

Bird Survey – as of 22 October 2019

Thanks to TM and RP for completing the bird survey this year and for their report. TM had sent in a report which JM read out: “We have been conducting a bird survey, mostly weekly since 19th April 2018. We have been counting the number of birds of the species that we have seen. Three areas have been surveyed –Darrick Wood and Meadow, Newstead Wood and Meadow, and Darrick Wood Hornbeam area/Broadwater Wood.

It should be noted that this is not a scientific survey and bird numbers cannot be accurate as birds are very mobile. We have only recorded species which we can positively identify by sight. But in the case of the Tawny Owl we are identifying it by the sound of its call.

We recently saw 6 feral pigeons which are the same species as domesticated pigeons and rock doves. It has taken a long time to see the feral pigeon sub-species in our reserve, when you consider how numerous they are in towns and stations etc.

We have now recorded more than 40 species: Carrion Crow, Magpie, Jackdaw, Jay, Wood Pigeon, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Song Thrush, Blackbird, Robin, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long Tailed Tit, Marsh Tit, Starling, House/Tree Sparrow (difficult to distinguish between the two species from a distance), Swift, Wren, Ring-Necked Parakeet, Stock Dove, Tree Creeper, Nuthatch, Dunnock, Common Redstart (6 th November), a Warbler species – not a Black Cap possibly a Chiffchaff (6th November), Goldcrest (20th November 2018), Collared Dove (26th November), Common Gull (26th November), Domestic Pigeon (26th November 2018 pure white ; this is the same species as the feral pigeon), Feral Pigeon (same species as the domestic pigeon) Chaffinch (26th November) Greenfinch, Green Woodpecker, Black Headed Gull, Redwing, Pied Wagtail, Fieldfare, Tawny Owl (heard only), Goldfinch (15th February 2019), Coal Tit (20th February 2019), Garden Warbler, Grey Heron

Birds heard on Survey but not positively identified by sight: Black Caps – can easily be confused by song with the Garden Warbler; Chiffchaff – Warbler family

Other birds reported as seen or heard by members but not recorded on survey: NB some members are better at identifying birds by call rather than sight. Also some bird species such as starlings and jackdaws are capable of mimicking other birds to the confusion of humans and the mimicked species. Sparrow Hawk, Buzzard, Black Caps. Possible sighting of Black Cap on Darrick Wood Meadow during survey, Bull Finch, Mallard, Mandarin Duck

Not seen on bird surveybut expected - Mistle Thrush, Pheasant, Coot