

# The Birds Of South Gloucestershire



Three centuries of birding in South  
Gloucestershire

Martyn Hayes

Front cover: 1st winter male Red-flanked Bluetail in the Shire Valley, Marshfield in February 2014 | © TBOSG

Back cover: 1st summer female Citrine Wagtail on Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth in April 2019 | © Aravind Ramesh

This book is dedicated to all South Gloucestershire birders past, present and future.

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## INTRODUCTION

In February 2003 I was lucky enough to see a family party of Common Crane - *Grus grus* in stubble fields at Tortworth. The group consisted of two adults and three sub adults that were present in the area from February 25th until March 2nd 2003.



Common Crane - *Grus grus* | © Paul Bowerman

In conversation with several local birders on site I wondered if any of them had any idea how many previous records of Common Crane there had been in S. Gloucestershire, unsurprisingly none did. How to find out? Whom could I contact for information or which publications were available to reference?

After several days of research I came to the conclusion that gathering the information I was seeking might not be as straightforward as I'd initially thought.

'Surfing' the 'interweb' lead me in the direction of the county bird recorder and several publications that included; The Avon Bird Reports and The Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists' Society.

So first stop the county recorder. After a conversation with the then incumbent it was clear that the kind of information I was hoping to get was not as readily available as one might assume. It would mean painstakingly poring over all of the historical reports just to isolate that one snippet! However I did come away with an overwhelming urge to find out and a large pile of 'old' reports!

Trying another tack I found that The Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists' Society were available online via The Biodiversity Heritage Library and indeed it was possible to access all of their publications from Volume 1 published in 1862 right through to 1999. I also found that they contained information relating to S. Gloucestershire from as far back as 1824! It was then that I realised the enormity of the task... and just how difficult it was to easily access the information I was looking for. Incidentally I did find out, whilst perusing those publications, that the Tormarton Common Cranes were in fact the second record of this species to be recorded in S. Gloucestershire. The first was a report of two birds seen over Severn Beach on January 3rd 2000 where they were seen in flight heading low eastwards and watched heading inland and lost to view.

Caught up in the fascination of historical birding information from S. Gloucestershire I soon became captivated by the whole process. The thought of folks looking for, finding and recording bird information way back in the early 19th century and treading some of the very same footsteps myself had me 'hooked'. To think (for example) I could watch a Water Pipit on Severnside from the very spot where someone could well have seen the same thing over two-hundred years before was absolutely gripping!


What would be useful though would be the ability to be able to access information relating to rare, scarce and 'unusual birding events' in S. Gloucestershire easily and where the reader could rely on the relative accuracy of the information. I could see no easy way around the problem, information needed to be collated and laid out in a resource that anyone could use.





So, after nearly two years of research the plan finally came to fruition with the launch in November 2005 of TBOSG - The Birds Of South Gloucestershire!

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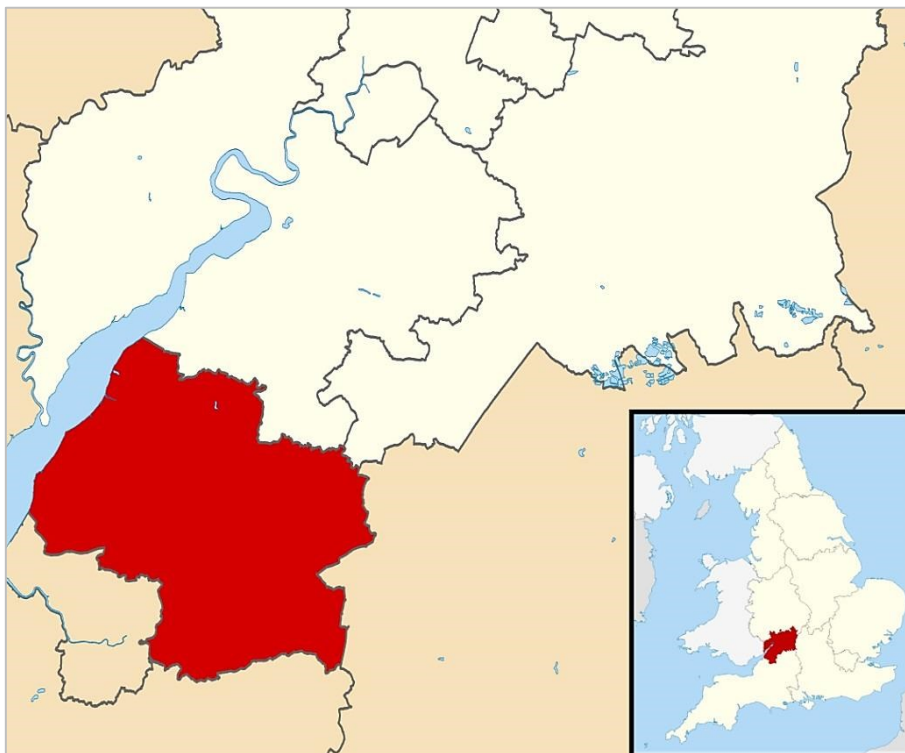
Main Photo | Clotine Wagtail © AravindRamesh

Research involved (and still does) a tremendous amount of trawling through a number of publications (the aforementioned Reports and Proceedings), the extensive and meticulous notes of Howard H Davis a local naturalist and ornithologist (who incidentally, was the founder member of Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust, president of the Bristol Naturalists' Society and farmed at Little Stoke in South Gloucestershire until 1957) numerous books, months of contacting local birders and endless hours of sifting through information on the internet!

My primary objective was to provide a point of reference with easy access to information about rare, scarce and unusual bird sightings, both full species and forms, seen in 'S. Glos' to anyone from the back garden birdwatcher with a mild interest in local birdwatching to the avid 'birder' and yes even the odd 'twitcher'.

It is by no means authoritative nor exhaustive but it does I feel capture the essence of 'modern birding' in this extremely important region of the UK. It also, I feel, highlights some of the changing trends in birds seen across the recording area over the decades.

## South Gloucestershire



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## History

S. Gloucestershire is a unitary authority area in South West England. It comprises multiple suburban areas to the north and east of Bristol as well as a large rural area. It was formed in 1996 from the northern section of (CUBA) the county that used to be Avon, which was abolished at that time.

S. Gloucestershire was given its name for historic reasons, but as a unitary authority it is not administered as part of the shire county of Gloucestershire. It is, however, part of the ceremonial county of Gloucestershire, which means it shares its Lord Lieutenant (the Sovereign's representative to the county) with Gloucestershire.





Prior to the implementation of the Local Government Act 1972 on 1 April 1974, the area that now forms South Gloucestershire formed part of the shire county of Gloucestershire comprising the urban districts of Kingswood (operational base of TBOSG) and Mangotsfield and the Rural Districts of Warmley, Sodbury and Thornbury.

## Geography

### Earliest record for S. Gloucestershire

It was in fact Storm Petrel - *Hydrobates pelagicus* and the entry reads...

... 'One was identified on October 31st 1824 near Alveston following the violent gale of All Hallows Eve'...





Storm Petrel - *Hydrobates pelagicus* | © Dan White

This outstanding shot was taken from Severn Beach after some more recent 'violent' gales; nevertheless, and if the observer can weather the storms, is one of the best places, certainly in our region, to see this species at close range.

It has subsequently been recorded in every month except March and peaked at around thirty (30) on June 9th 2012 at Severn Beach.

## Birdwatching in S. Gloucestershire

There are several 'hotspots' for birdwatchers in S. Gloucestershire and as alluded to above Severn Beach - 'Sevenside' and indeed the Severn Estuary is considered to be the premier site in the region.

Other 'hotspots' are Oldbury Power Station and inland, on the eastern boundary, Marshfield.

## Sevenside

The Severn Estuary and the R. Severn, is the longest river in the UK and is the confluence of; the Severn, Wye, Usk and Avon. Its tidal range is approximately 15 metres and is the second highest tidal range in the world. The world's largest tidal range (16.3 metres) occurs in the Bay of Fundy, Canada.

This tidal range results in the estuary having one of the most extensive intertidal wildlife habitats in the UK, comprising mudflats, sandflats, rocky platforms and islands. These form a basis for plant and animal communities typical of extreme physical conditions of liquid mud and tidal sweep of sand and rock.

The estuary is recognised as a wetland area of international importance and is designated as a Ramsar site. It is also recognised as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds. The estuary also is recognised as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive.

Parts of the estuary have also been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and includes most of the foreshore upstream from Cardiff and Brean Down and most of the upper estuary as far as Sharpness. The Upper Severn Estuary SSSI covers the tidal river between Purton and Frampton on Severn.

SSSI citations provide detail of the geological and biological interest and of particular note is the international importance for wintering and wading birds on passage, and of estuarine habits of outstanding ornithological significance.

It is stated that the estuary supports over 10% of the British wintering population and is the single most important wintering ground for Dunlin, and historically significant numbers of Bewick's Swan, European White-fronted Geese and Wigeon. Nationally important wintering populations are supported here like Gadwall, Shoveler and Pochard.

The site stretches from Chittening Warth in the south-west and runs north-east taking in Severn Beach, New Passage, Northwick Warth, Pilning Wetland Reserve and Aust Warth.

Historical records from this area are significant and include: (pre 1900 and in chronological order)

Glaucous Gull (1840), Scandinavian Rock Pipit (1870), Pomarine Skua (1879), Purple Sandpiper and Velvet Scoter (1892)

From the turn of the 20th century to the millennium occurrences include;

Black Redstart (1937), Woodlark (1941), Kentish Plover (1947), Shorelark (1960), Red-rumped Swallow (1977), Sabine's Gull (1980), Lapland Bunting (1981), Ring-billed Gull (1987), Roseate Tern (1990) and Black-necked Grebe (1996).

In the 21st century; Red-necked Phalarope, Caspian Gull, European Bee-eater, Glossy Ibis and Red-throated Pipit have all occurred.

Severnside is, as one would expect, a super place for seabirds with some exceptional occurrences historically.

Pomarine Skua from New Passage sometime in November 1879, Sooty Shearwater from Aust in September 1974, Long-tailed Skua from New Passage in October 1981, Balearic Shearwater off New Passage in September 1988, Cory's Shearwater off Severn Beach in November 2000 and Pacific Diver off Severn Beach in November 2009.

But the crowning glory must surely go to the UK's first ever 'fregetta' Storm Petrel in November 2009?

On November 25th 2009 one, either Black or White-bellied Storm Petrel, was seen off the sea wall at Severn Beach where it was present for around ninety minutes before being lost to view in mid channel at around 09:40. This southern oceans speciality has been seen in the northern hemisphere on only a handful of occasions so the sighting in the Severn Estuary is clearly of national and international importance.



Black/ White-bellied Storm Petrel - *Fregetta tropica/ grallaria* | © John Martin.

Other impressive 'wildfowl' statistics from the Severnside patch include highest count of;

Dark-bellied Brent Goose - 115 in January 2009 at Severn Beach, Pale-bellied Brent Goose - 18 in September 2009 at Severn Beach, Pink-footed Goose - Seven in February 1940 at Severn Beach, Bewick's Swan - 35 in March 1993 on Northwick Warth, Wigeon - >7,000 in March 1987 from New Passage, Velvet Scoter - Two in January 1987 from Severn Beach, Long-tailed Duck - Four in November 1991 from New Passage, Smew - Five in February 1991 from New Passage and Ruddy Duck - Seven in January 1997 from Aust.

For further information go to; <http://www.severnsidebirds.co.uk/>

## Oldbury Power Station

A little further up the coast is Oldbury Power Station (OPS) running from Oldbury Pill at Oldbury-on-Severn to the S. Gloucestershire/ Gloucestershire boundary to the north-east.

The site consists of a variety of habitats, and this is its attraction. It is situated on the banks of the River Severn, with its enormous mudflats. There are three old lagoons that are in various states of disuse that were used as large settling tanks during the dredging process for the tidal reservoir. There is also a Nature Trail, with orchard, meadows, woods and ponds.





The OPS Patch | © Google Maps

The 'OPS patch' can also boast an impressive list of records which include;

Black-winged Stilt in 1848, Red-breasted Goose in 1909, King Eider in 1912, Spotted Redshank in 1954, Red-throated Diver in 1960, Red-footed Falcon (almost) in 1974, Marsh Harrier, Broad-billed Sandpiper and Whooper Swan in 1983, Temminck's Stint in 1984, Pectoral Sandpiper in 1989, Semipalmated Sandpiper in 1990, Kumlien's Gull in 1996, Taiga Bean Goose in 1998, Green-winged Teal in 2001, Pied Wheatear in 2011 and Whiskered Tern in 2016.

Other statistics from the OPS patch include highest counts of;

Canada Goose - 373 in October 2017, Barnacle Goose - 80 in December 2010, Greylag Goose - 30 in August 2014, Mute Swan - Fifteen in 1982, Common Teal - c.1000 in January 1996, Goosander - Nineteen in December 2010, Cormorant - Thirty-four in September 1990, Common Crane - Seven in April 2014, Curlew - c.1800 in December 1987, Little Stint - Twenty-two in December 1993, Common Snipe - 248 in February 2016, Great Black-backed Gull - Sixty in June 1995, Stock Dove - c.800 in December 1996, Long-eared Owl - Seven in December 1996, Goldcrest - Twenty-two in November 2016, Wren - Forty-three in May 2018, Pied Wagtail - c.5000 in January 1981, Common Redpoll - Four in March 2009, Reed Bunting - c.50 in October 2016 and Lapland Bunting - Four in October 2010.

For further information go to; <http://www.opsbirding.co.uk>



## Marshfield

The village of Marshfield is situated at the southern end of the Cotswold Hills, 13 km north of Bath and 24 km east of Bristol. The A420 bypasses the village to the north.

The Marshfield 'patch' uses the S. Gloucestershire/ Wiltshire boundary on its eastern edge, the S. Gloucestershire/ BANES boundary on the southern edge, the A46 on the western side and the M4 to the north. It is also the highest point in S. Gloucestershire at some 200 metres above sea level.

To the north of Marshfield is open arable farmland bordered by dry-stone walls whilst on the south side the countryside is quite different more pasture and wooded valleys and because of these types of habitat the species variety is somewhat limited.

However it is by far the best place in the recording area to see winter flocks of Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer, Linnet, Chaffinch and Golden Plover.



The Marshfield Patch | © Google Maps

The 'Marshfield Patch' has been avidly watched over the decades and as a result has produced some notable, spectacular and down-right bizarre reports! It is also an area where large numbers of game birds are released with birds numbering in the thousands with Red-legged Partridge and Common Pheasant as the main species.

Some notable occurrences include; Osprey, Goshawk, Marsh and Hen Harrier, Common Crane, Jack Snipe, Quail, Turtle Dove, Short-eared Owl, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Willow Tit, Wood and Grasshopper Warbler, Ring Ouzel, Nightingale, Pied Flycatcher, Black Redstart and Tree Sparrow.

Spectacular finds include Pallid and Montagu's Harriers, Black Kite, Corncrake, Stone Curlew, Dotterel, Nightjar, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Great Grey and Woodchat Shrikes, Waxwing, Dartford Warbler, Red-Spotted Bluethroat, Red-flanked Bluetail and Lapland Bunting.

The down-right bizarre comes in the form of Little Auk in November 1990 when one was picked up unharmed from a chicken run in the back garden of a house on the High Street. It was fed on sardines, was released at Chew Valley Lake where it was seen to fly off to the south-west!



Pallid Harrier - *Circus macrourus* | © TBOSG



There are of course numerous places to 'go birding' in S. Gloucestershire (some of which are mentioned below) where some significant 'finds' can also be attributed.

Littleton Warth, Littleton-upon-Severn

American Wigeon, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Cetti's Warbler, Cattle Egret, Bearded Tit, Aquatic Warbler, Red-crested Pochard, Golden Oriole, Snow Bunting and Arctic Skua.

Tortworth Court Lake, Tortworth

Mandarin, Whooper Swan, Smew, Honey Buzzard and nearby Hoopoe and Common Crane.

Lower Woods, Wickwar

Firecrest, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Pied Flycatcher, Willow Tit and Nightingale.

Chipping Sodbury Common, Chipping Sodbury

Woodchat Shrike, Ring Ouzel, Whinchat and Wryneck.

Kingsgate Park, Yate

Mandarin, Iberian Chiffchaff, Wood Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler, Nightingale, Ring-necked Parakeet, Pied Flycatcher and Hoopoe.

Willsbridge Winter Flood Meadows, Willsbridge

Franklin's Gull, Goosander and Egyptian Goose.

Willsbridge Mill & Valley, Willsbridge

Dipper, Hawfinch, Firecrest and Ring-necked Parakeet.

However, as has been said on numerous occasions, anything can turn up anywhere at seemingly any time as the entries below indicate;

Smew at Dyrham Park in 1855 and more recently on Chipping Sodbury Common in 2016 and 2017, Pallas's Sandgrouse at Hambrook in June 1888, Spotted Crake at Stoke Gifford in September 1891, Marsh Warbler at Patchway in June 1909, Corncrake on Patchway Common in October 1938, Wood Sandpiper near Marshfield in August 1943, Little Bittern R. Avon near Hanham in September 1958, White Stork in the Hallen/ Compton Greenfield area in May 1971, Icterine Warbler at Fishpool Hill, Brentry in May 1992, Rose-coloured Starling in Hanham in December 2000, Common Rosefinch in Leap Valley, Downend in September 2001, Siberian Chiffchaff at Emerson's Green in January 2005, Black-headed Bunting in Yate in June 2009, White-spotted Bluethroat in Staple Hill, Bristol in June 2010 and Penduline Tit in Dyrham Park in March 2015.



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Over the years I have consulted with numerous birders, photographers and county recorders. Additionally a vast amount of information was trawled through from a number of publications all aiding in the compilation of The Birds Of South Gloucestershire and it is to those folks that I owe a huge debt of gratitude and thanks.

### **Publications:**

Avon Bird Reports 1977 - 2017  
A History of British Birds - William Yarrell 1784 -1856  
Birding World Volumes 1 - 26 1988 - 2013  
Birds of Gloucestershire - Christopher M Swaine 1982  
BOC Bird News  
Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre  
British Birds  
Knapp - Journal of a Naturalist 1829  
Lower Woods Nature Reserve Guide and Species List  
Mellersh - Birds of Gloucestershire 1902  
Notes on Status and Distribution of Birds in S. Gloucestershire - HH Davis  
Reports and transactions of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society 1900 - 1981  
The Biodiversity Heritage Library  
The National Biodiversity Network Atlas  
The Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists' Society 1862 - 1976  
Twitching Volume 1 – 1987  
Witchell and Strugnell: The Fauna and Flora of Gloucestershire, 1892  
Yarrell's British Birds

### **Websites and organisations:**

Birdwatching at Oldbury Power Station  
Bristol Ornithological Club  
Sevenside Birds

### **County Recorders:**

Avon:	avonbirdrecorder@gmail.com
Gloucestershire:	Richard.Baatsen@gmail.com
Somerset:	briandgibbs23@gmail.com
Wiltshire:	recorder@wiltshirebirds.co.uk



## THE SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The South Gloucestershire Systematic List follows the conventions of The BOU (British Ornithologists' Union) British List: A Checklist of Birds of Britain (9th edition) December 2018.

Following the BOU List, the S. Gloucestershire list (at the end of 2018) stood at 331. Three hundred full species and thirty-one forms.

A significant milestone was realised in 2018... the 300th addition to the S. Glos list!

An Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* was found on September 13th 2018 on Northwick Warth, Severnside.

## THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Each taxon is headed followed by the vernacular name, total to the end of 2018 and scientific names. All rare and scarce birds on the S. Gloucestershire Systematic List are mentioned, as well as, where appropriate, highest counts, earliest and latest dates and subsequent sightings. Full species are in capitals and forms in lower case.

- Recorded in that month.
- Month of the first documented reference.

UK Unknown

It is recognised that birds have occurred historically but no documented references before these dates are available. (Scitur quantum)

N. B.

Sightings of rare and scarce birds are subject to ratification by the appropriate rarities committee so we urge observers to send the sightings to the relevant county recorder.

GEESE & SWANS

Pale-bellied Brent Goose (c.30)

*Branta bernicla hrota*



Pale-bellied Brent Goose - *Branta bernicla hrota* | ©TBOSG

FIRST	February 12th 1995 on Northwick Warth											
EARLIEST	September 1st 2009 at Severn Beach											
LATEST	April 25th 2009 Severn Beach											
HIGHEST COUNT	Eighteen on September 1st 2009 at Severn Beach											
<div><div>JFMA MJ JASOND</div><div>•••••••••••••</div></div>												

The first documented reference to Pale-bellied Brent Goose - *Branta bernicla hrota* in S. Gloucestershire was on February 12th 1995 when a winter adult was seen on Northwick Warth from New Passage.

Subsequent sightings:

- 2007 One was seen at New Passage on January 25th - 26th.
- 2009 Twenty this year: One on April 8th was seen from the shore at Severn Beach and was tracked down the coast. The second was seen from the shore at Severn Beach on April 25th and on September 1st a flock of eighteen were on the shore at Severn Beach and were last seen heading south-west at 17:00.
- 2010 Just one this year at Severn Beach in the morning on March 21st.
- 2012 Seven this year: One was seen briefly in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area on March 28th followed by five, two adults and three juveniles at Severn Beach on September 11th - 12th. Lastly one watched from Northwick Warth on November 18th.

RED-BREASTED GOOSE (1)

*Branta ruficollis*



Red-breasted Goose - *Branta ruficollis* | © TBOSG

The only record of this very smart goose to date was of an adult that was 'obtained' at Oldbury-on-Severn on November 18th 1909.

BARNACLE GOOSE (c.260)

*Branta leucopsis*

FIRST	February 18th 1973 at Severn Beach
EARLIEST	August 16th 2009 at Heneage Court, Falfield
LATEST	June 9th 2006 at Severn Beach
HIGHEST COUNT	Eighty on December 7th 2010 at Oldbury Power Station

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•

The first documented reference to this species in S. Gloucestershire comes from as recently as 1973 when one was seen on February 18th at Severn Beach. They have been seen in every month except July so it is assumed that some of the reports are of birds of feral or unknown origins.

Subsequent sightings:

1989	One was seen on December 19th at Severn Beach. It was present into 1990 throughout January until February 25th.
1990	One seen in December 1989 at Severn Beach was present until February 25th; One seen on the February 10th at Severn Beach was still present on February 11th.
1993	One was found on May 6th on Lagoon II, Oldbury Power Station.
1995	One was seen on April 2nd - 3rd at Oldbury Power Station.
1996	Seven were seen on February 24th in the Aust/ Northwick Warth area and were still present on 25th.

1999	Thirteen were present sometime in April at Oldbury Power Station; On October 19th one was identified in flight heading south past New Passage.
2002	One was seen on April 1st at Tortworth Court Lake; One was seen on April 14th at Northwick Warth; Two were found on May 10th at Orchard Pools near Severn Beach.
2006	One was reported from the Severn Beach area on June 8th - 9th.
2009	One was noted between Keynsham and Swineford opposite Avon Valley CP on October 3rd; One was present at Heneage Court Pools near Falfield on August 16th.
2010	A party of twenty-five flew up river past Severn Beach at 13:30 on January 25th and were subsequently seen grazing on Northwick Warth. All 25 were still present on 26th but were noted flying past Oldbury Power Station on the 27th; Two were seen in flight heading north-east past Northwick Warth on April 12th; Thirty-five were reported at Oldbury Power Station on March 6th; Fifty-six were reported on May 29th at Oldbury Power Station; Eighty were seen in flight upriver past Oldbury Power Station on December 7th.
2011	A winter adult was noted on Northwick Warth from March 5th - April 4th.
2014	A winter adult was seen in the Northwick Warth/ Pilning Wetland Reserve area on February 21st, 24th - 28th and at Severn Beach on the 23rd. It was still on Northwick Warth on March 1st, moved to Aust Warth on the 2nd and back to the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area from the 4th - 8th; Five were seen in flight east-north-east over Gaunt's Earthcott on May 2nd.
2015	Four were present on Littleton Warth and Oldbury Power Station from August 26th - 28th.
2016	APRIL: Thirteen arrived at Northwick Warth on the 16th but did not linger; Two were present in the Northwick Warth/ Pilning Wetland Reserve area on the 23rd. SEPTEMBER: A flock of nine were seen briefly on Northwick Warth on the 30th before departing up river.
2017	OCTOBER: Two were seen from Northwick Warth on the 12th; One in flight past New Passage/ Northwick Warth on the 22nd was subsequently noted at Oldbury Power Station later.
2018	MAY: One was reported from Pilning Wetland on the 5th. NOVEMBER: One was seen from New Passage on the 15th.

## Continental Greylag Goose (6)

*Anser anser rubrirostris*

On November 18th 2011 at 08:45 a flock of six putatively this eastern form were watched as they flew north-east along the A4174 Ring Road between Warmley and Shortwood, Bristol. This occurrence coincided with a significant movement of Swedish birds relocating to Spain.

## TAIGA BEAN GOOSE (1)

*Anser fabalis*

There has been just one record of Bean Goose in S. Gloucestershire. It occurred On March 1st 1998 when a single bird was reported on Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station around mid-day. It was later seen in flight to the south-west. The description provided at the time suggested the nominate form Taiga Bean Goose - *Anser fabalis fabilis*.

## PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (c.10)

*Anser brachyrhynchus*

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
	•	•								•	

In his 'Notes on Status and Distribution of Birds in S. Gloucestershire' HH Davis wrote... Although Pink-footed Goose is a regular visitor to the grounds above Berkeley in winter, it becomes scarce or entirely absent at other times in the Severn Beach area. This occurrence is therefore of special interest and can only be attributed to the intensely cold weather.



The occurrence in question was the first documented reference to this species in S. Gloucestershire in 1940 when on February 1st six or seven were identified in company with White-fronted Geese along the river bank between Avonmouth and Severn Beach. They were still present in the area on February 2nd.

The only other sightings come from 1988 when a sick or injured juvenile was caught by a wildfowlers dog on November 29th at Littleton Warth but died shortly afterwards and a 1st winter in the Aust/ Northwick Warth area on February 26th 1996 where it lingered until March 10th.

The earliest date is November 29th 1988 on Littleton Warth the latest March 10th 1996 from Aust/ Northwick Warth and the highest count is seven on February 1st 1940 at Severn Beach.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (UK)

Anser albifrons

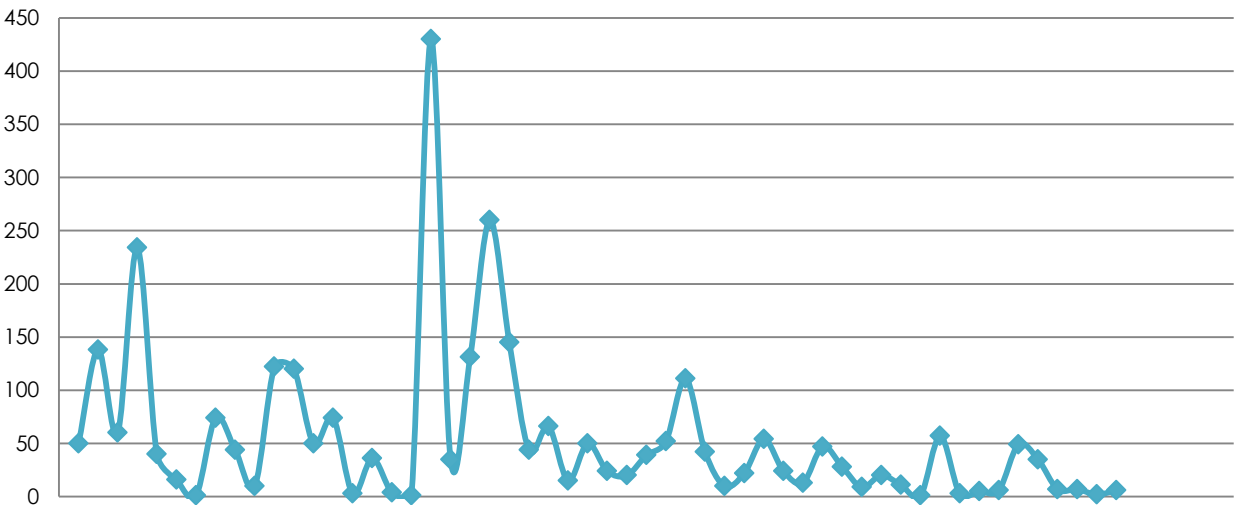
FIRST  
EARLIEST  
LATEST  
HIGHEST COUNT

December 24th 1938 at Severn Beach  
October 1st 1996 at Oldbury Power Station  
April 16th 1977 from Northwick Warth  
c.200 on January 2nd 1947 from Chipping Sodbury



About fifty 'Grey Geese', most probably this species, were seen on the Severn bank near Severn Beach on December 24th 1938 constituting the first documented reference to this species.

Seen almost annually since 1983, the diagram below shows the fluctuating numbers of White-fronted Geese in the recording area peaking at c.430 in 1979.



White-fronted Goose - *Anser albifrons* annual counts from 1938 to 2018.

Greenland White-fronted Goose (2)

Anser albifrons flavirostris

Greenland White-fronted Goose breeds in the west of Greenland and migrate via Iceland to Ireland, and northern and western parts of the UK. Their numbers fell by around 36% from c.36,000 in 1999 to c.23,000 in 2010. This concerning decline is reflected in the number of records from S. Gloucestershire!

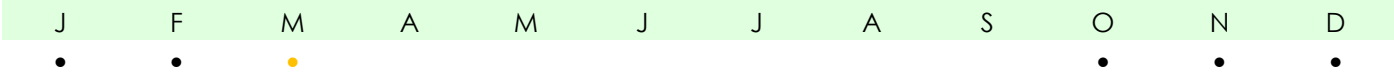
In October 2010 two were watched in flight south-west past Littleton-upon-Severn at 09:17 on the 17th. They then flew down to the Severn Bridge turned and came back north-east past Littleton-upon-Severn where they were seen in excellent light and at one point less than 100 metres.

They continued upriver towards Oldbury Power Station and were noted to be adult birds, 'bulky' with dark and heavily barred bellies and orange bills.

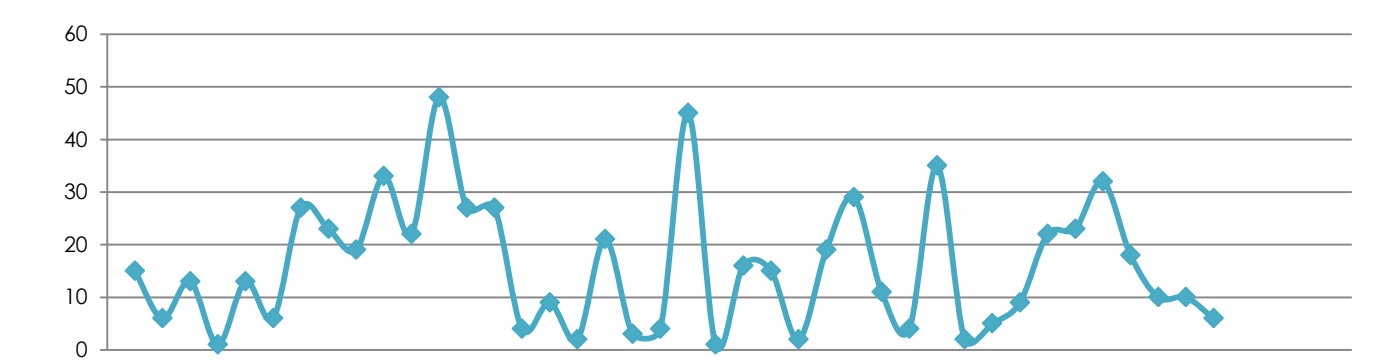
BEWICK'S SWAN (c.650)

Cygnus columbianus bewickii

The earliest date for Bewick's Swan in S. Gloucestershire is October 20th 2013 on Northwick Warth, the latest March 28th 1996 at Thornbury and the highest count is thirty-five (35) on March 8th 1993 from Northwick Warth



Surprisingly the first documented reference to this species comes from as recently as 1970 when one was reported from Severn Beach on March 8th.

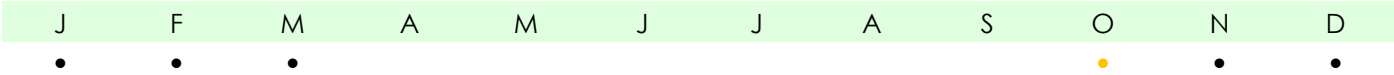


Bewick's Swan - Cygnus columbianus bewickii annual counts from 1970 to 2018: peaking in 1983 with 48 individuals.

WHOOPEE SWAN (c.40)

Cygnus cygnus

FIRST	October 29th 1983 Oldbury Power Station
EARLIEST	October 16th 2010 at Oldbury Power Station
LATEST	March 29th 2008 at Severn Beach
HIGHEST COUNT	Seven on October 22nd 2018 on Tortworth Court Lake



1983 brought the first ever report of this species to S. Glos with eight birds recorded. The first was a single bird found on the 'Silt Lagoon' at Oldbury Power Station on October 29th. This first occurrence was followed soon after with five adults on November 13th watched in flight over Northwick Warth, then two on December 4th on Tortworth Court Lake.

A gap of seven years before the next; when an individual was seen in flight heading north-east at Oldbury Power Station on December 23rd 2000.



Five years later two adults spent four days on Northwick Warth from January 13th - 16th 2005. A run of sightings in consecutive years followed with birds noted in 2008 with an adult in flight over Severn Beach on March 29th, 2009 and two over Aust Warth on the 10th November and 2010 with two, and adult and a probable juvenile in flight down river past Oldbury Power Station on October 16th. There were seen later past Northwick Warth.

Whooper Swans - *Cygnus cygnus*  
| ©TBOSG

Missing for a couple of years they were next sighted in 2012 when one was reported calling in flight from Severn Beach on February 9th where it initially flew up river before turning back south. The following year four swan spp. were seen flying high upriver

passed Oldbury Power Station on January 13th. They appeared long necked and were most probably this species and an adult was noted on November 3rd in flight north-east past Severn Beach and a few minutes later past Northwick Warth.

Another lean spell until three were watched floating upriver past Shepperdine on December 9th 2017 followed by, in 2018, two adults (photo above) on Northwick Warth on January 7th and in October, four juveniles distantly on the estuary from New Passage on the 16th and 18th, a flock of seven birds from Tortworth Court Lake on the 22nd and two in flight east over Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth on the 29th.

Whooper Swan is considerably rarer than Bewick's Swan in S. Gloucestershire. In comparison between 1983 and 2018 some c.40 Whooper Swan and between 1970 and 2018 c.650 Bewick's Swan have occurred. Extrapolation of these figures would give occurrence rates of 1.14 per annum for Whooper and 13.54 per annum for Bewick's.

## EGYPTIAN GOOSE (c.10)

*Alopochen aegyptiaca*

As an immigrant species from established naturalised populations on the near continent Egyptian Goose is eligible for category C5. This category was added to the British List in 2005 in recognition of these naturalised populations; Egyptian Goose is the first species to be formally admitted to this category.

FIRST	February 12th 2000 at Oldbury Power Station
EARLIEST	January 2nd 2018 at New Passage
LATEST	December 14th 2013 on Pilning Wetland Reserve
HIGHEST COUNT	Two on January 10th 2016 Willsbridge Winter Wetlands

Egyptian Goose has been seen in all months of the year with the very first, a winter adult, noted on February 12th 2000 at Oldbury Power Station. Sporadic until recent years it was next encountered in 2006 with one from Oldbury Power Station on March 4th and the same or another adult at Heneage Court Pools near Falfield on April 23rd.



Unreported until 2013 a winter adult spent the day at Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth on March 1st (representing the first Severnside patch record) and one was confirmed at Severn Beach on December 14th. In 2015, two were reported from Field Grove Farm, Bittou on December 31st.



Egyptian Goose - *Alopochen aegyptiaca* | ©TBOSG

2016 brought a spate of sightings starting with two on January 10th in flooded fields along the R. Avon footpath at Holm Mead a kilometre east of The Lock Keeper at Keynsham with both birds present in the same are on February 9th and 27th.

One was seen briefly on April 2nd on Pilning Wetland Reserve before departing south and one (of unknown origin) was seen in the Powder Keg area at Bridgegate on April 17th and Warmley Forest Park earlier in the week. In May, one was present on Pilning Wetland Reserve on the 8th and 13th - 14th, relocated on the 22nd to Western Distribution Park, Severn Beach where it was also seen on the 24th. In June, one was again present on Pilning WR on the 11th.

Reports for the remainder of 2016 were considered to be the same individual commuting between the New Passage/ Pilning WR/ Northwick Warth area and Aztec West Business Park, Almondsbury with regular sightings until the year end. 2017 saw a resumption of this peripatetic activity with (it is assumed) the same individual moving between Aztec West Business Park, Almondsbury and Severnside with reports from January, March, May, July and August 4th to December 19th.

Many fewer sightings came from 2018 with reports only from January. An adult in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth on the 2nd, an adult at Shepperdine on the 11th and one, of unknown origin, on Kendleshire Golf Course, Coalpit Heath on the 23rd.

DUCKS

RUDDY SHELDUCK (c.15)

Tadorna ferruginea

Ruddy Shelduck is assigned to categories B, D, and E of the BOU British List with the first record, a count of five, at Durness, Sutherland in June 1892. They were last recorded in the UK in an apparently wild state in 1946 thus determining that all subsequent records/ sightings were considered to be of unknown origin.

Given the requirements above the only acceptable record of this species occurred on April 18th 1942 when a male was watched by several observers on the mud flats below Aust Ferry Pier, Aust Warth on various occasions from April 18th - 25th and again on June 2nd along the river bank at Severn Beach. All subsequent records from S. Gloucestershire are considered unreliable, however they have been listed here for posterity.

FIRST	November 25th 1997 on Northwick Warth
EARLIEST	September 16th 2004 at Severn Beach
LATEST	June 2nd 1942 at Aust
HIGHEST COUNT	Two on Severnside on several dates



Ruddy Shelduck - *Tadorna ferruginea* | © Paul Bowerman

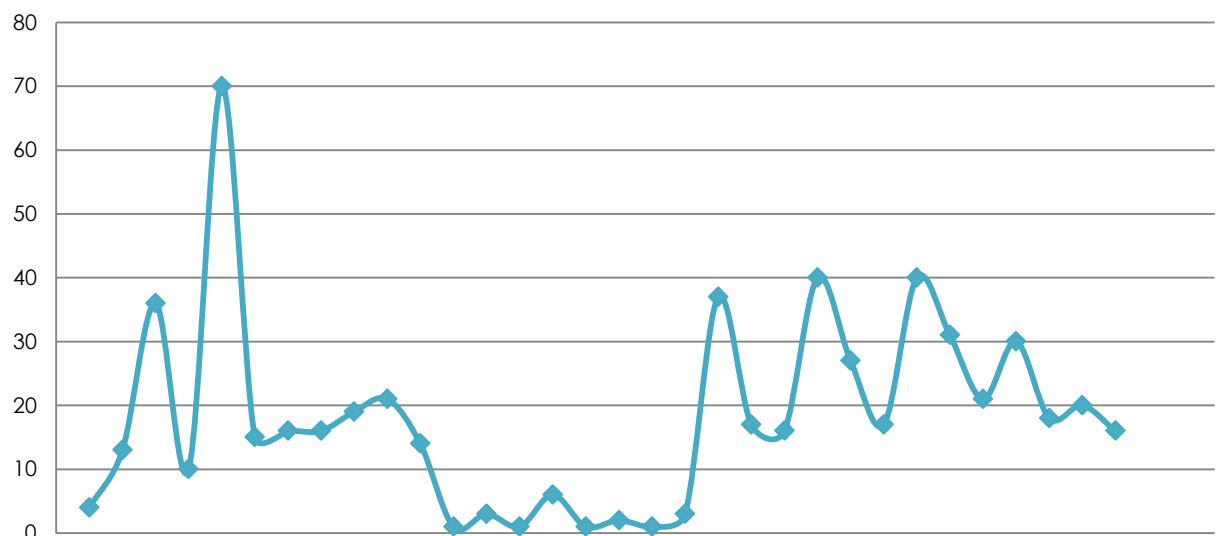
- 1997
- Two females present at Northwick Warth on November 25th and would remain until April 5th 1998.
- 2003
- A female was seen twice in flight at Northwick Warth on September 19th, on Grebe Pond on the 20th where it would linger in the area until September 27th. In December two were seen on the 10th at Severn Beach.
- 2004
- Two were seen on Northwick Warth on February 7th and 9th, one at Severn Beach on March 30th, a pair in flight up-river at Severn Beach on May 17th, one was present on September 16th again at Severn Beach and a red colour ringed bird was seen at Severn Beach on November 24th.
- 2010
- Two were seen in flight up-river past Oldbury Power Station on January 8th and an adult male was present just inside the S. Glos boundary near the public house at Swineford on April 15th.
- 2012
- One was present on Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station on May 5th and one flew downriver past Severn Beach on May 19th.



Mandarin - *Aix galericulata* | © Wilf King

Historically the stronghold for this dapper duck was Tortworth Court Lake where indeed the first record originates. On November 16th 1986 four were counted on the Lake at Tortworth, the group included two males one of which lingered until December 14th.

Since then they have been reported every year except 1999 and from various locations away from their traditional area i.e. R. Avon at Hanham and Willsbridge, Bitton, Kingsgate Park, Yate, Golden Valley LNR, Wick, Pilning WR, OPS, Shackell's Lake, Hamswell, R. Frome at Frampton Cotterell, Littleley Wood, Hawkesbury, Orchard Pools, Severn Beach, Stanshaw's Lake, Yate, Marshfield and Chipping Sodbury Golf Course with breeding proven at several of the aforementioned sites.



Mandarin - *Aix galericulata* annual counts from 1986 - 2018.

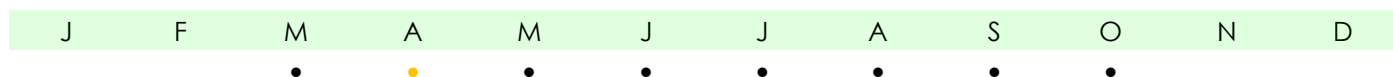
The highest count to date is c.25 on June 19th 2009 on Dodington Park Lakes.



Garganey - *Spatula querquedula* | © Brian Thompson

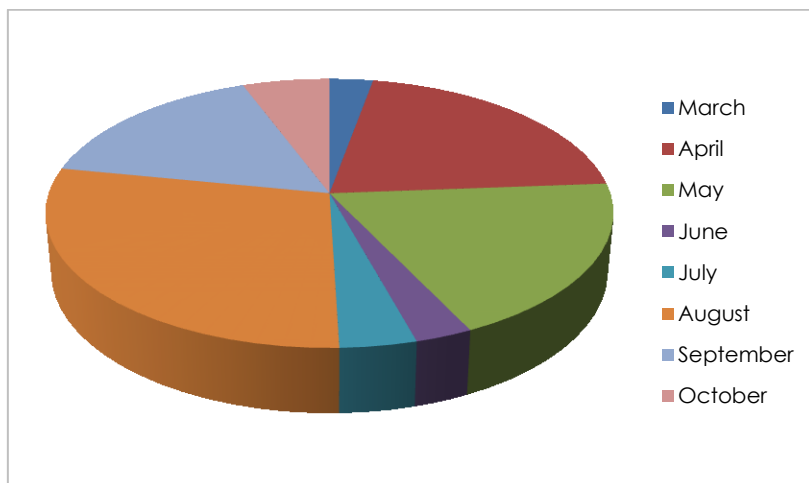
EARLIEST  
LATEST  
HIGHEST COUNT

March 14th 1993 from Northwick Warth  
October 26th 2011 at Oldbury Power Station  
Six in August 1995 from Northwick Warth



Garganey arrive in S. Gloucestershire from mid-March and can generally be seen until the end of October though only ever in small numbers. The first record in 1982 involved a male and female seen in flight up-river from Severn Beach on April 13th.

1995 was by far the best year with up to seventeen individuals present in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth/ Pilning Wetland Reserve area in a period from August 1st through until September 10th with a maximum day count of six in August.



Garganey occurrences month by month between 1982 and 2018 clearly indicating August as the best month to see this species in the recording area.

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## AMERICAN WIGEON (1)

*Mareca americana*



American Wigeon - *Mareca americana* | © Ben Ofield

American Wigeon has occurred in S. Gloucestershire on just one occasion. A 1st winter drake was found around mid-morning on January 2nd 2017 on the shoreline on Littleton Warth and could be safely watched from the Severn Way around a kilometre north of the parking area at Whale Wharf Lane. It was loosely mixing with Eurasian Wigeon and remained faithful to the area until dusk.

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## GREEN-WINGED TEAL (6)

*Anas carolinensis*



Green-winged Teal - *Anas carolinensis* | © Vic Savery

Green-winged Teal, a transatlantic vagrant, has been seen in S. Gloucestershire on just six or seven occasions since it was first recorded on January 14th 2001 at Oldbury Power Station. It was present for nineteen days and was last noted on January 22nd.

There have been five or six sightings since the first in 2001, unsurprisingly, all males.

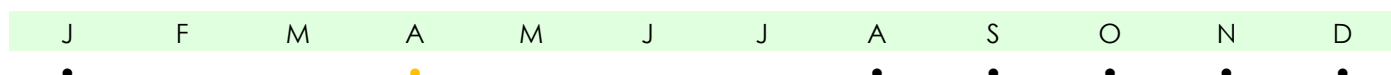
- 2010 A male on January 27th on Lagoon I, Oldbury Power Station.
- 2013 A male from December 27th - 29th in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area.
- 2014 A male from Aust Warth on March 31st and a male from New Passage on November 22nd - 23rd.
- 2015 A drake in the Northwick/ Aust Warth area from January 1st until at least February 21st and a drake from Severn Beach on April 5th that could conceivably have been the January/ February bird?

A winter visitor between November and April the earliest date is November 22nd 2014 at New Passage, the latest, April 5th 2015 from Severn Beach.

## RED-CRESTED POCHARD

*Netta rufina*

FIRST	April 4th 1971 at Littleton Brick Pits, Littleton-upon-Severn
EARLIEST	August 30th 1998 at New Passage
LATEST	April 4th 1971 on Littleton Brick Pits
HIGHEST COUNT	Two on September 10th 1996 at Severn Beach



Red-crested Pochard - *Netta rufina* | © Pete Hazelwood

There have been around seven records of Red-crested Pochard in S. Gloucestershire since the first, a female, reported from Littleton Brick Pits, Littleton-upon-Severn on April 4th 1971.

In 1996 two, a male and female, were seen off Severn Beach on September 10th, then a juvenile/ female at New Passage on August 30th 1998, followed by a male at Oldbury Power Station on February 20th 2008.

In 2012 an eclipse male was found on The Lake at Oldbury Power Station on September 21st and was seen on and off until October 3rd. The same or another male was present again at Oldbury Power Station on November 4th returning late in December where it lingered until the year end.

Our most recent sighting was in 2013 with a male on Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station on January 1st.



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## RING-NECKED DUCK (4)

*Aythya collaris*



Ring-necked Duck - *Aythya collaris* | © Ian Leach

This mega rare (for S. Gloucestershire that is) American vagrant has graced us with its presence on just three occasions.

The first, two adult males, were watched on the R. Severn from New Passage on April 2nd 1988. They were followed some twelve years later by an adult male at Oldbury Power Station on April 13th 2000 that remained until May 4th and in November of that year a male visited Orchard Pools, Severn Beach on the 2nd.

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## SCAUP (c.40)

*Aythya marila*



Greater Scaup - *Aythya marila* | © Paul Bowerman

Although (Greater) Scaup has been seen in every month except June only forty-one (41) individuals have been logged.

The first, of undetermined age and sex, was seen from Severn Beach on April 25th 1938. Remarkably they were not recorded/ reported in the area for thirty-four years until a male was reported from Littleton Brick Pits, Littleton-upon-Severn on April 2nd 1972!

Subsequently singles were seen on September 7th 1985 off Northwick Warth, a female on October 19th 1989 off New Passage, a female off Aust Warth on October 11th 1991, a male on February 12th 1992 off Aust Warth, a female off Severn Beach on August 18th 1993, a drake was off New Passage on December 2nd 2010 and a winter female from Northwick Warth and New Passage on October 10th 2018.

Two; a male and female, were counted off Severn Beach on April 19th 1987, a male and female off Severn Beach on August 28th 1999 and a male and female on October 29th 2001 off Northwick Warth.

Three; all females from Northwick Warth and Severn Beach from October 26th until December 8th 1980 with two females and a male from Severn Beach in August, October and December 1994.

Four; 1997 started with a male on January 3rd off New Passage plus three males on February 4th off Severn Beach. In 2006 four 1st winters were seen off Severn Beach on September 3rd.

Six; noted on March 1st 1986 from Severn Beach. In 1988 four males on July 8th at New Passage and at Severn Beach a female on October 29th was joined by another female on October 31st.

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## KING EIDER (1)

*Somateria spectabilis*

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From The Reports and transactions of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society 1900 – 1981 comes a remarkable report of a King Eider 'obtained' sometime in November 1912 at Court Rocks, Shepperdine by a Mr L Purcell. Other than a reference to ... 'This handsome duck'... no mention is made of the age, sex or the fate of the unfortunate individual.

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## VELVET SCOTER (6)

*Melanitta fusca*

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This Schedule 1 species does not breed in the UK, is a winter visitor to the east coast generally, especially Scotland, Norfolk and north-east England with c.2,500 birds overwintering. Not surprising then is the paucity of records from our area with birds reported in just four years since the first 1892.

Strictly coastal in S. Gloucestershire the earliest date for this species is November 7th 1983 at Severn Beach, the latest date is April 26th 1984 from New Passage and the highest count, two on January 25th 1987 from Severn Beach.

All records were reported between November and April (so a winter vagrant, probably storm driven) with the first, an adult male, that was 'obtained' off New Passage on March 5th 1892. They would not be encountered in the recording area for another ninety-one (91) years (1983) and have not been reported here for at least twenty-two (22) years (1996).

Subsequent sightings:

1983     A male flew up river past Severn Beach on November 7th.

1984     A female was seen in flight heading north-east off New Passage on April 26th.

1987     A male and female were found on January 25th off Severn Beach where they lingered throughout February and were present until at least March 20th.

1996     One was watched on November 16th off Severn Beach.

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## LONG-TAILED DUCK (20)

*Clangula hyemalis*

With an average of around 1.5 birds per annum in the thirteen years in which Long-tailed Duck have been recorded in S. Gloucestershire it's not surprising that this super sea duck is high on regional birders wish list.

With just twenty records it is clearly one of our rarest winter visitors. Seen between October and May November is marginally the better month with six birds closely followed by October with five. The earliest date is October 31st 1976 from New Passage, the latest date is May 14th 1998 at Oldbury Power Station and the highest count is four on November 2nd 1991 at New Passage.

All sightings:

1976 A probable immature male off New Passage on October 31st. | 1980 A male on April 20th off Aust Warth. | 1981 One from Northwick Warth on November 1st. | 1982 An immature male at Oldbury Power Station from October 16th until November 7th and a female off Severn Beach on December 17th. | 1983 One from Northwick Warth on October 26th. | 1987 A female on January 11th off Severn Beach. | 1991 A record year with four female/ immature birds on November 2nd off New Passage. | 1992 Two in flight at New Passage on April 18th. | 1998 A summer male over Lagoon III, Oldbury Power Station on May 14th, a female on October 11th off Northwick Warth and a female on December 30th at Oldbury Power Station. | 1999 A female first seen in 1998 at Oldbury Power Station lingered until May 9th. | 2000 A female at Oldbury Power Station on November 3rd that stayed until December 3rd. | 2001 A male at Oldbury Power Station sometime in early January. | 2003 A male at Severn Beach on May 5th.

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## SMEW (c.10)

*Mergellus albellus*



Smew - *Mergellus albellus* | © Allan Chard

1855 saw the very first records of Smew in S. Gloucestershire. Two birds were logged that year (both 'obtained') the first a male at Dyrham Park on February 12th the second, a male at or near Oldbury-on-Severn sometime c.1855 though no date is available.

A winter visitor between November and May the earliest recorded was on November 28th 2010 from New Passage, the latest May 1st 2016 on Tortworth Court Lake and the highest count a spectacular five males on February 13th 1991 from New Passage.



Not for 148 years would Smew be encountered again in S. Gloucestershire when in 2003 a female was spotted off New Passage on January 11th and a male was reported at the same site on February 8th.

Three years later on January 29th 2006 a female was watched off Aust Warth floating down river later to be seen off New Passage, and in 2010 a 'redhead' was present off New Passage on November 28th.

2016 brought about a quite bizarre set of sightings and from a tiny fishing lake on Chipping Sodbury Common! A 'redhead' was found on the fishing lake mid-morning on March 12th where it remained throughout the day. It went unreported or missing until March 27th when it was noted again and remained faithful to the site until at least April 8th. The same or another 'redhead' was later reported from Tortworth Lake on May 1st.

On January 2nd 2017 possibly the same 'redhead' was once again present on Chipping Sodbury Common Fishing Pools. Missing or unreported it was next seen on March 2nd but not again until April when it was reported from the 11th - 14th and 22nd - 23rd.

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## GOOSANDER (c.200)

*Mergus merganser*

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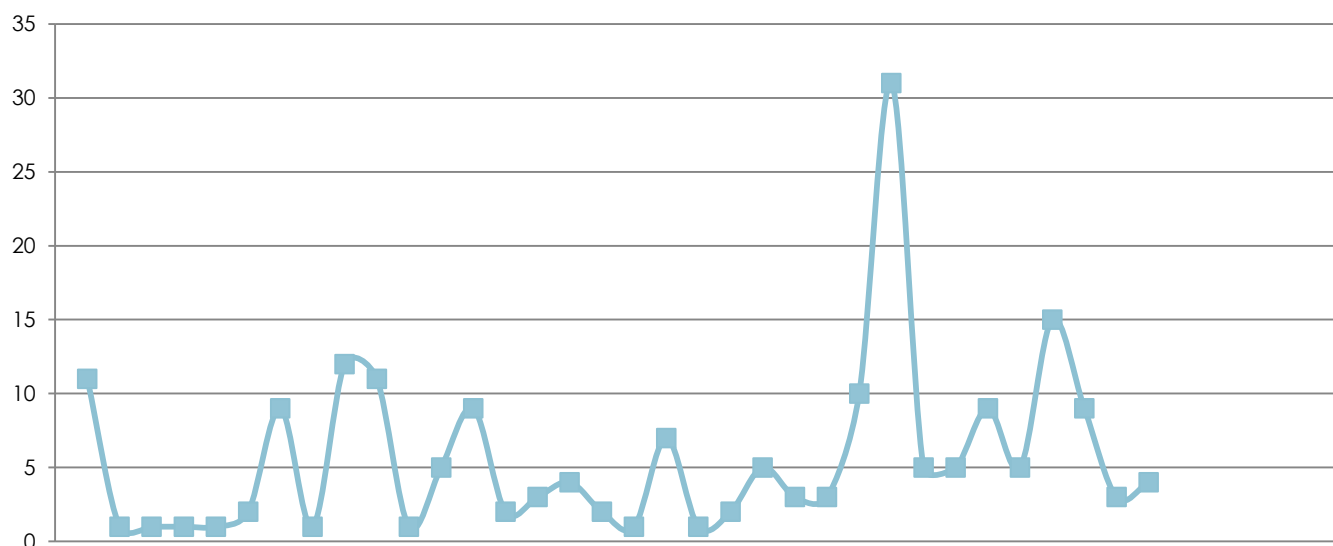


Goosander - *Mergus merganser* | © TBOSG

Goosander is a spring and autumn passage migrant and winter visitor in the region in generally small numbers between August and May. The earliest recorded was on August 4th 2017 from New Passage, the latest on May 11th 2016 at Oldbury Power Station and the highest count and impressive nineteen (19) birds on December 2nd 2010 also at Oldbury Power Station.

The first record was of an individual 'obtained' sometime in January 1891 at Bitton presumably on either the R. Boyd or R. Avon there. Not documented for seventy-seven years it was next spotted in 1978 when a male was identified off Severn Beach on December 24th.

With the exception of a handful of years (presumably present but not reported) Goosander have occurred every year since 1980 in varying but small numbers.



Annual Goosander counts from 1980 - 2018; peaking at 31 in 2010.

## RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (c.80)

*Mergus serrator*

As with Goosander, Red-breasted Merganser is a spring and autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. It is however, much less frequent than the former. Generally seen between October and May the earliest date is October 1st 2004 from New Passage, the latest May 10th 2006 from Severn Beach and the highest count nine on April 14th 1998 also from Severn Beach.

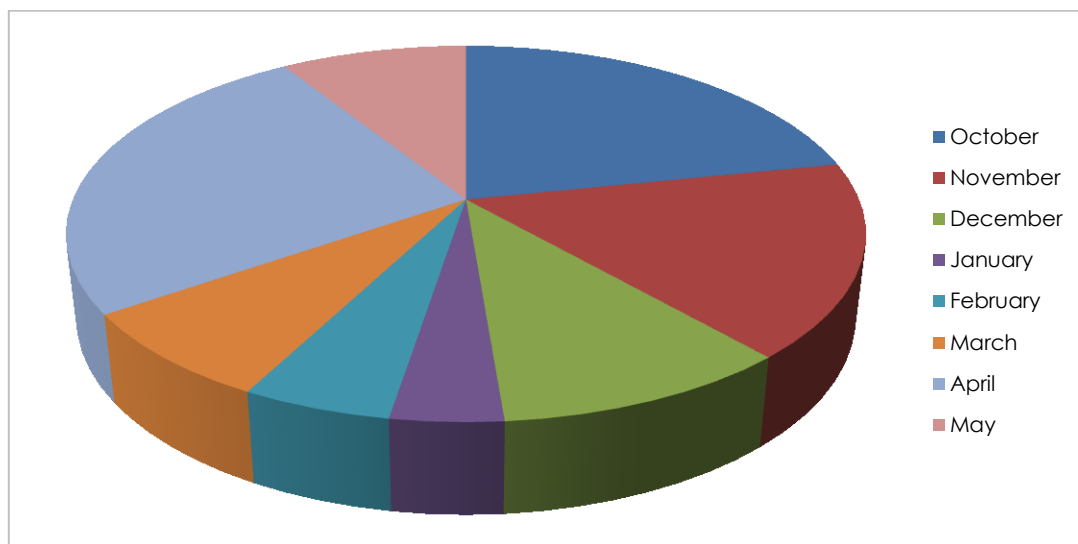


Red-breasted Merganser - *Mergus serrator* | © TBOSG

Red-breasted Merganser is a relatively recent addition to the S. Gloucestershire Systematic List; the first in 1982 with two 'redheads' seen in flight up river off Severn Beach on December 3rd.

With eight 'blank' years in the last thirty-six (1982 - 2018) and with c.80 individuals reported the average count per annum is around two.

The best year for this species in the region was 1998 when at least ten different birds were logged and the best months to catch up with them are April, October and November.



Red-breasted Merganser in S. Gloucestershire on a month by month basis between October and May.

## RUDDY DUCK (36)

*Oxyura jamaicensis*

Sadly Ruddy Duck have been extirpated from S. Gloucestershire and were last seen in the wild in 2004! First reported in 1979 the existence of this 'comic' introduced American 'stiff-tail' lasted just 25 years.

They have been recorded in every month except July and reached a peak when seven (four males, three females) were counted on January 3rd 1997 from Aust Warth.

### All sightings:

- 1979 Two from Aust Warth on January 6th.
- 1981 Two males on the R. Severn off New Passage on November 6th.
- 1982 A single bird off Severn Beach on December 3rd.
- 1984 Two on February 19th at Oldbury Power Station and one at the same site on March 3rd.
- 1985 A single bird from Northwick Warth on January 12th.
- 1986 One sometime in February off New Passage.
- 1988 A female on September 20th from Aust Warth.
- 1991 Two females on February 10th at Oldbury Power Station and five on February 10th at New Passage.
- 1992 A 1st winter male on January 11th from Northwick Warth.
- 1995 A male on December 31st from Northwick Warth.
- 1996 The male from December 1995 was still present on January 1st.
- 1997 Seven, including four males, on January 3rd from Aust Warth; also on January 3rd a female at Severn Beach plus a male and female on the 6th.
- 1998 A male and female on May 4th on 'Sevenside' and a male on August 29th also on 'Sevenside'.
- 1999 A male on April 23rd on 'Sevenside'.
- 2000 One on February 6th at Tortworth Court Lake.
- 2002 A female, on June 14th on Orchard Pools, Severn Beach.
- 2004 One at New Passage on October 28th.





Quail - *Coturnix coturnix* | © Lee Gardiner

Common Quail is a terrestrial ground feeding species that is notoriously difficult to see so the photo above is quite unique in S. Gloucestershire. Taken at Marshfield the stronghold of this species in the region it captures the essence of Quail in summer.

They breed across most of Europe and can reproduce from as young as 6-8 weeks. It is highly likely that some of the birds that arrive here in early summer are birds that have been born earlier in the same year and as a strongly migratory species continue northwards to traditional UK breeding grounds.

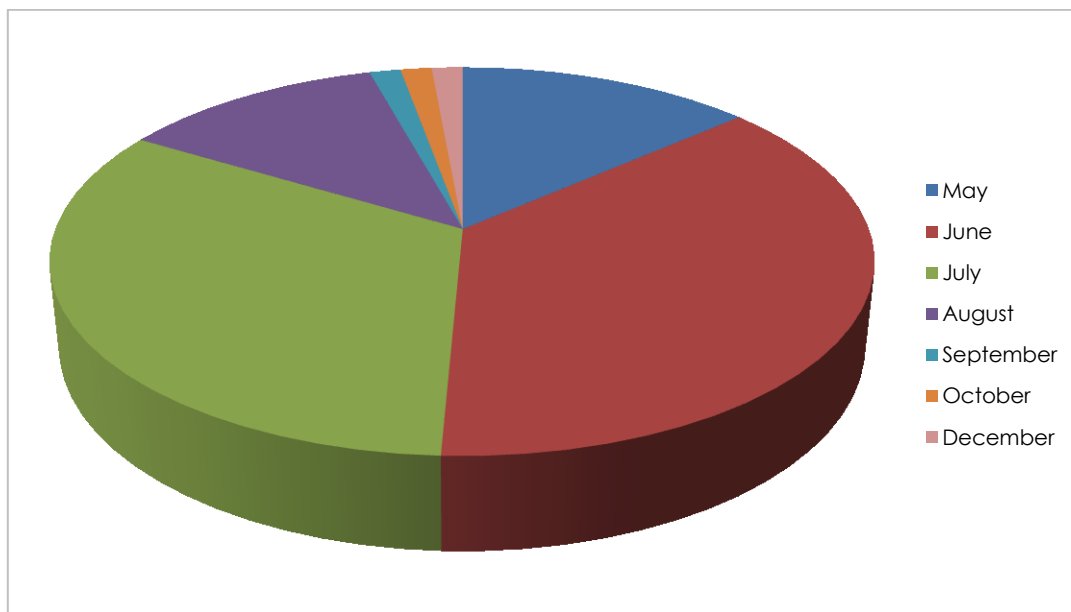
This summer migrant is present in S. Gloucestershire between May and October but there is an extralimital record from December 1942 and another from December 2008 ...

... On December 28th 1942 an extraordinary occurrence is that of a bevy of seven, reported as seen by two observers, at Elberton. The birds, described as being like small sandy-brown Partridges with similar flight, were disturbed at close quarters from the outskirts of a recently planted cornfield, and on alighting some seventy yards out were at once, despite the lack of cover, quite impossible to see. 'When approached later from two directions simultaneously, they again got up and, flying low, disappeared over an adjoining hedgerow. The failure of these birds to migrate may perhaps be attributed to the abnormally mild weather from September onwards... and two were flushed from the Down Road area at Marshfield on December 11th 2008.

Quail have undoubtedly been visiting the Marshfield area for time immemorial however the first documented reference available alludes to June 1942 when on June 14th the characteristic 'whit-whi-whit' call (emphasis on first and last syllables) was heard, apparently from two birds, in fields between Patchway Common and Savage's Wood. One calling in the same place on the 15th June was stalked and finally flushed from long mowing grass. There was no subsequent evidence to show that a pair remained to breed.



Their mercurial nature makes them unpredictable in S. Gloucestershire so it is possible to have a 'Quail-year' with few or no reports the following.



The peak months for Quail occurrences in S. Gloucestershire and as expected June and July take the lions share. The earliest returning birds were noted on May 8th 1996 at West Littleton, the latest logged was December 28th 1942 at Elberton and the highest count was probably c.40 calling birds in July 2011 from the Marshfield area though sixty-five bird days were logged from the Marshfield area in 2008.

## DIVERS

### RED-THROATED DIVER (c.20)

*Gavia stellata*

Divers of any persuasion are far from regular in the Severn Estuary but of the four different species that have occurred Red-throated Diver is by far the most common.

A spring/ autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, Red-throated Divers occur in our area from November to May. The earliest was seen on November 18th 2015 from Severn Beach, the latest on May 8th 2000 also from Severn Beach and the highest count a massive (relatively speaking) five on May 6th 1991 from New Passage.



Red-throated Diver - *Gavia stellata* | © Paul Bowerman

#### All sightings:

1960	One was seen on January 6th on the Severn Estuary near Shepperdine.
1961	On March 15th an individual was found in a field near Chipping Sodbury, it was taken into care and released at Pill the following day.
1991	One on January 5th at New Passage and one on January 10th also at New Passage could possibly have been the same individual. A record five were watched from New Passage on May 6th.
1993	One off New Passage on January 15th and a summer adult on May 6th at Severn Beach.
2000	An immature at Severn Beach on May 8th.
2007	One north past Severn Beach on December 14th.
2011	One fast and low down river from Aust Warth on February 19th.
2012	One up river off Severn Beach on April 30th.
2013	Two in flight south past Severn Beach on January 31st.
2015	One north-east upriver at Severn Beach on November 18th.
2018	One lingered on the R. Severn off New Passage on April 18th.

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### BLACK-THROATED DIVER (4)

*Gavia arctica*

Just four Black-throated Divers have been seen in S. Gloucestershire since the first record in May 1991.

#### All sightings:

1991	Two adults in breeding plumage were seen on May 6th from New Passage.
2000	An adult in winter plumage was seen from Severn Beach on December 1st.
2015	One from Severn Beach on November 27th drifting south-west down river towards 'The Pipes'.

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### PACIFIC DIVER (1)

*Gavia pacifica*

Pacific Divers breed primarily in northern Canada and eastern Siberia and generally winter along the Pacific coast of North America. They are an extremely rare vagrant to the UK but are becoming more frequent now that observer awareness of plumage characteristics has vastly improved.

The only record of Pacific Diver in S. Gloucestershire was of a winter adult seen for just fifteen minutes off Severn Beach seawall on November 27th 2009 by five extremely fortunate observers.

It was watched between 10:45 and 11:00 in 'Burger Bar Bay' before flying strongly south-west where it was lost to view past Denny Island.

This first documented reference to this species in S. Gloucestershire was just the 4th British record and was officially accepted by the BBRC as the first record for S. Gloucestershire on April 26th 2010.

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### GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (c.15)

*Gavia immer*

Great Northern Diver is the second most 'common' of the divers to occur in our coastal waters. Even so only around fifteen birds have thus far been seen. Appearing generally in autumn and winter, from October to December, they have also been seen on spring passage particularly in May.



Great Northern Diver - *Gavia immer* | © Paul Bowerman

The first record was of an individual identified on December 14th 1983 on the R. Severn off Aust Warth, the earliest was seen on October 21st 2017 from Severn Beach, the latest on May 8th 2000 from Severn Beach and the highest count, two, on December 13th 2000 also from Severn Beach

#### Subsequent sightings:

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1989 | One was seen on November 4th on the R. Severn off New Passage with a further bird on December 17th also off New Passage.                            |
| 2000 | Three this year; An immature on May 8th off Severn Beach and two on December 13th off Severn Beach one of which was seen off Oldbury Power Station. |
| 2006 | One on December 6th off Severn Beach and one on December 25th at New Passage.   |
| 2008 | One upriver past Severn Beach on November 15th.   |
| 2010 | One south-west past Severn Beach on November 12th.  |
| 2013 | One off Severn Beach on November 2nd.   |
| 2015 | One south-west past Severn Beach on November 30th and one high west over Aust Warth on December 6th.  |
| 2017 | An adult in summer plumage distantly from Severn Beach on October 21st.   |

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#### DIVER SPP (c.10)

*Gavia spp*

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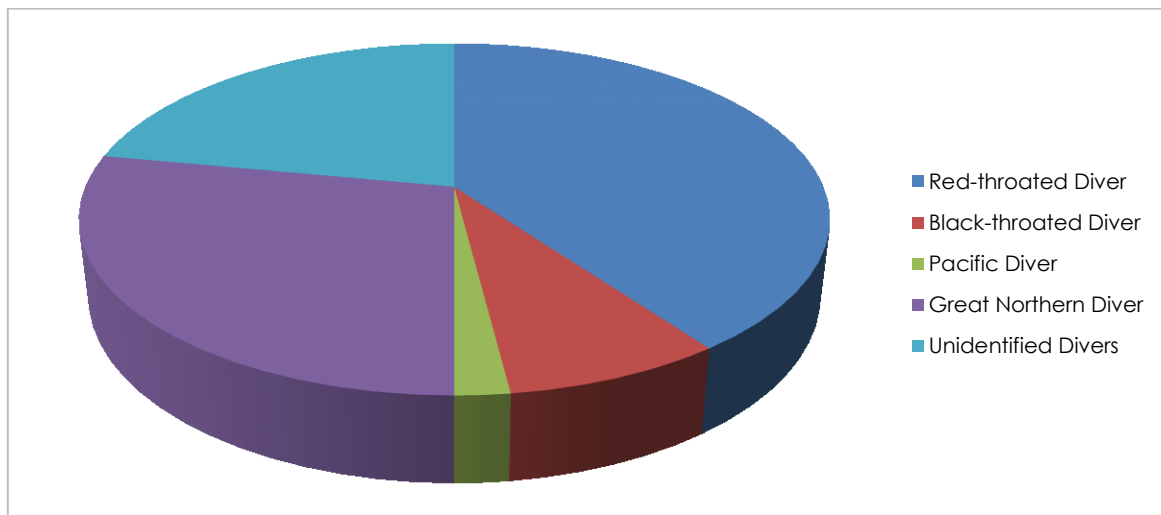
There have also been around ten divers that were not seen sufficiently well to ascribe to species.

Two on February 20th 1990 off New Passage, one on November 7th 1996 off Severn Beach, one on May 4th 1997 off Severn Beach, one on November 5th 1999 off Severn Beach and one on October 30th 2000 off Aust Warth.

In 2003 three were logged; One on May 1st off Severn Beach, one on May 18th off Severn Beach and one on November 14th also off Severn Beach.

A probable Red-throated Diver flew south-west past Severn Beach on May 11th 2006 and another probable Red-throated Diver on December 9th 2007 at Severn Beach.





This diagram clearly indicates that Red-throated Diver is the most likely diver to occur in coastal waters closely followed by Great Northern Diver. However it might be prudent to scrutinise any Black-throated Divers that occur for the Pacific Diver potential.

## PETRELS & SHEARWATERS

STORM PETREL (c.225)

*Hydrobates pelagicus*



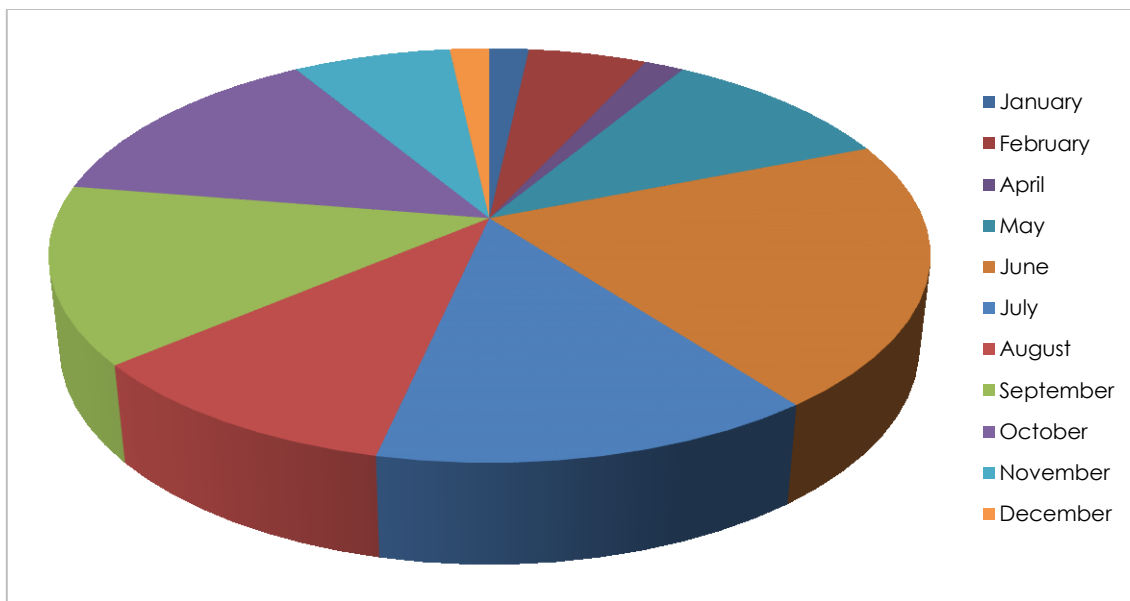
Storm Petrel - *Hydrobates pelagicus* | © Dan White

Storm Petrel is the earliest documented reference to any rare or scarce bird ever to occur in S. Gloucestershire.

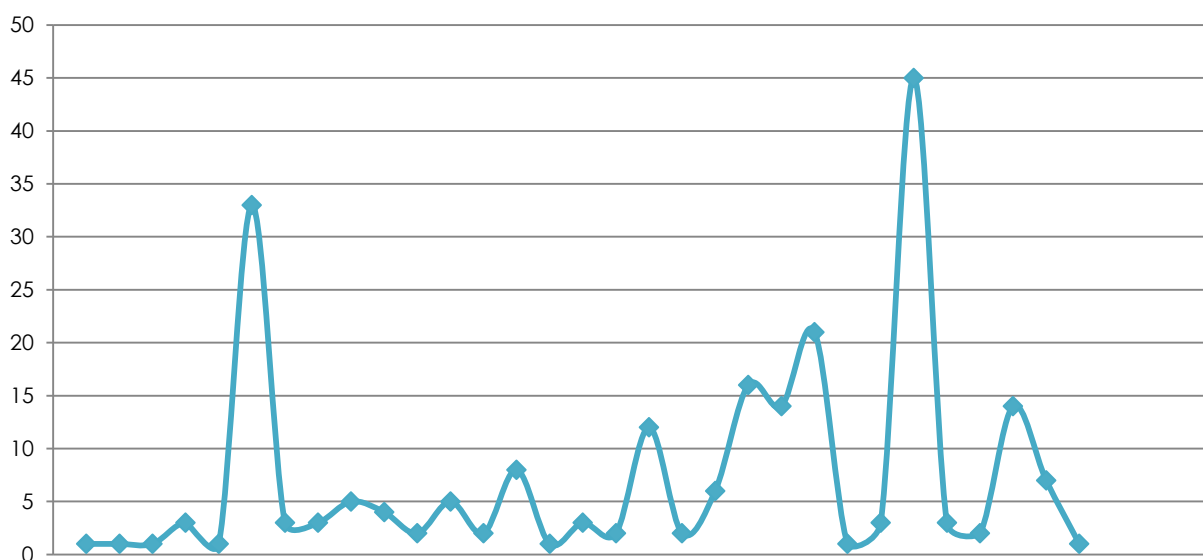
This first record comes from nearly two centuries ago in 1824 and involves an individual seen on October 31st of that year near Alveston. It was noted at this inland site following the violent gale of All Hallows Eve.

First seen in 1824 they were not encountered for nearly seventy years, next noted in 1903. The next observations were some thirty-five years later in 1938 then another gap of forty years to 1978 before they were reported again. With few exceptions they have been seen almost every year since and in every month except May.

Difficult to calculate with any degree of accuracy, with birds moving quickly or storm driven, the highest count came from Severn Beach on June 9th 2012 when c.30 birds were likely to have been involved.



The month by month occurrences of Storm Petrel in S. Gloucestershire indicating that June (21%) is the best month to see these birds followed by July (14%), September (14%) and October (14%).



Annual Storm Petrel counts from 1824 - 2018 peaking in 1883 at c.35 and 2012 c.45.

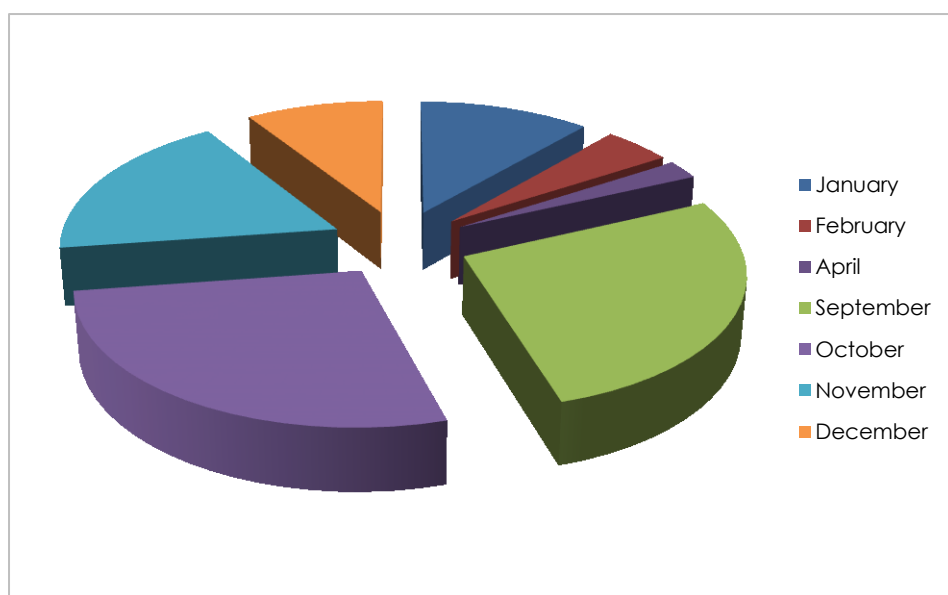
## LEACH'S PETREL (c.600)

*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

In contrast with Storm Petrel, Leach's Petrel is less frequent but more abundant. Since the first record in 1938 some 600 birds have been recorded peaking in October 1952 with a 'wreck' of c.250 seen from Aust Warth.



Leach's Petrel - *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* | © Dan White



This diagram indicates that September and October are by far the best months to see Leach's Petrel in S. Gloucestershire with an equal 27% opportunity.

With the potential for anticyclonic weather conditions in the autumn it would suggest that the occurrence of Leach's Petrel and, to a lesser degree, Storm Petrel is storm driven.

November, December and January also offer a good chance to see these spectacular birds at close range.

The earliest date for Leach's Petrel in S. Gloucestershire is September 1st 1985 from New Passage, the latest April 22nd 1999 from Severn Beach and the highest count c.250 on October 26th 1952 from Aust Warth. They occur between September and April but have only been reported in thirty of the last eighty years between 1938 and 2018; thus giving an average of c.20 in the thirty years that birds have occurred and 7.5 per annum for the last eighty years.

The best place to see both Storm and Leach's Petrel in our area is from the sea defence/ Severn Way at Severn Beach (ST: 538 850) where birds are 'pushed' into Shaft Bay before making their way back down river. It's here where they can be seen at close range sometimes within 'touching' distance of the observer.

Storms can sometimes throw up anomalies regarding 'petrels' in S. Gloucestershire and birds have been 'rescued' from some unlikely locations i.e.: Alveston, Doynton, Emerson's Green and Stoke Gifford.



Though not on the S. Gloucestershire Systematic List, this bird is nevertheless and undoubtedly, worth inclusion here. Its occurrence in the Severn Estuary is of significant national and international importance putting S. Gloucestershire and Severnside firmly on the map.

At the time, November 2009, this southern oceans speciality had been known to frequent the northern hemisphere on just one or two occasions; 580 kilometres south-west of the Canary Islands in 1986, the eastern seaboard of North America and a subsequent report of a 'fregetta' petrel off the Norfolk coast at Sheringham in December 2007.



Black/ White-bellied Storm Petrel - *Fregetta tropica/ grallaria* | © John Martin.

The following narrative, first published in The Birds Of S. Gloucestershire Annual Review 2009 and Birding World Volume 22 2009, is reproduce here in full. Not determined to species level this petrel remains pending.

On 25th November 2009, I decided to sea watch at my local patch, Severn Beach, S. Gloucestershire before work. A south-westerly gale had been blowing during the night and I had seen a few Leach's Petrel there the two previous mornings. Disappointingly, when I arrived at 07:50 the wind had dropped to a stiff breeze and the sun was shining. I was soon joined by Allan Gaunt and Angus Dickie from Wolverhampton, and then by Richard and Rod Greer from Birmingham, all hoping to see Leach's Petrel.

At about 08:25 both Rod and Angus independently spotted a mystery bird flying away from us, heading up-channel towards the Severn Bridge but, after a short search, Allan located it heading back down channel. He immediately shouted 'Oh my goodness, what on earth have we got here?' - or words to that effect! As I locked onto the bird, I realised that it was a stunning-looking storm-petrel with a white belly, and I began shouting rather incoherently, to ensure that everyone was watching it! The bird was flying low over the water at about 600 yards range, and we were all using telescopes on tripods. As we watched it, we called out the bird's features to one another.

Initial thoughts of it perhaps being a partial albino Leach's or Storm Petrel were soon dismissed, as this was like no storm-petrel I had ever seen. It had a remarkable flight jizz, gliding and tilting, with low, banking mini-

shears just above the waves for hundreds of yards without a wing beat. It was also a distinctive shape, with rather broad wings, with a curved leading edge, straight trailing edge and pointed tip. Its striking white belly joined with an obvious white rump patch and with a large white patch on the black-bordered under wing. The upper wing was rather uniform dark brown, with no obvious pale carpal bar. The feet projected beyond the tip of the square-ended tail. Allan, who had seen 'fregetta' storm-petrels previously in the South Atlantic, mooted the possibility of it being a Black-bellied or White-bellied Storm Petrel, difficult as this was to believe. After a few minutes, the bird began to head obliquely away, across the wind, and we eventually lost it on the far side of the channel, over a mile-and-a-half away, at about 08:35. We made some frantic mobile telephone calls about this 'mad petrel with amazing flight' (as I apparently described it) and, discussing the bird with Mashuq Ahmed, Chris Batty and Brian Small, we realised that it had to be a 'fregetta' species - either a Black-bellied Storm Petrel or a White-bellied Storm Petrel - and the news was quickly broadcast to this effect.

The bird seemed quite likely to reappear, as this almost land-locked site often holds seabirds in such conditions. Sure enough, the bird showed again from our viewpoint for a few minutes about an hour later, albeit much more distantly than our initial sighting and about fifteen other local birders were able to see it. Sadly, despite the wind strengthening, the bird did not show again for the gathering crowd.

I would like to thank the other observers for commenting on an earlier draft of this note. Now that we are all compiling our detailed notes and submissions, it is clear that the bird was indeed either a Black-bellied Storm Petrel or a White-bellied Storm Petrel, but separation of these two species can be very tricky and we wonder whether we are ever going to be able resolve the identification to species level with absolute certainty. Either way, we all expect this to be our 'bird of a lifetime' and that is probably enough – as my friend Mike Prince remarked 'you never forget a 'fregetta'.

John Martin, S. Gloucestershire - November 2009.

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## CORY'S SHEARWATER (2)

*Calonectris borealis*

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Following one another in quick succession the only two records of Cory's Shearwater to occur here were in 2000 and 2004.

The first was found on November 26th 2000 where it was seen from Severn Beach at 09:05. Though it quickly departed it was tracked along the coast and was seen a further four times as it made its way south. The birds' average speed was approximately 16 Kph clearly aiding those birders who were fortunate enough to connect.

The second, just four years later, was seen on January 13th 2004 again from off Severn Beach at around 10:00. It was watched for nearly an hour by just five lucky observers and spent most of its time being harassed by large gulls. It was last seen settled on the water just after 11:00.

Cory's Shearwater breeds on Madeira, Azores, Berlengas Archipelago, and Canary Islands. Birds migrate into the Atlantic reaching as far north as south-west Britain in late summer and autumn returning south in February coinciding nicely with our regions two records.

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## SOOTY SHEARWATER (1)

*Ardeanna grisea*

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Sooty Shearwater is a spectacular long distance migrant following a circular north/ south route. Traveling north up the western Atlantic in March to May they reach subarctic waters in June and July; crossing to the east they return south down the eastern Atlantic in September and October returning to their breeding grounds in November.

So it was on that returning journey that one strayed into S. Gloucestershire coastal waters. It was seen on September 7th 1974 from Aust during a storm and was watched for around three hours. It may also have been seen subsequently off New Passage.

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## BALEARIC SHEARWATER (1)

*Puffinus mauretanicus*

Balearic Shearwater was formerly considered a subspecies of Manx Shearwater but was split in 1991 forming the complex 'Mediterranean Shearwater' which included both Balearic and Yelkouan Shearwaters. In 2000 the two forms were split from each other and added to the British List.

In 1988 when the only record of Balearic Shearwater occurred here it would have been considered a 'form' of Manx Shearwater. Subsequent 'species reclassification' allowed the then 'form' to be added to the S. Gloucestershire Systematic List as a full species.

Balearic Shearwater breeds on the islands and coastal cliffs of the Balearic Islands and most winter in the Mediterranean though some move into the north Atlantic in late summer.

The first and only record was found in 1988 when one was seen at around 09:00 on September 24th on the R. Severn from New Passage.

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## GREBES

### SLAVONIAN GREBE (6)

*Podiceps auritus*



Slavonian Grebe - *Podiceps auritus* | © TBOSG

Slavonian Grebe is marginally the more common of the rare grebes to be found in S. Gloucestershire, even so there have only ever been six,

The first was a winter plumaged adult that was identified on the estuary from New Passage on April 27th 1989. That was followed by another winter adult from Severn Beach on August 10th 1996. Just two years later another was reported from Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station on December 4th 1998. Two years after that an adult in summer plumage was watched from Severn Beach on April 7th 2000. A ten year gap ensued to the next with a presumed winter adult very distantly from Severn Beach on January 25th. 2010. A further eight years would elapse to our most recent sighting with one present and showing well occasionally on Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth from late afternoon on January 10th until dusk on January 12th 2016.





Black-necked Grebe - *Podiceps nigricollis* | © Mark Coller

The rarest of the grebes to occur here, S. Gloucestershire has had just four sightings.

#### All sightings:

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1996 | A single bird was seen drifting upriver off New Passage towards Aust Warth on October 24th.  |
| 1997 | A moulting adult was seen on Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station on August 31st.   |
| 1999 | One was reported from Oldbury Power Station on April 4th.  |
| 2015 | A winter adult was found on 1st Sentry Box Pool, Pilning Wetland, New Passage just after 10:00 on October 17th where it remained until dusk. |

## HERONS

### WHITE STORK (c.10)

*Ciconia ciconia*

FIRST	May 23rd 1971 from the Hallen/ Compton Greenfield area
EARLIEST	April 8th 2016 over Elberton
LATEST	November 4th 2007 over Pucklechurch
HIGHEST COUNT	Four on June 9th 2012 over Patchway

White Stork is a spring and autumn passage migrant in S. Gloucestershire with birds recorded in April, May, June, September and November involving around ten birds on just seven occasions in a forty-seven year period between 1971 and 2018.



White Stork - *Ciconia ciconia* | © Dan White

#### All sightings:

- 1971      A presumed adult on May 23rd in the Hallen/ Compton Greenfield area.
- 2007      One putatively this species in the Pucklechurch area on November 4th.
- 2010      Two in flight south over Northwick Warth on September 12th.
- 2012      Four at Patchway over the M4/ M5 motorway interchange on June 9th.
- 2015      An adult high over New Passage on April 21st.
- 2016      One north over Elberton on April 8th.
- 2018      One low north-east over Pilning Wetland on April 22nd.

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#### GLOSSY IBIS (c.4)

*Plegadis falcinellus*

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Glossy Ibis - *Plegadis falcinellus* | © Dan White

Glossy Ibis has been reported on just four occasions from S. Gloucestershire since the first in 2009.

A juvenile/ 1st winter was found on October 14th 2009 initially seen in flight over Severn Beach at around 15:30 and was subsequently tracked and photographed as it flew north-east over New Passage, Northwick Warth and Aust Warth before being lost to view.

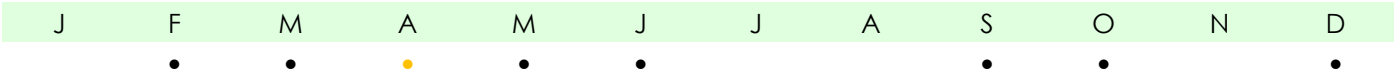
In 2015 what was putatively thought to be this species and what appeared to be a juvenile/ immature, was seen very briefly at Kingswood, Bristol at 09:45 on January 14th. It appeared low from the north-east (just above rooftop height) and was seen by two observers for just a few seconds before being lost to view over the houses heading south. Also this year a juvenile/ 1st winter was present on Pilning Wetland Reserve, New Passage from at least 13:00 on November 6th (Land workers on site suggest the bird was seen around 16:30 on November 5th) until November 20th.

In 2016 one putatively this species was seen at around 08:30 on April 7th in flight over Iron Acton Garden Centre. It appeared to fly parallel with Wotton Road towards Rangeworthy before being lost to view.

SPOONBILL (c.25)

*Platalea leucorodia*

FIRST	April 18th 1998 at Severn Beach
EARLIEST	February 15th 2004 on Northwick Warth
LATEST	December 2nd 2010 Oldbury-on-Severn
HIGHEST COUNT	Five on September 14th 2011 at New Passage



Spoonbill - *Platalea leucorodia* |© Dan White



## All sightings:

- 1998 Two 1st summer birds were watched on April 18th roosting on the shingle Island before flying off upriver from Severn Beach also this year a 1st summer was found on May 2nd, it was seen to fly over Northwick Warth and then disappeared inland.
- 2004 An adult was seen briefly on February 15th at Northwick Warth.
- 2006 An adult was tracked down the coast on April 23rd. It was seen briefly at Oldbury Power Station then flew down river at 16:25. It was subsequently seen at Littleton Warth, Northwick Warth and finally over Severn Beach late in the afternoon.
- 2008 A presumed adult was seen at Oldbury Power Station at around 10:30 on September 6th and was watched flying across and up river. It circled and landed on Lagoon III where it was present for just five minutes before heading downriver. It was relocated flying southwest over Aust and then above the shoreline at Northwick Warth at around 11:00.
- 2009 Two juveniles were seen briefly in the evening at 19:15 on the shore at Shepperdine on April 12th.
- 2010 A 1st winter was seen in flight over Thornbury Sailing Club, Oldbury-on-Severn on December 2nd.
- 2011 A flock of five, four juveniles and an adult, alighted briefly at New Passage on September 14th at 17:10 before departing south-east five minutes later. Two juveniles were seen at New Passage and Severn Beach on October 2nd with one still present on October 3rd and 5th. One was seen at New Passage on October 14th - 16th. One was reported over Thornbury Yacht Club at Oldbury-on-Severn on October 28th at 11:35 heading south.
- 2012 One was seen in flight past Severn View Services and Aust Cliff mid-afternoon on May 14th.
- 2014 One was watched at 18:15 as it flew west over New Passage and across the river on the evening of March 27th.
- 2015 One was seen briefly on Grebe Pond before flying south over Pilning Wetland Reserve, New Passage around 08:35 on May 15th. A juvenile/ 1st winter was present on Pilning Wetland Reserve from 10:20 on October 27th until at least mid-morning on October 31st.
- 2017 APRIL: A juvenile was seen on Northwick Warth Flash around 15:00 on the 21st before being flushed. MAY: An adult was present on Pilning Wetland on the 13th - 14th; a sub-adult was seen briefly at Oldbury Power Station and Littleton Warth on the 23rd before settling on Pilning Wetland from the 23rd until at least the 29th. JUNE: One, possibly a 'new' individual, from Pilning Wetland Reserve on the 3rd departed south at 11:15.

## BITTERN (6)

*Botaurus stellaris*

Bittern is a strictly winter vagrant to S. Gloucestershire with birds recorded in January February and December.



Bittern - *Botaurus stellaris* | © Paul Bowerman

The first reference comes from sometime in January 1891 when a winter adult was 'obtained' at or near Hambrook.

Some forty years later the next was reported near Hallen when a presumed winter adult was 'obtained' sometime in December 1931. None were reported for seventy-six years until 1997. On January 12th of that year a presumed winter adult was flushed several times from Lagoon II at Oldbury Power Station.

Another gap of fourteen years before the next was encountered in 2011 when three birds were reported. One was found at Orchard Pools, Severn Beach on January 23rd and present until January 25th, one was seen, again at Orchard Pools, Severn Beach, on February 10th and 12th and an unconfirmed report of one in flight from the reed bed at Old Passage on April 6th.

The most recent was in 2017 when one was seen briefly on January 21st around 08:45 at Orchard Pools, Severn Beach where it was seen to fly west along the pool.

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## LITTLE BITTERN (1)

*Ixobrychus minutus*

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Little Bittern is found in Europe, Asia and northern Africa, they winter in sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia so to come across one in the UK is fairly uncommon to say the least. To encounter one in S. Gloucestershire is remarkable.

Nevertheless one, a juvenile/ immature, was seen albeit briefly and in flight, as it navigated a stretch of the R Avon in the Willsbridge/ Keynsham area (the S. Gloucestershire boundary runs along the middle of the river) on September 28th 1959.

The nominate form *Ixobrychus minutus minutus* (Linnaeus, 1766) breeds in France within 25 kilometres of the south-east coastline of the UK and further west on the Brest Peninsula. They are recently thought to have bred or attempted breeding in southern Britain.

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## NIGHT HERON (2)

*Nycticorax nycticorax*

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The first of two (Black-crowned) Night Herons to occur in S. Gloucestershire was in 1971. A bizarre set of circumstances; an immature was found on November 19th 1971 inside a building at the ICI Chemical Works, Severnside. Picked up and taken into care, it was processed and ringed and subsequently released at Chew Valley Lake, N. Somerset on November 28th where it remained until December 19th.

It was considered at the time to have been the North American form *Nycticorax nycticorax hoactli* but no additional documentation was/ is available.

Night Heron is migratory in the northern part of its range; the North American population winters in Mexico, the southern United States, Central America, and the West Indies so given the 'reverse migration' theory and possible adverse weather conditions it is entirely possible that the Severnside bird could have originated from the New World.

The second, an adult was seen near the R. Avon in the Willsbridge/ Hanham area on May 2nd 1986. It was present until May 5th when it was eventually seen to fly off in the evening in near darkness.

## CATTLE EGRET (6)

*Bubulcus ibis*



FIRST  
EARLIEST  
LATEST  
HIGHEST COUNT

April 24th 1993 near Littleton  
January 1st 2017 Wick  
December 31st 2016 Wick  
Two: January 1st 2017 Wick

1993

On April 24th a summer adult was found near Littleton-upon-Severn Brick Pits. It was present for just four days and was last seen on April 27th. Additionally it represents the 73rd British record.

2012

On September 9th a juvenile was found on Northwick Warth at around 09:00 where it fed amongst stock until around 16:00.

2016

One was seen and photographed around 09:00 in fields at Toghill Farm, Wick (ST: 720 723) on December 17th. It remained faithful to a few fields just west of the farm until December 31st.

2017

One still present in fields at Toghill Farm, Wick on January 1st was joined by a second individual also on the 1st. Both birds were present until at least March 11th. Also one was seen on Pilning Wetland Reserve on March 25th and one was seen in flight south-west from New Passage on July 20th.

Cattle Egret - *Bubulcus ibis* | © TBOSG

## GREAT WHITE EGRET (c. 25)

*Ardea alba*



Great White Egret - *Ardea alba* | © Paul Bowerman



Great White Egret has been seen in S. Gloucestershire in every month except February, March and June since they were first recorded in November 2012.

Their northern range expansion in recent years has led to confirmed breeding in southern England where they are firmly established and can be seen at all times of the year.

Around twenty-five have now been seen in the recording area:

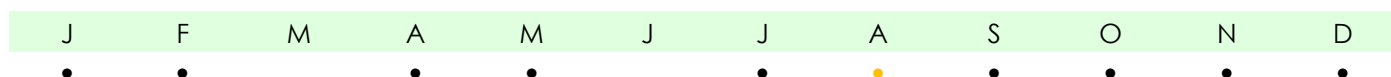
- 2012 (1)      NOVEMBER: A presumed adult was seen in flight over the M5 one kilometre south of J15 in the Almondsbury/ Patchway area on the 30th.
- 2013 (2)      SEPTEMBER: One was seen in flight between 13:00 -13:15 on the 26th over Yate heading south west where it was lost to view towards Westerleigh and one, the first Severnside record, was seen on the 28th at 09:55 over Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth then up river at 10:20.
- 2015 (5)      MAY: One was seen in flight over Ableton Lane and Orchard Pools, Severn Beach at 09:02 on the 8th heading north-east. OCTOBER: Two individuals were seen briefly in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area around 13:30 on the 4th, one was seen to fly in off the estuary towards Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station around 08:00 on the 27th. It proceeded to head downriver and was lost to view over Littleton Warth. DECEMBER: One was seen flying low south-east and inland from Aust Warth on the morning of the 28th.
- 2016 (7)      JANUARY: One was seen flying south-west inland of Lagoon II at Oldbury Power Station on the 16th. It was watched departing south over the Cotswold Escarpment. APRIL: One was seen in flight north-east over the M5 just north of J17 heading towards Patchway at 18:20 on the 21st. JULY: One very probably this species was seen flying east along the valley to the south of Lagoon II at Oldbury Power Station at 07:00 on July 30th. AUGUST: One was reported on the shore at Oldbury Power Station in the afternoon on the 17th and one was reported in flight heading east over Staple Hill, Bristol at 11:00 on the 22nd. SEPTEMBER: One was seen in the mouth of Chestle Pill, New Passage early morning on the 11th before moving out into the estuary. OCTOBER: One paid a flying visit to Pilning Wetland and Northwick Warth 'Flash' early morning on the 8th.
- 2017 (6)      JANUARY: Two were reported low over St Mary's Church car park, Littleton-upon-Severn at 16:30 on the 2nd and one was reported from the R. Frome behind Centenary field, Frampton Cotterell on the 5th. APRIL: One was seen in flight on the 11th just inland of Shepperdine/ Lagoon II at Oldbury Power Station heading south-west at 07:30 and one was seen in flight heading south over Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth at 12:50 on the 21st. SEPTEMBER: One was seen in flight heading south-west over Nibley towards Coalpit Heath around 07:10 on the 17th.
- 2018 (6)      APRIL: Two birds dropped onto Pilning Wetland Reserve around 07:40 on the 23rd and stayed for just ten minutes and one seen in poor conditions in flight over Lagoon III, OPS and past Littleton-upon-Severn early morning on the 28th was subsequently noted in flight north over Aust Warth. JULY: One seen on the 18th around 10:30, in flight over Pilning Wetland, viewed from second sentry box before heading high over Aust until it was lost from view. OCTOBER: One flew over Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station at 09:45 heading east, inland on the 19th and one was seen in flight up river from Littleton around 09:30 landing near Oldbury Pill, Oldbury-on-Severn on the 31st.

## CORMORANTS

SHAG (c.65)

*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

FIRST	August 1951 at Cromhall
EARLIEST	January 5th 1988 from New Passage
LATEST	December 19th 1977 from Severn Beach
HIGHEST COUNT	Twenty-three on August 22nd 2016 from Severn Beach



Not as common as one might imagine in our neck of the woods with just c.65 logged in the sixty-seven years since they were first documented in 1951.

An immature was picked up sometime in August 1951 near Cromhall and was later released at Slimbridge WWT.

One was found on a street in Kingswood, Bristol on January 26th 1958 which was subsequently released at Clevedon by an RSPCA official.

Nineteen years elapsed until the next two were logged; The first was of one reported from Severn Beach on July 2nd 1977 followed by one off Severn Beach on December 19th.

A single bird was reported from New Passage on April 9th 1981 and another single bird in flight off New Passage on October 16th 1983. A good count of six in 1988 started with a winter adult seen off New Passage on January 5th, three off New Passage on August 20th, one on September 3rd off New Passage and a juvenile on September 24th also off New Passage.

One on May 22nd 1996 off Severn Beach was followed by eight (8) in 1998: A sub-adult was photographed sitting on a garden wall in Downend sometime in April, then five flying north off Severn Beach on October 5th, one also off Severn Beach on October 27th and a juvenile taken into care near Almondsbury on October 29th.

The next batch of sightings in 2002, 2003 and 2007 all involved single birds; February 6th 2002 off Severn Beach, a juvenile also off Severn Beach August 22nd 2003 and a possible at Oldbury Power Station on January 20th 2007.

Four in 2008; An adult prior to 09:00 on the river off Severn Beach on May 17th, one off Severn Beach on August 19th, an exhausted juvenile at Oldbury Power Station on September 3rd and one at New Passage on September 8th. A juvenile, from off Severn Beach on November 23rd and 24th 2009 was the only bird that year. In 2011 around five were noted. One off Severn Beach on May 22nd, a juvenile at Oldbury Power Station on September 8th, one off Severn Beach on September 13th with possibly the same bird present on September 17th & 18th and two also at Severn Beach on October 10th.

One in 2012 off Severn Beach on May 4th was followed by two in 2013. One on April 9th from Aust Cliff in flight up-river and one close in shore at Severn Beach on November 3rd. There were two in 2015 as well, one on November 17th from Severn Beach and one past Severn Beach on November 18th.

2016 brought a relatively massive count of twenty-six (26) in two 'flocks'. The first was a record count of twenty-three (a mix of adults and juveniles) in flight north-east over Severn Beach on August 22nd followed by three 1st calendar year birds in flight north-east over New Passage on August 29th. Lastly, an immature watched from Severn Beach on August 4th 2017.



Shag - *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* | © Vic Savery



Continental Cormorant - *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* | © Mark Coller

In a description on an engraving of a juvenile fishing cormorant from a travel report from China by George Staunton (1797) and literally translated into German comes what is often considered to be the first description of the sub-species '*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*'.

The use of biometrics for differentiation of Cormorant *P. c. carbo* has been investigated using skins of known sub-species and has shown that the gular pouch angle is a useful indicator for assigning individuals. Other observations suggest that the ratio of 'carbo' to 'sinensis' is a two thirds majority in favour of 'carbo' meaning one in three wintering Cormorants in the UK are indeed Continental Cormorant *P. c. sinensis*.



The gular pouch angle on this bird is close to 90° indicating 'sinensis' | © TBOSG

Continental Cormorants are massively under reported from S. Gloucestershire so the records below are somewhat incomplete:

- 2001      On January 15th a single bird was watched at Oldbury Power Station and what was assumed to be the same individual was seen at the same site again on January 16th, 18th and possibly 28th. This is the first documented reference to this form in S. Gloucestershire.
- 2015      MARCH: An adult was seen in flight upriver from New Passage mid-morning on the 15th with the same or another seen in flight upriver from Severn Beach around 10:00 on the 25th.
- 2016      FEBRUARY: A winter adult was seen in flight west at Willsbridge Winter Wetlands in the Holm Mead area a kilometre east of The Lock Keeper at Keynsham on the 22nd.
- 2017      MARCH: One was seen on Grebe Pond, Pilning Wetland on the 28th.



RAPTORS

OSPREY (60)

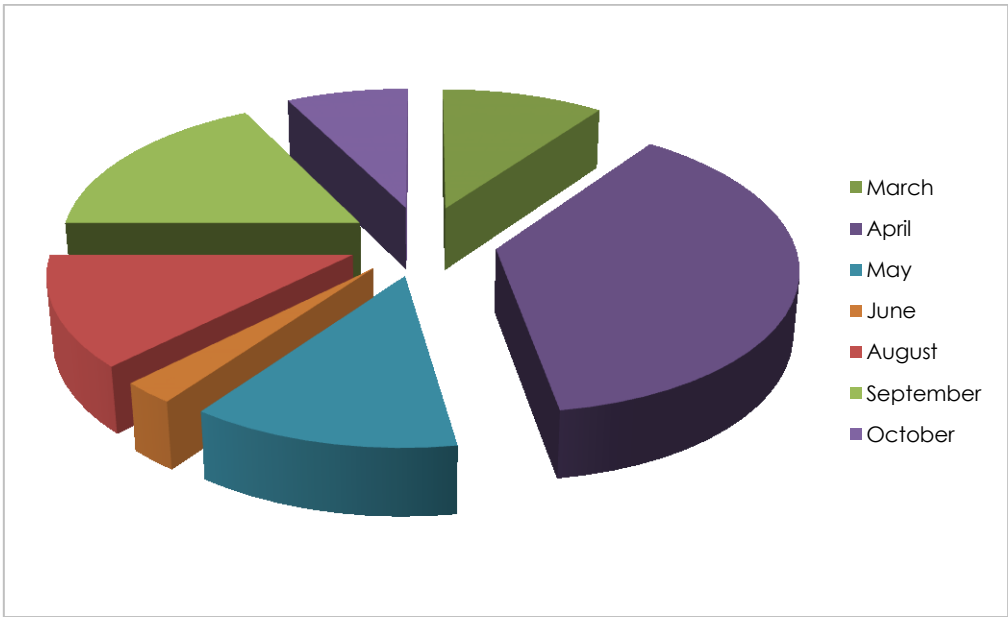
*Pandion haliaetus*

Osprey is a spring and autumn passage migrant to S. Gloucestershire. They can arrive as early as late March continuing their spring movement through the region until early June. The return passage resumes in early August and runs on until late October.

The earliest date for this species in our area is March 27th 2005 when one was seen in flight inland at Severn Beach and the latest was another coastal report of one seen from New Passage in October 27th 1979.



Osprey - *Pandion haliaetus* | © TBOSG



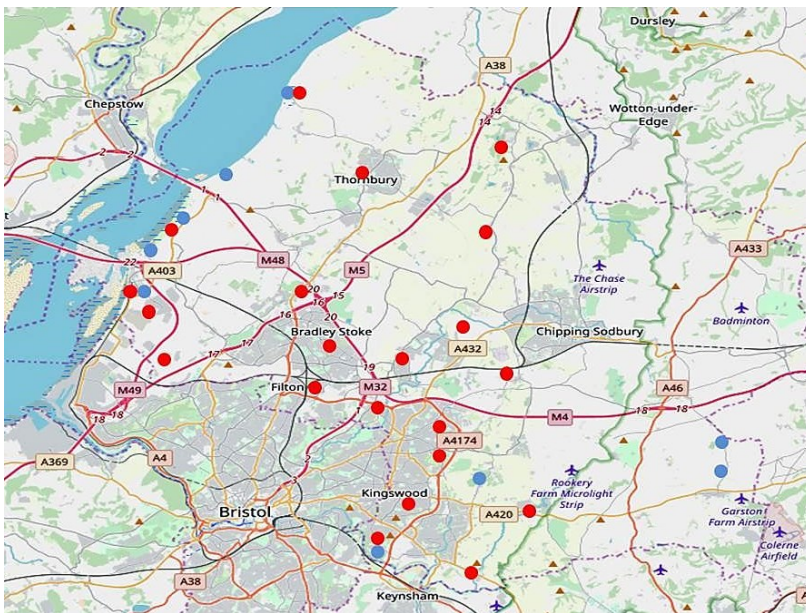
The diagram above shows that spring is indeed the best time to see Osprey in S. Gloucestershire and April in particular with fifteen sightings making up 38% of occurrences. The next best month is September with seven sightings involving 18% of occurrences.

The first documented reference comes from 1860 when one was 'obtained' whilst fishing at Tortworth Court Lake presumably in either the spring or autumn passage. There were no reports of this species in the recording area for 119 years!

Just four birds were logged over the next eighteen years between 1979 until 1997; they were, October 27th 1979 at New Passage, October 16th 1987 also at New Passage, June 4th 1991 over Kingswood, Bristol and August 9th 1997 at Severn Beach. A short gap of just two 'blank' years followed until 2000 when sightings resumed and with the exception of 2004 have been seen every year since.

Of the twenty-two years between 1860 and 2018\* in which Osprey has been recorded in S. Gloucestershire, 2015 with nine (9) and 2018 with eight (8) are by far the best years for this species.

\*The average per annum in this period is 2.7.



This 'Osprey' map shows the spread of sightings across the recording area on both spring and autumn passage and as expected highlights a broad front of migration.

● Spring occurrences  
● Autumn occurrences

Source | © OpenStreetMap

## HONEY BUZZARD (8)

*Pernis apivorus*



Honey Buzzard - *Pernis apivorus* | © Paul Bowerman

Honey Buzzard is an extremely rare spring and autumn passage migrant to S. Gloucestershire with just eight sightings since the first in 1879.

The earliest occurred on May 7th 2011 over Northwick Warth, the latest and autumn bird on September 24th 2008 over Frenchay and the highest count was of two sometime around 1879 at Tortworth Court.

All sightings:

1879	Two were 'obtained' near Tortworth sometime around this date. They were kept for some time in Gloucester Museum but were eventually destroyed.
1991	On May 26th a passage migrant was identified in flight west across the Severn Estuary from New Passage.
1996	On September 2nd at Severn Beach a single bird was noted in flight heading east-north-east.
2007	One was reported on May 24th at 15:20 flying low in a northerly direction near Severn View Services at Aust and then out across the Severn Estuary towards the Forest-of-Dean and one was reported flying east over Aust Village on August 11th.
2008	One was reported over the M32 north-east of Bristol in the Frenchay area on September 24th.
2011	An adult was seen as it drifted over Northwick Warth near the target mound at 11:10 on May 7th. It then gained height and glided north.

GOSHAWK (c.60)

*Accipiter gentilis*



Goshawk - *Accipiter gentilis* | © Adam Rawson

Goshawk has been recorded in all months of the year and although not known as a resident has bred historically. They were to all intents and purposes lost as a breeding bird in the UK towards the end of the nineteenth century as a result of persecution and habitat loss. There are some breeding records throughout the first half of the twentieth century but the population was bolstered by birds that had been reintroduced or lost by falconers.

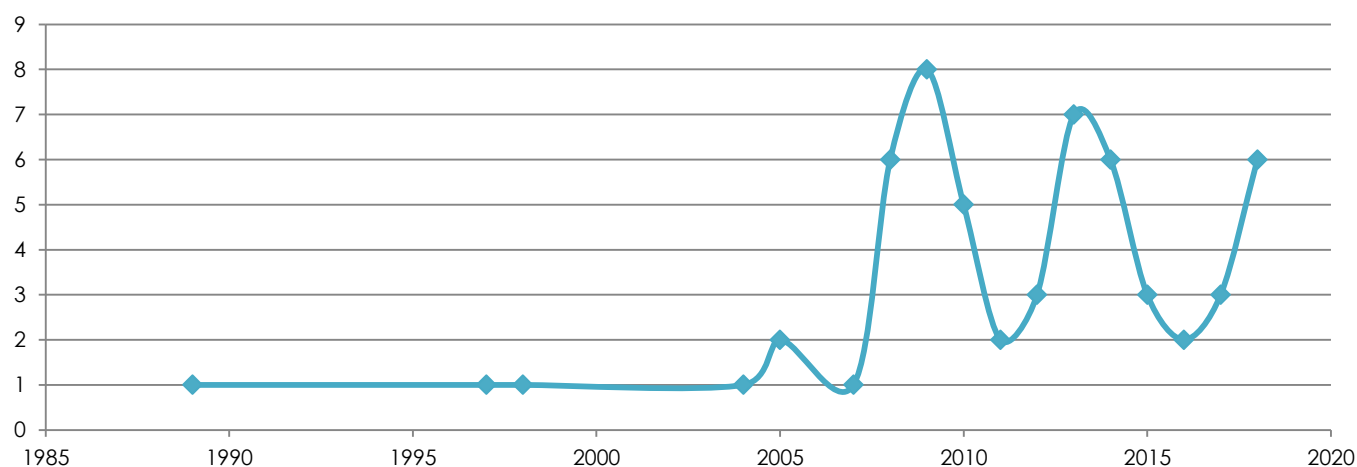
The first record of Goshawk in the region was in 1989 when a female was seen in flight heading west to south-east on June 25th near Thornbury.

The table below indicates the months Goshawk have been recorded between 1989 and 2018. It also suggest that the best time of the year to see them in S. Gloucestershire is the first winter period between January and April, April being the best month.



Year	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1989						•						
1997							•					
1998								•				
1999			•									
2004		•										
2005	•											
2007												•
2008	•	•										•
2009	•			•	•							
2010			•	•						•		
2011	•								•			
2012				•							•	
2013	•			•		•		•	•			
2014				•				•	•			
2015			•			•						
2016				•			•					
2017		•	•				•					
2018		•		•						•		
Totals	4	4	4	7	1	3	3	3	3	2	1	2

• Breeding was confirmed in two consecutive years in the Orchard Wood, Oakleigh area south of Marshfield. In 2008 pair successfully reared two young and in 2009 when presumably the same pair reared three young. It is assumed the pair was young birds perhaps in their first breeding year relocating from a well-known established breeding population in Gloucestershire. No subsequent activity has been observed however the area has attracted several outdoor pursuits and it may well be that disturbance has curtailed further interest.

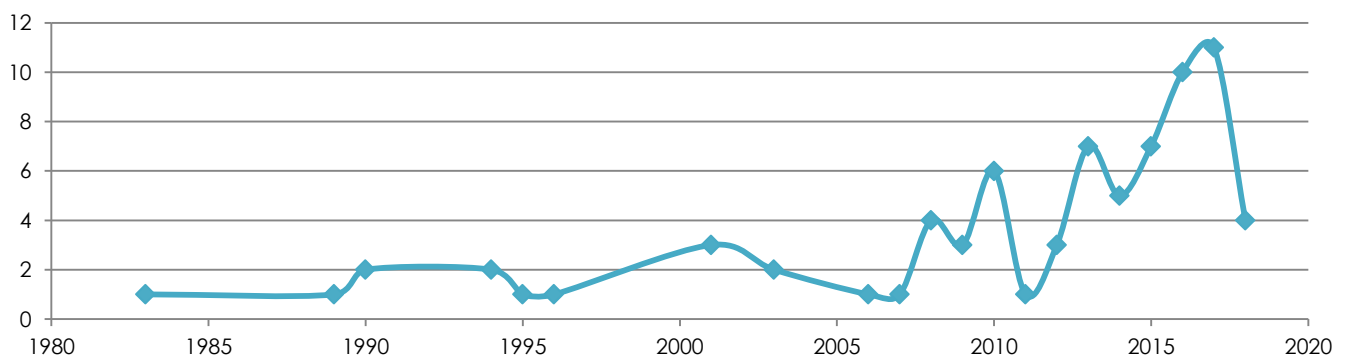
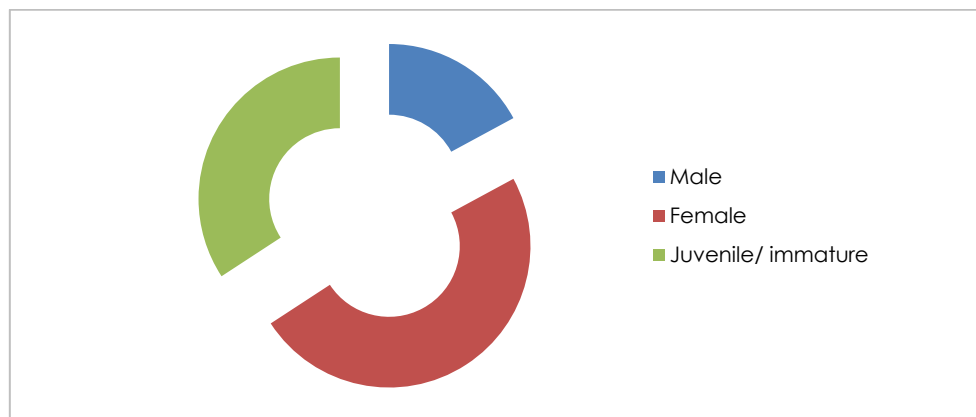


Numbers of Goshawk per annum between 1989 and 2018.

Marsh Harrier - *Circus aeruginosus* | © Paul Bowerman

Marsh Harrier has been seen in every month except February and July. The first was recorded as recently as 1983 with a female in flight heading north at Oldbury Power Station on May 1st. The earliest date for this species is January 1st 2017 at Oldbury Power Station, the latest December 12th 2015 also at Oldbury Power Station.

Ratio of males, females and juvenile/ immature Marsh Harrier between 1983 and 2018.

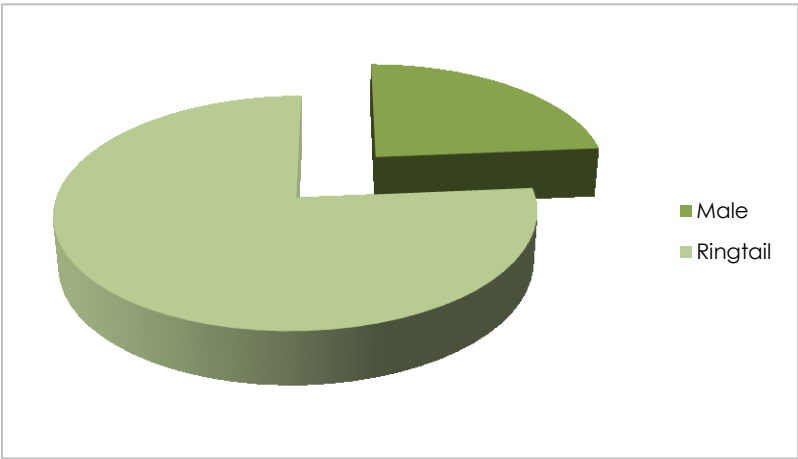


Numbers of Marsh Harrier per annum between 1983 and 2018.



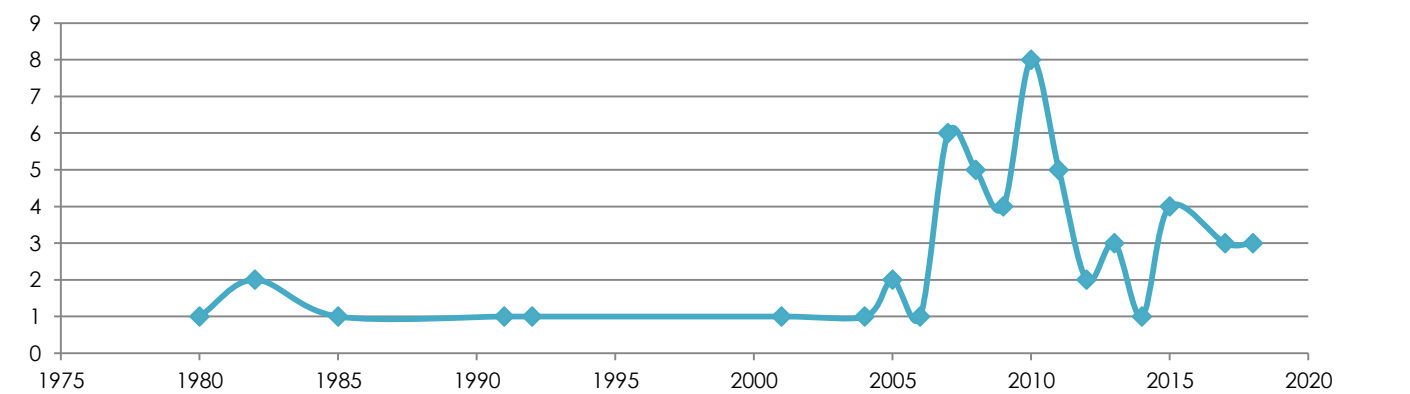
Hen Harrier - *Circus cyaneus* | © Pete Blanchard

Hen Harrier has been seen in every month except June and July. It was first recorded in 1980 with a female/immature seen on November 2nd at Northwick Warth.



Ratio of males, to 'ringtails' Hen Harrier between 1980 and 2018;

Over three quarters of all Hen Harriers recorded in S. Gloucestershire have been 'ringtails', females or juvenile birds, with forty-two of the c.55 seen in thirty-eight years.



Numbers of Hen Harrier per annum between 1983 and 2018.



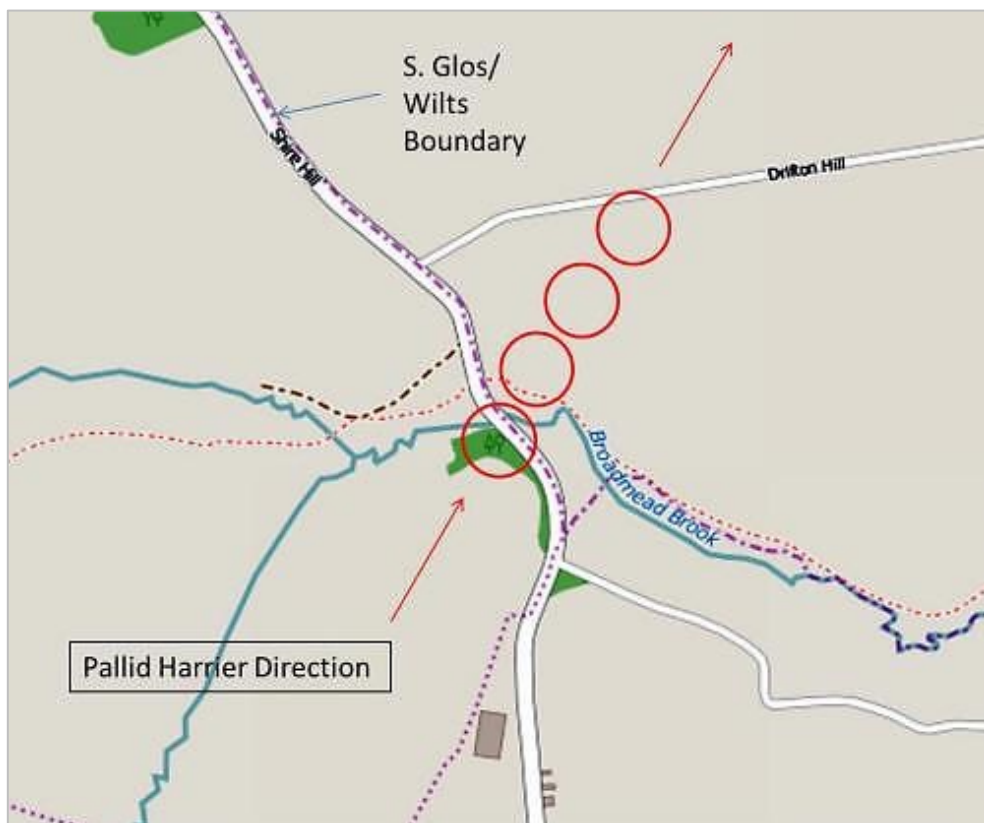
Thank goodness for modern technology and in particular, 'bridge' cameras, without which it is highly unlikely this record would exist today.

The only record of Pallid Harrier for S. Gloucestershire comes from the eastern limit of the recording area. The following narrative was first published in The Birds Of South Gloucestershire Annual Review 2016.

On Tuesday April 12th 2016 at around 13:00 after a fairly fruitless morning trawl of the Shire Valley at Marshfield in S. Gloucestershire it was time to head back to the car and check out the top fields.

Back at the car, parked at Shirehill Bridge, a raptor wheeled over and my immediate thought was 'another' Common Buzzard but I could see immediately that it wasn't! On raising my binoculars to view I could clearly see 'harrier' and less than 50 metres above me. Overcast skies and the threat of rain weren't the best viewing conditions so the bird was showing mostly as a silhouette but quite clearly a harrier.

I'm thinking probably Hen from the 'bulky' broad-winged look. Luckily I had my camera to hand and managed to fire off a dozen or so shots before it wheeled away north-east across the valley to be lost to view towards Drifton Hill, Wiltshire. It was on show as it circled across the valley for less than five minutes.



Route and direction (south-west to north-east, circles indicating thermalling). | © Martyn Hayes

Back at the car I took a cursory look at the photos to see said harrier shots in silhouette as expected but what was unexpected was that the bird was only showing four primary 'fingers'. Eliminating Montagu's Harrier based on jizz, apparent 'bulk' and broad-winged appearance I was left with either a moulting adult Hen Harrier or something else?

Back at home I 'lighten' some of the images to check for detail when it became clear that the bird was not in moult and appeared to be an immature. Further checks on the wings show no primaries missing and four primary 'fingers' clearly visible thus showing several plumage characteristics that suggest Pallid Harrier.



Pallid Harrier - *Circus macrourus* | © Martyn Hayes



I sent the photo's to birding colleague and close friend Mike Morse who on seeing them suggested I get a second opinion as the bird was clearly an immature, not in moult and showing just four primary fingers. I subsequently sent the images to John Martin the Avon county recorder whose reply is shown below.

'Blimey. Well that's a decent set of pics so well done. It's in its second calendar year with juvenile primaries and the wing formula is wrong for Hen, with four (or three at the wing tip) fingers and shows it's either Montagu's or Pallid.

Then it gets tricky - you said you had done some processing to the images so some of the things that could be features of one or the other of these two could possibly be artefacts of the processing. I'm guessing the original was a bit silhouetted and you've had to bring up the shadows a lot.

To me it does look relatively broad winged (so I can see why you thought Hen), which fits Pallid better. The primary pattern of apparent pale tipped primaries with no blackish trailing edge along the inners and no solidly dark tip to the outer's favours Pallid. Most Montagu's have dark primary tips including much of the fingers and a dark trailing edge along the inners. In addition the barring seems to be concentrated around the middle of the feathers, again pro Pallid.

It does seem to show a narrow pale collar, which is pro Pallid but the big thing that is usually obvious on juvenile Pallid's is the dark boa, which is scarcely apparent so more like a Monty's.

I think the wing formula also supports Pallid with the tip of p10 falling between 5 & 6 rather than at the tip of 6. So it's either a Pallid with a very poor boa or a Monty's with a more Pallid-like primary pattern and pale collar.

I think it's worth sending it to someone who sees a lot more of these than I do e.g. Dick Forsman. If you do then you should also send the unprocessed images as well, so it's a bit easier to tease out which of the features, if any, are artefacts. I'd favour Pallid but am bothered by the weakness of the boia and would value a second opinion. The images were forwarded to Dick Forsman whose reply is shown below.

Definitely a 2nd calendar year Pallid Harrier! and for exactly the reasons mentioned in the accompanying letter. The darkness of the boia varies individually, and some birds can show it rather light and streaked rather than uniformly dark.

The most reliable i.d. features are found in the underwing (and mentioned in John's letter), and this bird shows all of the important features of a juvenile Pallid. Even the very light and plain underbody and underwing coverts speak for Pallid, as most juvenile Montagu's would by now have moulted a variable part of these, showing a much more streaky plumage.

Below are my observations regarding the wing formula plus some additional photos taken at the time?



Left and right wing profiles | © Martyn Hayes.

A decision on the submission of the record was received from The British Birds Rarities Committee on November 5th 2016: Ref No 6347.1 - Accepted Pallid Harrier 12-Apr-16 Shirehill Bridge, Shire Valley, S. Gloucestershire. The 105th British record.

Martyn Hayes - S. Gloucestershire April 2016

MONTAGU'S HARRIER (c.10)

*Circus pygargus*

FIRST  
EARLIEST  
LATEST

May 25th 1958 near Marshfield  
May 12th 2008 Tormarton  
October 16th 1991 Aust Warth

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
				•	•	•	•		•		



There have been around ten Montagu's Harriers reported from the recording area they are;

1958	A 'ring-tailed' harrier mobbed by corvids on May 25th near Marshfield was believed to be this species.
1982	A female/ immature identified on August 3rd near Marshfield.
1991	A female flew over the estuary drifting east at Aust Warth on October 16th.
1994	A 'ringtail' on West Littleton Down on June 11th.
2005	A 2nd calendar male in flight over Rushmead Lane near Marshfield on June 20th was seen in flight north-west towards West Littleton at 20:00 and remained in the area until the 22nd.
2007	One, probably this species, was seen on May 1st from a moving car east of the A46 around 400 metres south of Dyrham Park at around 17:00 being mobbed by corvids.
2008	A female/ immature was seen in flight on May 12th just north of Tormarton at around 11:00. It was watched in a tree, then in flight heading south towards Marshfield before returning north to be watched north of the B4040 near Lyegrove House, east of the A46.
2011	A 2nd calendar year male was present at Marshfield on July 3rd at about 20:45. First seen over Orchid Lane it drifted slowly south east over the east end of Rushmead Lane and Tormarton Road before dropping onto fence posts near tumbled down farm buildings 200 metres east of Tormarton Road.
2015	An adult female was seen soaring on thermals over Pilning Wetland around 10:00 on May 15th before drifting high north east into clouds where it was lost to view. An unconfirmed report of one possibly this species was seen in flight at Stoke Gifford near the Aviva Centre at 17:55 on June 16th.

## RED KITE (c.600)

*Milvus milvus*

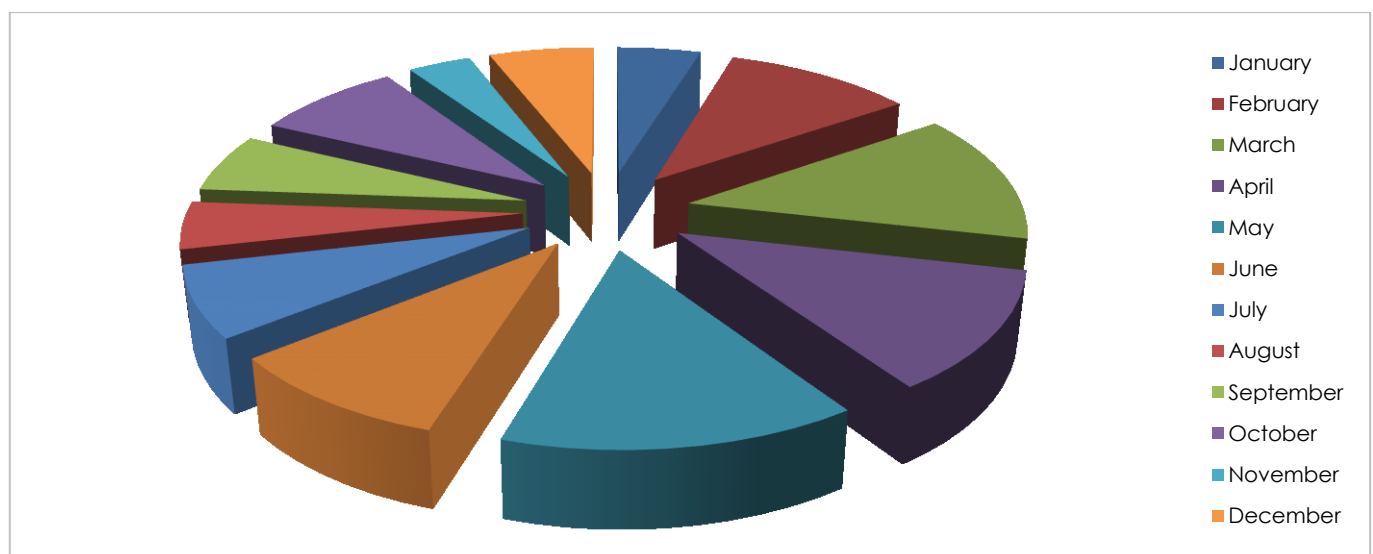
The first Red Kite to be seen in S. Gloucestershire was in 1957, the entry reads;

On March 3rd one was seen near Tockington flying south-west at approximately 300 ft. Salient features noted were the large size, forked tail and wings longer and less rounded than in Buzzard with characteristic light patches on undersides.

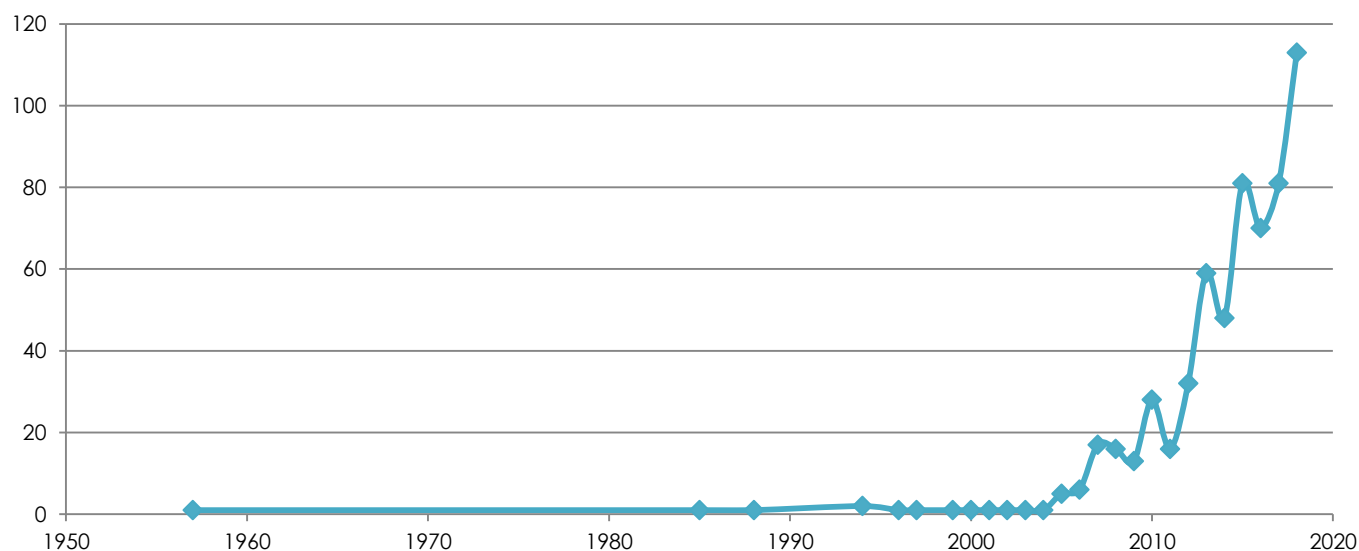
The next was twenty-eight years later in 1985 when one was watched flying over Elberton Wood, Elberton on April 20th.

The steady advance westwards of Red Kite in the UK has seen a dramatic rise in sightings across the region culminating in highest counts of a least six birds seen together on at least two occasions.

They have been seen in all months of the year but the five months between February and June appear to be the best.



The spread of Red Kite sightings month by month.



This diagram illustrates the spectacular rise in sightings of Red Kite across the region especially from 2005 onwards culminating in 113 bird days recorded in 2018.

## BLACK KITE (2)

*Milvus migrans*

Two Black Kites have been reported from S. Gloucestershire, both in spring. The first was a presumed adult, putatively this species, watched as it drifted out of St. Catherine's Valley, Marshfield on the 26th May 2009. The bird was first seen around 06:00 at a height of about 25 metres over the track between Halldoor Lane and Nailey Farm at approximately ST: 776 720 south-west of Marshfield. It was last seen leaving the valley heading in a generally north-north-westerly direction towards West Littleton.

The second was seen on the salt marsh at Severn Beach around 09:55 on March 18th 2010. It was watched by two lucky observers and was seen to leave the salt marsh (mobbed by corvids and Common Buzzard) drifting east over Severn Beach station and Orchard Pools.

## WHITE-TAILED EAGLE (1)

*Haliaeetus albicilla*

It's been a hundred and forty-seven years since White-tailed Eagle has been seen in S. Gloucestershire. Though they have been re-introduced to the Scottish highlands and Islands these extremely rare vagrants seldom visit the UK and those that do reach our shores are likely to be of continental origins.

These massive raptors are the largest bird of prey the observer will encounter in Britain so are generally 'unmistakable'. In recent times individuals have been known to overwinter in Norfolk, Kent and the New Forest.

The only record of this species ever to occur in the recording area was seen sometime in December 1871. It was an immature male that was 'obtained' at Dodington Park near Tormarton.

Harry Seebohm (1832-1895) coined the phrase in the mid-nineteenth century; ... As the 'Old Bushman says, what is hit is history, and what is missed is mystery'...

## CRAKES

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### CORNCRAKE (16)

*Crex crex*

There have been sixteen records of Corncrake in S. Gloucestershire since the first in 1938.

On October 30th one was observed on Patchway Common, evidently a passage bird it was disturbed from a late grass crop.

Seen or heard sporadically for the next twenty-five years (until 1962) just three birds were reported subsequently up to 2011.

A spring and autumn passage migrant from April to October the earliest was noted on April 11th 1955 at Patchway and the latest October 30th 1938 also from Patchway.

All reports:

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1938 | One on October 30th on Patchway Common.                                       |
| 1942 | One on August 29th at Stoke Gifford and one on September 11th at Dyrham Wood. |
| 1946 | One heard on several occasions at Rangeworthy sometime in June.               |
| 1947 | One was 'obtained' at Dyrham sometime in the autumn.                          |
| 1950 | One on August 16th at Little Stoke and one on August 31st at Dyrham.          |
| 1951 | One in early September at Little Stoke.                                       |
| 1952 | One on August 18th at Westerleigh and one in the Yate area on September 14th. |
| 1953 | A corpse was found on October 15th at Stoke Lodge, Patchway.                  |
| 1955 | One caught and released at a Market Garden in Patchway on April 11th.         |
| 1962 | One heard near Bitton on September 1st.                                       |
| 1989 | One heard at Rushmead Lane, Marshfield for several minutes on June 21st.      |
| 1998 | One heard at Rushmead Lane, Marshfield for several minutes on July 5th.       |
| 2011 | A presumed male heard at 07:45 on Chipping Sodbury Common on July 31st.       |

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### SPOTTED CRAKE (1)

*Porzana porzana*

Spotted Crake was last seen in S. Gloucestershire over a hundred and twenty-five years ago in 1891 and the two records that were documented come from the autumn of that year.

Sometime In September 1891 a single bird was 'obtained' at Stoke Bridge in Stoke Gifford. The following month another, also 'obtained' was noted at Patchway sometime during October.

The now firmly established Pilning Wetland Reserve on Severnside seems the ideal location for the next and long overdue sighting (or possibly sounding) of an autumn (calling) passage migrant?



CRANE

COMMON CRANE (UK)

*Grus grus*



Common Crane - *Grus grus* | © Paul Bowerman

FIRST	January 3rd 2000 at Severn Beach
EARLIEST	January 3rd 2000 at Severn Beach
LATEST	October 7th 2016 on Northwick Warth
HIGHEST COUNT	Seven on April 15th 2014 at Oldbury Power Station

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
•	•	•	•	•				•	•		

Records of Common Crane in S. Gloucestershire are clouded by birds from the Great Crane Project reintroduction programme, in light of that all reports have been recorded for posterity.

2000	Two on January 3rd over Severn Beach.
2003	A party of five on February 25th at Tortworth.
2008	One at Oldbury Power Station on May 4th.
2010	One over Aust Warth on March 2nd.
2012	Three over Kingswood, Bristol on April 5th and one over the R. Avon at Hanham on April 6th.
2013	Four at Oldbury Power Station on April 2nd, one over Oldbury Power Station on April 22nd and six at Severn Beach on May 16th.
2014	APRIL: Three on the 9th in the Castle Farm area, Marshfield were relocated on the 10th between Oldbury Power Station and Shepperdine, seven over Lagoon III, Oldbury Power Station on the 25th and two upriver past Oldbury Power Station on the 27th. MAY: One over Kingswood, Bristol on the 4th. SEPTEMBER: An un-ringed individual over Pilning Wetland and New Passage on the 22nd.
2015	MARCH: Five over Olveston on the 18th and one over Pilning Wetland Reserve on the 27th. APRIL: Five over Tytherington on the 5th and one over Streamleaze, Thornbury 13th. MAY: Two over Oldbury Power Station on the 4th.
2016	FEBRUARY: Three over Oldbury Power Station on the 23rd. MARCH: Three on the 15th over Thornbury and two over Pilning Wetland Reserve on the 17th. APRIL: One from the Severn Way in the Shepperdine area on the 17th. MAY: Two over Oldbury Power Station on the 5th, six over Easter Compton on the 12th and four over Wick on the 17th. OCTOBER: Two adults on Northwick Warth on the 7th.
2017	MARCH: Two over Pilning Wetland Reserve on March 25th. SEPTEMBER: One between Alveston and Tockington on the 29th.

## WADERS

### STONE CURLEW (5)

*Burhinus oedichnemus*



Stone Curlew - *Burhinus oedichnemus* | © Darren Pearce

FIRST	July 27th 1999 at New Passage
EARLIEST	March 23rd 2013 on Northwick Warth
LATEST	July 27th 1999 from New Passage

#### All sightings:

1999	An individual was seen in flight on July 27th at New Passage heading north-east with Lapwings.
2006	An adult was flushed from long grass at Northwick Warth and seen subsequently from the Severn Way footpath in the evening on April 20th. It was present from 19:30 until dusk at ST: 553 873.
2013	One was found around 16:30 by the flash on Northwick Warth on March 23rd. Although it was relocated a couple of times it was not seen again after about 17:00 and a second individual with at least one leg ring, was found at Oldbury Power Station on March 29th.
2018	One was found on Northwick Warth early morning on April 15th and remained throughout the day.

### BLACK-WINGED STILT (3)

*Himantopus himantopus*

Just three Black-winged Stilts have been recorded in S. Gloucestershire.

The first was a report of one 'obtained' sometime around c.1848 near Thornbury. No date, age or sex was available.

The second was found nearly a hundred and fifty years later at Oldbury Power Station on May 17th 1997 where it was watched in flight heading down river.

Most recently a spring female was found on Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth on May 7th 2017 where it lingered throughout the day. It remained faithful to the pools at this site until at least the 9th.





Black-winged Stilt - *Himantopus himantopus* | © Paul Bowerman

AVOCET (c.265)

*Recurvirostra avosetta*



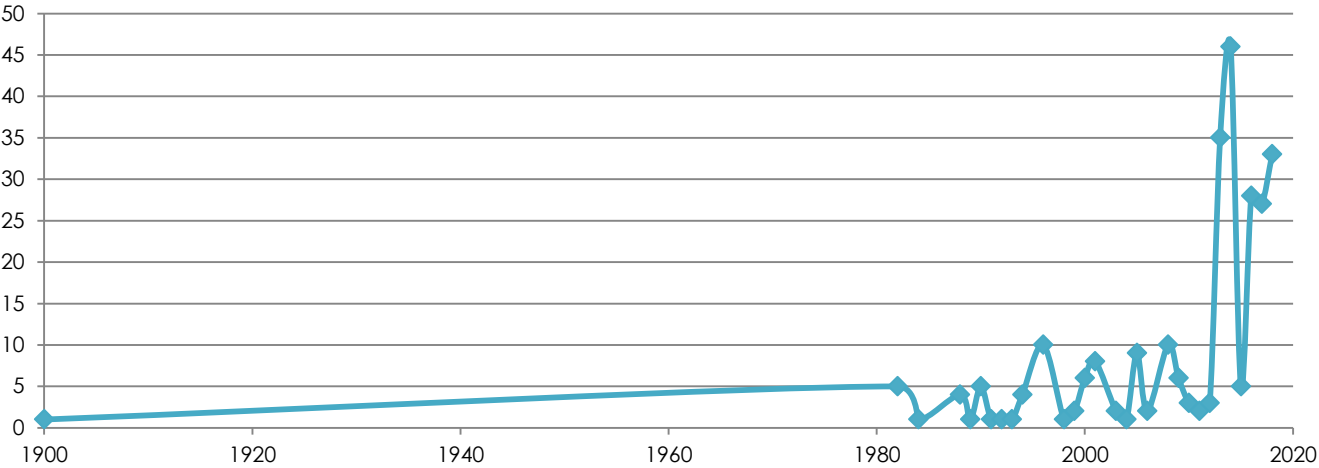
Avocet - *Recurvirostra avosetta* | © Paul Bowerman

Avocet was first documented in S. Gloucestershire in c.1900 when one was 'obtained' sometime around this time in December near Thornbury but no supplementary information is available. Absent for eighty-two years they were next encountered in 1982.

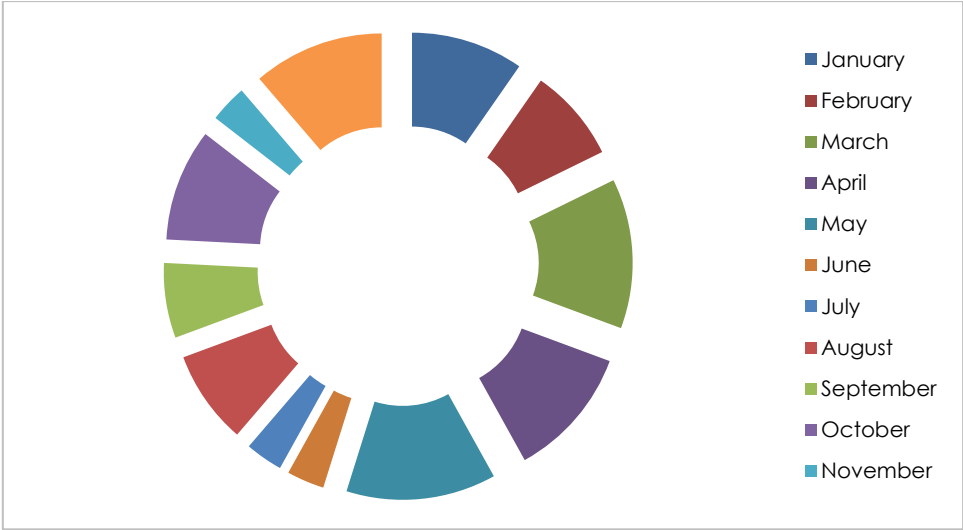
They have been recorded almost continuously since 1982, in every month of the year and achieved their highest count on March 30th 2014 on Northwick/ Aust Warth when twenty-five (two flocks of twelve and thirteen) were counted in the Cake Pill area.

In 2006 a colour ringed bird was noticed on Northwick Warth on December 2nd and was found to have been ringed in Loire-Atlantic, France.

In May 2018 two birds seen mating on the 17th in the Northwick Warth/ Pilning Wetland Reserve area with one settled on a 'nest' constitutes the first breeding attempt of this species in South Gloucestershire.



The diagram above shows the numbers of Avocet per annum between 1900 and 2018 and below shows the spread of sightings on a month by month basis.



Icelandic Golden Plover (UK)

*Pluvialis apricaria altifrons*



Putative Icelandic Golden Plover - *Pluvialis apricaria altifrons* | © Dave Hughes



In July 2014 an interesting summer plumaged adult Golden Plover was present in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth/ Pilning Wetland Reserve area from the 13th - 22nd. It was showing characteristics of the form *Pluvialis apricaria altifrons* - Icelandic Golden Plover and was putatively believed to be this form.

Although the call and underwing coverts matched that of European Golden Plover - *Pluvialis apricaria*, structure and plumage variations more closely aligned to this northern form.

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## AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER (2)

*Pluvialis dominica*

American Golden Plover, a transatlantic vagrant, has occurred twice in S. Gloucestershire. The first was in January 2002 when one was both seen and heard in flight south over New Passage around 08:00 on the 1st. (In flight, an obvious Lesser Golden Plover, the call precluded Pacific Golden Plover - *Pluvialis fulva*. (pers. com.)

The second was found in October 2013 when an individual was seen briefly on Northwick Warth at 13:30 on the 29th. It was described by the observer as... 'greyish/ golden upperparts, giving a squeaky 'kluee-kluee-kluee' call (different to that of Golden Plover - *Pluvialis apricaria*) and showing smoky grey under wings'...

In November it was both seen and heard again on Northwick Warth and in flight as it was lost to view heading north-west towards Aust Warth on the 2nd. It was also heard in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area on the 4th.

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## KENTISH PLOVER (5)

*Charadrius alexandrinus*

Kentish Plover is a spring and autumn vagrant to our shores. The earliest was seen on May 4th 1947 at Severn Beach and the latest September 22nd 2006 also at Severn Beach.



Kentish Plover - *Charadrius alexandrinus* | © John Martin

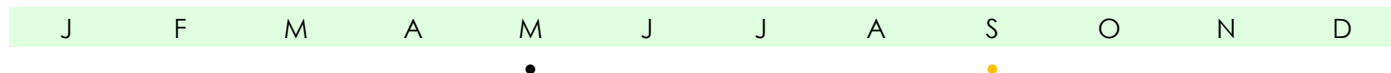
The first was seen on May 4th 1947 where extremely good views were obtained of a male in company with a large mixed gathering of Dunlin, Ringed Plover and other waders at Severn Beach. It was still present the following day, May 5th.

Next was a female seen at close range with Ringed Plover at Severn Beach on May 10th 1949. That was followed by, some forty-four years later, a male on August 16th 1993 on Lagoon II at Oldbury Power Station. A gap of eleven years ensued to the next; another female on May 12th 2004 at Severn Beach and most recently a juvenile also at Severn Beach on September 22nd 2006.

## DOTTEREL (c.35)

*Charadrius morinellus*

FIRST	September 14th 1974 Severn Beach
EARLIEST	May 2nd 2011 at New Passage
LATEST	September 25th 2014 at Oldbury Power Station
HIGHEST COUNT	Fourteen on May 9th 1992 near Tormarton



Somewhat surprisingly Dotterel have been seen on just seven occasions over the forty-four year period since the first was seen in 1974. A spring and autumn passage migrant they have been found in May and September.

### All sightings:

1974	One in winter plumage was reported from Severn Beach on September 14th and was present until September 17th. It was apparently approachable to within a metre allowing a detailed description to be made.
1982	On May 11th a female was trapped and ringed at Pucklechurch.
1992	Twelve were seen on May 8th west of Tormarton viewed looking east from a lay-by on the A46 just before the M4, J18 heading towards Old Sodbury. The count increased to fourteen on May 9th with just two remaining until May 11th.
1995	On May 16th three were noted 'near' Marshfield Not specific location age or sex was given.
2011	A trip of eleven were reported in flight north-east over New Passage on May 2nd.
2014	One was amazingly heard calling as it flew over the observer's home at Pilning at 09:45 on September 14th and one was both seen and heard at Oldbury Power Station before flying west towards Chepstow on September 25th.
2016	One, probably this species, was seen in flight at Shepperdine over high tide on September 10th. An unidentified medium-sized wader with golden-brown back and upper wings (no wing-bars), lighter brown upper tail and whitish underwing, very briefly touched down at Shepperdine before flying off high along shore upriver (no calls). Probable Dotterel as it also had very pointed wing-tips.

## BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER (2)

*Calidris falcinellus*

Broad-billed Sandpiper is a Siberian/ Asian vagrant that has occurred in S. Gloucestershire on just two occasions.

The first was in 1983 when an adult in worn summer plumage was identified at Oldbury Power Station on August 20th. It was present for three days and was last seen on August 22nd.

The nominate race *Calidris f. falcinellus* breeds mainly in Scandinavia and Western Russia, and winters on the Red Sea, Persian Gulf and east to India and Sri Lanka, with some in East Africa. The more chestnut coloured race, *C. f. sibirica* breeds in Eastern Siberia and winters in the Far East and Australia.

The species has been regarded as a very rare spring vagrant in Britain, mostly in eastern England; there were 66 occurrences up to 1981, and an unprecedented seven in 1982. This increase continued in 1983, and a pair spent much of June at Aberlady Bay, Lothian.

The second S. Glos record was found in the wader roost at Severn Beach on May 16th 1988. A full summer adult it was present at Severn Beach on the morning high tide relocating to Shaft Beach for the evening roost.

TEMMINCK'S STINT (4)

*Calidris temminckii*



Temminck's Stint - *Calidris temminckii* | © Gary Thoburn

This stunning photo was taken at the mouth of Chestle Pill, New Passage on July 22nd and represents the most recent of just four records of Temminck’s Stint to be seen in S. Gloucestershire.

FIRST	April 29th 1984 at Oldbury Power Station
EARLIEST	April 29th 1984 at Oldbury Power Station
LATEST	July 22nd 2017 at New Passage



All sightings:

- 1984 On April 29th a summer adult was identified at Oldbury Power Station.
- 2004 On May 13th an adult spent just ten minutes at around 15:30 at Severn Beach.
- 2016 A spring adult (initially picked up on call and in flight over Northwick Warth around 10:45) settled on Pilning Wetland Reserve on May 8th where it remained until May 10th.
- 2017 A moulting adult was found on Butt's Pool, Pilning Wetland Reserve early morning on July 19th where it remained until dusk on the 20th. It was relocated at the mouth of Chestle Pill, New Passage on the 22nd.

Greenland Dunlin (c.20)

*Calidris alpina arctica*

The DUNLIN *Calidris alpina* complex in S. Gloucestershire:

There are three races of Dunlin that regularly occur in the UK, *Calidris alpina schinzii*, *C. a. alpina* and *C. a. arctica*.



DUNLIN *Calidris alpina schinzii* is a passage migrant and winter visitor that breeds in the UK, Iceland, southern Scandinavia and Western Europe. It winters mainly in West Africa and generally is intermediate in bill length and rufous colouration of the upperparts.

Northern Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina* also a passage migrant and winter visitor breeds in western Siberia, winters in the UK, Western Europe and the Mediterranean. It is generally the longest billed with the brightest upperparts.

Greenland Dunlin *Calidris alpina arctica* is a rare passage migrant that breeds in eastern Greenland and Svalbard and winters in West Africa.

To summarise, the race 'arctica' is slightly smaller than the other races, has a shorter bill and appears generally greyer and less rufous/ chestnut on head, mantle, scapulars and coverts. The belly patch is smaller, usually less solid and the breast streaking is markedly finer in comparison.



Source | © Wikimedia Commons



Greenland Dunlin - *Calidris alpina arctica* | © John Martin

Usually occurring from late spring into early summer typically May and June this race of Dunlin is very rare or possibly underreported.

The first birds occurred in 2008 when one was reported from Severn Beach on May 16th it was followed by two on May 20th and a further individual on June 2nd.

At least two were identified at Severn Beach on May 23rd 2010 with a further four there on May 26th. In 2011 one was noted at Severn Beach on May 15th and a further individual was seen at the same site on May 22nd.

Two were identified in the evening at Severn Beach on May 19th 2012 with the same or another at Severn Beach the following day. Just one in 2013 at New Passage on May 27th and one on May 24th 2014 in the afternoon at Severn Beach.

The most recent sightings come from 2017 when at least two were present at New Passage and Severn Beach on May 14th with at least three on Pilning Wetland Reserve on May 15th.

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## PURPLE SANDPIPER (c.400)

*Calidris maritima*



Purple Sandpiper - *Calidris maritima* | © Paul Bowerman

Purple Sandpiper has been seen in S. Gloucestershire in all months of the year except June and July. The earliest date is August 28th 1991 at Severn Beach, the latest May 22nd 1976 at Severn Beach and the highest count was twelve on March 29th 1936 also at Severn Beach.

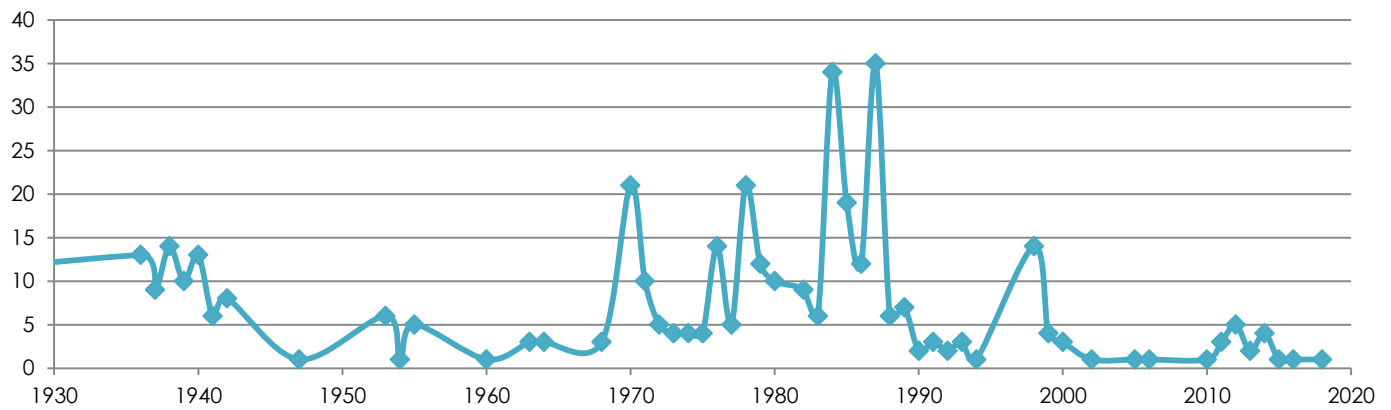
The very first record comes from 1892 the report reads; Birds were seen at New Passage in January and October and one was seen on May 10th on Severnside. There were no further reports or sightings for forty-four years until 1936.

Since 1936 Purple Sandpiper have been reported regularly but not on an annual basis and only ever in small numbers.

The best years to date were 1970 and 1978 (21) 1984 (34) 1987 (35) and the best months with sightings in November on 25 occasions, December 32, January 29, February 25 and March 25.

The best locations are by far Severn Beach and New Passage although birds have been reported from Thornbury Sailing Club at Oldbury-on-Severn.





The diagram above shows the number of Purple Sandpiper per annum between 1936 and 2018 with counts peaking in the mid to late 1980's.

The chart left shows the spread of sightings on a month by month basis clearly indicating that the first and second winter periods are indeed the best time to see this species in S. Gloucestershire.

## WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (4)

*Calidris fuscicollis*



White-rumped Sandpiper - *Calidris fuscicollis* | © Mark Coller



White-rumped Sandpiper is an extremely rare trans-Atlantic vagrant to S. Gloucestershire. They have been spotted here on just four occasions all of which have been late summer/ autumn visitors between August and November.

The first was found in 1985; a juvenile/ 1st winter seen at Severn Beach on September 12th was still present on the 13th. Then an adult lingered for eleven days in 1995 and was present at Severn Beach from August 21st - 31st.

Another juvenile/ 1st winter was present at Cake Pill on Aust Warth from November 22nd - 26th 1998 and an adult was found in the high tide roost on August 4th 2001 at Severn Beach.

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### BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (3)

*Calidris subruficollis*



Buff-breasted Sandpiper - *Calidris subruficollis* | © Gary Thoburn

Another trans-Atlantic vagrant, Buff-breasted Sandpiper has been seen just three times in the recording area in 1989, 1990 and 2003.

In 1989 a presumed juvenile/ 1st winter was found on September 30th at New Passage. It was seen on the tide line with a mixed flock of small waders.

The following year, 1990, a presumed spring adult was located at Severn Beach on May 22nd and was still present on May 23rd and in 2003, a juvenile/ 1st winter was found on September 27th on Northwick Warth where it lingered until September 30th.

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### PECTORAL SANDPIPER (c.10)

*Calidris melanotos*

Pectoral Sandpiper is the most common of the trans-Atlantic vagrants to reach our shores with around ten birds having been reported from the coast.

Strictly an autumn visitor the earliest arrived on August 3rd 2005 and was seen at Oldbury Power Station, the latest logged was on September 30th 2014 at New Passage and remarkably two came together on September 26th 2006 on Northwick Warth.



Pectoral Sandpiper - *Calidris melanotos* | © Gareth Jones

#### All sightings:

1989 On September 17th a presumed juvenile/ 1st winter was identified at Oldbury Power Station.

1998 A juvenile/ 1st winter was found on September 21st - 26th on Northwick Warth.

2005 On August 3rd one thought to be this species was reported in flight heading north at Oldbury Power Station.

2006 A juvenile/ 1st winter was reported at Northwick Warth on the morning of September 23rd favouring the grazed salt marsh at ST: 552 872. It was still present on September 24th and around 10:00 on September 25th it was joined by a second bird with one lingering until September 26th.

2008 A juvenile/ 1st winter was found on Northwick Warth on September 18th and was seen well before disappearing onto the salt marsh at around 13:30. It was present from September 18th - 23rd.

2013 One possibly this species was seen at Thornbury Sailing Club, Oldbury-on-Severn in the evening on August 7th.

2014 A juvenile/ 1st winter was located on the shoreline in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area at 16:00 on September 21st and was present until at least the 30th.

2016 A juvenile/ 1st winter was found in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area on September 11th - 12th.

## SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (2)

*Calidris pusilla*



Semipalmated Sandpiper - *Calidris pusilla* | © Gary Thoburn, Paul Bowerman

An American 'peep' Semipalmated Sandpiper has put in a couple of appearances in S. Gloucestershire. The first, an adult, was identified on the silt Lagoon at Oldbury Power Station on August 12th 1990. It was present in the area for three days and was last seen on August 14th. It constitutes the 28th British record.

The second and most recent, a juvenile/ 1st winter, (photos above) spent the afternoon on the foreshore at New Passage on the 26th September 2009.

## LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (1)

*Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Just one sighting! On October 16th 1977 an individual was reported at Aust Warth, though subsequently recorded as a Dowitcher spp. probably Long-billed, it was mooted at the time as a possible Short-billed Dowitcher. With no supporting narrative the percentages favour Long-billed Dowitcher.

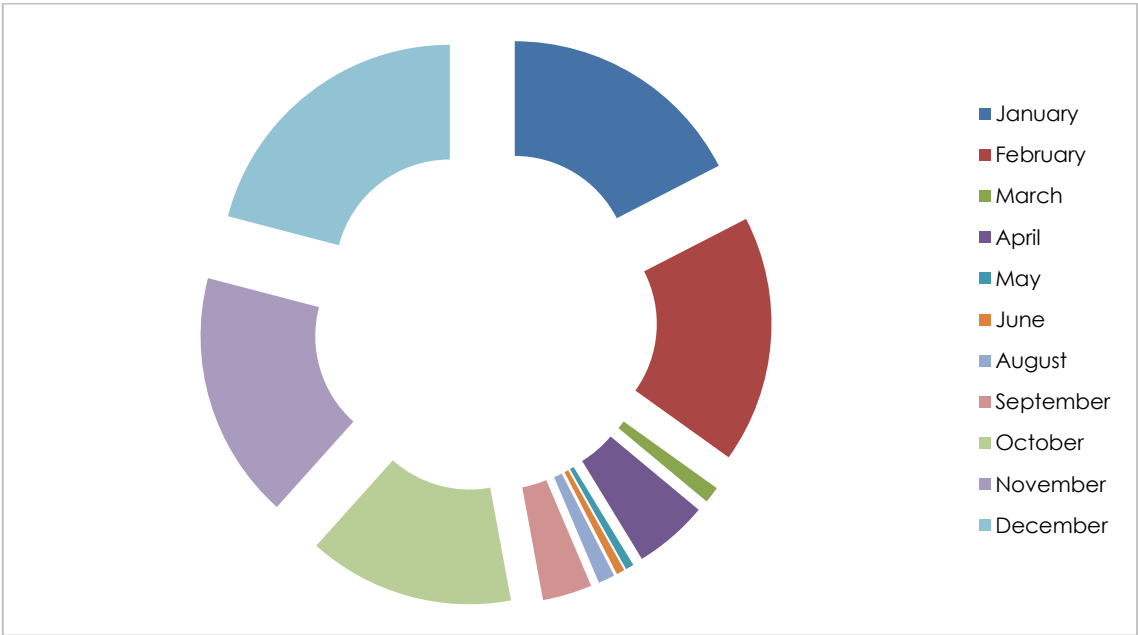


Jack Snipe was first recorded in 1935 when one was 'obtained' at Stoke Gifford in December of that year. They were reported sporadically between 1935 and 1943 but following a gap of twenty-eight years not again until 1971. With the exception of seven years they have been seen every year since 1971 but only ever in small numbers. The highest count came about on March 15th 1975 when twelve were logged on Aust Warth.

Though they have been noted in every month except July they are predominantly a passage migrant and winter visitor.



Jack Snipe - *Lymnocyptes minimus* | © TBOSG



This chart shows the spread of sightings of Jack Snipe in S. Gloucestershire on a month by month basis clearly indicating that the first and second winter periods are indeed the best time to see this species.



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## TEREK SANDPIPER (1)

*Xenus cinereus*

Terek Sandpiper has been recorded in S. Gloucestershire on just one occasion the full story behind the find is laid out below;

On the beautifully warm, still evening of September 19th 1986, Chris Stone and I visited the Royal Portbury Dock in search of a peculiar '*calidris*' wader that had been seen the previous evening. There was no sign of the mystery bird, but at about 19:00 a very peculiar yet distinctive call originating some distance away across the mouth of the Avon was heard.

About ten minutes later I heard it again, but much closer, over the nearby pumping pool. It was repeated several times, getting nearer and nearer, so that eventually it was almost deafening, positively echoing round the rock edged pool. The loud, clear call consisted of two or three notes; its quality was hard to describe, but was something like a cross between the calls of Turnstone and Whimbrel with, perhaps, the rhythm of a Black-tailed Godwit. I wrote it down as 'aloud, clear 'whit whit' or 'whit whit whit'. The call rang a bell in my memory, the vaguely Whimbrel like quality recalling what I remembered of the call of Terek Sandpiper...

Suddenly, there it was! It appeared low over the pumping pool, only about 20 - 25 yards away, and below eye level. I shouted, "There it is it's a Terek!" The bird flew low over the water with rather fourteen shallow wing-beats.

It was a smallish wader, maybe about the size of a Common Sandpiper. It was plain grey above, but what instantly gripped the attention was a striking white Redshank like panel along the secondaries. I had an excellent view too of the long, gently up curved bill which stood out clearly against the pale water. The bird dropped down in the corner of the pool, unfortunately vanishing from view.

To cut a long story short, it was a very nervous, flighty bird. In the next half hour or so we obtained several flight views but saw it only poorly on the ground when it joined the developing Redshank roost among the rocks at the side of the pool. We last saw it at about 19:45 but could still hear it calling after dark. It seemed set to stay the night.

Thirteen people gathered the following morning, but the bird was nowhere to be seen. They gradually drifted off, Brian Lancaster inevitably making for Severn Beach.

There, at about 11:00, he and Norman Lacy were alerted to a peculiar call, and found the Terek Sandpiper settled on a small shingle ridge with Ringed Plover and Dunlin. They had good views for five minutes before it flew off calling, not to be seen again. They were able to note more detail, including the yellow legs, yellow at the base of the bill, grey breast patches and a white supercilium curving down before the eye.

Keith Vinicombe - September 1986

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## RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (2)

*Phalaropus lobatus*

By far the rarer of the two phalaropes that have occurred in S. Gloucestershire, Red-necked Phalarope has been recorded here on just two occasions.

Both juvenile/ 1st winter birds the first was in 2001 when on October 8th one was picked up in flight off Severn Beach below the second Severn Crossing. It was watched at a distance, but eventually came nearer and was seen close inshore. The second was in 2014 with one present for just a couple of hours on Pilning Wetland Reserve, New Passage on August 18th. It was last seen heading high east and lost to view at 19:55.



Red-necked Phalarope - *Phalaropus lobatus* | © Paul Bowerman

GREY PHALAROPE (c.35)

*Phalaropus fulicarius*



Grey Phalarope - *Phalaropus fulicarius* | © John Martin

FIRST  
EARLIEST  
LATEST

October 21st 1949 at Stoke Gifford  
August 29th 1997 from Severn Beach  
January 4th 1988 from New Passage

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
•							•	•	•	•	•

All sightings:

- 1949 One, possibly two, on flooded pastures at Stoke Gifford from October 21st - 28th.
- 1951 One on September 16th at Severn Beach.



- 1983 Three at New Passage on October 17th, two on the 18th and one on the 19th.
- 1988 One on January 4th off New Passage.
- 1989 One on September 18th at Oldbury Power Station and one on September 27th at Severn Beach.
- 1993 A juvenile/ 1st winter from September 11th - 15th at Oldbury Power Station.
- 1994 A juvenile/ 1st winter on September 16th at Oldbury Power Station.
- 1995 A juvenile/ 1st winter at Oldbury Power Station on October 8th.
- 1997 One on August 29th off Severn Beach.
- 1998 One on Severnside on January 4th.
- 2000 One from Severn Beach on October 31st and one also from Severn Beach on December 14th.
- 2006 A juvenile/ 1st winter on October 7th from Severn Beach.
- 2007 The remains of a predated 1st winter bird at Severn Beach on December 31st.
- 2009 One off New Passage on August 31st, one off Severn Beach on November 25th and one on Shaft Beach at Severn Beach on December 6th.
- 2011 One off Shaft Beach at Severn Beach on September 17th.
- 2012 One from Severn Beach on September 14th.
- 2013 A juvenile/ 1st winter in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area on September 18th and one in the Littleton Warth/ Thornbury Sailing Club area on September 21st.
- 2015 One at New Passage on September 25th, one on October 3rd from New Passage, one at Shepperdine on November 9th, the same or another in the same area on November 13th and one past Severn Beach on November 21st.
- 2017 SEPTEMBER: One from Severn Beach on the 11th. OCTOBER: A 1st winter between Severn Beach and New Passage from the 7th - 10th and an unconfirmed report of one from Severn Beach on the 21st.
- 2018 SEPTEMBER: An adult on Butts Pool, Pilning Wetland Reserve on the 20th - 21st was joined by a juvenile/ 1st winter on the 21st, a second juvenile/ 1st winter on the estuary from Severn Beach also on the 21st. All three present in the area until the 24th and a winter adult at Oldbury Power Station on the 25th.

## WOOD SANDPIPER (c.45)

*Tringa glareola*

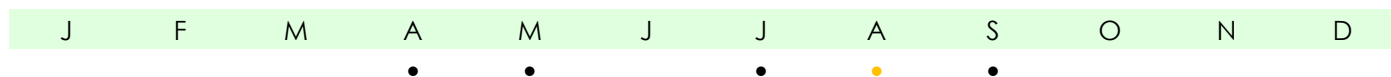


Wood Sandpiper - *Tringa glareola* | © Brian Lancaster



EARLIEST  
LATEST  
HIGHEST COUNT

April 23rd 2015 at Oldbury Power Station  
September 22nd 2016 on Pilning Wetland Reserve  
Four on August 17th 2015 on Pilning Wetland Reserve



The first record comes from 1943 when one was clearly identified near St. Catherine, at the southern end of The Cotswolds south of Marshfield on August 13th. It remains to date the only inland report of this species in the recording area.

It would be twenty-four years before the next sighting with one seen at New Passage on August 22nd 1967. Far from annual in those early years they were becoming more 'regular' and 1971 brought the next with one from Severn Beach on July 31st. The next sightings and first multiple occurrence was in 1979 with two together at Northwick Warth on August 25th. 1983, 1984 and 1985 had single birds; one on August 7th 1983 at Oldbury Power Station, one on September 12th - 13th 1984 at Northwick Warth and one on August 18th 1985 at Aust Warth.

Eight years elapsed before the next birds were found in 1993. Three birds this year; one on May 23rd on Northwick Warth, one on August 28th also on Northwick Warth and one on September 6th at Oldbury Power Station.

One at Oldbury Power Station on May 5th 1996 and one from August 31st until September 4th in 1997 on Northwick Warth were next in line.

A twelve year gap ensued until spring 2009 when the first of five birds were logged; A spring adult at Severn Beach on May 13th, two on Northwick Warth on July 26th, a juvenile on Lagoon I at Oldbury Power Station from the 18th - 23rd August and one at New Passage on August 20th. In 2010 a juvenile/ 1st winter was present on Northwick Warth on August 26th - 27th.

In recent years, Wood Sandpiper has become even more regular, with sightings every year from 2013 onwards.

#### Subsequent sightings:

2013	AUGUST:	One over Aust Warth on the 9th.
2014	JULY:	Two on Pilning Wetland Reserve from the 24th - 27th with three there from the 28th until at least August 4th.
	AUGUST:	Two on the 5th - 7th, a juvenile/ 1st winter in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth flashes area on the 28th - 30th and an adult on Pilning Wetland Reserve/ Northwick Warth on the 31st.
	SEPTEMBER:	A juvenile/ 1st winter on Pilning Wetland Reserve from the 1st - 8th.
2015	APRIL:	A spring adult on Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station on the 23rd.
	AUGUST:	Three juvenile/ 1st winters on Pilning Wetland Reserve on the 16th and 23rd increasing to four from 17th - 22nd with two from the 24th - 27th and one on the 28th.
	SEPTEMBER:	One from Shepperdine and Oldbury Power Station on the 4th and a juvenile/ 1st winter on Pilning Wetland Reserve from the 5th - 16th.
2016	MAY:	A spring adult on Pilning Wetland Reserve on the 28th.
	SEPTEMBER:	A juvenile/ 1st winter on Pilning Wetland Reserve on the 5th, two juvenile/ 1st winters there from the 14th - 17th with one from the 18th - 22nd.
2017	MAY:	Two spring adults on Pilning Wetland Reserve on the 5th with one on the 6th & 7th.
2018	APRIL:	One on Pilning Wetland Reserve on the 27th.
	MAY:	One on Pilning Wetland Reserve from the 6th - 8th.
	JULY:	An adult on Pilning Wetland Reserve from the 15th - 18th.



Spotted Redshank - *Tringa erythropus* | © Paul Bowerman

Spotted Redshank has been recorded in every month except March and June. The first record comes from 1954 when two were seen in flight and on the mud banks on the R. Severn at Shepperdine on November 17th. The highest count to date is five seen in 1995 at Oldbury Power Station on August 13th.

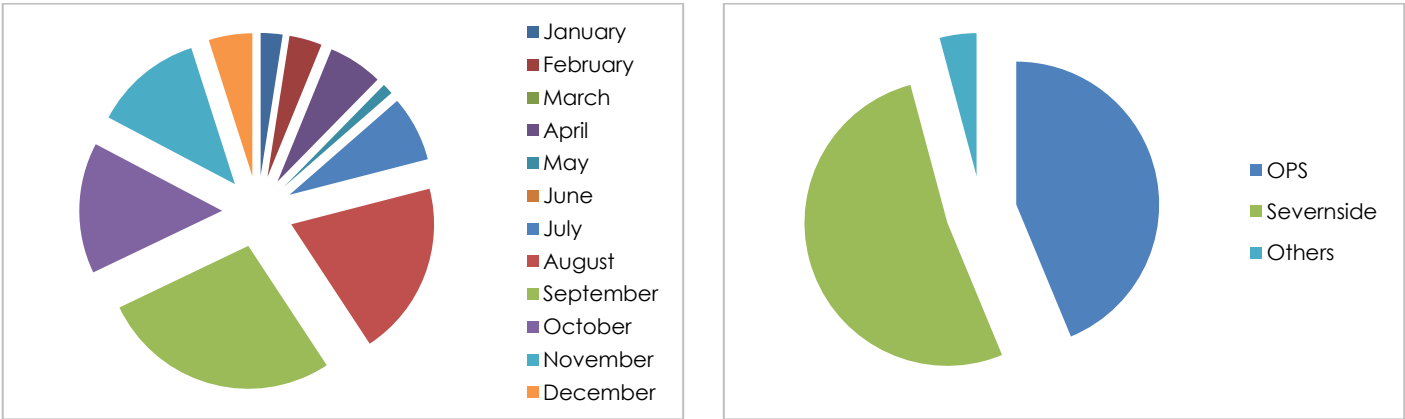
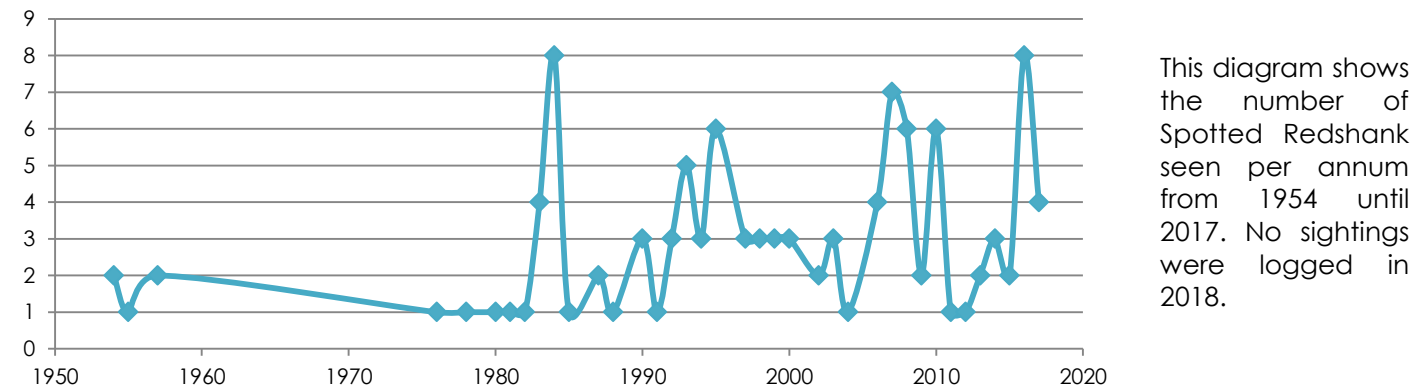


Diagram 1 shows the spread of Spotted Redshank on a month by month basis and clearly indicates that autumn is the best time to encounter them in the region and that September is the best month.

Diagram 2 shows the locations of occurrences on a site by site basis and indicates that the Severnside patch (52%) is marginally better for this species than the Oldbury Power Station patch (44%).

GULLS

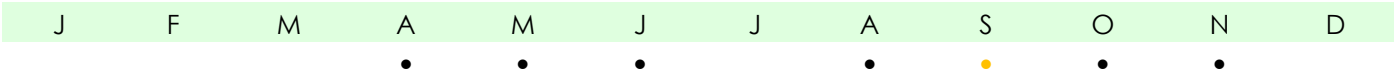
SABINE'S GULL (c.25)

*Xema sabini*



Sabine's Gull - *Xema sabini* | © TBOSG

FIRST	September 13th 1980 from New Passage
EARLIEST	April 29th 1992 from New Passage
LATEST	November 4th 1996 at Oldbury Power Station
HIGHEST COUNT	Six on September 4th 1983 from New Passage



All sightings:

1980	A juvenile off New Passage on September 13th.
1983	Three off New Passage on September 3rd with five or six were there on the 4th and two on the 5th. One at Oldbury Power Station on September 6th.
1984	An adult off Littleton Warth on September 13th.
1987	An adult off Severn Beach on October 25th.
1988	A 1st summer on Severnside on May 30th. A juvenile on September 23rd on Severnside with the same or another on the 28th.
1992	An adult on April 29th off New Passage.
1996	An immature at Oldbury Power Station on November 3rd - 4th.
1997	A juvenile off Severn Beach on August 29th and an adult off Severn Beach on October 10th.
2001	A 1st summer or possible a winter adult on August 12th off Severn Beach and a juvenile on October 9th also off Severn Beach.
2004	A summer adult past Severn Beach on May 4th.
2011	A juvenile off Severn Beach on September 6th and another juvenile off Severn Beach on September 12th and 13th.
2012	A full summer adult off Severn Beach on June 9th.
2016	An adult from Severn Beach on September 8th.
2017	A juvenile off Severn Beach on September 13th and another juvenile off Severn Beach on October 22nd.



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## LAUGHING GULL (1)

*Leucophaeus atricilla*

On May 1st 2012 a summer adult was seen off shore from 'The Pipes' about a kilometre south of Severn Beach. It was first heard and then seen in flight as it moved north east at around 13:30 along the coast fairly close inshore. It was also seen a kilometre up the coast shortly afterwards just off the sea wall at Severn Beach where it unfortunately continued on up river without pause.

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## FRANKLIN'S GULL (3)

*Leucophaeus pipixcan*

Three Franklin's Gulls have been found in S. Gloucestershire. The first was on May 19th 1984 when a 2nd summer/ adult was identified at Severn Beach, the second was an adult found on June 12th 1988 on the north side of New Pill Gout one kilometre south of Severn Beach and thirdly a 2nd winter was located on Willsbridge Flood Meadows beside the R. Avon at Willsbridge on April 10th 2000 and was still present on April 11th.

Although there have been c.120 Franklin's and over 260 Laughing Gull accepted records in the UK, these trans-Atlantic vagrant gulls remain extremely rare in our neck of the woods. Occurrences suggest that mid to late spring to early summer is the best time to encounter them.

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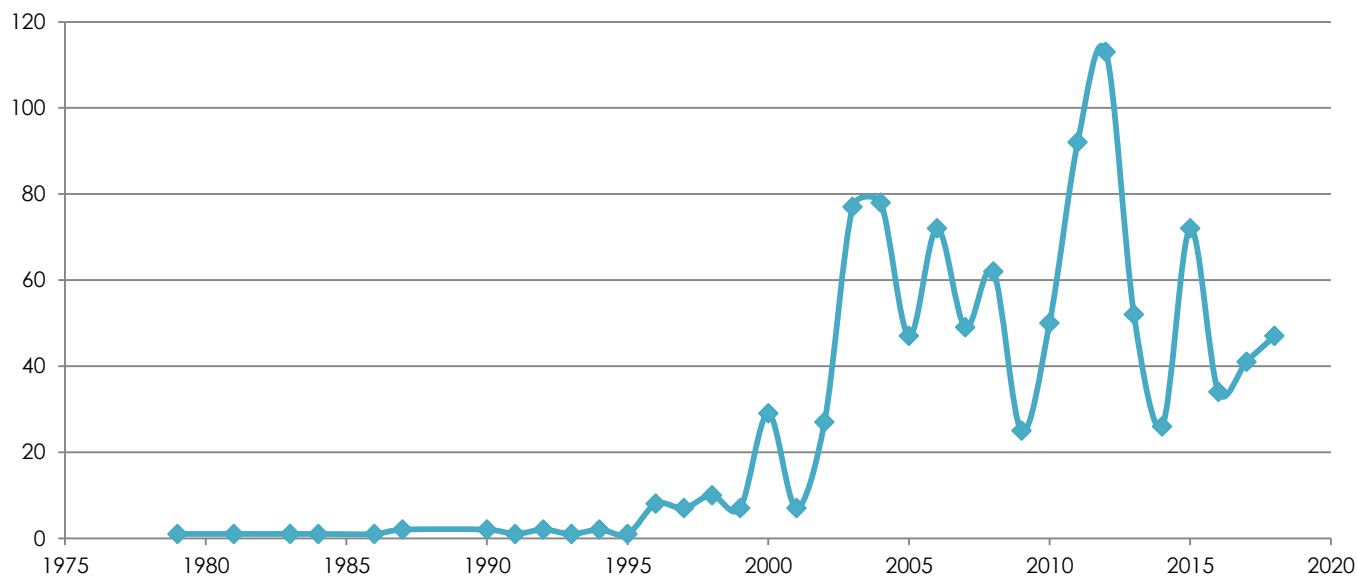
## MEDITERRANEAN GULL (c.1,100 bird days)

*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*

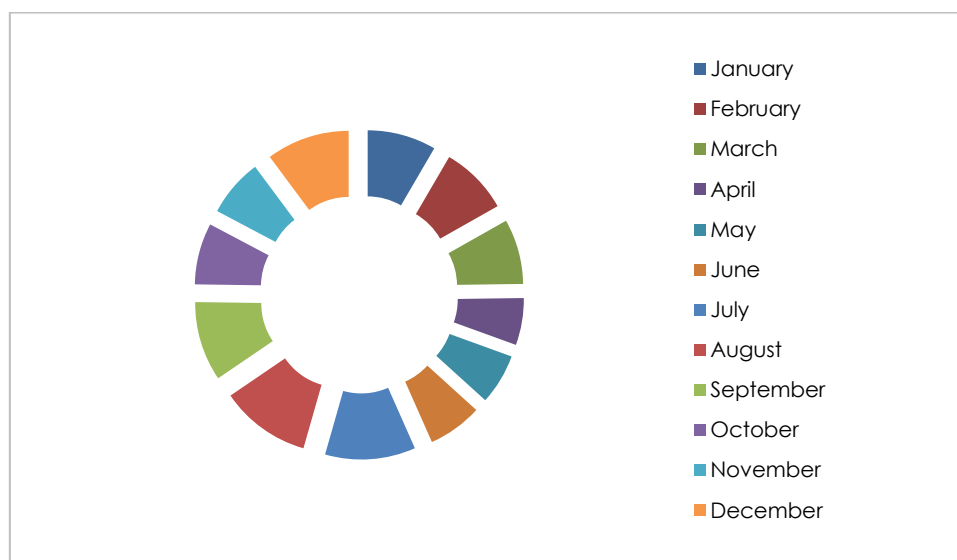


Mediterranean Gulls - *Ichthyaetus melanocephalus* | © TBOSG

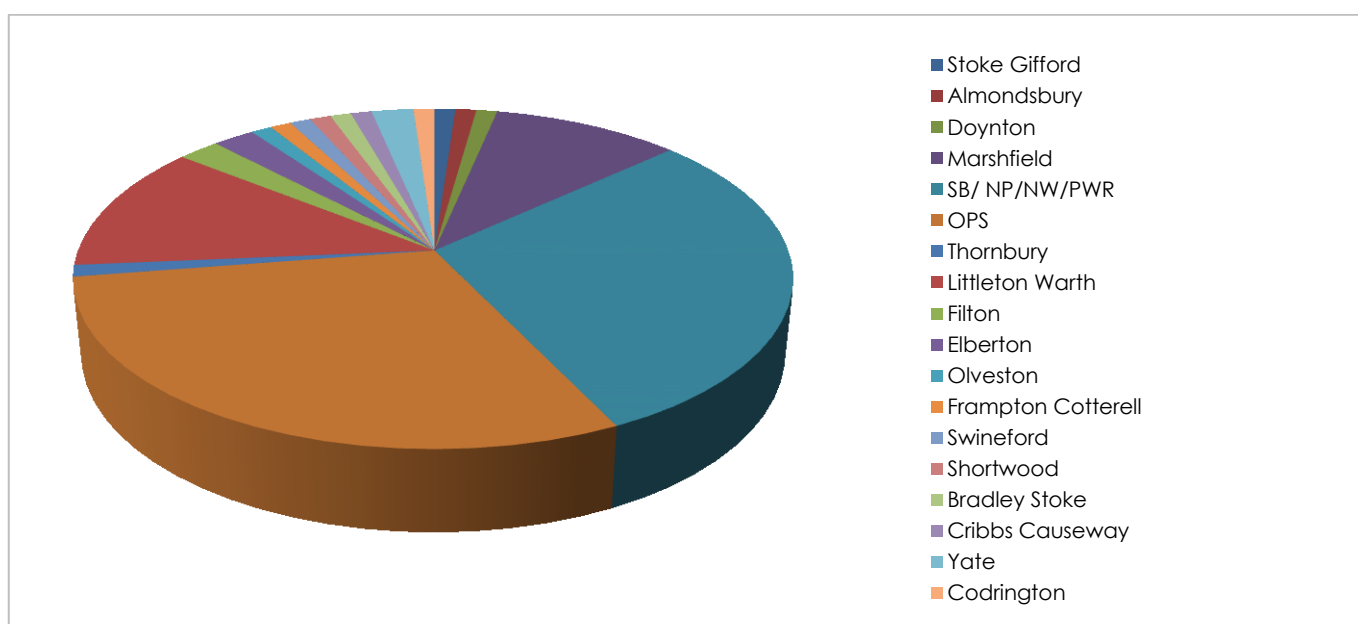
Mediterranean Gull has been seen in every month of the year in S. Gloucestershire. The first, an adult, was found in flooded fields at Stoke Gifford on March 18th 1979 and the highest single count occurred on June 23rd 2015 when up to ten were seen from New Passage.



The number of bird days for Mediterranean Gull per annum between 1978 and 2018.



The occurrence of Mediterranean Gull on a month by month basis.

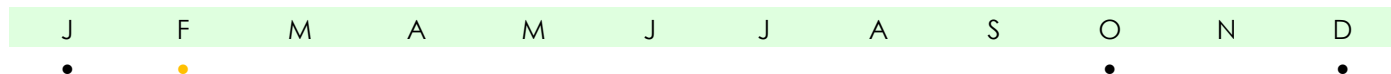


Sites across the recording area where Mediterranean Gull have been seen.

## RING-BILLED GULL (6)

*Larus delawarensis*

FIRST February 28th 1987 at New Passage  
 EARLIEST October 2nd 1994 at Oldbury Power Station  
 LATEST February 28th 1987 at New Passage



Ring-billed Gull - *Larus delawarensis* | © Peter Rock

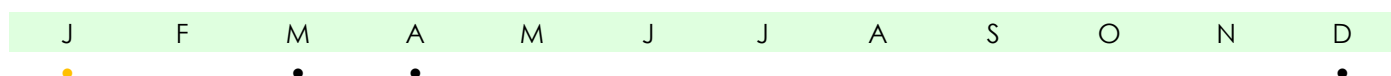
### All sightings:

- 1987 On February 28th a 1st winter moulting to 1st summer was identified at New Passage.
- 1994 On October 2nd a 2nd winter was found at Oldbury Power Station.
- 1997 On the October 12th a 1st winter was located at Northwick Warth.
- 2008 A winter adult was present at Shortwood Landfill Site near Emerson's Green from February 27th - 28th at ST: 681 769 and an adult was seen close inshore off New Passage around 10:15 on December 27th heading north.
- 2015 A winter adult was present at Filton North Way Transfer Station, Filton on January 13th.

## GLAUCOUS GULL (10)

*Larus hyperboreus*

FIRST Winter 1840 on the Severn Estuary  
 EARLIEST December 27th 1938 at Severn Beach  
 LATEST April 13th 2012 at New Passage



There have been ten Glaucous Gulls recorded in S. Gloucestershire since 1840 80% of which have been non-adults.

So the ages reported have been four juvenile/ immature birds, a 1st winter, two 2nd winter, a third winter and two adults.





Glaucous Gull - *Larus hyperboreus* | © Paul Bowerman

#### All sightings:

- 1840 A winter adult was 'obtained' on the Severn Estuary. It was presumably collected sometime over the first winter period, January/ February or the second winter period in December.
- 1938 On December 27th an immature was located at Severn Beach. Following a week of severe weather, an immature bird visited the Severn estuary late in December. It was watched at close quarters between Avonmouth and Severn Beach on the 27th and again on the 30th. When seen alongside a Great Black-backed Gull, it was correspondingly large with an equally massive bill. This, and the greyish-white plumage with an entire absence of black on the primaries, placed its identity beyond doubt.
- 1950 An immature was found on January 8th at Severn Beach.
- 1984 On January 11th a 2nd winter was observed on Severnside and was present until February 25th and an immature was found on January 22nd at Oldbury-on-Severn.
- 1991 An adult was seen in flight on March 21st at Aust Warth and was last seen heading south-west.
- 2002 A juvenile was watched on December 31st at Northwick Warth.
- 2012 On January 5th a 2nd winter was seen at New Passage at around 15:50. It continued on towards Severn Beach at around 6 metres range flying low along the sea wall. It was also present for several hours off New Passage in an area known as The Scars on January 8th. A 3rd year bird was reported flying inland over New Passage on April 13th.
- 2018 A 1st winter was seen well from Severn Beach at 08:00 on January 3rd before departing down river;

## ICELAND GULL (16)

*Larus glaucooides*

FIRST February 21st 1940 at Stoke Gifford  
 EARLIEST October 9th 1999 at Oldbury Power Station  
 LATEST May 13th 1989 at New Passage  
 HIGHEST COUNT Two on February 17th 2000 at Oldbury Power Station

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
•	•	•		•					•	•	•

The best year for this species in S. Gloucestershire was 2000 when four individuals were reported. 1999 was next best with two reports but in all other years just single birds have been noted.

Nearly all sightings have occurred from October through to March with the exception of a couple of May records from 1989 and 2012.

## All sightings:

- 1940 On February 23rd an immature bird was identified at Stoke Gifford. When first seen it was soaring directly overhead in company with a number of young Herring Gulls with which it corresponded in size but differed noticeably in the entirely transparent appearance of the primary feathers. Later, as the bird heeled over, identification was further confirmed by the creamy white upper parts and the absence of any black on the wing-tips.
- 1977 One was reported at Severn Beach on November 5th.
- 1984 On February 11th one was located at Northwick Warth and stayed in the area until March 8th.
- 1988 A 1st winter was found on January 3rd at New Passage.
- 1989 A 1st summer was seen in flight and heading north-east on May 13th at New Passage.
- 1996 One was found on March 17th at Oldbury Power Station.
- 1998 One was seen at Oldbury Power Station on February 15th.
- 1999 On January 5th a juvenile/ 1st winter was found at Severn Beach; One was found on October 9th at Oldbury Power Station.
- 2000 One was seen on January 23rd on Northwick Warth, one on February 1st at Stoke Gifford Tip and was present in the area until February 13th and two were present on February 17th - 18th at Oldbury Power Station with one present until February 24th, The same or another was seen again on March 5th.
- 2004 On December 26th a probable 2nd winter was noted on the shore near the jetty at Oldbury Power Station.
- 2008 A 2nd winter was present off Severn Beach in the morning on November 3rd.
- 2012 One was reported in flight south from New Passage early morning on May 5th.

## Kumlien's Gull (1)

*Larus glaucoides kumlieni*

There has been just one record of this New World arctic form in S. Gloucestershire. On June 30th A 1st winter moulting to 2nd summer was identified at Oldbury Power Station on June 30th 1996, it was present for eighteen days and was last seen on July 17th.



● Summer range | ● Winter range

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## CASPIAN GULL (c.10)

*Larus cachinnans*

Caspian Gull breeds around the Black and Caspian Seas, extending eastwards across central Asia to north-west China. In Europe they have spread north and west and now breed in Poland and eastern Germany.

Still a very rare gull in the recording area, they have occurred here on just ten occasions. The first was an adult that was present on November 16th 2002 at Harnhill Landfill near Elberton. An adult seen at the same site on December 6th was assumed to be the same bird.

That was followed by another adult seen at New Passage on November 19th 2003. It was pushed off by the rising tide and flew south late morning but was relocated in fields just north of Northwick Warth tip early afternoon. In 2004 another adult was reported at Northwick Land Fill on January 3rd.

A run of sightings from 2006 found a 1st summer Severn Beach on August 5th 2006 and a winter adult at Shortwood Civic Amenities Site on December 14th 2007. In 2008 an adult was once again seen at Shortwood Civic Amenities Site on January 22nd and in February two birds were noted at the same site on the 4th.

Missing for nine years a winter adult was noted mixing with around 600 mixed gulls at Shortwood Civic Amenities Site late afternoon on March 2nd 2017.

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## YELLOW-LEGGED GULL (c.300)

*Larus michahellis*



Yellow-legged Gull - *Larus michahellis* | © TBOSG

Yellow-legged Gull has been recorded in S. Gloucestershire in all months of the year and every year since the first, an adult, was found at New Passage sometime in November 1989. They have been reported from seven different sites; Severnside, Littleton Warth, Oldbury Power Station, Shortwood Landfill, Marshfield Willsbridge and Yate.

The best months to see them are August with 18% of sightings followed by September with 14% and July with 12%.

The best year was 2001 with an impressive thirty-five birds seen and the highest count was eight logged on August 16th 1993 at Oldbury Power Station.

The best place to catch up with this species is Oldbury Power Station with 43% of sightings closely followed by Severnside with 37%.



TERNS

LITTLE TERN (c.275)

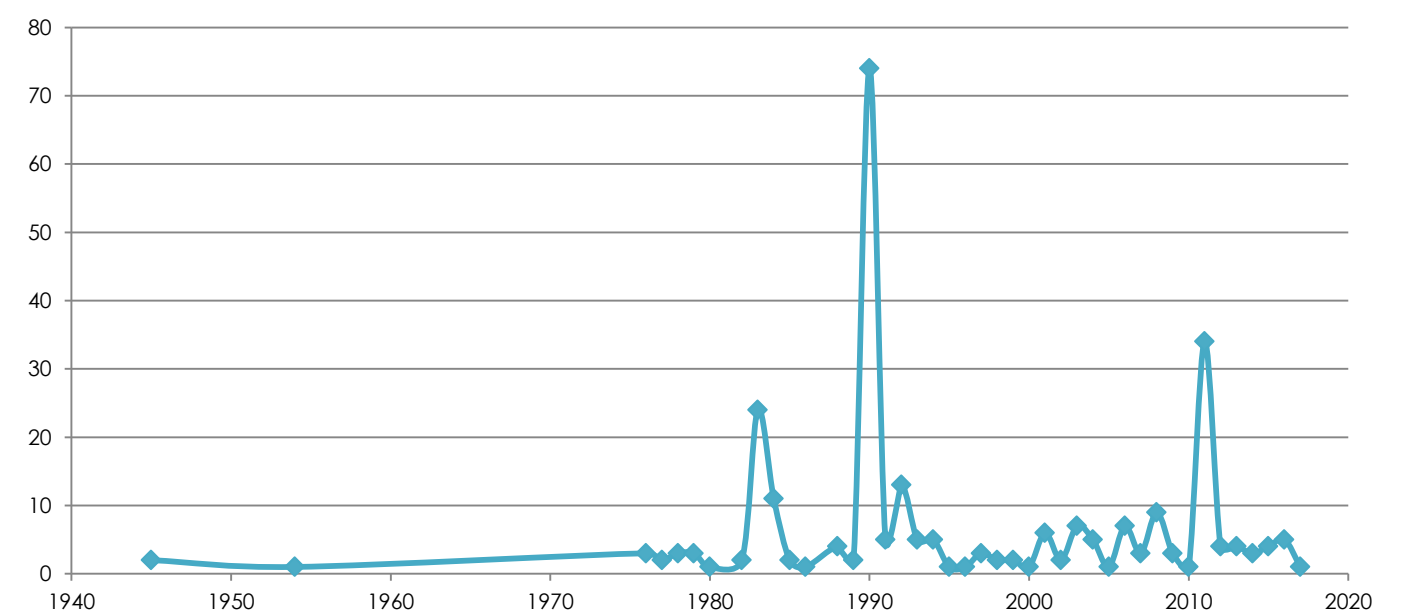
*Sternula albifrons*

Little Tern can be encountered any time between mid-April to late October. The first was seen on May 9th 1945 with two identified at close range on the shingle at Severn Beach. The yellow bill and leg coloration, and other distinguishing characters, were clearly seen. This is the only authentic record within recent years for this side of the district. (Howard H. Davis).

The earliest occurred on April 18th 2013 at New Passage, the latest was noted on October 28th 1996 at Severn Beach and the highest count was thirty-four and happened on May 1st 1990 at Severn Beach.

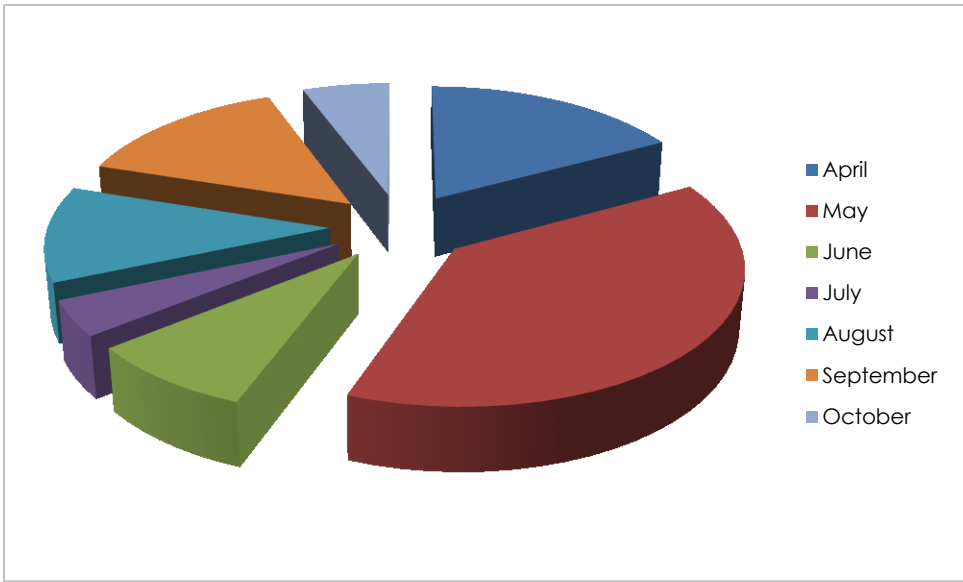


Little Tern - *Sternula albifrons* | © Gary Thoburn

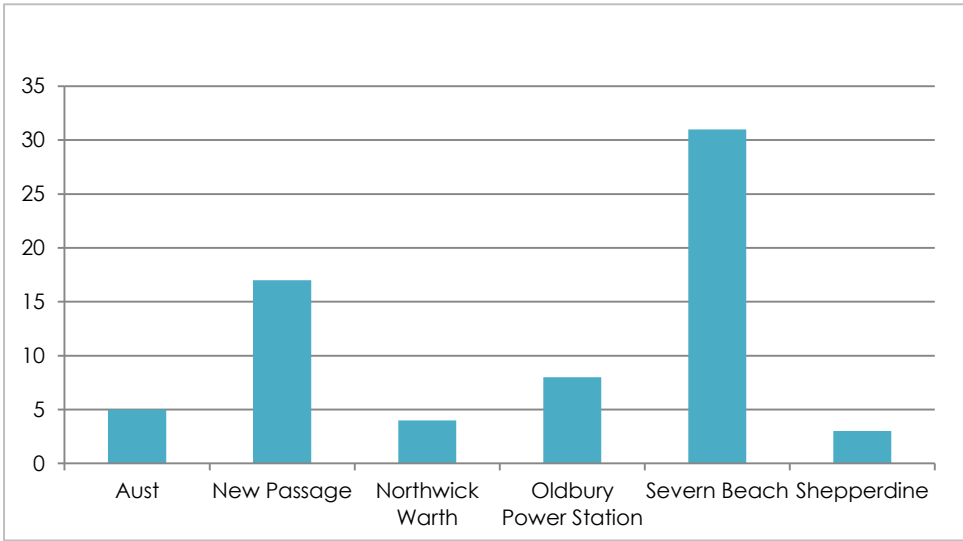


The number of Little Tern occurrences per annum between 1945 and 2018.

The best years for this species at our coastal sites were 1990 with 74 birds and 2011 with 34.



The best month by far is May with 39% of sightings indicating that the spring passage is the most productive.



Of the six sites where sightings have been recorded, Severn Beach holds the lions share. The observer is 50% more likely to see Little Tern from Severn Beach than any of the other sites.

ROSEATE TERN (4)

*Sterna dougallii*



Roseate Terns - *Sterna dougallii* | © Paul Bowerman

Roseate Tern is an extremely rare tern in S. Gloucestershire and has occurred here on just four occasions. The first record was in 1990 when a full summer adult was watched for several minutes off New Passage on May 1st.

The next, some seven year later in 1997, with a juvenile/ 1st winter spending three days at Severn Beach from October 7th - 9th. Most recently the first multiple occurrence of this species was in 2016 when an adult and juvenile moulting to 1st winter were present at the mouth of Chestle Pill, New Passage between 07:00 and 07:30 on August 28th.

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## WHISKERED TERN (1)

*Chlidonias hybrid*

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Here's the story:

I wasn't planning on going birding this morning, but I woke at 05:00, heard the birds singing and remembered the BBC Weather forecast of rain arriving later in morning. Hmm – so nearly didn't bother going when I got outside to rain. But there is always the possibility...

A wander round the lagoons produced just a Garden Warbler feeding in trees by Lagoon III. Along the shore a Common Sandpiper called as it flew away from me, but visibility was so poor with rain and mist that I couldn't see it.

As I got to the shore on the far corner of Lagoon I (what I call 'Shepperdine'), I became aware of a flock of greyish looking terns coming out of the mist. A quick check with the 'bins' showed there were a number of nice summer plumaged Black Tern among them. They were right on the near shore line of the Tidal Reservoir, about 100 metres away from me. (Any further out and they would have passed undetected.)

I quickly set up my telescope and got good views of five Black Terns. The flock were very kindly holding station right where I was. I was ignoring the rest of the terns, assuming they would be Arctic's. I noticed there were some white rumps and started checking the Black Terns for 'White-winged'.

Here's one with a distinctly whiter tail - it was closed and forked like a Swift; dark-grey (almost black) body; just check head... black cap with white cheek stripe - does not compute! It can only be a WHISKERED TERN!

At that moment the flock started moving upriver and I started counting them as they disappeared into the mist. I got to forty-two and there were certainly a few I didn't count. I added another two definite Black Tern when counting, so seven at least.

The visibility was so bad that I could only see the closest c.10 birds in detail, the rest were just grey shadows in the rain/ mist, and I have no idea what they were!

Main reasons for being sure it was not an Arctic Tern: Tail all wrong, flight action all wrong plus distinct demarcation lines between blackish body and white under-tail coverts/ cheek/ light underwing. (And I've seen 300+ Arctic Terns in the same place in the last 12 years!)

Pete Hazelwood – May 2016

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## WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN (1)

*Chlidonias leucopterus*

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On May 3rd 1990 an adult was identified in flight with Black Terns heading up the Severn estuary at Aust Warth.

This record remains the only occurrence of this extremely rare tern to have been found in S. Gloucestershire. Perhaps with the establishment of Pilning Wetland Reserve we'll be treated to an autumn passage migrant?



SKUAS

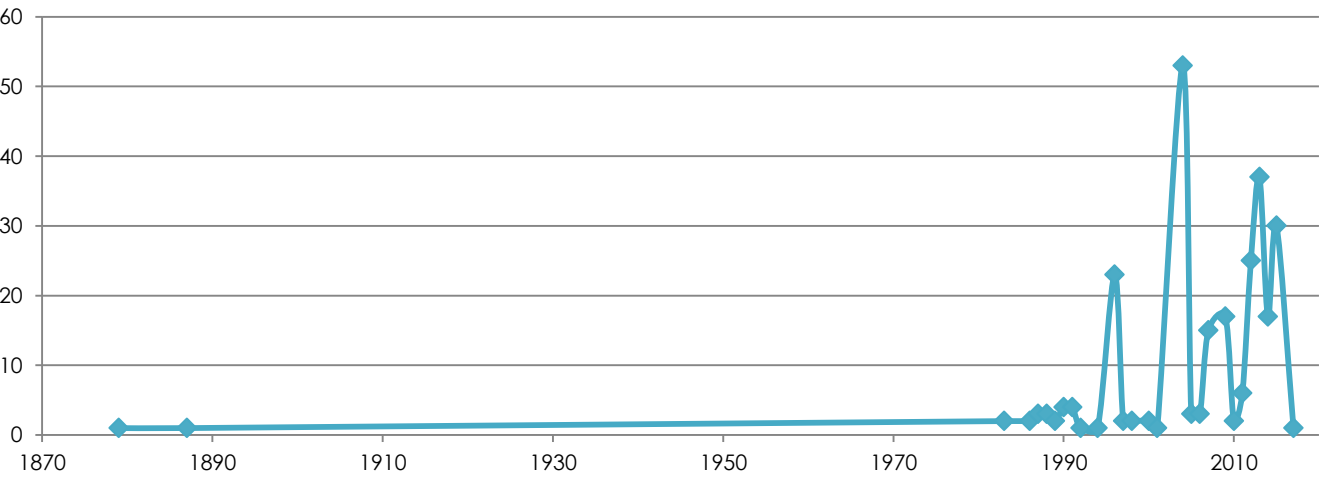
POMARINE SKUA (c.265)

*Stercorarius pomarinus*



Pomarine Skua - *Stercorarius pomarinus* | © TBOSG

The first documented reference to Pomarine Skua in S. Glos was of one 'obtained' sometime in November 1879 at New Passage. The next was in 1887 when a corpse was found near Hawkesbury Upton sometime in December of that year. It would be ninety-six years before the next in 1983 but since then, though not annual, they have been seen on a fairly regular basis. They have also been seen in every month except March and the highest count is of thirty-six logged on May 4th 2004 at Severn Beach.

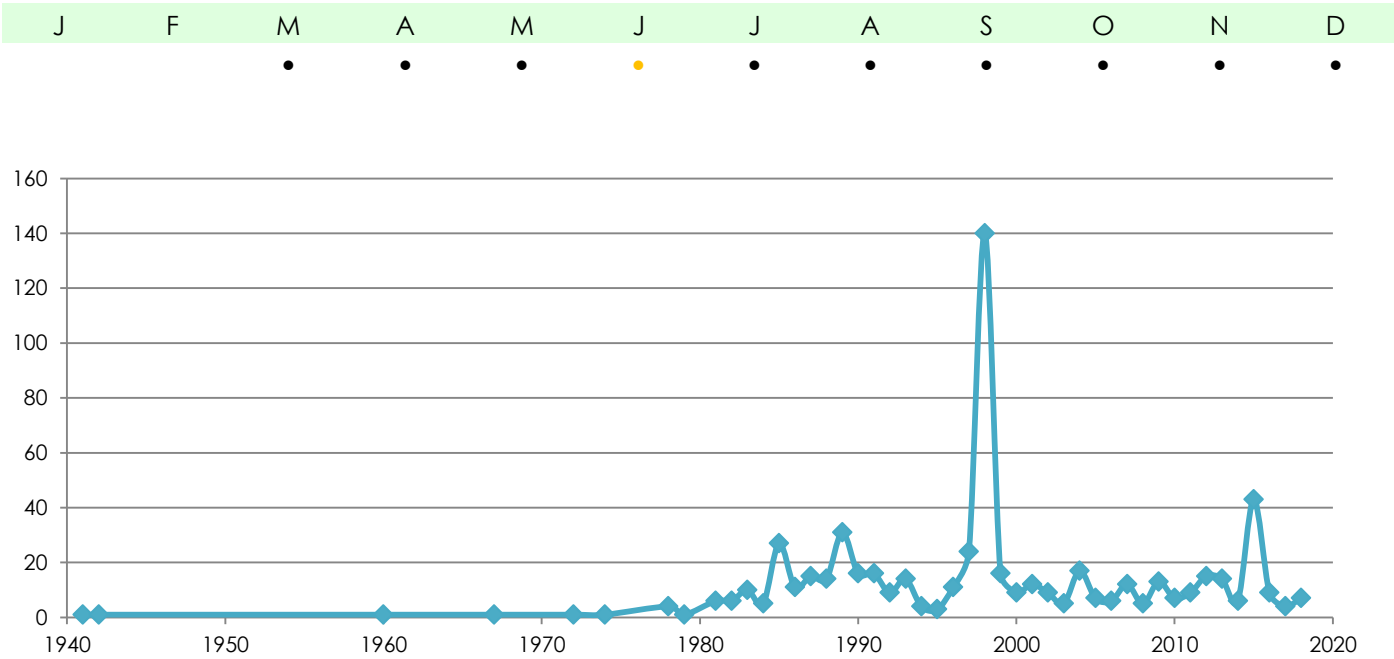


The number of Pomarine Skua reported on an annual basis from 1879 until 2018.



Arctic Skua - *Stercorarius parasiticus* | © Andy Jordan

FIRST June 1st 1941 at Littleton-upon-Severn  
EARLIEST March 14th 2004 at Severn Beach  
LATEST December 25th 1997 at Severn Beach  
HIGHEST COUNT c.120 on April 13th 1998 at Severn Beach

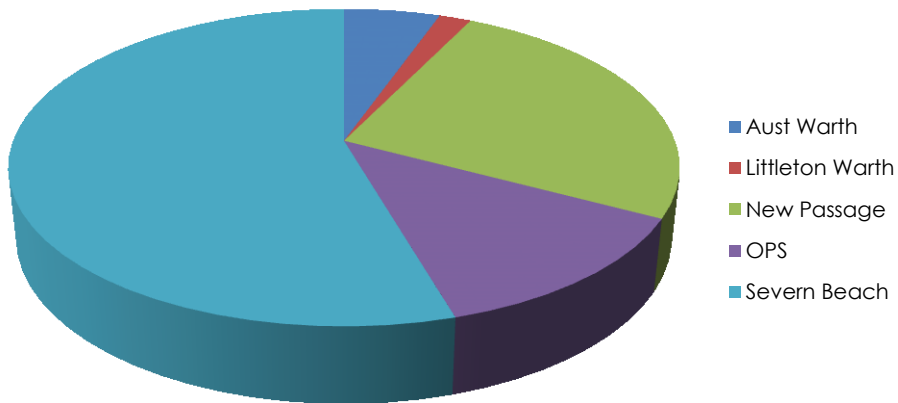


This diagram shows the number of Arctic Skua reported on an annual basis between 1941 and 2018 peaking at c.140 in April 1998 from Severn Beach.

Arctic Skua has never been recorded in S. Gloucestershire in either January or February.



The best months to connect with Arctic Skua in S. Gloucestershire are quite clearly April (22%) and May (23%) indicating a stronger spring passage.



The Severnside coast in spring (April and May) and Severn Beach in particular gives the observer the best chance to see Arctic Skua – sometimes at very close range.

## LONG-TAILED SKUA (8)

*Stercorarius longicaudus*



Long-tailed Skua - *Stercorarius longicaudus* | © Paul Bowerman

### All sightings:

- 1981 A juvenile was seen at New Passage on October 4th.
- 1983 One was seen from New Passage on September 3rd.
- 1988 On September 26th one was seen off Severn Beach. It flew north-east to New Passage before returning south-west.
- 1990 An adult was seen on September 20th off New Passage.



- 1991

An adult was watched on May 5th off New Passage in flight heading north-east.
- 1994

An adult was seen at New Passage on November 25th, at New Passage on the 26th and Severn Beach on the 27th.
- 2008

A dark or intermediate morph juvenile was reported flying downriver off Oldbury Power Station at around 11:45 on September 6th. It was subsequently seen from New Passage around mid-day.
- 2010

One, possibly this species, was seen off Severn Beach on September 14th.

AUKS

LITTLE AUK (c.35)

Alle alle



Little Auk - Alle alle | © Paul Bowerman

FIRST	October 1841 on Severnside											
EARLIEST	October 4th 1953 from Aust											
LATEST	February 10th 1988 from New Passage											
HIGHEST COUNT	Three on November 14th 2009 from Severn Beach											
<div><div>JFMA MJ JASOND</div><div>•••••••••••••</div></div>												

There was a gap of a hundred and twelve years (1841 - 1953) between the first and second reports of Little Auk in S. Gloucestershire.

The first was reported as; some in October 1841 on Severnside, being recovered after a violent storm, and following that, one on October 4th 1953 on the R. Severn below Aust Cliffs.

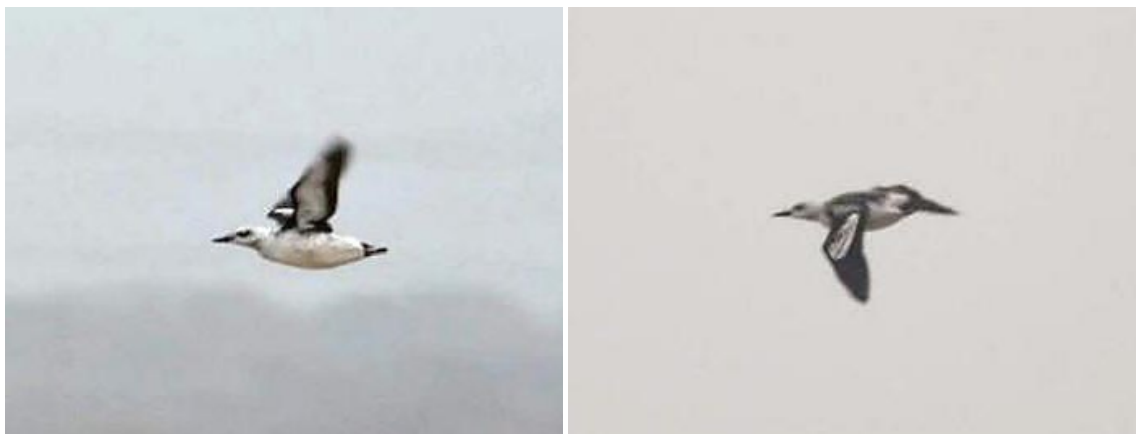
Subsequent sightings were reported sporadically from 1962 until 2010 and from some rather strange locations; Charfield in 1962, Hanham in 1972, Tockington in 1979 and High Street, Marshfield in 1990.

All other sightings come from 'Severnside';  
One in 1962, 1966, 1970, 1972, 1979, 1981, 2001, 2006 and 2007; two in 1984, 1988, 1990, 1998 and 2010; five in 1991 and six in 2009.

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## BLACK GUILLEMOT (2)

*Cepphus grille*



Black Guillemot - *Cepphus grille* | © Brian Thompson, Vic Savery

The rarest of the 'auks' to occur in our coastal waters, Black Guillemot has been recorded on just two occasions. The first was on October 27th 1998 when an adult in almost full summer plumage was watched for ten minutes slowly drifting up river off Severn Beach before being lost to view. The second and most recent was in 2015 when a 1st winter, was seen briefly but well in flight mid-morning on November 15th from the sea wall at Severn Beach. (Photo's above)

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## PUFFIN (6)

*Fratercula arctica*

Puffin has been recorded in just two months of the year, February and October.

The very first documented reference to this species in S. Gloucestershire comes not from the coast as one might expect but from an airfield in Bristol!

All sightings;

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1935 | One was present sometime in October at Filton Airfield on top of the Aerospace building.  |
| 1951 | On February 25th one was washed up at Severn Beach and collected as tide line corpse.   |
| 1997 | On February 25th one was seen off Severn Beach at around 07:45 and what was probably the same bird seen again on the following day on February 26th heading south-west. |
| 2002 | A winter adult was watched on February 5th off Severn Beach and on February 9th a 1st winter was identified off Severn Beach.   |
| 2014 | A 1st winter was seen with a group of Guillemot mid-afternoon on February 9th off Severn Beach.   |

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## SANDGROUSE & DOVES

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### PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE (c10)

*Syrrhaptes paradoxus*

A hundred and thirty years ago (130) Pallas's Sandgrouse was recorded in S. Gloucestershire in June and July 1888. They have not been seen here subsequently. In 1888, eight, possibly as many as ten, were recorded on June 3rd at Hambrook. Later that year one was 'obtained' sometime in July at Yate and two possibly of the June invasion were seen sometime in July in the Hambrook area.



Pallas's Sandgrouse has one of the strangest histories of any breeding bird in the UK. Irruptions have occurred on several occasions and in large numbers (1863 and 1888), the largest of which was 1888 - 1889 when many thousands visited in Britain and breeding was indeed confirmed in Yorkshire and north-east Scotland.

## TURTLE DOVE (UK)

*Streptopelia turtur*



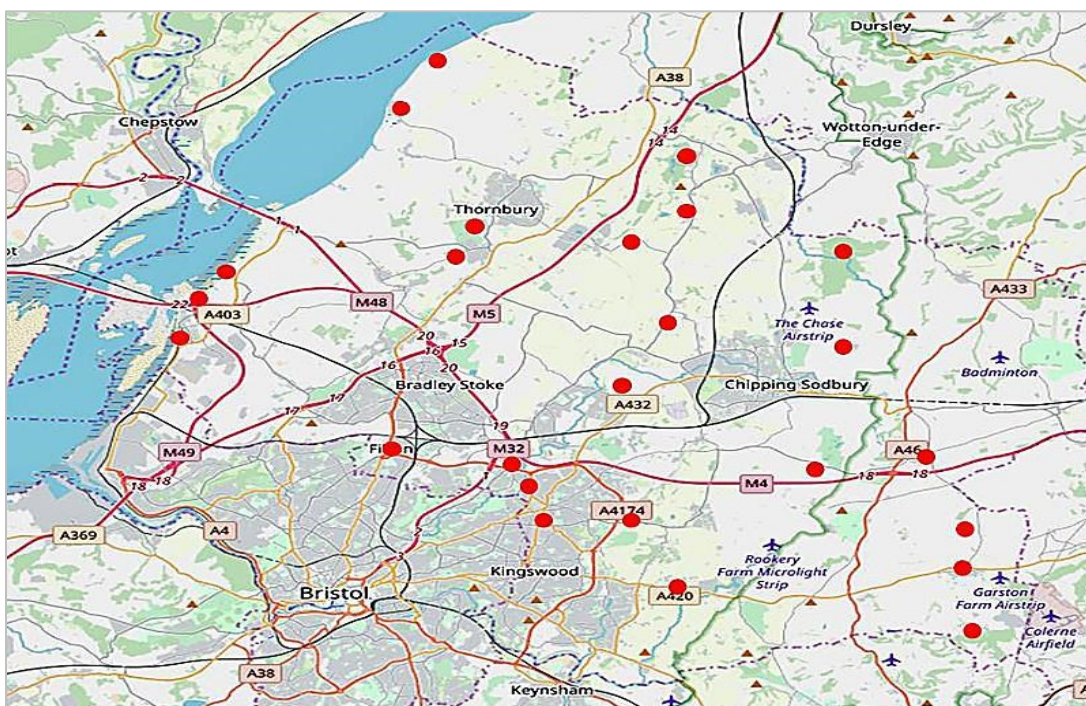
The subject of dreadful persecution by hunters across the 'Old World' and the Western Palearctic, Turtle Dove has been lost as a breeding bird in S. Gloucestershire.

Indeed in recent years it has achieved almost mythical status and those that do manage to avoid the gun attract an enormous amount of excitement.

Historically a spring and autumn passage migrant and summer visitor Turtle Dove might have been seen anytime between April and October.

The earliest recorded date is April 10th 1988 at Severn Beach and the latest October 7th 2017 on Northwick Warth.

Turtle Dove - *Streptopelia turtur* | ©TBOSG



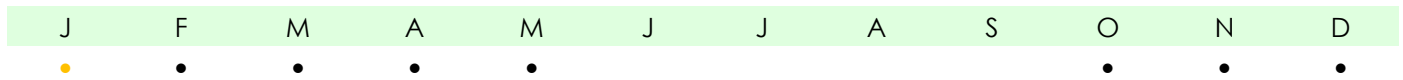
This map shows the spread of locations for Turtle Dove sightings across the recording area between 1962 and 2018.



OWLS

LONG-EARED OWL (c.45)

Asio otus



The first documented reference to Long-eared Owl in S. Gloucestershire was reported in 1897 and reads;

1897    Sometime in this year two were noted at Frampton Cotterell (Proc. Bristol Nat. Soc. 1899 page 91).

The earliest date for this species is October 7th 2016 on Northwick Warth, the latest date is May 1976 at Filton and the highest count remains at seven on December 29th 1996 at Oldbury Power Station

The best year to date was 1997. In addition to the lingering seven birds from 1996 another three birds were logged in the second winter period.

Long-eared Owl - Asio otus | © Russ Jones

All sightings:

- 1897    Sometime in this year two were noted at Frampton Cotterell.
- 1976    A number of records followed the UK influx from 1975; One found exhausted at Frenchay on January 17th, two roosted somewhere on Severnside in February one of which was ringed on February 18th and one lingered until mid-April and one at Filton within the aerospace complex sometime in May.
- 1983    One near 'The Pipes' one kilometre south of Severn Beach on October 29th.
- 1984    One at Oldfield Gate near Dyrham on April 20th.
- 1988    Two at Oldbury Power Station on November 27th.
- 1990    On March 18th photographed at Severn Beach was approachable to within one metre and one freshly dead on the road at Severn Beach on December 13th.
- 1991    A male heard 'singing' on November 16th at Thornbury.
- 1992    Two on January 21st found at Cribbs Causeway and were noted there 'several' days following.
- 1994    One reported from Aztec West, Almondsbury on October 21st and one from Oldbury Power Station from October 12th - 16th.
- 1995    One roosting at Oldbury Power Station on March 18th, the following day remains was found at the same site (wings & feet) and was presumed to be from the same bird. Also at Oldbury Power Station there were further sightings on March 25th and April 1st, 8th, 12th and 25th.

- 1996 Up to seven roosting along the bridleway at Oldbury Power Station in December; three on the 7th and 28th, four on the 14th, 20th and 21st, two on the 19th and seven on the 29th and 31st.
- 1997 The seven at Oldbury Power Station in 1996 were present at the same site until March 28th with three on March 31st, two on April 6th and one on April 12th and 22nd. Also at Oldbury Power Station one on November 1st and two on December 26th.
- 1998 One at Oldbury Power Station on February 14th.
- 2001 One at Oldbury Power Station in January, one at Severn Beach on March 23rd and 28th and another individual at Severn Beach on November 4th.
- 2006 One roosting in a hedge on Northwick Warth on April 21st and was viewed down to two metres.
- 2008 One on February 6th on a post at Aust Warth between 17:40 and 17:45 before flying back towards the sheep field hedge and a roosting adult in a hedge at Aust Warth February 9th.
- 2009 One briefly at dusk at Aust Warth on a line of fence posts on January 1st.
- 2010 One in a hedge on the north side of the B4040 west of Acton Turville on December 4th at ST: 799 809.
- 2012 One flushed from dense scrub south of Severn Beach near 'The Pipes' on March 31st.
- 2013 One photographed just south of Cake Pill, Northwick Warth on March 4th - 5th.
- 2016 One briefly on Northwick Warth on October 7th and wing feathers found at Oldbury Power Station on May 14th were identified as belonging to this species.

## SHORT-EARED OWL (c.200)

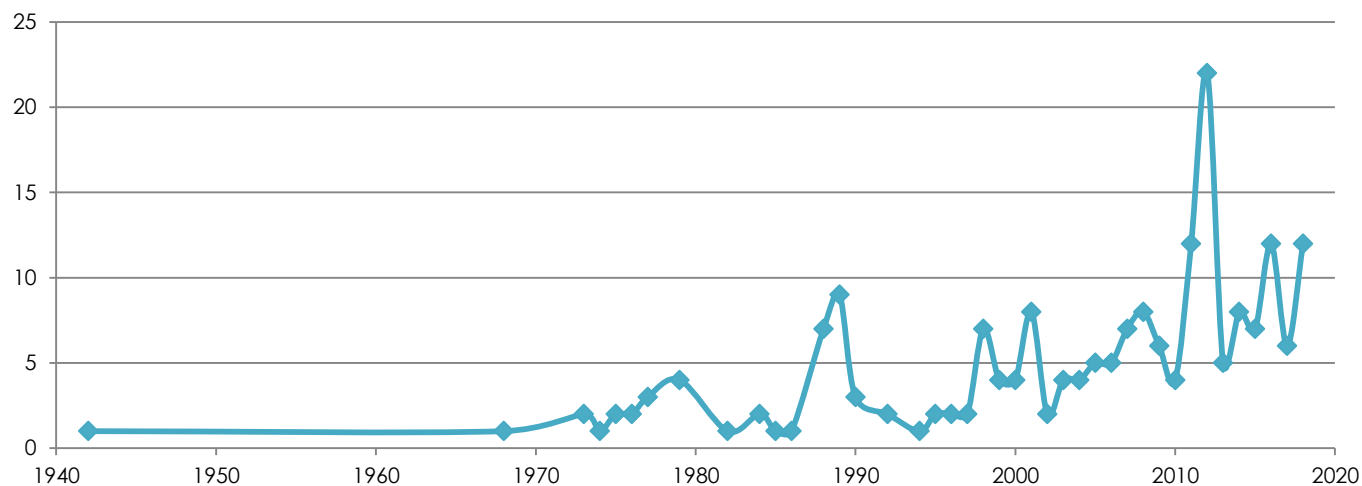
*Asio flammeus*



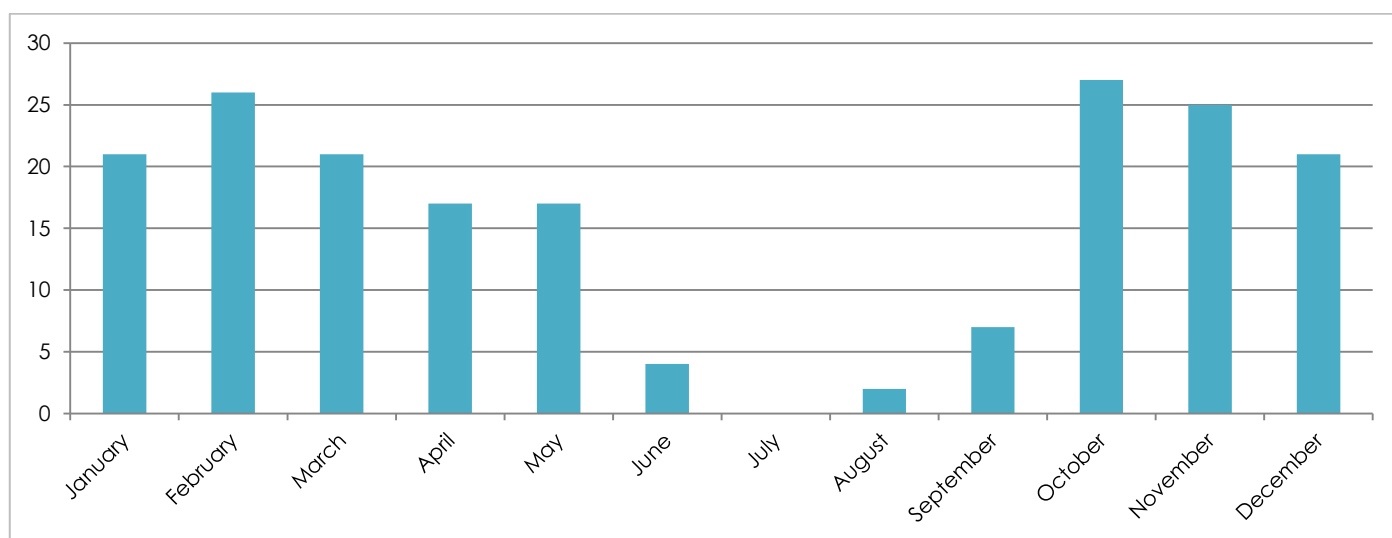
Short-eared Owl - *Asio flammeus* | © Gary Thoburn

Short-eared Owl has been reported in every month of the year with the exception of July. The very first documented reference to this species was on October 6th 1942 from the salt marsh below Severn Beach and the highest count was seven on November 27th 2011 in the Marshfield area though this figure could well have been closer to fifteen!

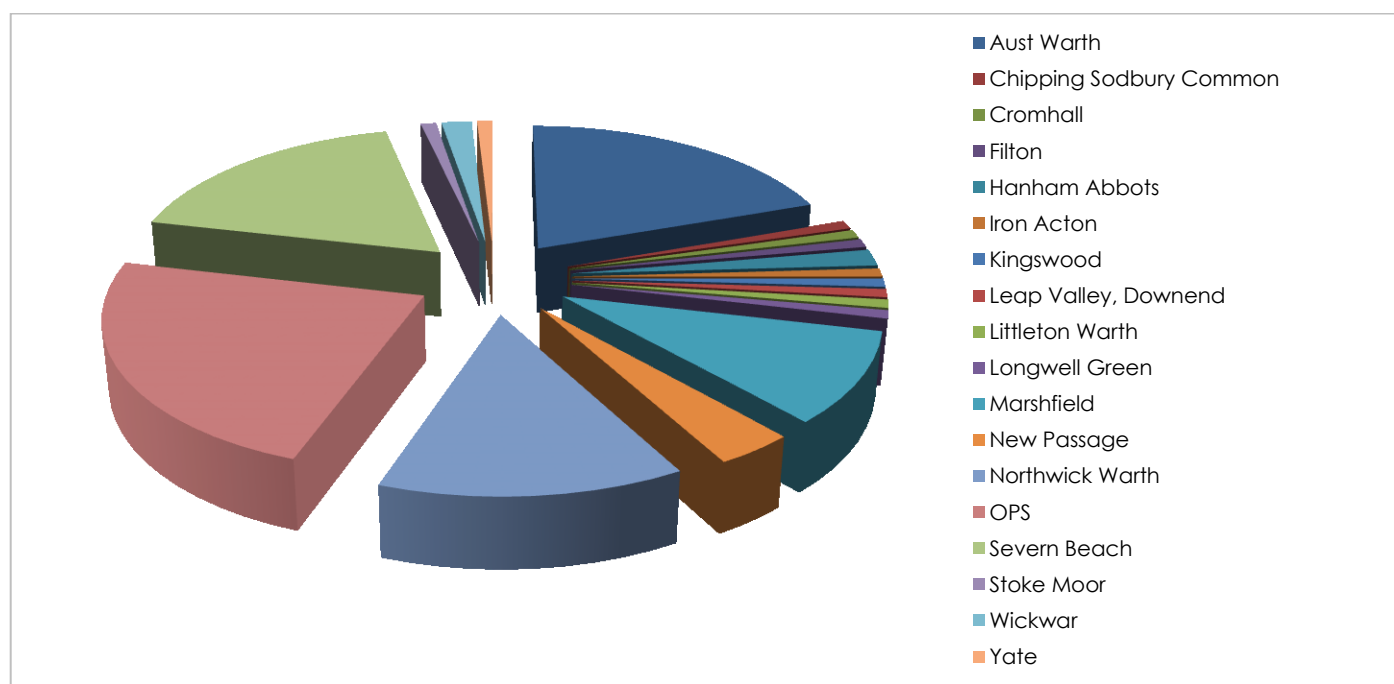
The best year for this species to date in the recording area was 2012 with a massive 354 bird days logged from six sites; Aust Warth, Marshfield, Severn Beach, OPS, Northwick and Littleton Warth's.



This diagram shows a steady increase in the numbers of Short-eared Owl in S. Gloucestershire from 1942 until 2018 notwithstanding the 'spike' in 2012.



The chart above indicates that the second winter period from October to December produce the most sightings of SEO stabilising through January, (February) and March and declining as birds return to their breeding grounds. Below shows locations of sightings between 1942 and 2018.





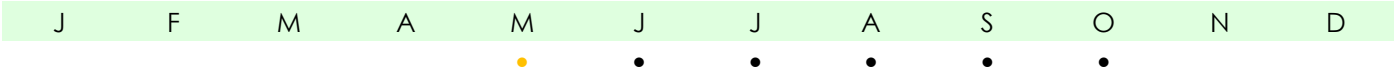
NIGHTJAR, SWIFT, BEE-EATER & HOOPOE

NIGHTJAR (14)

Caprimulgus europaeus

FIRST  
EARLIEST  
LATEST  
HIGHEST COUNT

May 21st 1944 High Wood, Filton  
May 16th 1962 at Filton  
October 15th 2017 at Hallen  
Three on two occasions



Nightjar - *Caprimulgus europaeus* | © Paul Bowerman

All sightings:

- 1944
- One on May 21st on the outskirts of High Wood adjoining Filton by-pass.
- 1945
- Three on August 16th at Old Wood near Rangeworthy, a pair with a least one young.
- 1947
- One picked up dead at West Littleton September 25th.
- 1959
- Three on May 23rd in the Inglestone Common/ Hawkesbury area.
- 1962
- One flushed from rough ground on the golf course at Filton May 16th.
- 1977
- One from Cloud Wood near Marshfield on June 3rd.
- 2002
- One photographed roosting on a garden fence at Downend September 8th.
- 2006
- A female on Northwick Warth flushed from a hedgerow on Green Lane at dusk on September 9th.
- 2013
- One hopping around a garden on Northwick Warth on September 16th was taken into care and successfully released on the 19th. Sadly it was found dead on the 20th.
- 2015
- One in flight and heard on July 21st at Aztec West, Almondsbury.
- 2017
- One in flight around ST: 542 815 from Severn Road between Chittingen and Hallen on October 15th.
- 2018
- One flushed from The Orchard, Oldbury Power Station on May 22nd.

ALPINE SWIFT (c. 3)

Tachymarptis melba

There have been two, possibly three Alpine Swifts seen in S. Gloucestershire. The first was in 1993 when one was watched for just ten minutes over Aust Cliffs, Aust on August 11th. The second was seen in 1999 with one seen over Northwick Warth on June 5th. The observer noted; ...'approaching heavy cloud from the south-west forced a large group of Common Swift and 'hirundine', about 300, to fly low over the warth to feed. The Alpine Swift was feeding with them though once the flock had passed it was not seen again.

Lastly and most recently one putatively this species, was reported over Mangotsfield heading south with a group of Common Swift on August 1st 2006.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER (5)

Merops apiaster

This spectacularly exotic bird has been reported from S. Gloucestershire on at least three occasions involving no less than five individuals.

The call of European Bee-eater is unmistakeable which lead to the very first for the recording area. On May 13th 2007 a presumed adult was present at around 18:00 in flight at Severn Beach. It was heard calling several times moving along the sea wall heading north-east.

In 2015 at least two individuals were heard over Mangotsfield Road, Mangotsfield between 15:00 and 15:15 on June 24th. Arriving from the south-west, they appeared to be fairly low down calling for a couple of minutes before departing north-west towards Page Park and Downend and in 2016 one was heard only at Aust at 10:00 on July 31st. It was reported from the Bridge Access Road and Cycle Track area.

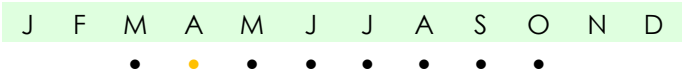
HOOPOE (c.30)

Upupa epops



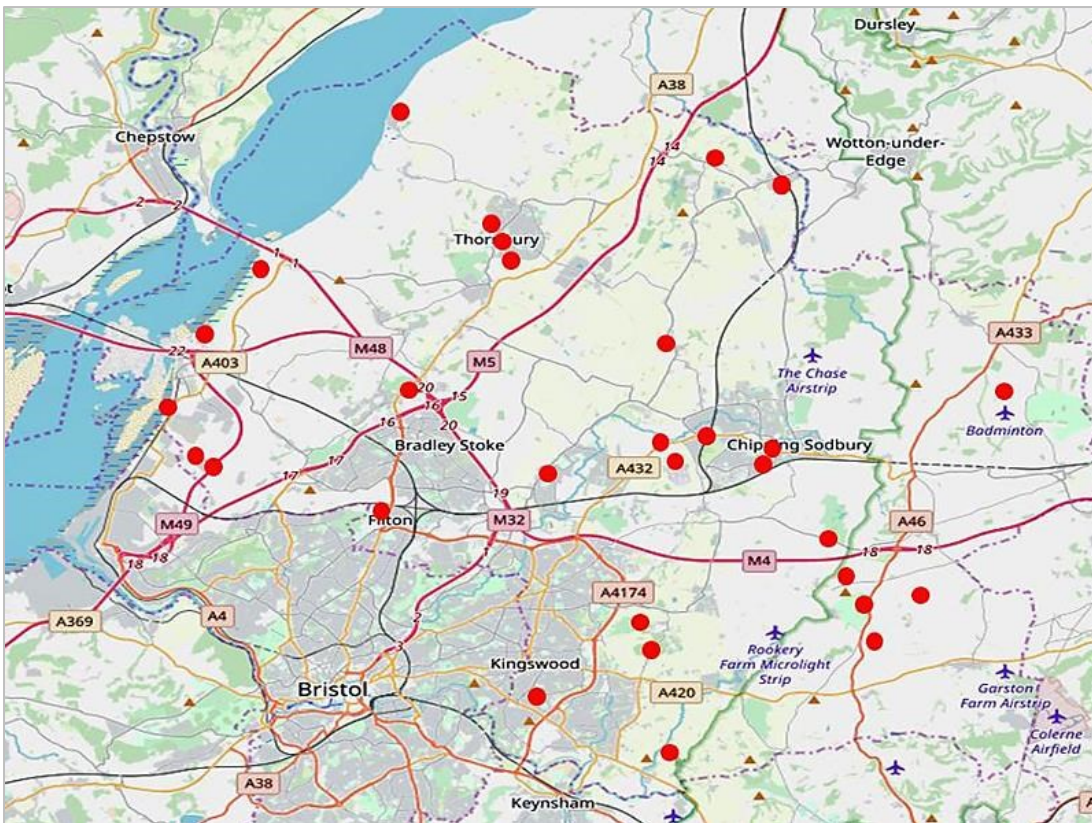
The earliest date for Hoopoe in S. Gloucestershire is March 28th 2010 at Thornbury, the latest October 10th 2016 at Tortworth and the highest count is of two birds seen independently on April 17th 2008 on Severnside.

The thirty or so records thus far have all been seen between March and October and the best year to date was 2008 when three different individuals were noted.



Hoopoe - Upupa epops | © TBOSG





This map shows the spread of Hoopoe occurrences across the recording area between 1878 and 2018.

#### All sightings:

- 1878 One near Charfield around this date.
- 1889 One sometime in the spring of this year at New Passage.
- 1949 One photographed on the lawn of Upton Cheney House, Upton Cheney on June 5th.
- 1950 One on April 4th at Woodlands Farm, Doynton present until the 10th.
- 1956 One on the lawn of Siston Court, Siston on August 11th present until the 12th.
- 1959 One in flight at Almondsbury on April 14th and one at Winterbourne Park from August (22nd) 26th until the 29th.
- 1971 One on Filton Golf Course from September 6th - 16th.
- 1974 One near Thornbury towards the end of April that year.
- 1978 One in early July at Rangeworthy watched on a track through a meadow at eight metres range.
- 1993 One at West Littleton from April 26th - 27th.
- 1994 One near Hallen May 20th with it or another there on June 13th - 14th.
- 1998 One at Little Badminton April 8th - 13th.
- 2004 One in the Yate area from August 18th - 23rd.
- 2008 One on Sands Farm, Dyrham on April 11th - 12th and one, probably two seen independently on Severnside on April 27th; one in flight at Aust and one on the track 400 metres south of Severn Beach.
- 2009 One at Woodmead Lane, Doynton on April 22nd and one on a fence post at Lower Morton near Thornbury on April 26th.
- 2010 One on Kington Lane, Thornbury on March 28th and one from a private estate at Iron Acton from July 20th - 29th.
- 2011 One at Oldbury Power Station on May 3rd and one reported on May 7th at Robin Way, Chipping Sodbury.
- 2013 One seen and heard on May 18th on Hot Water Lane, Siston Hill Estate at Mangotsfield.
- 2014 One photographed in a garden on Goldcrest Road, Chipping Sodbury on May 14th.
- 2016 APRIL: One in fields next to the M5 near the railway line and Windsor Close, Hallen from the 14th - 15th. MAY: One from the 9th - 10th at Copley Court, Hanham. OCTOBER: One at Tortworth Plants, Tortworth on the 10th.
- 2018 APRIL: One in Kingsgate Park, Yate on the 15th. MAY: One photographed at Oldfield Farm near Marshfield mid-month.



WOODPECKERS

WRYNECK (c30)

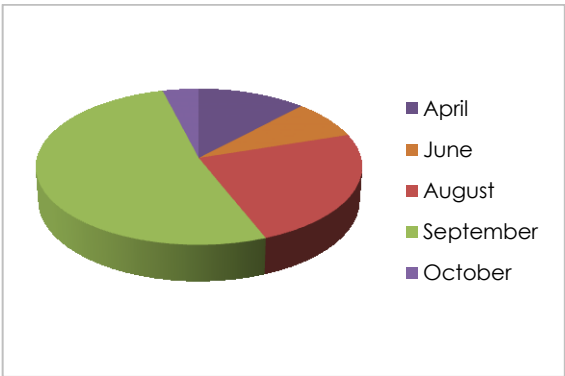
*Jynx torquilla*



Historically Wryneck was apparently an annual visitor in the Alveston area prior to 1829.

The most recent modern day record comes from Leyhill in September 1956.

The earliest date is April 16th 2013 Tytherington and the latest October 1st 2016 Thornbury.



Wryneck - *Jynx torquilla* | © Brian Lancaster

All sightings:

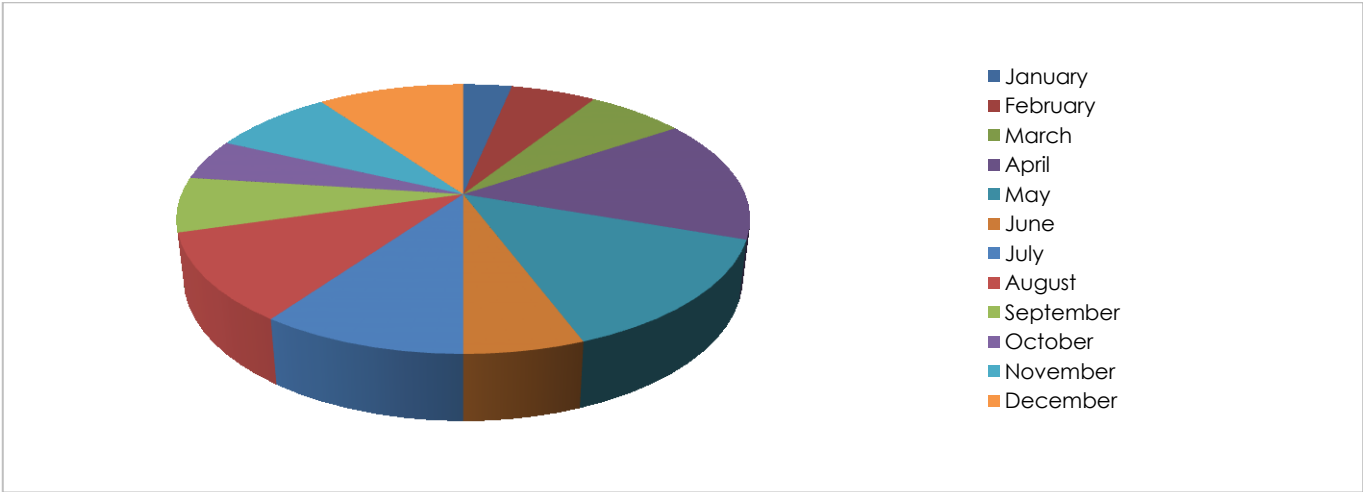
- 1956 One at Leyhill, in the grounds of the prison on September 10th and 11th.
- 1963 One picked up dead sometime in August at Wick.
- 1971 One reported from Cromhall on June 20th.
- 1973 One reported feeding on a lawn at Wick on September 1st.
- 1976 One reported from Orchard Pools, Severn Beach in June and one around the railway track at Severn Beach on August 29th.
- 1977 One found in a garden at Yate and taken into care on September 1st succumbed on the 6th.
- 1984 One on Northwick Warth on August 28th.
- 1989 One on September 7th – 8th at Yate.
- 1995 One flew into a window at Oldbury-on-Severn on September 8th but sadly died two days later.
- 1999 One flew into a window at Awkley on September 7th and fortunately survived the impact.
- 2001 One at Tytherington on September 20th.
- 2003 One on August 31st around Grebe Pond, Northwick on August 31st, one on September 3rd at Grovesend and one on September 7th at Severn Beach.
- 2006 An adult from on April 23rd - 25th in the garden of 7 Valley Road, North Common, Warmley, it was also seen in and around Valley Road and Samuel Wright Close.
- 2009 One photographed eating ants in a Thornbury garden on April 26th.

2010	One was trapped, ringed and released on Northwick Warth, New Passage on August 30th was seen subsequently in the same area on September 2nd & 3rd.
2011	One north-east of Horton along Vinney's Lane on September 16th.
2012	One along Black Horse Hill, Cribbs Causeway on September 25th.
2013	One photographed on Duck Street, Tytherington on April 16th - 17th.
2014	One in a garden at New Passage on August 31st.
2015	One briefly around the farm outbuildings of Severn Lodge Farm, New Passage/ Northwick Warth on September 16th.
2016	One watched for five minutes on October 1st at Thornbury.
2018	One photographed on Chipping Sodbury Common on September 5th.

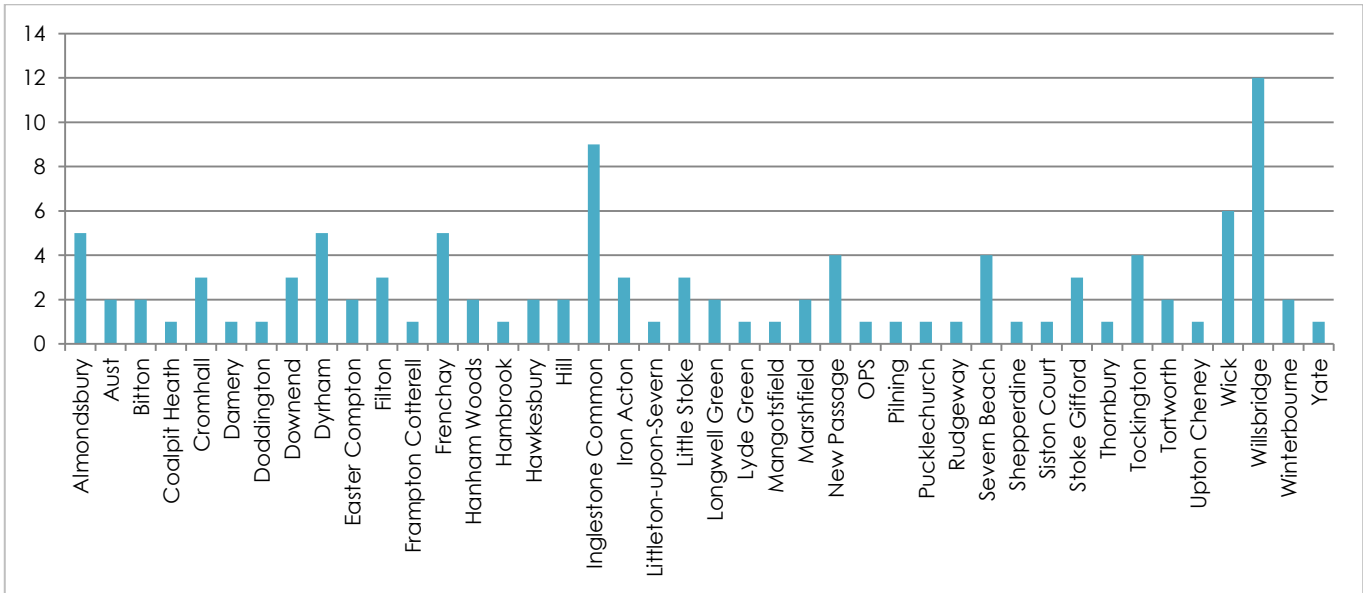
LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER (UK)

*Dryobates minor comminutus*

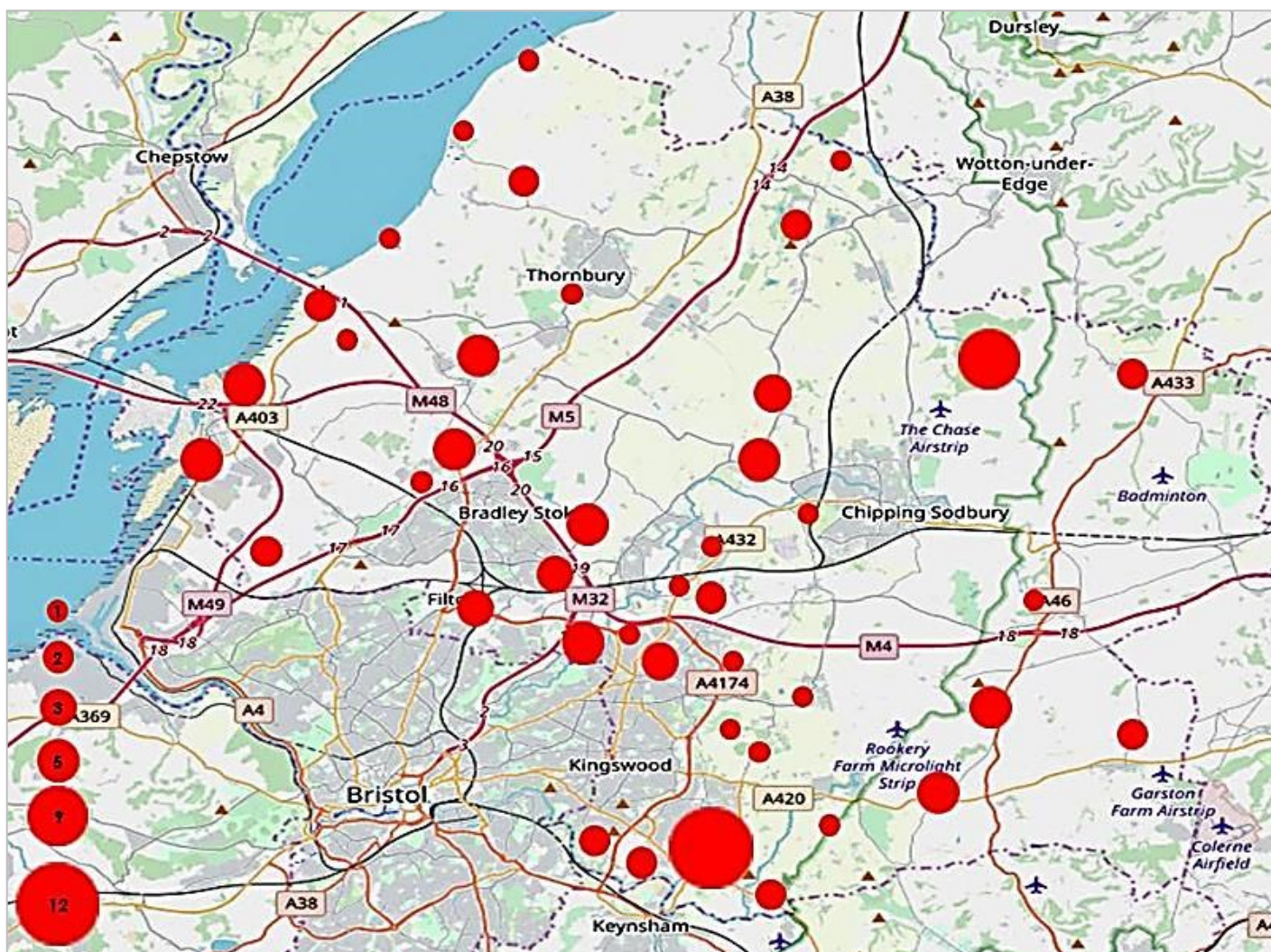
Because of its habits and diminutive size Lesser Spotted Woodpecker is most probably overlooked and therefore under recorded in S. Gloucestershire though they have been recorded in every month of the year.



The diagram above indicates April (15%) and May (14%) are the best months historically for this species in S. Gloucestershire.



Lesser Spotted Woodpecker has been recorded at 42 sites on c.110 occasions between 1942 and 2018.



This diagram shows the historical spread of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker across the recording area. It also gives an indication of numbers at the forty-two sites where they have been sighted.

## FALCONS

### RED-FOOTED FALCON (2)

*Falco vespertinus*

Red-footed Falcon has been recorded twice in S. Gloucestershire and both in the autumn.

The first was in 1974 when an adult male was identified near Severn House Farm south-west of Berkeley on September 16th and was seen to fly across the S. Gloucestershire border.

The last and most recent was an adult female that was found on Northwick Warth around 10:50 on October 15th 2014. It was seen briefly perched in a 'tree' on the warth near the Second Sentry Box before flying towards Pilning Wetland Reserve but despite an extensive search it could not be relocated.



PARAKEET

RING-NECKED PARAKEET (c.80)

*Psittacula krameri*

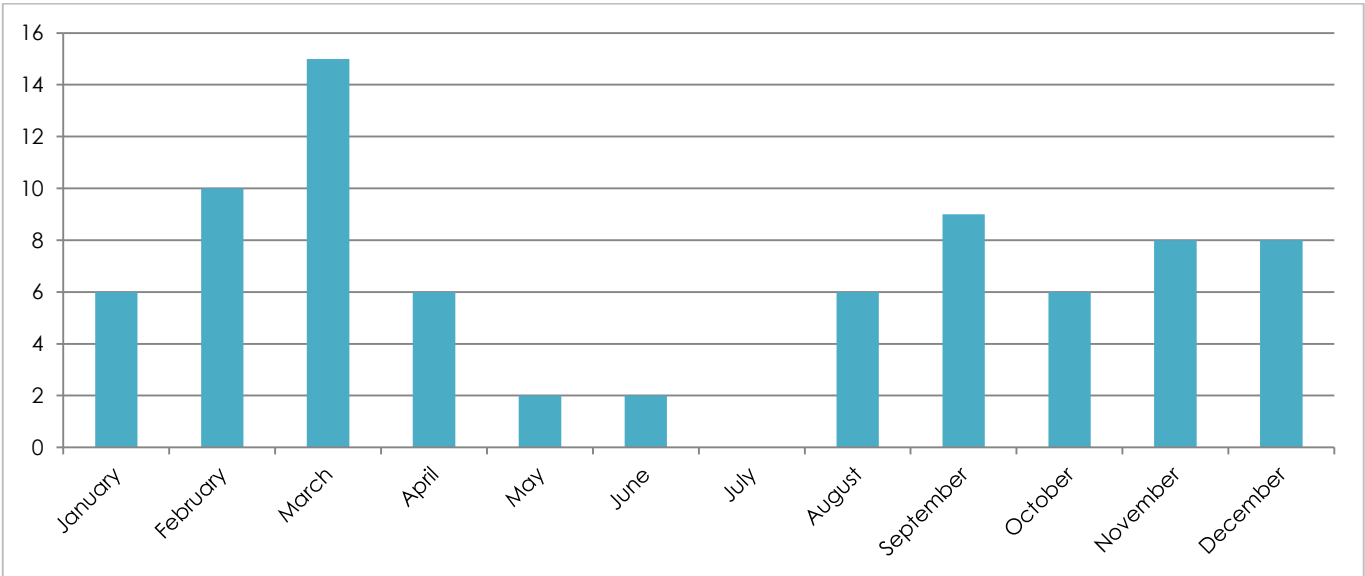


Ring-necked Parakeet - *Psittacula krameri* | © Brian Thompson

The march westward, from its stronghold in the Home Counties, saw Ring-necked Parakeet reach S. Gloucestershire for the first time in September 1996.

The first a female at Fishpool Hill, Brentry on September 28th - 30th 1996 was followed almost immediately by another female on October 10th near Westerleigh.

They were reported on and off between 1996 and 2008 with six or seven birds recorded but since 2010 they have been noted every year in increasing numbers peaking in 2018 with at least six individuals accounting for 134 'bird days'. They have also been recorded in every month of the year except July.



Ring-necked Parakeet in S. Gloucestershire month by month between 1996 and 2018.

## SHRIKES

### RED-BACKED SHRIKE (c.15)

*Lanius collurio*



Red-backed Shrike - *Lanius collurio* | © Dan White

Bristol Naturalists Society New Series Volume 1: 1874 - 75 - 76 listed Red-backed Shrike as 'frequent in the Hallen area in 1874' and indeed Red-backed Shrike is the most frequent of the three shrike species that have occurred in S. Gloucestershire.

It would be sixty-six years before the next report that of a summer a pair that nested and reared young sometime in the spring of 1940 on a small piece of waste ground immediately adjoining Yate railway station and only a few yards from the local cinema.

The report from 1943 reads:

On June 11th two were observed near Stoke Gifford, a breeding pair that presumably summered.

Two were present on at least July 4th at Patchway; A breeding pair that presumably summered. As the use of feathers as nesting material by this species is considered to be most exceptional, the nest of one of these pairs was of particular interest in that feathers were loosely woven in all round the rim, giving it an unusually large and untidy appearance. A detailed examination of the nest after the young had flown showed that not only were feathers present in considerable numbers throughout but that they formed the greater part of the material used. A ready supply in poultry runs on a nearby building estate was, no doubt, the reason for the birds using feathers so extensively.

A male was found at Haw Wood, Cribbs Causeway on Spaniorum Hill sometime on June 20th.

In 1944 a breeding pair were watched and presumably summered at Patchway.

Some forty-four years would elapse before the next when in 1988 a male was seen briefly in a garden at Frampton Cotterell on June 16th.

There have been three 21st century sightings:

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2003 | On August 30th a 1st winter was found about one kilometre south of Severn Beach.   |
| 2013 | There was an unconfirmed report of one on Littleton Warth late morning on the 25th July. On the same day a second observer released a message to the same effect which was later posted by the bird news services at 08:35 on July 26th. |
| 2017 | A summer male was found on Vinney Lane, Horton on May 29th at ST: 744 857 where it remained until around 19:30.  |

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## GREAT GREY SHRIKE (4)

*Lanius excubitor*



Great Grey Shrike - *Lanius excubitor* | ©TBOSG

### All sightings:

- 1891     One was reported sometime in January at Dyrham Park.
- 1982     One was seen on Filton Golf Course on November 26th where it over-wintered and was last seen on April 6th 1983.
- 2009     One was present at Lower Woods on Inglestone Common near Wickwar on November 23rd.
- 2014     A winter adult was present at the eastern end of Rushmead Lane and surrounding fields, Marshfield on October 27th - 28th.

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## WOODCHAT SHRIKE (4)

*Lanius senator*

### All sightings:

- 1989     On July 23rd a worn adult female was identified in fields north of Rushmead Lane near Marshfield at ST: 783 753. Present for just one day it had departed overnight and was not seen subsequently. It has been recently suggested that it might have been the form '*badius*' Balearic Shrike.
- 1994     On April 22nd an adult was identified near Morton Farm, Thornbury.
- 2011     A 1st summer female was present on Chipping Sodbury Common, Chipping Sodbury from July 30th until at least August 21st.
- 2017     A juvenile/ 1st winter was found on Chipping Sodbury Common, Chipping Sodbury from around 14:30 on August 30th and was present until at least September 19th.





Woodchat Shrike - *Lanius senator* | © Gary Thoburn

## ORIOLES

### GOLDEN ORIOLE (7)

*Oriolus oriolus*

The distinctive and unique call and song of Golden Oriole makes it a relatively straightforward task of identifying them in the field by sound alone. Indeed several of the S. Gloucestershire occurrences have been just that.

The first record of this spectacular bird comes from Littleton-upon-Severn in 1954 and the entry reads:

1954 Two first summer males visited Littleton-upon-Severn brickworks in the second week of June and remained in the area for at least three weeks being seen or heard, usually in Withey trees, by various observers. Brief views obtained and the characteristic 'weela-weeo' call was heard, probably from both birds on June 26th while on 27th they were seen extremely well in adjoining hedgerow trees. Conclusive evidence was gained on June 29th that both were, in fact, giving the whistling call. The birds were first noticed by brickwork's employees on June 11th and last seen on July 2nd.

They have been seen or heard on seven occasions and have been noted in the region between April and July.

The earliest date is April 26th 2007 a heard only bird in gardens at Kingswood, Bristol, the latest date was indeed the pair from July 1954 at Littleton-upon-Severn and the highest count was also the pair at Littleton-upon-Severn.

Some twenty-five years would elapse before the next bird was found sadly in this case it was a female that was picked up dead at Tockington on May 31st 1979.

1991 brought the next; when a single bird was heard briefly at New Passage on June 2nd. That was followed by one near Pucklechurch on June 25th 1993 which lingered in the area until early July.

A gap of sixteen years until the next when an adult male was heard calling from allotments and nearby gardens in the Bellevue Road/ Close area at Kingswood on April 26th 2007. It was heard calling ten or twelve times at around 16:30 before heading off to the east.

The most recent 'sounding' was in 2016 when a male was present and heard calling for at least five minutes in the tall hedge at the south-east corner of Pilning Wetland at ST: 552 864 between 08:35 - 08:40 on May 26th.

## CROWS

### Nordic Jackdaw (c.10)

*Coloeus monedula monedula*



Around ten individuals showing characteristics of this form have been reported from S. Gloucestershire.

Taxonomy:

Jackdaw is separated into three different forms,

Jackdaw *Corvus m. spermologus*  
Nordic Jackdaw *C.m. monedula*  
Russian Jackdaw *C.m. soemmerringii*

Nordic Jackdaw is considered to be the western-most representative of the westerly expansion of the *soemmerringii* branch meaning that it is essentially the link between the two best separable races, Russian and 'Common' Jackdaw.

Nordic Jackdaw breeds in s-e Norway, the south of Sweden and the northern and eastern parts of Denmark, with the largest numbers in south and central Sweden.

Putative Nordic Jackdaw - *Coloeus monedula monedula* | © TBOSG

#### All sightings:

- 2008 On January 25th one putatively this form; a distinct grey head and whitish collar was seen in horse paddocks along George Lane at Marshfield with other corvids. One seen briefly with around 300 Jackdaw along Down Track, Down Road at Marshfield on February 10th and one seen feeding in ploughed fields off Northfield Lane at Marshfield on March 1st were presumed to be the same individual.
- One noted from the public footpath between Keynsham and Swineford in a damp field beside the R. Avon north-west of the river opposite Avon Valley Country Park on November 26th.
- 2014 On January 25th one in horse paddocks at West Littleton, one in fields from Rushmead Lane, Marshfield on November 18th and one on Northwick Warth on December 11th.
- 2015 One briefly on Pilning Wetland Reserve, New Passage on November 6th - 7th.
- 2016 One in the Northwick Warth/ Pilning Wetland Reserve area on April 22nd - 23rd, an individual at Tockington on April 23rd and one on Pilning Wetland Reserve on June 1st and 9th.
- 2018 One in fields from Little Green Lane, Severn Beach on December 13th and 17th.





A cautious approach is needed whenever 'Hooded Crow' is encountered in S. Gloucestershire and the likelihood of hybridisation must be considered with birds this far south of their 'normal' breeding range.

Nevertheless six individuals have been described from the recording area between the first in 1920 and the most recent in 1994.

Considered a passage migrant or wandering vagrant they have been noted in April, May, October and November.

Assuming autumn, winter and spring 'movement', the earliest date is October 21st 1988 at New Passage and the latest May 2nd 1992 also at New Passage.

Hooded Crow - *Corvus cornix* | © TBOSG

#### All sightings:

- 1920 One was seen near Stoke Gifford sometime around this date.
- 1952 an adult was noted near Hambrook on November 11th.
- 1963 One was seen at Hallen Marsh April 7th.
- 1988 An individual at New Passage and was seen in flight heading south-west on October 21st.
- 1992 A single bird was found at New Passage on May 2nd.
- 1994 One was found on April 13th at New Passage and presumably the same bird was seen again at the same site on April 24th.



## WAXWING (UK)

*Bombycilla garrulus*



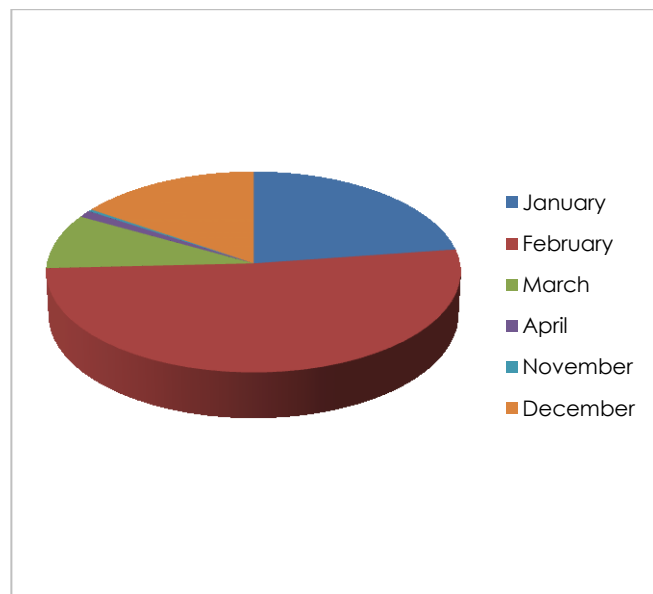
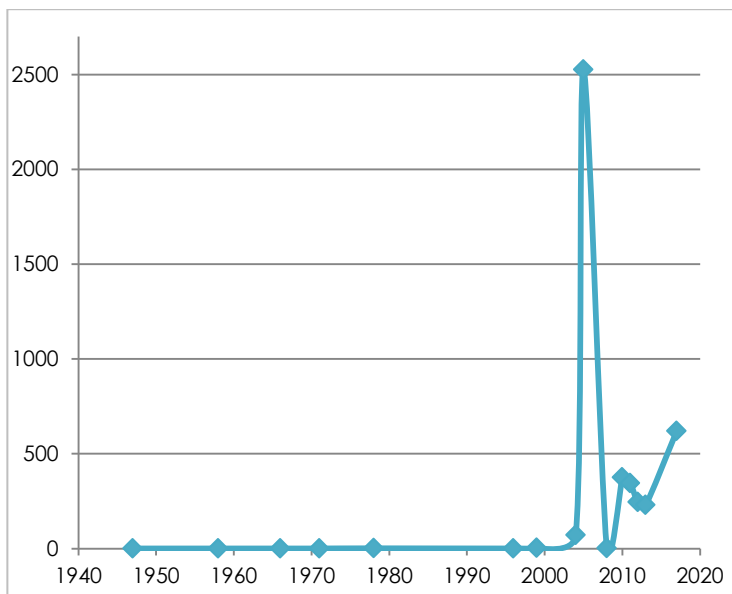
This exotic and irruptive species has been seen in just fifteen of the seventy-one years since the first record in 1947.

FIRST February 23rd 1947 at Filton

Reported between November and April, the earliest is November 20th 2005 at Severn Beach and the latest April 14th 2013 at Thornbury.

The highest count was c.250 on February 8th 2005 at Downend.

Waxwing - *Bombycilla garrulus* | © TBOSG



Left gives an indication as to how irruptive Waxwings can be; our best year was 2005 when a massive c.2,500 bird days were logged.

Right shows the spread of birds on a month by month basis and clearly indicates that February is by far the best month for this species in our region with c.50% of all sightings, Approximately the same number of bird days were logged in February as in all other months combined.

## Continental Coal Tit (4)

*Periparus ater ater*

The British race of Coal Tit *Periparus ater britannicus* has an olive hue to its brownish-grey mantle plumage which distinguishes it from the continental form *P. a. ater* where the mantle is a bluish grey without any green or brown tones.

This continental form is believed to have occurred in S. Gloucestershire on two occasions; one, very probably this form, was seen in the Hanging Hill/ Beach Wood area at Bitton on April 18th 2013 and three individuals very probably this form visited gardens briefly on Bellevue Road, Kingswood, Bristol on January 15th 2016.

## WILLOW TIT (UK)

*Parus montanus*

The stronghold for Willow Tit in S. Gloucestershire was undoubtedly Lower Woods Nature Reserve on Inglestone Common near Wickwar. They have however become increasingly difficult to locate there and are probably extinct as a breeding species in the recording area.

Though clearly present before this time the first documented reference to Willow Tit in S. Gloucestershire comes from 1940 and reads;

1940 On September 24th at Stoke Gifford, a presumed adult was clearly identified along a water course at Stoke Gifford; also one was both seen and heard on the 11th December on the outskirts of Savage's Wood, Stoke Gifford.

Below are listed all subsequent sightings:

- 1941 On February 15th at Sherborne's Brake, Stoke Gifford an adult was seen near the same spot as the one seen toward the end of the previous year. The writer's attention was first drawn to the characteristic nasal call note, and the bird was later viewed at close quarters.
- 1946 A single bird on September 23rd near Stoke Gifford, identified by the characteristic nasal call note, was heard in a hedgerow. Identification was fully confirmed on September 24th when the observer obtained excellent views and clearly noted the sooty brown crown, the light secondary patches and the well-marked buffish flanks.
- 1954 On December 24th one was seen in a hedgerow at Little Stoke and again near same spot on December 27th; the plumage details and characteristic nasal call clearly noted.
- 1955 One in a hedgerow at Stoke Gifford on February 23rd.
- 1956 One was watched feeding in an orchard on January 29th at Oldbury-upon-Severn.
- 1973 Reports of usually single birds but sometimes two from Inglestone Common, Wickwar sometime this year.
- 1974 Reports of one and sometimes two from Inglestone Common, Wickwar.
- 1977 Two reported from Inglestone Common, Wickwar on August 3rd.
- 1978 One at Inglestone Common, Wickwar on May 27th with three at the same site on September 3rd and one at Marshfield on August 11th.
- 1980 Confirmed reports of a bird at Inglestone Common, Wickwar but no dates are available.
- 1981 One possibly two from Littleton Brick Pits, Inglestone Common, Horton and Oakford - St. Catherine but no dates are available.
- 1982 Up to two birds sometime this year from Inglestone Common and Dunkirk but no dates are available.
- 1983 Four reports of individuals at Inglestone Common, Marshfield, Oakford - St. Catherine and Wick but no dates are available.
- 1991 One from Cleeve Wood, Willsbridge on July 7th.
- 1992 One on Northwick Warth on September 26th.

- 2004 An individual on Inglestone Common on April 21st.
- 2005 A juvenile at Lower Woods, Wickwar on July 3rd and July 5th.
- 2008 On June 26th on Inglestone Common a parent bird was seen very well at close range, feeding a fledged youngster. Both birds calling loudly and identification was confirmed on a variety of features: extent of white on cheeks (no buff area at rear of coverts), matt black hood, large bib (flaring out at base), distinct pale panel on wing, formed from light secondary edges, thick-necked, rear of hood appearing more attenuated. Lack of any pale area at base of upper mandible. Etc. Diagnostic calls. The birds were in an area of bushes, away from the main woodland. The parent was gathering insects at a height of c.5 - 10ft off the ground and they were watched in bright sunny conditions at close range for 10 - 15 minutes.
- 2009 One at Wetmoor, Lower Moors Nature Reserve at 15:30 around ST: 745 875 on November 29th.
- 2010 Two from Lower Woods, Wickwar; one on June 13th and one on July 25th.
- 2011 One on Inglestone Common at Lower Woods Lodge on January 30th about 100 meters along the track on the left towards the entrance gate/ notice board. The dull cap, light wing panel and call, a nasal buzzing call were clearly noted. Four were reported on the North Edge of Bishops Hill Wood (ST: 733 873) near Wickwar on February 28th, one on Inglestone Common near the car park early morning on March 12th, at least three at Lower Woods near Wickwar on April 20th and one at Lower Woods in the Great Trench area on July 30th.
- 2013 Two on Inglestone Common in the Wetmoor area near the river at Littley Wood on May 10th and 19th.
- 2015 Four from Lower Woods, Wickwar on December 23rd, two in the Chase Hill area (ST: 73 88) and two from South Moon Ridings (ST: 74 88) with one reported from South Moon Ridings on December 28th.

## PENDULINE TIT (1)

*Remiz pendulinus*



Penduline Tit - *Remiz pendulinus* | © Mick Sheldon

Here's the full story behind the find:

It never fails... I'm always amazed at the sequence of events surrounding the finding of rare and scarce birds not only locally but nationally too. Another bizarre set of circumstances came to light when discussing the occurrence of S. Gloucestershire's first ever Penduline Tit with its finder Mick 'baggie' Sheldon! Alerted to the possibility of Penduline Tit at Dyrham Park (a photo of which was posted to a Facebook group and annotated as possible Red-backed Shrike) by Paul Taylor, Paul Bowerman and Steve Jones who suggested that local young talented birder Katie Horrocks might be able to help. Eventually Steve, a member of the



group, was able to contact Mick and asked him if he'd be kind enough to get in touch. He duly obliged giving TBOSG the opportunity to speak to him and discuss this staggering find.

So the story begins... On Wednesday March 11th 2015, whilst on business in the area, Mick (who hails from the West Midlands) found himself with a couple of hours to kill before his next appointment. Typically Mick says... 'I usually look for somewhere local to visit whilst I'm waiting'... On this occasion fortuitously he decided to pay a visit to the nearby National Trust historic building at Dyrham Park. On arrival at Dyrham Park at around 11:00 in drizzly, overcast and windy conditions, Mick pulls into the site's main car park and parks around 120 metre south of the visitor centre to check out a stand of trees there. Soon spotting a Treecreeper he tries (without much success) to take some shots. Whilst trying to get on to the Treecreeper he spots another bird in trees close by. The bird looked fairly settle and 'fluffed up' said Mick as he managed to 'crack off' one shot before it moved back into the trees towards the A46 where it was lost to view and could not be relocated.

Later Mick, having trawled through some identification guides and having shown the photograph to others, thought it was possibly a Red-backed Shrike. The photo was subsequently published to a closed Facebook group and annotated as such but it was soon suggested that Penduline Tit more closely fitted the bill. Mick was keen to point out that it was down to the sharp eyes of Katie Horrocks and her suggestion of Penduline Tit that kicked off the whole process; so a hearty well done to her without whom this amazing event might well have gone unrecorded. It could be mooted that this individual was a returning bird from Devon where three were first seen at Bowling Green Marsh RSPB Reserve, Topsham on December 7th 2014. Overwintering in the area they relocated to nearby Exminster Marshes eventually settling at Darts Farm where all three were present on and off there until the morning of March 2nd 2015. Two birds were regularly reported from there until at least March 16th 2015 giving ample time for the 'missing' individual to make its way to S. Gloucestershire.

The genus 'remiz' is almost exclusively Eurasian, ranging discontinuously from Portugal and the tip of northern Morocco through to Siberia and Japan. Eurasian Penduline Tit is migratory over parts of its range, with birds in northern Europe moving south in the winter where birds in southern Europe remain close to their breeding areas.

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## BEARDED TIT (c.15)

*Panurus biarmicus*



Bearded Tit - *Panurus biarmicus* | © Rod Holbrook

FIRST	April 5th 1981 at Littleton Brick Pits
EARLIEST	October 6th 2012 Pilning Wetland
LATEST	April 26th 2008 Oldbury Power Station
HIGHEST COUNT	Two on October 6th 2012 on Pilning Wetland Reserve

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
			●						●	●	●

All sightings:

- 1981 On April 5th one was trapped, ringed and released at Littleton Brick Pits, no mention was made regarding age or sex.
- 2008 On the 26th April a male was located at Oldbury Power Station in the main reed bed at Lagoon II at 08:30. It was present for just forty-five minutes until 09:15 when it flew high and circled for five minutes before heading off high to the north-east.
- 2011 On November 12th one possibly this species was seen briefly at Oldbury Power Station in the north-west corner of Lagoon II.
- 2012 Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth; two, a male and female were seen at on October 6th. They were still present until around 09:30 on the 7th before departing north-east but seen again briefly at c.11:15 south over New Passage. They were noted again on October 8th & 9th. An unconfirmed report was received of four birds at the same site at 07:55 on October 10th and at least one was present on October 13th.
- 2013 Two were seen on October 23rd at Orchard Pools, Severn Beach before flying south-east over the ICI works.
- 2014 A male was both seen and heard from the small reedbed on the north side of Grebe Pond, Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth on December 16th.
- 2015 A male was seen well in the main reedbed on Lagoon II, Oldbury Power Station on October 14th, a female was seen at Lagoon II, Oldbury Power Station at 14:00 on October 20th and one was heard at dusk on November 22nd calling from the main reed bed around Lagoon II, Oldbury Power Station.

LARKS

WOODLARK (20)

Lullula arborea



Woodlark - *Lullula arborea* | © Brian Lancaster



FIRST	September 9th 1941 at Severn Beach											
HIGHEST COUNT	Six on September 9th 1941 at Severn Beach											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
		•		•		•			•	•	•	

All sightings:

- 1941 Six on September 9th at Severn Beach. The unmistakable call was heard at Severn Beach and a party of six was viewed at close quarters on fallow ground adjoining Sea Wall Farm.
- 1947 One frequently watched near the Post Office at Patchway from February 23rd - 26th.
- 1949 One in flight between Patchway and Stoke Gifford on October 29th.
- 1972 One from New Passage on October 15th.
- 1976 One from Severn Beach on April 3rd.
- 2003 One on November 26th at Severn Beach where it was seen in flight heading north-east along the seawall, calling continuously and was last seen over the beach below the Second Severn Crossing.
- 2008 Two in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area on November 1st.
- 2010 One heard calling north over Northwick Warth/ New Passage on October 15th.
- 2011 One in flight over New Passage on October 14th.
- 2017 One in flight low north east over New Passage on October 29th.
- 2018 JUNE: One just south of Severn Beach on the 1st. OCTOBER: One around Cake Pill, Northwick Warth on the 7th. NOVEMBER: Two in flight north-east over Severn View Services, Aust on the 18th.

SHORELARK (8)

*Eremophila alpestris*

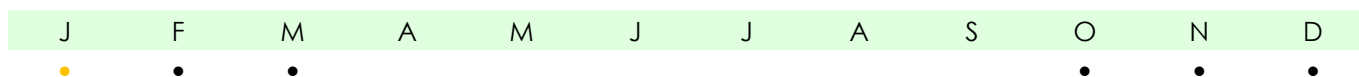


Shorelark - *Eremophila alpestris* | © TBOSG



FIRST  
EARLIEST  
LATEST  
HIGHEST COUNT

January 31st 1960 at Severn Beach  
October 28th 2017 on Northwick Warth  
March 4th 1960 at Severn Beach  
Two in 2009, 2010



#### All sightings:

- 1960 A male seen on January 31st at Severn Beach was present in the area until the 4th March.
- 1977 One from December 5th - 11th at Severn Beach.
- 2004 One on January 24th at Severn Beach with the same or another present at the same site on February 11th.
- 2009 Two in flight at Aust Warth over the saltings on November 18th.
- 2010 Two feeding on the salt marsh near Lagoon I at Oldbury Power Station on January 8th.
- 2017 A winter adult on Northwick Warth Flash on October 28th.

## SWALLOWS

### RED-RUMPED SWALLOW (c.5)

*Cecropis daurica*



There have been four possibly six Red-rumped Swallows reported from S. Gloucestershire since the first in 1997.

The possibles were two unconfirmed reports of one at Thornbury Castle on May 12th 1991 and one at Downend on August 25th 1996.



Red-rumped Swallow - *Cecropis daurica* | © Mike Dodd

#### All sightings:

- 1977 One near Severn Beach possibly New Passage on September 16th.
- 1988 An individual was watched at New Passage on April 22nd.
- 2008 One on overhead wires at Rangeworthy on May 22nd.
- 2012 An adult male on overhead wires on The Street, Alveston on May 1st.

## WARBLERS

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### CETTI'S WARBLER (UK)

*Cettia cetti*



Cetti's Warbler - *Cettia cetti* | © Paul Bowerman

The first documented reference to Cetti's Warbler in S. Gloucestershire was in 1994 when a presumed male heard calling on April 24th at Littleton Brick Pits, Littleton-upon-Severn. That was followed by single calling/singing males on February 25th 2001 at Lagoon I, Oldbury Power Station and March 18th 2003 at Orchard Pools, Severn Beach.

With the exception of 2004, 2007 and 2012 they have been in every year since and now in every month of the year.

The first confirmed breeding success was in 2014 when two fledgling birds were seen around Lagoon II at Oldbury Power Station on June 21st.

Cetti's Warbler are best encountered at the well know coastal sites, but they have occurred elsewhere and remarkably birds were heard at Wick in 2009. One in scrub near the R. Boyd at Wick Quarry from Raven's Rock raptor watch point on the evening of May 21st with two present on the 25th.

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### Northern Willow Warbler (4)

*Phylloscopus trochilus acredula*

The breeding range of Northern Willow Warblers stretches from Scandinavia (though not southern Sweden) to eastern Europe and western Siberia (R. Yenisey) and they winter in central, eastern and south Africa.

They are believed to have occurred in S. Gloucestershire on four occasions.

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1913 | One, a presumed adult was 'obtained' sometime in May at Cowhill near Thornbury.                                  |
| 1932 | A presumed adult was 'obtained' sometime in April near Stoke Gifford.  |
| 2013 | A very pale individual possibly this form was seen at Severn View Services and Aust STW on April 16th.           |
| 2017 | A very 'grey' individual seen near the 2nd Sentry Box on Northwick Warth on April 19th was putatively this form. |

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## Scandinavian Chiffchaff (3)

*Phylloscopus collybita abietinus*

Probably grossly under-recorded in S. Gloucestershire nevertheless they are believed to have occurred on at least three occasions.

All sightings:

- 1995 On September 9th an individual was identified at Severn Beach.
- 2005 One was noted at Emerson's Green on March 27th with it or another present at the same site on April 2nd.
- 2007 One was seen in a hedgerow at Northwick Warth near the second sentry box on March 11th.

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## Siberian Chiffchaff (7)

*Phylloscopus collybita tristis*



Siberian Chiffchaff - *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* | © Paul Bowerman

It is widely held that 'tristis' Chiffchaff wintering in the UK are far more widely spread than was previously believed.

That aside just seven have been reported from the recording area:

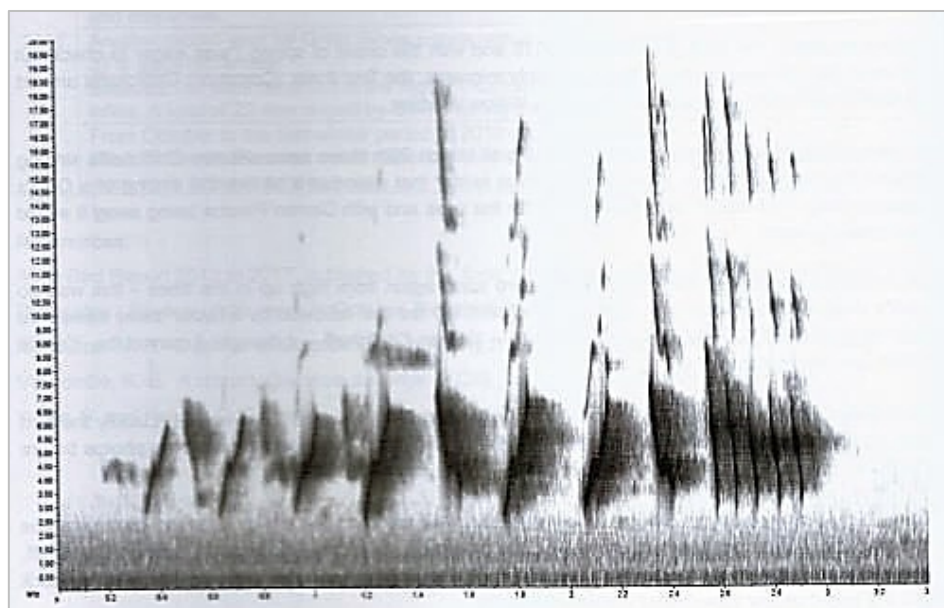
- 2005 An over wintering bird at Emerson's Green from January 1st until March 28th, one on February 6th at New Passage and one also at New Passage on October 9th.
- 2007 One in a hedgerow on Northwick Warth near the Second Sentry Box from March 11th - 13th.
- 2014 One from Westerleigh Road at Yate on February 16th and one around the viewpoint at Aust Cliffs on November 16th.
- 2017 One around the Second Sentry Box on Northwick Warth on April 12th.





Iberian Chiffchaff - *Phylloscopus ibericus* | ©TBOSG

- 2017 A spring male was found at Kingsgate Park, Yate on March 25th. Present from early morning where it was initially picked up on call, it spent the day performing and showing well on and off around the margins of the smaller lake on the east side of the park. It was in song periodically when the triplet ...'chiff chiff chiff weet weet diditdiditit'... was clearly heard. It was still present and showed throughout the day on the March 26th.



This sonogram shows the classic three element song of Iberian Chiffchaff. © Paul Marshall

## WOOD WARBLER (c.70)

*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*



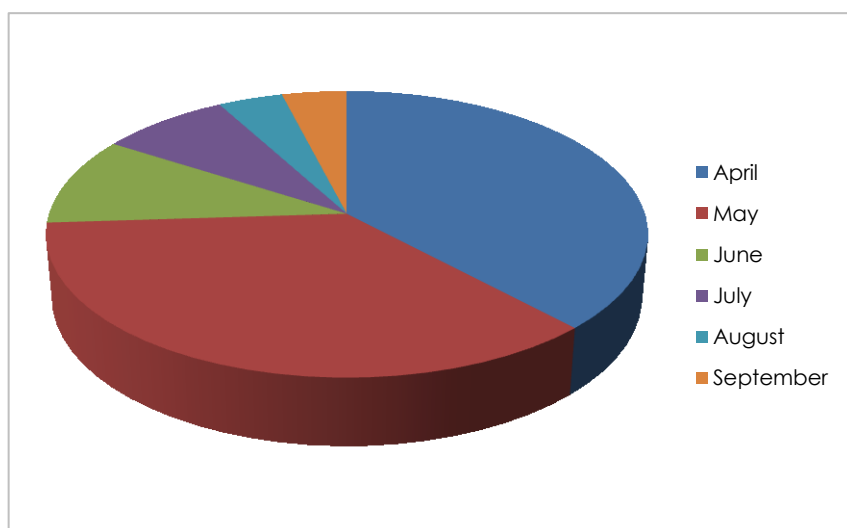
FIRST Two on May 7th 1944 at Petty France

EARLIEST April 11th 2018 Kingsgate Park, Yate

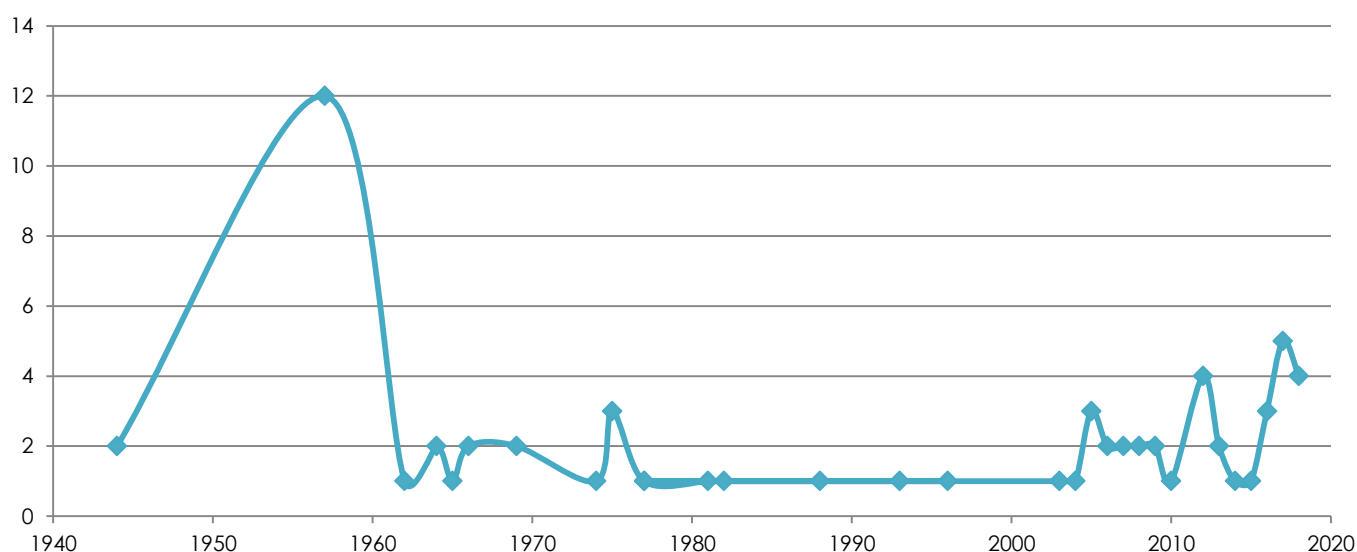
LATEST September 6th 2016 at Horton



Wood Warbler - *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* | ©TBOSG



This diagram shows that April and May are the best months of the year to catch up with Wood Warbler in S. Gloucestershire.



Wood Warbler numbers per annum between 1944 and 2018.

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## YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER (17)

*Phylloscopus inornatus*



Yellow-browed Warbler - *Phylloscopus inornatus* | © Andy Jordan

EARLIEST	September 24th 2017 on Northwick Warth
LATEST	February 27th 2008 at Filton
HIGHEST COUNT	Two on October 7th 2016 Severn Vie Services, Aust

### All sightings:

2001	A juvenile/ 1st winter at Old Passage on October 12th.
2007	A juvenile/ 1st winter along the cycle track north of Abbey Wood Station on the MOD site, Filton on February 4th.
2008	One on February 27th in the grounds of the Abbey Wood complex, Filton and one possibly this species on the motorway embankment behind Ormond Close, Bradley Stoke on December 14th.
2012	One on November 17th - 29th at Oldbury Power Station.
2013	One heard in trees on Quarry Road, Chipping Sodbury from September 30th until October 2nd and one heard on October 12th at Aust Cliffs.
2015	OCTOBER: One heard on the 13th in trees on the west/ south side of Kingsgate Park, Yate, one on the 15th in the hedgerow adjacent to the Science Park at Emerson's Green, one heard in a small copse above Severn View Services, Aust on the 17th and one heard at Kingsgate Park, Yate on the 18th.
2016	OCTOBER: One on the 2nd at the south-west end of Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station, two, the first ever multiple occurrence of this species on the 7th in Willows and hedgerow at Severn View Services, Aust - with at least one still present throughout the 8th - 9th, one on the 17th from the cycle track south of Bitton and one in Willows in 'The Pipes' area south of Severn Beach from the 21st - 22nd.
2017	SEPTEMBER: One on the 24th in Sluice Copse, Northwick Warth, New Passage. OCTOBER: One at the Dragon/ Mill Road area at Winterbourne on the 15th.
2018	One in trees in a private garden on North Road, Thornbury on November 10th.

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## AQUATIC WARBLER (1)

*Acrocephalus paludicola*

There has been just one Aquatic Warbler recorded in S. Gloucestershire; it was an adult that was trapped, ringed and released at Littleton Brick Pits. Littleton-upon-Severn on the 14th August 1976.



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## MARSH WARBLER (4)

*Acrocephalus palustris*

Marsh Warbler was historically a breeding bird in S. Gloucestershire but not for at least c.110 years. First documented in 1909 the entry reads;

1909 Two were identified sometime in June at Patchway. A nest with three eggs was photographed in a bean crop and it was assumed that two adults were present.

The next reference was in 1935 with an adult noted on passage sometime in June at Stoke Gifford. Most recently an unidentified 'acrocephalus' warbler was trapped, ringed and released at Grebe Pond, Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth early morning on August 22nd 2009. It was later believed to be this species from photographs and biometric details taken at the time.

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## ICTERINE WARBLER (1)

*Hippolais icterina*

Icterine Warbler has occurred on one occasion, here's the full story;

At about 09:30 on May 15th 1992 whilst in my greenhouse at Fishpool Hill, Brentry, Bristol I suddenly heard a loud burst of unfamiliar song coming from a large bush in the garden next to mine. The song was very varied and contained much mimicry, with sparrow like chirrups and snatches of Reed Warbler song being particularly noticeable. At first the bird remained concealed in the bush but it soon began to move through the garden, darting from one bush or tree to the next, never pausing in the open.

These initial fleeting glimpses revealed contrasting pale areas on the wing which momentarily suggested a female Pied Flycatcher or a small female Chaffinch. As the bird neared the end of the garden it settled in apple trees, but now two gardens away. It was clearly a largish warbler.

Through 8 x 40 binoculars I watched it for a few minutes before it took flight and flew over the garden and disappeared. Later it returned to my garden and I was then able to watch it several times throughout the day and to listen to it a great deal more. By early evening I contacted Harvey Rose who came to try to see it. Unfortunately by this time the warbler was keeping inside an area of dense hedgerow and elms and was not visible from my garden although it was still occasionally singing.

The following description was taken. I identified the bird as an Icterine Warbler having seen and heard this species before at Neusiedl, Austria in June 1984.

Size and shape: Large warbler, approximately the size of a Blackcap or Great tit. No direct comparison made with any species, but Great Tits seen nearby. In profile it showed a high peaked crown when seen singing.

Plumage: Dull olive green upperparts, pale primrose yellow under parts up as far as eye and onto lore's. No obvious eye-stripe or supercilium. Pale edgings to tertials and pale patch on closed wing formed by edges of flight feathers. So prominent were these two features that the first fleeting glimpses of the bird suggested a female Pied Flycatcher or a small female Chaffinch.

Bare parts: Long stout bill with an orangey base. On one occasion when singing facing into the sun the gape was seen to be bright orange. Prominent dark eye.

Song: Very varied. Consisted of snatches of Reed Warbler, House Sparrow like chirrups, sweet Song Thrush like whistles, and harsher notes like those of Robin and Blackbird alarm call. Also many non-musical squeaky and scratchy weak noises similar to those made by various fledgling song birds. Never sustained for a long time, but there were periods of frequent bursts of probably 5 -15 seconds (no actual timings made). Song bursts not consistent, during mid-morning several bursts started off with Reed Warbler like phrases, but by late afternoon it would start with the squeaky fledgling like noises and include no Reed Warbler like phrases.

Habitat: The bird frequented an area made up of the back gardens of six semi-detached houses (approx. 30 metres long) backed by a small orchard, the whole surrounded by grassland. The gardens contained many established shrubs (some very large and dense) and some small/medium sized fruit trees. The bird spent much of the day in one outer garden boundary consisting of a mature hedgerow, mainly of Bramble and small/medium sized elms.

The following day there was no sign of the bird. This bird arrived on the weather pattern of rising pressure over the near continent to the southeast from May 12th, bringing very warm air arriving in 40 knot southerly winds. In Avon a Golden Oriole was noted on 16th, and the county's first Great Reed Warbler on 18th. The national influx of Red-footed Falcons started on the 14th.

Mark Dadds - May 1992.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (c.420)

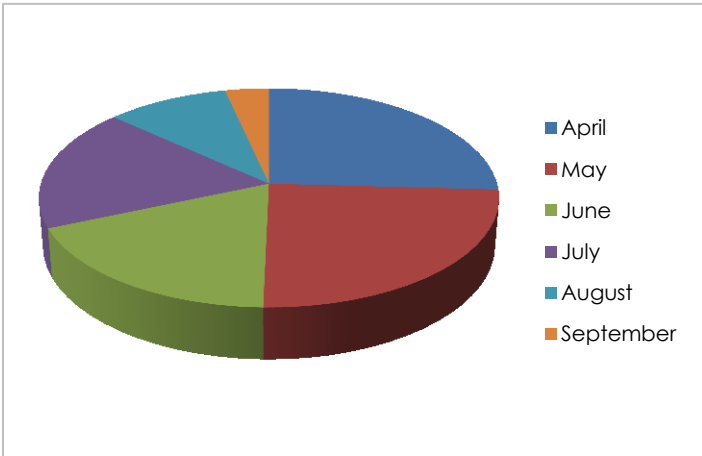
*Locustella naevia*



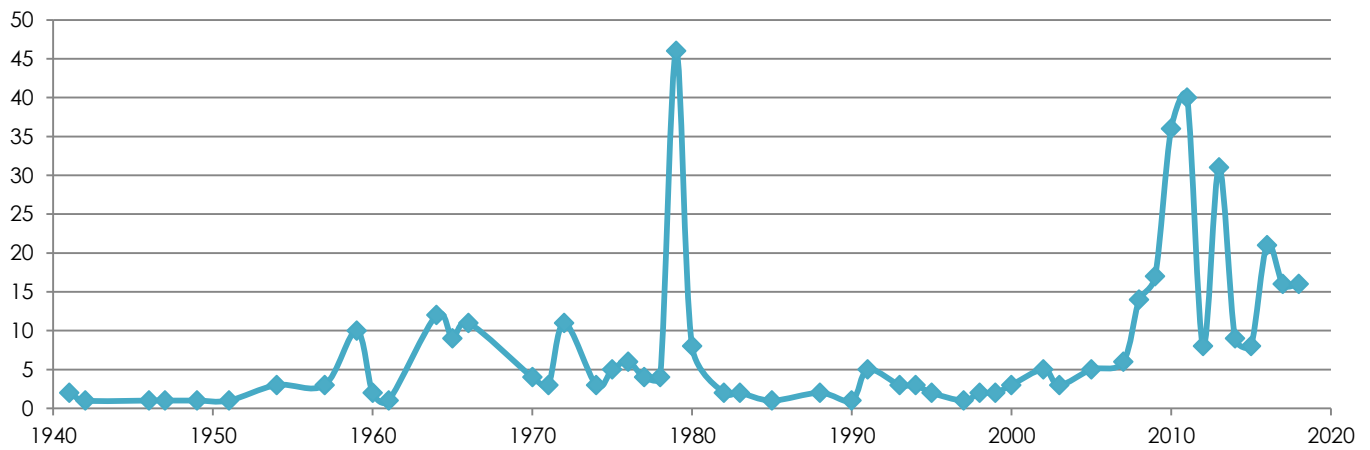
Grasshopper Warbler - *Locustella naevia* | © Paul Bowerman

FIRST  
EARLIEST  
LATEST  
HIGHEST COUNT

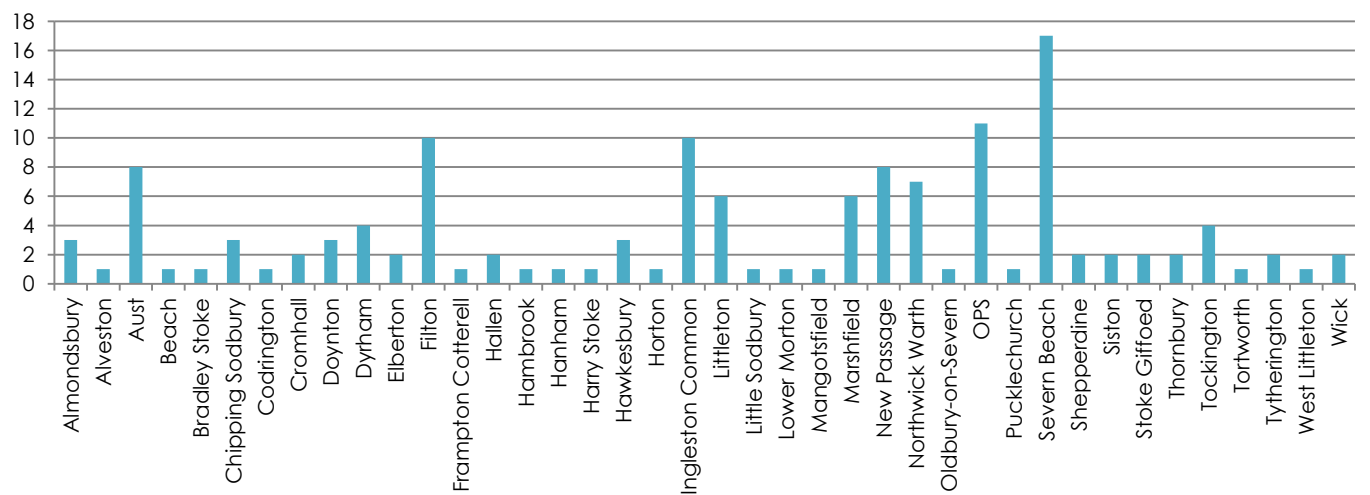
One at Dyrham on April 22nd 1941  
April 2nd 2010 at Oldbury Power Station  
September 25th 2011 at Aust  
Eleven on April 26th 1966 at Marshfield



This diagram quite clearly shows that April, May and June are by far the best months of the year to encounter Grasshopper Warbler in S. Gloucestershire.



Grasshopper Warbler numbers between 1941 and 2018.



Locations and frequency of sightings between 1941 and 2018.

## DARTFORD WARBLER (7)

*Sylvia undata*



Dartford Warbler - *Sylvia undata* | © Paul Bowerman



Dartford Warbler was only discovered in S. Gloucestershire in 2005. Two, a male and female/ 1st winter male, were found on Northwick Warth on October 5th and were present from the 5th - 12th October. Remarkably on the 31st October a winter male was found at Severn Beach approximately one kilometre south of the village and was present there from 31st October until the 1st November.

In 2006 an adult was reported in the afternoon in brambles from the Severn Way Footpath south of Severn Beach on April 1st and in 2008 an adult, probably male, was seen along Northfield Lane at Marshfield late afternoon on October 10th and was present throughout the following day. The same or another was seen around a dry stone wall 200 metres south of Rushmead Farm on November 12th.

The most recent sightings were in 2015: A female was seen in brambles around one kilometre south of Severn Beach in 'The Pipes' area at 13:45 on October 20th and one, presumed to be the October bird, was heard in scrub again around one kilometre south of Severn Beach on November 1st.

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## SUBALPINE WARBLER (1)

*Sylvia cantillans*

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On May 2nd 2004, having checked out the foreshore at Severn Beach on the 06:45 high tide (too foggy to see all but a few close Arctic Terns going upstream and the roosting waders), I had been to New Passage where quite a few passerines had evidently arrived overnight. These included Whinchats, Wheatears, Garden and Sedge Warblers.

Dick Reader rang at about 09.00 with news of a Wood Warbler, quite a scarce bird here, singing in the bushes on the old tip at Severn Beach, so I made my way back there. The early morning mist had lifted and while crossing the old tip, an area with much Bramble and Hawthorn scrub, I noticed a lot of warblers including many Whitethroats in the bushes. While checking these out I saw a warbler facing away in a nearby bush - a Sylvia with pale grey upperparts and browner wings. It looked more like a Subalpine than a Lesser Whitethroat but I assumed I was just seeing it badly and misjudging it. It moved into a fairly isolated Hawthorn and I saw the same features again, along with strong buffy flanks. I was surprised to see that it really was a female Subalpine Warbler when it came into full view!

It was only 10 metres away and showed well long enough for me to note most of the salient features. I rang Paul Bowerman who was only 100 metres or so away with the Wood Warbler. The excitement had got to me and I managed just a few slightly shaky views of the bird by the time PDB arrived along with RFR and another birder. PDB saw it briefly in the bush but it was then chased by a territorial male Whitethroat and flew across the track in front of us into an extensive thicket of Blackthorn and Hawthorn. I put the news out and tried to relocate it for the next two hours but without success. In the evening we returned and a tape of Subalpine Warbler song was played in the same area, but to no avail. It was not seen again.

Description: I made notes and a sketch in the field immediately after the observation. The following is based on these field notes:

Size, shape and behaviour: Clearly a small warbler with typical Sylvia shape, it was obviously smaller than Whitethroat (several seen nearby and one chased it off giving direct comparison) and estimated to be about Lesser Whitethroat size or possibly a bit smaller. In flight it was noticeably shorter tailed than Whitethroat.

Plumage: Upperparts - Mantle and head pale cold ashy grey. It was greyer and paler here than Lesser Whitethroat and lacked any darker ear coverts but had a faint white eye-ring. The wings were contrastingly neutral brown and appeared somewhat worn and possibly faded. The darker tertial centres were looked for and noted. In flight the shortish (for a Sylvia) tail had obvious contrasting white outer feathers that appeared rather broad and even in width.

Underparts - There was a strong and extensive colour wash on the flanks that I noted as buff. The colour was distinctive, hard to put in words although with warm orange rather than yellow tones. This wash was present but paler on the breast and throat. The throat sides had a patch with stronger orange tones that bordered and emphasised the quite broad white sub-moustachial stripe. Bare parts - The legs were orangey flesh. The bill colour was not noted although the bill was fairly small. The eye and orbital ring colours were not seen. No call was heard.

## Discussion:

Although the bird was seen rather briefly the views were close, the species is distinctive and this was a well-marked female with quite bright underparts. The combination of small size and shortish tail with white outer tail feathers, uniform pale grey upperparts and head with contrastingly brown wings, the white sub-moustachial contrasting with the warm orangey buff of the throat sides with a paler wash on much of the underparts, and the orangey flesh legs are diagnostic.

I am familiar with the species having previously seen nine in Britain since 1982 and many others of the nominate race *cantillans* and eastern *albistriata* in the Mediterranean and West Africa. I have also seen the race *moltonii* which has a restricted range, in Mallorca. It was disappointing not to see the bird for longer or to hear it call as I would have liked to have been able to age it and attempt to identify it to subspecies. The worn looking or faded wings, however, made me think it might be a second calendar year bird but better views would have been necessary to be sure.

With sub specific identification in mind I had a look at some skins of females in the Natural History Museum at Tring a few days later. I found examples of *cantillans* and *albistriata*, the two forms that have been recorded in Britain, looking very similar to the Severn Beach bird. Sub specific identification of female Subalpine Warblers is problematic on current knowledge and even birds in the hand are tricky. In April at least five Subalpine Warblers were reported arriving in the Southwest, from Dorset to Scilly, on April 16th and 17th. At least some of these were *cantillans* - the expected form early in the season overshooting from the western Mediterranean. On April 30th a first summer male *albistriata* was trapped at Portland Bird Observatory. A further seven Subalpine Warblers arrived in Britain in the first week of May from Scilly to Shetland, three of them reported as *albistriata*. Thus the date and location give little clue as to which race the Severn Beach bird is most likely to have been. This is the first record for the S. Gloucestershire recording area and has been accepted by BBRC.

John Martin - May 2004.

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## FIRECREST (c.50)

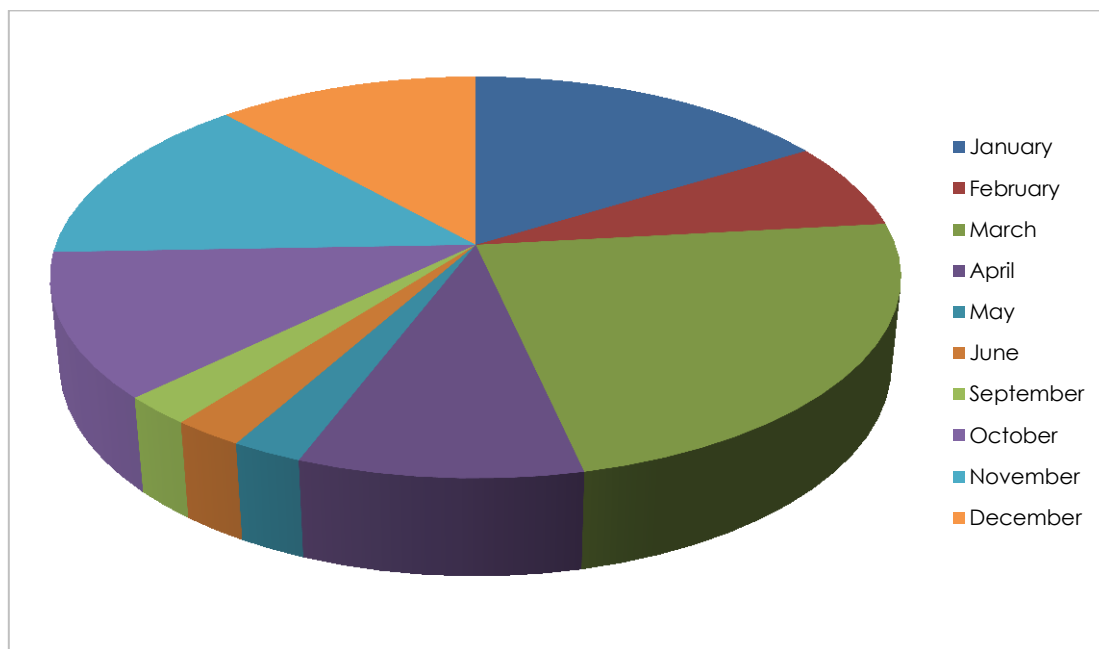
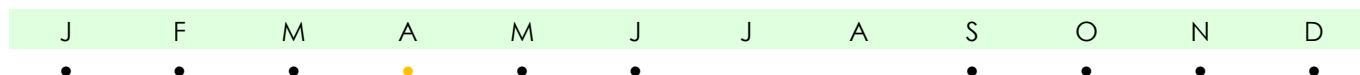
*Regulus ignicapillus*



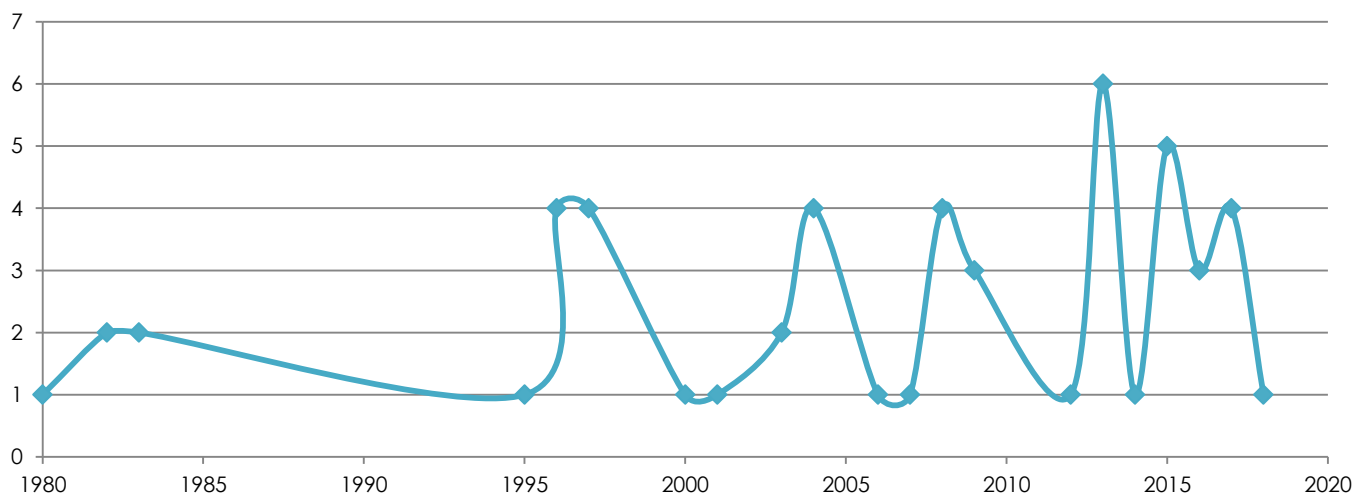
Firecrest - *Regulus ignicapillus* | © Lee Gardiner

FIRST  
EARLIEST  
LATEST  
HIGHEST COUNT

One between January and April 1980 on Hanham Hills, Hanham  
September 7th 2008 at Hanham  
May 20th 2001 at New Passage  
Three on March 13th 2009 at Severn Beach



This diagram indicates that March is in fact the best month for Firecrest in S. Gloucestershire with 23% of monthly sightings. To date they have never been recorded in either July or August.



Up to four birds have been seen on a fairly regular basis since the mid 1990's. Numbers peaked in 2013 with six different birds recorded, generally speaking though the mean for the twenty-one years in which Firecrest has been seen is c.2.5.



STARLING

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING (4)

*Sturnus roseus*



Rose-coloured Starling - *Sturnus roseus* | © Mark Coller

Rose-coloured Starling, Rosy Starling or Rosy Pastor have been recorded in S. Gloucestershire on no less than four occasions, they are;

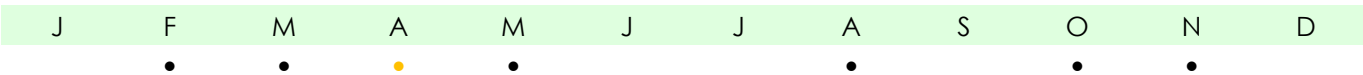
- 2000 On December 8th an adult winter male was found at Launceston Avenue in Hanham where it remained until at least January 26th 2001.
- 2004 A juvenile was found with Common Starlings on September 2nd at New Passage.
- 2012 A female/ 1st summer male was found mid-morning on June 10th with Common Starling c.400 metres south of Severn Beach and was reported as still present early morning on June 11th.
- 2018 A juvenile/ 1st winter was found mid-afternoon on September 1st on Gorse Cover Road, Severn Beach. It was seen at several locations subsequently and present until dusk.

THRUSH

RING OUZEL (c.90)

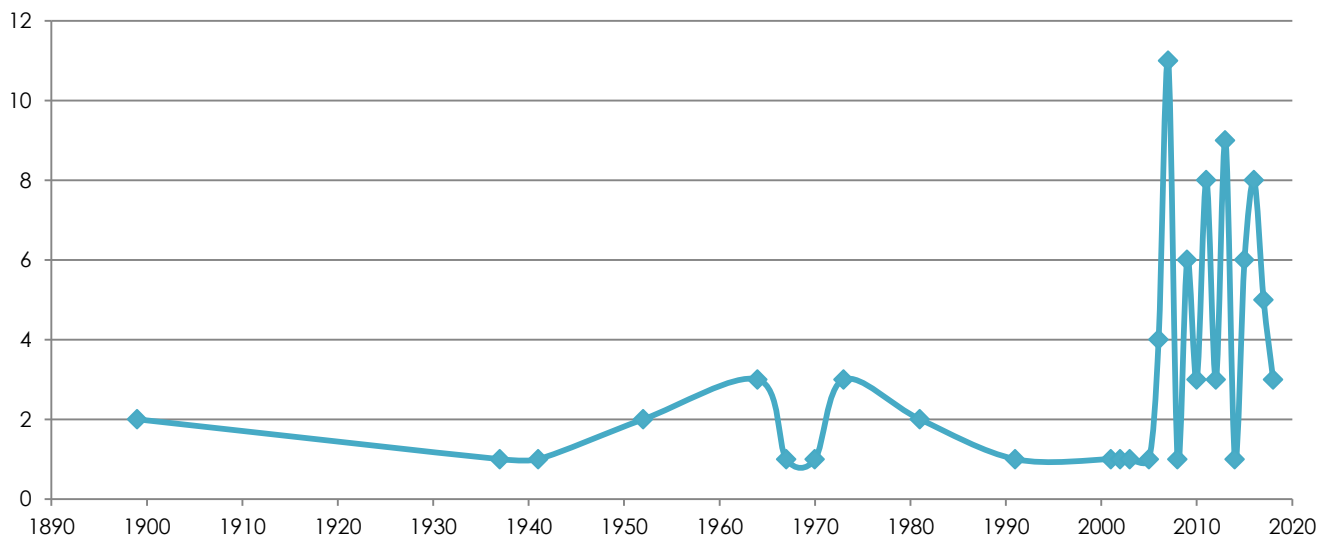
*Turdus torquatus*

FIRST	A pair at Almondsbury in the spring of 1899
EARLIEST	February 10th 2011 at Rangeworthy
LATEST	November 10th 2013 at Aust
HIGHEST COUNT	Five on April 16th 2011 on Chipping Sodbury Common

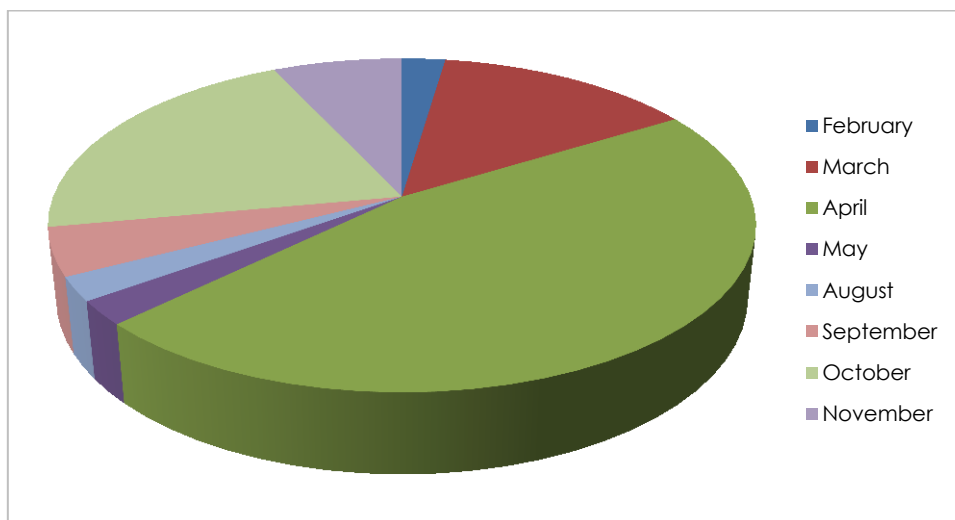




Ring Ouzel - *Turdus torquatus* | © Brian Thompson



Above shows Ring Ouzel occurrences in S. Gloucestershire between 1899 and 2018.



This diagram shows the spread of Ring Ouzel on a month by month basis indicating April as the best month to encounter them.

## CHATS

### BLUETHROAT (1)

*Luscinia svecica*

On May 14th 1988 an adult male was watched closely at the bottom of a Blackthorn thicket on Rushmead Lane near Marshfield. It was not assigned to race but was assumed to be of the 'red-spotted' form.

### White-spotted Bluethroat (1)

*Luscinia svecica cyanecula*

However this one was and is to date the first and only occurrence of this form for S. Gloucestershire.

On June 19th 2010 at around 10:00 whilst watering hanging baskets in a small communal garden at Staple Hill in Bristol, pensioner Janet Farley (aged 75) was distracted by birdsong she did not recognise. Turning from her watering she was confronted, about five metres away, by a small Robin sized bird with a bright blue breast, she said ...'I could even see the white on it'.... She watched the bird for a couple of minutes in full song and bright sunshine on the stems of a mature Pampas in a shrubby boarder.

The Bluethroat moved to a nearby bird table where it fed on suet then to a bird bath where it washed and drank, returning to the Pampas where it moved to the back of the plant and resumed singing. Janet mentioned ...'It was a little more difficult to see then but I could still hear it'...

At this point Janet slowly retreated from the scene to fetch her compact camera. She said... 'Whilst I was getting my camera I was hoping it would still be there when I got back'... Fortune has it that the bird was still at the back of the Pampas and still singing on Janet's return. Camera in hand she managed to capture this single photo, she went on to say...'I zoomed in a little too far so the bird looks bigger than it actually was, but it wasn't frightened when the flash went off'... Having managed that single shot she watched the bird around the garden until around 11:15 when it departed and was not seen subsequently.

This remarkably freaky occurrence came to light after a bizarre set of events; She showed the photo on her camera to someone who recognised it as a Bluethroat, that friend took his dog for a walk and bumped into Allan Chard. On hearing the tale, Allan raced back to see Janet, saw the photo, borrowed the SD card and dashed round to the local film developing shop and had two copies made! The information with a digital copy of the photo was emailed to both the BOC and TBOSG and news was released on June 25th 2010.



I eventually caught up with Janet at her home in Staple Hill on June 30th 2010 where she very kindly showed me the photo on her camera and took me on a tour of the communal garden pointing out the Pampas, bird table and bird bath where she watched this amazing bird!

TBOSG - June 2010.

White-spotted Bluethroat - *Luscinia svecica cyanecula* | © Janet Farley



It is a sad testament in a nature conscious and conservation aware age that egg collecting and indeed nest theft are still rife.

That was in fact the case in the early part of the 21st century. Breeding Nightingales at a well-known site in the north-east of the recording area was subjected to not only the theft of eggs but the whole nest which was completely removed including a portion of the bush.

Assuming Nightingale to be a 'three year bird' (the natural average life span of Nightingale) and assuming 'our' Nightingale to be three years old, failure to reproduce would potentially mean that no progeny returned to the breeding area in subsequent years. That might, given a whole suite of assumptions, mean that Nightingale could be lost as a breeding bird.

In 2012 as part of British Trust for Ornithology Nest Records Scheme and Nightingale Survey an active nest with four eggs was observed (May 19th) plus two further pairs, and an unpaired singing male.

It was at that time that the felony took place the consequences of which are now apparent, there have been no reports of Nightingale breeding in S. Gloucestershire and therefore it is assumed that this species has been lost as breeding bird in the recording area.



Nightingale - *Luscinia megarhynchos* | © Andy Jordan

Noted only as a summer visitor with no reference to numbers or location HH Davis quotes;

'Prior to 1962 - a summer resident arriving from the first half of April. Widespread on lower ground where not uncommon in all suitable localities but scarce or absent in open hilly country.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
			●	●	●	●	●	●			



Red-flanked Bluetail - *Tarsiger cyanurus* | © Mark Collier

John Barnett lives in Marshfield village and spends most of his bird watching time on his local patch. Normally he goes north of the village as there is high ground there, and in the past has seen Marsh, Hen and Montagu's three Harriers, 15 Short-eared Owls (in 2012) and Quail regularly in the summer. The area is also well known for its wintering flocks including Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer, Linnet and Skylark of which dozens of pairs breed in the summer months. It's a wonderful area with lots of farmland species that are scarce if not rare elsewhere.

Up to yesterday, February 2nd 2014, the best find was in July 1989 when a Woodchat Shrike spent a day by Rushmead Farm and was found by Martyn Hayes another patch regular.

Having not been there for a week or so, John decided on February 3rd in the afternoon to walk the Shire Valley, hoping to get Kingfisher on his patch year list, or else a Water Rail, which he'd seen on 'small pond' in November 2013. The Shire Valley is a beautiful chalk valley more reminiscent of Derbyshire than the Cotswolds. There was a chilly wind blowing down the valley, and he'd just passed the former farmhouse on his right when he heard five or six high pitched calls, rather like a Chiffchaff, but higher, he thought. He stopped to listen again.....! ...'I often find it easier to pick birds up by call rather than by sight'... when a

bird perched on a branch 10 metres in front of him. He had a look and thought 'Robin', but why had it only got the reddish colour on its flanks. I tried to remember if I'd seen a Robin like that before. It was also flicking its tail which, at this stage, I couldn't see properly. Thinking, oh well, red-flanked, all it needs is a blue tail now, when it turned around and there was the blue tail! ...' I nearly collapsed, my heart started racing, and I thought - it really is one!

I don't take photos, but it was really obvious what it was. I raced up the hill to ring the two people I'd numbers of – Martyn Hayes and Jack Willmott and then waited for them to arrive. It moved up and down a little area by the stream, feeding and then returning to a low perch and 75 back again, flicking its tail all the time and allowing him to be quite close. Occasionally it would rest for a few minutes and then start off again. Thankfully Martyn arrived with his camera, and the result can be seen on 'The Birds of South Gloucestershire' website! Jack also arrived and before dusk five people were able to get to the valley. I was happy for the news to get out as it was on a public footpath, and as long as visitors parked on the upper lane off the main road to Tormarton, which is a rat run to the motorway, he was confident that all would be well.

Returning on February 4th at about 11:30 I found 70 more people than are normally in the valley on a sunny day in February! ...'I was really pleased that everyone was able to get really good views without having to wait around or search. I believe that over 200 people came during the day, maybe more, I've never felt as I did yesterday whilst bird watching - to find your own rarity on your own patch, nothing can beat it! PS: ...I've no idea whether the bird I heard was the Bluetail or not: I just knew that what I heard was not a call I'd normally hear there, so whatever it was, thanks...!

Discussion: Red-flanked Bluetail, also known as Orange-flanked Bush-Robin, is a small passerine formerly classified as a member of the thrush family, but is now more generally considered to be an Old World flycatcher and recognised as a chat. It is a migratory insectivorous species breeding in mixed coniferous forest with undergrowth in northern Asia and north-eastern Europe, from Finland east across Siberia to

Kamchatka and south to Japan. It winters mainly in south-eastern Asia, in the Indian Subcontinent, the Himalayas, Taiwan, and northern Indochina. The breeding range is slowly expanding westwards through Finland (where up to 500 pairs now breed), and it is a rare but increasing vagrant to 76 Western Europe, mainly to Great Britain. There have also been a few records in westernmost North America, mostly in western Alaska.

These spectacular birds are traditionally an autumn vagrant to the UK, but this is the first record of a wintering bird. The earliest spring records both occurred on March 31st 2007 at Easington, East Yorkshire and 2012 on Lewis, Western Isles. April has hosted just three records and May just the one. Since 1993, when the first 'twitchable' mainland bird was found in the Winspit Valley, Dorset, there have been scores of records, 2010 alone saw up to 32 birds! Despite this, Red-flanked Bluetail is still a species which for most birders still causes the heart to skip every time one is found and for any dedicated patch birder a once in a lifetime experience.

They are polytypic with two forms, all European records are attributable to the nominate form *cyanurus*; the extralimital form '*rufilatus*' is found from Afghanistan to north-central China. In excess of 90% of all occurrences in the UK are 1st winter birds as was the Shire Valley individual, however, the extent of blue in the tail, rump, lower back, scapulars, median coverts, tertials and to a lesser degree primary feathers strongly suggests a male.

The significance of the unique find has now only just been realised. Not just a first for S. Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Avon it's the first wintering record the first for February, the latest date for this species in the UK and the longest staying individual ever recorded in Brittan!

John Barnett, TBOSG - S. Gloucestershire 2014

## PIED FLYCATCHER (UK)

*Ficedula hypoleuca*



The first documented reference to Pied Flycatcher in S. Gloucestershire was in 1905 when a clutch of four eggs (and presumably two adults) was noted at Shepperdine in May of that year.

Although seen in the recording area on spring and autumn passage they were not vigorously logged.

Though not common by any stretch of the imagination the paucity of sightings became apparent when cataloguing (re) commenced in 2000.

EARLIEST	April 8th 1944 at Little Stoke
LATEST	September 24th 1971 at Filton



Pied Flycatcher - *Ficedula hypoleuca* | © TBOSG



## All sightings: (from 2000)

- 2002 One was reported at New Passage on August 23rd.
- 2003 One was seen at Severn Beach on September 6th.
- 2005 One was found at New Passage on August 3rd.
- 2006 A female was seen on April 21st at Severn Beach.
- 2007 One on June 1st from a private garden at Severn Beach and one on August 5th in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth area.
- 2008 A male in trees around Lagoon II, Oldbury Power Station on April 20th and one in the Shire Valley, Marshfield on April 20th.
- 2009 One reported from The Glen at New Passage on August 11th.
- 2012 A male at Orchard Pools, Severn Beach on May 1st with the same or another male inside the grounds of Oldbury Power Station on May 2nd.
- 2013 A female was reported from Severn Beach on May 1st and a male was seen along the bridle path to the shore at Oldbury Power Station on April 16th.
- 2014 A male was seen at Oldbury Power Station around Lagoon II on April 17th.
- 2015 One reported from Little Sodbury sometime in July, one was seen in a garden in Frampton Cotterell on August 7th and a probable female was seen on the fence between Lagoon II and the Power Station at Oldbury on August 28th.
- 2016 A male was seen by the brook in Warmley Forest Park on April 17th, a male was seen on Yate Common, Yate on April 18th and one was seen around The Lodge, Lower Woods on August 14th. (Photo)
- 2017 APRIL: A male was seen on the 18th in trees in private gardens at New Passage in the morning and relocated at Chestle Pill copse in the evening.  
AUGUST: A 1st winter/ female was seen briefly in the Shire Valley at Marshfield on the 21st.
- 2018 APRIL: A male was seen in Kingsgate Park, Yate on the 11th - 13th, a male in a private garden at Alveston also on the 13th and a female around Lagoon III, Oldbury Power Station on the 14th.

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## BLACK REDSTART (c.130)

*Pheonicurus ochruros*

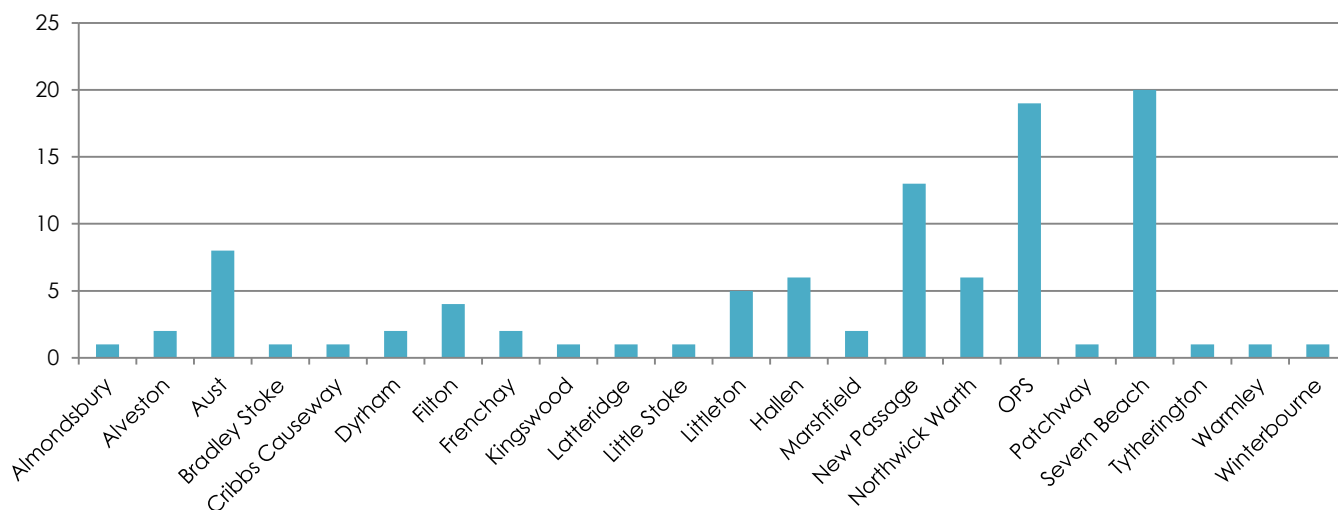
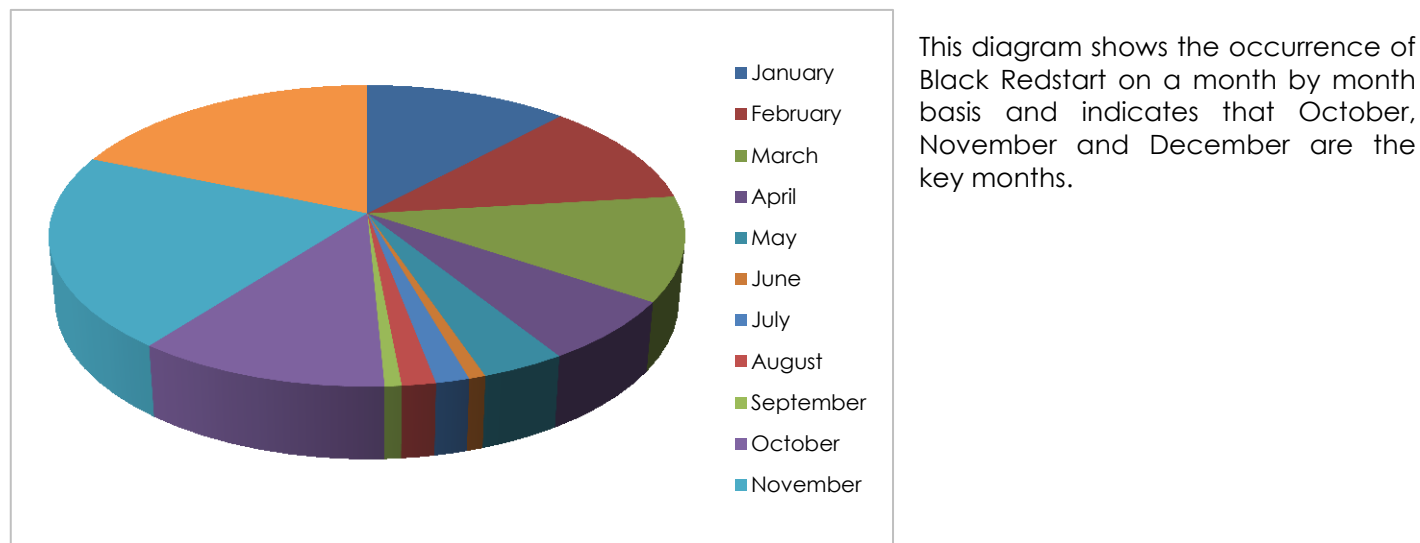
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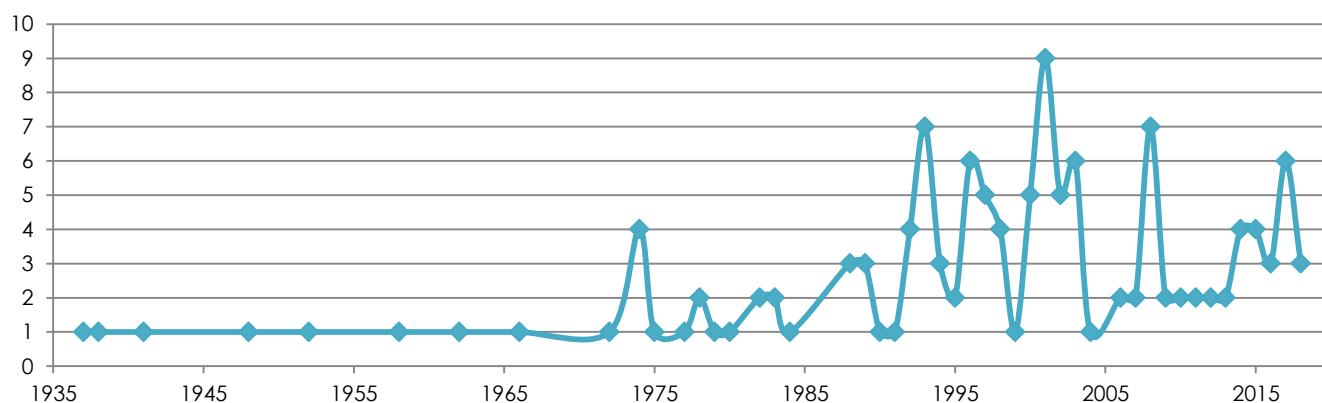
Black Redstart - *Pheonicurus ochruros* | © TBOSG

The very first reports of Black Redstart come from 1937 when one was observed at close quarters along the Severn Beach railway embankment on March 28th and was undoubtedly this species.

They have been fairly frequent in small numbers over the intervening years and have been recorded in all months.



Above shows the spread of sightings across the recording area between 1937 and 2018.



Above shows the numbers of Black Redstart annually between 1937 and 2018 peaking at nine in 2001.



Desert Wheatear - *Oenanthe deserti* | © TBOSG

On Wednesday December 11th I met some visiting birders at New Passage late afternoon who said they had seen a 'Wheatear' briefly on the sea wall at Severn Beach earlier in the day and that it looked paler than usual but despite searching they could not relocate.

Hoping/ suspecting that the bird could be interesting for the time of year I dashed back to the Burger Bar area of the sea wall at Severn Beach and wandered around for five minutes and was just about to give up when the first 'Severnside' patch record, a 1st winter male Desert Wheatear, popped up on the railings in front of me. I managed a few decent shots just before the light failed. The bird was seen by about ten other birders and was last seen in near darkness at the top of the shingle beach 100 metres south of the concrete sea defences. Hopefully it will still be in the area tomorrow!

Thursday dawned somewhat overcast giving hopes that the Wheatear had lingered and by 08:00 it duly appeared when it was picked up in the gloom by Rich Ford sat on a driftwood log around 200 metres down the beach from the end of the sea defences. In a short time it was showing very well at short range on the beach, sea wall and the green in front of a small apartment block. It remained in that area until dusk on December 12th. On December 13th it was still present remaining faithful to the beach front and continued to show very well on or near the sea defences all day until dusk.

The following day December 14th was an increasingly breezy and wet day with plenty of overnight rain however the bird was still present though looking decidedly damp. It proved to be very obliging today spending a lot of time approaching birders sometimes within a metre range. It was also feeding well on an assortment tidbits including meal worms provided by the steady stream of admirers. Sadly on December 15th there was no sign of this first for Severnside and S. Glos despite some extensive searching, hopefully it departed overnight on the 14th and no succumbed to the vagaries of a very damp British winter.

Desert Wheatear is a small insectivorous passerine that was formerly regarded as a member of the Thrush family but now more generally considered to be an Old World flycatcher. Both western and eastern forms of Desert Wheatear are rare vagrants to Western Europe.



The western form breeds in the Sahara and the northern Arabian Peninsula, the eastern form is found in the semi-deserts of central Asia and in winter in Pakistan and northeast Africa.

Four forms are recognised; *Oenanthe deserti deserti* is found in the Levant, *O. d. atrogularis* is found in Transcaucasia, Iran, Afghanistan and Mongolia, *O. d. homochroa* is found from Western Sahara to the west part of Egypt and *O. d. oreophila* is found in West China, Kashmir, Tibet, Pakistan and north eastern Africa.

Paul Bowerman – December 2013

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## PIED WHEATEAR (1)

*Oenanthe pleschanka*

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Pied Wheatear - *Oenanthe pleschanka* | © Gary Thoburn

A 1st winter female Pied Wheatear was present at Thornbury Yacht Club, Oldbury-on-Severn from at least 15:50 on Tuesday 25th October until at least 18:00 on Friday 28th October. It represents the 62nd British 66 record. It presumably departed overnight on October 28th and was not seen subsequently.

Despite resembling Black-eared Wheatear in overall structure and plumage tones, the prominent scaling on the mantle and scapulars is typical of Pied Wheatear. On Migration and in winter, Pied Wheatears actively seek out rocky areas and buildings. Pied Wheatear is a small insectivorous passerine that was formerly classed as a member of the Thrush family but is now generally considered to be one of the Old World flycatchers.

It is a migrant from central Asia where it occurs from the extreme south east of Europe to China and is known to winter in India and north east Africa. They are a widespread summer visitor to much of south Eastern Europe, which accounts for less than a quarter of its global breeding range. Its European breeding population is relatively small at less than 300,000 individuals, but was relatively stable between 1970 and 1990. The species remained fairly constant between 1990 and 2000, with all populations across the European range either stable or increasing.

TBOSG - October 2011

# SPARROWS

## TREE SPARROW (UK)

*Passer montanus*



Tree Sparrow - *Passer montanus* | © Paul Bowdler

The first documented reference to this species comes from The Proceedings of \*\*The Bristol Naturalists Society 1874 - 1876, Volume 8 page 369 – Birds of the Bristol District and reads; *Fringilla montana* - Tree Sparrow - Indigenous - rare.

The next entry was in the \*\*publication for 1898 -1900 and reads; Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* – Small colonies are to be found in many localities.

No further entries were discovered until 1941 and since then have been noted 'almost' annually. However Tree Sparrow number in S. Gloucestershire have fallen to near extinction levels and are now, it seems, only recorded as passage migrants.

There has been an enormous national decline of around 94% in the population of Tree Sparrows between 1973 and 1998 which has had a clear impact locally, below are the entries for 2000 onwards.

### All sightings from 2000:

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2000 | Reports this year come from just four sites. Nesting was proven and one was seen at Oldbury Power Station on May 20th with other sightings at Folly Farm near Latteridge, Marshfield and New Passage. |
| 2001 | One near Latteridge on January 19th and three in flight at Northwick Warth on October 21st.   |
| 2002 | In January and February a flock of forty at Littleton Warth; breeding season reports come from Littleton and Elberton but no proof of successful breeding.  |
| 2003 | Twelve at Oldbury Power Station on March 23rd, one at New Passage on February 23rd plus single birds reported from Severn Beach, Littleton-on-Severn and Northwick Warth.                             |
| 2004 | On January 9th a flock of thirteen around Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station.  |
| 2005 | On October 24th twenty in the Marshfield area near Harcombe Farm.   |
| 2007 | On April 6th one on Northwick Warth, one at New Passage on April 12th, one at Savage's Wood, Bradley Stoke on April 22nd and two on Northwick Warth on September 13th.                                |
| 2008 | One on Northwick Warth on October 12th and one on 'Sevenside' on November 14th.   |
| 2009 | Two at Oldbury Power Station around Lagoon II on April 8th and five north-east at New Passage on September 12th.  |



2010	A party of ten in the Dyrham area in the first week of January.
2011	One around Lagoon 1 at Oldbury Power Station on September 3rd and two near the 2nd sentry box on Northwick Warth on October 22nd.
2012	Two on November 30th near Shire Barn, Tormarton Road between Rushmead Farm and Shirehill Lane.
2013	One at New Passage in The Glen/ Chestle Pill sluice area on July 9th.
2014	One in fields from the Severn Way north of The Windbound at Shepperdine on December 13th & 20th, three on the 21st with two on the 22nd and 27th.
2015	Two in fields from the Severn Way north of The Windbound at Shepperdine on January 2nd with two at the same site on March 8th. One from Patchway on March 21st and one reported near the Chapel at Shepperdine on September 2nd.
2016	BTO records for 28th March 2016 reports a flock of 30 at Hill House Farm, Charfield. Additionally, one from Wesley Avenue, Hanham on December 21st.
2017	Four, and probably a relocating family group, on Chipping Sodbury Common on August 27th.

## WAGTAILS

### Ashy-headed Wagtail (1)

*Motacilla flava cinereocapilla*



Ashy-headed Wagtail - *Motacilla flava cinereocapilla* | © Paul Bowerman

A spring adult was found on April 15th 2018 on Northwick Warth and subsequently Pilning Wetland Reserve where it was present from around 10:20 until dusk. To date this is the only record of this 'yellow' wagtail form to occur in S. Gloucestershire.

### Blue-headed Wagtail (c.15)

*Motacilla flava flava*

Blue-headed Wagtail is the nominate 'yellow wagtail' form and has been seen in S. Gloucestershire on no less than fifteen occasions since it was first recorded in 1954.



## All sightings:

- 1954 Four on April 23rd at Severn Beach on the foreshore with around 35 Yellow Wagtail.
- 1999 A presumed adult on April 19th on Northwick Warth, another adult on April 25th at Aust Warth with the same or another at Severn Beach on April 26th.
- 2004 A male on May 1st on Northwick Warth.
- 2008 A male briefly at Severn Beach on April 20th.
- 2012 A summer male on Northwick Warth on April 27th.
- 2016 A spring male in the Northwick Warth/ Pilning Wetland Reserve area throughout the day on April 17th, an apparent second/ different spring male (or well-marked Yellow Wagtail) on Pilning Wetland on April 18th, two, (a male and female) together on the Wader Scrape, Pilning Wetland Reserve on April 20th and a male on Pilning Wetland Reserve from April 22nd - 24th.
- 2017 A spring male on Pilning Wetland Reserve from May 17th - 18th.
- 2018 A male on Pilning Wetland Reserve on May 24th.



Blue-headed Wagtail - *Motacilla flava flava* | © Paul Bowerman

## Grey-headed Wagtail (1)

*Motacilla flava thunbergi*

On the morning of September 26th I had been birding at New Passage and Northwick Warth since 07:30 and was joined by Brian Lancaster. It was quite a 'birdy' morning with decent numbers of common migrants including 20 Chiffchaffs, eight Blackcaps and an influx of at least 33 Song Thrushes. We were even inspired to check around the old tip by Green Lane before heading back along the Warth towards New Passage for the high tide. We both heard a Yellow Wagtail call and the bird duly dropped in nearby - a nice record these days and likely to be the last of the year. I remarked that the bird seemed to have a dark hood and was worth further scrutiny. It was with Meadow Pipits at first then got separated from them and fed amongst the cattle. It showed 56 well at times down to 25m or less but was frequently lost in the longer grass. Nonetheless careful scrutiny showed that it really did have a dark grey hood with a tiny suggestion of a pale supercilium and was overall rather dark and cold toned above. Its calls were usually similar to 'flavissima' but on at least one occasion were distinctly zippy (perhaps merely a response to stress). I obtained a recording of some of the calls but unfortunately we were unable to get any photographic images. We both took field notes and I made some sketches of the bird. By now we were fairly happy it was a Grey-headed Wagtail (race 'thunbergi') but phoned the news out as a 'probable' because we were not sure if this form should show a slight supercilium.

The bird was clearly a 'flava wagtail' of some kind. The lores and ear coverts were solidly dark grey with no paler area below the eye. The forehead, crown and nape were a slightly paler grey. There was a small short narrow pale supercilium starting just in front of the eye and ending just behind it. The mantle was similar in shade to the crown and rather cold grey-brown in colour, lacking any obvious olive and not contrasting in

tone much with the wings. There were two indistinct slightly paler wing-bars and somewhat more obvious white fringes to the dark centred tertials. The tail was dark with a lot of white in the outer feathers. The underparts were a pale creamy colour (JPM) or pale yellowish with the throat somewhat paler (BL). The bill was black and the legs dark. After a while we lost track of it and decided to check out the waders a New Passage. We met Paul Bowerman and suggested to him that the wagtail was worth seeing in the hope that he would be able to photograph it. Unfortunately he could not find it, and we called him back prematurely as we had found a Semipalmated Sandpiper on the rising tide - what a morning! The wagtail was not seen again although the 'semip' showed well through the late morning and afternoon.

Discussion; The identification of flava wagtails is not always easy and autumn individuals are notoriously difficult. This is not the case with all races, however, and 'thunbergi' is easier than some other forms. The 57 essential reference is Alström and Mild (2003). They mention reports of a rather wide zone of inter-gradation of thunbergi with nominate flava (Blue-headed Wagtail) in Northern Europe. They also note, however, that intermediates are actually rather infrequent with many birds in zones reported to hold intermediate populations (e.g. southern Finland) being all or nearly all pure thunbergi.

The Northwick Warth bird appeared to be an adult female, being basically too colourful for a first-winter (also lacking bold whitish wing bars or any dusky marks in the malar area or on the breast as shown by most first-winter birds) and not bright enough for an adult male. Alström and Mild state that adult females differ from flava in having a less clear-cut supercilium (sometimes just a short stripe behind the eye or lacking all together), slightly darker crown and especially the ear coverts which often lack the pale sub-ocular patch found in most flava. Our bird fitted this description perfectly - not all autumn thunbergi are as easily separated from flava - it was very similar to the adult females illustrated on Plates 145 and especially 146 in Alström and Mild (2003).

Autumn female feldegg (Black-headed Wagtail) could be a pitfall as some individuals might look quite like the Northwick bird. They should have black rather than dark grey ear coverts, or at least have a significant element of black. Calls should also be consistently zippier whereas ours gave mainly unremarkable flavissima-like calls and the zip call just once, perhaps when slightly alarmed.

Key points in favour of thunbergi were:

- Solidly dark grey ear coverts lacking a pale area below the eye
- Grey forehead, crown and nape, slightly paler than the ear coverts
- Short narrow pale supercilium (although we thought this problematic at the time it is in fact typical of female thunbergi)
- Possibly darkish rather cold toned mantle, although not mentioned in the literature it is shown in at least some photos

The race thunbergi has a wide summer range breeding from central and northern Scandinavia east to eastern Siberia as far as the Kolyma River, and wintering in much of sub-Saharan Africa east to Indochina and south-eastern China. In Britain they are mainly a scarce but regular migrant on the east coast and the Northern Isles. Most are seen in spring peaking in mid to late May with far fewer reported in autumn.

John Martin - September 2009

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## EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL (2)

*Motacilla simillima*

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One probably two Eastern Yellow Wagtails have been seen in the recording area. The first was a wintering bird in 1993/ 1994.

On December 16th 1993 a winter adult was identified at Aust Sewage Farm. It was present until December 31st and would remain until at least January 19th 1994.

The second was in 2011 when on December 1st at Oldbury Power Station a surveyor reported a Yellow Wagtail! A very late date, the bird was located on call in a flock of 'alba wagtails', and seen to be very grey and white with little or no yellow seen on a brief view. The bird flew and could not be relocated by either of us when the Wagtail flock reappeared in the newly ploughed field immediately south of Lagoon III despite prolonged searching.

PIPITS

RICHARD'S PIPIT (c.10)

*Anthus richardi*

FIRST  
EARLIEST  
LATEST

One on Aust Warth on November 27th 1993  
September 30th 2010 at Oldbury Power Station  
May 5th 2014 on Northwick Warth



All sighting:

- 1993
- On November 27th a winter adult at Aust Warth and remained in the area until November 30th.
- 1996
- On October 22nd a single bird was flushed several times from Lagoon II at Oldbury Power Station.
- 2006
- On November 5th one was heard three times flying south over Northwick Warth.
- 2007
- On March 9th one was 'showing well' very briefly near the flash at Northwick Warth.
- 2009
- On November 14th one seen and heard over New Passage.
- 2010
- On September 30th site bird surveyors reported one flying over Thornbury Sailing Club, Oldbury-on-Severn.
- 2011
- A 'large' pipit thought to be this species was feeding on Northwick Warth on October 15th.
- 2012
- One in a hedgerow just before Thornbury Sailing Club, Oldbury-on-Severn on January 29th - 30th and again on February 6th.
- 2014
- One seen and heard on May 5th on Northwick Warth, one heard several times on Northwick Warth on October 4th and one, seen in flight south-east over Oldbury Power Station on October 15th.
- 2018
- One seen and heard low over Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth on November 14th.

RED-THROATED PIPIT (3)

*Anthus cervinus*



This photograph of an adult Red-throated Pipit was taken in October 2015. It was on Pilning Wetland Reserve, Northwick Warth and once 'pinned down' could be seen well from the Severn Way.

Red-throated Pipit - *Anthus cervinus* | © Mark Coller

All sightings:

- 2012
- On April 22nd a brightly coloured pipit was seen on Northwick Warth by visiting birders. It was lost to view temporarily before being relocated around 09:00 on Northwick Warth opposite The Pagoda on Pilning Wetlands Reserve and identified as a summer plumaged adult. It was fortuitously photographed by two separate observers before it took flight and headed north up river along the Warth where it appeared to drop back on to the salt marsh near the 'flash' at around 09:30. Sadly despite extensive coverage it was not relocated by dusk.
- 2014
- One was both seen and heard in flight over the observers' garden at Thornbury on March 29th.



2015 An adult heard calling several times and seen briefly on Pilning Wetland Reserve on October 3rd before was 'pinned down' in the north-west corner of the reserve. It was still present on the 4th and remained until at least early evening in the north-west corner of the reserve.

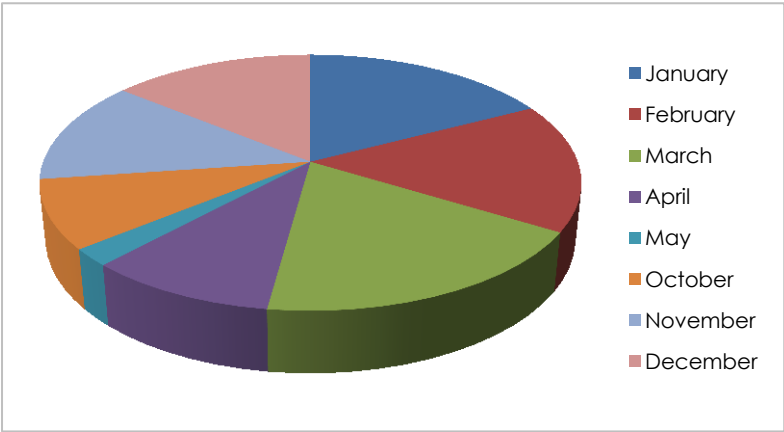
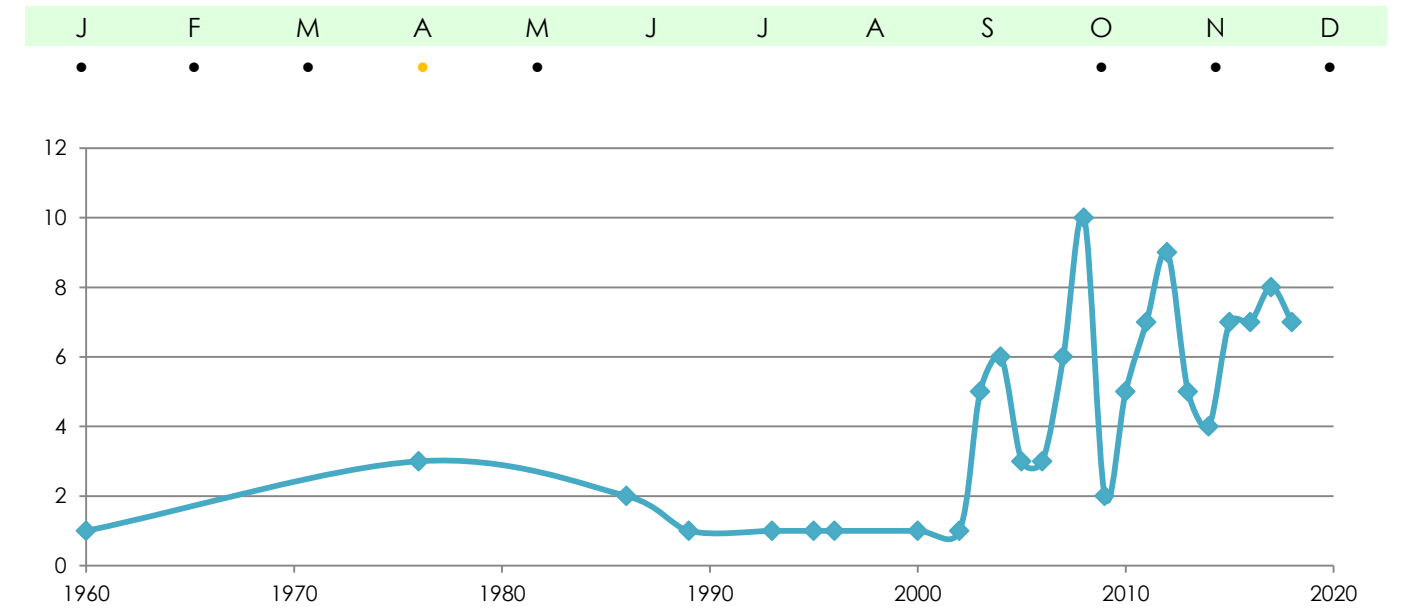
WATER PIPIT (c.100)

*Anthus spinoletta*



Water Pipit - *Anthus spinoletta* | © John Martin

FIRST One at New Passage on April 1st 1960.  
EARLIEST October 1st 2011 on Littleton Warth  
LATEST May 27th 2017 at Oldbury Power Station  
HIGHEST COUNT Six on March 18th 2012 on Northwick Warth



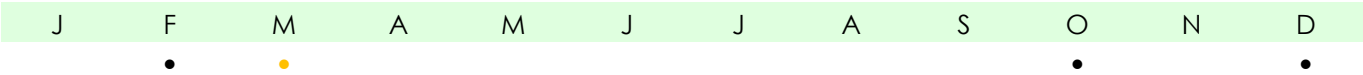
The diagram above shows the number of Water Pipit seen per annum in S. Gloucestershire between 1960 and 2018. Is this due to an increase in sightings coupled with observer awareness?

This diagram indicates Water Pipit as winter visitor. The first arrivals can be seen in October and the late leavers linger into May.



Putative Scandinavian Rock Pipit - *Anthus petrosus littoralis* | © John Martin

FIRST	Two 'obtained' in March 1870 at New Passage
EARLIEST	October 6th 1982 at Oldbury-on-Severn
LATEST	March 22nd 2016 at Oldbury Power Station
HIGHEST COUNT	Four on March 4th 2107 at Severn Beach



All sightings:

- 1870 Two 'obtained' in early March at New Passage.
- 1982 One from Oldbury-on-Severn on October 6th.
- 2004 One between Littleton Warth and Oldbury-on-Severn on February 17th.
- 2005 A presumed winter adult from March 5th – 10th one kilometre south of Severn Beach.
- 2006 One from Severn Beach on March 3rd.
- 2008 One at Aust Warth on December 30th.
- 2009 At least one on the Salt Marsh at Severn Beach on March 18th.
- 2010 One on the Salt Marsh at Severn Beach on March 7th.
- 2011 One at Thornbury Sailing Club, Oldbury-on-Severn on October 26th.
- 2013 A 'Norwegian' colour ringed individual was seen at Severn Beach on October 19th - 20th.
- 2015 One in summer plumaged on Northwick Warth from March 6th - 8th.
- 2016 One photographed in fields between Lagoon III at OPS and Thornbury Sailing Club on March 22nd.
- 2017 Three or four on the saltmarsh at Severn Beach on March 4th.

## FINCHES & BUNTINGS

HAWFINCH (c.150)

*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

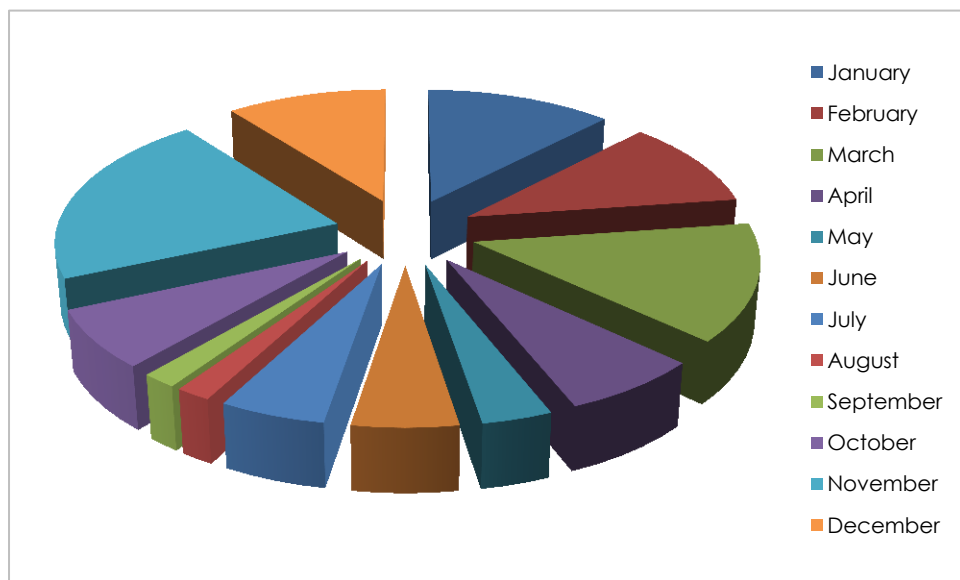


Hawfinch - *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* | © Gary Thoburn

The first documented reference to Hawfinch in S. Gloucestershire was in 1874. Bristol Naturalists Society New Series Volume 1: 1874 – 1876 listed them as abundant and remaining until late spring. Breeding in the Almondsbury area where nests and eggs were collected.

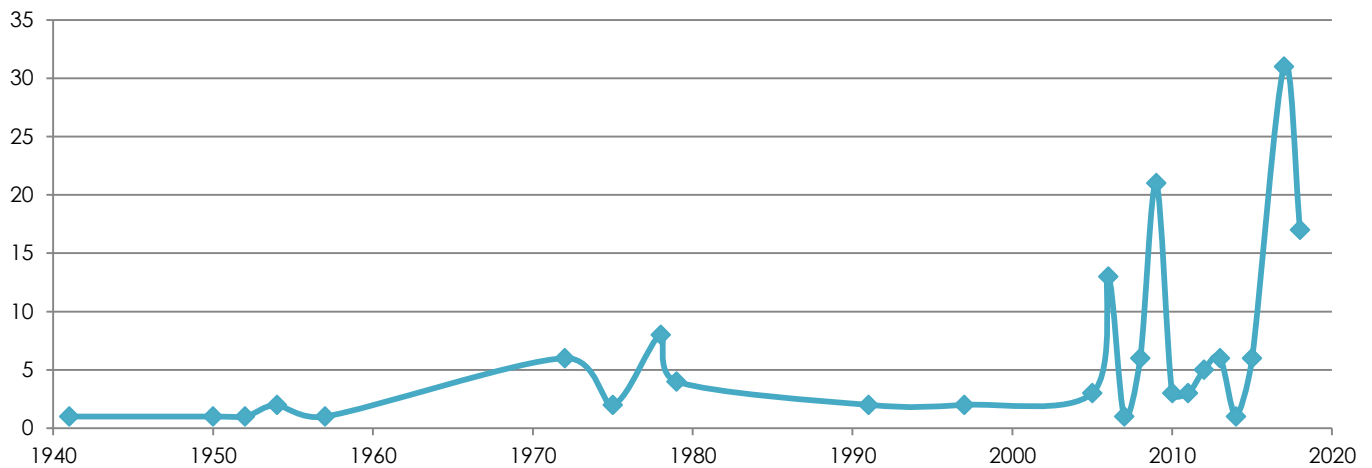
The entries reappeared from 1941 onwards when they were noted sporadically until 2005 but have been seen in small numbers every year since.

They have been recorded in all months and the highest count came in 2006 when a flock of twelve were present in Brimsham Park, Yate from February 7th until at least March 11th.



Seen in all months of the year clearly the two winter periods have historically been the best times to encounter Hawfinch in S. Gloucestershire.





This diagram shows the numbers of Hawfinch sightings annually from 1941 to 2018.

## COMMON ROSEFINCH (2)

*Carpodacus erythrinus*

There have been tow records of Common Rosefinch in S. Gloucestershire, the first was a well watched bird in 2001. The entry reads;

A juvenile/ 1st winter was seen on September 22nd 2001 at Leap Valley Downend. It was watched for around an hour between 12:00 and 13:00 mixing loosely with Greenfinch.

The second and most recent was of one both seen and heard in flight low over Northwick Warth on October 14th 2017.

## TWITE (UK)

*Carduelis flavirostris*



The first documented reference to Twite in S. Gloucestershire comes from as recently as 1978. The entry reads;

C.40 on 'Sevenside' between January 6th and March 27th 1978, one on November 4th at Severn Beach and up to 40 from October 4th to December 31st also on 'Sevenside' which also represents the highest count.

EARLIEST: October 20th 2012 at Oldbury Power Station  
LATEST: April 8th 1979 at Severn Beach

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
•	•	•							•	•	•

Twite - *Carduelis flavirostris* | © TBOSG

## All subsequent sightings:

- 1979 Reports of up to thirty-five from Severn Beach between January and April 8th and from November 11th until December 31st.
- 1980 Flocks of up to eighteen from Hallen in the first winter period between January 1st and March 19th and in the autumn between October 30th and November 29th.
- 1981 An individual from Severn Beach on February 11th with another also at Severn Beach on December 23rd.
- 1982 Up to eleven from Severn Beach between January 18th and March 13th in the first winter period and between December 11th - 21st in the second.
- 1984 Ten between February 19th and March 3rd from Lagoon I at Oldbury Power Station and eleven on December 22nd - 23rd at Aust Warth with eight on the 24th and six on the 26th.
- 1985 From Aust Warth; eleven on January 5th four on October 27th plus ten on November 3rd and 9th. On Northwick Warth one flew north east on February 16th, at Severn Beach three on December 22nd and at New Passage ten on December 29th.
- 1986 At New Passage ten on January 4th, at Severn Beach, five on March 1st with two still on March 2nd and two at Aust Warth on March 23rd with a further two there on November 15th.
- 1991 One at Oldbury Power Station on November 23rd.
- 1994 At least one at Severn Beach on November 11th.
- 2011 One possibly this species 200 metres west of Plough Farm at Marshfield on January 21st and at Oldbury Power Station two or three around Lagoon III on December 20th.
- 2012 Four at Oldbury Power Station between January 14th - 25th around Lagoon III with at least three lingering up to February 13th. One at Oldbury Power Station on October 20th.
- 2013 JANUARY: Three in the Cake Pill area on Aust Warth on the 20th - 21st, the same three on the 24th with two on the 22nd - 23rd. FEBRUARY: Two on the 18th at the Old Passage end of Aust Warth, three on the 19th with at least two seen daily from the 20th until at least April 7th. DECEMBER: Two at Aust at the Old Passage end on the 7th, 11th, 14th & 17th, three at the same site on the 12th.
- 2014 JANUARY: Two on the 13th at Aust at the Old Passage end. They were present in the same area again from the 18th - 21st and the 25th & 29th. FEBRUARY: Two on the 1st - 2nd at the Old Passage end of Aust Warth, one on the 7th - 8th, 10th & 26th. MARCH: One at the Old Passage end of Aust Warth from the 1st - 23rd. NOVEMBER: Four probable's seen and heard on the 9th in the New Passage/ Northwick Warth and one possibly this species at Wharf Lodge, Aust on the 23rd.

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## COMMON REDPOLL (c.10)

*Acanthis flammea*



Common Redpoll - *Acanthis flammea* | © Matt Plenty

EARLIEST November 18th 2013 at Oldbury Power Station  
 LATEST April 24th 2004 at Severn Beach  
 HIGHEST COUNT Four on March 21st 2009 at Oldbury Power Station

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
•	•	•	•							•	

#### All sightings:

- 2004 One at Thornbury Golf Course on February 10th and two adults photographed on April 24th at Severn Beach.
- 2008 A female/ 1st winter at Little Green Lane, Severn Beach on April 20th.
- 2009 At least one at Orchard Pools, Severn Beach on January 18th, at least four around Lagoon III at Oldbury Power Station on March 21st and several probably this species at Severn Beach on April 13th.
- 2013 One 'classic' flammea around Lagoon II at Oldbury Power Station on November 13th.

## COMMON CROSSBILL (c.180)

*Loxia curvirostra*

Common Crossbill has been recorded in all months except May and the highest count is sixteen seen in the Cowhill area in October 1953.

The first documented reference comes from 1829 and reads; recorded in the Alveston area sometime around this time. There were no further references until 1953.

#### All sightings from 1953:

- 1953 One at Wick on September 23rd, up to sixteen at Cowhill near Oldbury-on-Severn on various dates from late October to mid-November and a party of five last seen including four males on November 18th.
- 1963 A female at Filton on October 23rd.
- 1964 Up to fifteen at Filton from January to early March.
- 1979 One at Hallen on December 3rd.
- 1983 One from Hallen sometime in November.
- 1985 Five on Inglestone Common, Wickwar on July 5th.
- 1989 One north-north-east at Aust on July 8th.
- 1997 One from New Passage sometime in July and one at New Passage sometime in October.
- 1999 One at New Passage on October 30th.
- 2002 A flock of seven north-east at New Passage on April 9th.
- 2003 Four south at New Passage on March 22nd and one heard at New Passage on April 6th.
- 2009 One on July 25th over Lower Knole Farm, Almondsbury and one on October 28th heard over Pilning.
- 2010 Five heading north-east over the river at Oldbury Power Station on February 11th; One over Deanery Close, Warmley at 10:15 on March 4th; At Thornbury at least one, probably two around 11:40 over a private garden on March 27th; One heard over Pilning on April 20th; Four from New Passage on October 11th with a further individual there on October 12th; One south over Northwick Warth on October 30th.
- 2011 One at Oldbury Power Station on March 11th; Two flew south-west near Springfield Farm, west of Horton on July 13th; One flew over Marshfield Village on July 20th; Six flew over Oldbury Power Station on October 8th; One flew over Northwick Warth and Littleton Warth on October 16th; Six over Lagoon III, OPS on November 5th; Eleven in flight at New Passage on November 7th; Two over Thornbury and one flying low east calling over Pilning Wetlands on November 12th; Two over Kingsgate Park, Yate at 08:25 on November 11th.
- 2012 One heard over Aust Cliffs around 11:00 on January 8th; One flying south at Littleton Warth on January 22nd; A fly over heard at Oldbury Power Station on January 29th; One heard over Oldbury Power Station on February 6th; One heard over to the west at Oldbury Power Station on March 7th; Four flew over New Passage at 07:45 on March 24th including a red male; Two flew over Severn Beach on March 30th; One at Oldbury Power Station on April 5th; One at New Passage on October 23rd; One at



Aust on October 24th; Two sat in trees near Whitegate Lodge , Old Down Road between Old Sodbury and Badminton on October 28th; One at Oldbury Power Station on November 19th.

- 2013 One, probably this species at Oldbury Power Station on April 27th; Three heading north-west over Cribbs Causeway at 07:30 on June 5th; One in flight at Filton heading towards the airfield on July 23rd; At least five over Cribbs Causeway at 07:20 on August 1st; Four flew north-east past Thornbury Yacht Club at 11:00 on August 9th; Two flew north east at Oldbury Power Station at 07:15 on August 10th; Two in flight over Chipping Sodbury Common on August 18th; Three in flight over Patchway on October 5th; Two over Hanham at 09:25 on October 17th; One over Northwick Warth on November 3rd.
- 2014 At least one in flight over Severn Beach near the sea wall on September 14th.
- 2015 One was both seen and heard at Oldbury Power Station on April 4th heading north-east; One was seen and heard in flight north over Severn Beach on June 26th; A female/ immature flew over New Passage to the north-west at 08:40 on October 13th; Eight (flocks of six and two) in flight north-east Aust Cliffs in the morning on October 16th; On October 18th, two noted at Oldbury Power Station in the morning, six were counted at Aust Cliffs (four males and two females) then in hawthorns at Aust Warth before flying south-west and five were noted over New Passage; Ten were noted in flight north-east over Aust Cliffs by 08:30 on November 3rd; One was seen at first light in flight over Lagoon II, Oldbury Power Station on November 10th.
- 2016 Five were both seen and heard in flight north-east over New Passage at 11:15 on March 23rd.
- 2017 Four, a male and three females were seen at Oldbury Power Station on April 7th in pines on the north-east side of Lagoon I at Oldbury Power Station before flying upriver along the bank.
- 2018 OCTOBER: One south over a private garden in Pilning early morning on the 10th; One to the north at Oldbury Power Station around 09:30 on the 30th.

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## SERIN (1)

*Serinus serinus*

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At about 08:25 on April 6th while walking on the lower concrete footpath next to the beach at New Passage, I heard a very distinctive trilled twittering "trirlilit" flight call that I immediately recognised as Serin. It was flying towards me when I was fortunate enough to locate the bird in flight as it flew west about ten metres from me and three metres above. At this moment the proverbial penny dropped and I remembered a Twitter message from the evening before regarding a mystery "small bright yellow finch that landed near the entrance to Northwick Warth" (Paul Bowdler).

After a few seconds it flew back towards me over the railings and landed in an almost leafless Ash Tree fifteen metres away and about two metres above me. I was amazed to see it was a stunning yellow headed and breasted male bird. I watched it front and partially side on for about ten seconds and realised I needed to take a photograph. As I was preparing my camera a dog walker walked past and flushed the bird. It flew off calling again towards the large garden of The Glen but could not be relocated.

Several weeks later I happened to see Paul Bowdler at New Passage and discussed the find. He clarified the bird was seen in the same area near the houses having come out of the large bramble bush next to the beach (that is very popular with local House Sparrow population). He also confirmed the bright yellow head and lack of black of male Siskin, but it flew off quickly before he could identify it.

Description: It was a small finch, round headed and dumpy. A short stubby, pale conical bill and a fast, bouncy undulating flight. The call was a very distinctive trilled twittering "trirlilit" in flight. (Recalling calls I've heard many times in Greece, Spain, Portugal and France)

It showed a bright yellow forehead, supercillium; surround to the ear coverts, throat, breast and thin wing bars. Brownish cheek crescent and wings and a streaked mantle. A bright yellow rump patch was seen while perched but not seen in flight because it was always above me and only showed the underside until perched. There was no black on the crown or chin (i.e. Siskin).

The underparts showed a white belly with dark streaking on flanks and sides of breast. The feet and legs were pink and the tail was short and forked lacking any yellow at the base of tail.

Paul Bowerman - April 2017

At about 08.50, I was returning south along the Severn Way footpath on Northwick Warth. While next to what is known as the 2nd sentry box I heard an unusual distinctive call from directly above me. I immediately recognised it as the call of Ortolan Bunting.

The previous week I had researched and listened to recordings of Ortolan Bunting on the Xeno-canto web site out of curiosity as there had been a number of recent day and night reports nationally and wanted to remind myself of what they sounded like.

The bird called again and I saw a Sparrow sized bird flying away from me at a height of about 20 metres. The bird called third time with the same 'plip' call as it flew away from me as a speck heading towards New Passage. I watched the bird through my telescope, always heading away from me, and to my surprise it appeared to drop onto the saltmarsh near the old stone wall next to Chestle Pill at New Passage about a Kilometre from where I was standing. Even more surprising was the sight of Tony Scott and Kevin Bainbridge walking in the same field of view, directly behind where the bird had landed.

The Adrenalin kicked in and somehow I fumbled through the contacts on my mobile and telephoned Tony Scott at New Passage. I explained that I had just heard an Ortolan Bunting and it had landed somewhere near them on the Saltmarsh. My next call was to John Martin and explained to him what had just happened. He said he was at home and would head straight to the sight to try and relocate the bird.

I made steady progress towards New Passage along the seawall and at the same time searched again for Ortolan flight calls on my smartphone to be sure of what I had heard. I found identical recordings and was satisfied with my identification. About 15 minutes later my telephone rang with John Martin's name displayed but when I answered the call was lost. I called him back but it was engaged. A 92 minute or so later my telephone showed a missed call and that I had a voicemail. It was from John to say they had just seen and heard the Ortolan in flight just across Chestle Pill from where they were stood. A few minutes later I joined the group of three that had seen the bird but despite a prolonged wait and search I never saw or heard the bird again.

It had been 26 years to the day since I heard some calls from a flock of 5 at Lavernock Point, Glamorgan!

I remember the bird being chased back over the pill by another bird before it had reached the Glen and recall hearing more calling, the most distinctive to me being the same as last flight call recording on the Collins bird guide app. which is a short di-syllabic chirp followed quickly by a 'plip'. I lost sight of the bird as it crossed the pill and didn't pick it up again. Kevin said that he had seen two Corn Buntings during his search and I decided to cross to the other side of the pill via the sluice to search with better light with the sun behind me. I eventually found one of the Corn Buntings showing its head and 'shoulders' behind a tussock on the south side of the pill, the stout bill having a greyish upper mandible and the lower a lighter greyish yellow colour quite unlike that of the Ortolan.

I'm afraid I didn't 'grill' the Ortolan properly but I did see its possibly most distinctive feature of a pink bill. I didn't get a good enough flight view to note its tail pattern either (combination of poor reactions and eyesight!) but I think we are all in agreement on the calls.

Paul Bowerman – September 2018 (Abridged)

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## CIRL BUNTING (UK)

*Emberiza cirrus*

Cirl Bunting has not been seen in S. Gloucestershire for around forty-five years since the last confirmed sighting in 1975.

The first documented reference was in 1845 and noted as a resident at Alveston between 1845 and 1851 with breeding proven in 1851. It would be around ninety years in 1934 before they were next seen.

All sightings from 1934:

- 1934 A female from Frampton Cotterell sometime in July.
- 1935 Both pairs, and single birds were reported between 1935 and 1937 from Patchway, Little Stoke, Stoke Gifford and Almondsbury.
- 1938 On April 2nd two, a male and female were observed near Filton Aerodrome.
- 1939 A female was noted on March 27th at Little Stoke.
- 1940 On December 22nd at Severn Beach a male and female were among Spartina on the shoreline with three juvenile/ 1st winters and presumed to be a family party.
- 1941 Five were found at Severn Beach on December 7th with a further two at the same spot on December 25th.
- 1943 On February 25th a male and female were at Severn Beach.
- 1944 A male was located on December 19th at Hallen.
- 1947 On July 22nd a male was in the Rectory Garden at Dyrham.
- 1949 One was found on November 19th near Frenchay.
- 1969 A single bird was located at Aust Warth on March 12th no age or sex was given.
- 1972 One or two were reported from Hawkesbury Common sometime between March 25th and June 25th.
- 1975 Four were reported near Severn Beach on September 14th.

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## BLACK-HEADED BUNTING (1)

*Emberiza malanocephala*

On June 7th 2009 a summer male was watched for several minutes on a bird table at Shackleton Avenue, Yate.

The bird was seen on Sunday June 7th 2009 around 09:30 and was described as a bright yellow bird with a black head, brown back about the size and shape of a Chaffinch. It was watched for several minutes feeding on seed below the bird table with several House Sparrows and was seen briefly on the back fence before flying on its own towards Kingsgate Park.

In flight, white in the outer tail feathers were noted. Despite much searching it could not be relocated that day or over the following days.

NB: A week or so before the S. Glos occurrence an adult male Black-headed Bunting was photographed on Guernsey at Jerbourg on May 26th 2009.

Mark Coller – June 2009





Lapland Bunting - *Calcarius lapponicus* | © Rob Laughton

EARLIEST  
LATEST  
HIGHEST COUNT

September 2nd 1989 at Aust  
March 27th 2008 at Marshfield  
Four on October 13th 2010 at Oldbury Power Station

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
•	•	•						•	•	•	•

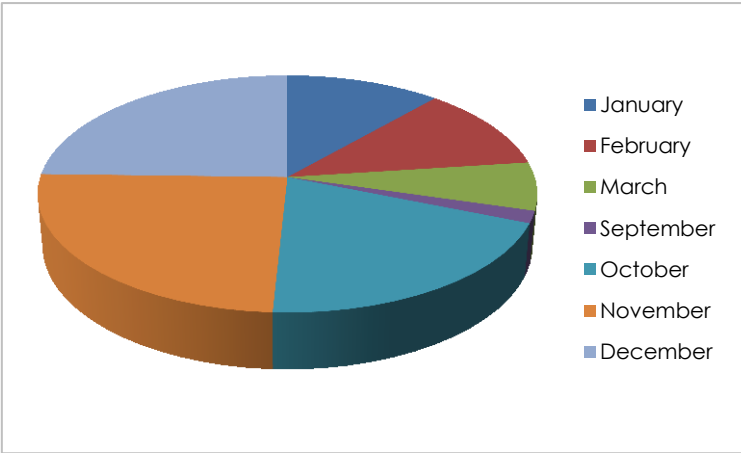
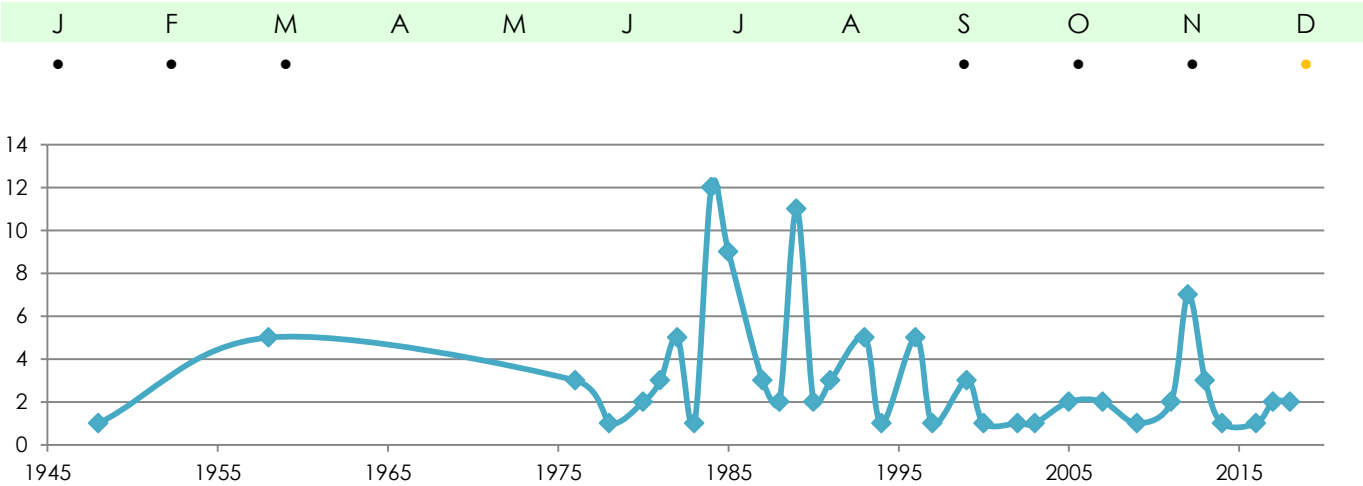
All sightings:

- 1981
- A 1st winter was reported from Severn Beach on December 18th.
- 1984
- One on October 27th at Severn Beach.
- 1986
- A 1st winter female on February 9th at New Passage.
- 1988
- One on October 16th at Severn Beach.
- 1989
- One on September 2nd at Aust Warth.
- 1996
- A 1st winter trapped, ringed and released on January 29th at Oldbury-on-Severn was re-trapped on February 2nd and one in flight on March 17th over Northwick Warth.
- 2003
- On November 19th one firstly on Northwick Warth then at Aust Warth before flying off over Aust Cliff.
- 2007
- A moulting adult male at Northwick Warth on the salt marsh on October 3rd.
- 2008
- A female on March 24th in ploughed fields at the junction of West Littleton Road and Northfield Lane, Marshfield was present for four days and was last seen on March 27th. The first inland record.
- 2010
- One at Cake Pill, Aust Warth and four at Oldbury Power Station on October 13th, one over New Passage on October 14th, one heard distantly at Oldbury Power Station on October 16th, one at Aust Warth on October 20th and one south-west over Northwick Warth Passage on December 3rd.
- 2013
- One on Northwick Warth on September 28th and later on Pilning Wetland Reserve and one from Aust Cliffs on October 14th.
- 2016
- One was heard in flight over Northwick Warth on October 22nd.



Snow Bunting - *Plectrophenax nivalis* | © TBOSG

EARLIEST                      September 28th 1981 on Severnside  
LATEST                      March 24th 1982 at Severn Beach  
HIGHEST COUNT            Nine on November 19th 1989 at Severn Beach



Snow Bunting numbers between 1948 and 2018 peaking in 1984 with a total of twelve.

Clearly a winter visitor to S. Gloucestershire with birds reported in both the first and second winter periods.

October, November and December are by far the best months to catch up with Snow Bunting in the recording area.

## IN ADDITION

There are several other birds/ groups worthy of mention that have occurred in S. Gloucestershire but are not counted in the main list.

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### UNIDENTIFIED DIVERS

*Gavia spp*

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1990	Two on the R. Severn off New Passage on February 20th.
1996	One on the R. Severn off Severn Beach on November 7th.
1997	One on the R. Severn off Severn Beach on May 4th.
1999	One on the R. Severn off Severn Beach On November 5th.
2000	One on the R. Severn off Aust Warth on October 30th.
2003	One seen twice in flight off Severn Beach on May 1st, one off Severn Beach on May 18th and one seen three times off Severn Beach on November 14th.
2006	One south-west past Severn Beach on May 11th.
2007	One flew along the sea wall and over the Second Severn Crossing on December 9th.

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### UNIDENTIFIED SKUA'S

*Stercorarius spp*

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1986	One off Aust Warth on January 19th.
1988	One off New Passage on February 9th and one also off New Passage on July 28th.
1989	One off New Passage on October 29th.
1990	One off New Passage on June 22nd and one off New Passage on October 30th.
1992	One off New Passage on May 8th, one off New Passage on May 14th and two off New Passage on August 12th.
1996	One off Severn Beach on November 6th.
1998	One off Severn Beach on January 3rd.
1999	One off Severn Beach on April 24th and one off Severn Beach on November 28th.
2001	Three off Severn Beach on April 5th.
2003	One off Severn Beach on May 13th.
2009	Two off Severn Beach on May 9th.
2011	One off Severn Beach on September 7th and six from New Passage on September 16th.
2013	One from Severn Beach on April 7th and one from Severn Beach at 10:00 on May 14th.
2016	One from Oldbury Power Station on May 11th.

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### UNIDENTIFIED HARRIERS

*Circus spp*

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1970	A 'ringtail' at New Passage on October 10th.
1988	One near Pucklechurch on September 23rd.
1993	One at Coalpit Heath on October 10th.
2008	One over the M4 J20 near Patchway on January 27th.



- 2009 One in the Middledown area Farm near Marshfield on August 9th.
- 2015 A juvenile/ female from a train in the Huntingford area on August 24th.

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## GREAT BUSTARD

*Otis tarda*



Great Bustard - *Otis tarda* | © John Aldridge

A female (Orange 15) from the UK re-introduction programme was found on January 10th 2008 just inside the S. Gloucestershire boundary at ST: 674 699 north of the R. Avon, Keynsham. It was present for three days, last seen on January 12th. On January 26th the same female was relocated at Oldbury Power Station in flooded fields by Thornbury Yacht Club at ST: 601 933 and was subsequently seen in flight north-east, upriver, over the power station at 15:20.

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## Channel Wagtail (hybrid)

*Motacilla flava/ flavissima*



Channel Wagtail - *Motacilla flava/ flavissima* | © Mark Coller

- 2009 A male on Northwick Warth on May 18th.
- 2014 A male on Northwick Warth on April 23rd.
- 2016 A spring male on Northwick Warth on April 14th.
- 2018 A spring male on Northwick Warth on April 27th.

# THE S. GLOUCESRTERSHIRE COMPLETE LIST OF SPECIES 1824 - 2018

DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE	BITTERN	COMMON SNIPE	WRYNECK	COMMON STARLING
RED-BREASTED GOOSE	LITTLE BITTERN	TEREK SANDPIPER	LESSER SPOT WOODPECKER	RING OUZEL
CANADA GOOSE	NIGHT HERON	RED-NECKED PHALAROPE	GREAT SPOT WOODPECKER	BLACKBIRD
BARNACLE GOOSE	CATTLE EGRET	GREY PHALAROPE	GREEN WOODPECKER	FIELDFARE
GREYLAG GOOSE	GREY HERON	COMMON SANDPIPER	KESTREL	REDWING
TAIGA BEAN GOOSE	GREAT WHITE EGRET	GREEN SANDPIPER	RED-FOOTED FALCON	SONG THRUSH
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE	LITTLE EGRET	REDSHANK	MERLIN	MISTLE THRUSH
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE	GANNET	WOOD SANDPIPER	HOBBY	SPOTTED FLYCATCHER
MUTE SWAN	SHAG	SPOTTED REDSHANK	PEREGRINE	ROBIN
BEWICK'S SWAN	CORMORANT	GREENSHANK	RING-NECKED PARAKEET	RED- SPOTTED BLUETHROAT
WHOOPER SWAN	OSPREY	KITTIWAKE	RED-BACKED SHRIKE	NIGHTINGALE
EGYPTIAN GOOSE	HONEY BUZZARD	SABINE'S GULL	GREAT GREY SHRIKE	RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL
SHELDUCK	SPARROWHAWK	BLACK-HEADED GULL	WOODCHAT SHRIKE	PIED FLYCATCHER
RUDDY SHELDUCK	GOSHAWK	LITTLE GULL	GOLDEN ORIOLE	BLACK REDSTART
MANDARIN	MARSH HARRIER	LAUGHING GULL	JAY	COMMON REDSTART
GARGANEY	HEN HARRIER	FRANKLIN'S GULL	MAGPIE	WHINCHAT
SHOVELER	PALLID HARRIER	MEDITERRANEAN GULL	JACKDAW	COMMON STONECHAT
GADWALL	MONTAGU'S HARRIER	COMMON GULL	ROOK	NORTHERN WHEATEAR
WIGEON	RED KITE	RING-BILLED GULL	CARRION CROW	DESERT WHEATEAR
AMERICAN WIGEON	BLACK KITE	GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL	HOODED CROW	PIED WHEATEAR
MALLARD	WHITE-TAILED EAGLE	GLAUCOUS GULL	RAVEN	DIPPER
PINTAIL	COMMON BUZZARD	ICELAND GULL	WAXWING	HOUSE SPARROW
COMMON TEAL	WATER RAIL	HERRING GULL	COAL TIT	TREE SPARROW
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	CORNCRAKE	CASPIAN GULL	MARSH TIT	DUNNOCK
RED-CRESTED POCHARD	SPOTTED CRAKE	YELLOW-LEGGED GULL	WILLOW TIT	YELLOW WAGTAIL
POCHARD	MOORHEN	LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL	BLUE TIT	EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL
RING-NECKED DUCK	COOT	SANDWICH TERN	GREAT TIT	GREY WAGTAIL
TUFTED DUCK	COMMON CRANE	LITTLE TERN	PENDULINE TIT	PIED WAGTAIL
SCAUP	STONE CURLEW	ROSEATE TERN	BEARDED TIT	RICHARD'S PIPIT
EIDER	OYSTERCATCHER	COMMON TERN	LONG-TAILED TIT	MEADOW PIPIT
KING EIDER	BLACK-WINGED STILT	ARCTIC TERN	WOODLARK	TREE PIPIT
VELVET SCOTER	AVOCET	WHISKERED TERN	SKYLARK	RED-THROATED PIPIT
COMMON SCOTER	LAPWING	WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN	SHORELARK	WATER PIPIT
LONG-TAILED DUCK	GOLDEN PLOVER	BLACK TERN	SAND MARTIN	ROCK PIPIT
GOLDENEYE	AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER	GREAT SKUA	SWALLOW	CHAFFINCH
SMEW	GREY PLOVER	POMARINE SKUA	HOUSE MARTIN	BRAMBLING
GOOSANDER	RINGED PLOVER	ARCTIC SKUA	RED-RUMPED SWALLOW	HAWFINCH
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	LITTLE RINGED PLOVER	LONG-TAILED SKUA	CETTI'S WARBLER	BULLFINCH
RUDDY DUCK	KENTISH PLOVER	LITTLE AUK	WILLOW WARBLER	COMMON ROSEFINCH
RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE	DOTTEREL	GUILLEMOT	COMMON CHIFFCHAFF	GREENFINCH
GREY PARTRIDGE	WHIMBREL	RAZORBILL	IBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF	TWITE
QUAIL	CURLEW	BLACK GUILLEMOT	WOOD WARBLER	LINNET
COMMON PHEASANT	BAR-TAILED GODWIT	PUFFIN	YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER	COMMON REDPOLL
RED-THROATED DIVER	BLACK-TAILED GODWIT	PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE	AQUATIC WARBLER	LESSER REDPOLL
BLACK-THROATED DIVER	TURNSTONE	ROCK DOVE	SEDGE WARBLER	CROSSBILL
PACIFIC DIVER	KNOT	STOCK DOVE	REED WARBLER	GOLDFINCH
GREAT NORTHERN DIVER	RUFF	WOODPIGEON	MARSH WARBLER	SERIN
STORM PETREL	BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER	TURTLE DOVE	ICTERINE WARBLER	SISKIN
LEACH'S PETREL	CURLEW SANDPIPER	COLLARED DOVE	GRASSHOPPER WARBLER	CORN BUNTING
FULMAR	TEMMINCK'S STINT	CUCKOO	BLACKCAP	YELLOWHAMMER
CORY'S SHEARWATER	SANDERLING	BARN OWL	GARDEN WARBLER	ORTOLAN BUNTING
SOOTY SHEARWATER	DUNLIN	TAWNY OWL	LESSER WHITETHROAT	CIRL BUNTING
MANX SHEARWATER	PURPLE SANDPIPER	LITTLE OWL	WHITETHROAT	BLACK-HEADED BUNTING
BALEARIC SHEARWATER	LITTLE STINT	LONG-EARED OWL	DARTFORD WARBLER	REED BUNTING
LITTLE GREBE	WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER	SHORT-EARED OWL	SUBALPINE WARBLER	LAPLAND BUNTING
GREAT CRESTED GREBE	BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER	NIGHTJAR	FIRECREST	SNOW BUNTING
SLAVONIAN GREBE	PECTORAL SANDPIPER	ALPINE SWIFT	GOLDCREST	
BLACK-NECKED GREBE	SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER	COMMON SWIFT	WREN	
WHITE STORK	LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER	KINGFISHER	NUTHATCH	
GLOSSY IBIS	WOODCOCK	BEE-EATER	TREECREEPER	
SPOONBILL	JACK SNIPE	HOOPOE	ROSE-COLOURED STARLING	300

## THE S. GLOUCESRTERSIRE COMPLETE LIST OF FORMS 1824 - 2018

Pale-bellied Brent Goose	Greenland Dunlin	Continental Coal Tit	Greenland Wheatear
Continental Greylag Goose	Icelandic Redshank	Northern Willow Warbler	Ashy-headed Wagtail
Greenland White-front Goose	Kumlien's Gull	Scandinavian Chiffchaff	Blue-headed Wagtail
Continental Cormorant	Scandinavian Herring Gull	Siberian Chiffchaff	Grey-headed Wagtail
Icelandic Golden Plover	Continental Lesser Black-backed Gull	Continental Blackbird	White Wagtail
Tundra Ringed Plover	Icelandic Merlin	Icelandic Redwing	Scandinavian Rock Pipit
Continental Black-tailed Godwit	Continental Jay	Continental Song Thrush	Continental Chaffinch
Northern Dunlin	Nordic Jackdaw	White-spotted Bluethroat	31

## RARE & SCARCE BIRDS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER 1824 - 2018

2000 - 2018	OCCURRENCE/ FINDER (S)
ORTOLAN BUNTING	One on Northwick Warth on September 13th 2018 - P Bowerman
Ashy-headed Wagtail	A male on Northwick Warth on April 15th 2018 - M Collier
SERIN	A spring male briefly at New Passage on April 6th 2017 - P Bowerman
IBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF	A spring male in Kingsgate Park, Yate on March 25th - 26th 2017 - M Collier
AMERICAN WIGEON	A 1st winter drake on Littleton Warth on January 2nd 2017 - B Ofield
WHISKERED TERN	An adult along the shore Oldbury Power Station on May 10th 2016 - P Hazelwood
PALLID HARRIER	A second calendar year bird in the Shire Valley, Marshfield on April 12th 2016 - M Hayes
PENDULINE TIT	An adult in trees in the car park of Dyrham Park, Dyrham on March 11th 2015 - M Sheldon
Icelandic Golden Plover	One in the Northwick Warth/ Pilning Wetland Reserve area from July 13th - 22nd 2014 - Unknown
RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL	A 1st winter male in the Shire Valley, Marshfield on February 3rd 2014 - J Barnett
DESERT WHEATEAR	A 1st winter male at Severn Beach on December 11th 2013 - P Bowerman
Continental Coal Tit	One in the Hanging Hill/ Beach Wood area, Bitton on April 18th 2013 - B Edge
GREAT WHITE EGRET	An adult over the M5 south of J15 at Almondsbury/ Patchway area on the 30th November 2012 - C Heyworth
LAUGHING GULL	An adult from 'The Pipes' south of Severn Beach on May 1st 2012 - P Bowerman, B Lancaster
RED-THROATED PIPIT	A summer adult in the Northwick Warth/ Pilning Wetland area on April 22nd 2012 - J Martin, B Lancaster
Continental Greylag Goose	Six north-east along the A4174 between Warmley and Shortwood on November 18th 2011 - R Laughton
PIED WHEATEAR	A 1st winter female at Oldbury-on-Severn Sailing Club, Oldbury-on-Severn on October 25th 2011 - D Spittle
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Two in flight south-west past Littleton-upon-Severn on October 17th 2010 - M Plenty
White-spotted Bluethroat	An adult male singing in the garden of Britannia Court, Staple Hill, Bristol on June 19th 2010 - J Farley
PACIFIC DIVER	A winter adult off Severn Beach in 'Burger Bar Bay' on the 27th November 2009 - M Hayes
GLOSSY IBIS	A juvenile/ 1st winter over Severn Beach, Northwick and Aust Warth's on October 14th 2009 - P Buckle, P Baber
Grey-headed Wagtail	An adult female amongst cattle on Northwick Warth on September 26th 2009 - J Martin, B Lancaster
BLACK-HEADED BUNTING	A summer male around a bird table at Shackleton Avenue, Yate on June 7th 2009 - M Collier
BLACK KITE	An adult drifting out of St. Catherine's Valley, Marshfield on the 26th May 2009 - J Mackenzie-Grieve
Greenland Dunlin	One at Severn Beach on May 16th 2008 - J Martin
Nordic Jackdaw	One in horse paddocks along George Lane, Marshfield on January 25th 2008 - R Laughton
BEE-EATER	A presumed adult in flight at Severn Beach on May 13th 2007 - P Bowerman
DARTFORD WARBLER	A male and female/ 1st winter male on Northwick Warth on October 5th 2005 - M Woodman-Smith
Siberian Chiffchaff	An over wintering bird at Emerson's Green on January 1st 2005 - A Jordan
SUBALPINE WARBLER	A female one kilometre south of Severn Beach on May 2nd 2004 - J Martin
COMMON REDPOLL	One on Thornbury Golf Course on February 10th 2004 - M Plenty
CASPIAN GULL	An adult at Harnhill Landfill near Elberton on November 16th 2002 - J Martin, R Reader
EGYPTIAN GOOSE	A presumed winter adult at Oldbury Power Station on February 12th 2002 - A Middleton
AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER	One in flight south over New Passage around 08:00 on January 1st 2002 - B Lancaster, P Bowerman
YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER	a juvenile/ 1st winter at Old Passage on October 12th 2001 - R Reader
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE	A juvenile/ 1st winter in flight off Severn Beach on October 8th 2001 - P Bowerman
COMMON ROSEFINCH	A juvenile/ 1st winter at Leap Valley Downend on September 22nd 2001 - A Jordan
Continental Cormorant	One at Oldbury Power Station on January 15th 2001 - Unknown



GREEN-WINGED TEAL	A winter male at Oldbury Power Station on January 4th 2001 - M Warren
ROSE-COLOURED STARLING	A winter male on Launceston Avenue, Hanham on December 8th 2000 - R Loughton
CORY'S SHEARWATER	One in flight off Severn Beach on November 26th 2000 - P Bowerman, B Lancaster, R Reader
COMMON CRANE	Two in flight over Severn Beach on January 3rd 2000 - B Lancaster
<b>1980 - 1999</b>	
STONE CURLEW	An individual in flight heading north-east with Lapwing at New Passage on July 27th 1999 - P Bowerman
BLACK GUILLEMOT	An adult drifting up river off Severn Beach on October 27th 1998 - B Lancaster
RED-SPOTTED BLUETHROAT	An adult male at the bottom of a thicket on Rushmead Lane, Marshfield on May 14th 1998 - P Chadwick
SPOONBILL	Two 1st summer roosting south of Severn Beach on April 18th 1998 - R Mielcarek
TAIGA BEAN GOOSE	One on Lagoon III, Oldbury Power Station on March 1st 1998 - D Payne, L Payne
BLACK-NECKED GREBE	One drifting up the R. Severn off New Passage on October 24th 1996 - P Bowerman, R Reader
RING-NECKED PARAKEET	A female at Fishpool Hill, Bentry on September 28th 1996 - M Dadds
Kumlien's Gull	A 1st winter/ 2nd summer at Oldbury Power Station on June 30th 1996 - J Martin, D Payne, K Vinicombe
Scandinavian Chiffchaff	One at Severn Beach on September 9th 1995 - Unknown
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	A winter adult on Northwick Warth on February 12th 1995 - R Andrews
CETTI'S WARBLER	A presumed male calling at Littleton Brick Pits on April 24th 1994 - A Musgrove
EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL	A winter adult at Aust STW, Aust on December 16th 1993 - P Bowerman
RICHARD'S PIPIT	A winter adult at Aust Warth On November 27th 1993 - B Lancaster
ALPINE SWIFT	One over Aust Cliffs, Aust on August 11th 1993 - S Hale
LITTLE EGRET	One on Northwick Warth on May 24th 1993 - P Bowerman
CATTLE EGRET	A summer adult near Littleton-upon-Severn on April 24th 1993 - M Lawlor, A Musgrove, T Williamson
ICTERINE WARBLER	A summer male in full song in a private garden on Fishpool Hill, Bentry on May 15th 1992 - M Dadds
BLACK-THROATED DIVER	Two adults in breeding plumage from New Passage on May 6th 1991 - B Lancaster
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER	An adult on the silt Lagoon, Oldbury Power Station on August 12th 1990 - K Vinicombe
WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN	An adult in flight heading up-river from Aust Warth on May 3rd 1990 - P Chadwick
ROSEATE TERN	A summer adult off New Passage on May 1st 1990 - P Bowerman
YELLOW-LEGGED GULL	An adult from New Passage sometime in November 1989 - Unknown
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER	One at New Passage on September 30th 1989 - P Bowerman
PECTORAL SANDPIPER	A juvenile/ 1st winter at Oldbury Power Station on September 17th 1989 - K Vinicombe
SLAVONIAN GREBE	A winter adult on the R. Severn from New Passage on April 27th 1989 - P Bowerman, S Hale
WOODCHAT SHRIKE	An adult female in fields north of Rushmead Lane, Marshfield on July 23rd 1989 - M Hayes, M. Morse
GOSHAWK	A female in flight heading west to south-east near Thornbury on June 25th 1989 - D Payne, L Payne
BALEARIC SHEARWATER	One on the R. Severn off New Passage around 09:00 on September 24th 1988 - A Merritt
RING-NECKED DUCK	Two adult males on the R. Severn from New Passage on April 2nd 1988 - S Hale, B Lancaster
RING-BILLED GULL	A 1st winter/ 1st summer at New Passage on February 28th 1987 - B Lancaster
MANDARIN	Four on Tortworth Lake, Tortworth on November 16th 1986 - Unknown
TEREK SANDPIPER	An adult at Severn Beach on September 20th 1986 - B Lancaster, N Lacy
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER	A juvenile/ 1st winter at Severn Beach on September 12th 1985 - P Bowerman, B Lancaster, P Chadwick
FRANKLIN'S GULL	A 2nd summer/ adult at Severn Beach on May 19th 1984 - P Bowerman, B Lancaster
TEMMINCK'S STINT	A summer adult at Oldbury Power Station on April 29th 1984 - L Tucker, K Vinicombe
GREAT NORTHERN DIVER	One on the R. Severn from Aust Warth on December 14th 1983 - Unknown
WHOOPEE SWAN	One on the 'silt lagoon' at Oldbury Power Station on October 29th 1983 - T Evans
BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER	An adult in worn summer plumage at Oldbury Power Station on August 20th 1983 - K Vinicombe
MARSH HARRIER	A female in flight heading north over Oldbury Power Station on May 1st 1983 - Unknown
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	Two in flight heading up river off Severn Beach on December 3rd 1982 - Unknown
GARGANEY	A pair in flight up river off Severn Beach on April 13th 1982 - Unknown
LAPLAND BUNTING	A 1st winter from Severn Beach on December 18th 1981 - G Youdale
LONG-TAILED SKUA	A juvenile from New Passage on October 4th 1981 - P Marsh, A Foord
BEARDED TIT	One trapped, ringed and released at Littleton Brick Pits on April 5th 1981 - J Humphris, J Ryman
HEN HARRIER	A female/immature over Northwick Warth on November 2nd 1980 - B Lancaster

SABINE'S GULL	A juvenile flying south from New Passage on September 13th 1980 - B Lancaster, N Lacy, R Thomas
FIRECREST	One from Hanham Hills, Hanham sometime between January 5th and April 7th 1980 - N Warren
<b>1960 - 1979</b>	
MEDITERRANEAN GULL	An adult in a flooded field at Stoke Gifford on March 18th 1979 - P Chadwick
RUDDY DUCK	Two from Aust Warth on January 6th 1979 - Unknown
TWITE	C.40 somewhere on Severnside between January 6th and March 27th 1978 - Unknown
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER	An individual at Aust Warth on October 16th 1977 - P Chadwick, B Lancaster, N Lacy
RED-RUMPED SWALLOW	One near Severn Beach (possibly New Passage) on September 16th 1977 - P Evans, G Youdale
LONG-TAILED DUCK	One, probably an immature male, off New Passage on October 31st 1976 - N Lacy
AQUATIC WARBLER	An adult trapped, ringed and released at Littleton-upon-Severn on August 14th 1976 - P Rossiter
RED-FOOTED FALCON	An adult male flew across the S. Gloucestershire boundary near Shepperdine on September 16th 1974
DOTTEREL	An individual in winter plumage from Severn Beach on September 14th 1974 - R Thomas
SOOTY SHEARWATER	One off Aust during a storm and was watched for around three hours on September 7th 1974 - R Thomas
BARNACLE GOOSE	One at Severn Beach on February 18th 1973 - D Mardle, G Wall
NIGHT HERON	An immature at the ICI Chemical Works, Severnside on November 19th 1971 - L Alder, P Garvey
WHITE STORK	A presumed adult from the Hallen/ Compton Greenfield area on May 23rd 1971 - Unknown
RED-CRESTED POCHARD	A female from Littleton Brick Pits on April 4th 1971 - J Vernon
BEWICK'S SWAN	One from Severn Beach on March 8th 1970 - Unknown
TURTLE DOVE	Breeding season records in the Marshfield area during spring and summer 1962 - Unknown
NIGHTINGALE	Noted only as a summer visitor with no reference to numbers or location in 1962 - HH Davis
WATER PIPIT	A single bird in summer plumage at New Passage on April 1st 1960 - WA Holmes
SHORE LARK	A male at Severn Beach on January 31st 1960 - HH Davis
RED-THROATED DIVER	One on the Severn Estuary near Shepperdine on January 6th 1960 - H Boyd
<b>Pre 1960</b>	
Greenland Wheatear	Noted in the Severn Beach area in March 1959 - Unknown
LITTLE BITTERN	A juvenile/ immature bird on the R Avon, Keynsham on September 28th 1958 - AT Coote, B Coote, AM Lane
MONTAGU'S HARRIER	A 'ring-tailed' mobbed by corvids near Marshfield on May 25th 1958 - B King
RED KITE	One in flight heading south-west near Tockington on March 3rd 1957 - A Billett
SPOTTED REDSHANK	Two in flight and on the mud on the R. Severn at Shepperdine on November 17th 1954 - G Moule
GOLDEN ORIOLE	Two 1st summer males visited Littleton-upon-Severn brickworks in June 1954 - Unknown
Blue-headed Wagtail	Four on the foreshore at Severn Beach on April 23rd 1954 - WA Holmes
SHAG	An immature picked up near Cromhall and taken into care sometime in August 1951 - Unknown
GREY PHALAROPE	One, possibly two were identified on flooded pastures at Stoke Gifford on October 21st 1949 - J Walker
SNOW BUNTING	One between Aust and Littleton-upon-Severn On January 2nd 1948 - Unknown
KENTISH PLOVER	A male at Severn Beach on May 4th 1947 - Unknown
WAXWING	One at Filton on February 23rd 1947 - CE Taylor
LITTLE TERN	Two on the shingle at Severn Beach on May 9th 1945 - HH Davis
WOOD WARBLER	Two males in full song in a copse at Petty France near Badminton on the 7th May 1944 - Unknown
NIGHTJAR	An individual on the outskirts of High Wood, Filton on May 21st 1944 - Unknown
WOOD SANDPIPER	One near St. Catherine, Marshfield on August 13th 1943 - HH Davis
SHORT-EARED OWL	One from the salt marsh below Severn Beach on October 6th 1942 - Unknown
QUAIL	Two heard in fields between Patchway Common and Savage's Wood on June 14th 1942 - Unknown
RUDDY SHELDUCK	One from Aust Warth and Aust Ferry Pier on April 18th 1942 - Unknown
LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER	A single bird at Little Stoke on February 1st 1942 - Unknown
WOODLARK	Six at Sea Wall Farm, Severn Beach on September 9th 1941 - Unknown
ARCTIC SKUA	One in flight at Littleton-upon-Severn on June 1st 1941 - Unknown
WILLOW TIT	A presumed adult along a water course at Stoke Gifford on September 24th 1940 - Unknown
ICELAND GULL	An immature at Stoke Gifford on February 23rd 1940 - Unknown

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE	At least six at Severn Beach on February 1st 1940 - Unknown
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE	C.50 on the Severn Bank, Severn Beach on December 24th 1938 - Unknown
CORNCRAKE	One on Patchway Common on October 30th 1938 - Unknown
LEACH'S PETREL	One off Aust Warth Pier, Aust on October 7th 1938 - Unknown
SCAUP	One from Severn Beach on April 25th 1938 - Unknown
BLACK REDSTART	One along the Severn Beach railway embankment on March 28th 1937 - Unknown
JACK SNIFE	One 'obtained' at Stoke Gifford in December 1935 - Unknown
PUFFIN	One at Filton Airfield on top of the Aerospace building sometime in October 1935 - Unknown
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER	A pair nesting at Over near Almondsbury sometime in May 1935 - Unknown
HOODED CROW	One near Stoke Gifford sometime around 1920 - Unknown
Northern Willow Warbler	A presumed adult 'obtained' at Cowhill near Thornbury sometime in May 1913 - Unknown
KING EIDER	One 'obtained' at Court Rocks, Shepperdine in November 1912 - (L Purcell)
RED-BREASTED GOOSE	An adult 'obtained' at Oldbury-on-Severn on November 18th 1909 - Unknown
MARSH WARBLER	Two at Patchway sometime in June 1909 - Unknown
PIED FLYCATCHER	A clutch with four eggs at Shepperdine in May 1905 - Unknown
<b>Pre 1900</b>	
RING OUZEL	A pair nesting at Almondsbury in the spring of 1899 - Unknown
LONG-EARED OWL	Two at Frampton Cotterell sometime in 1897 - Unknown
VELVET SCOTER	An adult male 'obtained' off New Passage on March 5th 1892 - Unknown
PURPLE SANDPIPER	Several birds at New Passage in January 1892 - Unknown
SPOTTED CRAKE	One 'obtained' at Stoke Bridge in Stoke Gifford sometime in September 1891 - Unknown
BITTERN	A presumed winter adult 'obtained' at or near Hambrook sometime in January 1891 - Unknown
GOOSANDER	One 'obtained' at Bitton sometime in January 1891 - Unknown
GREAT GREY SHRIKE	One at Dyrham Park sometime in January 1891 - Unknown
PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE	Eight possibly as many as ten at Hambrook on June 3rd 1888 - Unknown
RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE	Documented at Frenchay in 1888 - Unknown
POMARINE SKUA	One 'obtained' at New Passage sometime in November 1879 - Unknown
HONEY BUZZARD	Two 'obtained' near Tortworth sometime around 1879 - Unknown
HOOPOE	One near Charfield sometime around 1878 - Unknown
RED-BACKED SHRIKE	Documented as frequent in the Hallen area in 1874 - Unknown
HAWFINCH	Documented as breeding in the Almondsbury 1874 - Unknown
WHITE-TAILED EAGLE	An immature male 'obtained' at Dodington Park sometime in December 1871 - Rickards
Scandinavian Rock Pipit	Two birds 'obtained' at New Passage in March 1870 - Unknown
SMEW	A male 'obtained' at Dyrham Park on February 12th 1855 - Unknown
BLACK-WINGED STILT	One 'obtained' near Thornbury sometime around 1848 - Unknown
CIRL BUNTING	Documented as resident at Alveston between 1845 and 1851 with breeding proven in 1851 - Unknown
GLAUCOUS GULL	A winter adult 'obtained' on the Severn Estuary over the first or the second winter period in 1840 - Unknown
CROSSBILL	Documented in the Alveston area sometime around 1829 - Unknown
WRYNECK	Annual in the Alveston area prior to 1829 - Unknown
STORM PETREL	One near Alveston following the violent gale of All Hallows Eve on October 31st 1824 - Unknown



## S. GLOUCESTERSHIRE YEAR LISTS 2000 - 2018

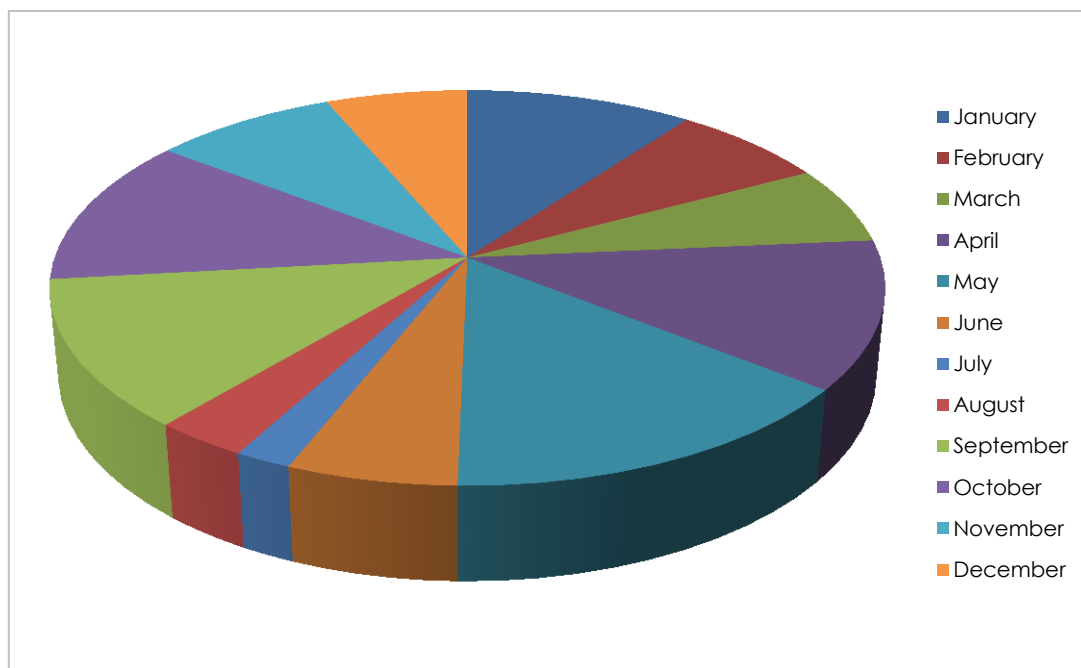
Year	Species	Forms	New additions
2000	188	12	CORY'S SHEARWATER, COMMON CRANE, ROSE-COLOURED STARLING
2001	182	13	GREEN-WINGED TEAL, RED-NECKED PHALAROPE, YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER, Continental Cormorant
2002	180	12	EGYPTIAN GOOSE, AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER, CASPIAN GULL
2003	188	12	
2004	187	14	SUBALPINE WARBLER, COMMON REDPOLL
2005	182	15	DARTFORD WARBLER, Siberian Chiffchaff
2006	195	14	
2007	188	15	EUROPEAN BEE-EATER
2008	200	17	Greenland Dunlin, Nordic Jackdaw
2009	199	18	PACIFIC DIVER, GLOSSY IBIS, BLACK-HEADED BUNTING, Grey-headed Wagtail
2010	199	17	Greenland White-fronted Goose, White-spotted Bluethroat
2011	203	16	PIED WHEATEAR, Continental Greylag Goose
2012	202	16	GREAT WHITE EGRET, LAUGHING GULL, RED-THROATED PIPIT
2013	210	16	DESERT WHEATEAR, Continental Coal Tit
2014	199	18	RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL, Icelandic Golden Plover
2015	201	17	PENDULINE TIT
2016	200	17	PALLID HARRIER, WHISKERED TERN
2017	206	19	AMERICAN WIGEON, IBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF, SERIN
2018	196	16	ORTOLAN BUNTING (S.G. 300th). Ashy-headed Wagtail

## RARE & SCARCE BIRDS FIRST RECORDS ON THIS DAY 1824 - 2018

JANUARY	
1st	AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER, Siberian Chiffchaff
2nd	SNOW BUNTING, AMERICAN WIGEON
3rd	COMMON CRANE
5th	FIRECREST
6th	RED-THROATED DIVER, TWITE, RUDDY DUCK
15th	Continental Cormorant
25th	Nordic Jackdaw
31st	SHORELARK
Also in January	BITTERN, GOOSANDER, GREAT GREY SHRIKE, PURPLE SANDPIPER
FEBRUARY	
1st	PINK-FOOTED GOOSE, LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER
3rd	RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL
10th	COMMON REDPOLL
12th	SMEW, Pale-bellied Brent Goose, EGYPTIAN GOOSE
23rd	ICELAND GULL, WAXWING
28th	RING-BILLED GULL
Also in February	BARNACLE GOOSE
MARCH	
1st	TAIGA BEAN GOOSE
3rd	RED KITE
5th	VELVET SCOTER
8th	BEWICK'S SWAN
11th	PENDULINE TIT
18th	MEDITERRANEAN GULL
25th	IBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF
28th	BLACK REDSTART
Also in March	Scandinavian Rock Pipit, Greenland Wheatear
APRIL	
1st	WATER PIPIT

2nd	RING-NECKED DUCK
4th	RED-CRESTED POCHARD
5th	BEARDED TIT
6th	SERIN
11th	ALPINE SWIFT
12th	PALLID HARRIER
13th	GARGANEY
15th	Ashy-headed Wagtail
18th	RUDDY SHELDUCK, SPOONBILL, Continental Coal Tit
22nd	RED-THROATED PIPIT
23rd	Blue-headed Wagtail
24th	CATTLE EGRET, CETTI'S WARBLER
25th	SCAUP
27th	SLAVONIAN GREBE
29th	TEMMINCK'S STINT
<b>MAY</b>	
1st	MARSH HARRIER, ROSEATE TERN, LAUGHING GULL
2nd	SUBALPINE WARBLER
3rd	WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN
4th	KENTISH PLOVER
6th	BLACK-THROATED DIVER
7th	WOOD WARBLER
9th	LITTLE TERN
10th	WHISKERED TERN
13th	EUROPEAN BEE-EATER
14th	RED-SPOTTED BLUETHROAT
15th	ICTERINE WARBLER
19th	FRANKLIN'S GULL
20th	Greenland Dunlin
21st	NIGHTJAR
23rd	WHITE STORK
24th	LITTLE EGRET
25th	MONTAGU'S HARRIER
26th	BLACK KITE
Also in May	PIED FLYCATCHER, Northern Willow Warbler, GRASSHOPPER WARBLER
<b>JUNE</b>	
1st	ARCTIC SKUA
3rd	PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE
5th	GOSHAWK
7th	BLACK-HEADED BUNTING
14th	QUAIL
19th	White-spotted Bluethroat
30th	Kumlien's Gull
Also in June	MARSH WARBLER, GOLDEN ORIOLE
<b>JULY</b>	
13th	Icelandic Golden Plover
23rd	WOODCHAT SHRIKE
27th	STONE CURLEW
<b>AUGUST</b>	
12th	SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER
13th	WOOD SANDPIPER
14th	AQUATIC WARBLER
20th	BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER
Also in August	SHAG
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
7th	SOOTY SHEARWATER
9th	WOODLARK, Scandinavian Chiffchaff
12th	WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, BALEARIC SHEARWATER
13th	SABINE'S GULL, ORTOLAN BUNTING
14th	DOTTEREL
16th	RED-FOOTED FALCON, RED-RUMPED SWALLOW
17th	PECTORAL SANDPIPER
20th	TEREK SANDPIPER
22nd	COMMON ROSEFINCH
24th	WILLOW TIT
26th	Grey-headed Wagtail
28th	LITTLE BITTERN, RING-NECKED PARAKEET
30th	BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER
Also in September	SPOTTED CRAKE

<b>OCTOBER</b>	
4th	LONG-TAILED SKUA
5th	DARTFORD WARBLER
6th	SHORT-EARED OWL
7th	LEACH'S PETREL
8th	RED-NECKED PHALAROPE
12th	YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER
14th	GLOSSY IBIS
16th	LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER
17th	Greenland White-fronted Goose
21st	STORM PETREL, GREY PHALAROPE
24th	BLACK-NECKED GREBE
25th	PIED WHEATEAR
27th	BLACK GUILLEMOT
29th	WHOOOPER SWAN
30th	CORNCRAKE
31st	LONG-TAILED DUCK
Also in October	LITTLE AUK, PUFFIN
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
2nd	HEN HARRIER
16th	MANDARIN, CASPIAN GULL
17th	SPOTTED REDSHANK
18th	RED-BREASTED GOOSE, Continental Greylag Goose
19th	NIGHT HERON
25th	BLACK/ WHITE-BELLIED STORM PETREL
26th	CORY'S SHEARWATER
27th	RICHARDS PIPIT, PACIFIC DIVER
30th	GREAT WHITE EGRET
Also in November	POMARINE SKUA, KING EIDER, YELLOW-LEGGED GULL
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
3rd	RED-BREASTED MERGANSER
8th	ROSE-COLOURED STARLING
11th	DESERT WHEATEAR
14th	GREAT NORTHERN DIVER
16th	EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL
18th	LAPLAND BUNTING
Also in December	WHITE-TAILED EAGLE, AVOCET, JACK SNIPPE, WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE



The diagram above shows the spread of rare and scarce birds in S. Glos on a month by month basis.

The best months of the year are clearly May (15%), September (12%), October (12%) and January (10%).



## VITAL STATISTICS 1824 - 2018

SPECIES/ Forms	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	HIGHEST COUNT
BRENT GOOSE			115: January 31st 2009
Pale-bellied Brent Goose	September 1st 2009	April 25th 2009	18: September 1st 2009
RED-BREASTED GOOSE	November 18th 1909		
CANADA GOOSE			373: October 8th 2017
BARNACLE GOOSE	August 16th 2009	June 9th 2006	80: December 7th 2010
GREYLAG GOOSE			30: August 31st 2014
Continental Greylag Goose	November 18th 2011		6: November 18th 2011
TAIGA BEAN GOOSE		March 1st 1998	
PINK-FOOTED GOOSE	November 29th 1988	March 10th 1996	7: February 1st 1940
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE	October 1st 1996	April 16th 1977	c.200: January 2nd 1947
Greenland White-fronted Goose	October 17th 2010	March 4th 2019	6: March 4th 2019
MUTE SWAN			15: 1982
BEWICK'S SWAN	October 20th 2013	March 28th 1996	35: March 8th 1993
WHOOPEE SWAN	October 16th 2010	March 29th 2008	7: October 22nd 2018
EGYPTIAN GOOSE	January 2nd 2018	December 14th 2013	2: January 10th 2016
RUDDY SHELDUCK	September 16th 2004	June 2nd 1942	2: Several dates
MANDARIN	All months		c.25: June 19th 2009
GARGANEY	March 14th 1993	October 26th 2011	6: August 1995
WIGEON			>7,000: March 1987
AMERICAN WIGEON	January 2nd 2017		
COMMON TEAL			c.1000: January 1996
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	November 22nd 2014	April 5th 2015	
RED-CRESTED POCHARD	August 30th 1998	April 4th 1971	2: September 10th 1996
RING-NECKED DUCK	November 2nd 2000	May 4th 2000	2: April 2nd 1988
TUFTED DUCK			54: January 3rd 2019
SCAUP	All months except June		6: March 1st 1986
EIDER			c.40: April 29th 1990
KING EIDER	November 1912		
VELVET SCOTER	November 7th 1983	April 26th 1984	2: January 25th 1987
COMMON SCOTER			c.100: November 25th 2012
LONG-TAILED DUCK	October 31st 1976	May 14th 1998	4: November 2nd 1991
SMEW	November 28th 2010	May 1st 2016	5: February 13th 1991
GOOSANDER	August 4th 2017	May 11th 2016	19: December 2nd 2010
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	October 1st 2004	May 10th 2006	9: April 14th 1998
RUDDY DUCK	All months except July		7: January 3rd 1997
QUAIL	May 8th 1996	December 28th 1942	c.40: July 2011
RED-THROATED DIVER	November 18th 2015	May 8th 2000	5: May 6th 1991
BLACK-THROATED DIVER	December 1st 2000	May 6th 1991	2: May 6th 1991
PACIFIC DIVER	November 27th 2009		
GREAT NORTHERN DIVER	October 21st 2017	May 8th 2000	2: December 13th 2000
STORM PETREL	All months except March		c.30: June 9th 2012
LEACH'S PETREL	September 1st 1985	April 22nd 1999	c.250: October 26th 1952
CORY'S SHEARWATER	November 26th 2000	January 13th 2004	
SOOTY SHEARWATER	September 7th 1974		
MANX SHEARWATER			c.1,000: June 6th 1977
BALEARIC SHEARWATER		September 24th 1988	
LITTLE GREBE			17: September 20th 2014
SLAVONIAN GREBE	August 10th 1996	April 27th 1989	
BLACK-NECKED GREBE	August 31st 1997	April 4th 1999	
WHITE STORK	April 8th 2016	November 4th 2007	4: June 9th 2012
GLOSSY IBIS	January 14th 2015	November 20th 2015	
SPOONBILL	February 15th 2004	December 2nd 2010	5: September 14th 2011
BITTERN	December 1931	February 12th 2011	
LITTLE BITTERN		September 28th 1958	
NIGHT HERON	May 2nd 1986	November 19th 1971	
CATTLE EGRET	January 1st 2017	December 31st 2016	2: January 1st 2017
GREAT WHITE EGRET	January 2nd 2017	December 28th 2015	2: On two occasions
LITTLE EGRET			28: March 11th 2019
SHAG	January 5th 1988	December 19th 1977	23: August 22nd 2016
CORMORANT			34: September 1990
Continental Cormorant	January 15th 2001	April 14th 2018	
OSPREY	March 27th 2005	October 27th 1979	
HONEY BUZZARD	May 7th 2011	September 24th 2008	2: c.1879
GOSHAWK	All months		5: May 2009
MARSH HARRIER	January 1st 2017	December 12th 2015	
HEN HARRIER	All months except June and July		2: October 2nd 2008
PALLID HARRIER	April 12th 2016		

MONTAGU'S HARRIER	May 12th 2008	October 16th 1991	
RED KITE	All months		6: On at least two occasions
BLACK KITE	March 18th 2010	May 26th 2009	
WHITE-TAILED EAGLE	December 1871		
WATER RAIL			11: December 9th 2013
CORNCRAKE	April 11th 1955	October 30th 1938	
SPOTTED CRAKE	September 1891	October 1891	
COMMON CRANE	January 3rd 2000	October 7th 2016	7: April 15th 2014
STONE CURLEW	March 23rd 2013	July 27th 1999	
OYSTERCATCHER			216: January 16th 2003
BLACK-WINGED STILT	May 7th 2017	May 17th 1997	
AVOCET	All months		25: March 30th 2014
LAPWING			c.5000: January 1977
GOLDEN PLOVER			c.1000: December 28th 2016
Icelandic Golden Plover	July 13th 2014	July 22nd 2014	
AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER	October 29th 2013	January 1st 2002	
GREY PLOVER			180: October 15th 2016
LITTLE RINGED PLOVER	March 12th 2015	October 1st 2013	20: July 6th 2016
KENTISH PLOVER	May 4th 1947	September 22nd 2006	
DOTTEREL	May 2nd 2011	September 25th 2014	14: May 9th 1992
WHIMBREL	March 25th 2013	December 12th 2015	
CURLEW			c.1800: December 1987
BLACK-TAILED GODWIT			c.560: January 7th 2017
TURNSTONE			c.500: December 1969
KNOT			c.1120: February 5th 2017
RUFF			25: August 18th 1985
BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER	May 16th 1988	August 20th 1983	
CURLEW SANDPIPER	April 25th 1937	December 20th 1978	25: September 2001
TEMMINCK'S STINT	April 29th 1984	July 22nd 2017	
SANDERLING	March 23rd 2014	September 27th 2014	
DUNLIN			c.8700: November 2002
Greenland Dunlin	May 14th 2017	June 2nd 2008	4: May 26th 2010
PURPLE SANDPIPER	August 28th 1991	May 22nd 1976	12: March 29th 1936
LITTLE STINT	May 1st 2004	December 20th 2013	22: December 1993
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER	August 4th 2001	November 26th 1998	
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER	May 22nd 1990	September 30th 2003	
PECTORAL SANDPIPER	August 3rd 2005	September 30th 2014	2: September 26th 2006
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER	August 12th 1990	September 26th 2009	
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER		October 16th 1977	
WOODCOCK			30+: November 2015
JACK SNIFE	All months except July		12: March 15th 1975
SNIFE			248: February 14th 2016
TEREK SANDPIPER		September 20th 1986	
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE	August 18th 2014	October 8th 2001	
GREY PHALAROPE	August 29th 1997	January 4th 1988	3: October 17th 1983
COMMON SANDPIPER			27: December
WOOD SANDPIPER	April 23rd 2015	September 22nd 2016	4: August 17th 2015
SPOTTED REDSHANK	All months except March and June		5: August 13th 1995
KITTIWAKE			c.400: March 7th 2003
SABINE'S GULL	April 29th 1992	November 4th 1996	6: September 4th 1983
LAUGHING GULL	May 1st 2012		
FRANKLIN'S GULL	April 10th 2000	June 12th 1988	
MEDITERRANEAN GULL	All months		10: June 23rd 2015
RING-BILLED GULL	October 2nd 1994	February 28th 1987	
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL			60: June 1995
GLAUCOUS GULL	December 27th 1938	April 13th 2012	
ICELAND GULL	October 9th 1999	May 13th 1989	2: February 17th 2000
Kumlien's Gull	June 30th 1996	July 17th 1996	
HERRING GULL			c.1000: September 2013
CASPIAN GULL	August 5th 2006	March 2nd 2017	
YELLOW-LEGGED GULL	All months		8: August 16th 1993
SANDWICH TERN	March 16th 2018	October 21st 2006	
LITTLE TERN	April 18th 2013	October 28th 1996	34: May 1st 1990
ROSEATE TERN	May 1st 1990	October 8th 1997	2: August 28th 2016
COMMON TERN	March 30th 2014	October 21st 2017	
ARCTIC TERN	March 29th 2015	September 20th 2004	
WHISKERED TERN	May 10th 2016		
WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN	May 3rd 1990		
BLACK TERN	April 15th 2003	October 10th 2011	732: May 1st 1990
POMARINE SKUA	January 4th 1998	December 24th 1989	36: May 4th 2004
ARCTIC SKUA	March 14th 2004	December 25th 1997	c.120: April 13th 1998
LONG-TAILED SKUA	September 3rd 1983	May 5th 1991	
LITTLE AUK	October 4th 1953	February 10th 1988	3: November 14th 2009

BLACK GUILLEMOT	October 27th 1998	November 15th 2015	
PUFFIN	October 1935	February 26th 1997	
PALLAS'S SANDGROUSE	June 3rd 1888	July 1888	c.10: June 3rd 1888
STOCK DOVE			c.800: December 14th 1996
WOODPIGEON			c.70,000: November 10th 2013
TURTLE DOVE	April 10th 1988	October 7th 2017	
COLLARED DOVE			65: January 1st 2016
CUCKOO	April 13th 2008	September 30th 2012	
BARN OWL			6: June 2014
LONG-EARED OWL	October 7th 2016	May 1976	7: December 29th 1996
SHORT-EARED OWL	All months except July		7 (15): November 27th 2011
NIGHTJAR	May 16th 1962	October 15th 2017	3: Several dates
ALPINE SWIFT	April 11th 1993	August 1st 2006	
COMMON SWIFT	April 17th 1994	October 29th 2004	
EUROPEAN BEE-EATER	May 13th 2007	July 31st 2016	2: June 24th 2015
HOOPOE	March 28th 2010	October 10th 2016	2: April 17th 2008
WRYNECK	April 16th 2013	October 1st 2016	
LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER	All months		4: April 1968
GREEN WOODPECKER			>20: March 11th 2017
RED-FOOTED FALCON	September 16th 1974	October 15th 2014	
MERLIN	August 1st 2018	May 26th 2016	3: November 1st 2017
HOBBY	March 30th 2017	October 21st 2011	
RING-NECKED PARAKEET	January 9th 2018	December 8th 2017	6: January 14th 2018
RED-BACKED SHRIKE	May 1940	August 30th 2003	4: May 1940
GREAT GREY SHRIKE	October 27th 2014	April 6th 1983	
WOODCHAT SHRIKE	April 22nd 1994	September 19th 2017	
GOLDEN ORIOLE	April 26th 2007	July 1954	2: June 1954
Continental Jay			13: September 24th 2014
MAGPIE			60+: February 13th 2017
Nordic Jackdaw	November 6th 2015	June 9th 2016	
HOODED CROW	October 21st 1988	May 2nd 1992	
RAVEN			53: October 4th 2010
WAXWING	November 20th 2005	April 14th 2013	c.250: February 8th 2005
Continental Coal Tit	January 15th 2016	April 18th 2013	3: January 15th 2016
WILLOW TIT	All months		3: Apr 25th 2011
PENDULINE TIT		March 11th 2015	
BEARDED TIT	October 6th 2012	April 26th 2008	2: October 6th 2012
WOODLARK			6: September 9th 1941
SKYLARK			c.2000: December 19th 2010
SHORELARK	October 28th 2017	March 4th 1960	2: Several dates
SAND MARTIN	March 7th 2014	October 10th 2004	
SWALLOW	March 15th 2017	December 17th 2013	
HOUSE MARTIN	February 28th 2017	October 22nd 2013	
RED-RUMPED SWALLOW	April 22nd 1988	September 16th 1977	
CETTI'S WARBLER	All months		5: June 18th 2016
WILLOW WARBLER	March 20th 2003	November 5th 2012	
Northern Willow Warbler	April 16th 2013	May 1913	
Scandinavian Chiffchaff	September 9th 1995	April 2nd 2005	
Siberian Chiffchaff	November 16th 2014	April 12th 2017	
IBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF	March 25th 2017		
WOOD WARBLER	April 11th 2018	September 6th 2016	2: Several dates
YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER	September 24th 2017	February 27th 2008	2: October 7th 2016
AQUATIC WARBLER		August 14th 1976	
SEDGE WARBLER	April 4th 2018	October 2nd 2015	
REED WARBLER	April 2nd 2017	October 17th 2010	
MARSH WARBLER	June 1909	August 22nd 2009	2: June 1909
ICTERINE WARBLER	May 15th 1992		
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER	April 2nd 2010	September 25th 2011	11: April 26th 1966
GARDEN WARBLER	April 16th 2017	October 27th 2012	
LESSER WHITETHROAT	April 9th 2017	October 21st 2001	
COMMON WHITETHROAT	March 30th 2017	November 16th 1953	
DARTFORD WARBLER	April 1st 2006	November 1st 2005	2: October 5th 2005
SUBALPINE WARBLER	May 2nd 2004		
FIRECREST	September 7th 2008	June 4th 2017	3: March 13th 2009
GOLDCREST			22: November 12th 2016
WREN			43: May 4th 2018
ROSE-COLOURED STARLING	June 10th 2012	January 26th 2001	
STARLING			c.100,000: April 1938
RING OUZEL	February 10th 2011	November 10th 2013	5: April 16th 2011
FIELDFARE	September 28th 2014	April 21st 2016	
REDWING	September 29th 2013	April 28th 2013	c.21,000: October 12th 2013
MISTLE THRUSH			20: October 8th 2016
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	April 20th 2017	October 2nd 2002	



RED-SPOTTED BLUETHROAT	May 14th 1998		
White-spotted Bluethroat	June 19th 2010		
NIGHTINGALE	April 6th 2015	September 4th 1999	
RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL	February 3rd 2014	March 9th 2014	
PIED FLYCATCHER	April 8th 1944	September 24th 1971	
BLACK REDSTART	All months		2: Several dates
COMMON REDSTART	March 30th 1955	October 26th 2007	
WHINCHAT	April 13th 2016	October 28th 2017	23: August 2008
COMMON STONECHAT			14: March 7th 2017
NORTHERN WHEATEAR	February 28th 2019	December 12th 1994	>200: April 30th 2013
Greenland Wheatear	March 1959	October 27th 2015	
DESERT WHEATEAR	December 11th 2013	December 14th 2013	
PIED WHEATEAR	October 25th 2011	October 28th 2011	
TREE SPARROW	All months		c.300: February 11th 1971
YELLOW WAGTAIL	April 2nd 2017	October 15th 2014	c.100: September 9th 2013
Ashy-headed Wagtail	April 15th 2018		
Blue-headed Wagtail	April 17th 2016	May 24th 2018	4: April 23rd 1954
Grey-headed Wagtail		September 26th 2009	
EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL	December 1st 2011	January 19th 1994	
Pied Wagtail			c.5000: January 1981
WHITE WAGTAIL	March 11th 2017		
RICHARDS PIPIT	September 30th 2010	May 5th 2014	
TREE PIPIT	March 26th 2003	September 28th 2002	
RED-THROATED PIPIT	March 29th 2014	October 4th 2015	
WATER PIPIT	October 1st 2011	May 27th 2017	6: March 18th 2012
Scandinavian Rock Pipit	October 6th 1982	March 22nd 2016	c.4: March 4th 2107
CHAFFINCH			c.16,000: October 25th 2012
BRAMBLING	September 17th 2013		c.300: Winter 1975
HAWFINCH	All months		12: February 7th 2006
COMMON ROSEFINCH	September 22nd 2001	October 14th 2017	
LINNET			>1000: January 2010
TWITE	October 20th 2012	April 8th 1979	c.40: March 27th 1978
COMMON REDPOLL	November 18th 2013	April 24th 2004	4: March 21st 2009
COMMON CROSSBILL	All months except May		16: October 1953
SERIN	April 6th 2017		
CORN BUNTING			c.500: November 2014
YELLOWHAMMER			c.400: February 2011
ORTOLAN BUNTING	September 13th 2018		
CIRL BUNTING	February 25th 1943	December 25th 1941	5: December 7th 1941
BLACK-HEADED BUNTING	June 7th 2009		
REED BUNTING			c.50: October 27th 2016
LAPLAND BUNTING	September 2nd 1989	March 27th 2008	4: October 13th 2010
SNOW BUNTING	September 28th 1981	March 24th 1982	9: November 19th 1989

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## The Birds Of South Gloucestershire

In three centuries over three hundred species and thirty forms have been documented.

All of the rare and scarce birds are detailed and where possible a photo of the 'first' occurrence included.

Plenty of tables, graphs and charts.

- Full colour photographs
- Colour charts, graphs, tables and maps
- Full S. Gloucestershire species and forms lists
- First documented references
- S. Gloucestershire year lists