

Rare Birds

in

Avon

The aim of this document is to collate all published accepted records of locally rare species of bird in the area covered by the current Avon Bird Report. I have classed a species as rare if it has been recorded in ten or less years in the three decades prior to 2017.

The current Ornithological Section of the BNS started in late 1922 and an annual bird report has been included in the BNS Proceedings since 1936. Initially this annual report was known as the Ornithological Notes, then, from 1955, as the Bristol Bird Report and from 1974 as the Avon Bird Report which became a separate publication in 1983. Records have been taken from these annual reports although some of the details have been expanded from other sources. I have also included records that have only been published in the Somerset Bird Report, these are marked [*SBR*].

I have also checked the annual reports of the British Birds Rarities Committee since its inception in 1958 and included any additional information or records. Records that have been assessed by that committee are marked [*BBRC*]¹.

Accurate records are harder to find prior to 1936 and there is often conflict between various sources. Records have been taken from the following sources (and in which case the source is stated in the text);

Davis (1935), Davis (1947), Palmer and Ballance (1968), Swaine (1982), Wheeler (1874) and Yarrell (1843).

For species that were commoner in the past, or where is confusion about past records, I have included what is stated in Wheeler (1874)², 'The Birds of the Bristol District', an article included in the 1899 Proceedings, Davis (1947) and Palmer and Ballance (1968).

Records relate to single individuals unless specifically stated.

The county of Avon was created in 1974. The Bristol region covered by earlier reports was not defined by county boundaries and fluctuated but regularly included records from as far north as Slimbridge (the New Grounds) and as far south as Cheddar. I have excluded records that were clearly outside the current Avon recording area.

[*notes*] means the original species account includes some notes on the birds appearance

[*article*] means the bird report includes a full write up of the occurrence

[*photograph*] means there is a photograph in the bird report

The site abbreviations used are those defined in the Avon Bird Report except for SGW – St George's Wharf, which is now part of Portbury Wharf

References

Davis (1935); 'Waders in the Bristol District' by H H Davis in the 1935 BNS Proceedings

Davis (1947); 'A revised list of the birds of the Bristol District' by H H Davis in the 1947 BNS Proceedings

Davis (1953); 'Notes on the status and distribution of birds in S. Gloucestershire'³

¹ those asterisked mean we hold the original description locally

² This article mentions Black-headed Bunting but the latin name, *E. schoeniclus*, is that of Reed Bunting. Rose (2000) mentions 'some 19th century records' for Black-headed Bunting but gives them a feral status

³ I am unclear where this was published, Martyn Hayes was kind enough to supply me with copies of a few of the pages

Palmer and Ballance (1968); 'The Birds of Somerset' by E M Palmer and D K Ballance published in 1968 by Longmans, Green and Co Ltd

Rose (1985); 'Unusual bird records for Avon, 1945 to 1985' by H E Rose in the 1985 Avon Bird Report⁴

Rose (1995); 'Avon's rare and unusual birds, 1945 to 1995' by H E Rose in the 1995 Avon Bird Report

Rose (2000); 'The Avon List, 2000' by H E Rose in the 2000 Avon Bird Report

Swaine (1982); 'Birds of Gloucestershire' by C M Swaine published in 1982 by Alan Sutton Publishing Limited

TBOSG; The Birds of South Gloucestershire website

Wheeler (1874); 'List of resident birds, summer and winter visitors, and occasional stragglers, observed in the Bristol District' by E Wheeler in the 1874 BNS Proceedings

Yarrell (1843); History of British Birds by W Yarrell, first published in 3 volumes in 1843⁵

Copies of the BNS Proceedings are available online from the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

Acknowledgements

I need to thank both Andy Davis and Harvey Rose for allowing me access to their reference material and Martyn Hayes for his input on the birds of south Glos.

I hope to update this document following the publication of the annual Avon Bird Report. If you notice any errors or omissions please email me at *avonbirds@hotmail.co.uk*

Richard Mielcarek
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⁴ Some of the old records mentioned in Rose 85 actually relate to sites outside Avon; Axbridge - 1851 Alpine Swift, 1859 Rose-coloured Starling and 1901 Baillons Crake, Cheddar - 1955 Black-throated Diver, Slimbridge - 1867 Squacco, Brent Knoll - 1875 Crane

⁵ Available online at the Biodiversity Heritage Library

Bean Goose

Wheeler (1874) – occasional, Avonmouth

1879 – two shot out of seven, Nailsea on November 2nd [1990 ABR] *Palmer and Ballance (1968)*

Birds of the Bristol District (1899)– occurs on the Severn coast in winter

Davis (1947) – most records in former years doubtful owing to confusion with Pink-foot.

1958 – one with Whitefronts in fields adjoining CVL on January 26th with two on February 2nd, 8th and 9th [*not racially assigned*]

1990 – ten at BL from February 10th until 25th [*fabalis per 1996 ABR*]

1993 – Yeo Estuary on December 5th and 6th [*rossicus per 1996 ABR*]

1996 – one at BL on January 27th was relocated at CVL the next day where it was identified as *A. f. rossicus*, it remained until March 21st having visited BL a few times [*photograph*].

1998 – one at OPS on March 1st was thought to be *fabalis*

2006 – four adults with nine juveniles at BL briefly on October 18th and again on 20th were thought to be *rossicus*

2011 – two in flight at Cl-y on November 17th and one at Weston STW from December 10th until 18th were *rossicus*

Pink-footed Goose

1940 – two shot from a small party on the shore near Avonmouth and three shot from a flock of grey geese on Horfield Common on January 30th. Six or seven amongst Whitefronts along the river bank between Avonmouth and Severn Beach on February 1st and 2nd

1958 – a ringed bird, at CVL on January 26th and February 2nd

1961 – in field near Kingston Seymour on October 15th

1973 – at CVL on February 18th

1974 – two at CVL on December 9th

1979 – at CVL from November 22nd until February 10th 1980

⁶1986 – one at BL on February 8th and 9th then moved to CVL and remained until May 13th with presumably the same in flight over BG on May 16th

1988 – a sick juvenile caught by a dog at Littleton Warth on November 29th died soon after

1996 – first-winter at Aust from February 26th until March 10th; one briefly at CVL on March 2nd

1999 – an adult at BL from October 22nd and then moving between here and CVL until February 13th 2000

2002 – one at BL between May 31st and June 9th visited CVL on June 6th and 8th

2011 – four, two adults and two first-winters, at BL from December 10th until February 23rd 2012 then relocated to CVL where they remained until March 22nd

2013 – two adults at CVL from November 22nd until December 28th when they started moving between CVL and BL; one remained until March 2nd or 3rd while the other departed on April 4th 2014

Red-breasted Goose

1909 – adult shot at Oldbury-on-Severn on November 18th

⁶ one at CVL on June 19th and 20th 1985 is listed under Escapes

American Wigeon

- 1946 – male at BL from January 27th until February 5th
1976 – two males at the confluence of the Rivers Frome and Avon on the Wilts border on August 30th [1977 BBRC]⁷
1977 – an adult male at CVL on April 2nd [BBRC]
1978 – adult male at CVL from December 10th until January 20th 1979. [BBRC*]
1988 – a male at Chew Magna Res on May 13th [BBRC]
2009 – a female at Weston STW on June 6th

Blue-winged Teal

- 1979 – at CVL on 18th November⁸ [BBRC]
1992 – a female at CVL from July 29th until August 13th [BBRC]
1993 – a female at BL on May 1st was paired with a Shoveler and remained until October 10th [BBRC]⁹, first winter male at CVL from October 9th until 11th [BBRC]
1995 – a female at CVL from September 2nd until 5th [BBRC]
2003 – an adult female at CVL from August 12th until 26th and again on 30th [BBRC][*photograph*]
2009 – a female at Weston STW on September 28th [2012 BBRC][2012 ABR]
2011 – a female at CVL from June 12th until 24th [BBRC]

Ferruginous Duck

- 1922 - an immature bird obtained at BL on November 4th *Davis (1947) Palmer and Ballance (1968)*
1929 – a female shot on the R Axe, near Lympsham, February 14th ¹⁰ *Davis (1947) Palmer and Ballance (1968)*
1923 – what may have been a Ferruginous Duck was seen at Barrow Gurney reservoirs, November¹¹ *Davis (1947)*
1955 – a female at CVL on January 2nd
1968 – male at CVL from December 29th had previously been at Orchardleigh in Somerset [BBRC]; it remained until March 30th 1969, visiting BL on January 12th [SBR]
1976 – one, probably an immature male, was at CVL from January 10th until 17th
2000 – a female at CVL from March 22nd until April 15th and then again from June 23rd until July 10th [BBRC][*drawing*]. It reappeared to CVL in 2001 on May 19th and 25th and from June 19th until 28th [BBRC] and again in 2002 on August 22nd and September 14th [BBRC]. In 2003 it was at CVL between April 10th and 21st, on June 11th and 27th, on July 13th, August 27th and September 3rd [2008 ABR]. In 2004 she was present between February 20th and September 15th [2008 ABR]
2003 – an adult male was at CVL from April 18th until September 2nd; he returned again in 2004 on February 23rd [2008 ABR]. It is thought the pair probably nested¹²
2005 – at CVL there was an adult male on March 25th, a pair on July 3rd and an adult female from September 6th until 27th [2008 ABR]
2006 – a pair possibly bred at CVL with the pair seen mating on June 12th, an adult male seen on August 24th and November 16th and an adult female from August 13th until

⁷ This record does not seem to have been published before as an Avon record

⁸ in 1980 ABR with date incorrectly given as 19th

⁹ See comment in 2013 ABR

¹⁰ Although Lympsham is in Somerset the river forms the county boundary

¹¹ See also 'The Birds of Barrow Gurney Reservoirs' by A C Leach in the 1934 Proceedings which states 'A Ferruginous Duck was once reported'

¹² See an article on the possible breeding attempts at CVL in the February 2011 edition of British Birds

November 4th and also seen at BL in October. A juvenile male was at CVL from October 18th until November 5th [*photograph*]. This was presumably the first-summer male seen at CVL between June 6th and November 10th 2007 and in 2008 at CVL, BG, Weston STW [*photograph in 2008 ABR*] and BL between May 10th and December 21st. It was thought to have returned in 2010 to CVL, being seen between February 4th and December 15th¹³. It also returned in 2011 being seen at CVL, Publow and BL between February 12th and November 5th

2007 – a male at BL on June 16th and an adult female at CVL on June 20th and August 19th and 20th

2008 – an adult female at CVL on November 3rd

2009 – an adult male at CVL from March 18th until November 28th [*photograph*] with a second male on May 17th

2010 - a first-summer male at CVL from September 12th until October 11th with a second from September 23rd until November 22nd [*photograph*] while a female was present from October 25th until November 8th

2012 – an adult male at BL from July 12th until August 19th was then at CVL on August 30th and 31st and September 1st, 14th, 18th and 22nd. An adult female was at CVL from September 8th until 12th and on 18th and 22nd and October 1st, 4th and 18th

2013 – an adult female at BG on April 19th, an adult male missing an eye was at CVL on various dates between May 13th and November 16th, an adult female at CVL from August 28th until September 24th

2015 – a female at CVL from August 28th until September 10th

2016 – an adult female at CVL on October 17th and 18th

Lesser Scaup

2000 – a male at BL from April 22nd until May 7th and a female there on October 22nd [*BBRC*][*photograph*][*article*]

2007 – adult males at BL from March 11th until 20th and from September 30th until November 21st [*BBRC*]

2008 – a mobile adult male was seen at BL from March 15th until 20th, at BG from 21st until April 5th and at CVL from 7th until May 1st [*photograph*]

2010- a first-winter male at CVL on March 7th and from March 17th until April 8th¹⁴

2011 – an adult male at CVL on November 3rd and 4th [*BBRC*]

2012 – a first-winter male at CVL on February 23rd and an adult male on March 11th until 23rd, an adult male there from August 28th until November 16th moved to BL from 7th December until 31st January 2013. There was a second adult male at CVL from October 11th until 30th [*BBRC*]. The initial male returned to CVL from November 4th until 20th 2013; in 2014 it was at BL and CVL between June 29th and September 3rd while in 2015 it was at BL/CVL between July 12th until September 28th and again at CVL from November 12th until January 7th 2016

Velvet Scoter¹⁵

1882 - male caught alive at Midsomer Norton on April 11th *Palmer and Ballance (1968)*

1892 – single adult male at New Passage, March *Davis (1947)*

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – has occurred occasionally on the Severn coast

¹³ Additional dates also given in the 2010 ABR

¹⁴ Dates corrected in 2011 ABR

¹⁵ Wheeler (1874) mentions Surf Scoter, 'rare, Ashton' but as he does not include either of the commoner Scoter I assume this was a mistake – it was dismissed in Davis (1947)

1926 – male and female at Barrow Gurney reservoirs, January *Davis (1947)*
 1939 – immature male at BL January 22nd until March 26th
 1942 – immature male at BG from March 29th until April 12th
 1956 – five between Yeo Est and Clevedon on February 12th
 1963 – immature male at BL from December 15th until 28th
 1964 – adult male at CVL on October 15th¹⁶
 1966 – a male at BL on Jan 29th [*SBR*]
 1969 – adult male off Sand Point on October 26th [*1973 Proceedings*]
 1972 – four in flight past Sand Point on December 27th
 1976 – pair close off Chittening on October 31st
 1977 – to NE past Brean Down on December 17th
 1980 – male past Chittening on November 9th and a male off Clevedon on September 28th
 1983 – a male flew upriver past Severn Beach on November 7th and a pair were at CVL on November 12th
 1984 – an adult male at CVL on January 21st, a female flew upriver past New Passage on April 26th and five immatures at CVL on November 10th
 1985 – a male at Clevedon seen on November 3rd, 6th, 7th, 17th and December 22nd
 1987 – a pair on Severnside from January 25th until March 20th and seven at BL on January 18th
 1993 – a pair off Sand Point on December 19th
 1994 – a first winter male on January 1st and a pair from January 8th until 30th at Sand Point are assumed to be the 1993 birds
 1996 – at Severn Beach on November 16th¹⁷
 2004 – a female at BG on December 12th and 15th
 2005 – three first-winters at CVL from October 19th until November 9th with one first-winter from November 18th until December 9th
 2007 – five juveniles/first-winters at CVL on December 16th
 2008 – two juvenile males were at CVL on December 6th
 2012 – flew past Sand Point on December 1st
 2013 – four first-winters (two males two females) at CVL on April 12th
 2015 – three juveniles (a male and two females) at CVL on November 28th

Black Grouse

Wheeler (1874) – occurs occasionally, Portishead, Mendip Hills

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – is shot every year on the Mendips

Davis (1947) – formerly resident on Mendip but now apparently extinct. Perhaps bred until 1920 or later, though no definite evidence since a nest and eggs were found on Black Down, May, 1915. Last reported, 1922, when a male was shot at the foot of Black Down and a female seen on Dolebury Warren (Rep. Som. Birds, 1946, p4). A female in Mr A R Robinson's collection at Backwell House was killed on Backwell Hill sometime prior to 1900 Palmer and Ballance (1968) – the N. Mendips, apparently a haunt in early 1800s, were deserted by 1860, but recolonized about 1875.

Black-throated Diver

1946 – at BL from April 1st until at least the 9th [*notes*]

1950 – adult in winter plumage at BL from February 5th until at least March 20th

1964 – at BG from April 6th until 16th

¹⁶ Although at least one of the three observers no longer feel the identification is safe

¹⁷ Date corrected in 1997 ABR

1966 – at BL on March 4th
1974 – at CVL from November 21st until December 8th
1975 – at BL on March 9th
1982 – at CVL on January 18th
1985 – at CVL from November 1st until 9th
1986 – two at CVL on January 17th
1988 – at CVL on April 7th and another on October 22nd
1991 – two breeding plumage adults off New passage on May 6th
1994 – a juvenile at CVL from November 13th until December 4th
2000 – an adult off Severn beach on December 1st
2003 – a first-winter briefly at CVL on January 11th [*photograph*] and a second calendar-year bird on May 31st
2012 – off Sand Point on December 9th
2013 – a juvenile at CVL from November 16th until December 24th [*photograph*]
2015 – a juvenile at Sand Point on November 13th and one at Severn Beach on November 27th

Pacific Diver

2009 – an adult briefly at Severn Beach on November 27th [*BBRC*][*article*]

Cory's Shearwater

2000 – one off Severn Beach early on November 26th was tracked down the Estuary [*article*]
2004 – Severnside on January 13th

Sooty Shearwater

1962 – Sand Point on September 17th [*1971 proceedings*]
1971 – one flying upstream off Brean Down on June 19th must presumably have been in Avon waters? [*notes*]
1974 – off Aust for three hours on September 7th

Balearic Shearwater

1988 – off New Passage on September 24th¹⁸ [*article*]

Little Bittern

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – obtained at Weston-super-Mare in October 1865
1789 – R. Avon near Bath in autumn *Palmer and Ballance (1968) who give Newman, 1866, A Dictionary of British Birds as a source*
1864 – Bleadon in mid October *Palmer and Ballance (1968) Davis (1947)*
1912 – caught by a dog between Puxton and Banwell on May 20th now in the Exeter Museum¹⁹ *Davis (1947) Palmer and Ballance (1968)*
1916 – seen at Ubley, winter, 1916-17²⁰ *Davis (1947)*
1958 – an immature on R Avon, Keynsham on September 28th [*BBRC*][*1959 Proceedings*]
1993 – a male seen and heard at CVL on June 23rd [*BBRC*]

¹⁸ Article in 1988 ABR incorrectly gives the date as 12th

¹⁹ See September 1912 issue of British Birds p 123

²⁰ November and December 1916 per Palmer and Ballance (1968)

Night Heron

- 1971 – an immature found at ICI works on Severnside on November 19th was cared for and then released at CVL on November 28th and last seen on December 19th [BBRC*]²¹
- 1983 – a juvenile at CVL from November 6th until 30th [BBRC*]
- 1986 – an adult near the R Avon in Keynsham from May 2nd until 5th [BBRC*]
- 1992 – a second-summer or adult at CVL on June 4th [BBRC]
- 1999 – a first-summer at CVL from June 10th until 12th [BBRC*]
- 2001 – an adult/second year seen briefly in flight at CVL on May 10th²²

Squacco Heron

- 1973 – an adult at CVL on May 26th [BBRC]
- 1977 – at Hutton Ponds, Weston-super-Mare on June 1st [BBRC]
- 2012 – a summer plumaged adult was at CVL and BL from May 2nd until 17th [BBRC][*photograph*]

Cattle Egret

- 1963 – one, unringed, feeding in orchard at Portbury from October 29th until November 15th was treated by BBRC* as an escape²³
- 1993 – one in summer plumage at Littleton Brick Pits from April 24th until 27th [BBRC*]
- 2005 – Kingston Seymour from January 4th until April 17th [BBRC*][*photograph*]
- 2007 – CVL from October 11th until 13th [BBRC][*photograph*]
- 2009 – one in summer plumage at BL on June 8th, two adults and a juvenile at CVL on July 30th with the juvenile on 31st, one adult and the juvenile from August 1st until 6th with the juvenile until 11th [*photograph*] and one at CVL from December 27th until January 3rd 2010 [*photograph in 2010 ABR*]
- 2010 – at CVL on November 5th
- 2012 – a juvenile at Northwick Warth on September 9th
- 2016 – probably five, Barrow Gurney on November 19th, Weston STW from 19th until 22nd, CVL on 19th and 30th, Toghill, Wick two from December 17th into 2017

Great White Egret

- 2002 – one seen from Flat Holm on September 22nd flew into Weston Bay [BBRC][2006 ABR]
- 2003 – at CVL on June 20th and 21st and again on July 11th and 12th [BBRC*][*article*]
- 2006 – in flight at Ladye Bay, Clevedon on April 6th
- 2010 – at BL on December 31st [2012 ABR]
- 2011 – at BL on June 11th, at CVL on October 14th and at CI-Y on November 7th
- 2012 – in flight at PWD on March 26th, past Portishead on April 8th, at Yeo Estuary on May 12th and at CVL on August 20th
- 2013 – over Yate on September 26th, over Northwick Warth on 28th, a juvenile at BL on 27th then commuted between BL and CVL until October 4th
- 2014 – probably five different birds, all at CVL; August 24th, September 22nd/23rd, October 23rd, November 14th/15th, a different individual on 16th, from November 18th until March 3rd 2015

²¹ See article in Bristol Ornithology 5

²² Although still under consideration by the BBRC in the 2001 report I cannot find it being published as accepted, or rejected, it just seems to disappear. The BBRC pended the record on the first circulation but further notes (which we have) were submitted in April 2006

²³ Two were discovered missing from Whipsnade Zoo during the annual census at the end of the year. At that time there were only four accepted records for the UK

2015 – possibly 17 recorded with a flock of at least seven at CVL/BL in the autumn; recorded in every month except June

2016 – probably 41 recorded with a peak flock at BL/CVL in the autumn of 26

Purple Heron

²⁴1963 – immature at BL from May 12th until 17th [BBRC*]

1970 – an immature at CVL from April 20th until May 3rd [BBRC*] [notes]

1975 – at CVL on September 28th [BBRC*]

1977 – in flight at CVL on April 23rd and one in the Gordano Valley on September 29th. Both [BBRC*]

1981 – an adult in the Gordano Valley on May 10th [notes][BBRC*]

1983 – a sub-adult at CVL from June 25th until July 2nd

2001 – a sub-adult at CVL on May 12th

2009 – a sub-adult at CVL on May 10th [photograph]

2014 – a juvenile in flight near Walton-in-Gordano on September 29th

Black Stork

1988 – one at CVL on April 10th watched for nearly 40 minutes [BBRC]

1992 – adult to SE over western edge of Bath on June 13th [BBRC]

White Stork

²⁵1971 – three ringed juveniles of Danish origin²⁶ at Combe Down on September 9th, one of which was caught after falling down a chimney and taken to Rode bird gardens where it remained until about 18th August 1972 [BBRC]

1972 – one over Rode Bird gardens on July 14th was in addition to the 1971 captive bird [1973 BBRC] [1973 SBR]; one flying south over Keynsham on September 24th was considered by BBRC* to be the 1971 ringed captive bird

1973 – at Paulton on August 10th [BBRC*] [SBR]

1993 – three over Knowle on April 27th

²⁷2000 – at CVL on May 28th

2005 – at Weston STW on July 23rd

2006 – on Bleadon Level from March 25th until 28th

2010 – two over Northwick Warth on September 12th

2012 – one over Combe Down on April 21st and four over the Avon Gorge on June 9th

2015 – over New Passage on April 21st

Glossy Ibis

2007 – a first-winter at CVL on November 2nd and 3rd [BBRC][article][photograph]

2009 – one at CVL from September 6th until 12th [photograph], four, including two ringed birds, there on 26th, and one on Severnside on October 14th [all BBRC]

2010 – a Spanish ringed immature was at Hoar Gout on Severnside from September 17th until 26th [photograph]

²⁴ The 1983 ABR says the first Avon record was in 1939 but I cannot find any details or source for this. In particular Davis (1947) does not mention the species and the 1963 Proceedings say the Blagdon record is the first for Somerset.

²⁵ 'Recent reports' in the August 1971 British Birds mentions one at Hallen in May but this is not mentioned in any BBRC report so I can only assume it was never submitted. TBOSG gives the date as 23rd.

²⁶ Article in January 1972 British Birds gives a full account

²⁷ Two birds that escaped from Bristol Zoo were seen locally in 1996

2013 – at Weston STW/Axe Estuary from September 21st until October 4th [*photograph*], a juvenile at CVL and BL on September 27th remained until October 16th, a pair in flight over CVL on November 26th and one at CVL from 28th until 30th
2014 – an immature at Weston STW from April 5th until May 6th [*photograph*]
2015 – a first-winter at Pilning Wetlands from November 6th until 20th
2016 – over CVL on January 11th

Pied-billed Grebe

1963 – at BL on December 22nd²⁸ [*notes*] [*BBRC*]
1965 – adult at CVL from August 17th until October 23rd, returning there in 1966 on May 15th and from July 22nd until November 2nd²⁹, returning there again in 1967 from May 14th until October 2nd. In 1968 it was at BL from May 14th to June 5th and at CVL on 4th and 5th July [*BBRC*]³⁰

Honey Buzzard

Wheeler (1874) – two at Leigh, no record of date
before 1890 – Leigh Woods *Palmer and Ballance (1968)*
Davis (1947) - Very scarce visitor in spring or summer. Mr Charles Green reports (in litt) that two killed in the Tortworth area, c1879, (cf Mellersh, Birds of Glos, 1902, p15) were for some time in the Gloucester Museum. A record of one at Blagdon reservoir, 1912, lacks essential details.
1917 - a female was obtained in Ashton Park, in June or earlier and held in the City Museum *Davis (1947)*
1970 – CVL on May 22nd, [*notes*][*SBR*] and 1971 *Proceedings*
1981 – to SW past Battery Point, Portishead on May 17th and one to W over Hursley Hill, Whitchurch on September 4th
1985 – over Ashton on May 31st
1991 – one flew west across the Severn estuary from New Passage on May 26th
1994 – over Bishopston on June 13th and a juvenile over Sand Point on October 1st
1995 – Weston Moor in Gordano Valley on May 5th and near Winford on May 31st
1997 – at BG on May 10th
1998 – three over Tickenham on October 1st
2000 – over the Gordano Valley on July 30th; two at CVL on September 28th and one over Nailsea on September 29th
2008 – at Cl-Y on September 15th, a juvenile over Trooper's Hill on 16th and one at North Stoke on 18th
2010 – over CVL on June 1st and one at Weston STW on August 22nd
2011 – over Northwick Warth on May 7th
2014 – a male over St George's, Weston-super-Mare on July 1st [*photograph*]

Black Kite

1983 – at Weston-in-Gordano on August 8th [*BBRC**]
1994 – over Walton-in-Gordano on May 14th [*BBRC**]
2010 – at Severn Beach on March 18th

²⁸ Article in *British Birds* (58:305-309)

²⁹ Article in *British Birds* (60:295-299)

³⁰ The 1968 BBRC report suggests that only one bird was involved over all five years

White-tailed Eagle

Wheeler (1874) – one shot in Doddington Park. Date not known

Davis (1947) – very scarce visitor. One was killed on Mendip as long ago as 1811

1861 – obtained at Weston-super-Mare in February *Davis (1947)*

1871 – obtained at Doddington Park in December *Davis (1947)*

1919 – probably this species reported from Steep Holm in March *Davis (1947)*

1927 – probably this species reported from Weston-super-Mare in December *Davis (1947)*

2016 – a juvenile/first-winter at BL on October 28th [*photographs*]

Pallid Harrier

2011 – a juvenile male on the Mendips flew into Avon on September 30th [*BBRC*]

2016 – a second-calendar year male at Marshfield on April 12th [*BBRC*][*2017 ABR*]

Montagu's Harrier

1891 - Tickenham *Birds of the Bristol District (1899) Davis (1947)*

1947 – a female, probably this species, on marshy ground near Clevedon in May

1955 – a pair quartering young spruce near Rowberrow

1958 – a ringtail at Marshfield on May 25th was probably this species

1962 – immature at CVL on August 4th

1968 – female or immature at Sand Bay on May 31st, assumed on date to be this species

1982 – a female or immature near Marshfield on August 3rd

1991 – a female flew in from the estuary and then east over Aust Warth on October 16th

1994 – first summer female at Yeo Estuary from May 19th until 23rd, and a female/immature near West Littleton Down on June 11th

1995 – a first summer at Wavering Down on May 3rd

1996 – a first-summer female at Cl-Y on May 12th

2004 – a male on Wavering Down crossed briefly into Avon on May 10th³¹

2005 – a second calendar-year male at Marshfield on June 21st and 22nd

2006 – a second calendar-year female at Chelwood on May 6th [*2007 ABR*]

2008 – a female/immature near Tormarton on May 12th

2011 – a second calendar-year male at Marshfield on July 3rd

2015 – Weston STW on April 25th and Northwick Warth on May 15th

Rough-legged Buzzard

1906 – Clevedon in November *Davis (1947)*

1910 – Clevedon, found dead in October *Davis (1947)*

Palmer and Ballance (1968) mention records from Blagdon and Shiplate (near Bleadon) prior to 1950³²

1971 – White Hill, Hinton Blewitt on September 17th [*SBR*][*notes*]

1974 – at CVL on November 9th [*SBR*]

Little Crake

1961 – at CVL on November 5th [*BBRC*] [*notes*]

1967 – CVL on May 10th [*BBRC*][*notes*]

³¹ ABR gives date, incorrectly, as 8th

³² Rose (2000) mentions a 1909 record that I cannot trace

Baillon's Crake

1840 – a female was killed at Weston-super-Mare in September³³ Davis (1947)

Corncrake

Wheeler (1874) – common, in fields generally

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – summer resident. Common. Has been found occasionally in mid-winter.

Davis (1947) – Formerly a widely known summer resident but has greatly decreased since early in the present century and now appears to be scarce over most of the district. No definite breeding information in recent years, though calling has been reported from various localities including Rangeworthy, Saltford, Failand, Nailsea and Tickenham. Noted fairly frequently on autumn passage.

Palmer and Ballance (1968) states 'from 1924 to 1936 heard in six places between Bristol and Weston-super-Mare and bred Abbots Leigh 1930. Only passage records 1937 – 43. Since then heard in ten places, most frequently at Saltford and Tickenham. Four passage records'

1938 – killed at Lulsgate Bottom on September 3rd and disturbed from grass near patchway Common on October 30th

1940 – caught in wire netting at Long Ashton on April 22nd

1941 – shot near Whitchurch on September 2nd

1942 – in a wheat field at Stoke Gifford on August 29th and in a barley crop above Dyrham Wood on September 1st

1943 – found dead at Burnett on August 27th

1945 – one heard at Tickenham on May 7th

1946 – heard at Rangeworthy on several dates in June

1947 – injured bird caught at Abbots Leigh on May 3rd, one caught by a cat at Clifton Hill on June 13th, heard by R Avon in St Anne's Park on June 13th and 26th, heard in Saltford on June 22nd. one shot at Dyrham in the autumn

1948 – two calling birds in the Saltford area from early June until first week of July and calling heard at Hinton Blewitt and Nempnett in the second half of July

1949 – seen and heard at BL on May 7th, calling at Nempnett in June

1950 – one frequently heard at Tickenham in May and June with birds in corn crops at Little Stoke on August 16th and 31st and at Dyrham on August 31st

1951 – frequently heard at Abbots Leigh in May, one in corn crop at Little Stoke in early September and one shot at BL on October 27th

1952 – birds in corn crop at Wotton-under-Edge on August 17th, Westerleigh on 18th and Yate on September 14th

1953 – calling at Tickenham on May 31st and both ends of BL on June 5th, one dead at Patchway on October 15th

1955 – one caught in market garden in Patchway on April 11th, one calling at Saltford on May 12th, one seen in Long Ashton on May 19th and remains found on tideline near Pill on May 23rd

1956 – one calling at Saltford on May 25th and one flushed at Wrington on September 1st

1957 – one flushed at Long Ashton on April 25th, one calling at Compton Martin from June 9th was killed by mower on 26th

1961 – slightly injured bird on roadside in Clapton-in-Gordano on October 5th

³³ Birds of the Bristol District (1899) says occurred at Weston-super-Mare in October 1865 (British Birds, Yarrell) but Yarrell actually says, for September 1840, 'an adult female killed on some marshy ground near Weston-super-Mare and two more have occurred in Somersetshire since 1869'. Palmer and Ballance (1968) mention two records for Weston sometime between 1830 and 1912

1962 – two near Butcombe on May 10th, one at Sand Point on May 13th, present in Saltford area from June until August with one calling at Bitton on September 1st
 1963 – one heard at Saltford on several dates in June
 1964 – one calling at Middle Hope on May 10th
 1965 – flushed at CVL on October 10th [1984 ABR]
 1966 – picked up dead on Lyncombe Hill near Sandford on May 11th
 1970 – one calling on Kenn Moor on June 1st
 1978 – killed by a dog on a farm in Flax Bourton in early June
 1985 – two at Hinton Charterhouse on June 19th [1986 ABR]
 1989 – one heard at Marshfield on June 21st
 1990 – beside the B3128 at Wraxhall Hill on June 28th
 2002 – remains found of a Peregrine kill at St John's church, Bath on October 4th [2008 ABR]
 2003 – one calling at BL on May 27th
 2011 – one calling at Chipping Sodbury common on July 31st

Crane (*birds considered to be of wild origin*)

1971 – flying north past Clevedon on March 31st [BBRC*]
 1993 – two *Grus sp* were seen briefly circling low over field near Burnett on March 29th
 2000 – two over Severn Beach on January 3rd
 2003 – five adults at Tortworth from February 25th until March 2nd [photograph]
 2008 – over OPS on May 4th
 2010 – past Aust Warth on March 2nd
 2011 – over Clevedon on February 11th³⁴
 2012 – over Bishopston on April 2nd
 2014 – an unringed adult at New Passage on September 22nd
 2016 – two unringed adults at Northwick Warth on October 7th

Stone Curlew

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – has occurred at Avonmouth and on the Mendips Davis (19470 - Now very scarce, but formerly regarded as a not infrequent visitor to the Mendip Hills. Recorded in the past as having been seen or obtained at Avonmouth and Buckland Dinham.

Palmer and Ballance (1968) states 'Mathew had seen single birds near Radstock in turnip fields in August and had observed flocks of 10 or 12 passing over, apparently at Buckland Dinham (Zoologist 1897)

1925 – two Woodspring Bay on December 3rd Davis (1935)
 1949 – Sandford Hill on April 2nd
 1959 – at CVL on October 3rd Palmer and Ballance (1968)
 1968 – one flushed from a stony field near edge of Weston-super-Mare airfield on September 11th was seen again in the evening
 1988 – at Yeo Estuary on April 30th
 1989 – at Yeo Estuary on June 18th and one at Middle Hope on September 2nd
 1991 – at dawn on April 28th at the Kenn Estuary
 1999 – at New Passage on July 27th
 2006 – at Northwick Warth on April 20th
 2008 – at Cl-Y on April 6th
 2011 – at Cl-Y on April 10th
 2013 – at Northwick Warth on March 23rd and a ringed bird at OPS on 29th [photograph]

³⁴ 2011 was the first year that birds thought to be from the Great Crane Project were noted; such individuals now vastly outnumber any considered to be of wild origin.

Black-winged Stilt

Davis (1947) – very rare vagrant. One was shot many years ago near Thornbury (cf Dillwyn, Fauna and Flora of Swansea, 1848, p.8)

1965 – adult and immature at CVL May 22nd until 25th [BBRC]

1997 – at OPS on May 17th [BBRC]

2012 – an adult male at CVL on April 10th [BBRC][photograph]

American Golden Plover

1994 – partial summer plumage adult at CVL from October 23rd until 27th [BBRC*] [article]

2003 – a juvenile at BL on November 1st and 2nd [BBRC*][notes][photograph]

2013 – in flight at BL on October 23rd [notes]

Dotterel

Wheeler (1874) – rare, Flat Holmes

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – used to breed on the Mendips

Davis (1947) - Very scarce visitor on migration, but apparently more frequent in former years.

1869 - one shot on Steep Holm in May and about the same time a small party visited Weston-super-Mare³⁵ *Davis (1935)* and a single was seen at Sand Point *Davis (1947)*

c1929 - a party of 6 or 8 at Burrington in April *Davis (1947)*

1958 – two at Sand Point on September 5th

1974 – one at Severn Beach from September 14th until 17th was viewable down to four feet

1978 – St George's Wharf on May 21st

1979 – near Woodspring Priory on August 24th with what was presumed the same individual at Middle Hope on 26th

1981 – at the Kenn Estuary on August 19th

1982 – female ringed at Pucklechurch on May 11th

1992 – twelve near Tormarton on May 8th with 14 next day, one on 10th and two on 11th

1995 – three at Marshfield on May 16th

2014 – over Pilning on September 14th

Killdeer

1976 – at CVL on January 17th [BBRC] [notes]³⁶

Greater Sandplover

1979 – a first-winter at CVL from November 17th until February 10th 1980 [BBRC]

Kentish Plover

1947 – a male at Severn Beach on May 4th and 5th

1949 – a female at Severn Beach on May 10th

³⁵ Palmer and Ballance (1968) says 'about 12 seen or shot between Weston-super-Mare and Wells, and on Steep Holm, April 30th to mid May (Zoologist 1871)

³⁶ See finder's account in Bristol Ornithology 12

1966 – male at CVL on April 13th *[notes]*
1967 – CVL, ad male July 28th, another adult Aug 29th *[notes]* *[SBR]*
1972³⁷ – adult male at CVL on September 3rd *[SBR]*
1973 – at St George's Wharf on August 19th³⁸
1974 – one at CVL on August 19th with Ringed and Little Ringed Plovers for comparison *[SBR]*
1976 – at Axe Estuary on October 9th
1978 – at Chittening on August 11th
1980 – at Sand Bay on May 5th
1984 – a female at SGW on April 28th and a male at Blackstone Rocks Clevedon on May 3rd
1993 – at OPS on August 16th
1998 – a male near the mouth of the Kenn on May 1st and 2nd *[annotated drawing]*
2004 – a female at Severn Beach on May 12th
2006 – a juvenile at Severn Beach on September 22nd
2011 – a male at Sand Bay on May 2nd

Upland Sandpiper

2005 – a juvenile at CI-Y from November 12th until 26th *[BBRC]**[photograph]**[article]*

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

2011 – a juvenile at BL and CVL from November 18th until December 16th *[BBRC]**[article]**[photograph]*

Broad-billed Sandpiper

1983 – an adult at OPS from August 20th until 22nd *[article]**[BBRC]*
1988 – an adult seen on both the morning and evening tides at Severn Beach on May 16th *[BBRC]*

Temminck's Stint

1943 – at BG from September 12th until 19th
1954 – at CVL on August 29th
1959 – at CVL on September 15th and 19th
1960 – at CVL on September 24th *SBR*
1962 – at CVL on September 8th
1963 – CVL on August 10th
1964 – CVL on July 26th and 27th
1972 – at CVL from September 12th until 22nd, one at CVL on October 22nd *[latter SBR]*
1973 – trapped and ringed at CVL on August 28th. One present between September 1st and 19th may have been the same but ring not seen
1977 – at CVL on September 19th and 23rd and 24th.
1980 – two at CVL from August 30th until September 21st
1984 – an adult in summer plumage at OPS on April 29th and one at CVL from October 17th until 22nd
1987 – at CVL on May 20th

³⁷ The 1982 ABR mentions a ringed bird shot 'at Bristol' on August 31st 1972 but this was a misidentification corrected in the 1984 ABR

³⁸ SBR gives date as 17th

2001 – a juvenile at BL from October 5th until 9th *[photograph]*
2002 – a juvenile at CVL from September 22nd until 24th, and again from October 4th until 9th and at BL on October 17th and 21st and November 2nd and 5th until 10th
2004 – an adult at Severn Beach on May 13th
2009 – one in winter plumage at Sea Mills on March 15th and one at CVL on May 20th *[2011 ABR]*
2011 – a juvenile at CVL on August 26th and 27th
2015 – a juvenile at BL from October 18th until 25th
2016 – Pilning Wetlands from May 8th until 10th *[photograph]*

Baird's Sandpiper

2001 – a juvenile at BL from September 12th until 23rd *[BBRC]*
[article][photograph][drawing]

White-rumped Sandpiper

1978 – two immatures at CVL on October 27th and 28th with one until November 2nd *[BBRC*]*³⁹
1985 – an adult at Severn Beach on September 12th and 13th *[BBRC]*
1991 – a juvenile at CVL from October 5th until 19th *[BBRC*]*
1995 – an adult at Severn Beach from August 20th until 31st *[BBRC*]*
1998 – a juvenile/first-winter at Aust Warth from November 22nd until 26th *[BBRC*][photograph]*
2001 – an adult at Severn Beach on August 4th *[BBRC*]*

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

1973 – at BL from September 15th until 21st *[BBRC*][notes]*; one at CVL on October 3rd *[BBRC*]* *[in 1975 proceedings]*
1975 – two at CVL on September 1st with one remaining until the 12th; another at CVL from September 20th until 22nd and a third from September 26th until October 1st *[BBRC*]*.
1976 – at CVL on September 29th and again from October 3rd until 6th *[BBRC*]*
1978 – at CVL on October 14th and 15th when killed by a Crow *[BBRC*]*
1980 – at CVL on September 16th *[BBRC*]*
1986 – juvenile at BL from October 5th until 14th
1989 – at New Passage on September 30th
1990 – at Severn Beach on May 22nd and 23rd and probably the same at the Yeo Estuary on June 7th
1993 – two juveniles on the Avon side of the Axe Estuary on October 6th
2003 – a juvenile at Northwick Warth from September 27th until 30th

Semipalmated Sandpiper

1990 – an adult at OPS on August 12th and 14th *[BBRC]* *[article]*
2009 – a juvenile at Northwick Warth on September 26th *[BBRC][photograph]*
2011 – a juvenile/first-winter at CVL from November 10th until 20th *[BBRC]* *[photographs]*

³⁹ See finders account in Bristol Ornithology 14

Wilson's Phalarope

1967 – at CVL from September 8th until 25th. [BBRC] [notes] including comparison with Lesser Yellowlegs present at same time.

1975 – at CVL on September 17th and 18th [BBRC]

1979 – at CVL on September 20th and 21st and a first winter there from September 29th until October 4th [BBRC]

1980 – juvenile at CVL from September 13th until 23rd [BBRC]

1985 – a first-winter at CVL from October 16th until 18th [BBRC]

1988 – a first-winter at CVL on September 11th and 12th [BBRC]

Red-necked Phalarope

1921 – two were seen and one of them shot at BL in September *Davis (1935)*

1931 – a phalarope, said to be of this species, visited BL in the autumn *Davis (1935)*

1965 – an immature at BL from September 18th until 27th

1969 – adult female at CVL on August 24th [notes]

1978 – male at CVL on May 28th

1979 – at Bucklands Pool, Backwell on May 26th

1996 – a juvenile at BL from September 21st until 31st

1999 – two juveniles at BL on August 25th and 26th [photograph]

2002 – a first-winter at Wick St Lawrence STW on October 29th

2008 – a moulting adult at Weston STW from August 23rd until 25th

2010 – a juvenile at BL on October 4th and 5th

2014 – a juvenile at Pilning Wetlands on August 18th [photograph]

Terek Sandpiper

1986 – at Royal Portbury Dock on September 19th and presumed same at Severn Beach on 20th [BBRC]

Spotted Sandpiper

1982 – an adult at CVL on at least October 10th [BBRC]

2003 – at BG on November 2nd [BBRC][notes]

2007 – a summer-plumaged adult at CVL from August 7th until 9th [BBRC][photograph]

2011 – an adult at CVL from September 24th until April 21st 2012 [BBRC][photograph]

Lesser Yellowlegs

1967 – CVL on September 9th [BBRC] [notes]

1984 – at ASW between September 30th and October 5th

2006 – a juvenile/first-winter on the Axe Estuary from October 7th until 11th [BBRC]

2011 – an adult at CVL on July 8th [photograph]

Marsh Sandpiper

1982 – a probable adult at CVL on October 3rd and 4th moved to BL from 5th until 12th [BBRC]

1984 – commuting between BL and CVL between August 20th and 27th [BBRC]

Long-billed Dowitcher

1977 - Two at CVL on September 30th and October 1st then moved to BL where they remained, apart from occasional visits to CVL, until January 11th 1978 with one until 15th and one at CVL on January 21st [BBRC]⁴⁰

2009 - a juvenile at CVL from September 23rd until October 2nd [BBRC][*photograph*]

2011 - two juveniles from October 9th until December 13th commuted between BL and CVL [BBRC][*photograph*]

Dowitcher sp

1977 - at Aust Warth on October 16th [BBRC]

1978 - at CVL on October 28th [1979 BBRC report]

Great Snipe

Davis (1947) - Very rare vagrant. The Rev M A Mathew, in his Revised List of the Birds of Somerset (1893), mentions it as having occurred in autumn near Weston-super-Mare.

Palmer and Ballance (1968) mention one shot at Weston-super-Mare, probably in 1860s

1949 - flushed three times in quick succession at BL on March 6th [notes]

1950 - flushed three times at BL on December 27th [notes]

Collared Pratincole

Davis (1947) - the only record is of one shot on the northern slope of Mendip, not far from Weston-super-Mare sometime prior to 1881⁴¹

Black-winged Pratincole

1964 - at CVL from September 6th until 9th [BBRC]

1988 - between Clevedon and Yeo Estuary from June 10th until at least 15th [BBRC]

1993 - a juvenile at BL on August 28th was seen briefly at CVL later in the day [BBRC]

Long-tailed Skua

1891 - shot at Clevedon in October following severe gales *Davis (1947)*

1912 - seen near Weston-super-Mare in June *Davis (1947)*

1971 - an immature off the end of Brean Down on September 27th may possibly have been in Avon waters [notes]

1976 - at CVL on June 19th [BBRC*]⁴²

1981 - a juvenile off New Passage on October 4th [1982 ABR]

1982 - an adult at CVL on August 10th [notes]

1983 - on Severnside on September 3rd [p157 of 2000 ABR]

1984 - flew NE off Brean Down on September 9th

1988 - an adult at Severn Beach on September 26th

1990 - an adult off New Passage on September 20th

1991 - an adult flew NE off New Passage on May 5th and a dark-phase juvenile at CVL from September 6th until 17th

1994 - an adult between the Horseshoe Bend and Sea Mills and also at Ham Green from April 6th until 9th and one at New Passage on November 25th and 26th before moving to Severn Beach on 27th [*photograph in 2000ABR*]

⁴⁰ See finders account in Bristol Ornithology 13

⁴¹ See also 1888 Zoologist p220

⁴² 1976 Proceedings state this is the fifth record for Avon county area so it looks like I have missed at least one

1999 – a juvenile at CVL on August 24th
2002 – an adult flew inland over Chittening Warth on May 14th
2008 – a juvenile off OPS on September 6th
2015 – a sub-adult at CVL on May 29th and a juvenile there on September 7th

Puffin

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – seen in the Channel during the summer
Davis (1947) – occasional visitor to the Channel and Estuary. Perhaps occurs more frequently than is supposed. Most winter notices refer to remains of storm driven birds, either on the coast or inland.

1922 – Steep Holm May 25th until 30th, *Palmer and Ballance (1968)*
1935 – Steep Holm on May 5th, one found dead at Filton in October *Davis (1947)*
1945 – found dead on Kenn Moor on October 30th
1951 – found dead at Severn Beach on February 25th
1959 – a young bird found dead at Weston-super-Mare on August 15th and another at Sand Bay on November 1st
1972 – adult close inshore at Sand Point on April 8th
1997 – at Severn Beach on February 25th with presumably the same the next day
2002 – a winter plumaged adult at Severn Beach on February 5th with a first winter there on 9th
2014 – a first-winter at Severn Beach on February 9th and a dead adult found in Sand Bay on 16th

Black Guillemot

1896 – shot off Weston-super-Mare on December 3rd (now in American Museum of Natural History in New York) *Davis (1947)*
1998 – at Severn Beach on October 27th
2015 – a first-winter at Severn Beach on November 15th [*photograph*]

Little Auk

Davis (1947) – Very occasional storm driven visitor in winter. Specimens have been found in both coastal and inland areas but there seems to be no record for recent years.
Palmer and Ballance (1968) mentions records from Bath and Weston-super-Mare sometime between 1836 and 1912.

1841 – some recovered 'at Bristol and other parts near the Severn' after a storm in October as part of a national 'wreck' *Yarrell (1843)*
1950 – one alive at Woodspring Priory on February 11th. Others found dead at BL on February 11th and 20th and at Tickenham on March 11th. A write-up in the April 1952 edition of *British Birds* gives additional records – near Weston on 8th February, a flock of twelve landing on a wet road near Bristol on 11th February
1953 – in estuary below Aust Cliff on October 4th
1955 – one found alive at Locking on October 19th was released on the coast
1960 – headless corpse found at BL on November 6th
1962 – a live bird found at Charfield on January 12th was released at Slimbridge
1966 – one picked up alive on the bank of the R Severn near Oldbury c February 6th later died
1970 – an adult female found in 'S Glos' on November 12th subsequently died

1972 – one found alive in Hanham on January 26th was taken to Bristol Zoo where it died next day
1975 – at BL on February 1st
1979 – one found exhausted at Tockington on December 17th died the next day
1981 – flying to NE off Severn beach on November 28th
1984 – seen flying downriver at Aust on January 13th with possibly the same seen later in the day off New Passage. On January 18th one was found dying at OPS
1988 – two off New Passage on February 10th
1990 – an adult found under a hedge at Marshfield on November 4th was released at CVL with one off New Passage on December 27th
1991 – birds noted off New Passage on January 5th, 6th, 9th and 10th. An ailing bird found in a Severn Beach garden on January 6th died on the 10th. One off New Passage on November 2nd with one found dead at Weston-super-Mare on November 13th
1998 – at Severn Beach on January 2nd and another here on October 28th
2001 – at Severn Beach on October 25th
2002 – head and wings were found at St John's Church, Bath on November 21st having been killed by a Peregrine [*photograph*]
2006 – off Severn Beach on October 22nd and another off Chittening Warth on December 6th
2007 – off Severn Beach on November 17th
2009 – at Severn Beach on November 26th
2010 – at Severn Beach on November 12th [*photograph*]
2016 – Weston-super-Mare on January 4th

Sooty Tern

1885 - A bird caught alive after gales three miles from Bath on October 4th or 5th *Birds of the Bristol District (1899) Davis (1947) Palmer and Ballance (1968)*

Bridled Tern

1958 – adult found dead in Sand Bay on October 17th, identification confirmed by British Museum [*BBRC*]

Caspian Tern

1988 – at CVL on August 13th [*BBRC*]
2016 – two at Royal Portbury Duck on May 11th [*BBRC*][*photograph*]

Whiskered Tern

1959 – at CVL from June 23rd until 25th [*notes*][*BBRC*]
1983 – a first-summer at CVL from May 29th until 31st and an adult there on 29th only [*BBRC*]
2006 – a second-summer at CVL on April 28th and 29th [*BBRC*]
2013 – a summer plumaged adult at CVL on April 23rd with a different individual on 25th [*BBRC*][*photograph*]
2016 – an adult past OPS on May 10th [*BBRC*]

White-winged Black Tern

1949 – adult at BG on September 9th and 10th [*notes*]

1966 – juvenile at CVL on August 24th – 27th⁴³
 1967 – adult at CVL on September 10th [BBRC*]
 1969 – first year at BG on September 7th. [BBRC*]
 1970 – juveniles at CVL on August 13th – 17th and September 12th – 16th [BBRC*]
 1974 – an immature at CVL on September 11th [BBRC*]
 1975 – two at CVL on June 14th and an adult from August 8th until 12th [BBRC*]
 1977 – immature at CVL from September 25th until 28th [BBRC*]
 1978 – a juvenile at CVL from September 9th until 17th [BBRC*]
 1979 – a juvenile at CVL from September 7th until 10th with a second from 8th until 10th.
 Juvenile at Yeo Estuary on August 19th [BBRC*]
 1980 – a juvenile at CVL on August 24th [1981 BBRC*]⁴⁴
 1981 – a juvenile at CVL on August 13th [BBRC*]
 1982 – three records from CVL, an adult on July 20th, an adult in winter plumage on
 September 18th and a juvenile from September 20th until 23rd, all [BBRC*]
 1983 – a juvenile at BG on October 1st was seen at CVL later the same day [BBRC*]
 1984 – an adult at CVL on July 8th [BBRC*] and a juvenile at CVL from August 28th until
 September 1st [BBRC*]
 1987 – an adult at CVL on September 1st [BBRC*]
 1990 – an adult in a flock of Black Terns off Aust on May 3rd [BBRC*]
 1991 – an adult/second-summer at CVL on July 29th [BBRC*]
 1996 – a second-summer at CVL on June 9th until 11th [BBRC*]
 2001 – a second-summer at BL from August 4th until 10th [BBRC*][photograph]
 2005 – a juvenile at Axe Estuary and Weston STW from September 7th until 12th
 [BBRC*][photograph]
 2014 – a juvenile at CVL from September 10th until 13th

Roseate Tern⁴⁵

1897 – obtained at Clevedon in April and examined by the Rev F L Blathwayt *Davis (1947)*
Birds of the Bristol District (1899)
 1962 – breeding plumage adult found dead at Clutton on May 10th⁴⁶
 1977 – off Brea Down on Avon boundary on April 23rd⁴⁷
 1990 – breeding plumage adult off New Passage on May 1st
 1997 – a first-winter at Severn Beach on October 7th, 8th and 9th
 2001 – an adult at Sand Point on May 20th
 2016 – an adult and juvenile at Northwick Warth on August 28th [photograph]

Ivory Gull

Davis (1947) – the only reliable record is of one taken alive at Weston-super-Mare, c1864⁴⁸

Bonaparte's Gull

2013 – a summer plumaged adult at CVL on April 27th [BBRC][article][photograph]

⁴³ Dates in BBRC report are 27th – 30th

⁴⁴ Not previously published

⁴⁵ Following a review, see 2016 ABR

⁴⁶ Specimen still in Bristol Museum

⁴⁷ This record was overlooked in the 2016 review

⁴⁸ But not mentioned in Palmer and Ballance (1968) who say 'other early records seem to us unsatisfactory'

Laughing Gull

- 1999 – a summer-plumaged adult on the R, Avon in Bedminster on June 28th and July 7th [2001 BBRC]
2006 – an adult at CVL on April 17th [BBRC]
2012 – a second-summer/ adult past Severn Beach on May 1st [BBRC]

Franklins Gull

- 1984 – a second-summer/adult at Severn Beach on May 19th [article] [BBRC]
1988 – an adult at Chittingen Warth on June 12th [BBRC]
2000 – a second-winter/second-summer at Somerdale, Keynsham on April 10th and 11th [BBRC]
2008 – a mobile second-winter was seen at CVL on January 19th and 20th, 29th until 31st, February 12th until 17th and March 23rd, 24th, 27th and 28th; it was also seen at RPD on March 15th and 16th, Somerdale, Keynsham from March 18th until 23rd and at BL on March 26th [BBRC]

Caspian Gull

- 2002 – a second-summer/third-winter at CVL on September 25th [2006 ABR], an adult at Harnhill Tip on November 16th and again on December 6th [article]
2004 – an adult at CVL on September 26th [2006 ABR]
2006 – a third-winter at CVL on January 4th, 14th and 28th and an adult there on January 17th and February 9th⁴⁹, a first-summer at Severn Beach on August 5th [2013 ABR]
2007 – a first-winter at CVL on January 13th and 20th and February 24th
2008 – a first-winter in the CVL roost on October 10th
2013 – a first-winter in the CVL roost on January 11th
2016 – a third calendar-year at CVL on August 9th [photograph]

Glaucous Gull

- 1840 – adult shot in the winter on the Severn *Yarrell (1843)*
1870 – two obtained at Weston-super-Mare⁵⁰ and one on Steep Holm *Davis (1947)*
1938 – an immature between Avonmouth and Severn Beach on December 27th and 30th
1939 – a second-winter in the Cumberland Basin from December 27th until January 11th
1940
1950 – at Severn Beach on January 8th, one on R Avon in Bedminster between February 15th and March 3rd, with probably the same at City Docks on March 3rd
1955 – a fourth year at CVL on March 13th
1957 – remains of an immature found at Clevedon on December 12th
1969 – first winter at CVL on February 16th
1974 – an adult at Kingston Seymour on February 27th and March 20th
1976 – one at Axe Estuary on May 1st and one at Sand Point on July 10th (a possible seen only in flight at CVL on April 25th and May 1st)
1977 – a first year at CVL on December 11th
1978 – a first winter in the CVL roost on January 30th
1981 – a first-winter at Portishead on February 25th
1982 – first-winter off the Axe Estuary on December 10th
1983 – one at CVL on December 26th
1984 – a second-winter on Severnside between January 11th and February 25th, an immature at Oldbury-on-Severn on January 22nd, an adult at CVL between February 4th and 18th and a second-winter at CVL on February 19th [last in 1985 ABR]
1986 – at CVL on March 13th
1991 – an adult flew SW at Aust Warth on March 21st

⁴⁹ The ABR gives the wrong day and year for this record

⁵⁰ One in January per Palmer and Ballance (1968)

1995 – a second winter at CVL on March 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th and also seen near BL on 16th
2000 – a juvenile/first-winter at CVL on December 26th
2001 – a first-year at the Axe Est. on April 7th
2002 – a juvenile in the roost at CVL on March 5th, 23rd and 24th. It was seen during the day on 26th and then on eleven dates until April 28th *[photograph]*; a juvenile at Northwick Warth on December 31st
2006 – an immature in the roost at CVL on December 23rd
2008 – a juvenile/first-winter in the roost at CVL on February 9th and 15th
2012 – a second-winter flew past New Passage on January 5th was seen again there on 8th and then later that day over PWD, and close by at SGW the next day; a first-winter was at CVL on March 24th
2014 – a first-winter in the CVL roost on February 22nd and 24th

Pallas's Sandgrouse

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – several were obtained in 1863

Davis (1947) – very rare vagrant. Occurred, some being obtained, during both the 1863 and 1888 irruptions. In the former year a party of 15 were seen near Wotton-under-Edge and one was found dead at Kilcott. In 1888 single birds were shot on Kenn Moor and at Portishead and Yate, and two were killed at Hambrook⁵¹, while a party of 20 was seen at Norton St. Philip. Others were reported from the Weston-super-Mare area.

Alpine Swift

1960 – Redcliffe Bay, Portishead on October 2nd *[notes][BBRC*]*
1967 – off Steep Holm on September 30th *[BBRC*]*
1969 – Weston-s-Mare on September 20th *[BBRC*]* *[SBR]*
1993 – over Aust Cliff for ten minutes on April 11th *[BBRC*]*
1998 – briefly over CVL on February 18th *[BBRC*]*
1999 – at Northwick Warth on June 5th *[BBRC*]*
2002 – briefly at Sand Point on April 21st *[BBRC*]*

Bee-eater

1866 – four⁵² obtained from a small flock which visited Stapleton in May. Of these, three are mounted in the City Museum *Davis (1947)*
1963 – three over Weston Woods on April 23rd *[notes][BBRC*]*
1966 – at CVL on August 15th *[BBRC*]*
1994 – a party of six watched for ten minutes at Radford near Camerton on May 1st
2000 – at Sand Point on May 7th
2002 – at Wraxall CP on June 16th *[photograph]*
2008 – at Ladye Bay on May 3rd
2015 – over Saltford on June 7th with six at Woolley, Bath from 8th until 10th⁵³ *[photograph]*
2016 – heard only at Aust Services on July 31st

⁵¹ Davis (1953) states the birds at Yate and Hambrook were killed in July

⁵² Wheeler (1874) states 'three of which were shot by him' but article by Harding in 1868 Proceeding, page 9, states he shot four

⁵³ ABR incorrectly gives date as 19th

Roller

1976 – on Kenn Moor on August 16th [BBRC]

Red-footed Falcon

1967 - A male near Farrington Gurney on August 18th. [BBRC*] [notes]

1973 – BG on October 4th [BBRC] SBR[1992 ABR]

1974 – an adult male flying across the Glos border near Severn House Farm, south west of Berkeley on September 16th [BBRC] Swaine (1982)

1992 – first summer male at Stanton Wick from May 30th until June 3rd [BBRC*]

2014 – a female at Northwick Warth briefly on October 15th

Gyrfalcon

1961 – at CVL from November 5th until January 13th 1962 [notes][BBRC]

Golden Oriole

1893 – pair at South Stoke in June Davis (1947)

Davis (1947) – of two specimens mounted together in Mr A R Robinson's collection at Backwell House, one is said to have been obtained at Wraxall sometime prior to 1900.

Palmer and Ballance (1968) mention records from Leigh and Ubley between 1860 and 1910

1910 – a male at BL on May 28th *Report of Wells Natural History Society (1910)*⁵⁴

1954 – adult male seen and heard in Leigh Woods on May 22nd, two calling first summer males at Littleton-on-Severn brickworks from June 11th until July 2nd

1958 – calling bird in Blaise Castle wood on July 5th

1962 – a male at CVL on May 4th [1963 Proceedings]

1963 – a male at Leigh Woods on June 1st

1966 – at Cleeve on June 16th [notes]

1971 – seen and heard at CVL on June 12th

1979 – a female found dead at Tockington on May 31st

1984 – male seen at Shockerwick near Bath on May 27th

1985 – heard calling in Leigh Woods on May 28th

1986 – a male was seen on the coastal path south of Clevedon on May 4th with another in Leigh Woods on May 30th

1988 – male tracked in Blaise Woods for three hours on May 21st

1990 – a male in Clifton on May 2nd and a male elsewhere in north Avon on May 17th

1991 – at Blaise Woods a male heard on May 30th and 31st with two males heard and seen briefly on June 1st. One heard briefly at New Passage on June 2nd

1992 – male in the Gordano Valley on May 16th and 17th

1993 – a male at Pucklechurch from June 25th into early July

1995 – a male at Sand Point on May 6th⁵⁵

2003 – heard at CVL on May 25th

2005 – a male at Sand Point on May 4th and a female there on 11th

2016 – song heard at Pilning Wetlands on May 26th

⁵⁴ Per www.blagdonlakebirds.com

⁵⁵ Although Rose 2000 says 'recorded in 17 of the years between 1950 and 2000' there are accepted records in only 16 of those years

Red-backed Shrike

Wheeler (1874) – summer visitor, frequent at Leigh, Hallen, Stapleton

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – summer resident. Fairly common. Nests on Durdham Down.

Davis (1947) - Summer resident. Breeds more or less regularly in suitable areas but is decidedly local and has, apparently, decreased in recent years.

Palmer and Ballance (1968) suggest that prior to 1920 it was a widespread summer visitor but that it slowly vanished between 1925 and 1958.

1940 – a pair raised young in Yate

1943 – pairs bred near Stoke Gifford on June 11th and Patchway on July 4th

1944 – again nested at Patchway

1948 – pair feeding fledged young at Clevedon on July 9th

1949 – at Clevedon on April 18th and another at Publow on May 14th

1951 – probably bred at Backwell where pair on June 17th, female July 15th and female and juvenile on August 19th

1952 – bred successfully at Ashton Gate

1953 – male Ashton Gate area on May 12th, three Charlcombe Bay on July 4th

1954 – breeding reported from Monkton Combe plus a pair at Combe Down, Bath on May 15th and 19th

1956 – female near Leigh Woods on June 9th

1958 – pair attempted to breed at Kewstoke but deserted, male Redcliffe Bay on June 17th

1959 – male at Kewstoke from mid May until mid June, male near Banwell on July 8th

1960 – male at Kewstoke from May 13th until June 18th but no evidence of breeding, male near Kingston Seymour on June 5th

1963 – male Horseshoe Bend, Shirehampton on May 31st

1966 – a juvenile at Sand Bay on September 11th

1969 – male at CVL on August 28th

1971 – near Easton-in-Gordano on May 24th

1972 – at Sand Point on May 9th

1973 – a female at Wick Green car park, CVL from July 6th until August 2nd

1975 – a pair bred at an undisclosed locality with an immature seen at Churchill on October 11th

1976 – two near Clevedon on April 25th and a juvenile trapped at CVL on October 10th

1985 – singing male at Spaniorum Hill near Easter Compton⁵⁶ on June 20th

1988 – a male briefly in a garden at Frampton Cotterell on June 16th

2003 – an adult male at Corston on June 16th and a first-winter at Severn Beach on August 30th

2006 – males at Winford on May 4th and at CVL on May 29th

2008 – a female at Portbury Warth on May 29th

2014 – a first-winter at Sand Point from September 15th until 23rd [*photograph*]

Lesser Grey Shrike

1982 – at Royal Portbury Dock on May 15th [*BBRC*]

⁵⁶ Location only given as 'North Avon' in 1985 ABR

Woodchat Shrike

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – has occurred twice, in 1852⁵⁷ and 1892⁵⁸ (*Zoologist*)
Davis (1947) - Very rare vagrant. Has been reported, but not for many years past. What seems to be the only fully substantiated record is that of one killed in North Somerset (near Bristol) sometime prior to 1887 (cf. *Smith, Birds of Wilts., p123*)^{59 60}
Palmer and Ballance (1968) mention a record from Hale Well, Winscombe or Cheddar Wood about 1860 (*Compton, 1882, Winscombe Sketches*)

1989 – an adult at Marshfield on July 23rd [BBRC*]
1993 – an adult male at Prospect Stile, Lansdown on April 30th
1994 – an adult near Thornbury on April 22nd
2005 – a first-summer male of the race *badius* at Uphill from June 11th until 13th [BBRC][photograph]
2011 – a first-summer female on Sodbury Common from July 30th until August 21st [photograph]
2013 – a first-summer on Widcombe Common from April 21st until 30th [photograph]

Chough

1900 – one flew along the edge of the cliff on Durdham Down on July 13th *Birds of the Bristol District (1899), Davis (1947)*
1941 – Sandford, winter, 1941-42⁶¹ *Davis (1947)*
2006 – a Welsh bred bird was at Sand Point on April 19th and 20th

Nutcracker

1887 – shot near Wrington during summer, (ssp *caryocatactes*) and acquired by the City Museum *Davis (1947) Palmer and Ballance (1968)*
Before 1893 – Bath *Palmer and Ballance (1968)* who give *Mathew (1893)*, 'A revised list of the birds of Somerset' as source
1925 – Leigh Woods, April 28th *Davis (1947) Palmer and Ballance (1968)*
1968 – in the area of Portishead power station on September 11th [notes]

Hooded Crow

Wheeler (1874) – rare, has occurred once or twice, but no exact locality known
Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – reported in the winter, 1883
Davis (1947) - Occasional winter visitor
Palmer and Ballance (1968) mention records from the North Mendips and between there and Bristol from 1861 – 1917 with odd records since 1923 from *Wraxall and Ubley*

1897 – Puxton in the winter *Birds of the Bristol District (1899)*
1917 – near Kingston Seymour in December [1943 Proceedings]
c1920 – at Stoke Gifford [1943 Proceedings]
1941 – Winscombe on 25th October [1943 Proceedings]

⁵⁷ The 1852 reference, page 3474, merely says 'adult killed in Somersetshire'

⁵⁸ The 1892 reference, page 345, is an article 'The status of the Woodchat in Great Britain' by O V Aplin which refers to the 1852 record and also 'one shot near Bristol, in Somerset' with a reference to *Smith Birds of Wiltshire*

⁵⁹ 2011 and 2013 ABRs incorrectly state the Marshfield area

⁶⁰ See 1888 *Zoologist* p221 which says 'Somerset, within a short distance of Bristol'

⁶¹ 2006 ABR says December 1941 staying into 1942

1943 – seen from a train on west side of Bathford on 1st December
1948 – at Bath Sewage Factory near Saltford from late February until April 19th at least
1952 – adult at Hambrook on November 11th
1959 – Axe Estuary from July 12th until 15th
1963 – at Hallen Marsh on April 7th
1964 – amongst Jackdaw flock at Wraxall from March 29th until 31st, one at Ubley on April 19th
1969 – at St George's Wharf on December 14th, 21st and 24th
1970 – St George's Wharf until March 8th [SBR]
1971 – at Chittening on April 4th
1976 – on Durdham Down on December 26th and one in Chew Stoke on December 28th
1984 – near Kingston Seymour, by M5, on January 4th
1987 – at Axe Estuary in a flock of Crows on April 9th
1988 – at New Passage on October 23rd
1989 – Axe Estuary on March 22nd and April 20th
1992 – at New Passage on May 2nd
1994 – at New Passage on April 13th with another on April 24th
2003 – seen briefly at BL on November 7th

Penduline Tit

2012 – two at Portbury Wharf on January 15th [BBRC]

Shorelark

1866 – Ashton *Birds of the Bristol District (1899)*
1873 – caught near Bedminster by a birdcatcher and retained in the Zoological Gardens *Wheeler (1874)*
1894⁶² – shot at Avonmouth in October (*Davis (1947)*)
1960 – male on foreshore at Severn Beach from January 31st until March 4th
1963 – at CVL from February 3rd until March 10th, and one at Sand Point on November 6th *Palmer and Ballance (1968)*
1964 – adult male at Sand Point on October 18th
1977 – at Severn Beach from December 5th until 11th.
1983 – at Sand Point on October 23rd
1994 – at Kenn Estuary on November 21st and 23rd
1997 – at CI-Y on November 19th with two on December 17th and three⁶³ from 20th until January 6th 1998, with two until 10th and one until 16th
2004 – at Severn Beach on January 24th and February 11th
2010 – at OPS on January 8th and one at BG on April 24th and 25th [*photograph*]

Red-rumped Swallow

1970 – at St George's Wharf on June 7th [BBRC]
1977 – at New Passage on September 16th [BBRC*]
1988 – at New Passage on April 22nd [BBRC*] [1992 ABR]
1990 – at CVL on October 20th [BBRC*] [1992 ABR]
2012 – perched on wires over an Alveston garden on May 1st

⁶² Not 1884 as suggested by 1994 ABR

⁶³ 2004 ABR suggests four were present and they remained into February

Greenish Warbler

2014 – at Sand Point on June 2nd [*article*][*photograph*]

Arctic Warbler

1965 – at Sand Point on August 17th [*BBRC*] [*notes*]

Pallas's Warbler

1996 – at Wains Hill from November 16th until 18th [*article*]

2016 – Saltford on October 23rd

Dusky Warbler

2004 – at RPD from March 6th until at least April 13th [*photograph*][*article*] and one at BG on May 1st [*both BBRC**]

Subalpine Warbler

2004 – a female at Severn Beach on May 2nd [*BBRC*][*article*]

Savi's Warbler

1960 – one seen and heard in marshy growth at CVL from July 24th until 30th [*notes*][*BBRC*]

1980 – a male at CVL on April 16th [*BBRC*]

1986 – ringed at CVL on August 31st

2001 – a male in song at CVL from the evening of May 9th and 10th [*BBRC*]

Icterine Warbler

1972 – a Hippolais warbler in bushes on the east shore at CVL on September 21st and 22nd was thought to be this species [*SBR and 1992 ABR*] [*notes*]

1992 – a singing male in a garden in Brentry on May 15th [*article*]

Melodious Warbler

1961 – first winter bird trapped on Steep Holm on September 27th [*notes*][*BBRC**]

1967 – trapped on Steep Holm on August 28th [*notes*]

1979 – seen at Sand Bay on September 29th

1984 – at CVL on August 26th

Aquatic Warbler

1963 – seen and heard at BL on May 13th [*BBRC*]

1965 – trapped at CVL on August 15th and released on 16th [*BBRC*]

1966 – juvenile trapped at CVL on August 13th [*notes*][*BBRC*]

1969 – trapped at BL on August 24th [*BBRC*]

1971 – immature at Sand Bay from September 15th to 20th was joined by a second on 16th only. [*BBRC*]

1972 – trapped at CVL on August 20th [*1973 BBRC*]

1976 – an adult trapped at Littleton-on-Severn on August 14th [*1977 BBRC*] and one at CVL on August 16th [*BBRC*]

1977 – juvenile trapped at CVL on August 3rd [*BBRC*]

- 1984 – three trapped at CVL, August 12th, 13th and 21st, the latter a juvenile seen on 20th
- 1990 – one trapped at CVL on August 14th had been ringed in Poland
- 1994 – a juvenile trapped at CVL on August 13th
- 1995 – a juvenile trapped at CVL on August 9th
- 1999 – a juvenile seen at CVL on September 3rd

Marsh Warbler

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – summer resident, arriving late in May. Has nested in four localities in the neighbourhood during the last six years.

Davis (1947) - Formerly a regular, though very local, summer resident, but of late years has been extremely scarce or entirely absent. H C Playne writes (in litt) that nests recorded annually, 1894 – 1898, from the Bath area were in an osier bed at Saltford, also that breeding was proven at Avonmouth and Portishead, 1898. Dr L H Mathews reports (in litt) that the Saltford site, now deserted, was still occupied in 1919. A clutch of three eggs for sometime in the City Museum, but now destroyed, was obtained in a bean crop at patchway, June, 1909.

Palmer and Ballance (1968) says 'may have bred near Bath before 1846; bred Wellow 1880; near Saltford and Keynsham 1894 – 1919; Portishead and Clevedon before 1905'

- 1935 – passage bird seen and heard in June at Stoke Gifford *Davis (1947)*
- 1979 – singing male at CVL from May 19th until early July [*1979 ABR only gives first date but 94 ABR gives full period*] and a male in the Gordano Valley on 20th May
- 1986 – two at BG on August 9th
- 1994 – trapped at CVL on June 5th

Great Reed Warbler

- 1992 – a singing male at CVL on May 18th [*BBRC*] [*article*]
- 2008 – a singing male at CVL on May 12th [*BBRC*]
- 2012 – a singing male at Weston STW from May 19th until June 2nd [*BBRC*]
- 2014 – a singing male at CVL on May 24th and 26th [*BBRC*][*photograph*]

Rose-coloured Starling

- 1862 – obtained at St Philips Marsh *Davis (1947) Wheeler (1874)*
- 1869 – obtained at Laverton *Davis (1947)*
- 1871 – at Batheaston on July 29th [*2000 ABR*]
- 1890 – Clevedon, early September *Palmer and Ballance (1968)*
- 1895⁶⁴ - at Clevedon, September *Davis (1947) Birds of the Bristol District (1899)*
- 2000 – an adult male in gardens at Hanham from December 14th until January 26th 2001 [*BBRC*][*photograph*]
- 2002 – three adults at Wain's Hill on June 8th
- 2003 – a juvenile at Keynsham from September 10th until 20th [*photograph*] and a juvenile at Weston STW on November 15th and 16th
- 2004 – a juvenile at New Passage on September 2nd
- 2012 – a first-summer at Severn Beach on June 10th and 11th [*photograph*]
- 2014 – a juvenile at BG from September 20th until 26th, an adult at Bishopston from November 13th until December 5th [*photograph*]

⁶⁴ 2000 ABR gives year as 1893

White's Thrush

1871– killed at Langford, close to the northern slope of Mendip, in January *Davis (1947)*

Black-throated Thrush

1996 – a first-winter at Victoria Park on February 8th and 9th [*article*][*BBRC*]

Bluethroat

1968 – immature male trapped at CVL on September 22nd [*SBR*]

1971 – a first winter male trapped at BL on August 30th

1985 – a first year visiting a Clevedon garden on October 19th and 20th

1988 – a male briefly at Portbury Warth on May 17th

1998 – a male of the red-spotted race near Marshfield on May 14th

2010 – a singing white-spotted male in a small garden in Staple Hill on June 19th [*photograph*]

Red-flanked Bluetail

2014 – a first-winter male in the Shire Valley, Marshfield from February 3rd until March 9th [*BBRC*][*article*][*photograph*]

Desert Wheatear

1997 – a male at Cl-Y on November 19th [*article*][*photograph*][*BBRC*]

2013 – a first-winter male at Severn Beach from December 11th until 14th [*BBRC*][*photograph*]

Pied Wheatear

2011 – a first-winter female at Thornbury sailing club, Oldbury from October 25th until 28th [*BBRC*][*article*][*photograph*]

Citrine Wagtail

1996 – a first-winter at CVL on September 15th [*article*][*BBRC*]

2010 – a first-winter at CVL on September 7th [*BBRC*]

Blyth's Pipit

2016 – at BL from December 14th until 30th [*BBRC*][*article*][*photographs*]

Tawny Pipit

1972 – in Woodspring Bay on July 29th⁶⁵ [*BBRC*] *SBR*

1982 – at CVL on October 2nd [*BBRC*]

1993 – at Axe Estuary on October 7th

2010 – at Weston STW on May 3rd

⁶⁵ year incorrectly given as 71 in the 1993 ABR

Red-throated Pipit

1973 – at BL on September 24th. [BBRC] [notes]⁶⁶

1979 – at CVL on October 4th [BBRC] [1981 ABR]

2012 – at Northwick Warth briefly on April 22nd [drawing]

2015 – an adult at Pilning Wetlands on October 3rd and 4th [BBRC][photograph]

Common Rosefinch

1985 – an adult female ringed at Stantonbury Hill on August 4th [article in 1992 ABR]

1999 – a juvenile trapped in the Gordano Valley on September 13th

2006 – a first-summer male singing at Sand Point on May 9th

2015 – a female or first-winter on a feeder in Keynsham on February 24th and March 1st and 7th [photograph]

Common Redpoll

Not mentioned in Davis (1947) which only covers C. flammea cabaret. Only treated as a full species in 2000.

1962 – two at Saltford Sewage Farm on February 10th with one caught and proven from measurements [1963 Proceedings]

1965 – at CVL from October 31st until November 1st⁶⁷ and one at BL on December 14th Palmer and Ballance (1968) [96 ABR]

1996 – two at Ashton Court on March 23rd; one at CVL on April 12th and 13th

2001 – at CVL on March 16th [photograph]

2004 – at Thornbury golf course on February 10th and two at Severn Beach on April 24th

2005 – on a feeder in a Stapleton garden from December 10th until 18th

2006 – a male at Sand Point from May 4th until 15th

2008 – at Keynsham from February 23rd until 25th and a female/first-winter at Severn Beach on April 20th

2009 – at Orchard Pools, Severn Beach on January 18th, a male at a feeder in Yatton on April 2nd and one at Chittening Warth on May 3rd

2012 – briefly at BL on November 18th

2013 – briefly at CVL on April 17th and at Sand Point on May 3rd

2015 – a first calendar-year trapped at CVL on October 24th [photograph]

Two-barred Crossbill

1895 – male shot from a small flock near Keynsham in last week of February *Birds of the Bristol District (1899) Davis (1947) Palmer and Ballance (1968)*

Serin

⁶⁸1983 – seen and heard at CVL on October 22nd

1986 – at Abbots Pool on April 2st and 22nd

⁶⁶ See article in Bristol Ornithology 8

⁶⁷ The 1965 Proceedings say, under Redpoll, 'one larger, paler bird on Oct. 31 and another, Nov. 1'

⁶⁸ A record of four at the Yeo Estuary on February 16th 1969 was initially accepted by BBRC but was later withdrawn, see 1988 BBRC report

Cirl Bunting

Wheeler (1874) – rare, occurs occasionally, has occurred at Wrington

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – resident. Not common.

Davis (1947) – Resident. Local, but not uncommon in some parts of the district. In recent years has frequently been found nesting in close proximity to Bristol and breeding has been reported from the Weston-super-Mare area and elsewhere.

Palmer and Ballance (1968) mention 'breeds locally along coastal strip between Portishead and Mendip and around Bath; more commonly on lower slopes of NW Mendip and outlying hills (Bleadon, Banwell, Shute Shelve, Winscombe); from Uphill to Burnham.

1938 – occasional in spring between Weston-super-Mare and Hutton Hill and a pair near Filton on April 2nd

1939 – a female at Little Stoke on March 27th

1940 – five at Severn Beach on December 22nd

1941 – five at Severn Beach on December 7th with two here on 25th

1942 – a pair at Sea Mills on March 28th, a male at Portishead on June 5th and a pair in Falcondale Road, Westbury-on-Trym on July 18th

1943 – three pairs nesting in the Uphill and Hutton area from mid-June to late July. Pair at Severn Beach on February 25th, two males on Clifton Downs on March 21st and later, a female at Westbury-on-Trym on June 7th, a male at Brentry on June 20th and August 5th and a male near Henbury on September 5th

1944 – three on Clifton Down on January 30th, male near Portbury on June 23rd, several pairs nesting, May-July in the Hutton and Uphill area and a male at Hallen on December 19th

1945 – male frequent in spring on Durdham Down, pair near Charlton on October 14th, two nests in the Bleadon area

1946 – regular on Durdham Down in winter with twelve or more noted on January 3rd, and at least four pairs nested in the Sneyd Park area,

1947 – several at Wotton-under-Edge on May 11th, male seen and heard at Dyrham on July 22nd, four pairs bred in the Sneyd Park area

1948 – three pairs bred successfully in the Clifton area, Portishead April 17th

1949 – pair or two in the Clifton area, one near Cleeve on April 2nd, one near Frenchay on November 19th and December 10th, heard at Henbury as late as December 29th

1950 – heard on Durdham Down on May 18th, reported in breeding season from Cleeve, Clevedon and Long Ashton, two at BG on October 22nd

1951 – two or three pairs nested on Durdham Down where also present in winter, breeding season records from Cleeve and Portishead

1952 – males at Durdham Down on June 29th and July 13th, pair at Tickenham on May 4th

1953 – breeding season records from Clifton, Westbury-on-Trym, Henbury, Sea Mills, Tickenham on May 31st; pair raised young in Portishead

1954 – singing Penpole Point, Shirehampton on July 22nd, bred at Bleadon and Sidcot with breeding season records from Failand and Loxton

1955 – bred at Sand Point, pair with juvenile on August 6th with one there on November 12th, male Penpole Point, Shirehampton on October 30th

1956 – two at Bleadon on May 4th, one at Sand Point on May 5th, one at Wrington on May 12th and 26th, probably bred at Monckton Combe

1957 – reported from Portishead, Kewstoke, Bleadon and Loxton in breeding season

1958 – male Penpole Point Shirehampton on May 11th, breeding season records from Bleadon, Hutton and Kewstoke

1959 – singing at Durdham Down on May 24th, noted at all seasons in Kewstoke, Uphill and Bleadon

1960 – reported from many localities in south Avon in all seasons, two pairs bred in a garden at Wraxall, one at Horseshoe Bend, Shirehampton on June 1st

1961 – noted in breeding season at Shirehampton, Portishead, Wraxall, Worle and Shipham

1962 – reported mostly in breeding season from Nailsea, Portishead and Sand Bay although less common in the Uphill – Bleadon area than several years before. Seen or heard at Horseshoe Bend, Shirehampton on several dates in May and June with a female feeding three fledged young on June 24th

1963 – breeding season records from a number of localities

1964 – breeding season records from Shirehampton, Kewstoke, Worlebury, Cleeve, Wrington and Shipham

1965 – breeding season records of singing males from Portbury, Sand Point, Weston Woods, Worlebury and Crook Peak; pair Horseshoe Bend, Shirehampton on May 15th with three there on June 8th. Also breeding season record from Worlebury (*SBR*)

1966 – breeding season records from Worlebury and CVL

1967 – singles reported in Portishead, Clevedon, Sand Point, Worlebury and Goblin Coombe

1968 - breeding season records from the R. Avon, Horseshoe Bend in Bristol, and Sand Point

1969 – one or two reported, all months, from Aust, Horseshoe Bend, Bristol, Sand Point, Winscombe and Banwell

1970 – four at Bleadon Hill on March 30th. Singing males at Horseshoe Bend and Winford

1971 – up to four at Horseshoe Bend. Three singing males at Worlebury Hill where at least one pair bred with juveniles seen at end of June and a male in song again on September 4th [*SBR*]

1972 – pair at Worlebury on May 20th [*SBR*]; one or two at Hawkesbury Common, Bleadon Hill and Worlebury

1973 – Sand Point, one on February 18th and 25th and September 27th, male at Worlebury on March 29th, May 2nd and 19th with two on July 22nd [*SBR*]; resident in a few localities with up to three between February 18th and September 27th at Sand Point, Worlebury and Bleadon Hill

1974 – pairs at Bleadon Hill on February 23rd and at Worlebury Golf course on April 15th

1975 – four near Severn Beach on September 14th with pairs at Worlebury on March 16th, Bleadon Hill on 8th and one near Woodford Hill on 27th

1976 – bred Wrington and a pair at Bleadon Hill in March

1977 – pair at Clevedon on February 8th and a singing male at Barrow Gurney on March 16th

1979 – one at Sand Point on May 6th

1985 – a pair bred in south Avon

1991 – a male heard singing on the county boundary at Wavering Down from July 17th until 21st

Little Bunting

1976 – trapped at CVL on January 4th [*BBRC**]⁶⁹

1986 – at Lansdown on October 17th [*BBRC**]

1996 – a first-winter male at CVL from March 31st until April 21st [*photograph*]

1997 – in a garden at Redland from December 27th until April 15th 1998

⁶⁹ Photo in 1976 BBRC report

Yellow-rumped Warbler

1994 – at Eastville Park on November 16th and 17th *[BBRC] [article]*

Appendix (not accepted as Category A)

Lesser Whitefront

1991 – an unringed adult at CVL from October 18th until February 15th 1992⁷⁰

Lesser Canada Goose

2011 – one at BL on November 1st and 2nd was also at CVL on 2nd until 5th [*photograph*]. It wintered in Somerset before returning to CVL on March 15th 2012 until 28th and again on April 15th. *Record still being assessed by BBRC*

White-headed Duck

1985 – a female at CVL on June 9th and 19th

1995 – a second-winter/adult male at CVL from November 11th until December 25th

2003 – a juvenile at CVL from August 26th until September 3rd with the same or another juvenile there on October 12th

Hooded Merganser

1996 – a female/first-winter at BG on December 21st

Canvasback

A returning male, with anomalous pale marks on the bill and initially thought to be a hybrid, was present at CVL from March 21st until April 25th 1993, March 18th until 31st 1995, April 19th, May 14th, 19th and 20th 1998 and April 17th and 28th 1999

Marbled Duck

1984 – at CVL and BL from August 24th until January 5th 1985 [*1993 BBRC*]

Greater Flamingo

1992 – an adult at CVL from January 18th until 21st [*1995 BBRC*]

Fregetta sp

2009 – off Severn Beach on November 25th [*BBRC*][*article in 2013 ABR*]⁷¹

Frigatebird sp

2005 – an adult male flying over Flat Holm on November 6th was seen to enter Avon waters [*BBRC*]

Booted Eagle

2000 – a third calendar year pale morph at CVL from February 11th until 15th [*2001 BBRC*][*photograph*]

Hawk Owl

1847 – shot on Backwell Hill on August 25th or 26th and identified as the north American subspecies. *This record was accepted for years but was removed in a review of old Hawk Owl records in the May 2010 issue of British Birds*

Northern Cardinal

2006 – on a feeder at Portbury on May 27th [*BBRC*]

⁷⁰ See comment in 1992 BBRC report

⁷¹ See also article in February 2014 edition of British Birds