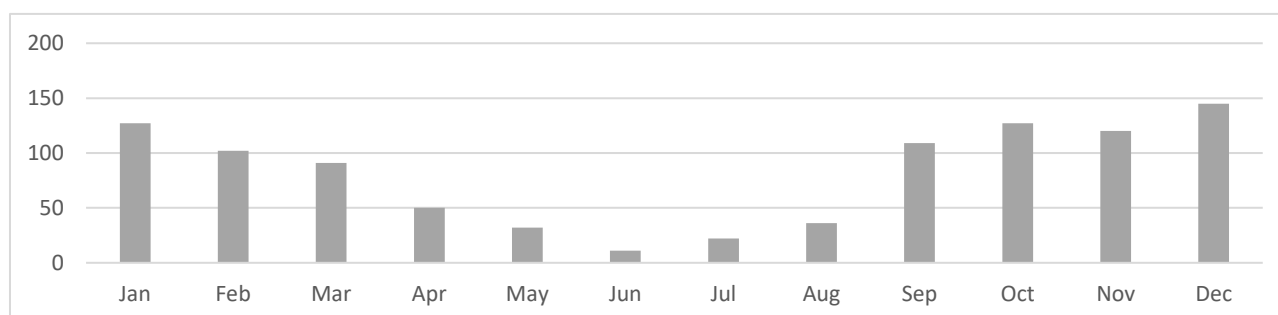
**First recorded:** 2010.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

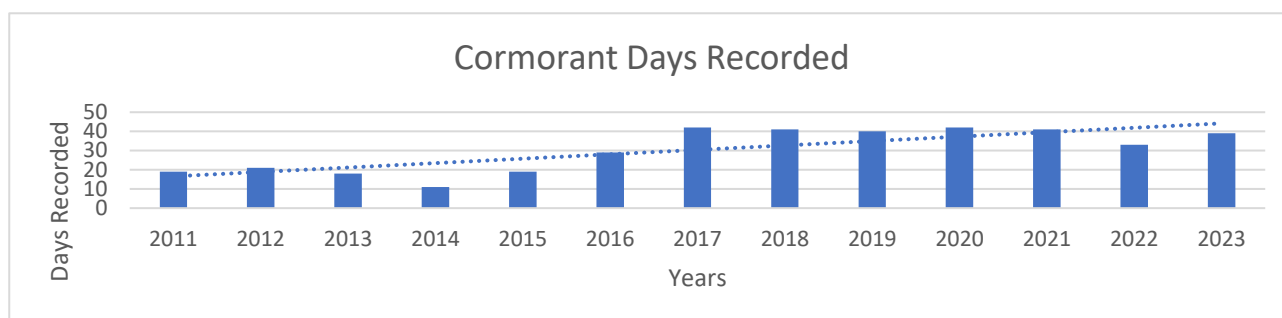
Common visitor in small numbers. Recorded in all years. Scarce in summer. Mostly recorded flying along the River Avon.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

GREAT CORMORANT







### **Bittern *Botaurus stellaris***

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**AMBER**

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in the UK and Europe.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Worldwide range extends from Europe through central Asia to north China, moving south in winter to central Africa, India and coastal SE China. In Europe a local resident. Rare or local resident breeding species in the UK where it breeds in huge reed beds with some winter visitors.

#### **Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Very rare.

**Maximum count:** N/A

**First recorded:** 10 Mar 2014.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A

Just two records, 10 and 11 March 2014, presumably the same bird. One or two overwinter in Worcestershire most frequently recorded at Upton Warren.

### **Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

**AE** LEAST CONCERN

**AMBER**

WESTERN CATTLE EGRET

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Its range is worldwide in the warmer parts including South and North America, the Mediterranean and Africa south of the Sahara. Resident in Mediterranean countries. Until recently regarded as a vagrant to the UK but number increasing with some breeding records. It is a species closely associated with large herbivores.

Recently the species here is now regarded as a separate species, the Western Cattle Egret, from the species that occurs further east, Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*.

#### **Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Very rare but possibly increasing as the UK population increases.

**Maximum count:** 1 on 20 Dec 2022.

**First recorded:** 20 Dec 2022.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A

Just a single record of a bird flying over the North Meadow on 20 Dec 2022. As with other egrets, numbers are increasing in the UK with a succession of mild winters.

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*****A** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

4 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Widely distributed across Europe and Asia. Fairly abundant resident breeding species in the UK although recent studies show the population falling.

In the Americas it is replaced by the Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Common visitor.

**Maximum count:** 3 in most years.

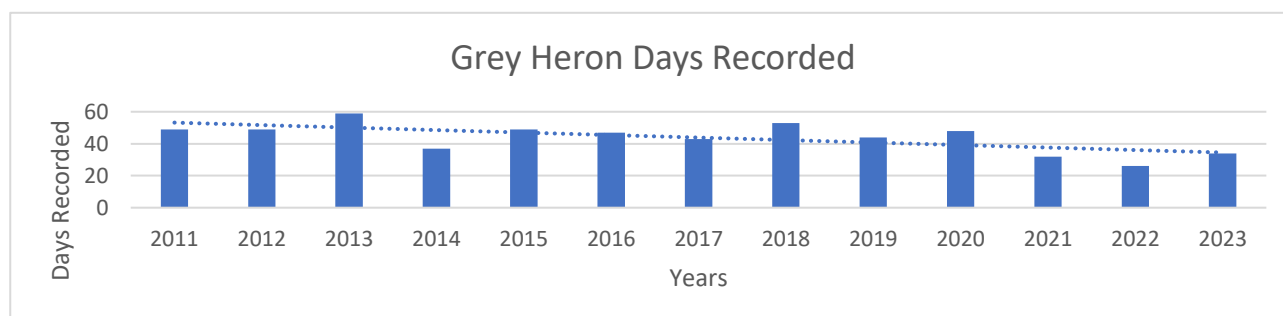
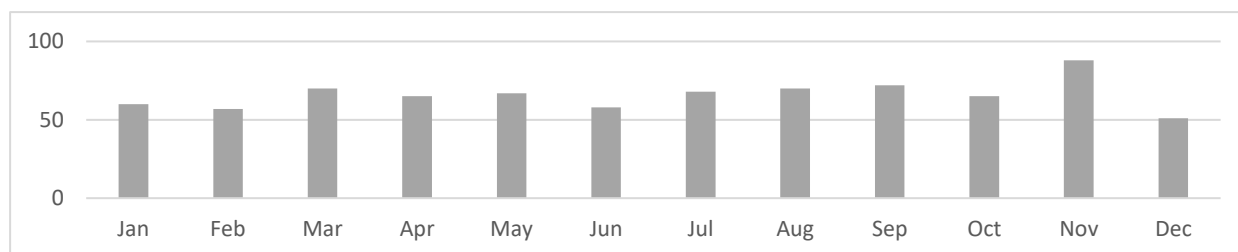
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

Often visits Avon Meadows to feed in the pools on frogs and small fish.

Recorded in all months of the year.

GREY HERON

**Total Counts 2009-2023****Great White Egret *Ardea alba*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

4 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** This species has a worldwide distribution where it is restricted to the warmer parts. Rare resident and migratory breeding species in the UK. As with other egrets, the UK population is increasing which is likely to result in its status as a migrant changing.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Uncommon migrant.

**Maximum count:** 1.

**First recorded:** 27 Apr 2013.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** In spring the earliest arrival was 3 January and latest departure 6 June. In autumn the earliest arrival was 26 October and the latest departure was 23 November.

**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*****A** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate subspecies occurs in the UK and Europe.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It has a considerable world distribution in the warmer parts of the world from Europe to Australasia. In the UK it is a scarce resident breeding species with some winter visitors from Europe. However, the UK population is increasing quite rapidly from the south, encouraged by a series of milder winters. 4 pairs bred in Worcestershire in 2023. (Eaton 2024).

It is replaced in America by the very similar Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Uncommon visitor mostly in the warmer months.

**Maximum count:** 4 on 4 Aug 2013.

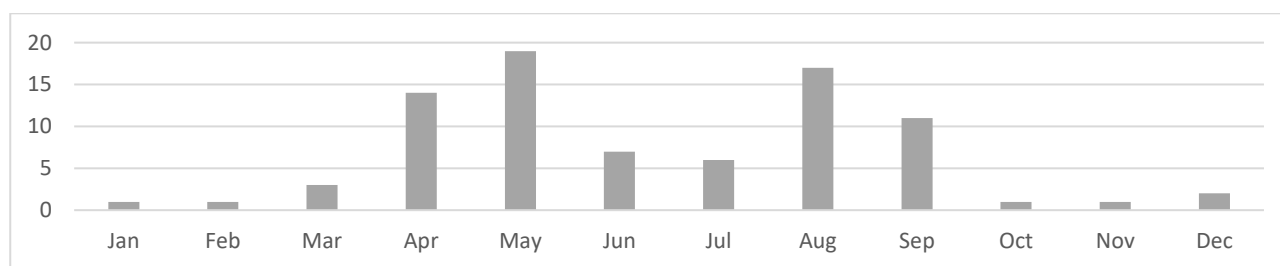
**First recorded:** 1 Aug 2010.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

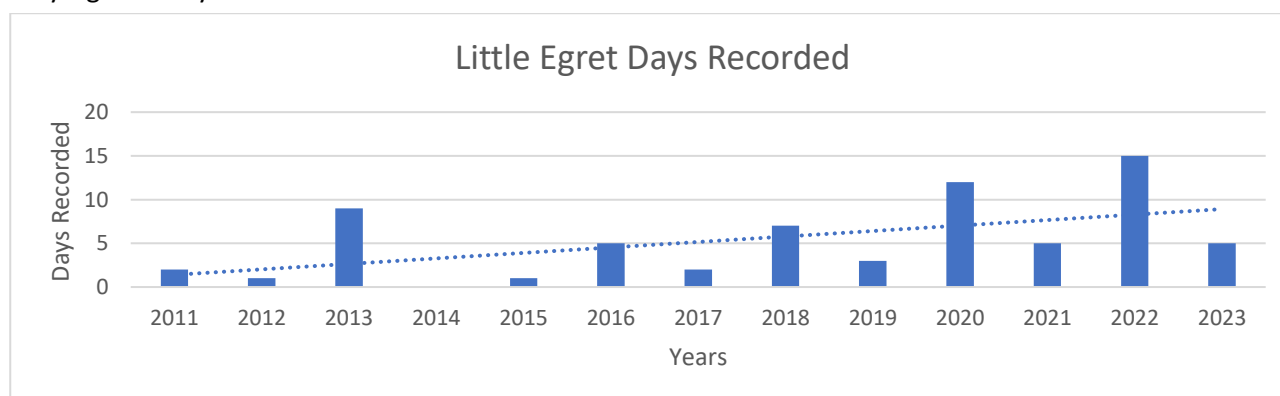
Frequency of sightings has increased significantly over the period under consideration (see graph). Records from all years except 2014. Most recent records are for birds flying over but there have been records on the scrape and the main pool.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

LITTLE EGRET



In common with other egret species, the Little Egret has increased its population in the United Kingdom very significantly and there have been sufficient records to reflect this trend on Avon Meadows.

**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*****AE** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

4 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Worldwide distribution breeding in the Northern Hemisphere and wintering in the Southern Hemisphere. Scarce, migratory breeding species in the UK.

## Avon Meadows

**Status:** Vagrant.

**Maximum count:** 1.

**First recorded:** 14 Apr 2012.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring date 29 Mar 2021; latest autumn date 23 Sep 2018.

Four records only on Avon Meadows in 14 Apr 2012, 5 May 2017, 23 Sep 2018 and 29 Mar 2021. The timings are consistent with bird returning to their breeding sites or heading south for the winter. All records are for birds flying over.

## Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**AMBER**

6 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Breeds from Europe and across north Asia, east to NE China and Japan. Winters in middle latitudes south to the Mediterranean and Central Africa, India and SE Asia. It is resident in the UK where it is regarded as a fairly abundant breeding species.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Common resident. It has not bred on Avon Meadows so far as we know although at least one pair breeds nearby. Avon Meadows is used as part of its hunting ground. It is a frequent visitor to the meadows although sightings cannot be guaranteed on any given visit.

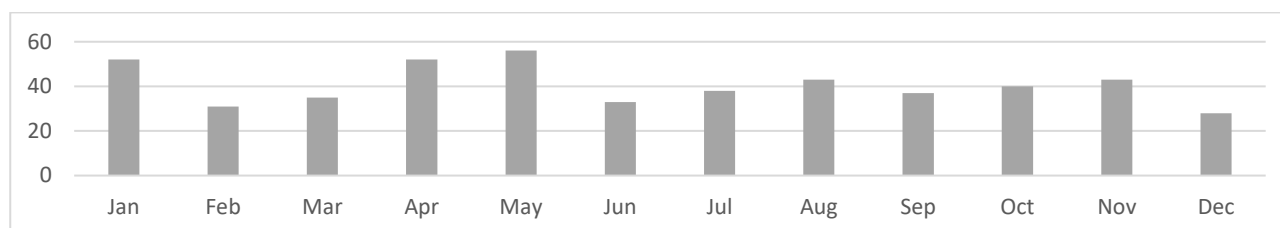
**Maximum count:** 5 on 21 May 2018 and 16 Jan 2020.

**First recorded:** 2009.

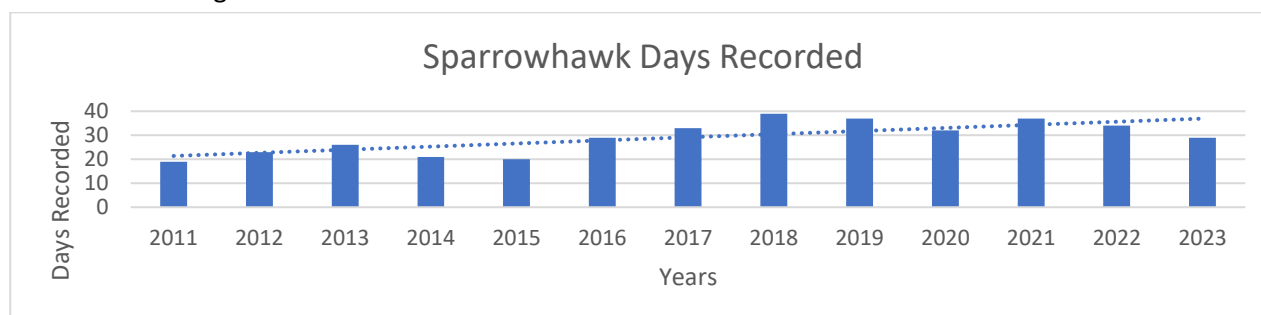
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

SPARROWHAWK



There has been a slight upward trend in Sparrowhawk occurrences on Avon Meadows over the period but too small to be significant.



**Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*****A** LEAST CONCERN**RED**

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Breeds from Europe and across north Asia, east to NE China and Japan. Winters in middle latitudes south to the Mediterranean and Central Africa, India and SE Asia. It is a scarce, migratory breeding species in the UK.

The American race has recently been split as a separate species, Northern Harrier, *Circus hudsonicus*. This species a vagrant to the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Vagrant. The red breeding status is due to persecution, often by gamekeepers on large estates in northern England and Scotland.

**Maximum count:** A single record on 25 October 2018. An adult male was seen briefly flying along the river during a Thursday morning bird count.

**First recorded:** 2018.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Only one record.

**Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Breeds from Europe and into west Asia, and winters central and southern Africa and India. It is rare migratory breeding species to the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Vagrant. There has been just one record for this species of a male, which was photographed flying over Avon Meadows, on the afternoon of 6 May 2021.

**Maximum count:** 1.

**First recorded:** 6 May 2021.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A

**Red Kite *Milvus milvus*****ACE** NEAR THREATENED**GREEN**

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Worldwide distribution extends across Western Europe and the UK. Scarce, breeding resident in the UK although its range is slowly expanding due to re-introduction programmes.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Resident. Occasional visitor. A small number breed locally.

Red Kites went extinct in Scotland and England in the 1800's leaving just a small resident population in central Wales. They were successfully reintroduced into England (Chiltern Hills) in the late 1980's and further afield in the 1990's so these elegant birds can now be seen regularly over Avon Meadows.

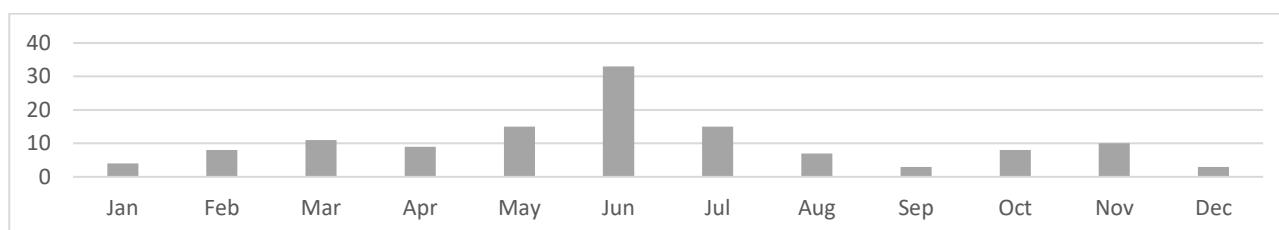
**Maximum count:** 3 (9 Nov 2021, 26 Jun 2022). An unverified count of 12 was recorded in 15 Jul 2022.

**First recorded:** 2010.

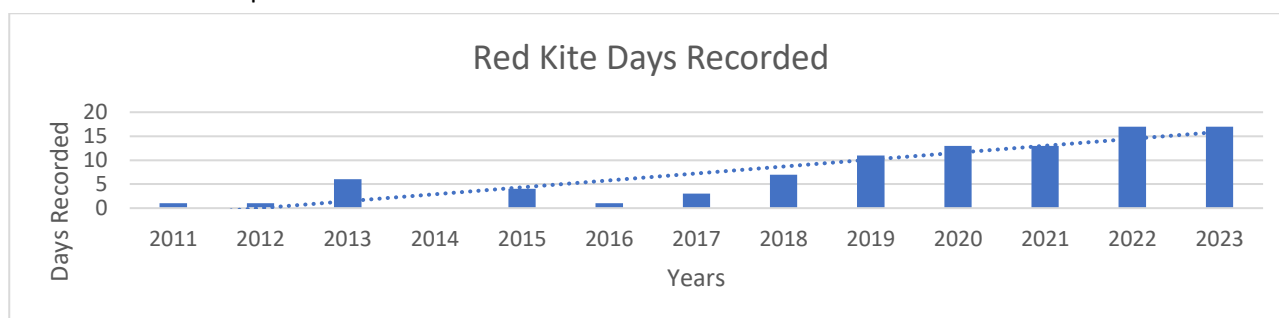
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

RED KITE



There has been a marked increase in the frequency of Red Kites recorded over Avon Meadows. This has taken place as the local population increases and the establishment of breeding sites in the area. Recently the Throckmorton tip has offered an attraction and kites can often be seen over there now.

**Buzzard *Buteo buteo***

AE LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

**COMMON BUZZARD**

7 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is a resident breeding species in much of Europe. Its breeding range extends to northern Asia from whence it winters in southern Africa. It is a fairly abundant, resident breeding species in the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Resident. It breeds locally in the wood across the river and in Tiddesley Wood. Although it does not breed on Avon Meadows it is a common sight flying over. In spring and autumn, it is not unusual to see non-resident birds flying over too.

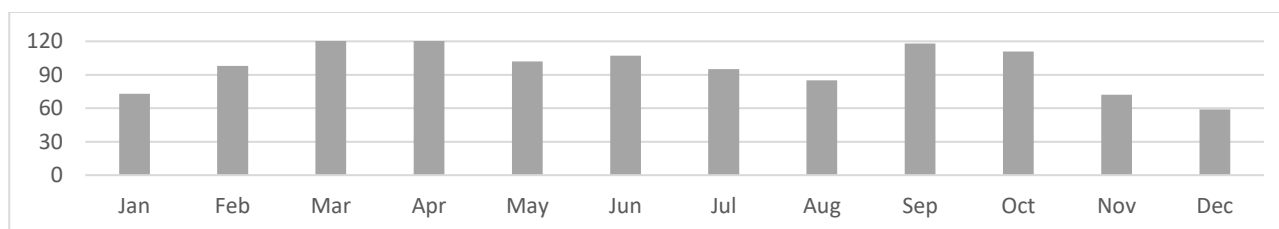
**Maximum count:** 11 on 18 October 2018.

**First recorded:** 2009.

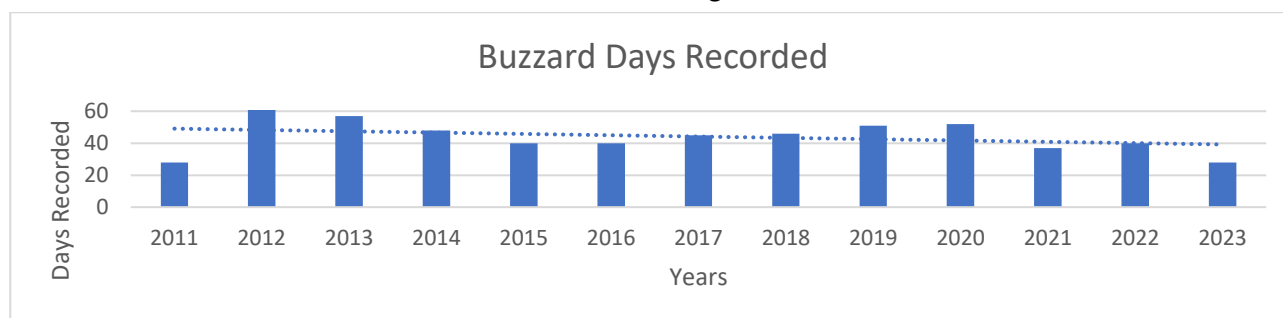
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

BUZZARD



The small downward trend in Buzzard occurrences is not significant.



## Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

**AE** LEAST CONCERN

**GREEN**

27 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race is that occurring in the UK. The number of subspecies is a matter of discussion as different authorities give different totals.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is a species with a worldwide distribution with many subspecies much darker than the familiar one in the UK. It inhabits areas with temperate climates avoiding most tropics and polar areas. It is a scarce or local, resident breeding species in the UK.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Resident. It certainly bred on Avon Meadows in 2022 and quite possibly on other occasions using nest boxes erected in some larger willow trees. It is a regular but infrequent visitor to Avon Meadows, mainly in the summer months when it can hunt for voles and other small mammals. In 2022 an adult was watched catching 5 small mammals in a 30-minute period to feed its young! It is an infrequent visitor to Avon Meadows and the lack of sightings in summer is probably due to parents sitting on eggs only to appear later to hunt for food.

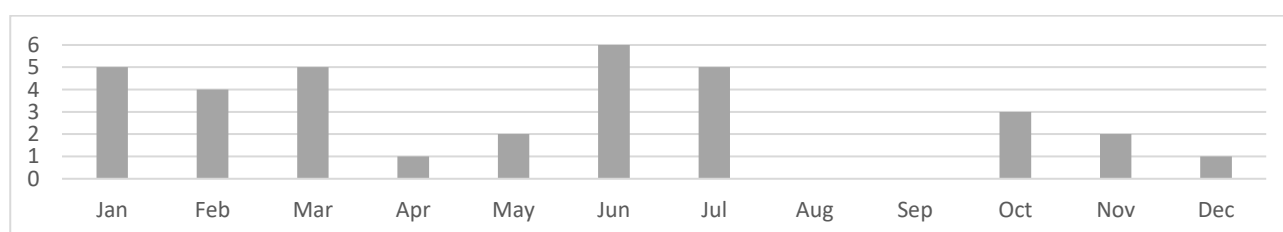
**Maximum count:** 2 on 10 February 2016 and 9 October 2022.

**First recorded:** 2009.

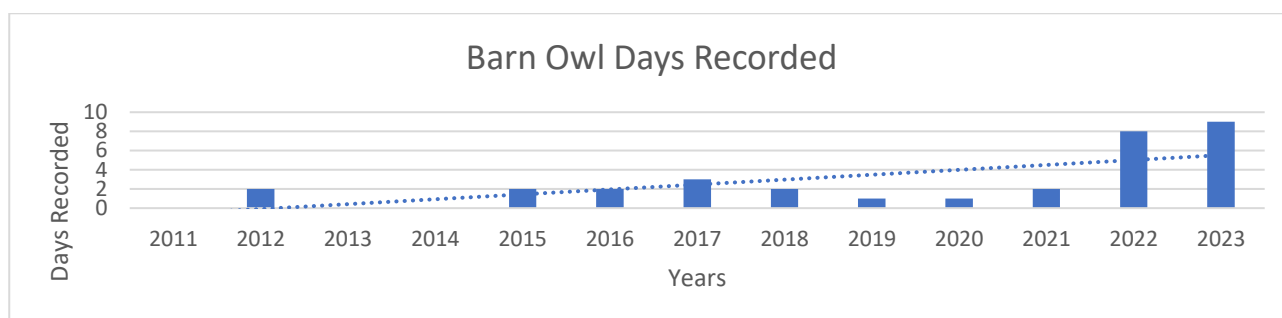
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

BARN OWL



There has been a significant increase in Barn Owl sightings on Avon Meadows almost certainly due to the erection of nest boxes providing nesting sites. The summer food supply, in the form of small mammals seems to be good!



## Tawny Owl *Strix aleuco*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**AMBER**

7 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is resident over much of Europe except the far north. It is a fairly abundant resident breeding species in the UK.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Common resident although more often heard than seen. It has bred on Avon Meadows, probably on a number of occasions. A young bird was seen on 17 May 2023 by Wychavon District Council staff in the middle of the day on a dead tree near the tilting weir. Most records are for birds calling at night or early morning, most frequently in the winter months when birds pair off. Calls have been heard for every month of the year albeit not every year.

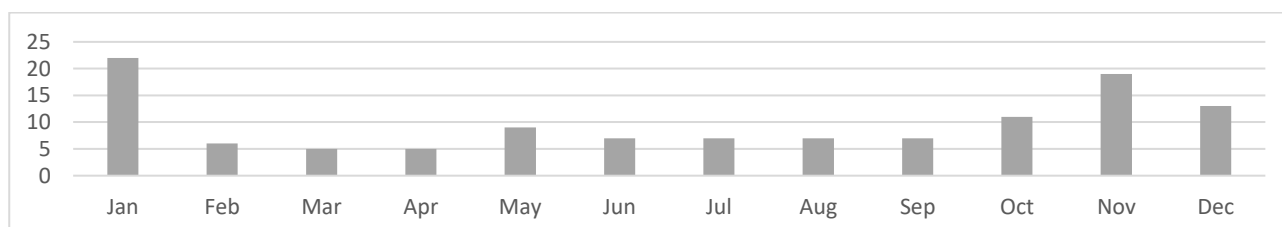
**Maximum count:** 2 heard or seen on a number of occasions.

**First recorded:** 2009.

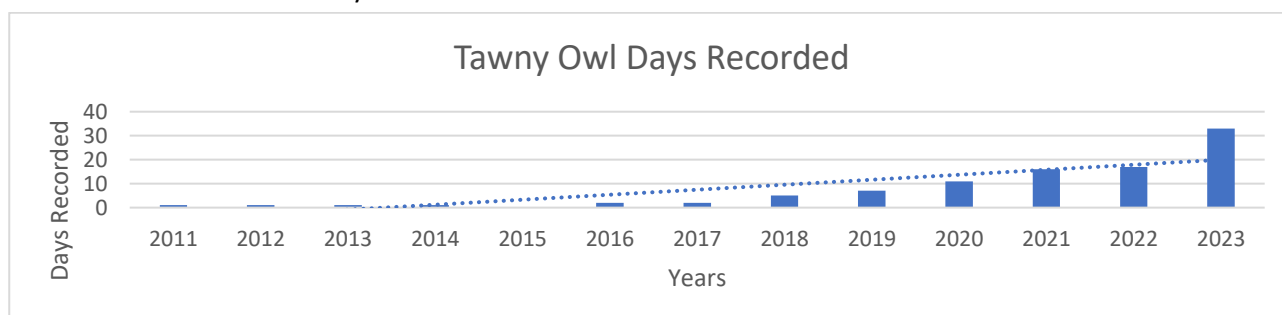
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

TAWNY OWL



There has been a marked increase in Tawny Owl records. This is in part due to increased recording effort as 3 houses along Cherry Orchard have enthusiastic bird watchers to report hearing calls overnight. The other factor is increased breeding activity. An owl nest box has been erected but access is difficult and we cannot be certain it has been used by the owls!





**Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*****A** LEAST CONCERN**AMBER**

## COMMON KINGFISHER

7 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Alcedo atthis insipida* is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is resident over much of Europe and southern Asia east to Taiwan and Japan. Some populations are migratory, breeding in central Asia and wintering as far south as Indonesia and the Philippines. It is a scarce or local resident breeding species in the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Resident most frequently seen as a flash of blue as it flies past. It breeds on the banks of the river in areas that are undisturbed. It uses Avon Meadows to fish, particularly when the river is turbid in times of flood.

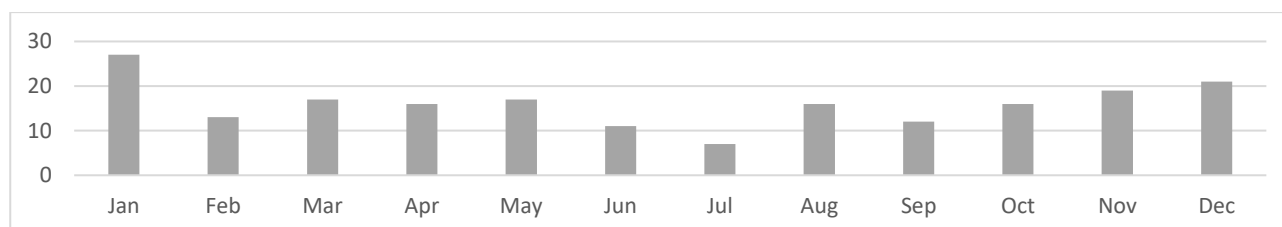
**Maximum count:** 3 on 22 December 2022.

**First recorded:** 2009.

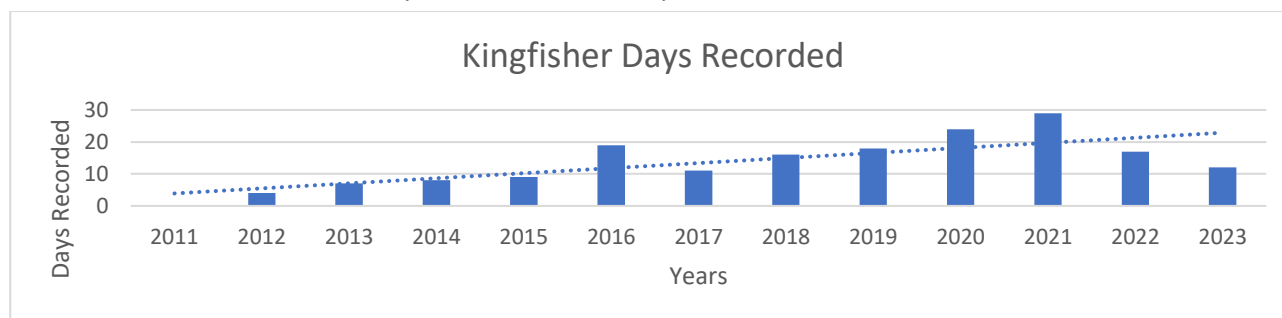
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

KINGFISHER



The number of Kingfisher sightings has increased as the fishing opportunities in the pools on Avon Meadows increases. Fish are only introduced into the pools at times of flood.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major* AF** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

14 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Dendrocopus major pinetorum* is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is resident throughout Europe and Central Asia east to Japan and Korea. In the UK it is a fairly abundant resident breeding species.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Resident breeding species. It occurs regularly on Avon Meadows and one or two pairs breed either on the meadows or nearby. It can be seen throughout the year.

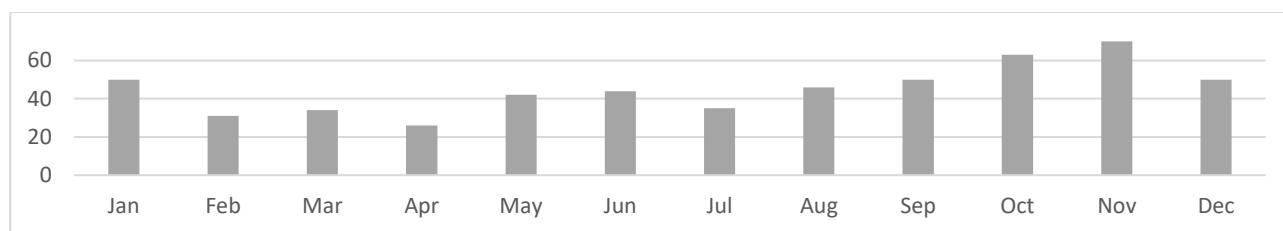
**Maximum count:** 4 on a number of occasions.

**First recorded:** 2009.

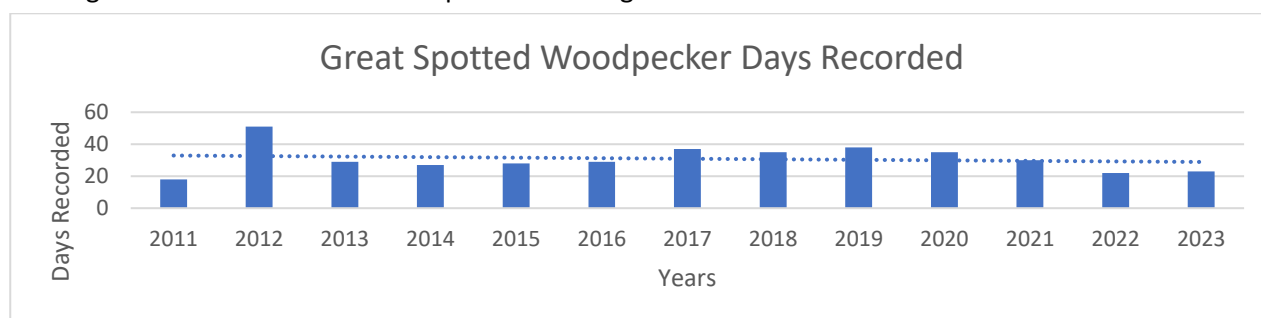
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER



The slight downward trend over the period is not significant.



## Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

**AF** LEAST CONCERN

**GREEN**

EUROPEAN GREEN WOODPECKER

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is resident throughout Europe, north of the Mediterranean, east to the Caspian Sea. It is a fairly abundant resident breeding species in the UK.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Resident. It occurs regularly on Avon Meadows but has not been recorded breeding there. It probably does breed in woodland across the river from the meadows from where its penetrating call can be heard. It can be seen throughout the year.

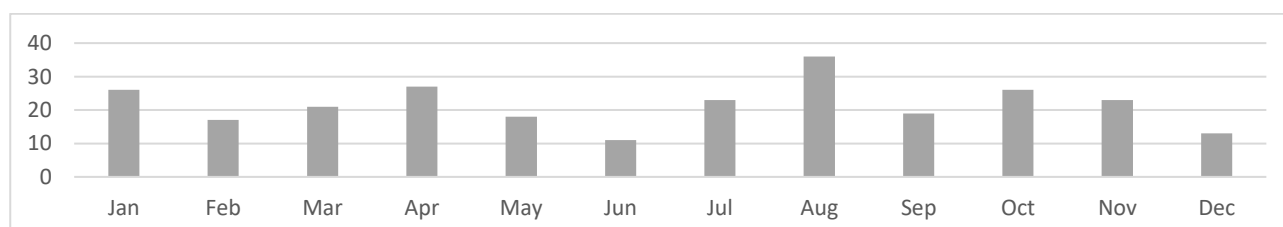
**Maximum count:** 2 on many occasions.

**First recorded:** 2009.

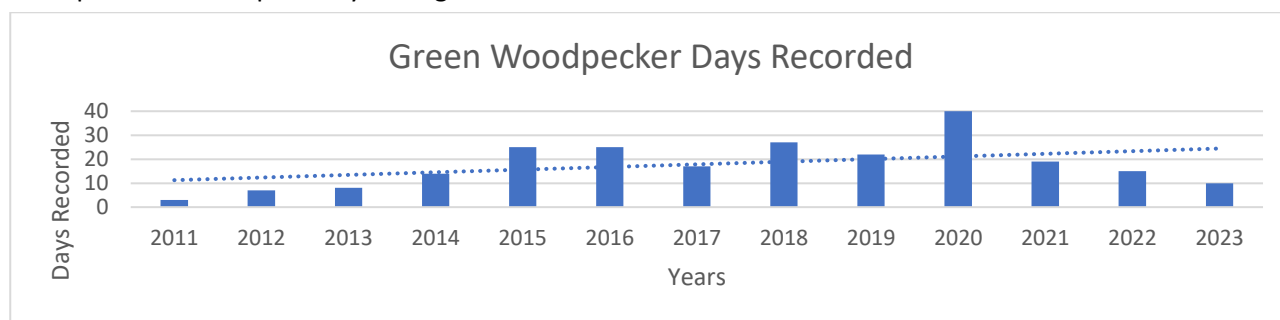
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

GREEN WOODPECKER



The upward trend is probably not significant.



## Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

AF LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

### COMMON KESTREL

11 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is resident throughout Europe, East Africa and Central/South Asia as far east as Indonesia. It is a fairly abundant migrant breeding species in the UK.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Resident locally. At first one or two birds could be seen regularly over Avon Meadows but recently it has become scarce. There is no obvious reason for this change.

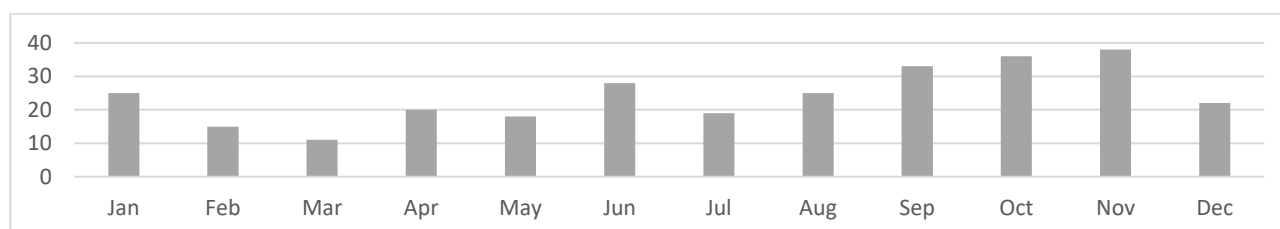
**Maximum count:** 4 on 28 April 2016.

**First recorded:** 2009.

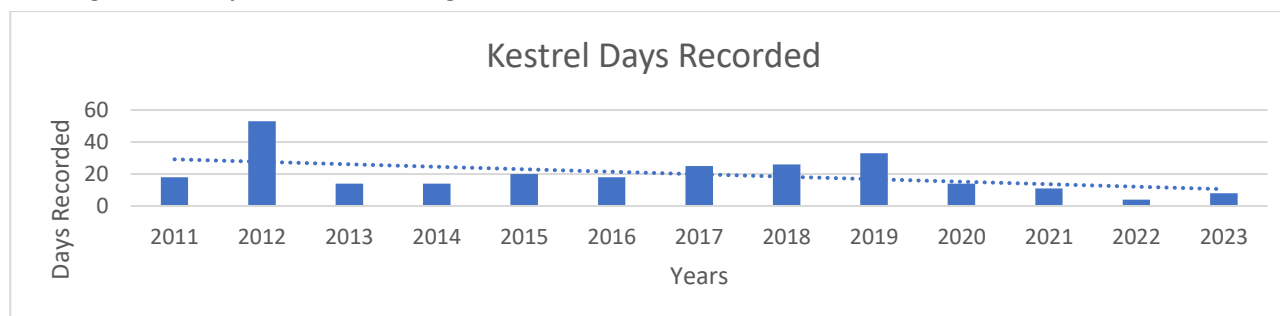
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

KESTREL



There has been a definite downward trend for this species on Avon Meadows. Survey work shows that the UK Kestrel population has declined by 40% between 1995 and 2020. A bird that was commonly seen hunting beside major roads is no longer there.



**Merlin *Falco columbarius*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**RED**

9 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Falco columbarius subaesalon* is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It breeds across the northern Hemisphere from the northern United States and Canada in the west across Russia to China and Japan in the east. It winters in the southern United States to northern South America, southern Europe to North Africa and Southeast Asia. It is a scarce or local winter visitor to the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a rare passage migrant across Avon Meadows and only recorded sporadically. Only single birds have been recorded on Avon Meadows. They are usually seen flying through low and fast, perhaps in the hope of catching an unsuspecting Meadow Pipit! It is the smallest falcon to visit the UK.

During an unusual sighting on 17 March 2021 a Merlin was watched chasing a Lapwing over Avon Meadows for 10-15 minutes!

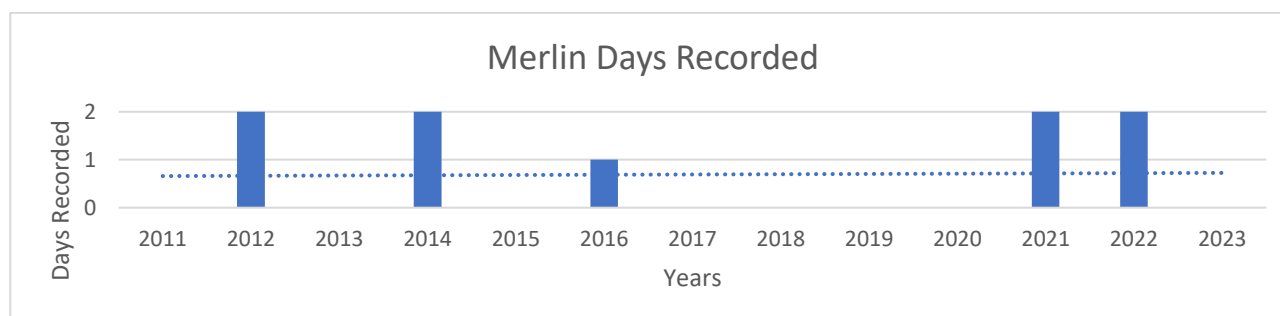
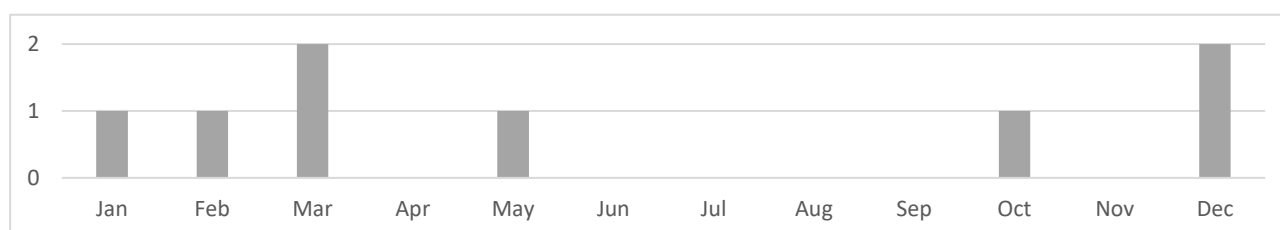
**Maximum count:** 1.

**First recorded:** 1 December 2014.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** In spring the extreme dates are from 12 February to 17 March and in autumn from 20 October to 4 December.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

MERLIN

**Hobby *Falco subbuteo*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

EURASIAN HOBBY

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It breeds across Europe and Asia and winters in southern Africa and coastal Southeast Asia. It is a scarce or local migratory breeding species in the UK. 7 pairs bred in Worcestershire in 2023. (Eaton 2024).

## Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a rare passage migrant across Avon Meadows and only recorded sporadically. Only single birds have been recorded on Avon Meadows. This is a species whose records have been falling since 2022, it was last recorded on 27 May 2023 and that was the only record for that year.

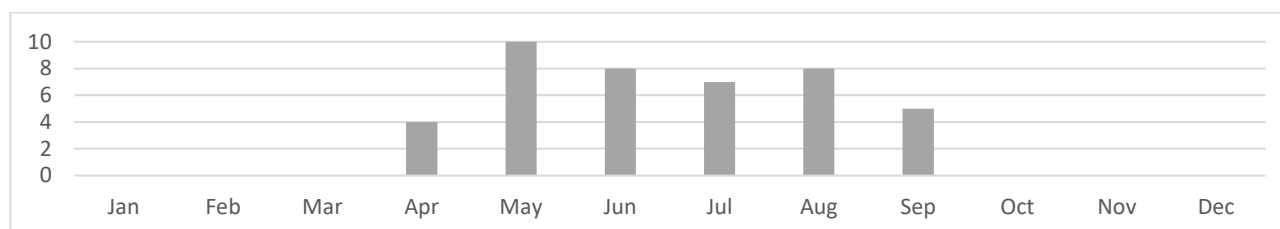
**Maximum count:** 2 in 30 July 2015, 11 July 2019 and 6 August 2020.

**First recorded:** 27 May 2011.

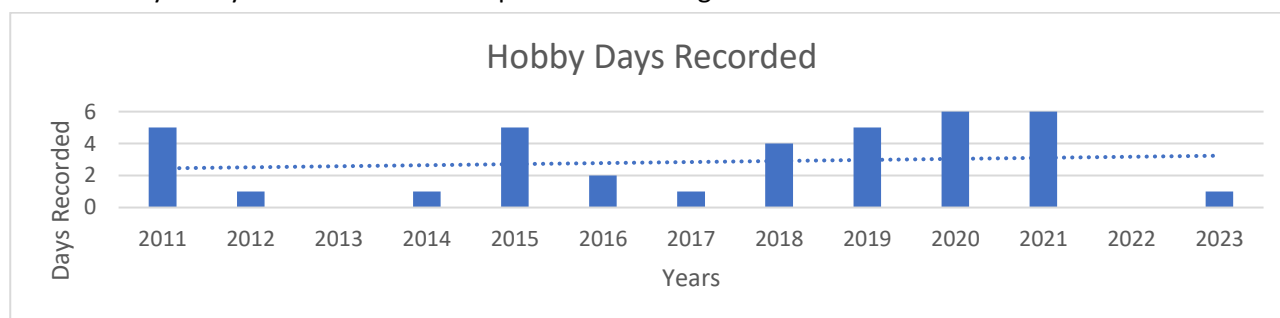
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** In spring the earliest arrival was on 24 April and the latest departure was 24 December.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

HOBBY



It is too early to say whether or not this species is declining over Avon Meadows.



## Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

AEF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

19 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Peregrine Falcon has an extraordinary worldwide range occurring on every continent except Antarctica. Northerly breeding populations migrate south in winter to the Southern Hemisphere. It is a scarce or local resident breeding species in the UK. 16 pairs bred in Worcestershire in 2023. (Eaton 2024).

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is an uncommon resident. In recent years a pair has been breeding on Pershore Abbey which accounts for more frequent sightings over Avon Meadows.

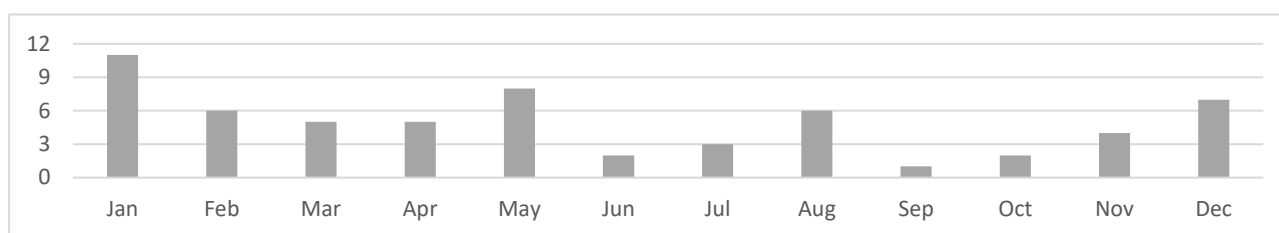
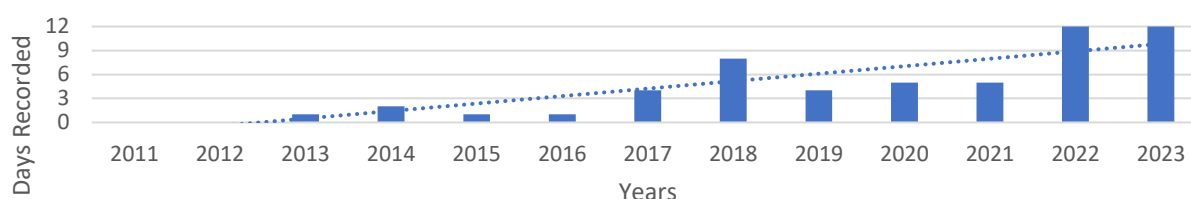
**Maximum count:** 2 on a number of occasions.

**First recorded:** 2010.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

PEREGRINE FALCON

**Peregrine Falcon Days Recorded****Jay *Garrulus glandarius***

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

**EURASIAN JAY**

40 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Garrulus glandarius rufitergum* occurs in the UK. The race *G. g. hibernicus* occurs in Ireland. A further 12 subspecies occur in Europe.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident through the middle latitudes of Europe and Asia from UK in the west to SE Asia in the east. It is an abundant resident breeding species in the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a regular visitor to Avon Meadows. It breeds in the woods across the river from the meadows and in Tiddesley Wood. As it breeds in woodland Avon Meadows does not provide a suitable habitat. There are occasional autumn irruptions which boost the numbers recorded considerably.

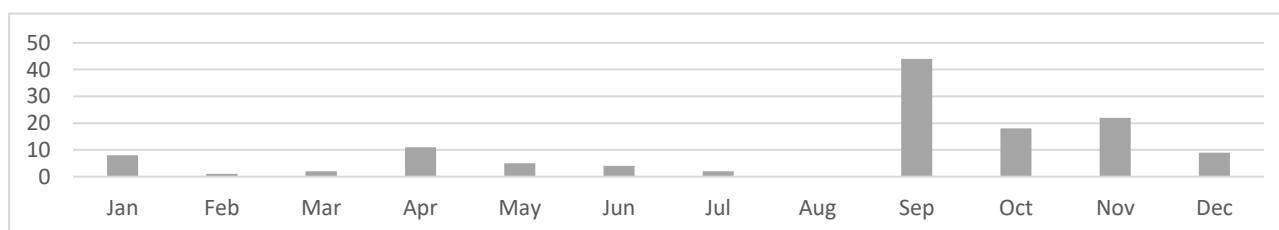
**Maximum count:** 14 on 23 Sep 2021.

**First recorded:** 2 birds were recorded on 25 Oct 2012.

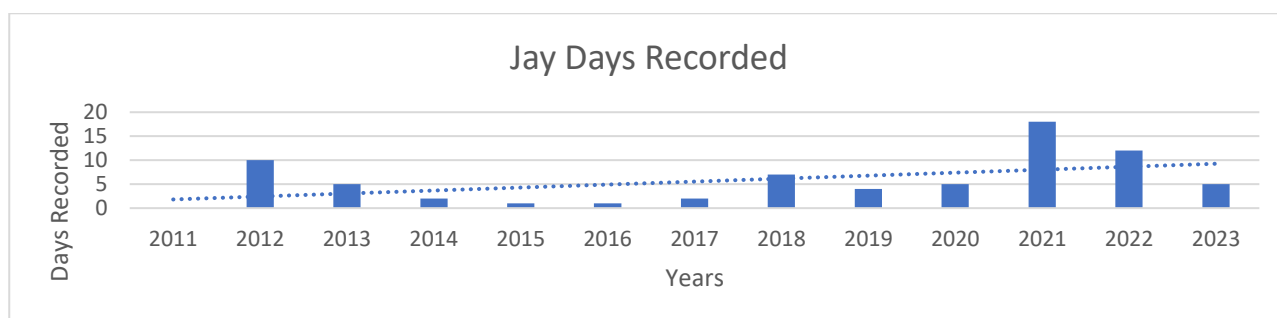
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

JAY



There has been a small increase in records over the period. The reason for this is uncertain.



## Magpie *Pica pica*

**AF** LEAST CONCERN

**GREEN**

### EURASIAN MAGPIE

6 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident throughout Europe and Central Asia. It is an abundant resident breeding species in the UK. The very similar looking, Southeast Asian race, has recently been split as a separate species, *Pica serica*.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a very common breeding resident on Avon Meadows. They are attracted by grazing sheep which can give rise to larger counts in late autumn.

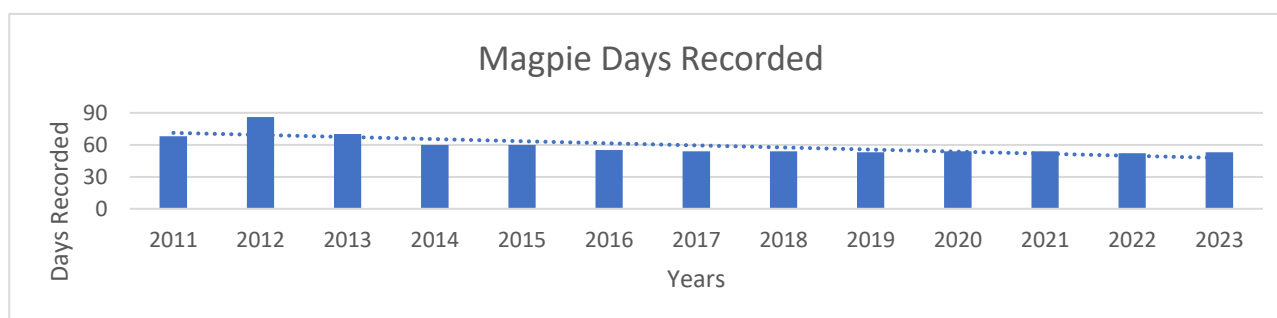
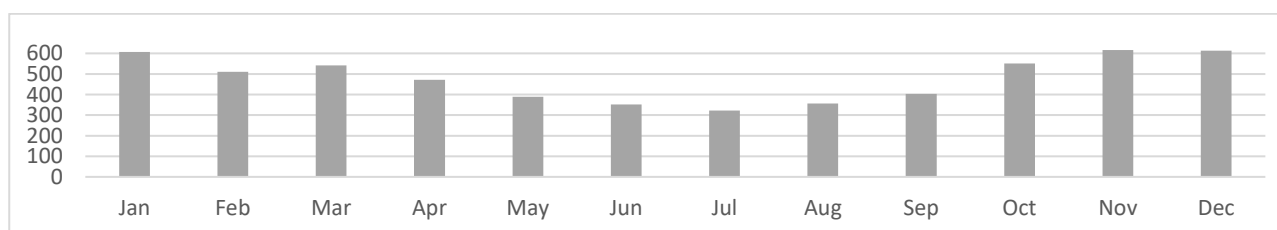
**Maximum count:** 29 on 9 Dec 2021.

**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

MAGPIE



**Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

4 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Corvus monedula spermologus* occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident through Central and Southern Europe extending into Western Asia. Some northern populations migrate south in winter. It is an abundant resident breeding species in the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a common visitor to Avon Meadows and may occasionally breed within the meadows.

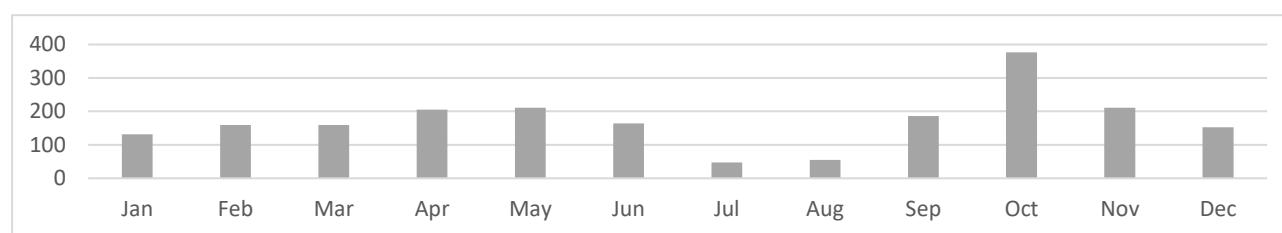
**Maximum count:** 42 on 18 Feb 2021.

**First recorded:** 2009.

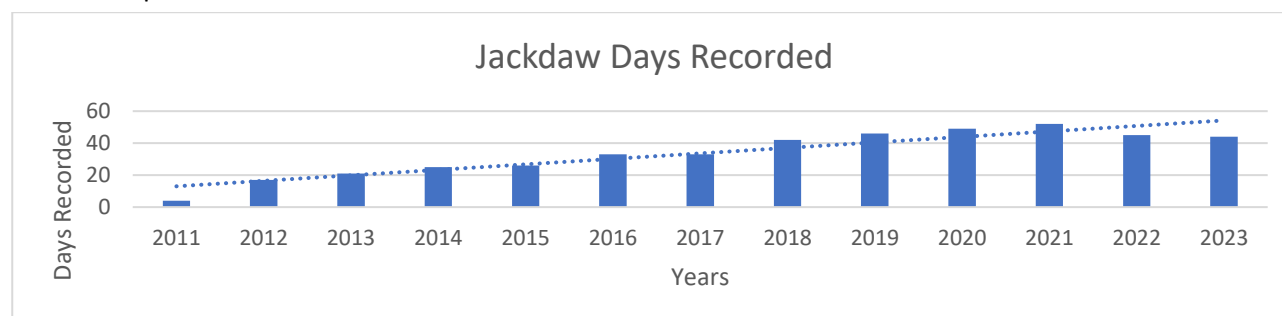
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

JACKDAW



The development of Avon Meadows seems to have attracted Jackdaws to the areas.

**Rook *Corvus frugilegus*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident throughout much of Europe, Central and East Asia. The Asian populations are migratory moving south in winter. It is a very abundant resident breeding species in the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is an uncommon visitor to Avon Meadows. There are rookeries not far away but even so visits by the birds are few.

**Maximum count:** 27 on 4 July 2018.

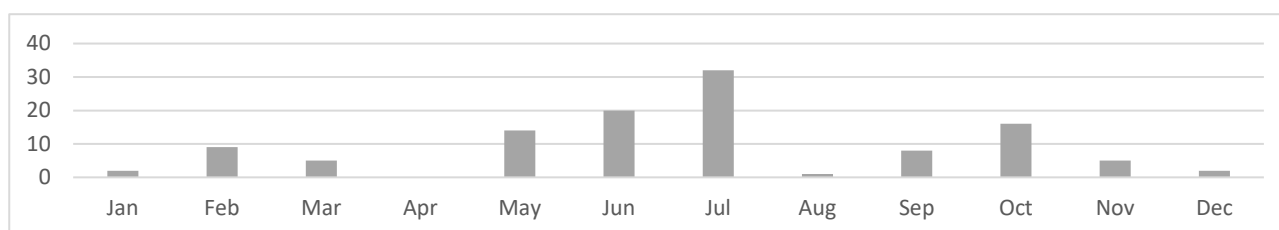
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

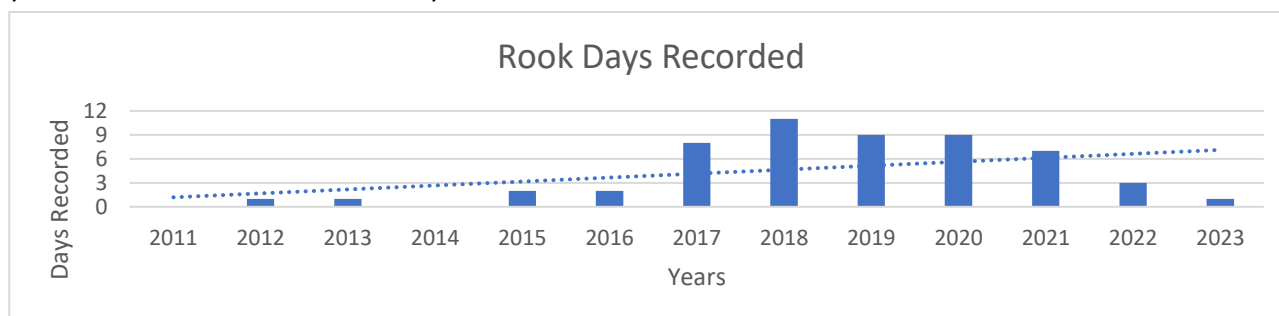


**Total Counts 2009-2023**

ROOK



A species whose numbers increased somewhat between 2017 and 2021 but were low either side of those years. The reasons for this are likely to lie outside Avon Meadows.

**Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** There are two very distinct populations, one is resident in Europe and the other in parts of Central Asia and the Far East. The Carrion Crow is closely related to the Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*. It is an abundant resident breeding species in the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a resident breeding species on Avon Meadows.

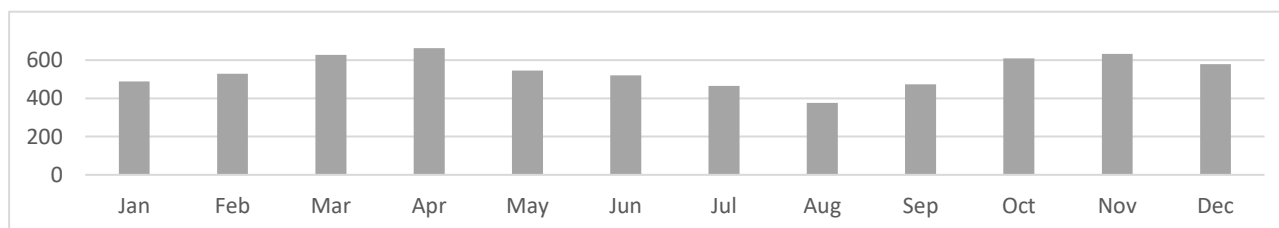
**Maximum count:** 34 on 28 Nov 2013.

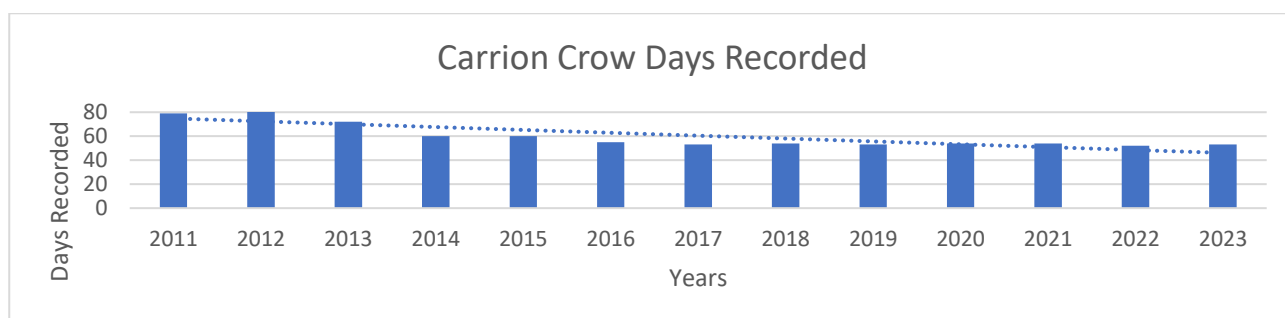
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

CARRION CROW





## Raven *Corvus corax*

**AF** LEAST CONCERN

**GREEN**

### NORTHERN RAVEN

8 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread resident in the northern hemisphere north of the tropics. It is a fairly abundant breeding species in the UK.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a regular visitor to Avon Meadows and, although it breeds nearby, there have been no breeding records on Avon Meadows. It has a penetrating “*honk, honk*” call which immediately calls attention to its presence. It is mostly recorded flying over.

It is a fairly recent coloniser of lowland counties, in the past it would only be found in hilly and mountainous areas.

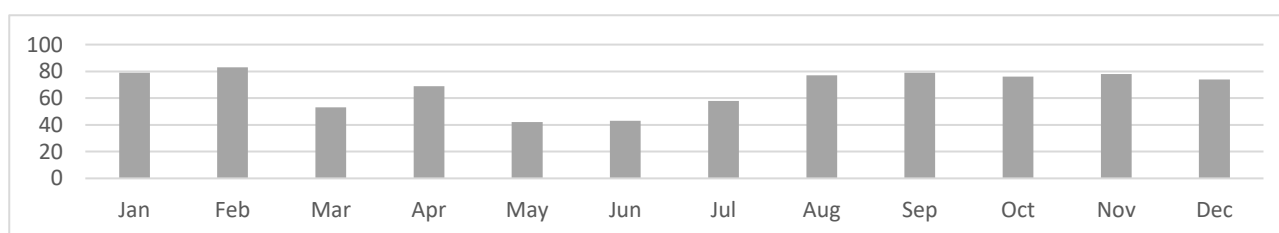
**Maximum count:** 10 on 27 Sep 2018.

**First recorded:** 2009.

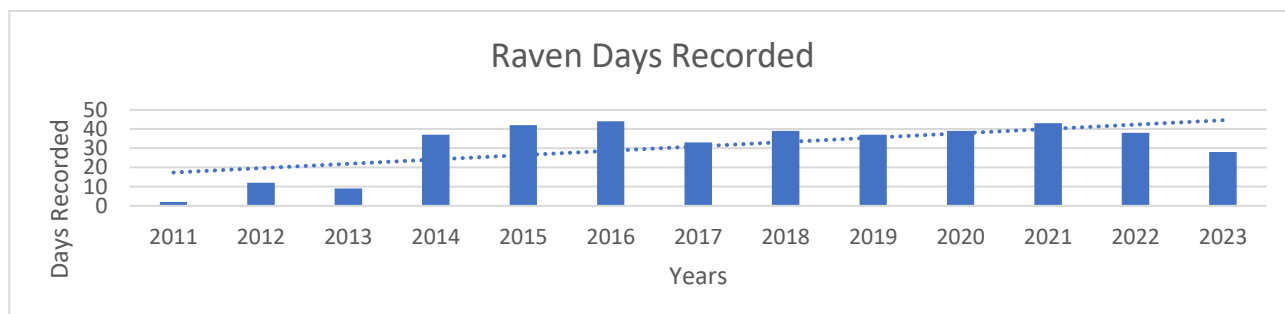
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

RAVEN



The increase in Raven records is not significant and probably relates to local movements rather than a trend.



**Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus***

AEF LEAST CONCERN

Not  
assessed

## BOHEMIAN WAXWING

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread resident in the northern hemisphere in temperate areas north of the tropics. Within this range it breeds in the north and moves south in winter. It is a rare winter visitor to the UK but irruptions are not uncommon when it appears in much larger numbers to avoid harsher than usual northern winters.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Vagrant. There has been just one record of a flock of 9 birds on Avon Meadows during an irruption year. They are much attracted to berries and when they do visit are often found on housing estates with ornamental berry-bearing trees.

**Maximum count:** 9 on 17 Dec 2012.

**First recorded:** 2012.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A.

**Coal Tit *Periparus ater***

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

21 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Periparus ater britannicus* occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread resident in the Palearctic north of the tropics. It is an abundant breeding species in the UK augmented by a few winter visitors of the nominate race from Europe.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Occasional visitor to Avon Meadows, mainly outside the breeding season, although it is resident locally. It inhabits conifer plantations so Avon Meadows is not its preferred habitat. It is often located by its characteristic call.

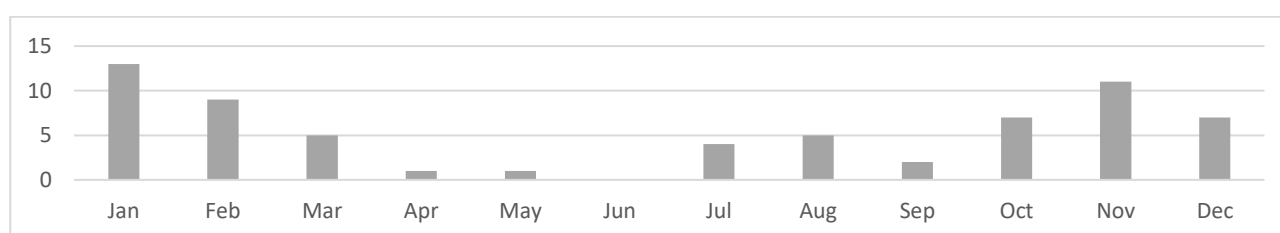
**Maximum count:** 4 on 30 Jan 2018.

**First recorded:** 2010.

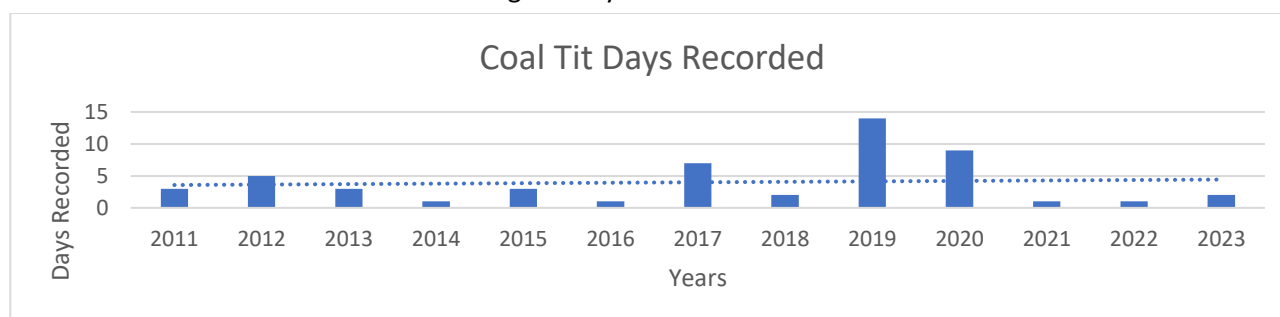
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

COAL TIT



The number of visits to Avon Meadows is generally small but remain constant.



**Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

9 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Cyanistes caeruleus obscurus* occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread resident throughout Europe. It is a very abundant breeding species in the UK augmented by winter visitors of the nominate race from Europe.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a common breeding resident on Avon Meadows, often making use of nest boxes. The lower number of records in summer comes about because breeding birds are more secretive when they are feeding young.

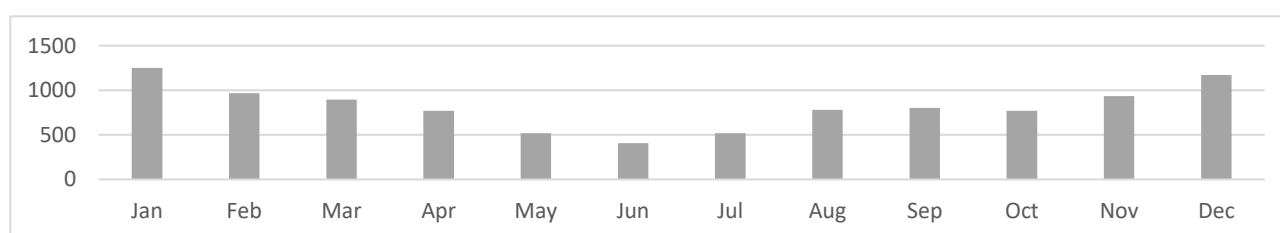
**Maximum count:** 50 on 16 Dec 2021.

**First recorded:** 2009.

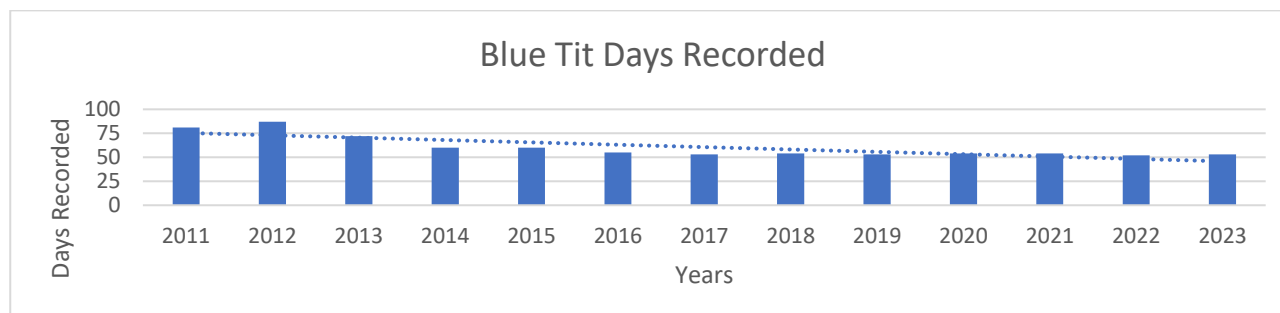
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

BLUE TIT



The downward trend shown below is not significant.

**Great Tit *Parus major*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

15 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in much of England, the race *Parus major scotica* occurs in Scotland and parts of northern England.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread breeding species across the Palearctic moving south to North Africa and SE Asia in winter. The population in Western Europe is resident. It is a abundant breeding species in the UK augmented by a few winter visitors of the nominate race from Europe. The Southeast Asian population has recently been split off as the Cinerous Tit, *Parus cinereus* (It lacks much of the yellow colouration of the Great Tit).

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a common breeding resident on Avon Meadows, often making use of nest boxes. It can often be located by its well-known call, *tea-cher...tea-cher...tea-cher*. The lower number of records in summer comes about because breeding birds are more secretive when they are feeding young.

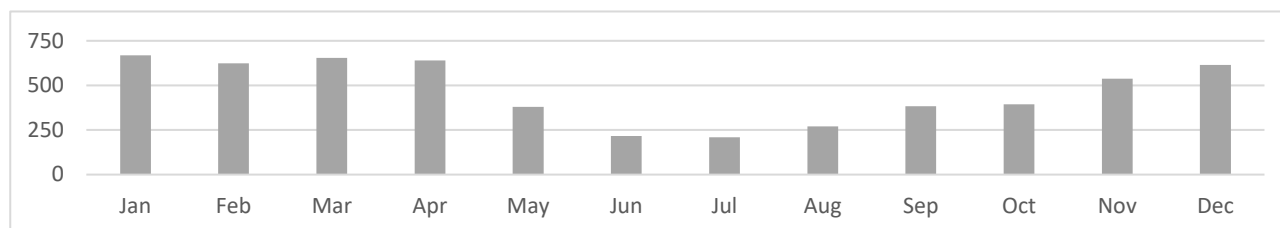
**Maximum count:** 24 on 15 Apr 2021.

**First recorded:** 2009.

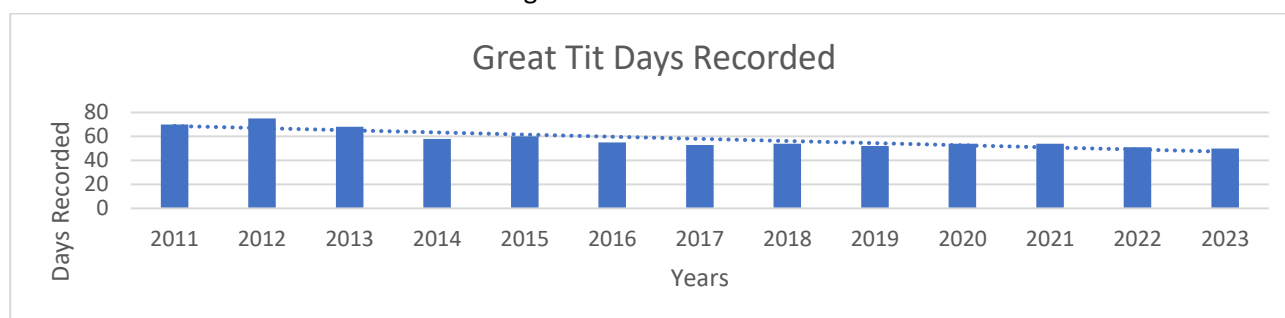
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

GREAT TIT



The downward trend shown below is not significant.



## Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

AF LEAST CONCERN

RED

13 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in much of England. The race *Alauda arvensis scotica* occurs in Scotland and parts of northern England.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread breeding species across the Palearctic moving south to North Africa and SE Asia in winter. It is resident in Western Europe. It is a very abundant breeding species in the UK.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Although a common species in the county, it is scarce over Avon Meadows, the majority of records being for birds flying over. It is a ground nesting species and needs open ground that is far less disturbed than Avon Meadows.

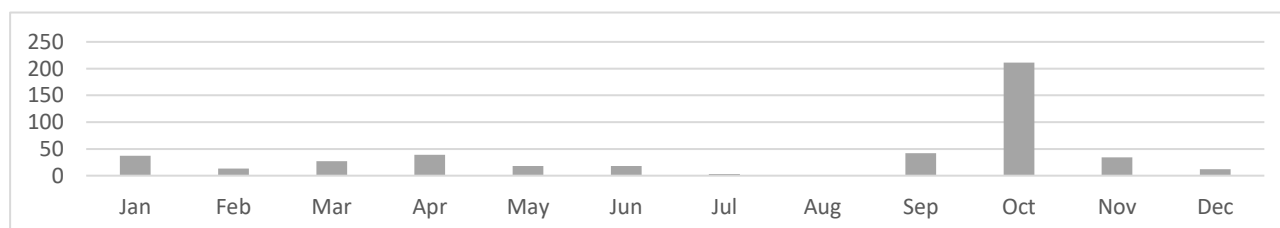
**Maximum count:** 37 on 17 Oct 2019.

**First recorded:** 30 Apr 2011.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

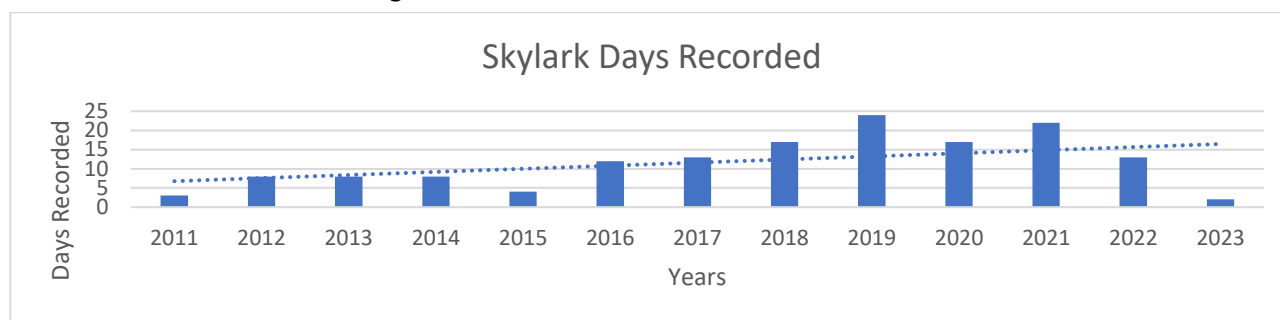
**Total Counts 2009-2023**

SKYLARK



The October count figure above is due to unusually high counts in October 2018 and 2019.

The trend shown below is not significant.



## Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

4 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK. Known in North America and the Bank Swallow.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread breeding species Europe, Asia and North America moving south to Africa, parts of SE Asia and South America in winter. It is an abundant summer visitor and breeding species in the UK.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Only recorded flying over Avon Meadows. As its North American name implies, it breeds in holes excavated in banks. There are a number of breeding sites in the county.

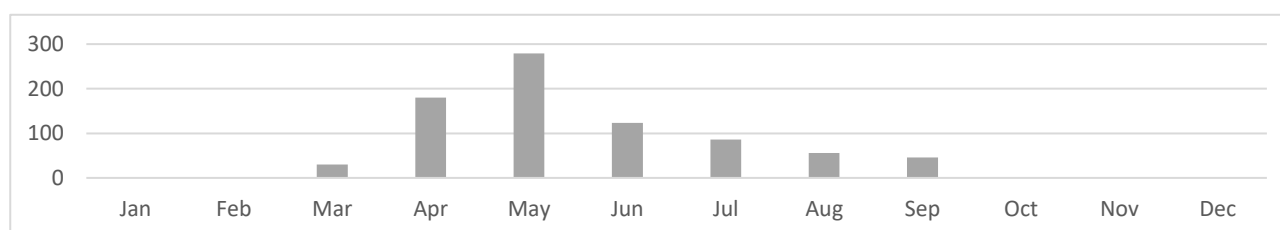
**Maximum count:** 40 on 14 Sep 2021.

**First recorded:** 2009.

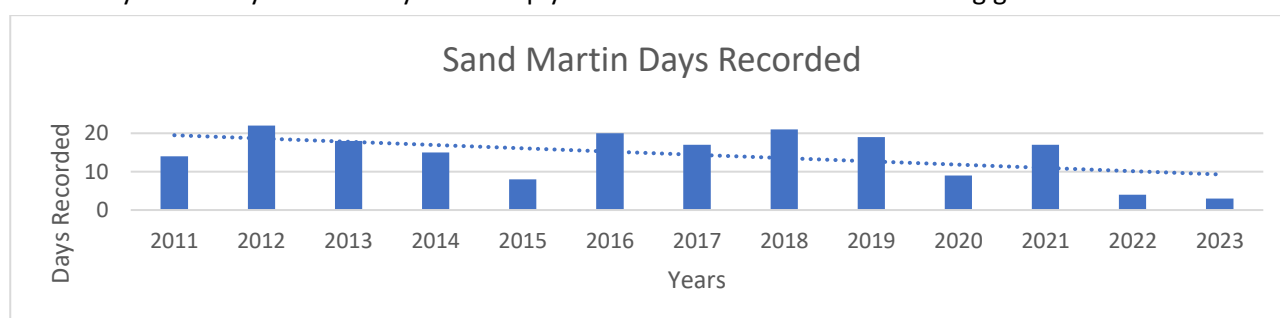
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring arrival 3 March and latest autumn departure 27 September.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

SAND MARTIN



While perhaps too early to say if the downward trend is significant, numbers passing through have certainly fallen in recent years. They visit Avon Meadows to feed on insects over the pools which has not changed noticeably but it may be that they have simply varied their route to their breeding grounds.



**Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

AEF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

7 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread breeding species Europe, Asia and North America moving south to Africa, parts of SE Asia and South America in winter. It is a very abundant summer visitor and breeding species in the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Mainly recorded flying over Avon Meadows. It generally uses buildings to nest in so does not breed on Avon Meadows although it does so nearby.

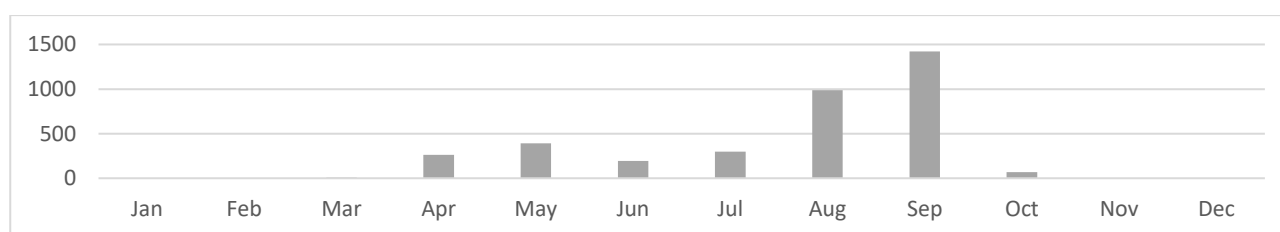
**Maximum count:** 120 on 19 Aug 2021.

**First recorded:** 2009.

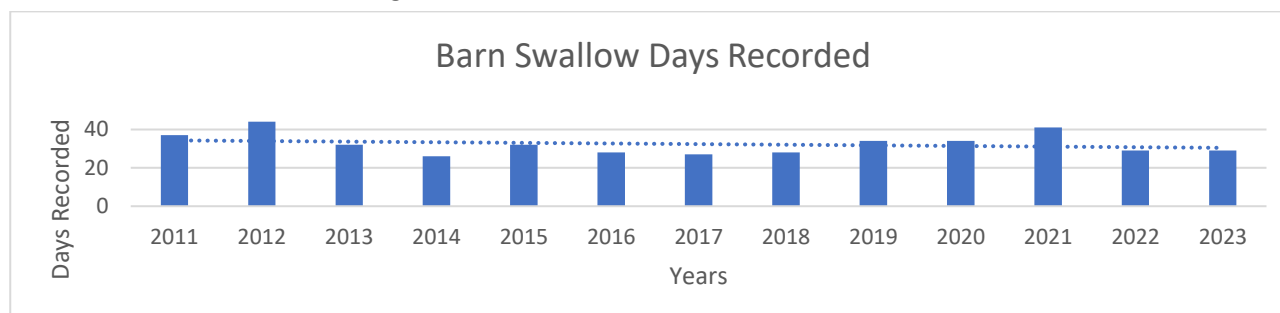
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring arrival 18 March and latest autumn departure 17 October.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

BARN SWALLOW



The trend shown below is not significant.

**House Martin *Delichon urbica***

AF LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

**COMMON HOUSE MARTIN**

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A widespread breeding species Europe moving south to southern Africa in winter. It is an abundant summer visitor and breeding species in the UK. The eastern race is now regarded as a separate species, Siberian House Martin *Delichon logopodium*. Both are closely related to the Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus*.

## Avon Meadows

**Status:** Mainly recorded flying over Avon Meadows. Has been recorded on the scrape collecting wet mud for nest building. It fixes its nests to walls of buildings and so does not nest on Avon Meadows although it does nearby.

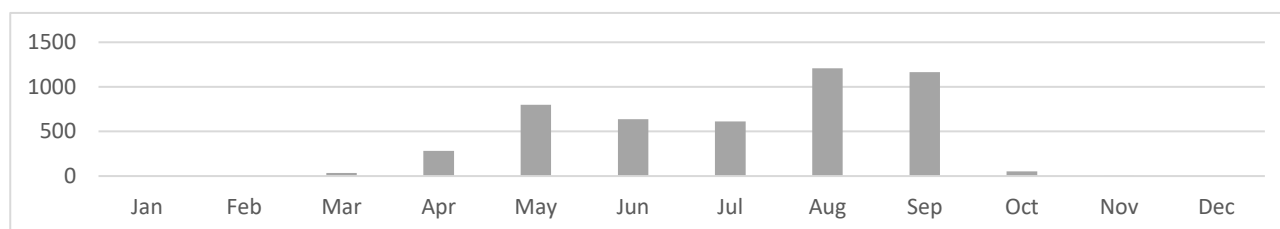
**Maximum count:** 120 on 26 Sep 2019 and on 19 Aug 2021.

**First recorded:** 2009.

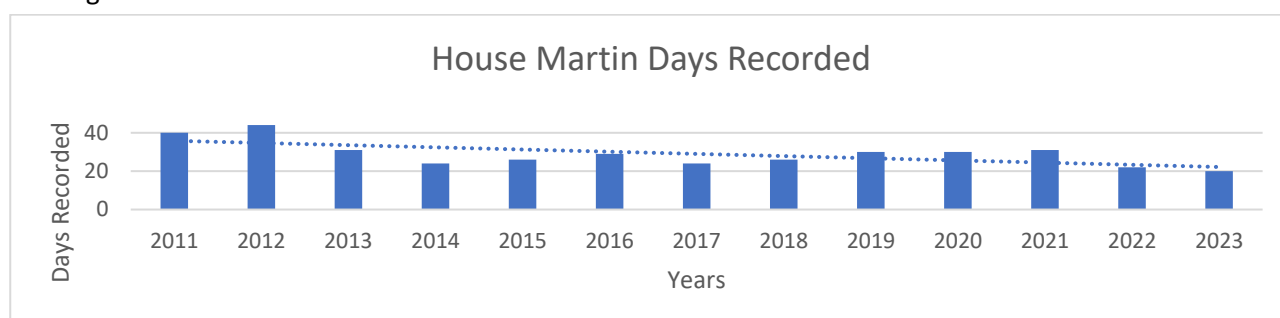
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring arrival 28 March and latest autumn departure 5 October.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

HOUSE MARTIN



Given the BTO's Conservation Concern Amber rating by, the reduction in records shown below takes on a new significance.



## Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

A LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Mainly resident in the warmer parts of Europe and west Asia. Eastern populations are migratory.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** A recent coloniser and resident on Avon Meadows. Following a series of milder winters this species has been expanding its range northwards. The severe winter of 2010/11 decimated the population in the county but it has recovered since. It has been a breeding resident since 2014 and now has a slowly increasing population. Its distinctive call can be heard regularly from within the reedbeds on Avon Meadows.

**Maximum count:** 8 on 14 Apr 2022. This count is likely to increase as the population increases.

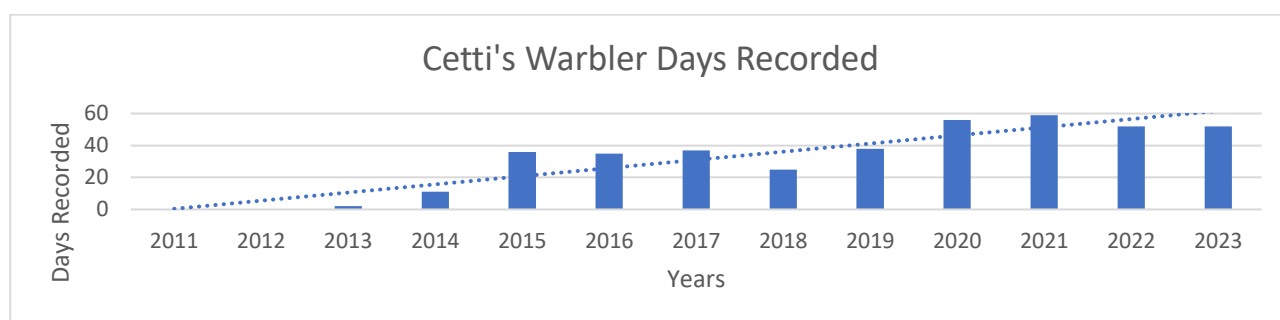
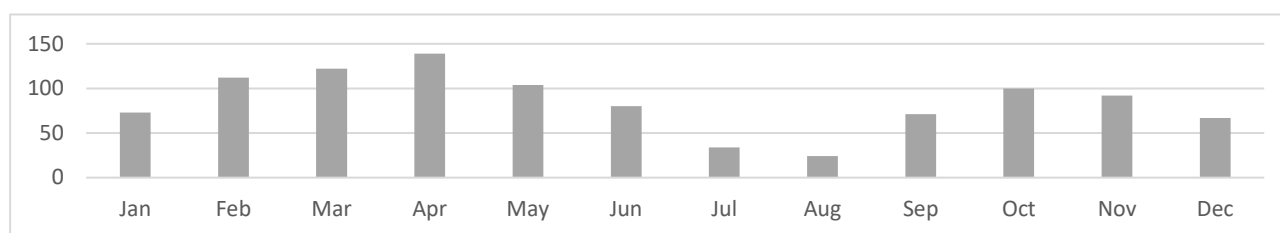
**First recorded:** 27 Apr 2013.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.



**Total Counts 2009- 2023**

CETTI'S WARBLER

**Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus***

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

17 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Aegithalos caudatus rosaceus* occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident in areas of temperate climate from the UK in the east to China and Japan in the west. In Britain it is a resident, abundant breeding species.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** A common breeding species and resident on Avon Meadows. While not numerous it can be regularly encountered in trees and bushes. In autumn and winter it collects in small flocks of up to 30 individuals and is frequently a member of mixed species flocks. They can often be counted as the flock moves between trees in two's and three's. The Total Count graph shows a typical pattern with counts dropping in summer as the parents are secretive when bringing up chicks and then the numbers increase in autumn, swelled by young birds joining the adults on the wing.

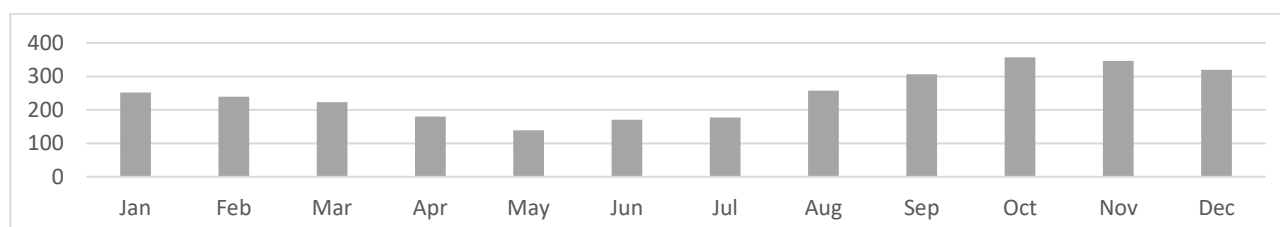
**Maximum count:** 31 on 20 Oct 2022.

**First recorded:** 2009.

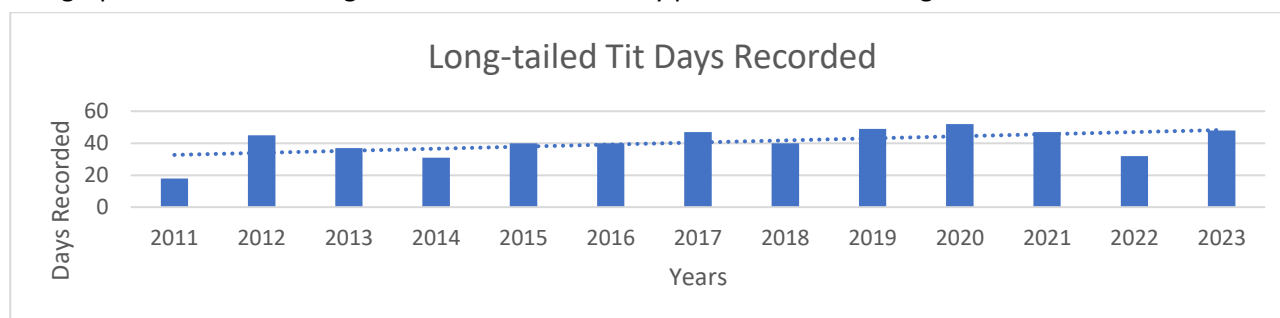
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

LONG-TAILED TIT



The graph below shows a slight increase over the study period but it is not significant.



## Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**AMBER**

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is a migrant throughout its range which extends from the UK in the west to Siberia and north China in the east. All populations spend the winter in Africa south of the Sahara. In the UK it is a very abundant summer visitor and breeding species.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a regular migrant passing through Avon Meadows in small numbers. It has not been recorded as a breeding species. The Willow Warbler has a distinctive song but otherwise is very similar to the Chiffchaff.

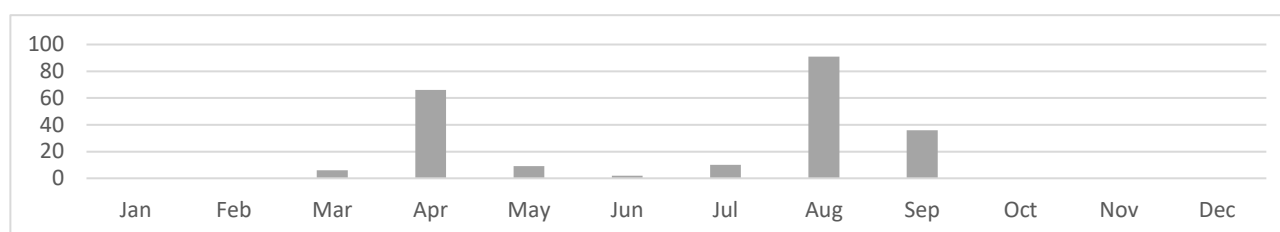
**Maximum count:** 9 on 12 Aug 2020.

**First recorded:** 2010.

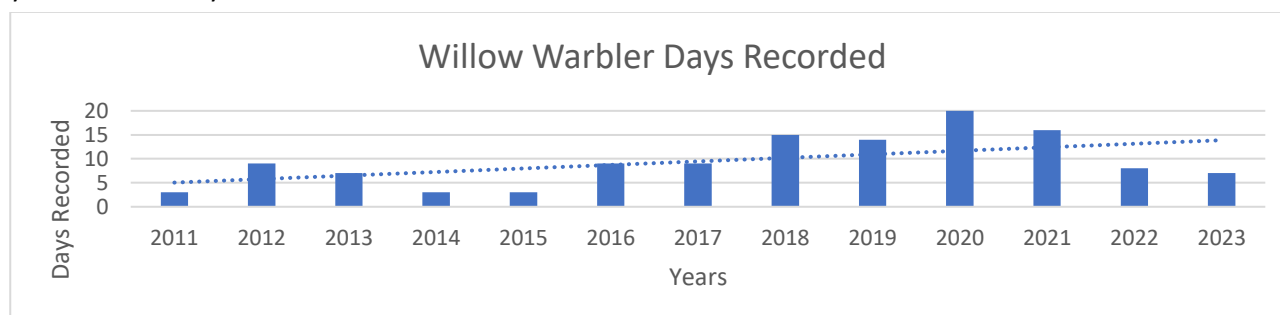
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest arrival was on 30 Mar in 2017 and 2021. The latest departure date was 27 Sep 2012.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

WILLOW WARBLER



There has been a small increase in Willow Warbler records over the period although there have been “good years” and “bad years”.



**Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*****A** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN****COMMON CHIFFCHAFF**

6 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK but the race *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* can occur in winter (see Range and Taxonomy below).

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is a partial migrant throughout much of its range which extends from the UK and north Africa in the west to India and Central Asia in the east. It moves from its northern breeding grounds in winter depending on how cold a winter it is. In the UK it is an abundant breeding species and summer visitor but scarce in winter. Increasing numbers have been overwintering in southern Britain following a series of mild winters.

There is some debate among taxonomists as to the status of the two populations, Common Chiffchaff and Siberian Chiffchaff. Some authorities split the Siberian Chiffchaff off as *Phylloscopus tristis*. Here we follow the authorities that treat them as conspecific.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a common summer visitor and breeding species on Avon Meadows. A small number spend the winter here. All records to date are for the Common Chiffchaff. Its *chiff-chaff* call can be heard regularly through much of the year. No Siberian Chiffchaffs have been recorded on Avon Meadows.

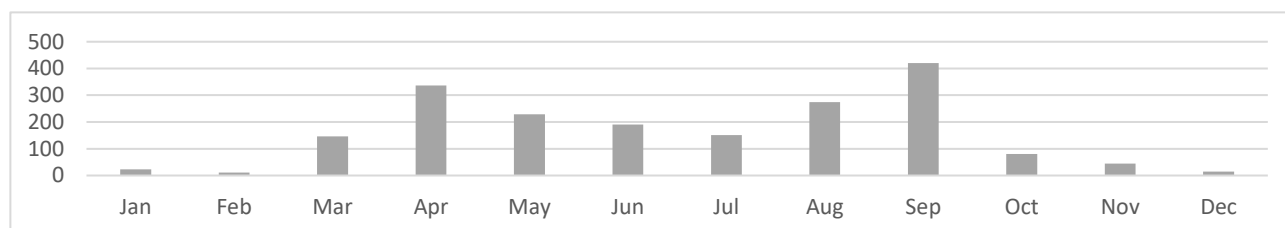
**Maximum count:** 24 on 26 Aug 2021.

**First recorded:** 2009.

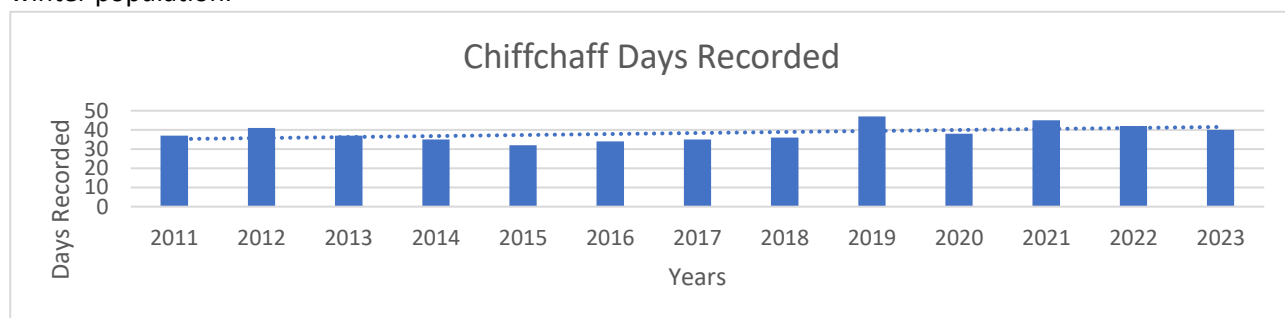
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

CHIFFCHAFF



The population remains stable over the study period although the graph does not show variations in the winter population.

**Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is a summer visitor to Europe, overwintering in Africa south of the Sahara. In the UK it is an abundant breeding summer visitor.

## Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a common summer visitor and breeding species to Avon Meadows where its harsh calls can be heard from the reedbeds throughout the summer.

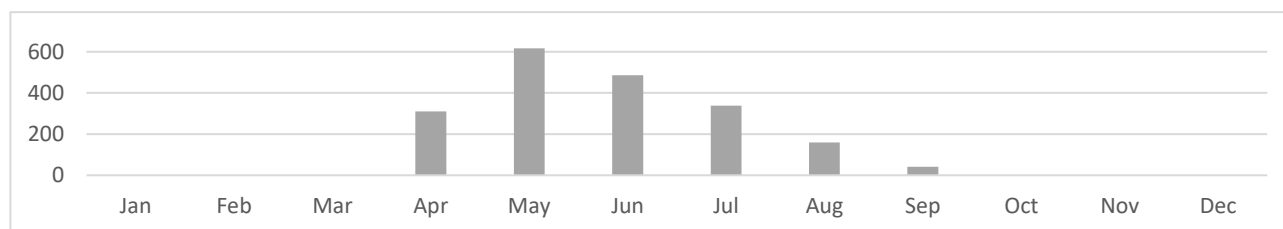
**Maximum count:** 26 on 4 May 2015.

**First recorded:** 2009.

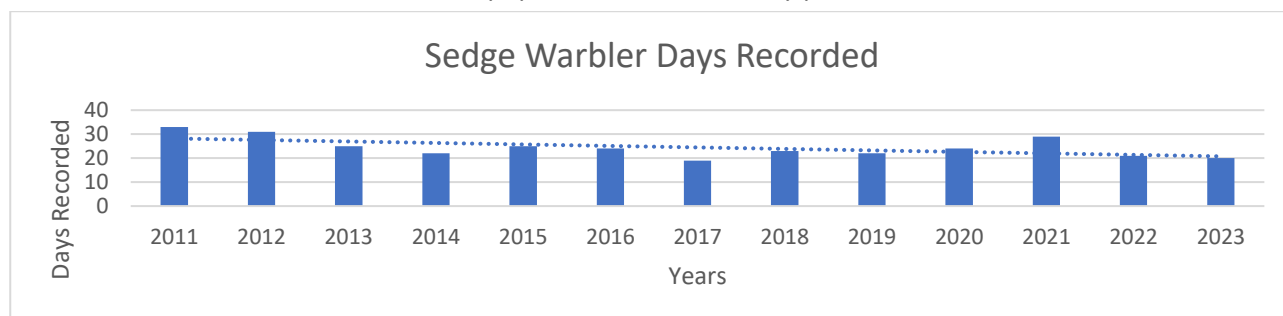
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest arrival was on 4 April in 2021; the latest departure date was 30 Sep 2012.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

SEDGE WARBLER



There has been a small reduction in the population over the study period.



## Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**GREEN**

10 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is a summer migrant to the UK and Europe and winters in Africa south of the Sahara. There is also a resident population in southern Africa. In the UK it is an abundant summer visitor and breeding species.

## Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a common summer visitor and breeding species to Avon Meadows where its harsh calls (confusingly similar to those of the Sedge Warbler) can be heard from the reedbeds throughout the summer. Its importance on Avon Meadows is that it is the brood parasite of the Cuckoo. In spring Cuckoos follow Reed Warblers as they migrate north from Africa and lay their eggs in Reed Warbler nests on Avon Meadows. (see Cuckoo section).

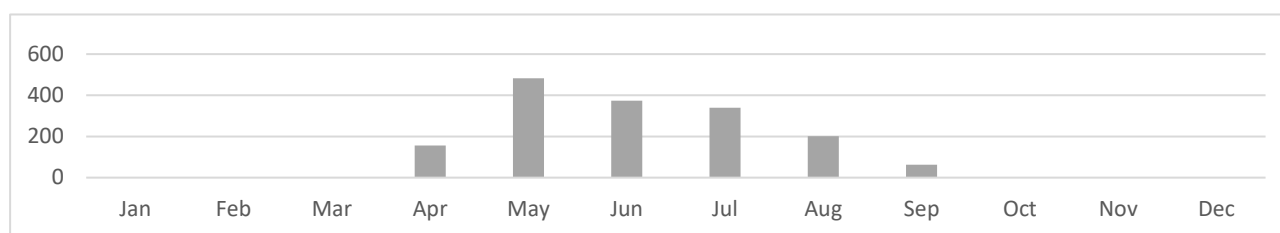
**Maximum count:** 17 on 25 June 2020.

**First recorded:** 2009.

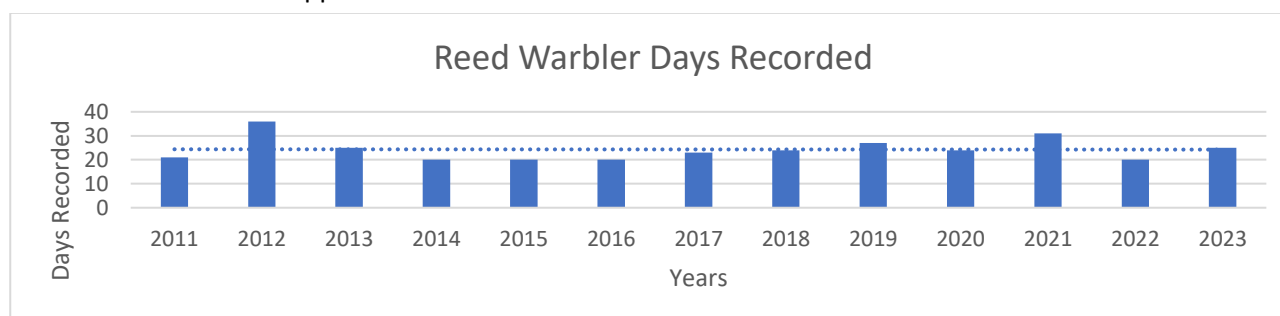
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest arrival was on 9 April in 2017. The latest departure date was 30 Sep 2012.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

REED WARBLER



Note that the scales of these graphs have been kept the same as those for the closely related Sedge Warbler to allow convenient comparison. The Reed Warbler population is stable. In recent years the Sedge Warbler number has dropped below that of Reed Warblers for reasons that are uncertain.

**Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*****A** LEAST CONCERN**RED**

COMMON GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

4 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is a summer migrant to the UK and Europe and winters in parts of West and East Africa. The eastern population winters in parts of NW India and the SW coast of India. It is a fairly abundant migratory breeding species to the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is erratic summer visitor to Avon Meadows. When it does visit it can be located by its reeling call from the reed beds. Two pairs bred on Avon Meadows in 2020 but there have been years when it has not been seen at all both before and since.

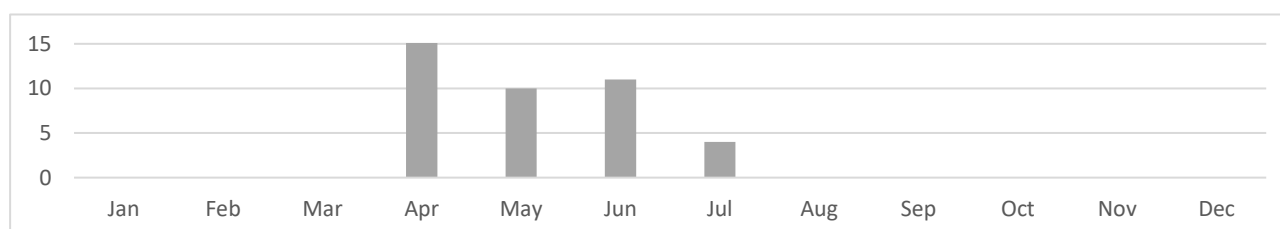
**Maximum count:** 2 on 23 Apr 2020.

**First recorded:** 11 July 2013.

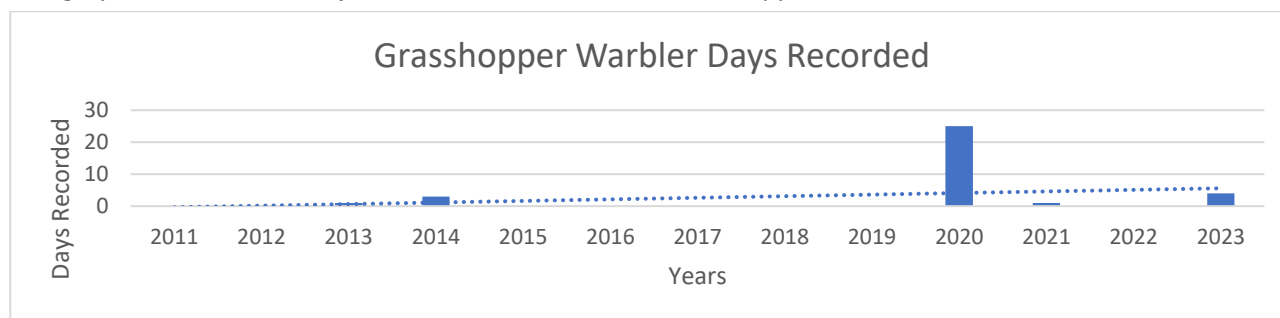
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest arrival was on 15 April in 2021. The latest departure date was 20 Jul 2020.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER



The graph below illustrates just how erratic visits from Grasshopper Warblers are!



## Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

5 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is largely resident in western Europe migrating south from eastern and northern Europe in winter to north and west Africa, East Africa and around the Red Sea. It is an fairly abundant migratory breeding species to the UK with an increasing population that overwinter (as with the Chiffchaff).

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a breeding species on Avon Meadows and a small proportion of this population remains provided the winter weather is not too severe.

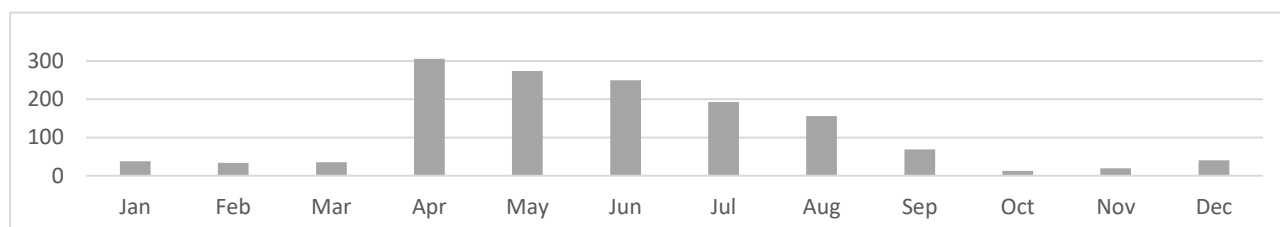
**Maximum count:** 15 on 16 Jun 2022.

**First recorded:** 21 Mar 2011.

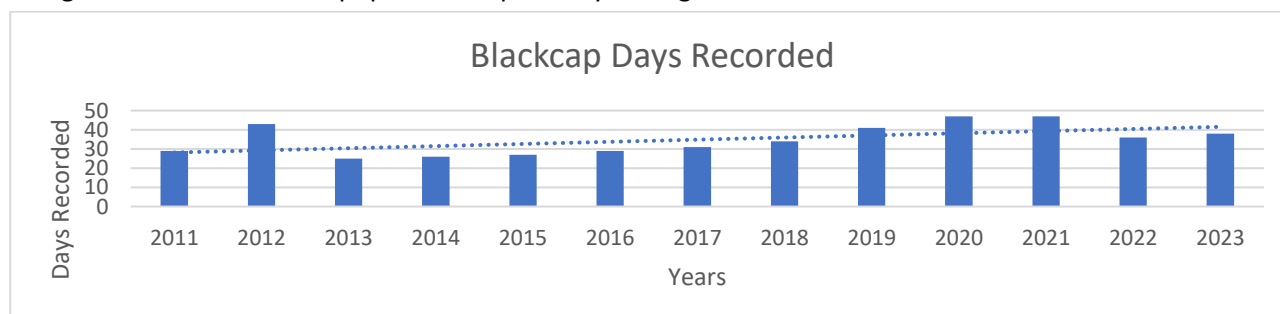
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

BLACKCAP



The gradual increase in the population is probably not significant.



**Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is a summer breeding migrant to the UK and Europe and winters in southern Africa. It is an abundant migratory breeding species to the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is regular summer migrant through Avon Meadows but in small numbers. There have been no records of breeding on the meadows although it does breed locally in Tiddesley Wood.

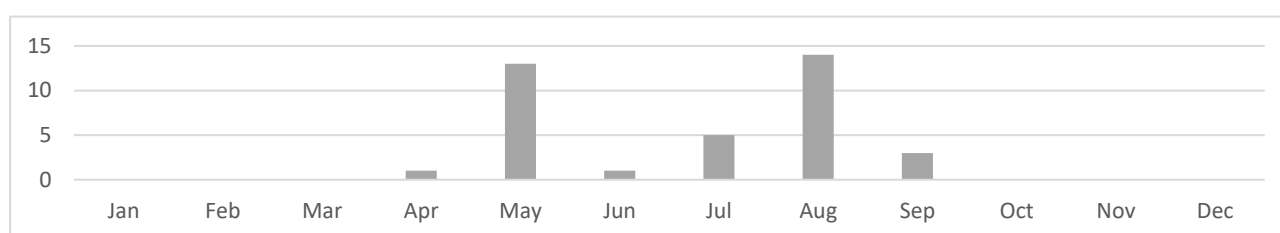
**Maximum count:** 2 in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

**First recorded:** 27 Jul 2017.

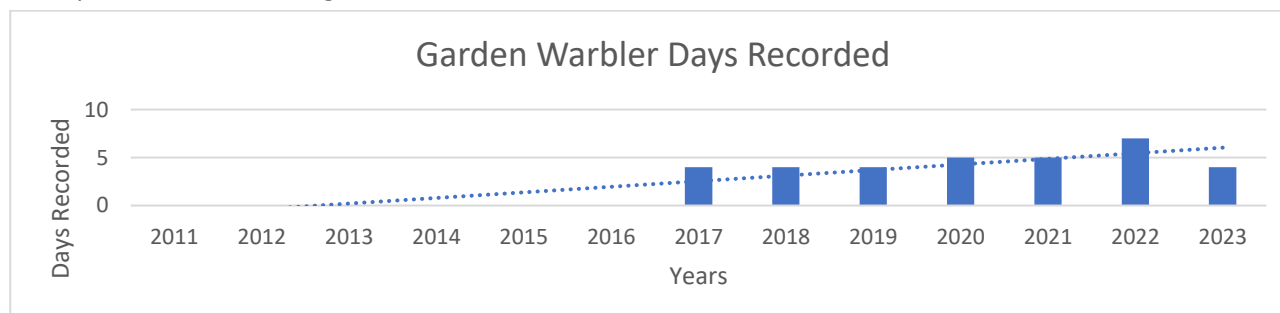
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest arrival was on 28 April in 2021. The latest departure date was 30 Sep 2021.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

GARDEN WARBLER



The upward trend is not significant.

**Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

6 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is a summer visitor to the UK and Europe east to Central Asia and winters in central Africa, the Middle East and India. It is a fairly abundant migratory breeding species to the UK with much larger numbers passing through on migration.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is regular summer migrant in small numbers through Avon Meadows. It has bred once or twice on Avon Meadows. It has a distinctive song making it easier to detect.

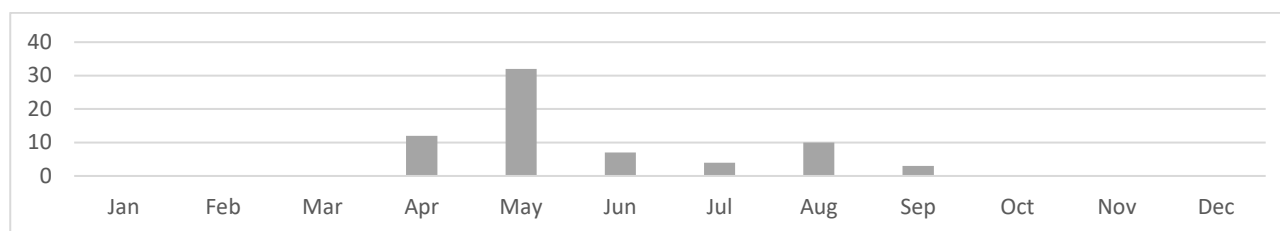
**Maximum count:** 4 on 11 May 2023.

**First recorded:** 18 Aug 2011.

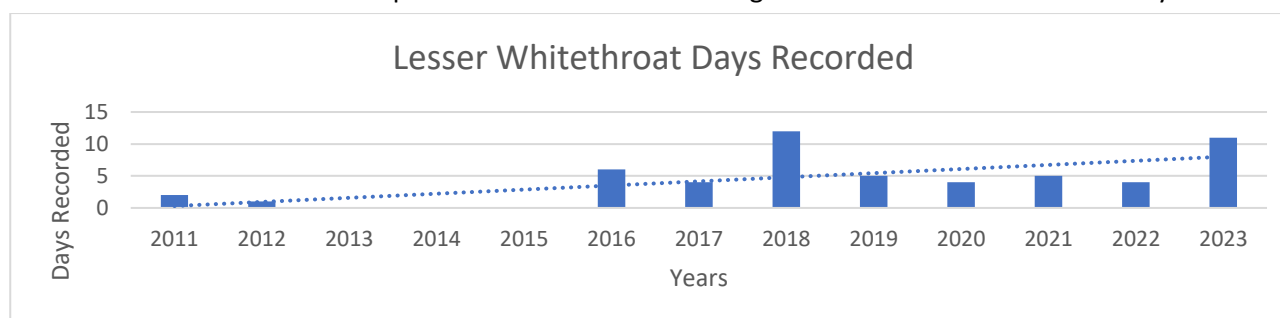
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** It was originally considered to be a migrant through Avon Meadows but breeding records suggest it to be a summer visitor with numbers increased by migrants. Earliest arrival was on 19 April in 2018. The latest departure date was 13 Sep 2019.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023

LESSER WHITETHROAT



Overall there has been a small upward trend in records although it was not recorded for several years.



### Whitethroat *Curruca communis*

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

#### COMMON WHITETHROAT

4 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is a summer migrant to the UK and Europe and winters in central and southern Africa. It is an abundant migratory breeding species to the UK an abundant passage migrant through the UK.

#### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is regular summer visitor and breeding species to Avon Meadows in small numbers.

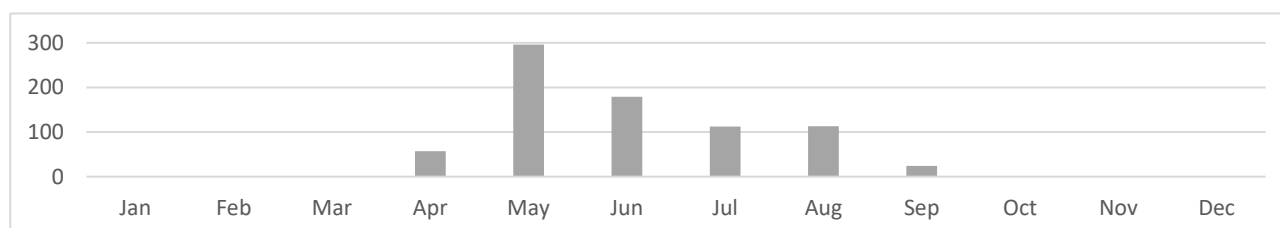
**Maximum count:** 15 on 2 May 2019.

**First recorded:** 21 Apr 2011.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest arrival was on 6 April in 2021. The latest departure date was 1 October 2015.

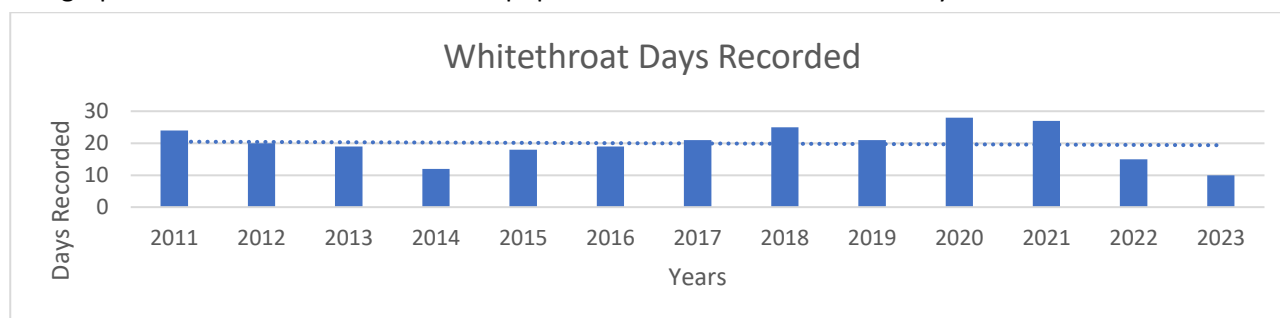
#### Total Counts 2009-2023

WHITETHROAT





The graph below shows that the summer population of the Whitethroat is very stable.



## Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

**AF** LEAST CONCERN

**GREEN**

14 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Goldcrest has a discontinuous distribution being resident in the temperate zones of the UK and Europe, northern breeding species move south in winter. It is resident in central Asia south of the Caspian Sea, then in the foothills of the Himalayas into east Asia finally there is a migrant population from Korea and Japan in the north to southeast China in the south. In the UK it is a breeding species whose number increases considerably in winter with incoming birds from Europe.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It occurs on Avon Meadows in small numbers where it is a breeding resident. Frequently located by its very high-pitched call and song.

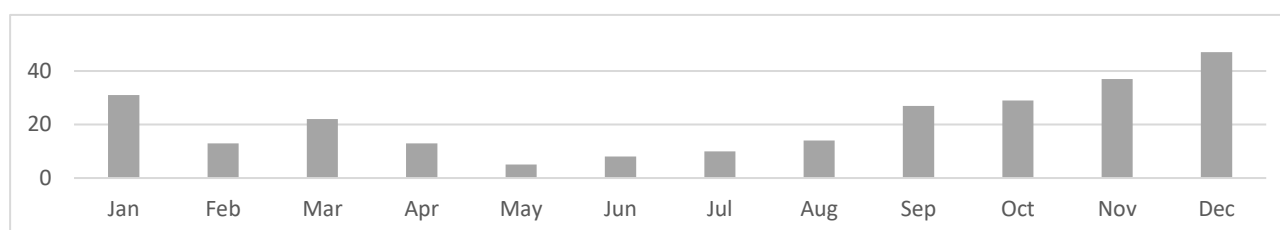
**Maximum count:** 7 on 22 Dec 2022.

**First recorded:** 2009.

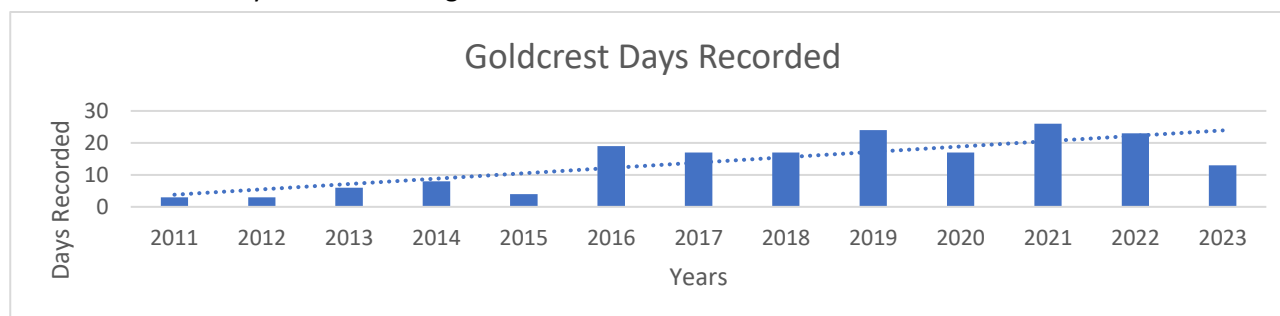
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

GOLDCREST



Numbers have slowly been increasing as milder winters favour smaller birds.



**Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

## EURASIAN WREN

28 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus* occurs in much of the UK. Other subspecies occur on the Scottish islands; *T. t. zetlandicus* on Shetland, *T. t. hebridensis* on the Hebrides, *T. t. fridariensis* on Fair Isle and *T. t. hirtensis* on St. Kilda.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Wren has a discontinuous distribution being resident in the temperate zones of the UK and Europe, northern breeding species move south in winter. It is resident in central Asia south of the Caspian Sea, then in the foothills of the Himalayas into Southeast Asia finally there is a migrant population from Korea and Japan in the north wintering along the south China coast. In the UK it is an abundant breeding species whose number increases in winter with the arrival of birds from Europe.

The race that is found on St Kilda is larger than the mainland birds and is sometimes considered to be a separate species, the St Kilda Wren.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a common breeding resident on Avon Meadows. A tiny bird located by its powerful song.

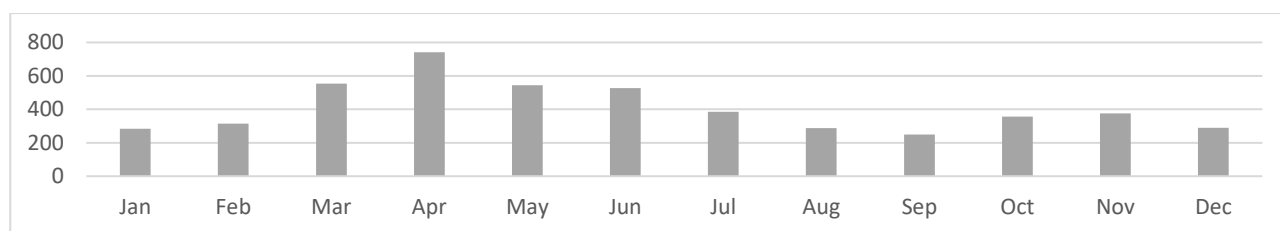
**Maximum count:** 32 on 25 Mar 2021.

**First recorded:** 2009.

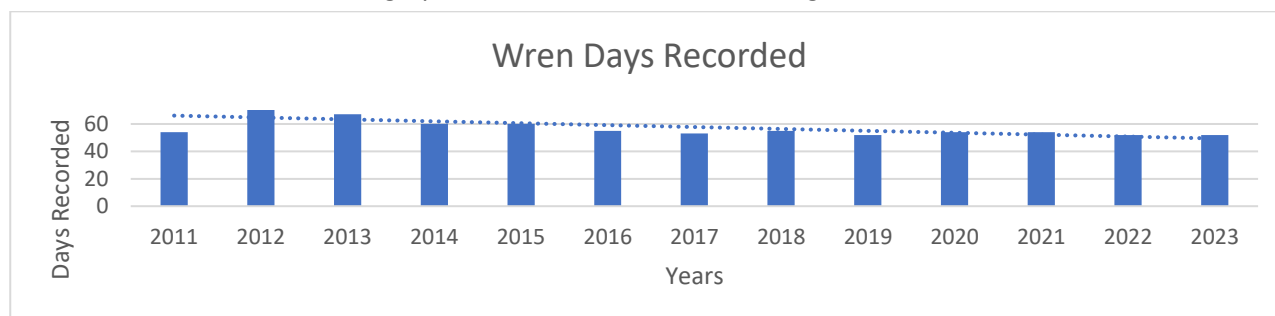
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

WREN



The small decline shown in the graph below is not believed to be significant.

**Nuthatch *Sitta europaea***

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

## EURASIAN NUTHATCH

22 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Sitta europaea caesia* occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Nuthatch is resident throughout its range which extends from England (not Scotland) east through the temperate parts of Europe and Asia to Siberia, Japan, Korea and east China. In the UK it is a fairly abundant resident breeding species.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** While it is a resident in local woodlands it is only a uncommon, casual visitor to Avon Meadows which is not its preferred habitat. There have only been 2 sightings of Nuthatches on Avon Meadows.

**Maximum count:** 2 on 28 Nov 2021.

**First recorded:** 1 July 2018.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

## Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

EURASIAN TREECREEPER

10 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Certhia familiaris britannica* occurs in most of the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Treecreeper is resident throughout its range which extends from England (not Scotland) east through the temperate parts of Europe and Asia to Siberia, Japan, Korea and east China.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** While it is a resident in local woodlands it is only a uncommon, casual visitor to Avon Meadows which is not its preferred habitat. It forages on tree trunks of a range of tree species but rarely on willows, the dominant tree on Avon Meadows. In the UK it is a common resident breeding species.

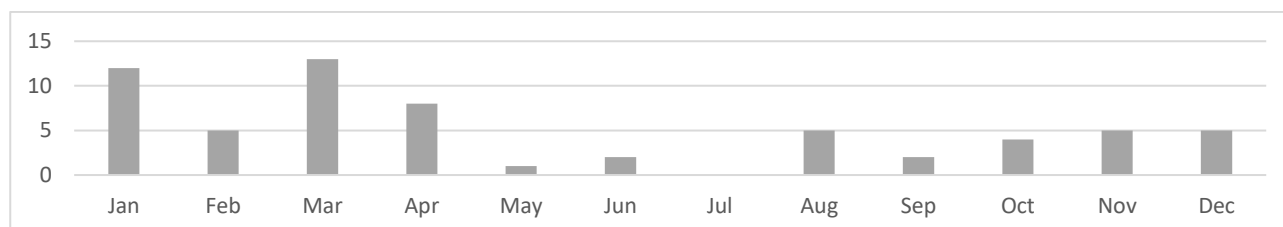
**Maximum count:** 2 on several occasions in 2016-2016 and 2021.

**First recorded:** 17 Mar 2011.

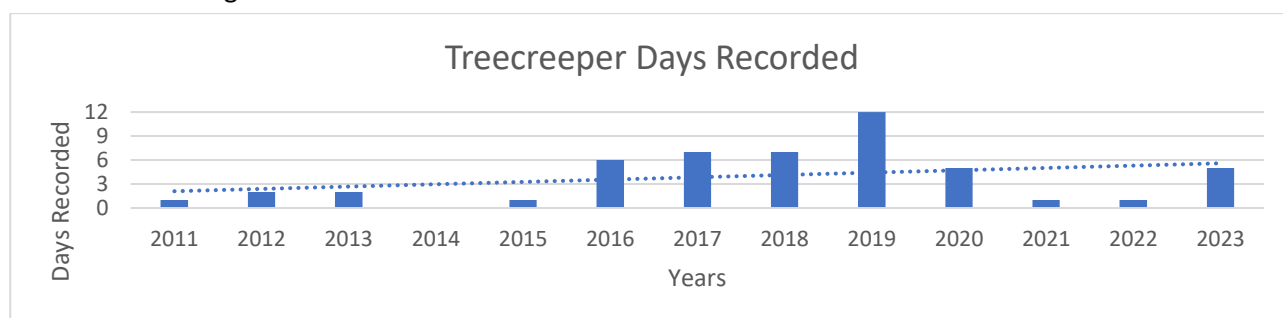
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

TREECREEPER



The trend is not significant.



**Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

AF LEAST CONCERN

RED

## COMMON STARLING

12 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in mainland UK. The race *Sturnus vulgaris zetlandicus* occurs in Shetland and the Outer Hebrides.

**Range and Taxonomy:** In most of western and central Europe the Starling is resident. However, its range as a migrant extends to northern Scandinavia across to central Asia and these populations winter in Spain and North Africa east to the Middle East. In the UK it is a very abundant breeding species whose number increases in winter with the arrival of birds from Europe.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a very common breeding resident to Avon Meadows although it mostly builds its nests on the surrounding houses. Recent studies indicate a sharp decline in the number of breeding birds. Given that the number of Starlings is so large, this decline is not readily apparent.

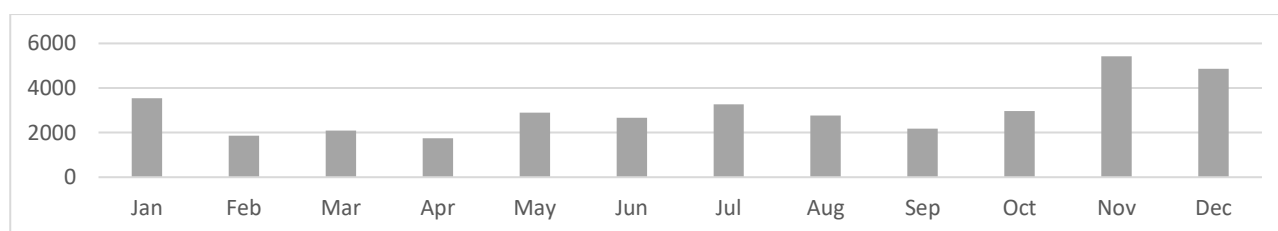
**Maximum count:** 2,000 on 22 Dec 2013. In the winter of 2016 there were large winter gatherings of Starlings over Avon Meadows prior to their descending into the reedbeds to roost. The highest count for these 'murmurations' as they are known took place on afternoons of 11 Jan and 14 Jan 2016 when an estimated 14,000 birds were present. Murmurations involving this number have not been recorded since although counts of up to 4,000 birds have been made on several occasions since then.

**First recorded:** 2009.

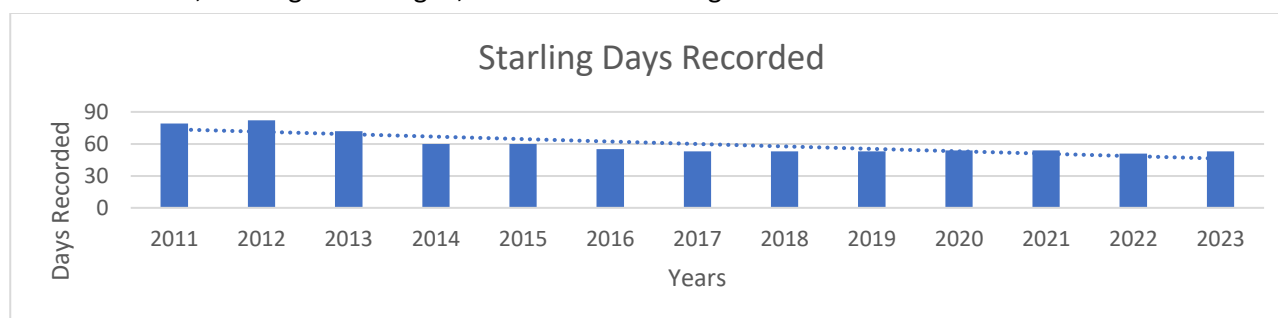
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

STARLING



Given other research referred to above, the slow decline in Starling numbers becomes significant. To the casual observer, nothing has changed, but careful recording indicates otherwise.

**Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos***

AF LEAST CONCERN

RED

4 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in mainland UK. The race *Turdus philomelos hebridensis* occurs in the Outer Hebrides and on the Isle of Skye.

**Range and Taxonomy:** In temperate parts of Europe the Song Thrush is a resident. However, its range as a migrant extends to northern Scandinavia across to central Asia and these populations winter in Spain and North Africa east to the Middle East. In the UK it is an abundant migratory and resident breeding species.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a common breeding resident on Avon Meadows although in smaller numbers than other thrush species.

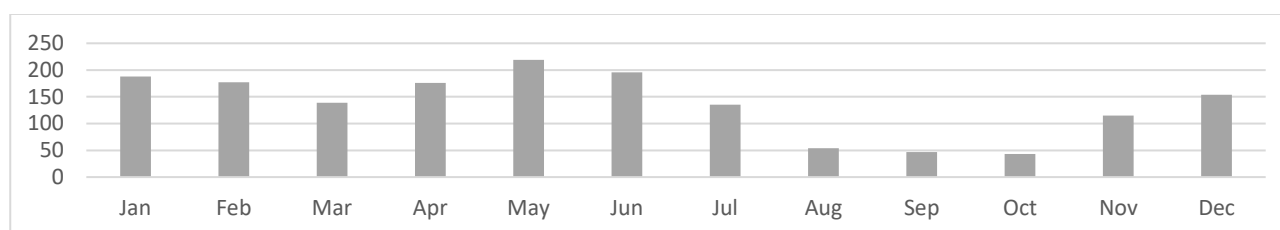
**Maximum count:** 10 on several occasions in the years 2015 to 2018 and 2020.

**First recorded:** 2009.

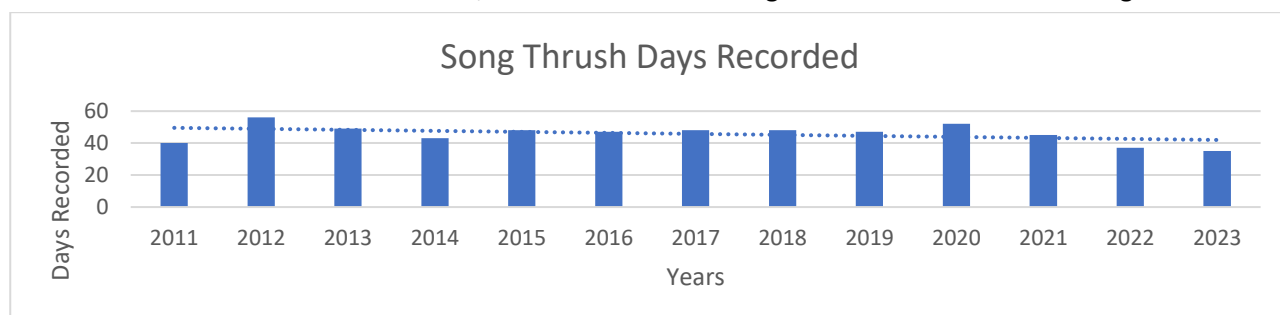
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

SONG THRUSH



Given other research referred to above, the slow decline in Song Thrush numbers becomes significant.



## Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

AF LEAST CONCERN

RED

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** In temperate parts of Europe the Mistle Thrush is resident. However, its range as a migrant extends to northern Scandinavia across to central Asia and these populations winter in Spain and North Africa east to the Middle East. In the UK it is an abundant breeding species whose population is boosted in winter by birds arriving from Europe.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a common resident on Avon Meadows recorded mostly in the winter months when it is attracted to Mistletoe bushes. The lack of summer sightings suggests that it does not breed on Avon Meadows although it does nearby.

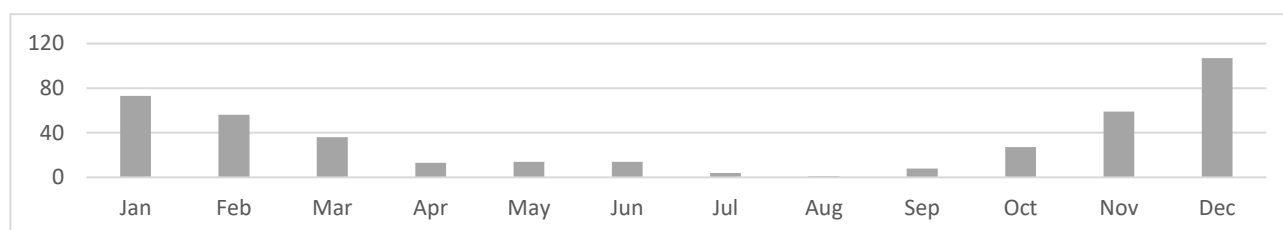
**Maximum count:** 8 on several occasions in the years 2017, 2019 and 2022.

**First recorded:** 2009.

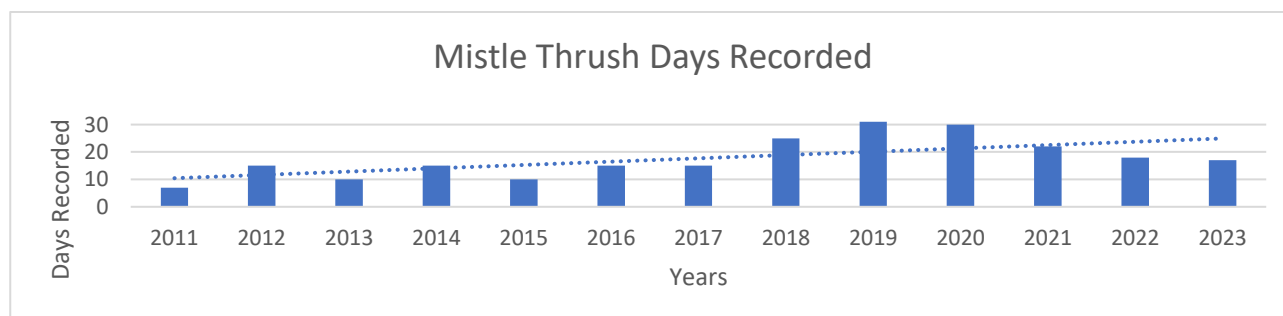
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

MISTLE THRUSH



Although the increase in sightings is modest, it does indicate that at the worst, the species is holding its own.

**Redwing *Turdus iliacus***

AF LEAST CONCERN

RED

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A migrant species throughout its range. It breeds in northern Europe and Asia and winters in western Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. In the UK it is an abundant winter visitor and a rare breeding species.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a common winter visitor to Avon Meadows.

**Maximum count:** 300 on 9 Dec 2021. (A very similar date for high Fieldfare numbers indicating they were driven by harsh weather conditions in Scandinavia.) The high counts shown above are typical of migrant species where large numbers fly into the UK, some passing over Avon Meadows further south/north. Unlike resident species which remain here all the time but in smaller numbers.

**First recorded:** 2009.

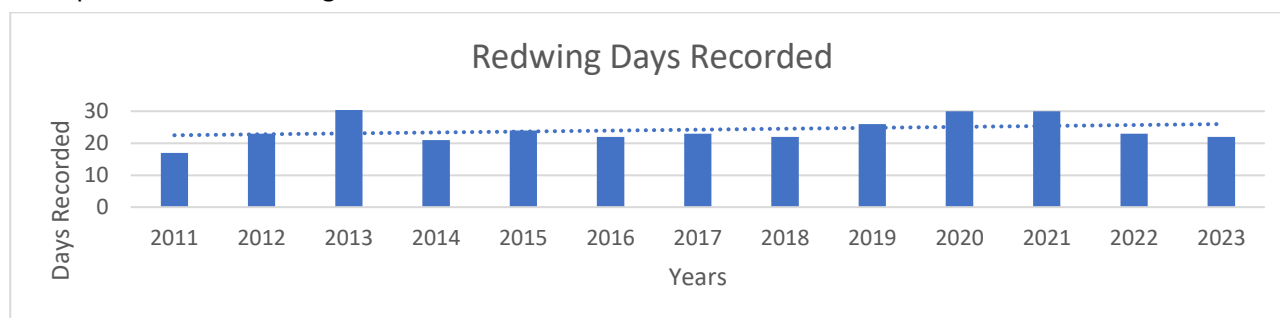
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn arrival, 10 October and latest spring departure 11 April.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

REDWING



The upward trend is not significant.



## Blackbird *Turdus merulinus*

**AF** LEAST CONCERN

**GREEN**

7 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident in temperate parts of Western and Central Europe the Blackbird has a migrant breeding population in Scandinavia and Central Europe which spends its winter south as far as the Middle East and North Africa.

Until recently it was considered conspecific with the Chinese Blackbird (*Turdus mandarinus*), the Tibetan Blackbird (*Turdus maximus*) and the Indian Blackbird (*Turdus simillimus*).

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a common breeding resident on Avon Meadows. Recently the *Ubuntu* virus reached the UK which kills Blackbirds. So far it has only reached southern England, most noticeable in London parks. However, local numbers should be kept under review in case the virus reaches the Midlands.

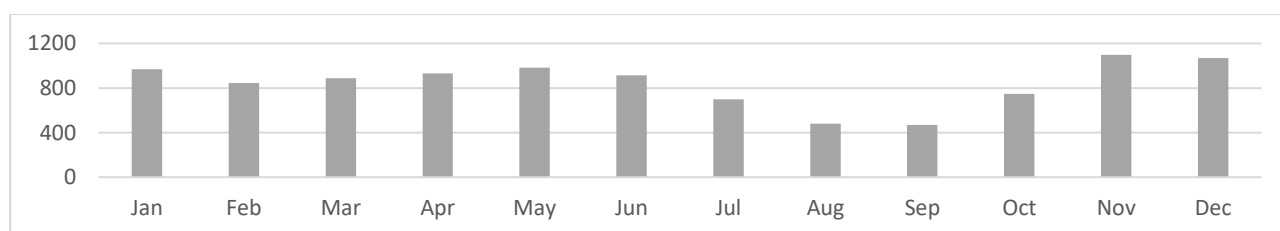
**Maximum count:** 37 on 15 Nov 2012.

**First recorded:** 2009.

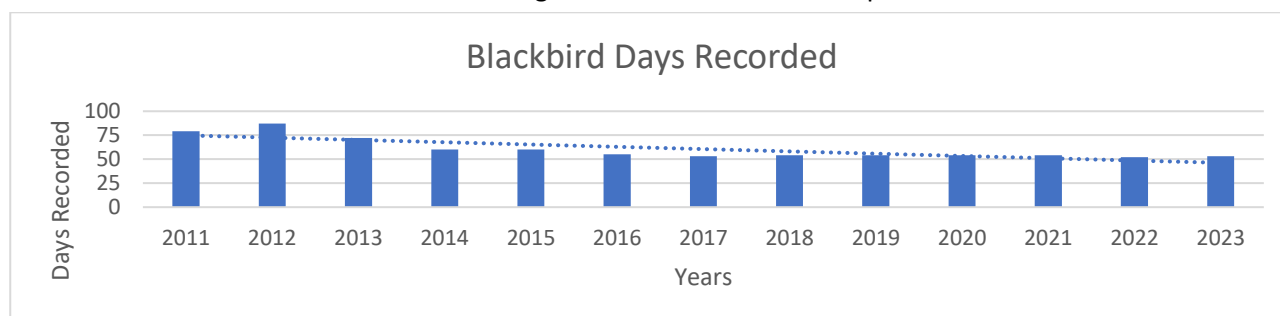
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

BLACKBIRD



The downward trend is not believed to be significant but needs to be kept under review.



**Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**RED**

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A migrant species through much its range but resident in Central and Eastern Europe. It breeds in northern Europe and Asia and winters in central and southern Europe. In the UK it is an abundant winter visitor and a rare breeding species.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a frequent winter visitor to Avon Meadows, always in smaller numbers than the Redwing. Often found near Mistletoe whose berries it eats.

**Maximum count:** 200 on 10 Nov 2012. (A very similar date for the Redwing indicating numbers driven by harsh weather conditions in Scandinavia.)

**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn arrival, 11 October and latest spring departure 6 April.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

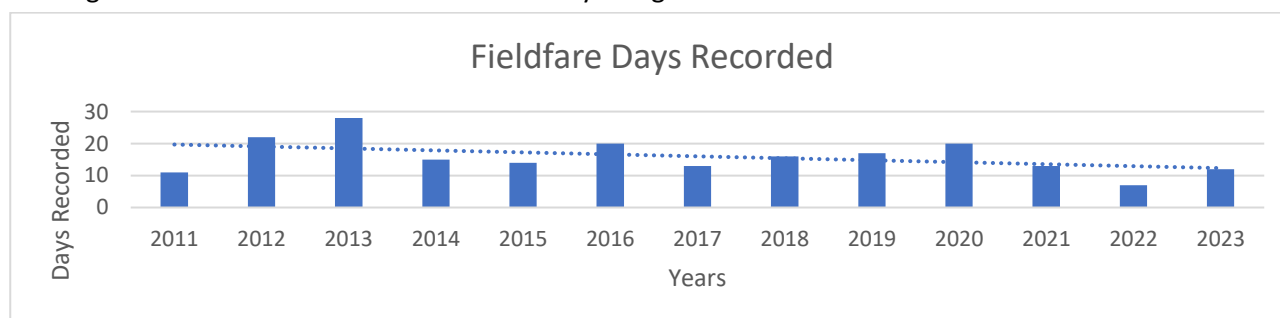
FIELDFARE



Photograph: Steve McLaren



The slight downward trend does not indicate any malign influence.

**Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**RED**

7 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A migrant species throughout its range. It breeds in throughout Europe into Central Asia and winters in central and southern Africa. In the UK it is an abundant summer visitor and breeding species. The breeding population in the UK is dropping very significantly.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a rare summer visitor to Avon Meadows mostly when migrating. It has bred recently in Pershore, on the Abbey. It is not recorded every year on Avon Meadows.



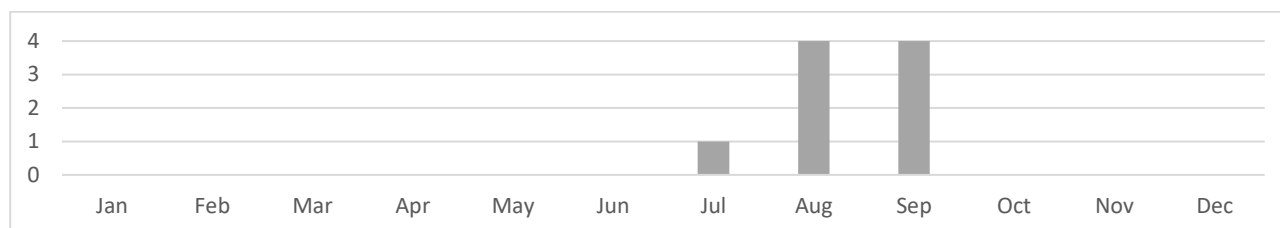
**Maximum count:** 2 on 19 Aug 2020 and 1 Sep 2022.

**First recorded:** 8 August 2013.

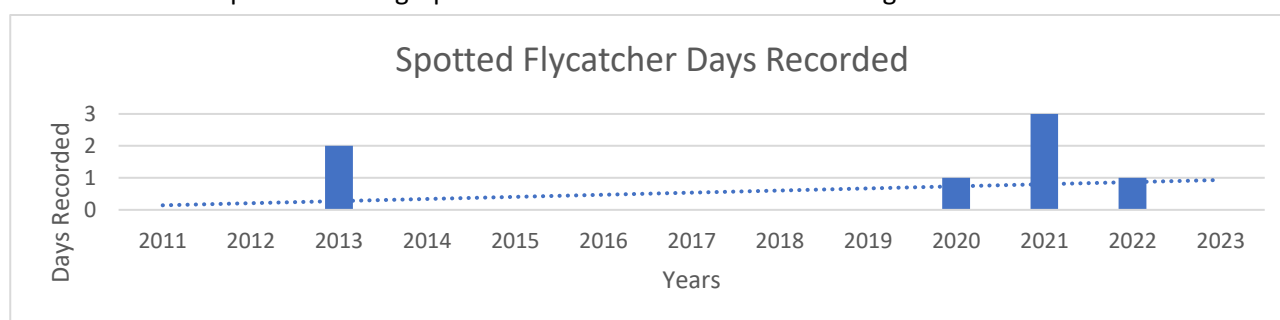
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest summer arrival, 8 July and latest autumn departure 4 September.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER



There are too few points on the graph below for the trend shown to be significant.



## Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

EUROPEAN ROBIN

9 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Erithacus rubecula melanophilus* occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** Resident in temperate parts of Western and Central Europe the Robin has a migrant breeding population in Scandinavia and Central Europe which spends its winter south as far as the Middle East and North Africa. It is a very abundant breeding species in the UK.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a common resident on Avon Meadows. Records vary as it is most easily located at times when it is singing, more difficult when silent.

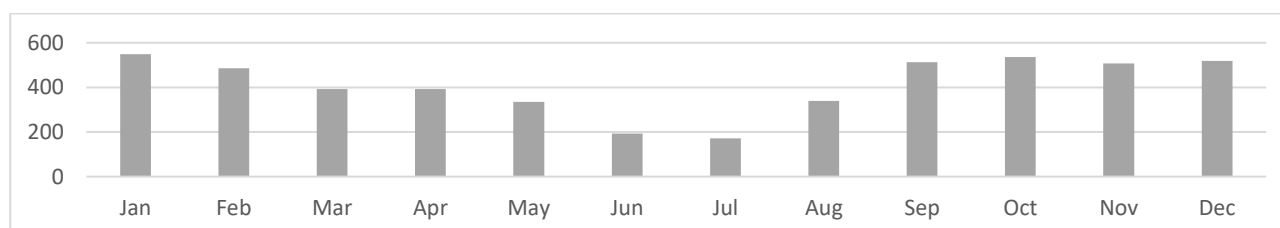
**Maximum count:** 24 on 6 Nov 2020, 9 Sep 2021 and 13 Jan 2022.

**First recorded:** 2009.

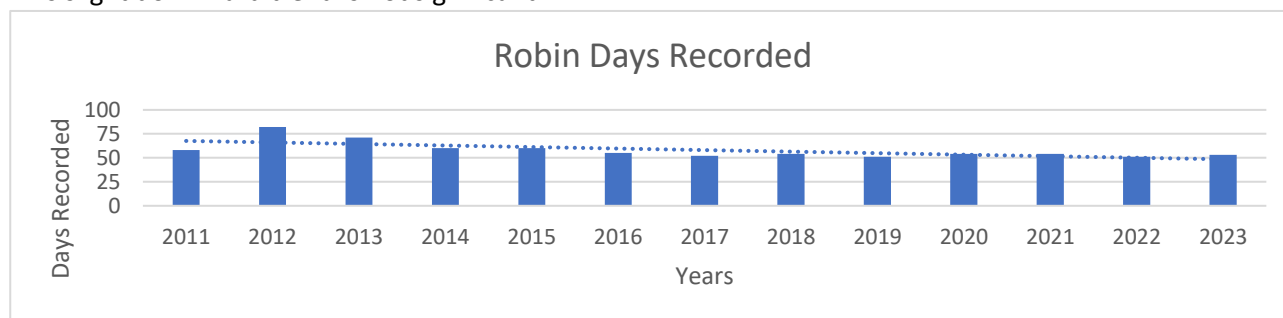
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

ROBIN



This slight downward trend is not significant.



## Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

AF LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

### COMMON REDSTART

2 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A migrant species, breeding throughout Europe and wintering in Central Africa and southern parts of the Middle East. In the UK it is a fairly abundant breeding species in wooded and heathland areas, and an abundant migrant.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a rare or casual summer visitor to Avon Meadows with just 4 records to date.

**Maximum count:** Single birds were recorded on 10 Apr 19, 14 Aug 20, 20 Apr 21 and 6 May 21.

**First recorded:** 10 April 2019.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring arrival on 10 April; latest autumn departure on 14 August.

## Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

AF LEAST CONCERN

RED

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** A migrant species, breeding in northern and central Europe and wintering in Central and East Africa. In the UK it is a fairly abundant breeding species in heathland areas, and an fairly abundant migrant. The UK breeding population has been reduced by unsympathetic management of their upland bracken nesting habitat.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is an uncommon or erratic migrant through Avon Meadows.

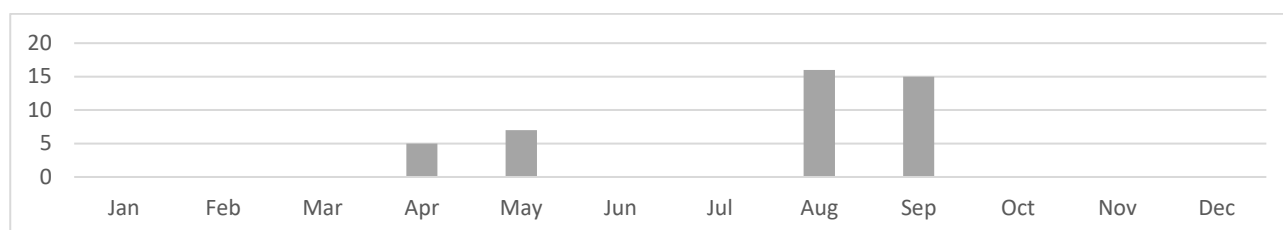
**Maximum count:** 5 on 20 Aug 2020.

**First recorded:** 27 April 2013.

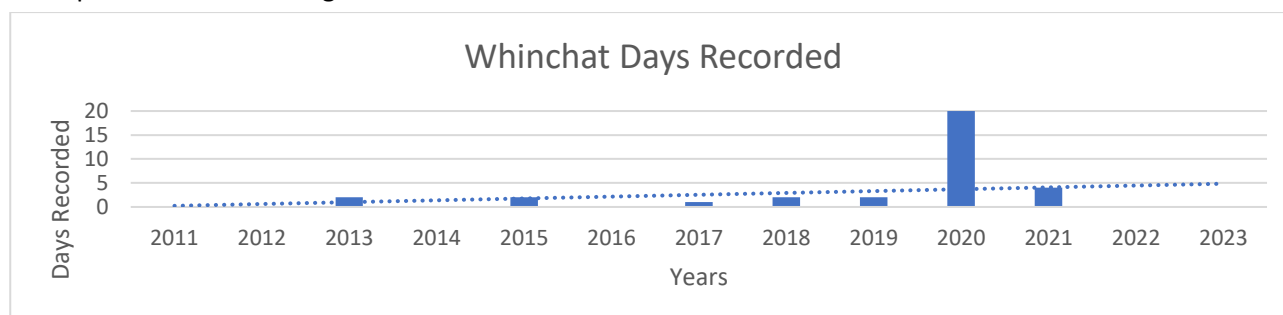
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest spring arrival on 27 April and latest spring record on 11 May. In autumn the earliest autumn arrival on 12 August and latest autumn record on 30 September.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

WHINCHAT



The upward trend is not significant with such a small number of records.

**Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*****A** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN****EUROPEAN STONECHAT**

2 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Saxicola torquata hibernans* occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Stonechat is a resident of partial migrant in central and southern Europe and North Africa. In the UK it is a fairly abundant, resident breeding species and altitudinal migrant moving to lower levels in winter.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is a regular winter visitor to Avon Meadows. Usually one or two pairs spend most of the winter on Avon Meadows.

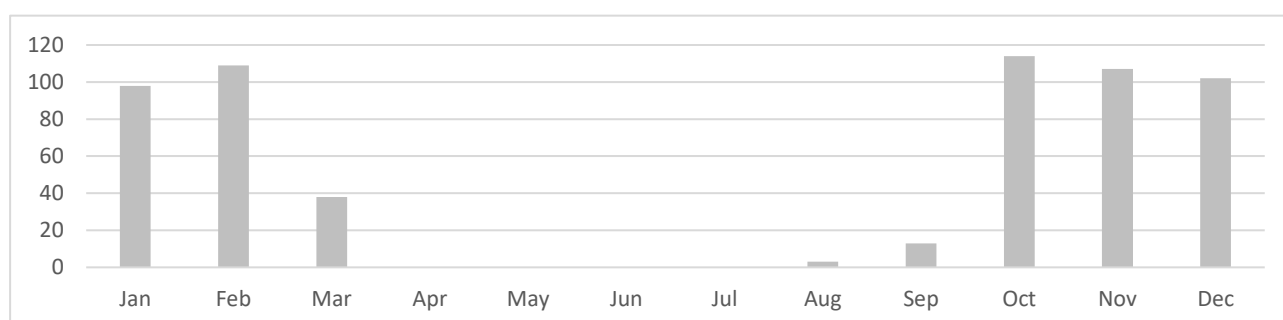
**Maximum count:** 7 on 18 Feb 2021.

**First recorded:** 2010.

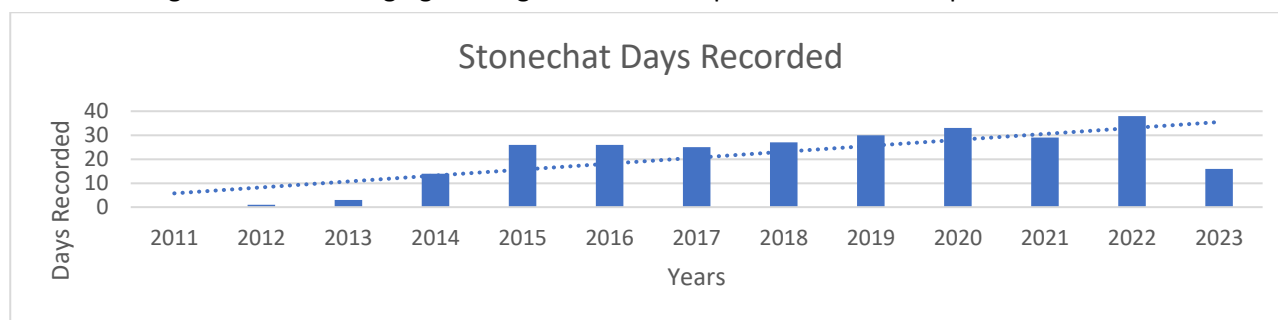
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn arrival on 11 August; latest spring departure on 26 March.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

STONECHAT



The increasing trend is encouraging although there is no explanation in the drop-off in 2023.



## Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

### NORTHERN WHEATEAR

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Wheatear is a migratory species breeding in northern Europe and Asia and coastal northern America. In the UK it is an abundant migratory breeding species breeding in northern UK and a migrant in the southern UK.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Rare migrant over Avon Meadows with just 5 records.

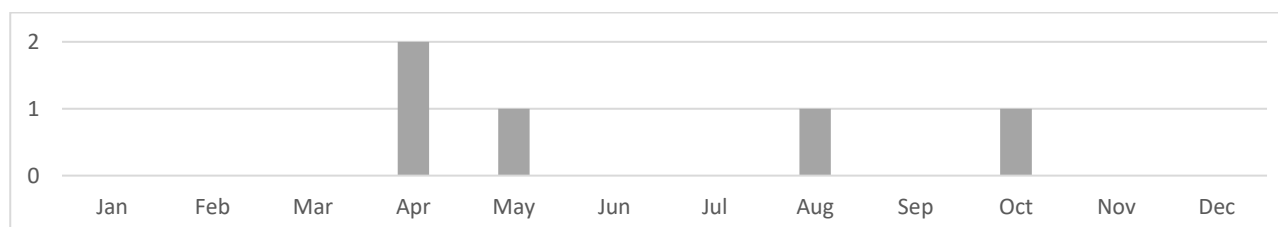
**Maximum count:** Single individuals recorded on all 5 occasions.

**First recorded:** 14 May 2015.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** All spring records are in April, earliest on 8 Apr and latest on 30 Apr. The earliest autumn record was on 29 Aug and the latest on 26 Oct.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

WHEATEAR



## House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

AF LEAST CONCERN

RED

12 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The House Sparrow is resident throughout its range which extends from the UK in the west to Central Asia in the east south to North African, the Middle East, India and Burma. In the UK it is a very abundant resident breeding species.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** The familiar “sparrow” on Avon Meadows where it is far and away our most numerous breeding species. Accurate counts are difficult to be sure about so the maximum count given below is likely to be conservative.

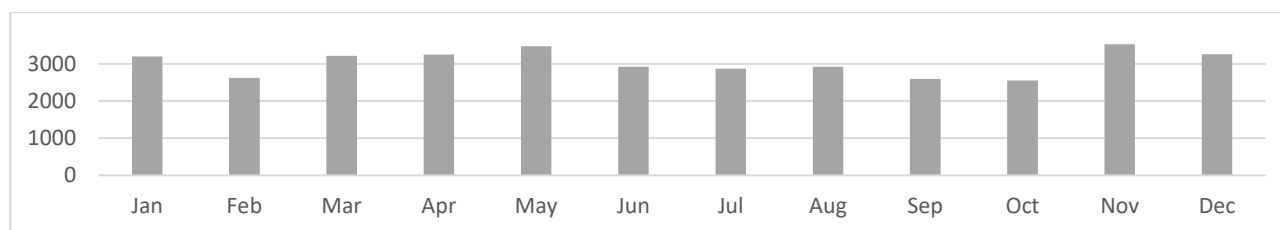
**Maximum count:** 145 on 6 January 2022.

**First recorded:** 2009.

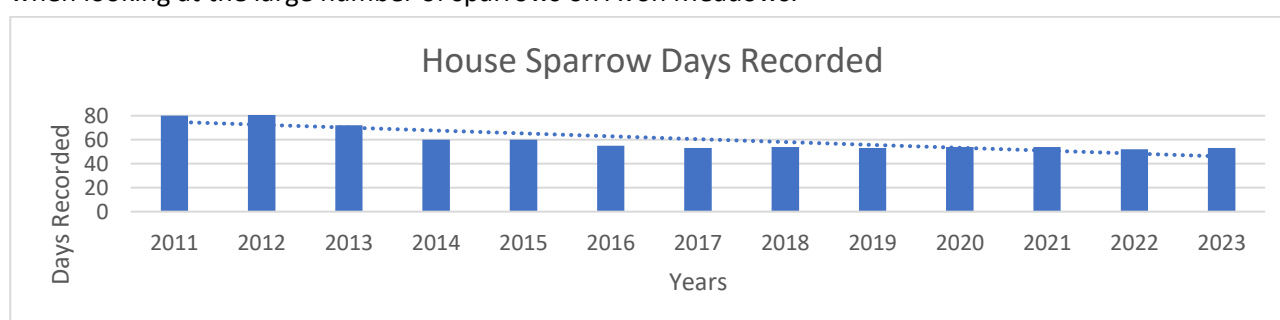
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

HOUSE SPARROW



The downward trend shown on the graph below is significant and reflects a country-wide decline in the number of House Sparrows. The trend is highlighted by long-term counts, such as ours, and is not apparent when looking at the large number of sparrows on Avon Meadows.



## Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

AF LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

7 subspecies are recognised of which 2 subspecies occur in the UK. The race *Prunella modularis occidentalis* occurs in all the UK except the Hebrides. The race found in the Hebrides is *Prunella modularis hebridum*.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Dunnock is a European species resident in Western Europe. It is a migrant in other parts of Europe breeding in Scandinavia and north-eastern Europe then spending the winter in southern Europe as far east as the Caspian Sea. In the UK it is an abundant resident breeding species with the population increased in winter with the arrival of northern continental birds. It is a member of the “accentor” family and not a true sparrow and sometimes called Hedge Sparrow or Hedge Accentor.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a common resident breeding species on Avon Meadows. It has skulking habits so total numbers are difficult to estimate but probably less than 50 pairs.

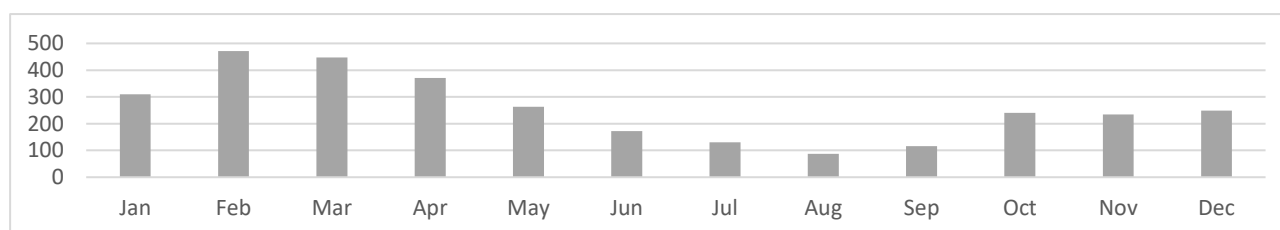
**Maximum count:** 27 on 11 Feb 2016.

**First recorded:** 2009.

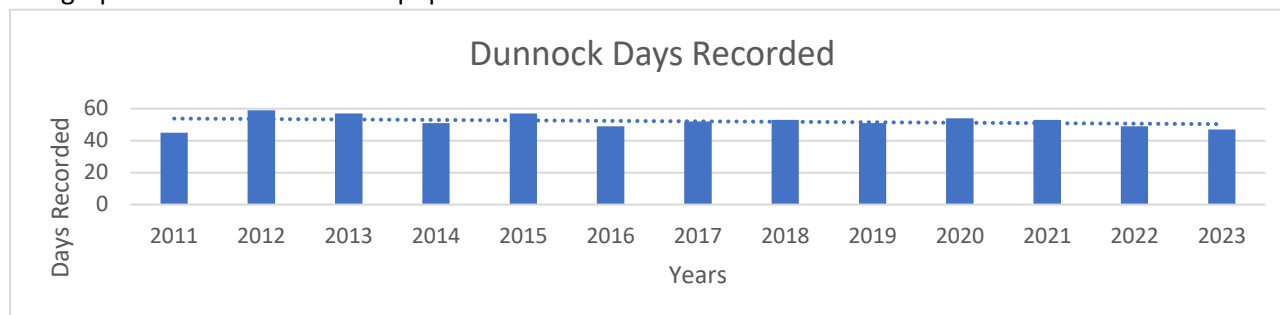
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

DUNNOCK



The graph below shows a stable population on Avon Meadows.

**Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*****A** LEAST CONCERN**RED****WESTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL**

10 subspecies are recognised of which the race *Motacilla flava flavissima* occurs in the UK and nearby Europe. Three other subspecies occur in Europe.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Yellow Wagtail is a migrant species throughout its range with extends as a breeding species throughout Europe spending the winter in Africa south of the Sahara and India. It has a complicated taxonomy and recently has been split between Western and Eastern Yellow Wagtails. The Eastern Yellow Wagtail has 4 subspecies. Many subspecies are quite different in appearance giving rise to much debate as to whether they should be regarded as full species or not. In the UK it is a frequent migratory breeding species generally in southern and eastern England but not in the west or in Scotland.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is an uncommon migrant on Avon Meadows most often recorded flying through. It breeds alongside rocky streaks, in marshy lowlands where disturbance is low.

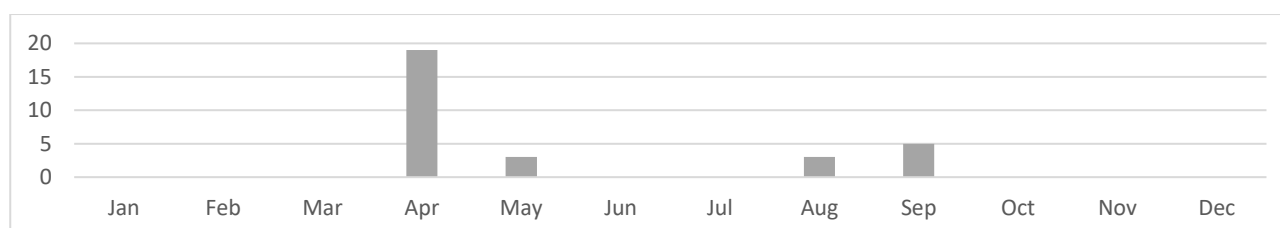
**Maximum count:** 2 on a number of occasions the first on 23 August 2018.

**First recorded:** 27 April 2013.

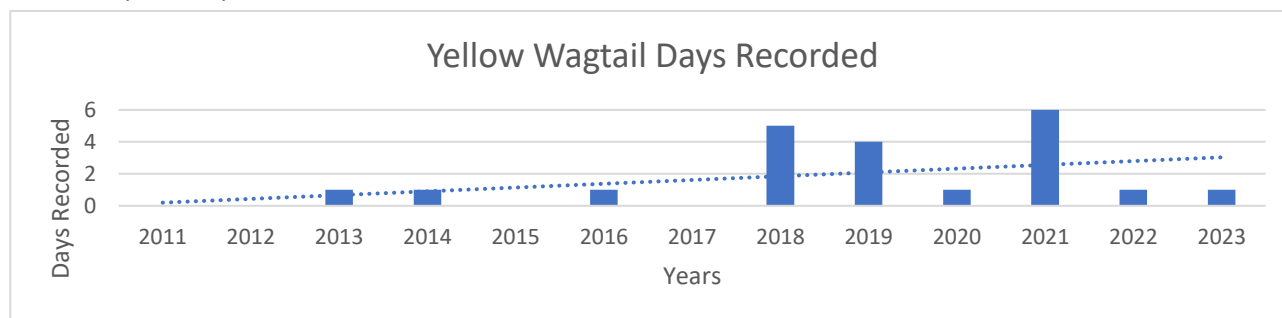
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Extreme dates in spring are from 5 April to 6 May and in autumn from 9 August to 16 September.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

YELLOW WAGTAIL



The trend is increasing but this is not very significant with so few sightings which show considerable variation year on year.



## Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

AF LEAST CONCERN

RED

3 subspecies are recognised of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Grey Wagtail's range extends across Europe and Asia from Eire and the UK in the west to China and Korea in the east. The western population is largely resident whereas in the east it breeds in northern Asia and winters in India and Southeast Asia occasionally reaching northern Australia. In the UK is is a fairly abundant resident breeding species.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** On Avon Meadows it is an occasional visitor but breeds nearby, beside the river. In the main it is these local breeding birds that we see on Avon Meadows. During the breeding season the birds spend more time close to their nest sites and away from Avon Meadows.

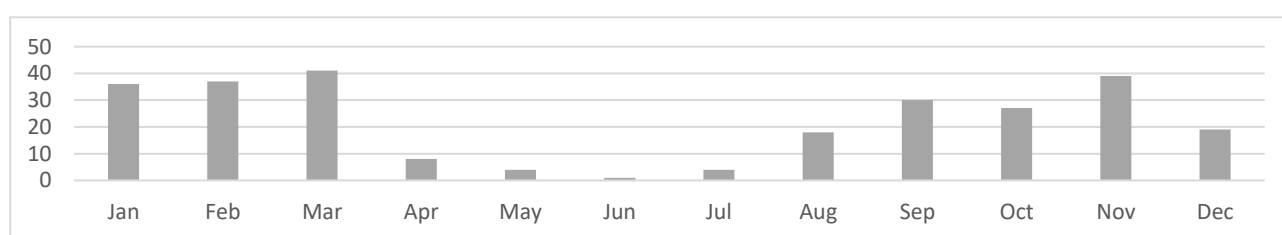
**Maximum count:** 4 on 1 November 2018.

**First recorded:** 2009.

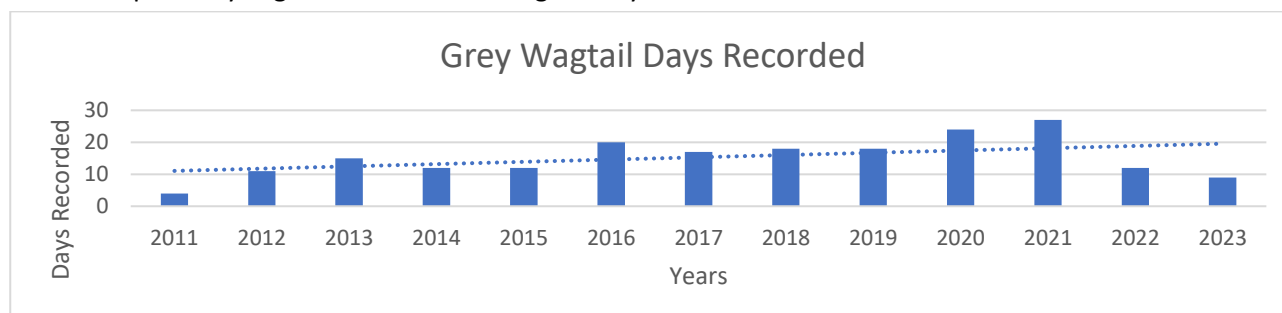
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

GREY WAGTAIL



The trend probably aligns with local breeding activity.



**Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

**WHITE WAGTAIL**

10 subspecies are recognised for this species. Most records are for the race *Motacilla alba yarrelli* commonly known as Pied Wagtail. Birds of the race *Motacilla alba alba*, White Wagtail, which are found in Europe.

**Range and Taxonomy:** White Wagtails range extends across Europe and Asia from Eire and the UK in the west to China and Korea in the east. The western European population is largely resident whereas that in the northern Europe and Asia winters in northern Africa, India and Southeast Asia. In the UK, the Pied Wagtail *M. a. yarrelli* is a common resident and breeding species and it is an abundant migrant.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** The Pied Wagtail is a regular visitor Avon Meadows, particularly outside the breeding season. It has not bred here as far as we know although it does breed in the county. It can often be found in larger numbers during or following flooding when it forages around the edges of flooded areas. The nominate White Wagtail has been recorded once on Avon Meadows (5 Apr 2019) but it is a rare visitor.

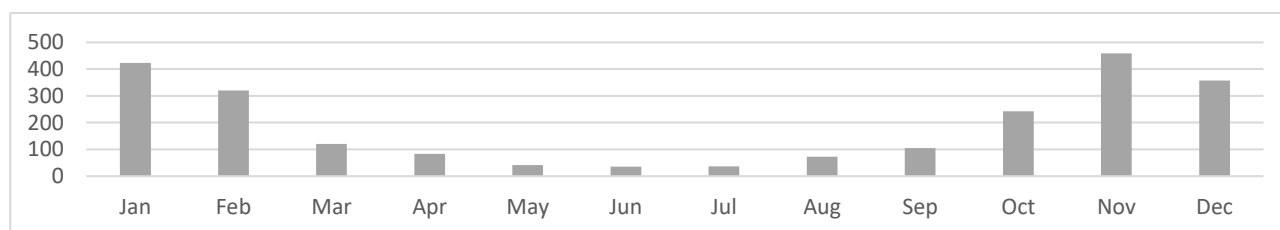
**Maximum count:** 86 on 9 January 2014.

**First recorded:** 2009.

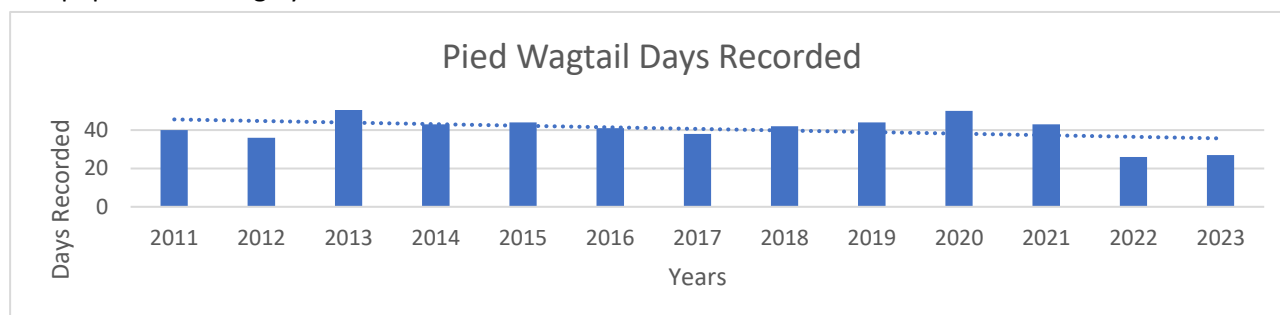
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

PIED WAGTAIL



The population is largely stable on Avon Meadows.

**Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***

AF LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

2 subspecies are recognised for this species of which the race *Anthus pratensis whistleri* is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Meadow Pipit's range extends from Greenland and Iceland in the west to eastern Europe in the east. Over much of its range it is a migrant breeding in the north and overwintering



around the Mediterranean and the Middle East. In the UK it has a common resident and breeding species and it is an abundant migrant and winter visitor. Migrants are particularly numerous in autumn.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is a regular migrant and winter visitor Avon Meadows when it can often be found foraging in small flocks in the meadows.

**Maximum count:** 55 on 17 October 2019.

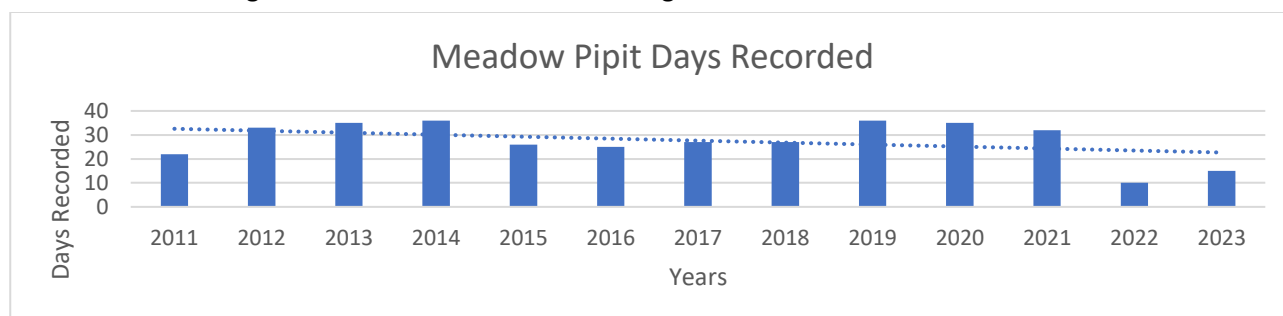
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** The earliest arrival was on 9 July (there are very few July records) and the latest departure on 18 April.

### Total Counts 2009-2023



There has been a slight downward trend but at this stage not a matter of concern.



### Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**RED**

2 subspecies are recognised for this species of which the nominate race is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Meadow Pipit's range extends from the UK in the west (not Eire) to central Asia in the east and in winter it moves south to Central and Southern Africa and India. It is a migrant throughout its range. In the UK it has very common breeding species and migrant.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is exclusively a woodland species, so a rare, accidental visitor to Avon Meadows.

**Maximum count:** A single bird recorded once.

**First recorded:** Only record on 15 August 2020.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** N/A

**Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Brambling is a migrant species breeding in northern Europe and Asia. In winter it heads south into the UK and southern Europe through the Middle East and northern India. Eastern populations spend the winter in Southeast Asia and Japan. In on passage and in winter it is an abundant migrant and winter visitor. It is a rare breeding species in the UK.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is an occasional winter visitor to Avon Meadows, most particularly when avoiding harsh Scandinavian winters.

**Maximum count:** 6 on 1 April 2011.

**First recorded:** 2011.

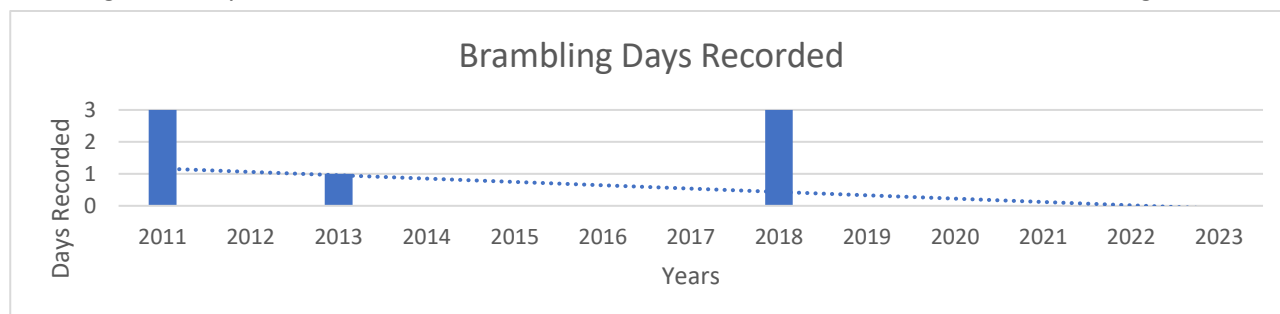
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** The earliest arrival was on 26 September and the latest departure on 3 April.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

BRAMBLING



The downward trend is not significant as there are so few records. It is worth noting that northern breeding birds may not need to come as far south in winter as winters warm with climate change.

**Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

AEF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

COMMON CHAFFINCH

9 subspecies are recognised for this species although the taxonomy is in a state of change. The race that occurs in the UK is *Fringilla coelebs gengleri*.

**Range and Taxonomy:** It is resident in western and southern Europe but Asian populations are migratory moving from north and central Russia in the east south as far as the middle east and north India. In the UK it is a common, resident species.

### Avon Meadows

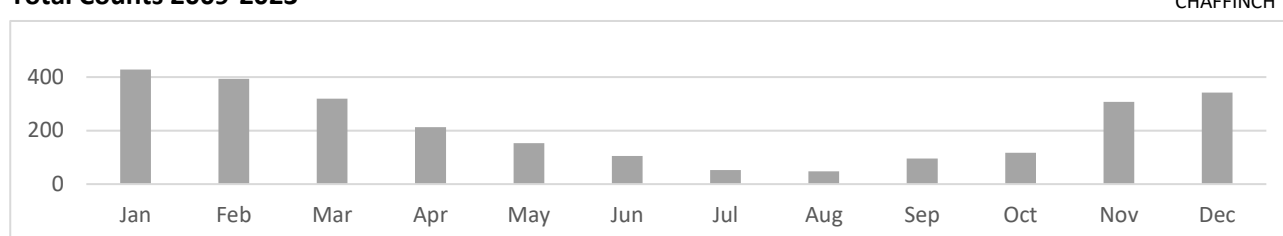
**Status:** It is a resident breeding species on Avon Meadows. Although not numerous it is regularly encountered.

**Maximum count:** 23 on 9 January 2014.

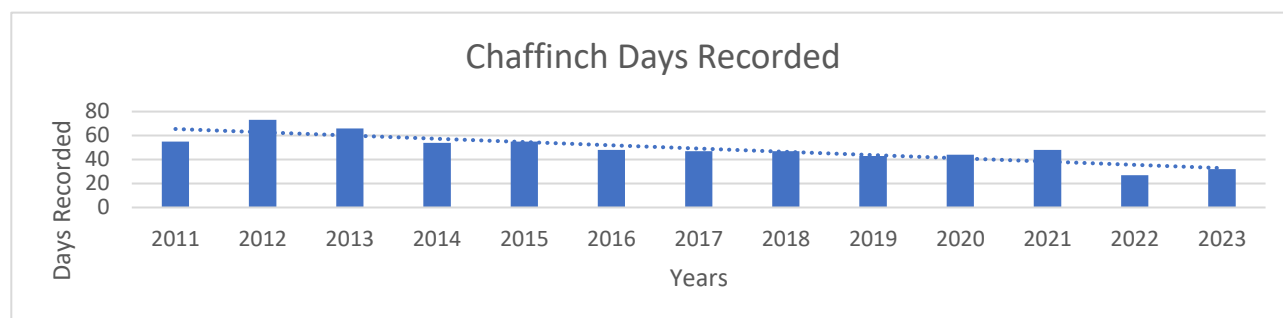
**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

#### Total Counts 2009-2023



The trend shown below is deceptive but it would appear that there has been a reduction in numbers over the period.



### Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

AF LEAST CONCERN

RED

5 subspecies are recognised for this species of which the nominate race is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Hawfinch has a wide range from the UK in the west to Japan in the east. It is resident in much of Europe wintering around the Mediterranean and migrant over most of its eastern range, breeding in central Asia and wintering in SE Asia, Korea and Japan. In the UK it has a scarce resident and breeding species where it prefers old deciduous woodland with large trees such as hornbeam, beech and oak.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Vagrant. Hawfinches breed in Worcestershire but are local and not widespread. The single record on Avon Meadows was for an individual bird passing through.

**Maximum count:** 1 on 5 April 2018.

**First recorded:** 5 April 2018.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Bullfinch *Pyrrula pyrrula***

AF LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

## EUROPEAN BULLFINCH

9 subspecies are recognised for this species of which the race *Pyrrula pyrrula pileata* is endemic to the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Bullfinch's range extends across Europe and Asia where it is resident in the central part of the range, some populations moving further north to breed and further south in winter. In the UK it has an abundant resident and breeding species.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is an occasional visitor Avon Meadows although a regular breeder in Worcestershire.

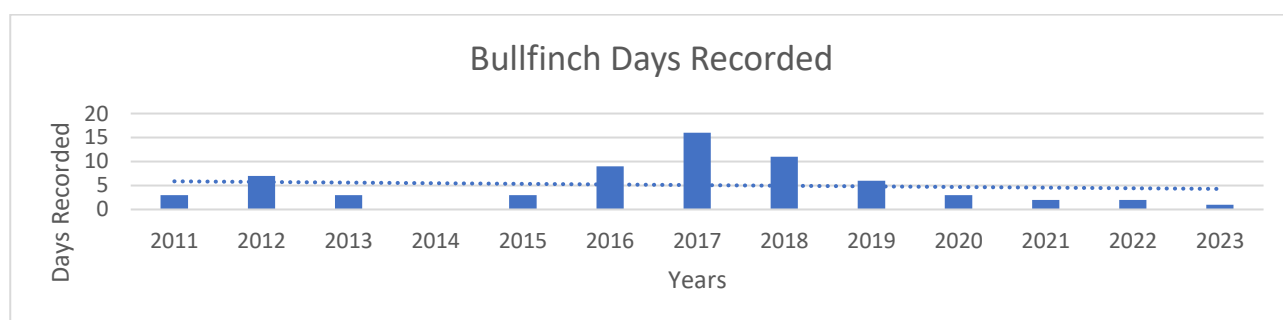
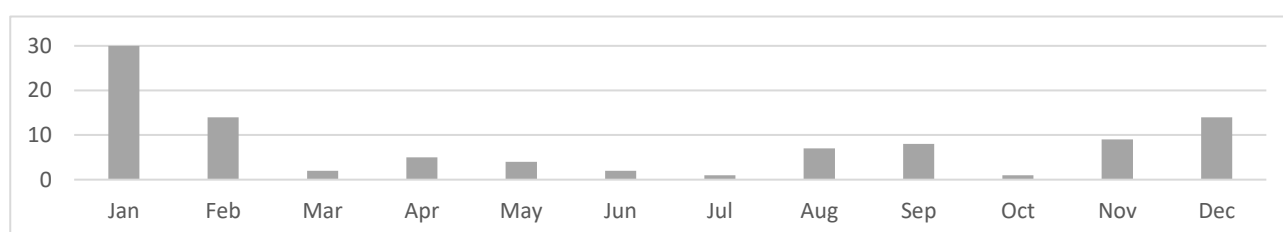
**Maximum count:** 5 on 19 January 2012.

**First recorded:** 18 May 2011.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

BULLFINCH

**Greenfinch *Chloris chloris***

AEF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

## EUROPEAN GREENFINCH

6 subspecies are recognised for this species of which the nominate race is that occurring in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Bullfinch's range extends across Europe to eastern Europe where it is resident except in the northern part of the range. A small number winter in North Africa. In the UK it has a common resident and breeding species.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is an uncommon resident on Avon Meadows. As with several finch species, the Greenfinch number has been particularly hard hit by the *trichomonosis* virus which has reduced population significantly. The virus is transmitted by direct contact between birds which frequently happens at garden feeders.

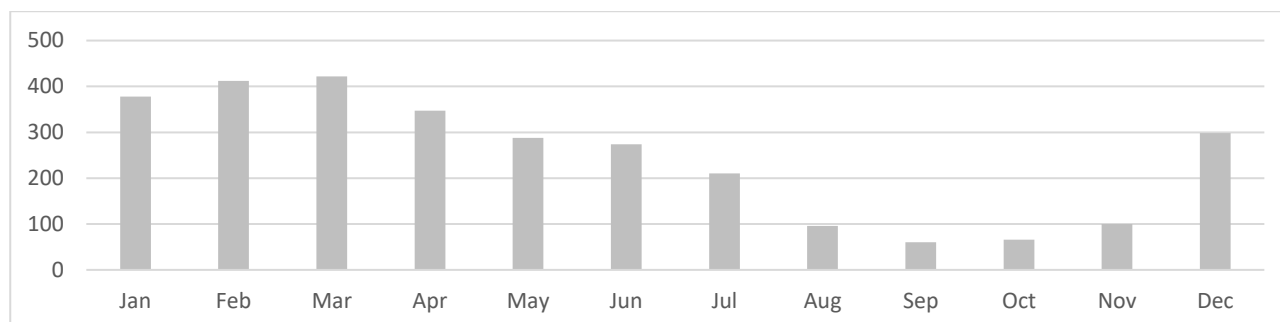
**Maximum count:** 28 on 4 June 2015.

**First recorded:** 2009.

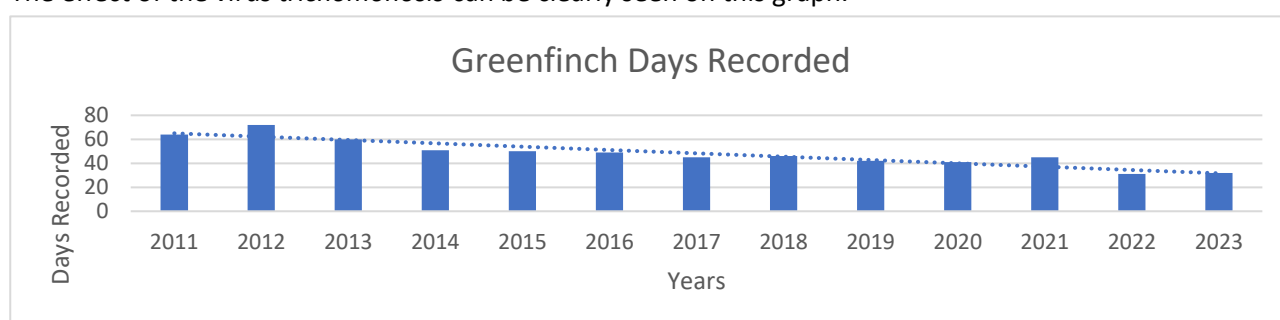
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

GREENFINCH



The effect of the virus *trichomonosis* can be clearly seen on this graph.



## Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

**AF** LEAST CONCERN

**RED**

7 subspecies are recognised for this species of which 2 occur in the UK. The nominate race occurs in much of the UK and the race *Linaria cannabina autochthona* occurs in Scotland.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Linnet is resident across central and southern Europe and a migrant to northern Europe wintering in the Middle East. In the UK it has an very common resident and breeding species.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is regular breeding species on Avon Meadows where one or two pairs nest each year.

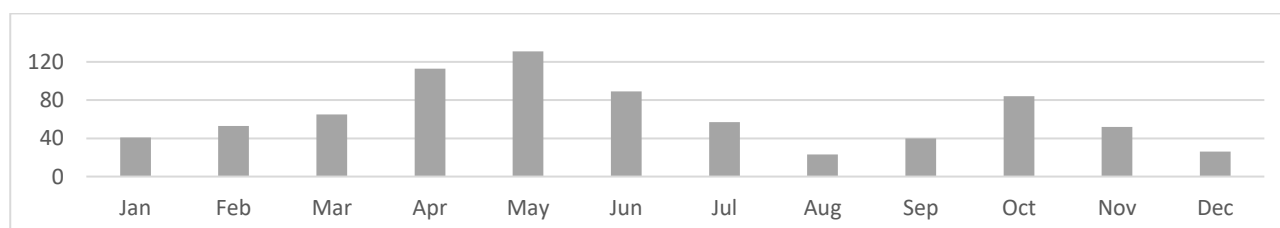
**Maximum count:** 50 on 26 October 2021.

**First recorded:** 5 May 2011.

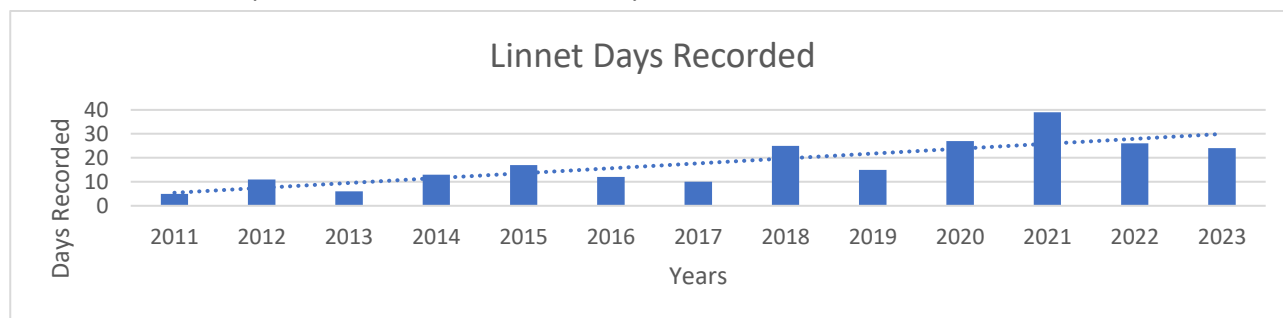
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

LINNET



Linnet numbers have been increasing as they seem to like Avon Meadows where their preferred breeding sites are in bramble patches of which there are many.



## Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*

**A** LEAST CONCERN

**RED**

### MEALY REDPOLL

Monotypic (but see note on taxonomy).

**Range and Taxonomy:** The range is Holarctic from northern Europe, Russia, north Asia Canada and North America. It breeds in the Arctic and winters further south. It is an abundant winter visitor to the UK.

del Hoyo & Collar (2016) treat the Redpolls as a single species with 5 subspecies and simply call it Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*. Collins Bird Guide (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) define 2 species, Mealy Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* (3 subspecies) and Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni* (2 subspecies). The British List recognises 3 species, Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*, Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret* and Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni*. This taxonomy has now been adopted by the IOC and we follow this.

**Avon Meadows:** Uncommon winter visitor. Using the British List as the guide, all birds recorded to date have been Lesser Redpolls *Acanthis flammea cabaret*. They are mostly birds moving through and stay only for a few hours.

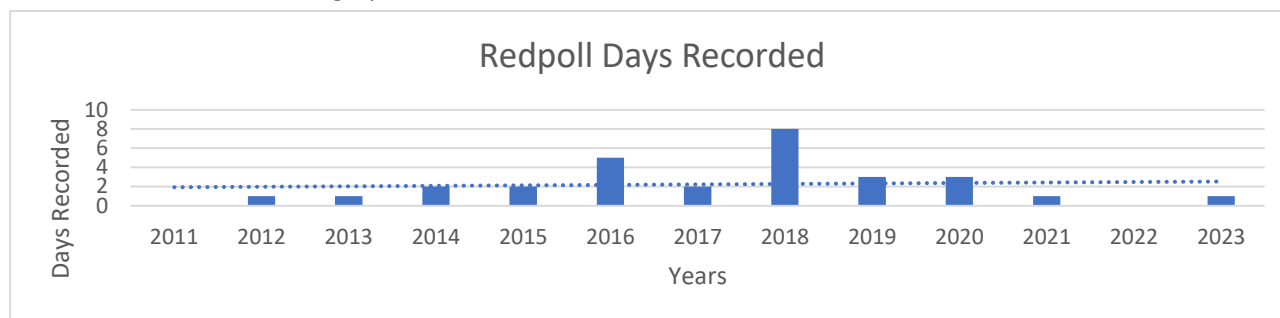
Maximum count 20 (12 Nov 2020).

### Total Counts 2009-2023

REDPOLL



Generally, only small numbers of Redpolls turn up on Avon Meadows so no conclusions can be drawn from trends in the counts in the graph below.



## Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

AF LEAST CONCERN

GREEN

### EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH

10 subspecies are recognised for this species of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Goldfinch is resident across central and southern Europe and a migrant to northern Europe wintering in the Middle East. In the UK it has an abundant resident and breeding species.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** It is regular breeding species on or adjacent to Avon Meadows where young birds are seen regularly from late summer onwards. Quite large flocks have been recorded outside the breeding season.

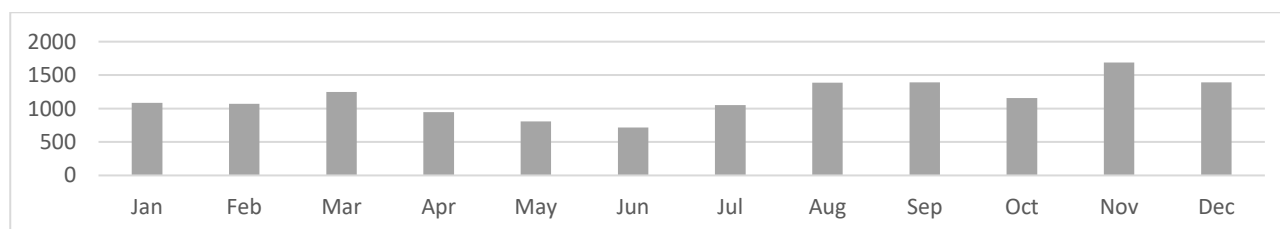
**Maximum count:** 114 on 18 August 2016.

**First recorded:** 2009.

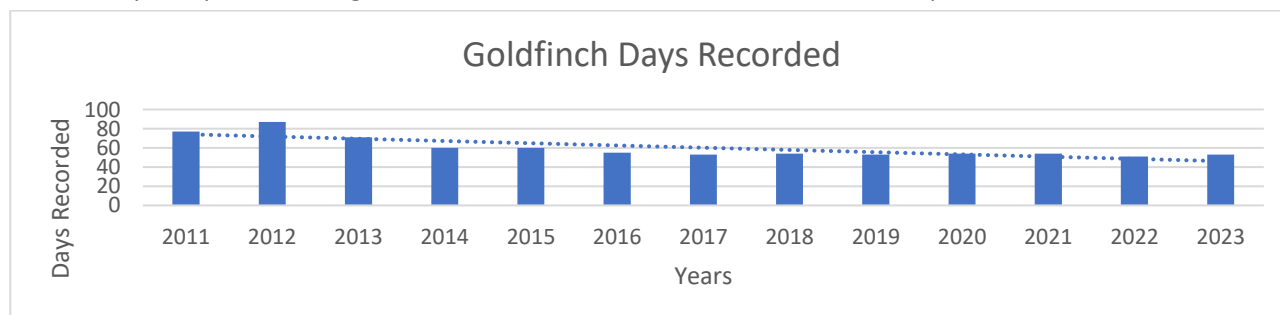
**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

GOLDFINCH



There has perhaps been a slight fall in numbers and winter flocks are less frequent and have reduced size.



**Siskin *Spinus spinus*****A** LEAST CONCERN**GREEN**

Monotypic.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Siskin has two populations, one in Europe and one in the Far East where it breeds in northeast China and winters in Japan and Southeast Asia. In the UK an abundant migratory breeding species in the north and an abundant migrant in the south.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** It is scarce and somewhat erratic winter visitor.

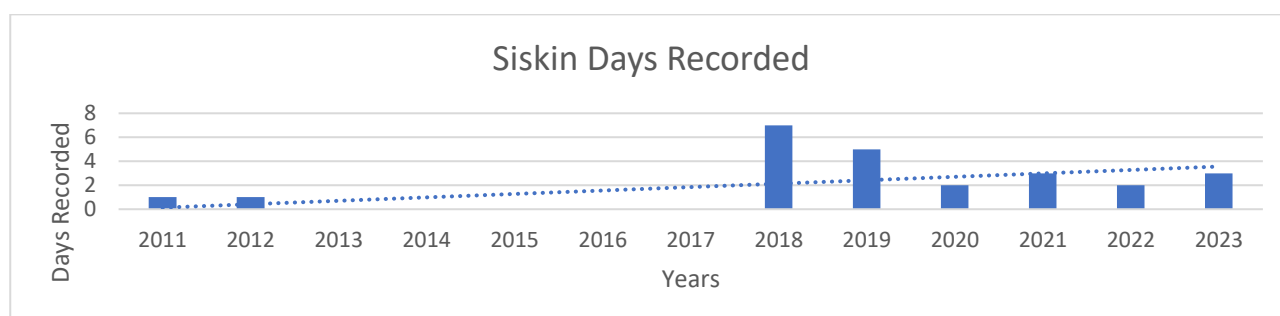
**Maximum count:** 8 on 21 December 2023.

**First recorded:** 9 February 2011.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Earliest autumn arrival was on 16 September and the latest spring departures was on 2 March.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

SISKIN

**Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*****AF** LEAST CONCERN**RED**

2 subspecies are recognised for this species of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Corn Bunting is resident mainly in southern Europe and coastal Northern Europe. Further north in Europe it is a migrant spending its winter as far south as North Africa and the Middle East. In the UK resident in central and southeast England extending further north along the east coast and it is a fairly abundant breeding species. Its UK population has been reduced due to changes in farming practice whereby after the harvest, winter wheat is sown immediately thereby removing its winter food source. It persists when it can get winter food, and this is often provided by farmers.

**Avon Meadows**

**Status:** Accidental. Avon Meadows does not provide the habitat it needs.

**Maximum count:** 1 on 8 March 2021.

**First recorded:** 8 March 2021.



**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

## Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

AF LEAST CONCERN

RED

3 subspecies are recognised for this species of which the nominate race occurs in the southern UK. Further north the race *Emberiza citrinella caliginosa* takes over.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Yellowhammer is resident throughout most of its range which extends from the UK in the west to east Europe. Northern and western populations are migratory. Its UK population has been reduced due to changes in farming practice whereby after the harvest, winter wheat is sown immediately thereby removing its winter food source. It persists when it can get winter food, and this is often provided by farmers.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** Occasional visitor. Avon Meadows does not provide the habitat it needs to feed.

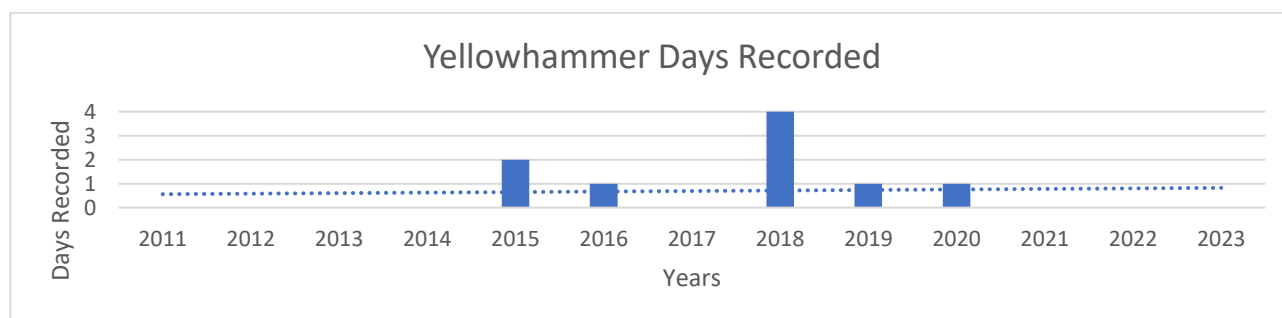
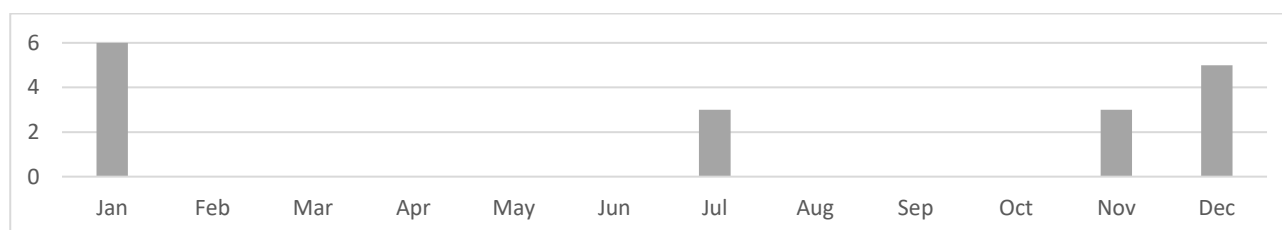
**Maximum count:** 4 on 10 January 2019.

**First recorded:** 17 December 2015.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

### Total Counts 2009-2023

YELLOWHAMMER



## Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

AF LEAST CONCERN

AMBER

19 subspecies are recognised for this species of which the nominate race occurs in the UK.

**Range and Taxonomy:** The Reed Bunting is a resident in temperate regions in its large range which extends from Europe, southern Asia to Japan. In colder breeding areas it migrates south in winter. As its name suggests it is strongly associated with water and reed beds. In the UK it is an abundant breeding resident.

### Avon Meadows

**Status:** A common breeding resident in the reed beds. It tends to move away in late summer once breeding is over to feed locally before returning around the year end. The population is stable.

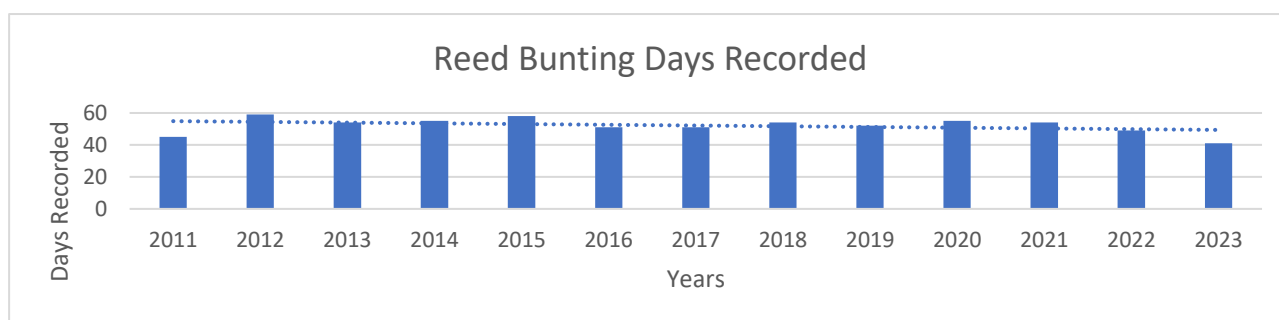
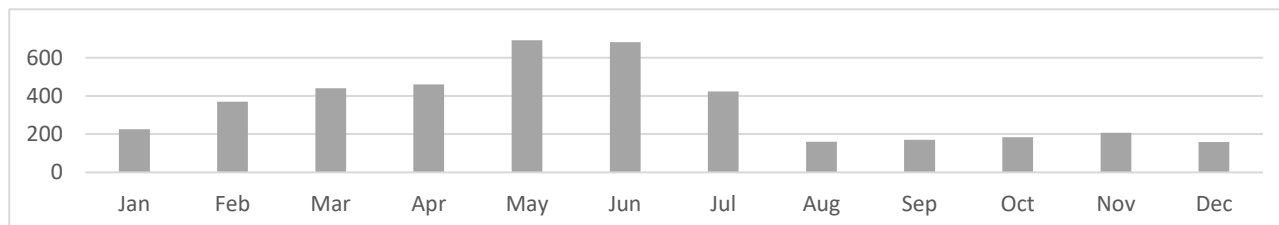
**Maximum count:** 32 on 13 June 2019.

**First recorded:** 2009.

**Extreme Dates (for non-residents):** Resident.

**Total Counts 2009-2023**

REED BUNTING



## References

1. British Ornithologists' Union (BOU). 2022. *The British List: a checklist of birds of Britain* (10th edition). *Ibis* **164**: 860–910.
2. del Hoyo, J & Collar, N.J. 2014. *HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World*. Volume 1. Non-passerines. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.
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