

# Birds in Avon



An annotated checklist

This project started as 'Rare Birds in Avon', essentially a list of all the sightings of rare species over the years, but it has now evolved into a checklist of all the species recorded in the Avon recording area, with details as to how their status has changed over time, albeit still with a bias towards the rare and unusual. This first edition covers up to the end of 2017.

I have divided species between regular, rare and scarce and each is treated differently.

### **Regular species**

For these I have shown their status at five points in time, as follows;

1874 – taken from Wheeler (1874) which covers the 'Bristol district' which is not defined (although covers the estuaries of the Avon and Severn and Steep Holm)

1899 – taken from 'The Birds of the Bristol District', an article included in the 1899 BNS Proceedings. This defined the boundaries covered as follows; 'on the north, a line drawn eastward from Aust Cliff to the boundary of the county of Gloucester near Badminton, on the east a line drawn from Badminton to Wells so as to include Bath; on the south the River Axe, on the west that part of the coastline of the Bristol Channel which stretches from the mouth of the Axe to Aust Cliff'

1947 – taken from Davis (1947) which covered a larger area, bounded to the north by a line between Slimbridge and Tetbury, in the east by the Wiltshire border, and in the south by a line between Frome and Wells and then the River Axe to the coast.

1990 – taken from the 1990 Avon Bird Report, the first to show a status line for all species, or the next edition that included the species.

2017 – taken from the 2017 Avon Bird Report, or the last edition to include the species. I have also used the 2017 Breeding Bird Survey results to show the percentage change since 1994.

Fuller details of a species recent local status can be found in the Avon Atlas, 2007 – 11, produced by R L Bland and M Dadds.

The sources for status in 1874, 1899 and 1947 each covered a different area so I have had to paraphrase or adjust the wording to remove references to sites that are outside of the current Avon recording area.

For those regular species that were rare or unrecorded 70 years ago I have also listed the first few records until they became widespread.

### **Rare species**

I have classed a species, or a subspecies, as rare if it is either a national rarity or if has been recorded in twenty or less years in the three decades prior to 2017. For these I have shown all published accepted records where the site is in the current Avon recording area. Where a bird remains over the year end, or is presumed to be a returning individual from a previous year, the record is only counted, and shown, for the initial year.

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

## Scarce species

These are species that are not regular but which have been recorded in more than twenty years of the last three decades. I have treated these the same as for regular species (ie status at five points in time) but have also shown the number of years in which they have been recorded in the last 30 years with a table of the number recorded in each of the last 20 years. For those which were unrecorded 70 years ago I have also listed the first three years in which they were recorded.

For some of the regular and scarce species I have included the largest count I can find, although I may have missed some, and others I have omitted as I am unable to trace them back to a published source.

For migrants I have also included the earliest published arrival date and the latest published departure date. Many of the early reports did not include accounts for all of the commoner species, just a list of extra species that had occurred during the year, while some of the accounts were just a list of sites where the species had bred or been seen, without any dates. For these I have relied on dates mentioned in Bland (1992) or Hale (1991), both of which extracted data not only from the annual report but also from the monthly Bird News published by the Bristol Ornithological Club (BOC). Bland (1992) also consulted the original submitted records<sup>1</sup> but mention no sites for any of the records.

## Sources used for records

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. Throughout this publication the report, from whichever year, is referred to as the ABR. Copies of the BNS Proceedings are available online from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. The report only published records of unusual species after receipt of confirmatory notes; a list of the species that require confirmatory notes was included in the 1964 report and each report since 1983

Accepted 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; records that have been assessed by that committee are marked [*BBRC*]<sup>2</sup>.

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).

## Avon Recording area

The county of Avon was created in 1974 but disbanded 21 years later. The current Avon recording area covers the four unitary authorities of Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bath and North East Somerset that replaced the county of Avon.

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<sup>1</sup> The concern here is how carefully the records were vetted, even when published in Bird News

<sup>2</sup> those asterisked mean we hold the original description locally

## The Avon List

By the start of 2018, and the move to IOC taxonomy, the Avon list stood at 345 species, with another two only identified to genus. However, eight of those have not been recorded for at least 100 years and a further six not for at least 50 years.

Not recorded for 100 years	Not recorded for 50 years
Red-breasted Goose (1909)	Black Grouse (1922?)
Baillon's Crake (1840)	Little Crake (1967)
Collared Pratincole (before 1881)	Great Snipe (1950)
Ivory Gull (c1864)	Bridled Tern (1958)
Sooty Tern (1885)	Gyr Falcon (1962)
Pallas's Sandgrouse (1888)	Arctic Warbler (1965)
White's Thrush (1871)	
Two-barred Crossbill (1895)	

Over the last decade an average of 229 species were recorded each year, with a high of 237 in 2011 and a low of 221 in both 2009 and 2015.

## References mentioned

Bland (1992); 'First and last migration dates for summer and selected winter visitors in Avon' by R L Bland in the 1992 Avon Bird Report

Bland (2003); Migration Summary by Richard Bland in the 2003 - 2006 Avon Bird Reports

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'<sup>3</sup>

Hale (1991); an unpublished document of notable records gleaned by S Hale from Avon Bird Reports and the monthly BOC Bird News

Higgins (2017); Trends in Wildfowl numbers on the Severn Estuary by R J Higgins in the 2017 Avon Bird Report

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 Report

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

Rose (2013); 'Waders in Avon, part1' by H E Rose in the 2013 Avon Bird Report

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

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

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 1843<sup>4</sup>

### **Site Abbreviations**

The following site abbreviations have been used.

ASW	Avonmouth Sewage Works
BG	Barrow Gurney Reservoirs
BL	Blagdon Lake
CI-Y	Severn shore and its environs between the western outskirts of Clevedon and the mouth of the R. Yeo (sometimes called Clevedon Bay), including Blake's and other pools and the tidal part of the R. Yeo
CVL	Chew Valley Lake
OPS	Oldbury-on-Severn Nuclear Power Station lagoons and their surrounding areas
PWD	Portbury Wharf and Dock, including Portbury Wharf NR, St George's Wharf with Chapel Pill, the Royal Portbury Dock area and the bank of the R. Avon north of the Avon Bridge
RPD	Royal Portbury Dock
Severnside	Severn shore and its environs, including Pilning Wetlands, between Aust and Chittening Warths inclusive
SGW	St George's Wharf, which is now part of Portbury Wharf
Weston STW	Weston-s-Mare Sewage Treatment Works and its surrounding areas

### **Acknowledgements**

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

Richard Mielcarek  
March 2019

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<sup>4</sup> Available online at the Biodiversity Heritage Library

Records relate to single individuals unless specifically stated.

[*notes*] means the original species account includes some notes on the bird's appearance

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

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

**Brent Goose** *Branta bernicla*

Dark-bellied Brent Goose *B. b. bernicla*

1874 status – rare winter visitor, Avonmouth

1899 status – occurs on the Severn coast in winter

1947 status – winter visitor, recent records suggest occurs regularly in very small numbers. Party of 13 near Avonmouth February 1937

1990 status – winter visitor

2017 status – uncommon coastal passage migrant and winter visitor. Very scarce inland.

Largest count: 115 at Severn Beach on 31st January 2009

Pale-bellied Brent *B. b. hrota* Local rarity

1995 – Northwick Warth on February 12th [2005 and 2009 ABRs][*photo in 1995 ABR*]

2005 – a first-winter at CI-Y from November 14th until December 14th

2006 – two at CI-Y on October 30th and 31st and on November 9th

2007 – New Passage on January 25th, CI-Y on December 30th

2009 – Severn Beach and Chittening Warth on April 8th, 18 at Severn Beach on September 1st

2010 – Severn Beach on March 23rd

2012 – five at Severn Beach on September 11th and 12th, a juvenile at CI-Y from October 10th until 22nd and an adult there on 17th, a first-winter at North Wick on November 18th

2015 – Dowlais Farm on March 26th and Sand Point on April 17th

**Red-breasted Goose** *Branta ruficollis* National rarity

1909 – an adult shot at Oldbury-on-Severn on November 18th<sup>5</sup> [*Davis (1947)*]

**Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

1874 status – rare winter visitor, one shot some years since

1947 status – occasional winter visitor, eight were shot near Bleadon during severe weather in 1916, a party of nine reported from BL in 1935

1956 – one with Whitefronts at CVL from March 4th until 25th

1959 – SGW on June 9th

1990 status – resident, increasing

2017 status – fairly common introduced resident, largely at CVL and BL where numbers increase during the summer moult. Uncommon breeder.

Largest count: 905 at CVL on 30th June 1996

**Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

1947 status – winter visitor, scarce, what seems to be the only record away from Slimbridge is of a party of seven in Ladye Bay in January 1945

1959 – one possibly wild at BL on November 7th, CVL on 8th and BL again on 13th, party of five considered wild at CVL from December 1st and presumed same from early January until third week of February 1960. However of four watched closely three were carrying Wildfowl Trust rings

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<sup>5</sup> Records treated as escapes in 1976, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2011/12, 2014/15, 2015 (3) and 2016

1963 – four with 200 Whitefronts at Sand Bay on January 12th  
1964 – CVL from September 26th until October 20th  
1970 – Woodspring Bay on January 11th, eight at Clevedon from December 26th until 29th  
1990 status – vagrant  
2017 status – uncommon introduced resident; very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant. It is often difficult to establish the origin of many with certainty, although wild birds have probably occurred.

Largest count: 23 at CVL in October 2011

### **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

1874 status – rare winter visitor, Avonmouth  
1899 status – occurs on the Severn coast in winter  
1947 status – scarce winter visitor. Very few authentic records though perhaps more frequent than is supposed  
1954 – two adults and an immature at CVL from March 21st until April 13th  
1956 – one, apparently this species, amongst 14 Whitefronts at Clevedon on February 12th  
1990 status – mostly feral  
2017 status – uncommon introduced resident and former summer moult migrant. Possible rare winter visitor/passage migrant but any wild birds now impossible to detect unless ringed. Our birds belong to the western race *A. a. anser*.

Largest count: 43 at CVL on 16th June 1996

### **Taiga Bean Goose** *Anser fabalis* Local rarity

1990 – ten at BL from February 10th until 25th [*fabalis* per 1996 ABR]  
1998 – one at OPS on March 1st was thought to be *fabalis*

### **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser brachyrhynchus* Local rarity

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 – CVL on February 18th  
1974 – two at CVL on December 9th  
1979 – CVL from November 22nd until February 10th 1980  
<sup>6</sup>1986 – 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

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<sup>6</sup> one at CVL on June 19th and 20th 1985 is listed under Escapes

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

**Tundra Bean Goose**<sup>7</sup> *Anser serrirostris* Local rarity

1993 – Yeo Estuary on December 5th and 6th [*rossicus*<sup>8</sup> per 1996 ABR]

1996 – BL on January 27th relocated to CVL the next day and remained until March 21st having visited BL a few times [*photograph*]

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

2011 – two at CI-Y on November 17th, Weston STW from December 10th until 18th

**White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

European White-fronted Goose *A. a. albifrons*

1899 status – occurs on the Severn coast in winter, this is the most abundant of the four species of geese which visit the district

1947 status – winter visitor, frequently reported from both coastal and inland areas

1990 status – winter visitor in small numbers

2017 status – uncommon and declining winter visitor and passage migrant

Largest count: CVL in 1956 'numbers varying from 200 - 350, third week of Feb to Mar 25th'

Greenland White-fronted Goose *A. a. flavirostris* Local rarity

1964 – CVL on December 21st

1993 – a first-winter at BL on November 6th

2010 – two adults at OPS on October 17th<sup>9</sup>

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

1947 status – resident in a semi feral state though many pairs are entirely wild. Frequent at the docks and reservoirs and not uncommon wherever there are suitable waters

1990 status – resident

2017 status – fairly common resident; most winter just inland from the coast in N. Somerset. Summer moulting flocks occur principally at CVL.

Largest count: 180 at CVL in August 2011

**Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus columbianus*

1947 status – irregular winter visitor, the first dated record is of one shot from a flock of 13 on the coast near Clevedon December 1879. Reported from BL (four on January 12th 1941).

1990 status – winter visitor in small numbers

2017 status – uncommon and declining winter visitor and autumn passage migrant.

Largest count: 141 at CVL on 2nd January 1977

Earliest arrival; 11th October in 1991, two adults at CVL and 2004, three adults at BL

Latest departure; 26th April 1966, one at CVL

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<sup>7</sup> See also Appendix 1 for old records not racially assigned

<sup>8</sup> Before the Bean geese were split into two species the tundra race was ssp *rossicus*

<sup>9</sup> But TBOSG gives site as Littleton



**Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus* Local rarity

*Wheeler (1874) – rare, Avonmouth*

*Davis (1947) – very occasional winter-visitor and evidently less frequent than Bewick's Swan. Recorded at Avonmouth 1901*

1956 – BL from February 9th until April 8th  
1959 – adult at CVL on January 3rd  
1961 – two adults and three juveniles at CVL on January 29th [SBR]  
1962 – 12 at BL on January 14th, four at BL on November 3rd, 20 on 4th, 18 on 11th and 11 on 18th, eight at CVL on November 11th  
1963 – two adults at CVL from March 10th until 24th  
1965 – four at BL on February 7th, two adults at CVL on November 20th  
1968 – four in flight at Clevedon, R Yeo on January 14th  
1969 – two at CVL on December 9th  
1970 – two at CVL on January 13th  
1973 – two at BL on January 18th, an adult at CVL from November 17th until 25th  
1974 – party of eight (three juveniles) at BL on December 7th  
1983 – over the Yeo Estuary on January 2nd, OPS silt lagoon on October 30th, five over Northwick on November 13th, two at Tortworth Lake on December 4th  
1988 – two adults and three juveniles at the Yeo Estuary on December 18th  
1992 – two adults in flooded fields at Stanton Drew on December 20th and 21st  
1995 – four adults and two first-winters flew W over the Yeo Estuary on November 5th  
1997 – an adult at Weston STW and Bleadon Levels from December 13th until 22nd (see 1998 ABR for date correction)  
2000 – an adult flew NE at OPS on December 23rd  
2005 – two at Northwick Warth from January 13th until 16th and two adults at CI-Y on November 19th  
2008 – an adult flew SW at Severn Beach on March 29th, an adult at CVL on October 28th and 29th and a first-winter at CI-Y from November 5th until 7th  
2009 – three adults at CVL on February 21st, three adults around Weston-super-Mare on March 19th, 22nd and 29th, three adults at BG on October 8th  
2010 – two adults flew past OPS and Northwick Warth on October 16th, an adult at CVL from November 14th until 25th  
2011 – an adult at CVL on December 23rd was seen in flight later the same day at BL  
2012 – two adults at CVL on January 19th, three adults at BL on November 18th  
2013 – an adult flew over New Passage on November 3rd, three adults flew past Sand Point on 4th  
2015 – four adults at CVL on November 21st, two adults at Weston STW on December 31st  
2016 – two adults at CVL on November 7th, an adult at BG on 9th  
2017 – an adult at BL on December 5th and three at OPS on 9th

**Egyptian Goose** *Alopochen aegyptiaca*

*1957 – an unringed bird at CVL on April 6th and 20th [1959 ABR]*

*1959 – an unringed bird at CVL on December 20th<sup>10</sup>*

*1984 – three at CVL on May 30th and again on December 31st*

1991 status – introduced, rare.

2017 status – very scarce visitor presumably from the increasing UK feral population, with a significant increase in reports since 2013. Bred at CVL in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
			1					2	1			1	5+	2	11	8	6	12	10

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years, ignoring those assumed to be escapes

<sup>10</sup> Both the 1957 and 1959 records were published in the main systematic list rather than as escapes

**Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

1874 status – not uncommon, banks of Severn, BG

1899 status – resident, breeds in fair numbers near the Severn coast

1947 status – resident, common and well known as a breeding species at Woodspring, along the Severn reaches and elsewhere in coastal areas. Also breeds on Steep Holm and nesting has been reported from Denny Isle. Occasional on inland waters in winter

1990 status – resident, migrating to continent to moult

2017 status – fairly common resident; most migrate to moult. Uncommon inland (except at CVL). Uncommon breeder – has declined in the last five decades.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
141	83	70	154	144	123	162	105	181	163	186	78	163	108	107	187	156	228

Breeding success: Total number of young at all sites this century

Largest count: 1100 at Sand Bay on 18th November 2007 *Higgins (2017)*

**Mandarin Duck** *Aix galericulata*

1974 – a female at CVL on April 1st and 3rd

1978 – a tame female at Victoria Park, Bath on November 19th

1980 – a male at Dyrham Park in January until February 17th, a male at Victoria Park, Bath on March 16th, a male at CVL from November 16th until 30th

1990 status – resident in small numbers, increasing

2017 status – uncommon introduced resident, occasional breeder

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
1	5	13	13	2	5	3	6	22	19	20	42	39	32	45	31	15	54	23	32

Total number of individuals each year

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula*

1947 status – passage migrant in small numbers, occurring chiefly in spring, sometimes remains in summer. Breeding recorded from BL 1910 and 1947 but the notices lack conclusive details. In the last decade has been reported from Kenn Moor (twice) and BL on various occasions. Only two or three autumn records

1990 status – scarce summer visitor

2017 status – scarce spring passage migrant and summer visitor, uncommon autumn passage migrant at CVL and BL, scarce elsewhere. Breeds in some years.

Largest count: 34 at CVL on 2nd September 1978

Earliest arrival; 8th March 1961, a pair at CVL

Latest departure; 13th December 1992, a first-winter male at CVL

A female wintered at CVL and BL in 2011/12

**Blue-winged Teal** *Spatula discors* National rarity

1979 – CVL on 18th November [BBRC] [1980 ABR but with incorrect date]

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]<sup>11</sup>, 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]

<sup>11</sup> See comment in 2013 ABR

**Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata*

1874 status – rare winter visitor, Portishead

1899 status – a few pairs breed on the moors of North Somerset

1947 status – winter visitor to suitable inland waters – usually in moderate but sometimes in considerable numbers. Small parties often occur in coastal areas. A few remain in summer and nesting has been reported on various occasions from BL. Has probably bred on Kenn Moor and perhaps elsewhere

1990 status – autumn and winter visitor, a few summer

2017 status – fairly common, but generally local, winter visitor and autumn passage migrant; usually common at CVL and BL in autumn/early winter. Scarce in summer; has bred at CVL and BL. Based on WeBS counts BL was ranked 11th and CVL 13th in 2016/17, and were classified as of National Importance.

Largest count: 1138 at CVL on 1st January 1961

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera*

1947 status – scarce winter visitor, little known formerly but now reported at intervals in very small numbers. Has been noted at the reservoirs the latest records being those of three at BL April 1942 and a pair April 1946

1990 status – resident and winter visitor

2017 status – fairly common resident, winter visitor and late summer/autumn moult visitor, most numerous in autumn. Uncommon as a breeding species. CVL was ranked the 21st English site based on WeBS counts and classified as of National Importance in 2016/17.

Largest count: 650 at CVL in September 2011

**Wigeon** *Mareca penelope*

1874 status – rare winter visitor, Portishead, Ashton

1899 status – common on the Severn coast in winter

1947 status – winter visitor, occurring commonly on the coast and on suitable inland waters

1990 status – autumn and winter visitor

2017 status – common winter visitor and passage migrant; rare in summer.

Largest count: 7000 between Aust and New Passage on 24th January 1987

**American Wigeon** *Mareca americana* Local rarity

1946 – a male at BL from January 27th until February 5th [July 1946 *British Birds* p219-220]

1976 – two males at the confluence of the Rivers Frome and Avon on the Wilts border on August 30th [1977 *BBRC*]<sup>12</sup>

1977 – an adult male at CVL on April 2nd [BBRC][in addendum]

1978 – an 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

2017 – a male at Littleton Warth on January 2nd [photograph]

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

1874 status – not common, ponds and marshes

1899 status – resident, nests in suitable localities

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<sup>12</sup> This record does not seem to have been published before as an Avon record

1947 status – resident, also an abundant winter visitor. As a breeding bird is common and widely distributed. Often numerous on the coast, at the reservoirs and other suitable haunts

1990 status – resident

2017 status – common and widespread resident, autumn passage migrant and winter visitor. Fairly common breeder (by far our commonest breeding duck). Based on WeBS counts CVL was ranked 25th in National Importance in 2016/17.

Largest count: 2300 at CVL on 2nd October 1966 [SBR]

### **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

1874 status – rare winter visitor, Avonmouth

1899 status – occurs on the Severn coast

1947 status – winter visitor, regular in small numbers on the coast and at suitable inland waters

1990 status – autumn and winter visitor

2017 status – uncommon autumn passage migrant and winter visitor; most occur at CVL in autumn. Winter visitors leave from mid-February to early April with autumn arrivals usually appearing in mid-September.

Largest count: 188 at CVL on 23rd November 1976

### **Teal** *Anas crecca*

1874 status – rare, Clevedon, Portishead

1899 status – occurs commonly on the Severn coast in winter

1947 status – chiefly an abundant winter visitor to the coast and inland waters but a few remain in summer. Has bred at BL

1990 status – autumn and winter visitor

2017 status – common winter visitor and autumn passage migrant to the coast and the reservoirs, present in small numbers elsewhere. A few usually over-summer at CVL.

Largest count: 5600 at CVL on 15th December 1984

### **Green-winged Teal** *Anas carolinensis* Local rarity

*(only treated as a full species by BOU from January 2001, with only males identifiable in the field)*

1949 – BL on December 18th [notes][September 1950 British Birds p303]

1977 – CVL from November 17th [in addendum] until January 26th 1978 [BBRC\*]

1986 – CVL from October 28th until November 13th [BBRC\*]

1989 – CVL from November 26th until December 7th [BBRC\*], again on February 3rd 1990 [BBRC\*] and then from September 29th intermittently until February 23rd 1991 [BBRC\*]. It returned on November 9th until March 7th 1992 and again from September 22nd until December 5th 1992 and then on January 23rd 1993 and again from October 3rd until January 22nd 1994 (visiting BL on January 6th). It reappeared from October 3rd until April 1st 1995 (visiting BG on February 22nd)

1991 – a first-winter at CVL on January 13th, 19th and February 23rd

1997 – a distinctive male at Newton Park Lakes from mid February until March 29th was again present for January 27th until February 14th and then seen at CVL on March 21st and 22nd 1998<sup>13</sup>

2000 – Yeo Estuary on April 8th and CVL from April 8th until 15th

2001 – OPS from January 4th until 13th

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<sup>13</sup> According to the 1998 ABR that was its fifth consecutive winter. It was distinctive in that it showed faint horizontal scapular lines as well as prominent vertical breast stripes.

2002 – a first-winter at PW from January 6th until 19th, BL on December 27th  
 2007 – Axe Estuary on March 2nd, 4th and 11th  
 2010 – Axe Estuary on January 17th, 30th and 31st, OPS on January 27th, CVL on December 17th  
 2012 – CVL on April 17th and 18th with it or another there on 30th and May 1st  
 2013 – Weston STW on December 7th, New Passage from December 27th until 29th  
 2014 – BL on November 9th, New Passage on November 22nd and 23rd  
 2015 – New Passage/Aust from January 1st until February 21st, Axe Estuary on February 5th and 15th until 18th, Severn Beach on April 5th

**Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*

1953 – a male at BL on October 11th

1959 – a female or immature at BL on December 27th

1961 – two males and a female at BL on November 19th and December 19th

1990 status – vagrant

2017 status – scarce visitor, most often in autumn. True status as a continental visitor obscured by feral birds and escapes.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
4	4	1		4	1	3	5		6	5	19	23	25	3	24	7	5	4	14

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

Largest count: 9 at BG on 22nd December 2010

**Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

1874 status – occasional winter visitor, Nailsea

1899 status – occurs yearly on BG

1947 status – winter visitor, common and often abundant on suitable inland waters, occasional in small parties on the coast. A few sometimes remain in summer and nesting was reported from BL 1931 and 1933 but the records lack conclusive details. Breeding proven at BL when a nest and eggs taken early July 1936

1990 status – autumn and winter visitor. Occasionally breeds

2017 status – fairly common winter visitor and autumn passage migrant. Uncommon in summer; scarce breeder at CVL, has bred at BL. Based on WeBS counts CVL was ranked seventh and BL 23rd in 2016/17, and classified as being of National Importance.

Largest counts: CVL in 1977, 3093 mid-month duck count for January [SBR], 'counts or estimates of 610 - 5,000' early in 1977 [ABR]

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* National rarity

1922 – an immature obtained at BL on November 4th [Davis (1947), Palmer and Ballance (1968)]

1929 – a female shot on the R Axe, near Lympsham, February 14th <sup>14</sup> [Davis (1947), Palmer and Ballance (1968), May 1929 British Birds p374]

1923 – what may have been a Ferruginous Duck was seen at Barrow Gurney reservoirs on November 26th<sup>15</sup> [Davis (1947), January 1924 British Birds p188-189]

1955 – a female at CVL on January 2nd

1968 – a 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

<sup>14</sup> Although Lympsham is in Somerset the river forms the county boundary

<sup>15</sup> See also 'The Birds of Barrow Gurney Reservoirs' by A C Leach in the 1934 Proceedings which states 'A Ferruginous Duck was once reported'

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 nested<sup>16</sup>. In 2005 the adult male was at CVL on March 25th, a pair on July 3rd and the adult female from September 6th until 27th [2008 ABR]. In 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 November 4th and also seen at BL in October.

2006 - 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 15th [2010 ABR for additional dates]. 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 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

### **Ring-necked Duck** *Aythya collaris* Local rarity

1971 – an adult male at BL from April 4th until 24th and at CVL on May 2nd and 23rd [SBR][BBRC]. It returned in 1972 when at BL from March 26th until April 15th, at CVL on May 29th and at BL on August 23rd [SBR]. In 1973 it was at BL from March 16th until April 16th and again on June 4th and at CVL from May 9th until 27th and again on June 10th

1976 – an immature male at CVL from December 19th with two adult males there from December 29th [BBRC]. The immature visited BL in early 1977 but then returned to CVL where it was joined by a fourth male from February 6th until 12th, with two remaining until 27th and one until March 27th.

1980 – an immature female at CVL from June 15th until August 9th [BBRC]. A second female at CVL from August 3rd until September 21st was coloured ringed and considered to be an escape [BBRC][drawing]

1985 – a male at CVL from May 18th until June 30th [BBRC][drawing] with what was assumed the same individual at CVL in 1986 from April 26th until 29th, May 22nd until July 1st and August 10th [BBRC] and again at CVL in 1987 from April 25th until May 5th [BBRC]

1988 – two males at New Passage on April 2nd [BBRC]

1989 – a male at CVL on December 8th [BBRC]

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<sup>16</sup> See an article on the possible breeding attempts at CVL in the February 2011 edition of British Birds

1998 – a male at CVL from May 27th until June 13th, a male at BG from November 1st until January 3rd 1999. It was then seen at various local sites until November 10th. It was seen again in 2000 at various sites between February 17th and November 2nd. It returned in 2001 from April 11th and again in 2002 and 2003. In 2004 it was only noted at CVL and BG between June 10th and August 21st. In 2005 it returned on February 27th and was noted mainly at PW and ASW and was noted at various local sites until February 18th 2008.

2001 – a new male probably arrived at BL on July 15th and was subsequently seen at CVL and BG until August 25th

2002 – a second male at CVL from August 4th until September 14th

2003 – a second male at CVL from June 16th until September 21st

2005 – two first-winter males and a female at CVL on November 5th and 6th with the female and one of the males remaining until April 22nd 2006

2008 – a flock of eight (six first-winter males and two females) at CVL on November 9th, with three (two males) the next day and a female on the 11th.

2009 – an adult male was at BL from October 4th until 31st and then at CVL intermittently until December 3rd before being seen at BL again on 12th

2010 – an adult male at CVL from September 13th until December 5th

2011 – an adult male at CVL from May 6th until 9th, an eclipse male at BL between August 17th and 24th and then at CVL until November 4th, a first-winter male at CVL on November 7th, then at BL until 25th and at Weston STW from December 3rd until 12th

2012 – two adult males at PWD on February 27th, an adult male at CVL on October 14th and again from November 1st until 28th

2013 – an adult male at CVL on April 20th and 21st and again from May 13th until 16th

2016 – an adult male at CVL from October 15th visited BL on November 2nd and remained at CVL until February 7th 2017

### **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

1899 status – has occurred on BG

1947 status – known chiefly as a common winter visitor to inland waters. A few remain in summer and breeding has been reliably recorded from BL on various occasions since 1906. A pair nested, unsuccessfully at Litton 1932. A few visited the docks at Cumberland Basin during the severe frosts of January 1940 and February 1947. Exceptional on the coast

1990 status – autumn and winter visitor; small numbers resident

2017 status – common resident, winter visitor and double passage migrant. Now a scarce breeder. Based on WeBS counts CVL was ranked sixth and BL 23rd in 2016/17, both classified as being of National Importance.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
187	27	72	72	42	25	115	16	55	29	41	25+	74+	63	98	50	50	83

Breeding success; number of young each year this century

Largest count: 2475 at CVL in September 2012

### **Scaup** *Aythya marila*

1874 status – rare winter visitor, Portishead

1899 status – has occurred on the Severn coast

1947 status – winter visitor chiefly to the coast. Used to occur in gatherings of several hundred at Weston-super-Mare but now much scarcer. The only recent record from the Severn reaches above Avonmouth is of one-off Severn Beach in April 1938. Fairly frequent at the reservoirs but usually no more than a bird or two.

1990 status – uncommon winter visitor

2017 status – a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor, but has occurred in most months. Most frequent at the reservoirs.

Largest recent count: 24 at CI-Y on 30th Oct 1988

Largest historical count: 200 in Weston Bay on 15th Jan 1908 [1998 ABR]

**Lesser Scaup** *Aythya affinis* Local rarity

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 8th [2011 ABR for date corrections]

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; 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

2017 – an adult male at CVL on November 12th with a different male there from December 8th into 2018

**Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

1899 status – occurred at BG on October 30th 1889

1947 status – rare vagrant the only recorded occurrences are of a female shot at BG winter 1888 and a male on the Severn below Aust Cliff February 1902

1953 – an immature male off Steep Holm on April 26th

1956 – an adult female off Steep Holm on May 6th

1990 status – sporadic visitor

2017 status – scarce winter visitor and scarce/uncommon passage migrant, but may occur in any month.

Descriptions are required for inland records, the only recent records being in 1993, 1988 and 1979.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
5	11	24	45	2	19	13	2	1	2		2		56	7	3	2	2	2	9

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

Largest count: 19 at Sand Pt in late December 1971 although the 1972 ABR describes it as a 'flock of 20' which remained until May 1972

**Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca* Local rarity

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*

1926 – male and female at Barrow Gurney reservoirs, January [Davis (1947)]

1939 – an immature male at BL January 22nd until March 26th

1942 – an immature male at BG from March 29th until April 12th

1956 – five between Yeo Est and Clevedon on February 12th

1963 – an immature male at BL from December 15th until 28th



1964 – an adult male at CVL on October 15th<sup>17</sup>  
 1966 – a male at BL on Jan 29th [SBR]  
 1969 – an adult male off Sand Point on October 26th [1973 ABR]  
 1972 – four in flight past Sand Point on December 27th  
 1976 – a pair close off Chittening on October 31st  
 1977 – to NE past Brean Down on December 17th  
 1980 – a male past Chittening on November 9th, a male off Clevedon on September 28th  
 1983 – a male flew upriver past Severn Beach on November 7th, 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, five immatures at CVL on November 10th  
 1985 – a male at Clevedon seen on November 3rd, 6th, 7th, 17th and December 22nd  
 1987 – seven at BL on January 18th, a pair on Severnside from January 25th until March 20th  
 1993 – a pair off Sand Point on December 19th with a first winter male on January 1st 1994 and the pair from January 8th until 30th 1994  
 1996 – Severn Beach on November 16th [1997 ABR for date correction]  
 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 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  
 2016 – three juveniles (a male and two females) at CVL on November 28th  
 2017 – a female/immature at CI-Y on April 9th

**Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

1899 status – occurs every winter on the Severn coast  
 1947 status – winter visitor, uncommon but has been reported occasionally from Weston-super-Mare and is perhaps more frequent in the Channel and Estuary than records suggest. One was seen on the Avon at Sea Mills April 1937. Occurs in most years at the reservoirs, usually single but party of five at BG September 1945. A male was seen off New Passage July 1937  
 1990 status – annual though sporadic visitor  
 2017 status – uncommon spring, summer and autumn passage migrant; scarce winter visitor; normally a few inland records each year, mainly at CVL.

Largest count: 115 at CVL on 31st October 2002

**Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis* Scarce, recorded in 22 of the last 30 years

1947 status – formerly very scarce and known only from a specimen shot on the coast at Weston-super-Mare December 1890. Now a winter visitor at irregular intervals and has occurred at the reservoirs. Noted at BL either singly or in twos on six occasions while one was reported from Litton November 1928<sup>18</sup>  
 1990 status – uncommon winter visitor  
 2017 status – scarce winter visitor; some at the reservoirs may stay for several months.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
3	3	3	2		2			1			1		1		2	5	1	2	4

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

<sup>17</sup> Although at least one of the three observers no longer feels the identification is safe

<sup>18</sup> See May 1929 British Birds p374

Largest count: eight at CVL from 1st until 28th April 1989

**Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

1874 status – rare winter visitor, near Banwell

1899 status – has occurred on the Severn coast and at BG

1947 status – winter visitor occurring regularly in small numbers at the reservoirs. Scarce elsewhere

1990 status – winter visitor; a few sometimes summer

2017 status – fairly common winter visitor and spring passage migrant; numbers peak in late March and early April. Scarce away from the main reservoirs, and scarce/very scarce in summer.

Largest count: 210 at CVL on 26th March 1999

**Smew** *Mergellus albellus*

1899 status – occurred at Clevedon January 1892

1947 status – winter visitor, regular at the reservoirs in small numbers, most records refer to female or immature birds but adult males not infrequently noted in recent years. An adult male shot at Dyrham in 1855. Very few coastal records but one reported from Clevedon 1892 and another from the Weston-super-Mare area 1927

1990 status – scarce winter visitor

2017 status – scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
8*	11+	5+	9*	8*	2*	2*	5		1	12	1	3	3	1		2/3	1

Number of individuals, or \* maximum count from CVL only, this century

Largest count: 21 at CVL on 11th February 1997

**Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

1874 status – rare winter visitor, Wraxall

1899 status – occurred at Wraxall 1870, and at Bitton January 1891

1947 status – winter visitor. Observations in recent years show that it occurs annually. Recorded in the past from Weston-super-Mare and single birds were obtained at Wraxall 1870, Hinton Blewitt 1880 and Bitton 1891. One was shot at Bleadon 1928 and a few were reported from the R Axe 1929. Has frequently been noted at the reservoirs usually single or in twos but up to five or six on several occasions. One at Avonmouth 1947

1990 status – winter visitor

2017 status – fairly common winter visitor to CVL; now increasingly recorded from other sites, but still uncommon away from CVL. Scarce in the Estuary.

Largest count: 283 at CVL on 3rd February 1996

**Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

1947 status – irregular winter visitor occurring less frequently than Goosander. Also recorded in former years from Weston-super-Mare. Noted at BL on various occasions usually only a bird or two but parties of up to six have been reported. One seen BG April 1936. One recorded as visiting the lake at Hunstrete 1929 and 1941. As with Goosander adult males seldom met with

1990 status – uncommon winter visitor

2017 status – scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Largest count: At least 8, possibly 11, at CVL on 28th December 1968

**Ruddy Duck** *Oxyura jamaicensis*

1960 – three males at BL and four males at CVL for the greater part of the year. Three females or immatures appeared at CVL in December

1961 – noted at BL and CVL in most months with up to eight at CVL and five at BL. Bred at CVL where pair with six or seven ducklings seen on May 18th and June 3rd

1962 – up to six (4 males) at CVL between January and May and pair with fully grown juvenile on June 30th. Five there on November 4th and seven on December 1st. Two males at BL on January 7th and February 3rd with a pair on February 11th

1990 status – autumn and winter visitor, and resident

2017 status – a once common introduced winter visitor at CVL and BL and scarce elsewhere, now very scarce. Continues to be regularly culled by order of Defra, the last recorded local breeding was in 2008.

Largest count: 1064 at CVL on 1st March 1987

**Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*

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.

**Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

1899 status – uncommon, one caught in the streets of Bristol in June 1888 and three shot were shot at Frenchay in August 1888. It also occurred at Portishead 1897

1947 status – resident, uncommon but probably more widespread than is supposed. Scattered pairs have been reported as breeding in various Mendip localities. Bred Stoke Gifford 1935 and 1936 and doubtless on other occasions. Is said by sportsmen to have been obtained at Horton, Dyrham, Frampton Cotterell and Queen Charlton

1990 status – resident. Some are released for sporting purposes

2017 status – locally fairly common breeding resident but large numbers released for ‘sporting’ purposes, particularly in the Marshfield / Cotswold escarpment area. In 2017 several thousand were released.

**Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*

1874 status – generally distributed resident

1899 status – resident, common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident. Some are released for sporting purposes

2017 status – scarce, local and declining breeding resident

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
11	9	11	9	2	6	8	4	6	6	3	4	8	8	1	3	3	

Number of sites each year outside the Marshfield area

**Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

1874 status – rare summer visitor, Stapleton

1899 status – occurred at Knowle in October 1885 and on Bedminster Down in June 1900

1947 status – summer resident in fluctuating numbers. Uncommon and though perhaps often overlooked is evidently scarcer than formerly. Some increase noted since 1942, birds being recorded from various places including Abbots Leigh, Hutton, Patchway, Doynton and Pucklechurch and from such Cotswold areas as Marshfield and Cold Ashton. Breeding reported from Stoke Gifford 1944 while there are earlier records of nesting at Chipping Sodbury, Sidcot and South Stoke. Exceptional in winter

1990 status – summer visitor in small numbers to restricted area

2017 status – scarce summer visitor, and presumed breeder, to the north-east of the area. Rare passage migrant.

Descriptions required for all sight records of non-singing birds away from the Marshfield area, the only such recent records being from 2009, 2008, 2006 and 1991.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
3	4	4	2	16	5	5+	3	5	10	10	14+	4	4	3	2	5	5

Breeding success: Number of singing males each year this century

Earliest arrival; 8th May 1996 at West Littleton Down

**Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*

1874 status – abundant resident, woods and preserves

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common in many parts of the district and abundant where preserved

1990 status – resident. Many are released for sporting purposes

2017 status – fairly common but under recorded. Very large numbers are released for 'sporting' purposes, particularly in the Marshfield Cotswold escarpment area. In 2017 in excess of 10,000 were released.

**Red-throated Diver<sup>19</sup>** *Gavia stellata* Local rarity

*Davis (1947) –irregular winter-visitor but perhaps the most frequent of the divers. Has been noted at the reservoirs, either singly or in pairs at least a dozen times in recent years. One at Weston-super-Mare December 1929*

1937 – BL from mid-March until at least April 4th

1938 – an oiled bird in the harbour at Mardyke, Bristol from January 30th until February 9th when caught and taken to Bristol Zoo where died

1944 – a corpse found in a field by BG on March 9th

1946 – BG on March 5th and 7th

1955 – BL in the first half of February, then found dead

1958 – CVL from March 16th until April 2nd

1961 – one found in a field at Chipping Sodbury on March 15th was released at Pill the next day

1962 – an adult female found dead on Uphill beach on February 17th

1963 – an oiled individual at CVL on March 24th with another found dead on Weston-super-Mare beach on December 27th

1966 – CVL on February 26th

1977 – a probable off Sand Point on December 31st

1979 – SGW from February 2nd until 5th

<sup>19</sup> There are additional records, published as Diver sp., but thought by the observer to be this species for 1996 (2), 2003 (2), 2006, 2011 and 2014

1980 – CVL on March 2nd and April 1st  
 1983 – an oiled bird at CVL from February 19th was caught on 21st but died in care, an adult at CVL from February 25th until March 27th, an adult at CVL from November 13th until 27th  
 1986 – CVL on March 12th  
 1987 – probably a juvenile or first-winter at CVL on January 16th, an oiled individual on R Avon at St Philips on 17th  
 1991 – New Passage on January 5th and 10th, five in winter plumage there on May 6th  
 1992 – a juvenile at Yeo Estuary on October 25th  
 1993 – New Passage on January 15th, a summer plumage adult off Severn Beach on May 6th  
 1995 – one in winter plumage at CVL on March 14th and 15th  
 1996 – an oiled individual at Tucking Mill Lake from January 28th until February 2nd when taken into care [*photograph*]  
 1997 – a summer-plumaged adult at CVL from September 18th until October 12th, Axe Estuary on October 5th [*SBR*][*1998 ABR*]  
 1998 – a first-year at BL on April 25th  
 2000 – an immature at Severn Beach on May 8th  
 2002 – Ladye Bay on January 24th  
 2005 – a juvenile at CVL on November 4th  
 2007 – an oiled bird at CVL from November 24th until 26th, Severnside on December 14th  
 2008 – Ladye Bay on November 9th  
 2009 – CVL from November 25th until December 8th  
 2012 – a series of counts off Sand Point and Anchor Head between December 4th and 30th involving at least eight individuals  
 2013 – Middle Hope on April 6th, a series of counts from Sand Point between November 25th and December 27th involving at least 28 individuals and including a flock of 14 on November 26th  
 2014 – Sand Point on January 11th and 19th, Anchor Head on April 8th  
 2015 – Anchor Head on January 14th and May 9th, a juvenile at CVL from November 9th until December 9th [*photograph*], PWD on November 16th, Severn Beach on November 18th

**Black-throated Diver**<sup>20</sup> *Gavia arctica* Local rarity

1946 – BL from April 1st until at least the 9th [*notes*]  
 1950 – an adult in winter plumage at BL from February 5th until at least March 20th  
 1964 – BG from April 6th until 16th  
 1966 – BL on March 4th  
 1974 – CVL from November 21st until December 8th  
 1975 – BL on March 9th  
 1982 – CVL on January 18th  
 1985 – CVL from November 1st until 9th  
 1986 – two at CVL on January 17th  
 1988 – 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, Severn Beach on November 27th

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<sup>20</sup> There are additional records, published as Diver sp., but thought by the observer to be this species for 1996, 1997, 2000 [*2001 ABR*] and 2013

**Pacific Diver** *Gavia pacifica* National rarity

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

**Great Northern Diver**<sup>21</sup> *Gavia immer* Local rarity

*Wheeler (1874) – winter visitor, very rare, two in Floating Harbour some years since*  
*Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – two were shot some years ago in the floating harbour*  
*Davis (1947) – occasional winter visitor. The first dated records are of one killed at Bath*  
*c1825 and one shot at BG in January 1881. Has been seen at intervals on both BG and BL*  
*since 1916*

1938 – BG from November 24th until December 8th

1939 – BL from January 9th until 22nd

1945 – BL on November 24th

1949 – BL on several dates in April, at BL from November 13th until March 20th 1950 with two on November 20th and January 8th

1956 – CVL on January 10th, BL from December 29th until March 31st 1957

1957 – CVL on November 17th

1958 – BL on January 8th and 12th, CVL on January 19th and February 16th

1960 – BL from January 23rd until March 13th

1962 – CVL on March 3rd and 17th

1963 – CVL on December 7th

1965 – BL from December 4th until 21st [1966 SBR for date extension]

1966 – CVL on December 27th and 30th

1967 – CVL from January 4th until April 17th with three on January 14th [SBR] and two on January 29th, BL on January 30th, CVL on November 18th

1969 – CVL on January 4th [SBR]

1974 – CVL from October 26th until late November with two on November 24th and 28th, three on December 8th and 14th and up to four from December 15th until 19th

1975 – CVL throughout January until April 27th with two on February 15th, March 1st, 8th, 9th and 23rd and from April 3rd until 26th, BL on March 10th, CVL on May 10th

1976 – an adult at CVL on November 3rd and 7th with a heavily oiled bird on 5th and 9th, SGW on November 21st

1977 – an immature at CVL from November 4th with a second from 17th, both (with one visiting BL) until January 22nd 1978, an adult at CVL from November 18th until 27th

1978 – Axe Estuary on January 28th, Sand Bay on December 3rd [1979 ABR errata]

1979 – SGW on February 4th and 5th, an immature at BL from December 2nd until January 23rd 1980, BG from December 6th until 29th

1981 – a first-winter at BL from November 20th until December 6th, CVL on December 6th and 24th

1982 – a first-winter at BG from November 10th until 25th

1983 – a juvenile at CVL from December 3rd until February 4th, Aust Warth on December 14th and then off the mouth of the R Avon on 23rd

1984 – CVL on November 24th

1986 – a first-winter at CVL from November 14th until December 6th

1989 – an adult at Kenn Estuary on November 1st, New Passage on November 4th and December 17th

1993 – a juvenile at BL from January 17th until February 5th

1994 – a juvenile off Sand Point on December 4th

1997 – a juvenile at CVL on November 11th and 12th, another juvenile at CVL on December 14th

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<sup>21</sup> There are additional records, published as Diver sp., but thought by the observer to be this species for 2009 (4), 2013, 2014, 2015 (2)

2000 – an immature at Severn Beach on May 8th, an adult off Anchor Head on October 29th [2001 ABR], two there on December 13th one of which was also seen at OPS  
 2002 – two juveniles at Yeo Estuary on November 23rd, a juvenile at CVL on December 14th and 15th  
 2005 – CVL on January 9th, a juvenile at BG from December 4th until January 20th 2006  
 2006 – Ladye Bay on December 5th, Severnside on 6th, a juvenile on Clevedon boating lake from 14th until 17th, another on Severnside on 25th, Cumberland Basin on 28th  
 2007 – a summer plumaged adult at BG from October 21st until 28th, an adult at CVL from November 27th until December 12th, a juvenile at CVL from December 15th until March 24th 2008  
 2008 – an adult in Weston Bay on October 5th, a juvenile at CVL on October 26th with another from November 9th until 11th and a third on 24th which then moved to BL on 26th and 27th, Severn Beach on November 15th  
 2009 – a juvenile at CVL on November 23rd, a juvenile at BL on December 30th, 31st and January 1st 2010  
 2010 – Severn Beach on November 12th, two at CVL on 12th with one next day  
 2011 – Sand Point on November 27th, a juvenile at CVL on 27th and 28th, RPD on December 9th  
 2012 – Weston-super Mare area between November 20th and 29th when found dead  
 2013 – Cl-Y and then Sand Point on January 1st, a second-calendar year at CVL on April 16th, an adult off Anchor Head on November 3rd, Sand Point on November 20th and 25th, Sand Point on December 21st  
 2014 – a summer plumaged adult at BL on October 19th and 20th, a juvenile at CVL from November 10th until April 17th 2015  
 2015 – Sand Point on November 16th, Severn Beach on 30th, Aust Warth on December 6th  
 2016 – over Portbury village on January 13th  
 2017 – a summer plumaged adult at Severn Beach on October 21st, CVL on November 11th and 18th

**Storm Petrel** *Hydrobates pelagicus*

1874 status – rare, Portishead

1899 status – a living specimen was picked up in Post Office Lane, Small Street in November 1876

1947 status – occurs very occasionally as a storm driven visitor. Records in former years are of one found at Alveston following a violent gale October 1824, and of one picked up in Small Street November 1876. Recent notices include those of birds found at Clevedon 1929 and at Weston-super-Mare 1929, 1935 and 1946

1990 status – storm driven vagrant

2017 status – scarce storm-driven summer/autumn visitor to the Estuary SW of the Severn Crossings; rare in winter.

Descriptions are required for inland records, with records in seven of the last 30 years, the last in 2012.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
7	2	12	2	8		28	27	25	1		9	108	6	10	2	14	12

Annual bird-days this century

**Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa* Scarce, recorded in 24 of the last 30 years

1899 status – a specimen was found dead in the Avon in 1886

1947 status – occurs very occasionally as a storm driven visitor. Twice recorded in the past as having been picked up beneath Clifton Suspension Bridge 1883 and 1886. One stated to have been seen at Aust October 1938

1952 – a huge 'wreck' starting on October 26th<sup>22</sup>

1957 – Severn Beach on September 15th

1977 – New Passage, corpse at Severn Beach, mouth of R Avon off SGW, all on November 13th

1990 status – storm driven vagrant

2017 status – scarce storm-driven visitor to the Estuary SW of the Second Severn Crossing mainly in autumn and winter. Usually in ones or twos but large numbers have occurred in wrecks. Very rare inland.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
5	1	5	1	1		2	2	48	2	1	7	1	2		3		5		8

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

### **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

1899 status – occurred at Weston-super-Mare in 1869 and at Avonmouth in August 1878

1947 status – very scarce visitor. Single birds were obtained at Weston-super-Mare on two occasions prior to 1870 and one is stated to have occurred off Avonmouth August 1878

1948 – a fresh corpse of a male found at Severn Beach on February 1st

1951 – at least three on Steep Holm on April 22nd with one on June 3rd and one between there and Weston on 23rd

1957 – oiled bird found dead at Clevedon on September 14th

1958 – Steep Holm on June 8th

1990 status – storm driven visitor annually

2017 status – uncommon visitor, scarce in winter. Usually storm-driven, but occasionally occurs in calm conditions in mid-summer.

Descriptions are required for inland records, with only seven records in the last 30 years, the last in 2012.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
356	61	130	87	139	16	272	79	62	40	26	112	192	49	31	22	30	27

Annual bird-days this century

### **Cory's Shearwater** *Calonectris borealis* Local rarity

2000 – one off Severn Beach early on November 26th was tracked down the Estuary [article]

2004 – Severnside on January 13th

### **Sooty Shearwater** *Ardenna grisea* Local rarity

1962 – Sand Point on September 17th [1971 ABR]

1971 – one flying upstream off Brean Down on June 19th is presumed to have been in Avon waters [notes]

1974 – Aust for three hours on September 7th

2017 – up-channel off Anchor Head on August 3rd

### **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

1899 status – has occurred at Clevedon and at Ashton. On a stormy day in June 1897 several were seen over the water off Avonmouth

1947 status – normally a very scarce visitor but may occur in the Channel and Estuary more often than is supposed. Several were seen off Avonmouth June 1897 and about 30

<sup>22</sup> See article on page 343 of the 1952 Proceedings



between Weston-super-Mare and Steep Holm July 1928. Storm driven specimens have been found in various inland localities

1990 status – storm driven visitor annually

2017 status – uncommon summer/autumn visitor, usually storm-driven, although large feeding flocks have occurred in calm anti-cyclonic conditions in mid-summer. Seldom recorded NE of the Second Severn Crossing.

Descriptions are required for inland records, with records in seven of the last 30 years, the last in 2017.

Largest count: 1,000 off New Passage during the morning of 6th June 1977

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
269	98	586	1230	1920	40	1600	1216	1680	380	100	1015	2811	1363	69	786	461	514

Annual bird-days this century

**Balearic Shearwater** *Puffinus mauretanicus* Local rarity

1988 – New Passage on September 24th<sup>23</sup> [article]

2017 – Sand Point and then Anchor Head on September 11th

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

1874 status – occasional, on the Avon

1899 status – resident, common, breeds regularly

1947 status – resident, common, breeding wherever there are suitable waters. Visits the reservoirs in considerable numbers in autumn

1990 status - resident

2017 status – fairly common breeding resident, which occurs widely in rhynes and small to medium-sized pools. Flocks peak in late summer at the reservoirs before dispersing. Very scarce in the Estuary.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
29	27	16	13	20	16	24	20	17	13	12	9	23	19	23	8	27	26

Breeding success; number of broods each year this century

Largest count: 180 at CVL on 18th September 2009

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps* National rarity

1963 – BL on December 22nd [notes] [BBRC] [British Birds v58 p305 – 309]

1965 – an adult at CVL from August 17th until October 23rd, returning there in 1966 on May 15th and from July 22nd until November 2nd<sup>24</sup>, returning there again in 1967 from May 14th until October 2nd. In 1968 it was at BL from May 14th until June 5th and at CVL on 4th and 5th July [BBRC]<sup>25</sup>

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena* Local rarity

1914 – shot at BL in December Davis (1947)

1937 – BG on February 21st

1947 – BL from February 10th until 16th, R Avon, Saltford on February 23rd and March 9th

1948 – BL on April 25th

<sup>23</sup> Article in 1988 ABR incorrectly gives the date as 12th

<sup>24</sup> Article in British Birds (60:295-299)

<sup>25</sup> The 1968 BBRC report suggests that only one bird was involved over all five years

1956 – CVL on March 18th  
 1961 – CVL on April 5th  
 1965 – CVL on August 4th  
 1966 – CVL on March 27th  
 1968 – an adult at CVL on August 24th  
 1972 – CVL on March 28th  
 1979 – CVL from February 17th until March 4th, BG from February 21st until March 31st, BL on February 23rd joined by a second on 25th, until April 10th with one until 26th, CVL on October 6th and November 23rd  
 1981 – a juvenile at BG on September 22nd and one at CVL from December 28th until January 1st 1982  
 1982 – a second bird at CVL from January 1st until 7th, with one there from 30th until April 20th  
 1983 – an adult at CVL from December 23rd until January 15th 1984  
 1985 – BG on February 16th  
 1986 – CVL on March 22nd, a juvenile at CVL on September 1st  
 1988 – a juvenile at CVL from October 30th until November 20th  
 1990 – an adult at CVL on April 28th  
 1991 – a first-winter at CVL from November 9th until 30th then moved to BL from December 1st until 29th  
 1992 – an adult at CVL intermittently between April 17th and August 25th then moved to BL until December 20th when it returned to CVL until April 2nd 1993, a juvenile at CVL on September 12th and 13th then moved to BL where it remained until November 22nd  
 1994 – Woodspring Bay on February 2nd  
 1995 – BG from April 8th until 30th, a first-winter at CVL on November 12th  
 2002 – a first-winter at CVL from November 23rd until December 21st  
 2004 – CVL from November 1st until 10th  
 2006 – CVL on December 7th  
 2010 – on the River Avon at Sea Mills on November 28th  
 2012 – an adult at CVL on September 7th and 8th

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

1899 status – occurred at BG in April 1897

1947 status – resident, known as a breeding species chiefly from BL where several pairs have nested almost annually since 1907 (12 pairs reported 1931). Has also bred at Litton frequently since 1925, at BG, Chew Magna, and at Tortworth Court Lake 1934-1936. Common on the larger reservoirs at all seasons but most plentiful in spring and autumn. Occasional elsewhere. Some birds in summer are evidently non-breeders

1990 status – resident and autumn and winter visitor

2017 status – uncommon and highly localised breeding resident, but occurs commonly at the reservoirs, particularly during the autumn moult/passage. Scarce elsewhere, including the Estuary.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
36	24	5	2	6		20	38	20	8	1	0	0	7	27	11	0	1

Breeding success; broods at CVL each year this century

Largest count: 690 at CVL in both October 2000 and August 2008

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus* Scarce, recorded in 22 of the last 30 years

1899 status – occurred at BG in 1890

1947 status – irregular winter visitor to the reservoirs occurring less frequently than Black-necked Grebe. The only notices for former years are of one at BG 1885 and 1890. Single birds, sometimes two or three, reliably reported on various occasions from BG and BL 1924-1947. One or two spring records of birds in breeding plumage

1991 status – uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant

2017 status – scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Almost always at freshwater sites and rare in the Estuary.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
1	1	3			1		1		2	1		3	1	2	3	1	1	3	1

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

### **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

1947 status – winter visitor, little known formerly but has occurred regularly at the reservoirs since 1930. Reported chiefly from BG where first observed 1924 and where it has appeared most years since. Also recorded frequently from BL 1938-1946. Sometimes seen well into spring and has been noted in summer

1990 status – annual vagrant

2017 status – scarce passage migrant; wintered for the first time in 1998/99 and becoming increasingly frequent in the winter. Almost always at freshwater sites and rare in the Estuary. Has bred.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
12	9+	7	25	11	5	9	6	14	9	10	8	9	11	8	6	6	16	16	10

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

### **Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* National rarity

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

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

### **White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia* Local rarity

<sup>26</sup>1971 – three ringed juveniles of Danish origin<sup>27</sup> 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 – Paulton on August 10th [BBRC\*] [SBR]<sup>28</sup>

1993 – three over Knowle on April 27th

<sup>29</sup>2000 – CVL on May 28th

2005 – Weston STW on July 23rd

2006 – Bleadon Level from March 25th until 28th

2010 – two over Northwick Warth on September 12th

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

2015 – New Passage on April 21st

### **Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus* Local rarity

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

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

<sup>26</sup> '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.

<sup>27</sup> An article in the January 1972 British Birds gives a full account

<sup>28</sup> The 1975 ABR mentions two escaped birds in 1974, at Kingston Seymour in April and at CVL for most of August

<sup>29</sup> Two birds that escaped from Bristol Zoo were seen locally in 1996

2010 – a Spanish ringed immature at Hoar Gout, Severnside from September 17th until 26th [photograph]  
 2013 – 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 with one there 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 – CVL on January 11th  
 2017 – in flight over CVL on May 27th

**Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* Scarce, recorded in 21 of the last 30 years

1946 – reported from the R Axe in May [Davis (1947)]

1954 – an adult at CVL on May 2nd

1969 – CVL from April 13th until 21st

1990 status – rare vagrant

2017 status – scarce visitor.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
2		6	1	1	2	1		1	1	1	4	2	10		2	2	2	6	7

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

**Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

1874 status – rare summer visitor, sometimes resident, near Clevedon and Portishead

1899 status – occurs nearly every winter. At Hambrook July 1891, Portishead December 29th 1891, Clevedon 1892, Novers 1892, Ashley Down January 1900

1947 status – scarce winter visitor though not infrequent during severe frosts. Among old records are those of birds at Hambrook, Ashley Down, Portishead, Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare. Reported in recent years from various localities including Bleadon 1925, Hallen 1931, Nailsea 1933, 1945 and 1947 and BL 1947

1993 status – very scarce autumn/winter visitor

2017 status – scarce winter visitor; mainly to CVL. Bred in 1997, and now occasionally recorded in the summer months.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
	7	2	6	5	3	3	3	3	1	3	6	11	10	9	4	8	3	5	4

Number of individuals for each of the last 20 years

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus* National rarity

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)]

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – obtained at Weston-super-Mare in October 1865

1912 – caught by a dog between Puxton and Banwell on May 20th now in the Exeter Museum [Davis (1947), Palmer and Ballance (1968), British Birds September 1912 p123]

1916 – seen at Ubley, winter, 1916-17<sup>30</sup> [Davis (1947)]

1958 – an immature on R Avon, Keynsham on September 28th [BBRC][1959 ABR]

1993 – a male seen and heard at CVL on June 23rd [BBRC]

<sup>30</sup> November and December 1916 per Palmer and Ballance (1968)

**Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax* Local rarity

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\*]<sup>31</sup>  
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 10th<sup>32</sup>

**Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides* National rarity

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

**Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus ibis* Local rarity

[1963 – one, unringed, feeding in orchard at Portbury from October 29th until November 15th] [BBRC\* but as an escape<sup>33</sup>]  
1993 – one in summer plumage at Littleton Brick Pits from April 24th until 27th [BBRC\*]<sup>34</sup>  
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], CVL from December 27th until January 3rd 2010 [photograph in 2010 ABR]  
2010 – 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 until March 11th 2017  
2017 – an influx with at least 16 birds involved. Records from CVL (up to 11), Stanton Drew, Sandford, Backwell Lake, Northwick Warth. One at CVL remained into 2018

**Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

1874 status – not uncommon, banks of Severn, occasionally on Avon, Leigh, Abbot's Pond  
1899 status – resident, fairly common  
1947 status – resident, frequent on the coast and at inland waters and not uncommon in most lowland areas. Continues to occupy the well-known breeding sites at Brockley and Banwell and since 1935 a few pairs have bred annually at Uphill. Small colony re-established in Warleigh Woods Claverton 1944 after a lapse of about twenty years. Odd pairs recorded as nesting near Winscombe 1919 and Uphill 1923  
1990 status – resident  
2017 status – fairly common resident; uncommon as a breeding species.

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<sup>31</sup> See article in Bristol Ornithology 5

<sup>32</sup> 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

<sup>33</sup> 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

<sup>34</sup> An eastern race bird was around CVL from July 17th 1994 until May 1st 1995 and again on July 16th. Another was there on July 7th 1997 [2016 ABR]

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
112	118	116	126	106	104	108	113	133	128	102	105	97	84	98	102	118	72

Breeding success: Number of occupied nests this century

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* Local rarity

- <sup>35</sup>1963 – an immature at BL from May 12th until 17th [BBRC\*]
- 1970 – an immature at CVL from April 20th until May 3rd [BBRC\*] [notes]
- 1975 – CVL on September 28th [BBRC\*]
- 1977 – in flight at CVL on April 23rd, Gordano Valley on September 29th [in addendum]. 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
- 2017 – an adult at PWD from April 25th until May 10th [photograph]

**Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*

- 2002 – one seen from Flat Holm on September 22nd flew into Weston Bay [BBRC][2006 ABR]
- 2003 – 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 – BL on December 31st [2012 ABR]
- 2011 – 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
- 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
- 2017 – impossible to estimate the numbers recorded but a maximum flock of 37 at CVL

2017 status – local records have increased rapidly in recent years since the first in 2002, partly linked to a national increase but also as a result of regular breeding in Somerset.

The table below shows the rapid increase in numbers since the first in 2002. As recently as 2014 the maximum 'flock' was two. Recently it has not been easy to calculate the total number of individuals present in a year, in 2017 this was thought that it might be as high as 65, so we have tabulated the maximum single count for each year in question. It now seems pointless asking observers to submit descriptions and so this species has been removed from the 'unusual species' list.

2002	03	06	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	7	26	37

Maximum single count each year

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*

- 1965 – Axe Estuary on May 22nd [Palmer & Balance (1968)][BBRC]

<sup>35</sup> 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 ABR say the Blagdon record is the first for Somerset.

1968 – Axe Estuary on August 28th [BBRC]  
 1989 – near Kingston Seymour on August 14th and in Yeo Estuary area until 22nd [BBRC]  
 1990 – a juvenile at CVL from October 11th until 21st [BBRC]  
 1992 – two at Axe Estuary from January 7th until 11th, a juvenile at CVL on August 9th

1993 status – dramatic increase in numbers since 1992  
 2017 status – uncommon resident, and scarce visitor mainly from late summer to winter. In line with the national trend, numbers have increased dramatically during the last two decades. Breeding has occurred since 2014.

Largest count: 68 roosting by Kingston Seymour STW on 27th January 2013

**Gannet** *Morus bassanus*

1899 status – a party of four or five was seen on Denny Isle on September 3rd 1893  
 1947 status – normally a very occasional visitor to the Channel and Estuary but storm driven or washed up birds not infrequently reported from the coast. A party of four or five was seen on Denny Isle September 1893 and 12 were noted off Weston-super-Mare July 1924. Storm driven examples have been found inland at Wotton-under-Edge, Old Sodbury and Radstock  
 1990 status – storm driven vagrant  
 2017 status – uncommon storm-driven visitor, mainly in spring and summer. Rare inland.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
20	19	134+	102	152	46	570	195	172	57	267	240	134	271	57	137	53	60

Annual bird-days this century

**Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis* Scarce, recorded in 24 of the last 30 years

1874 status – occasional, Weston-super-Mare  
 1899 status – one seen at Shirehampton some years ago  
 1947 status – very occasional visitor usually in autumn or winter. An old notice of one at Shirehampton lacks essential details and the same applies to that of a party of three at Steep Holm May 1919. What seem to be the only definite records are of single birds at BL c1913 and September 1923, Winscombe November 1916, on the Avon at Bath September 1918 and Chewton Mendip September 1923  
 1990 status – uncommon vagrant  
 2017 status – scarce visitor, mainly in autumn and winter (rare inland); sometimes storm-driven.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
5		6	1	2	1	3		3	1	5	2	3	6	3	1	3	4	37	2

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

**Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

1874 status – occasional, Weston-super-Mare  
 1899 status – in 1896 observed sitting on the tower of St Mary, Redcliffe and was photographed  
 1947 status – resident, breeds only on Steep Holm, a colony of some 15 to 20 pairs. Nesting first proved 1934 though the birds were probably breeding there earlier. Not uncommon on the coast often occurring as far up the Severn as Slimbridge. Frequent at the reservoirs, usually singly but sometimes in small parties  
 1990 status – resident  
 2017 status – fairly common resident and winter visitor, especially to the main reservoirs; breeds in small numbers on Steep Holm. Based on WeBS counts CVL was ranked 28th in importance in 2016/17. Two races occur: *P. c. carbo* – previously dominated all records

and probably still accounts for all breeders. *P.c. sinensis* - now fairly common amongst non-breeders.

Largest count: 540 at CVL in October 2014

### **Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus*

1947 status – occasional visitor in spring or autumn. One was shot at Tortworth Court Lake sometime prior to 1860 and another was taken alive in the Channel 1887. Records in recent years are from BL September 1914 and 1938 and May 1936 and 1946

1990 status – vagrant on passage

2017 status – scarce passage migrant; most records are from the reservoirs.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
14	7	4	3	4	10	6	12	13	14	13	13	25	59	41	36	29	31
Annual bird-days this century																	

Earliest arrival; 20th March 2014 over Westbury-on-Trym

Latest departure; 26th October 1994, a juvenile at CVL, present since 11th

### **Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* Local rarity

*Wheeler (1874) – two at Leigh, no record of date*

before 1890 – Leigh Woods [*Palmer and Ballance (1968)*]

1917 - a female was obtained in Ashton Park, in June or earlier and held in the City Museum [*Davis (1947)*]

*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.*

1970 – CVL on May 22nd, [*notes*][*SBR and 1971 ABR*]

1981 – to SW past Battery Point, Portishead on May 17th, to W over Hursley Hill, Whitchurch on September 4th

1985 – over Ashton on May 31st

1991 – flew west across the Severn estuary from New Passage on May 26th

1994 – over Bishopston on June 13th, a juvenile over Sand Point on October 1st

1995 – Weston Moor in Gordano Valley on May 5th, near Winford on May 31st

1997 – 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, over Nailsea on September 29th

2008 – at CI-Y on September 15th, a juvenile over Trooper's Hill on 16th, at North Stoke on 18th

2010 – over CVL on June 1st, 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*]

2017 – Walton Bay on September 11th

### **Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*

1874 status – summer visitor generally distributed, frequent occurrence, breeds at Leigh and Henbury, becoming scarce from continual destruction

1899 status – resident, fairly common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident



2017 status – fairly common breeding resident, possibly also an uncommon passage migrant.

**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis* Scarce, recorded in 23 of the last 30 years

1964 – CVL on December 6th

1965 – CVL on September 27th and October 2nd

1967 – near Litton on October 6th<sup>36</sup>

1990 status – rare vagrant, possibly rare resident. Escaped birds with jesses sometimes seen

2017 status – very scarce visitor and resident.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
2	4	5	1	2	1			1		2	1		1	1	5	2		1	2

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

**Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*

1947 status – evidently no more now than a very scarce visitor. The only record for the present century is of a bird, most probably a Marsh Harrier, at Combe Down July-August 1931

1954 – a juvenile at CVL from August 16th until at least 31st, a different female or immature at CVL on September 19th

1960 – female or immature at CVL on October 22nd

1990 status – uncommon vagrant

2017 status – uncommon visitor and passage migrant, has wintered at CVL

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
8	7	4	15	2	11	8	6	29	52	14	28	19	26	35	16	34	77

Annual bird-days this century

**Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus* Scarce, recorded in 29 of the last 30 years

1874 status – rare, has occurred some years since

1947 status – very occasional winter visitor but perhaps more frequent than is supposed. Reliably reported from the Mendip area twice in recent years – a male at Burrington Combe December 1934 and a female at Rowberrow February 1945

1953 – three harriers, two males and a female, almost certainly this species, on Kenn Moor on May 1st and 2nd

1956 – a female or immature at CVL on February 21st, 25th and 26th

1990 status – uncommon vagrant, 63 individuals in the 20 years 1971 to 1990

2017 status – scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly to the coast.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017	
1	2	1	1	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	1	11	6	2	2	2	1	1	2

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

**Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus* National rarity

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]

<sup>36</sup> The 1968 ABR include the following caveat, ‘Since 1964, occasional definite or possible sightings of Goshawks have come from the area between Mendip and the coast; in considering these, it must be noted that several Goshawks are kept and flown locally, and escapes have occurred.’

**Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus* Local rarity

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 - an immature at CVL on August 4th

1968 - a 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, 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 CI-Y on May 12th

2004 - a male on Wavering Down crossed briefly into Avon on May 10th<sup>37</sup>

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, Northwick Warth on May 15th

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

1874 status - rare one shot some years since

1899 status - occurred at Chewton and at Wraxall August 1988

1947 status - long extinct as a resident and now a very rare vagrant. Among various reports during the latter half of the last century are those of one shot at Cleeve Wood 1888 and another trapped at Chewton Keynsham August 1890. Latest record is of one noted on five occasions in N Somerset, on the hilly country between Flax Bourton and Wrington December 1913

1957 - Tockington on March 3rd

1967 - near Hunstrete on November 1st

1978 - Clevedon on December 31st

1990 status - rare vagrant

2017 status - uncommon passage migrant and increasingly frequent visitor.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
5	1	4	6	3	17	11	24	31	62	70	54	90	108	135	272	241	238

Annual bird-days this century

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans* Local rarity

1983 - Weston-in-Gordano on August 8th [*BBRC\**]

1994 - Walton-in-Gordano on May 14th [*BBRC\**]

2010 - Severn Beach on March 18th<sup>38</sup>

**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* Local rarity

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

1861 - obtained at Weston-super-Mare in February [*Davis (1947), Zoologist 1861 p7380 and 7381*]

1871 - an immature male shot at Doddington Park in late December [*Davis (1947), Zoologist 1872 p2991*]

<sup>37</sup> ABR gives date, incorrectly, as 8th

<sup>38</sup> See note in ABR about subspecific identity of this individual

1919 – probably this species reported from Steep Holm on March 9th [Davis (1947), January 1920 British Birds p219]

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

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

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

### **Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo lagopus* Local rarity

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 1950<sup>39</sup>

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

1974 – CVL on November 9th [SBR]

### **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

1874 status – rare, two shot at Leigh

1947 status – resident, although uncommon and local has much increased during the present century. Now occurs over a considerable part of N Somerset and breeds, perhaps more frequently than is supposed, in the Mendip area. Has recently been reported from various localities in S Glos, including Clifton, Henbury, Stoke Gifford, Dyrham, Rangeworthy and Wootton-under-Edge

1990 status – resident, increasing after decline in 1950s

2017 status – fairly common breeding resident, possibly also an uncommon passage migrant, the population has steadily increased since the late 1980s, now widespread and regularly seen over suburban areas.

### **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

1874 status – occasional, Ashton, Stapleton

1899 status – resident, not uncommon in suitable localities, more abundant in winter

1947 status – chiefly a winter visitor occurring not uncommonly in suitable habitats. Scarce as a breeding bird though perhaps overlooked. Has been recorded as nesting at BL

1990 status – scarce winter visitor and scarce resident.

2017 status – uncommon winter visitor, scarce in summer, and very scarce as a breeding species.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
12	15	21	18	14	16	24	23	23	20	18	24	27	22	21	18	29	22

Number of sites reported from each year this century

### **Corncrake** *Crex crex* Local rarity

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.

<sup>39</sup> Rose (2000) mentions a 1909 record that I cannot trace

*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, 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, 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. shot at Dyrham in the autumn
- 1948 - two calling birds in the Saltford area from early June until first week of July, 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 - frequently heard at Tickenham in May and June, birds in corn crops at Little Stoke on August 16th and 31st, at Dyrham on August 31st
- 1951 - frequently heard at Abbots Leigh in May, in corn crop at Little Stoke in early September, 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, both ends of BL on June 5th, dead at Patchway on October 15th
- 1955 - caught in market garden in Patchway on April 11th, calling at Saltford on May 12th, seen in Long Ashton on May 19th, remains found on tideline near Pill on May 23rd
- 1956 - calling at Saltford on May 25th, flushed at Wrington on September 1st
- 1957 - flushed at Long Ashton on April 25th, one calling at Compton Martin from June 9th was killed by mower on 26<sup>th</sup>
- 1961 - a slightly injured bird on roadside in Clapton-in-Gordano on October 5th
- 1962 - two near Butcombe on May 10th, Sand Point on May 13th, present in Saltford area from June until August, calling at Bitton on September 1st
- 1963 - heard at Saltford on several dates in June
- 1964 - 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 - 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 - heard at Marshfield on June 21st
- 1990 - beside the B3128 at Wraxall Hill on June 28th
- 2002 - remains found of a Peregrine kill at St John's church, Bath on October 4th [2008 ABR]
- 2003 - calling at BL on May 27th
- 2011 - calling at Chipping Sodbury common on July 31st

**Little Crane** *Porzana parva* National rarity

- 1961 - CVL on November 5th [BBRC] [notes]
- 1967 - CVL on May 10th [BBRC][notes]

**Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla* National rarity

1840 – a female killed at Weston-super-Mare in September<sup>40</sup> [Davis (1947)]

**Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana* Local rarity

Wheeler (1874) – rare, Ashton and Stapleton

*Birds of the Bristol District* (1899) – used to be common at Weston-super-Mare and is still often shot there

Davis (1947) – not reported in recent years but perhaps an overlooked summer-resident or passage-migrant. Appears to have been not uncommon formerly in the Weston-super-Mare area where five were killed during the latter half of December 1890 and remarks by the Rev M A Mathew on young broods in August suggest used to occur fairly frequently as a breeding species there. Obtained on passage at Bath October 1881, Patchway October 1891 and Nailsea September 1904

1961 – CVL on October 28th [notes], probably present on 13th and seen again on November 5th

1963 – an immature at CVL from August 18th until 24th with juveniles ringed on 24th and 25th, an adult there from 24th until 31st with at least three birds present at the end of August. One at CVL on October 10th

1964 – CVL on August 3rd, 9th and December 31st

1965 – CVL on July 22nd [SBR], July 25th, August 17th and 22nd, October 24th, November 7th [SBR], 14th and December 4th

1967 – CVL on September 13th and Clevedon on December 21st

1968 – CVL on April 15th and July 17th with two from August 17th until 19th [SBR]

1969 – CVL on September 5th

1971 – CVL from September 4th until 16th, October 3rd and November 3rd [SBR]

1972 – CVL on February 17th

1973 – CVL on September 26th and October 27th

1975 – CVL on July 17th

1977 – CVL on August 29th with probably the same trapped on September 13th

1983 – three at CVL on September 4th (of which two were trapped and ringed) with two until 7th and one until 20th

1984 – CVL from November 17th until 20th

1985 – calling at the Kenn Estuary on December 18th

1986 – CVL on October 28th<sup>41</sup>

1987 – CVL on September 27th and 28th<sup>42</sup>

1988 – CVL on September 10th

1989 – calling at CVL on June 10th

1990 – Wains Hill on November 11th and December 30th

1995 – CVL on August 13th, 16th, 17th and 18th (two), 19th, 20th and 22nd (two), 21st (three), CVL from September 5th until 22nd with two between 7th and 15th

1996 – BL on September 12th with two there from 13th until 15th

1998 – CVL from August 27th until September 3rd, three possibly four there in October between 11th and 23rd, another from November 21st until 25th

2000 – CVL on September 6th

2001 – an exhausted adult found in Portishead in early May was taken into care before being released at CVL on 12th, a juvenile at CVL from August 3rd until 23rd

2003 – CVL from August 17th until September 4th and a juvenile from September 10th until 27th

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<sup>40</sup> *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

<sup>41</sup> Also, a Crake sp flushed from spartina at Kenn Estuary on November 20th

<sup>42</sup> Also, a Crake sp at BL on March 14th and 15th

2004 – CVL from August 23rd until September 24th  
 2005 – a juvenile at CVL on September 3rd  
 2007 – CVL on August 8th  
 2008 – CVL on October 14th  
 2009 – CVL on September 26th and again on October 1st  
 2012 – PWD from August 30th until September 3rd  
 2013 – two at CVL on August 14th and 15th with one until 24th, an adult at CVL from August 28th until September 9th with two on August 28th and September 4th  
 2014 – an adult at Weston STW on July 19th and 20th, a juvenile/first-winter trapped at CVL on September 25th [photograph]  
 2016 – CVL on September 26th and another there from October 9th until 26th

**Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

1874 status – common, Ashton, Stapleton, Leigh, Avonmouth, Henbury  
 1899 status – resident, common  
 1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed  
 1990 status – resident  
 2017 status – fairly common breeding resident. Seen in large numbers at the reservoirs in late summer/autumn.

Largest count: 245 at CVL in September 2005

**Coot** *Fulica atra*

1874 status – rare, near Clevedon  
 1899 status – resident, not uncommon in certain localities  
 1947 status – resident, breeds at most suitable waters. Also an abundant winter visitor occurring regularly in large numbers at the reservoirs. Occasional on the coast during hard frosts  
 1990 status – autumn and winter visitor, and resident  
 2017 status – fairly common and widespread breeding resident, abundant in the autumn at the main reservoirs.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
100	53	50	41	n/c	4	34	41	28	27	22	11	26	40	47	20	n/c	17

Breeding success: broods at CVL this century

Largest counts: '3,000 to 4,000' at CVL on 13th and 21st February 1960 [1960 ABR], 5000 at CVL in 1960 [2002 ABR], 3715 at CVL on 12th October 2002

**Crane** *Grus grus* Local rarity, if considered to be a wild individual  
*(birds considered to be of wild origin)*

1971 – flying north past Clevedon on March 31st [BBRC\*]  
 1993 – two *Grus sp* 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 11th<sup>43</sup>  
 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

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<sup>43</sup> 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.

2017 status – Between 2010 and 2015 a total of 93 individuals from German stock were hand reared at Slimbridge and released on the Somerset Levels as part of the Great Crane Project (GCP). Flocks regularly wander from the release site and breeding occurred in 2015 and 2016. Most of the 'wild bred' young are unringed, so it is not possible to distinguish GCP birds from those that have wandered from further afield.

**Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedicanus* Local rarity

*Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – has occurred at Avonmouth and on the Mendips*

1925 – two Woodspring Bay on December 3rd [*Davis (1935)*]

*Davis (1947) – 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)'*

1949 – Sandford Hill on April 2nd

1959 – CVL on October 3rd [*Palmer and Ballance (1968)*]

1968 – flushed from a stony field near edge of Weston-super-Mare airfield on September 11th and seen again in the evening

1988 – Yeo Estuary on April 30th

1989 – Yeo Estuary on June 18th, Middle Hope on September 2nd

1991 – at dawn on April 28th at the Kenn Estuary

1999 – New Passage on July 27th

2006 – Northwick Warth on April 20th

2008 – Cl-Y on April 6th

2011 – Cl-Y on April 10th

2013 – Northwick Warth on March 23rd, a ringed bird at OPS on 29th [*photograph*]

**Oystercatcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*

1874 status – occasionally, banks of Severn

1899 status – resident, common on the Severn coast, nests on Denny Isle

1947 status – resident on the coast, most birds in summer being evidently non-breeders. Usually met with in small parties. Nesting has been reported from Woodspring, also from Steep Holm and Denny Isle. Scarce inland but odd birds occasionally visit the reservoirs

1990 status – winter visitor, passage migrant, small numbers resident

2017 status – fairly common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce breeder.

Largest count: 217 at Weston Bay on 22nd October 1959

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Local rarity

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

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

1997 – OPS on May 17th [*BBRC*]

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

2017 – a female at Pilning Wetlands from May 7th until 9th

**Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Very rare vagrant, one was killed at Thornbury sometime prior to 1900 [*Davis (1947)*]

1966 – Sand Bay on December 29th and 30th

1969 – five at Sand Bay on April 8th, four at Clevedon on May 24th and 25th

1970 – Sand Bay on August 5th

1990 status – vagrant. Seen increasingly often

2017 status – uncommon winter visitor/passage migrant. Rare inland.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
6	11	12	9	6	14	4	7	15	8	15	22	9	17	47	13	52	46

Annual bird-days this century

Largest count: 12 at Cl-Y on 26th February 2011

### **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*

1874 status – common resident, Leigh, Portishead, Failand

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed but as a breeding bird has decreased in the last few years. Abundant in winter often occurring in very large flocks

1990 status – autumn and winter visitor, and resident

2017 status – fairly common and widespread winter visitor and passage migrant; can become common in some winters. Uncommon and declining breeder/summer visitor.

Largest counts:, 6000 at CVL in January 1976 [CVRS report 76 – 78], 4300 at Keynsham in February 1985

### **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

1874 status – occasionally, banks of river

1899 status – a frequent visitor in spring and autumn

1947 status – winter visitor, regular inland and fairly frequent in coastal areas often appearing in considerable numbers at Marksbury and Lansdown and in other favoured localities. Occasional in small parties at the reservoirs. Sometimes met with well into spring. Both the southern (*P. a. apricaria*) and northern forms (*P. a. altifrons*) no doubt occur but the two races not separable in winter

1990 status – winter visitor

2017 status – fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Largest count: 2000 at Cl-Y on 24th January 2011

### **American Golden Plover** *Pluvialis dominica* Local rarity

1994 – a 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]

### **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

1874 status – occasionally, Avonmouth

1899 status – occurred at Avonmouth October 1889, Weston-super-Mare September

1892, New Passage November 1892

1947 status – winter visitor occurring regularly in small numbers on the coast. Occasionally met with well into spring but the only recent record of birds in full breeding plumage is of three among a party of six or seven at Severn Beach May 1946

1990 status – passage migrant and winter visitor

2017 status – uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Scarce inland.

Largest count: 190 at Cl-Y on 3rd October 1993 with c200 there in February 1994



**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

1874 status – common resident, banks of Avon and Severn

1899 status – resident, common on the Severn coast

1947 status – chiefly a passage migrant but may be met with on the coast in all months. Most abundant in late summer and autumn when numbers up to 500 sometimes reported from the Severn Beach area. Small parties not infrequent at the reservoirs on both passages. Used to breed at Severn Beach where nest and eggs found and young seen May 1912 and three nests and eggs located May 1913

1990 status – passage migrant, winter visitor, a few breed

2017 status – uncommon winter visitor, and fairly common passage migrant (most numerous in autumn). Small numbers occur inland on passage. Scarce breeder. Two races: Most belong to the race *hiaticula* breeding in Canada and N. W. Europe. A few of the race *tundra* breeding from N. Scandinavia to Siberia may also occur.

Largest count: 1200 on Severnside in August 1973

Arctic Ringed Plover *C. h. tundrae*

1922 – male obtained at Portishead in August [Davis (1947)]

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

1954 – CVL on May 9th

1956 – BL on April 16th

1958 – CVL on August 7th and 8th

1990 status – passage migrant. A few have bred in recent years

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant/summer visitor. Scarce breeder.

Largest count: 16 at CVL on 2nd August 2011

Earliest arrival; 12th March 2015 at Severn Beach,

Latest departure; 18th October 1976, two at Sea Mills

**Killdeer** *Charadrius vociferous* National rarity

1976 – CVL on January 17th [BBRC] [notes]<sup>44</sup>

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus* Local rarity

1947 – a male at Severn Beach on May 4th and 5th [August 1947 British Birds p254-255]

1949 – a female at Severn Beach on May 10th [January 1950 British Birds p23]

1966 – a male at CVL on April 13th [notes]

1967 – an adult male at CVL on July 28th with another adult on August 29th [notes] [SBR]

1972<sup>45</sup> – adult male at CVL on September 3rd [SBR]

1973 – SGW on August 19th<sup>46</sup>

1974 – a probable female at CVL on August 19th<sup>47</sup> [see addendum at end of Systematic List]

1976 – Axe Estuary on October 9th

1978 – Chittening on August 11th

1980 – a male at Sand Bay on May 5th

1984 – a female at SGW on April 28th, a male at Blackstone Rocks Clevedon on May 3rd

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<sup>44</sup> See finder's account in Bristol Ornithology 12

<sup>45</sup> The 1982 ABR mentions a ringed bird shot 'at Bristol' on August 31st 1972 but this was a misidentification corrected in the 1984 ABR

<sup>46</sup> SBR gives date as 17th

<sup>47</sup> Rose (2013) suggests this, the 1972 and the August 1967 record are now thought to be 'only probable' as well as omitting the July 1967 record, which the observer no longer considers safe.

1993 – 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

**Greater Sand Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultia* National rarity

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

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus* Local rarity

*Wheeler (1874) – rare, Flat Holmes*

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

1869 - one shot on Steep Holm in May and about the same time a small party visited Weston-super-Mare<sup>48</sup> [*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)*]

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

1958 – two at Sand Point on September 5th

1974 – Severn Beach from September 14th until 17th, viewable down to four feet

1978 – SGW on May 21st

1979 – near Woodspring Priory on August 24th, presumed same at Middle Hope on 26th

1981 – Kenn Estuary on August 19th

1982 – a 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

**Upland Sandpiper** *Bartramia longicauda* National rarity

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

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

1874 status – local, occasionally seen, Portishead, Avonmouth

1899 status – an autumn visitor to the Severn coast

1947 status – chiefly known as a spring passage migrant though not infrequently reported in autumn. Regular on the coast in small or moderate numbers and sometimes noted at the reservoirs and elsewhere inland

1990 status – passage migrant

2017 status – passage migrant, fairly common in spring and uncommon in autumn. Scarce in summer, has occurred in winter. All Avon records belong to the nominative subspecies *phaeopus* breeding in Iceland and N. Europe.

Largest count: 250 seen moving upriver very high at Severn Beach on 4th May 1977

Earliest arrival; 26th March 1986 at CVL

Latest departure; 12th December 2015, six at New Passage

One wintered at Aust in January/February 1986 and there are winter records in other years, for example 28th February 2015 at Sand Bay

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<sup>48</sup> 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)’

**Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

1874 status – common, Avonmouth, Portishead

1899 status – common on the Severn coast throughout the year

1947 status – winter visitor chiefly but present in all seasons and has sometimes been found breeding. Common on the coast and not infrequent inland. Nesting reported from the Mendip Hills on several occasions 1912-1925. May have bred in recent years on the low-lying moors near Clevedon but evidence not entirely conclusive

1990 status – winter visitor and passage migrant; formerly bred

2017 status – fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Uncommon in summer and inland. Has bred in the past

Largest count: 1,800 at OPS in March 1987

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

1874 status – occasional winter visitor, Portishead

1899 status – occasionally occurs in winter on the Severn coast

1947 status – passage migrant, visits the coast regularly in spring and autumn and sometimes occurs in winter. Most records are from the Severn Beach area but has also been reported from Weston-super-Mare, Woodspring, Clevedon and Littleton-on-Severn. Very occasional at the reservoirs

1990 status – passage migrant

2017 status – passage migrant in varying numbers; usually uncommon but can occur in large numbers on spring passage. Scarce inland and in winter.

Largest count: 1760 on Severnside on 30th April 2011

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

There are two races in the UK, the nominate *limosa* which breeds in the UK and *islandica*. The nominate was formerly the commoner, Davis (1947) treated all records as relating to this subspecies and makes no mention of *islandica*, and bred on the Somerset Levels but it is now a local rarity. The 1988 ABR says 'most birds seen in Avon are of the Icelandic race *islandica*' but it is unclear when in the 40-year intervening period the change in status occurred or which subspecies the previous records related to.

*L. l. islandica*

1990 status – scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant and fairly common winter visitor, generally more numerous in autumn.

Largest count: 556 at Northwick on 5th December 2016

*L. l. limosa* Local rarity

Davis (1947) states *formerly a scarce visitor but in the last 20 years has been frequently reported from both the coast and reservoirs and now appears to be a regular passage migrant chiefly in autumn. Coastal records include those of single birds or small parties at Weston-super-Mare, Portishead, Aust and Littleton-on-Severn. Among reservoir records are those of 23 at BL September 1934 and four April 1939 and 18 at BG September 1947*

<sup>49</sup>1988 – up to 11 at CVL from June 18th until 30th with three at BG from June 21st until 25th

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<sup>49</sup> Although these were published as *limosa*, current thinking is this ssp can only be identified in juvenile plumage, or as a ringing recovery

<sup>50</sup>1990 – four at CVL on July 14th were probably this subspecies  
2006 – four at CVL on June 22nd  
2007 – CVL on June 21st  
2017 – a juvenile at Pilning Wetlands on August 5th

**Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

1874 status – rare, Avonmouth, Portishead  
1899 status – occurs frequently on the Severn coast in winter  
1947 status – winter visitor to the coast, chiefly August to May but has been reported in all months. Best known from Severn Beach where as many as 150 to 200 have sometimes been counted. The only inland records are of one at BG August 1937 and two there June 1939  
1990 status – winter visitor and passage migrant. A few summer  
2017 status – fairly common winter visitor/passage migrant, scarce in summer and inland.

Largest count: 500 at Chittingen on 9th May 1968 and August 1969 and early Sept 1972

**Knot** *Calidris canutus*

1899 status – occurs frequently in small numbers at Weston-super-Mare  
1947 status – chiefly a passage migrant occurring most frequently in autumn but has been noted on the coast in all seasons. Birds in full breeding dress sometimes met with in spring. Numbers usually small but over 100 twice recorded from Severn Beach. One inland record, one at BG September 1935  
1990 status – passage migrant and vagrant at all seasons  
2017 status – uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant but can occur in larger numbers at times. Scarce inland.

Largest count: c5000 at Weston Bay on 6th January 1963 with similar or more on 28th December

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

1899 status – occurred at Weston-super-Mare in 1864, also at Wrington September 1889  
1947 status – passage migrant chiefly in autumn. Occurs fairly regularly at the reservoirs and not infrequently on the coast. Has also been recorded from Wrington 1888 and Stoke Gifford 1942. Rarely more than two or three together. Once noted on spring passage, one at BL 1938. Three winter records, single birds at Weston-super-Mare January 1864, BL December 1937 and on the R Avon near Sea Mills February 1942  
1990 status – passage migrant  
2017 status – uncommon autumn passage migrant, scarce in winter and on spring passage.

Largest count: 101 at CVL on 13th March 1976

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Calidris falcinellus* National rarity

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]

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<sup>50</sup> Two at CVL on June 21st 1989, although not published, were thought by the observer to be this ssp. One was ringed above the knee, indicative of a continental origin per the observer

**Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** *Calidris acuminata* National rarity

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

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

1899 status – two were obtained at Weston-super-Mare in the autumn of 1893

1947 status – passage migrant in small numbers occurring regularly on the coast in autumn. Very scarce in spring. In recent years has been chiefly reported from Severn Beach but also from Weston-super-Mare and Portishead. The only reservoir records are of one at BL September 1913 and a party of eight or ten at BG September 1923

1990 status – passage migrant in small numbers

2017 status – passage migrant, scarce in spring and uncommon in autumn. Very rare in winter.

Largest count: 56 at RPD in the second half of September 1988

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* Local rarity

1943 – BG from September 12th until 19th

1954 – CVL on August 29th

1959 – CVL on September 15th and 19th

1960 – CVL on September 24th [SBR]

1962 – CVL on September 8th and 9th

1963 – CVL on August 10th

1964 – CVL on July 26th and 27th

1972 – 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<sup>51</sup>

1977 – CVL on September 19th and 23rd and 24th.

1980 – CVL on August 30th and 31st [1981 ABR erratum]

1984 – an adult in summer plumage at OPS on April 29th, CVL from October 17th until 22nd

1987 – CVL on May 20th

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 – winter plumage at Sea Mills on March 15th, 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]

2017 – an adult at Pilning Wetlands from July 19th until 22nd

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

1874 status – rare, near Clevedon

1899 status – occurs frequently on the Severn coast, three specimens were obtained at Oldbury-on-Severn October 1st 1900

1947 status – passage migrant usually in small numbers. Regular on the coast and has been reported from the reservoirs in both spring and autumn. Occasional in winter

1990 status – passage migrant

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant, more common in spring than in autumn. Very scarce in winter and inland.

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<sup>51</sup> Rose (2013) suggests two were possibly present on September 9th

Largest count: c120 on 20th March 1967 at Sand Bay and Weston Bay

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

1874 status – common, banks of Avon and Severn

1899 status – common on the Severn coast throughout the year, often seen on the banks of the Avon

1947 status – winter visitor and passage migrant. The most abundant coastal wader often occurring in very large flocks and may be met with in all months. Both forms, the southern *C. a. schinzii* and the northern *C. a. alpina* occur but practically all wintering birds are no doubt typical *alpina*. Odd birds or small parties visit the reservoirs on both passages.

1990 status – passage migrant and winter visitor. Our most numerous wader

2017 status – common winter visitor and passage migrant, uncommon in summer. Small numbers occur inland on passage. Three races occur: *C. a. alpina* which breeds from N. Scandinavia eastwards occurring mainly in winter, *C. a. schinzii* which breeds in N. W. Europe and Iceland occurring mainly on passage, and *C. a. arctica* which breeds in N. E. Greenland and is very scarce, only recorded in single figure counts between mid-May and early June.

Largest count: 16.500 at CI-Y on 21st January 1989

*C. a. arctica* Local rarity

1993 – five at CI-Y on June 3rd [article in 2010 ABR]

1997 – six at CI-Y on June 1st

2004 – two at CI-Y on June 1st [article in 2010 ABR]

2008 – Severn Beach on May 16th, 20th (two) and June 2nd [article in 2010 ABR]

2010 – two at Severn Beach on May 23rd with four there on 26th [article]

2011 – Severn Beach on May 15th and 22nd, CVL on May 14th, CI-Y on June 2nd [article in 2010 ABR]

2012 – Severnside on May 19th, CI-Y on June 3rd

2013 – New Passage on May 27th

2014 – CI-Y on May 18th, New Passage on 24th

2017 – two at Northwick Warth on May 14th with three there on 15th, CI-Y on 16th

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

1899 status – occurred at Lawrence Weston in November 1888, at New Passage in January and October 1892

1947 status – winter visitor occurring more or less regularly in small numbers. Has occasionally been reported from the Weston-super-Mare area but records from the N Somerset coastline are very few. At Severn Beach however, birds have been noted fairly frequently in recent years usually with Turnstone and Dunlin and in all months November to May. Several records from New Passage

1990 status – uncommon winter visitor

2017 status – scarce extended winter visitor, very rare inland.

Descriptions are required for inland records, with records for three of the last 30 years, the last in 2005.

Largest count: 11 at Severn Beach on 7th April 1978

**Baird's Sandpiper** *Calidris bairdii* National rarity

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

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*

1947 status – passage migrant occurring more or less regularly in autumn and occasionally in spring. Chiefly reported from the coast, usually in very small numbers but party of 15 at Severn Beach September 1943. Recorded from the reservoirs, either singly or in twos on half a dozen occasions 1936 – 1947.

1990 status – passage migrant

2017 status – passage migrant, very scarce in spring and uncommon in autumn. Rare in winter.

Largest count: 46 at CVL from 27th until 30th September 1973 and at BL on 29th September 1996

**White-rumped Sandpiper** *Calidris fuscicollis* National rarity

1978 – two immatures at CVL on October 27th and 28th with one until November 2nd [BBRC\*]<sup>52</sup>

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** *Calidris subruficollis* Local rarity

1973 – BL from September 15th until 21st [BBRC\*][notes]; CVL on October 3rd [BBRC\*] [1975 ABR]

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 – CVL on September 29th and again from October 3rd until 6th [BBRC\*]

1978 – CVL on October 14th and 15th when killed by a Crow [BBRC\*]

1980 – CVL on September 16th [BBRC\*]

1986 – a juvenile at BL from October 5th until 14th

1989 – New Passage on September 30th

1990 – 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 moved to the Somerset side on 7th and both remained until 9th with one until 13th

2003 – a juvenile at Northwick Warth from September 27th until 30th

**Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotos* Local rarity

1935 – BG in from September 28th until October 3rd [Palmer & Balance (1968), November 1935 *British Birds* p183-185]

1964 – BL from August 30th until September 8th

1967 – BG from September 23rd until 28th

1969 – CVL on September 29th

1970 – CVL from September 7th until 13th with two on 11th and 12th, CVL on October 8th, CVL from October 29th until November 8th [SBR]

1973 – two at CVL from September 19th until 30th, CVL on October 13th and 14th

1975 – CVL from September 26th until October 21st with two on September 29th, and a visit to BL on September 30th

1978 – CVL from September 20th until 26th

1979 – Axe Estuary on September 24th and 25th

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<sup>52</sup> See finders account in Bristol Ornithology 14

1980 – two at CVL from September 7th until 21st  
 1982 – ASW from September 11th until 19th, CVL from September 14th until 18th with two from 19th until 29th  
 1984 – CVL on September 15th, BL from October 6th until 10th with a second on 9th and 10th  
 1987 – an adult at CVL on August 21st and 22nd, Yeo Estuary on October 16th  
 1988 – an adult at CVL from August 18th until 20th  
 1989 – OPS on September 17th, CVL from September 17th until 24th  
 1990 – CVL on September 13th, 15th and 16th, a juvenile near the Kenn on 16th  
 1992 – a juvenile at BL on October 10th  
 1998 – Yeo Estuary from September 20th until 27th, a juvenile at Northwick Warth from 21st until 26th [*photograph*]  
 2001 – a juvenile at CVL from October 10th until 23rd  
 2002 – a juvenile at CI-Y from September 13th until 17th  
 2003 – a juvenile at BL from September 19th until 21st, a juvenile at CVL from 19th until October 3rd with two from 23rd until 27th, a juvenile at Weston STW on 21st  
 2004 – Axe Estuary on May 9th [*2005 ABR*], a juvenile at BL from September 16th until 18th  
 2005 – a juvenile at CVL from September 4th until 9th  
 2006 – a juvenile at CI-Y on September 14th, a juvenile on Severnside from September 23rd until 26th with two on 25th, a juvenile at BL from October 1st until 11th  
 2008 – a juvenile at Northwick Warth from September 18th until 23rd, a juvenile at BG from 20th until 27th  
 2011 – juveniles were noted at CVL on various dates between September 2nd and October 15th, it was thought that six different individuals were involved  
 2014 – a juvenile at New Passage from September 21st until 30th [*photograph*]  
 2016 – a juvenile at Northwick Warth on September 11th and 12th, a juvenile at BL from October 6th until 16th

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** *Calidris pusilla* National rarity

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*]

**Long-billed Dowitcher** *Limnodromus scolopaceus* National rarity

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*]<sup>53</sup>  
 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*]

**Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

1874 status – not uncommon, Leigh, Henbury, Durdham Down occasionally  
 1899 status – winter visitor, fairly common  
 1947 status – as winter visitor occurs regularly in suitable areas but numbers are perhaps fewer than formerly. Scarce in summer and evidently very uncommon as breeding species. Has nested in present century on Mendip, also near Clevedon and probably elsewhere  
 1990 status – winter visitor in small numbers  
 2017 status – uncommon winter visitor, almost certainly overlooked. Has bred in the past.

Largest count: 17 at Clapton-in-Gordano on 27th November 1965 [*SBR*]

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<sup>53</sup> See finders account in Bristol Ornithology 13



**Jack Snipe** *Lymnocyptes minimus*

1874 status – occasional winter visitor, in marshy places, Ashton, Clevedon

1899 status – winter visitor, fairly abundant in some years

1947 status – winter visitor to suitable ground but much less abundant than Snipe. Recent notices are mostly from the reservoirs but has also been reported from Tickenham, Stoke Gifford, Dyrham and other localities

1990 status – autumn and winter visitor in small numbers

2017 status – uncommon or scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, probably overlooked.

Largest count: 17 at ASW on 23rd February 2005

**Great Snipe** *Gallinago media* National rarity

*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] [British Birds v45 n1]

**Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*

1874 status – not uncommon, in marshy places, Portishead, Durdham Down, Stapleton

1899 status – fairly common in winter

1947 status – resident but chiefly a common winter visitor to suitable ground. Occurs frequently at the reservoirs. Breeds regularly on low lying moors in the Clevedon, Nailsea and Yatton areas and perhaps occasionally elsewhere.

1990 status – winter visitor and resident in small numbers

2017 status – Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant. Has bred in the past. Two races: *G. g. gallinago* breeding in the palearctic and *G. g. fearoeansis* breeding in the N. Isles and Iceland. Most occurring in Avon belong to the first race, a small but unknown number of the second probably also occur.

Largest count: 350 in the Gordano Valley during a Pheasant shoot on 31st January 2013

**Terek Sandpiper** *Xenus cinereus* National rarity

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

**Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor* National rarity

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

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

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

1980 – a 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** *Phalaropus lobatus* Local rarity

1921 – two seen, with 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 – an adult female at CVL on August 24th [notes]  
 1978 – a male at CVL on May 28th  
 1979 – 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]

**Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius* Scarce, recorded in 25 of the last 30 years

1874 status – rare winter visitor, Clevedon  
 1899 status – several were obtained at Avonmouth in 1896, also occurred at BG in 1886  
 1947 status – irregular visitor in autumn usually occurring singly. Reported in former years from Bath, Weston-super-Mare and BG. Also, from Avonmouth where three obtained September 1896. In recent years has been noted at Litton 1930, near Barrow Gurney 1934 and at BL on half a dozen occasions 1923-1944  
 1990 status – vagrant, more often seen than formerly  
 2017 status – scarce wind driven visitor, usually in autumn, rare at other times. Records are equal between coastal and inland.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
2	1	3	3			1	6	1	1	3	4	3	11	1	2		4		4

Number of individuals for each of the last 20 years

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

1874 status – occasional summer visitor, Portishead, banks of Avon  
 1899 status – appears in fair numbers every spring on migration and is occasionally seen during the summer but there seems to be no certain evidence of its nesting  
 1947 status – passage migrant occurring in all months, April to October and sometimes as late as November. Common on the coast, along rivers, at the reservoirs and a not infrequent visitor to small streams and ponds. Some probably remain through summer but no definite evidence yet of breeding  
 1990 status – passage migrant, winter visitor and summer visitor  
 2017 status – uncommon passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

Largest count: 51 at CVL in August 1978

**Spotted Sandpiper** *Actitis macularius* National rarity

1982 – an adult at CVL on at least October 10th [BBRC]  
 2003 – a winter plumaged adult at BG on November 2nd [BBRC][notes][2011 ABR for age]  
 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]

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

1874 status – rare summer visitor, near Yatton  
 1899 status – occurred at Clevedon September 1887  
 1947 status – passage migrant occurring regularly in autumn. Fairly frequent in spring and has been reported in all months. A familiar species at the reservoirs and not uncommon in coastal areas and at inland streams and ponds. Usually found singly but several together by no means exceptional

1990 status – passage migrant and scarce winter visitor  
2017 status – uncommon autumn passage migrant, scarce in winter and spring.

Largest count: 39 at CVL on 3rd August 1962

**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* National rarity

1967 – CVL on September 9th [BBRC] [notes]<sup>54</sup>

1984 – a juvenile at ASW from September 30th until 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]

**Redshank** *Tringa tetanus*

1874 status – occasionally occurs in winter, Avonmouth

1899 status – fairly common on the Severn coast except in the breeding season

1947 status – resident but chiefly a winter visitor and passage migrant occurring commonly on the coast and not infrequently inland. Breeds on suitable ground in the Portishead, Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare areas and has bred at BL on various occasion but not apparently since 1939. Some evidence of nesting in recent years at Oldbury-on-Severn. The Iceland form *T. t. robusta* probably occurs in winter

1990 status – passage migrant and winter visitor. A few breed

2017 status – fairly common passage migrant/winter visitor, uncommon in summer and very scarce breeder. Scarce inland. Two races: *totanus* breeding in UK and W. Europe and *robusta* breeding in Iceland. Wintering birds no doubt include many *robusta*.

Largest count: 'flocks of 700 – 1000' in late August and early September 1973

**Marsh Sandpiper** *Tringa stagnatilis* National rarity

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

1984 – a juvenile commuting between BL and CVL from August 20th until 27th [BBRC]

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

1947 status – very scarce visitor on migration, the only record is of one at a small pool on the S Glos side of St Catherine August 1943

1951 – BL on September 9th

1952 – BL on August 31st

1990 status – scarce passage migrant

2017 status – passage migrant, scarce in autumn and rare in spring; most frequent at CVL.

**Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*

1947 status – irregular visitor on autumn passage. Formerly known only from Weston-super-Mare where two were shot sometime prior to 1893. Reported at intervals in recent years, usually singly and chiefly from the reservoirs, BG 1933, BL at least nine times 1923 – 1944. Single birds identified on the R Avon at Hotwells 1945 and on the R Axe 1946. Twice met with in winter on the R Yeo at Woodspring, one January-February 1935 and two November 1935

1990 status – scarce passage migrant

2017 status – scarce autumn passage migrant and winter visitor, very scarce in spring.

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<sup>54</sup> Rose (2013) considers this only as 'probable'

Largest count: 36 at CVL on 21st September 1980

**Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

1947 status – passage migrant, seldom reported in former years but now known as a regular visitor in autumn usually to the reservoirs. Has also been noted at Severn Beach and New Passage. Several spring records from the reservoirs and one from the R Axe. Most reports refer to single birds though two or three together by no means unusual. Two winter records lack corroborative details

1990 status – passage migrant

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant, more numerous in autumn. Scarce in winter.

Largest count: 72 at CI-Y on 27th August 1997 in two flocks of 24 and 48

**Collared Pratincole** *Glareola pratincole* National rarity

*Davis (1947) – the only record is of one shot on the northern slope of Mendip, not far from Weston-super-Mare sometime prior to 1881 [Zoologist 1881 p309 and 1888 p 220]*

**Black-winged Pratincole** *Glareola nordmanni* National rarity

1964 – CVL from September 6th until 9th [BBRC]

1988 – between Clevedon and Yeo Estuary from June 10th until at least 15th [BBRC]<sup>55</sup>

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

**Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

1874 status – occasional, Avon and Severn

1899 status – fairly common, except in the breeding season

1947 status – apparently no more than an uncommon and irregular visitor to the Channel and Estuary. Storm driven birds sometimes occur at the reservoirs and elsewhere inland. Recorded in past years as appearing in considerable numbers in winter on the coast at Weston-super-Mare but now seems to be much scarcer. Has been referred to as breeding formerly on Steep Holm but the statement lacks corroborative details

1990 status – sporadic visitor to Estuary, mainly storm-driven

2017 status – usually a storm-driven visitor; uncommon, but large flocks regularly occur in the Estuary. Also occurs in anticyclonic conditions in early spring as a presumed migrant. Scarce inland, usually only at CVL.

**Ivory Gull** *Pagophila eburnea* National rarity

*Davis (1947) – the only reliable record is of one taken alive at Weston-super-Mare, c1864<sup>56</sup>*

**Sabine's Gull** *Xema sabini* Local rarity

*1899 – occurred at Weston-super-Mare in the years 1863, 1865, 1867 (Zoologist); an immature bird was obtained at Tickenham on September 24th 1896*

*Davis (1947) – rare vagrant. Two were obtained at Weston-super-Mare a few years prior to 1865, one shot from a party of five at the mouth of the R Axe, September 1867. One caught alive at Tickenham, September 1896*

1954 – an adult at Weston-super-Mare on August 12th<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> Rose (2013) gives the dates as June 9th until 17th

<sup>56</sup> See 1865 Zoologist page 9470, which mentions the bird was kept alive in a garden for some months. Not mentioned in Palmer and Ballance (1968) who say 'early records seem to us unsatisfactory'

<sup>57</sup> See British Birds February 1955 page 83

1957 – a juvenile at Weston-super-Mare on September 23rd [notes]  
1970 – an adult at CVL on September 6th [notes]  
1973 – an adult at CVL on September 27th with an immature there on October 3rd  
1980 – juvenile at New Passage, flying south on September 13th, juvenile at CVL on 13th and juvenile on Axe Estuary on 14th  
1981 – a juvenile at SGW on October 4th  
1982 – CVL from September 12th until 20th  
1983 – three at New Passage on September 3rd with five or six there on 4th and two on 5th, Oldbury-on-Severn on 6th  
1984 – an adult at Littleton Warth on September 13th  
1987 – an adult heading NE off Sand Point on October 18th with it or another later at RPD, an adult at CVL on 18th with a juvenile there on 19th, an adult at Severn Beach on October 25th, another at CVL from November 1st until 3rd  
1988 – a first-summer on Severnside on May 30th with a juvenile there on September 23rd and 28th, a juvenile at CVL from August 29th until September 11th (with two on September 1st, 6th, 8th and 9th), a juvenile at BL on September 3rd and 4th  
1990 – an adult off Severnside on April 28th  
1991 – two juveniles briefly at CVL on October 15th  
1992 – an adult off New Passage on April 29th  
1996 – an adult at BG on August 18th [photograph], a juvenile at OPS on November 3rd  
1997 – a juvenile at Severn Beach on August 29th with an adult there on October 10th, juveniles at CVL on August 29th and 30th, September 17th, October 11th  
1999 – a first-summer at the Yeo Estuary during the morning of July 31st was then at Weston STW on the evening of August 1st  
2001 – either first-summer or adult winter at Severn Beach on August 12th, juveniles at RPD on October 7th, Ladye Bay on 8th and Severn Beach on 9th  
2004 – an adult flew NE past Severn Beach on May 4th, adult at CVL on August 26th  
2005 – a juvenile at CVL from September 16th until 18th  
2007 – an adult at CVL on August 22nd and a juvenile there on October 9th  
2011 – a juvenile at Severn Beach on September 6th, 12th and 13th, a juvenile at Sand Bay from September 8th until 10th  
2012 – an adult at Severn Beach on June 9th  
2016 – an adult at Severn Beach on September 8th  
2017 – juveniles at Sand Bay on September 12th, Severn Beach on 13th, RPD on 17th and Avonmouth Docks on 26th, Severn Beach on October 22nd and Sea Mills on November 22nd

**Bonaparte's Gull** *Chroicocephalus philadelphia* National rarity

2013 – a summer plumaged adult at CVL on April 27th [BBRC][article][photograph]  
2017 – a first-winter at Portbury Wharf on May 6th [BBRC]

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

1874 status – not common, Severn, Rownham Ferry  
1899 status – very common about the coast especially in winter. At low tide considerable numbers come close to the city to obtain food from the river  
1947 status – clearly an abundant winter visitor to the coast and inland but some present in all months. Most plentiful July to March. A familiar bird along the R Avon and around the city docks and often numerous at the reservoirs  
1990 status – autumn and winter visitor; passage migrant, mainly in autumn. A few non-breeding birds summer  
2017 status – abundant but steadily declining winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers of non-breeders remain throughout the summer. Huge winter roost at CVL.

Largest count: 36,350 roost count at CVL on 23rd January 1993

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus*

1874 status – very rare occasional visitor, one shot at Portishead in 1850

1899 status – occurred at Clevedon in October 1889

1947 status – occasional visitor, usually on spring or autumn passage. The first recorded occurrence is that of one killed at Weston-super-Mare January 1851 with single birds shot there c1863 and c1869 and one was obtained at Clevedon October or November 1888.

Reports in recent years are of single birds at BL September 1940 and 1945

1990 status – regular passage migrant

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant usually with more in spring; scarce in winter.

Largest count: 74 at CVL on 1st May 1984

**Laughing Gull** *Leucophaeus atricilla* National rarity

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** *Leucophaeus pipixcan* National rarity

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 at CVL on January 19th and 20th, 29th until 31st, February 12th until 17th and March 23rd, 24th, 27th and 28th; it was also at RPD on March 15th and 16th, Somerdale, Keynsham from March 18th until 23rd and at BL on March 26th [BBRC]

**Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

1966 – adult at CVL on July 9th

1967 – immature at CVL on 2nd July, immature at Yeo Estuary on October 15th (both 1968 BBR)

1968 – first winter flew past Clevedon on November 17th

1990 status – scarce but increasing passage migrant and winter visitor

2017 status – uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, stable after a period of increase.

Largest count: 14 at CVL on 13th February 2015

**Common Gull** *Larus canus*

1874 status – common, Avon and Severn

1899 status – frequently to be seen about the Severn coast and up the river Avon

1947 status – winter visitor from late July or August to the coast and inland and may be seen in all months. Occurs frequently, sometimes abundantly, along the R Avon and at the docks and reservoirs. Great numbers visit the Cotswolds daily in autumn and winter returning to the Severn sandbanks to roost

1990 status – autumn and winter visitor

2017 status – common winter visitor and passage migrant; scarce in summer. Largest flocks usually on upland or flooded fields and are often thinly spread elsewhere. Huge but rarely counted winter roost at CVL and significant one on the Estuary that is even more difficult to count.

Largest count: 18,710 roost count at CVL on 23rd January 1993

**Ring-billed Gull** *Larus delawarensis* Scarce, recorded in 27 of the last 30 years  
 1980 – adult at CVL on March 22nd [BBRC], a first-winter at CVL on March 30th [BBRC][1981 ABR]

1982 – an adult at CVL on January 2nd and 3rd and March 14th with probably a different bird on March 20th and 25th [BBRC]

1983 – an adult in CVL regularly between January 22nd and March 30th, CVL on December 29th [both BBRC]

1990 status – rare vagrant since 1980

2017 status – scarce Nearctic vagrant. Most records are from CVL; occasionally in winter, but nowadays one or two are expected to appear during spring passage in February or March. Very rare on the coast or in summer.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
3	1		2	2	3	5		3	2	3	3	2	4	2	1	3		2	3

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

**Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*

1874 status – occasional, Portishead, Avonmouth

1899 status – fairly common about the Severn coast

1947 status – resident in comparatively small numbers. Chiefly on the coast but odd birds, sometimes several, often occur well up the R Avon and at the reservoirs. Breeds regularly on Steep Holm were two pairs first proved in 1923 and where it has since increased to nine or more pairs breeding

1990 status – small resident population

2017 status – uncommon breeding resident - nests in small numbers on Steep Holm and has breed at CVL. Generally uncommon elsewhere but recorded in increasing numbers at the reservoirs throughout the year.

Largest count: 36 at CVL in July 2011

**Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus* Local rarity

1840 – an adult shot in the winter on the Severn [Yarrell (1843)]

1870 – two obtained at Weston-super-Mare<sup>58</sup> 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 – Severn Beach on January 8th, 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 – the remains of an immature found at Clevedon on December 12th

1969 – a first-winter at CVL on February 16th

1974 – an adult at Kingston Seymour on February 27th and March 20th

1976 – Axe Estuary on May 1st, 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 – a first-winter off the Axe Estuary on December 10th

1983 – 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, a second-winter at CVL on February 19th [last in 1985 ABR]

1986 – CVL on March 13th

<sup>58</sup> One in January per Palmer and Ballance (1968)

1991 – an adult flew SW at Aust Warth on March 21st  
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 that 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 at CVL on March 24th  
2014 – a first-winter in the CVL roost on February 22nd and 24th

**Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucooides* Local rarity

*Davis (1947) – very occasional visitor in winter. The only records for the previous century refer to single examples killed at Weston-super-Mare sometime prior to 1860 and in December 1870. An immature was at BG March 1931 with a young bird in the docks at Cumberland Basin from January 1933 until February 1935.*

1939 – an immature at Cumberland Basin on January 31st  
1940 – an immature at Stoke Gifford on February 23rd [*notes*]  
1946 – an immature on the R. Avon at Hotwells between January 6th and 15th  
1951 – a first-summer on the R Avon at Bedminster on May 18th and 19th [*notes*], a possible adult at Bleadon on October 27th and 28th  
1954 – a fourth year on R Avon at Bedminster from March 1st until 4th, a first year at BG on December 26th  
1955 – a first year was at BG on January 9th, the R. Avon at Bedminster on February 14th and 15th and roosting on Steep Holm on March 20th, a first year at Weston-super-Mare on December 22nd  
1961 – an immature at CVL on March 31st and April 1st  
1965 – a first-year on the R Avon near Temple Gate on March 18th and again on 27th  
1967 – a first-year at BL on February 26th with possibly the same at CVL on March 14th, R Avon at Bedminster on March 15th, 16th and 23rd, a first-summer at BG on March 25th [*SBR*], an immature at CVL on March 30th  
1971 – immature in the roost at CVL on March 3rd  
1973 – a second year at CVL from April 7th until May 28th  
1974 – a large subadult in breeding plumage at Kingston Seymour on March 2nd and 3rd, a second year at CVL on December 28th and 29th [*SBR*]  
1975 – Sand Point on May 30th  
1977 – Severn Beach on November 5th  
1983 – an immature commuting between Yanley Landfill and CVL from February 6th until March 2nd visited Bishopsworth on February 16th, an adult at CVL on February 9th, a third-year on R Avon at Sea Mills on April 12th  
1984 – an immature at CVL on January 2nd, an immature at SGW on 29th and 30th, two first-winters and a second-winter at CVL from February 3rd until March 3rd, an adult at CVL on February 7th, an immature at Northwick Warth from February 11th until March 8th, an immature at South Stoke Waste Tip from February 17th until 19th  
1985 – an immature at CVL on February 3rd  
1987 – an adult on Yeo Estuary on January 25th, a first-winter at BG on November 21st and another at CVL on 28th  
1988 – first-winters at New Passage on January 3rd, BG on 30th and CVL on February 21st



1989 – a first-summer off New Passage on May 13th, a first-winter over the Cumberland Basin on December 25th with the presumed same at BG from 30th until January 17th 1990 and then at CVL on 21st and February 4th and 19th  
 1990 – an adult at CVL from February 23rd until March 24th with a first-winter there from March 3rd until 17th<sup>59</sup>  
 1993 – a first-winter roosted at CVL on February 26th  
 1994 – a first-winter roosted at CVL on January 22nd  
 1999 – a juvenile/first-winter at Severn Beach on January 5th  
 2000 – a juvenile/first-winter at CVL on several dates between January 8th and April 12th, juvenile/first-winter at Northwick Warth on January 23rd, a juvenile/first-winter at Filton from February 1st until 13th, a juvenile/first-winter at OPS on five dates between February 17th and March 3rd with a second on 17th and 18th, a juvenile/first-winter at Axe Estuary on March 11th  
 2002 – a juvenile at CVL on January 5th with another on 12th, 13th and 23rd and a third on March 17th  
 2003 – a juvenile in the roost at CVL on March 7th and 9th  
 2005 – an adult in the roost at CVL on January 30th and March 8th, 12th, 13th, 17th and 18th  
 2007 – a juvenile in the CVL roost on February 11th  
 2008 – a juvenile/first-winter at CVL on May 2nd, a second-winter at Severn Beach on November 3rd  
 2012 – an adult at CVL on January 25th was at BL the next day  
 2013 – a second-winter in the roost at CVL on March 13th  
 2014 – a series of records of immatures from CVL between January 25th and April 18th [photograph] involved at least three different individuals, one of which was at BL on March 17th  
 2017 – an immature at PWD on March 20th

**Kumlien's Gull** *L. g. kumlieni* Local rarity

1982 – an adult at CVL on April 16th [notes and drawing][BBRC]  
 1990 – a juvenile at CVL on February 4th [article in 2002 ABR]<sup>60</sup>  
 [1996 – a first-summer at OPS from June 30th until July 17th] [article in 2002 ABR]  
 [1997 – a second or third-winter at CVL on December 13th and 31st] [1999 ABR] [article in 2002 ABR]<sup>61</sup>  
 2000 – second-winter at CVL on March 8th and 15th [article in 2002 ABR]  
 2002 – an adult at CVL on January 12th [article] returned to CVL on February 1st and March 8th, 10th and 17th 2003, on February 28th and 29th, March 15th, 24th and 27th and December 12th 2004, February 6th and December 11th and 24th 2005 and January 21st and 22nd and February 18th 2006  
 2006 – an adult at CVL on March 19th  
 2011 – an adult at CVL on February 21st and March 4th, 5th and 12th  
 2014 – an adult at CVL on March 19th  
 2017 – an adult at CVL on January 29th

**Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

Western subspecies *L. a. argenteus*

1874 status – frequent, Avon and Severn

1899 status – common, nests on Steep Holm

1947 status – resident, abundant on the coast at all seasons also along the R Avon and at the docks. Common at the reservoirs and a frequent visitor elsewhere inland. Breeds only on Steep Holm where much increased during last 50 years and now perhaps 500 pairs nesting. A pair nested unsuccessfully at the foot of Aust Cliff 1942

<sup>59</sup> Considered to be different from the individual first seen in late 1989

<sup>60</sup> Submitted to BBRC as a Thayer's but not accepted

<sup>61</sup> The 1996 and 1997 records were submitted to BBRC but no decision was ever made

1990 status – resident and passage migrant

2017 status – common winter visitor, passage migrant and breeding resident; largest numbers occur near the coast, around Bristol and Bath and at the CVL roost. Apart from the Steep Holm colony, there are large urban colonies in Bristol and Bath, and smaller ones in other towns.

Largest count: 3,400 roost count at CVL in January 2004

**Northern Herring Gull** *L. a. argentatus*

Davis (1947) treated all local birds as being of this subspecies and no subsequent reports give subspecific details until the 1984 ABR. It seems to have been regular by that time, an article in the report stating 'as many as a dozen have been noted at the CVL gull roost, mainly in mid-winter'. Records are then almost annual, with multiple records in many years, until 2012 when it is described as 'scarce but doubtless overlooked winter visitor. Not all individuals are safely identifiable, especially immatures.' There have been no subsequent records.

**Caspian Gull** *Larus caccinnans* Local rarity

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 9th<sup>62</sup>, 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]

2017 – a first-winter in the CVL roost on January 17th and 26th, an adult at Shortwood on March 2nd, a second-winter at CVL on November 14th

**Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus michahellis*

1980 – CVL on February 3rd

1981 – two at CVL on August 12th with one on November 22nd, 29th and December 5th, Weston-super-Mare beach on November 22nd

1982 – CVL on February 6th and 10th, July 22nd and September 9th

1992 status – regular in small numbers

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant, summer visitor and winter visitor; most occur in the late summer and autumn at CVL, but now increasingly recorded elsewhere.

Largest count: 15 at CVL on 15th June 2002

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*

*L. f. graellsii*

1874 status – occasional, Avon and Severn

1899 status – seen about the coast in small numbers

1947 status – summer resident February or March to early November but records show that a few usually remain to winter. Occurs abundantly along the R Avon and at the docks, also at the reservoirs and not infrequently elsewhere inland. Much less common on the coast than Herring Gull. Breeds, in about the same numbers as Herring Gull only on Steep Holm where it has also greatly increased in the last 50 years

1990 status – resident and passage migrant

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<sup>62</sup> The ABR gives the wrong day and year for this record

2017 status – common winter visitor, passage migrant and breeding resident. In addition to the colony on Steep Holm, there are large urban colonies in Bristol and Bath and smaller ones in other towns.

Largest count: 7015 roost count at CVL in January 2004

*L. f. intermedius*

2017 status – Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; almost annual at CVL. Probably overlooked, particularly in non-adult plumage.<sup>63</sup>

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* National rarity

1988 – CVL on August 13th [BBRC]

2016 – two at Royal Portbury Duck on May 11th [BBRC][photograph]

2017 – CVL on July 2nd [BBRC][2018 ABR]

**Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicensis*

1947 status – scarce visitor on migration, what seem to be the only definite notices are of single birds at Clevedon April 1890 and Severn Beach September 1936 and two at BL April 1947 [see 1948 ABR for correction]

1955 – CVL on June 20th

1990 status – scarce passage migrant

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant – most are recorded on the coast.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
11	14	12	23+	20	86	13	6	21	4	35	15	23	35+	15	59	12	15	23	17

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

Largest count: 19 at New Passage on 5th May 1989

Earliest arrival; 18th February 2012 at ASW

Latest departure; 30th October 1993 at Axe Estuary [SBR][1994 ABR]

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons*

1947 status – an uncommon visitor on migration though probably more frequent than is supposed. Most records refer to spring passage. An early notice is that of five shot at Weston-super-Mare May 1866, while recent reports are of two at Severn Beach May 1945, and single birds at BL May 1930, Clevedon April 1934 and R Axe July 1945. Not known as having remained to breed within the district

1990 status – scarce passage migrant. Bred in Estuary at Steart, Somerset in 1920s

2017 status – scarce passage migrant; generally the scarcest of the five 'common' terns.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
3	5	4	6+	2+	16	6	1	26	4	15	7	3	9	3	5	9	17	21	1

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

Largest count: 34 off Severnside on 1st May 1990.

Earliest arrival; 16th April, in 2003 with birds on Severnside and Ladye Bay and two in the evening at CVL, and in 2015 with three at CVL

Latest departure; 31st October 1964 at CVL

<sup>63</sup> Separation from *L. f. fuscus* is confused, see also Appendix 4 for early records. The 1984 ABR is the first report to mention the *intermedius ssp.*, and says half of those present in the CVL roost were of this subspecies

**Bridled Tern** *Onchyoprion anaethetus* National rarity

1958 – an adult found dead in Sand Bay on October 17th, identification confirmed by the British Museum [BBRC][January 1960 British Birds p32]

**Sooty Tern** *Onchyoprion fuscatus* National rarity

1885 – 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)]

**Roseate Tern**<sup>64</sup> *Sterna dougallii* Local rarity

1897 – obtained at Clevedon in April and examined by the Rev F L Blathwayt [Davis (1947), Birds of the Bristol District (1899)]

1962 – a breeding plumage adult found dead at Clutton on May 10th<sup>65</sup>

1977 – off Brean Down on the Avon boundary on April 23rd

1990 – a 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]

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*

1874 status – occasional, Severn, has been shot at Rownham Ferry

1899 status – an uncommon visitor, three specimens occurred at Litton in September 1896

1947 status – passage migrant usually in small numbers. Occurs chiefly in autumn but has been noted in all months April to October. Sometimes reported from the coast though most records are from the reservoirs. 25 terns, either Common or Arctic were seen over flooded pastures at Stoke Gifford September 1935. Not always separable in the field from Arctic Tern to which some records may refer

1990 status – passage migrant

2017 status – regular passage migrant, a few occur throughout the summer - generally uncommon, but large flocks have occurred in some years especially on the Estuary in spring or at CVL in autumn.

Earliest arrival; 30th March 2006 on Severnside

Latest departure; 28th November 1982, a juvenile at BG

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*

1874 status – rare, Portishead

1899 status – an occasional visitor. In Yarrell's British Birds is an account of the appearance in the city of great numbers of this and Common Tern in May 1842

1947 status – passage migrant, may occur fairly frequently but owing to close resemblance in the field to Common Tern is seldom definitely recorded. Great numbers of both this and Common Tern appeared in the Channel and Estuary in early May 1842, many of them visiting the Bristol docks where due to their tameness two or three hundred were killed and others taken alive. A considerable invasion of Common and Arctic Terns, mostly Arctic, was reported from the reservoirs April – May 1947, up to 100 or more being seen on several occasions at BL and a few were noted at BG and the Duchess Pond, Stapleton

1990 status – passage migrant

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<sup>64</sup> Following a review, see 2016 ABR, although the 1977 record was overlooked in that review

<sup>65</sup> Specimen still in Bristol Museum

2017 status – usually an uncommon passage migrant, but can occasionally occur in large flocks in the Estuary under favourable conditions in spring; otherwise generally occurs in smaller numbers than Common Tern. Often appears after westerly gales.

Largest count: 2,460 at Sand Point on 2nd May 1998

Earliest arrival; 29th March 2015, photographed at Severn Beach

Latest departure; 21st November 1996, two juveniles at CVL

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* National rarity

1959 – 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** *Chlidonias leucopterus* Local rarity

1949 – an adult at BG on September 9th and 10th [notes][May 1950 British Birds p161-162]

1966 – a juvenile at CVL from August 24th until 27th<sup>66</sup>

1967 – an adult at CVL on September 10th [BBRC\*]

1969 – a first year at BG on September 7th. [BBRC\*]

1970 – juveniles at CVL from August 13th until 17th and from September 12th until 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 – an 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, a juvenile at Yeo Estuary on August 19th [BBRC\*]

1980 – a juvenile at CVL on August 24th [1981 BBRC\*]<sup>67</sup>

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\*], 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

**Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

1874 status – rare summer visitor, Avonmouth

1899 status – occurred at Avonmouth in September 1896

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<sup>66</sup> Dates in BBRC report are 27th – 30th

<sup>67</sup> Not previously published

1947 status – passage migrant, regular at the reservoirs usually in both spring and autumn. Very few records from the coast though sometimes reported in former years from Weston-super-Mare and once from Avonmouth

1990 status – passage migrant

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant; most frequent in the autumn with occasional influxes. Most records are from CVL.

Largest count: 732 on Severnside on 1st of May 1990, at least 600 at CVL on 11th August 1965

Earliest arrival; 4th April 1980, four at BL

Latest departure; 23rd November 1986 at New Passage

American Black Tern *C. n. surinamensis* National rarity

1999 – a juvenile at Weston STW from October 3rd until 11th [BBRC][photograph][article]

### **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*

1960 – Middle Hope on September 11th

1967 – Sand Bay on September 4th

1968 – an oiled bird Sand Bay on September 29th, Sand Point October 13th

1990 status – scarce passage migrant and storm-driven vagrant

2017 status – scarce spring and autumn passage migrant and storm-driven visitor at almost any time of year. Rare inland.

Descriptions required for inland records, with records from 11 of the last 30 years.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
17+	1	5+	11+	16+	16	26	10	26+	13	4	14	3	13	12	69	21	44	15	20

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

### **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

1899 status – six were obtained in November 1879, also occurred at Clevedon, and at Chew Magna, in October 1880

1947 status – rare vagrant and apparently not reported for the last 60 years. At least seven were obtained autumn 1879 when large numbers occurred off the south west counties and a few appeared well up the Channel and Estuary – two being killed at Weston-super-Mare<sup>68</sup>, several at Clevedon, one at New Passage and one inland at Chew Magna. A skua, stated to be this species, was found dead near Hawkesbury Upton December 1887

1963 – freshly dead second summer female found at the mouth of R Kenn on November 17th

1978 – a light phase off Brean Down on May 7th was moving into Avon waters

1983 – Portishead on September 4th, New Passage on October 16th and 17th, Chittening on October 31st, all dark phase

1990 status – rare vagrant, mainly storm driven. Up to four annually since 1986

2017 status – scarce spring passage migrant and storm-driven autumn/winter visitor. Very rare inland.

Descriptions are currently required for inland records but up to 2014 they were required for all records. There are records for 26 of the last 30 years.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
3	2	7	1			59	4	3	13	3	17	2	5	17	16	20	25		2

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

<sup>68</sup> See Zoologist 1880 p19 - 21

Largest count: a flock of 28 at Severn Beach in the evening of 4th May 2004

**Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

1874 status – very rare winter visitor, once shot at Clevedon

1899 status – occurred in Clevedon in October 1891

1947 status – irregular visitor chiefly on autumn passage. Perhaps occurs more frequently than records suggest. The latest reports are single birds at Littleton-on-Severn June 1941 and Severn Beach October 1942

1990 status – uncommon passage migrant

2017 status – uncommon and declining spring passage migrant and storm-driven visitor (mainly spring or autumn). Rare inland, mainly at CVL.

Descriptions are required for inland records, with records from 16 of the last 30 years.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
122+	19	17	34+	45+	54	65	23	50+	51	37	47	17	40+	40+	57	18	50	13	13

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

**Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus* Local rarity

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 – CVL on June 19th [BBRC\*]<sup>69</sup>

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

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

1983 – 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, 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, at New Passage on November 25th and 26th before moving to Severn Beach on 27th [photograph in 2000ABR]

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

**Little Auk** *Alle alle* Local rarity

1841 – some recovered 'at Bristol and other parts near the Severn' after a storm in October as part of a national 'wreck' [Yarrell (1843)]

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.

1950 – alive at Woodspring Priory on February 11th, others found dead at BL on February 11th and 20th and at Tickenham on March 11th, near Weston on 8th February, a flock of

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<sup>69</sup> 1976 ABR state this is the fifth record for Avon county area so it looks like I have missed at least one

twelve landing on a wet road near Bristol on 11th February [*last two in April 1952 edition of British Birds*]

1953 – in estuary below Aust Cliff on October 4th

1955 – one found alive at Locking on October 19th was released on the coast

1960 – a 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 – 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, one found dying at OPS on January 18th

1988 – two off New Passage on February 10th

1990 – an adult found under a hedge at Marshfield on November 4th was released at CVL, 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, New Passage on November 2nd, found dead at Weston-super-Mare on November 13th

1998 – Severn Beach on January 2nd, another there on October 28th

2001 – 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 – Severn Beach on October 22nd, another Chittening Warth on December 6th

2007 – Severn Beach on November 17th

2009 – Severn Beach on November 26th

2010 – Severn Beach on November 12th [*photograph*]

2016 – Weston-super-Mare on January 4th

### **Guillemot** *Uria aalge*

1874 status – occasional, Weston-super-Mare

1899 status – common in the channel during the summer

1947 status – occasional visitor to the Channel and Estuary. Former records from the Channel and Estuary also mention Guillemots as appearing in autumn and winter. There appears to be no conclusive evidence in support of statements that Razorbills, Guillemots and Puffins bred formerly on Steep Holm

1990 status – storm-driven vagrant

2017 status – scarce usually storm-driven visitor throughout the year; very rare inland.

Descriptions are required for inland records. Away from OPS there are only two records in the last 30 years, in 2014 and 2008.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
10	2	9	6	10	8	7	1	11	4	3	37	3	11	6	4	18	3	5	3

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

### **Razorbill**<sup>70</sup> *Alca torda* Local rarity

*Wheeler (1874) – occasional, Weston-super-Mare*

*Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – common in the Channel during the summer*

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<sup>70</sup> There are additional records, published as Auk sp., thought by the observer to be this species for 1992, 2001 (11, possibly 16), 2003 and 2014



*Davis (1947) – occasional visitor to the Channel and Estuary, perhaps more frequent than is supposed. Recorded formally as occurring in small parties during autumn and winter but the only notices for recent years are of two and a single off Steep Holm June 1935 and three there June 1936. Storm driven birds sometimes reported from the coast and inland*

- 1935 – two Steep Holm on June 23rd [2008 ABR]
- 1936 – two Steep Holm on June 12th [2008 ABR]
- 1951 – Steep Holm on May 12th
- 1957 – freshly dead adults on shoreline at Sand Bay on March 18th and 31st, a dead juvenile at Clevedon on August 30th
- 1959 – an immature off Steep Holm on August 16th, a corpse of a first-winter at Sand Bay on October 29th
- 1961 – off Steep Holm on May 28th
- 1963 – a corpse at Sand Bay on October 13th
- 1964 – an adult off Steep Holm on June 27th and 29th, a corpse at Uphill on July 11th, an adult at New Passage on September 17th
- 1965 – Steep Holm on October 2nd [2008 ABR]
- 1966 – corpses at Weston Bay on December 10th and Sand Bay on 11th
- 1967 – an adult dead in Weston Bay on May 21st, three off Steep Holm on June 11th with one there on July 2nd, one flying up channel off Clevedon on September 23rd
- 1969 – a headless corpse washed up in Sand Bay on April 20th
- 1971 – Steep Holm on September 26th
- 1972 – Steep Holm on July 1st [2008 ABR]
- 1973 – Sand Point on May 13th and June 13th with a corpse in Sand Bay on July 29th
- 1975 – between Sand Point and Brean Down, two on April 16th, a corpse on May 11th, one on June 9th and four on October 12th, probables off Sand Point on May 18th and 25th
- 1978 – an oiled corpse on the tideline at Weston-super-Mare on March 25th
- 1979 – two Steep Holm on July 26th [2008 ABR]
- 1981 – a corpse at Weston-super-Mare on October 24th
- 1983 – Aust on March 21st
- 1984 – corpses found at Weston Bay on January 18th and February 7th, Sand Bay on January 26th and Kenn Estuary on February 12th
- 1985 – Portishead on August 2nd, New Passage on November 5th, Severn Beach on 6th
- 1986 – two off SGW on January 19th, three off New Passage on May 11th
- 1988 – Clevedon on January 4th, Axe Estuary on February 6th, Portishead on December 3rd
- 1989 – two off New Passage on October 29th with singles there on November 4th and 7th and December 17th
- 1990 – New Passage on February 11th and 21st and December 27th
- 1991 – Cl-Y on January 6th, New Passage on 9th
- 1994 – a first-winter off Sand Point on December 30th
- 1996 – one picked up alive at Portishead on February 21st subsequently died, Sand Point on May 5th, Severn Beach on May 31st and June 1st, Battery Point on October 22nd
- 1997 – Severn Beach on February 18th and 26th
- 2001 – Severn Beach on April 28th, Steep Holm on May 26th [2008 ABR]
- 2002 – Cl-Y on February 5th, Severnside on October 25th
- 2004 – Chittening Warth on July 2nd
- 2005 – Severn Beach on January 17th
- 2006 – Steep Holm on June 15th [2008 ABR], Severn Beach on September 2nd
- 2011 – Avonmouth Docks on May 26th
- 2014 – an exhausted adult taken into care at RPD on February 6th, a first-winter at Severn Beach and New Passage on 10th [photograph], an adult at RPD on 21st, an adult at Sand Point on 21st
- 2015 – Sand Point on November 30th

**Black Guillemot** *Cephus grylle* Local rarity

1896 – shot off Weston-super-Mare on December 3rd (now in American Museum of Natural History in New York) [Davis (1947)]

1998 – Severn Beach on October 27th

2015 – a first-winter at Severn Beach on November 15th [photograph]

**Puffin** *Fratercula arctica* Local rarity

*Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – seen in the Channel during the summer*

1922 – Steep Holm May 25th until 30th [Palmer and Ballance (1968)]

1935 – Steep Holm on May 5th, found dead at Filton in October [Davis (1947)]

*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.*

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, Sand Bay on November 1st

1972 – an adult close inshore at Sand Point on April 8th

1997 – Severn Beach on February 25th with presumably the same the next day

2002 – a winter plumaged adult at Severn Beach on February 5th, a first winter there on 9th

2014 – a first-winter at Severn Beach on February 9th, a dead adult in Sand Bay on 16th

**Pallas's Sandgrouse** *Syrhaptes paradoxus* National rarity

*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 Hambrook<sup>71</sup>, while a party of 20 was seen at Norton St. Philip. Others were reported from the Weston-super-Mare area.*

**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

1992 status<sup>72</sup> – resident

2017 status – introduced, common resident, mostly found in urban areas.

**Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*

1874 status – generally distributed, woods

1899 status – resident, not uncommon

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed but less abundant than Woodpigeon

1990 status – resident

2017 status – fairly common and increasing breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 19% decrease since 1994.

**Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*

1874 status – generally distributed, woods and copses

1899 status – resident, common

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<sup>71</sup> Davis (1953) states the birds at Yate and Hambrook were killed in July

<sup>72</sup> The first year this species was included in the Systematic List

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed. Sometimes in very large flocks following winter immigration

1990 status – resident

2017 status – abundant breeding resident and migrant. The 2017 BBS results showed a 74% increase since 1994.

Largest count: 10,000 over Kingswood on 16th November 2015

**Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* Scarce, with descriptions required since 2004 and recorded in 11 of the years since

1874 status – summer visitor, not common, Leigh

1899 status – summer resident, fairly common

1947 status – summer resident, widely distributed and not uncommon in most parts of the district

1990 status – scarce summer visitor and passage migrant

2017 status – formerly a fairly common summer visitor, has undergone a steep decline and our last breeding record was in 1983. It is now only a scarce passage migrant.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
6+	3+	6	2	3	3	1	2	3	2	3	2		2	3	1			1	1

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

Largest count: 61 at Saltford on, 17th August 1969 [SBR]

Earliest arrival; 5th April 1970 [Bland (1992)], 10th April 1988, two at Severn Beach

Latest departure; 17th November 1962, two with Collared Doves at Avonmouth

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

1960 – two, probably a pair, visited a garden in Chipping Sodbury on May 7th [1961 ABR]

1961 – one trapped in a Barbary Dove aviary in same Chipping Sodbury garden on March 25th remained in the vicinity until April 21st when joined by second until 23rd. Up to eight in gardens and cemetery in Shirehampton from August 1st until end of year, with one pair unsuccessfully breeding.

1962 – records from 11 widespread sites with c50 in Avonmouth in July

1990 status – resident, chiefly in vicinity of human settlements

2017 status – common breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 28% increase since 1994.

**Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

1874 status – common summer visitor, in woods and parks

1899 status – summer resident, common

1947 status – summer resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – summer visitor and passage migrant. Less numerous than formerly

2017 status – uncommon and seriously declining spring migrant and breeding summer visitor. Very scarce after June; but recent tracking has shown that most UK adults depart at this time.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
102	38	66	93	74	97	75	100	74	43	93	86	104	51	113	199	221	136

Annual bird-days this century

Earliest arrival; 20th March 1983, a male at Burrington

Latest departure; 30th September 2012, a juvenile missing some feathers at New Passage and Severn Beach

**Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

1874 status – generally distributed, Leigh, Kingsweston, not common

1899 status – resident, fairly common

1947 status – resident, widely distributed but less common than Tawny Owl

1990 status – very scarce resident, once common

2017 status – breeding resident, uncommon after long-term decline, but slowly recovering locally in recent years and benefitting from conservation efforts in several areas.

**Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco*

1874 status – generally distributed, Leigh, Stoke Bishop, Stapleton, Kingsweston

1899 status – resident, fairly common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident

2017 status – fairly common breeding resident.

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

1947 status – formerly known only from single specimens obtained at Batheaston 1834 and Clevedon 1878 but now a common resident and widely distributed. Following the rapid spread from the centres of introduction (Northants and Kent) colonisation began early in the present century – the bird being first reported from Tickenham 1907. Breeding was first proved at Pensford 1910. A Little Owl killed at Winscombe 1859 and now in the Somerset County Museum, Taunton was until recently regarded in error as a Tengmalms Owl

1990 status – resident

2017 status – introduced in the 19th century. Uncommon breeding resident, declining.

2000	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017	Av.
64	39	47	58	48	48	49	46	49	48	40	39	27	27	27	40	47	37	38

Number of sites for each year this century

**Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus* Scarce, recorded in 29 of the last 30 years

1874 status – rare, Portishead

1899 status – reported occasionally, Ashton Park 1895, Frampton Cotterell 1897, probably resident

1947 status – apparently no more than a scarce and very local resident, perhaps also an occasional winter visitor or passage migrant. No breeding information for nearly 20 years. One was shot at Stapleton c1890 and another was killed in Ashton Park December 1895. Two were shot at Frampton Cotterell 1897 and one was obtained at Bathford prior to 1906. Past records from other localities include Portishead, Chewton Mendip and Radstock

1960 – *Wraxall in late December [1961 ABR]*

1973 – *heard at two localities, January to March, but no evidence of breeding*

1975 – *near Lawrence Weston on December 22nd*

1976 – *records from six sites in the first half of the year*

1990 status – scarce winter visitor

2017 status – scarce winter visitor and passage migrant; very rare in summer, bred successfully in 1991, 2010, 2011 and 2015.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
3	1	3	2	3	3			2	1	2	1	7*	6*	4	3	1	2*	1	3+

Number of individuals recorded each year (\* includes successful breeding)

**Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

1874 status – occasional, Leigh, Portishead

1899 status – occurs occasionally in autumn, Ashton 1891

1947 status – winter visitor, uncommon but probably occurs in most years. Recorded from various coastal areas including Avonmouth and Clevedon. Has also been noted on Mendip and other inland localities

1990 status – small numbers regular out of breeding season

2017 status – uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly on the coast.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
61	83	98	206	54	105	100	99	260	105	67	194	423	127	75	114	177	207

Annual bird-days since 2005

Earliest arrival; 3rd August 2011, Aust/Northwick Warths

Latest departure; 5th July 2012 at Cl-Y

### **Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

1874 status – summer visitor, generally distributed in woods

1899 status – summer resident, fairly common

1947 status – summer resident, local but not uncommon in suitable areas. Breeds or has bred at Long Ashton, Leigh Woods, Backwell, Pensford, Chewton Mendip, Cadbury Camp, Clevedon, Weston-super-Mare and elsewhere

1995 status – rare passage migrant/summer visitor. Last recorded in 1979 and 1986 (formerly bred in small numbers)

2017 status – scarce passage migrant and presumed regular breeding summer visitor in very small numbers.

Descriptions are required for records away from the Mendips, with records from five of the last 30 years, the last being in 2017.

2000	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
1				3	1	2	3	1	3	3	2	6	4	2	2	1	

Breeding success: Number of churring males this century

### **Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* Local rarity

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 – Northwick Warth on June 5th [BBRC\*]

2002 – briefly at Sand Point on April 21st [BBRC\*]

### **Swift** *Apus apus*

1874 status – generally distributed summer visitor

1899 status – summer resident, very common

1947 status – summer resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – summer visitor and passage migrant

2017 status – common breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. The 2017 BBS results showed a 74% decrease since 1994.

Largest count: 10,000 at CVL on 31st May 1980, 22nd June 1985, 8th July 1990, May 25th 2002 and 16th May 2007 and at BL on 12th July 1974<sup>73</sup>

Earliest arrival; 8th April 2001, two at CVL

<sup>73</sup> The CVL Birding website mentions a maximum count of 15,000 for CVL but currently I am unable to trace the details

Latest departure; 15th November 1974 at Downend [Bland (1992)][Hale 1991], 12th November 1978 at Littleton on Severn

**Roller** *Coracias garrulus* National rarity  
1976 – Kenn Moor on August 16th [BBRC]

**Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

1874 status – local, not common, Stapleton, Ashton, Avonmouth, Sea Mills

1899 status – resident, not common near the city

1947 status – resident, widely distributed and not uncommon on suitable streams. Fairly frequent at the reservoirs and sometimes reported from the coast

1990 status – resident on waters throughout the county

2017 status – fairly common breeding resident, distributed in small numbers on waters throughout the area.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
46	36	52	n/c	56	86	74	80	95	75	96	82	96	96	97	117	125	121

Number of sites each year in the last decade. Ten-year average - 100

**Bee-eater** *Merops apiaster* Local rarity

1866 – four<sup>74</sup> 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 – CVL on August 15th [BBRC\*]

1994 – a party of six watched for ten minutes at Radford near Camerton on May 1st

2000 – Sand Point on May 7th

2002 – Wraxall CP on June 16th [photograph]

2008 – Ladye Bay on May 3rd

2015 – over Saltford on June 7th, six at Woolley, Bath from 8th until 10th<sup>75</sup> [photograph]

2016 – heard only at Aust Services on July 31st

**Hoopoe** *Upapa epops* Local rarity

Wheeler (1874) –very rare, two shot some years ago

Birds of the Bristol District (1899) –occurred in the spring of 1870, 1892 and 1895 also at New Passage 1888

Davis (1947) – occasional visitor, chiefly on spring and autumn passage. The first dated records appear to be those of birds at Bath 1850, Weston-super-Mare 1858 and 1860, Keynsham 1862, Redland about 1870 and Charfield 1878. Subsequently reported from New Passage 1889, and Bleadon and Flax Bourton 1895 while there are at least ten notices for the years 1907-1944

1942 – Weston-in-Gordano on June 20th

1947 – Winford garden on April 17th

1948 – Wrington on July 23rd and the next ten days, Ubley on July 28th

1949 – Upton Cheney<sup>76</sup> on June 5th

1950 – Doynton from April 4th until 10th

1951 – Brentry on August 24th

<sup>74</sup> Wheeler (1874) states ‘three of which were shot by him’ but article by Harding in 1868 Proceeding, page 9, states he shot four

<sup>75</sup> ABR incorrectly gives date as 19th

<sup>76</sup> I am unclear where this place is so cannot check whether it is in Avon

1952 – Whitchurch on April 26th  
 1953 – Cotham Park, Bristol on April 24th, Portishead Brick Works from August 19th until September 5th  
 1954 – Ubley on May 2nd  
 1955 – shot at East Harptree in April  
 1956 – Hursley Hill on May 14th, Ashley Down on July 31st, Sneyd Park on August 7th and 10th, Syston Court on August 11th and 12th  
 1958 – shot on Nailsea Moor on November 12th  
 1959 – Almondsbury on April 14th, one at Winterbourne Park from August 26th until 29th was reported as present a week earlier  
 1960 – Compton Dando on June 6th  
 1961 – Chew Magna on May 25th and 26th with presumed same at Chew Stoke during week ending June 3rd  
 1963 – King’s Weston Down in April [*1964 Bristol Bird Report*]  
 1964 – Blagdon Hill on May 17th and Westbury-on-Trym in June  
 1965 – Sand Point on May 23rd and 24th, Stapleton from July 26th until August 3rd and Sand Point on August 14th, 15th and 17th [*SBR*]  
 1966 – Clapton-in-Gordano from June 4th until 8th  
 1968 – Woodford Lodge, CVL on July 2nd [*SBR*]  
 1969 – call notes heard at Rainbow Wood Bath on May 11th were probably this species [*SBR*]  
 1971 – Filton Golf course from September 6th until 16th  
 1973 – Sand Bay on May 16th  
 1974 – near Thornbury at the end of April  
 1975 – Chew Stoke garden on July 22nd  
 1976 – Long Ashton golf course on June 15th  
 1977 – BL on May 1st, Westbury-on-Trym on May 23rd, Keynsham on June 27th, Winscombe on July 12th, Easton-in-Gordano and Clevedon on November 6th. One, possibly two summered in Yatton. A pair bred at an undisclosed location, three young hatched of which two fledged.  
 1978 – Rangeworthy in early July  
 1979 – Uphill on April 13th and 14th, two at Blaise Woods on April 19th with one until 30th, CVL on May 14th, Sand Point on June 4th  
 1980 – Midland Road, Bristol on April 9th, Clapton-in-Gordano on April 14th and 15th, Barrow Hospital on April 25th  
 1982 – Uphill on April 11th  
 1984 – Wraxall on April 20th  
 1985 – Sandford on September 24th  
 1986 – Clevedon coast on August 19th, Long Ashton on September 22nd and 23rd  
 1987 – Bedminster Down on August 21st with presumed same in a Bishopsworth garden from 22nd until 24th  
 1991 – Portbury Warth on April 22nd  
 1992 – Churchill on April 24th, Sand Point from 24th until 28th  
 1993 – West Littleton on April 26th and 27th, ASW on 27th  
 1994 – Hallen on May 20th and June 13th and 14th<sup>77</sup>  
 1995 – Max Mill, Winscombe c May 11th [*1996 ABR*]  
<sup>78</sup>1998 – Little Badminton from April 8th until 13th, Kingston Seymour on 24th  
 2002 – Norton Hawkfield on September 4th  
 2003 – near Weston STW on May 30th  
 2004 – Yate from August 18th until 23rd  
 2008 – Dyrham on April 11th and 12th, Aust Warth and Severn Beach on April 27th  
 2009 – Bourton on April 16th, Doynton on 22nd  
 2010 – near Thornbury on March 28th  
 2011 – Clevedon on March 15th, OPS on May 3rd, Weston-super-Mare on May 9th

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<sup>77</sup> One in Henleaze on December 21st had escaped from Bristol Zoo and was recaptured

<sup>78</sup> A bird in 1996 at Shirehampton had escaped from Bristol Zoo

2012 – Sand Bay from October 25th until November 4th  
 2014 – Chipping Sodbury on May 14th  
 2015 – Withywood on August 6th  
 2016 – Sand Point on April 12th, Hanham on May 9th and 10th, Weston-super-Mare on June 24th, Langford on July 3rd, Tortworth on October 10th, Burrington on 28th

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* Scarce, recorded in 23 of the last 30 years

1874 status – generally distributed summer visitor  
 1899 status – summer resident, fairly common  
 1947 status – formerly known as a not uncommon summer resident but has greatly decreased since the end of the last century and now appears to be no more than a scarce visitor on migration. Often used to be seen on the wooded slopes of Cadbury Camp and nested at Failand in 1889, and at Keynsham in c1895 but there seems to be no subsequent authentic breeding record. Was noted fairly frequently in the Bath area until 1908 or later while for more recent years there are spring passage records from various localities including Backwell, Chewton Mendip, Blagdon and Winscombe. Whitchurch August 1947  
 1995 status – rare/very scarce passage migrant, mainly in September. Very rare in spring.  
 2016 status – scarce autumn passage migrant, very rare in spring.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
1	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	3	1	7	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	4	

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

Earliest arrival; 19th March 1952 at Clifton, calling repeatedly early morning

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos minor* Scarce, with descriptions required since 2014 and no accepted records since

1874 status – occasionally met with, Leigh, Ashton  
 1899 status – resident, fairly common  
 1947 status – resident, widely distributed and not uncommon in most areas. Less frequently reported than Great Spotted but, owing to its small size, is perhaps often overlooked  
 1990 status – uncommon and elusive resident  
 2013 status – scarce and elusive resident, last proven to breed in 2003.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
8	7	6	5	11	9	3	7	2	3	1	3	4	10	6	1				

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major*

1874 status – occasionally met with, Leigh, Ashton  
 1899 status – resident, a few pairs nest every year in the immediate neighbourhood of the city  
 1947 status – resident, less abundant than Green Woodpecker but fairly common in well-timbered country  
 1990 status – resident  
 2017 status – fairly common breeding resident increasing both nationally and locally. The 2017 BBS results showed a 102% increase since 1994.

**Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

1874 status – generally distributed, Leigh, Clifton Downs, Stapleton, Ashton  
 1899 status – resident, common  
 1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed  
 1990 status – resident



2017 status – fairly common breeding resident, increasing nationally. The 2017 BBS results showed a 26% decrease since 1994.

**Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

1874 status – summer visitor generally distributed, frequent occurrence, breeds at Leigh and a year or two since in St Vincent Rocks

1899 status – resident, common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident, our commonest raptor

2017 status – fairly common but declining breeding resident.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
99	87	79	109	86	82	108	100	103	90	75	81	79	58	67	48	40	39

Breeding success: number of sites this century

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus* Local rarity

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

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

**Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

1874 status – occasional summer visitor, two or three have been shot at intervals

1899 status – taken nearly every autumn by birdcatchers, these are often immature birds

1947 status – winter visitor, uncommon but probably occurs in most years. Chiefly met with in coastal areas. Recent records are of one at Stoke Gifford October 1945 and two, evidently on passage, at Clevedon late April 1946

1990 status – autumn and winter visitor in small numbers

2017 status – uncommon and erratic by year passage migrant and winter visitor; most recorded on the coast; scarce inland.

**Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

1874 status – occasional summer visitor, first occurred some years ago

1899 status – occurred at Chewton in 1885 and at Wrington on November 6th 1896

1947 status – summer resident, uncommon though perhaps often overlooked. In recent years has frequently been noted at Stoke Gifford and Blagdon and has also been recorded from Dyrham and Severn Beach. Reported in former years as being seen or obtained at Tortworth, Burnett, Wrington and elsewhere. Probably breeds in several localities but no definite records

1990 status – passage migrant and regular but rare summer visitor

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant and scarce breeding summer visitor.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
13	13	9	10	10	10	10	12	10	13	6	10	7	11	11	6	4	5

Breeding success: number of pairs (confirmed and suspected) this century

Earliest arrival; 30th March 1990 at Winscombe

Latest departure; 11th November 2005 at Dundry

**Gyrfalcon** *Falco rusticolis* National rarity

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

**Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

1874 status – very rare, shot some years ago

1899 status – occurs fairly often

1947 status – resident, local and chiefly confined to coastal areas but fairly frequent inland outside the nesting season. Breeds on Steep Holm. A pair bred annually in the Avon Gorge 1928-1934 (Glos side except 1933). Two eggs taken from a nest on Denny Isle April 1927

1990 status – winter visitor and rare resident, recovering after long decline

2017 status – uncommon resident, winter visitor and breeder.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
6	11	25	13	17	13	13	21	20	11	26	25	17	28	19	20	23	19+

Breeding success: number of birds fledged this century

**Ring-necked Parakeet** *Psittacula krameri*

2006 status<sup>79</sup> – status uncertain, some records may refer to wanderers from the substantial home counties feral population

2017 status – scarce visitor, most records now likely to refer to wanderers from the substantial and increasing home counties feral population. Appears poised to become established

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* Local rarity

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

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

*Davis (19470 - 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 – a pair feeding fledged young at Clevedon on July 9th

1949 – Clevedon on April 18th, 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 – a male in Ashton Gate area on May 12th, three at Charlcombe Bay on July 4th

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

1956 – a female near leigh Woods on June 9th

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

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

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

1963 – a male Horseshoe Bend, Shirehampton on May 31st

1966 – a juvenile at Sand Bay on September 11th

1969 – a male at CVL on August 28th

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

1972 – Sand Point on May 9th

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

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<sup>79</sup> The first year this species was included in the Systematic List

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 – a singing male at Spaniorum Hill near Easter Compton<sup>80</sup> 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, 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]  
2017 – a male at Horton on May 29th

**Lesser Grey Shrike** *Lanius minor* National rarity

1982 – RPD on May 15th [BBRC]

**Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor* Local rarity

1899 – winter visitor, rare, occurred at Clevedon and Abbots Leigh, 1888 and at Dyrham Park, January 1891 (Field)

Davis (1947) – occasional winter visitor. About 12 reported occurrences. Records for past years include Nailsea, 1871, Clevedon 1883 and 1888, Dyrham 1891, Oakhill 1901. Latest reports are from Wraxall, November 1920 and East Harptree, December 1928

1952 – sea wall at Clevedon on October 12th  
1962 – Lansdown, Bath on October 18th [1963 ABR] [SBR]  
1964 – Ubley on November 28th  
1971 – Sand Bay on October 27th  
1972 – Long Ashton bypass on October 19th  
1973 – CVL on January 3rd, Dolebury Hill on November 2nd, Blagdon on November 14th  
1974 – Sandford on January 19th  
1975 – Stockwood on March 26th  
1979 – between Clevedon and the Kenn Estuary on October 28th  
1982 – Filton Golf Course on November 26th  
1983 – Filton Golf Course on April 6th<sup>81</sup>  
1985 – Sand Point on October 21st  
1986 – SGW on November 15th  
1987 – CVL on November 8th  
<sup>82</sup>1991 – Blakes Pool on January 24th  
1999 – a first-winter at ASW from January 24th until April 2nd visited Chittening Warth from February 14th until 19th. It reappeared at Chittening on February 2nd 2000 and remained in the area until March 27th  
2004 – a first-winter at Chittening Warth on January 10th and 11th and February 8th  
2005 – Lansdown on March 28th  
2008 – CI-Y on October 10th  
2009 – Lower Woods on November 23rd, Flax Bourton on December 12th  
2010 – CI-Y on October 30th  
2011 – near Chewton Keynsham from November 23rd until January 8th 2012 and again from March 15th until 23rd  
2014 – Marshfield on October 27th and 28th  
2016 – Sand Point on October 25th

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<sup>80</sup> Location only given as 'North Avon' in 1985 ABR

<sup>81</sup> The Birds of Clevedon Bay by HE Rose in Bristol Ornithology #21 (1992) mentions a record for 6th March 1983 but this was never accepted

<sup>82</sup> The Birds of Clevedon Bay by HE Rose in Bristol Ornithology #21 (1992) mentions a record for 26th October 1988 (pers. Comm) but this was never submitted

**Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator* Local rarity

*Birds of the Bristol District (1899)* – has occurred twice, in 1852<sup>83</sup> and 1892<sup>84</sup> (*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)<sup>85 86</sup>  
*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

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]

2017 – a first-winter at Chipping Sodbury Common from August 30th until September 19th [photograph]

*L. s. badius* National rarity

2005 – a first-summer male of the race *badius* at Uphill from June 11th until 13th [BBRC][photograph]

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus* Local rarity

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

1910 – a male at BL on May 28th [Report of Wells Natural History Society (1910)<sup>87</sup>]

*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

1954 – an 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 – a calling bird in Blaise Castle wood on July 5th

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

1963 – a male at Leigh Woods on June 1st

1966 – 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 – a 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, Leigh Woods on May 30th

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

1990 – a male in Clifton on May 2nd, 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, heard briefly at New Passage on June 2nd<sup>88</sup>

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

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<sup>83</sup> The 1852 reference, page 3474, merely says 'adult killed in Somersetshire'

<sup>84</sup> 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

<sup>85</sup> 2011 and 2013 ABRs incorrectly state the Marshfield area

<sup>86</sup> See 1888 *Zoologist* p221 which says 'Somerset, within a short distance of Bristol'

<sup>87</sup> Per [www.blagdonlakebirds.com](http://www.blagdonlakebirds.com)

<sup>88</sup> In 'Birds in England' Brown and Grice state 'Gloucestershire, near Bristol, pair reared one young in 1991 re BBP panel'. The secretary of the RBBP has confirmed that the undisclosed site was almost certainly in Somerset, not Avon or Gloucestershire

1993 – a male at Pucklechurch from June 25th into early July  
1995 – a male at Sand Point on May 6th<sup>89</sup>  
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

**Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

1874 status – common in woods  
1899 status – resident, common  
1947 status – resident, common in woodland areas  
1990 status – resident  
2017 status – fairly common breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 35% decrease since 1994.

**Magpie** *Pica pica*

1874 status – generally distributed  
1899 status – resident, common  
1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed  
1990 status – resident. Increasing in town and country  
2017 status – common breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 32% decrease since 1994.

**Nutcracker** *Nucifraga caryocatactes* National rarity

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]

**Chough** *Pyrhocorax pyrrhocorax* Local rarity

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, 1941-42<sup>90</sup> [Davis (1947)]  
2006 – a Welsh bred bird was at Sand Point on April 19th and 20th  
2016 – Uphill on January 27th

**Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula*

1874 status – common resident, St Vincent's Rocks and Leigh  
1899 status – resident, very common  
1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed  
1990 status – resident, increasing  
2017 status – abundant breeding resident; uncommon passage migrant. The 2017 BBS results showed an 8% decrease since 1994.

Largest count: an estimated 5,000 roosted at CVL on 13th January 2013

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<sup>89</sup> Although Rose 2000 says 'recorded in 17 of the years between 1950 and 2000' there are accepted records in only 16 of those years

<sup>90</sup> 2006 ABR says December 1941 staying into 1942

Nordic Jackdaw *C. m. monedula* Local rarity

2008 – Somerdale, Keynsham from January 14th until 22nd with two there on 22nd and R Chew in Keynsham on January 23rd and March 3rd, Marshfield on January 25th, February 10th and March 1st, West Harptree on February 6th and 7th and March 18th and 29th, Keynsham on November 26th [article]

2014 – New Passage on December 11th

2015 – New Passage on November 6th with what was presumed to be the same individual again on April 22nd and 23rd and June 1st and 9th 2016

2016 – New Passage on, Tockington on April 23rd

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus*

1874 status – common everywhere

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident

2017 status – common breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 66% decrease since 1994.

**Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone*

1874 status – local resident, common on banks of Avon

1899 status – resident, breeds regularly

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident

2017 status – common breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 14% increase since 1994.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix* Local rarity

*Wheeler (1874) – rare, has occurred once or twice, but no exact locality known*

1897 – Puxton in the winter [*Birds of the Bristol District (1899)*]

*Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – reported in the winter, 1883*

1917 – near Kingston Seymour in December [1943 ABR]

c1920 – Stoke Gifford [1943 ABR]

*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*

1941 – Winscombe on 25th October [1943 ABR]

1943 – seen from a train on west side of Bathford on 1st December

1948 – Bath Sewage Factory near Saltford from late February until April 19th at least

1952 – an adult at Hambrook on November 11th

1959 – Axe Estuary from July 12th until 15th

1963 – Hallen Marsh on April 7th

1964 – amongst Jackdaw flock at Wraxall from March 29th until 31st, Ubley on April 19th

1969 – SGW on December 14th, 21st and 24th

1970 – SGW until March 8th [SBR]

1971 – Chittening on April 4th

1976 – on Durdham Down on December 26th, Chew Stoke on December 28th

1984 – near Kingston Seymour, by M5, on January 4th

1987 – Axe Estuary in a flock of Crows on April 9th

1988 – New Passage on October 23rd

1989 – Axe Estuary on March 22nd and April 20th

1992 – New Passage on May 2nd

1994 – New Passage on April 13th with another on 24th

2003 – BL on November 7th

**Raven** *Corvus corax*

1874 status – rare resident, occasionally at Leigh and Stapleton

1899 status – used to nest at Dyrham Park

1947 status – resident, local and chiefly confined to coastal areas. Breeds regularly on Steep Holm and, in some years, Sand Point. A pair nested annually in the Avon Gorge 1936-1940 (Glos side except 1940). Formerly bred at Badminton and Dyrham

1990 status – one pair, resident on Steep Holm; others wander from breeding sites in Gwent and Somerset

2017 status – uncommon but widespread breeding resident, and possibly an uncommon passage migrant.

Largest count: 19 at CVL on 7th September 2006

**Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus* Local rarity

*Wheeler (1874) – very rare, has occurred at intervals, Ashton*

*1899 – winter visitor, has occurred several times but of late years its visits have been rare*

*Davis (1947) – occasional winter visitor. Has been recorded from various localities including Long Ashton, Butcombe and Winscombe,*

1943 – Clifton on October 30th

1947 – five at Henleaze on January 5th and then up to eight until February 17th, four or five in Stoke Bishop/Westbury-on-Trym/Horfield in first ten days of February, 12 Redland on February 9th, Filton on 9th, Odd Down on February 5th with two on 11th, two at Bathampton on February 16th and one March 12th, Walton-St-Mary, Clevedon on March 2nd

1957 – three in a Clevedon garden on December 15th, Royal Victoria Park, Bath on December 8th and 15th

1958 – Aust on January 14th, two in a Fishponds garden on February 8th

1959 – Shirehampton garden on November 14th

1962 – two or more in Bath from mid-February until late March being seen at Lansdown, Victoria Park, Upper Weston etc

1965 – two in Stoke Bishop on December 9th, three Wrington Warren on November 21st, two at Clevedon on December 11th, Hartcliffe in December

1966 – ten at Long Ashton on January 3rd, Downend Wood on February 13th

1970 – up to three at Frampton Cotterell on November 17th, Clifton Down on December 31st, two at Cleeve on December 4th, Southville on December 31st

1971 – Hallen on December 5th

1978 – Filton garden on February 10th and 11th

1981 – three at Keynsham on November 28th and 29th

1988 – Nailsea garden on October 11th

1996 – between eight and 20 birds between February 7th and April 4th with records from Portishead, Clevedon, Worle, Farrington Gurney, Mangotsfield and Yatton

1999 – a first-winter at Thornbury from February 7th until 9th

2001 – six in a Clevedon garden on January 9th, with one in the area on February 10th and four from 12th until March 8th, two at Odd Down on January 18th and 19th

2003 – two first-winters in a Nailsea garden from January 26th until February 15th and again on March 13th

2004 – 36 at Thornbury on December 30th, the start of an invasion in early 2005

2005 – about 10,900 widespread bird-days up to April 26th with a maximum flock of 377  
*[article]*

2008 – nine at Nailsea on December 23rd and 24th with two there on 27th and 28th; a flock of up to 14 were seen in the same area on five dates between February 16th and March 15th 2009

2010 – two at Clifton on January 6th, 20 at Shirehampton on 7th. In the second winter period birds were recorded from October 26th until April 4th 2011, a total of 2897 bird-days with a maximum flock of 112.

2012 – recorded from November 10th until 14th April 2013, a total of 2735 bird-days and a maximum flock of 60

2016 – Redland on November 14th and 16th, Worle on 19th, Clevedon on December 5th

2017 – a total of 654 bird-days between January 4th and March 4th with a maximum flock of 17

81/82	88/89	95/96	98/99	00/01	02/03	04/05	05/06	08/09	09/10	10/11	16/17
6	1	c.75	3	c.107	c.42	10875	1	c.70	22	2897	658

Total bird-days for each winter in which this species was seen in Avon.

### **Coal Tit** *Periparus ater*

1874 status – local resident, Leigh Woods, Stapleton

1899 status – resident, common

1947 status – resident, widely distributed and common in coniferous woodlands but generally less abundant than either Great or Blue Tits

1990 status – resident

2017 status – fairly common breeding resident, probably also a passage migrant.

### **Marsh Tit** *Poecile palustris*

1874 status – generally distributed resident

1899 status – resident, common, the least abundant of the Titmice

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed but much less abundant than either Great or Blue Tits

1990 status – resident

2017 status – uncommon breeding resident.

### **Willow Tit** *Poecile montanus* Local rarity

*Davis (1947) – status uncertain. Apparently scarce and very local. Not yet reported as nesting, though once noted in the breeding season between Bristol and Aust. Three skins in the Liverpool Museum are of specimens obtained at Clevedon in August 1900, September 1903 and June 1904. Reliable field observation within the last twenty years or so are from near Cadbury Camp, April 1927. A highly probable record is that of one at Clifton, March 1933*

1940 – Stoke Gifford from September 24th until October 23rd [notes] with possibly the same nearby on December 11th and again on February 15th 1941

1946 – Stoke Gifford on September 23rd [notes]

1954 – Little Stoke on December 24th and 27th

1955 – Stoke Gifford on February 23rd

1956 – Oldbury-on-Severn on January 29th

1963 – a pair nested at Abbot's Pool, Abbots Leigh

1966 – Abbot's Pool on March 13th, Stowey Sutton on August 24th

1967 – two at Walton Moor on April 16th

1968 – two at Walton Moor on April 15th, East Harptree on July 31st

1969 – trapped at CVL on April 7th, four at Litton Res. on March 16th with one there on May 3rd [SBR]

1970 – two by road between BL and CVL on January 4th [SBR], Litton Res. on January 20th, Walton Moor on July 20th

1971 – Clutton on January 10th, between BL and CVL on February 14th [SBR], Saltford on March 14th, Yeo Estuary on April 4th [SBR], Abbot's Pool on April 28th, two at CVL on September 26th and December 5th [SBR], BG on December 24th

1972 – SGW on June 26th, CVL on July 27th [SBR]

1973 – reports from Inglestone Common

1974 – two at BL on March 29th [SBR], reports from Inglestone Common



1975 – reports from Abbots Leigh, BG and CVL  
 1976 – 17 records but none with supporting details  
 1977 – two at Inglestone Common on August 3rd, Vassalls Park, Fishponds on October 30th  
 1978 – two at Ashton Park on April 2nd, Leigh Woods on April 6th (and August 6th), Inglestone Common on May 27th (with three on September 3rd), Marshfield on August 11th, two at Wrington Warren on August 17th, CVL on October 8th  
 1979 – Leigh Woods on October 25th  
 1980 – records from Inglestone Common and Goblin Combe  
 1981 – records of one or two from Littleton Pits, Inglestone Common, Horton Bushes, Oakford, Claverton, Saltford and Burrington Combe  
 1982 – records of one or two from Inglestone Common, Dunkirk, near Colerne and Weston Woods  
 1983 – single records from each of Inglestone Common, Marshfield, Oakford and Wick  
 1984 – two at Goblin Combe on February 11th, two at Inglestone Common on 19th  
 1985 – Midford on April 8th and 12th, at an old breeding site in ST47 on June 28th  
 1986 – Burrington Ham on June 13th  
 1987 – a pair on Burrington Ham and a pair with two young at Cadbury Hill, Yatton, both in June  
 1988 – New Passage on April 11th, Oakford Valley on August 8th, Dyrham Wood on November 6th  
 1990 – Leigh Woods on April 12th, heard at Inglestone Common on May 12th, ringed at BL on August 25th, Wains Hill on October 11th, Tortworth on November 4th  
 1991 – Cleeve Wood, Willsbridge on July 7th [1992 ABR]  
 1992 – Northwick Warth on September 26th, Goblin Combe on November 29th  
 1993 – Hill on July 11th  
 1994 – singing at Inglestone Common on March 26th, Tortworth on May 15th  
 1997 – a juvenile trapped at CVL on July 15th, Yatton on November 15th  
 2001 – two near Flax Bourton on January 1st, BL from March 17th until 24th  
 2002 – Abbots Leigh on December 17th  
 2003 – two at Cameley on March 19th  
 2004 – Inglestone Common on April 21st  
 2005 – a juvenile in Lower Woods on July 3rd and 5th  
 2009 – Lower Woods on November 29th  
 2010 – two in Lower Woods on June 13th and July 25th  
 2011 – Inglestone Common on January 30th, two in song at Lower Woods on April 20th with a third on 25th, and one there on July 30th  
 2015 – two at Lower Woods on December 23rd with one on 28th

**Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus*

1874 status – resident, abundant everywhere, woods, gardens, etc  
 1899 status – resident, common  
 1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed  
 1990 status – resident  
 2017 status – abundant breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 35% decrease since 1994.

**Great Tit** *Parus major*

1874 status – resident, abundant everywhere, woods, gardens, etc  
 1899 status – resident, common, the most abundant of the Titmice  
 1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed  
 1990 status – resident  
 2017 status – abundant breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 26% decrease since 1994.

Continental Great Tit *P. m. major*

1938 – one found dead at Cotham in February had been ringed as a nestling at Bautzen, Saxony in May 1937

**Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus* Local rarity

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

**Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus* Scarce, recorded in 22 of the last 30 years

1965 – CVL from October 17th, 35 out of an estimated 50 trapped with two birds previously ringed at Portland

1966 – CVL heard on January 5th and December 23rd

1970 – CVL on November 8th

1990 status – scarce winter visitor

2017 status – scarce passage migrant and winter visitor with the majority recorded from the extensive reedbeds at CVL, where breeding took place in 1991.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
	1	1		1	7	2		1		1		2	2	4	10	3	6	15	26

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

Largest count: 'at least 50' at CVL by 12th November 1965 [SBR]

**Woodlark** *Lullula arborea* Local rarity

*Wheeler (1874) – local, Leigh, Shirehampton*

*1899 – regularly found in the district but has become rarer during the last few years. There seems to be no record of its nesting*

*Davis (1947) – local and in the breeding season confined to Backwell Hill and the Cheddar, Bleadon Hill and other Mendip areas. Has also nested at Clevedon, Failand, Worlebury and doubtless elsewhere. Probably not infrequent, and perhaps breeds, in the southern Cotswolds.*

*Palmer & Ballance mention 'most regular in woods and heaths from Leigh and Backwell to Tickenham and Wrington; NW and S Mendips from Bleadon to Wells. Most are sedentary, spreading to stubbles in late autumn and winter with some autumn passage and local movement in winter. Juvenile ringed Steep Holm on October 4th, 1960. Five October records from Weston-super-Mare and Brean Down'*

1941 – six at Severn Beach on November 9th

1943 – two seen and heard at Blagdon on January 26th, at least two pairs bred on Bleadon Hill where a nest with young was found on March 28th and a second with eggs on April 11th

1944 – breeding again confirmed in the Bleadon Hill area, two nests being found at Loxton early in April

1945 – probably bred on The Warren above East Clevedon where a family party of two adults and three young was seen on May 6th

1946 – Backwell Hill on March 31st and April 7th, two near Barrow Gurney on April 14th and 20th, two at Clevedon on May 26th, two at Long Ashton on May 30th and one heard throughout the summer but no evidence of breeding, breeding proved near Failand, a nest with four or five fledged young on June 11th, with two seen here on August 17th and one on September 2nd.

1947 – Patchway from February 23rd until 26th, four at North Nibley on September 7th, pair with young in nest at Failand on May 17th

1948 – two near North Nibley on January 18th and March 28th and one on April 15th and 23rd, two at Nibley Hill on February 5th and March 14th, seen most months at Long Ashton

where up to six seen in autumn and singing at night in June and one trapped in March. Heard at Churchill on June 5th and Hutton on November 21st

1949 – two at Wotton-under-Edge on April 22nd with one on 26th, between Patchway and Stoke Gifford on October 29th, two at Backwell Hill from September until December, nest with five fledged young at Long Ashton on May 18th

1950 – pair nesting at North Nibley on July 4th with five there on October 15th, resident on Backwell Hill, two nests with eggs in Failand at end of March and a nest with eggs there on April 22nd, seen or heard at Long Ashton throughout year

1951 – again nested at North Nibley where pair with three fledged young seen on July 8th and birds seen in the area during winter, pair with two fledged young on Backwell Hill on June 2nd, breeding season records from Long Ashton, Cleeve, Crook Peak, Bleadon Hill and Wrington

1952 – Long Ashton on February 28th, up to eight at North Nibley in late July, breeding season records from Bleadon on April 11th and May 22nd, Crook Peak on April 11th, two at Hutton on April 25th

1953 – seen at North Nibley between March and December, two in song at Hutton on March 10th and 18th, a pair frequently at Sidcot

1954 – pair at Nibley Hill throughout breeding season with four there on September 5th, breeding season records from Crook Peak, Failand and Sidcot, 12 at Worlebury Hill on November 28th

1955 – two at North Nibley on April 11th with one on May 19th and December 8th, bred at Worlebury, nest with three young on May 12th, heard at Brockley Combe on May 17th

1956 – Wotton-under-Edge on January 20th and September 2nd with four on November 4th, North Nibley on August 19th, heard at Brockley Combe on March 18th

1957 – an adult with four juveniles at Crook Peak on May 4th

1959 – recorded in spring from Loxton Hill and Goblin Combe

1960 – noted in breeding season at Blagdon, Brockley Combe, and Wavering Down, juvenile trapped on Steep Holm on October 4th, one in flight at Weston-super-Mare on October 16th

1961 – pair at Crook Peak on March 25th

1963 – in song at Compton Martin on April 15th, BG on October 13th

1965 – Saltford on June 7th, Steep Holm on September 26th, Sand Point on October 25th

1966 – three at Sand Point on November 1st

1967 – CVL on March 10th, three at Sand Point on August 2nd, four at Yatton on October 29th. Yeo Est on Nov 19th [SBR]

1968 – two at Sand Point on February 22nd

1969 – one at Sand Point on September 23rd with two there on October 5th

1970 – two at Sand Bay on December 27th, Worlebury on June 18th [SBR]

1971 – two on passage at Middle Hope on September 8th

1972 – New Passage on October 15th, three at Middle Hope on July 19th, Ashton Park on June 19th, NE shore of CVL on September 26th [SBR]<sup>91</sup>

1973 – up to four in Sand Point area on August 2nd, October 14th, and November 4th and 6th, Clevedon on October 27th

1974 – Sand Bay on May 5th

1975 – two flying east at Middle Hope on January 17th

1976 – Severn Beach on April 3rd, calling in flight at Middle Hope on July 29th

1977 – Sand Point on October 29th

1979 – Sand Bay on March 11th, Kenn Estuary on May 27th, Portishead on September 17th, two at Portbury Wharf on October 21st

1983 – Clevedon on October 23rd

1989 – Chittening Warth on October 13th, Clevedon on November 12th [1990 ABR]

1992 – Axe Estuary on October 8th

1994 – Wains Hill on October 5th

2001 – flew south over Chittening Warth on October 7th

2003 – six at Long Ashton from November 7th until 10th, Severn Beach on November 26th

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<sup>91</sup> Although the observer no longer considers the identification safe

2006 – four during a migration watch at Axe Estuary on October 27th  
 2007 – PW on November 5th [2008 ABR]  
 2010 – flew over Northwick Warth calling on October 15th  
 2012 – Sand Point on October 27th  
 2015 – Sand Point on October 18th  
 2016 – sound recorded on July 13th  
 2017 – New Passage on October 29th

**Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*

1874 status – abundant resident  
 1899 status – resident, common  
 1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed and often in great abundance following winter immigrations  
 1990 status – resident and winter visitor  
 2017 status – common breeding resident in appropriate habitat, also a passage migrant and winter visitor. The 2017 BBS results showed a 48% decrease since 1994.

**Shorelark** *Eremophila alpestris* Local rarity

1866 – Ashton [Birds of the Bristol District (1899)]  
 1873 – caught near Bedminster and retained in the Zoological Gardens [Wheeler (1874)]  
 1894<sup>92</sup> – shot at Avonmouth in October [(Davis (1947))]

1960 – a male on foreshore at Severn Beach from January 31st until March 4th  
 1963 – CVL from February 3rd until March 10th, Sand Point on November 6th [Palmer and Ballance (1968)]  
 1964 – an adult male at Sand Point on October 18th  
 1977 – Severn Beach from December 5th until 11th.  
 1983 – Sand Point on October 23rd  
 1994 – Kenn Estuary on November 21st and 23rd  
 1997 – CI-Y on November 19th with two on December 17th and three<sup>93</sup> from 20th until January 6th 1998, with two until 10th and one until 16th  
 2004 – Severn Beach on January 24th and February 11th  
 2010 – two at OPS on January 8th, BG on April 24th and 25th [photograph]  
 2017 – New Passage on October 28th [photograph]

**Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*

1874 status – local summer visitor, Stapleton  
 1899 status – summer resident, common, nests in the city  
 1947 status – summer resident locally, but chiefly a passage migrant often occurring in considerable numbers at the reservoirs and similar places. In the absence of normal breeding sites small colonies nest in drainage holes of retaining walls and embankments. Such colonies have for long been known within the city boundary and have been reported from Keynsham, Long Ashton, Backwell, Radstock and elsewhere  
 1990 status – passage migrant and summer visitor  
 2017 status – fairly common passage migrant; local and uncommon breeding summer visitor.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
14	14	14	9	15	14	4	7	5	7	7	20	18	15	12+	11	7+	~5

Breeding success: Estimate of the total number of breeding pairs this century

<sup>92</sup> Not 1884 as suggested by 1994 ABR

<sup>93</sup> 2004 ABR suggests four were present and they remained into February

Largest count: 7,000 at CVL on 7th April 2008

Earliest arrival; 23rd February 2008 at CVL

Latest departure; 18th November 1976 and 7th November 1968 [*Bland (1992)*], 29th October 1991, five at BG and one at BL

**Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

1874 status – common summer visitor, everywhere

1899 status – summer resident, common

1947 status – summer resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – passage migrant and summer visitor. Some decrease evident – access to many nest sites lost through changes of use of farm buildings

2017 status – common passage migrant and common breeder. The 2017 BBS results show a 32% increase since 1994.

Earliest arrival; 7th February 1967 at Weston [*Introduction to 1967 ABR*]

Latest departure; 17th December 2013 at New Passage

**House Martin** *Delichon urbicum*

1874 status – common summer visitor, everywhere

1899 status – summer resident, common

1947 status – summer resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – common summer visitor; has decreased in recent years

2017 status – common passage migrant and breeder. The 2017 BBS results show a 59% decrease since 1994.

Largest count: 5,000 at CVL in mid September 1986, on 9th, 10th and 14th September 1989, on 23rd August 1992 and on 6th and 7th September 2008

Earliest arrival; 4th March 1997, three at CI-Y

Latest departure; 5th December 2004, four at Bathampton

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Cecropis daurica* Local rarity

1970 – SGW on June 7th [*BBRC*]

1977 – New Passage on September 16th [*BBRC\**]

1988 – New Passage on April 22nd [*BBRC\**] [*1992 ABR*]

1990 – CVL on October 20th [*BBRC\**] [*1992 ABR*]

2012 – perched on wires over an Alveston garden on May 1st

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

1975 – CVL from February 25th until April 20th, trapped and ringed [*BBRC*]

1982 – CVL ringed on December 29th remained until February 20th 1983

1983 – CVL on October 6th

1989 – a female at BG on April 23rd and 24th, ringed on 29th. Probable breeding in county, site undisclosed

1990 – trapped at CVL on April 1st [*1992 ABR*]

1992 – three at CVL on October 31st with four next day, remaining into 1993

1993 – records from CVL, RPD and Blake's Pool

2017 status – uncommon resident. First definitely bred in 1995.

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

1874 status – tolerably common resident

1899 status – resident, common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed, numbers sometimes much reduced following severe winters

1990 status – resident

2017 status – common breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 30% decrease since 1994.

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

1874 status – summer visitor, local, not common, Stapleton, Ashton

1899 status – summer resident, very common

1947 status – summer resident, common and widely distributed<sup>94</sup>

1990 status – summer visitor and passage migrant

2017 status – common passage migrant and fairly common breeding summer visitor.

Earliest arrival; 9th March 1972, 12th March 1976 [*Bland (1992)*], 13th March 2011 at Northwick Warth

Latest departure; 25th October 1981, 16th October 1972 [*Bland (1992)*], 11th October 1994 at Somerdale Keynsham

**Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*

*P. c. collybita*

1874 status – abundant summer visitor

1899 status – summer resident, common

1947 status – summer resident, common and widely distributed, occasionally reported in winter

1990 status – passage migrant and summer visitor, scarce winter visitor

2017 status – common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Also, an uncommon winter visitor, and therefore possibly an uncommon resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 11% increase since 1994.

Scandinavian Chiffchaff *P. c. abietinus* Local rarity

2016 – trapped and ringed by CVRS on December 3rd, identification confirmed by DNA [*photograph*]

Siberian Chiffchaff *P. c. tristis* Scarce, recorded in 24 of the last 30 years

1983 – Chittingen Warth on January 2nd [see review in 2015 ABR], CVL on December 16th

2017 status – scarce late autumn migrant and winter visitor, rare in spring.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
1	1		1		1		4	1	2	2	3		2	2	2	11	7	8	2

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

**Iberian Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus ibericus* National rarity

2017 – in song at Kingsgate Park, Yate on March 25th and 26th [*BBRC*] [*article*] [*photograph*]

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<sup>94</sup> Claims of a northern Willow Warbler (*P. t. acredula*) killed at Cowhill in May 1913 and mounted at the City museum have been omitted as this subspecies is not thought identifiable

**Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

1874 status – summer visitor, tolerably common, in woods

1899 status – summer resident, local, common in Leigh Woods

1947 status – summer resident locally, uncommon but nests more or less regularly in most suitable woodlands

1990 status – passage migrant and summer visitor, nowadays scarce

2017 status – scarce spring passage migrant. Rare on autumn passage. Last bred in 1996.

Descriptions are required for autumn records, with records from eight years since 1993.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
16	15	12	n/c	10	8	9	8	10	5	3	7	8	2	7	8	6	5	13	11

Passage totals in spring for each of the last 20 years

Earliest arrival; 31st March 1968 [*introduction to the 1968 mentions them being in song by this date but without a location*]

Latest departure; 18th September 1977 [*Bland (1992)*], 28th August 2000 at New Passage

**Dusky Warbler** *Phylloscopus fuscatus* Local rarity

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

**Pallas's Warbler** *Phylloscopus proregulus* Local rarity

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

2016 – Saltford on October 23rd

**Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus* Local rarity

1986 – Uphill on September 27th, Steep Holm on September 27th and 28th and another from October 2nd until 4th, CVL on November 15th, Charlcombe, Bath from December 11th until 13th [*article*]

1988 – CVL on October 9th

1993 – Brandon Hill from September 22nd until 24th

1996 – along Malago Brook, Bedminster from October 9th until 12th

1998 – Wains Hill on October 18th

2001 – a juvenile at Old Passage on October 12th [*drawing*]

2003 – Clifton Down from October 23rd until 27th, CI-Y from November 4th until 7th

2004 – Wains Hill on October 29th and 30th [*2005 ABR*]

2005 – CVL on September 24th, Sand Point from October 6th until 8th

2006 – PW on September 22nd, Sand Point on October 24th and 27th

2007 – Filton on February 4th, Sand Point on October 7th

2008 – Chew Stoke STW from January 29th until February 21st [*photograph*], trapped on Steep Holm on September 26th, trapped at Cameley on 27th, Sand Point on October 11th, Dundry on 27th

2010 – trapped in Gordano Valley on November 14th [*photograph*]

2011 – Worlebury on October 22nd, Dundry on 27th, trapped at CVL on December 29th remaining until February 12th 2012

2012 – Bedminster on September 29th, OPS from November 17th until 29th [*2013 ABR*], Midsomer Norton on December 19th

2013 – Chipping Sodbury from September 30th until October 2nd

2014 – Bath on March 22nd, CI-Y on October 11th, Sand Point on 19th, Wellow Brook on 20th, trapped at CVL on 25th [*photograph*]

2015 – two at Sand Point on October 4th with one on 20th and 28th, Weston-super-Mare on 5th, Yate on 13th, Chew Magna on 23rd, Wains Hill on 28th

2016 – Aust Services from October 7th until 9th, one trapped at CVL on 8th was retrapped on 16th, Milton on 9th, CVL on 13th, Saltford on 17th, Severn Beach on 21st and 22nd, Worle from 28th until 30th, Bath on December 2nd, Eastville Park from 18th until 20th  
2017 – New Passage on September 24th

**Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis* National rarity  
1965 – Sand Point on August 17th [BBRC] [notes]

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides* Local rarity  
2014 – Sand Point on June 2nd [article][photograph]

**Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* National rarity  
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]

**Aquatic Warbler** *Acrocephalus paludicola* National rarity  
1963 – seen and heard at BL on May 13th [BBRC]  
1965 – trapped at CVL on August 15th and released on 16th [BBRC]  
1966 – a juvenile trapped at CVL on August 13th [notes][BBRC]  
1969 – trapped at BL on August 24th [BBRC]  
1971 – an 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], CVL on August 16th [BBRC]  
1977 – a juvenile trapped at CVL on August 3rd [BBRC]  
1984 – three trapped at CVL on 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

**Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*  
1874 status – very local summer visitor, near Nailsea, Stapleton  
1899 status – summer resident, common in suitable localities  
1947 status – summer resident, local but nests fairly commonly on suitable ground – chiefly in lowland areas. Occurs widely on migration  
1990 status – summer visitor, common in suitable habitat, and passage migrant  
2017 status – fairly common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Earliest arrival; 30th March, in 2007 with two on Severnside, and also in 1967 [2007 ABR][Bland (1991)]

Latest departure; 28th October 1986 at Saltford

**Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*  
1874 status – very local summer visitor, Stapleton occasionally  
1899 status – summer resident, nests sparingly in a few localities such as Nailsea and Saltford



1947 status – summer resident locally, nests in suitable reed beds  
1990 status – summer visitor, common in suitable habitat, and passage migrant  
2017 status – fairly common passage migrant and localised breeding summer visitor.

Earliest arrival; 24th March 1973 at CVL [*introduction to 1973 ABR*]

Latest departure; 26th November 2016 trapped at CVL

One was trapped and ringed at CVL on 30th January 2015

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris* Local rarity

*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.*

1935 – passage bird seen and heard in June at Stoke Gifford [*Davis (1947)*]

*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'*

1979 – singing male at CVL from May 19th until early July [*1979 ABR only gives first date but 1994 ABR gives full period*], a male in the Gordano Valley on 20th May

1986 – two at BG on August 9th

1994 – trapped at CVL on June 5th

**Melodious Warbler** *Hippolais polyglotta* Local rarity

1961 – a first winter 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 – CVL on August 26th

**Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*<sup>95</sup> Local rarity

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

**Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*

1874 status – summer visitor, not common, seldom seen, sometimes heard, Leigh, Portishead, Knowle

1899 status – summer resident, nests every year but is not common

1947 status – summer resident, uncommon and local though well known in suitable habitats. Occasionally noted on migration in areas where it does not breed

1990 status – scarce summer visitor and passage migrant

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant; scarce breeding summer visitor.

Earliest arrival; 28th March 1997, trapped and ringed in the Gordano valley

Latest departure; 28th October 1973, 10th October 1970 [*1997 ABR*][*Bland (1992)*], 7th October 1997 at CVL

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<sup>95</sup> See also Appendix 1 for a *Hippolais* sp

**Savi's Warbler** *Locustella luscinioides* National rarity

1960 – 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]

**Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

1874 status – generally distributed summer visitor, may be heard almost everywhere

1899 status – summer resident, common, has been obtained during the winter

1947 status – summer resident, common and well distributed in woodland areas, sometimes reported in winter

1990 status – summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor from N Europe

2017 status – common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. It is now also a fairly common winter visitor, most frequently recorded in gardens. The 2017 BBS results showed a 71% increase since 1994.

**Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

1874 status – generally distributed summer visitor, plantations, gardens etc, less frequent than Blackcap

1899 status – summer resident, not so common as Blackcap

1947 status – summer resident, occurs in similar haunts to Blackcap but is, perhaps, less abundant and in some years tends to be more local

1990 status – summer visitor and passage migrant. Recovering after decline in 1970s

2017 status – fairly common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Earliest arrival; 24th March 1974 at Doynton [Hale (1991)][Bland (1992)] 29th March 1990, three at Whitchurch

Latest departure; 21st November 1993 in a garden at Winscombe

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

1874 status – summer visitor, not common

1899 status – summer resident, fairly common

1947 status – summer resident, not so abundant or as widely distributed as Whitethroat but fairly plentiful – particularly where thick hedgerows occur

1990 status – summer visitor and passage migrant

2017 status – fairly common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

Earliest arrival; 10th April in 2010, at Severn Beach, 2014 at Weston STW and 1974 [Bland (1992)]

Latest departure; 25th December 2009, in a Brislington garden and present since 9th

**Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

1874 status – generally distributed summer visitor

1899 status – summer resident, common

1947 status – summer resident, common, widely distributed and may be found in almost all types of country

1990 status – summer visitor and passage migrant. Recovering after drastic decline

2017 status – common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. The 2017 BBS results showed a 35% increase since 1994.

Earliest arrival; 31st March in 1961 at Sand Point, and in 1988 [Bland (1992)]

Latest departure; 22nd November 1987, no site given

**Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata* Local rarity

1960 – probably an adult male, in the coastal strip near Walton-in-Gordano on October 16th  
1978 – Portishead on March 4th  
1992 – RPD on November 8th and 15th  
1993 – CI-Y on April 24th and 25th  
1995 – Sand Point on April 2nd, female/juvenile near Crook Peak on September 5th and 6th  
1996 – males on territory at two sites on the Mendips with a juvenile on July 5th  
1997 – bred again at a site on Mendips with three juveniles on July 22nd  
1998 – PW on February 7th, bred again at site on Mendips with an adult and juvenile seen on August 11th, female type at CI-Y on December 16th  
1999 – a Chew Magna<sup>96</sup> garden on March 14th, Sand Point on October 23rd  
2000 – on Mendips on August 31st, two at Uphill on October 15th  
2002 – on Mendips on June 19th  
2003 – Sand Point on October 12th, PW on November 15th, 23rd and December 12th  
2004 – CI-Y on October 17th  
2005 – Sand Point from August 30th until September 16th with two on 10th, Middle Hope on October 3rd, New Passage area from October 5th until 12th, Sand Point on October 9th, Sand Point from 16th until 28th, Severn Beach on October 31st and November 1st, Sand Bay on 17th, PW on December 10th, Sand Point on 17th and 19th  
2006 – Sand Point on January 2nd, Severn Beach on April 1st, Sand Point on October 16th and 17th, Sand Point on 29th, Sand Point on November 2nd and 5th  
2008 – Marshfield on October 10th and 11th, Flax Bourton on December 10th  
2009 – BG on January 2nd and 3rd and found predated on 4th, PW on 7th  
2010 – Uphill on December 12th  
2013 – an immature at Sand Point from November 10th until February 28th 2014  
2014 – an adult at Sand Point on February 28th, Sand Point on October 29th and 30th  
2015 – Sand Bay on September 28th, a female at Severn Beach on October 20th and November 1st, Sand Point from November 1st until 4th  
2016 – Sand Bay on January 6th was joined by a second from 9th with three present at one stage and the last record on April 20th, Sand Point singing on April 9th, Sand Bay on October 11th and 12th, Sand Bay on December 3rd  
2017 – Sand Bay between January 18th and February 8th

**Subalpine Warbler** *Sylvia cantillans* Local rarity

2004 – a female at Severn Beach on May 2nd [BBRC][[article](#)]

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapilla*

1947 status – rare vagrant, the only records are of a bird seen at Clifton February 1913 and one found dead at the same place autumn 1914

1950 – Ubley end of BL on December 10th

1960 – adult male trapped on Steep Holm on October 4th

1990 status – formerly vagrant on passage; now regular in small but increasing numbers

2017 status – scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred.

**Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*

1874 status – generally distributed resident, woods, plantations

1899 status – resident, fairly numerous, more abundant in winter

1947 status – resident and widely distributed, as a nesting bird found chiefly in coniferous woods and gardens but in winter occurs fairly commonly in purely deciduous growth

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<sup>96</sup> Although ABR says Winford site is actually in Chew Magna parish

1990 status – resident, passage migrant and winter visitor  
2017 status – fairly common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. The 2017 BBS results showed a 44% increase since 1994.

**Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

1874 status – common, everywhere  
1899 status – resident, very common  
1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed  
1990 status – resident  
2017 status – abundant breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed no change since 1994.

**Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

1874 status – tolerably common, in woods  
1899 status – resident, common  
1947 status – resident, local but fairly common in suitable woodland areas  
1990 status – resident  
2017 status – fairly common breeding resident.

**Treecreeper** *Certhia familiaris*

1874 status – tolerably common, everywhere  
1899 status – resident, common  
1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed  
1990 status – resident  
2017 status – fairly common breeding resident.

**Rose-coloured Starling** *Pastor roseus* Local rarity

1862 – obtained at St Philips Marsh [*Davis (1947), Wheeler (1874)*]  
1869 – obtained at Laverton [*Davis (1947)*]  
1871 – Batheaston on July 29th [*2000 ABR*]  
1890 – Clevedon in early September [*Palmer and Ballance (1968)*]  
1895<sup>97</sup> – Clevedon in 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*], 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*]

**Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

1874 status – common everywhere

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed, often in great abundance following winter immigration. Reported in recent years as roosting in very large numbers at Chipping Sodbury, Rangeworthy, Patchway, Failand, Long Ashton, Marksbury and elsewhere. Some thousands roosted in the spire of St Mary, Redcliff November-December 1929

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<sup>97</sup> 2000 ABR gives year as 1893

1990 status – resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Decrease in last decade or so  
 2017 status – still abundant breeding resident, declining rapidly; also passage migrant and winter visitor. 2017 BBS results showed a 87% decrease since 1994.

Largest count: a rough estimate of 50,000 at CVL on 6th and 7th March 1993

**White's Thrush** *Zoothera aurea* National rarity

1871– killed at Langford, close to the northern slope of Mendip, on January 6th [Davis (1947), *Zoologist* 1871 p 2607]

**Ring Ouzel** *Turdus torquatus*

1874 status – rare summer visitor, occurs occasionally at leigh woods and Stapleton

1899 status – occasionally seen on passage in the spring, nested at Almondsbury, 1899 and the young birds were drowned in the nest

1947 status – passage migrant in small numbers, recorded fairly regularly in both spring and autumn and has once or twice been found breeding. Occurs chiefly on high ground, though not infrequently in lowland areas. Reported as having nested at Almondsbury 1899 but the record is without any corroborative details

1990 status – regular but uncommon passage migrant

2017 status – scarce passage migrant, very scarce in autumn, mostly on or near the coast.

	2000	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
Spring	11	2	3	5	3	3	10	20	2	4	9	20	12	64	10	12	10	5
Autumn	1	2	1	2	1	19	1		2	4	2	0	0	5	1	13	4	3
Total bird-days for spring and autumn passage this century																		

Largest count: 34 on Wavering Down on 3rd April 1971

Earliest arrival; 15th March 1967 (ABR is unclear as to location, it states' up to three Filton, Clapton-in-Gordano, Nailsea Moor, Sand Point, Brean Down Mar 15 – 30')

Latest departure; 20th November 1986 at Charlcombe

A male was present at Ham Green from 9th February until 27th in 2008 and had possibly been first seen in early January. Also recorded from Whiteladies Road in January 1971 [Hale (1991)].

**Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

1874 status – abundant everywhere, pied varieties occasionally occur

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident. Probably our commonest bird

2017 status – abundant resident, passage status uncertain. The 2017 BBS results showed a 15% increase since 1994.

**Black-throated Thrush** *Turdus atrogularis* National rarity

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

**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

1874 status – abundant winter visitor, commoner some winters than others

1899 status – winter visitor, occurs regularly and sometimes stays until the end of May

1947 status – winter visitor, common and widely distributed

1990 status – regular winter visitor; large numbers only in cold weather

2017 status – common winter visitor and passage migrant; can occur in large numbers in hard winters.

Largest count: 4000 at Abbots Leigh on 17th - 19th January 1985. Large movement of Fieldfares and Redwing at Aust on 23rd October 1955 with 10,200 birds in 5 hours

Earliest arrival; 29th August 1994 at Charlton Field

Latest departure; 8th May 1982, no site given

### **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

1874 status – abundant winter visitor, more numerous than Fieldfares and usually arrives earlier

1899 status – winter visitor, occurs regularly in abundance

1947 status – winter visitor, common and widely distributed

1990 status – regular winter visitor; large numbers only in cold weather

2017 status – common winter visitor and passage migrant. Can occur in large numbers in hard winters.

Largest count: 3500 at Long Ashton on 12th January 1985

Earliest arrival; 7th August 1979, 'an experienced observer gave a full description', 21st September 1966 [*Bland (1992)*], 15th September 2004 on Steep Holm

Latest departure; 29th April 1967, 26th April 1973 [*Bland (1992)*], 21st April 2012 at CVL

Icelandic Redwing *T. m. coburni* Local rarity

1899 – obtained at Clevedon in November, now in Liverpool Museum *Davis (1947)*

### **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos*

1874 status – abundant, well known everywhere

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident

2017 status – common breeding resident.

### **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

1874 status – tolerably common, frequent of Downs and Leigh

1899 status – resident, common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – common resident and passage migrant

2017 status – uncommon breeding resident, and passage migrant.

### **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

1874 status – summer visitor, generally distributed, frequent at Leigh Woods, orchards, gardens and plantations

1899 status – summer resident, common

1947 status – summer resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – summer visitor, now scarce

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
175	160	151*	222*	128*	108*	109*	58*	98	97	100	81	92	114	164	131	141	191

Annual bird-days this century (\* number of individuals as bird-days not available)

Earliest arrival; 16th April in 1966 and 1983, 17th April 1972 [*Bland (1992)*], 20th April 2016 at CVL

Latest departure; 27th October 1987, trapped and ringed on Steep Holm

**Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*

1874 status – common everywhere

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident

2017 status – abundant breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 39% increase since 1994.

**Bluethroat** *Luscinia svecica* Local rarity

1968 – an 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*]

**Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos* Scarce, with descriptions required since 2017 and the last record, of one individual, in 2016

1874 status – generally distributed summer visitor, in woods, commoner than formally, Clifton Down, Leigh

1899 status – summer resident, nests in most parts of the district, and on Durdham Down

1947 status – summer resident, not uncommon in suitable wooded habitats. Widely distributed in lowland areas but scarce on high ground

1990 status – scarce, local and probably decreasing summer visitor

2016 status – very scarce breeding summer migrant, and scarce or very scarce passage migrant. With no breeding records for a second year it was concluded that the species is extinct as a breeder.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
18	14	6	7	5	2	3	11	8	6	5	3	3	4-5	5	1-4	1			

Estimated number of pairs attempting to breed in each of the last 20 years

Earliest arrival; 7th April 1961 [*2002 ABR*], 8th April 2002, in song at Aust Warth

Latest departure; 12th September 1977 [*Bland (1992)*]

**Red-flanked Bluetail** *Tarsiger cyanurus* National rarity

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

**Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

1874 status – rare summer visitor, one only at Ashton many years since

1899 status – summer resident, rare, nested within half a mile of the city boundary in 1899

1947 status – passage migrant, uncommon but has frequently been reported – usually in spring, when it doubtless occurs regularly in small numbers. Scarce on autumn passage

but has been noted at Tortworth 1936 and at Stoke Gifford 1934 and 1944. Recorded as having nested at Henbury 1885, and close to the city boundary 1899

1990 status – scarce passage migrant

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant, scarce in autumn, and rare summer visitor; bred in 1988.

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
Spring	20	18	22	1	7	14	22	2	22	1	8	12	7	30	3	9	19	2
Autumn	2	6	2	3	1	12	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	3	0	2	3	1

Passage numbers recorded this century

Earliest arrival; 30th March 2002 at BG

Latest departure; 14th October 2005 at Dundry

### **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

1899 status – winter visitor, rare, was observed at Sea Mills during the winter of 1893-94 and obtained there on January 8th 1895

1947 status – winter visitor in very small numbers. Formerly recorded only at intervals but observations over the last ten years show that it now occurs annually. Most records from coastal areas, including Severn Beach, Sea Mills and Clevedon. Has also been seen near Bath, at Blagdon (several occasions), Banwell, and elsewhere. Not yet reported as remaining to nest but single males present, and singing, in the heart of the city June 1945 and July 1947

1990 status – scarce winter visitor. Has stayed into summer, but no proof of breeding

2017 status – uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare in summer; has bred recently.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
22	80	17	25	24+	16	12	33	45	111	88	63	125	71	34	52	98	119

Annual bird-days this century

### **Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

1874 status – abundant summer visitor

1899 status – summer resident, common, a male was caught within the city boundary on February 4th 1878

1947 status – summer resident, local though fairly common as a nesting bird in suitable woodland habitats or where pollard willows occur. Widespread on migration

1990 status – scarce passage migrant and rare summer visitor. Much reduced recently

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant.

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
Spring	32	25	37	26	49	34	65	18	26	28	24	37	138	136	59	86	154	37
Autumn	27	21	27	35	30	26	36	16	20	17	29	78	18	71	130	183	105	225

Bird-days recorded on spring and autumn passage this century

Earliest arrival; 17th March 2011 at Clapton-in-Gordano

Latest departure; 30th November 2014, a male in a garden in Oldfield Park, Bath<sup>98</sup>

### **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*

1874 status – local summer visitor, not common, Ashton, Leigh

1899 status – summer resident, common and generally distributed

1947 status – summer resident, local but nests fairly commonly on rough pastures, along railway embankments and in other suitable habitats. Occurs widely on migration

<sup>98</sup> Bland (1992) mentions a record for 28th December 1969 which currently I am unable to trace



1990 status – passage migrant; small numbers formerly bred, and may still do occasionally  
 2017 status – uncommon passage migrant.

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
Spring	73	50	22	45	46	41	48	31	24	18	37	34	89	58	36	88	84	49
Autumn	184	121	180	188	71	90	138	33	127	88	92	77	44	114	273	309	230	350

Bird-days recorded on spring and autumn passage this century

Earliest arrival; 19th March 1974 at Pensford  
 Latest departure; 3rd December 1982 near Hewish

### **Stonechat** *Saxicola torquatus*

1874 status – local resident, not very common, Downs, Ashton, Leigh

1899 status – resident, breeds in suitable localities

1947 status – resident, as a breeding bird frequents various types of country but is decidedly local. Nests regularly in some coastal areas, also on Mendip and other suitable hill ground. Becomes more widespread in winter

1990 status – formerly resident; very scarce in recent years, mainly seen in autumn and winter

2017 status – uncommon winter visitor, passage migrant, and scarce breeder.

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
	2	5	3	3	8	11	12	7	15	2	2	3				1		

Breeding decline: number of successful breeding pairs this century

### **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

1874 status – generally distributed summer visitor, Downs, Leigh, Avonmouth

1899 status – summer resident, nests in a few localities such as Dundry. Used to nest on Durdham Down but is now only seen there on migration at the end of March. Sometimes remains during winter

1947 status – passage migrant, also summer resident very locally. Has been reported as a nesting bird from the hills near Bath but there seems to be no definite evidence of regular breeding. Used to nest, but not for many years past, on Durdham Down, Clifton and recorded long ago as having nested near Alveston. Occurs widely on migration, spring arrivals appearing three or four weeks earlier than those of the larger Greenland form. A wheatear, presumably of this race was seen at Bedminster early February 1899

1990 status – passage migrant

2017 status – fairly common passage migrant, mainly on the coast and at traditional inland sites. Both nominate *O. o. oenanthe* and *O. o. leucorhoa* (Greenland Wheatear) occur and both are probably common migrants, albeit hard to distinguish with certainty in the field.

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
Spring	571	491	219	338	820	814	1894	450	496	418	296	980	2273	1920	728	1037	599	487
Autumn	565	338	518	603	546	651	560	332	670	495	482	842	617	624	767	546	852	596

Spring and autumn passage bird-days this century

### Greenland Wheatear *O. o. leucorhoa*

1947 status – passage migrant, occurring regularly in both coastal and inland areas. Birds on spring passage, especially brightly plumaged males, are often not difficult to recognise but autumn migrants are rarely separable in the field

Earliest arrival; 28th February 1998, a male at Bristol Airport  
 Latest departure; 12th December 1994 at OPS, present since 9th

**Desert Wheatear** *Oenanthe deserti* National rarity

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** *Oenanthe pleschanka* National rarity

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

**Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus*

1899 status – not often found near the city. A pair was seen at Compton Dando, April 1898, also at Frenchay during the summer 1898

1947 status – resident locally, nests on suitable streams chiefly in Cotswold and Mendip areas. Breeding, or breeding season, records within fairly recent years from various places including Hambrook, Pensford, Blagdon, Litton and Winscombe. Has been seen well within the city boundary – on the R Frome at Stapleton (frequently) and on the R Trym near Henbury (once 1947)

1990 status – resident

2017 status – uncommon breeding resident, present locally on all suitable streams and rivers.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
72	39	29	38	56	51	89	77	84	173	201	205	125	135	139	180	211	189

Annual bird-days this century

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

1874 status – common everywhere

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Has decreased recently

2017 status – abundant breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 32% increase since 1994.

**Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* Scarce, with descriptions required since 2017

1874 status – rare resident

1899 status – resident, small colonies are to be found in many localities

1947 status – resident but appears to be chiefly a winter visitor often occurring in small parties with other finches. As a breeding bird it is evidently very local though perhaps sometimes overlooked. Has been reported as nesting in the Chew Valley and at Stoke Gifford, Hallen, Sheperdine and Oldbury-on-Severn

1990 status – scarce resident; passage migrant and winter visitor. BTO data show a catastrophic decline nationally in the last decade; in Avon the species is elusive, and records are too few to show any trend

2017 status – scarce passage migrant and winter visitor. Now probably extinct as a breeding species.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
31	6	288	72	52	40	18	5	2	5	8	8	2	4	13	9	1	10

Annual bird-days this century

Largest count: 150 at Severn Beach on 22nd January 1967 and at CVL on 1st - 4th January 1976 [CVRS report 76 – 78]

**Dunnoek** *Prunella modularis*

1874 status – common everywhere

1899 status – resident, common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident

2017 status – abundant breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 9% increase since 1994.

**Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

*M. f. flavissima*.

1874 status – local summer visitor but not uncommon where it occurs, Clifton Down, Avonmouth, Ashton, Stapleton

1899 status – summer resident, common

1947 status – summer resident, fairly well distributed nesting chiefly on low lying marshy ground and not uncommonly in cultivated field. Often abundant on migration at the reservoirs and other suitable places

1990 status – passage migrant and resident

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant and very scarce breeding summer visitor.

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
Spring	118	78	62	59	121	67	125	86	164	25	42	165	439	203	198	98	330	114
Autumn	188	279	72	132	386	160	125	156	102	147	404	258	278	723	534	343	544	877

Bird-days for spring and autumn passage this century

Earliest arrival; 15th March 1970 [*Bland (1992)*], 21st March 1992 at BL

Latest departure; 23rd December 1968 at CVL [*Introduction to 1968 ABR*], 20th November 1989 at Winford

Wintered at CVL in 1979/80

Blue-headed Wagtail<sup>99</sup> *M. f. flava* Local rarity

1870 – pair shot at Clevedon in late May 1870 (Zoologist) [*Palmer and Ballance (1968)*] *Davis (1947)* – very scarce visitor. Has occasionally been reported in spring or summer.

1954 – four probables at Severn Beach on April 23rd, another probable at Saltford sewage farm on May 15th and 18th

1960 – a male at CVL on May 1st

1965 – a male at CVL on May 23rd, a male at CVL on April 23rd [*SBR*]

1968 – at CVL, a male on April 4th, a pair on May 5th, male and two females on May 9th with others on May 5th and July 30th

1969 – trapped and ringed at CVL on August 28th

1972 – a female at CVL on April 30th with one on July 27th and a male on September 19th, at SGW one on June 11th and July 2nd [*SBR*]

1973 – a pair raised at least 2 young at CVL [*SBR*]

1974 – a pair raised two broods at CVL, a pair at BG on May 4th [*SBR*]

1975 – 'there were the usual reports of blue-headed forms from CVL'

1976 – a male at CVL from April 10th until May 29th [*SBR*]

1981 – Clevedon on April 18th and the Yeo Estuary on June 14th

1991 – a female at Yeo Estuary on May 17th [*notes*]

1992 – a male at CVL on April 25th

1993 – CI-Y on May 19th, RPD on May 31st

1995 – a male at CVL on August 26th

1996 – a female at the Yeo Estuary on May 10th

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<sup>99</sup> Although some of the records shown relate to females recent research suggests these cannot be reliably identified, see 2016 ABR, and these have not been included in the cumulative rarity statistics

1999 – bred at Weston STW with two males and a female present from June until September, on Severnside on April 19th, 25th and 26th, a female at CVL on April 29th  
2000 – bred again at Weston STW with a male seen on April 30th and May 1st, carrying food on June 25th and two juveniles on July 22nd  
2003 – a male at CVL on April 20th  
2004 – Severnside on May 1st  
2008 – a male at Severn Beach on April 20th  
2016 – a male at Pilning Wetlands from April 17th until 24th [photograph]  
2017 – a male at Pilning Wetlands on May 17th and 18th

Grey-headed Wagtail<sup>100</sup> *M. f. thunbergi*

2009 – adult female at Northwick Warth on September 25th [article]

Channel Wagtail *flavissima x flava* Local rarity

Palmer and Ballance (1968) – Variants or mutants attributable to Blue-headed or to 'Sykes's Wagtail (*M. f. beema*)<sup>101</sup> have twice been found; Female of a pair BG May 24th 1939 and male, mouth of R Avon, 1951

1963 – CVL on May 1st [notes]<sup>102 103</sup>

1972 – showing characters of *M. f. beema* at CVL on June 11th [SBR]

1973 – showing characters of *M. f. beema* at CVL on June 29th [SBR]

1974 – showing characters of *M. f. beema* at CVL on April 20th and August 1st [SBR]

1993 – a male at Northwick Warth on May 31st showed characters of *M. f. beema*

2009 – Severnside on May 18th [notes] [2016 ABR]

2013 – a male at BG on June 26th

2014 – a male at New Passage on April 23rd

2016 – a male at Northwick Warth on April 14th [photograph]

**Citrine Wagtail** *Motacilla citreola* Local rarity

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

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

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

1874 status – resident, not common, chiefly seen in winter

1899 status – fairly numerous in winter, remains to breed occasionally e.g. Coombe Dingle

1894, Hambrook 1893

1947 status – resident, breeds on most suitable streams. Widely distributed in winter

1990 status – resident

2017 status – fairly common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

*M. a. yarrelli*

1874 status – resident, abundant everywhere

1899 status – resident, very common

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<sup>100</sup> A corpse of probably this subspecies was found in late May 1969 on a boat in Avonmouth Docks that had come from the Baltic – see page 581 of the 1969 ABR

<sup>101</sup> I have treated all the records of birds 'showing characters of *M. f. beema*' as more likely to be this hybrid combination, given the similarity of appearance and the unlikelihood of *bema* as a spring migrant

<sup>102</sup> Although published as a probable female Blue-headed the notes, 'blue-grey head and conspicuously white eyestripe and throat' suggest this hybrid

<sup>103</sup> The 1969 ABR, page 581, mention 'aberrant types', probably this hybrid combination as becoming 'more common'

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed  
 1990 status – resident and winter visitor  
 2017 status – common breeding resident, winter visitor, and passage migrant. The 2017 BBS results showed a 27% increase since 1994.

White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

1874 status – rare resident, Durdham Downs, Leigh Woods  
 1947 status – passage migrant, regular on the coast and at the reservoirs and no doubt occurs in many parts of the district. Most records refer to spring passage – autumn birds being not easily separable in the field from Pied Wagtail  
 1990 status – scarce passage migrant and winter visitor  
 2017 status – uncommon passage migrant.

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
Spring	51	34	46	29	64	81	34	43	64	67	39	59	67	277	95	252	654	123
Autumn	7	2	4	11	74	24	9	7	15+	6	5	43	32	26	15	31	19	12

Bird-days for spring and autumn passage this century

Largest count: 45 at CVL on 23rd April 1977

Earliest arrival; 1st March 2007, a female at CVL

Latest departure; 23rd November in 2003 at RPD and in 2014 at CVL

**Richards Pipit** *Anthus richardi* Local rarity

1893 – two at Ladye Bay, Clevedon on May 30th [Davis (1947), Zoologist 1893 p267]

1968 – Clevedon, two at Yeo Estuary on October 20th [SBR] and one on November 4th, 10th, 14th<sup>104</sup> and 24th [BBRC\*]

1969 – Kenn Estuary on January 12th and 13th [BBRC\*]

1970 – Kenn Estuary on November 22nd and 30th [BBRC] [1971 ABR]

1974 – between Kenn Estuary and Clevedon on December 15th

1979 – Steep Holm on September 17th [BBRC\*]

1985 – SGW on October 29th and November 3rd, Steep Holm on September 17th [1993 ABR]

1986 – Sand Point on November 16th, RPD from October 29th until November 3rd [1993 ABR]

1990 – Cl-Y on October 26th [1993 ABR]

1993 – Aust Warth from November 27th until 30th

1994 – Woodspring Bay from October 24th until 28th with a second from 25th until 27th, Sand Point on October 6th, Sand Point October 25th

1995 – Middle Hope on March 22nd [1996 ABR]

1996 – Sand Point on October 18th, two at Sand Point on 26th, OPS on October 22nd

2002 – Weston STW on September 26th, Cl-Y on October 31st and November 1st

2004 – Axe Estuary on November 14th and 29th, December 31st until January 3rd 2005

2005 – Middle Hope from October 6th until 8th, two in Woodspring Bay on November 19th with one next day, Sand Point on December 10th

2009 – flew over New Passage calling on November 14th

2010 – flew over OPS calling on September 30th

2011 – Northwick Warth on October 15th

2013 – Dowlais Farm on January 12th and 17th, flew over calling at Sand Point on November 12th

2014 – Northwick Warth on May 5th

<sup>104</sup> The 14th not mentioned in the ABR

**Blyth's Pipit** *Anthus godlewski* National rarity

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

**Tawny Pipit** *Anthus campestris* National rarity

1972 – in Woodspring Bay on July 29th<sup>105</sup> [BBRC] [SBR]

1982 – CVL on October 2nd [BBRC]

1993 – Axe Estuary on October 7th

2010 – Weston STW on May 3rd

**Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

1874 status – very common resident, Leigh, Clifton, Avonmouth, Sea Mills

1899 status – resident, common in winter

1947 status – resident, local as a breeding species though not uncommon in suitable places. Widely distributed and often abundant as winter visitor and passage migrant

1990 status – winter visitor, passage migrant and scarce resident

2017 status – common passage migrant and winter visitor. Uncommon breeding species, mainly on the coast.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis*

1874 status – tolerably common summer visitor

1899 status – summer visitor, common

1947 status – summer resident, widely distributed, nesting commonly on rough hillsides, railway embankments and other suitable ground

1990 status – scarce passage migrant and summer visitor

2017 status – uncommon passage migrant and very scarce breeder.

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
Spring	179	54	25	68	24	61	111	55	48	25	33	44	119	118	120	87	63	65
Autumn	32	6	12	22	14	37	30	25	23	12	35	30	15	51	40	36	37	46

Total number of passage individuals this century

Earliest arrival; 16th March 1992 at Aust

Latest departure; 24th October 1971 (although site not clear so may not be in Avon), 21st October 1990 at New Passage

**Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus* National rarity

1973 – BL on September 24th. [BBRC] [notes]<sup>106</sup>

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

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

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

**Water Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

1947 status – very scarce visitor but may occur more frequently than is supposed. The only reliable record is of one at Hotwells December 1940

1950 – BL on October 29th

1952 – BG on January 6th

1990 status – regular but uncommon winter visitor

2017 status – uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant primarily to CVL and the coast.

<sup>105</sup> year incorrectly given as 71 in the 1993 ABR

<sup>106</sup> See article in Bristol Ornithology 8

Largest count: 21 at CVL on 28th March 1972 [SBR]

Earliest arrival; 10th October 1971, five at CVL. A report of one heard at CVL on 10th September in the 1995 ABR was erroneous (see 1996 ABR)

Latest departure; 19th April 2016 [2017 ABR]

### **Rock Pipit** *Anthus petrosus*

*A. p. petrosus*

1874 status – local but tolerably common resident, banks of Avon

1899 status – resident, breeds in the Avon gorge and on the Channel coast

1947 status – resident, breeds in suitable places on the coast, also on Steep Holm and nesting has been reported from Denny Isle. Very scarce inland though occasionally noted at the reservoirs in autumn and winter

1990 status – winter visitor, passage migrant and scarce resident

2017 status – uncommon breeding resident on the coast. Fairly common and more widespread as a coastal passage migrant and winter visitor; scarce inland on spring or autumn passage.

Scandinavian Rock Pipit *A. p. littoralis* Local rarity

1982 – Oldbury-on-Severn on October 6th<sup>107</sup>

1994 – Cl-Y on March 5th

1997 – Chittening Warth on April 8th

1998 – Axe Estuary on March 16th [see 1999 ABR for corrected location]

2001 – Sea Mills on March 2nd, CVL on March 24th [article]

2005 – Severn Beach on March 5th, two at CVL on March 23rd, CVL on April 4th

2006 – Severn Beach on March 3rd

2012 – CVL on March 25th [notes and photograph]

2013 – a colour-ringed individual at Severn Beach on October 19th and 20th and then Battery Point from December 9th until January 11th 2014 [photograph]

2015 – New Passage on March 6th

2016 – OPS on March 22nd

### **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs*

1874 status – abundant everywhere

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed.

1990 status – resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

2017 status – abundant breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. The 2017 BBS results showed a 62% decrease since 1994.

### **Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

1874 status – local winter visitor, occurs some years in tolerable abundance, Stapleton

1899 status – winter visitor, occurs regularly in fair numbers

1947 status – winter visitor, by no means common but occurs in most areas. Usually met with in small numbers, often among Chaffinches, Greenfinches etc in fields and stackyards

1990 status – passage migrant and winter visitor in varying numbers

2017 status – fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant, although numbers vary considerably from year to year.

Largest count: 2000 at Northwick and Chittening in January and February 1976

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<sup>107</sup> Currently only birds in spring are considered to be identifiable

Earliest arrival; 3rd August 1968 [*Bland (1992)*], 11th September 1962 on Westbury Road in Bristol

Latest departure; 16th May 1981 but no site given

**Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* Scarce, with descriptions required since 2003 and recorded in 14 years since

1874 status – local winter visitor, occurs every winter on Clifton and Durdham Downs and Henbury, some remain to breed

1899 status – resident, has increased in number during the last few years and is now common in winter. Nests in the immediate neighbourhood of the city

1947 status – resident, local but not uncommon in suitable habitats. Breeds in Leigh Woods and nests have been found on various occasions round Clifton and Bath. Has also been reported as breeding, or in the breeding season, from Chewton Mendip, Winscombe, Pensford, Backwell, Henbury, Tortworth and other widely separated localities.

1990 status – scarce resident. Has greatly declined

2017 status – scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, formerly bred.

2003	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
1		12	12	1	5	37	2	3	11	2	1	3	1	60

Number of individuals since descriptions required

**Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

1874 status – tolerably common resident, Clifton Down and Leigh

1899 status – resident, common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident

2017 status – fairly common breeding resident. The 2017 BBS results showed a 37% decrease since 1994.

Largest count: 54 at Chittening in January 1971 [*BOC BirdNews*]

**Common Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrina* Local rarity

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*]

2017 – in flight over Northwick Warth calling on October 14th

**Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris*

1874 status – abundant resident

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

2017 status – common breeding resident, passage migrant, and winter visitor. The 2017 BBS results showed a 59% decrease since 1994.

**Twite** *Linaria flavirostris* Local rarity

*Wheeler (1874) – rare, occasionally at Leigh*

*Birds of the Bristol District (1899) – occurs regularly on flight but in very small numbers*



*Davis (1947) – very scarce visitor with no records in 19th century. Old records of flocks during winter on sandhills near Weston-super-Mare<sup>108</sup> and singles at Stapleton c1893 and Avonmouth c1896*

1965 – two at Yeo Est on November 14th, Sea Mills on 17th, nine at Clevedon on 20th  
1966 – Blackstone Rocks, Clevedon on January 16th [SBR],  
1967 – Yeo Estuary on January 4th, nine Weston-super-Mare from February 12th until 15th [SBR], five at Sand Bay on 23rd  
1971 – six at Sand Bay on November 10th  
1973 – two at Chittening on March 10th  
1974 – six at Sand Bay on October 22nd  
1975 – eight at Chittening on October 25th  
1976 – eight at Locking on February 1st, 11 at Clevedon from March 2nd until 30th with two there on October 24th, Sand Point on November 6th, four at Chittening on 13th  
1977 – up to 35 between January 3rd and March 20th and November 16th until December 20th at SGW, Portishead, Clevedon, Yeo Estuary and Weston-super-Mare  
1978 – up to 40 between January 6th and March 27th and from October 4th along the coast  
1979 – up to 35 on the coast between Severn Beach and the Yeo Estuary from January until April 8th and from November 11th, two at North Widcombe on January 28th, CVL on February 24th, six at Weston Moor on December 29th  
1980 – flocks of up to 18 from January 1st until March 19th and from October 30th until November 29th at Hallen, Portbury Wharf, Portishead and Clevedon  
1981 – up to 13 at Portishead until February 26th, Severn Beach on February 11th. From October 31st one at Severn Beach and Chittening, four at St George's Wharf, 11 at Portishead and up to eight between Clevedon and the Yeo Estuary  
1982 – up to 11 at Severn Beach and Portishead from January 18th until March 13th and from December 11th until 21st  
1983 – up to six at SGW and up to 26 between Clevedon and Yeo Estuary up to April 2nd and from November 6th  
1984 – 19 records up until April 14th of up to 36 mainly between Clevedon and Kenn Estuary and on Weston Beach. From October 28th 15 records of up to 20 mainly from Aust Warth  
1985 – up to 11 at Aust until January 11th, at Clevedon a maximum in January of 30 on 26th then up to ten until February 24th, two at Weston beach until March 8th, Sea Mills on January 26th, three at Uphill on February 1st, Northwick on February 16th, SGW on April 14th. In the autumn four at Clevedon on October 16th, 12 at SGW on October 26th, up to 11 at Aust from October 27th, up to eight on the Clevedon coast from November 16th, ten at New Passage on December 29th  
1986 – flocks of up to 14 on the coast early in the year with probably 20 on Severnside and another 20 further south in March, two at Aust on November 15th, up to 4 south of Clevedon in December  
1987 – Kenn Estuary on January 18th with six there on 20th  
1989 – RPD on January 8th, c30 at Portishead Lake in October and November  
1990<sup>109</sup> – Clevedon coast on November 3rd  
1991 – five at Portishead on January 1st, OPS on November 23rd  
1992 – CI-Y on November 22nd  
1994 – four at the Kenn Estuary on October 30th, Severn Beach on November 11th  
1996 – up to nine at the Axe Estuary from December 18th until 21st with 12 at the nearby Uphill Pill from 21st with eight present in 1997 from January 3rd until 5th, again on 23rd and then February 7th and 8th  
1997 – Locking on February 28th, CI-Y on November 20th  
1998 – two at the Axe Estuary on January 19th and February 11th  
2004 – CI-Y on November 9th

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<sup>108</sup> See Zoologist 1888 p219

<sup>109</sup> Prior to 1990 descriptions were only required for records away from the coast

2011 – three at OPS on December 20th were refound there on January 14th 2012 with a fourth joining them next day and remaining until February 13th

2013 – three at Aust Warth from January 20th until 24th with two there from February 18th until April 7th. Two in the same area from December 7th intermittently until February 2nd 2014 with one remaining until March 23rd [photograph]

**Linnet** *Linaria cannabina*

1874 status – common resident

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed. Often abundant in autumn flocks

1990 status – resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

2017 status – common breeding resident, passage migrant, and winter visitor. The 2017 BBS results showed a 46% decrease since 1994.

**Common Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea* Local rarity

*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 ABR]

1965 – CVL from October 31st until November 1st<sup>110</sup>, BL on December 14th *Palmer and Ballance (1968) [96 ABR]*

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

2001 – CVL on March 16th [photograph]

2004 – Thornbury golf course on February 10th, 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 – Keynsham from February 23rd until 25th, a female/first-winter at Severn Beach on April 20th

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

2012 – briefly at BL on November 18th

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

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

**Lesser Redpoll** *Acanthis cabaret*

1874 status – tolerably common resident, Leigh Woods and Stapleton

1899 status – resident, fairly common and seems to have increased in number lately. Nests on Durdham Down

1947 status – winter visitor, occurring not uncommonly over much of the district. Also perhaps resident in very small numbers. No recent breeding information but nests reported in former years from the Bath, Clifton, Flax Bourton, Clevedon and Winscombe areas

1990 status – passage migrant and sporadic winter visitor. Has bred

2017 status – fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant; scarce in summer.

**Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

1874 status – rare winter visitor, occasionally Henbury

1899 status – winter visitor, occurs irregularly

1947 status – irregular winter visitor, occurring periodically in considerable numbers and occasionally remaining to breed. Nesting reported in the present century from Kings Weston and Long Ashton 1910, Winscombe 1911, Ashton park 1930 and Failand 1933

1990 status – scarce passage migrant and sporadic visitor. Has bred

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<sup>110</sup> The 1965 ABR say, under Redpoll, 'one larger, paler bird on Oct. 31 and another, Nov. 1'

2017 status – regular but erratic visitor and passage migrant, whose numbers vary sharply from year to year.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
17	12	100	100	4	130	1		90	47	96	120	146	140	26	59	44	18
Annual bird-days this century																	

Largest count: 60 at Abbots Leigh on 22nd June 1990

**Two-barred Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera* National rarity

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

**Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

1874 status – local resident, much less frequently seen than formerly

1899 status – resident, gradually decreasing in number, still nests within a small radius but very sparingly

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident and passage migrant

2017 status – common breeding resident, partial migrant, many leaving in winter for France and Iberia. The 2017 BBS results showed a 184% increase since 1994.

**Serin** *Serinus serinus* Local rarity

<sup>111</sup>1983 – seen and heard at CVL on October 22nd

1986 – Abbots Pool on April 21st and 22nd

2017 – New Passage on April 6th

**Siskin** *Spinus spinus*

1874 status – local winter visitor, occurs most winters at Stapleton and Leigh

1899 status – winter visitor, appears with fair regularity

1947 status – winter visitor in varying numbers. Has frequently been reported and is evidently not uncommon wherever Alders occur

1990 status – passage migrant and winter visitor, in varying numbers

2017 status – winter visitor and passage migrant in varying numbers, sometimes common; scarce in summer.

Largest count: 530 along R Chew in early 1986

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** *Setophaga coronata* National rarity

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

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*

1874 status – generally distributed resident, not common

1899 status – resident, fairly common, more abundant in the Cotswolds

1947 status – resident, very local being chiefly known from Marshfield, Hawkesbury Upton and other parts of the Cotswolds. Has nested on Bleadon Hill and perhaps elsewhere in coastal areas

1990 status – scarce resident, with limited distribution, and passage migrant

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<sup>111</sup> 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

2017 status – local and uncommon breeding resident, confined to arable areas in the east of the region. Rare elsewhere as a passage migrant/winter visitor.

**Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

1874 status – abundant resident

1899 status – resident, very common

1947 status – resident, common and widely distributed

1990 status – resident

2017 status – fairly common breeding resident, uncommon passage migrant. The 2017 BBS results showed a 22% decrease since 1994.

**Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirrus* Local rarity

*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, 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, 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, a male near Henbury on September 5th

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

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

1946 – regular on Durdham Down in winter with 12 or more noted on January 3rd, at least four pairs nested in the Sneyd Park area,

1947 – several at Wotton-under-Edge on May 11th, a 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, near Cleeve on April 2nd, 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, a pair at Tickenham on May 4th

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

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

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

1956 – two at Bleadon on May 4th, Sand Point on May 5th, Wrington on May 12th and 26th, probably bred at Monckton Combe  
 1957 – reported from Portishead, Kewstoke, Bleadon and Loxton in breeding season  
 1958 – a male at 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, 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, a pair at Horseshoe Bend, Shirehampton on May 15th with three there on June 8th, also a breeding season record from Worlebury [SBR]  
 1966 – breeding season records from Worlebury and CVL  
 1967 – 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 – a pair at Worlebury on May 20th [SBR], one or two at Hawkesbury Common, Bleadon Hill and Worlebury  
 1973 – Sand Point on February 18th and 25th and September 27th, a 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, pairs at Worlebury on March 16th and Bleadon Hill on 8th, one near Woodford Hill on 27th  
 1976 – bred at Wrington, a pair at Bleadon Hill in March  
 1977 – a pair at Clevedon on February 8th, a singing male at Barrow Gurney on March 16th  
 1979 – 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** *Emberiza pusilla* Local rarity

1976 – trapped at CVL on January 4th [BBRC\*]<sup>112</sup>

1986 – 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

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<sup>112</sup> Photo in 1976 BBRC report

**Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

1874 status – local resident, not common, Stapleton, Avonmouth

1899 status – resident, fairly common in the lower ground

1947 status – resident, breeds locally in lowland areas, becomes more widespread in winter

1990 status – resident

2017 status – localised breeding resident, and passage migrant.

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
30	24	36	29	20	13	31	32	31	30	36	43	51	53	44	41	38	36

Breeding success: singing males at CVL this century

**Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus* Local rarity

1965 – Yeo Estuary on March 7th and 14th, Sand Point on October 24th

1966 – CVL on February 13th, Yeo Estuary on September 25th and during October and November, Kingston Seymour on December 4th

1967 – near Clevedon on December 26th

1971- in flight at Sand Point calling on October 5th [SBR]

1979 – SGW from January 6th until 13th

1980 – SGW on March 22nd and 29th

1981 – Chittening Warth on November 15th, a first-winter at Severn Beach on December 18th

1983 – an immature/female on the coast between Clevedon and the Yeo Estuary on November 13th and 23rd

1984 – Sand Point on April 29th, an immature/female on the coast at Clevedon on October 23rd, Severn Beach on October 27th, a male on the coast at Clevedon on November 10th, 11th, 21st and 30th

1986 – a probable first-winter female at New Passage on February 9th

1987 – Yeo Estuary on January 20th, 23rd and 31st, Sand Bay on January 31st, Kenn Estuary on October 4th, Axe Estuary on November 6th, RPD on November 22nd

1988 – Severn Beach on October 16th

1989 – Aust Warth on September 2nd, Portbury Warth on November 12th

1990 – Weston Moor on October 24th, CVL on November 11th, Chittening Warth on November 25th, Chittening from December 12th until 31st

1991 – Chittening Warth on February 17th, CI-Y on October 25th, CVL on November 17th

1993 – Sand Bay on March 25th

1996 – a first-year trapped at OPS on January 29th was retrapped on February 2nd, Northwick Warth on March 17th

1999 – Yeo Estuary on December 3rd and 4th

2001 – a juvenile/first-winter at Portishead on October 9th, 12th, 13th and 17th

2002 – CI-Y on November 22nd

2003 – an adult male and a juvenile near Yeo Estuary from October 3rd until 5th, two juveniles there on November 15th with one until 19th, Aust Warth on November 19th

2007 – Northwick Warth on October 2nd

2008 – a female at Marshfield from March 24th until 27th

2010 – CI-Y on October 11th, two at OPS on 13th, a different two at Oldbury-on-Severn on 13th, Aust on 13th, three at CI-Y from 16th until 24th with four on 20th, two at CI-Y on December 12th, Weston STW on 23rd

2012 – heard at CI-Y on September 28th, CI-Y on October 4th

2013 – Northwick Warth on September 28th

2016 – Sand Point on December 3rd

**Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

1874 status – very rare winter visitor, two or three times at Avonmouth

1899 status – winter visitor, occurs fairly regularly

1947 status – irregular winter visitor in small numbers. Has been noted fairly frequently, usually in coastal areas or on high ground. Latest records are of a party of six near Severn Beach 1934 and of one at BG in 1936  
 1990 status – uncommon winter visitor  
 2017 status – scarce winter visitor.

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
2	12	6	1		8	7	10		1		5	6	15	9	8	3	1	1	2

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

Largest count: 56 at CI-Y on 17th November 1968 [SBR]

Earliest arrival; 28th September 2003 at CI-Y (although the 2003 mentions 27th September as being the earliest recorded date but without any further details)

Latest departure; 10th April 2005 at Chittening Warth

## Appendix 1

This covers records where the record was accepted but views were insufficient to separate a 'species-pair'

### **Bean Goose sp** *Anser sp*

*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 <sup>113</sup>

### **Diver sp** *Gavia sp*

There are additional records, published as Diver sp., for 1981, 1990 (2), 1994, 1995, 1999 [2000 ABR], 2000, 2003 (2), 2005, 2007 and 2008 (2).

### **Fregetta sp**

2009 – off Severn Beach on November 25th [BBRC][articles in 2013 ABR and February 2014 British Birds]

### **Frigatebird sp** *Fregata sp*

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

### **Harrier sp**

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
	1		1	1	3				0		2			3		3	1	3	2

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

### **Dowitcher sp** *Limnodromus sp*

1977 – Aust Warth on October 16th [BBRC]

1978 – CVL on October 28th [1979 BBRC report]

### **Skua sp**

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
3	2	1	3	1	1	58	11	6	7		5		9	3	22	23	19	1	3

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

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<sup>113</sup> One at CVL from May 16th until early June 1987 and another at BG on March 22nd and CVL from 25th until August 11th 1990 were treated as escapes



**Auk sp**

1998	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	2017
1	1	4	25	16	3				1				6						1

Number of individuals recorded in each of the last 20 years

***Phylloscopus sp***

2000 - a bird at RPD from November 23rd until 25th was either Yellow-browed or Hume's Yellow-browed Warbler [*notes*]

***Hippolais sp***

1972 - in bushes on the east shore at CVL on September 21st and 22nd, thought to be an Icterine Warbler [*SBR with notes and 1992 ABR*]

## Appendix 2

This covers records where the identification was accepted but the bird was not accepted as being of wild origin

### **Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*

1975 – CVL in August

1977 – seven blue phase at CVL on February 12th, three over R Severn near Severn Beach on June 14th and 15th, two white phase at BG on November 6th, all thought to be feral

1978 – CVL on May 13th, SGW on 14th, Sand Bay and flying past Chittening on 20th, New Passage on September 15th

1979 – Severn Beach on April 18th [1980 ABR]

1980 – CVL from May 10th until 16th

1982 – two at CVL from January 14th until 20th, 17 at CVL from October 14th, with 18 in December, dwindled to 13 by February 23rd 1983

1989 – two at OPS on May 29th

1991 – three at Royal Victoria Park lake on February 11th, two 'Lesser blue phased' at CVL from June 16th until July 23rd with one until August 17th, an adult white phase at CVL on December 15th

1992 – a blue phase at CVL on January 25th and February 1st and 2nd

1993 – two white phase at Northwick Warth on April 29th<sup>114</sup>

1997 – a blue phase at CVL from April 27th until June 1st

1998 – two in the City Docks on March 15th with three on April 19th and July 13th and four on September 23rd, BL on December 5th

2001 – Batheaston throughout January, five at Northwick Warth from June 7th until 9th then at Chittening Warth on 12th and at CI-Y on 17th

2002 – Batheaston from January 29th until 31st

2007 – BL on October 27th

### **Lesser White-fronted Goose** *Anser erythropus*

1991 – an unringed adult at CVL from October 18th until February 15th 1992 visited BL on December 26th<sup>115</sup> [1992 ABR]

1998 – an adult at CVL on June 12th and 13th was treated as an escape

2001 – CVL on June 5th, 6th, 16th, July 22nd, 29th and August 5th, again treated as an escape

### **Trumpeter Swan** *Cygnus buccinator*

2006 – CVL on February 17th

### **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

1942 – Aust Ferry from April 18th until 25th and at Severn Beach on June 2nd was considered likely to be an escape

1976 – Bristol Bridge on April 6th and Bathampton Weir on 8th were treated as escapes<sup>116</sup>

1977 – Hoar Gout on March 30th and April 1st, treated as an escape

1978 – two at CVL on March 19th, Axe Estuary on March 28th

1982 – a female at CVL from July 18th into 1983

1987 – a male at CVL from June 21st until mid-November and at BL on August 29th and September 5th, Aust Warth on December 13th, RPD on December 28th

1988 – Severnside from January 10th until February 7th, a female at CVL from July 12th until October 19th returned from August 5th until December 15th 1989, RPD on September

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<sup>114</sup> In the main Systematic List

<sup>115</sup> See comment in 1992 BBRC report

<sup>116</sup> In introduction to Systematic List

9th, Severnside on November 13th and December 13th, 28th and 29th, RPD on December 22nd

1989 – a female on Severnside on January 28th, 30th and February 9th

1990 – a female on R Avon in Keynsham on January 2nd, a female at CVL on July 26th, a female on Severnside<sup>117</sup> from November 10th until March 1991 and then at CVL intermittently until August 10th, again at CVL from June 17th until September 12th 1992 and again July 2nd until September 17th

1993 – a second bird at CVL from August 21st until September 17th

1994<sup>118</sup> - two at CVL on June 20th with a third next day and two more on July 16th with all five until July 23rd and a pair until August 14th

1995 – two at CVL on May 31st, a female there on June 18th until 21st when joined by a second, two females and a male from July 1st with another female from 5th, all four remaining until August 3rd with two until 5th

1996 – two at CVL on June 27th with one present intermittently between 29th and August 10th and two again on July 20th and 21st, CVL on October 12th

1997 – two females at CVL on May 30th and 31st and again on June 14th, 15th, 21st, 23rd and 28th when joined by a male and another female all four remaining until July 27th with one female until August 7th, two females at Weston STW on June 12th and 17th, two on Severnside from November 25th until April 5th 1998

1998 – two females at CVL on June 12th with intermittent sightings of a male and three females up until July 31st, a female at Weston STW on June 13th

1999 – two at CVL on June 21st with two pairs next day and then various combinations during July until the last female on August 2nd, a female at various sites on the coast from July 28th until April 2000 and again from start of 2001 until February 15th and from June 6th until 21st 2001

2000 – a pair at CVL from July 5th until August 20th were joined by a second female from July 22nd until August 18th, a female at CI-Y from June 4th until 9th, on October 29th and between December 5th and 26th, a female at Weston SYW from September 10th until October 15th

2001 – a female at CVL from July 5th until 29th, a female at Weston STW on September 8th

2002 – two over the Axe Estuary on April 15th, two females (one very tame) at CVL from June 25th until July 31st with one until August 31st

2003 – a female at CVL from August 16th until September 21st was thought to be an escape, a female on Severnside from September 19th until 27th, RPD on October 5th with two on November 7th and 23rd, ASW on November 15th with two on December 13th, two on Severnside on December 10th

2004 – various records of two ringed birds in the early part of the year with an unringed bird and a different ringed bird during the summer into the second winter, records between January 2nd and November 30th

2005 – a ringed bird at three sites between February 1st and April 10th, an unringed bird at ASW on May 10th, one at Sea Mills on March 26th [2006 ABR] was considered an escape

2010 – two at OPS on January 8th, Swineford on April 15th

2011 – two at Saltford on March 24th

2012 – CI-Y on April 8th, a female at OPS on May 5th and 19th

**Marbled Duck** *Marmaronetta angustirostris*

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

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<sup>117</sup> 1991 ABR says this female was 'first noted in 1987'

<sup>118</sup> In main Systematic List

**Canvasback** *Aythya valisineria*

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

**Hooded Merganser** *Lophodytes cucullatus*

1996 – a female/first-winter at BG on December 21st<sup>119</sup>

**White-headed Duck** *Oxyura leucocephala*

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

**Red Grouse** *Lagopus lagopus*

2007 – a corpse found on the road in Long Ashton on October 12th

**Golden Pheasant** *Chrysolophus pictus*

2004 – two males in Ladys Wood on November 7th

2011 – Walnut Springs, Bath on February 15th, Avonmouth Docks on October 6th

2014 – a male at Lower Woods on January 30th

2015 – a displaying male in Lower Woods on April 16th, a ringed male in Chew Magna gardens on December 2nd and 8th

**Lady Amhersts Pheasant** *Chrysolophus amherstiae*

2004 – a male in Ladys Wood on November 7th

2017 – a male at West Littleton Down on May 7th

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus*

1992 – an adult at CVL from January 18th until 21st [BBRC category D, see 1995 BBRC]

**Flamingo sp**

1978 – New Passage on April 7th

1979 – two at Sand Point on July 14th [1980 ABR]

**Pelican sp** *Pelecanus sp*

1971 – CVL on September 9th, reported variously as White and Dalmatian

1978 – CVL on June 19th and 20th

**Booted Eagle** *Hieraaetus pennatus*

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

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<sup>119</sup> Reconsidered by BOURC in 2008 but considered an escape

**Great Bustard** *Otis tarda*

2006 – a wing-tagged female (orange 15) at Bleadon Level from February 9th until March 25th was from the Salisbury Plain reintroduction scheme. In 2008 it was by the R Avon in Keynsham from January 10th until 17th then nearby on 22nd and at OPS on 26th

2009 – a wing-tagged female (red 28) seen in West Harptree on January 30th, North Widcombe on February 7th and Puxton Moor on June 8th was from the Salisbury Plain reintroduction scheme

2010 – a wing tagged bird at Weston STW on January 11th

2017 – East Harptree on August 28th

**Snowy Owl** *Bubo scandiacus*

2000 – Engine Common on December 13th

**Eurasian Eagle-Owl** *Bubo bubo*

2008 – a male roosting in Woodland Road, Bristol from mid-September [article][[[photograph](#)]] until May 10th 2009 when thought to have hit a window, it died shortly after

**Northern Cardinal** *Cardinalis cardinalis*

2003 – on a feeder at Portbury on May 27th [BOURC on Category E][2006 ABR]

**Red-headed Bunting** *Emberiza bruniceps*

1994 – an adult male singing in gardens at Combe Down on April 23rd had been present for about 10 days, killed by a cat on 28th

### Appendix 3

This covers records where the identification was originally accepted but was subsequently, in the light of new identification criteria, no longer thought to be safe

**Surf Scoter** *Melanitta perspicillata*

Wheeler (1874) – rare, Ashton

As the 1874 article does not include either of the commoner Scoter, I assume this was a mistake, the record was amongst a number excluded by Davis (1947)

**Tengmalm's Owl** *Aegolius funereus*

1859 – shot at Winscombe [*Zoologist 1888 p176*]

The specimen, in the Taunton Castle Museum, was later reidentified as a Little Owl [*Davis (1947), British Birds v35 n1 p18*]

**Hawk Owl** *Surnia ulula*

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 [*May 2010 issue of British Birds*]

**Ehrenberg's Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus samamisticus*

1989 – a male near Keynsham on September 22nd and 23rd [*BBRC*] was later found unacceptable [*2008 ABR*]

**Parrot Crossbill** *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

Shot at Clevedon prior to 1888 [*Zoologist 1888 p176*]

Dismissed by Davis (1947)

**Black-headed Bunting** *Emberiza melanocephala*

Wheeler (1874) lists Black-headed Bunting but the Latin name, *E. schoeniclus*, is that of Reed Bunting. Rose (2000) mentions 'some 19th century records' but gives them a feral status

Rose (1985) mentions a number of additional old records which I have excluded as the sites are outside of Avon;

1851 – Alpine Swift at Axbridge

1859 – Rose-coloured Starling at Axbridge

1867 – Squacco Heron at Slimbridge

1875 – Crane at Brent Knoll

1901 – Baillon's Crake at Axbridge

1955 – Black-throated Diver at Cheddar

## Appendix 4

This covers records where either the record was never submitted to BBRC or the record is still being assessed by them

### Todd's Canada Goose *B. c. interior*

2013 – Severnside from April 12th until 26th, three at CVL from June 24th until July 5th, Severnside from August 20th until May 16th 2014, CVL on September 9th

2014 – PW on April 25th, 29th and May 1st, RPD on August 4th, again on Severnside from August 17th and September 9th and from November 2nd until April 5th 2015 with an additional two there in early September, CVL from December 17th until March 20th 2015 (either *interior* or *parvipes*)

2015 – a second at CVL from January 5th until May and again mid July, PW on January 10th and 13th, RPD on March 7th, PW on April 10th, Severnside on August 13th, CVL on November 26th

### Cackling Goose *Branta hutchinsii*

1982 – CVL from September 25th until October 31st

1989 – BG from October 23rd into January 1990 and again on December 1st and 2nd 1990

1999 – CVL from April 30th until May 15th

2011 – 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*]

### Baltic Gull<sup>120</sup> *Larus fuscus fuscus*

*Davis (1947) – occasional visitor, perhaps occurring more often than records suggest.*

*Palmer and Ballance (1968) state 'detailed observations in 1965 and 1966 on flocks of Lesser Black-backed Gulls visiting CVL for roosting or bathing show that some of these passage-migrants from mid-March to early April are of this race (B King in litt). Largest number so far identified is 65 (March 20th 1966) but over 100 suspected at peak migration period.'*<sup>121</sup>

1934 – Sea Mills on July 21st [*September 1934 British Birds p117*]

1937 – Sea Mills on April 20th [*July 1937 British Birds p 54*], BG on August 22nd [*November 1937 British Birds p199*]

1938 – Sea Mills in April [*Davis (1947)*]

1942 – Sea Mills on October 22nd

1956 – two at BL on April 2nd

1963 – CVL on April 6th and Weston Bay on November 28th

1967 – CVL on February 20th

1970 – CVL on February 8th

1974 – Clevedon on January 12th

1977 – 14 at CVL on March 14th

1978 – Cumberland Basin on March 17th

1979 – two 'probables' at Rangeworthy on March 10th<sup>122</sup>

1980 – CVL on January 6th with two on March 23rd, found dead at CVL on January 11th having been ringed in Estonia [*BOC Bird News*]

1982 – two at OPS in April, three at Axe Estuary in December

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<sup>120</sup> The subspecies *fuscus* is only on the British List on the basis of a ringing recovery from the breeding range. Older published records for the UK pre-date the full recognition of variability within *intermedius* and are no longer acceptable. There are thus no accepted Avon records and many of the early records undoubtedly related to *intermedius* which was not known/considered at that time.

<sup>121</sup> Conversely the introduction to the 1966 report highlights on page 250 the difficulties of judging mantle shade

<sup>122</sup> There is also reference to 'dark-mantled' birds without trying to ascribe them to race/origin

*These early records make no mention of L. f. intermedius and often refer to birds as showing the 'dark Scandinavian-type plumage'. The first report to distinguish between fuscus and intermedius is the 1984 ABR.*

- 1984 – one or two at CVL and the tidal Avon from January until April 19th and again from September 24th
- 1986 – probables at Weston-super-Mare beach on January 6th and BG on December 20th
- 1987 – five to NE off Aust on March 2nd, three at BG on October 31st, Aust on November 13th
- 1988 – three at CVL on October 2nd
- 1989 – two at CVL on November 19th and then 'a few' until year end
- 1991 – ASW on February 9th, off Clevedon coast on February 17th and 28th
- 1992 – two at Sea Mills on February 22nd, CVL on December 27th
- 1993 – CVL on April 28th and July 2nd<sup>123</sup>
- 1998 – an adult at CVL on October 21st [1999 ABR, article in 2003 ABR]
- 1999 – CVL on August 3rd [article in 2003 ABR]
- 2003 – an adult at CVL on April 23rd and 24th [article]
- 2005 – an adult at CVL on November 1st <sup>124</sup>
- 2007 – an adult at CVL on April 17th
- 2010 – an adult at CVL on March 30th<sup>125</sup>
- 2011 – an adult at CVL on March 14th <sup>126</sup>
- 2015 – an adult at CVL on May 23rd [photograph]
- 2016 – an adult at CVL on August 8th

**Eastern Yellow Wagtail<sup>127</sup> *Motacilla tschutschensis***

- 1993 – Aust Sewage Farm from December 16th until January 19th 1994 [article]
- 2011 – a grey and white first-winter at OPS on December 1st
- 2013 – a grey and white first-winter at BL on October 23rd [photograph]

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<sup>123</sup> In the 1997 ABR the status line was amended to state 'most previously published records probably now inadequately described'

<sup>124</sup> Although published as an *intermedius* the species account mentions it was 'a small dark individual with long 'crossed' wings and all dark primaries'

<sup>125</sup> Although published as an *intermedius* the species account mentions it was 'a small, dark, long-winged individual'

<sup>126</sup> Although published as an *intermedius* the species account mentions it was 'a small, very dark, very long-winged individual'

<sup>127</sup> None of these records have ever been submitted for assessment against this newly split species



