

February 2011 Sightings at Wormwood Scrubs



A flock of Lapwing (Russell F Spencer)

Game on!

It's two months into 2011 and the impression is that this could potentially be a special year. Despite a relatively quiet January in terms of the total number of visits put in by The Scrubbers and other visiting birders, we still managed a healthy species list. February was much better attended and as a consequence we ended up with a grand total of 50 species – the best ever February total. Things are shaping up nicely.

This month's highlights included a dashing **Peregrine**, our usual **Mediterranean Gull** that put in its final appearances for the year plus we had a nice-looking male **Lesser Redpoll** discovered in the early part of the month.

With spring around the corner we will all be waiting in eager anticipation.

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Cormorant

A single birds were seen on the 2nd and 16th.

Grey Heron

Our first heron of the year flapped over on the 16th.

Mute Swan

The bird seen flying over on the 18th was the first for 2011 swiftly followed by another on the 22nd.

Greylag

The first birds of the year were the pair seen flying through on the 7th. Then three birds flew through on the 22nd

Canada Goose

At least 34 were seen on the 6th.

Egyptian Goose

After practically waiting until the last minute of 2010 to register our first record of this distinctive goose/duck it was pleasing to get one in the bag early for 2011 on the 6th.

Mallard

A couple was seen on the 3rd and the 22nd.

Sparrowhawk

A female was seen infrequently during the month.

Kestrel

Our first bird of the year was briefly seen on the 6th and again on the 19th.

Peregrine

One heading east tracing the railway line on the 11th was our first report of the year. It is highly unlikely that it will be our last.

Lapwing

A single bird headed over on the 6th and two were feeding on the pitches with the gulls on the 20th.

Black-headed Gull

Around 120 were seen on the 3rd increasing to around 400 on the 7th and 450 on the 20th.

Common Gull

At least 50 were encountered on the 7th.

Mediterranean Gull

Our usual adult continued to be occasionally seen throughout the month. By the close of the period it was sporting a near black hood.

Herring Gull

At least 32 were at large on the 6th.

Lesser Black-back

The usual low numbers were around during the month.

Great Black-back

Following our recent remarkable run of this large seafaring gull another couple was noted on the 9th.

Stock Dove

A few were seen during February with four on the 3rd being the largest count.

Wood Pigeon

The usual numbers were seen.

Rose-ringed Parakeet

The usual post roost numbers were noted in the mornings.

Green Woodpecker

A singleton was reported on the 8th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

A couple was noticed during the month but on the 8th up to 4 were reported including a drumming male.

Meadow Pipit

Around 15 birds were in the grassland on the 16th. The first singing birds were recorded on the 25th.

Pied Wagtail

One was noticed on the 6th and at least 10 on the 20th.

Wren

Around 10 birds were either heard or seen during the month.

Dunnock

At least four were counted on the 14th.

Robin

More birds were reported this month with an average of 10 noted.

Song Thrush

No counts were submitted for this familiar thrush.

Redwing

Birds were seen throughout the month with the peak being at least 15 on the 2nd.

Mistle Thrush

A pair was seen on the 2nd and 25th pointing to the possibility of breeding nearby.

Fieldfare

The single bird seen on the 7th was our first record for 2011. Thereafter, another lone bird appeared on the 14th.

Blackbird

This common thrush remained uncounted for February.

Great Tit

Around six birds were seen on the 14th.

Blue Tit

No reports were received despite birds obviously being seen.

Long-tailed Tit

Despite being seen no counts were received.

Magpie

No counts were received.

Jay

Up to two birds periodically appeared during the month.

Jackdaw

A single bird was seen on the 2nd and a couple more headed over on the 14th.

Carrion Crow

Birds were omnipresent but no estimates were received.

Starling

There was a discernable drop in numbers since last month with a maximum of 60 on the 12th and 20th.

House Sparrow

Around 10 birds were seen in their usual western end haunts on the 2nd. An individual was found on Lester's Embankment on the 18th.

Chaffinch

Small numbers were encountered during the month with 15 on the 8th being the most.

Linnet

A singing male in non-breeding plumage was discovered on Lester's Embankment on the 20th.

Lesser Redpoll

A male was discovered in Scrubs Lane Wood and Heron Copse on the 8th.

Goldfinch

The numbers of this charming finch are slowly rising from 10 seen on the 2nd to at least 25 the following day. Our peak count was 50 on the 8th.

Greenfinch

At least 15 were seen on the 14th.

Reed Bunting

Our regular male was relocated in the grassland on the 8th and 25th. The likelihood was that it and maybe others were always around perhaps spending a lot of their time in the neighbouring gardens.

2011 Year List

1. Cormorant
2. Grey Heron
3. Mute Swan
4. Greylag
5. Canada Goose
6. Egyptian Goose
7. Mallard
8. Sparrowhawk
9. Kestrel
10. Peregrine
11. Lapwing
12. Black-headed Gull
13. Common Gull
14. Mediterranean Gull
15. Herring Gull
16. Lesser Black-back
17. Great Black-back
18. Feral Pigeon
19. Stock Dove
20. Woodpigeon
21. Rose-ringed Parakeet
22. Green Woodpecker
23. Great Spotted Woodpecker
24. Skylark

25. Meadow Pipit

26. Pied Wagtail

27. Wren

28. Dunnock

29. Robin

30. Song Thrush

31. Redwing

32. Fieldfare

33. Mistle Thrush

34. Blackbird

35. Great Tit

36. Blue Tit

37. Long-tailed Tit

38. Jay

39. Magpie

40. Jackdaw

41. Carrion Crow

42. Starling

43. House Sparrow

44. Chaffinch

45. Linnet

46. Lesser Redpoll

47. Goldfinch

48. Greenfinch

49. Yellowhammer

50. Reed Bunting

50 species for the year thus far

(45 species in February 2010 & 48 in February 2009)

