

Bird List for Fishlake Meadows

Provided by David Thelwell and Andy Lester in June 2015 and updated November 2015.

FISHLAKE MEADOWS. BIRDS	
Black-necked Grebe	One in April 2008
Little Grebe	Regular and resident when water levels are high. Several breeding pairs
Great Crested Grebe	Has bred for a number of years, with 3 pairs 2010/11 and 1-2 pairs 2014/15
Cormorant	Regularly roosting, often 20 or more. Max 94 Jan 09, but numbers now declining as the dead trees they roost on are rotting away
Bittern	Singles present in most winters since 04-05 and 2 overwintered 2010 and 2011; and then wintered 2013-2014, with reports of up to 4 in the winter of 2013.
Grey Heron	Resident on the floods but easily disturbed. Up to 25 in winter max 45, esp. early breeding season. Juveniles present from mid summer
Great White Egret	1 roosted Feb 09 and since then almost annually, seen all year round, singles only
Little Egret	Roosts regularly in winter in small numbers (3-8 birds), and more recently seen in spring and summer
Mute Swan	Present all year, with up to 20 in winter. Regular breeder. Pair with 5 young 2005 Young observed in 2011
Whooper Swan	5 flying over March 2008
Black Swan	Feral. Occasional records of single that has been in Romsey area for many years.
Greylag Goose	Small numbers regularly, but up to 25 in winter 05, often coming to roost at dusk Max 120 Jan 09. Bred 08 and attempts to breed regularly
Canada Goose	Regular and has bred most years. Up to 60 in winter
Shelduck	Occasional in spring and winter (max 3). A pair seen mating spring 04, but no further signs of breeding
Mandarin	Irregular occurrences with 10 on Jan 2011. Bred on site 07
Wood duck	Feral. Female present August 2015
Wigeon	Present Nov-March in recent years, usually 30 but up to 110 recorded.
Gadwall	Increasingly numerous (up to 50) in winter and present well into summer. 4 pairs breeding in 2007, 5prs in 08
Teal	Very numerous and increasing winter visitor, which may occasionally breed. Max counts 150-200
Mallard	Present all year, with counts over 100 in winter and 10-20 broods in spring/summer
Pintail	Regular winter visitor, ones and twos in early nineties, recently up to 30s, with 44 Mar 01, max 51 in Jan 03
Garganey	Male present May 96. A pair present spring/summer 07 and 08, when breeding was strongly suspected
Shoveler	Increasing numbers in winter, up to 60. At least 1 pair breeding.
Pochard	Regular all year, higher in winter e.g. 50 Jan 01 but fewer in recent years. 4 broods 2005 and 1-2 pairs breed every year
Red-crested Pochard	1 male April 2007, 1 in 2008
Tufted Duck	Regular all year with good numbers in winter, 60+. Max 110, Jan 01. Breeding, with up to 10 pairs every year.
Ferruginous Duck	Male seen December 2011
Ring-necked Duck	Male from Timsbury Gravel pit, regularly recorded Nov 03 to Feb 04
Smew	3 red heads Feb 2014
Goosander	Infrequent winter visitor, normally fly over records only
Ruddy Duck	Used to be present in summer -bred in 2005, 06-08. DEFRA attempted to exterminated them in 2011. A few in winter
Marsh Harrier	A female roosted in a small reedbed Nov 07. Seen most years and 2-3 seen on several occasions in spring 2011
Hen Harrier	Female (ringtail) October 2011
Red Kite	Irregular all year round from 2013 onwards
Honey Buzzard	Occasional fly-overs recorded three times in spring
Sparrowhawk	A regular species hunting over the area, esp. after Starlings going to roost. Breeds in nearby woods
Goshawk	Occasional flyover records; less than annual
Buzzard	Very common flying over and frequently seen on trees in the area. Nest in nearby wood
Kestrel	Regularly hunting over the area. 2-3 local pairs
Merlin	Infrequent visitor. 2006, 2013 and 2014
Hobby	Regular hunter over the area May-August, mainly after House Martins but also invertebrates esp. dragonflies. Multiple records since 2011

Peregrine	Many occurrences but irregular, flying over or even perched on pylons.
Osprey	Regularly during migration in 2010 to 2015, and present in summer 2011 as well. Up to 4 present autumn 2015
Grey Partridge	Pair Oct 01
Red-legged Partridge	Occasional at north end of site
Quail	Recorded almost annually in spring flying over; including one on the ground in the meadows 2005
Pheasant	Frequent all year
Water Rail	Very numerous in winter, regularly up to 10 heard, but prob. 20+ present. Stays to breed, young seen May 05 and May 2015
Spotted Crake	Irregular spring visitor, 02, 03, 05. Seen Oct 07, heard May 08 and 2009
Moorhen	Common resident and breeding species. Max 45 summer 07
Coot	Numerous in winter- up to 40 and 3-6prs breed
Oystercatcher	Several heard at night in spring
Golden Plover	Occasionally fly over at night
Grey Plover	Flew over in autumn 2010
Little Ringed Plover	One noted April 2010
Stone Curlew	One calling, flying over Oct 03
Lapwing	Regular wintering flock. Max 300 Jan 09
Common Snipe	Small numbers present in winter, up to 10-20. Not known to breed
Jack Snipe	Seen occasionally in winter
Woodcock	Seen once or twice flying over the area from nearby woodland, probably more regular.
Curlew	One Nov 04
Whimbrel	5 west August 2014
Redshank	Infrequent spring migrant. Years ago flocks of 15-20 present in spring
Spotted redshank	One Aug 2014
Greenshank	One Aug 04 and 07, when water levels low.
Green Sandpiper	Regular one/two on migration and occasional wintering bird. Max 10 Aug 07
Common Sandpiper	Very scarce migrant, few sightings
Black-headed Gull	Large numbers (hundreds) in winter, use the area to rest and bathe, early morning/evening
Mediterranean gull	Singles present with Black headed gull infrequently in winter 2013 onwards
Common Gull	Varying numbers (20-30+) regularly with B-h Gulls mainly in winter, numbers growing
Lesser Black-b Gull	Varying numbers (10-30+) in winter. Often flying over, even in summer regularly feeding and bathing on site in 2010 and 2011
Great Black-b Gull	Frequent fly over, usually 2-4 in winter and sometimes in summer
Herring Gull	Tens/hundreds, usually flying over, but also bathing with Black-headed Gulls evenings
Yellow-legged Gull	Occasional bird with other gulls One Jan 09 and in 2011, also 2014 and 2015 (singles)
Stock Dove	Occasionally seen, 1/2 flying over
Wood Pigeon	Common resident and breeder
Collared Dove	Common local resident, but mostly from nearby housing
Turtle Dove	Used to be infrequent spring flyover. No records since 2005
Cuckoo	Regular migrant in spring. Pairs observed probably laying in Reed Warbler nests. 3 bred 2011
Barn Owl	Area regularly used for hunting, from dusk. Breeding nearby some years
Little Owl	Recorded annually at night.
Tawny Owl	Woods by track are breeding site, often heard calling during the year.
Long-eared Owl	Up to 3 roosted in ivy, winter 1990
Short-eared Owl	1-2 took up residence in the winter of 90 when the area was still dry.
Nightjar	At night, adult heard May 05 and on two dates 2012
Swift	Hundreds feed on insects over the water areas, especially in spring. Present April-July
Kingfisher	Regular on Fishlake Meadows, and common on the canal where breeding occurs in roots of fallen willows, and it bred 08 and fledged young seen
Green Woodpecker	Common, occasionally on dead trees and ground
Great Sp. Woodpecker	Very common resident and breeding species. Frequents dead trees

Lesser Sp. Woodpecker	Infrequent in woods beyond canal
Skylark	Flying over and occasional occurrences, mainly in autumn
Woodlark	Occasionally flies over in autumn
Sand Martin	Breeding nearby, the area is used for feeding, drinking and roosting, especially in spring and autumn
Swallow	A few breeding nearby use the area to feed. Used for feeding esp. during migration
House Martin	Nearby breeding birds in spring/autumn use the area to feed and drink.
Tree Pipit	Small numbers on autumn migration
Meadow Pipit	Frequent flying over on migration and small numbers on the meadows in winter
Water Pipit	One in Oct 01
Yellow Wagtail	Occasionally in autumn, flying over and several present in spring 2011
Grey Wagtail	Frequent all year with several pairs breeding locally
Pied Wagtail	Frequent all year and breeding nearby. Up to 200 roost in winter
Wren	Widespread in marshy and woodland areas
Waxwing	Trees on southern end used several times Feb-March 05. Largest flock- 78
Duncock	Common resident
Robin	Small numbers around woodland area
Nightingale	Declining summer visitor with 4-5 singing males in 2011. 2 singing males 2014 and just 1 in 2015.
Bluethroat	White spotted form caught and ringed summer 2011
Black Redstart	Female present Oct/Nov 01
Redstart	Males seen in wooded parts of northern area in spring, no confirmed breeding
Wheatear	1 present May 07 and in April 2011
Stonechat	Several pairs usually spend the winter in the meadows and at least 1 pair breeding irregularly.
Whinchat	Infrequent autumn migrant
Blackbird	Common resident
Ring ouzel	Two over Sept 2014
Fieldfare	Common in winter (sometimes in large flocks)and frequently seen roosting on meadows in small numbers
Song Thrush	Small numbers resident with occasional influxes in winter
Mistle Thrush	Common resident in small numbers
Redwing	Regular in winter, but mainly flying over
Cettis Warbler	First occurred in mid nineties. One pair present and breeding 02, 1/2 pairs 03, 4 pairs 05, 8 pairs 2007 and 15 pairs 2010
Grasshopper Warbler	One, possibly two singing males, spring 05 in northern area, heard almost annually since, then a significant increase to and 5-6 males singing in 2011 and assumed to be 5-6 pairs. Several caught during ringing in autumn 2010, suspected breeding 2014.
Savi's warbler	One reeling infrequently summer 2009
Sedge Warbler	Common summer visitor, 10-20 breeding pairs. Numbers increasing with spread of reeds to 22 in 2007, 28 in 2010 and over 30 in 2011
Reed Warbler	10-15 breeding pairs in early 1990s, increasing to 31 in 2007 and 39 in 2010
Marsh Warbler	One unconfirmed 2006 record
Lesser Whitethroat	One or two on migration; less than annual
Whitethroat	A few on migration and also usually 2-3 singing males suggesting at least 3 pairs bred
Garden Warbler	Regular on migration and also breeding, with 7 pairs in 2010
Blackcap	Breeding, with 3 pairs in 2007 and 21 in 2010. Also a regular winter visitor.
Wood Warbler	One April 03 in woodland area.
Chiffchaff	6 breeding pairs in 2007 and 15 in 2010. Also a few in winter
Siberian chiff chaff	Trapped and ringed autumn 2014
Willow Warbler	Declining summer visitor and breeding species with 1 pair in 2007 and 1 pair in 2010, no breeding records since 2012
Yellow-browed warbler	One trapped and ringed October 2014
Goldcrest	Common resident
Firecrest	Very scarce, one in December 2008 and again 2014 and 2015 (singles)
Spotted Flycatcher	Formerly recorded, now less frequent, most records in autumn (two in autumn 2015)
Pied Flycatcher	One on migration, October 2013 and one (male) April 2015
Long-tailed Tit	Common resident and breeder. Flocks of 30-40 in late summer

Marsh Tit	Regular in wooded area, near canal. One or two pairs
Willow Tit	Formerly present, one in 2007
Coal Tit	Infrequent resident in woodland area
Blue Tit	Very common resident
Great Tit	Common resident
Bearded Tit	5 in Nov 08, then one till Jan 09
Nuthatch	Several pairs in woodland area
Treecreeper	Common breeding resident in small numbers
Magpie	Common, 40 – 50 roost in Ashley Meadows
Jay	Frequent resident in small numbers. Influxes in autumn.
Jackdaw	Common resident
Rook	Common resident, but no rookeries in Fishlake area.
Carrion Crow	Common in small numbers with at least 1 pair breeding annually
Raven	Infrequent flyover since 2012. Annual
Starling	Common resident, meadows used as feeding area in breeding season. A winter reedbed roost in winter with up to 1000 present in most years and in 2010 a huge flock estimated as 15,000 for several weeks
House Sparrow	Still common resident in housing area, meadows used as feeding grounds.
Chaffinch	Common resident with flocks occurring in winter up to 100 in recent years
Brambling	Infrequent winter visitor. Small flocks of up to 20 in recent years.
Greenfinch	Common breeding resident
Goldfinch	Common resident in small numbers, occasional flocks in autumn/winter
Siskin	Winter visitor in small numbers in the many Alder trees, with 45 in Jan 09 and over 100 in Jan 2011
Linnet	Common but in small numbers, usually in winter
Lesser Redpoll	5 were caught and ringed in autumn 2010, and small numbers seen in winter
Bullfinch	Frequent resident in small numbers and occasional breeder.
Common crossbill	Infrequent flyover and one record of single female landing on site. Seen most years
Hawfinch	Ones and twos in winter in south east part of area in recent winters, probably from nearby Mercer Way site.
Reed Bunting	Common resident with increasing numbers. 5-10 pairs breed and up to 40 at winter roost. Over 100 were caught and ringed in autumn 2010
Yellowhammer	Occasional flyover records. Annual
Corn Bunting	Not present nowadays but was occasional winter roosting species

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