

WELSH HARP REPORT

2014

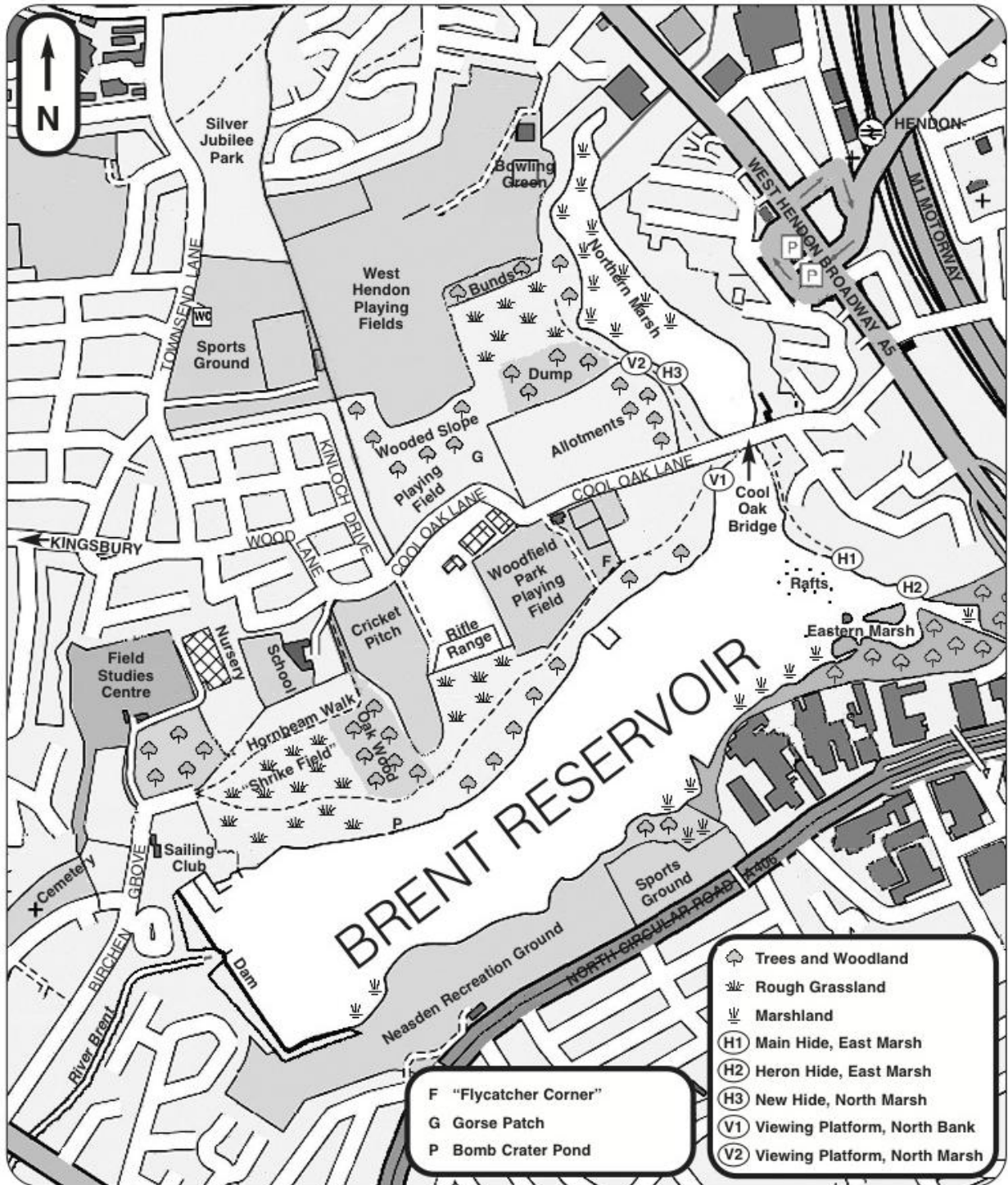


WELSH HARP CONSERVATION GROUP

No. 21 October 2015



Map of Brent Reservoir and the surrounding area



1 km

1 mile

Map created by Andrew Haynes

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Chairman's Report 2014

Introduction

Work has commenced on the next phase of the reconstruction of the West Hendon estate, including an extremely high tower crane for the first of the 29 storey tower blocks. Foundations are being put in place using a boring technique rather than pile-driving with the result of a significant drop in noise levels. The winter wildfowl do not appear to have been disturbed to any great extent and there is currently a flock of almost 450 Tufted Duck frequently using the Northern Reservoir. Teal numbers are over 240; almost up to last October's record count of 252.

Conservation Activities

The programme of pulling Himalayan Balsam continued and a lot of the area behind Heron Hide has been cleared. The extremely wet weather last winter required some significant repair work to improve the water-proofing of the main hide. A new corrugated roof was fitted and observation slits were re-sealed. There is still a little leakage resulting from recent heavy rain and this may need further work. Conservation work for winter 2014-5 has so far concentrated on removing willow and reed which was blocking the view from the group's two hides. Oak and blackthorn saplings have been removed from the gorse grassland. Visits to the rafts will be made early in 2015, however the very heavy rain last winter has greatly increased the level of silting and it will be no longer possible to visit all of the rafts. Following break-ins from rough sleepers a lot of work was necessary in the spring on lock replacement.

Wildlife and Surveys

The year started fairly quietly, although a Scaup type hybrid initially caused some head-scratching. Things didn't really start to liven up until March, a male wheatear on 13th March was extremely early and a fly-through Merlin on 16th was the first of two for the year with another on 3rd December. The mud banks in front of the main hide have continued to grow resulting in a total of 19 waders during the year. A good selection of waders was seen in spring and autumn; once again Green Sandpipers were present from July until late autumn. The winter Common Snipe flock has reached over 30 again but on some days counts are very low. A very mobile Cetti's Warbler was found on March 30th and stayed until June. A singing Nightingale and a Great White Egret were notable records on the Spring Bird Count. Whinchat and Turtle Dove were both seen in April and are increasingly scarce at the site. Two adult summer-plumaged Mediterranean Gulls were notable records on May 3rd. Two juvenile Jackdaws were being fed by an adult in the North Marsh on June 14th, the first breeding record for the reservoir since the 1950s. Two Garganey were present on August 1st. The Autumn Bird Count came very close to setting a new record and 79 birds were seen. The reservoir's second successive Great Skua was seen on October 16th. A Bittern was first seen on October 30th was seen just four or five times. A late flurry of records brought a fine drake Pintail on December 10th and the year's only Stonechat on 13th.

The Tern Colony had a far better breeding year. Better weather and partly vegetated rafts seemed to assist and a high proportion of birds bred successfully. Lack of annual raft maintenance could be a problem in the future. Great Crested Grebes had a reasonable breeding year and again many bred late with broods seen in August and several in early September. There were more visits from the Ruddy Duck Cull and now just 1 or 2 birds are occasionally seen.

The year was much better than 2013 for butterflies; several White-letter Hairstreaks were seen and there were good peak counts for Marbled White and Ringlet. There were several visits in late July when 16 or 17 species and over 200 insects were counted. A bat detecting visit was made for a public walk in August; bat numbers were much improved on the previous year. Good counts were made of Noctule and Common Pipistrelle; Leisler's and Nathusius' bats were also present.

Education and Publications

The long outstanding gap in reports covering years 2007-8 has now been completed as has the report for 2013.

Roy Beddard

Review of the Year 2014

The number of bird species seen at Brent Reservoir in 2014 was 135, equalling the total in 2013. No new species were recorded, but scarce birds included the site's second **Great Skua**, its fourth **Great White Egret** and the first **Bewick's Swan** for six years.

JANUARY The year began on Jan 1st with the first of more than 30 sightings of **Peregrine**. Two **Greylag Geese** were also present on that day; one or more were to be seen regularly until mid-July but just twice later in the year. A **Lapwing** also seen on Jan 1st was to stay on site until the end of March. The year's only **Goldeneye** was seen on Jan 9th along with the year's first **Little Egret**, a species now so common that it was recorded on more than 80 occasions during the year. A WeBS Count on Jan 19th produced nine **Egyptian Goose**, another increasingly regular species; the count also found more than 300 **Common Gull**.



FEBRUARY As usual a quiet month, but Feb 2nd produced the first of a dozen sighting of **Great Black-backed Gull**, a first-winter bird. The next day saw 35 **Common Snipe**, the year's highest count. The only **Jack Snipe** of 2014 was seen on the island on Feb 18th.

MARCH The first **Reed Bunting** of the year was seen on Mar 8th; one was heard singing the next day and three were in song on Mar 16th. The first of four spring **Wheatear** appeared on Mar 13th, a date that also saw the season's last **Fieldfare**. On 16th, a female **Merlin** flew along the North Bank and the first **Common Buzzard** of the year circled over the reservoir. The year's first **Oystercatcher** and its first two **Little Ringed Plover** were seen on the mud on Mar 21st. On the morning of Mar 23rd two more Buzzard flew over and so did the year's first **Red Kite**. Another Buzzard was seen on Mar 26th. Three **Sand Martin**, appeared on Mar 30th, and a **Yellow-legged Gull** was also seen on that day.

APRIL A singing **Cetti's Warbler** was found in East Marsh on Apr 2nd and stayed in territory until Jun 15th. Also on Apr 2nd, a **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** was spotted flying across West Hendon Playing Fields. The year's first **Willow Warbler** was heard on Apr 4th and was soon followed by other migrant warblers — **Common Whitethroat** on Apr 12th, **Lesser Whitethroat** on Apr 17th, **Sedge Warbler** and **Garden Warbler** on Apr 19th and **Reed Warbler** on Apr 20th. The year's first **Common Tern** flew in on Apr 8th. After occasional sightings earlier in the year, two or more **Shelduck** graced the reservoir from Apr 10th until May 24th, with a maximum count of five on Apr 27th. The year's second and third **Red Kites** were seen on Apr 4th and 11th, and the year's sole **Osprey** flew north over the dam in the late afternoon of Apr 10th. Single **Common Buzzard** were seen on five days in April. The year's first **Swallow** passed through on Apr 9th and the first **House**

Martin arrived on Apr 13th. That date also saw two separate sightings of **Black-tailed Godwit**; on Apr 16th three more circled and moved on. April was also blessed with the only three **Whimbrel** of the year — one on the mud on Apr 21st, followed by two on a raft on Apr 27th. The last **Wheatear** of the spring passage were seen on Apr 12th, when two males landed on a raft and another was on West Hendon Playing Fields. The first of four spring **Yellow Wagtail** flew over the Main Hide on Apr 13th and the only spring **Whinchat**, a male, was seen on Apr 21st. A drake in North Marsh on Apr 15th was the year's only **Mandarin Duck**. Three **Arctic Tern** flew through on Apr 19th, and three were feeding with two **Common Tern** on Apr 20th. A **Turtle Dove** crossed the reservoir on Apr 23rd and the year's first three **Swift** passed through on Apr 27th. The Spring Bird Count on Apr 26th produced a total of 74 species, including a **Great White Egret** and a **Bar-tailed Godwit**, both of which flew off east without landing. The year's first **Common Sandpiper** also appeared on that day. Early the next morning, 10 **Arctic Tern** flew through.

MAY The year's last sightings of **Arctic Tern** were early on May 2nd, when six flew through, followed within half an hour by a further seven. A **Dunlin** in summer plumage was on the East Marsh mud on the same day and single Dunlin were seen again on May 8th and 10th. A pair of summer-plumaged **Mediterranean Gull** briefly visited the reservoir on May 3rd and the year's second **Turtle Dove** crossed the reservoir on May 4th, followed by another (the year's last) the next day. A **Ringed Plover** dropped in on May 8th and the year's second **Oystercatcher** was seen on May 22nd. **Common Sandpiper** were regular, with eight present on May 19th. May also saw the year's only visits by **Black Tern**, with one present on May 2nd and 3rd and two more briefly on May 19th.

JUNE The year's fourth **Red Kite** circled high over East Marsh on June 1st. A pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gull** produced two young, first seen on June 6th. A **Nuthatch** called behind the Heron Hide on June 8th. June 12th saw a peak count of 44 **Common Tern**; a few attempted nesting and (after 2013's complete breeding failure) a first egg hatched on June 28th. June also saw the first evidence since the 1950s of breeding by **Jackdaw**, with a pair seen feeding two young on June 15th and another pair feeding three young on June 21st. The autumn's first **Common Sandpiper** appeared on June 21st. After regular sightings of up to five in April and May, including pairs seen displaying and mating, June 28th produced the first indication that **Little Ringed Plover** had bred locally when a juvenile was seen attended by two adults. Towards the end of the month up to 11 **Lapwing** were present, including three juveniles (not thought to be locally bred). On June 29th, two **Avocet** visited the East Marsh mud — the first record of more than one since two were shot in 1897. A **Common Snipe** seen on the same day was Brent's first ever June record.

JULY A **Mediterranean Gull** was seen in East Marsh on July 3rd. A female **Ruddy Duck** on July 6th was the first since Oct 2013, following the national cull. July 9th produced an unseasonal **Common Gull**. Three **Wigeon** — the first of the year — were also present on July 9th and a single drake was seen on July 19th, after which there were no further sightings until September. A **Ruff** appeared on the East Marsh mud on July 12th and stayed until July 17th. Another was found on July 25th. On July 18th the first **Common Buzzard** since April passed over and an **Oystercatcher**, the year's third, arrived in East Marsh. On July 19th a summer-plumaged **Black-tailed Godwit** of the *islandica* race was seen on the mud. A **Dunlin** flew in on the same day and two more showed up on July 28th. Up to eight **Little Ringed Plover** were present during the first three weeks of the

month, and the last bird of the year was a juvenile that arrived on July 30th and hung around until Aug 5th. A **Wood Sandpiper** arrived on July 25th, staying for five days, and the first **Water Rail** of the autumn was heard on the following day, which also saw **Common Sandpiper** numbers reach a high of 18. On July 31st a **Mute Swan** with a numbered leg ring was seen in East Marsh. After reporting it to the British Trust for Ornithology, the observer learnt that it had been ringed at Apsley (Hertfordshire) in Sep 2012 and had subsequently been seen several times in the Lea Valley.

AUGUST Two **Garganey** were found in North Marsh on Aug 2nd and another was present on Aug 19th. August was notable mainly for its waders. A **Dunlin** in summer plumage appeared in East Marsh on Aug 1st and stayed for a week. On Aug 10th, a **Ringed Plover** circled East Marsh before flying off north. Aug 18th produced the year's fifth sighting of **Black-tailed Godwit**, an adult in summer plumage. The month featured the year's only two **Greenshank**, with one bird seen on Aug 17th and another heard on Aug 24th. The year's fourth and last sighting of **Oystercatcher** was on the morning of Aug 20th, when six flew around East Marsh. On the same day four **Redshank** were found feeding together near the Heron Hide. The year's highest **Green Sandpiper** total was nine, also on Aug 20th. Single **Wheatear** were seen on Aug 12th and 22nd, and the only autumn **Whinchat** records were a single bird on Aug 22nd and two on Aug 31st. **Spotted Flycatcher** were seen on Aug 20th, 23rd and 24th and a **Tree Pipit** was found in an oak tree in the Shrike Field on Aug 24th. The Shrike Field also produced the only **Common Redstart** of the year, on Aug 31st. The year's highest count of **Cormorant** was 49 on Aug 30th.



SEPTEMBER The Autumn Bird Count on 6th September racked up no fewer than 79 species — the highest ever autumn total. They included a **Sandwich Tern** (which sat on a buoy for most of the day), a **Black-tailed Godwit** (the year's sixth and last sighting of this species), a **Ruff** (which stayed until Sep 10th), a **Spotted Flycatcher** (the year's fourth and last sighting), a **Garganey**, a **Yellow Wagtail** (one of five autumn sightings), 13 **Meadow Pipit**, 70 **Swallow**, 2 late **Swift** and a **Wheatear** (the last of just three autumn sightings). **Wigeon** were present throughout the month, but their number never rose higher than seven. After occasional earlier sightings of a single **Ruddy Duck**, a small flock consisting of two males and four or five females was present from Sep 17th — until culled by DEFRA early in November. The last **Red Kite** of 2014 were seen in September — one on Sep 11th and three on the morning of Sep 21st. Many summer visitors put in their last appearance of the year during September including a **Common Tern** which hung around until Sep 21st — the latest ever date — and the month's second **Ruff** popped in on the same day.

OCTOBER A **Nuthatch** (the year's second) was heard calling in the Field Centre on Oct 2nd and a **Treecreeper** was heard in the same place the next day. The year's second **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** was seen on Oct 10th. The month's outstanding bird was a **Great Skua** seen flying north 9am on Oct 15th, following an unusual influx into the tidal Thames and the Thames Valley reservoirs over the previous few days. The year's only **Turnstone** was seen feeding on the mud on Oct 15th. Visible migration observations included 4170 **Woodpigeon** on Oct 22nd — part of a total of 15,510 seen up to Nov 29th. **Stock Dove** clocked up 268 migrating birds, with a peak day count of 39. But some small passerines were in short supply during this year's viz-mig watch, with totals of only six for **Siskin** and eight for **Lesser Redpoll**. Other migrants included 972 **Chaffinch**, 485 **Greenfinch**, 216 **Goldfinch**, 152 **Linnet** and 20 **Bullfinch**. The viz-mig watch also featured two rarely seen corvids — a **Raven** over Silver Jubilee Park on Oct 12th and two **Rook** flying west on Oct 22nd. The month ended with the sighting of a **Bittern** in the main reed-bed on Oct 30th and the autumn's first **Fieldfare** — a flock of seven — on Oct 31st.

NOVEMBER October's **Bittern** showed itself again on Nov 1st and 2nd and was then assumed to have moved on. However, on Nov 22nd it (or a different individual) was seen flying into the main reed-bed. Dawn on Nov 2nd saw a record count of **Ring-necked Parakeet**, when about 500 were seen flying north from their roost at Wormwood Scrubs. On Nov 5th a **Yellowhammer** flew over the Dump. Five **Ruddy Duck** were present on Nov 9th but two days later, following another cull, none could be seen. However, a drake survivor reappeared on Nov 13th and remained until the end of the month. A second-winter **Yellow-legged Gull** was seen on Nov 16th and 19th and an adult **Mediterranean Gull** in winter plumage was reported several times between Nov 16th and 23rd.

DECEMBER The year's ninth and last sighting of a **Common Buzzard** was on Dec 1st. Two days later the site had its second **Merlin** of the year — again a female seen flying east from the North Bank. A pair of **Ruddy Duck** showed up on Dec 8th and remained into 2015, as did a drake **Pintail** that arrived in North Marsh on Dec 10th. A female **Stonechat** was found on Neasden Recreation Ground on Dec 13th and the year's fourth **Mediterranean Gull** was spotted on Dec 28th. The final highlight of 2014 came almost at the end of the year with a brief visit by two **Bewick's Swan** on Dec 27th — the first Brent Reservoir sighting since Dec 2008.



BIRDS OF BRENT RESERVOIR 2014

1. MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

A breeding resident with an additional non-breeding flock

Monthly maxima:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
35	45	40	61	36	47	49	48	53	59	64	51

Peak counts were slightly higher than 2013 when 60 was the highest count. The maximum number of nests seen was nine, two less than last year; at least three but probably five broods were seen.

2. BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*

Scarce winter visitor

Two were seen flying in at 08.30 on Dec 27th (ASMS), leaving fifteen minutes later. This was the site's eleventh record.



3. GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

An occasional visitor, mainly in spring

Seen in all months except Aug, Oct and Nov. The highest count was five on May 10th, they were frequently seen in March and April with up to four present. There were many more records in 2014 than in 2013, 27 compared to 11.

4. CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

A breeding resident

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	26	42	38	26	90	60	80	32	38	67	88

Present daily in all months in varying numbers. Five broods were seen during April and May, all in the Eastern Marsh. The lowest count was of 12 in January.

5. EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

An occasional visitor, increasing

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	5	0	5	2	3	6	2	9	5	6	5

Birds were reported in all months except March. There were almost twice as many records in 2014 compared to 2013, with 25 as opposed to 13. As yet there is no evidence of breeding although birds are present throughout the breeding season.

6. SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

An occasional visitor

There were 14 records in 2014, all in the first six months. Five were present on April 27th; the concentration of spring records suggests an interest in breeding although the habitat is not ideal.

7. MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata*

An occasional visitor

A drake was seen in North Marsh on Mar 15th (ASMS). This species is scarce at the reservoir although it is resident and breeding elsewhere in North London, e.g. Totteridge Valley and Enfield.

8. WIGEON *Anas penelope*

A regular autumn visitor, occasional in winter and spring

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	7	3	1	3

A small flock forms in late summer and is present until the year end, feeding on the profuse surface weed that forms during these months. The peak count was of seven birds seen on Sep 13th and 21st. Three on July 9th were the earliest ever autumn arrivals (SL); another was seen on July 19th.

9. GADWALL *Anas strepera*

A breeding resident with a large influx in autumn

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	20	29	29	25	103	9	156	143	66	94	61

Gadwall are present throughout the year and breed in small numbers. As with other dabbling duck species there is an autumn peak when the surface weed is present. Three broods of 6, 6 and 7 were seen on June 10th, July 13th and Aug 7th respectively. The reasons for the short-lived peak of 103 on June 15th are unclear.

10. TEAL *Anas crecca*

Autumn and winter visitor, occasional in summer; has bred once

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
148	137	84	38	2	5	5	33	181	151	153	203

Teal is present in high numbers from late summer until late winter and occasionally in spring in very small numbers when breeding could possibly be attempted.

11. MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

A resident breeder

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
23	26	21	38	22	73	46	111	62	137	30	52

Mallard were present in all months with the usual peak for dabbling duck in summer and autumn. Breeding success was very poor in 2014 and only one brood of two ducklings was seen in April.

12. PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

An occasional visitor

There was only one record during the year, of a drake seen on Dec 10th (RSBB) and present through into 2015.

13. GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

A scarce passage migrant

There were three reports during August and September. The first two birds were seen on Aug 2nd (AH) with a further two singles on Aug 19th (RSBB) and Sep 6th (WHCG).

14. SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Virtually resident with an influx in autumn, occasional breeder

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
21	6	2	4	2	2	7	19	121	99	43	21

The pattern of records was as usual, with a high autumn peak although not as high as in previous years. The presence of birds in spring and summer suggests possible failed breeding attempts.

15. POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

A regular visitor in varying numbers, occasional breeder

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
43	43	3	1	6	43	13	2	9	2	5	40

The highest numbers were as usual in mid/late winter with a brief post-breeding spike in June. There was no evidence of breeding or attempted breeding other than the presence of low numbers of birds in the spring (mostly males).

16. TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

A breeding resident with a larger wintering population

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
256	216	103	48	28	25	132	49	81	270	320	425

This was a typical distribution of records with the lowest numbers during the breeding season. The peak in December of over 400 birds was a larger than usual wintering flock. There were reports of two broods seen, a late one in August and an even later one in September.

17. GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

A scarce visitor

There was just one record in 2014 of a female seen on Jan 9th (RSBB), a similar pattern to 2013 when there was also just one record but in late October.

18. RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

A breeding resident; numbers reduced by nationwide cull

There were no records until July when a single female was reported on 6th. There was an influx of up to seven in mid-September which were present until early November when a visit on Nov 11th from the ongoing National Cull despatched the majority. A male, presumed to have survived the cull was seen on Nov 13th and was present until early December when it was joined by a female on Dec 6th; this pair was present into 2015.

19. LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

A resident breeder

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	4	5	4	3	3	2	4	15	11	21	11

Present throughout the year with a peak in autumn and early winter. There was only one report of breeding when two juveniles were seen with an adult on July 26th.

20. GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

A resident breeder, fewer in winter

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	7	20	34	26	30	36	30	27	28	9	7

Birds were present throughout the year with some proof of breeding. The first occupied nest was seen in the Northern Marsh on Mar 23rd. Nest building continued and three broods were seen during the summer although there were probably more.



21. CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

A non-breeding resident

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	13	9	4	15	6	25	49	36	44	5	13

Records were received for all months of the year. Some birds now roost overnight on Willow Island being joined by others from nearby colonies (probably Walthamstow). There were two high counts of over 40 in the autumn: 49 on Aug 30th and 44 on Oct 4th.

22. BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

A scarce winter visitor

This scarce visitor was seen four times in late October and during November. The bird was initially spotted in the Main Reed-bed and then flew in front of the Main Hide on Oct 30th (NH). It was seen again on Nov 1st and 2nd, both times in the main reed-bed. The final sighting was on Nov 22nd when it flew from close to the Heron Hide across to the main reed-bed.

23. LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

An occasional visitor, increasing

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	1	3	1	4	2	4	4	3	4	2	1

In the book *The Birds of Brent Reservoir* published in 2001 the Little Egret was described as a 'Very Rare Visitor'. In 2014 there were 64 records and it was seen in every month of the year, a large increase over the 37 records in 2013. It is now breeding in the large heronry at Walthamstow Reservoirs, a short distance away.



24. GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba*

A rare visitor

After the first record in 1997, there were two more records of this rarity in 2013. The 2014 sighting is the fourth record and was seen flying over East at 09.12 on April 26th (RSBB, ASMS, AGV). Like the last two records this bird was only seen in flight.

25. GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

A non-breeding resident

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	5	10	4	8	5	5	7	9	7	4	4

Grey Heron breeds nearby in a large colony at Walthamstow and also in a smaller heronry in Regent's Park. Birds have been observed mating at the Brent Reservoir and recently built a nest. As with Little Egret this species is a possible breeder.

26. RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

A scarce visitor, mainly in spring

There were seven records involving eight birds in total - an increase on the five seen in 2013, which itself was a record. The first was on Mar 23rd at 10.50 (ASMS), followed by other single birds on Apr 4th at 09.55, Apr 11th at 13.20 (both AGV), June 1st at 10.30 (ASMS), Sep 14th at 11.15 (RSBB). The final two records were both on Sep 21st, two together at 09.45 and another at 10.35 (both records ASMS). The increase in records reflects the spread out of breeding pairs from the original release point in the Chilterns and the increasing population in Hertfordshire.

27. SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

A breeding resident

The Sparrowhawk breeds at the reservoir and is regularly seen. Two pairs were known to breed at the site. There was one pair at the SW end in the Oakwood by the Field Centre and two juveniles from the other pair were seen and heard calling in the Eastern Marsh in early August.

28. COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

A passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

The total of 11 seen in 2014 is the lowest for several years; 2010-2013 are all higher with 35 in 2011 being the record. There were four records in March, five in April, one in July and a single mid-winter record on Dec 1st.

29. OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

A scarce passage migrant

There was just one report of this less than annual migrant – the thirteenth record at the reservoir. A single bird was seen flying N near the dam at 17.25 on Apr 10th (ASMS).

30. KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

A breeding resident

There were few records of this once regular breeding bird and as in recent years breeding did not take place. Four birds seen flying SE on Sep 21st appeared to be passing through.

31. MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

A scarce visitor

There were two sightings of this scarce visitor to the reservoir, the 12th and 13th records. The first, a female was seen flying high NE along the North Bank on Mar 16th (ASMS, RSBB). The second, also a female, was watched flying E from the North Bank on Dec 3rd (RSBB).

32. HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

A non-breeding summer visitor

2014 was a very poor year for this species at the reservoir with only three records. The first was seen circling over the South Bank in mid-afternoon on Apr 21st and the second was a few days later on the 26th. The third and final sighting was of one seen on Sep 14th.

33. PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

An occasional visitor

Peregrine was seen on 34 dates at the reservoir this year, three times as many as in 2013 and was by far the most regularly seen raptor after Sparrowhawk. It was seen in every month except February, June and July. Two birds were seen together on four occasions, twice in April and twice in November. On a number of occasions birds were seen leaving the reservoir and flying towards Colindale and on one of these occasions it was seen carrying prey. The frequency of sightings suggests that there is a regular territory not too far away.

34. WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

A winter visitor

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	6	2

The counts significantly underestimate the number of birds present at the peak, possibly by a factor of two or three. As usual there were no records in the breeding season, although there is suitable habitat and birds breed nearby at the Wetland Centre in Barnes. Early returning birds were recorded in late July and August. The peak count of six was in mid-November.

35. MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

A common breeding resident

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
40	23	27	27	22	23	33	62	71	70	62	38

The Moorhen is at times secretive and more are present than the counts suggest; peak counts are in autumn. Breeding numbers are difficult to assess as birds are often in the marginal vegetation.

36. COOT *Fulica atra*

A common breeding resident with an influx in autumn

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
214	168	119	78	121	191	451	615	632	808	792	872

Peak counts in 2014 were in the last quarter of the year with 872 present during the December WeBS count. Eleven nests were visible in the Eastern Marsh in late May.

37. OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*

An occasional visitor

There were four records during the year with the first on Mar 21st, other singles were on May 22nd and July 18th. A record count of six was made during the morning of Aug 20th (HWJ) when a flock flew twice around the Eastern Marsh.

38. AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

A scarce visitor

There was a single record of two birds seen on June 29th (ASMS) on the mud in the Eastern Marsh. This was the first record of more than one bird at the reservoir since 1897.

39. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

A regular passage migrant, occasional breeder

There were two March records each of two birds: the first was on 21st, the equal earliest ever date (SL), and the second two days later on 23rd. From mid-April until the end of July birds were seen almost continually with at least sixty reports; four or more birds were reported on 19 occasions. The highest counts of eight birds (another equal record) were on July 6th (RSBB) and 12th (AGV). The last bird, a juvenile, was on the relatively early date of Aug 5th. It is probable that breeding occurred this year as a juvenile was watched being attended by two adults on June 28th.

40. RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*

A scarce passage migrant

There were two records of this species in 2014 the first, in spring was on May 8th (FOS) and the other in early autumn on Aug 10th (RSBB).

41. LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Almost resident, recent breeding attempted

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	3	5	2	3	11	7	7	5	0	4	0

Present in all months except October and December with the majority of reports between mid-May and mid-August. There were some evidence of breeding activity with displaying birds recorded on several dates in May. In late June up to three juveniles were present but these were not thought to be from the reservoir but from other nearby breeding sites, such as the Wetland Centre or Totteridge Valley. There were no reports of significant movements of birds during the year.

42. DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

An occasional visitor

Seven records during the year was a small increase on the six in 2013. Three single birds were seen in May on 2nd, 8th and 10th. There were two July reports, a single on 19th and two on 28th. An adult in summer plumage seen on Aug 1st was present until 7th. The final bird of the year was seen on Aug 12th.

43. RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

A scarce passage migrant

There were four birds seen in 2014 compared to three in 2013, all were single birds and were on autumn passage. The first was on July 12th and was present feeding on the Eastern marsh mud until 17th. Another was present on July 25th. September brought two more records, the first was present from 6th until 10th and the last was on 21st.



44. JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyptes minimus*

A scarce winter visitor

Only one report of Jack Snipe was received in 2014, this was of a single bird seen from Heron Hide on the Island on Feb 18th (SB), a typical location.

45. COMMON SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

A regular winter visitor

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
33	35	29	2	0	1	1	1	15	17	21	32

This was a fairly typical pattern of occurrence for this species except for the presence of a single bird on June 29th (ASMS) which is the only June record and the earliest returning bird. Single birds were also seen on three dates in July and August. The peak counts in winter were typical of recent years; the highest count was of 35 birds recorded on Feb 3rd.



46. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

A scarce passage migrant

2014 was a good year for this species with six records, the most ever in a year, three in spring and three in autumn. The first of the year were two separate birds seen circling the Eastern Marsh on the morning of Apr 13th before flying off (AGV, ASMS). Three days later a group of three circled the marsh (AGV). The first of autumn was a summer-plumaged adult of the *islandica* race on July 19th (ASMS). The second was another summer adult sighted on Aug 19th (RSBB) and was present until Aug 22nd. The last for the year arrived in the afternoon of Sep 6th (RAH, DPL, RM).

47. BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

A scarce passage migrant

There was just one record on the typical date of Apr 26th (AGV). A single bird flew in at 08.00, circled and then flew off to the east. There were no records of either Godwit species in 2013.

48. WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

A scarce passage migrant

Three sightings of Whimbrel were reported in late April. The first was seen on the mud late afternoon on Apr 21st (FOS). The second was of two separate birds seen on the morning of Apr 27th (ASMS). The first was on a raft for some time before flying off to the East, the second flew over going East twelve minutes later.

49. COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

A common passage migrant

The first of the year was one on Apr 26th followed by another single on 30th. A succession of May records followed, peaking at eight on May 19th. Passage then reduced before resuming in low numbers in late June and increasing in late July with a notable peak of 18 on July 26th. Passage continued with up to six per day until early September. The last bird of the year was on Sep 27th.

50. GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

A passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	3	1	0	4	6	9	4	4	1	3

Green Sandpipers were seen in all but two months of the year. Seven records in March and April relate to spring migration with three birds seen on Mar 16th. Two birds on June 16th were the start of the returning migration which peaked on Aug 20th when a record nine were present (RSBB). Four or more birds were present on eleven dates during this return passage. Sightings continued into the winter with up to three seen in December.

51. GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

A passage migrant

Greenshank was seen and heard on two August dates: 17th and 24th (ASMS). This species is less common than previously and is not always annual.

52. WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

A passage migrant

This species has become scarcer in the London area and the only record at the reservoir in 2014 was of two seen on July 25th (SL), one of these stayed on until the 29th.

53. REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

An occasional visitor

Eleven sightings of 15 birds were reported this year and all but one were seen in the second half of the year. This was a significant increase on 2013 when there were only three records. The first was a single bird seen on Mar 13th. The last was an early winter record of one bird seen on Nov 27th. All other records were between June and August with two on Jun 22nd and four on Aug 20th.

54. TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

A scarce visitor

For the third year in a row there was a record of this scarce species. A single bird was sighted feeding on the mud on Oct 15th (AGV).

55. GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

A very rare passage visitor

This bird formed part of a movement of this rare London species and was one of several seen in the London area at that time. The bird was aged as a juvenile from the features noted and was seen on Oct 15th (AGV). It is the second of this species to be seen at the reservoir by this observer following one in November 2011.

56. BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

A common winter visitor

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
563	267	68	1	0	1	33	628	225	280	467	164

This is a typical pattern with nearly all birds gone by late March to breeding colonies. A regularly occurring leucistic bird was seen on Oct 26th, Nov 1st and Dec 7th. The highest count was on Aug 13th when 628 were seen.

57. MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

A scarce visitor

There were four records of this scarce gull. The first was of a fine pair of summer plumage adults that were watched for just ten minutes late morning on May 3rd (RSBB, AGV). On July 3rd a single bird was reported, age not noted. The next was a winter adult bird seen on Nov 16th (RSBB), 19th-21st, and 23rd. The last bird, also a winter adult was noted on Dec 28th (ASMS).

58. COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

A common winter visitor

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
314	18	12	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	87	12

Counts were fairly low throughout the year with 314 on Jan 19th being the highest.

59. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

A breeding resident

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
27	14	8	19	12	12	10	11	3	5	25	7

Present throughout the year and at least two pairs bred on the rafts. A pair was seen mating on May 10th of which one was the regularly seen colour ringed bird (6YH). Two chicks were seen on June 7th. The peak count was 27 during the WeBS count on Jan 19th.

60. HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

A regular visitor, breeds near the reservoir

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	3	34	38	97	4	13	1	1	2	11	4

The peak count was a notable 97 on May 18th.

61. YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis*

An occasional visitor

There were two records during 2014 of this less than annual visitor. A first summer bird was seen on Mar 30th (ASMS) and a second-winter was recorded on Nov 16th (JT) and again on Nov 19th.

62. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

An occasional visitor

A pair of adults was again seen on a number of occasions on the rafts from mid-March to late May, on one occasion eating a Moorhen and on another stealing nesting material from a Lesser Black-backed Gull. There were also records of single adults during this period. The first of the year was a first-winter bird on the rafts on Feb 8th and the last a first-winter on Nov 29th.

63. BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

A scarce passage migrant

There were two records involving three birds. The first was a single bird seen on May 2nd and 3rd (ASMS). The other record was of two birds present early morning on May 19th and seen flying off East at 08.50 (AGV).

64. SANDWICH TERN

Sterna sandvicensis

A scarce passage migrant

There was just one sighting of this less than annual species. A single adult was present all day during the Autumn Bird Count on Sep 6th (ASMS).



65. COMMON TERN

Sterna hirundo

A breeding summer migrant

The Common Tern colony continues to struggle but did better than in 2013. Nesting or breeding activity was under-reported. The first to arrive was on Apr 4th, numbers built slowly reaching 13 on Apr 26th. By mid-May there were just under 30 present, this number continued into June with just one record of 44 on June 12th. Several pairs bred, some quite late and the first chick was seen on June 28th and the first fledged juvenile was seen on July 15th. A Magpie was watched stealing an egg on May 31st. There were clearly more fish available than in 2013 and birds were present through August with 16 counted on the Aug 17th WeBS count. There were still some records in early September and the last record of one bird on Sep 21st was the latest ever (ASMS).

66. ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

A scarce passage migrant

There were four records in late April and early May. Three flew up the reservoir and then off high to the NE at 09.15 on Apr 19th (ASMS); three more were feeding with Common Terns over the reservoir the following day (ASMS). Ten flew East at 07.30 on Apr 27th (ASMS) and a total of 13 in two groups flew East and NE early on May 2nd (ASMS).

67. FERAL ROCK DOVE *Columba livia*

A common breeding resident

Present all year in varying numbers.

68. STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

A breeding resident

The first of the year was on Feb 8th. There was some evidence of breeding in both North and East Marsh woodland. Fourteen birds were seen in Woodfield Park on May 25th. A total of 268 were seen during the Autumn visible-migration counts with 39 on Nov 11th the largest daily tally.

69. WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

A common breeding resident and passage migrant

Autumn visible migration counts recorded a total of 15,510 birds over the count period with a peak of 4,170 on Oct 22nd, significantly less than the record total in 2013 of 53,000.

70. COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

A breeding resident

Collared Dove is regularly seen but in small numbers. Twelve seen over the Dump on Oct 5th was noteworthy.

71. TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

A scarce passage migrant

Three singles were seen during the Spring, the first on Apr 23rd (AGV) and the other two on May 4th and 5th (ASMS). All three flew straight through heading North, between 08.00 and 10.00.

72. RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

Resident, probably breeding

This species is to be seen all year in varying numbers, probably breeding at the reservoir in the East and North Marsh woodlands. A record count of c. 500 birds was seen between 07.30 and 08.00 flying N over the reservoir from the Wormwood Scrubs roost on Nov 2nd (ASMS).

73. TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

A breeding resident

There are several territories around the reservoir and there were three records this year. The first was heard calling from the Field Centre on Sep 6th at 05.40. A second was seen being mobbed on the Dump on Nov 5th. The final record was one calling in the Eastern Marsh at 16.30 on Dec 24th.

74. SWIFT *Apus apus*

A common breeding summer migrant

The first sightings of the year were three seen on Apr 24th. There were eight records of flocks of over 100 birds feeding over the reservoir during the summer; two of these were of at least 200. A pair was seen mating while flying over the reservoir on June 1st. A total of 528 were recorded passing through during autumn visible-migration counts including the last on Sep 6th.

75. KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

A breeding resident

There were no notes made of breeding behaviour but pairs were seen behind the Dam and in both Northern and Eastern Marshes.

76. GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

A breeding resident

There were no specific counts reported but birds in juvenile plumage were noted at the end of the breeding season.

77. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

A breeding resident

Widespread and breeding, chicks were heard calling from a nest on the North Bank on May 14th. Three were counted flying over during the visible migration season in October.

78. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

A near annual visitor; former breeding resident

There was just one record of this increasingly scarce bird - on the Dump and Allotments on Oct 22nd (AGV).

78. SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

A passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, former breeder

There were no records in the first half of the year and only 12 were recorded flying over in autumn between Oct 9th and Nov 9th. This was one of the worst years on record for this former breeder.

79. SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

A common passage migrant and recent breeder

The first one was on Mar 30th; the spring passage was fairly low with highs of just 22 on Apr 8th and 20+ on Apr 18th. On the autumn viz-mig a total of 138 were recorded between Aug 9th and Sep 6th, significantly up on last year. There were no breeding attempts on the dam this year.

80. SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

A common passage migrant

The first two of the year were seen on Apr 9th, two weeks later than last year. Spring passage was quite poor with the highest daily count only being 40 on Apr 26th; the last northbound bird was recorded on the late date of June 7th. The autumn passage was equally poor compared to last year with a total of just 125 between Aug 9th and Sep 28th; the highest count was 70 on Sep 6th.

81. HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

A common summer visitor, breeds adjacent to the reservoir.

Like the previous species, there were very few House Martins recorded on passage this year. It's likely they are passing through in just a few afternoons when there is no one at the reservoir to record them. There were records on most days between Apr 13th and Sep 21st; the autumn total was just 103 compared to 1,359 last year.

The colony on West Hendon Broadway was not counted this year but observations indicated that there were far fewer birds this summer, perhaps just half of last year's 55-60 nesting pairs.

82. TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

A scarce passage migrant

One was briefly seen perched in a tree in the Shrike Field at 10.15 on Aug 24th (ASMS).

83. MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

A common passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

There were no records until Mar 15th when one flew North; the following day 65 were counted flying North. In autumn a total of 133 were counted flying over between Sep 6th and Nov 9th with the peak of 51 on Sep 28th.

84. YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

A passage migrant

There were four in spring between Apr 13th and 23rd. In autumn five were seen from July 20th to Sep 14th. All were seen passing overhead apart from one on the rafts on Apr 23rd.

85. GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

A breeding resident and passage migrant

Recorded sporadically throughout the year and probably bred. In autumn a total of 18 were recorded flying over between Sep 14th and Nov 5th with a peak of six on Sep 23rd.

86. PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

A breeding resident and passage migrant

One pair bred again, probably around Staples Corner as two juveniles were seen with an adult in East Marsh on May 31st. On the autumn viz-mig a total of 81 were recorded between Sep 23rd and Nov 9th with a peak of 18 on Oct 28th. Two White Wagtails were seen on May 2nd (AGV).

88. WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

A common breeding resident

Present throughout but only noted on the Spring and Autumn Bird Counts.

89. DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

A common breeding resident

Present throughout but only noted on the Spring and Autumn Bird Counts.

90. ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

A common breeding resident

Present throughout the year, a juvenile was seen on the North Bank on June 8th.

91. NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

A scarce passage migrant

One was heard singing and briefly seen on the Spring Birdcount on Apr 26th by the picnic table in North Marsh (WHCG).

91. COMMON REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A scarce passage migrant

After last year's bumper crop of five only one was seen this year, on Aug 31st in the Shrike Field (ASMS).

92. WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

An uncommon passage migrant

The first spring record for several years was a male on the North Bank on Apr 21st (AGV *et al*). There were three in autumn: on Neasden Rec on Aug 22nd (ASMS) and two on Aug 31st, on the Dump and in the Shrike Field (ASMS).



93. STONECHAT *Saxicola rubicola*

A scarce passage migrant

The only record was a female on Neasden Rec on the late date of Dec 13th (ASMS). Most birds are seen on passage and this individual was probably wintering as it was seen again in 2015.

94. WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

A passage migrant

A total of nine were seen, six in spring and three in autumn. The first was a male on the playing fields on Mar 13th, followed by two more in the same place on Mar 21st. There was one on a raft on Mar 29th with another on a raft on Apr 12th, the same day yet another was on the playing fields. Neasden Rec claimed its third chat of the year with one on Aug 12th and there was one more on the playing fields on Aug 22nd. The last of the year was on Sep 6th during the Autumn Birdcount.

96. BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

A common breeding resident

In autumn a total of 65 were recorded on the visible migration counts between Oct 12th and Nov 15th with a peak of seven on Oct 15th.

97. FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

A winter visitor

Small numbers were recorded from mid-February up to Mar 13th. The first of autumn was on Oct 31st; the total was just 81 up to Nov 15th, drastically down on last year's tally of 1,802, most likely due to the mild late autumn weather.

98. SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

A breeding resident and passage migrant

In autumn a total of 85 were observed flying over between Oct 4th and Nov 15th with a peak of 12 on Oct 15th. This was similar to last year's total of 80.

99. REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

A common winter visitor

Very few were recorded during the first half of the year with a maximum count of 20 on Mar 6th; nocturnal migrants were heard calling on Mar 19th. On the autumn viz-mig a total of 944 were seen

between Oct 15th and Nov 15th compared to 2,099 last year. The highest daily count was 258 on Oct 15th.

100. MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

A breeding resident and passage migrant

No breeding territories were located although five birds seen on May 31st suggested there were some breeding birds. In autumn a total of 47 were noted flying over between Sep 14th and Nov 11th compared to 114 last year; the peak count was 12 on Sep 14th and a flock of 12 was on the Cricket Pitch on Sep 18th.



101. CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

A rare visitor

A male held territory in East Marsh near the Main Hide from Apr 2nd to June 15th (RSBB *et al*); it was heard singing north of Cool Oak Lane bridge on June 1st. This was the eighth record and the first since 2011.



101. SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

A breeding summer migrant

The first of spring was on Apr 19th, a relatively late arrival date. The maximum count of singing birds was just two on Apr 25th-26th; only one of these established a territory, in East Marsh. The peak count in autumn was five on Sep 21st with the last being seen on Sep 23rd.

102. REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

A common breeding summer migrant

Recorded between Apr 20th and Sep 27th; there was no count of breeding territories this year.

103. BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

A common breeding summer migrant and occasional winter visitor

A male was seen on Jan 19th and Feb 22nd; records on Mar 8th and 15th may also relate to the same bird. The first obvious migrants were on Mar 29th when three were singing; there was a steady increase during April to a peak of 31 singing on Apr 21st and 26th. The peak autumn count was 11 on Aug 31st and the last of the year was on Sep 27th.

104. GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

A breeding summer migrant

Recorded between Apr 19th and Aug 22nd; there were three breeding territories compared to six last year. A family party was seen on the Dump on July 11th.

105. LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

A breeding summer migrant

Recorded between Apr 17th and Aug 24th. No more than one singing bird was heard on any day but a family party on the Dump on July 11th indicated successful breeding.

106. COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

A common breeding summer migrant

Recorded between Apr 12th and Sep 10th. The peak count of singing males was 14 on May 3rd; in autumn the highest count was just six on Aug 24th.

107. CHIFFCHAFF

Phylloscopus collybita

A breeding summer migrant and occasional winter visitor

The only winter record at the start of the year was on Feb 24th. Spring migrants began to arrive from Mar 11th and the peak count was 15 singing males on Apr 2nd. There were eight singing on May 3rd and these were presumed to be on territory. The highest count in autumn was 26 on Aug 31st. Winter records were two on Nov 15th and one on Dec 6th.



108. WILLOW WARBLER

Phylloscopus trochilus

A passage migrant; former breeder

The first migrant was seen on Apr 4th and the peak count in spring was five singing on Apr 15th; there were no breeding territories. Autumn migrants were recorded between Aug 7th and Sep 6th with a maximum of five on Aug 24th.

109. GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

A breeding resident, higher numbers in winter

Present all year, the highest count was 12 on Oct 3rd.

110. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

A passage migrant, former breeder

Four birds were seen this year; singles on Aug 20th, 23rd, 24th and Sep 6th.

112. LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

A common breeding resident

Present all year, the only record apart from on the Spring and Autumn Bird Counts was a family party on the North Bank on May 4th.

113. BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

A common breeding resident

Present all year, the only record apart from on the Spring and Autumn Bird Counts was a huge mixed flock of about 200 birds on Aug 25th, most of which were Blue Tits (AH).

114. GREAT TIT *Parus major*

A common breeding resident

Present all year but rarely noted in the log book; a family party was on the Dump on May 25th.

115. COAL TIT *Parus ater*

A breeding resident

Present all year, one pair bred around Birchen Grove.

115. NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

A scarce visitor

One was heard calling behind Heron Hide on June 8th (ASMS) and another called in the Field Centre woods on Oct 2nd (JCG).

115. TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

A scarce visitor

One called in the Field Centre woods on Oct 3rd (ASMS).

116. JAY *Garrulus garrulus*

A breeding resident

Present throughout the year. In autumn six flew over on Oct 5th and one flew over on Oct 9th.

117. MAGPIE *Pica pica*

A common breeding resident

Present throughout the year; a 'Magpie Wedding' comprising 20 birds occurred near the Secret Garden on Mar 16th.

118. JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

A passage migrant and uncommon breeder

Two flocks totalling 350+ birds flew into North Marsh to roost in the evening of Feb 24th (LAB). The winter roost in North Marsh has led to an increase in birds remaining in the area throughout the year culminating in two pairs breeding this year – the first breeding record since the early 1950s. A pair was seen feeding two young in North Marsh on June 14th and a second pair was seen feeding three young a week later (ASMS *et al*).

In autumn a total of 226 were recorded flying over between Sep 27th and Nov 1st with a peak of 84 on Oct 12th.

119. ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

An occasional visitor

The only record of the year was two birds flying West on Oct 22nd (AGV).

120. CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

A common breeding resident.

Present all year; large flocks often congregate on West Hendon Playing Fields.

119. RAVEN *Corvus corax*

A very rare visitor

During an early morning visible migration session on the Dump a large bird was spotted slowly flying high over Silver Jubilee Park at 08.10 on Oct 12th. It began to lose height as it came closer and was mobbed by two flocks of Starlings, at this point it was identified as a Raven. It dropped even lower and may have landed in Silver Jubilee Park but despite searching it could not be relocated (ASMS, AGV). This was only the second record following one on Aug 19th, 1962 which was also seen by one of this year's observers!

121. STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

A common breeding resident and passage migrant

A total of 2,941 were recorded on the autumn viz-mig between Sep 21st and Oct 28th; although this was significantly down on last year's figure of 5,711 there was less coverage this year. The peak count was 970 on Oct 28th (AGV, ASMS).

122. HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

A common breeding resident

Present throughout but only noted on the Spring and Autumn Bird Counts. House Sparrows have returned to former breeding areas along Braemar Avenue that had been previously vacated.

123. CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

A breeding resident and passage migrant

Three singing males were noted on Feb 8th. In autumn a total of 972 were recorded on the viz-mig counts between Sep 14th and Nov 15th with a peak of 102 on Oct 26th.

125. GREENFINCH *Fringilla chloris*

A breeding resident and passage migrant

In autumn a total of 485 was recorded flying over between Sep 14th and Nov 15th with a peak of 47 on Oct 12th.

126. GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

A breeding resident and passage migrant

On the autumn viz-mig a total of 216 was recorded between Sep 28th and Nov 15th with a peak of 31 on Oct 20th.

127. SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

A passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

There were no records in the first half of the year. In autumn only six birds were logged flying over: five on Oct 23rd and one on Nov 1st, compared to 215 last year. The only other record was of one feeding on an Alder in East Marsh on Dec 30th.

128. LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

A passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, former breeder

The only records during the first half of the year were singles flying over on Apr 20th and 22nd. On the autumn viz-mig 152 were recorded between Oct 4th and Nov 5th; this compares to 48 last year and there was less coverage this year. The peak count was 34 on Oct 28th.

129. LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

A passage migrant and occasional winter visitor, former breeder

Only two records in the first half of the year: singles on Mar 15th and Apr 21st. Like Siskin, there were very few birds recorded in autumn with a total of just eight between Oct 28th and Nov 9th.

131. BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

A breeding resident and scarce passage migrant

A pair was observed picking up grit on the main path along the North Bank on Apr 21st. In autumn 20 birds were recorded flying over between Oct 3rd and Nov 9th.

132. YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

A scarce visitor

One was heard calling over the Dump at 07.55 on Nov 5th (ASMS). This was the first record since Dec 20th, 2008.

132. REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

A breeding partial migrant, occasional in winter

There were three territories during the breeding season, two in East Marsh and one on the North Bank; a pair was also seen in North Marsh on Mar 23rd but not reported again. Three birds were recorded flying over in autumn from Oct 5th-26th.

ESCAPES

BUDGERIGAR *Melopsittacus undulatus*

An escaped bird was seen on June 24th.

First and Last Dates of Regular Migrants 2014

<i>Summer Migrants</i>	<i>Arrival</i>		<i>Departure</i>	
Hobby	Apr 21	(ASMS)	Sep 14	(RAH)
Little Ringed Plover	Mar 21	(SL)	Aug 5	(ASMS)
Common Sandpiper	Apr 26	(AGV)	Sep 27	(RSBB)
Common Tern	Apr 8	(AGV)	Sep 21	(ASMS)
Swift	Apr 27	(ASMS)	Sep 6	(WHCG)
Sand Martin	Mar 30	(ASMS)	Sep 6	(WHCG)
Swallow	Apr 9	(RSBB)	Sep 28	(ASMS)
House Martin	Apr 13	(ASMS)	Sep 21	(ASMS)
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 13	(ASMS)	Sep 14	(ASMS)
Wheatear	Mar 13	(AGV)	Sep 6	(WHCG)
Sedge Warbler	Apr 19	(ASMS)	Sep 21	(ASMS, RSBB)
Reed Warbler	Apr 20	(ASMS)	Sep 27	(JCG)
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 17	(JCG)	Aug 24	(ASMS)
Common Whitethroat	Apr 12	(RSBB, JCG)	Sep 10	(RSBB)
Garden Warbler	Apr 19	(ASMS)	Aug 22	(SL)
Willow Warbler	Apr 4	(AGV)	Sep 6	(WHCG)

<i>Winter Migrants</i>	<i>Departure</i>		<i>Arrival</i>	
Water Rail	Mar 16	(WHCG)	July 26	(RSBB)
Common Snipe	Apr 14	(AGV)	June 29	(ASMS)
Fieldfare	Mar 13	(JCG)	Oct 31	(AGV)
Redwing	Mar 19	(ASMS)	Oct 15	(AGV)
Siskin	-		Oct 23	(AGV)

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Leo Batten	(LAB)	Robin Morden	(RM)
Roy Beddard	(RSBB)	T. Morton	(TM)
Mark Bill	(MB)	Frank Nugent	(FN)
Steve Blake	(SB)	Francis O'Sullivan	(FOS)
Richard Burdett	(RB)	Shailesh Patel	(SP)
Peter Casselton	(PJC)	S.G. Posen	(SGP)
Ben Epstein	(BE)	Michael Robinson	(MER)
John Gravatt	(JCG)	Andrew Self	(ASMS)
Nick Haslett	(NH)	Joe Taylor	(JT)
Andrew Haynes	(AH)	R. Ulph	(RU)
Bob Husband	(RAH)	Andrew Verrall	(AGV)
Steve Leeke	(SL)	Bob Watts	(RJW)
Pete Lowman	(DPL)	Henry Wynn-Jones	(HWJ)
Harry Mackie	(HM)	Welsh Harp Conservation Group	(WHCG)

Thanks also to the many other people who noted their observations in the logbook that is kept in the main hide.

Visible Migration at Brent Reservoir

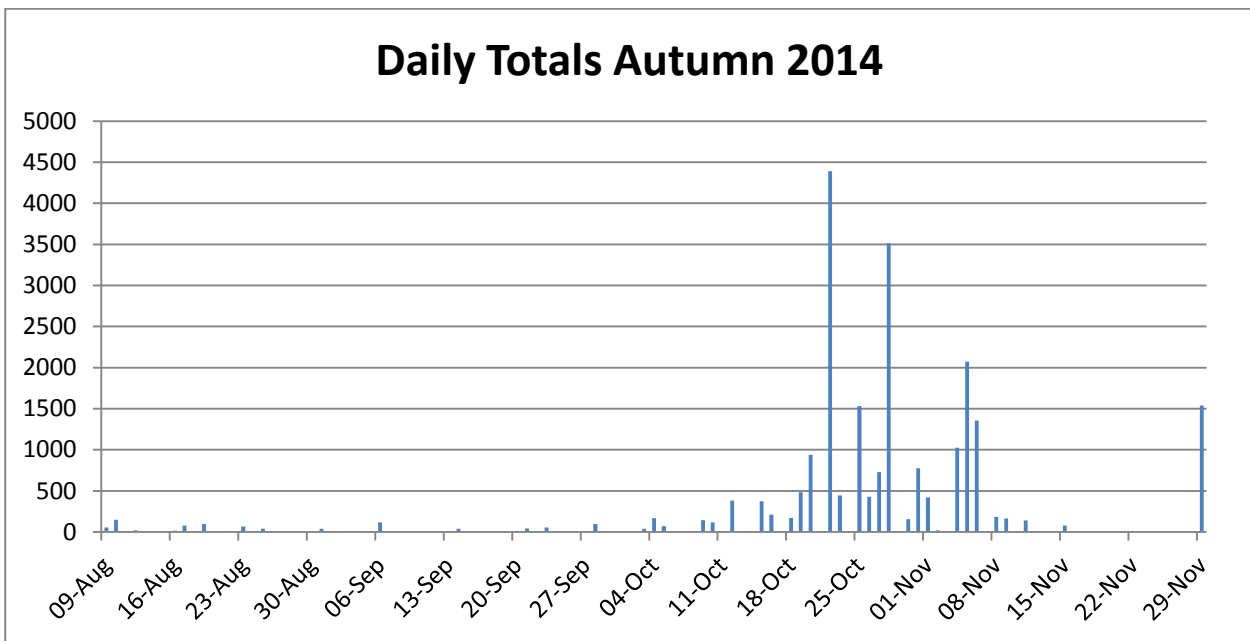
There was coverage during the autumn visible migration season at Brent Reservoir on 52 days between August 9th and November 29th (about half the coverage compared to 2013). The total number of birds recorded this year was 23,185 (64,442 in 2013).

Almost all the observations were recorded on the Dump with most watches commencing at dawn. The number of days per month watched was: 14 in August, 9 in September, 19 in October and 10 in November. Over 2,000 birds were counted on three days (eight in 2013):

Oct 22nd	4,391
Oct 28th	3,514
Nov 5th	2,075

There were 39 species recorded flying over this year (43 in 2013); the highlights were the first Raven for over 50 years on Oct 12th and the first Yellowhammer for six years on Nov 5th. A total of 268 Stock Doves was a record count. Several species were particularly scarce this autumn with just 81 Fieldfare, six Siskin and eight Lesser Redpoll; there was also a total absence of Brambling.

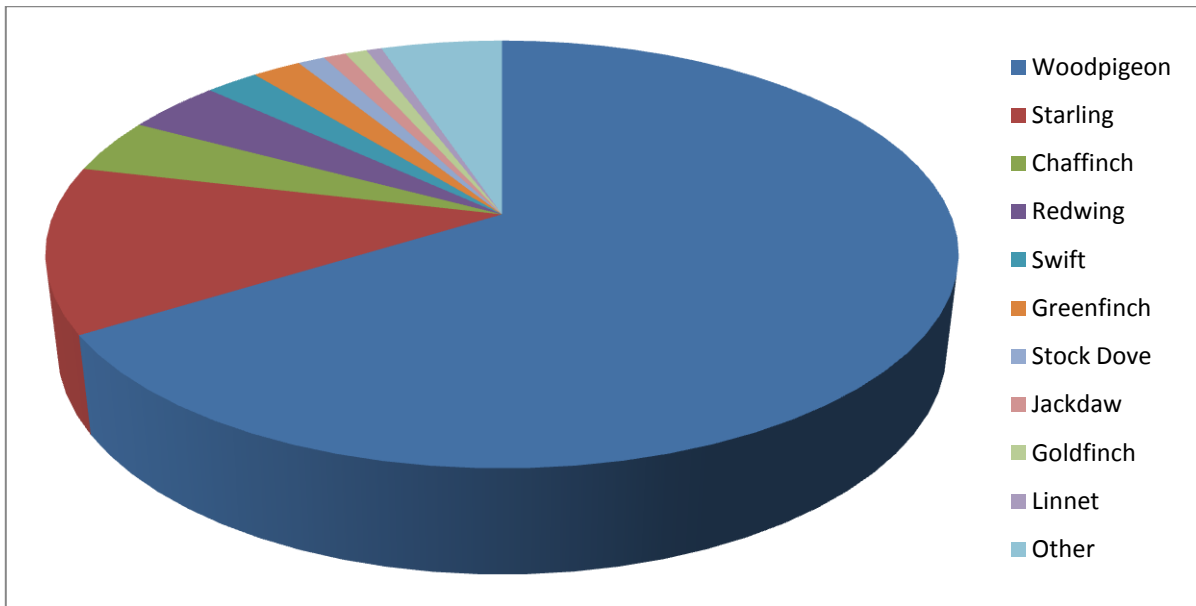
The following table shows the daily totals for the whole season; the busiest period was between October 20th and November 8th when over 17,814 birds were counted, 77% of the total.



Species totals

The top ten species are shown in the following chart. Woodpigeon decreased to 67% of the total of birds counted from 85% in 2013.

Welsh Harp Report 2014

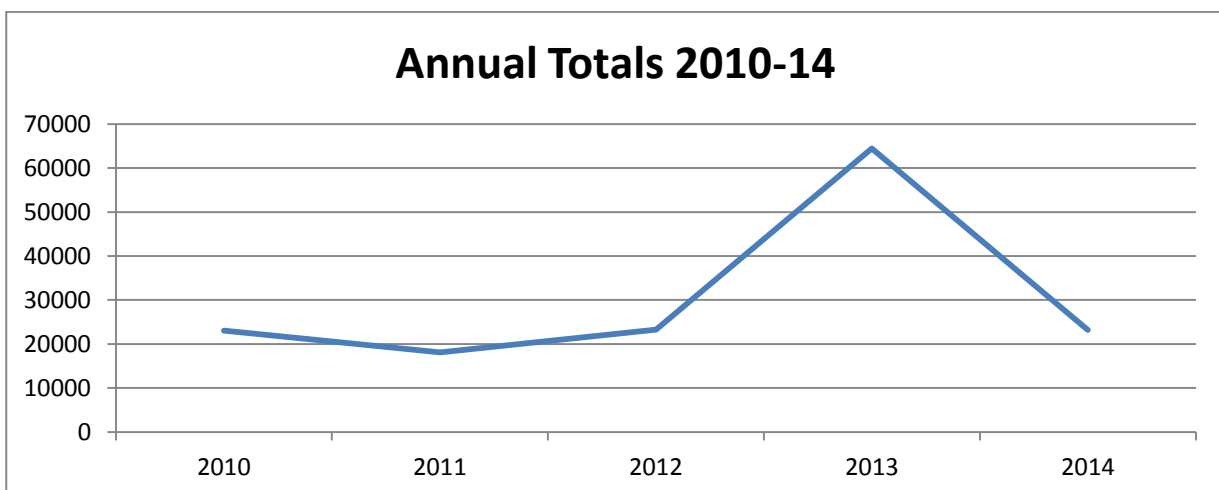


Top 10 species in 2014

		2014 totals	2013 totals	Difference
1 (1)	Woodpigeon	15,510	53,414	-37,904
2 (2)	Starling	2,941	4,490	-1,549
3 (7)	Chaffinch	972	621	+351
4 (3)	Redwing	944	2,164	-1,220
5 (-)	Swift	528	159	+369
6 (4)	Greenfinch	485	823	-338
7 (-)	Stock Dove	268	59	+209
8 (-)	Jackdaw	226	85	+141
9 (-)	Goldfinch	216	107	+109
10 (-)	Linnet	152	23	+129

There was quite a large change to the makeup of this year's top ten with five new entries. Swift shot straight in at number 5 while last year's number 5, House Martin, disappeared from the chart after only 103 birds were recorded this autumn. The chart clearly shows the substantial decrease in the number of Woodpigeons compared to last year.

The following chart plots the total of all birds recorded during the last five year's visible migration counts. 2013 was an exceptional year while the rest are reasonably similar.



OTHER WILDLIFE**Butterflies**

	<i>First seen</i>	<i>Last seen</i>	<i>Weeks on transect (26)</i>	<i>Highest count</i>
Small Skipper	June 29th	July 30th	6	26 on July 4th
Essex Skipper	June 29th	July 17th	4	4 on June 29th
Large Skipper	June 12th	July 12th	5	10 on June 21st
Brimstone	Mar 9th	Apr 9th	2	5 on Mar 9th
Large White	June 17th	Aug 20th	10	9 on July 4th
Small White	Mar 15th	Sep 18th	14	2 on many dates
Green-veined White	Apr 9th	Sep 23rd	21	12 on July 12th
Orange Tip	Apr 9th	May 17th	5	8 on Apr 30th
Purple Hairstreak	June 29th	Aug 20th	9	6 on two dates
White-letter Hairstreak	June 17th	July 12th	4	3 on July 4th
Small Copper	July 24th	Sep 23rd	7	4 on Sep 18th
Common Blue	May 18th	Sep 18th	11	8 on May 25th
Holly Blue	Apr 15th	Sep 18th	6	1 on many dates
Red Admiral	June 1st	Oct 27th	6	3 on July 12th
Painted Lady	July 4th	-	1	1 on July 4th
Small Tortoiseshell	Mar 13th	Aug 5th	8	8 on Apr 1st
Peacock	Mar 9th	Oct 22nd	11	7 on two dates
Comma	Mar 15th	Sep 18th	9	3 on two dates
Marbled White	June 12th	July 17th	6	34 on June 21st
Speckled Wood	Apr 9th	Oct 3rd	21	10 on Sep 10th
Ringlet	June 17th	July 24th	6	64 on June 29th
Meadow Brown	May 31st	Aug 31st	14	36 on July 30th
Gatekeeper	June 29th	Aug 13th	8	83 on July 17th

The first butterflies of the year were flying on the early date of Mar 9th when five Brimstones and a Peacock were seen. Small Tortoiseshells continued their comeback with a peak count of eight (just one in 2008). The earliest ever Meadow Brown was seen on May 31st (RB), two days earlier than the previous record. A Clouded Yellow was seen on Aug 22nd in North Marsh (SL). There was a small third brood of Common Blue this year in mid-September and a Holly Blue on September 18th may also have been from a third brood. Five Red Admirals were observed flying south on Oct 5th.

**Dragonflies**

Species recorded this year were: Broad-bodied Chaser, Black-tailed Skimmer (4-5 on June 22nd), Emperor, Southern Hawker, Migrant Hawker (last on Nov 9th), Common Darter (20+ on Sep 23rd), Common Blue Damselfly, Banded Demoiselle (male on June 12th).

Mammals

A dead Hedgehog was seen along Braemar Avenue on Apr 18th.

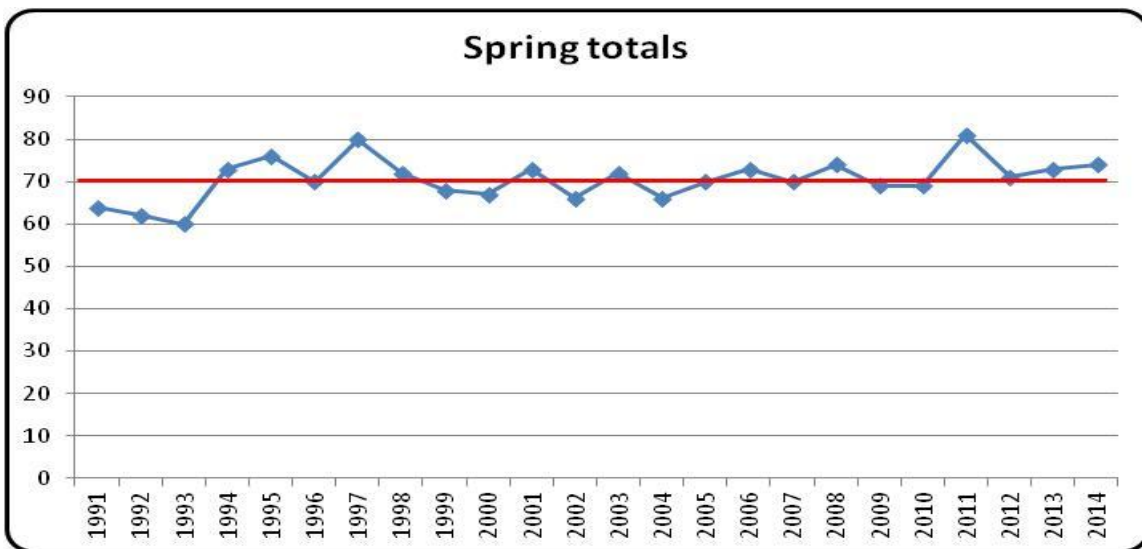
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Bird Counts at Brent Reservoir

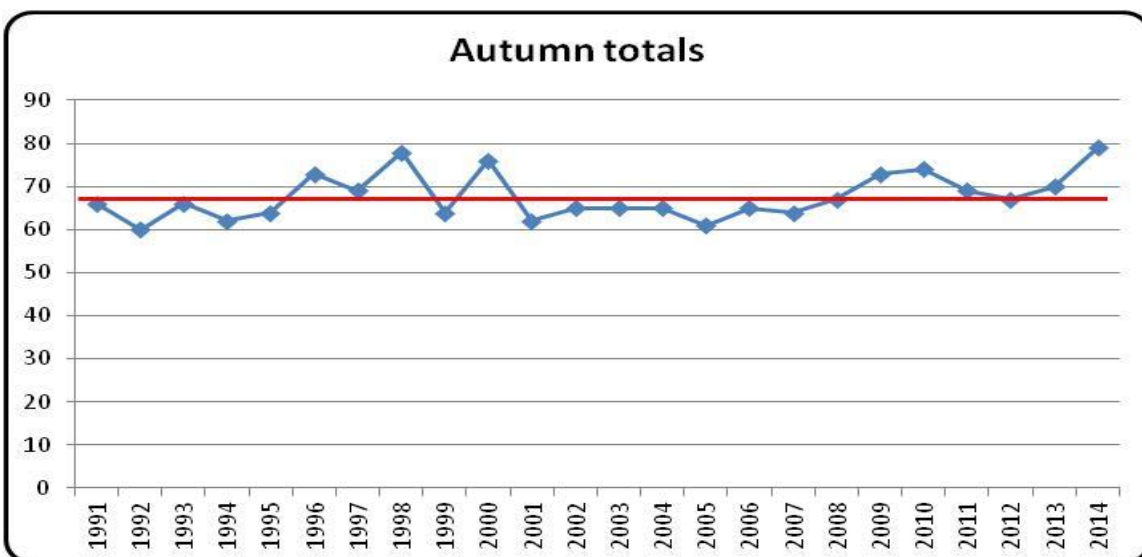
Introduction

The Welsh Harp Conservation Group has been organising bird counts at Brent Reservoir since 1991. These consist of a nominated day in spring and autumn when many birders scour the site, recording and counting the birds seen from dawn to dusk. The two aims are to record as many species as possible and to count the migrants; typically in spring warblers are counted by recording singing males, while all warblers are counted in autumn. This gives a guide to population changes over a long period and we now have 24 years of data up to 2014.

Spring – these are held in late April or early May. The average species count is 70.5; the lowest was 60 on May 1st, 1993 and the highest was 81 on April 30th, 2011. The latter included a record nine species of wader.



Autumn – these are usually held at the end of August or early September. The average species count is 67.7; the lowest was 60 on September 12th 1992 and the highest was 79 on September 6th 2014.



Species recorded: 129 all time; 118 in spring and 108 in autumn

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Mute Swan: recorded on all bird counts.

Greylag Goose: mainly recorded in spring with just one autumn bird count record. They are believed to be dispersing birds from the Royal Parks. The highest count was six in 2004.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Canada Goose: recorded on all bird counts.

Egyptian Goose: sightings have increased recently and it is now semi-resident; the highest count was five on April 26th, 2014.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Shelduck: only recorded on spring bird counts. The highest count was six on April 28th, 2012.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								

Mandarin: just one record, a drake on the main reservoir on April 28th, 2005.

Wigeon: no sightings in spring and just five in autumn, four of which were in September; the highest count was six on September 7th, 1991.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	
Autumn																									

Gadwall: recorded on all bird counts.

Teal: despite being mostly a winter visitor it has been recorded on all bird counts.

Mallard: recorded on all bird counts.

Garganey: rarely recorded with just three sightings in autumn; the highest count was four on August 31st, 2014.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	
Autumn																									

Shoveler: seen in 14 out of 24 springs and on every bird count in autumn.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Pochard: seen on almost every bird count.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Tufted Duck: recorded on all bird counts.

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Common Scoter: just one record: five on April 24th, 2004; they had been present for a week.

Ruddy Duck: seen every bird count apart from in spring 2014. Now that the cull has made them almost extinct in the UK they may well not be recorded again.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	
Spring																									
Autumn																									

Little Grebe: recorded on all bird counts.

Great Crested Grebe: recorded on all bird counts.

Red-necked Grebe: recorded just once, a juvenile on September 2nd, 2000.

Black-necked Grebe: recorded just twice in autumn.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Autumn																								

Cormorant: apart from a few of the early years when they were scarce, recorded on every bird count.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Shag: the only record was one present for a few hours in the morning of April 30th, 2011.

Little Egret: after being absent for the first eighteen years it is now being seen more frequently. There were three on September 6th, 2014.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Great White Egret: this former BBRC rarity is now colonising the UK and being seen increasingly often although it is still rare in London. There have been four records at the reservoir including one on the last spring bird count on April 26th, 2014.

Grey Heron: recorded on all bird counts.

Marsh Harrier: two spring records, both of which were in the 1990s.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								

Sparrowhawk: seen on every bird count apart from in spring 2012 when it rained all day.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Common Buzzard: a similar pattern to Little Egret – now starting to become more regular. There were three on April 27th, 2013.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

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Kestrel: seen on every bird count until recently; there has been no proved breeding since 2008.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Hobby: seen on just over fifty per cent of every bird count; two birds seen on two occasions in autumn.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Peregrine: despite a pair being resident nearby, only seen on four bird counts in spring and none in autumn.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Water Rail: over-wintering birds have usually left by early April so it not surprising that there is only one spring record. They sometimes return as early as July, so are more likely to be recorded in autumn.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Moorhen: recorded on all bird counts.

Coot: recorded on all bird counts.

Oystercatcher: the only record is of two flying over on May 1st, 2010.

Little Ringed Plover: recorded eleven times in spring and once in autumn. Most birds have left the UK before our autumn bird count and there has been just one record.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Grey Plover: the only record is of one flying over on April 29th, 2000.

Lapwing: recorded on most recent bird counts; the increase in sightings is due to long-staying birds attempting to breed.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Dunlin: only recorded three times; the two occasions in spring were both on April 30th.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Ruff: two autumn records, both of single birds.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Autumn																								

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Snipe: a regular over-wintering bird, most of which have left before the spring bird count; those seen in autumn are usually migrants. The highest count is three on two occasions in spring.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Black-tailed Godwit: the only record is of one flying over on September 6th, 2014.

Bar-tailed Godwit: five spring records; there are no autumn records. The highest count is 13 on April 29th, 2000 – six roosted on a raft and a flock of seven flew over early in the morning.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring										13				4							5	2		1

Whimbrel: recorded four times in spring, usually roosting on the rafts or flying over but one was feeding on West Hendon Playing Fields very early in the morning in 2011; the highest count is three in 2007.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																	3	2			1	1		

Curlew: just two spring records; the one on April 30th, 2011 was the ninth species of wader seen that day.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring															1						1			

Redshank: the only record is on September 2nd, 2000.

Greenshank: recorded on only five occasions; the highest count is four on August 30th, 1997.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring				1																	1			
Autumn	1						4			1														

Green Sandpiper: in recent years this has become regular in autumn with birds often staying into winter; the highest count is five in 2011 and 2013.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																					1			
Autumn							1											3	3	4	5	3	5	4

Wood Sandpiper: the only record is on April 26th, 1997 when one flew over early morning.

Common Sandpiper: recorded on most bird counts; the highest count is seven in the autumn in 2006 and 2012.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring		1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1		2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	2	1	1	1
Autumn	2			1	1	6	6	1	1	3	2	2	1	4		7	2	4	2	4	6	7	3	5

Mediterranean Gull: the only record is a juvenile on September 5th, 1998 among the evening gull roost.

Black-headed Gull: recorded on all autumn bird counts and most of the spring ones; the highest count is 2,000+ roosting on September 11th, 1993.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

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Common Gull: infrequently recorded; seen three times in spring and eight times in autumn. Wintering birds return later in autumn than the previous species.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Lesser Black-backed Gull: recorded on all bird counts.

Herring Gull: recorded on all bird counts.

Yellow-legged Gull: three spring records and six in autumn, all single individuals.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Great Black-backed Gull: fairly reliable in spring since 2001 when a pair of adults, which are presumed to be breeding nearby, are often seen; much scarcer in autumn.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Sandwich Tern: just two autumn records; the one in 1998 was present briefly in the morning while 2014's bird remained all day.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Autumn																								

Common Tern: They were late in returning in spring in the last two years and they have quite often all left by the time of the autumn bird count although migrants are occasionally recorded. The highest spring count is 70 in 2005 which were mostly migrants while in autumn the highest count is 32 in 2009.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring	10		14	17	10		18	27	26			30	51	28	70	43	38	39	42	42	38	44	14	13
Autumn					2				8	7				16	16	5			32	4		6	1	1

Arctic Tern: recorded seven times in spring and once in autumn; quite often seen early morning only.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring			1				26	27			3			2	1			4						
Autumn										2														

Black Tern: rare with just two records in spring and one in autumn; highest count is three in 1998 and 2012.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring			1																			3		
Autumn								3																

Feral Dove: recorded on all bird counts.

Stock Dove: scarce in the early years but now resident.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Welsh Harp Report 2014

Woodpigeon: recorded on all bird counts.

Collared Dove: scarce in the early years but now more widespread and regular since 2002.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Turtle Dove: a scarce passage migrant, recorded four times in spring and once in autumn.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring				2	1													1		1				
Autumn											1													

Ring-necked Parakeet: apart from one on the first autumn bird count there were no sightings until 2005, since then they have been regular.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Cuckoo: a scarce migrant in the 1990s that has become even rarer since 2000.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Tawny Owl: under-recorded due to being nocturnal and usually only heard calling pre-dawn; the highest count was four calling on August 30th, 2008.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Swift: seen on almost all bird counts apart from in autumn 2008 and spring 2014; the highest count was c. 300 in spring 2010.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Kingfisher: recorded on almost all bird counts with just two gaps in spring.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Green Woodpecker: recorded on all bird counts apart from in autumn 1995.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Great Spotted Woodpecker: recorded on all bird counts.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: most records are in the first thirteen years with only one since.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

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Skylark: used to breed up to the late 1980s and the only record is of one flying over in spring 2004.

Sand Martin: recorded on every bird count apart from two early springs; the highest count is 180 on September 12th, 1992.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Swallow: recorded on every bird count apart from in three autumns; the highest count is 127 in spring 2001.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

House Martin: recorded on all bird counts; the highest counts are 230 in spring 2006 and 150 in autumn 2003.

Tree Pipit: a scarce passage migrant; recorded on six bird counts, five of which were in the 1990s.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Meadow Pipit: a regular passage migrant, surprisingly recorded more often in the spring in the 1990s. Since 2000 most migrants have already passed through before the spring bird count. Autumn migration usually begins in early September and five of the six autumn occurrences were in September. Most of the blank autumns had the bird counts in August. The highest count was 13 on September 6th, 2014.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Yellow Wagtail: a regular passage migrant; recorded on 17 bird counts in spring and 16 in autumn. The highest count was seven in both spring 1997 (included a Blue-headed Wagtail) and autumn 1996.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring		2		2	2	4	7	2		1	1		4		1	1			1		1	2	1	
Autumn				3		7				3	1	1	1			1			1	3	3		1	1

Grey Wagtail: can be difficult to locate as there are usually only 1-2 breeding pairs and they are typically on the River Brent at each end of the reservoir.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Pied Wagtail: although only a few pairs breed it is expected to record this species on all bird counts.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Wren: recorded on all bird counts.

Dunnock: recorded on all bird counts.

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Robin: recorded on all bird counts.

Nightingale: a scarce passage migrant; the 2008 record relates to a breeding pair.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Black Redstart: the only record was a female/immature on the Dump on August 30th, 1997, a relatively early date for this passage migrant.

Common Redstart: a scarce passage migrant although it has recently become more frequent in autumn; there were two in 2005.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Whinchat: a scarce passage migrant which has become much rarer in recent years.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring	1	1		2	2	1					1		2											
Autumn	2			2	2	1		2		1			1	1		1		1						

Wheatear: a scarce passage migrant with eight records in spring and four in autumn.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring	2	1			6		2		1				1		4								1	
Autumn	2					1														2				1

Ring Ouzel: the only record was a female flying over on April 26th, 1997.

Blackbird: recorded on all bird counts.

Song Thrush: a breeding resident so it was surprising to miss it in autumn 1999.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Redwing: a winter visitor with three late appearances on the spring bird counts.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring					2		2														1			

Mistle Thrush: this has been harder to find in autumn recently; the highest count was 20 in autumn 1998.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Cetti's Warbler: the only record was a long-staying male in spring 2014.

Grasshopper Warbler: a rare passage migrant with singing birds heard on just two spring bird counts.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								

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Sedge Warbler: in the last few years there has been a significant decline in the breeding population and this is reflected in the lower counts. Only recorded eight times in autumn.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring	4	6	5		3	3	6	5	8	9		8		5	16	9		5	10		5	2	3	2
Autumn						5				4										3				2

Reed Warbler: recorded on every bird count; the peak counts of singing males were in the 1990s.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring	12	5	7		2	11	12	11	6	5				2	6	4		3	7	4	8	2	4	4
Autumn	6	4				9	6		4	6	3	6	10	3	3	8	5	2	4	4	3	5	3	2

Lesser Whitethroat: recorded on most bird counts; the peak counts of singing males were in the 1990s.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring	7	6	6		7	3		5	3		1	2	2	1	4	5	4	1	5	2	6	1	3	1
Autumn	9		5	3	3	10	5		3	7	1	1	5	1	4	2	3	1		5	5	2	1	

Common Whitethroat: recorded on almost every bird count - the missing year was on a late date of September 11. The peak count of 22 singing males was in 1996 and 2011 and is likely to include migrants as well as breeding birds. The highest autumn count was 15 in 2011.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring	4	4	5		8	22	8	11	13			12		7	10	17	17	8	14	7	22	6	11	12
Autumn		2		7	8	8	5			6	4		6	3	9	9	2	6	4	10	15	2	3	2

Garden Warbler: erratic in spring with eight missing years and a peak of five singing males in 2007 and 2009; much scarcer in autumn when seen on just half of the counts.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring		2					4	3								2	5	2	5	2	4	1		2
Autumn			2			3				1		1		1				1	1			1		

Blackcap: recorded on every bird count; the highest count is 44 in spring 2012 (not all of these were singing males). There has been an increase in the breeding population since the 1990s.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring	4	21	28		21	15	18	26	21	17		23		30	39	16	29	24	34	29	34	44	24	31
Autumn	11		8			2	10		5	16	5	20	9	5	8	11	8	3	5	6	11	5	7	4

Chiffchaff: recorded on all counts; the breeding population has significantly increased since the 1990s and the peak count of 16 singing males in spring 2014 reflects this. The highest autumn count is 40 in 2003.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring		2	2		3	5	5	7	5			4		9	8	4	9	10	11	10	10	11	9	16
Autumn	16	18	7		3	3	12		11	11	6	33	40	18	23	22	20	14	17	20	26	18	25	23

Willow Warbler: the breeding population has crashed since the 1990s and no longer breeds; the double figure counts of singing males in the 1990s compare sharply with the recent low counts and complete absence in three spring counts. The only gap in autumn was in 1993 when the count was on a late date.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring	13	14	19			17	15	17	6			3		4	6			5	3	1		2	5	
Autumn	3	5				7	13		2	3		2	10	4	4	5	3	5	4	5	9	2	2	1

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Goldcrest: recorded on all bird counts since the mid-1990s; this is in line with an increase in the breeding population which used to be one pair in the churchyard but has now expanded to other areas.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Spotted Flycatcher: only recorded in autumn; the highest count is seven in 1998.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Autumn			2			2		7		3						3	1	2	2	3	4		1	1

Pied Flycatcher: just three occurrences, all in the mid-1990s.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring						1	1																	
Autumn					1																			

Long-tailed Tit: recorded on all bird counts.

Coal Tit: although it is a breeding resident there has often been only one pair and can be hard to find on bird count days.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Blue Tit: recorded on all bird counts.

Great Tit: recorded on all bird counts.

Treecreeper: just four occurrences, three of which were in the churchyard in the mid-1990s and may relate to a breeding pair.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Jay: recorded on all bird counts.

Magpie: recorded on all bird counts.

Jackdaw: recorded on a total of 15 bird counts; only in the last two years has it become reliable, coinciding with the first breeding record for some sixty years in 2014.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Rook: typically a scarce flyover at the reservoir; unusually the only record on a bird count is of one bird that remained on the playing fields for most of the day in spring 2000.

Carrion Crow: recorded on all bird counts.

Starling: recorded on all bird counts.

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House Sparrow: recorded on all but two bird counts, around the time the population was at its lowest.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Tree Sparrow: the only record is one that flew over Woodfield Park in spring 1997.

Chaffinch: now a breeding resident but not in the first half of the 1990s when it was only recorded once; surprisingly missed on two autumn counts in 2000 and 2001.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Greenfinch: recorded on all bird counts.

Goldfinch: recorded on all bird counts.

Linnet: a breeding resident for the first ten years but now a passage migrant, recorded on half of the spring counts since 2000. The autumn passage usually starts much later than the bird count, often not until October.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Lesser Redpoll: a passage migrant with just three spring records; the autumn passage begins several weeks after the autumn bird count.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								

Bullfinch: although a breeding resident, only a few pairs breed and they can be difficult to find.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

Reed Bunting: mainly a breeding summer visitor, always recorded in spring; much more difficult in autumn when most birds have already departed and only recorded on four occasions.

Year	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Spring																								
Autumn																								

WELSH HARP CONSERVATION GROUP

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Acknowledgements:

To the London Borough of Barnet for conservation management support and Leslie Williams and the LB of Brent Ranger Service.

Submission of Records

Records of all forms of wildlife can be entered in the Log Book in the hide or can be sent to Andrew Self, 16 Harp Island Close, Neasden, London NW10 0DF, telephone: 020 8208 2139, email: a-self@sky.com

All records are also forwarded onto the London Natural History Society.

Website

Brent Reservoir has its own website: www.brentres.com