

BREEDING BIRDS OF THE BAYFIELD ESTATE

| Species | Breeding Pairs | | Notes |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------|--|
| | 1998-2004 | 2005-2012 | |
| Little Grebe * | 1 | 0 | 4 young to fledging in 1998. Has not bred since. |
| Mute Swan * | 1 | 1 | 4-6 cygnets ("Polish" in 2005). Usually 3-6 to independence |
| Canada Goose | 1 | 1 | Both failed to breed in 2008-11. An unsuccessful attempt by Greylag in 2012 but Canada got 4 goslings to independence. |
| Greylag Goose | 1 | 1 | |
| Egyptian Goose | 2-4 | 2 | Chicks always heavily predated |
| Shelduck | 1 | 1 | Need luck to see ♀ with ducklings for a day or so. |
| Ruddy Shelduck | 1 | 0 | One pair bred in pond at Breck Farm in 2004, 9 to independence |
| Mandarin * | 1 | 0 | Female with 4 ducklings in 1998, all predated in 2 days |
| Mallard | 4-5 | 4-5 | Not seriously counted - presence of "mongrels" |
| Gadwall | 2 | 2 | Stable at this level |
| Tufted Duck | 4 | 4 | Stable at this level |
| Common Buzzard | 1 | 3 | All part of expansion in East Anglia (even Essex) |
| Kestrel | 5-6 | 4 | Fluctuates |
| Sparrowhawk | 3-4 | 4-5 | Recovered and now stable |
| Quail | 2 sites | 2 sites | No proof of breeding |
| Pheasant | Keepared | Keepared | |
| Red-legged Partridge | Keepared | Keepared | |
| Grey Partridge | 2-5 | 2 | Peak of 5 in 2000. 2 pairs attempt now but poor success |
| Moorhen | 4-5 | 3-4 | No broods in 2011 & 2012 |
| Coot | 2 | 2 | No broods in 2011 & 2012 |
| Water Rail | 2 sites | 2 sites | Breeding probable but no actual proof |
| Oystercatcher | 1 | 0 | Nested in sugar beet in 2003-4 |
| Woodpigeon | 20+ | 20+ | Ubiquitous |
| Stock Dove | 6-7 | 4 | See note |
| Turtle Dove | 3-6 | 0 | Severe decline, last bred in 2007 |
| Collared Dove | 2 | 2 | Stable at this level |
| Barn Owl | 4 | 2 | Sudden reduction in 2011 |
| Tawny Owl | 5-6 | 5-6 | Stable at this level |
| Cuckoo | Present | Absent | National decline |
| Green Woodpecker | 2-3 | 2-3 | Stable at this level |
| Great-spotted | 10 | 7 | Against the UK trend - a blip? |
| Lesser-spotted | 1 | 0 | Last bred in 1999 |
| Skylark | 20+ | 4 | National decline |
| Swallow | 12+ | 7 | Decline despite introduction of cattle |
| House Martin | 7 | 0 | Last bred in 20 11 |
| Sand Martin | 6-10 | 0 | Gravel pit - last bred in 2005 |
| Pied Wagtail | 4 | 3 | Always under roof tiles |
| Grey Wagtail | 1 | 1 | First bred in 2002. Did not breed in 2012. |
| Dunnock | 20+ | 20+ | Figure extrapolated for hedgerow length |
| Wren | 20+ | 10 | Has not recovered from the winter of 2010/11 |
| Robin | 15-20 | 8-10 | Steady decline |
| Mistle Thrush | 2 | 1 | One site at Natural Surroundings always used |

| Species | Breeding Pairs | | Notes |
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| | 1998-2004 | 2005-2012 | |
| Song Thrush | 4-5 | 4-5 | Stable at this low level |
| Blackbird | 20+ | 9-10 | Serious decline |
| Nightingale | 0 | 1 | One singing ♂ at the right time in 2009 |
| Spotted Flycatcher | 3 | 0 | Last bred in 2007 |
| Goldcrest | 5-6 | 3 | Small loss of habitat |
| Chiffchaff | 20+ | 10-11 | See note on Warblers and others |
| Willow Warbler | 15 | 8 | See note |
| Blackcap | 20+ | 20+ | Has bucked the trend |
| Garden Warbler | 4 | 1 | Very late in arriving in 2012 |
| Whitethroat | 20 | 10 | Fluctuates |
| Lesser Whitethroat | 4 | 2 | See note |
| Treecreeper | 15+ | 10+ | See note |
| Nuthatch | 14-16 | 9-10 | See note |
| Long-tailed Tit | 5-6 | 4 | See note |
| Blue Tit | 10+ | 10+ | Stable |
| Great Tit | 6 | 4 | See note |
| Marsh Tit | 8 | 6 | Holding on well despite national decline |
| Willow Tit | 1 | 0 | Very lucky to find active nest in 1998. Not bred since |
| Carrion Crow | 4-5 | 4-5 | Controlled by keepers - not too much effect |
| Rook | 0 | 180 | Rookery established in 2008 - see note |
| Jackdaw | 20+ | 20+ | Ubiquitous |
| Jay | 4-5 | 8-10 | A noticeable increase |
| Magpie | 5-6 | 6-8 | Controlled by keepers, but holds its own |
| Chaffinch | 20+ | 20+ | Still common |
| Bullfinch | 3 | 3 | Stable at this low level |
| Greenfinch | 8-12 | 6-7 | Trichomonosis? |
| Goldfinch | 4-5 | 10-12 | Welcome increase (why?) |
| Linnet | 15 | 9 | 2 sites, one affected by gravel extraction |
| House Sparrow | 20+ | 6 | One colony much reduced |
| Yellowhammer | 15 | 1 | Severe decline; now absent? |

* these species nests were outside the Cley Square

Notes

Gains

Common Buzzard have increased from 1 site to 3 in line with the trend in East Anglia (including Essex) with the suggestion that the re-colonisation is by birds coming from the Netherlands where they are said to take earthworms. Here there are plentiful roadkills of pheasants, rabbits and so on.

Rooks have long been present on the pig enclosures. They may take some pig food but feed mainly away from the pig troughs and are presumably taking invertebrates of some sort. A rookery was established in 2008 at Major's Clump with some 50-60 nests (pairs). This was the first rookery on the estate in living memory. In 2010 a second rookery was started a mile or so away in a SW direction but still on the estate with 9 nests increasing to 30 nests by 2011. In 2012 the respective totals were 120 and 40 nests.

Grey Wagtail first bred in 2002.

Losses

Lesser-spotted Woodpecker, Turtle Dove, Spotted Flycatcher, House Martin, Sand Martin, Cuckoo and (probably) Yellowhammer have all been lost as breeding species- in line with national trends (Little Grebe, Mandarin, Ruddy Shelduck and Nightingale(?), each bred only once). Some may recover but most probably won't as the declines are of long-standing. It is possible that Yellowhammer may be hanging on.

Increases

Goldfinch have increased substantially, which contrasts with Yellowhammer. Why the difference? Possibly because Goldfinch have become common on garden feeders and taking sunflower hearts.

Decreases

The non-woodland species which have declined are Skylark and Swallow. The sudden dip with Barn Owl is thought to be temporary. In the woodland and scrub, warblers (except Blackcap) and Tree Creeper, Nuthatch and Wren have all declined while the tits are at satisfactory levels. The general decline of woodland species is being studied by the BTO with deer browsing a possible culprit. (The deer population in the UK is higher than it has ever been.) Muntjac numbers on the estate have greatly increased and they are being culled.

The falling number of broods in the lake in 2009-12 prompted thoughts of Mink, but may have been due to silting. A separate note on this is being prepared.

Non-breeding birds

Common Cormorant (Sinensis) - up to 80 roost. Fishing only very occasionally

Fulmar - one storm blown 12-4-98

Grey Heron - one or two regularly fish the lake

Little Egret - first appeared 2004. One present most days

Brent Goose (Dark bellied) - occasional, max 250

Barnacle Goose 6, presumably feral, in winter since 2004. Plus 1 hybrid

White-fronted Goose - 14 in 2011

Lesser White-fronted Goose - 3 in 1999 - of doubtful provenance

Rossicus Bean Goose - 4 in 2006

Fabulas Bean Goose 2 in 2011

Pink-footed Goose- 2 in 2011

Ross's Goose- most years with Greylag flocks (max 400)

Shoveler - around 6 every year

Teal - around 25 every year

Pochard - occasional males

Garganey - pair present for a week in 2000

Goosander - 1 male 1998

Pintail- pair present briefly 2003

Goldeneye - 2 females in 2001

Merlin - 1 female in 2000

Marsh Harrier - often seen overhead

Hen Harrier - one male in 1997/8 and another 2004

Red Kite - in 2006 one spent several hours near lake

Osprey - one juvenile present for a week in 1998. Fished the lake
 Lapwing - occasional winter flocks, max 200
 Golden Plover - max 11
 Ruff- 7 in 2003
 Curlew- max 32, feed by lakeside most winters
 Whimbrel - 3 in 2004
 Common Sandpiper - pair on passage in most springs
 Green Sandpiper - one or two every spring and autumn
 Woodcock - occasional singles
 Snipe - occasional singles
 Jack Snipe - 3 in March 2004
 Bar-tailed Godwit - single (sick bird?) in 1998

Gulls on pig enclosures:

Common - max 30
 Black-headed- max 500 (also loaf in lake)
 Herring - max 104
 Lesser Black-backed- max 30
 Great Black-backed- max 30
 Yellow-legged- 3 in 2000
 Mediterranean - one in 2007

Kingfisher - infrequently near lake
 Swift - up to 50 feeding over lake
 Black-bellied Dipper- one in 2009
 Stonechat - one in 2002
 Wheatear - very occasional in spring
 Ring Ouzel - one male in 2000
 Fieldfare - max 100+
 Redwing - max 100+
 Reed Warbler - one singing in July 2002
 Starling - max 400 near pigs
 Siskin- winter flocks on alders max 50 in 2002
 Brambling - winter flocks max 25
 Redpoll - Cabaret - one in 2001
 Flammea - 8 in 2011
 Tree sparrow - around 6 are present in winter (provision of nest boxes ignored)
 Reed Bunting - max 11

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Totals Breeding birds | 72 |
| Non- breeding birds | <u>60</u> |
| | 132 |

Len Bentley - March 2013