

Ruxley Gravel Pits.

2016. Records from Ian Stewart.

A progress report of 18/4 (my first time inside the gates) to 31/7, a total of 40 visits usually of around 2.5 hours. A total of 78 bird species recorded thus:

Mute Swan (present on 38 visits, max count 3), Greylag Goose (27, 14. Bred on site but families disappeared), Canada Goose (40, 40+. Bred on site, early families disappeared), Mallard (40, 20+. Bred on site), Gadwall (38, 16), Pochard (a pair on 27/6), Tufted Duck (40, 50+. Bred on site, at least 30 juv so far), Great Crested Grebe (38, 8. First breeding attempt failed, now 4 juvs 2nd broods 2 pairs 2 each), Cormorant (31, 3), Little Egret (6, 2. First seen on site 5/7), Grey Heron (33, 4),

Red Kite (1 over on 31/7), Common Buzzard (5, 1. Once April, twice May, once June, once July), Sparrowhawk (3, 1. 25/4, 28/6, 31/7), Kestrel (5, 1. Twice April, once May, June, July), Hobby (1 bird 26/6), Peregrine (3, 1. 28/6, 5/7 2 juvs, 27/7 1 juv),

Water Rail (3, 1. 27/4, 4/5, 23/5 heard only), Moorhen (40, 20+. Bred on site), Coot (40, 140+. Bred on site in large numbers, most early broods seemed to fail), Lapwing (8 over on 7/6),

Black-headed Gull (17, 20+. First 24/5), Common Gull (1 adult 24/7), Herring Gull (34, 20+. Up to 4 on site, most over), Great Black-backed Gull (4, 2. All flyovers of possible same pair May + July), Lesser Black-backed Gull (33, 7. Bred just outside area),

Feral Pigeon (35, 70+. Most flyovers, up to 5 under A20 probably bred), Stock Dove (36, 9. Bred on site), Woodpigeon (40, 20+. Bred on site), Collared Dove (28, 3. Usually by the tip),

Ring-necked Parakeet (40, 10. Possibly bred on site, if not nearby),

Swift (35, 30+. First on 4/5, numbers built up mid-July),

Kingfisher (23, 2+. Bred either onsite or just off along Cray, often shows very close),

Green Woodpecker (35, 3. Bred on site), Great Spotted Woodpecker (23, 2), Sand Martin (4, 5. 18/4, 22/4, 12/7 5, 24/7), Swallow (14, 25+. First 22/4, seen each month), House Martin (8, 20+. 3 dates April, 2 May, 3 June), Pied Wagtail (5, 1. All flyovers first 21/6), Grey Wagtail (19, 2. Probably bred just off-site), Wren (40, 10+. Bred on site),

Dunnock (36, 6. Bred on site), Robin (40, 10. Bred on site), Nightingale (1 heard singing 24/5), Song Thrush (40, 4. Prob breeder), Mistle Thrush (heard singing 8/5), Blackbird (40, 5. Bred on site), Garden Warbler (31, 4. 2 singers from 25/4 to 19/7, juvs seen 10/7), Whitethroat (35, 8. Bred on site last seen 31/7), Lesser Whitethroat (11, 3. Bred on site near car park), Sedge Warbler (1 singing 22/4, 1 juv 12/7), Cetti's Warbler (38, 2+. Singing in 2 locations till mid-July, possibly bred on site), Reed Warbler (39, 16+. Bred on site in some numbers first seen 22/4), Willow Warbler (4, 2. All in April last 27/4), Chiffchaff (40, 20+. Bred on site, numbers conservative- maybe over 50 25/7), Goldcrest (23, 5. Bred on site), Spotted Flycatcher (2 birds on 24/5),

Great Tit (39, 6. Bred on site), Coal Tit (a juv 21/6, ad heard singing 18/7), Blue Tit (39, 10+. Bred on site), Long-tailed Tit (39, 20+. Bred on site),

Magpie (39, 8. Bred on site), Jay (30, 4. Bred on site), Jackdaw (17, 7. All flyovers), Carrion Crow (39, 10. Bred on site), Rook (3 birds over on 7/6), Raven (1-2 birds to S of reserve 27/6),

Starling (22, 10+. Usually flyovers), House Sparrow (6, 3. Visited reserve mainly May), Chaffinch (35, 5. Bred on site), Brambling (1 sumplum male 25/4), Linnet 10, 3. Usually flyovers), Lesser Redpoll (2 on 27/4, 1 on 8/5), Goldfinch (31, 20+), Greenfinch (24, 5), Bullfinch (34, 6. Bred on site at least 1 juv seen), Reed Bunting (15, 4. Seen from 25/4 to 7/6).

Also possible juv Tawny Owl at south end, Cuckoo possibly heard twice in May.