

Bexley Bird Report

2016



Kingfisher –Crossness – Donna Zimmer

Compiled by
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June 2017

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Introduction

This is, I believe, is the very first annual Bexley Bird Report, it replaces a half yearly report previously produced for the RSPB Bexley Group Newsletter/web-site and Bexley Wildlife web-site. I shall be interested in any feedback to try and measure how useful, informative or welcome it is.

I suspect readers will be surprised to read that 153 different species turned up across the Borough during the 12 months of 2016. What is equally impressive is that the species reports are based on just over 13,000 individual records provided by nearly 80 different individuals.

Whilst every endeavour has been made to authenticate the records they have not been subject to the rigorous analysis they would by the London Bird Club (LBC) as would normally be the case prior to publication in the annual London Bird Report (LBR). This report has also been produced in advance of the final data being available from LBC as this is not available until mid-summer the following year – it is inevitable therefore that some records might be missing. I am, however, confident no extra species would be added.

The purpose of the report is four-fold:-

To highlight the extraordinary range of species that reside, breed, pass through/over or make temporary stops in the Borough

To hopefully stimulate a greater interest not only in the birds but also the places in which they are found. Bexley Borough has a wide range of open spaces covering a great variety of habitat types. Some of these open spaces are either under immediate threat of encroachment or development or could be in the future. Without an understanding and knowledge of their importance for nature it is increasingly difficult to make a case for their protection.

To provide at least this one point of reference against which past and future analysis of bird populations can be compared.

To celebrate the enthusiasm and commitment of a large number of local birdwatchers who get out there and enjoy the birds, the places they live and the desire to share that with others., thereby encouraging others to do likewise: watch, enjoy, report.

Close scrutiny of this report will show that just a very few sites receive extensive, year round coverage, those being mostly with water courses associated with them. They might be the most productive in terms of quantity and quality but in terms of a better understanding of the importance of habitats there are many other sites well worthy of better and more sustained coverage – particularly the woodlands. I do not believe there is a single record from Franks Park, only a single organised visit by Bexley RSPB to East Wickham Open Space produced records for this site. There are very few records from Lesnes Abbey Woods, Burstled Woods, Joydens/Chalk Wood, Braeburn Park, Martens Grove/Shenstone Park, even Hall Place with its hide and enthusiastic band of wildlife photographers has very few records of even the most common birds.

On the subject of common birds – it is noticeable how many of our “currently common” birds are under recorded, perhaps only when they become rare (like the corn bunting and spotted flycatcher – once relatively common in the Borough) will they be worthy of recording? The biggest gap of all is from a habitat that is becoming increasingly important and perhaps represents the largest habitat in the Borough – the garden. How different the report might be if

there was a co-ordinated approach to garden bird recording. There is a scheme run by the BTO but unfortunately I do not have access to this data.

There is also a growing awareness that in Bexley, some species have been lost or much reduced – high profile species like house sparrow, house martin, starling, swift and skylark to name a few. It would be very helpful if there was a co-ordinated approach to researching some of these species - whether breeding, feeding or roosting sites. Would you be interested? Do let me know.

One of the interesting reads for me is the importance of the Borough's stretch of the River Thames for wildfowl and waders. The numbers are sometimes staggering and often surprising. Without the discipline of controlled counts those estimates represented in this report will be wholly dependent upon when the observer visited the site and the state of the tide at that time, so one visit might indicate large numbers of dunlin for example, the next day completely different if the tide was at a different stage.

When I have stated “no records” – that only indicates no observers were present or the site not visited, not that there were necessarily no birds at that site. I am also aware that two of the most regular reporters of records suspended submissions for short periods during the year so again, genuine gaps might be apparent. If the report indicated “no records for months” that probably indicates the regularly observer was absent, not that birds were not present.

The report majors on peak counts, month by month along with first and last dates as well as some breeding records where known. Very few records submitted actually identify or confirm where breeding takes place. A huge gap in our understanding and something that could be addressed if co-ordinated observations were made. Many of the statements of breeding are therefore based on anecdotal evidence. Equally, the status of each species is based on that which is detailed in the LBR for a London wide perspective and evidence from the actual records provided.

Practicalities of Reporting

Reporting what we see is invaluable and there are many outlets to do this. The most effective is to send records to the local recorder (in our case John Archer the LBC recorder for South East London johnkingsley.archer@gmail.com) or, in the case of Crossness nature reserve, the Warden, Karen Sutton at karen.sutton@thameswater.co.uk . In both cases records will automatically be forwarded (albeit some months afterwards) to GiGL (Greenspace Information for Greater London) the London bio-diversity records centre and repository for all wildlife records, site by site. Individuals of course might contribute to the myriad BTO surveys including the increasingly popular BirdTrack. However, unlike the former two I do not ever have access to those records. I am also finding it very difficult to track the various social media sites where records are deposited – the only one I follow consistently is the LBC wiki latest news <http://londonbirders.wikia.com/wiki/LatestNews> . Finally, the favoured method of receiving records is if they are sent directly to me rbtodd@btinternet.com either as individual sightings on a weekly/monthly basis or copies of reports sent to the aforementioned sites above. I also ensure records are forwarded to GiGL (if not already done so by those already mentioned).

This report like any other, can only be produced on the records submitted, if you have records but not shared them, there will inevitably be gaps. Any errors are mine.

I have been keeping records for a number of years and have over 100,000 records from most sites across the Borough, I am occasionally asked for data for sites or species which I am happy to share should anyone have a specific interest.

Acknowledgements

Almost 80 names appeared in the combined list of species seen, without these records this report would not have been possible. I thank each and every one who shared their sightings.

I am especially grateful to those who have regularly sent copies of their extensive records directly to me: John Turner, Mike Robinson, Steve Carter, Stephen Gately, Chris Rose and Eric Barlow. In most cases their originals were sent to either John Archer – South East London Recorder for London Bird Club or Karen Sutton, Bio-diversity Manager for Thames Water and Warden of Crossness Nature reserve, thanks to John and Karen for ensuring I have complete data to work with. The records Karen shares are themselves the combined efforts of many of the Friends of Crossness to whom I extend my thanks, not least Steve Carter, Bernie Weight, Arthur and Norma Browne and also Roger Taylor, who also painstakingly collates all the records for submission to GiGL.

To all those who make their records available to the London Birders Web-site from which a considerable number of records are obtained, Ian Stewart being the most prolific of those but also Mike Amos and Conrad Ellam who share a significant number of sightings. To Alan Ashby who sends me copies of his BTO WEBS counts for Danson Park.

To everyone, those mentioned and those not but who have contributed to this report I am indebted to you and appreciate your enthusiasm for the birds of Bexley and sharing it with others.

I am also indebted to the photographers, Magnus Andersson, Janet Chittock, Honor Wheeler, Mike Robinson, Nicky Wilson and Donna Zimmer who have enabled me to share their images of some of the species found during 2016.



Tawny Owl chick– Lamorbey Park – Donna Zimmer

Systematic List

Those specifically identified within the report:

JA – John Archer, SB – Stuart Banks, EB – Eric Barlow, SC – Steve Carter, PE – Patrick English, SG – Stephen Gatley, IJ – Ian Jackson, KJ – Keven Jarvis, GN – Graham Nichols, JP – James Palmer, MR – Michael Robinson, NS – Nick Senior, IS – Ian Stewart, RT – Ralph Todd, BW – Bernie Weight, DZ – Donna Zimmer.

1 Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* - locally common breeding resident.

At least 10 pairs bred across Borough at all the main sites. Peak non-breeding count was at **Southmere Lake** with 72 on 4th November.

Crayford Marshes – at least one pair Jan-Feb. 7 adults and 3 cygnets on Mar 24th. 14 on Apr 14th was highest year count. Pair with 3 cygnets on Aug 5th and Oct 17th. **Crossness** – at least one pair bred. 5 ad/5 cygnets on May 30th, otherwise 9 on Sep 21st highest count.

Danson Park – 8 individuals Jan 6th/8th, 5 on 31st and up to 6 present through Feb. Pair at nest on Mar 3rd, producing 6 cygnets (seen May 20th), 5 cygnets remained with pair to year end.

Foots Cray Meadows – a pair present all year, nesting from 16th March with 7 cygnets seen May 13th only 4 on Sep 14th. **Lamorbey Park** – pair present throughout year, seen on nest Apr 1st and 2 cygnets on May 15th. **Southmere Lake** – no reports of breeding but 70 present Feb 22nd, 30 Apr 5th, May 19th, 37 May 26, 53 Aug 3rd, 72 Nov 4th and 60 Dec 31st.

2 Greylag Goose *Anser anser* – locally common resident.

Crayford Marshes – only 4 records, 17 Jan 20th, 2 Apr 24th, 25 Jul 29th and one Nov 4th.

Crossness – at least one pair bred. Peak counts, 1 on Jan 5th, 6 Feb 18th, 12 Mar 16th/23rd, 7 Apr 7th, 19 May 18th, 6 Jul 21st, 38 Sep 22nd, 95 Oct 24th, 2 Nov 19th, 40 Nov 4th (southern Marsh) and 3 Dec 22nd. **Danson Park** – no reports of breeding. 31 on Jan 6th highest count of year, usually up to 8 Jan-Feb, 1-5 Mar-Dec.

Foots Cray Meadows – only 3 records, a pair on Mar 16th, 3 over on Mar 21st and 3 on the Loring Hall fields Apr 4th. **Hall Place** – only 3 records – 16 Jan 18th, 35 Mar 14th and 25 Dec 27th. **Lamorbey Park** – 1 or 2 on various dates in Jan/Feb/Apr/Nov and Dec. **Southmere Lake** – 5 on Feb 29th only record.

(Greylag/Canada Goose hybrid – 1 or 2 occasionally recorded **Danson Park** and once from **Lamorbey Park**)

3 Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* – locally common breeding resident.

Belvedere Mulberry Avenue foreshore – 3 on Feb 11th, 2 Mar 3rd, 50 Oct 14th, 25 Nov 23rd

Crayford Marshes – only 3 records, 20 July 29th, 40 Aug 5th and 12 on 26th. **Crossness** – present year round and breeding confirmed. Peak counts – 57 Jan 26th, 20 Feb 26th, 21 Mar 17th, 14 Apr 28th, 20 May 30th, 4 throughout June, 12 Jul 21st, 102 Aug 15th, 110 Sept 22nd, 125 Oct 24th, 210 Nov 4th (Southern Marsh) and 40 Dec 31st. **Danson Park** – breeding confirmed.

Numbers here are increased with birds arriving to roost. 11 adults/14 goslings May 13th, 52/14 on May 24th. Peak numbers 86 Jan 26th, 85 Feb 9th, 39 Mar 3rd, 66 May 24th, 32 Jun 6th, 52 Jul 25th, 28 Aug 11th/25th, 44 Sep 28th, 34 Oct 16th, 27 Nov 25th, 51 Dec 28th.

Foots Cray Meadows – only 2 records – 2 over on Feb 24th and a single present on Apr 1st.

Hall Place – 5 on Jan 18th and 51 on Dec 27th only 2 records so clearly under reported from a site where there are usually dozens present and breeding takes place. **Lamorbey Park** - present year round and breeds here. 43 Jan 1st, 20 Feb 4th, 16 Mar 5th, 14 including 3 goslings Apr 27th, 8 ad/18 goslings May 15th **Southmere Lake** – 48 including 8 goslings May 19th only record from here.

4 Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* – locally common introduced breeding resident – seems to be a mobile species moving between sites and breeding at some.

Crossness – 1 or 2 reported Apr 28th – May 26th (3 on May 2nd) then from Sep 1st – Dec 12th (3 on Oct 19th). 2 on Southern Marsh May 19th. **Danson Park** – recorded each month. Between 2 –

5 Jan 5th-Feb 18th, pair with 7 goslings from Feb 26th through Mar; pair with 6 goslings Apr 7th through to Oct 16th. Oct 22nd 14 present with numbers declining through Nov, 9 on 25th and 6 on Dec, 20th and 28th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – 1 or 2 (pair?) present Jan 15th – Jun 20th though no reports of breeding. No further records until 4 on Oct 28th and 2 on Nov 28th/Dec 29th.

Lamorbey Park – 4 on Jan 1st then 1 or 2 from Jan 2nd – July 9th (3 on Apr 8th and 5 on Jul 9th). No further reports until 2 on Sept 10th and singles from Oct 12th – Nov 19th. 4 on Nov 25th then 1 or 2 until year end. No reports of breeding success.

Southmere Lake – 3 Jan 17th, 1 Feb 29th, pair Mar 20th, 1 Apr 5th, 5 on Aug 3rd and Nov 4th.

5 Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* – passage migrant, winter visitor and occasional breeding resident.

Belvedere Mulberry Avenue foreshore - 2-4 present Jan – Apr 28th, no further records until 5 on Dec 4th. **Corinthian Manorway Erith** foreshore – up to 10 present Jan - Feb, 5 on Mar 11th and 2 Apr 28th only records until 12 Oct 13th and max 6 in Dec. **Crayford Marshes** – 2-6 present Jan 1st – May 14th (10 on Apr 14th). 2 plus 2 young on Jul 7th, 12 (incl. juveniles) on Aug 5th, other significant counts were 20 on Nov 4th and 50 Dec. **Crossness** – present each month except Jun/Sep. Peak counts 56 Jan 4th, 40 Feb 12th/26th, 85 Mar 30th, 60 Apr 20th, 40 May 30th, 8 Jul 7th/11th (incl. juvs), 7 Aug 4th, 24 Oct 19th, 37 Nov 18th, 68 Dec 31st. **Thamesmead Golf range** foreshore – only 3 records – 60 Mar 24th and 72 on 29th and 1 on May 26th. (Shelduck hybrid at **Crossness** on Oct 2nd (JA)).

6 Wigeon *Anas penelope* – common autumn/winter visitor – majority on River Thames/foreshore

Crayford Marshes – 30 Jan 20th and Feb 19th, c40 Mar 10th, 20 on Mar 24th (incl. 6 pairs), 2 on Apr 1st, no further records until 2 on Oct 3rd, 27 on the 11th, 64 on Nov 7th. **Crossness** – 40 on West Paddock Jan 1st and 58 on the river 2nd. Other peak counts - 50 Feb 12th, 40 Mar 6th. No further records until 3 Sep 2nd with no more than 7 until Oct 5th when 14 recorded, 28 on Oct 28th, 28 on Nov 8th and 40 Dec 27th. **Danson Park** – 2 on Mar 13th and a female on Oct 25th and 31st. **Foots Cray Meadows** – 1 on Dec 29th.

7 Gadwall *Anas strepera* possible local breeding resident, common winter visitor. Recorded every month.

Belvedere Mulberry Avenue foreshore – 11 on Mar 11th peak count of 8 records between Feb 9th – Apr 28th. 2 or 3 from Nov 23rd-Dec 22nd. **Corinthian Manorway, Erith** foreshore – 2 present Jan 24th – Mar 11th, no further records until only autumn record of 3 Oct 7th.

Crayford Marshes – 8 on Jan 19th, 10 Feb 19th, 15 Mar 25th, 6 on Apr 19th/24th, 2 pair around Howbury Moat and 3 pairs on the foreshore May 14th. No further records until 1 Oct 6th and 2 on Nov 16th - the only two autumn/winter records. **Crossness** – recorded every month and almost fully grown ducklings seen Aug 3rd and 9th. Monthly peaks – c100 Jan 7th, 55 Feb 14th, 76 Mar 29th, 93 Apr 7th, 60 May 3rd, 10 Jun 10th, 11 Jul 14th/24th, 18 on Aug 3rd probably two family groups; 13 Sep 26, 10 Oct 2nd, 58 Nov 22nd, 41 Dec 31st. **Danson Park** – autumn/winter records only – single male on Sep 28th, 2 males Oct 12th, 6 birds seen 21st/22nd, 3 (2m1f) on 25th Oct. 1 or 2 males seen Nov 30th-Dec 28th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – peak of 10 (Jan 7th) between Jan 1st – Mar 17th with 2-5 the norm. No further records until a pair on Oct 27th and Nov 2nd, 3 on Nov 23rd with 11 on Dec 5th highest autumn/winter count. **Lesnes Abbey Woods** – an unusual record from the ponds of a single bird on Apr 30th (MR). **Southmere Lake** – 3 on Nov 4th and 2 on 28th only 2 records. **Thamesmead Ecological Study Area** – 1 on Jan 4th only record. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 2 on May 26th only record.

8 Teal *Anas crecca* – common winter visitor, uncommon resident. Recorded every month along the River Thames. Monthly peaks:

Belvedere Mulberry Avenue foreshore – 26 Jan 28th, 25 Feb 9th, 30 Mar 11th, 3 Apr 11th, 19 Oct 23rd, 9 Nov 14th and 5 Dec 5th. **Corinthian Manorway, Erith** foreshore – 83 on Jan 21st, 74

Feb 11th, 35 Mar 11th. No further records until 11 Sep 19th, 18 on 21st/24th, 52 on Oct 7th and 43 Dec 26th. **Crayford Marshes** – 110 Jan 3rd/20th, c50 Feb 19th, c51 Mar 24th, 12 Apr 14th, 14 Aug 26th, c200 Sep 30th, 52 Oct 11th, 12 Nov 7th. **Crossness** – c700 Jan 28th, c 400 Feb 12th, 680 Mar 10th, 180 Apr 18th, 2 May 8th/14th/26th, 4 Jun 30th, 8 Jul 21st, 210 Aug 17th, 1258 Sep 19th (on foreshore), 91 on reserve Sep 22nd. 406 on Oct 5th, 561 Nov 8th and c200 Dec 27th. Included in some of these figures are birds seen on the reserve though highest counts are from the Thames/foreshore. **Danson Park** – no winter/spring records, just 5 reports from autumn/winter – 2 Oct 12th, 4 on 21st was the highest count of 4 Oct reports. 2 males on Dec 14th only other record. **Foots Cray Meadows** – no winter/spring records. 1 on the new pond on Sep 25th, 4 on Five Arches Oct 26th and 2 on 31st. 2 on Nov 2nd and 5 on Dec 8th to year end only other records. **Lamorbey Park** – only one report of a female on Dec 25th. **Southmere Lake** – just one record of a single bird on Nov 4th. **Stanham Farm Wetland/Maiden Lane** – 6 present on Mar 6th. **Thames Road Wetland** – 2 records – 6 on Nov 26th and 2 on Dec 22nd. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 50 on Feb 22nd. **Thamesmead Golf Range foreshore** – 40 on Apr 14th and 32 Aug 7th.

9 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* – common breeding resident.

Belvedere Mulberry Avenue foreshore – monthly peaks – 19 on Jan 24th, 15 Feb 26th, 9 Mar 11th, 4 Apr 11th. No further records until 6 on Sep 21st and 8 on 30th; 17 on Oct 22nd, 21 Nov 23rd and 9 Dec 15th. **Corinthian Manorway, Erith foreshore** – 75 on Feb 3rd, 91 Sep 24th and 23 on Dec 11th. **Crayford Marshes** – 28 Jan 20th, 5 Mar 24th, 10 Apr 19th, 2 May 14th, 10 Jul, 20 Aug 26th, 50 Sep 5th, 42 on Nov 6th. **Crossness** – recorded every month from the reserve and foreshore. 57 Jan 21st, 86 Feb 5th, 30 Mar 11th, 14 Apr 28th, 43 May 18th, 11 Jun 20th/22nd/29th, 55 Jul 21st, 70 Aug 4th, 176 Sep 22nd, 60 on Oct 9th/26th/31st, 60 Nov 11th. **Crayford Rough** – 4 on the River Cray May 4th. **Danson Park** – 105 Jan 20th, 99 Feb 2nd, 82 Mar 3rd, 47 Apr 9th, 72 May 20th, 82 Jun 6th, 112 Jul 18th, 102 Aug 5th, 88 Sep 9th, 115 Oct 25th, 37 Nov 25th, 99 Dec 20th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – under reported, only 4 records – 27 Jan 18th, 52 Jul 29th, 36 Sep 14th and 42 Oct 10th. **Hall Place** – under reported, only 2 records - 45 Jan 18th and 20 Dec 27th. **Lamorbey Park** – 2 broods noted Jun 16th and 3rd brood on Jul 9th otherwise 20 Feb 28th, 40 Mar 5th, 20 Apr 4th, 13 May 13th, 45 Nov 18th and 38 Dec 26th peak counts. **River Shuttle (BETHS-Blendon)** – 2 pairs noted Mar 22nd. **Thamesmead Ecological Study Area** – 4-5 Jan, 8 Aug 7th only records.

10 Pintail *Anas acuta* – a rare passage migrant and winter visitor

A pair seen off **Crayford Marshes** Jan 20th and a single off **Crossness/Thamesmead Golf Range** on Sep 18th.



Gadwall – Five Arches – Nicky Wilson



Little Egrets – Crossness – Donna Zimmer

11 Garganey *Anas querquedula* scarce passage migrant

Most often recorded in the spring but only record for this year was from **Crossness** on Sep 2nd/3rd and 8th.

12 Shoveler *Anas clypeata* – uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor – scarce inland

No records May-July, a pair at **Crossness NR** on Apr 19th-24th showed promise of breeding but no confirmation established.

Crayford Marshes – only 4 records – 10 Jan 9th, 8 Feb 4th, 2 Mar 10th and 1 Apr 14th.

Crossness – 72 Jan 26th, 44 Feb 17th, 54 Mar 3rd, 11 Apr 1st, 6 Aug 29th, 14 Sep 15th, 11 Oct 5th, 67 Nov 28th, 109 Dec 31st. **Danson Park** – only 3 reports, 2 males Jan 15th/20th and 1 on Mar 4th.

Foots Cray Meadows – a female on Jan 1st, and a female present all of December with a drake joining on 31st. Dec 1st. **Lamorbey Park** – only 5 reports, 4 male/1 female on Jan 10th, a pair Feb 12th – 17th. **Southmere Lake** – 1 on Nov 4th only record. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 2 on Jan 28th, 3 on Mar 16th only records. **Thamesmead Ecological Study Area** – 1 on Jan 4th.

13 Pochard *Aythya ferina* – Uncommon Resident, rare breeding.

Crayford Marshes Single on Oct 14th and Nov 2nd.

Crossness – Breeding confirmed, at least one juvenile seen with adult female on Jul 15th and 3 adults with 1 duckling on Southern Marsh Aug 10th. Birds probably move between **Crossness** and **Southmere Lake** in winter with between 1 and 9 seen regularly between Jan and Mar, when numbers at **Crossness** increased to between 12 – 16 Mar 16th – Apr 1st. 12 still present Jun 17th a single on Great Breach on Oct 13th only autumn record. **Thamesmead Ecological Study Area** – 1 on Jan 23rd. **Danson Park** – 2m 1f on Jan 6th, another Feb 22nd and 2 on Mar 4th with an increase to 11 on the 10th, last 3 on Apr 2nd, singles on Oct 3rd and 12th with two on 21st/22nd; a male Dec 28th. **Lamorbey Park** – just one record of 1 on Nov 30th.

14 Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* – uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor

Crossness – bred - adult with 3 ducklings Jul 7th and 11th otherwise mostly single figure birds during summer with other peaks of 13 Jan 11th, 19 Apr 5th and 12 on Southern Marsh Sep 29th.

Southmere Lake – Mostly winter presence – 35 on Jan 17th, 31 Feb 29th, just one record for Apr (17 on 5th) and 5 on May 26th. No records Mar or Jun-Oct. 17 on Nov 28th.

Danson Park – present each month, 8 on Feb 22nd highest year count otherwise never more than 4. Adult with 3 juvs Jul 18th (2 juvs on Jul 28th). **Foots Cray Meadows** – absent Jun-Jul, Oct and Nov. 20 Jan 25th, 24 Feb 12th, 15 Mar 3rd, 20 Apr 4th, 4 May 3rd/7th, 9 Aug 12th, 4 Sep 14th, 13 Dec 19th. **Lamorbey Park** – no records Jun, Aug-Sep. Peak numbers 7 Jan 1st, 11 Feb 12th, 9 Mar 5th, 18 Apr 14th, 10 May 14th/15th, 8 Jul 9th, 1 Oct 22nd, 3 Nov 26th and 6 Dec 26th.

No records of breeding. **Thamesmead Golf Course lakes** – 2 present on Apr 20th 1.

Thamesmead Ecological Study area – only 3 records - 3 on Jan 4th, 7 on 12th and 2 on Mar 24th.

15 Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* – rare passage migrant

Crayford Marshes – two off Crayfordness on Apr 13th (RT). **Crossness** – 5 on Thames between Iron Mountain and Belvedere Church Manorway on Mar 20th. (IS/MR)

16 Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* – rare visitor

Single bird flushed **Upper College Farm** Apr 13th (IS)

17 Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* – Uncommon Resident – mostly on the Thames Marshes

Crayford Marshes – Between 1-4 most months (no records for Feb or Jun). Highest count – 6 May 6th. **Crossness** – between 1 and 4 reported every month except June – highest counts of 5 on Apr 12th and 7 on Oct 24th. **Crayford Rough** – single seen Mar 31st Mar and May 4th. The most bizarre sighting was on one wandering in **Brampton Road Bexleyheath** Mar 10th (SB).

18 Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* – Locally common breeding resident, winter visitor **Crayford Marshes** – no records Apr-Jul. Highest counts of 4 on Jan 19th, Mar 13th otherwise mostly single sightings. **Crossness** – breeding confirmed on both main reserve and Southern Marshes with juveniles seen with adults from July. 1-4 recorded every month with peak of 9 on Feb 26th, Mar 16th, and Aug 9th. **Southmere Lake** – only recorded on 4 dates (single Jan 17th, 8 on 21st, Feb – 4 on 29th and Nov – 1 on 28th). **Danson Park** – Juveniles reported 9th and 28th Sep. Up to 4 reported every month with peak of 7 on Mar 4th. **Foots Cray Meadows:** mostly a winter visitor (Jan- Mar 21st and Oct 21st- Dec) though one reported May 5th otherwise peak of 6 on Jan 15th. **Lamorbey Park:** winter visitor (1 or 2 Jan- Mar 21st and Oct 12th-Dec) with 4 the peak on Dec 24th. **Thames Road Wetland** – only one record of 1 on Nov 16th. **Thamesmead Ecological Study Area** – 1 on Jan 23rd. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 1 on Apr 20th.

19 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* – Uncommon breeding resident **Crayford Marshes** – only reported on 2 dates, on the river – Jan 9th and Apr 14th. **Crossness** – mostly winter visitor on the river with 6 on Jan 7th and 5 Apr 13th, 3 on May 2nd otherwise usually occasional single seen. **Southmere Lake** – 3 on Jan 28th, then a pair present all year having bred raising 1 young. **Danson Park** – 1 pair bred raising 2 young with a 3rd young from previous breeding present. At least 1 adult present all year with 6 (incl. 3 juveniles) on many dates – by the year end only 1 or 2 birds recorded. **Lamorbey Park** – an occasional breeder here but no evidence this year despite two being present on Apr 30th/May 1st otherwise only 1 bird seen until May 18th after which no more records.

20 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* – Resident with numbers rising from Sep – Dec Present on the Thames throughout the year with peak of 16 off Belvedere (**Church Manorway area**) on Jan 25th, and Erith **Corinthian Manorway** 7 on Feb 15th. **Crayford Marshes** – 1 or 2 recorded on the river Mar-May, Jul-Dec with 8 on Jul 29th between 1 and 8 (29th July) seen most months. **Crossness** – 3 on Southern Marsh Nov 4th otherwise most records from the foreshore or outfall. Recorded every month except Feb. with 12 on Mar 29th then no more than 5 until Jul 27th when 20 seen, numbers generally then increased to peak at 50 Oct 14th, 62 Nov 24th, 35 Dec 22nd. **Danson Park** – recorded every month with 9 on Jan 15th, then between 1 and 8 through to beginning October when numbers often increased upwards with 20 Oct 27th and 17 Dec 15th. **Crayford Rough** – 2 on Dec 1st. **Foots Cray Meadows** – only one record of 3 on Jan 22nd. **Lamorbey Park** – up to 4 present Jan-April, no further records until one on 10th Sep peaking at 6 on Oct 22nd and Dec 26th.

21 Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Resident on the marshes and along the Rivers Cray/Shuttle **Barnes Cray** – there is a small roost of usually 6 birds though 8 were seen going in on Mar 22nd Mar and Dec 22nd. (RT). **Crayford Marshes** – birds present all year round with a peak of 13 on Apr 2nd, 3 or 4 are more usual though 7 on Jul 20th and Aug 26th and at least 10 on Sep 16th suggests a possible movement between sites. **Crossness** – 1 or 2 present on the reserve and foreshore all year although some higher counts, 5 on Apr 7th, 12 on May 25th (JA) and an unprecedented 18 on Sep 26th (SC) again suggests a movement between sites; 6 by outfall on Oct 25th **Thames Road Wetland** – 4 seen on adjacent Stanham Farm Feb 4th. **Crayford Town** – 1 bird seen Riverside Gardens on Dec 29th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – 1 or 2 present most months (not recorded May/June/Aug/Sep though almost certainly present). **Hall Place** – 3 records of a single bird from the river around the formal gardens Jan 23rd, Apr 28th and Dec 27th. **Lamorbey Park** – 2 on Jan 31st only time more than one recorded. Often seen by the lake on Sidcup Golf Course. **River Shuttle** – occasionally seen along the Shuttle – Haddon Grove Jan 5th, Hollyoak Park Feb 4th, Marlborough Park Apr 7th, Willersley Park Nov 24th and Dec 15th. **Sidcup** – a single bird took up temporary residence in a Hales Field off Edgington Way Sidcup between 11th Mar. and 9th Apr.

22 Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* – Resident – small breeding colony.

Regularly recorded along the Thames Foreshore from Crayford to Crossness.

Crayford Marshes – recorded most months with 5 being the highest count on Mar 13th and Aug 26th. **Crossness** – between 1 and 4 present all year with 6 on Nov 2nd being the highest count.

Southmere Lake – single bird on Nov 28th. **Thamesmead** – small breeding colony with 9 birds present Jan 23rd and 13 on Mar 24th when 10 nests were observed (RT). **Danson Park** – present all year with 6 on Apr 15th highest count. **East Wickham Open Space** – 2 on Mar 19th only record from this site. **Foots Cray Meadows** – 1 on Mar 25th only record

Lamorbey Park – one or two birds recorded on 6 dates Mar/Apr. then no records until single bird on 3 dates in Nov/Dec.

23 Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* – rare passage migrant

Crossness – single bird flew north east at 12 noon on Oct 2nd (JA)

24 Red Kite *Milvus milvus* – scarce passage migrant

Six lucky observers were looking skywards on various dates to see a red kite drifting over:

In January - **Hall Place/Black Prince** 25th and 2 over **Lamorbey Park** 31st, in March -

Crayford Marshes 6th and 31st and **Horsham Road Bexleyheath** 20th. **A2 Bexley** Apr 1st. In May 1 over **York Avenue** 7th and 20th, 1 over **Foots Cray Meadows** and 2 over **Lamorbey Park** 14th and **Albany Park** 15th. No other sightings until Nov 7th when one went over **Fishers Way Crayford**. From that you might conclude March and May are best times to look up!

25 Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* – Uncommon though regular visitor to the Thames Marshes

One over **Corinthian Manorway Erith** on Jan 4th almost certainly same bird as seen at **Crayford Marshes** – Jan 4th when a second was also seen. One to two individuals seen on 7 other Jan dates, a female was recorded Mar 10th along with a male on 13th and 25th. Single male seen 2 dates in Apr, 3 dates in Jul and 2 in Aug and 1 Sep/Oct. Both males and females were seen so even when one bird observed – not the same bird. A male or female seen on 3 dates in Nov with 2 on 4th. **Crossness** – a male seen on six dates between Jan 2nd – Mar 6th (2 birds on Jan 28th). A male and female on Mar 16th. Singles seen on a further eleven dates from May to Dec with a male and female on Nov 16th. **Thamesmead Golf Range** foreshore area – one heading north on Feb 11th. **Thames Road Wetland** – a female seen on Mar 10th and 23rd and a probable male over Stanham Farm on Dec 7th and 22nd.

26 Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* – Common Resident – probably breeding though no firm evidence.

Recorded regularly from most sites listed in this report along with residential gardens.

Displaying birds **Foots Cray Meadows** Feb 18th, **The Hollies** Apr 1st, and **York Ave** Apr 5th, female sitting on half built nest and juvenile bird seen at one site.

27 Common Buzzard – *Buteo buteo* Uncommon resident – possibly breeding

Often seen drifting over the Borough with records from **Bexley Village** (2 over Jan 4th)

Westwood Lane Bexley Feb 3rd, **Stanham Farm** Mar 3rd, **Parsonage Lane**, St. James Cemetery Mar 19th, **Upper College Farm** Mar 29th, **Sidcup Place** Apr 9th, **Albany Park** Mar 13th, 2 over **Belvedere Station** Oct 2nd and 2 over **Barnehurst** 3rd. One over **Horsham Road** Sep 19th (when 5 were seen over **Sidcup**) and Nov 3rd. **Crayford Marshes** – single birds recorded most months (except Feb. June, Nov and Dec) 3 seen on Mar 25th, Sep 11th and Oct 11th. **Crossness** – recorded every month except Jun/Jul with 4 on Mar 25th and 3 Apr 12th.

Braeburn Park – singles over on Mar 3rd and Apr 28th. Single present most of Dec. **Chalk**

Wood – singles on 5 dates – 4 over on Mar 21st. **Crayford Rough** – one over May 4th. **Danson Park** – one over Jan 8th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – recorded 8 dates between Mar-May with 5 on

Apr 14th and 2 on May 9th. **Hall Place** – Singles on 8 dates mostly Jan-Mar. **Joydens Wood** – singles on Mar 25th and Apr 3rd and 19th. 2 on Mar 17th and 5 on May 19th. **Lamorbey Park** – 2 on Apr 30th Apr. and 1 May 7th. **Upper College Farm** – singles on Mar 29th and Apr 22nd. **York Avenue Sidcup** – IS recorded birds over on six dates including 7 on Feb 24th (one group of 5 followed by 2 with a 40 minute period), 7 on Mar 25th and 6 on Apr 5th.



Juvenile Sparrowhawk and Ringed Plover – both Crossness – Donna Zimmer

28 Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* – rare passage migrant

Foots Cray Meadows – single bird flew north west at 10.20 on May 30th (SG).

29 Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* – uncommon breeding resident

Recorded from 12 sites though most of the 146 records came from the Thames Marshes.

Crayford Marshes – 1 or 2 seen each month, probably bred – up to 4 or 5 birds seen from late Jul-early Sep. **Crossness** – 1 or 2 seen each month – adult seen with young June 28th. 3 on Nov 4th. **Crayford Rough** – 2 seen on May 4th, only report. **Danson Park** – on one record of a single bird on May 13th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – only single birds seen Feb-May – mostly a female, a pair with fledged young seen Apr 11th. **Hall Place** – pair seen Feb-April – breeding confirmed Apr 23rd. No further records after Apr 28th. **Joydens Wood** – only records of a single bird on Mar 17th and Apr 26th. **Lamorbey Park** – single bird reported on 5 dates only – Feb, Apr, Oct and Nov. **Upper College Farm** – pair seen Apr 2nd and single Jul 13th.

30 Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* – rare passage migrant

Probable single bird flew over **Crossness** at 12.10 on Oct 2nd (JA)

31 Merlin *Falco columbarius* – scarce winter visitor

Crayford Marshes – single flew low over Jan 9th (IS)

32 Hobby *Falco subbuteo* – scarce summer visitor and passage migrant – possibly breeding

Crayford Marshes – singles on May 6th and 14th, Aug 12th, and Sep 16th; **Crossness** – singles – May 4th and 8th, Sep 3rd and 18th. **Lamorbey Park** – one on May 9th and a pair over Jun 16th. Other single records over **Bexleyheath bus station, Foots Cray Meadows, Ruxley Corner, Sidcup Place, Veroan Road and York Avenue.**

33 Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* – Uncommon breeding resident.

Confirmed breeding from one site and probable from a second site.

Recorded throughout year over the Thames Marshes/Foreshore between **Crayford** and **Crossness**. Most records from: **Crossness** – singles seen each month with two on 8 dates and 3 (2 males 1 female) on Apr 19th. **Thames Road Wetland** – one on Mar 10th, 4 records from Nov 1st with 2 on 16th. **Lamorbey Park** – regularly seen over/near throughout the year. 3 over Sidcup on May 24th.

34 Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* Uncommon, possibly breeding resident, elusive winter visitor
Crayford Marshes – one present 6 dates in Jan. **Crossness** – one present throughout Jan/Feb, 2 on Mar 29th. One heard calling Jul 11th /Aug 10th, no further records until Nov 2nd with 2 on the 3rd. One Southern marsh Feb 29th and Nov 4th. **Danson Park** – single on Jan 6th, 2 dates Feb and Mar and one on Apr 2nd. No other records. **Foots Cray Meadows** – one recorded on 9 dates Jan-Mar, mostly near Five Arches though 2 records from Water Lane Bridge. First of the winter Oct 21st. **Thames Road Wetland** – single Mar 10th and Dec 22nd with 2 on Nov 16th.

35 Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* – Locally common breeding resident.

Mostly seen on Thames foreshore/marshes from **Crayford** to **Crossness** also along the Rivers Cray and Shuttle and associated water bodies. An under recorded species – only 6 records from **Crayford Marshes**, 18 **Crossness**, 2 **Foots Cray Meadows**, 3 **Hall Place** and 10 **Lamorbey Park**.

Crayford Marshes – peak of 15 on Jan 19th around the Howbury Farm area. **Crossness** – peak of 13 on Apr 28th. **Danson Park** – recorded every month, winter peak 53 on Feb 9th. In summer 18 adults with 4 juveniles was highest count. **Foots Cray Meadows** – only two records – 28 on Feb 23rd and adults with brood of young on May 13th. **Hall Place** 16 on Jan 18th. **Lamorbey Park** - 10 on Mar 5th, breeding confirmed with one pair feeding both second brood and single from first brood on Aug 5th.

36 Coot *Fulica atra* - Locally common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Another species probably under recorded due to its common status.

Crayford Marshes – bred – never more than 3 seen. **Crossness** – bred – though not recorded between Jun 30th and Nov 2nd. Usually never more than 6 recorded other than 12 on Apr 28th and May 18th and 8 on Dec 15th. **Southmere Lake** – a stronghold – peak of 150 in summer – Aug 3rd and winter peak 325 Nov 28th. **Danson Park** – bred – 65 adults and 14 juveniles seen Jul 7th -28th then 94 adults/5 juveniles Sept 15th. Peak winter numbers 106 Jan 10th, and 154 Dec 27th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – only two records both of breeding pairs with 5 broods recorded May 16th. **Lamorbey Park** – bred – maximum of 7 seen on numerous dates – broods seen Apr 27th and May 7th/14th.

37 Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* – rare localised breeder – mostly passage migrant. Localised to sites along the Thames foreshore and seemingly absent from October – January. First record of 1 on Erith foreshore Feb 11th and last record 1 at **Crossness** Sep 18th.

Belvedere Church Manorway – 1 present from Feb 17th with 2 from Mar 8th to Apr 11th.

Crayford Marshes – 2 from Mar 10th Mar (pair displaying) 25th Mar. Last one seen Aug 19th. **Crossness** – between 1 and 6 from Feb 15th - Sep 18th.

38 Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* – rare winter visitor, passage migrant

Crayford Marshes – single on Jan 5th/6th joined by a second on the 9th. Four flew east on Mar 20th.

39 Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* – rare breeding summer visitor

Crayford Marshes – pair seen Mar 31st, Apr 1st and May 6th – probably bred just outside the Borough. **Crossness** – first arrival date, a pair on West Paddock Mar 25th, 3 on Apr 1st and 4 on 17th. Breeding attempted but not proved on site now planned for development.

40 Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* – localised rare breeder, winter visitor and passage migrant.

Belvedere Church Manorway foreshore – the most favoured site along the Thames foreshore peak of 16 on Jan 25th declining to just 3 by Apr 28th. Returning in Sep with 12 on 13th rising to 14 on Nov 25th. **Erith Corinthian Manorway** mostly an autumn visitor with 23 on Sep 26th.

Crayford Marshes – only 2 winter records with 8 on Jan 16th and 2 on 19th, 5 on May 28th and 10 on Aug 25th/26th Aug peaking at 14 on Sep 19th. **Crossness** – one pair bred. 14 on Jan 7th then few records until 15 on Sep 19th.

41 Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* – uncommon winter visitor, occasional passage migrant
Crayford Marshes – only site this species recorded – all but one of 18 records from January with 52 on 2nd peaking at approximately 150 on 9th, last record, 15 on 28th no other records until 30 on Oct 11th.

42 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* - scarce winter visitor and uncommon passage migrant.
Crossness – one first summer bird off the outfall May 8th only other record here was a single on Sep 16th. **York Avenue** – one heard calling over 6th May. (IS)

43 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* – Common winter visitor, passage migrant – probably non-breeding resident.
Between **Crayford** and **Crossness** numbers peaked at approximately 1000 on Jan 9th declining to 150 Feb 26th then mostly single figures until 40 on Jul 20th from when numbers remain around the 20's until mid-October (17th) when 110 recorded.

Belvedere Church Manorway present Jan 4th – Feb 26th with peak of 6 on Feb 17th. First of autumn passage a single bird on Sep 30th highest count of 7 on Oct 26th. **Crayford Marshes** – Between 200-1000 (approximate) from Jan 1st - 27th then only single figure counts until 10 on May 28th and 40 on Jul 20th double figure counts continue until 110 on Oct 17th. **Crossness** – 205 on Jan 1st, 320 Feb 12th and 20 Mar 6th then single figures (max 4) until Jul 25th when 10 were recorded from then on max count was 48 until Oct 21st when a minimum of 100 noted – 154 on Nov 18th, 210 Dec 8th.

44 Knot *Calidris canutus* – uncommon passage migrant
Only 4 records – one of same bird at **Crossness** May 13th/14th and one over York Avenue Sept 8th and a single **Crayford Marshes** Oct 14th.

45 Sanderling *Calidris alba* rare passage migrant
Crayford Marshes – single on foreshore Sep 28th. (NS)

46 Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* – rare passage migrant – usually autumn
Crayford Marshes – singles on Sep 19th and Nov 4th/6th.

47 Dunlin *Calidris alpina* – common passage migrant and winter visitor
Crossness had the last of winter high numbers c500 Mar 6th with 155 on Nov 4th beginning of winter build up.
Away from Crayford/Crossness the Thames foreshore peaks were **Belvedere Crabtree Manorway** – 52 Nov 4th, **Belvedere Mulberry Avenue** 250 on Jan 10th and **Erith Corinthian Manorway** 350 on Dec 26th. **Crayford Marshes** – c1,000 on Jan 1st, regularly 300-700 until 23rd when c500 recorded. No records for Feb/Mar, single figure counts on 6 dates Apr-July. Double figure counts through to Nov 6th. **Crossness** – c800 on Jan 4th highest count, usually 400-500 until Mar 6th when 200 recorded. From Apr 29th- Oct 22nd only 5 records of 1-3 birds. From Oct 24th 20 seen increasing to 155 on Nov 4th, c1000 Nov 17th then to c200 end of Nov and 450 Dec 31st.

48 Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* – uncommon, elusive winter visitor.
Crossness – single on reserve Nov 2nd (EB)

49 Common Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* – common though often elusive winter visitor
Not recorded May-August.

Crayford Marshes – 12 on Jan 20th along the foreshore otherwise just singles in Jan. 3 on Sep 26th. **Crossness** – max 5 on foreshore on Feb 26th and 4 West Paddock Apr 1st a single on 15th being last of the winter, not recorded again until single on Sep 2nd then rarely more than 4 through to Dec (5 on Nov 22nd). **Thames Road Wetland** – recorded on 4 dates with max 3 on Nov 30th. **York Avenue Sidcup** – only inland record, one flying over east at 9.08am on Oct 23rd.



Common snipe and Black-tailed Godwit (winter) – both Crossness – Donna Zimmer

50 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* – passage migrant and winter visitor.

211 records covering every month except June and July.

Probably best area to watch would be the foreshore between **Belvedere Church Manorway** and **Erith Corinthian Manorway** where they were present Jan-Mar peaking through Jan with max 228 on the 7th. Recorded again from Sep 19th (21) through to year end peaking again at c400 from Nov 14th to year end. **Crayford Marshes** – generally fewer seen here and only recorded Jan, Aug-Dec. usually single figure counts though 120 on Jan 6th was exceptional, 18 on Jan 2nd and 12 Oct 11th other higher counts. **Crossness** – Generally single figure counts through Jan.-Apr., 16 May 17th, 12 Aug 23rd, gradual increase through to Oct. when 120 on 21st was significant increase, rarely more than 20 throughout Nov/Dec.

51 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* – uncommon passage migrant, rare winter visitor.

Recorded on 22 dates mostly in September.

Erith Corinthian Manorway – 2 – 4 between Sep 19th – Oct 3rd. **Crayford Marshes** - singles between Jan 18th -24th, 2 between Sep 28th – 30th and a single Nov 6th. **Crossness** – single on foreshore off **Thamesmead golf range** Jan 24th and another near the outfall on Apr 24th. **York Avenue Sidcup** – 40 over high at 16.40 on Sep 8th.

52 Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* – uncommon passage migrant

Crayford Marshes – site of most records in Apr, May, Jul and Aug. First, a single on Apr 13th, 5 on 24th and 7 on May 6th and 20th July. Singles on 3 dates in Aug. **Crossness** – just two records, a single spring migrant on Apr 29th and 10 of the autumn movement on Aug 9th Aug.

53 Curlew *Numenius arquata* - mostly winter visitor and passage migrant.

Recorded every month except June/July.

Belvedere Church Manorway to Erith Corinthian Manorway – single present through Feb, 3 on Oct 25th and 2 Nov 11th. **Crayford Marshes** - 1-3 present nine dates Jan 7th – 28th with 6 on 19th being the exception. In Feb, 4 on 18th and 5 on 19th. 7 on Mar 10th was the highest count of the winter. Singles on eight days Jul 7th to Aug 26th then just occasional singles through Oct. **Crossness** – most records from Jan-Apr. – 8 on Jan 1st and 6 on 13th. Singles through Feb/Mar

until 4 on Mar 25th. Singles through April then no sightings until Oct 21st with 1 on foreshore subsequently recorded on a further 6 dates.

54 Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* – passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recorded every month except Feb. and June.

Belvedere Church Manorway foreshore – 3 on Sep 30th, 4 on Dec 5th then singles on 8 dates through Oct/Nov/Dec. **Crayford Marshes** – 1 or 2 present during Jan and Mar and on Apr 24th. 13 on Jul 29th was the start of the main autumn migration, Aug saw 8 on 5th, 10 on 15th and 13 on 25th. 5 on Sep 5th was last high figure, from then between 1-3 until Nov 16th.

Crossness – present every month except Feb and June. Highest number 5 on Jul 25th and 4 on Aug 9th and 17th. 4 on Sep 12th and 19th otherwise 1-3 until 29th Dec. **Danson Park** – 3 present on 11th May – only inland record.

55 – Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* – uncommon mostly winter visitor occasional passage migrant

Crayford Marshes – 1 or 2 present mostly Howbury Meadows/River Darent on 8 dates Jan/Feb. 2 on Apr 1st with only one other record of 1 Aug 26th. **Crossness** – 6 on Feb 16th was exceptional with 1 or 2 being the norm during Jan/ Feb/Mar/Apr. mostly on the west paddock/wader scrape. Autumn passage began with 1 on Sep 24th and 2 on Oct 28th; final record was 1 on Nov 17th. **Hall Place** – a single on river Cray Jan 18th. **Hollyoak Wood Park** on River Shuttle– Nov 23rd and 25th.

56 Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* – scarce winter visitor.

Crayford Marshes - Probably the same bird that had wintered since 2013/2014 was present again until at Apr 14th being joined by a second on Jan 21st and 23rd. No records of it returning for the 2016/7 winter.

57 Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* – uncommon passage migrant – occasional winter visitor.

Crayford Marshes – first spring bird was Apr 18th with 2 on May 6th being probable last. First autumn passage bird was 1 on Jul 29th, 5 present on Aug 25th/26th, 7 on Sep 28th and last on Oct 17th. **Crossness** – only one record of a single on Sep 29th.

58 Redshank *Tringa totanus* – common winter visitor, passage migrant

Only one record in May, none in June otherwise recorded every month

Erith Corinthian Manorway to Crossness – 40-200 Jan 4th - Feb 9th, 28 on Feb 29th was the last double figure count until 23 on Oct 16th then 120 on 30th, single figure counts from Nov 2nd Nov to Dec 24th when 150 counted. **Crayford Marshes** – numbers never reach the peak of the **Belvedere- Crossness** foreshore. Jan peak was 60 on the 8th, 50 on Feb 19th, 25 Mar 25th, 22 on Apr 19th, 2 on May 6th. Max 25 between Jul 7th – Sep 29th, numbers gradually increase during Oct (120 on 11th), no records in Dec. **Crossness** – Jan-Mar rarely above 80, 120 on Jan 28th, the exception. Apr peak was 21 on 12th, none seen May/June before 1 or 2 in July, Aug peak was 15 on 19th, 52 on Sep 17th, 185 Oct 28th, the highest count of the year was 218 Nov 22nd then 36 on Dec 22nd.

59 Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* – very common winter visitor and passage migrant – no breeding records. Birds present each month of the year.

Erith Corinthian Manorway – Crossness - mostly present Jan – Apr 28th peak of c200 Jan 30th into first week of Feb. **Crayford Marsh** – often associated with birds coming off the Council refuse site by Thames Road. Jan count peaked c1500 on 19th. Only two records of high counts between Jan 20th Jan and Jul 29th when c1000 counted. On Aug 5th c100 counted with only 2 juveniles present, no records after the 500 recorded on Aug 26th. **Crossness** – Highest counts c900 Jan 28th and c1300 Oct 28th. Between end March and May never more than 120, no

June records but c600 peak for Jul on the, 25th, 840 Aug 22nd, c1000 Sept 19th, c1300 on Oct 28th then dropping back to between 40-275 Nov/Dec. **Danson Park** – Dec/Jan hold the highest counts with c300 Jan 17th and 339 Dec 21st. An average of 200 during Jan-Feb, Nov-Dec. Between Mar 23rd – Oct 3rd no more than 70 counted – an interesting contrast to the monthly River counts. **Foots Cray Meadows** – only one count – 50 on Mar 6th. **Hall Place** – only one count – 60 on Jan 18th. **Lamorbey** – five counts, 60 Feb 28th, 30 Mar 12th and 20 Sep 10 peaking at c100 on Nov 13th and 19th.

60 Little Gull *Larus minutus* – rare passage migrant

Just one record from **Crossness** of a 1st winter bird on Mar 6th (JA)

61 Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* – uncommon winter visitor.

Individuals seen: **Erith Corinthian Manorway** foreshore– Jan 30th and Dec 27th.

Crayford Marshes Feb 18th and Apr 14th. **Thamesmead Golf Range** foreshore – Feb 11th.

62 Common Gull *Larus canus* common winter visitor and uncommon passage migrant

Generally an inland species, often seen on playing fields but seemingly rarely if ever counted.

Erith -Belvedere foreshore – regular Jan-Mar and Sep to year end. 16 on Feb 11th and 14 on Oct 15th being highest counts. **Crayford Marshes** – rarely more than 4 though 10 on the Landfill Jan 19th the highest count. Absent May-August. **Crossness** – All 14 records from the foreshore generally single figure counts Jan-Mar and Sep-Nov with 11 on Nov 25th the highest. **Crayford Rough** – only one record of 12 on Mar 14th. **Danson Park** – present Jan-Apr 9th. when 60 were recorded (usually between 8-30), 2 on May 16th none June-Aug, 2 on Sep 18th then regular from Oct 3rd to year end with 97 on Dec 1st being an exceptionally high count. **Hall Place** – only two records with 4 on Jan 18th and 1 on Mar 14th March – almost certainly more present on the playing fields. **Lamorbey Park** – just five records of between 1- 4 birds with 12 on Nov 13th Nov the peak.

63 Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus* – uncommon resident in small numbers –

Recorded every month except June.

Belvedere – Erith Foreshore – absent June-Aug. Single figure counts each month with 6 on Oct 11th and 15th and Nov 21st highest counts. **Crayford Marshes** – very few counts around the Landfill/Viridor Recycling (Crayford Creek) though 35 on Jan 19th was notable. Most records from Crayfordness where numbers peak in early autumn with 20 Aug 5th and 40 26th and 50 on Oct 11th being highest counts. **Crossness** – more records than Crayford but smaller numbers, mostly between 2- 8 with 14 on Oct 19th and 25 Dec 8th highest. **Danson Park** – 5 on Oct 31st highest count with between 1 and 4 present most other months (not recorded Apr/June/Nov).

Hall Place – only two records – 2 on Jan 18th and 1 Mar 7th. Probably present more often on the playing fields. **Lamorbey Park** – Just 4 records of single birds in Apr/Sep/Nov.

64 Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* - common winter visitor, recorded every month except June.

Belvedere-Erith Foreshore – 1 or 2 recorded Jan-Apr and Sep-Dec. **Crayford Marshes** – few counts around Landfill/Viridor Recycling (Crayford Creek) though the two identified records were of 60 on Jan 19th and 120 on Jul 20th. Otherwise most records from Crayfordness/foreshore with 150 on Jul 29th and minimum of 100 on 3 Aug dates. Not recorded Feb/Mar, June, Sep-Oct or Dec. **Crossness** – single figure counts in most months (except Feb and Jun) with 10 on May 18th and 11 Oct 20th being highest counts. **Danson Park** – not recorded May-July or Nov. 18 on Jan 28th and 27 Feb 11th highest winter counts otherwise no more than 4 recorded after Apr 10th until 12 on Dec 8th. **East Wickham Open Space** – 8 on Mar 19th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – only one record of 39 on Apr 4th. **Hall Place** – only one record – 4 on Jan 18th. **Lamorbey Park** – 3 records of 1 or 2 birds on the lake – in Feb-Sep and Nov otherwise most birds found on adjacent

Hurstmere/Chislehurst-Sidcup school playing fields with 30 on Apr 10th and 44 May 13th.
Southmere Lake – one record of 7 on Feb 29th.

65 Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* – Regular autumn passage – recorded smaller numbers winter.

Belvedere-Erith foreshore – one present Jan 5th, Aug 24th, Sep 21st and (2) 29th, Oct 9th.

Crayford Marshes – The stronghold for this species especially in autumn. 6 on Jan 2nd was highest count during Jan-Mar. 15 on Jul 29th represented autumn passages with a least 20 on Aug 5th, 19th and 26th. Last double figure count, 10 on Oct 14th, last records Nov 4th (4) and 2 on 6th.

Crossness – 2 on Jan 1st and 1 on 7th only early winter records – 1 or 2 on 7 dates Aug-Oct. (4 on Aug 10th). Single on Dec 5th and 8th. **Danson Park** – single recorded on 7 dates (Jan 15th, Apr 15th, Jul 18th, Aug 5th, Sep 15th, Oct 27th and 31st and Dec 8th).

66 Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* scarce visitor, mostly winter.

Crayford Marshes/Viridor Recycling Centre – single on 4 Jan dates with 4 on 11th. 2 Feb 18th and 1 19th and Mar 25th and unusually one Aug 19th. Also single on waste ground by Jolly Farmers Nov. 2nd. **Crossness** – 3 along the foreshore Jan 17th.

67 Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* – fairly common especially in winter, recorded each month except May/June.

Belvedere – Erith foreshore one or two present Jan to Mar 14th (3), absent until Sep 23rd when again 1 or 2 present until year end, 3 on Oct 9th. **Crayford Marshes** – 11 present Landfill area Jan 19th when 10 were also recorded on the foreshore (RT), 4 on the 10th were last recorded until single Jul 29th. 6 on Aug 26th highest count until 25 on Nov 6th. **Crossness** – recorded each month (except May/June) usually in single figures though 29 Mar 10th, 14 on Aug 4th and 12 Oct 28th were notable. No other records from across the Borough.

68 Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* rare passage migrant

Crossness – the only record of a single Apr 29th. (IJ)

69 Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis* – Scarce passage migrant

Crossness – flock of c20 on Aug 28th only record (JP)

70 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* – common summer visitor and passage migrant

First record – 21 off Crayfordness Apr 13th – last one off **Crossness** Sep 29th

Belvedere – Erith foreshore – two records of singles Apr 28th and Sep 11th. **Crayford Marshes** – recorded along the river from Apr 13th (21), 35 on the 19th, c25 Jul 7th and 76 Aug 26th

(highest count here). **Crossness** – a single on Apr 18th was the first of 24 records with max. 25 up to the end of June, 45 on Jul 11th probably reflected return passage with 90 on 25th, and c100 on Aug 3rd and 24th being the highest counts. Last record of a single on Sep. 29th.

71 – Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* – uncommon passage migrant.

Only two records 2 off **Crossness** on May 7th and a single off the **Thamesmead Golf Range** on Aug. 3rd.

72– Stock Dove *Columba oenas* – uncommon breeding resident

Found in small numbers along the river and inland.

Crayford Marshes – only recorded Mar to Aug and never more than single figure counts with 7 on July 29th highest count. **Crossness** – recorded each month but again rarely more than single figure counts with 14 on Oct 24th being an exception as were the 50 on Feb. 18th (MR). **Danson Park** – present throughout the year, 10 on May 27th the highest count.

Foots Cray Meadows - 12 pairs present on territories on 2nd May – generally under recorded at this site with only 3 other records for the whole year. **Hall Place** - -only one record of a single bird on Mar 14th. **Joydens Wood** – singles seen on 3 dates May-Jul. **Lamorbey Park** – present all year peak of 8 on Feb 22nd/23rd. **Coldblow Fields** Bexley – feeding flocks on agricultural land produced 20 on Feb 4th, 50 on the 5th and c300 on Mar 3rd. Single records of single birds from **Sidcup Place, The Warren** and **Perry Street Farm**.

73 Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus* – common breeding resident and winter visitor

Found across the Borough throughout the year – peak counts from:

Crayford Marshes – c350 Apr 14th, **Crossness** – 38 Mar 10th, Thamesmead Golf Course – 90 Mar 23rd. **Danson Park** – 49 Feb 26th. **East Wickham Open Space** – 20 on Mar 19th. **Joydens Wood** – peak count 29 on Apr 19th. **Lamorbey Park** c40 Feb 28th and Apr 4th. **The Warren** – 45 Jan 20th. **York Avenue Sidcup** – 182 over on migration Oct 23rd.

74 Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* – common breeding resident

Found across the Borough throughout the year but mostly a garden bird and as such probably under recorded – peak counts from: **Crayford Marshes** – 61 on Nov 6th (mostly around the Howbury Farm/meadows). **Crossness** – only one record of 2 birds on Apr 24th. **Danson Park** – only 8 records with 5 on May 27th being highest count, usually only 1 or 2 birds recorded.

Hall Place – only one record of a single bird on Mar 7th. **Lamorbey Park** - only two records each of a pair of birds on Apr 8th and May 7th. **Bexley Woods/River Shuttle** – a pair on Mar 22nd and 3 on Jan 20th. **The Red House** – Bexleyheath - 4 birds present on Feb17th.

75 Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* – naturalised breeding resident

Found across the Borough throughout the year, a regular and common garden visitor– probably under recorded due to its common status. Peak counts from: **Crayford Marshes** – 27 on Aug 19th though known to be many more present in the willows along Howbury Farm but often not recorded. **Crossness** – only 3 records on single figure birds – 3 on Mar 30th being highest count. **Coldblow Fields** Bexley – c300 Jan 11th. **Danson Park** – present throughout the year with up to 20 birds occasionally recorded though single figure or low teen numbers more usual.

However, the outstanding figure to report is that of what has now become the regular roost in the park and a count on Dec.27th indicated 1935 (minimum) birds present. **Foots Cray Meadows** – the original stronghold of this species – c70 on Dec 25th being highest count of only two records – definitely under recorded. **River Shuttle area of Haddon Grove** – minimum of 20 present Jan 5th. **Hall Place** – only one record of 2 on Jan 18th. Birds continue to be recorded flying to roost in the direction of the original roost site (Hither Green cemetery), 40 birds over **Queen Mary’s Hospital** on Dec 2nd heading that way.



Ring-necked Parakeet roost Danson Park
Ralph Todd



Cuckoo Crossness Magnus Andersson
www.magnus-andersson.com

76 Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* – uncommon summer visitor, passage migrant and possible breeding.

Crayford Marshes – single bird present May 6th, 14th and 28th. **Crossness** – single present on May 11th with three (including juveniles) on July 14th.

77 Barn Owl *Tyto alba* – rare breeding resident

Just three records. **Crayford Marshes** Landfill area Jan 17th and Sep 1st. **Crossness** – single over Parsley field on Nov 30th.

78 Little Owl *Athene noctua* – localised breeding resident

Crayford Marshes/Howbury Farm/fields – one or two birds seen throughout the year.

79 Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* – rare breeding resident

Most records are of calling birds: **Albany park** 4 dates in January, **The Warren** Jan 19th-22nd, **Joydens Wood** single Jan 24th and Apr 11th, plus pair seen Apr 24th and juvenile photographed 5th June. **Upton Road** Bexleyheath Jan 31st, **York Avenue** Sidcup 3 dates (May, Oct, Dec) and **Woodside Road** Sidcup Jan 31st. Individuals were seen **Foots Cray Meadows** Apr 30th and **Chalk Wood** Oct 21st. An owlet was seen/photographed May 14th/15th **Lamorbey Park**.



Tawny Owl and owlet – Joydens Wood – Honor Wheeler

80 Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* – scarce winter visitor – occasional influxes.

Crayford Marshes - Single bird seen between Jan 1st-24th (2 on the 11th) and again Mar 10th, 25th and 26th. An extraordinary record from a garden in **Red House Lane** Bexleyheath of a bird arriving Mar 26th, 9.50am departing after an hour having been mobbed by magpies.



Short-eared Owl

Red House Lane Ralph Todd



Crayford Marshes Janet Chittock

81 Swift *Apus apus* – common though probably declining breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

First date recorded a single bird at **Crossness** on Apr 20th followed by 10 **Danson Park** on 29th. Last date recorded 2 at **Danson Park** on Aug 25th.

Peak counts – 46 around Albert Road Bexley Jul 23rd, c80 **Crayford Marshes** Jul 29th, 70 **Crossness** Jul 11th and 42 **Thames Road Wetland** Jul 20th.

Breeding records were scarce and mostly provided by Chris Rose and almost exclusively in domestic properties with max of 3 pairs in **Hillingdon Road** Barnehurst. Two pairs nested **Boundary Road** Sidcup.

82 Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* – uncommon breeding resident with additional birds in winter Regularly recorded along the rivers Shuttle and Cray at various locations.

Crayford Marshes – 1 or 2 on 2 dates in Jan then no records until a single on Jul 20th, 4 dates in both Aug and Sep. **Crossness** – recorded every month Jan-Mar and Sep- Dec absent during summer months except one record of a single on Jul 17th. **Danson Park** nine records of single birds, mostly winter months with 3 seen (2male 1 female) on Feb 26th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – similar pattern to **Crossness** with regular records Jan-Apr (single bird) and Sep-Dec (2 on most occasions) with a single bird on Jul 25th, Aug 12th and 19th. **Crayford Rough/Hall Place** – regular sightings along the River Cray with breeding confirmed with a well watched and photographed pair. **Lamorbey Park** – again, regular sightings of 1, occasionally 2 birds Jan-Apr and Oct-Dec.

83 Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* – common breeding resident

Visits many gardens though probably under recorded from these locations.

Pairs recorded **Crayford Marshes** (with juvenile on Aug 26th), **Crossness** (adult with juvenile on Aug 17th, 4 adults seen Nov 4th) otherwise 1 or 2 recorded regularly. **Danson Park** – 1 or 2 seen through Jan-Apr 22nd, single records Jul 7th, Sep 9th, Oct 21st and Dec 1st. **East Wickham Open Space** – 2 Mar 19th. **Foots Cray Meadows** (4 territories noted on Mar 31st plus 4 adults on Apr 4th). **Joydens Wood** – 4 on Mar 30th peak. Other records from **Bexley Park Woods**, **Braeburn Park**, **Chalk Wood**, grounds of **Church of John the Baptist Erith**, **Parsonage Lane** Bexley, **Sidcup Place**, **Thamesmead Golf Course** and **Upper College Farm**.

84 Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* – common breeding resident

Visits many gardens though probably under recorded from these locations.

Pairs or drumming recorded from following sites; **Chalk Wood**, **Danson Park** (4 on Feb 1st), **East Wickham Open Space** (minimum of 4 on Mar 19th), **Foots Cray Meadows** (at least 4 territories Mar 25th), **Hall Place** – 5 on Jan 18th with singles 23rd, Sep 11th and another **Hall Place north** Mar 14th. **Joydens Wood** between 1-3 throughout year with 9 on Mar 25th highest count. **Lamorbey Park** 1 or 2 recorded every month except Jun-Aug, **Lesnes Abbey Woods** just one report of 3 on Jan 6th. **The Warren** 4 reports with a pair on Mar 22nd.

Also recorded: **Bexley Park Woods**, **Crayford Marshes**, **Crossness**, **Haddon Grove**, **Martens Grove**, **Parsonage Lane**, **Upper College Farm**.

85 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor* – very scarce – almost certainly no longer breeding in the Borough.

Just one record of a single bird flying from **Bexley Park Woods** Mar 30th (GN).



Green Woodpecker and Skylark



Crossness

Donna Zimmer

86 Skylark *Alauda arvensis* – uncommon and declining breeding resident, passage migrant. Resident (and probably breeding at just four sites in the Borough).

Crayford Marshes – breeding confirmed with 13 birds singing/flight display Mar 24th (all on landfill site); 16 on Sep 28th, 20 on Oct 11th and 12 on 17th. On Oct 3rd 48 were seen on or over the Landfill when an autumn passage was underway. **Crossness** – 1 or 2 seen/heard from March – May with a pair throughout late Apr/early May and 3 on July 1st. **Chalk Wood** (area) a singing male Mar 30th and May 7th, **Upper College Farm** at least one singing bird Mar 29th to Jun 10th. In addition to the 48 over **Crayford Marshes/Landfill** there were other October records of passage migrants with 10 **Crossness** 31st, 2 over **Crayford Rough** 25th 15 **Danson Park** 4th, 2 **Lamorbey Park** 23rd and 10 (22nd) and 17 (23rd) over **York Avenue Sidcup**.

87 Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* – passage migrant, no breeding records

First arrivals – c30 through **Crossness** Apr 10th, 14 on 19th. 2 **Crayford Marshes** 13th and 14th then 20 **Thamesmead Golf course** 18th. Between 2 and 6 until June 30th all along the Thames sites. Return passage seemingly began Jul 29th when 2 passed **Crayford Marshes** with peak passage being **Crossness** 40 Aug 9th and 30 **Crayford Marshes** Sep 18. Last record was of c50 (in a mixed flock of hirundines) over **Foots Cray Meadows** on Sep 29th (a record of a single bird from this site on Aug 22nd were the only inland records).

88 Swallow *Hirundo rustica* – common summer visitor, passage migrant, possible breeding four sites only.

First noted arrival – a single over **Thames Road Wetland** on Mar 23rd followed by singles **Crossness** Mar 30th, 31st and Apr 2nd. First significant record was of 12 over **Thamesmead Golf Course** Apr 12th and 15 over **Danson Park** lake on the 16th and 60 on 22nd. Small numbers (rarely more than 10) were recorded at most well watched sites across the Borough with only four possible breeding sites noted, one near **Foots Cray Meadows** July 11th, others near **Honeydene Farm/Chalk Wood** July 22nd, near **Joydens Wood** 23rd and **Parsonage Lane** also 23rd. There are many stables/out buildings in this area many of which are good potential nesting sites.

Autumn passage was well underway by late August with c80 over **Crayford Marshes** Aug 25th, another c20 on 29th and c40 on Sep 5th. A big movement took place on Sep 29th with the highest count being 1224 between 11am-12noon at **Crossness**. Last record was of 2 over **Crayford Marshes** on Oct 17th.

89 House Martin *Delichon urbica* – common summer visitor and passage migrant, declining as breeding species.

First arrivals noted in April with 3 **Crossness** 6th, 8 **Crayford Marshes** and 1 **Danson Park** 15th and 2 **Thamesmead Golf course** 18th. 20 at **Danson Park** on 22nd was the highest count of the spring passage.

Breeding sites have been declining with **Shearwood Crescent** Crayford now being the main colony with up to possibly 9 nests occupied. Probable breeding site **near Howbury Moat/Moat Lane** though given the private nature of much of the land difficult to confirm.

Autumn passage was underway by Aug 10th with 12 passing through **Crossness**, 25 over **Crayford Marshes** 26th. A steady number of records through Sep with 200-300 over **Crayford Marshes** on 18th, c100 **The Drive Bexley** 22nd and the 29th featured again with c120 over **Crossness** and 50 over **Foots Cray Meadows** (mixed flock of hirundines). 20 over **Joydens Wood** on Sep 12th. The last record was of 1 around the Shearwood colony on Oct 4th (CR).

90 Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* – passage migrant

A single record of 1 bird at **Crayford Marshes** on Sep 28th (NS)

91 Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* – common winter visitor, passage migrant and probably localised breeder. Recorded every month except June.

Belvedere Mulberry Way foreshore – peak of 6 Jan 24th and Nov 15th – not recorded April-Sep. **Crayford Marshes** – recorded every month except June. Peak counts 12 Jan 20th, 6 Apr 14th, 50 Sep 19th with between 10-16 present Oct 3rd to Nov 16th. 14 on the Landfill Sep 18th.

Crossness – no records for June-Aug. Other months between 1-4 recorded with peak counts of 8 Jan 13th, 6 Apr 1st, 21 Sep 21st, 12 Oct 19th, 17 Nov 14th and 15 Dec 8th. **Chalk Wood** single on horse paddocks Jan 20th. **Foots Cray Meadows** (Loring Hall fields) – 5 on July 13th the only other inland record.

92 Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus* – uncommon winter visitor

All records from the Thames (mostly foreshore) between Jan 1st-March 1st and Oct 6th-Dec 26th.

Belvedere Mulberry Way foreshore - between 1 and 2 Jan 7th -Feb 14th and Oct 15th - Dec 11th. **Crayford Marshes** – between 1-3 throughout January with 5 on 5th. 3 between Oct 6th-14th then 1 on two further dates in November. **Crossness** – 2 on Jan 2nd (1 on 7th), singles from Oct 21st - Nov 30th with 2 on Nov 14th and Dec 2nd and another Dec 13th. **Erith Corinthian Manorway** – 1 or 2 throughout Jan. 4 on Feb 14th and 2 on Feb 23rd being the last winter record. Single on Oct 11th with 3 on Dec 12th only late winter records.



Meadow Pipit – Crossness – Donna Zimmer



Rock Pipit-Thames-Foreshore Mike Robinson

93 Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* - scarce winter visitor

Only four records all from **Crayford Marshes** – one on Jan 18th/19th, 27th and 3 on Mar 10th.

94 Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* – uncommon passage migrant

First noted arrival a single at **Crossness** Apr 10th and last record 8 east over **Crayford Marshes** on Sep 28th.

Crayford Marshes – 7 flying north on Apr 24th no other spring records with first autumn passage 1 on Aug 5th followed by 3 on 25th; 8 on Sep 28th and 29 on the Landfill on Sep 6th being the highest counts. **Crossness** – only other records were of 3 on Apr 19th and 2 on Aug 29th. **Danson Park** – 5 on Apr 22nd was an unusual inland count. (SC/DZ) **Foots Cray Meadows** – 1 on Sep 29th being only other inland record.



Yellow Wagtails – Danson Park – Donna Zimmer

95 Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* – locally common breeding resident, passage migrant
Regularly recorded along stretches of the Rivers Cray and Shuttle

Recorded each month of the year along the Thames Foreshore (**Erith – Crossness**), **Crayford Marshes** – seven records (Mar 25-Oct 17th) with 2 on Sep 19th. **Crossness** – recorded each month, mostly from the foreshore with Sep peaks of 6 on 19th, 7 on 26th and 5 Oct 19th.

Danson Park – singles recorded often Apr – Dec with 2 on May 13th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – recorded each month, breeding confirmed with 3 juveniles noted Jun 10th

Hall Place only four records of 2 in Mar and Apr. Pair seen by the weir on the river near

Crayford Rough. Probably breeds locally. **Lamorbey Park** – singles recorded on 8 occasions (Jan, Feb, Mar, May, Oct, Nov).



Grey Wagtail – Horsham Road Garden Winter Hall Place Summer – both Ralph Todd

96 Pied Wagtail *Motacilla yarrellii* – common breeding resident and winter visitor.

The Bexleyheath Market Square roost has collapsed with none noted this year, no other roosts found. Seen in small numbers across most regularly watched sites with peak counts: **Crayford Marshes** – 10 on each of the following - Feb 19th, Apr 1st and May 6th. **Crossness** - 19 Jan 11th, 15 Sep 21st and 29th, 20 Oct 13th, 15 Dec 22nd. **Danson Park** – 6 on Apr 7th. **Foots Cray**

Meadows – 9 on Jul 11th (2 family parties) – only record from this site. **Hall Place North** – 6 on Dec 22nd. **Lamorbey Park** – 15 on Oct 22nd. **Perry Street Farm** – 7 Nov 16th.

97 White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* – uncommon passage migrant
Just one record from **Lamorbey Park** on Apr 9th (IS)

98 Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* – uncommon winter visitor
Just one record of a single bird flying over Old Farm Road West (IS).

99 Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* - Common breeding resident and winter visitor
Successful breeding in many sites across the Borough including gardens though there are few actual records to substantiate this. **Crayford Marshes** 8 on July 29th, **Danson Park** 11 on May 13th and 6 The Warren on Mar 22nd were the highest notable site counts. **Joydens Wood** holds a very healthy population with 24 seen/heard on May 3rd.

100 Dunnock *Prunella modularis* – common breeding resident
An under recorded species – with 55 records from the Thames foreshore (Erith-Belvedere) (MR) and just 9 records from **Crayford Marshes**, 24 **Crossness**, 21 **Danson Park**, 4 **Hall Place**, 1 **Crayford Rough**. No other site records.
Highest site counts: 8 **Belvedere Mulberry Way** foreshore Feb 11th, 6 **Erith Corinthian Manorway** foreshore Feb 7th, 5 **Crayford Marshes** Apr 13th, 3 **Crayford Rough** May 4th, 14 **Crossness** Mar 29th, 4 **Hall Place** Jan 18th. Of six records from **Joydens Wood** 3 on Feb 23rd was highest count.

101 Robin *Erithacus rubecula* – common breeding resident with autumn/winter influxes
Successful breeding many sites across the Borough including gardens though there are few actual records to substantiate this.
An example of winter influxes and changing seasonal population – **Danson Park** peak counts for January – 22 on 6th, 27 on Feb 9th and 24 on Mar 3rd, 9 on June 6th, 5 on July 28th, 7 on Aug 25th then 16 on Oct 25th. **Joydens Wood** – 16 on Feb 23rd, 29 Mar 25th, 33 Apr 11th (highest count), 29 May 3rd, 8 Jun 28th, 3 Aug 23rd and 10 Sep 22nd.

102 Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* – passage migrant and winter visitor (rare breeder)
Erith Corinthian Manorway Foreshore – female or 1st winter male present at least between Jan 4th – Feb 19th. **Crossness** – female Jan 4th and Mar 23rd and another Nov 14th (between the outfall and Iron Mountain foreshore).

103 Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* – uncommon passage migrant
Crayford Marshes Landfill – male Apr 12th. **Crossness** – Male Apr 10th and 13th another around the stables area on Sep 7th.



Black Redstart Crossness Donna Zimmer



Common Redstart Crossness Janet Chittock

104 Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* – passage migrant

Crayford Marshes Landfill first spring record on Apr 24th another on May 3rd, 3 on Aug 25th and one on the Saltings Sep 16th. **Crossness** – only one on two dates Apr 26th/28th on spring passage. Autumn began with 2 on Sep 3rd, 3 on 11th and 2 on 12th, singles on 21st-23rd, 2 on 24th, another 29th and 3 on Oct 3rd. **Upper College Farm**- 1 on Apr 12th.

105 Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* – uncommon breeding resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Crayford Marshes – 5 on Jan 28th (KJ) was the peak winter record, a female on Mar 10th and another Apr 13th were last until 1 Aug 15th, 2 on 3 dates in Sep, 10 on Oct 11th (SC) was an unusually high count with 4 on 17th and 1 Nov 4th only other records. **Crossness** – recorded every month except May-Aug though pairs were frequently recorded and juveniles were present Sep 19th. Peak counts – 3 Jan 1st and 28th, 2 throughout Feb, pair Mar 3rd, 2 Sep 2nd, 4 Oct 3rd and 5th, 6 Nov 4th and 5 Dec 14th. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – single Nov 24th (SC). **Upper College Farm** – single on Dec 1st (SG).



Female Stonechat October Crossness Whinchat – September Crossness both Donna Zimmer

106 Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* – passage migrant

First of the year a single at **Crossness** on Mar 20th, last of year single at **Erith Corinthian Manorway** foreshore on Sep 22nd.

Crayford Marshes – first a single Apr 1st with 3 on 7th, 4 (males) on 13th and 5 on 14th. 2 on Sep 16th only autumn passage. **Crossness** – male of Mar 30th first of the year, occurring throughout Apr with 3 on 26th the peak and a female on May 7th last of the spring passage. 1 on Aug 25th first of autumn passage, never more than 2 during Sep with last on 21st.

Chalk Wood (Honeydale Farm) – 3 present on Apr 11th. **Upper College Farm** – single Apr 12th.

107 Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus* – uncommon passage migrant

Crayford Marshes – single by Landfill Apr 13th, male and female on 19th on the marshes, 2 on 24th near the Saltings, 1 on 26th and 2 on 27th (probably same birds). **Crossness** – female on Apr 10th (first record of the spring passage in the Borough). **The Drive Bexley** – at the time of a large autumn movement across the south 12 (twelve) seen well flying over at 1.30pm on Oct 9th (GN).

108 Blackbird *Turdus merula* – common breeding resident and winter visitor.

Successful breeding many sites across the Borough including gardens though there are few actual records to substantiate this. Under recorded species. Some peak numbers:

Belvedere Mulberry Way foreshore 7 Feb 23rd – no records between Apr 28th and Sep 30th.

Crayford Marshes – 15 Jan 20th, 13 Mar 24th, 14 Apr 13th, 3 May 14th, 10 July 29th and 1 Aug 15th. No records for other months. **Crossness** – recorded every month – peak of 14 Oct 20th.

Erith Corinthian Manorway foreshore – no records Apr-Sep. Peak counts 8 Feb 5th and Dec 11th. **Bexley Park Woods** – 6 on Jan 20th only record. **Crayford Rough** – 6 on May 4th only record. **Danson Park** – recorded every month except Apr/Nov – peak counts 19 Jan 6th, 18 Feb 2nd, 20 Mar 23rd, 13 May 27th, 9 Dec 28th. **East Wickham Open Space** – 4 Mar 19th only record. **Hall Place** – 10 Jan 18th and 6 Dec 22nd (north fields). The only 3 records. **Joydens Wood** – 16 on May 29th highest count. **Lamorbey Park** – 7 on Dec 26th only record for this site? **Shenstone Park** 1 on Dec 22nd only record for this site. **The Warren** - 9 Jan 20th.

109 Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* – regular passage migrant and common winter visitor. (numbers and records much reduced this year).

Last winter record, **Crayford Marshes** (Howbury moat area) 3 on Apr 13th. First Autumn arrival – 2 over Bexley on Oct 12th (SG).

Some peak numbers: **Crayford Marshes** – 40 Jan 16th and Mar 10th, 18 Oct 17th, 45 Nov 14th.

Crossness – 6 Jan 15th, 16 Feb 29th, 16 Nov 8th. **Chalk/Stonehill Woods** – paddocks – c250 Mar 17th (c30 on 19th). **Danson Park** – only four records and three of those were fly overs – 3 on Oct 22nd and 23rd and 20 on Dec 15th. A single present on Jan 15th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – only four records, 1 on Feb 11th, 2 Nov 23rd and fly overs of 5 on Dec 8th and 30 on 15th. **Hall Place** – only two records – 3 Jan 18th and 30 Oct 15th. **Horsham Road** – 20 flew over Oct 22nd. **Lamorbey** – only three records – 1 on Jan 1st and Oct 23rd, 42 over on Dec 26th. **Martens Grove** – just one record of 3 on Jan 26th. **Parsonage Lane/Chalk wood** – 40 Mar 21st. **Parsonage Lane – St. James Cemetery** – 36 Mar 18th. **York Avenue Sidcup** – 30 over on Oct 23rd.

110 Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* – common but locally declining breeding resident and winter visitor.

Crayford Marshes – 4 on Jan 20th highest of winter with 3 still present on May 6th and 2 on Jul 29th. Singles in Aug, no records for Sep, 6 on Oct 6th probably passage migrants. **Crossness** – no records May, Jun, Sep, and apart from 2 on Feb 24th, July 21st and throughout Dec only single bird sightings. **Braeburn Park** – 5 on Apr 28th and 3 May 9th (only two records for the site).

Crayford Rough – 6 on May 4th (only record for this site).

Danson Park – 1-3 present each month. **Foots Cray Meadows** – up to 10 (including 6 singing on Feb 14th), Mar 9th and 29th otherwise only other record of 1 on Mar 21st, 25th and May 14th.

Hall Place – only recorded Jan, Mar, Apr and Oct with 4 on Jan 18th and 2 Apr 28th/Oct 15 only multiple records. **Joydens Wood** – between 1 – 4 recorded from 8 dates. **Lamorbey Park** – only recorded Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr (2 on 8th), May and Nov (3 on 30th) with singles on 8 other dates. **Lesnes Abbey Woods** – 2 on Jan 6th. **River Shuttle – Bexley** (BETHS – Blendon) pair singing Mar 22nd and Apr 22nd. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – pair present Apr 5th and one present rest of month, 3 on Dec 14th. **Upper College Farm** – 2 on Jul 13th only record. **York Avenue Sidcup** – singing male Feb 24th and 26th – 2 present Oct 23rd.

111 Redwing *Turdus iliacus* – common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Last winter record, single at **Thamesmead Golf Course** Apr 5th, first autumn arrival 2 **Lamorbey Park** and **York Avenue Sidcup** Oct 7th.

Peak movements seem to have been around Mar 16th-21st and Oct 21st. Highest winter count was c200 **North Cray Road pastures** Mar 17th when c100 also recorded **Joydens Wood**.

Highest autumn count c42 over **Danson Park** Oct 21st and **Lesnes Abbey Wood** Dec 15th.

Other peak counts: **Crayford Marshes** – 12 on Jan 20th. **Crossness** – 45 on Mar 20th

Chalk Wood/Stonehill Woods – c50 on Mar 17th, **Danson Park** – 9 on Jan 15th.

East Wickham Open Space – 8 on Mar 19th (only record from this site). **Foots Cray Meadows** – c30 on Mar 16th. **Hall Place** – 30 Jan 27th. **Lamorbey Park** 20 on Oct 21st.

Sidcup Place 30 on Mar 21st. **Southmere Lake** 45 on Feb 22nd. **Veroan Road Bexleyheath** garden 22 on Oct 21st and **Willersley Ave/Halfway Street Sidcup** 23 over on Oct 23rd.

112 – Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* – uncommon breeding resident

Mostly recorded away from the Thames though relatively few records – possibly under recorded.

Crossness only three winter records – 1 on Jan 19th another 28th then nothing until a single Oct 30th. **Chalk Wood** – 3 Mar 30th and 4 May 7th. **Danson Park** – at least 1 recorded each month except Jun, Aug and Sep. **East Wickham Open Space** – only one record of 3 seen on Mar 19th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – 4 recorded on Mar 9th and 21st (when two territories were noted) and 5 on 29th. Recorded through Aug with 10 on 1st being peak. 7 seen on the **Loring Hall** playing fields on Jul 13th and 22 on Sep 14th. **Hall Place** – 4 on Jan 23rd and 2 on various dates Mar, Apr, Oct and Dec, only other records of 5 Mar 14th and Aug 6th. **Joydens Wood** – no more than 2 recorded. **Lamorbey Park** – 5 on Jan 3rd, pair Feb 28th, singing Apr 5th and 3 on 15th. No records from May – Oct with 1 or 2 seen Nov/Dec. **River Shuttle** – (BETHS – Blendon) pair singing Apr 22nd. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 3 on Jan 1st otherwise single present Jan-Apr, no other records.

113 Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* – scarce but increasing breeding resident.

Mostly restricted to the Thames corridor, marshes and foreshore.

Belvedere Mulberry Ave foreshore – single calling Feb 24th-Apr 28th and Sep 26th-Oct 10th.

Crayford Marshes – recorded every month except June with up to 4 in Jan-Mar and 10 calling birds Apr 14th, other peak counts 12 on Sep 19th and Oct 11th. Territories on Howbury fields, Landfill and the Marshes. **Crossness** – at least 2 recorded every month (only Jun record a single on 30th), peak counts 8 Feb 26th, 13 Feb 29th, 15 Apr 20th, 13 May 2nd and 19th, 4 Jul 20th, 9 Aug 23rd, 14 on Sep 8th and 29th, 10 Oct 19th, 11 Nov 4th and 8 Dec 22nd.

Edgington Way fields – Sidcup – bird calling May 22nd and 27th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – single recorded on Oct 21st in boggy area SW of Five arches lake, again on Nov 2nd, Dec 22nd and 29th. **Southmere Lake** – single present Feb 22nd, 29th, Nov 4th and 28th. **Thames Road Wetland** – single Mar 10th and Dec 16th/22nd. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – single Feb 22nd, Apr 5th, 7th, 20th and 2 on Apr 12th and May 26th, Aug 17th and Sep 19th, 3 on Apr 14th.

114 Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* – uncommon passage migrant and rare breeding summer visitor.

Only 14 records from 4 sites. First arrival date a single **Crossness** on Apr 3rd which was earliest record here since 2009 – peak passage was 28th-30th. Last record also from **Crossness** of one on Sep 19th.

Crayford Marshes – just 3 records – singles on May 6th, Sep 18th and 19th. **Crossness** – 10 records, 6 on Apr 28th, singles Apr 29th, May 5th, 7th, 11th (2), 17th on the 18th 4 in protected area and 7 on wider reserve (BW). **Danson Park** – single on Apr 29th. **Lamorbey Park** – single on Apr 30th.

115 Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* – common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

First arrival dates Apr 14th **Crayford Marshes**, 15th **Crossness**, last departure date also **Crayford Marshes** 5 on Sep 19th.

Crayford Marshes – peak counts, 4 on Apr 24th, c30 on May 6th, no records June, 4 Jul 29th and 15 Aug 26th. **Crossness** – peak counts – 4 on Apr 20th, 26 May 26th, 12 Jun 30th, 6 Jul 25th, 14 Aug 17th and 3 on Sep 1st. 2 recorded Southern Marsh Apr 24th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – 1 on Aug 29th (SG). **Southmere Lake** – 1 on May 26th, **Thames Road Wetland** – 2 on Apr 18th. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 1 May 26th and 2 Aug 23rd.

116 Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* – common breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and increasingly a winter visitor.

As most winter visitors are probably to gardens it is possible this is an under reported species with only 4 garden records Jan-Mar. First singing bird was at **Foots Cray Meadows** on Mar 30th. There were no significant arrival dates with up to 4 on most days in Apr across the Borough. Peak counts:

Crayford Marshes – 8 Apr 14th, 6 May 6th, up to 3 Jul-Aug, singles only Sep and 7 on Oct 3rd being last date for this site. **Crossness** – first record a single on Apr 5th, peak numbers, 6 on Apr 29th and May 7th, 3 Jun 30th, 1 on Jul 14th, 21st, 7 on Aug 22nd, last record a single on Oct 2nd.

Albany Park – 3 singing males May 23rd (only record). **Bexley Park Woods** – 3 singing males Apr 22nd and May 27th (the only two records). **Braeburn Park** – 2 on Apr 28th (only record). **Chalk Wood** – 2 Apr 28th and 1 on May 7th (only two records). **Crayford Rough** – 5 on May 4th (only record). **Danson Park** – 2 on Apr 7th first for site, 10 on 21st and 30th highest count, 6 May 27th, 4 Jun 6th, 3 Jul 7th with last recorded on Jul 28th.

Foots Cray Meadows – surprisingly few records, just 9 between Mar 30th and May 30th and another Sep 30th. In addition to 4 singing birds Apr 4th, 10 were recorded on Apr 30th and May 3rd and 30 seen/heard on May 30th (SG). **Hall Place** – only one record – 6 on Apr 28th. **The Hollies** – 2 singing Apr 5th. **Joydens Wood** – no winter records with 14 on May 3rd peak spring total. **Lamorbey Park** – 3 singing Apr 5th first record, c15 on 30th peak count, 9 on May 1st, 2 on 21st were the last recorded. **River Shuttle** (BETHS-Blendon) 3 singing Apr 22nd. **Sidcup Place** – 1 on May 16th (only record). **Southmere Lake** – 1 May 19th (only record).

Thamesmead Golf Course – up to 4 present through Apr – 2 May 26th and 2 Aug 17th. **Upper College Farm** – singles on Apr 13th and Jul 13th only records.

117 – Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* – scarce summer visitor

Just one record from **Foots Cray Meadows** of a single bird (not singing) on Apr 28th (SG).

118 – Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* – passage migrant, uncommon breeding summer visitor.

First recorded arrival Apr 28th **Thistlefield Close Bexley** (PE), last recorded a single **Crayford Marshes** Sep 19th. **Crayford Marshes** – at least one present Apr 14th – May 6th with 4 on Apr 14th, 24th and May 6th. No further records until Aug 19th when 1 bird recorded then 6 further dates with last being on Sep 19th. **Crossness** – first recorded Apr 18th with 3 on 24th and between 1-3 on 9 further dates until 30th May then singles on Jun 30th and Aug 22nd.

Only records from following were **Braeburn Park** – 2 on May 9th. **Crayford Rough** – 1 on May 4th, 2 on the 9th. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – single on Apr 18th and 20th. **Upper College Farm** – single male Apr 28th.

119 Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* – common widespread passage migrant and breeding summer visitor

First reported 4 **Crayford Marshes** (1 by Thames 3 Howbury area) on Apr 13th, last record 3 also **Crayford Marshes** Sep 21st. First significant influx Apr 19th with peak numbers between May 4th-6th.

Crayford Marshes – 20 on Apr 24th, 42 May 6th, 15 July 29th, 21 Aug 5th and 8 on 26th. Last 3 on Sep 28th. **Crossness** – 1 on Apr 17th first for the site peaking 7 on 28th, 12 on May 7th, 5 on June 30th, 2 on 4 dates in Jul and up to 3 on 6 dates in Aug with last, 2 on Sep 18th.

Braeburn Park – 6 on Apr 28th and 2 Aug 6th only two records. **Chalk Wood** – 3 Apr 28th and 1 May 7th only two records. **Crayford Rough** – 14 on May 4th the only record. **Foots Cray Meadows** – 4 on Apr 30th first record with 4 on 4 dates in May until peak of 14 singing males on May 16th (SG) – no further records. **Lamorbey Park** – 8 records between Apr 27th and May 18th with 2 birds reported on Apr 30th and May 1st otherwise all singles.

Sidcup Place – 1 on May 15th only record. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 4 on Apr 20th and Aug 17th only two records. **Upper College Farm** – 3 singing males on May 5th with 2 seen on Jul 13th.

120 Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* – Common breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and increasing winter visitor.

Winter birds (up to Mar 21st) recorded from across the Borough, 1-3 along the Thames Foreshore **Erith – Belvedere Mulberry Ave** until Feb 25th, 1 or 2 **Crossness** and **Foots Cray Meadows** most weeks. Single **Danson Park** Feb 11th. **Joydens Wood** – 2 on Mar 25th then peaking 9 on Apr 11th. **Thames Road Wetland** held 2 on Jan 27th with 5 on Mar 10th, possibly first evidence of spring arrivals.

Peak summer numbers:

Crayford Marshes – singing single birds from Mar 25th rising to 5 on 14th then only five more spring dates of 1-3 between Apr 19th and May 14th. 7 on Aug 5th and 4 on the 8th signs of autumn movement, 4 on Sep 30th and Oct 6th last recorded on the 17th. **Crossness** – Present each month of the year with peak of 4 during Apr (most dates), only 4 dates in May with singles seen (2 on 7th). Autumn movement seems to have begun Aug 4th with 5 reported peaking at 6 on 22nd and 8 on Sep 2nd and Oct 2nd was probably last of the summer migrants. 1 or 2 continue to be recorded until the year end with 4 on Dec 14th was an unusual winter number. **Bexley Park Woods** – just one record of a single bird singing Apr 29th.

Braeburn Park – 3 on Apr 28th only record from this site. **Chalk Wood** – singles on Mar 30th and May 7th only records. **Crayford Rough** – 1 on May 4th only record. **Danson Park** – 2 on Apr 2nd first reports with peak of 5 on 30th, 4 on 3 on May 13th, 24th and 27th, singles June 6th, 28th and 2 on Jul 7th. Only one report of a single in Aug 11th, 5 on Sep 9th followed by singles on Oct 4th and 22nd and Dec 14th/15th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – 4 singing on Mar 29th and 30th (10 seen on this date) followed by 10 on Apr 3rd and 9th and 17 on 25th being highest counts. 1 seen on May 7th last record of the spring. No reports until 2 on Oct 7th with 6 on 21st being highest count of autumn with 4 on Nov 2nd being last report. **Lamorbey Park** – 10 on Apr 10th was the peak for the spring with last report of a single on May 15th. 3 were reported on Sep 10th and 1 on Oct 15th being last of the year. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – c20 reported on Sep 21st (IS).

River Shuttle (BETHS to Blendon) – 1 on Apr 22nd only report. **Sidcup Place** – singles on Apr 9th and May 16th only reports. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – up to 4 reported on 5 dates in April. 20 on Sep 21st was unusually high with 7 on the 22nd probably reflecting Autumn passage.

Upper College Farm – singing birds on Mar 29th and Apr 13th only Spring records with 4 on Sep 14th.

121 Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* – rare migrant

After the 2015 **Foots Cray Meadows** individual the same finder (IS) reported another at **Thames Road Wetland** on Jan 27th and Mar 10th.

122 Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* – Uncommon passage migrant – probably no longer breeding.

First recorded spring arrival at least 2 individuals including 1 singing single **Crossness** April 3rd. Most arrivals took place between Apr 3rd – 13th. Latest date were 3 individuals at **Crossness** on Sep. 15th.

Bexleyheath – single singing in garden Apr 13th. **Crayford Marshes** – 5 records – 2 including 1 singing on 13th along foreshore and meadows where a single was also seen on 19th with a second around the Howbury fields. No other spring records. Single seen on Aug 25th/26th.

Crossness – In addition to first arrivals, 2 on Apr 5th, 7th, 12th and 28th with singles on 7th, 10th and 20th and 3 on 29th. Autumn passage – 4 on Aug 17th, 3 on 23rd and the 3 on Sep 15th.

Danson Park – singing bird on Apr 7th, 2 on May 24th – 2 early autumn passage on Aug 11th and Sep 2nd. **Foots Cray Meadows** – Singles singing on Apr 7th, 9th and 11th only records.

Lamorbey Park –single birds on Apr 5th, 7th and 10th with 3 on the 8th. **Sidcup Place** – Single singing on Apr 9th. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 1 on Apr 5th and 2 on the 12th. **Veroan Road Bexleyheath** – 2 in garden on Aug 23rd.

123 Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* – Locally common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Recorded each month except July/Aug. Peak numbers occurred in winter months (Jan-Mar/Oct-Dec). Regular visitor to gardens but under reported.

Singles occasionally seen along Thames foreshore at Erith **Corinthian Manorway foreshore**– Jan 30th and Feb 5th. **Crayford Marshes** – only 3 records of singles Jan-Mar and of 2 on Nov 4th. **Crossness** – only 4 records – 2 on Jan 1st, 6 Sep 2nd and Oct 2nd and 2 Sep 18th. **Bexley Park Woods** – minimum 8 on Oct 26th – only record. **Chalk Wood** – minimum 10 on Jan 20th and Mar 19th peak counts. **Coldblow Field/Tilehurst Lane** – 5 on Jan 20th highest of 3 records. **Danson Park** – recorded each month except July-Sep. Rarely more than 2 though 8 on Feb 25th, and 6 on Apr 30th exceptional numbers. 5 on Oct 22nd highest of the 4 Oct-Dec record. **East Wickham Open Space** – 3 on Mar 19th only record. **Foots Cray Meadows** – recorded Jan-May (usually no more than 6 though minimum 10 on Feb 11th/12th exceptional) and Oct-Dec. Between 10-15 recorded Oct 21st, Nov 25th. **Grounds of Church of St John – Erith** – 5 reported on Jan 19th. **Hall Place** – only 1 record of 2 on Feb 4th. **Hollyoak Park** – only 1 record of a single bird on Nov 25th. **Joydens Wood** – peak winter records of minimum 15 on Jan 20th and min. 10 on Mar 17th with 4 on Aug 5th being highest summer count. **Lamorbey Park** – recorded each month except Jul-Aug. Minimum of 10 on Jan 1st highest winter count with 1-6 being the norm. Counts of 3-10 regularly between Oct 21st – Dec 31st. **Parsonage Lane** (St. James Cemetery) up to 3 present Mar 18th and at least 2 on Dec 29th. **Thames Road Wetland** – one record of single bird on Mar 10th. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 2 on Jan 1st, 1 on Feb 22nd and 2 Apr 5th. **The Warren Bexleyheath** – 2 present during frequent Jan visits.



Ring Ouzel – Crossness – Janet Chittock



Goldcrest – The Warren – Ralph Todd

124 Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* – scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Joydens Wood single sighting Mar 22nd another located at **Parsonage Lane** St.James Cemetary (SG) on Mar 17th and last seen on 19th. **Lamorbey Park** single singing near main lake on Apr 7th (IS) who located another on November 27th, it remained until year end and seen by many local birdwatchers.

125 Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*– scarce passage migrant – there have been no breeding records for some years.

Crayford Marshes – single seen by Erith Yacht Club on Aug 29th another in hawthorns in Moat Lane on Sep 30th. **The Hollies** - two seen (Acacia Way) on Aug 28th/29th. **Lamorbey Park** – single seen on May 6th/7th.

126 Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* – scarce passage migrant

A male reported **Upper Belvedere** Apr 13th. A female at **Lamorbey Park** on Apr 29th/30th.

127 Bearded Tit (Reedling) *Panurus biarmicus* – rare autumn/winter visitor.

Crayford Marshes (mostly at the Cray Creek/ River Darent) – 2 from Jan 4th-18th again on Feb 4th, Mar 10th, 24th/25th. **Crossness** – 3 were the first seen on Oct 14th followed by single on 2 further dates until 5 in protected area on Oct 28th no further sightings until Nov 28th when between 2 – 6 seen until Dec 29th.



Bearded Tits – Crossness – Donna Zimmer



Ralph Todd

128 Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* – common and widespread breeding resident.

Reported from across the Borough every month. Regular visitor and nesting in gardens but under reported.

Albany Park – observer's (SG) garden had family parties 6 and 8 on Jun 17th and Aug 19th respectively. **Corinthian Manorway** foreshore, Erith recorded Jan/Feb and Oct-Dec with 5 on Oct 31st highest count. **Church of St. Johns Erith** also had up to 5 present Jan 12th – Feb 14th. **Crayford Marshes** – peak count 7 on Sep 18th though a pair on Mar 17th and at nest on May 14th. **Crossness** – 8 on Jan 4th highest winter count, between 2-6 seen until May 18th, no reports Jun/Jul -8 in protected area Aug 4th, no further reports until 2 on Nov 3rd. **Crayford Rough** – 4 May 4th, 8 Oct 25th only two records. **Danson Park** – 8 on Jan 6th peak winter count, 12 on May 27th and 12 Oct 25 other best numbers. **Hall Place** – 6 on Jan 18th, 2 Feb 2nd and 3 Feb 14th only 3 records for the year. **Joydens Wood** – 6 on Mar 23rd highest of 10 counts. **Lamorbey Park** – 1 or 2 present Apr 6th-May 21st with nest building reported Apr 22nd. Only other record of 3 on Dec 26th. **Parsonage Lane** – pair nest building Mar 17th. **The Warren** – 5 on Jan 20th only record.

129 Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus* – common breeding resident.

Common nesting/feeding bird in gardens but under reported as it is from many sites across the Borough with only two reports from **Lamorbey Park**, 4 from **Hall Place**, none from **Foots Cray Meadows**.

Highest numbers from inland sites –with 4 on Jan 20th **Crayford Marshes** being highest count there and 6 on Jan 15th at **Crossness**. **Danson Park** by contrast regularly had 10-15 in winter and **Hall Place** 10 on Dec 22nd. **Joydens Wood** – 17 on Mar 25th peak with up to 8 seen during summer months.

130 Great Tit *Parus major* – common breeding resident.

Common nesting/feeding bird in gardens but under reported. As with blue tit, poorly recorded from across the Borough no records from Foots Cray Meadows, 2 from Lamorbey. Highest counts from: **Crayford Marshes** – 6 on Jan 20th highest winter count. **Crossness** – 8 on Jan 15th. **Bexley Park Woods** 7 on Jan 20th only record. **Danson Park** – between 10-14 Jan 6th -

Feb 26th thereafter 7 being the highest count. **Hall Place** 9 on Feb 2nd. **Joydens Wood** – peak of 14 on Mar 25, up to 8 during breeding season and 10 on Aug 5th. **Parsonage Lane** (St. James Cemetery) 6 on Mar 18th. **The Warren** – 7 on Jan 20th.

131 Coal Tit *Parus ater* – uncommon breeding resident.

Mostly recorded at inland sites (no reports from **Crossness**). An under recorded species with only one record from a private garden.

Crayford Marshes – just one record of a single on Mar 24th. **Bexley Park Woods** – singles on Jan 20th and 24th. **Danson Park** – singles reported on 7 dates Jan 20th-May 13th. 2 on Aug 5th and Oct 22nd/23rd (last records). **East Wickham Open Space** – single on Mar 19th only record.

Foots Cray Meadows – a pair seen in North Cray Woods on Jan 18th otherwise just 4 records of single birds Mar 11th, Apr 3rd/9th and May 20th. **Hall Place** – 6 records of 1 or 2 birds (mostly at the Hide feeding station) between Jan 14th – Mar 14th, no further records.

The Hollies – a single record on Aug 29th. **Horsham Road** – pair breeding in garden hedge.

Joydens Wood – 5 on Mar 25th peak. **Lamorbey Park** – single reported on 11 dates Feb 6th-May 15th (with 3 on Mar 6th), no further records until a single on Sep 10th and on Dec 26th/29th.

Parsonage Lane – St James Cemetary – a single sighting on Mar 21st. **Sidcup Place** – just one record of 1 bird on Mar 21st.



Coal Tit – Hall Place Hide – Ralph Todd



Nuthatch – Bexley Park Woods – Ralph Todd

132 Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* – uncommon breeding resident

Bexley Park Woods – 3 seen on Apr 22nd and adult feeding young on May 27th – no further records. **Chalk Wood** – 2 on Mar 17th with singles on 30th and Apr 28th. **Danson Park** – singles reported on 8 dates between Feb 1st – Apr 30th, next record of 1 on Aug 5th and 2 on Sep 9th, only other record, 1 on Dec 28th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – 1 or 2 birds seen on 12 dates Jan 1st – Apr 30th, and 1 on Nov 2nd. Upt to 3 territories in North Cray Woods.

Hall Place – 1 or 2 seen on 7 dates Jan 14th-Mar 14th, mostly around the hide/feeding station.

Only other record of 1 on Dec 27th. **Joydens Wood** – pair around territory Mar 23rd, 3 seen Apr 19th. **Lamorbey Park** – singles seen each month except Mar, July-Sep. 3 on Mar 11th and a pair confirmed Apr 1st. 5 were seen (3 on one tree) on Dec 26th. **Lesnes Abbey Woods** – 1 on Dec 15th only record. **Martens Grove** – 2 seen on Jan 26th – only record.

Parsonage Lane – St. James Cemetery – single on Mar 19th and 21st. **The Warren** – single on Jan 20th and pair calling Mar 22nd.

133 Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* – rare resident – probably breeding

Reported from only two sites more than once with single sightings from 2 other sites only.

Chalk Wood – 2 on Jan 20th and Mar 21st (Parsonage lane end), singles Mar 17th, 19th and 30th.

Hall Place – 1 seen opposite hide on Aug 7th. **Joydens Wood** – single on Mar 17th and Apr 11th.

Martens Grove – single on Jan 28th

134 Jay *Garrulus glandarius* – common breeding resident – number increased by autumn/winter migrants.

Crayford Marshes – 1 or 2 Jan – May, no records June/July, 1 Aug 26th. Autumn peaks 3 Sep 19th, 4 Oct 11th and 25th, no records Nov/Dec. **Crossness** – just 4 records – 2 on Apr 5th and 1 on 18th, 2 on May 19th and another Aug 17th. **Bexley Park Woods** – single on Jan 20th only record. **Chalk Wood** – single on Mar 19th only record. **Coldblow Field** – 2 on Jan 11th only record. **Crayford Rough** – 2 May 4th and 4 Oct 25th only records. **Danson Park** – recorded every month except July – 1-3 Jan-May, singles June, Aug, Sep then an influx in Oct with 6 on 21st and 5 on 31st. 1 on Dec 8th and 20th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – only 7 records with 8 on Feb 4th, 5 Mar 29th and 6 Apr 25th being the highest counts. **Hall Place** – only two records – 1 Mar 14th and 2 Oct 15th. **Hollyoak Park** – single on Feb 4th only record from here. **Joydens Wood** – 7 present on Mar 22nd. **Lamorbey Park** – Singles on 8 dates Jan 1st – Apr 4th, pair on Apr 7th, 8th and 30th, singles May 13th and 14th, no further records until 1 Nov 26th. **The Red House** – single on Feb 17th. **Thames Road Wetland** – single on Mar 10th only record. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – single on Sep 22nd only record. **The Warren** – 4 on Mar 22nd only record. **Veroan Road Bexleyheath** – 5 on Mar 12th was an unusual high garden number.

135 Magpie *Pica pica* – common breeding resident.

A common garden bird and widespread across the Borough, being the marmite bird it is probably accounts for relative under recording.

Peak Counts of interest: **Belvedere Mulberry Avenue** foreshore – 4 Jan 9th. **Corinthian Manorway** Foreshore Erith – 2 regularly Jan 4th-Feb 29th, 1 on Apr 28th last of record for the year. **Crayford Marshes** – only 3 records though present throughout the year, 11 on Landfill and 11 on marshes on Mar 24th. **Crossness** – recorded Jan-May and Oct-Dec with 10 on Feb 12th and 14 Oct 22nd highest counts. 13 on Southern Marsh Feb 29th only record from this area of the reserve. **Coldblow Field** – 30 on Jan 11th only record. **Crayford Rough** – 2 on May 4th only record. **Danson Park** – recorded every month except Apr – 6 highest count on numerous dates. **East Wickham Open Space** – 14 on Mar 19th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – only 2 records, of birds roosting on the lake islands – c20 on Jan 20th and c40 on Mar 9th – no other records. **Joydens Wood** 15 on May 3rd peak count. **Stanham Farm Wetland** – Maiden Lane – 16 on Mar 22nd. **The Warren** – 8 on Jan 20th only record.

136 Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* – locally common breeding resident

Crayford Marshes – present year round 8 on Feb 18th highest count. **Crossness** – only 4 records of a single bird, Mar 25th, 29th and Oct 24th, plus 1 on Southern Marsh Feb 29th. **Chalk Wood** – c20 on Mar 30th only record. **Coldblow Field** – c100 on Jan 11th and 50 Mar 3rd only records. **Crayford Rough** – only 2 records, 1 May 4th and 3 Oct 25th. **Danson Park** – recorded every month except Jan. 2-4 present throughout the year. **Foots Cray Meadows** – Borough stronghold, under reported – only 5 records – 30 on Mar 6th, 50 16th, 12 on 21st, 13 25th. Flocks were seen on the nearby Loring Hall fields – 20 Jul 13th, 26 Sep 14th and 37 on Dec 25th. **Hall Place** – highest counts from the Hall Place north with 12 on Mar 14th and 24 Dec 22nd. Only 2 records from south – 1 Jan 18th and 4 Oct 15th. **Joydens Wood** – only one record of one bird on Feb 23rd. **Lamorbey Park** – between 1-6 present Jan-May 9th, no further records until 2 on Oct 15th, 1 on Nov 19th last record. **Sidcup Place** – 20 on Apr 9th highest of only 2 records.

137 Rook *Corvus frugilegus* – scarce visitor

Records from only two sites - **Crayford Marshes** – singles on Feb 19th, May 6th, Sep 19th, Oct 14th and 4 near Howbury Grange on Oct 6th. **Coldblow Field** – a more typical site with ploughed in sweetcorn crops – 10 on Feb 4th possibly the highest count for the Borough, 1 (possibly more) on Mar 3rd more typical.

138 Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* – common breeding resident

Another common visitor to gardens and widespread across the Borough often under reported/counted. Some peak counts: **Belvedere Mulberry Way** foreshore – up to 3 present Jan-Apr 11th, 4 on Oct 3rd only other record. **Crayford Marshes** – 60 Jan 20th, 120 May 6th and c100 July 29th, only 3 reports. **Crossness** – recorded only between Jan-May with 12 on Jan 6th and Feb 24th being peak counts. **Danson Park** – monthly peaks – 74 Jan 20th, 65 Feb 9th, 50 Mar 23rd, 60 May 13th, 61 Jun 6th, 43 Jul 7th, 53 Aug 18th, 64 Sep 2nd and 28th, 59 Oct 12th, 77 Dec 20th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – amazingly only one record, c75 on Sep 26th. **Hall Place – (north)** – 2 on Dec 22nd – only record for this site. **Joydens Wood** 15 Mar 25th highest count. **Lamorbey Park** – 40 on Feb 22nd only record for this site. **The Warren** – 24 on Mar 22nd only record for this site.

139 Raven *Corvus corax* – scarce visitor

Similar pattern to rook – just the two same sites turned up this species.

Crayford Marshes – 2 on Jan 19th, 1 Feb 18th (landfill) and 1 Jul 29th. **Coldblow Field** – 1 on Jan 11th.

140 Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* – common but locally declining breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

Common visitor to gardens and widespread across the Borough, often under reported from many sites despite high profile declines. Highest numbers are reported from the Thames corridor.

Some peak numbers (May being the month of highest counts):

Belvedere Mulberry Avenue foreshore – 40 Jan 9th, 20 Feb 26th, 15 Mar 6th/20th, 8 Apr 11th, no further records until just on of 6 on Oct 3rd. **Corinthian Manorway** foreshore Erith – 15 on Jan 23rd, 30 Feb 3rd and 5 Apr 28th only months for records. **Crayford Marshes** – 7 around Howbury Grange on Apr 13th, c150 May 6th, c300 Jul 29th, c1000 Aug 5th, c250 (landfill) and c80 on mast on foreshore on Sep 18th. No further records. **Crossness** – recorded Jan- Aug, no further records – c250 Jan 11th, 35 Feb 24th, 50 Mar 10th, 14 Apr 24th, c250 May 17th (along with Aug, peak month with over 100 regularly reported), 30 Jun 30th, 10 Jul 21st, c600 Aug 17th, 24 Sep 16th 145 Dec 8th. **Crayford Rough** – 10 on May 4th only record.

Danson Park – 5 Feb 26th, 15 Mar 3rd, c100 May 20th, 26 Jul 28th and c50 Aug 5th – no other records. **Hall Place (north)** – 7 on Dec 22nd only record for Hall Place. **Iron Mill Lane**, Crayford – roost of c250 in large garden tree Nov 26th. **Joydens Wood** only one record from this site, 2 on May 3rd. **Lamorbey Park** – a pair on Apr 9th only record from this site.

Thamesmead Golf course – c100 on Feb 22nd only record from this site. **York Avenue** Sidcup (visible migration counts) c200 Oct 22nd, 585 moving west on 23rd

141 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* – breeding resident though still showing signs of decline as breeding species in some areas.

Garden records are mostly non-existent therefore difficult to comment on breeding success of this widespread species. There has been an effort by one or two individuals (mostly Chris Rose) to track down important roosting/gathering areas; some are reflected in this report. It would be good to have an impression away from the Barnehurst/Bexleyheath area.

Belvedere Mulberry Avenue foreshore – recorded every month except May-Aug – with between 3 and 11 present throughout. **Corinthian Manorway** foreshore Erith – 1-5 present Jan, Feb and April. 10 Sep 27th and 6 Oct 30th only other months reported. **Crayford Marshes** – only 7 records, c40 roosting near the moat on Jan 20th was the highest count – others in 20 Apr 14th, May 6th and Jul 29th, 15 on Aug 26th with no further reports. **Crossness** – just 10 records with none for Apr, Jun-Oct. 8 Jan 28th, 12 Feb 26th and 10 Mar 10th highest, 10 on Nove 8th and 11th also highest counts. **Albany Park** – pair feeding 2 young in observers (SG) garden May 24th. **Bexleyheath Station** (north platform) – 18 on Feb 4th.

Danson Park – only reported in May (3 on 24th), June 3 on 6th, 1 on 13th, and July 3 on 7th and 2 on 18th. **East Wickham Open Space** – 10 on Mar 19th. **Erith School** – 54 gathering in playing field hedge. **Medway Road Bexleyheath** – 29 on Jan 20th. **Northumberland Close** 40 May 11th. **Perry Street Farm** – 35 on Jan 20th. **Russell Park** – 25 on Feb 21st and Dec 27th. **Sidcup Place** – 20 Apr 9th only record from this site. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 10 Aug 17th. **Upper College Farm** – 2 on Sep 14th

142 Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* – common breeding resident augmented by continental visitors in winter.

Belvedere Mulberry Avenue foreshore – 9 on Feb 9th was twice as many as usually found here. **Corinthian Manorway** foreshore, Erith – 1 or 2 throughout Jan, 4 Feb 9th-25th, no further records until Oct 2 on 25th 1 on 31st. **Crayford Marshes** – 10 on Jan 20th highest count of winter but pairs present throughout Mar, Apr and 12 individuals on May 6th may have indicated breeding success. **Crossness** – reported every month except Jun and Aug. Up to 6 present winter and autumn (12 on Feb 22nd and Nov 8th peak counts) with 1-5 normal during the summer. **Coldblow Field** – c50 on Jan 30th and c30 on Feb 4th feeding on maize fields. 4 on Dec 29th when crops had not been cut/ploughed in. **Crayford Rough** – 2 on May 4th and 6 on Oct 25th only records. **Danson Park** – 8 on Jan 6th, 6 Feb 9th, 4 Mar 23rd, 3 Apr 30th, 6 May 13th/20th and Jun 6th. 3 Jul 7th and 2 Aug 11th best counts. 20 flying over on Oct 21st was exceptional otherwise 2 Oct 25th and 3 Dec 28th only other records. **East Wickham Open Space** 5 on Mar 19th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – only one record of 1 bird on March 6th. **Hall Place** – 2 on Jan 14th, 6 on the 18th. A pair by the hide on Feb 2nd, 4 on 4th, 3 on 14th and 24th. No further records until one on Dec 22nd of a pair near the hide. **Joydens Wood** – 7 on Mar 22nd peak count. **Lamorbey Park** – only early year records from Apr/May – 1-4 from Apr 4th – May 21st with a juvenile seen on May 14th. 50 flying over on Oct 21st and 4 on Dec 26th only other records. **Lesnes Abby Woods** – 4 on Dec 15th only record. **Parsonage Lane** – St.James Cemetery – 4 on March 18th. **Red House** – 6 on Feb 17th was the result of a single visit to this site. **River Shuttle** (BETHS-Blendon) 3 (pair plus male) on Mar 22nd. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 8 on Jan 28th, 4 Mar 16th, 2 Apr 20th and 1 Aug 17th. **The Warren** – 4 on Jan 20th only record. **York Avenue Sidcup** - (visible migration) minimum numbers – 10 Mar 5th, 50 on Oct 21st, 40 22nd, 40 on 23rd,

143 Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* – rare passage migrant and winter visitor
Just three October records: **Crayford Marshes** – 2 on landfill Oct 14th, **Chalk Wood** – single on Oct 21st and 3 over **York Avenue Sidcup** (visible migration) on 21st.

144 Serin *Serinus serinus* - rare passage migrant

Crossness – May 8th Single flew east over the Paddocks at 8.10 am – calling (JA)

145 Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris* - uncommon breeding resident and passage migrant

A frequent visitor to garden feeders but under recorded.

Crayford Marshes – 2 on 3 Jan dates, 5 Apr 14th, 8 May 6th, 6 Jul 29th, 6 Aug 5th, 8 Oct 17th. **Crossness** – 2 – 6 reported each month except Sep/Oct/Dec. 7 on Aug 17th only date to exceed 6. **Bexley Park Woods** – single calling Mar 18th only record. **Braeburn Park** – 2 on Apr 28th and 3 Aug 6th only records. **Chalk Wood** – 3 on Apr 28th only record. **Crayford Rough** – 4 on Mar 14th and 2 May 4th only records. **Danson Park** – recorded every month except Dec. 4 on Mar 23rd and Apr 30th spring peaks; 7 on Sep 9th and 4 Oct 21st autumn peaks. **Foots Cray Meadows** – just 4 spring records – 1 or 2 during Mar and 3 singing males on Apr 18th – no further records for the year. **Grounds of Church of St Johns** Erith – 3 Feb records were the only ones for the year, 8 on 5th, 4 on the 12th and 3 on the 14th. **Hall Place** – only 3 records from this site – 2 on Feb 14th and 15th and 2 on Oct 15th. **Lamorbey Park** – 1 on Apr 6th and 8th only 2 records for the year. **Lesnes Abbey Woods** – 1 on Dec 15th. **Martens Grove** – 6 on Jan 26th.

Parsonage Lane, St James Cemetery – 1 on Mar 18th and 19th. **Red House** – 3 on Feb 17th. **River Shuttle (BETHS-Blendon)** – 2 males on Mar 22nd. **Sidcup Place** – 1 May 16th. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – 4 on Mar 16th, 2 Apr 18th/20th. **Upper College Farm** – 4 on July 13th and 12 Sep 14th.



Greenfinch – Hall Place Hide– Donna Zimmer Siskin – Hall Place Hide – Ralph Todd

146 Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* - increasingly common breeding resident and passage migrant.

Commonly seen in gardens (though only 3 records) now widely recorded across the Borough. **Belvedere Mulberry Avenue** foreshore – 25 on Jan 11th was highest count here with 15 on Nov 14th next best. **Corinthian Manorway** foreshore Erith 1-3 recorded during Jan-Feb with 12 on Feb 7th being the exception. **Crayford Marshes** – small flocks regularly seen with 20 on Jan 22nd and Jul 29th typical. A mixed flock of c100 with linnets was worthy of mention. Sep/Oct saw most consistent peak of 21 on Sep 18th and 25 on Oct 3rd, 20 on 11th and 22 on 17th with 25 on Nov 16 the last record for the site. **Crossness** – small flocks reported every month – with 90 on Aug 9th, c100 on Aug 17th, 60 on Sep 2nd and 31 on Nov 8th being the peak. **Danson Park** – 3-5 present throughout with larger flocks occasionally encountered – 12 on Feb 1st, 20 Aug 11th, 15 Sep 2nd and 32 Oct 31st being the best. **Foots Cray Meadows** –c12 highest count for Jan-June period and 35 for July-Dec. **Hall Place** – 8 on Jan 18th and 12 on Aug 6th highest of the 6 records for this site. **Joydens Wood** – just one record, of 2 on Mar 25th. **Lamorbey Park** – 6 on Jan 4th, singles on Feb 4th and 28th and 2 Apr 9th only records. **Lesnes Abbey Woods** – 25 on Dec 15th only record. **Martens Grove** – 25 on Jan 26th only record. **Thamesmead Golf Course** 10 on Aug 17th.

147 – Siskin *Carduelis spinus* – increasingly uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.

Last winter record of 1 over **Foots Cray Meadows** on Apr 30th and first autumn arrival 1 at same site on Oct 21st. Peak counts: **Bexley Park Woods** – 1 on Mar 18th. **Chalk Wood/Stonehill Woods** – 20 on Mar 19th. **Danson Park** – 8 on Jan 15th, 9 Feb 26th and 5 Mar 10th. 2 on Oct 22nd/23rd only autumn records. **East Wickham Open Space** – 6 on Mar 19th only record. **Foots Cray Meadows** – most popular site for siskin – c40 on Jan 1st, 25 Feb 12th, 8 Mar 21st and singles on Apr 3rd and 30th. After first autumn arrival on Oct 21st, no more records until 5 on Nov 2nd and 10 on Nov 17th and 25th – no further records. **Hall Place** – 20 on Jan 18th and 40 on the 27th, a pair by the hide on Feb 2nd, 6 on Feb 14th and 1 on Mar 7th only records. **Joydens Wood** – 5 on Jan 20th and 10 on Mar 17th and 7 on 25th. **Lamorbey Park** – 8 on Jan 17th, 10 Feb 13th highest of 12 records, only autumn count was of 4 on Oct 21st. **Parsonage Lane** – St James Cemetery – 2 on Mar 19th/21st. **The Warren** – c15 on Jan 28th. **York Avenue Sidcup** – 10 in garden Feb 26th, 5 over Oct 23rd.

148 Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* - locally common breeding resident and passage migrant. Reported every month of the year – mostly from Thames corridor.

Corinthian Manorway Foreshore, Erith – mostly winter visitor, 15 Jan 30th, 30 on 4 Feb dates, 8 Mar 11th and 8 Apr 28th only records for those 2 months. 50 on Sep 28th, 15 Oct 9th.

Crayford Marshes – seen throughout the year on both Landfill and marshes – 36 Mar 24th, 30 Jul 29th/Aug 5th and 40 Oct 17th being highest counts. c100 mixed flock of linnets and goldfinches on Aug 18th. **Crossness** – reported every month except Oct. Monthly peaks of 80 Jan 28th, 65 Feb 17th, 9 Mar 10th, 21 April 10th, 8 May 26th, 15 Jun 30th, 14 Jul 21st, 6 Aug 17th, 50 Sep 19th, 25 Nov 4th. **Coldblow Field** – flock of between 15-60 Jan 11th-Mar 5th. No further reports. **Foots Cray Meadows** – 7 records from 5 months, mostly in the Upper College/Kelseys Farm end with 10 Apr 11th being highest count. **Thamesmead Golf Course** – only recorded Mar (25 on 23rd peak) and Dec 14th – 20. **Upper College Farm** – 2 pairs on May 5th, 3 still present Jul 13th.

149 – Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret* – uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Crayford Marshes – 1 on Feb 11th. **Coldblow Field** – 1 on Feb 4th. **Foots Cray Meadows** – 3 on Jan 15th. **Lamorbey Park** – 3 on Jan 4th, 1 on Oct 23rd. **Parsonage Lane**, St. James Cemetery – 8 on Mar 18th and 12 on 21st. **River Cray Footpath 105**, Barnes Cray – 2 on Jan 20th.



Lesser Redpoll-Danson Park-Donna Zimmer Reed Bunting – Crayford Marshes – Ralph Todd

150– Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* – scarce breeding resident.

Foots Cray Meadows – a pair seen on Feb 11th, Mar 3rd and Apr 30th; 3 on May 3rd. No further records until 2 on Nov 2nd, 1 on 23rd and 5 on Dec 15th. **Sidcup Place** – a pair on Mar 21st and a male on May 15th. **Upper College Farm** – a male on Mar 29th.

151 Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* – scarce winter visitor

One report of a single bird at **Crayford Marshes** foreshore on Jan 24th (JP)

152 – Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* – uncommon breeding resident and winter visitor. Reported every month except June from two main sites plus two single sightings inland.

Crayford Marshes – present throughout the year, breeding presumed with pairs seen in spring. 6 present Mar 10th and May 6th, 6 seen on Sep 18th all female/juvenile. 15 on Sep 19th, 12 Oct 11th highest autumn counts. **Crossness** – present throughout the year, breeding presumed pair seen in spring. Never more than 3 seen together in spring, 6 on Oct 13th, 7 Nov 4th and 8 on the 8th, 13 on Dec 2nd the highest counts. 5 on Southern Marsh Feb 29th highest count for this area. **Foots Cray Meadows** – female seen east of Riverside Road fields on Nov 25th. **Thames Road Wetland** – single on Mar 10th.

153 Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra* – Locally scarce, probable breeding resident

Restricted to just one site:

Crayford Marshes Landfill – 2 singing Mar 17th, 1 singing Mar 25th, 31st, 3 present Apr 13th, singles May 6th and 28th, only other record of single on Aug 15th.

Gazeteer of sites mentioned (not including local roads/private houses)

Those in bold most frequently watched.

River Area Site:	Inland Sites	Inland sites
Crayford Marshes/Foreshore/Landfill/Howbury Crossness Reserve/Foreshore Crossness Southern Marshes Southmere Lake Thamesmead Golf Range Foreshore Thamesmead Golf Course Thamesmead Ecological Study Area Thames Foreshore from Erith – Belvedere/Crossness (including – Corinthian Manorway, Mulberry Way and Crabtree Manorway) Thames Road Wetland/ Stanham Farm	Lesnes Abbey Woods East Wickham Open Space Danson Park The Warren Bexleyheath, Shenstone Park, Burstled Woods Martens Grove Braeburn Park Crayford Rough Hall Place South, North and Gardens (including hide) Perry Street Farm/Stoneham Park	Bexley Park Woods Joydens Wood Chalk Wood (often includes Honeydene Farm/Stonehill Woods) Coldblow Field Tilekiln Lane Parsonage Lane/St.James Cemetary, Foots Cray Meadows/Five Arches/North Cray Wood Upper College Farm Hollyoak Park Lamorbey Park/The Glade/The Hollies (no records at all from Franks Park)