

**U.K. tally:** 338  
**US tally:** 439  
**Total world:** 1,667

1. Abyssinian ground hornbill
2. Abyssinian longclaw
3. Abyssinian white-eye
4. Acadian flycatcher
5. Acorn woodpecker
6. African fish-eagle
7. African grey woodpecker
8. African harrier-hawk
9. African hawk-eagle
10. African hoopoe
11. African jacana
12. African mourning dove
13. African olive pigeon
14. African palm swift
15. African paradise flycatcher
16. African pied barbet
17. African pied wagtail
18. African pipit
19. African red-eyed bulbul
20. African sacred ibis
21. Agami heron
22. Alder flycatcher
23. Alexandrine parakeet
24. Alpine accentor
25. Amazon kingfisher
26. American avocet
27. American bittern
28. American black duck
29. American coot
30. American crow
31. American dipper
32. American dusky flycatcher
33. American flamingo
34. American golden plover
35. American goldfinch
36. American goshawk
37. American herring gull
38. American kestrel
39. American oystercatcher
40. American pipit
41. American pygmy kingfisher
42. American redstart
43. American robin
44. American three-toed woodpecker
45. American tree sparrow
46. American white ibis

47. American white pelican
48. American wigeon
49. American woodcock
50. Amethyst sunbird
51. Ancient murrelet
52. Andean avocet
53. Andean condor
54. Andean flamingo
55. Andean gull
56. Andean negrito
57. Andean swift
58. Anhinga
59. Anna's hummingbird
60. Ant-eating chat
61. Antillean crested hummingbird
62. Antillean nighthawk
63. Antillean palm swift
64. Apapane
65. Aplomado falcon
66. Arabian bustard
67. Arabian green bee-eater
68. Arctic skua
69. Arctic tern
70. Arctic warbler
71. Armenian gull
72. Arrowheaded warbler
73. Ash-throated flycatcher
74. Ashy prinia
75. Ashy storm petrel
76. Ashy tit
77. Ashy-headed goose
78. Ashy-headed laughingthrush
79. Asian desert warbler
80. Asian green bee-eater
81. Asian koel
82. Asian openbill
83. Asian palm swift
84. Asian woolly-necked stork
85. Augur buzzard
86. Austral blackbird
87. Austral negrito
88. Austral thrush
89. Australian pelican
90. Australian pipit
91. Avocet
92. Azure-hooded jay
93. Azure-winged magpie
94. Baglafecht weaver
95. Bahama mockingbird
96. Bahama woodstar

97. Bahama yellowthroat
98. Baillon's crake
99. Baird's sandpiper
100. Bald eagle
101. Balearic shearwater
102. Baltimore oriole
103. Bananaquit
104. Band-tailed pigeon
105. Bank myna
106. Barbuda warbler
107. Bare-cheeked babbler
108. Bare-eyed pigeon
109. Bare-faced ibis
110. Bare-throated tiger heron
111. Bar-headed goose
112. Barn owl
113. Barnacle goose
114. Barred buttonquail
115. Barred owl
116. Barred warbler
117. Barred wren-warbler
118. Barrow's goldeneye
119. Bar-tailed godwit
120. Bat falcon
121. Bay wren
122. Baya weaver
123. Bay-backed shrike;
124. Bay-breasted warbler
125. Bearded tit
126. Bearded vulture
127. Bearded woodpecker
128. Bee-eater
129. Belted kingfisher
130. Berylline hummingbird
131. Bewick's swan
132. Bicoloured wren
133. Bimaculated lark
134. Bittern
135. Black bulbul
136. Black currawong
137. Black drongo
138. Black eagle
139. Black guillemot
140. Black kite
141. Black oystercatcher
142. Black phoebe
143. Black redstart
144. Black scrub robin
145. Black skimmer
146. Black stork

147. Black swan
148. Black swift
149. Black tern
150. Black turnstone
151. Black vulture
152. Black-and-white monjita
153. Black-and-white warbler
154. Black-and-yellow phainoptila
155. Black-bellied sandgrouse
156. Black-bellied tern
157. Black-bellied whistling duck
158. Black-billed magpie
159. Black-billed wood hoopoe
160. Blackbird
161. Black-browed albatross
162. Black-browed reed warbler
163. Blackburnian warbler
164. Blackcap
165. Black-capped chickadee
166. Black-capped donacobius
167. Black-cheeked woodpecker
168. Black-chested buzzard-eagle
169. Black-chested jay
170. Black-chinned hummingbird
171. Black-chinned siskin
172. Black-collared hawk
173. Black-collared starling
174. Black-cowled oriole
175. Black-crested bulbul
176. Black-crowned antshrike
177. Black-crowned night heron
178. Black-crowned palm-tanager
179. Black-faced antthrush
180. Black-faced bunting
181. Black-faced grassquit
182. Black-faced ibis
183. Black-footed albatross
184. Black-fronted piping guan
185. Black-headed cuckooshrike
186. Black-headed grosbeak
187. Black-headed gull
188. Black-headed heron
189. Black-headed ibis
190. Black-headed oriole
191. Black-headed saltator
192. Black-headed tody flycatcher
193. Black-headed weaver
194. Black-hooded sierra finch
195. Black-naped monarch
196. Black-naped oriole

197. Black-necked grebe
198. Black-necked stilt
199. Black-necked swan
200. Blackpoll warbler
201. Black-rumped flameback
202. Blacksmith lapwing
203. Blackstart
204. Black-striped sparrow
205. Black-tailed godwit
206. Black-throated blue warbler
207. Black-throated diver
208. Black-throated green warbler
209. Black-throated grey warbler
210. Black-throated laughingthrush
211. Black-throated mango
212. Black-throated sparrow
213. Black-throated thrush
214. Black-whiskered vireo
215. Black-winged kite
216. Black-winged lovebird
217. Black-winged stilt
218. Blue grosbeak
219. Blue ground dove
220. Blue jay
221. Blue manakin
222. Blue rock thrush
223. Blue tit
224. Blue waxbill
225. Blue-and-yellow tanager
226. Blue-black grassquit
227. Blue-black grosbeak
228. Blue-breasted bee-eater
229. Blue-capped motmot
230. Blue-cheeked bee-eater
231. Blue-faced malkoha
232. Blue-grey gnatcatcher
233. Blue-grey tanager
234. Blue-headed vireo
235. Blue-naped mousebird
236. Blue-tailed bee-eater
237. Blue-tailed emerald
238. Bluethroat
239. Blue-winged goose
240. Blue-winged macaw
241. Blue-winged teal
242. Blue-winged warbler
243. Bluish-grey saltator
244. Boat-billed flycatcher
245. Boat-billed heron
246. Boat-tailed grackle

- 247. Bobolink
- 248. Bohemian waxwing
- 249. Bonaparte's gull
- 250. Bonelli's eagle
- 251. Booted eagle
- 252. Booted warbler
- 253. Bradfield's hornbill
- 254. Bradfield's swift
- 255. Brahminy kite
- 256. Brahminy starling
- 257. Brambling
- 258. Brandt's cormorant
- 259. Brazilian teal
- 260. Brent
- 261. Brewer's blackbird
- 262. Brewer's sparrow
- 263. Bridled quail-dove
- 264. Bright-rumped attila
- 265. Bristle-crowned starling
- 266. Broad-billed tody
- 267. Broad-tailed hummingbird
- 268. Broad-winged hawk
- 269. Bronzed cowbird
- 270. Bronze-tailed plumeleteer
- 271. Bronze-winged jacana
- 272. Bronzy hermit
- 273. Brown boobook
- 274. Brown booby
- 275. Brown creeper
- 276. Brown dipper
- 277. Brown jay
- 278. Brown noddy
- 279. Brown parisoma
- 280. Brown pelican
- 281. Brown shrike
- 282. Brown skua
- 283. Brown snake eagle
- 284. Brown thrasher
- 285. Brown-and-yellow marshbird
- 286. Brown-backed mockingbird
- 287. Brown-breasted flycatcher
- 288. Brown-capped babbler
- 289. Brown-capped pygmy woodpecker
- 290. Brown-chested martin
- 291. Brown-crested flycatcher
- 292. Brown-crowned tchagra
- 293. Brown-eared bulbul
- 294. Brown-headed barbet
- 295. Brown-headed cowbird
- 296. Brown-hooded gull

297. Brown-hooded parrot
298. Brown-necked raven
299. Brown-rumped seedeater
300. Brown-throated martin
301. Brown-throated parakeet
302. Brubru
303. Brunnich's guillemot
304. Buff-bellied pipit
305. Buff-breasted sandpiper
306. Bufflehead
307. Buff-necked ibis
308. Buffy pipit
309. Buller's shearwater
310. Bullfinch
311. Bull-headed shrike
312. Bullock's oriole
313. Burchell's starling
314. Burnt-necked eremomela
315. Burrowing owl
316. Burrowing parrot
317. Bushtit
318. Buzzard
319. Cabanis's wren
320. Cackling goose
321. Cactus wren
322. California gnatcatcher
323. California gull
324. California quail
325. California scrub-jay
326. California towhee
327. Calliope hummingbird
328. Campo flicker
329. Canada goose
330. Canada jay
331. Canada warbler
332. Canivet's emerald
333. Canvasback
334. Canyon wren
335. Cape crow
336. Cape May warbler
337. Cape penduline tit
338. Cape starling
339. Cape wagtail
340. Capped wheatear
341. Cardinal woodpecker
342. Carib grackle
343. Caribbean dove
344. Caribbean elaenia
345. Caribbean martin
346. Carolina chickadee

- 347. Carolina wren
- 348. Carrion crow
- 349. Caspian gull
- 350. Caspian tern
- 351. Cassin's auklet
- 352. Cassin's vireo
- 353. Cattle egret
- 354. Cattle tyrant
- 355. Cave swallow
- 356. Cedar waxwing
- 357. Cerulean warbler
- 358. Cetti's warbler
- 359. Chaffinch
- 360. Chalk-browed mockingbird
- 361. Chestnut bulbul
- 362. Chestnut munia
- 363. Chestnut piculet
- 364. Chestnut sparrow
- 365. Chestnut-backed chickadee
- 366. Chestnut-backed sparrow-lark
- 367. Chestnut-bellied nuthatch
- 368. Chestnut-bellied sandgrouse
- 369. Chestnut-coloured woodpecker
- 370. Chestnut-headed oropendula
- 371. Chestnut-naped spurfowl
- 372. Chestnut-sided warbler
- 373. Chestnut-vented warbler
- 374. Chiffchaff
- 375. Chiguanco thrush
- 376. Chilean flamingo
- 377. Chilean flicker
- 378. Chilean mockingbird
- 379. Chilean swallow
- 380. Chiloé wigeon
- 381. Chimango caracara
- 382. Chimney swift
- 383. Chinese pond heron
- 384. Chipping sparrow
- 385. Chotoy spinetail
- 386. Chough
- 387. Chukar
- 388. Cinereous tit
- 389. Cinnamon bittern
- 390. Cinnamon teal
- 391. Cinnamon-bellied ground tyrant
- 392. Cinnamon-chested bee-eater
- 393. Cirl bunting
- 394. Citrine wagtail
- 395. Clamorous reed warbler
- 396. Clapper rail



- 397. Clark's nutcracker
- 398. Clay-coloured sparrow
- 399. Clay-coloured thrush
- 400. Cliff swallow
- 401. Coal tit
- 402. Cocoa thrush
- 403. Cocoli heron
- 404. Collared aracari
- 405. Collared crow
- 406. Collared dove
- 407. Collared treepie
- 408. Collared trogon
- 409. Common black hawk
- 410. Common bronzewing
- 411. Common bulbul
- 412. Common buttonquail
- 413. Common chlorospingus
- 414. Common grackle
- 415. Common ground dove
- 416. Common gull
- 417. Common hill myna
- 418. Common iora
- 419. Common myna
- 420. Common nighthawk
- 421. Common poorwill
- 422. Common redstart
- 423. Common rosefinch
- 424. Common sandpiper
- 425. Common scimitarbill
- 426. Common scoter
- 427. Common tailorbird
- 428. Common tern
- 429. Common tody-flycatcher
- 430. Common waxbill
- 431. Common yellowthroat
- 432. Connecticut warbler
- 433. Cooper's hawk
- 434. Coot
- 435. Coppersmith barbet
- 436. Cormorant
- 437. Corn bunting
- 438. Corncrake
- 439. Cory's shearwater
- 440. Coscoroba swan
- 441. Crag martin
- 442. Crane
- 443. Creamy-bellied thrush
- 444. Crescent honeyeater
- 445. Crested bobwhite
- 446. Crested caracara

- 447. Crested drongo
- 448. Crested duck
- 449. Crested finchbill
- 450. Crested francolin
- 451. Crested guan
- 452. Crested lark
- 453. Crested oropendola
- 454. Crested serpent eagle
- 455. Crested treeswift
- 456. Crimson rosella
- 457. Crimson-backed tanager
- 458. Crimson-crested woodpecker
- 459. Crimson-fronted barbet
- 460. Crossbill
- 461. Crow-billed drongo
- 462. Crowned lapwing
- 463. Cuban amazon
- 464. Cuban blackbird
- 465. Cuban bullfinch
- 466. Cuban crow
- 467. Cuban emerald
- 468. Cuban grassquit
- 469. Cuban green woodpecker
- 470. Cuban martin
- 471. Cuban pewee
- 472. Cuban tody
- 473. Cuban trogon
- 474. Cuckoo
- 475. Curlew
- 476. Curlew sandpiper
- 477. D'Orbigny's chat-tyrant
- 478. Damara red-billed hornbill
- 479. Dark-bellied cinclodes
- 480. Dark-eyed junco
- 481. Dark-fronted babbler
- 482. Dark-necked tailorbird
- 483. Daurian redstart
- 484. Dead Sea sparrow
- 485. Desert cisticola
- 486. Desert lark
- 487. Desert wheatear
- 488. Dipper
- 489. Dolphin gull
- 490. Dotterel
- 491. Dot-winged antwren
- 492. Double-banded courser
- 493. Double-banded sandgrouse
- 494. Double-collared seedeater
- 495. Double-crested cormorant
- 496. Downy woodpecker

- 497. Dunlin
- 498. Dunnock
- 499. Dusky antbird
- 500. Dusky crag martin
- 501. Dusky robin
- 502. Dusky thrush
- 503. Dusky warbler
- 504. Dusky-capped flycatcher
- 505. Eared dove
- 506. Eastern black-eared wheatear
- 507. Eastern bluebird
- 508. Eastern Bonelli's warbler
- 509. Eastern kingbird
- 510. Eastern meadowlark
- 511. Eastern phoebe
- 512. Eastern screech owl
- 513. Eastern spot-billed duck
- 514. Eastern subalpine warbler
- 515. Eastern towhee
- 516. Eastern wood pewee
- 517. Eastern yellow wagtail
- 518. Egyptian goose
- 519. Eider
- 520. Elegant crested tinamou
- 521. Elegant euphonia
- 522. Elegant tern
- 523. Eleonora's falcon
- 524. Emerald dove
- 525. Emerald toucanet
- 526. Ethiopian siskin
- 527. Eurasian scops owl
- 528. Evening grosbeak
- 529. Eversmann's redstart
- 530. Eyebrowed thrush
- 531. Eye-ringed flatbill
- 532. Fan-tailed raven
- 533. Fan-tailed warbler
- 534. Fasciated antshrike
- 535. Fasciated tiger heron
- 536. Fawn-throated foliage-gleaner
- 537. Ferruginous duck
- 538. Fieldfare
- 539. Finsch's parakeet
- 540. Firecrest
- 541. Fire-eyed diucón
- 542. Firewood-gatherer
- 543. Fish crow
- 544. Flame robin
- 545. Flame-coloured tanager
- 546. Flame-throated warbler

- 547. Forest wagtail
- 548. Fork-tailed drongo
- 549. Fork-tailed flycatcher
- 550. Fork-tailed sunbird
- 551. Forster's tern
- 552. Fox kestrel
- 553. Fox sparrow
- 554. Franklin's gull
- 555. Freckled nightjar
- 556. Fulmar
- 557. Fulvous whistling-duck
- 558. Fulvous-vented euphonia
- 559. Gadwall
- 560. Galah
- 561. Gambel's quail
- 562. Gannet
- 563. Garden warbler
- 564. Garganey
- 565. Giant cowbird
- 566. Giant hummingbird
- 567. Giant kingbird
- 568. Giant wood rail
- 569. Gila woodpecker
- 570. Gilded flicker
- 571. Glaucous gull
- 572. Glaucous-winged gull
- 573. Glittering-bellied emerald
- 574. Glossy ibis
- 575. Goldcrest
- 576. Golden eagle
- 577. Golden parrotbill
- 578. Golden plover
- 579. Golden-bellied flycatcher
- 580. Golden-breasted starling
- 581. Golden-collared manakin
- 582. Golden-crowned kinglet
- 583. Golden-crowned sparrow
- 584. Goldeneye
- 585. Golden-fronted woodpecker
- 586. Golden-hooded tanager
- 587. Golden-spotted ground dove
- 588. Golden-winged cacique
- 589. Golden-winged warbler
- 590. Goldfinch
- 591. Goosander
- 592. Grace's warbler
- 593. Graceful prinia
- 594. Grasshopper warbler
- 595. Great black-backed gull
- 596. Great blue heron

- 597. Great bustard
- 598. Great crested flycatcher
- 599. Great crested grebe
- 600. Great egret
- 601. Great grebe
- 602. Great grey shrike
- 603. Great horned owl
- 604. Great kiskadee
- 605. Great northern diver
- 606. Great reed warbler
- 607. Great shearwater
- 608. Great skua
- 609. Great spotted woodpecker
- 610. Great tinamou
- 611. Great tit
- 612. Great white pelican
- 613. Greater Antillean grackle
- 614. Greater blue-eared starling
- 615. Greater coucal
- 616. Greater flameback
- 617. Greater flamingo
- 618. Greater kestrel
- 619. Greater racket-tailed drongo
- 620. Greater rhea
- 621. Greater roadrunner
- 622. Greater sand plover
- 623. Greater scaup
- 624. Greater short-toed lark
- 625. Greater spotted eagle
- 626. Greater thornbird
- 627. Greater white-fronted goose
- 628. Greater yellowlegs
- 629. Great-tailed grackle
- 630. Green hermit
- 631. Green heron
- 632. Green honeycreeper
- 633. Green imperial-pigeon
- 634. Green jay
- 635. Green kingfisher
- 636. Green parakeet
- 637. Green sandpiper
- 638. Green woodpecker
- 639. Green-backed camaroptera
- 640. Green-backed firecrown
- 641. Green-backed sparrow
- 642. Green-backed tit
- 643. Green-billed coucal
- 644. Green-breasted mango
- 645. Green-crowned brilliant
- 646. Greenfinch

- 647. Green-headed tanager
- 648. Greenish warbler
- 649. Greenshank
- 650. Green-throated carib
- 651. Green-winged saltator
- 652. Green-winged teal
- 653. Grenada flycatcher
- 654. Grey catbird
- 655. Grey francolin
- 656. Grey go-away bird
- 657. Grey hawk
- 658. Grey heron
- 659. Grey hypocolius
- 660. Grey kingbird
- 661. Grey partridge
- 662. Grey phalarope
- 663. Grey plover
- 664. Grey shrikethrush
- 665. Grey thrasher
- 666. Grey treepie
- 667. Grey trembler
- 668. Grey vireo
- 669. Grey wagtail
- 670. Grey-backed camaroptera
- 671. Grey-backed shrike
- 672. Grey-backed sparrow-lark
- 673. Grey-breasted martin
- 674. Grey-breasted prinia
- 675. Grey-breasted seedsnipe
- 676. Grey-breasted wood wren
- 677. Grey-checked thrush
- 678. Grey-cowled wood rail
- 679. Grey-crowned palm-tanager
- 680. Grey-crowned rosy finch
- 681. Grey-headed batis
- 682. Grey-headed chachalaca
- 683. Grey-headed fish eagle
- 684. Grey-headed swamphen
- 685. Grey-hooded gull
- 686. Grey-hooded sierra finch
- 687. Greylag goose
- 688. Grey-throated martin
- 689. Griffon vulture
- 690. Groove-billed ani
- 691. Groundscraper thrush
- 692. Guianan trogon
- 693. Guillemot
- 694. Guira cuckoo
- 695. Gull-billed tern
- 696. Hairy woodpecker

- 697. Hamerkop
- 698. Hammond's flycatcher
- 699. Harlequin duck
- 700. Harris's hawk
- 701. Hawaiian coot
- 702. Hawaiian duck
- 703. Hawfinch
- 704. Heermann's gull
- 705. Helmeted guineafowl
- 706. Hemprich's hornbill
- 707. Hen harrier
- 708. Henslow's sparrow
- 709. Hermit thrush
- 710. Herring gull
- 711. Hill swallow
- 712. Hispaniolan lizard cuckoo
- 713. Hispaniolan mango
- 714. Hispaniolan woodpecker
- 715. Hobby
- 716. Hoffman's woodpecker
- 717. Honduran emerald
- 718. Honey buzzard
- 719. Hooded crow
- 720. Hooded merganser
- 721. Hooded oriole
- 722. Hooded vulture
- 723. Hooded warbler
- 724. Hooded wheatear
- 725. Hoopoe
- 726. Horned puffin
- 727. House crow
- 728. House finch
- 729. House martin
- 730. House sparrow
- 731. Hudsonian godwit
- 732. Hume's leaf-warbler
- 733. Hume's wheatear
- 734. Hutton's vireo
- 735. Iberian chiffchaff
- 736. Iceland gull
- 737. Icterine warbler
- 738. Imperial cormorant
- 739. Indian cormorant
- 740. Indian grey hornbill
- 741. Indian nightjar
- 742. Indian paradise flycatcher
- 743. Indian peafowl
- 744. Indian pied myna
- 745. Indian pitta
- 746. Indian pond heron

- 747. Indian robin
- 748. Indian roller
- 749. Indian silverbill
- 750. Indian spot-billed duck
- 751. Indian spotted creeper
- 752. Indian swiftlet
- 753. Indigo bunting
- 754. Isabelline wheatear
- 755. Jabiru stork
- 756. Jack snipe
- 757. Jackdaw
- 758. Jamaican becard
- 759. Jamaican crow
- 760. Jamaican elaenia
- 761. Jamaican euphonia
- 762. Jamaican mango
- 763. Jamaican oriole
- 764. Jamaican tody
- 765. Jamaican woodpecker
- 766. James's flamingo
- 767. Japanese cormorant
- 768. Japanese pygmy woodpecker
- 769. Japanese wagtail
- 770. Java sparrow
- 771. Jay
- 772. Jerdon's bush lark
- 773. Jerdon's leafbird
- 774. Jungle babbler
- 775. Jungle prinia
- 776. Juniper titmouse
- 777. Kalahari scrub robin
- 778. Keel-billed toucan
- 779. Kelp gull
- 780. Kentish plover
- 781. Kentucky warbler
- 782. Kestrel
- 783. Killdeer
- 784. King eider
- 785. King rail
- 786. Kingfisher
- 787. Kittiwake
- 788. Kittlitz's murrelet
- 789. Kittlitz's plover
- 790. Knot
- 791. Kori bustard
- 792. Ladder-backed woodpecker
- 793. Laggar
- 794. Lance-tailed manakin
- 795. Lapland bunting
- 796. Lappet-faced vulture



- 797. Lapwing
- 798. Large rock martin
- 799. Large-billed crow
- 800. Large-billed leaf warbler
- 801. Lark-like bunting
- 802. Lark-like bushrunner
- 803. Laughing dove
- 804. Laughing gull
- 805. Layard's parakeet
- 806. Lazuli bunting
- 807. Leach's storm petrel
- 808. Least bittern
- 809. Least flycatcher
- 810. Least grebe
- 811. Least sandpiper
- 812. Least tern
- 813. Legge's flowerpecker
- 814. Legge's hawk-eagle
- 815. Lesser Antillean bullfinch
- 816. Lesser Antillean euphonia
- 817. Lesser Antillean flycatcher
- 818. Lesser black-backed gull
- 819. Lesser goldfinch
- 820. Lesser greenlet
- 821. Lesser grey shrike
- 822. Lesser kestrel
- 823. Lesser kiskadee
- 824. Lesser nighthawk
- 825. Lesser rhea
- 826. Lesser scaup
- 827. Lesser spotted woodpecker
- 828. Lesser whistling duck
- 829. Lesser whitethroat
- 830. Lesser yellow-headed vulture
- 831. Lesser yellowlegs
- 832. Lesser yellownape
- 833. Levant sparrowhawk
- 834. Light-vented bulbul
- 835. Lilac-breasted roller
- 836. Limpkin
- 837. Lincoln's sparrow
- 838. Lineated woodpecker
- 839. Linnet
- 840. Little auk
- 841. Little bee-eater
- 842. Little bittern
- 843. Little blue heron
- 844. Little bunting
- 845. Little cormorant
- 846. Little egret

- 847. Little grebe
- 848. Little gull
- 849. Little hermit
- 850. Little owl
- 851. Little pied flycatcher
- 852. Little ringed plover
- 853. Little stint
- 854. Little swift
- 855. Little tern
- 856. Little weaver
- 857. Loggerhead kingbird
- 858. Loggerhead shrike
- 859. Long-billed crombec
- 860. Long-billed dowitcher
- 861. Long-eared owl
- 862. Long-tailed duck
- 863. Long-tailed fiscal
- 864. Long-tailed hermit
- 865. Long-tailed meadowlark
- 866. Long-tailed shrike
- 867. Long-tailed skua
- 868. Long-tailed tit
- 869. Long-tailed tyrant
- 870. Long-winged harrier
- 871. Louisiana waterthrush
- 872. Lovely cotinga
- 873. Lucy's warbler
- 874. Ludwig's bustard
- 875. Maccoa duck
- 876. MacGillivray's warbler
- 877. Magellanic oystercatcher
- 878. Magnificent frigatebird
- 879. Magnolia warbler
- 880. Magpie
- 881. Magpie tanager
- 882. Maguari stork
- 883. Malabar pied hornbill
- 884. Mallard
- 885. Manchurian reed-warbler
- 886. Mandarin duck
- 887. Mangrove cuckoo
- 888. Manx shearwater
- 889. Marabou
- 890. Marbled murrelet
- 891. Marico flycatcher
- 892. Marico sunbird
- 893. Marsh harrier
- 894. Marsh sandpiper
- 895. Marsh tit
- 896. Marsh warbler

- 897. Marsh wren
- 898. Masked gnatcatcher
- 899. Masked lapwing
- 900. Masked laughingthrush
- 901. Masked shrike
- 902. Masked tityra
- 903. Masked yellowthroat
- 904. Meadow pipit
- 905. Mealy amazon
- 906. Medium egret
- 907. Melodious blackbird
- 908. Melodious warbler
- 909. Merlin
- 910. Mexican duck
- 911. Mexican violetear
- 912. Mississippi kite
- 913. Mistle thrush
- 914. Mocking cliff chat
- 915. Moltoni's subalpine warbler
- 916. Monk parakeet
- 917. Montagu's harrier
- 918. Montezuma's oropendula
- 919. Moorhen
- 920. Moorland francolin
- 921. Morelet's seedeater
- 922. Mosque swallow
- 923. Mottled duck
- 924. Mottled owl
- 925. Mottled swift
- 926. Mountain bluebird
- 927. Mountain caracara
- 928. Mountain chickadee
- 929. Mountain parakeet
- 930. Mountain wren
- 931. Mourning dove
- 932. Mourning warbler
- 933. Mourning wheatear
- 934. Mouse-coloured tyrannulet
- 935. Moustached warbler
- 936. Muscovy duck
- 937. Mute swan
- 938. Namaqua dove
- 939. Nashville warbler
- 940. Néné
- 941. Neotropic cormorant
- 942. New Holland honeyeater
- 943. Nicaraguan grackle
- 944. Nightingale
- 945. Nightjar
- 946. Northern barred woodcreeper

- 947. Northern black-throated trogon
- 948. Northern cardinal
- 949. Northern flicker
- 950. Northern grey-headed sparrow
- 951. Northern harrier
- 952. Northern house wren
- 953. Northern jacana
- 954. Northern mockingbird
- 955. Northern parula
- 956. Northern plain xenops
- 957. Northern rough-winged swallow
- 958. Northern scrub flycatcher
- 959. Northern waterthrush
- 960. Nuthatch
- 961. Nuttall's woodpecker
- 962. Ocellated antbird
- 963. Olive bee-eater
- 964. Olive sunbird
- 965. Olive thrush
- 966. Olive-backed pipit
- 967. Olive-sided flycatcher
- 968. Olive-throated parakeet
- 969. Orange-billed babbler
- 970. Orange-billed nightingale thrush
- 971. Orange-billed sparrow
- 972. Orange-breasted green pigeon
- 973. Orange-chinned parakeet
- 974. Orange-crowned warbler
- 975. Orangequit
- 976. Orchard oriole
- 977. Oriental darter
- 978. Oriental magpie-robin
- 979. Oriental reed warbler
- 980. Oriental skylark
- 981. Oriental turtle dove
- 982. Ortolan
- 983. Osprey
- 984. Ostrich
- 985. Ovenbird
- 986. Oystercatcher
- 987. Pacific black duck
- 988. Pacific diver
- 989. Pacific golden plover
- 990. Pacific wren
- 991. Paddyfield pipit
- 992. Painted stork
- 993. Pale chanting goshawk
- 994. Pale martin
- 995. Pale-billed flowerpecker
- 996. Pale-billed woodpecker

997. Pale-crested woodpecker
998. Palestine sunbird
999. Pale-vented pigeon
1000. Pale-winged starling
1001. Pallas's grasshopper warbler
1002. Pallas's leaf warbler
1003. Pallid harrier
1004. Pallid swift
1005. Palm warbler
1006. Palmchat
1007. Panama flycatcher
1008. Panama tyrannulet
1009. Pantanal snipe
1010. Parauque
1011. Patagonian sierra finch
1012. Pearl-spotted owlet
1013. Pearly-eyed thrasher
1014. Pectoral sandpiper
1015. Pelagic cormorant
1016. Penduline tit
1017. Peregrine
1018. Phainopepla
1019. Pheasant
1020. Pheasant-tailed jacana
1021. Pied bush chat
1022. Pied crow
1023. Pied flycatcher
1024. Pied kingfisher
1025. Pied wagtail
1026. Pied-billed grebe
1027. Pigeon guillemot
1028. Pileated woodpecker
1029. Pine siskin
1030. Pine warbler
1031. Pink-backed pelican
1032. Pink-footed goose
1033. Pink-footed shearwater
1034. Piñon jay
1035. Pintail
1036. Pin-tailed sandgrouse
1037. Piratic flycatcher
1038. Plain chachalaca
1039. Plain prinia
1040. Plain-brown woodcreeper
1041. Plain-coloured tanager
1042. Planalto woodcreeper
1043. Plumbeous ibis
1044. Plum-headed parakeet
1045. Plush-crested jay
1046. Pochard

- 1047. Pomarine skua
- 1048. Prairie warbler
- 1049. Pririt batis
- 1050. Prong-billed barbet
- 1051. Prothonotary warbler
- 1052. Ptarmigan
- 1053. Puffin
- 1054. Puna plover
- 1055. Puna rhea
- 1056. Puna yellow finch
- 1057. Purple finch
- 1058. Purple gallinule
- 1059. Purple heron
- 1060. Purple roller
- 1061. Purple sandpiper
- 1062. Purple sunbird
- 1063. Purple-rumped sunbird
- 1064. Purple-throated carib
- 1065. Purple-throated euphonia
- 1066. Purple-throated fruitcrow
- 1067. Purple-throated mountaingem
- 1068. Pygmy nuthatch
- 1069. Pyrrhuloxia
- 1070. Radde's warbler
- 1071. Rainbow lorikeet
- 1072. Raven
- 1073. Razorbill
- 1074. Red grouse
- 1075. Red kite
- 1076. Red pileated finch
- 1077. Red shoveler
- 1078. Red-backed flameback
- 1079. Red-backed shrike
- 1080. Red-bellied woodpecker
- 1081. Red-billed blue magpie
- 1082. Red-billed firefinch
- 1083. Red-billed leiothrix
- 1084. Red-billed pigeon
- 1085. Red-billed scythebill
- 1086. Red-billed spurfowl
- 1087. Red-billed streamertail
- 1088. Red-billed tropicbird
- 1089. Red-breasted flycatcher
- 1090. Red-breasted goose
- 1091. Red-breasted meadowlark
- 1092. Red-breasted merganser
- 1093. Red-breasted nuthatch
- 1094. Red-breasted sapsucker
- 1095. Red-capped lark
- 1096. Red-capped manakin

- 1097. Red-cheeked cordon-bleu
- 1098. Red-chested sunbird
- 1099. Red-crested cardinal
- 1100. Red-crested pochard
- 1101. Red-crowned ant tanager
- 1102. Red-crowned woodpecker
- 1103. Reddish egret
- 1104. Red-eyed dove
- 1105. Red-eyed vireo
- 1106. Red-faced cormorant
- 1107. Red-faced malkoha
- 1108. Red-flanked bluetail
- 1109. Red-footed booby
- 1110. Red-footed falcon
- 1111. Red-gartered coot
- 1112. Red-headed woodpecker
- 1113. Red-knobbed coot
- 1114. Red-legged honeycreeper
- 1115. Red-legged partridge
- 1116. Red-legged thrush
- 1117. Red-lored amazon
- 1118. Red-masked parakeet
- 1119. Red-naped ibis
- 1120. Red-necked falcon
- 1121. Red-necked grebe
- 1122. Red-necked phalarope
- 1123. Redpoll
- 1124. Red-rumped cacique
- 1125. Red-rumped swallow
- 1126. Redshank
- 1127. Red-shouldered blackbird
- 1128. Red-shouldered hawk
- 1129. Red-tailed comet
- 1130. Red-tailed hawk
- 1131. Red-tailed shrike
- 1132. Red-tailed wheatear
- 1133. Red-throated ant tanager
- 1134. Red-throated diver
- 1135. Red-throated pipit
- 1136. Red-vented bulbul
- 1137. Red-wattled lapwing
- 1138. Red-whiskered bulbul
- 1139. Redwing
- 1140. Red-winged blackbird
- 1141. Red-winged starling
- 1142. Reed bunting
- 1143. Reed cormorant
- 1144. Reed warbler
- 1145. Rhinoceros auklet
- 1146. Richard's pipit

- 1147. Ridgway's hawk
- 1148. Ring ouzel
- 1149. Ring-billed gull
- 1150. Ringed kingfisher
- 1151. Ringed plover
- 1152. Ring-necked dove
- 1153. Ring-necked duck
- 1154. Ring-necked parakeet
- 1155. River tern
- 1156. Roadside hawk
- 1157. Robin
- 1158. Robust woodpecker
- 1159. Rock dove/Feral pigeon
- 1160. Rock pipit
- 1161. Roller
- 1162. Rook
- 1163. Roseate spoonbill
- 1164. Roseate tern
- 1165. Rose-breasted grosbeak
- 1166. Rose-coloured starling
- 1167. Rosy-patched bush-shrike
- 1168. Rouget's rail
- 1169. Rough-legged buzzard
- 1170. Royal tern
- 1171. Ruby-crowned kinglet
- 1172. Ruby-throated hummingbird
- 1173. Ruby-topaz hummingbird
- 1174. Ruddy duck
- 1175. Ruddy ground-dove
- 1176. Ruddy quail-dove
- 1177. Ruddy shelduck
- 1178. Ruddy-tailed flycatcher
- 1179. Rufescent tiger heron
- 1180. Ruff
- 1181. Rufous fieldwren
- 1182. Rufous hornero
- 1183. Rufous hummingbird
- 1184. Rufous motmot
- 1185. Rufous treepie
- 1186. Rufous-and-white wren
- 1187. Rufous-bellied thrush
- 1188. Rufous-capped babbler
- 1189. Rufous-capped warbler
- 1190. Rufous-collared sparrow
- 1191. Rufous-crowned sparrow
- 1192. Rufous-naped lark
- 1193. Rufous-sided warbling finch
- 1194. Rufous-tailed hummingbird
- 1195. Rufous-throated solitaire
- 1196. Rüppell's black chat



1197. Rüppell's griffon
1198. Rüppell's parrot
1199. Rüppell's starling
1200. Russet-throated puffbird
1201. Rustic bunting
1202. Rusty blackbird
1203. Rusty flowerpiercer
1204. Rusty-collared seedeater
1205. Rusty-margined guan
1206. Sabine's gull
1207. Sabota lark
1208. Sad flycatcher
1209. Saffron finch
1210. Saffron-billed sparrow
1211. Sagebrush sparrow
1212. Sand martin
1213. Sanderling
1214. Sandhill crane
1215. Sandwich tern
1216. Sardinian warbler
1217. Savanna hawk
1218. Savannah sparrow
1219. Say's phoebe
1220. Sayaca tanager
1221. Scale-crested pygmy tyrant
1222. Scaly-breasted munia (aka Nutmeg manakin)
1223. Scaly-breasted thrasher
1224. Scaly-feathered weaver
1225. Scaly-headed parrot
1226. Scaly-naped pigeon
1227. Scarlet minivet
1228. Scarlet tanager
1229. Scarlet-chested sunbird
1230. Scarlet-headed blackbird
1231. Scarlet-rumped cacique
1232. Scott's oriole
1233. Scrubtit
1234. Seaside sparrow
1235. Sedge warbler
1236. Sedge wren
1237. Semipalmated plover
1238. Semipalmated sandpiper
1239. Sepia-capped flycatcher
1240. Serendib scops owl
1241. Serin
1242. Shag
1243. Sharpbill
1244. Sharp-shinned hawk
1245. Sharp-tailed grouse
1246. Shelduck

- 1247. Shelley's starling
- 1248. Shikra
- 1249. Shore lark
- 1250. Short-billed dowitcher
- 1251. Short-billed minivet
- 1252. Short-billed pigeon
- 1253. Short-eared owl
- 1254. Short-toed rock thrush
- 1255. Short-toed snake eagle
- 1256. Shoveler
- 1257. Siberian stonechat
- 1258. Silvereye
- 1259. Silvery-cheeked hornbill
- 1260. Siskin
- 1261. Skylark
- 1262. Slate-coloured seedeater
- 1263. Slaty-legged crake
- 1264. Slaty-tailed trogon
- 1265. Slavonian grebe
- 1266. Slender-billed gull
- 1267. Small minivet
- 1268. Small-billed elaenia
- 1269. Smew
- 1270. Snail kite
- 1271. Snipe
- 1272. Snow bunting
- 1273. Snow goose
- 1274. Snowy egret
- 1275. Snowy owl
- 1276. Snowy-bellied hummingbird
- 1277. Sociable weaver
- 1278. Social flycatcher
- 1279. Socotra cormorant
- 1280. Socotra sparrow
- 1281. Solitary cacique
- 1282. Solitary sandpiper
- 1283. Sombre rock chat
- 1284. Sombre tit
- 1285. Song sparrow
- 1286. Song thrush
- 1287. Sooty gull
- 1288. Sooty robin
- 1289. Sooty shearwater
- 1290. Sooty tyrannulet
- 1291. Sooty-fronted spinetail
- 1292. South African shelduck
- 1293. South American tern
- 1294. Southern fiscal
- 1295. Southern lapwing
- 1296. Southern masked weaver

1297. Southern nightingale-wren
1298. Southern pied babbler
1299. Southern red bishop
1300. Southern red-billed hornbill
1301. Southern screamer
1302. Southern white-crowned shrike
1303. Southern yellow-billed hornbill
1304. Spanish sparrow
1305. Sparrowhawk
1306. Speckled mousebird
1307. Speckled pigeon
1308. Spectacled bulbul
1309. Spectacled tyrant
1310. Spectacled warbler
1311. Spike-heeled lark
1312. Spoonbill
1313. Spot-billed pelican
1314. Spot-breasted lapwing
1315. Spot-flanked gallinule
1316. Spotted antbird
1317. Spotted crake
1318. Spotted dove
1319. Spotted nothura
1320. Spotted owlet
1321. Spotted redshank
1322. Spotted sandpiper
1323. Spotted thick-knee
1324. Spotted towhee
1325. Spotted treecreeper
1326. Spot-winged pigeon
1327. Spot-winged thrush
1328. Spur-winged goose
1329. Spur-winged lapwing
1330. Squacco heron
1331. Squirrel cuckoo
1332. Sri Lanka blue magpie
1333. Sri Lanka frogmouth
1334. Sri Lanka hanging parrot
1335. Sri Lanka hill myna
1336. Sri Lanka junglefowl
1337. Sri Lanka scimitar babbler
1338. Sri Lanka spurfowl
1339. Sri Lanka thrush
1340. Sri Lanka white-eye
1341. Sri Lanka wood pigeon
1342. Sri Lanka woodshrike
1343. Stark's lark
1344. Starling
1345. Steller's jay
1346. Steppe eagle

- 1347. Stock pigeon
- 1348. Stonechat
- 1349. Stone-curlew
- 1350. Storm petrel
- 1351. Straited heron
- 1352. Strange-tailed tyrant
- 1353. Streaked saltator
- 1354. Streak-headed woodcreeper
- 1355. Streaky seedeater
- 1356. Streamer-tailed tyrant
- 1357. Stripe-crowned spinetail
- 1358. Striped cuckoo
- 1359. Stripe-tailed hummingbird
- 1360. Stripe-throated hermit
- 1361. Strong-billed honeyeater
- 1362. Stub-tailed spadebill
- 1363. Sulphur-crested cockatoo
- 1364. Summer tanager
- 1365. Superb fairywren
- 1366. Surf scoter
- 1367. Swainson's hawk
- 1368. Swainson's thrush
- 1369. Swainson's warbler
- 1370. Swallow
- 1371. Swallow tanager
- 1372. Swallow-tailed bee-eater
- 1373. Swallow-tailed kite
- 1374. Swamp sparrow
- 1375. Swift
- 1376. Tacazze sunbird
- 1377. Taiga flycatcher
- 1378. Tasmanian scrubwren
- 1379. Tawny eagle
- 1380. Tawny owl
- 1381. Tawny pipit
- 1382. Tawny-shouldered blackbird
- 1383. Teal
- 1384. Temminck's seedeater
- 1385. Temminck's stint
- 1386. Tengmalm's owl
- 1387. Tennessee warbler
- 1388. Thekla lark
- 1389. Thick-billed raven
- 1390. Thick-billed seed finch
- 1391. Three-banded plover
- 1392. Three-striped warbler
- 1393. Thrush nightingale
- 1394. Titicaca grebe
- 1395. Toco toucan
- 1396. Townsend's solitaire

1397. Townsend's warbler
1398. Tree pipit
1399. Tree sparrow
1400. Tree swallow
1401. Treecreeper
1402. Tricoloured blackbird
1403. Tricoloured heron
1404. Tricoloured munia
1405. Tristram's starling
1406. Tropical boubou
1407. Tropical kingbird
1408. Tropical mockingbird
1409. Tropical parula
1410. Tropical pewee
1411. Trumpeter swan
1412. Tufted duck
1413. Tufted puffin
1414. Tufted titmouse
1415. Tundra bean goose
1416. Turkey vulture
1417. Turnstone
1418. Turquoise-browed motmot
1419. Turtle dove
1420. Twite
1421. Two-banded warbler
1422. Unicoloured blackbird
1423. Upland goose
1424. Upland sandpiper
1425. Variable antshrike
1426. Variable hawk
1427. Variable seedeater
1428. Variable sunbird
1429. Varied thrush
1430. Varied tit
1431. Veery
1432. Velvet scoter
1433. Velvet-fronted nuthatch
1434. Venezuelan troupial
1435. Veracruz wren
1436. Verdin
1437. Vermilion flycatcher
1438. Vervain hummingbird
1439. Vesper sparrow
1440. Village weaver
1441. Vinous-breasted myna
1442. Vinous-throated parrotbill
1443. Violaceous euphonia
1444. Violet sabrewing
1445. Violet-bellied hummingbird
1446. Violet-green swallow

- 1447. Virginia rail
- 1448. Vitelline warbler
- 1449. Von der Decken's hornbill
- 1450. Wandering tatler
- 1451. Warbling vireo
- 1452. Warbling white-eye
- 1453. Water pipit
- 1454. Water rail
- 1455. Wattled ibis
- 1456. Wattled jacana
- 1457. Wattled starling
- 1458. Wedge-billed woodcreeper
- 1459. Wedge-tailed eagle
- 1460. West Indian whistling duck
- 1461. West Indian woodpecker
- 1462. Western bluebird
- 1463. Western flycatcher
- 1464. Western grebe
- 1465. Western gull
- 1466. Western kingbird
- 1467. Western meadowlark
- 1468. Western reef heron
- 1469. Western sandpiper
- 1470. Western spindalis
- 1471. Western swamphen
- 1472. Western tanager
- 1473. Western wood pewee
- 1474. Wheatear
- 1475. Whimbrel
- 1476. Whinchat
- 1477. White monjita
- 1478. White stork
- 1479. White-backed black tit
- 1480. White-backed mousebird
- 1481. White-backed vulture
- 1482. White-banded mockingbird
- 1483. White-barred piculet
- 1484. White-bearded manakin
- 1485. White-bellied antbird
- 1486. White-bellied drongo
- 1487. White-bellied sunbird
- 1488. White-billed starling
- 1489. White-breasted cormorant
- 1490. White-breasted nuthatch
- 1491. White-breasted waterhen
- 1492. White-bridled finch
- 1493. White-browed bulbul
- 1494. White-browed crane
- 1495. White-browed fantail
- 1496. White-browed sparrow-weaver

1497. White-browed sparrow-weaver
1498. White-browed wagtail
1499. White-capped redstart
1500. White-cheeked pintail
1501. White-cheeked starling
1502. White-cheeked turaco
1503. White-chinned thrush
1504. White-collared manakin
1505. White-collared pigeon
1506. White-collared swift
1507. White-crowned parrot
1508. White-crowned pigeon
1509. White-crowned sparrow
1510. White-crowned wheatear
1511. White-eared bulbul
1512. White-eyed buzzard
1513. White-eyed parakeet
1514. White-eyed vireo
1515. White-faced ibis
1516. White-faced whistling-duck
1517. White-fronted amazon
1518. White-fronted swift
1519. White-headed buffalo-weaver
1520. White-headed marsh-tyrant
1521. White-headed munia
1522. White-headed woodpecker
1523. White-necked jacobin
1524. White-necked puffbird
1525. White-rumped sandpiper
1526. White-rumped shama
1527. White-rumped swallow
1528. White-rumped swift
1529. White-shouldered tanager
1530. White-tailed eagle
1531. White-tailed emerald
1532. White-tailed hawk
1533. White-tailed lapwing
1534. White-tailed starfrontlet
1535. White-tailed trogon
1536. Whitethroat
1537. White-throated hummingbird
1538. White-throated kingfisher
1539. White-throated magpie-jay
1540. White-throated sparrow
1541. White-throated swift
1542. White-tipped dove
1543. White-tufted grebe
1544. White-whiskered puffbird
1545. White-winged becard
1546. White-winged black tern

- 1547. White-winged cliff chat
- 1548. White-winged coot
- 1549. White-winged dove
- 1550. White-winged parakeet
- 1551. White-winged snowfinch
- 1552. Whooper swan
- 1553. Wigeon
- 1554. Wild turkey
- 1555. Willet
- 1556. Williamson's sapsucker
- 1557. Willow flycatcher
- 1558. Willow tit
- 1559. Willow warbler
- 1560. Wilson's phalarope
- 1561. Wilson's plover
- 1562. Wilson's snipe
- 1563. Wilson's storm petrel
- 1564. Wilson's warbler
- 1565. Winding cisticola
- 1566. Winter wren
- 1567. Wire-tailed swallow
- 1568. Wood duck
- 1569. Wood pigeon
- 1570. Wood sandpiper
- 1571. Wood stork
- 1572. Wood thrush
- 1573. Wood warbler
- 1574. Woodchat shrike
- 1575. Woodcock
- 1576. Woodhouse's scrub-jay
- 1577. Woodland kingfisher
- 1578. Woodlark
- 1579. Worm-eating warbler
- 1580. Wren
- 1581. Wryneck
- 1582. Yellow canary
- 1583. Yellow oriole
- 1584. Yellow wagtail
- 1585. Yellow warbler
- 1586. Yellow wattlebird
- 1587. Yellow-backed oriole
- 1588. Yellow-bellied elaenia
- 1589. Yellow-bellied eremomela
- 1590. Yellow-bellied flycatcher
- 1591. Yellow-bellied sapsucker
- 1592. Yellow-bellied seedeater
- 1593. Yellow-bellied siskin
- 1594. Yellow-bellied waxbill
- 1595. Yellow-billed babbler
- 1596. Yellow-billed blue magpie



1597. Yellow-billed cardinal
1598. Yellow-billed cuckoo
1599. Yellow-billed duck
1600. Yellow-billed pintail
1601. Yellow-billed tern
1602. Yellow-breasted chat
1603. Yellow-browed bulbul
1604. Yellow-browed warbler
1605. Yellow-crowned night heron
1606. Yellow-eared toucanet
1607. Yellow-eyed babbler
1608. Yellow-faced grassquit
1609. Yellow-fronted barbet
1610. Yellowhammer
1611. Yellow-headed blackbird
1612. Yellow-headed caracara
1613. Yellowish flycatcher
1614. Yellowish pipit
1615. Yellow-legged gull
1616. Yellow-naped amazon
1617. Yellow-rumped cacique
1618. Yellow-rumped siskin
1619. Yellow-rumped warbler
1620. Yellow-spotted bush sparrow
1621. Yellow-tailed black cockatoo
1622. Yellow-tailed oriole
1623. Yellow-throated euphonia
1624. Yellow-throated honeyeater
1625. Yellow-throated toucan
1626. Yellow-throated vireo
1627. Yellow-throated warbler
1628. Yellow-winged blackbird
1629. Yellow-winged tanager
1630. Yucatán vireo
1631. Yucatán woodpecker
1632. Zebra dove
1633. Zenaida dove
1634. Zone-tailed hawk

## United Kingdom list

1. Mute swan
2. Bewick's swan
3. Whooper swan
4. Tundra bean goose
5. Pink-footed goose
6. White-fronted goose
7. Greylag goose
8. Canada goose

9. Barnacle goose
10. Brent
11. Red-breasted goose
12. Egyptian goose
13. Shelduck
14. Mandarin duck
15. Wigeon
16. American wigeon
17. Gadwall
18. Teal
19. Green-winged teal
20. Mallard
21. Pintail
22. Garganey
23. Blue-winged teal
24. Shoveler
25. Red-crested pochard
26. Canvasback
27. Pochard
28. Ring-necked duck
29. Ferruginous duck
30. Tufted duck
31. Greater scaup
32. Lesser scaup
33. Eider
34. Long-tailed duck
35. Common scoter
36. Velvet scoter
37. Goldeneye
38. Smew
39. Red-breasted merganser
40. Goosander
41. Ruddy duck
42. Red-legged partridge
43. Red grouse
44. Grey partridge
45. Pheasant
46. Red-throated diver
47. Black-throated diver
48. Great northern diver
49. Black-browed albatross
50. Fulmar
51. Cory's shearwater
52. Great shearwater
53. Sooty shearwater
54. Manx shearwater
55. Balearic shearwater
56. Wilson's storm petrel
57. European storm petrel
58. Gannet

59. Red-footed booby
60. Cormorant
61. Shag
62. Bittern
63. American bittern
64. Squacco heron
65. Black-crowned night heron
66. Cattle egret
67. Little egret
68. Great egret
69. Grey heron
70. Purple heron
71. Black stork
72. White stork
73. Glossy ibis
74. Spoonbill
75. Little grebe
76. Great crested grebe
77. Red-necked grebe
78. Slavonian grebe
79. Black-necked grebe
80. Honey buzzard
81. Red kite
82. White-tailed eagle
83. Marsh harrier
84. Hen harrier
85. Pallid harrier
86. Goshawk
87. Sparrowhawk
88. Buzzard
89. Rough-legged buzzard
90. Golden eagle
91. Osprey
92. Water rail
93. Spotted crake
94. Corncrake
95. Moorhen
96. Coot
97. Crane
98. Stone-curlew
99. Black-winged stilt
100. Avocet
101. Oystercatcher
102. Grey plover
103. Golden plover
104. American golden plover
105. Pacific golden plover
106. Dotterel
107. Ringed plover
108. Little ringed plover

109. Lapwing
110. White-tailed lapwing
111. Kentish plover
112. Whimbrel
113. Curlew
114. Black-tailed godwit
115. Bar-tailed godwit
116. Turnstone
117. Knot
118. Ruff
119. Curlew sandpiper
120. Temminck's stint
121. Sanderling
122. Dunlin
123. Purple sandpiper
124. Little stint
125. White-rumped sandpiper
126. Buff-breasted sandpiper
127. Pectoral sandpiper
128. Western sandpiper
129. Wilson's phalarope
130. Red-necked phalarope
131. Grey phalarope
132. Common sandpiper
133. Spotted sandpiper
134. Green sandpiper
135. Spotted redshank
136. Greenshank
137. Lesser yellowlegs
138. Marsh sandpiper
139. Wood sandpiper
140. Redshank
141. Jack snipe
142. Long-billed dowitcher
143. Woodcock
144. Snipe
145. Wilson's snipe
146. Pomarine skua
147. Arctic skua
148. Long-tailed skua
149. Great skua
150. Puffin
151. Black guillemot
152. Razorbill
153. Guillemot
154. Little tern
155. Gull-billed tern
156. Caspian tern
157. Black tern
158. White-winged black tern

159. Sandwich tern
160. Common tern
161. Roseate tern
162. Arctic tern
163. Sabine's gull
164. Kittiwake
165. Bonaparte's gull
166. Black-headed gull
167. Little gull
168. Mediterranean gull
169. Franklin's gull
170. Common gull
171. Lesser black-backed gull
172. Herring gull
173. Yellow-legged gull
174. Caspian gull
175. Iceland gull
176. Glaucous gull
177. Great black-backed gull
178. Rock dove/Feral pigeon
179. Stock dove
180. Woodpigeon
181. Collared dove
182. Turtle dove
183. Oriental turtle dove
184. Cuckoo
185. Barn owl
186. Little owl
187. Tawny owl
188. Long-eared owl
189. Short-eared owl
190. Nightjar
191. Swift
192. Alpine swift
193. Hoopoe
194. Bee-eater
195. Roller
196. Kingfisher
197. Wryneck
198. Green woodpecker
199. Great spotted woodpecker
200. Lesser spotted woodpecker
201. Kestrel
202. Red-footed falcon
203. Merlin
204. Hobby
205. Eleonora's falcon
206. Peregrine
207. Ring-necked parakeet
208. Red-backed shrike

209. Great grey shrike
210. Woodchat shrike
211. Masked shrike
212. Chough
213. Magpie
214. Jay
215. Jackdaw
216. Rook
217. Carrion crow
218. Hooded crow
219. Raven
220. Goldcrest
221. Firecrest
222. Penduline tit
223. Blue tit
224. Great tit
225. Coal tit
226. Marsh tit
227. Willow tit
228. Bearded tit
229. Woodlark
230. Skylark
231. Greater short-toed lark
232. Shore lark
233. Sand martin
234. Crag martin
235. Swallow
236. House martin
237. Red-rumped swallow
238. Cetti's warbler
239. Long-tailed tit
240. Pallas's leaf warbler
241. Yellow-browed warbler
242. Hume's leaf-warbler
243. Radde's warbler
244. Dusky warbler
245. Eastern Bonelli's warbler
246. Wood warbler
247. Chiffchaff
248. Iberian chiffchaff
249. Willow warbler
250. Blackcap
251. Garden warbler
252. Barred warbler
253. Lesser whitethroat
254. Moltoni's subalpine warbler
255. Whitethroat
256. Dartford warbler
257. Grasshopper warbler
258. Booted warbler

259. Icterine warbler
260. Melodious warbler
261. Sedge warbler
262. Marsh warbler
263. Reed warbler
264. Arctic warbler
265. Great reed warbler
266. Waxwing
267. Nuthatch
268. Treecreeper
269. Wren
270. Starling
271. Rose-coloured starling
272. Dipper
273. Swainson's thrush
274. Ring ouzel
275. Blackbird
276. Black-throated thrush
277. Fieldfare
278. Song thrush
279. Redwing
280. Mistle thrush
281. American robin
282. Spotted flycatcher
283. Robin
284. Nightingale
285. Bluethroat
286. Red-flanked bluetail
287. Red-breasted flycatcher
288. Pied flycatcher
289. Black redstart
290. Redstart
291. Whinchat
292. Siberian stonechat
293. Stonechat
294. Wheatear
295. Isabelline wheatear
296. Desert wheatear
297. Dunnock
298. Alpine accentor
299. House sparrow
300. Tree sparrow
301. Yellow wagtail
302. Eastern yellow wagtail
303. Grey wagtail
304. Pied wagtail
305. Richard's pipit
306. Tawny pipit
307. Olive-backed pipit
308. Tree pipit

309. Meadow pipit
310. Rock pipit
311. Water pipit
312. Buff-bellied pipit
313. Brambling
314. Chaffinch
315. Hawfinch
316. Common rosefinch
317. Bullfinch
318. Greenfinch
319. Linnet
320. Twite
321. Redpoll
322. Crossbill
323. Goldfinch
324. Serin
325. Siskin
326. Snow bunting
327. Lapland bunting
328. White-throated sparrow
329. Corn bunting
330. Yellowhammer
331. Cirl bunting
332. Reed bunting
333. Ortolan
334. Little bunting
335. Rustic bunting
336. Northern waterthrush
337. Yellow warbler
338. Blackburnian warbler

**Garden list, Sydenham, London: Starting as of March 22, 2025**

1. Blue tit
2. Carrion crow
3. Collared dove
4. Cormorant
5. Feral pigeon/Rock dove
6. Goldfinch
7. Great tit
8. Grey heron
9. Herring gull
10. House sparrow
11. Jay
12. Lesser black-backed gull
13. Long-tailed tit
14. Magpie
15. Mallard
16. Ring-necked parakeet
17. Robin
18. Starling



19. Swallow
20. Swift
21. Woodpigeon
22. Wren

### United Kingdom list in sightings order

1. Buff-breasted sandpiper
2. Redwing
3. Spotted flycatcher
4. Lesser yellowlegs
5. Sabine's gull
6. White-winged black tern
7. Purple heron
8. Waxwing
9. Woodchat shrike
10. Black-winged stilt
11. Booted warbler
12. Glossy ibis
- 13= Black-throated diver
- 13= Slavonian grebe
- 13= Mute swan
- 13= Bewick's swan
- 13= Canada goose
- 13= White-fronted goose
- 13= Greylag
- 13= Egyptian goose
- 13= Brent
- 13= Shelduck
- 13= Wigeon
- 13= Gadwall
- 13= Mandarin
- 13= Teal
- 13= Mallard
- 13= Pintail
- 13= Shoveler
- 13= Pochard
- 13= Garganey
- 13= Tufted duck
- 13= Greater scaup
- 13= Eider
- 13= Common scoter
- 13= Goldeneye
- 13= Smew
- 13= Red-breasted merganser
- 13= Goosander
- 13= Ruddy duck
- 13= Red-legged partridge
- 13= Red grouse
- 13= Grey partridge
- 13= Pheasant

13= Fulmar  
13= Gannet  
13= Cormorant  
13= Bittern  
13= Grey heron  
13= Little grebe  
13= Great crested grebe  
13= Red-necked grebe  
13= Red kite  
13= Marsh harrier  
13= Hen harrier  
13= Sparrowhawk  
13= Buzzard  
13= Moorhen  
13= Coot  
13= Avocet  
13= Oystercatcher  
13= Grey plover  
13= Golden plover  
13= Ringed plover  
13= Little ringed plover  
13= Lapwing  
13= Whimbrel  
13= Curlew  
13= Black-tailed godwit  
13= Bar-tailed godwit  
13= Turnstone  
13= Knot  
13= Ruff  
13= Curlew sandpiper  
13= Sanderling  
13= Dunlin  
13= Purple sandpiper  
13= Little stint  
13= Grey phalarope  
13= Common sandpiper  
13= Green sandpiper  
13= Wood sandpiper  
13= Spotted redshank  
13= Greenshank  
13= Redshank  
13= Jack snipe  
13= Woodcock  
13= Snipe  
13= Arctic skua  
13= Guillemot  
13= Little tern  
13= Black tern  
13= Sandwich tern  
13= Common tern

13= Arctic tern  
13= Black-headed gull  
13= Little gull  
13= Common gull  
13= Lesser black-backed gull  
13= Herring gull  
13= Great black-backed gull  
13= Rock dove/Feral pigeon  
13= Stock dove  
13= Woodpigeon  
13= Collared dove  
13= Turtle dove  
13= Cuckoo  
13= Barn owl  
13= Little owl  
13= Tawny owl  
13= Short-eared owl  
13= Nightjar  
13= Swift  
13= Kingfisher  
13= Green woodpecker  
13= Great spotted woodpecker  
13= Lesser spotted woodpecker  
13= Kestrel  
13= Merlin  
13= Hobby  
13= Peregrine  
13= Ring-necked parakeet  
13= Red-backed shrike  
13= Great grey shrike  
13= Magpie  
13= Jay  
13= Jackdaw  
13= Rook  
13= Carrion crow  
13= Hooded crow  
13= Raven  
13= Goldcrest  
13= Blue tit  
13= Great tit  
13= Coal tit  
13= Marsh tit  
13= Bearded tit  
13= Skylark  
13= Sand martin  
13= Swallow  
13= House martin  
13= Long-tailed tit  
13= Chiffchaff  
13= Willow warbler

13= Blackcap  
13= Garden warbler  
13= Lesser whitethroat  
13= Whitethroat  
13= Grasshopper warbler  
13= Sedge warbler  
13= Reed warbler  
13= Nuthatch  
13= Treecreeper  
13= Wren  
13= Starling  
13= Dipper  
13= Blackbird  
13= Fieldfare  
13= Song thrush  
13= Mistle thrush  
13= Robin  
13= Nightingale  
13= Black redstart  
13= Redstart  
13= Whinchat  
13= Stonechat  
13= Wheatear  
13= Dunnock  
13= House sparrow  
13= Tree sparrow  
13= Yellow wagtail  
13= Grey wagtail  
13= Pied wagtail  
13= Tree pipit  
13= Meadow pipit  
13= Rock pipit  
13= Brambling  
13= Chaffinch  
13= Bullfinch  
13= Greenfinch  
13= Linnet  
13= Twite  
13= Redpoll  
13= Goldfinch  
13= Siskin  
13= Corn bunting  
13= Yellowhammer  
13= Reed bunting  
189. Red kite  
190. Barnacle goose  
191. Corncrake  
192. Little egret  
193. Chough  
194. Osprey

195. Pied flycatcher
196. Stone curlew
197. Crane
198. Red-footed falcon
199. Cetti's warbler
200. Long-tailed duck
201. Pink-footed goose
202. Firecrest
203. Red-flanked bluetail
204. White-tailed eagle
205. Golden eagle
206. Red-throated diver
207. Black guillemot
208. Razorbill
209. Shag
210. Kittiwake
211. Crossbill
212. Wryneck
213. Rough-legged buzzard
214. Great egret
215. Water pipit
216. Yellow-legged gull
217. Ring ouzel
218. Yellow-browed warbler
219. Oriental turtle dove
220. Wood warbler
221. Iberian chiffchaff
222. Woodlark
223. Spotted sandpiper
224. Black-necked grebe
225. Water rail
226. Mediterranean gull
227. Dartford warbler
228. Spoonbill
229. Ferruginous duck
230. Cattle egret
231. Rose-coloured starling
232. Caspian gull
233. Ring-necked duck
234. Long-eared owl
235. Iceland gull
236. Glaucous gull
237. Puffin
238. Roseate tern
239. Marsh sandpiper
240. Bee-eater
241. Pectoral sandpiper
242. Bonaparte's gull
243. Spotted sandpiper
244. Wilson's phalarope

245. Barred warbler
246. Hawfinch
247. Tundra bean goose
248. Temminck's stint
249. Little bunting
250. Shore lark
251. American bittern
252. Red-rumped swallow
253. Kentish plover
254. Hoopoe
255. Manx shearwater
256. Sooty shearwater
257. Cory's shearwater
258. Storm petrel
259. Great shearwater
260. Wilson's storm petrel
261. Great skua
262. Honey buzzard
263. Pallid harrier
264. Whooper swan
265. American golden plover
266. Snow bunting
267. Great northern diver
268. Penduline tit
269. Great reed warbler
270. Serin
271. Goshawk
272. Bluethroat
273. Black-throated thrush
274. Velvet scoter
275. Marsh warbler
276. Gull-billed tern
277. Dotterel
278. Masked shrike
279. Dusky warbler
280. Lapland bunting
281. Crag martin
282. Rustic bunting
283. Eastern yellow wagtail
284. Red-crested pochard
285. Richard's pipit
286. White-throated sparrow
287. White-rumped sandpiper
288. Pacific golden plover
289. Black stork
290. Balearic shearwater
291. Buff-bellied pipit
292. Red-breasted flycatcher
293. Western sandpiper
294. White-tailed lapwing

295. Willow tit
296. American wigeon
297. Hume's leaf warbler
298. Red-breasted goose
299. American robin
300. Green-winged teal
301. Blue-winged teal
302. Lesser scaup
303. Moltoni's subalpine warbler
304. Icterine warbler
305. Eleonora's falcon
306. Black-browed albatross
307. Caspian tern
308. Squacco heron
309. Roller
310. Red-necked phalarope
311. Pomarine skua
312. Swainson's thrush
313. Radde's warbler
314. Common rosefinch
315. Melodious warbler
316. Blackburnian warbler
317. Olive-backed pipit
318. Wilson's snipe
319. Alpine accentor
320. Siberian stonechat
321. Isabelline wheatear
322. Pallas's leaf warbler
323. White stork
324. Alpine swift
325. Black-crowned night heron
326. Long-tailed skua
327. Red-footed booby
328. Ortolan
329. Arctic warbler
330. Canvasback
331. Northern waterthrush
332. Cirl bunting
333. Franklin's gull
334. Greater short-toed lark
335. Tawny pipit
336. Desert wheatear
337. Yellow warbler
338. Eastern Bonelli's warbler

### United States list

1. Red-throated diver
2. Pacific diver
3. Great northern diver
4. Red-necked grebe

5. Slavonian grebe
6. Pied-billed grebe
7. Western grebe
8. Black-footed albatross
9. Fulmar
10. Buller's shearwater
11. Pink-footed shearwater
12. Sooty shearwater
13. Leach's storm-petrel
14. Ashy storm petrel
15. American white pelican
16. Brown pelican
17. Magnificent frigatebird
18. Cormorant
19. Double-crested cormorant
20. Red-faced cormorant
21. Pelagic cormorant
22. Brandt's cormorant
23. Anhinga
24. Gannet
25. Red-footed booby
26. Brown booby
27. American bittern
28. Least bittern
29. Great blue heron (also, Würdemann's heron (subspecies); also, Great-white heron)
30. Great egret
31. Snowy egret
32. Reddish egret
33. Tricoloured heron
34. Little blue heron
35. Cattle egret
36. Green heron
37. Black-crowned night heron
38. Yellow-crowned night heron
39. American white ibis
40. Glossy ibis
41. Roseate spoonbill
42. Wood stork
43. Mute swan
44. Trumpeter swan
45. Canada goose
46. Cackling goose
47. Hawaiian goose
48. Brent
49. Greater white-fronted goose
50. Snow goose
51. Fulvous whistling-duck
52. Wood duck
53. Mallard
54. Hawaiian duck



55. Mottled duck
56. American black duck
57. Gadwall
58. Pintail
59. American wigeon
60. Shoveler
61. Cinnamon teal
62. Blue-winged teal
63. Green-winged teal
64. Canvasback
65. Ring-necked duck
66. Greater scaup
67. Lesser scaup
68. Eider
69. King eider
70. Harlequin duck
71. Long-tailed duck
72. Surf scoter
73. Goldeneye
74. Bufflehead
75. Hooded merganser
76. Goosander
77. Red-breasted merganser
78. Ruddy duck
79. Turkey vulture
80. Black vulture
81. Northern harrier
82. Snail kite
83. Mississippi kite
84. Swallow-tailed kite
85. Sharp-shinned hawk
86. Copper's hawk
87. American goshawk
88. Common black hawk
89. Harris's hawk
90. Red-shouldered hawk
91. Broad-winged hawk
92. Swainson's hawk
93. Red-tailed hawk
94. Rough-legged buzzard
95. Golden eagle
96. Bald eagle
97. Osprey
98. Merlin
99. American kestrel
100. Peregrine
101. California quail
102. Gambel's quail
103. Pheasant
104. Red grouse

105. Sharp-tailed grouse
106. Wild turkey
107. Purple gallinule
108. Moorhen
109. American coot
110. Hawaiian coot
111. Clapper rail
112. King rail
113. Virginia rail
114. Limpkin
115. Sandhill crane
116. Grey plover
117. American golden plover
118. Pacific golden plover
119. Semipalmated plover
120. Killdeer
121. Black oystercatcher
122. American oystercatcher
123. American avocet
124. Black-necked stilt
125. Greater yellowlegs
126. Lesser yellowlegs
127. Solitary sandpiper
128. Willet
129. Spotted sandpiper
130. Upland sandpiper
131. Whimbrel
132. Hudsonian godwit
133. Turnstone
134. Black turnstone
135. Wandering tattler
136. Knot
137. Sanderling
138. Dunlin
139. Pectoral sandpiper
140. White-rumped sandpiper
141. Western sandpiper
142. Semipalmated sandpiper
143. Least sandpiper
144. Long-billed dowitcher
145. Short-billed dowitcher
146. American woodcock
147. Snipe
148. Wilson's snipe
149. Grey phalarope
150. Red-necked phalarope
151. Long-tailed skua
152. Arctic skua
153. Pomarine skua
154. Bonaparte's gull

155. Black-headed gull
156. Grey-hooded gull
157. Franklin's gull
158. Laughing gull
159. Common gull
160. Ring-billed gull
161. California gull
162. American herring gull
163. Iceland gull
164. Glaucous gull
165. Glaucous-winged gull
166. Western gull
167. Lesser black-backed gull
168. Greater black-backed gull
169. Heermann's gull
170. Sabine's gull
171. Kittiwake
172. Caspian tern
173. Royal tern
174. Elegant tern
175. Common tern
176. Arctic tern
177. Forster's tern
178. Least tern
179. Gull-billed tern
180. Brown noddy
181. Black skimmer
182. Guillemot
183. Brunnich's guillemot
184. Pigeon guillemot
185. Ancient murrelet
186. Kittlitz's murrelet
187. Marbled murrelet
188. Cassin's auklet
189. Rhinoceros auklet
190. Tufted puffin
191. Horned puffin
192. Mourning dove
193. White-winged dove
194. Collared dove
195. Spotted dove
196. Zebra dove
197. Common ground dove
198. Rock dove/Feral pigeon
199. Band-tailed pigeon
200. White-crowned pigeon
201. Red-masked parakeet
202. Monk parakeet
203. White-winged parakeet
204. Mangrove cuckoo

205. Yellow-billed cuckoo
206. Greater roadrunner
207. Barn owl
208. Long-eared owl
209. Great horned owl
210. Snowy owl
211. Barred owl
212. Tengmalm's owl
213. Burrowing owl
214. Eastern screech owl
215. Common poorwill
216. Common nighthawk
217. Lesser nighthawk
218. Chimney swift
219. Black swift
220. White-fronted swift
221. Broad-tailed hummingbird
222. Anna's hummingbird
223. Black-chinned hummingbird
224. Ruby-throated hummingbird
225. Calliope hummingbird
226. Rufous hummingbird
227. Belted kingfisher
228. Acorn woodpecker
229. Red-headed sapsucker
230. Red-bellied woodpecker
231. Williamson's sapsucker
232. Yellow-bellied sapsucker
233. Downy woodpecker
234. Hairy woodpecker
235. American three-toed woodpecker
236. Nuttall's woodpecker
237. White-headed woodpecker
238. Northern flicker
239. Pileated woodpecker
240. Olive-sided flycatcher
241. Western wood pewee
242. Eastern wood pewee
243. Western flycatcher
244. Acadian flycatcher
245. Yellow-bellied flycatcher
246. Willow flycatcher
247. Alder flycatcher
248. Least flycatcher
249. Hammond's flycatcher
250. American dusky flycatcher
251. Black phoebe
252. Eastern phoebe
253. Say's phoebe
254. Vermilion flycatcher

255. Ash-throated flycatcher
256. Great crested flycatcher
257. Grey kingbird
258. Eastern kingbird
259. Western kingbird
260. Loggerhead shrike
261. Grey vireo
262. Red-eyed vireo
263. Black-whiskered vireo
264. Warbling vireo
265. Hutton's vireo
266. White-eyed vireo
267. Yellow-throated vireo
268. Cassin's vireo
269. Blue-headed vireo
270. Steller's jay
271. Blue jay
272. Woodhouse's scrub-jay
273. California scrub-jay
274. Canada jay
275. Piñon jay
276. Clark's nutcracker
277. Black-billed magpie
278. Raven
279. American crow
280. Fish crow
281. Northern rough-winged swallow
282. Sand martin
283. Violet-green swallow
284. Tree swallow
285. Cliff swallow
286. Swallow
287. Juniper titmouse
288. Tufted titmouse
289. Black-capped chickadee
290. Carolina chickadee
291. Mountain chickadee
292. Chestnut-backed chickadee
293. Verdin
294. Bushtit
295. Red-breasted nuthatch
296. White-breasted nuthatch
297. Pygmy nuthatch
298. Brown creeper
299. Carolina wren
300. House wren
301. Wren
302. Marsh wren
303. Cactus wren
304. Canyon wren

305. American dipper
306. Red-whiskered bulbul
307. Red-vented bulbul
308. Wrentit
309. Warbling white-eye
310. Golden-crowned kinglet
311. Ruby-crowned kinglet
312. Blue-grey gnatcatcher
313. Townsend's solitaire
314. Mountain bluebird
315. Western bluebird
316. Eastern bluebird
317. Varied thrush
318. American robin
319. White-rumped shama
320. Java sparrow
321. Chestnut munia
322. Scaly-breasted munia
323. Wood thrush
324. Veery
325. Swainson's thrush
326. Grey-cheeked thrush
327. Hermit thrush
328. Grey catbird
329. Northern mockingbird
330. Brown thrasher
331. Starling
332. Common myna
333. American pipit
334. Phainopepla
335. Waxwing
336. Cedar waxwing
337. Northern parula
338. Orange-crowned warbler
339. Tennessee warbler
340. Blue-winged warbler
341. Golden-winged warbler
342. Nashville warbler
343. Lucy's warbler
344. Yellow warbler
345. Chestnut-sided warbler
346. Magnolia warbler
347. Cape May warbler
348. Black-throated blue warbler
349. Cerulean warbler
350. Blackburnian warbler
351. Yellow-rumped warbler
352. Black-throated grey warbler
353. Townsend's warbler
354. Black-throated green warbler

355. Prairie warbler
356. Palm warbler
357. Pine warbler
358. Bay-breasted warbler
359. Blackpoll warbler
360. Yellow-throated warbler
361. Grace's warbler
362. Worm-eating warbler
363. Prothonotary warbler
364. Black-and-white warbler
365. American redstart
366. Swainson's warbler
367. Ovenbird
368. Northern waterthrush
369. Louisiana waterthrush
370. Kentucky warbler
371. Connecticut warbler
372. Mourning warbler
373. MacGillivray's warbler
374. Common yellowthroat
375. Wilson's warbler
376. Canada warbler
377. Hooded warbler
378. Yellow-breasted chat
379. Summer tanager
380. Western tanager
381. Scarlet tanager
382. Northern cardinal
383. Black-headed grosbeak
384. Rose-breasted grosbeak
385. Blue grosbeak
386. Lazuli bunting
387. Indigo bunting
388. Red-crested cardinal
389. Spotted towhee
390. Eastern towhee
391. California towhee
392. Rufous-crowned sparrow
393. Sagebrush sparrow
394. Black-throated sparrow
395. American tree sparrow
396. Brewer's sparrow
397. Clay-coloured sparrow
398. Chipping sparrow
399. Henslow's sparrow
400. Seaside sparrow
401. Savannah sparrow
402. Golden-crowned sparrow
403. White-throated sparrow
404. White-crowned sparrow

405. Fox sparrow
406. Song sparrow
407. Lincoln's sparrow
408. Swamp sparrow
409. Dark-eyed junco
410. Lapland bunting
411. Western meadowlark
412. Eastern meadowlark
413. Bobolink
414. Brown-headed cowbird
415. Yellow-headed blackbird
416. Tricoloured blackbird
417. Red-winged blackbird
418. Brewer's blackbird
419. Rusty blackbird
420. Common grackle
421. Boat-tailed grackle
422. Great-tailed grackle
423. Bullock's oriole
424. Baltimore oriole
425. Hooded oriole
426. Orchard oriole
427. Scott's oriole
428. Brambling
429. Evening grosbeak
430. Apapane
431. Grey-crowned rosy finch
432. Purple finch
433. House finch
434. Redpoll
435. Pine siskin
436. Lesser goldfinch
437. American goldfinch
438. House sparrow

**U.K. butterfly species list**

1. Adonis blue
2. Black hairstreak
3. Black-veined white
4. Brimstone
5. Brown argus
6. Brown hairstreak
7. Chalkhill blue
8. Clouded yellow
9. Comma
10. Common blue
11. Dark-green fritillary
12. Dingy skipper
13. Duke of Burgundy
14. Essex skipper



15. Gatekeeper
16. Glanville fritillary
17. Grayling
18. Green hairstreak
19. Green-veined white
20. Grizzled skipper
21. Heath fritillary
22. Holly blue
23. Large blue
24. Large skipper
25. Large tortoiseshell
26. Large white
27. Long-tailed blue
28. Marbled white
29. Marsh fritillary
30. Meadow brown
31. Mountain ringlet
32. Orange tip
33. Painted lady
34. Peacock
35. Purple emperor
36. Purple hairstreak
37. Queen of Spain fritillary
38. Red admiral
39. Ringlet
40. Silver-spotted skipper
41. Silver-studded blue
42. Silver-washed fritillary
43. Small blue
44. Small copper
45. Small heath
46. Small pearl-bordered fritillary
47. Small skipper
48. Small tortoiseshell
49. Small white
50. Speckled wood
51. Swallowtail
52. Wall
53. White admiral
54. White-letter hairstreak
55. Wood white

**U.K. orchid species list**

1. Autumn lady's-tresses
2. Bee orchid
3. Bird's-nest orchid
4. Bog orchid
5. Broad-leaved helleborine
6. Chalk fragrant orchid
7. Common spotted orchid

8. Common twayblade
9. Early purple orchid
10. Early spider orchid
11. Fly orchid
12. Frog orchid
13. Greater butterfly orchid
14. Green-winged orchid
15. Heath spotted orchid
16. Lady orchid
17. Lizard orchid
18. Man orchid
19. Marsh helleborine
20. Military orchid
21. Monkey orchid
22. (Monkey-Lady hybrid orchid)
23. Musk orchid
24. Narrow-lipped helleborine
25. Northern marsh orchid
26. Pyramidal orchid
27. Small-flowered tongue orchid
28. Southern marsh orchid
29. Sword-leaved helleborine
30. Violet helleborine
31. White helleborine

**Isle of Grain, Kent: 16 September, 1984** As per Alex Carlisle's notes, "took Jo and Terry to the Isle of Grain. Saw an **ARCTIC SKUA** at sea and (a) Buff-breasted sandpiper on a small pool."

**Dungeness, Kent: November 1984** As per Alex Carlisle's notes and our memories, a bitterly cold, snowy day in which the only other birder we saw was comedian Bill Oddie. At one point, Alex's car slid into a ditch, and we—well me and Alex's girlfriend at the time, Jo Thompson—had to push it out, which took much effort. Birds on show included a Red-necked grebe; 8 x Red-throated diver; 7 x Smew; 4 x Goosander; 10 x Gannet, and an adult Little gull. I also remember lines of Redshank; Ringed plover, and Golden plover in the middle of the road to Dungeness, taking advantage of the only ice-free parts of all of Kent

**Beddington Sewage Farm, Hackbridge, Surrey: September 24-30, 1984** On one evening of these dates, **LESSER YELLOWLEGS** (new species for the U.K.)

**Argeles Plage, France: July 1985** Bee-eater; Hoopoe, and Cirl bunting

**Spain: December 2001** Purple swamphen (in Córdoba) and White stork (in Zafra)

**Melbourne, Australia, and Tasmania: January 2002** Masked lapwing; Cormorant; Australian pelican; Pacific black duck; Common bronzewing; Sulphur-crested cockatoo; Yellowtailed black cockatoo; Galah; Crimson rosella; Rainbow lorikeet; Black currawong; Wedge-tailed eagle; Black swan; Superb fairywren; Rufous fieldwren; Scrubtit; Australian pipit; Tasmanian scrubwren; Silvereye; Flame robin; Dusky robin; New Holland honeyeater;

Yellow-throated honeyeater; Crescent honeyeater; Strong-billed honeyeater; Grey shrikethrush, and Yellow wattletbird

### **El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Nicaragua: June 2002**

**Cartago**—Mealy amazon

**Monteverde**—Swallow-tailed kite (flying beneath me during a zipline tour); Azure-hooded jay; Black-and-yellow phainoptila; Black-bellied whistling duck; Elegant euphonia; Eye-ringed flatbill; Flame-coloured tanager; Flame-throated warbler; Golden-bellied flycatcher; Green hermit; Green-crowned brilliant; Grey hawk; Groove-billed ani; Hoffman's woodpecker; Little hermit; Masked tityra; Orange-billed nightingale thrush; Collared trogon; Prong-billed barbet; Purple-throated mountaingem; Scale-crested pygmy tyrant; Short-billed pigeon; Stripe-tailed hummingbird; Three-striped warbler; Violet sabrewing; White-shouldered tanager; White-throated magpie-jay; White-winged dove; Wood stork; Yellow-naped amazon; Yellow-tailed warbler, and Yellow-throated euphonia

**Selva Verde**—Yellow-throated toucan; Fasciated tiger heron; Grey-cowled wood rail; Green kingfisher, and Keel-billed toucan

**Volcán del Viejo**—Blue-capped motmot

**On the road to Liberia**—Jabiru stork

**Other locations**—American dipper; Anhinga; Band-tailed pigeon; Black-headed tody flycatcher; Black vulture; Blue-grey tanager; Bronzed cowbird; Bronzy hermit; Brown booby; Brown-chested martin; Brown jay; Cattle egret; Chestnut-coloured woodpecker; Chestnut-headed oropendula; Clay-coloured thrush; Common bush tanager; Common ground dove; Crested caracara; Finsch's parakeet; Dusky-capped flycatcher; Eastern meadowlark; Emerald toucanet; Great-blue heron; Great kiskadee; Great-tailed grackle; Great egret; Green heron; Mexican violetear; Grey-breasted wood wren; Magnificent frigatebird; Montezuma's oropendula; Nicaraguan grackle; Northern jacana; Osprey; Red-lored amazon; Ringed kingfisher; Royal tern; Ruddy quail-dove; Rufous-collared sparrow; Veracruz wren; Snowy egret; Sooty robin; Tropical kingbird; Turquoise-browed motmot; Turkey vulture; White-tailed emerald; White-winged dove; Yellow-eared toucanet; Yellow-faced grassquit, and Yellowish flycatcher

**Panama: April 2003** Berylline hummingbird; Black phoebe; Black-cowled oriole; Black-striped sparrow; Blue-black grassquit; Blue-grey tanager; Collared aracari; Common ground dove; Crested oropendula; Crimson-backed tanager; Golden-fronted woodpecker; Great kiskadee; Great tailed grackle; Green parakeet; Grey-headed chachalaca; Hoffman's woodpecker; Keel-billed toucan; Lesser kiskadee; Thick-billed seed finch; Orange-billed sparrow; Red-billed pigeon; Red-billed tropicbird; Red-breasted meadowlark; Red-capped manakin; Red-crowned woodpecker; Ringed kingfisher; Ruddy ground-dove; Rufous-and-white wren; Rufous-capped warbler; Saffron finch; Sharpbill; White-bellied antbird; Yellow-bellied siskin; Yellow-faced grassquit; Yellowish pipit, and Yellow-naped amazon

### **Hawaii: December 2004**

(Note: in late 2016, the American Birding Association voted to add certain Hawaiian birds to the official ABA list; the final Hawaiian list of birds able to be added to the ABA list is supposed to be finalised by the end of 2017)

**Chinaman's Hat, O'ahu**—Pacific golden plover

**Diamondhead, O'ahu**—Common waxbill; Scaly-breasted munia

**Hanalei, Kauai**—Hawaiian stilt (endangered subspecies in Hawaii; also, seen in Poi'pu, Kauai); Hawaiian goose, and Red-whiskered bulbul

**James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, O'ahu**—Black-crowned night heron; Cattle egret; Moorhen (endangered in Hawaii); Hawaiian coot, and Hawaiian duck

**Manoa Falls, O'ahu**—White-rumped shama

**Waimea Beach, O'ahu**—Japanese white-eye; Red-footed booby

**Other locations**—Apapane; Common myna; Java sparrow; Red-crested cardinal; Chestnut munia; Red-vented bulbul; Pacific golden plover; Spotted dove, and Zebra dove

#### **Chile: December 2004**

**Bahia de Última Esperanza**—Brown skua; Brown-hooded gull; Dolphin gull, and South American tern

**Cerro Castillo en route to Torres del Paine**—Andean condor and Andean flamingo

**Cueva del Milodón**—White-bridled finch; Chimango caracara; Grey-breasted seedsnipe; Grey-hooded sierra finch; Patagonian sierra finch; Sedge wren, and Yellow-winged blackbird

**Glacier Serrano**—Green-backed firecrown

**Hacienda Los Lingues**—Giant hummingbird

**Patagonia, near Rubens Hotel**—Coscoroba swan; Crested duck, and Lesser rhea

**Puerto Natales**—Austral blackbird; Baird's sandpiper; Black-necked swan, and Magellanic oystercatcher

**Punta Arenas**—Imperial cormorant; Kelp gull; Southern lapwing, and Upland goose

**Rio Serrano**—Ashy-headed goose; Dark-bellied cinclodes; Black-faced ibis (also called Buff-necked ibis), and Chilean flicker

**Puritana River, en route to El Tatio**—Puna rhea

**Salar de Atacama**—Andean avocet; Chilean flamingo; James's flamingo Puna plover, and Wilson's phalarope

**Sendero Ascendio**—Cinnamon-bellied ground tyrant, and Fire-eyed diucón

**Torres del Paine**—Black-chested buzzard-eagle; Black-chinned siskin; Chiloé wigeon; Long-tailed meadowlark; Pectoral sandpiper; Red shoveler; Red-gartered coot; White-tufted grebe; White-winged coot; Yellow-billed pintail, and Yellow-rumped siskin

**various locations**—American kestrel; Austral blackbird; Austral negrito; Austral thrush; Cattle egret; Chilean mockingbird; Chilean swallow; Crested caracara; Eared dove; House sparrow, and Rufous-collared sparrow

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: Dec. 26, 2004** On Cherry Hill, just off of the 72nd St. Transverse, was a **TENGMALM'S OWL** (new species for US; in US, named Boreal owl), adult sitting in tree and widely seen by park birder. First sighting ever in New York City

**Shinnecock Inlet, Southampton, Long Island, New York, USA: Jan. 30, 2005** On the tip of the water break next to the coastguard's station, with narrow inlet breaching two spits and bay behind. Immediate sighting of **BRUNNICH'S GUILLEMOT** (new species for US), in near-to-breeding plumage; second example, winter plumage, flew in wake of boat towards the sea and dropped down to give good sightings, but then was lost. **SURF SCOTER** (new species for US), close to shore, as were **RED-THROATED DIVER** (new species for US); Red-necked grebe, **LONG-TAILED DUCK** (new species for US), five Brent; (also, four Harbour seals). Greater black-backed Gull; Herring Gull; and Song sparrow, all seen on land Baldwin County Park, Baldwin, Long Island, New York, USA: Jan. 30, 2005 No sign of the Harris sparrow seen here in weeks previous. Numerous White-throated sparrow, Downy woodpecker, Brown thrasher and Merlin perched in tree

**Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA: Feb. 16, 2005 Marshes by Chelsea Heights** Great blue heron; Goosander; Red-breasted merganser; Bufflehead; Brent; Swamp sparrow

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: Feb. 22, 2005** Red-tailed hawk; Red-bellied woodpecker; Downy woodpecker; Black-capped chickadee; Tufted titmouse; White-breasted nuthatch; Fox sparrow; White-throated sparrow; Song sparrow; Dark-eyed junco; Northern cardinal; Red-winged blackbird (two); American black duck, and Shoveler

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: March 7, 2005** White-breasted nuthatch; Red-bellied woodpecker; Downy woodpecker; Black-capped chickadee; **WOOD DUCK** (new species for US, and Shoveler

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: March 12, 2005** White-breasted nuthatch; Downy woodpecker; Black-capped chickadee; **AMERICAN WOODCOCK** (new species for US), four examples (Tanner's Spring, The Over, Indian Cave (two)); Shoveler; Brown creeper, Dark-eyed junco; **RUSTY BLACKBIRD** (new species for US, Upper Lobe); **PURPLE FINCH** (new species for US); Red-tailed hawk; House finch; Tufted titmouse; Fox sparrow (near Warbler Rock); Red-winged blackbird

**Fort Myers/Sanibel Island, Florida, USA: March 22-24, 2005** Some birds seen on other days apart from when they are first listed.

**Punta Rassa; March 22**—Yellow-rumped warbler; Palm warbler; Osprey (two on nest, plus two young; c. 10 Osprey seen during the three days); Anhinga; Magnificent frigatebird; Red-bellied woodpecker; **MOTTLED DUCK** (new species for US); House Sparrow; Cardinal; American crow; **WOOD STORK** (new species for US; two individuals); Glossy Ibis; American white Ibis; Tricoloured heron; Little blue heron; Brown pelican; Mockingbird; Starling; Boat-tailed grackle; Common grackle; Great egret, and Snowy egret; **SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER** (new species for US); Laughing gull; Ring-billed gull; **EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE** (new species for US); Moorhen

**Punta Rassa; March 23**—Great blue heron; White pelican (c. 70 birds); **BLACK VULTURE** (new species for US; confirmed sightings, seen on same days as sightings of Turkey vulture); Yellow-crowned night heron; **SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (new species for US, wading along beach); Double-crested cormorant; Belted kingfisher; **CASPIAN TERN** (new species for US, in Fort Myers Harbour), and Grey catbird

**J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island; March 24**—**REDDISH EGRET** (new species for US, just the one, dancing madly); **ROSEATE SPOONBILL** (new species for US, c. 12 birds, some flying in to roost in mangrove trees); Killdeer; Dunlin, Sanderling; Turnstone; Willet; Cattle egret; **ROYAL TERN** (new species for US); Forster's tern; Knot; Least sandpiper; Greater yellowlegs; **BLUE-WINGED TEAL** (new species for US; c. 50 birds); Pied-billed grebe. Also, one alligator

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: March 29, 2005** During a run, saw two birders at the grassy patch on the northwest side of where the 102nd St. Transverse joins the Loop. In one evergreen tree, of two, were three Eastern screech owl, one adult, with two young

**Forest Park, Queens, New York, USA: March 31, 2005** At the Water Hole at the northwest side of the park, in early evening, was a male **PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** (new species for US) in full breeding plumage. Flew into vision, sat on a bush for five seconds and then deeper in a bush for five minutes of excellent views. Disappeared for 10 minutes before

being relocated bathing in the swampy water. Also, Carolina wren and Hairy woodpecker. Warbler first seen at 5:20 p.m. on a windless, cloudy day, then again at 5:35

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: April 6, 2005** At the north end of the park. Four Eastern screech owl in evergreens; along loch, wonderful sights of **LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH** (new species for US), with eye stripe very white; also, Song sparrow. On Great Hill, two Golden-crowned kinglet and flock of Dark-eye juncos; on the way home in Morningside Park, first Eastern phoebe of the year. Also, wonderful view of perched Red-tailed hawk

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: April 8, 2005** First warblers of Central Park this year, Palm warblers and very drab Pine warblers; also, the reported **YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER** (new species for US) At 6 p.m. on north side of Great Lawn. Amazing views of very Nuthatch-like behaviour scaling up tree trunks and Flycatcher-like behaviour hunting insects in sorties. Peregrine seen swooping over said birds; small flock of Chipping sparrow, and first Red-breasted nuthatch of year

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: April 9, 2005** I and another birder rediscovered the yellow-throated warbler, seen this time at east side of Turtle Pond. Also, Cedar waxwing. At the Azalea Pond, immature **COOPER'S HAWK** (new species for US). Much discussion as to whether it might have been an immature Sharp-shinned hawk, but consensus was that streaking and large head and neck pointed to Cooper's

**Forest Park, Queens, New York, USA: April 14, 2005** At the Water Hole again, quite the spot this year. The male Prothonotary warbler remains, probably the same one as was seen on April 6, although two others have been sighted. Only one present today, but the views were much better than previous. It seems quite used to birdwatchers as it searched for insects no more than 10 feet away. Brilliant yellow. Also, present, was **SWAINSON'S WARBLER** (new species for US), for which most birdwatchers were present. Views were amazingly close, the bird sometimes no more than five feet away searching the underside of leaves for insects. Occasionally, remained stock still for two or three minutes. Flew, but was relocated on east side of waterhole, but it was never in the company of the Prothonotary warbler, as it preferred drier material away from water hole. Also, Downy woodpecker

**Mill Creek Marsh, Secaucus, New Jersey: April 13, 2005** Palm warbler; Red-winged blackbird; Eastern phoebe; Tree Swallow on this relatively recently restored area of marshland by the New Jersey Turnpike

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: April 16, 2005** Another male Prothonotary warbler turned up in the west side of the Lake, close to the Upper Lobe. Also, at the same spot a Blue-grey gnatcatcher. A little further around, in the Cave, was an Orange-crowned warbler. Up by the Loch was a White-eyed vireo

**South Florida, USA: April 17-20, 2005**

**On Dania Beach**—three **GULL-BILLED TERN** (new species for US), many Royal tern and Brown pelican; in the grounds of the Doral Resort, Spa & Golf Course in Doral, Miami, was a Loggerhead shrike

In late afternoon, at **Bill Baggs State Park, Cape Florida, Key Biscayne**—Black-throated blue warbler; Blackpoll warbler; Ovenbird; Prairie warbler. Many Red-bellied woodpecker, and several American white ibis

**On route to the Everglades**—Cattle egrets, Great egret, Great-blue heron, Black vulture, Turkey vulture. Near the Miccosukkee Indian Restaurant, at well-known site, flying **SNAIL KITE** (new species for US). On Loop Road, **BARRED OWL** (new species for US, great views); **LIMP KIN** (new species for US; perched in tree) and **RED-SHOULDERED HAWK** (new species for US; really close). Peregrine and several alligators, including young. (Also, two otters) On drive home, two Swallow-tailed kite, and Black-crowned night heron  
**On route to Key West**—at Wild Bird Centre, in Tavernier, American white ibis; Brown pelican, Great white heron (new sub-species for US), Great egret, Royal tern and 14 **BLACK-NECKED STILT** (new species for US)

**At Fort Zachery State Park in Key West**—on beach: Sanderling and Turnstone; in scrub land by fort and near car park: Black-and-white warbler; Prairie warbler; Grey catbird; Grey kingbird (new species for US); Indigo bunting. Two Osprey on nest platform in far corner, and in tatty bush cover **BOBOLINK** (new species for US; hard to pin down but eventually a great view; I believe a female was in male's company, but that was even harder to confirm). Also, Common yellowthroat

**On Little Sugarloaf Key**—in well-documented site, two **MANGROVE CUCKOO** (new species for US; good view of one, which then dropped down and out of sight. Other was a bird rushing through the mangrove as I was being bitten to death by mosquitoes)

**In Fairchild Botanical Garden, Coral Gables, Miami**—Red-shouldered hawk; Moorhen; Anhinga; Green heron

**In Tree Tops State Park, Davie, near Fort Lauderdale**—Tricoloured heron; Green heron; **PURPLE GALLINULE** (new species for US; good sight but deep in reeds) and **SNIFE** (new species for US; deep in reeds but visible)

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: April 22-24, 2005** Overcast, seasonably cool weekend with some rain, heavy on Saturday night. Also, the wind was in the wrong direction for migration to this spot: Northern rough-winged swallow; Swallow; several Northern flicker, one Blue-grey gnatcatcher; Black-crowned night-heron; Palm warbler; lots of Yellow-rumped warbler, half a dozen or so Black-and-white warbler; Hermit thrush; Eastern towhee; Blue-headed vireo; White-throated sparrow, Eastern kingbird; still around in late April, Dark-eyed junco, Ruddy duck and Bufflehead Mill Creek Marsh, Secaucus, New Jersey: April 26, 2005 Warmer than weekend but still windy. Several Brown-headed cowbird; two Spotted sandpiper, and Savannah sparrow

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: May 1, 2005** Started at 8:30 a.m. with steady rain, which stopped at 8:50. Continued overcast and very cold for the time of year, so much so that the hands were a little numb at 11; following a cup of coffee, returned to birding and, soon after, to a sunny, beautiful day with temperatures in the mid-60s. Four Cedar waxwing along Reservoir. At Turtle Pond, Tree swallow; Swallow; Northern rough-winged swallow; Eastern towhee; Yellow warbler; while on path towards Belvedere Castle, Magnolia warbler; Northern flicker. In the Rambles, Chimney swift; Brown thrasher (very high); Wood thrush; several Veery; Grey catbird; Eastern towhee; Baltimore oriole; Hermit thrush, Song sparrow; Field sparrow; White-throated sparrow; Black-throated blue warbler; Black-Throated green warbler; Black-and-white warbler; Ovenbird; Northern waterthrush, as well as a second Yellow warbler by the Boathouse. Along lower lobe of the Lake, nesting Green heron; two Eastern screech owl. Palm warbler and Red-Bellied Woodpecker along Delacourt Oval, and five Ruddy duck, one male, four females, on Reservoir. On the Pool, another Northern waterthrush, while along and above the Loch, Blue-grey gnatcatcher; American redstart; Northern house wren; second Baltimore oriole, this one at head height, singing; right

at the end of the day a wonderful male Rose-breasted grosbeak on the Great Hill. In total, 52 species

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: May 6-8, 2005** Dull weekend, with bad light. Went running on Saturday instead of birding, a good move as reports for this day were low. Friday was dull, too, but there was some brightening up by Sunday. On Friday, highlights were Solitary sandpiper and Black-throated blue warbler, while on Sunday at the Maintenance Field saw a male **BLUE-WINGED WARBLER** (new species for US) singing and displaying with excellent views and, my own discovery, a male Orchard oriole, very low down and out in the opening. Both the warbler and oriole often disappeared into the thick but re-emerged several times. Also present in the Ramble were Northern flicker, Black-and-white warbler, Wood thrush, and Green heron, hunting at the Azalea Pond, while at Tanner's Spring were Eastern towhee and Northern parula

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: May 10, 2005** A bright early evening in which I had no more than an hour to bird watch before a running class. In the Rambles, an American redstart; first Scarlet tanager of the year. Then a report came in of a species that was first seen in the Rambles at midday, which led to me running two miles in 15 minutes to see **KENTUCKY WARBLER** (new species for US) in the North Woods, off a path that led off right from the Loch. I think it was a male, but it did not show as much black marking to the head as perhaps a male might have but more than perhaps a female would do. The bird was jumping up continually on both sides of the path and gave great views

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: May 13, 2005** A dull evening (one of many this year), in which the only notables were Red-eyed vireo, male and female Black-throated blue warbler, Cedar waxwing, Ovenbird, Black-throated green warbler, Magnolia warbler and Spotted sandpiper in the Turtle Pond

**Forest Park, Queens, New York, USA: May 14, 2005** Arrived at 11:30 a.m. following the Queens half-marathon (1:29:12; 6:47 pace), but the day was productive. The waterhole in the park is a great deal smaller than when I came here in late March and mid-April, but an artificial bathing pool brought in many species, including Indigo bunting; Nashville warbler; Blackburnian warbler. Also around were Northern Parula; Lincoln's sparrow; female Downy woodpecker, American redstart, Scarlet tanager and first-year **SUMMER TANAGER** (new species for US). Additional species included Northern waterthrush; Blackpoll warbler, and Chestnut-sided warbler

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: May 15, 2005** Just an hour in the North Woods, but I did see my first Canada warbler of the year, as well as Black-throated green warbler; Magnolia warbler; Least flycatcher; Red-eyed vireo; female Scarlet tanager. Later on in **Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson (on the Hudson River)**—I saw 10-plus Yellow warbler (probably breeding here); Baltimore oriole; pair of Brown thrasher; Blackpoll warbler; American goldfinch; Chipping sparrow; Savannah sparrow; Song sparrow; Eastern wood pewee, and Eastern phoebe

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: May 22, 2005** The sun tried to break through but never quite made it. In the North Woods were two Baltimore oriole; Wood thrush; Magnolia warbler; Canada warbler; Chestnut-sided warbler, but the highlights today were a Wilson's warbler; adult **MARSH WREN** (new species for US). It was hard to locate, but I finally had some excellent views of its curved beak, dark cap and white eye-stripe



**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: May 28-30, 2005** The weather was beautiful all weekend, but the season is gearing to a close, with an American redstart the only warbler seen during an hour's walk on Sunday. Friday was good, the highlights being a late Yellow-throated warbler; Nashville warbler. Other warblers seen were female Black-throated blue warbler; female Blackpoll warbler; Common yellowthroat; Black-and-white warbler; four Wilson's warbler, and Canada warbler. Also seen were White-breasted nuthatch; female Scarlet tanager; Tufted titmouse; Ovenbird; Red-eyed vireo; Warbling vireo; three **OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER** (new species for US), one in Strawberry Fields, the second in the Rambles, the third along the Loch. Also present in large numbers was Swainson's thrush

**Westminster West, Vermont, USA: June 4-5, 2005** Most birds stayed way up in the tops of the trees in this very wooded area. Family of Eastern phoebe nesting in the garden of Francesca's cousin Magdi; Ruby-throated hummingbird regularly came to the feeder, as did Black-capped chickadee. Also, Hermit thrush; American goldfinch; Song sparrow; Chipping sparrow, and Hairy woodpecker

**Hong Kong/China/Macao: June 2005** Swallow; Black kite; Magpie; Black-crowned night-heron; Red-billed blue magpie; Light-vented bulbul; Chinese pond heron; Kingfisher; Daurian redstart; Fan-tailed warbler; Fork-tailed sunbird; Greater coucal; Medium egret; Japanese white-eye; Large-billed crow; Little grebe; Magpie robin; Masked laughingthrush; Pallid swift; Red-whiskered bulbul; Ring-necked parakeet; Spot-billed duck; Spotted dove; Sulphur-crested cockatoo; Tree sparrow, and Pied wagtail

**Spain, August 2006 Around Cuéllar and Sepulveda, north Spain**—Griffon vulture; Eurasian bee-eater; Roller

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: Sept. 6, 2005** On the East Side, just east of the Wildflower Meadow, on the path that leads off from the 102nd Street Transverse, a **CONNECTICUT WARBLER** (new species for US). Several of this warbler, rare for New York City, have been recorded this year

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: Sept. 23, 2005** At Wagner Cove, Magnolia warbler; Black-and-white warbler; Black-throated blue warbler; Wilson's warbler; American redstart; also, Ruby-crowned kinglet; Rufous-sided towhee. At the Oven, three Northern house wren; two Marsh wren; Brown thrasher, and Ruby-throated hummingbird

**England, Dec. 2005 Off M4 on the road to Lambourne in Oxfordshire**—**RED KITE** (new species for U.K.), three individuals seen flying around solitary house and adjacent fields Aldington, Kent—Bullfinch, male and female

**Arizona, USA: Jan. 2006 Chloride**—**GREATER ROADRUNNER** (new species for US), seen as it avoided my car in Chloride, Ariz, stretching its neck out in typical style Agua Fria River, just south of Wickenburg—**HARRIS'S HAWK** (new species for US), chestnut wings and legs and white and black tail clearly visible; scuttling in sage bush **SHORE LARK** (new species for US), and north of Wickenburg, five or six **CACTUS WREN** (new species for US), one seemingly acting as a sentinel on top of a road sign

**Panama: March 29-April 9** Great tinamou; Pied-billed grebe; Brown pelican; Neotropic cormorant; Anhinga; Magnificent frigatebird; Great blue heron; Great egret; Snowy egret;

Little blue heron; Cattle egret; American white ibis; Green heron; Green heron (subspecies of Green heron); Black vulture; Turkey vulture; Osprey; Snail kite; Grey hawk; Mallard; Crested caracara; Yellow-headed caracara; Grey-headed chachalaca; Crested guan; Purple gallinule; Wilson's plover; Southern lapwing; American oystercatcher; Wattled jacana; Lesser yellowlegs; Sanderling; Laughing gull; Royal tern; Pale-vented pigeon; White-tipped dove; Ruddy ground-dove; Orange-chinned parakeet; Red-lored amazon; Squirrel cuckoo; Grove-billed ani; Little hermit; Violet-bellied hummingbird; White-necked jacobin; Black-throated mango; Rufous-tailed hummingbird; Bronze-tailed plumeleteer; Snowy-bellied hummingbird; White-tailed trogon; Guianan trogon; Northern black-throated trogon; Slaty-tailed trogon; Blue-capped motmot; Rufous motmot; Ringed kingfisher; Belted kingfisher; Green kingfisher; American pygmy kingfisher; Black-cheeked woodpecker; Red-crowned woodpecker; Lineated woodpecker; Crimson-crested woodpecker; Northern plain xenops; Plain-brown woodcreeper; Northern barred woodcreeper; Fasciated antshrike; Black-crowned antshrike; Dot-winged antwren; Dusky antbird; Spotted antbird; Ocellated antbird; Stub-tailed spadebill; Panama tyrannulet; Yellow-bellied elaenia; Sepia-capped flycatcher; Common tody-flycatcher; Black-headed tody-flycatcher; Ruddy-tailed flycatcher; Long-tailed tyrant; Bright-rumped attila; Panama flycatcher; Great kiskadee; Lesser kiskadee; Tropical kingbird; Grey kingbird; Fork-tailed flycatcher; Purple-throated fruitcrow; Golden-collared manakin; Lance-tailed manakin; Red-capped manakin; Grey-breasted martin; Mangrove swallow; Black-chested jay; Brown jay; Bay wren; Northern house wren; Tropical mockingbird; Yellow warbler; Yellow "mangrove" warbler (subspecies of above); Chestnut-sided warbler; Black-and-white warbler; Northern waterthrush; Plain-coloured tanager; Crimson-backed tanager; Blue-grey tanager; White-shouldered tanager; Golden-hooded tanager; Green honeycreeper; Red-legged honeycreeper; Fulvous-vented euphonia; Scarlet tanager; Red-throated ant-tanager; Streaked saltator; Blue-black grosbeak; Black-striped sparrow; Variable seedeater; Yellow-bellied seedeater; Great-tailed grackle; Northern oriole; Yellow-backed oriole; Scarlet-rumped cacique; Yellow-rumped cacique; Crested oropendola, and House sparrow

**Montauk and area, Long Island, New York: USA, April 2006** Seen off tip of Montauk, with probably 30 to 40 Lesser scaup, along with four Surf Scoter, was pair of **EIDER** (new species for US). Lincoln sparrow seen acting furtively in brambles 200 metres or so back from the lighthouse car park. In the town of North Sea, saw Osprey on nest, mating

**Central Park, New York, New York, USA: Apr. 25, 2006** First visit to Central Park this year. Palm warbler and Yellow-rumped warbler present, also, female Ruby-crowned kinglet and both Northern waterthrush and Louisiana waterthrush in same area, the Oven. Also, Swamp sparrow and Hermit thrush

**Central Park, New York, New York, USA: Apr. 28, 2006** Winds were not in a favourable direction all weekend. Did see a Rufous-sided towhee at Tanner's Spring and several Hermit thrush. Also, one Eastern Phoebe

**Central Park, New York, New York, USA: Apr. 30, 2006** In the North Woods. Red-breasted nuthatch in same tree as Black-and-white warbler. Also, Red-bellied woodpecker, Red-tailed hawk

**Central Park, New York, New York, USA: May 6, 2006** Excellent day, with more than seven hours of birding. Almost two hours were spent at the same spot in Strawberry Field, where I spotted Red-eyed vireo; Blue-headed vireo; White-eyed vireo; Warbling vireo, two

Ruby-throated hummingbird; male Tennessee warbler; Nashville warbler; Magnolia warbler; Prairie warbler; Northern parula; three Blackburnian warbler. Elsewhere, notable sights included Baltimore oriole; Wilson's warbler; Eastern screech owl; White-crowned sparrow; Blue-winged warbler; Chestnut-sided warbler; Black-and-white warbler; American redstart; Canada warbler; a bathing Scarlet tanager and, on the Reservoir, a Slavonian grebe. Also, the first of the year's Grey catbird; Ovenbird; Swainson's thrush and Common yellowthroat, and, along the Great Lawn, a Rose-breasted grosbeak

**Central Park, New York, New York, USA: May 11, 2006** Overcast. Birds were there, but between 5:30 and 8 one needed to search. Sparrows in abundance, including Chipping sparrow; Swamp sparrow and White-crowned sparrow. Eastern phoebe; several Baltimore oriole; one Rufous-sided towhee; Wilson's warbler; Black-throated blue warbler; Magnolia warbler, and Chestnut-sided warbler

**Central Park, New York, New York, USA: May 12, 2006** I spent 105 minutes yesterday looking for a particular bird in a Tulip tree in the Shakespeare Garden, to no avail. Spent 45 minutes today doing the same at the same tree, which contained Scarlet tanager; six Baltimore oriole; Rose-breasted grosbeak; male Black-throated blue warbler and a dozen Yellow-rumped warbler, before I saw the yellow and black chest of a male Cape May warbler, only my second ever. The bird then displayed prominently for five minutes before disappearing, which echoes its performance in this tree of the last two days, according to other witnesses

**Central Park, New York, N.Y., USA: May 12-14, 2006** Sunny afternoon on Friday, the 12th. Yellow-crowned night-heron a nice find in the extreme south of the park and the first Worm-eating warbler found in the Rambles. On the Sunday, a duller, quieter day, I saw my first Yellow warbler of the year, as well as a second Cape May warbler and Hooded warbler, my first for several years. The highlight was a **YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO** (new species for US) in the Rambles, at the Captain's Bench. A female Rose-breasted grosbeak was present at Tanner's Spring, as was a Grey-cheeked thrush

**Florida Keys, Fla., USA: May 15-19, 2006**

**Fort Zachary State Park, Key West**—Cattle egret; Grey kingbird; juvenile Blackpoll warbler

**Key West Botanical Garden, Stock Island**—**WHITE-CROWNED PIGEON** (new species) in two flocks of three birds. Quite shy, but on this rainy day there was no one else present besides me, and the staff at the reception said it was the first time this species has returned since last year's hurricane. Also, Great crested flycatcher, and, so quickly, my second-ever Yellow-billed cuckoo

**Long Key State Park**—American redstart; Black-and-white warbler; single examples of American golden plover and Wilson's plover. Deeper in the mangrove, I saw Northern waterthrush and **BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO** (new species for US)

**Hawk's Cay**—I saw, incredibly, my third-ever Yellow-billed cuckoo, not much higher than head-height in hotel grounds. Key Colony Golf Course—two **BURROWING OWL** (new species for US), which were easily approachable

**Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park**—my second-ever Black-whiskered vireo. In both occurrences, the black whisker was very evident, and in the second case so were plagues of mosquitoes

**Central Park, New York, New York, USA: May 20, 2006** What seemed like a quiet day produced numerous warblers, many of them female, including Blackburnian warbler; Blackpoll warbler; Black-throated green warbler; Also spotted was a male Prairie warbler and male and female American redstart (very numerous); Canada warbler; and Wilson's warbler. In the north end of the park was a Northern flicker and a Veery

**Central Park, New York, USA: May 27, 2006** The migration season seems pretty much over. Very little around, but I did see a beautiful Magnolia warbler; female American Redstart, and Red-eyed vireo

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York, USA: May 28, 2006** A twitch for three **FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK** (new species for US) reported earlier that morning. Very easy to find, a small crowd watching them between benches six and seven on the West Pond. Other species included Willet; Greater black-backed gull; Herring gull; Least Sandpiper; Snowy egret; Osprey (on nest); Glossy ibis, and a beautiful Little blue heron, the light shining perfectly on it. Also, two other great find, a **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** (new species for US) and an **ALDER FLYCATCHER** (new species for the US)

**Wave Hill, The Bronx, New York, USA: May 29, 2006** Two Cedar waxwing in a tree of this botanical garden

**Cold Spring, New York, USA: across August 2006** House- and pet-sitting on and off for three weeks. Great blue heron; Blue-grey gnatcatcher; Blackpoll warbler (many); Black-capped chickadee; male Rose-breasted grosbeak; two Ruby-throated hummingbird; Scarlet tanager (singing wildly, bobbing in each direction); Willow flycatcher; Hairy woodpecker; Downy woodpecker; Peregrine mobbing Blue jay; American goldfinch; American redstart; male Indigo bunting at Cargill Reservoir; Cooper's Hawk sitting on wire; (pet Helmeted guineafowl)

**Trip to Doodletown**—spectacular Indigo bunting; lots of Willow flycatcher; Louisiana waterthrush; White-breasted nuthatch. Northern flicker, and Baltimore oriole

**Manitoga Reserve**—Downy woodpecker, Hairy woodpecker and one **PILEATED WOODPECKER** (new species for US) at top of dead tree

**Cabo San Lucas area, Baja California Sur, Mexico: August 21-24, 2006** Hooded oriole; Pyrrhuloxia (evidently not similar in coloration to the Cardinal); Vermilion flycatcher (extraordinary; I saw just the one male, and briefly at that); Grey thrasher (this caused me some confusion, as all the Sibley guide distribution maps had no thrasher in southern Baja. That it was a thrasher was not of concern, and then this morning I saw that one of Baja's endemics was this species, which goes no farther north, hence no inclusion in Sibley); Belted kingfisher (this was odd. Again, there was no mistaking what this was. One online guide said that a few do summer in its winter range, where they can find water, which might mean that the two aforementioned ponds were permanent); Greater yellowlegs (Sibley has very few waders present in summer, but this and the following I definitely ID'ed); Pectoral sandpiper; Wilson's plover (the only plover present in Baja in summer); Killdeer (several); Brown pelican (hundreds, even though Sibley suggests none should be in Baja in August); Osprey; Mexican duck; California quail (a family close to the hotel. I thought, oh, Gambel's, as I have seen that species in Arizona and Nevada, but a reading of Sibley says that the two species, ranges do not overlap); Caspian tern; Heermann's gull (ID'ed by range; there are very few gulls in Baja in August. Actually, Sibley says there is only one); Greater roadrunner; White-winged dove; Cactus wren; California gnatcatcher; Verdin (this is a wonderful bird; I saw

five or six); Western scrub-jay (my first Blue jay variation, in a palm tree right in front of the hotel lobby); Gila woodpecker (many woodpeckers, almost everywhere. with lots of holes in cacti); Ladder-backed woodpecker, and Gilded flicker

**Argentina: September 3-24, 2006** Greater rhea; Spotted nothura; Elegant crested tinamou; Great grebe ;Anhinga; Neotropical cormorant; Cooi heron; Rufescent tiger heron; Great egret; Cattle egret; Black-crowned night-heron; Maguari stork; Jabiru; Plumbeous ibis; Buff-necked ibis; Bare-faced ibis; White-faced ibis; Southern screamer; White-faced whistling-duck; Brazilian teal; Andean condor; Lesser yellow-headed vulture; Black vulture; Snail kite; Long-winged harrier; Black-collared hawk; Roadside hawk; Savanna hawk; White-tailed hawk; Red-backed hawk; Variable hawk; Mountain caracara; Crested caracara; Chimango caracara; Yellow-headed caracara; Peregrine; Aplomado falcon; American kestrel; Black-fronted piping guan; Rusty-margined guan; Limpkin; Giant wood rail; Grey-cowled wood rail; White-winged coot; Moorhen; Purple gallinule; Spot-flanked gallinule; Wattled jacana; Black-necked stilt; Southern lapwing; Pantanal snipe; Andean gull; Yellow-billed tern; Spot-winged pigeon; Eared dove; Ruddy ground-dove; Golden-spotted ground dove; White-tipped dove; Blue ground dove; Blue-winged macaw; White-eyed parakeet; Monk parakeet; Mountain parakeet; Scaly-headed parrot; Burrowing parrot; Guira cuckoo; Squirrel cuckoo; Burrowing owl; White-collared swift; Andean swift; White-throated hummingbird; Red-tailed comet; Glittering-bellied emerald; Ringed kingfisher; Amazon kingfisher; Green kingfisher; Toco toucan; Campo flicker; White-barred piculet; Robust woodpecker; Pale-crested woodpecker; White-bearded manakin; Blue manakin; Temminck's seedeater; White-winged becard; Black-and-white monjita; White monjita; Andean negrito; D'Orbigny's chat-tyrant; Strange-tailed tyrant; Streamer-tailed tyrant; White-headed marsh-tyrant; Sooty tyrannulet; Cattle tyrant; Spectacled tyrant; Piratic flycatcher; Great kiskadee; Boat-billed flycatcher; Vermilion flycatcher; Variable antshrike; Rufous hornero; Stripe-crowned spinetail; Sooty-fronted spinetail; Firewood-gatherer; Chotoy spinetail; Planalto woodcreeper; Red-billed scythebill; Plush-crested jay; Grey-breasted martin; White-rumped swallow; Northern house Wren; Mountain wren; Black-capped donacobius; Brown-backed mockingbird; White-banded mockingbird; Chalk-browed mockingbird; Creamy-bellied thrush; Rufous-bellied thrush; Chiguanco thrush; Greater thornbird; House sparrow; Lark-like bushrunner; Masked gnatcatcher; Black-chinned siskin; Two-banded warbler; Tropical parula; Masked yellowthroat; Golden-winged cacique; Red-rumped cacique; Solitary cacique; Giant cowbird; Unicoloured blackbird; Scarlet-headed blackbird; Brown-and-yellow marshbird; Rufous-collared sparrow; Black-hooded sierra finch; Rufous-sided warbling finch; Saffron finch; Puna yellow finch; Red pileated finch; Double-collared seedeater; Rusty-collared seedeater; Saffron-billed sparrow; Red-crested cardinal; Yellow-billed cardinal; Magpie tanager; Sayaca tanager; Swallow tanager; Green-headed tanager; Blue-and-yellow tanager; Red-crowned ant tanager; Rusty flowerpiercer; Purple-throated euphonia; Violaceous euphonia; Bluish-grey saltator, and Green-winged saltator

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: October 5, 2006** Cape May warbler; immature White-crowned sparrow; Field Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco

**Bear Mountain area, New York, USA: October 8, 2006** A bright, sunny day in the Tompkins Cove area. Blackpoll warbler; Yellow-rumped warbler; also, Willow flycatcher; Hairy woodpecker, and, of most interest, two Eastern bluebird, only the second time I have ever seen them

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: October 10, 2006** In the Wildflower Meadow at the north end of the park, I saw Blue grosbeak, only my second time—again—that I have seen this species. This was a first-winter bird so contained absolutely no blue. Also, Black-capped chickadee; Rufous-sided towhee, and Song sparrow

**Central Park, New York, New York, USA: October 31, 2006** Excellent sighting of the uncommon **HENSLOW'S SPARROW** (new species for US) in the Pinetum. Luckily, I was running in the area when I saw two excited birdwatchers, otherwise I would have missed this

**Riverside Park, New York, New York, USA: January 7, 2007** At 92nd Street, two immature Red-headed woodpeckers. Good views, at 115th Street, of immature Cape May warbler (really should not be here at all this time of year). Flying at eye-height in the trees of the park when viewed from the drive; also present Yellow-bellied sapsucker; Downy woodpecker, and Red-tailed hawk

**Mill Creek Marsh, Secaucus, New Jersey, USA: February 22, 2007** Mostly iced-over water courses. Five or six Fox sparrow; 16 or so Goosander; six or so Hooded merganser; two Gadwall, and one Hairy woodpecker

**North England: April 18-23, 2007** Chaffinch; Greenfinch; Goldfinch; Redwing (Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland); **BARNACLE GOOSE** (new species for U.K.); Mallard; Shoveler; Sky lark; Reed bunting (Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland); Wheatear (Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland); Dipper (River Aln, Alnwick, Northumberland); Canada goose; Eider (Lindisfarne, Northumberland); Kittiwake (Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland); Greater black-backed gull; Lesser black-backed gull; Herring gull; Black-headed gull; Robin; Blackbird; House sparrow; Swallow; House martin; Spotted flycatcher; Blue tit; Great tit; Coal tit; Long-tailed tit; Pied wagtail; Grey wagtail (River Aln, Alnwick, Northumberland); Carrion crow; Jackdaw; Green woodpecker; Grey heron; Sparrowhawk; Buzzard; Oystercatcher; Pheasant (hundreds of them), and Lapwing

**Forest Park, Queens, New York, USA: April 26, 2007** Steady drizzle; first birding of the season. Black-and-white warbler; Yellow-rumped warbler; Northern waterthrush; Pine warbler; Eastern towhee, and Black-capped chickadee

**Forest Park, Queens, New York, USA: April 27, 2007** Clear. Louisiana waterthrush

**Central Park, New York, USA: April 29, 2007** (cloudy, bad light, turning to intermittent sunshine) Yellow-billed cuckoo (North Woods); Worm-eating warbler (The Loch); Nashville warbler (The Oven); Solitary sandpiper (The Loch); Great northern diver (amazingly close views, this time); Black-and-white warbler; Palm warbler; Pine warbler; Northern waterthrush; Yellow-bellied sapsucker; Northern flicker; Ovenbird; Veery; Wood thrush; Hermit thrush; Swamp sparrow; Baltimore oriole; Red-winged blackbird, and Eastern towhee

**Central Park, New York, USA: April 30, 2007** (sunny evening) Hairy woodpecker; Green heron

**Central Park, New York, USA: May 5, 2007** (early morning) Yellow-billed cuckoo (Azalea Pond); Worm-eating warbler (Azalea Pond); Tennessee warbler (Captain's Bench); American redstart; Common yellowthroat; Blue-headed vireo (Azalea Pond; Strawberry Field); Yellow-throated warbler (Azalea Pond; Strawberry Field); Prairie warbler (Azalea

Pond; Strawberry Field); Veery; Hermit thrush; Magnolia warbler (Cherry Hill); Black-throated blue warbler (Strawberry Field); Black-capped night-heron; Downy woodpecker, and Savannah sparrow (Strawberry Field)

**Central Park, New York, USA: May 7, 2007** (sunny evening) An incredibly social and cooperative Kentucky warbler, all the way out in the open in Strawberry Field. It was very actively feeding on flies, bouncing up and down as is its nature and at one point bouncing over my shoe

**Garden City Golf Club, Garden City, New York, USA: May 9, 2007** (lunch break)  
Swainson's thrush

**Central Park, New York, USA: May 9, 2007** (half an hour in park only; sunny evening)  
Warbling vireo

**Riverside Park, New York, USA: May 12, 2007** Baltimore Oriole; Red-bellied woodpecker; Downy woodpecker; Crested titmouse; Swainson's thrush, three male and one female; Scarlet tanager, and 19 species of warbler—Yellow-rumped warbler; Yellow warbler; Blue-winged warbler; Blackburnian warbler; Black-and-white warbler; Black-throated blue warbler; Black-throated green warbler; Worm-eating warbler; Common yellowthroat; American redstart; Ovenbird; Wilson's warbler; Pine warbler; Northern parula; Northern waterthrush; Magnolia warbler; Black-and-white warbler; Chestnut-sided warbler, and Blackpoll warbler

**Central Park, New York, USA: May 19, 2007** (overcast) Male Cape May warbler; Canada Warbler, and Bay-breasted warbler, my first for several years

**Antigua & Barbuda, Caribbean: June 9-13, 2007** Black-winged stilt; White-crowned pigeon; Scaled-naped pigeon; Lesser Antillean bullfinch; Antillean crested hummingbird; Green-throated carib; Bananaquit; Black-faced grassquit; White-cheeked pintail; Magnificent frigatebird; Roseate tern; Royal tern; Caribbean elaenia; Carib grackle; Caribbean martin; Lesser Antillean euphonia; Purple-throated carib; Barbuda warbler; Broad-winged hawk; Lesser Antillean flycatcher (*berlepschii*); Zenaida dove; Common ground dove; American kestrel; Yellow warbler; Lesser yellowlegs; Tricoloured heron; Yellow-crowned night heron, and Black-crowned night heron

**Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, Oceanville, New Jersey, USA: July 1, 2007** Osprey, **SEASIDE SPARROW** (new species for US); Gull-billed tern; **LEAST FLYCATCHER** (new species for the US), and **KING RAIL** (new species for US)

**Greenland (Ilulissat and Nuuk): July 12-16, 2007** I was under the impression this would be a birding Mecca, but many Web sites disabused me of that idea. With all that space, birds can truly be a long way from any one of the 60,000 residents, so why be near people? But here are some new species seen, plus one other bird, having never really birded before in north England or north—Black guillemot; Little auk; Glaucous gull; Iceland gull; Raven; Snow bunting; Lapland bunting; Pomarine skua; Long-tailed skua, and Shore lark

**Smith Island, Md., and Tangier Island, Va., and points between. USA: August 3-5, 2007** Seen on three-day kayaking trip with stops in Smith and Tangier islands: Osprey (many, if not hundreds); Black skimmer; White-rumped sandpiper; Pectoral sandpiper; Sanderling;

Turnstone; American oystercatcher; Seaside sparrow (many); Green heron; Tricoloured heron; Great blue heron; Yellow-crowned night heron; Black-crowned night heron; Snowy egret; Common egret; **CLAPPER RAIL** (new species for US); Royal tern; Arctic tern; Greater black-backed gull; Peregrine; Brown pelican (hundreds), and Glossy ibis

**Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland; Saturday-Wednesday, June, 2007** Grey heron; Gannet; Fulmar; Stonechat; Rock pipit; Kittiwake, and **CORNCRAKE** (new species for U.K.), quite the sighting in this country, in Glenarriff, Glens of Antrim, the first seen in the area for quite some time, although reintroduction efforts are under way and thorough

**Jamaica Bay, New York, NY USA: September 9, 2007** Two Pied-billed grebe; Hudsonian godwit; Wilson's phalarope, and Red-necked phalarope; both phalaropes in winter plumage and often passing across one another to provide contrast in identification. Western form of Willet and three Ruddy duck

**China (Beijing, Beijing area and Gobi Desert near to Dunhuang): September 2007** Azure-winged magpie; Bar-headed goose; Magpie; Black-browed reed warbler; Black-faced bunting; Chinese pond heron; Forest wagtail; Hen harrier; Large-billed crow; Manchurian reed-warbler; Olive-backed pipit; Pallas's grasshopper warbler; Red-billed blue magpie; Spotted dove; Tree sparrow; Vinous-throated parrotbill; Pied wagtail; Willow tit, and Yellow-throated warbler (three individuals)

**Bahamas: January 2008** Yellow-throated warbler; Bahama mockingbird; Bahama yellowthroat; Loggerhead kingbird; White-crowned pigeon; Bahama woodstar; Cuban emerald; Red-legged thrush, and Red-breasted merganser

**Prospect Park, New York, USA: February 3, 2008** Pintail (female) and Sharp-shinned hawk

#### **Jamaica: March 2008**

**Mandeville area**—Cattle egret; White-crowned pigeon; Black-throated blue warbler; Yellow-faced grassquit; Black-faced grassquit; Jamaican mango; Bananaquit; Greater Antillean grackle; Jamaican euphonia; Bahama mockingbird; Northern mockingbird; Jamaican elaenia; Jamaican crow; Smooth-billed ani; Turkey vulture, and American kestrel  
**Marshall's Pen, Mandeville**—Green heron; Red-billed streamertail; Jamaican tody; White-winged dove; Caribbean dove; Olive-throated parakeet; Jamaican woodpecker; American redstart; Sad flycatcher; White-chinned thrush; Rufous-throated solitaire; Arrowheaded warbler; Orangequit, and Jamaican oriole

**Black Morass River**—Osprey; Great egret; Snowy egret; Little blue heron; Saffron warbler; West Indian whistling duck, and Black-crowned night heron

**YS Falls**—Red-billed streamertail and Vervain hummingbird

**Port Kaiser road**—Antillean nighthawk

**Central Park, New York City, NY, USA: March 25, 2008** Eastern screech-owl (in hollow of tree at the junction of the 102nd St. Transverse and the Loop. on the inner side of the loop)

**Central Park, New York City, NY, USA: March 29, 2008** Immature Western tanager, a rarity for the park. It is considered that the bird is a male. It had the distinctive wing barring, but there was no red on the head at all. Also, a House finch and very attractive male Yellow-bellied sapsucker



**Tompkins Square Park, New York City, NY, USA: April 1, 2008** In a most unlikely spot, a male **SCOTT'S ORIOLE** (new species for US), which is the same bird that was in January and February often seen in nearby Union Square Park. It is decidedly more adult in plumage now (compared with photos posted of the Union Square Park bird), but as this is the first recorded incidence of this bird in New York State, it is certainly the same one. The head is black, but there is some mottling of black and brown on the nape that sometimes looks green. Two white wing bars are evident. It now has bugs to fit on but flew to yards from me as it tapped at sap scratchings that it had made in a small viburnum bush. Also, Eastern phoebe, a definite harbinger of Spring

**Honduras: April 2008**

**West Bay/Lighthouse Point**—White-crowned pigeon; Canivet's emerald; Yellow-bellied elaenia; Olive-sided flycatcher; Brown-crested flycatcher, and Grey hawk

**Carambola Gardens**—Yellow warbler; Summer tanager; Yucatán vireo; Yucatán woodpecker; Black-and-white warbler, and Green-breasted mango

**Oak Ridge**—Belted kingfisher; Magnificent frigatebird; Caspian tern, and Brown pelican

**Pollytilly Bight**—Ovenbird

**Pico Bonito**—Hooded warbler; Chestnut-sided warbler; Magnolia warbler; American redstart; Black-throated green warbler; Honduran emerald; Yellow-tailed oriole; Mealy amazon; White-crowned parrot; Brown jay; Lovely cotinga; White-collared manakin; Melodious blackbird; Wedge-billed woodcreeper; Guianan trogon; Piratic flycatcher; Masked tityra; Striped cuckoo; Clay-coloured thrush; Blue-headed vireo; Yellow-throated euphonia, and Black-cowled oriole

**Río Cangrejal**—Green kingfisher; Keel-billed toucan; Montezuma's oropendola; Black phoebe, and Grey-breasted martin

**Cuero y Salado**—Ringed kingfisher; Northern black-throated trogon; Great blue heron; Little blue heron; Boat-billed heron; Green heron; Bat falcon; Common black hawk; Fawn-throated foliage-gleaner; Prothonotary warbler; Golden-fronted woodpecker; White-whiskered puffbird; White-necked puffbird; Sandwich tern; Red-throated ant-tanager; Variable seedeater; American pygmy kingfisher; Rufescent tiger heron; Northern jacana, and Muscovy duck

**Útila**—Indigo bunting; Smooth-billed ani, and Townsend's warbler; (also, Spinner dolphins)

**Central Park, New York City, NY, USA: April 19, 2008** Prairie warbler; Yellow-rumped warbler; Blue-headed vireo, and Ruby-crowned kinglet (one flashed ruby crown)

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: April 20, 2008** Wood duck; Brown creeper; Blue-headed vireo; Pine warbler; Black-capped chickadee; Downy woodpecker; Northern flicker; 10 flyover Glossy ibis, and Palm warbler

**New England, USA: April 25-28, 2008** Eastern phoebe; Song sparrow; Black-capped chickadee; Goldfinch; Eider (Biddeford Pool and Popham Beach, Me.); Surf scoter (Biddeford Pool); Yellow-bellied sapsucker (Stockbridge, Mass.); Pileated woodpecker (Stockbridge, Mass.), and Osprey; also, (Atlantic grey seal: 30, Popham Beach); (American black bear: Hancock Shaker Village, Hancock, Mass.)

**Garden City, Long Island, NY, USA: May 6, 2008** (lunchtime) Great crested flycatcher; Baltimore oriole; Bronzed cowbird; Scarlet tanager; Northern parula, and Black-and-white warbler

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: May 11, 2008 CERULEAN WARBLER** (new species for US) was the highlight, seen in the Lookout, with excellent views; also seen were Black-and-white warbler; Northern parula; Black-throated green warbler (several); Black-throated blue warbler; Yellow-rumped warbler; American redstart; Ovenbird (several); Magnolia warbler; Chestnut-sided warbler, and Yellow warbler. Other species included Red-tailed hawk; Spotted sandpiper; Rose-breasted grosbeak; Downy woodpecker; Least flycatcher; White-eyed vireo; Grey-cheeked thrush; Monk parakeet, and Osprey

**Garden City, Long Island, NY, USA: May 13, 2008** (lunchtime) Great crested flycatcher; Baltimore oriole (male and female); Scarlet tanager; Northern parula; Eastern phoebe; Least flycatcher, and Chimney swift

**Garden City, Long Island, NY, USA: May 14, 2008** (lunchtime) Great crested flycatcher; Baltimore oriole (male and female); Eastern phoebe; Least flycatcher (at nest); Eastern kingbird; Canada warbler, Blackpoll warbler, Magnolia warbler, Warbling vireo; Ovenbird; Wood thrush; Brown-headed cowbird, and Black-throated blue warbler

**Central Park, New York, NY, USA: May 15, 2008** (afternoon) Baltimore oriole; Scarlet tanager; Northern parula; Black-and-white warbler; Black-throated blue warbler, Yellow-rumped warbler, American redstart; Ovenbird; Magnolia warbler; Chestnut-sided warbler; Red-tailed hawk; Rose-breasted grosbeak, Blackpoll warbler, Blue-headed vireo; Wood thrush; Veery; Swainson's thrush; White-breasted nuthatch; Ruby-throated hummingbird; Swamp sparrow; Chipping sparrow, and Northern waterthrush

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: May 17, 2008** Black-and-white warbler; Black-throated blue warbler; Yellow-rumped warbler; Ovenbird (several); Magnolia warbler; Rose-breasted grosbeak; Baltimore oriole; Scarlet tanager; Chimney swift; Canada warbler; Wood thrush; Veery; Swainson's thrush, and Eastern kingbird

**Garden City, Long Island, NY, USA: May 19, 2008** (overcast and windy) Great crested flycatcher; American redstart; Red-tailed hawk; Downy woodpecker, and Canada warbler

**Garden City, Long Island, NY, USA: May 20, 2008** (rain) Two Scarlet tanager

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: May 25, 2008** Blackburnian warbler; Chestnut-sided warbler; Tennessee warbler; Magnolia warbler; Canada warbler; American redstart; Black-throated green warbler; Orchard oriole (male and female); Black-capped chickadee; House finch; Cedar waxwing; Veery; Ovenbird, and Swainson's thrush

**Garden City, Long Island, NY, USA: May 27, 2008** Alder flycatcher

**Die Biesbosch, The Netherlands: June 30, 2008** Spoonbill and Water rail, neither species I have seen in the U.K.

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: Sept. 14, 2008** Blue-winged warbler; Grey catbird; Blue-grey gnatcatcher; Yellow-bellied sapsucker; Downy woodpecker; American redstart; Black-and-white warbler, and Canada warbler  
**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: Oct. 4, 2008** Northern waterthrush; Magnolia warbler; Ruby-crowned kinglet, and Red-tailed hawk

**Cherry Apartments, Garden City, NY, USA: Oct. 7, 2008** Sitting proud as day on the top of a small bush in the middle of a lawn in the middle of a planned community sat a **CLAYCOLOURED SPARROW** (new species for US)

**Northern Portugal: Oct. 11-14, 2008** Chiffchaff; Siskin; Green woodpecker; Great-spotted woodpecker; Black redstart; Robin; Bonelli's eagle; Red kite; Great tit, and Stonechat

**Garden City, NY, USA: Oct. 20, 2008** First Dark-eyed junco (three in total) of the season

**Somerset (Shapwick Marsh, Ham Wall, Chew Valley Lake, etc.): Dec. 4-7, 2008**  
Chiffchaff; Merlin; Marsh harrier; Sparrowhawk; Peregrine (near Lambourn, Wiltshire); Chaffinch; Bullfinch; Siskin; Goldcrest; Redpoll; Mute swan; Great-crested grebe; Little grebe; Tufted duck; Pochard; Mallard; Coot; Moorhen; Grey heron; Kingfisher; House sparrow; Dunnock; Starling—2 million in roosting; Black-headed sparrow; Herring gull; Rook; Jackdaw; Pheasant; Blackbird; Blue tit; Long-tailed tit; Goosander; Robin; Magpie, and Lapwing

**Kisenna Pond, Flushing, Queens, New York, USA: January 2, 2009** In a triangle of grass between a main road and an exit ramp was a **ACKLING GOOSE** (new species for US) and **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** (3rd record for New York State; first record for New York City; new species for US)

**Dominican Republic: February 2009**

**Parque Nacional de los Haïteses and Parque Nacional del Este**—Grey kingbird; Loggerhead kingbird; Red-footed booby; American kestrel; Hispaniolan woodpecker; Hispaniolan lizard cuckoo; Palmchat; White-cheeked pintail; Cattle egret; Common egret; Little blue heron; Bananaquit; Yellow-faced grassquit; Ridgway's hawk; Hispaniolan mango; Vervain hummingbird; Village weaver; Antillean palm swift; Caribbean martin; Broad-billed tody; Black-crowned palm-tanager; Grey-crowned palm-tanager; Limpkin; Magnificent frigatebird; Cave swallow; Osprey; Black-crowned night heron; Solitary sandpiper; Black-whiskered vireo; Prairie warbler; Black-throated blue warbler; Brown pelican; Turkey vulture; Smooth-billed ani; Greater Antillean grackle; Northern parula; American redstart, and Scaly-breasted munia (aka Nutmeg manakin)

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: April 5, 2009** Black-capped chickadee; Palm warbler; Pine warbler; Northern flicker; American kestrel, and Wood duck

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: April 12, 2009** Northern flicker; Palm warbler; Pine warbler; Hermit thrush; Blue-grey gnatcatcher; Osprey (with fish); Belted kingfisher, and Brown creeper

**Garden City Golf Club, Garden City, NY, USA: April 16, 2009** (lunch break) Red-bellied woodpecker; Northern flicker; Eastern phoebe, and Red-tailed hawk

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: April 16, 2009** Yellow-throated warbler at the Boat Pond, off 72nd St.; it's been here for six days now; my second U.S. record of this species

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: April 18-19, 2009** 43 species seen. Red-bellied woodpecker; Pine warbler; Palm warbler; Black-and-white warbler; Magnolia warbler (very,

very early); Louisiana waterthrush; Eastern phoebe; **AMERICAN BITTERN** (new species for US), high in tree over The Ravine; Dark-eye junco; Savannah sparrow; Swamp sparrow; White-throated sparrow, and Hermit thrush

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: April 25-26, 2009** A fantastic weekend, with 53 species seen. Reported Townsend's warbler, but not seen by me. Eastern towhee; Yellow-throated warbler (my 3rd US record); Prairie warbler; Hooded warbler; Prothonotary warbler; Orchard oriole; Baltimore oriole; Hairy woodpecker; Ruby-throated hummingbird; Northern house wren; Golden-crowned kinglet; Black-throated green warbler; Yellow warbler; Pine warbler; Palm warbler; Black-and-white warbler; Bronzed cowbird; Merlin; Tufted duck; Grey catbird, and Blue-grey gnatcatcher

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: April 27, 2009** Evening birding, and a little disappointing, except for the Lookout area. Blue-headed vireo and Yellow-throated warbler, both at eye level; Eastern Towhee and many of those seen on my last outing, except for the three underlined A-listers

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: April 29, 2009** Evening birding and on a chillier day than the previous three of heatwave. Again, a little disappointing, except for Blue-headed vireo and Blue-grey gnatcatcher, until right at the end when I saw two Brown thrasher and two male Indigo bunting low in a bush

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: May 2, 2009** A grey, drizzly morning, but the birding was good. Veery; Indigo Bunting (only one and in the same spot as on April 29, 2009); Northern waterthrush; Common yellowthroat; two Scarlet tanager; Chestnut-sided warbler; Blackburnian warbler; Black-throated green warbler; Black-throated blue warbler; Wood Thrush; Hermit thrush; Ovenbird, and Red-eyed vireo

**Riverside Park, New York City, NY, USA: May 4, 2009** The dire weather continues, but a report came in of an increasingly rare species, so I twitched it after work. In an oak tree opposite 115th St. and Riverside Drive was a **GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER** (new species for US). It flew to an adjacent tree and for five minutes was frantically tugging at seeds. It gave two decent views that allowed for identification before flying off and not returning

**Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands: May 2009** Pied-billed grebe; Red-footed booby; Magnificent frigatebird; Green heron; Great blue heron; Great egret; Tricoloured heron; West Indian whistling duck; Purple gallinule; American coot; Black-necked stilt; Spotted sandpiper; Turnstone; Royal tern; Cuban amazon; White-crowned pigeon; Zenaida dove; White-winged dove; Common ground dove; Caribbean dove; Rose-throated parrot; Smooth-billed ani; West Indian woodpecker (*Melanerpes supercilialis caymanensis* subspecies); Loggerhead kingbird; Eastern wood pewee; Purple martin; Swallow; Northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos orpheus* subspecies); Bananaquit; Vitelline warbler (endemic); Greater Antillean grackle, and Western spindalis

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: May 23-25, 2009** **ARCADIAN FLYCATCHER** (new species for US); Northern waterthrush; Magnolia warbler; Red-tailed hawk; Green heron; Blackpoll warbler; American redstart; Yellow-rumped warbler; Baltimore oriole; Orchard oriole; Indigo bunting; Tennessee warbler; six Tricoloured heron flying over; Scarlet tanager, and Yellow-breasted flycatcher

**California: June 4-13, 2009** **WESTERN GREBE** (new species for US); **AMERICAN AVOCET** (new species for US); Brown pelican; Double-crested cormorant; **PELAGIC CORMORANT** (new species for US); Green heron; Canada goose; **CINNAMON TEAL** (new species for US); Mallard; Turkey vulture; Red-tailed hawk; Killdeer; Black-necked stilt; Spotted sandpiper; **WESTERN GULL** (new species for US); **CALIFORNIA GULL** (new species for US); Caspian tern; Mourning dove; Eurasian collared dove; **BAND-TAILED PIGEON** (new species for US); **LESSER NIGHTHAWK** (new species for US); **COMMON POORWILL** (new species for US); **BLACK SWIFT** (new species for US); **WHITE-FRONTED SWIFT** (new species for US); **CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD** (new species for US); Hairy woodpecker; **ACORN WOODPECKER** (new species for US); **NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER** (new species for US); **WHITE-HEADED WOODPECKER** (new species for US); **WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER** (new species for US); **RED-HEADED SAPSUCKER** (new species for US); **CALIFORNIA QUAIL** (new species for US); **WOODHOUSE'S SCRUB-JAY** (new species for US); Steller's jay; R raven; Violet-green swallow; Swallow; **WESTERN WOOD PEWEE** (new species for US); Brown creeper; **PYGMY NUTHATCH** (new species for US); **WESTERN FLYCATCHER** (new species for US); **BLACK PHEOBE** (new species for US); **SAY'S PHEOBE** (new species for US); **CHESTNUT-BACKED CHICKADEE** (new species for US); **WRENTIT** (new species for US); **MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD** (new species for US); **WESTERN BLUEBIRD** (new species for US); **AMERICAN PIPIT** (new species for US); Northern house wren; American robin; Northern mockingbird; Nashville warbler; **McGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER** (new species for US); Western tanager; **BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK** (new species for US); **SPOTTED TOWHEE** (new species for US); **SAGEBRUSH SPARROW** (new species for US); **BREWER'S SPARROW** (new species for US); Rufous-headed sparrow; Dark-eyed junco; Bullock's oriole; **WESTERN MEADOWLARK** (new species for US); **TRICOLOURED BLACKBIRD** (new species for US); Red-winged blackbird; Brewer's blackbird; Great-tailed grackle, and House sparrow

**Svalbard/Spitsbergen, Norway: August 21-28, 2009** Eider; Little auk; Brunnich's guillemot; Rock ptarmigan; Puffin; Great skua; Long-tailed skua; Arctic skua; Glaucous gull; Sabine's gull; Fulmar; Kittiwake; Snow bunting; Pink-footed goose and Barnacle goose

**Belize: October 17-23, 2009** Brown pelican; Neotropic cormorant; Anhinga; Magnificent frigatebird; Bare-throated tiger heron; Great blue heron; Great egret; Snowy egret; Little blue heron; Tricoloured heron; Cattle egret; Agami heron; Yellow-crowned night-heron; American white ibis; Roseate spoonbill; Black vulture; Turkey vulture; Black-bellied whistling-duck; Osprey; Snail kite; Black-collared hawk; Roadside hawk; Bat falcon; Plain chachalaca; Limpkin; Black-necked stilt; Northern jacana; Laughing gull; Pale-vented pigeon; Ruddy ground-dove; Olive-throated parakeet; Brown-hooded parrot; White-crowned parrot; White-fronted amazon; Red-lore amazon; Mottled owl; Parauque; Long-tailed hermit; Stripe-throated hermit; Canivet's emerald; Rufous-tailed hummingbird; Black-headed trogon; Slaty-tailed trogon; Blue-capped motmot; Belted kingfisher; American pygmy kingfisher; Keel-billed toucan; Golden-fronted woodpecker; Lineated woodpecker; Pale-billed woodpecker; Streak-headed woodcreeper; Black-faced antthrush; Tropical pewee; Vermillion flycatcher; Bright-rumped Attila; Dusky-capped flycatcher; Great crested flycatcher; Great kiskadee; Boat-billed flycatcher; Social flycatcher; Tropical kingbird; Fork-tailed flycatcher; White-eyed vireo; Yellow-throated vireo; Red-eyed vireo; Lesser greenlet; Green jay; Brown jay; Mangrove swallow; Cabanis's wren; Wood thrush; Clay-coloured thrush; Grey catbird; Tropical mockingbird; Tennessee warbler; Nashville warbler; Magnolia

warbler; Black-throated blue warbler; Black-throated green warbler; Yellow-rumped warbler; Yellow-throated warbler; Black-and-white warbler; Prothonotary warbler; Ovenbird; Northern waterthrush; Louisiana waterthrush; Common yellowthroat; Hooded warbler; Red-throated ant-tanager; Summer tanager; Blue-grey tanager; Yellow-winged tanager; Yellow-throated euphonia; Slate-coloured seedeater; Morelet's seedeater; Variable seedeater; Green-backed sparrow; Black-headed saltator; Rose-breasted grosbeak; Red-winged blackbird; Great-tailed grackle; Melodious blackbird, and Montezuma oropendola

**Central Park, New York, New York, USA: November 21, 2009 GREAT HORNED OWL** (new species in US) in the Ramble near the Rustic Shelter

**Caribbean (St. Lucia/Barbados/Martinique/U.S. Virgin Islands/Bahamas): March 19-24, 2010** Brown booby; Magnificent frigatebird; Bananaquit; Bahama mockingbird; Bahama mockingbird; Western spindalis; American kestrel; Osprey; Turkey vulture; Brown pelican; Great blue heron; Cattle egret; White-cheeked pintail; American oystercatcher; Black-necked stilt; Sanderling; Laughing gull; Zenaida dove; Key West quail-dove; Burrowing owl; Green-breasted mango; Grey kingbird; Cuban pewee; Caribbean martin; Pearly-eyed thrasher; Palm warbler, and Grey trembler

**Turkey: April 2-11, 2010** Buzzard; Marsh harrier; Levant sparrowhawk; Lesser kestrel; Peregrine; White stork; Ring-necked parakeet; Grey heron; Little owl; Common hoopoe; Common magpie; Great tit; Goldfinch; Chiffchaff; Coal tit; Sombre tit; Desert lark; Crested lark; Whinchat; Wheatear; Willow sparrow; Reed bunting, and White-winged snowfinch

**Garden City Golf Club: May 4, 2010** (lunch break) Common yellowthroat; Ovenbird; Pine warbler; Grey catbird; Hairy woodpecker; Eastern kingbird; Rose-breasted grosbeak, and Hermit thrush

**Garden City Golf Club, Wednesday, May 5, 2010** (lunch break) Yellow-rumped warbler; Black-throated blue warbler; Ovenbird; Blackpoll warbler, and Black-and-white warbler

**Garden City Golf Club: May 7, 2010** (lunch break) Northern parula; American redstart, and Red-bellied woodpecker

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: May 9, 2010** Windy evening with a chill and mostly grey light. Two Carolina wren; Northern house wren; Magnolia warbler; Eastern kingbird; American redstart; Black-capped chickadee; Hermit thrush; Ovenbird, and Eastern towhee

**Central Park, Wednesday: May 12, 2010** Cloudy, bad light, grey, drizzle. Hermit thrush; Ovenbird; Louisiana waterthrush; Northern waterthrush; Common yellowthroat; American redstart; Hooded warbler (female); Nashville warbler; Blue-winged warbler; Canada warbler; Black-and-white warbler,; and Blue jay

**Garden City Golf Club: May 13, 2010** (lunch break) Northern parula; Magnolia warbler; Yellow-rumped warbler; Black-and-white warbler; Chipping sparrow; Baltimore oriole, and Hermit thrush

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: May 14, 2010** (late afternoon) Black-throated green warbler; Dark-eyed junco; Cedar waxwing; Chimney swift, and Veery

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA; May 15, 2010** (7 a.m.-1 p.m.) Glorious day, 59 species in total. Blackburnian warbler; Cape May warbler; Least flycatcher; Northern flicker; Red-bellied woodpecker; Eastern wood pewee; Bay-breasted warbler; Mourning warbler; Green heron; Red-tailed hawk; Ruby-throated hummingbird; Nashville warbler; Tennessee warbler; Chestnut-sided warbler; Black-and-white warbler; Northern parula; Yellow-rumped warbler; Black-throated blue warbler; Ovenbird; Swainson's thrush; Grey-cheeked thrush; Canada warbler; White-eyed vireo; Red-eyed vireo; Scarlet tanager; Baltimore oriole; Yellow-breasted flycatcher; Great crested flycatcher; Magnolia warbler; Blackpoll warbler; Wilson's warbler; American redstart; Common yellowthroat; Louisiana waterthrush; Northern waterthrush; Brown-headed cowbird; Indigo bunting; Yellow-bellied flycatcher; White-throated sparrow; White-breasted nuthatch, and Yellow-throated vireo

**Central Park, New York: May 15, 2010** (8 a.m.–1 p.m.) Canada warbler; Bay-breasted warbler; Cape May warbler; Black-and-white warbler; Black-throated blue warbler; Ruby-throated hummingbird; Magnolia warbler; Yellow-rumped warbler; Canada warbler; Black-crowned night heron; American redstart; Northern parula; Northern waterthrush; Ovenbird; Common Yellowthroat; Red-eyed vireo; Blackburnian warbler; Baltimore oriole; Great northern diver; Rose-breasted grosbeak; Scarlet tanager; Eastern wood pewee; Swainson's thrush, and Solitary sandpiper

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: May 22, 2010** (early afternoon) Olive-sided flycatcher; Canada warbler; Semipalmated sandpiper; Red-winged blackbird; Swainson's thrush; Blackpoll warbler; Common yellowthroat, and Magnolia warbler

**Wilton and Branchville, Conn, and Doodletown, New York: May 27, 2010** Swamp sparrow; Song sparrow; Black-crowned night-heron; White-breasted nuthatch; Wild turkey; Raven; Louisiana waterthrush; Blue-grey gnatcatcher; Eastern phoebe, and Eastern wood pewee

**Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Broad Channel, Queens, New York: May 30, 2010** Osprey; Great egret; Snowy egret; Yellow-crowned night heron; Glossy ibis; Black duck; Forster's tern; Laughing gull; Willet; Dunlin; Sanderling; Semipalmated plover; Grey catbird; Yellow warbler; Great crested flycatcher; Song sparrow; Tree swallow; Cedar waxwing; Black-throated blue warbler; Eastern towhee; Wood thrush; Oystercatcher; Great blue heron, and Short-billed dowitcher

**Curaçao: June 2-6, 2010** American kestrel; Bananaquit; Bare-eyed pigeon; Black-faced grassquit; Blue-tailed emerald; Brown-crested flycatcher; Brown pelican; Brown-throated parakeet; Crested bobwhite; Crested caracara; Common ground dove; Eared dove; Green heron; Groove-billed ani; Magnificent frigatebird; Neotropical cormorant; Northern scrub flycatcher; Osprey; Scaly-naped pigeon Ruby-topaz hummingbird; Rufous-collared sparrow; Saffron finch; Scaly-naped pigeon; Small-billed elaenia; Tropical mockingbird; Troupial; White-tipped dove; Yellow oriole, and Yellow warbler

**Northern coast and Tayrona National Park, Colombia: August 2010** Bicoloured wren; Brown-throated parakeet; Little blue heron; Russet-throated puffbird; Southern nightingale-wren; White-tailed starfrontlet; Long-tailed hermit; Mouse-coloured tyrannulet; Zone-tailed hawk; Chestnut piculet; Southern lapwing, and Crimson-crested woodpecker

**Aruba: August 2010** American kestrel; Bananaquit; Bare-eyed pigeon; Black-faced grassquit; Black-necked stilt; Brown-throated parakeet; Burrowing owl; Green heron; Groove-billed ani; Magnificent frigatebird; Neotropical cormorant; Rufous-collared sparrow; Tropical mockingbird; Troupial; White-tipped dove; Yellow oriole, and Whimbrel  
**Grenada: September 2010** Antillean crested hummingbird; Grenada flycatcher; Cocoa thrush, and Broad-winged hawk

**Ebber Gorge and Cheddar Reservoir, Somerset: Nov. 26, 2010** Wigeon; Mute swan; Tufted duck; Coot; Moorhen; Great-crested grebe; Little grebe; Pochard; Nuthatch; Goldcrest; Bullfinch; Treecreeper; Raven; Buzzard; Kestrel; Red kite; Carrion crow; Rook; Goldcrest; Great-spotted woodpecker; Greenfinch; Chaffinch; Blue tit; Great tit; Long-tailed tit; Pheasant, and Fieldfare

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: Dec. 11, 2010** In the Maintenance Yard area of central Park, a Varied thrush, second for me and certainly the first on the East Coast. This bird has been here for a week, and it stayed for approximately two weeks afterwards. Great views in good sunshine

**Martha's Vineyard, Mass., USA: March 24-27, 2011** Northern cardinal; Common grackle; Starling; House sparrow; Mallard; White-winged scoter; Shore lark (50+); Savannah sparrow (six); Eider; American black duck; Goldeneye (four); **NORTHERN HARRIER** (new species for US); Osprey (four, and the first week they came back, apparently); Great egret; Red-tailed hawk; Merlin; Double-crested cormorant; Bufflehead; Song sparrow; White-breasted nuthatch; Blue jay; American goldfinch; Great northern diver; Hooded merganser; Red-breasted merganser (many); Greater black-backed gull; Ring-billed gull; Herring gull; Oystercatcher; Sanderling; Grey plover; Dunlin; Greater scaup; Black-capped chickadee; Northern flicker; Red-bellied woodpecker; American crow; Mute swan; Carolina wren (three); Northern house wren, and Mourning dove

**Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, St. Louis County, Mo., USA: April 6, 2011** Peregrine; Red-tailed hawk; Cooper's hawk; **WILSON'S SNIPE** (new species for US); Killdeer; American goldfinch; Lesser yellowlegs; Greater yellowlegs; Brown thrasher; Blue-winged teal; Grey heron, and Shoveler

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: April 17, 2011** A little windy, but sunny. First day of birding, in the late afternoon, in new spring-migration year. Hermit thrush; Brown creeper; Pine warbler; Palm warbler; Common yellowthroat; Northern parula. Also, Peregrine flying over edge of Green Wood Cemetery

**Havana, Viñales, and Trinidad, Cuba: April 21-May 1, 2011** Cuban trogon; Cuban tody; West Indian woodpecker; Cuban pewee; Cuban bullfinch; Cuban emerald; Cuban green woodpecker; Northern mockingbird; Giant kingbird; Loggerhead kingbird; Killdeer; Cuban martin; Turkey vulture; Black vulture; Red-tailed hawk; Red-shouldered blackbird; Cuban grassquit; Red-winged blackbird; Tawny-shouldered blackbird; American kestrel; Western spindalis; Red-legged thrush; Common black hawk; Grey kingbird; Yellow warbler; White-collared swift; Cuban blackbird; Cattle egret; Great egret; Green heron; Tricoloured heron; Great blue heron; Black-necked stilt; Least grebe; Brown pelican; Neotropic cormorant; Magnificent frigatebird; Little blue heron; Snowy egret; Helmeted guineafowl; Purple gallinule; Laughing gull; Cuban crow; Yellow-throated vireo, and Great Antillean grackle



**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: May 8, 2011** 66 species total, including 21 warblers. American redstart (male and female); Bay-breasted warbler (on Lookout Hill, two paths above Wellhouse); Black-and-white warbler; Black-throated blue warbler (male and female); Black-throated green warbler (male and female); Blue-winged warbler (near Lullwater Bridge); Cape May warbler (saw four; one birder saw five and heard eight); Chestnut-sided warbler; Common yellowthroat; Hooded warbler (west of Wellhouse; for 15 minutes or so in full view on path); Louisiana waterthrush (Lower Pool); Magnolia warbler; Nashville warbler; Northern parula (male and female); Northern waterthrush (five); Ovenbird; Pine warbler (Quaker Cemetery); Tennessee warbler (Quaker Cemetery); Worm-eating warbler (immediately south of Quaker Cemetery and, later, west side of Lookout Hill; probably same bird); Yellow warbler, and Yellow-rumped warbler. Other species were Black-capped chickadee; Blue-grey gnatcatcher; Eastern kingbird; Great crested flycatcher; Green heron; Hermit thrush. Northern house wren; Indigo bunting (male); Northern flicker; Northern oriole; Northern rough-winged swallow; Peregrine; Pine siskin; White-breasted nuthatch; Red-eyed vireo; Red-tailed hawk; Rose-breasted grosbeak; Scarlet tanager; Spotted sandpiper; Veery, and Wood thrush

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA; May 14, 2011** 50 species total; harder birding today, leaden light. Northern parula; Yellow warbler; Chestnut-sided warbler; Magnolia warbler; Black-throated blue warbler; Black-throated green warbler; Yellow-rumped warbler; Cape May warbler; Blackpoll warbler; Black-and-white warbler; American redstart; Ovenbird; Common yellowthroat; Yellow-breasted chat (second one ever; first in well over 10 years); Red-eyed vireo; Warbling vireo; Blue-headed vireo; Yellow-throated vireo; Orchard oriole (male and female); Baltimore oriole; Scarlet tanager; Peregrine; Red-tailed hawk; Chimney swift; Veery; Rose-breasted grosbeak (male and female); Hairy woodpecker, and Downy woodpecker

**Grand Canyon, Ariz., USA: May 21-23, 2011** Before, during and after my rim-to-rim-to-rum run across and back across the Grand Canyon with my friend Alex Mittnacht—American crow; American dipper; Black phoebe; **BLACK-THROATED SPARROW** (new species for US); Black vulture; Broad-tailed hummingbird. **CANYON WREN** (new species for US); **CASSIN'S VIREO** (new species for US); **CLARK'S NUTCRACKER** (new species for US); Raven; **GRACE'S WARBLER** (new species for US); **LUCY'S WARBLER** (new species for US); **PIÑON JAY** (new species for US); Pygmy nuthatch; Say's phoebe; Spotted towhee; Steller's jay; Vermilion flycatcher; Western bluebird; Western sandpiper; Western scrub-jay; Western tanager; **WHITE-THROATED SWIFT** (new species for US); **YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD** (new species for US), and Yellow-rumped warbler

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: May 28, 2011** Very quiet, marking the end of the season. Cedar waxwing (four); male Orchard oriole; Northern waterthrush, and Red-eyed vireo

**Rockefeller State Park, Sleepy Hollow, NY, USA: June 9, 2011** Wonderful views of perched, singing Kentucky warbler; also, Blue-winged warbler and several Rufous-sided towhee

**St. Kitts and Nevis: July 13-July 16, 2011** Magnificent frigatebird; Brown pelican; Little tern; Kentish (Snowy) plover; American kestrel; Red-winged hawk; Green-throated carib; Bridled quail-dove; Grey kingbird; Yellow-crowned night-heron; Great-blue heron; Black-necked stilt; Purple gallinule; Cattle egret; Turnstone; Snowy egret; Semipalmated plover;

Sanderling; Zenaida dove; Common ground dove; Scaly-naped pigeon; Antillean crested hummingbird; Lesser Antillean flycatcher; Caribbean martin; Tropical mockingbird; Scaly-breasted thrasher; Palm warbler; Black-faced grassquit, and Lesser Antillean bullfinch

**Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY, USA; July 31, 2011** An absolute star has come to American soil for only its second-ever recording, a **GREY-HOODED GULL** (new species for US), sitting on a lamppost or on the beach and occasionally squabbling with Laughing gull. Many birders—to the amusement of beachgoers—including one who had flown in from Chicago. Brilliant views

**Manitou/Garrison, Hudson Valley, NY, USA: Sept. 4, 2011** Red-bellied woodpecker; Downy woodpecker; Hairy woodpecker; Pileated woodpecker; White-breasted nuthatch; Red-shouldered hawk; Tennessee warbler; Black-throated green warbler; Black-capped chickadee, and Red-eyed vireo

**Providenciales and North Caicos, Turks & Caicos Islands: Oct. 7-12, 2011** Black-winged stilt; White-crowned pigeon; White-cheeked pintail; Royal tern; Caribbean elaenia; American kestrel; Tricoloured heron; Yellow-crowned night heron; Black-crowned night heron; Green heron; American flamingo; Yellow-billed cuckoo (probably at least 40 on North Caicos alone); West Indian whistling duck; Osprey; Kentish plover; Bahama woodstar (on North Caicos); Eastern wood pewee; Grey kingbird; Bahama mockingbird; Yellow-throated warbler (on my balcony), and Brown pelican

**Central Park, New York City, NY, USA: Nov. 25, 2011** Went to see the reported Black-throated grey warbler, but to no avail; I did see an Orange-crowned warbler, though, low to the ground, flitting and feeding around a bush

**Central Park, New York City, NY, USA: Dec. 28, 2011** Barred owl, only my second, with great views in the Pinetum area alongside the Great Lawn

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: Dec. 30, 2011** Sharp-shinned hawk and Great blue heron

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY, USA: Jan. 2, 2012** Downy woodpecker; Hairy woodpecker; red-bellied woodpecker; White-breasted nuthatch; House finch; Pied grebe; Hooded merganser, and Red-tailed hawk

**Central Japan: Feb. 11-19, 2012** American wigeon; Mallard; Eastern Spot-billed duck; Shoveler; Pochard; Tufted duck; Goosander; Little grebe; Grey heron; Little egret; Japanese cormorant; Cormorant; Merlin; Black-eared kite; Golden eagle; Turnstone (wintering). Japanese pygmy woodpecker; Great spotted woodpecker; Bull-headed shrike; Eurasian jay; Azure-winged magpie; Carrion crow; Large-billed crow; Coal tit; Varied tit; Long-tailed tit; Brown-eared bulbul; Red-billed leiothrix; Eurasian nuthatch; White-cheeked starling; Dusky thrush; Daurian redstart; Brown dipper; Eurasian tree sparrow; Pied wagtail, and Japanese wagtail

**American Museum of Natural History, Manhattan, New York, USA: Feb. 28, 2012** Rufous hummingbird seen at feeder (the bird has miraculously wintered in New York City, in a mild winter; this being my first Eastern Seaboard sighting of this species) at 4:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.; fed at feeder, perched on nearby branches and sallied once into the air

**High Weald Way, Kent/Sussex: April 15, 2012** One Yellowhammer near Groombridge, followed by five or six along a hedgerow near Frant

**Palazzo, Marche, Italy: July 2012** Short-toed snake eagle

**Shapwick Marsh, Somerset: September 1, 2012** **LITTLE EGRET** (new species for the U.K.) and **OSPREY** (new species for U.K.). (Also, Slow worm and Adder)

**Hyde Park, London: February 2, 2013** First for Central London, two Bearded tit; also, Fieldfare and Redwing

**Ethiopia: March 23-April 6, 2013** (some birds seen in more than one location)

**Addis Ababa**—Wattled ibis; Black kite; Hooded vulture; Lappet-faced vulture; African paradise flycatcher; Speckled mousebird; Grey-headed batis; Olive sunbird; Tacazze sunbird; Brown-rumped seedeater, and Streaky seedeater

**Lalibela and Lalibela Hudad**—Bearded vulture; Brown snake-eagle; African hawk-eagle; White-backed vulture; Rüppell's griffon; Fox kestrel; Chestnut-naped spurfowl; Moorland francolin; Speckled pigeon; White-collared pigeon; Western turtle-dove; Ring-necked dove; African mourning dove; Black-winged lovebird; Mottled swift; Little bee-eater; Blue-breasted bee-eater; Blue-cheeked bee-eater; Cinnamon-chested bee-eater; Hemprich's hornbill; Abyssinian ground hornbill; African grey woodpecker; Red-capped lark; Rufous-naped lark; African pied wagtail; Rüppell's black chat; Sombre rock chat; Mocking cliff chat; Black cap (male and female); Lesser whitethroat; Groundscraper thrush; Winding cisticola; Brown parisoma; White-backed black tit; Variable sunbird; Red-chested sunbird; Marico sunbird; Black-headed oriole; Fan-tailed raven; Red-winged starling; White-billed starling; Greater blue-eared starling; Rüppell's starling; Northern grey-headed sparrow; Socotra sparrow; Black-headed weaver; Little weaver; Baglafaecht weaver; Red-cheeked cordon-bleu, and Ethiopian siskin

**Great Rift Valley**—Ostrich; Cormorant; Reed cormorant; Great white pelican; Pink-backed pelican; Black-headed heron; Hamerkop; Marabou; White-faced whistling-duck; Maccoa duck; Yellow-billed duck; African fish-eagle; Red-knobbed coot; Spur-winged lapwing; Grey go-away bird; African palm swift; Pied kingfisher; Woodland kingfisher; Von der Decken's hornbill; Red-rumped swallow; Thrush nightingale; Olive thrush; Long-tailed fiscal; Southern fiscal; White-browed sparrow-weaver, and Red-eyed dove

**Bale Mountains/Harena Forest**—African sacred ibis; Egyptian goose; Spur-winged goose; Blue-winged goose; Ruddy shelduck; Augur buzzard; Tawny eagle; Steppe eagle; Rouget's rail; Spot-breasted lapwing; Grey-hooded gull; African olive pigeon; Blue-naped mousebird; Silvery-cheeked hornbill; Thekla lark; Abyssinian longclaw; Common bulbul; Green-backed camaroptera; Tropical boubou; Thick-billed raven;, and Yellow-bellied waxbill

**Awash National Park**—African harrier-hawk; Crested francolin; Helmeted guineafowl; Arabian bustard; Kori bustard; Wood sandpiper; Laughing dove; White-rumped swift; Little swift; Olive bee-eater; White-winged cliff chat; White-headed buffalo-weaver, and Rosy-patched bush-shrike

**Other areas**—Little egret; White stork (near to Sof Omar Caves); White-cheeked turaco (near to Gelesso); Black-billed wood hoopoe (on the road to Dinsho); Mosque swallow (village of Sheikh Hussein); Abyssinian white-eye (Harer); Bristle-crowned starling (Sof Omar Caves); Shelley's starling (on the road to Harer); Golden-breasted starling (near to the Wabe Shebele River); Chestnut sparrow (Harer); Yellow-spotted bush sparrow (Harer), and Red-billed firefinch (Harer)

(Also, Oryx; Boror's reedbuck; Warthog; Olive baboon; Geleda baboon; Bale monkey; Vervet monkey; Colobus monkey; Mountain nyala; Lesser kudu; Ethiopian wolf; Abyssinian hare; Giant mole rat; Black-backed jackal; Salt's dik dike; Camel, and Hippopotamus)

**Dulwich Park, London: April 15, 2013** In the American Garden, numerous Willow warbler; Greenfinch; Long-tailed tit; Coal tit; Blue tit; Great tit; Ring-necked parakeet, and male **PIED FLYCATCHER** (new species for U.K.), I believe the first to be seen in London in 2013

**Rome, Italy: April 25-May 3, 2013** Sardinian warbler

**Hampshire: May 4-6, 2013 New Forest**—Cuckoo; Stonechat, and Skylark  
**Buckler's Hard**—Curlew  
**Ovington**—Grey wagtail

**Weeting Heath, Norfolk / Lakenheath Fen, Suffolk: May 26, 2013**

**Weeting Heath**—**STONE CURLEW** (new species for U.K.) and Green woodpecker  
**Lakenheath Fen**—**EURASIAN CRANE** (new species for UK); male **RED-FOOTED FALCON** (new species for U.K.); **CETTI'S WARBLER** (new species for U.K.); Cuckoo; Bittern; Reed bunting; Greater spotted woodpecker; Sedge warbler; Garden warbler; Lesser whitethroat; Whitethroat; Hobby (five or six); Great crested grebe; Linnet; Bearded tit; Buzzard; Rook; Jackdaw  
**Brandon**—Mandarin duck

**Peckham Rye Park, London: June 3, 2013** Female **LONG-TAILED DUCK** (new species for UK) and about 10 feet away in the most unlikely spot, a very small pond in an ornamental garden in a suburban park

**Chew Valley Lake, Somerset: December 7, 2013** **BLACK-THROATED DIVER** (new species for U.K.); two **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** (new species for U.K.); another Long-tailed duck; Red-breasted merganser; Goosander; Common gull; Teal; Mistle thrush; Little egret; Redwing; Grey wagtail; Little grebe; Great-crested grebe, and Cormorant with a fishing hook through its beak on which was hooked a fish

**Sydenham Woods, London: December 19, 2013** **FIRECREST** (new species for U.K.), just up the hill from my home

**Cleveland, Ohio: January 5-11, 2014** Bitterly cold, with two days being -33°C. **SNOWY OWL** (new species for US); **GLAUCOUS GULL** (new species for US); **ICELAND GULL** (new species for US); Thayer's gull, a new subspecies for me, of Iceland gull); possibly 3,000 Red-breasted merganser; several hundred Goosander, and Rough-legged buzzard

**Broadmead Brook, near Marshfield, Gloucestershire: February 22, 2014** **RED-FLANKED BLUETAIL** (new species for U.K.), most likely, male, with blue seemingly increasing along rump and back; yellowhammer, and Raven. (Also, at the Folly Farm Centre, Stowey, my first time seeing Badger, at dusk, one dominant male emerging from sett for one-minute merely to, seemingly, mark its territory before disappearing back underground

**Pangbourne and Goring/Streatley, Berkshire and Oxfordshire: April 18-19, 2014** Red kite; Kestrel; Reed bunting, Lapwing; first Swallow of year; Cuckoo (heard, first of year);

Treecreeper; Nuthatch; Red-legged partridge; Chiffchaff, and Blackcap. (Also, Hare; Grass snake; and Slow worm)

**Skye, Inner Hebrides, and Fortingall area, mainland Scotland: July 5-19, 2014**

**Skye**—Greenshank; Common sandpiper; Raven; **WHITE-TAILED EAGLE** (new species for U.K.); **GOLDEN EAGLE** (new species for U.K.); Gannet; Fulmar; **RED-THROATED DIVER** (new species for U.K.); **BLACK GUILLEMOT** (new species for U.K.); Guillemot; **RAZORBILL** (new species for U.K.); Cormorant; **SHAG** (new species for U.K.); Grey wagtail; Pied wagtail; female Cuckoo; Oystercatcher; Wheatear; House martin; Jackdaw; Hooded crow; Skylark; Grey heron; Greater black-backed gull; Lesser black-backed gull; Common gull; Common tern; Arctic tern; Chaffinch; Goldfinch; Rock pipit; Meadow pipit; Water pipit; Whinchat; Stonechat; Swallow; Redpoll; Twite; **KITTIWAKE** (new species for U.K.); Corn bunting; Kestrel; Buzzard; Wren, and Rock dove. (Also: flowers: Common spotted orchid; Northern marsh orchid; Bog asphodel, and Lesser heath orchid. Animals: Common seal; Grey seal; Red deer; Six-spotted burnet, and Common rustic)

**Fortingall**—Raven; Grey wagtail; Pied wagtail; Oystercatcher; Wheatear; House martin; Jackdaw; Hooded crow; Skylark; Meadow pipit; Whinchat; Stonechat; Swallow; Buzzard; Wren; Pheasant; Common partridge; Treecreeper; Red-legged partridge; Goldcrest; Greater spotted woodpecker; Eurasian siskin, and **CROSSBILL** (new species for U.K.). (Also: animals: Red deer; Red squirrel; Pine marten (in woods at start of Glen Lyon))

**Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, USA August 8-20, 2014**

**Kentucky and Tennessee**—Eastern meadowlark; Indigo bunting, and Savannah sparrow. (Also, Bison and Elk)

**Ohio**—Cedar waxwing; Solitary sandpiper; Tricoloured heron, and Green heron

**Alexandra Palace, London: August 31, 2014 WRYNECK** (new species for U.K.); Redstart, Spotted flycatcher, Chiffchaff; Whitethroat, and Whinchat

**Dunbar to North Berwick, East Lothian, and Edinburgh, Scotland: December 6, 2014**

**ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** (new species for U.K.); Goldeneye; red-breasted merganser; Goosander; Teal; Eider; Stonechat; Wren; Yellowhammer; Goldcrest; Goldfinch; Chaffinch; Kittiwake; Purple sandpiper; Curlew; Lapwing; Redshank; Greenshank; Knot; Chiffchaff; Grey wagtail; Oystercatcher; Ringed plover; Rook; Kestrel; Pheasant, and Little grebe

**Hydra, Greece: October 2015** Blue-rock thrush

**Somerset: December 12-14, 2014 GREAT EGRET** (new species for U.K.); Little egret (five at Chew Valley Lake); Kingfisher; Goosander; Red-breasted merganser; Bittern; Goldeneye; Sparrowhawk; Buzzard, and Red-breasted goose, considered likely escape or from a feral population

**Cleveland, Ohio: January, 2015** Bitterly cold, but not as bad as January 2014, in the low - 20s°C. **REDPOLL** (new species for US), at lighthouse at Wendy Park, Cleveland. Also, Snowy owl, with an excellent view on top of mast near Mentor-on-the-Lake by Lake Erie

**Malta, Gozo and Camino, Malta: May 7-12, 2015** Blue rock thrush; Sardinian warbler; Spectacled warbler; Spanish sparrow; Spotted flycatcher, and Icterine warbler in mist netting station on Comino

**Somerset Levels: May 15-16, 2015** Great egret (two, most likely nesting); Little egret; Marsh harrier; Hobby (at least 30); Sedge warbler; Reed warbler; Blackcap; Whitethroat; Barn owl, and Dipper

**Toledo and surroundings, Spain: November 7-8, 2015** Great bustard (30-35 individuals); Eurasian crane (250-300 individuals); Pallid harrier; Spoonbill (10); White stork (six); Fan-tailed warbler; Stonechat; Pochard; Marsh harrier; Red kite (three); Corn bunting; Red-legged partridge; Great crested grebe, and Little grebe

**Rainham Marshes RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: November 15, 2015 WATER PIPIT** (new species for U.K.); Meadow pipit; Stonechat; Pintail; Teal; Gadwall, and Snipe

**Albufera Marshes, Valencia, Spain: January 2, 2016** Crag martin, 40 or so, and one Swallow well out of season. Also, Glossy ibis; Kingfisher; Black redstart (three); Redstart; Chiffchaff; Red-legged partridge; Black-necked stilt; Cattle egret; Little egret; Great egret; Grey heron; Marsh harrier; Shoveler; Shelduck, and Meadow pipit

**Cleveland and area, Ohio: January 9, 2016** Unseasonably warm. **BRAMBLING** (new species for US; 2nd state record for Ohio), Remsen Road, near Allardale Park, at bird feeder of a house standing alone in Granger Township near to Medina; female **KING EIDER** (new species for US) on Lake Erie off Euclid; also, there a Slavonian grebe); **BLACK-HEADED GULL** (new species for US; amusing, considering how many million probably seen in Europe, with U.S. birders understandably very excited, at Wendy Park, Cleveland. Lastly, off-season sighting of Ovenbird in downtown Cleveland at Chester Avenue and 12th Street

**Al Ain, United Arab Emirates: February 6-7, 2016** Bank myna; Bimaculated lark; Black-winged kite; Blue rock thrush; Roller; Graceful prinia; Arabian green bee-eater; Grey francolin; Hoopoe; Hume's wheatear; Indian silverbill; Pale martin; Purple sunbird; Redstart; Red-tailed wheatear; Red-vented bulbul; Red-wattled lapwing, and White-eared bulbul

**Beddington Sewage Farm, Hackbridge, Surrey: February 14, 2016** Slightly overcast with sunny intervals; not too chilly. **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** (new species for U.K.), and Redpoll

**Iceland (Reykjavik area): February 29-March 2, 2016** Redpoll; Redwing; Eider; Long-tailed duck (first time seeing males of the species); Whooper swan; Pink-footed goose; Glaucous gull; Great skua; Iceland gull; Fulmar, and Eider subspecies (*Somateria mollissima borealis*)

**Germany (from train on way from Berlin to Prague): March 5, 2016** Approximately 50 Eurasian crane

**Saint-Saphorin to Lutry, Switzerland: March 13, 2016** Dipper

**Southwark Park, Surrey Docks, London: April 3, 2016** Shoveler; female Common scoter; two Grey wagtail, and two Little grebe

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: April 10, 2016 RING OUZEL** (new species for U.K.); Kestrel; Teal, and Shelduck

**Brent Reservoir, Hendon, London: April 17, 2016 YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** (new species for U.K.), seen at 11 a.m. after 90-minute wait. The bird was seen in this location for almost two weeks, but this was the last time it was seen; it is believed to be the same individual that turned up for a week in December

**Puglia, Italy: April 30-May 3, 2016 Punta Prosciutto**—Pied flycatcher; Spotted flycatcher; Wood sandpiper, in our rented house's very small pond; Willow warbler; Squacco heron; Whinchat; Stonechat, and Yellowhammer—15 Kestrel all hovering above the same field

**Otford, Kent: May 10, 2016 ORIENTAL TURTLE DOVE** (new species for U.K.) at the corner of The Butts and The Old Walk; 12th recorded sighting for the U.K.; present, 18 Feb.-12 May, 2016. Also, Nightingale in wooded area to the back of houses

**Hodder's Combe, Quantocks, Somerset: May 20, 2016 WOOD WARBLER** (new species for U.K.). three or four seen, excellent views from above the bird on two occasions; male singing heartily; Pied flycatcher, male and female around nest boxes; male Redstart; Cuckoo (one seen, three or four heard); Garden warbler; Treecreeper; Greater spotted woodpecker; Green woodpecker; Spotted flycatcher, and Kestrel

**Beverley Brook, Barnes, London: May 22, 2016 IBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF** (new species for U.K.; seen well; called only once, sort of a half call); also, Wren; nesting Blackcap

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: May 28, 2016** Little ringed plover; Sand martin; House martin, and Lapwing. (Also, Bee orchid)

**Thursley Common, Surrey: May 29, 2016 WOODLARK** (new species for U.K.; pair of Linnet (pair), and Stonechat. The intention was to find Dartford warbler, which are present here, but no luck

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: June 4, 2016** Sand martin; Lapwing; Cetti's warbler; Reed warbler; Whitethroat; Reed bunting; Green woodpecker, and Common tern, but no sign all day of Little bittern, which had been present for six days (it was not seen since)

**River Colne, Wivenhoe, and adjacent woodland, Essex: June 5, 2016** Shelduck; Common tern; Whitethroat; Reed bunting; Linnet; Yellowhammer; Greenfinch, and Chaffinch

**Brent Reservoir, Hendon, London: June 11, 2016 SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (new species for U.K.) seen from hide after about 15 minutes' wait. Was seen all day after first being reported early in the morning, but it was not seen on the 12 June or thereafter. Also, Little-ringed plover; pair of Stock dove, and Green sandpiper

**Timsbury, Greylake and Collard Hill (The Poldens), Somerset Levels: June 25, 2016** Great egret; Little egret; Glossy ibis (x2); Marsh harrier; Cuckoo; Redshank; Garden warbler (brief views); Reed warbler; Cetti's warbler; Kestrel, and Buzzard. (Also, Shrew; Grass snake; Large blue (butterfly); Marbled white; Small magpie ... also in moth trap: Eared hawkmoth; Elephant hawkmoth; Privet hawkmoth; Burnished brass; Heart and dart; Buff ermine; Buff arches; Silver Y, and Mottled beauty)

**Staines Reservoir, Middlesex: July 16, 2016 BLACK-NECKED GREBE** (new species for U.K.), in summer plumage; four Linnet, and Common tern

**Mendip Hills, Somerset, and other local sites: July 30-31, 2016** Mostly sunny, warm but not hot; searching for butterflies, with 23 species seen, seven of which were new to me. Red kite; female Redstart; two pairs of Bullfinch, one male sallying from and to branch; Raven; Buzzard; Kestrel; Coal tit; Blackcap, and Long-tailed tit

**Suffolk and Norfolk: August 6-7, 2016**

**Minsmere RSPB Reserve**—No sign of the Purple swamphen, which is the first for U.K. and had been seen the evening before, but **WATER RAIL** (new species for U.K.);

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** (new species for UK), and two Lesser whitethroat

**Dunwich Heath**—**DARTFORD WARBLER** (new species for U.K.)

**Titchwell RSPB Reserve**—**SPOONBILL** (new species for U.K.); juvenile Bearded tit; Ruff, and Black-tailed godwit

**Ohio, USA: September 9-11, 2016**

**McGee Marsh, Port Clinton**—Black-throated blue warbler; American redstart; Blackpoll warbler; Sandhill crane; Great blue heron; Tricoloured heron; Black-capped chickadee; Bald eagle; Ruby-throated hummingbird; American goldfinch; House finch, and Red-winged blackbird

**Wendy Park, Cleveland**—Yellow warbler; Magnolia warbler; Bay-breasted warbler; Blackpoll warbler; Black-and-white warbler; American redstart; Tennessee warbler; Cape May warbler; Blackburnian warbler; Yellow-bellied flycatcher; Willow flycatcher; Swainson's thrush; Northern flicker; Warbling vireo, and Caspian tern

**Lakefront Reserve, Cleveland**—Common yellowthroat; Wilson's warbler; Connecticut warbler; Cape May warbler; Blackburnian warbler; Magnolia warbler; Bay-breasted warbler; Blackpoll warbler; Canada warbler; Red-eyed vireo; Swainson's thrush; Northern flicker; Warbling vireo; Black-crowned night-heron, and Ruby-throated hummingbird

**Prospect Park, Brooklyn, New York, USA: September 20, 2016** Virginia rail seen after three attempts, in phragmites reeds close to the Wheelhouse. Good views for perhaps two minutes only

**Brent Reservoir, Hendon, London: October 1, 2016 FERRUGINOUS DUCK** (new species for U.K.), a drake; Pintail; Shoveler; Pochard, and Chiffchaff

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: October 8, 2016** Jack snipe; Snipe; Little egret; Lapwing; Wigeon; Teal; Shelduck; Shoveler; Little grebe; Stonechat, and Reed bunting. (Also. weasel and a very accommodating Water vole)

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: October 23, 2016 CATTLE EGRET** (new species for U.K.), took some searching for but, first, a distance view, and, then, quite close views; Kingfisher; Raven; Little egret; Barn owl; Reed bunting, and Stonechat and Whinchat in the same binoculars' frame

**Cam Valley, Somerset, and other local sites: November 5-7, 2016** Dipper (near Combe Hay); Redwing (30 or 40); possible Waxwing (Timsbury; saw bird of right size and movement, with a pale, yellowish band at base of tail, but not possible to confirm); Lesser yellowlegs (Cheddar Reservoir; 2nd ever for me in U.K.); first time seeing trilogy of egrets,



Cattle (Westhay Moor), Great white (ditto) and Little egret; Water rail (Westhay Moor), and Marsh harrier

**Rome, Italy: Christmas to New Year's 2017** Treecreeper and several Black redstart

**Broadfield, near Crawley, West Sussex: January 7, 2017** On Beachy Road, a suburban street, **ROSE-COLOURED STARLING** (new species for U.K.), a first-year bird, but one that appears to be moulting fast, with pinkish tones emerging and speckled, black throat

**Poulter Park, Mitcham, and Beddington Sewage Farm, Hackbridge, Surrey: January 14, 2017** Siberian chiffchaff (new sub-species for U.K.), two examples along River Wandle; also, Chiffchaff; Grey wagtail; Pied wagtail, and **CASPIAN GULL** (new species for U.K.)

**Canonbury, London: January 15, 2017 22** Waxwing (I went to see them on 14 January, but dipped); miserable weather, but very regular sightings on the same two berry trees on Poet's Road. (First Waxwing sighting for me for more than 30 years)

**Liwa, Western Regions and Abu Dhabi, Yas Island golf course, United Arab Emirates: February 2017** Alexandrine parakeet; Hoopoe; Bluethroat; Golden plover; Whimbrel; Curlew; Greenshank; Bar-tailed godwit; Black-winged stilt; Bimaculated lark; Eastern black-eared wheatear; Chestnut-bellied sandgrouse; Asian desert warbler; Desert wheatear; Graceful prinia; Greater flamingo; Greater sand plover; Green sandpiper; Grey francolin; Grey hypocolius; Isabelline wheatear; Laughing dove; Lesser grey shrike; Oriental skylark; Red-vented bulbul; Red-wattled lapwing; Red-tailed shrike; Tree pipit; Western reef-egret, and Honey buzzard

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: February 11, 2017** Green woodpecker; two Bittern, one flying after losing a squabble, and Pintail

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: February 12, 2017** Avocet (14); two Short-eared owl; four Snipe, and Black-tailed godwit

**Brent Reservoir, Hendon, London: March 16, 2017 RING-NECKED DUCK** (new species for U.K.), a drake; Greater scaup; Pintail; Shoveler; Teal, and Gadwall

**Dungeness RSPB Reserve, Lydd, Kent: March 19, 2017** Very blustery. Ring-necked duck (yes, a second); **LONG-EARED OWL** (new species for U.K.); **ICELAND GULL** (new species for U.K.); Tree sparrow

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: April 2, 2017 GLAUCOUS GULL** (new species for U.K.); Snipe, 2 x Ruddy duck; Little ringed plover, and Redshank. (Also, Peacock butterfly)

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: April 8, 2017** Warm, 22°, calm day. One male Bearded tit (photographed); Jack snipe; Snipe; possibly 30 Redshank; Yellow wagtail; Marsh harrier, and best views I've had of Cetti's warbler. (Also, Orange tip)

**Reykjavik, North Iceland, Lake Mývatn, Iceland: April 13-23, 2017** Barrow's goldeneye (Laxá River); Snow bunting (Borgarvirki and Ólafsfjörður); Harlequin duck (Blöndóus); Slavonian grebe (Reykjahlíð and Varmahlíð); Goosander (hard to see in Iceland);

Vesturhópshólar); Red-breasted merganser; Mallard; Wigeon; Tufted duck; Long-tailed duck; Eider; Whooper swan; Barnacle goose; Pink-footed goose; Greylag goose; Gannet; Oystercatcher; Redshank; Dunlin; Curlew; Ptarmigan; Redwing; Blackbird (unusual in Iceland); Purple sandpiper; Golden plover; European starling; Feral pigeon/Rock dove; Raven; Merlin; White-tailed eagle (Snaefellsnes); Cormorant; Black guillemot; Guillemot; Greater black-backed gull; Lesser black-backed gull; Herring gull; Black-headed gull; Iceland gull; Glaucous gull; Redpoll; Snipe; Red-throated diver, and Great northern diver

**Ras al-Khor, Dubai, United Arab Emirates: April 25, 2017** Socotra cormorant; Purple sunbird; Striped heron; Greenshank; Kentish plover; Little ringed plover; Dunlin; Whimbrel; Greater flamingo; Common myna; Hoopoe; Black-winged stilt; Western reef egret; Grey heron; Eurasian collared dove; Great egret; Green sandpiper, and Sociable plover

**Epping Forest, Essex: May 14, 2017** Two pairs of Mandarin duck on Blackweir Hill Pond

**The Thames, Belvedere/Abbey Wood, London: April 20, 2017** Did not see the Bonaparte's gull I came to see, but Common gull; Hobby, and Kestrel. (Also, Common seal, a first for me in London)

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: April 21, 2017** Snipe (very close from Peacock Hide); House martin, and Sand martin

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: April 28, 2017** Redshank; two Little ringed plover, and Reed warbler. (Also, Green hairstreak)

**Strumpshaw Fen and Buckenham Marsh, Norfolk: May 27, 2017** Kingfisher; Cetti's warbler; Sedge warbler; Marsh harrier; Common tern; Whitethroat; 10 Avocet; Rook, and four Redshank. (Also, Swallowtail and Orange tip). There might have been a chance I saw a Montagu's harrier. It was a harrier, and it was not a Marsh harrier, but I cannot be certain it was a Montagu's and not a male Hen harrier. Did I see the black wing stripes of a Montagu's? I cannot be sure

**Arne RSPB Reserve, Arne and area, Dorset: June 10-11, 2017** Curlew; Black-tailed godwit; **PUFFIN** (new species for U.K.) at Dancing Ledge; Green woodpecker; Rock pipit, and Linnet. (Also, Lime hawkmoth; Poplar hawkmoth, and Sika deer)

**Minsmere RSPB Reserve, Saxmundham, Suffolk: June 24-25, 2017**

**Minsmere**—50+ Mediterranean gull; two Spotted redshank; four Kittiwake; three Barnacle goose; Sandwich tern; Common tern; three Bittern; Marsh harrier; Hobby; numerous Avocet; 20+ Knot; 50+ Black-tailed godwit; Little egret; Yellowhammer; Sparrowhawk, and Tawny owl, almost driving into the windscreen at night. (Also, Stoat)

**Hazlewood Marshes**—Great egret; Avocet; two Red kite (Also, Purple emperor, Theberton Wood, and Essex skipper, Snape Warren RSPB Reserve)

**Staines Reservoir, Middlesex: July 1, 2017** **ROSEATE TERN** (new species for U.K.), 1st-summer (?), all black bill, black cap, pale wings; seven or eight Little-ringed plovers out of a reported 19); Common tern, and two Black-necked grebe in full summer plumage

**Slimbridge, Gloucestershire: July 15, 2017** Ruff, including one male with partial collar; Eurasian crane (there is a breeding program here); Black-tailed godwit; two Little ringed

plover, including one juvenile; Redshank; Green sandpiper; distant Peregrine; Buzzard; Blackcap, and Reed warbler

**Cliffe Marshes, Kent: July 22, 2017 MARSH SANDPIPER** (new species for U.K.); Black-winged stilt, an adult with four chicks (according to BBC, 22 nesting attempts between 1983 and 2016 have only resulting in fledglings from three nests), the presence of nesting birds at Cliffe only made common knowledge when the Marsh sandpiper was discovered; Spoonbill (one of two reported); Black-tailed godwit; Ruff; Common sandpiper; Redshank; Green sandpiper, and Avocet. At one point, Grey heron, Avocet and Spoonbill all in the same spot

**East Leake Cemex Quarry, East Leake, Nottinghamshire: July 29, 2017 EUROPEAN BEE-EATER** (new species for U.K.). Saw five of reported seven that had built three nests, but the news in the mid part of a very rainy, cool August resulted, reportedly, in no fledglings; also, Buzzard; Hobby, and Kestrel

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: July 30, 2017 PECTORAL SANDPIPER** (new species for U.K.); Green sandpiper; Greenshank, and juvenile Bearded tit

**Tennessee/Ohio: August 5 and 13-14, 2017**

**Enterprise State Park, Chattanooga—CAROLINA CHICKADEE** (new species for US)  
**Wilderness Road, near Funk, Ohio—**Indigo bunting; Pileated woodpecker; seven White-rumped sandpiper, and 20 Sandhill crane

**Beaver Marsh, Peninsula, Ohio—LEAST BITTERN** (new species for US), really good views and at 2:30 p.m., the bird staying still and visible or skulking and half-visible for 15 minutes; also, Wood duck; Red-winged blackbird, and Willow flycatcher. (Also, Otter; Groundhog; Snapping turtle; Monarch butterfly; Grey hairstreak; Pipeline swallowtail; Silver-spotted skipper (US-named species (*Epargyreus clarus*), not the same as the European one)); Eastern tiger swallowtail, and Fiery skipper

**Oare Marshes Nature Reserve, Oare, Faversham, Kent: August 26, 2017 LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** (new species for U.K.); **BONAPARTE'S GULL** (new species for U.K.), the same bird I failed to see on April 20, 2017; Little stint (first for many years); Spotted redshank; Redshank; Bar-tailed godwit (three); Black-tailed godwit (hundreds); Yellow-wagtail; Ringed plover; Dunlin; Knot; Ruff, and 100 to 200 Golden plover

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: September 16, 2017** Whinchat; Wheatear; Hobby; Black tern; juvenile Cuckoo; Green sandpiper; Kestrel; Greater scaup; Green woodpecker; Chiffchaff, and Stonechat

**Ingrebourne Valley, Hornchurch, Essex: September 23, 2017 SPOTTED CRAKE** (new species for U.K.), seen immediately and for 10 minutes, before it disappeared into reeds. Also, three Snipe flying overhead

**Estanque del Pujol, El Saler, Valencia, Spain: October 1, 2017** Greater flamingo (10 or so); Black-capped night-heron; Black-winged stilt, and Woodchat shrike. Also, numerous Swallow, and a few House martin

**Oare Marshes Nature Reserve, Oare, Faversham, Kent: October 7, 2017 WILSON'S PHALAROPE** (new species for U.K.); present, Oct. 3-22, 2017; spinning and very evident

among the larger Lapwing; Little stint and Long-billed dowitcher still there, and maybe 100 Avocet. Out on Faversham Creek was a Black-necked grebe

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: October 30, 2017** Female brambling above but not on feeders; also, Bittern

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: November 12, 2017** I re-discovered the female Ring ouzel seen the day before, for seconds on a grassy area along the Sheltered Lagoon trail and then in thicket behind. The rediscovered bird was seen by one other birder. Also, Bittern; two female Goldeneye; three Common gull

**Sri Lanka: 18 November-3 December, 2017**

**Dickoya/Castlereigh**—Hill swallow; Swallow; Blue-tailed bee-eater; Coppersmith barbet; Forest wagtail; Red-backed flameback (endemic); White-bellied drongo; Large-billed crow; Common tailorbird; Plain prinia; Red-vented bulbul; Yellow-billed babbler; Oriental magpie-robin; Sri Lanka white-eye (endemic); Cinerous tit

**Sinharaja Rainforest**—Sri Lanka spurfowl (endemic); Sri Lanka junglefowl (endemic); Black eagle; Legge's hawk-eagle; Sri Lanka wood pigeon (endemic); Emerald dove; Orange-breasted green pigeon; Sri Lanka green-pigeon (endemic); Green imperial-pigeon; Sri Lanka hanging parrot (endemic); Ring-necked parakeet; Red-faced malkoha (endemic); Green-billed coucal (endemic); Greater coucal; Serendib scops owl (endemic); Sri Lanka frogmouth; Crested treeswift; Asian green bee-eater; Indian grey hornbill (endemic); Brown-headed barbet; Yellow-fronted barbet (endemic); Crimson-fronted barbet (endemic); Brown-capped pygmy woodpecker; Lesser yellownape; Common iora; Scarlet minivet; Small minivet; Crested drongo (endemic); Black-headed oriole; Sri Lanka blue magpie (endemic); Grey-breasted prinia; Black-crested bulbul; Black bulbul; Yellow-browed bulbul; Large-billed leaf warbler; Sri Lanka scimitar babbler (endemic); Dark-fronted babbler; Orange-billed babbler (endemic); Ashy-headed laughingthrush (endemic); Brown-capped babbler (endemic); Common hill myna; Sri Lanka hill myna (endemic); Sri Lanka thrush (endemic); Spot-winged thrush (endemic); Black-naped monarch; Indian paradise flycatcher; Brown-breasted flycatcher; Pale-billed flowerpecker; Legge's flowerpecker (endemic); Grey wagtail, and Layard's parakeet (endemic)

**Udawalawe/Weli-oya**—Barred buttonquail; Medium egret; Asian openbill; Cattle egret; Asian woolly-neck stork; Indian cormorant; Black-headed ibis; Oriental darter; Indian pond heron; Grey-headed fish eagle; Slaty-legged crake; Lesser whistling-duck; Purple swampphen; Black-winged stilt; Pheasant-tailed jacana; Indian roller; Kingfisher; Malabar pied hornbill; Velvet-fronted nuthatch; Indian robin; Tricoloured munia, and Jerdon's bush lark

**Ahaspokuna**—Indian peafowl; Blue-faced malkoha; Little swift; Asian palm swift; Brown shrike; Indian pitta; Jerdon's leafbird, and Paddyfield pipit

**Unakuruwa/Tangalle**—Greater flameback; Purple-rumped sunbird; Sri Lanka woodshrike (endemic); White-browed fantail; White-browed bulbul; Gull-billed tern; White-breasted waterhen; Little tern, and Common tern

**Galle**—Curlew and common sandpiper

**Other sites**—Purple heron; Little egret; Spot-billed pelican; Little cormorant; Cormorant; Shikra; Brahminy kite; Crested serpent eagle; Red-wattled lapwing; Rock dove/Feral pigeon; Spotted dove; Indian swiftlet; White-throated kingfisher; House crow; Common myna, and Purple sunbird

**Titchfield Haven, Stubbington, Hampshire: December 12, 2017 BARRED WARBLER** (new species for U.K.); a first-year bird seen just behind the visitor centre. Also, Kingfisher;

Buzzard; Redwing; Redshank; Turnstone; Sanderling; Ringed plover; Eider and Oystercatcher

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: December 13, 2017** Mostly miserable weather, but during a sunny window of 10 minutes the best views of a Bittern I have ever had.

**Dungeness RSPB Reserve, Lydd, Kent: December 17, 2017** A pleasant, sunny day, turning rainy in afternoon. Dartford warbler, near to Britannia pub; Tree sparrow; Long-eared owl; Goosander; Goldeneye; Great egret; Marsh harrier; male Brambling

**St Andrew's Churchyard, Bramfield, Hertfordshire: January 7, 2018 HAWFINCH** (new species for U.K.); 26 were reported. No idea how many I saw, but striking males, as well as females, in this irruption in several parts of the U.K.; also, Goldcrest; Fieldfare; Chaffinch; Greenfinch; Long-tailed tit, and Red kite

**Pulborough Brooks RSPB, Pulborough, Sussex; January 14, 2018** My first visit to this RSPB reserve, and a great day. **TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE** (new species for U.K.) and **TEMMINCK'S STINT** (new species for U.K.), the latter seen through a fellow birder's scope. Grey and dumpy appearance, with a clear differentiation between head and breast. Active, and then it flew first left, showing white tail feathers, and then right and into deep cover. Also, Goldcrest; Bewick's swan, and two **RUDDY SHELDUCK** (new species for U.K.), but one I will regard as an escapee unless told otherwise—no record of this species as been accepted on the British list since the mid-20th Century. NOTE: Bean goose, as of the first day of 2018, has been split into two separate species, Tundra bean goose and Taiga bean goose, which I have not seen

**Walthamstow Wetlands Reserve, London; January 21, 2018** Very cold, with a mixture of quick thick snow and incessant rain, but during a break from either, a 90-minute wait resulted in **LITTLE BUNTING** (new species for U.K. and my 250th U.K. species). Saw the bird for no more than 10 seconds, but approximately 10 birders were there. Conditions meant birds, including Reed bunting and Dunnock, were sheltering in scrub and hardly venturing out. Also seen were Kingfisher; Peregrine falcon, and Redshank

**Staines Reservoir, Surrey; January 26, 2018 SHORE LARK** (new species for U.K.) seen on the banks of the south reservoir. This bird has been seen at the reservoir on and off for several months and is in fact the American sub-species American horned lark, so if one day the birding eggheads decide to separate all or some of the many subspecies of "Horned lark," notably in this case *Eremophila alpestris* or *Eremophila alpestris hoyti* (the Staines bird is likely to be one of those two sub-species) I will just have to see a British shore lark and get to add an armchair tick of the bird I saw today

**Al-Wathba Nature Reserve, Al-Wathba, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, January 27, 2018** My first time here, and what transpired as one of the most memorable days ever at this reserve. The 19th-ever Moustached warbler for the UAE and the 31st-ever Baillon's crake, with both these birds new for me anywhere.

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: February 3, 2018** Pintail; Snipe; Little egret; Cetti's warbler; Redwing

**Puertomingalvo, Spain: February 17-19, 2018** Cirl bunting; Crossbill; Griffon vulture

**Millwall Outer Dock, Canary Wharf, London: March 18, 2018** Shag (juvenile, but a great sighting in London); Mediterranean gull

**Musandam Peninsula, Oman: April 14-15** Ring-necked parakeet; Indian roller; Common redstart; Red-tailed shrike; Woodchat shrike; Desert wheatear; Common tern

**Al Hamra Resort, Ras al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates: April 16-19** Hoopoe; Indian roller; Graceful prinia; Red-vented bulbul; White-eared bulbul; Green sandpiper; Red-wattled plover; Purple sunbird

**Carlton Marshes, Oulton Broad South, Suffolk: April 28, 2018** A slightly chilly day, unseasonal. **AMERICAN BITTERN** (new species for U.K.), a wait of five hours or so. It has been reported for most of April, but in the last few days appearing only in the hour before dusk. I missed its first flight as I walking along the River Waveney so as to feel a little warmer, but it reappeared for three flights, during which I could identify it properly and for a view of 30 seconds performed the classic next-stretched-up pose. Also, two Yellow wagtail, including one very bright male; 10 or so Avocet; Short-eared owl, and ever-present Marsh harrier' present, 7 Apr.-16 May, 2018

**Nazeling Mead, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire: April 29, 2018** Weather still unseasonably chilly, a couple of degrees cooler than the day before (American bittern not see today either, hunkered down to keep warm, no doubt. **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** (new species for U.K.), two views of the bird). Many swallow, House martin and Sand martin

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: April 29, 2018** One Wheatear; three Whinchat, including a very bright male; one Dunlin; one Little ringed plover and one Ringed plover, all these last three on the same tiny shingle island

**Ham Wall RSPB Reserve, Glastonbury, Somerset: May 5, 2018** Glorious sunny weather. Cuckoo; Marsh harrier; three or four Hobby; Great egret; Cetti's warbler; Sedge warbler; Reed warbler; Willow warbler; Chiffchaff, and Bittern. (Also, numerous Orange tip butterflies)

**Denge Wood, Canterbury, Kent: May 7, 2018** Bullfinch singing; Green woodpecker; Great spotted woodpecker. (Also, and the reason I went to these woods, my first sighting of (two) Duke of Burgundy butterflies)

**Dungeness RSPB Reserve, Dungeness, Kent: May 7, 2018** Numerous Whitethroat and Reed bunting; several Sedge warbler; two Great egret; Greenshank; Whimbrel; three Little gull, including one adult but without solidly black head; two Bar-tailed godwit, including one adult; Oystercatcher, and Linnet. Cuckoo heard

**Botany Bay/Oaken Wood, Chiddingfold, Surrey: May 19, 2018** (Visit especially to see Wood white butterfly, which is confined to here as far as South East England is concerned and a species I had not seen before)

**Dungeness, Kent, and other Kentish spots: May 20, 2018** A very chilly start, but things became warm and sunny at around 11 a.m. A productive day with an adult male **KENTISH PLOVER** (new species for U.K.) and **HOOPOE** (new species for U.K.). The Kentish plover

was on a spit all day viewable from the main building of RSPB Dungeness, while the distant but identifiable sightings of the Hoopoe were off Dengemarsh Road on the military training area. Also, Grasshopper warbler; Greenshank; Dunlin; 3 x Sanderling; 3 x Common scoter (two males and a female); Sedge warbler; Whitethroat; Linnet; Marsh harrier, and Hobby. Also seen and heard at Yocklett's Bank, on the chalk escarpments in the centre of Kent, one Nightingale. (Other wildlife sightings: Small copper at Dungeness; Monkey orchid and Green-veined orchid at Park Gate Down, and Lady orchid and Fly orchid at Yocklett's Bank)

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: May 26, 2018** Whinchat; Kestrel; Marsh harrier; Hobby; Redshank; Sedge warbler, and Cetti's warbler. (Also, Harbour porpoise in River Thames)

**Denbies Ridge, Dorking, Surrey: May 27, 2018** Yellowhammer. (Also, my reason for coming here, Adonis blue butterfly, a new species for me and my 44th U.K. butterfly; also, Brown argus; Common blue, Small copper; Brimstone, and Dingy skipper)

**Isles of Scilly, Cornwall: July 27-August 3, 2018** WILSON'S STORM PETREL x 5 (new species for U.K.); EUROPEAN STORM PETREL x 50 (new species for U.K.); GREAT SKUA (new species for U.K.); MANX SHEARWATER x 500 (new species for U.K.); SOOTY SHEARWATER x 3 (new species for U.K.); GREAT SHEARWATER x 10 (new species for U.K.); CORY'S SHEARWATER x 2 (new species for U.K.). Pelagic on July 30 choppy water (1.8-metre waves) but more birds; pelagic on 3 August much calmer and fewer birds, but a Wilson's storm petrel on both sailings and also on last sailing—(Blue shark and Porbeagle Shark. Also, Common dolphin on both sailings, and Harbour porpoise coming out of Penzance)

**Bath Nature Reserve, Bath, Ohio, USA: August 18, 2018** WESTERN KINGBIRD (new species for US); Henslow's sparrow; Cedar waxwing; Northern oriole; Osprey

**Wanstead Flats, Manor Park, London: September 1, 2018** Not many birds, but a first-winter Red-backed shrike, my first of this species for many years, and a Whinchat; also, a Blackcap. The shrike I saw quickly upon arrival and then numerous times after that, but it was active and effortlessly disappeared

**Wanstead Flats, Manor Park, London: September 2, 2018** Returned for the Red-backed shrike and a second afternoon of excellent views

**Streat/Plumpton, Sussex: September 9, 2018** HONEY BUZZARD (new species for U.K.) seen over fields and moving towards South Downs

**Royston, Hertfordshire: September 23, 2018** PALLID HARRIER (new species for U.K.) seen over fields along Icknield Way. Saw it almost immediately, and some very close-up views of a juvenile bird. Also, Yellow wagtail; Peregrine falcon

**Gravesend, Kent: September 29, 2018** (Startling discovery on 25 September and still there on the Saturday of the weekend, a Beluga whale, the southernmost sighting ever of this Arctic mammal. Perhaps along with a specimen seen in 1913, and some 3,100 kilometres south of its usual range. It has been swimming in the River Thames quite happily, and the authorities are happy to allow it to make its own mind as to where to go—at least for the moment.) Also seen, Black-tailed godwit; Dunlin and Common ringed plover

**Welney Wetland Centre, Welney, Norfolk: October 6, 2018** A pretty grim day weather-wise, although the heavier rain seen later on kept away. **WHOOPER SWAN** (new species for U.K.) seen, with probably 50 individuals newly arrived as I sat there. Also, 32 x Eurasian crane, 5 x Arctic tern; Snipe; Sparrowhawk; several Tree sparrows; Greylag goose, and Black-tailed godwit

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: October 7, 2018** As beautiful, sunny and calm a day as the day before was grim, chilly and wet. Cattle egret out in front of a hide for 60 minutes; also, Greylag goose; Lapwing; Pochard, and Teal. Out on the Thames were Curlew; Redshank, and Avocet

**Chew Valley Lake, Somerset: October 14, 2018** Very windy, with a little rain. Adult male Yellow-legged gull, one Little Egret, two Great egret and, just down the road, five Cattle egret

**Oare Marshes Nature Reserve, Oare, Faversham, Kent: October 27, 2018** **AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER** (new species for U.K.), dark-grey cap sitting on very bold white supercilium, and with dark splotches on breast. Lost soon after sighting amidst mass of Golden plover, Lapwing, Black-tailed godwit and some number of Grey plover. Also, Jack snipe bobbing up and down; Little owl; Linnet; Brent; Grey wagtail; Avocet; Kestrel; Sparrowhawk, and Marsh harrier. (Three Velvet scoter seen, but not by me, and this would have been a new species for U.K., too)

**Beddington Sewage Farm, Hackbridge, Surrey: November 4, 2018** The first time I have walked around this closed birding area since 1984 (see above, September of that year), that first time sneaking in to see a rare wader, but this time as part of an organized walk. Warm for the time of year. Water pipit; Tree sparrow (my first in Greater London); Snipe x 15; Green sandpiper x 3; male and female Stonechat; Common gull x 5

**Margate, Kent, England: November 8, 2018** A failed attempt to see the White-billed diver that had been seen for several days and was seen later this day (the bird a week or so later was found dead on a beach in Suffolk). I did see Purple sandpiper x 4; several Curlew; flock of Sanderling; Rock pipit, and Hen harrier

**Central Park and Riverside Drive, New York City, NY: November 18 and 24, 2018** Red-headed woodpecker; Wood duck; Red-tailed hawk; Cooper's hawk; also, a Peregrine falcon mobbing another Red-tailed hawk; House finch; Hooded merganser, and Cardinal. Also, a Mandarin duck, very celebrated in the New York City media, but evidently an escapee

**Gallatin, NY: November 24, 2018** Pileated woodpecker; Black-capped chickadee

**Shoeburyness, Essex, England: December 1, 2018** Black-throated diver in Gunners Pool, a small lake, hence excellent views; also, 10x Red-throated diver; 50x Common scoter; Purple sandpiper; Little egret; 30 x Brent; Rock pipit, and Stonechat

**Margate to Broadstairs, and Deal, Kent, England: December 7, 2018:** Red-throated diver; Black-throated diver; Rock pipit; Purple sandpiper; Oystercatcher; Little egret. At Deal was a flock of 20 or so Common scoter, but three reported Velvet scoter not seen



**Herne Bay to Reculver, Kent, England: December 21, 2018: SNOW BUNTING** (new species for U.K.); Sanderling; Curlew; Redshank; Oystercatcher; Turnstone

**Staines Reservoir, Surrey; December 22, 2018** My bogie bird defeated, a **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** (new species for U.K.), distant but identifiable. Also, Goldeneye; Wigeon; Pochard, and Linnet

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: December 23, 2018** Yellow-legged gull; good views of Bittern that then flew

**Albufera Marshes, Valencia, Spain: December 29, 2018** Highlights were Booted eagle drying on a tree after a failed catch of Black-winged stilt (there were approximately 100) and a juvenile Bluethroat. Also, Crag martin; Kingfisher; Black redstart; Redstart; Chiffchaff; Cattle egret; Little egret; Great egret; Grey heron; Teal x 300, Red-crested pochard (x 5); Shoveler; Shelduck, Stonechat; Whinchat; Crested lark, and Meadow pipit

**Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates: February 2-3, 2019**

**Al-Wathba Nature Reserve**—Tawny pipit; Desert wheatear; 16 x Black-necked grebe; Clamorous reed warbler; Black-winged stilt; Greater flamingo; Kentish plover; Greater spotted eagle; Marsh harrier; Marsh sandpiper; Common sandpiper; Spur-winged plover; Little grebe; Graceful prinia, and Grey-headed swamphen (the “Purple swamphen” has recently been split six ways, the original Purple swamphen now named Western swamphen)

**Jebel Hafeet, Al Ain**—Egyptian vulture; Red-tailed wheatear; Hume’s wheatear; Blue rock thrush; Hoopoe; Indian roller; Red-wattled lapwing; African sacred ibis; Cattle egret, and Crag martin

**Zakher Pools, Al Ain**—Crested lark; White-rumped sandpiper; Curlew; Ferruginous duck; Pochard, and Socotra cormorant

**Cassiobury Park, Watford, Herts.: February 17, 2019** One view of Lesser-spotted woodpecker close to the Flamingo enclosure of the Carpdell Fish Farm. Also, Red kite and Great spotted woodpecker

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: February 20, 2019** A 20-kilometre run from my home at 6:15 a.m. and a 30-minute window to see **PENDULINE TIT** (new species for U.K.), which another birder heard and I located. The view lasted 10 seconds, but the mask and red to the top of the back were evident. Then I needed to run to catch the train up to London to go to work. The bird was seen on another four occasions, but always fleetingly, during the day. It was found on February 18.

**Lübbenau, Spreewald, Germany: March 2-3, 2019**

60 x Eurasian crane flying on thermals, plus two seen flying and fortunately see again in a field for the closest views I have had of this species; also, Red kite; 100 x Tree sparrow; 4 x Black woodpecker, three flying overhead, one on a tree; Great spotted woodpecker; Green woodpecker; Treecreeper; Nuthatch

**Ashdown Forest, Sussex, England: March 23, 2019**

Unsuccessful search for the Great grey shrike that has been present, but mobile, all winter. Singing chiffchaff; Dartford warbler; Raven

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: March 24, 2019**

Great views of Bittern, which has not been seen since March 24 and probably has left for its breeding grounds. Also, female Goldeneye; Water pipit; two Sand martin; Snipe; Peregrine falcon. Wigeon still here; also, Pochard, Lapwing; one Gadwall on the River Thames

**Ingrebourne Valley, Hornchurch, Essex: March 30, 2019** No luck finding the Green-winged teal reported the previous day. There were a sizable number of Eurasian teal. Also, 5 x Green sandpiper; Stock dove; Gadwall; Little egret, and one solitary Lapwing

**Vange March, Pitsea, Essex: March 30, 2019** Distant, bad views of one Garganey. Also, Avocet; 3 x Spotted redshank; Redshank, and Great egret

**Wanstead Flats, Manor Park, London: April 1, 2019** Very happy bobbing around on the small, innocuous Jubilee Pond a male Garganey, providing the best views I have had of this duck. Other birders reported it as having been skittish in the morning, hassled by other birds and flying away on at least one occasion, but for me, arriving at midday, it was very calm. On walk across the heathland, also, Kestrel; Greenfinch singing, and Skylark displaying. The Garganey was present for only this one day

**Albufera, Mallorca, Balearic Islands, and other sites: April 6-7, 2019**

**Albufera**—Fan-tailed warbler; Red-knobbed coot (with large identity collars; Europe-based number for the species purported to be fewer than 100); Red-crested pochard; Squacco heron; Black-crowned night-heron; Cattle egret; Little egret; Grey heron; Spotted redshank; Common ringed plover; Little ringed plover; Kentish plover; Redshank; Common sandpiper; Yellow wagtail; Chiffchaff; Siskin, and Black-winged stilt

**Albuferita**—Swift; White-rumped swift; Swallow; House martin; Sand martin; Booted eagle, and Stonechat

**Boquer Valley**—Balearic warbler; Cirl bunting, and Blue rock thrush

**Banyalbufar**—Red kite (diminishing numbers on the Balearics) and Blackcap

**South Downs, near Fulking and Ditchling, Sussex, England: April 21, 2019** Two Rook, a species I never see within London, at Clayton, and at Ditchling two Lesser whitethroat

**Sydenham, London, England: April 21, 2019** In the parking area behind my flat a Grey wagtail, a quite unusual “garden” tick some distance away from water

**Mount Athos, Halkidiki, Greece: May 5-10, 2019**

Whinchat; Stonechat; Garden warbler; 3 x Nightingale; Little bittern (at Iviron Monastery); Woodchat shrike; Red-backed shrike; Chiffchaff; Sardinian warbler; Spotted flycatcher; Eastern subalpine warbler; Raven; Hooded crow; Cory’s shearwater; Swallow; Swift; Alpine swift; House martin; Sand martin, and Tree pipit

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: May 18, 2019** My second new species for the U.K. in 2019, and both have been in this somewhat innocuous site that when I was a child was not birded but is increasingly being so and this bringing up exciting finds. Today it was a **GREAT REED WARBLER** (new species for U.K.), which is the first for the London birding area. I saw it very soon after arriving, and heard its fairly loud croaking call; present, 18-20 May, 2019. Somewhat a challenge to see and photograph as the view was from behind a metal fence with reeds in between me and the reeds in which it was flitting. Also, reed warbler, Sedge warbler, and two Whitethroat feeding young

**Dungeness, Kent, and other Kentish spots: May 26, 2019** Essentially a day out with my parents to show my Mum orchids, and we went to Park Gate Down and Yocklett's Bank. At the first we saw Monkey orchid; one or two Early purple orchid still in near enough good shape and Common twayblade. At the latter we saw Lady orchid, two Fly orchid and one, my first ever, Greater butterfly orchid, and in bloom, perhaps early for this species.

A quick trip down to Littlestone, near Old Romney, failed to produce the Serin that has been reported most of the week, mostly because for the first time in that week the wind picked up. A quick visit to Dungeness to get a cup of coffee produced Common gull on nest box right by the visitor centre; Oystercatcher; Common tern; Pochard; Great crested grebe, and Little stint.

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: May 27, 2019**

Quite quiet. Redshank; Ringed plover; Little ringed plover on eggs (a wire cage has been placed around the pair); two Common tern; Sand martin; Swift; Blackcap, and two Stock dove. (Disappointing in butterflies, too, with only a Red admiral, Brimstone and Large white seen.)

**Dungeness, Kent, and other Kentish spots: June 1, 2019**

I caught up with the **SERIN** (new species for U.K.) on a very much calmer day, the bird still in the conifer tree by a house and singing. In total, 51 species, including Lesser whitethroat; Whitethroat; Sedge warbler; Reed warbler; Cuckoo; Hobby; Whimbrel; Linnet, and one Mediterranean gull

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: June 2, 2019** Warm and still. Barn owl; Redshank (three perched on posts, two of them on consecutive perches); Curlew; Cetti's warbler; Cuckoo, and 3 x Avocet

**Lea Valley, Seventy Acres Lake/Fishers Green, Essex: June 2, 2019** drake Ring-necked duck. It took a while to find, hidden behind an island, after a search around the whole lake. Good views, and far better than the one other time I have seen it

**Ditchling Common Country Park, near Burgess Hill, East Sussex: June 22, 2019** Garden warbler, Chiffchaff; Lesser whitethroat and male Bullfinch. (Also, my reason for coming here, Black hairstreak, a new species for me and my 45th U.K. butterfly, in a recently discovered colony for this rare butterfly; also, Common blue, Ringlet; Red admiral; Meadow brown, Speckled wood and Painted lady. It took a while to see the Black hairstreak, but one was quite docile at ground level, another paused for some while in the branches maybe two metres above head height)

**East Blean Woods, near Hoath, Kent: June 23, 2019** (And another rare species, my 46th U.K. butterfly, Heath fritillary. Quite easy to see once in the right place, the species seeming to be jittery in flight and more than happy to alight on bracken at about one metre above the ground. I might have seen 15 individuals in 30 minutes; also, Painted lady (quite numerous on my walk to the woods from Herne Bay), Red admiral and Ringlet)

**Hutchinson's Bank/Chapel Bank, New Addington, Surrey: July 6, 2019** (Butterflies along the chalk escarpments—one Small blue; Common blue; Ringlet; hundreds of Marbled white, and a dozen Dark-green fritillary)

**Fairmile Common, Cobham, Surrey: July 13, 2019** (Within the M25 London orbital road but on heathland with bell heather, my 47th U.K. butterfly species, both male and female Silver-studded blue; also, my first Gatekeeper of the year)

**Oare Marshes Nature Reserve, Oare, Faversham, Kent: July 14, 2019** My third-ever Lesser yellowlegs and second-ever Bonaparte's gull, very likely the same adult that has been wrongly migrating here for seven or eight years and also likely remains somewhere in the U.K. all year and comes to Oare to moult. In mid-July, though, it is in full summer plumage; also. Spotted redshank; Redshank; Black-tailed godwit (500); one very early Golden plover; Bearded tit; Peregrine, and three male Ruff in close to summer plumage

**Headley Heath, Tadworth, Surrey: July 20, 2019** (Butterflies on heath and chalkside, including a new species, my 48th U.K. butterfly species, one single White-letter hairstreak, and on a white flower on a chalk hillside, not near elm or bramble; also, Brown argus; White admiral; Dark-green fritillary; Silver-washed fritillary; Large skipper; Small skipper; Gatekeeper; Painted lady, and Grayling on stony soil among the gorse. No luck with the Silver-spotted skipper, of which a few reports have come in.) Juvenile green woodpecker

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: July 28, 2019** Water dredged from some of the marsh area. Wood sandpiper; 3 x Ruff; Avocet; 200 x Black-tailed godwit; Lapwing; 10 x Little egret, and Curlew. (Grey seal basking on the river shore)

**Oare, Uplees and Conyer marshes, Faversham, Kent: August 5, 2019** More of a wonderful walk with Francesca, my wife, than a birding excursion, but the Bonaparte's gull remains, although now heavily moulted. Also, Curlew; Whimbrel; 10 x Common sandpiper; 5 x Oystercatcher; Marsh harrier, and 3 x Kestrel, but not much on the East Flood due to maintenance. (Also, Clouded yellow butterfly and several Painted lady)

**Hutchinson's Bank, New Addington, Croydon; 25 August, 2019** A visit to see if I could spot a Glanville fritillary butterfly (I did not), which for the first time in this introduction site reputedly started by person or persons unknown in 2011 had a second brood, albeit probably lesser in number than the first brood in April/May. But as I and another birder-turned-summer-butterfly-watcher searched a steep-sided paddock I spotted a **GOSHAWK** (new species for U.K.) that floated over the tree line scattering pigeons. A juvenile, it showed large broad wings, pear-drop shape splotches running from neck to belly, pale belly and correct banding on the tail. It was also large, with all the ID marks together ruling out Buzzard and/or female Sparrowhawk. (Also, Chalkhill blue, Brown argus; Small copper; Dark-green fritillary, and Silver-washed fritillary butterflies; and a Common shrew, a species I do not remember seeing before.)

**Oare Marshes Nature Reserve, Oare, Faversham, Kent: August 31, 2019** A Peregrine spent much of the day pestering the pigeons and waders. Also, a Kestrel; 2 x Curlew sandpiper, with one adult retaining some summer plumage; Knot; Golden plover; Grey plover; a juvenile Wood sandpiper; 300 x Black-tailed godwit; Water rail; 30 x Dunlin, also some retaining summer plumage, and the Bonaparte's gull remains, although I was lucky to pick it out in its autumn plumage as I was searching for Curlew sandpiper

**Titchfield Haven, Stubbington, Hampshire: September 21, 2019** **BLUETHROAT** (new species for U.K.), seen from the Meon Hide, with two good views of a minute or so each out

in the open, and some more half-hidden views within the reeds. Also, Turnstone by the harbour

**Somerset (West Hay; Chew Valley Lake): Oct. 5-6, 2019** Little egret, Great egret and Cattle egret all in the same telescope view. All told, 13 x Great egret; 6 x Little egret, and 3 x Cattle egret, two of which showed yellow blush to head. Also, 2 x Yellow-legged gull; Pintail; Little grebe, and numerous Gadwall

**Mai Po Reserve and Tai Po Kau, New Territories; Pokfulam, Hong Kong Island, Hong Kong: 20-21 October, 2019**

Spoonbill; Eastern spot-billed duck; Gadwall; Little egret; Great egret; Greenshank; Black-winged stilt; Azure-winged magpie; White-throated kingfisher; Collared crow; Little grebe; Great-crested grebe; Kingfisher; Plain prinia; Common sandpiper; Green sandpiper; Chinese pond heron; Grey heron; Purple heron; Greater coucal; White-breasted waterhen; Rufous-capped babbler; Cormorant; Marsh harrier (female); Black kite; Spotted dove; Long-tailed shrike; Oriental reed warbler; Black-collared starling; Daurian redstart (female); Oriental magpie-robin; Pied kingfisher; Grey treepie; Black-throated laughingthrush; Chestnut bulbul

**Mai Chau, Pu Luong and Van Long, Vietnam: 30 October-8 November, 2019**

(Birding not impressive, with the sense that conservation is not a priority and the cognisance of birds being things to sing from cages)

Blue rock thrush; Eyebrowed thrush; Red-vented bulbul; Black-whiskered bulbul; Black-crested bulbul; Little egret; White-throated kingfisher; Kingfisher; Siberian stonechat; Grey-backed shrike; Yellow-billed blue magpie; Japanese white-eye; Pied wagtail; Grey wagtail; Little grebe; Grey-headed swamp hen; Crow-billed drongo; Asian palm swift; White-browed crane; Cinnamon bittern; Bronze-winged jacana; Chinese pond heron; Short-billed minivet; Black-naped oriole; Asian brown flycatcher; Collared treepie; Little pied flycatcher; Oriental magpie-robin; White-capped redstart; Common myna; Green-backed tit; Crested finchbill; Golden parrotbill; White-headed munia; Black-throated laughingthrush; Dark-necked tailorbird

**Oare Marshes, Faversham, Kent: 17 November, 2019**

Gadwall; Little egret; Great-crested grebe; Kingfisher; Grey heron; Marsh harrier; Black-tailed godwit; Redshank (100+); Dunlin (1,000+); Avocet (50+); Pintail (three drakes, one duck); Shoveler; Snipe; 6 x Bearded tit (but all juveniles); 2 x Curlew, and 2 x Bewick's swan

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: December 7, 2019**

Birds mostly difficult to see. Jack snipe; Snipe; Goldeneye (female); Caspian gull (my second ever); Bittern, and Pintail (three drake, one duck)

**Whipsnade Zoo, Whipsnade, Bedfordshire: December 14, 2019**

First visit to this zoo (I did not see much of it) for a **BLACK-THROATED THRUSH** (new species for U.K. and my 275th) amid a flock of Redwing. Great views of it flying across open space pretty much as soon as the gates opened at 10, but fresh wind following heavy rain saw all birds staying a little distant. Good views later, on berry bushes. Also, Red kite

**Slimbridge, Gloucestershire: December 16, 2019** 2 x Water rail, right in front of the Willow Hide, and the best views I have had of this species, and two of them; 24 x Bewick's swan; 10 x Pintail; numerous Ruff; Redshank; Dunlin; Black-tailed godwit, and Lapwing;

Rook; Stonechat; Greylag goose; two Eurasian crane flyovers (but, again, there is a reintroduction scheme here)

**Portland (various sites), Dorset: December 17, 2019** Very productive day, with 2 or 3 Great northern diver; 2 to 3 Black-throated diver; 20 x Great crested grebe; 2 x Little grebe; 6 to 8 Black-necked grebe; **VELVET SCOTER** (a new species for U.K.; female, and one I found by scanning large geese flocks); 200+ Brent, both dark- and light-bellied forms); 4 x Eider; 30 Red-breasted merganser; 2 x Razorbill; 3 x Common guillemot; Black guillemot; Gannet; 30 x Mediterranean gull; 5 x Cormorant, and 30 x Shag. (A Bottlenose dolphin—we had a grandstand view of a harbour-patrol boat's staff untangling a dolphin from fishing netting, after which the dolphin seemed to raise a tail out of the water as a thank-you gesture, spin around the small boat a couple of times and then swim towards the harbour mouth)

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: December 20, 2019** Sparrowhawk (female); Barn owl; 7 x Snipe; Curlew; 2 x Avocet; Dunlin; Skylark, and Blackcap (female); the water levels were very high following a great deal of rain over the last couple of weeks

**Walthamstow Wetlands Reserve, London; 26 January, 2020** Firecrest, maybe two, as I saw one twice amid a flock of 12 or so Long-tailed titmice; also on the reservoir, female Goldeneye and two Peregrine falcons bathing and then flying to a nearby pylon

**Valentines Park, Gants Hill, London; 26 January, 2020** Amazingly, someone on a RSPB walk in a place I suspect is not birded often, a Turtle dove, a species seen here in the summer overwintering and likely remaining from last summer. Amid a flock of 20 or so Collared dove. It is my first Turtle dove for probably 30 years; when I was a teenager, I would see 50 on any summer's day, but that is a thing of the past

**Perrymead Lake, East Horsely, Surrey; 22 February, 2020** One drake Goosander and two drake Mandarin duck, on a pond that was filled fairly high with flood water

**Frensham Common. Frensham, Surrey: 22 February, 2020** Great grey shrike, the best view I have ever had, and only my second example. Excellent views of a bird constantly making a circle around one part of the common. Also, Treecreeper

**Poulter Park, Mitcham, Surrey: March 1, 2020** 2 x Siberian chiffchaff (sub-species) in pretty much the same spot I saw one, my first, three years ago in January 2017 on the River Wandle. Also, my second-ever Yellow-browed warbler, always moving and largely hidden, but seemingly chasing Chiffchaff and other species from one bushy trees. Grey wagtail, male Blackcap

**Sydenham Woods, London: March 29, 2020** The world is in the grip of COVID-19 coronavirus, and everyone is remaining at home, only going out close to their home once a day for exercise, shopping or emergencies, and the death toll—mainly the old and those with existing health conditions—is numbering in 10s of 1,000s around the world. Any birding is local, that is very local. I did see 2 x Stock dove, drinking in a pond, and 6 or 7 x Redwing, which is pretty late in the season for this species. Also, a Wren singing like crazy

**From the window of my home, Sydenham, London: March 31, 2020** Marsh harrier floating over the houses. I wonder if the very noticeable absence of people on the streets, cars



on the road and noise in the air might be beneficial to nature, certainly as now we are in the breeding season?

**Hutchinson's Bank, New Addington, Surrey: May 2, 2020** (I saw the first sighting anywhere in the U.K. of a new species for me (my 49th for the U.K.), Glanville fritillary after several years of trying to find one on this site, which is not recognised by Butterfly Conservation, despite the population being self-sustaining. I saw two examples, one showing the underwings, one showing the outer-wings, and also six or so caterpillars of the species. Also, Dingy skipper)

... also, Glanville fritillary on 20 May and 7 June

**South Benfleet, Essex: June 13, 2020**

The COVID-19 lockdown has eased slightly. **MARSH WARBLER** (a new species for U.K.), difficult to see, but on the two occasions I got a good view, sufficient to ID this species, its long primaries being the main feature. Also, Common tern; Little egret; Goldfinch. (Also, first Small skipper and Marbled white butterflies of the year)

**Sandwich Estate, Kent: June 22, 2020**

Skylark; Linnet; Reed bunting; Spotted flycatcher; Common ringed plover; Stonechat; Whitethroat. (Also, my first Lizard orchid)

**Dungeness, Kent: June 26, 2020**

After some searching after an almost immediate flyover, a **GULL-BILLED TERN** (a new species for U.K.) that was flying and fishing actively but always fairly distantly over the site's ARC Pit. Also, my third U.K. Black-winged stilt and on Dungeness beach a Black redstart

**Oare Marshes Nature Reserve, Oare, Faversham, Kent: July 11, 2020** Bonaparte's gull again, the rare American gull that comes from somewhere & moults every year here; also, Spotted redshank; Redshank (30); Skylark; Linnet; Yellow wagtail; Black-tailed godwit (30); Curlew (four), and an escaped falcon mix with two tags.

**Oare Marshes Nature Reserve, Oare, Faversham, Kent: July 18, 2020** Lesser yellowlegs, almost exactly a year after one came last year; also, two Yellow wagtail; Little gull; a very close Curlew; one Knot; Dunlin; Avocet; Skylark; 30 Redshank

**Hutchinson's Bank, New Addington, Surrey: July 19 and 20, 2020** On first day, overcast, juvenile Goldfinch and adult and juvenile Green woodpecker; on second day, 2 x Marsh titmouse (I saw one here last year). (Also, several Marbled white; second-brood individuals of Common blue and Small blue; Gatekeeper; Ringlet; Meadow brown, and one Dark-green fritillary)

**Cuckmere Haven, Sussex: July 26, 2020** Greta views of an adult male Little stint and a juvenile Wood sandpiper. Also, Little ringed plover; Rock pipit; Dunlin; Shelduck; Linnet; Skylark; Buzzard; Kestrel; Peregrine, and Oystercatcher

**Dungeness, Kent, England: 1 August, 2020:** Great white egret; 100 x Gadwall; 20 x Pochard; Ruff; 10 x Gannet; Common tern; Yellow wagtail; Meadow pipit; Stonechat;

Whitethroat; female Wheatear and two young; Oystercatcher; Little egret, and juvenile Mediterranean gull

**Headley Heath, Tadworth, Surrey: August 9, 2020** First-ever sighting of a Silver-spotted skipper, my 50th U.K. butterfly species

**Beckenham Place Park, Beckenham, Kent: 11 August, 2020:** Word has got out that there are now fledged 2 x juvenile Hobby, perched on tree branches, of a rare example of this species nesting in a London park. Juveniles were not very confident yet of flying; another juvenile was flying, though, as were two adults that kept pretty much out of the picture save for a hawking expedition or three

**Shapwick March, Somerset: September 4, 2020:** Osprey; Marsh harrier; Hobby; Little egret, and Great egret. Also in Somerset, Raven

**Nuthurst, Sussex: September 5-11, 2020** Spotted flycatcher; Marsh titmouse; Wren; Great spotted woodpecker; Coal tit. Also, elsewhere in Sussex, Wheatear; Marsh harrier; Common sandpiper, and Red kite

**Ditchling Beacon, Sussex: September 5-6, 2020** On arrival to Sussex from Somerset, set off to see a **DOTTEREL** (a new species for U.K.). I had no luck on the Saturday evening, when three were present, but I did see Wheatear and Grey partridge, but I saw one, and one only, on the Monday morning

**East Head, Sussex: September 10, 2020** Bar-tailed godwit; Curlew; Whimbrel; 200 x Oystercatcher; Dunlin; Redshank, and Greenshank

**Pagham Harbour RSPB Reserve, Sussex: September 5-6, 2020** 40 x Cattle egret, certainly the most I have ever seen and possibly the most anywhere collectively in the U.K. (the reserve in 2020 recorded the first breeding success for the country); Whinchat; Stonechat; male and female Redstart; one Spoonbill; Spotted redshank; Redshank; Snipe; Yellow wagtail; Curlew; Black-tailed godwit; Great black-backed gull, and Kingfisher

**Whitehawk, Brighton, Sussex: September 19, 2020** Following a 25-mile run from Hassocks to and along the South Downs Way to Southease and back across a separate section of the Downs to Telscombe and above Rottingdean, my first-ever sighting of a Long-tailed blue, my 51st U.K. butterfly species. Also, butterfly species Clouded yellow and Wall

**Sandwich Estate, Kent: September 20, 2020**  
Juvenile Skylark; Wheatear; Stonechat; Buzzard; Kestrel; Linnet

**Shuart Marshes, Kent: October 18, 2020** Quick trip down the Thames past Faversham to see a **MASKED SHRIKE** (a new species for the U.K.), the fourth ever to come to the United Kingdom and the first for Kent; present, 17-18 Oct., 2020. Also, Goldcrest; Swallow; House martin, and Kingfisher. (The shrike disappeared sometime in the night of 18-19 October)

**Chew Valley Lake, Somerset: October 28, 2020** Tried to find the Lesser scaup that has been seen distantly from the Moreton hide but with no success. Great egret and Grey heron both catching perch; also, Little egret; Little grebe; Lesser yellowlegs (my fifth in the U.K.); Goosander, and Goldeneye



**Somerset Levels, Somerset: October 29, 2020** 143 Cattle egret (hardly a rarity any more, especially in this area) in three groups. Also, my third Glossy ibis; Great egret; Little egret; Fieldfare; Redwing; one male Bearded titmouse, and 2 x eclipse Wigeon

**Willsbridge Mill, Avon: October 30, 2020** Grey wagtail

**Bewbush Brook, Crawley, Sussex: October 31, 2020** On the way home from Somerset a stop-off to see **DUSKY WARBLER** (a new species for the U.K.). I enjoyed a couple of somewhat brief looks as it, firstly, came in ahead of a group of Long-tailed titmouse, which could have been a coincidence, and then, secondly, for a little more time to better see its brown-russet back, eye-stripe and large Wren-like stature. (Also found out today that the Bottlenose dolphin, seen almost a year ago on December 17, 2019, in Weymouth Harbour being freed from netting, died. It was the only dolphin to live almost exclusively in and around the harbour and unfortunately had a collision with a boat.)

**Worth Marshes and Kingsdown, Kent: November 21, 2020**

Failed to see the Eastern yellow wagtail, which has been seen that day, but I did see two, maybe three, of the five reported **LAPLAND BUNTING** (a new species for the U.K.) as I left the area they had last been seen in and walked along footpaths to the right of the village of Worth. Also, three Jack snipe and several Stonechat.

As I was leaving to go home, news came in of a real find at Kingsdown, a 15-minute drive away, and I got to see **CRAG MARTIN** (a new species for the U.K.) with about 10 minutes left of good light; present, 22-24 Nov., 2020. Great views as it started to roost against the white cliff side. It was seen briefly the next day as it flew south, but it returned on Monday, 23 November, too. It had been found, so I was told, by a “non-birder” who thought what he thought was a Sand martin did not quite look right, so he called a birding friend who came down to see it, confirmed its identity and spread the word. That does not sound like a “non-birder” to me

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: November 26, 2020** 5 x Pintail; one Water pipit that I found and managed to show several other people, for most of whom it constituted a new species, so that was satisfying, as it is usually someone else who shows me a bird, or I hear of one being seen somewhere. Several Marsh harrier, Buzzard sitting on a post and two Redshank on the River Thames. Wigeon back in high number. I bumped into an old friend, Joel Williams and his daughter

**Sonning, Oxfordshire: November 29, 2020** My first Redwing of the winter

**Thursley Common, Surrey: December 4, 2020** Arrived at first light to try and find two species that have been seen the previous six days but not the day before I went, which was a day of horrendous rain. I found the **RUSTIC BUNTING** (new species for U.K.; present, 27 Nov.-29 Mar., 2020) and Little bunting, which comprised only my second sighting, and definitely the best. Both birds were elusive, often hiding in the grass among scrub and gorse, and several Reed bunting confused the identification. The light was best before 9:30 a.m., which was when I took my only photographs. The rest of the time did not produce good sightings, maybe because there was later on a dozen people there looking for the birds. Also, Red kite; one Dartford warbler; 2 x Fieldfare; Coal tit, and Goldcrest

**Swale Estuary and Capel Fleet, Isle of Sheppey, Kent: December 7, 2020** A very murky, foggy day, a heavy mist that did not lift. Beautifully atmospheric, and I met one other birder all day. Along the Swale I saw Curlew, also calling; Redshank and 100 x White-fronted goose in two groups. At Capel Fleet a scan in the gloom revealed a Barn owl, at 2:15 p.m., and, my first for decades, Hen harrier, a female. All photos were certainly not show-stoppers. Also, Turnstone, Redshank, and Oystercatcher on the shore at Leysdown-on-Sea, by the Shellness Estate

**Letcombe Regis, Oxfordshire: December 11, 2020** GREAT BUSTARD (new species for U.K.), but one I will regard as an escapee unless told otherwise—even though the population is self-sustaining, all birds do come from a reintroduction programme on Salisbury Plain. A magnificent bird, the heaviest flying bird on the planet. Also, a Fieldfare sitting on a fence, and a male Pheasant who might have walked across the field in which the bustard was if the bustard was not five times as large

**Stearth Marshes, Cheddar Reservoir and Barrow Gurney Reservoir, Somerset: December 12, 2020** A sunny day among several of gloom, and an **EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL** (new species for the U.K.), a relatively recent split from the Yellow wagtail, at Stearth. After not seeing one on November 21, 2020, it was good to catch up with one here, but it was hard work to find. It also is notable in that it is the first “lifer” Alex Carlisle and I have seen together for more than 30 years, his U.K. list being far larger and mine and I having lived in the USA for 20 years. Some birders had arrived at dawn, 7:30, and it was seen only once all day, at 2 p.m. We did hear it a couple of hours before we saw it, and it was lucky we managed to see it at all. We had turned the car around while eating lunch to view a compost heap that the bird occasionally favoured, and it was only because we were now facing the marsh wall that we saw some birders show signs of anxiousness. We were out of the car in a flash and run up and along the wall to where we had been earlier to view the birds for perhaps no more than 40 seconds before it flew up, around in a circle above our heads and disappeared. Other birders scattered along the wall would have missed it for sure. Also, good views of Hen harrier low over the marshes and a Merlin that shot though and took out a Redshank. We also saw Nature Watch’s Iolo Williams and Mya-Rose Craig filming for an upcoming series, possibly the Penduline tit that would only be seen well with a very high-powered TV camera; present, 25 Nov.-20 Dec., 2020

Last stop was Cheddar Reservoir for a **RED-CRESTED POCHARD** (new species for the U.K.), a species that is not reported but does not have huge numbers in the U.K. outside of one park in the Cotswolds, a species that I simply had not got around to seeing before. Our first stop of the day was Barrow Gurney Reservoir for a very confiding Great northern diver, definitely my best views, and my first U.K. male Long-tailed duck, a super thing, as is the diver. Also, a Common sandpiper

**Cooling Marshes and Salt Fleet, Cooling, Kent: December 20, 2020** A long, muddy walk from Cooling Castle across the marshes to Salt Fleet, the scene of a hurried swim across Egypt Bay creek 35 years ago or so with Alex Carlisle and Clive Gilby. This time around I did not walk around the Thames shore path so far but saw a **RICHARD’S PIPIT** (new species for the U.K.) that flew out of cover and landed 50 or so metres from me. Evident supercilium that went over the eye to the bill, long legs and upright stance. It was skittish. Also, two Peregrine falcon; Marsh harrier; Kestrel; 200 x Shelduck; 50 x Skylark, a flock of Redwing and Fieldfare. Also saw two dead foxes laid neatly side by side off Rye Street in Cooling, which I reported, although I have no idea if a crime was perpetrated

**Reculver and Oare Marshes Nature Reserve, Faversham, Kent: January 3, 2021** At Reculver, 3 x Snow bunting, my best views of this wonderful species, although flitty and sometimes difficult to see amid the shingle. Also, Sanderling; Curlew; Redshank; Oystercatcher; 40 x Corn bunting; 20 x Reed bunting; 50 x Meadow pipit; Stonechat; 100 x Brent; Buzzard

At Oare, 4 x Bearded tit (I had expected stronger winds today, but no), including two males, one of which was confiding for at least one close-up photo; 20 x Pintail; Gadwall; Teal; Kingfisher hovering over Oare Creek; one Turnstone; 3 x Curlew; 100 x Avocet; several Shelduck; Dunlin; 3 x Grey plover. In addition, a Slow-worm (I reported this to the relevant herpetology website), which I thought initially was dead and which when I realised it was not moved gently with gloves off the sea-wall path and into an area of denser vegetation, and a Common seal in Oare Creek

**Rivers Pool and Ravensbourne, London; February 27, 2021** So very little birding as we moped around in the midst of a 3.5-month lockdown to at least 12 April, but two Grey wagtail; Kingfisher zipping up and down; Sparrowhawk, and Goldcrest

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: March 12, 2021** 2 x Fieldfare; 3 x Grey wagtail; Teal; Pochard; Wigeon; Shelduck; Gadwall; 5 x Redshank, and 3 x Barnacle goose (I heard of a birder who has 195 species for this site but not a Barnacle goose, well, until March 13, 2021. The resident southern population of this goose I believe is to get or has got recognition as a self-sustaining population, but I have seen many of the Solway Firth between England and Scotland so definitely know I have an accepted example

**Peckham Rye Park, London; March 14,15, 16 and 17, 2021** Four visits on four consecutive days to see a Little owl roosting in a pine tree just outside the perimeter of Sexby Gardens. The best views I have had of this species; also, on 14 March, a Great-spotted woodpecker

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: March 20, 2021** Great view of a Cetti's warbler flying over reeds. Also, Curlew; 4 x Black-tailed godwit; 3 x Oystercatcher, and a Peregrine falcon

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: March 27, 2021** 2 x Peregrine falcon; one male and one female Wheatear (first for the year); several Chiffchaff; 2 x Stock dove, and Oystercatcher

**Hutchinson's Bank, New Addington, Surrey: March 28, 2021** Two Red kites and 2 x Skylark on Farleigh Golf Course

**Moors Nature Reserve, Redhill, Surrey: April 1, 2021** Female Ring-necked duck quite close to the bank that gave excellent views. This is only third I have seen, and the first female. Also, Coal tit; Little grebe, and nesting Great crested grebe

**Staines Moors and Staines Reservoir, Staines, Surrey: 1 April, 2021** My first visit to Staines Moors to try and see (I did not) reported Ring ouzel, but Linnet; 50 x Skylark; male Wheatear; Green woodpecker; Blackcap; Chiffchaff, and first Swallow of the year, while on the reservoir was a Little ringed plover and 50 x Pied wagtail

**Barcombe Cross, Sussex: April 10, 2021** An early drive down to see **WHITE-THROATED SPARROW** (new species for the U.K.); present, 3-18 Feb., 2021. It had been reported in the previous two days and could well be the same individual as was seen (and suppressed) in Kent in January. After a hour of searching it gave great views at approximately 8 a.m. on a chilly morning. On the way home stopped off at Weir Wood Reservoir and saw Nuthatch and year's first Whitethroat

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: April 16, 2021** My first walk to the Southern Marsh area of this reserve, where I found a female Ring ouzel and watched it for 45 minutes, with it being in the company of four Song thrush

**Shrewsbury Park, Shooters Hill, Kent: April 20, 2021** Tawny owl. I had been told of it and its location, and it was quite easily found, although there was no sign of its chicks, which have been seen

**Samphire Hoe and Dungeness, Kent: April 23, 2021** At Samphire Hoe, Black redstart; Meadow pipit; Stonechat; numerous Linnet; 3 x Raven; also, my first-ever Early spider orchid, the main reason for my visit. After searching for two hours, I found one flowering example with one flower, as well as several orchids not yet in bloom  
At Dungeness, at sea, Gannet; Common tern, and 16 Whimbrel; on a low, flat roof of the nuclear power station, Iceland gull; and in the RSPB reserve, on the feeder, 2 x Brambling, one male, and Greenfinch, and out in the field 32 x Curlew, which was a very nice sight, as well as Sedge warbler

**Nettlebed, Oxfordshire: April 24, 2021** On a walk with friends, an albino Pheasant being looked at carefully by a Red kite, of which I saw many, this being the epicentre of the English reintroduction of this species some 20 years ago or so. Having my first pint in a pub (outdoors being the only seating allowed at the moment) I saw that the town-sign mural of the village featured a Red kite

**Hartslock, Oxfordshire, and Hambleden, Buckinghamshire: May 16, 2021** An orchid trip, essentially, but at Hartslock a Cuckoo calling and breaking cover, but also a few Lady orchid, a handful of Monkey orchid and numerous examples of Lady-Monkey orchid, the only place in the U.K. where these exist  
In the Hambleden area, Military orchid (the first time I have seen them) in one of only three places in the U.K. they exist, and three Early purple orchid. The Military orchid were still in closed spikes, but I found one "soldier" who was out of barracks, so to speak. Also, maybe 40 Red kite, one Buzzard and three or four Orange tip butterflies

**Cumbria and County Durham: May 29-June 1, 2021** A short holiday. At Cross Keys, Cautley Spout, for all four days a Cuckoo calling, and I had good views on three occasions and once seeing it mobbed by a group of passerines. Also, Siskin; Coal tit; Meadow pipit; Stonechat; Skylark; Oystercatcher; Grey wagtail; Common sandpiper; Lapwing; Buzzard; Swallow; Sand martin; House martin, and Swift. At Langdon Beck, no sign of Black grouse, with the weather very warm, but lots of Curlew and Lapwing

**Magpie Bottom, Shoreham, Kent: 6 June, 2021** Another orchid trip, with Man orchid; Common twayblade; Common spotted orchid (just starting to bloom), and Early purple orchid (one, and on its last legs). Also, 3 x Broad-leaved helleborine, but a few weeks from flowering. Nightingale heard and Mistle thrush seen

**Nuthurst, Sussex, and other spots in Sussex: June 26-July 17, 2021** In the garden of the cottage we stayed in, Yellowhammer; Song thrush; Greater-spotted woodpecker; Red kite; Buzzard; Coal tit; Nuthatch

At Knepp, White stork (a new species for me in the U.K., but these are introduced birds); male Bullfinch (to go with the female Bullfinch I saw at Warnham Nature Reserve, Horsham) At Amberley Brooks, distant but credible view of a juvenile White-tailed eagle, also one from a reintroduction project, in its case on the Isle of Wight (local birders on line suggest it is searching for a breeding ground of its own); I had almost given up searching for it when I saw what seemed to me to be an unusual lump on a tree (Other wildlife sightings dominated by orchids: At Heyshott, my first-ever Musk orchid (12 spikes), after a long search and amazement at how tiny they are); also, Common twayblade and Bee orchid, and nearby hundreds and hundreds of Pyramidal orchid. At Firle Beacon, my first sighting of Frog orchid (nine spikes)

**Dulwich, London: July 23, 2021** On a run, a Little owl

**Minsmere RSPB Reserve, Saxmundham, Suffolk: August 1, 2021 WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** (new species for the U.K.), with great views, and once probing the mud very close to the East Hide; also, distant but ID-able Pectoral sandpiper; 3 x Spotted redshank; 3 x Kittiwake; Bittern and Great egret flyovers; Marsh harrier; Ruff; Ringed plover; Black-tailed godwit

**Oare Marshes, Faversham, and Cliffe, Kent: August 14, 2021** At Oare, Bonaparte's gull (the same returning one, I imagine); 3 x Little tern; Greenshank. (Also, Grass snake and Marsh frog)

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: August 15, 2021** All three species of egret, Cattle, Great and Little. Also, Marsh harrier; Yellow-legged gull, and Curlew. (Later on, went to near Vigo, Kent, and found my first Violet helleborine)

**Frampton Marsh RSPB Reserve, Frampton, Lincolnshire: August 21, 2021** My first visit to this reserve, and a great day. **PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER** (new species for the U.K.), with so-so views followed later by good views to both sides of the sea wall, and **BLACK STORK** (new species for the U.K.; present, 12 Aug-15 Sept., 2021), with again initially so-so views, but later on it flew right over my head, once being mobbed by an Avocet. Also, Spotted sandpiper; Ringed plover; Little ringed plover; 2 x Little stint; Greenshank; Redshank; Green sandpiper; Common sandpiper; numerous Ruff; 26 x Spoonbill; numerous Snipe; Dunlin; Little owl; Short-eared owl; Kestrel; Merlin; adult Cuckoo that flew in front of my car as I drove into the reserve; Wheatear; numerous Yellow wagtail; Greater scaup

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates: September 18-22, 2021** Qudra Lakes and Ras al Khor: Greater flamingo; Grey Francolin; Stone curlew; Lesser grey shrike; White-tailed lapwing; Sociable plover; Grey plover; Ringed plover; Kentish plover; Ruff; Dunlin; Redshank; Greenshank; Red-vented bulbul; White-cheeked bulbul; Shikra; Marsh harrier; Grey heron; Western reef heron; Little egret; Great egret; Black-winged stilt; Common sandpiper; Green sandpiper; Sooty gull (Al Mamzar); Blue-cheeked bee-eater; Indian roller; Hoopoe; Fulvous whistling-duck. (Also, Arabian gazelle and Sand gazelle)

**London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: September 23, 2021** Pectoral sandpiper, my third one in the U.K. and the nearest, although not so very close

**Isles of Scilly, Cornwall, England: October 2-9, 2021** 100 species, exactly, seen from the moment Alex Carlisle and I left Timsbury to my return home, including two species seen on October 10

**Hayle Estuary, Cornwall (October 1)**—2 x Bar-tailed godwit; Black-tailed godwit; Oystercatcher; Redshank and Greenshank

**Isles of Scilly**

October 2—Scillonian III Crossing (Penzance to Hugh Town): Eider; **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** (new species for the U.K.); Sooty shearwater; Manx shearwater and Gannet

Lower Moors: Greenshank and Water rail

Porth Hellick—Water rail; Spotted crane; Glossy ibis; Pectoral sandpiper; Greenshank and Merlin

October 3—Hugh Town: Great crested grebe (rarity for the Isles of Scilly)

Bryher—Buff-breasted sandpiper (my second only; this is the species I believe I start my U.K. list with, having seen one in September or October 1977 in Cliffe, Kent); 2 x Pink-footed goose and Brent (Pale-bellied form)

Tresco—Dotterel

October 4—St. Agnes: **BUFF-BELLIED PIPIT** (new species for the U.K.); present, Oct. 3-5, 2022; 2 x Pied wagtail (White wagtail sub-species)

Lower Moors—Water rail

October 5—St. Mary's: Woodchat shrike (my second only, and one of the Balearic sub-species *Lanius senator badius*) and Snow bunting

St. Martin's—**RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER** (new species for U.K.)

October 6—On a Pelagic from the Sapphire: Sandwich tern; Peregrine falcon; Great skua (my second only); Arctic skua (my second only); 2 x Puffin; Razorbill; Guillemot; Manx shearwater; Sooty shearwater and Arctic tern. (Also a Common dolphin breaching the water)

October 7—Porthmellon: Sanderling

Porth Hellick—Pectoral sandpiper snuggled up next to a Snipe; Bar-tailed godwit and Yellow-browed warbler. (Also a Hummingbird hawkmoth)

October 8—St. Agnes: Snow bunting; Whitethroat; Willow warbler and Whinchat

The Garrison—Pied flycatcher

October 9—Peninnis: male and female Black redstart

The Garrison—Pied flycatcher; Spotted flycatcher; Yellow wagtail; Black redstart and Whinchat

**Normandy Marsh, Lymington, England: October 10, 2021 WESTERN**

**SANDPIPER** (new species for U.K.), I believe the 13th for the U.K., and Little stint. The sandpiper smaller than surrounding Dunlin and possessed a characteristic bobbing movement as it moved and searched for food; present, Oct. 4-14, 2021

**Dulwich, London, England: October 17, 2021** On a walk with Francesca, a Little owl and, later, a Peregrine falcon

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: October 24, 2021** A couple of decent but fleeting views of Dartford warbler, but the first time I have seen this species within view of Dartford itself, the town in which I was born. Also, 4 x Cattle egret

**Thamesmead, Erith, Crayford, Kent: November 19, 2021**

Searching with Alex and Mike for Caspian gull, with a few examples we thought were our quarry, but turned out not to be. Yellow-legged gull, though.

**Oare Marshes, Faversham, and Cliffe, Kent: November 28, 2021** Hoping for a day of strong northerly or easterly winds, with alcids and tubenoses, but it was a gorgeous if chilly day, with the winds not moving the way I wanted. Grey plover; Curlew; 60 x Avocet; Golden plover; several murmuration of Knot in the distance; Marsh harrier hovering over the Thames, and Brent  
At Cliffe, Black-throated diver; Kingfisher, and Red-breasted merganser

**Blacktoft Sands RSPB, Goole, Yorkshire: December 16, 2021** Visit to see the long-staying **WHITE-TAILED LAPWING** (new species for U.K.), which, although I assumed it was still there, I found for myself, waiting for five minutes before it popped out from behind a small muddy islet. Also, quite a number of Snipe

**Carr Vale Nature Reserve, Chesterfield, Derbyshire: December 16, 2021** Stopped off on the way home to see **AMERICAN WIGEON** (new species for U.K.), among numerous (Eurasian) wigeon and Teal; also, much to my surprise, **WILLOW TIT** (new species for U.K.), which I called out (the other birders there were looking at right angles to the flat-tray bird feeder at the American wigeon) as Marsh tit, but was delightfully corrected. I saw one on another occasion, too. Also, 3 x Pink-footed goose and 2 x Pintail, both species flying overhead

**Pulborough Brooks RSPB, Pulborough, Sussex: December 19-31, 2021** A few birding visits among two weeks near Horsham for Christmas. For dearest little White, one of our cats, I dedicate a wonderful sighting of a Lesser-spotted woodpecker on two visits; also, Goshawk; Marsh harrier; White-fronted goose; Bullfinch  
At Warnham Nature Reserve, Horsham, a Bullfinch and five titmouse species—Blue, Coal, Great, Long-tailed and Marsh  
At Southwick Shore Canal, Shoreham-on-Sea, a Long-tailed duck, apart from two Cormorant, the only bird on the canal

**Western Parade, Eastbourne, Sussex: January 16, 2022**

**HUME'S LEAF-WARBLER** (new species for U.K.). Seen within a minute. I heard it zip over, and had good views of a flitty bird. Two birders standing next to me said they had waited 45 minutes before they saw it the same moment

**Isles of Grain and Sheppey, Kent: January 22, 2022**

At Yantlet Creek, Isle of Grain, no luck with a reported Glossy ibis but several Sanderling and Turnstone, while at Leysdown on the Isle of Sheppey, probably 100 Brambling, while on the beach by Little Groves Leisure Park, seven Shore lark. This is the first time I have seen the European *Eremophila alpestris flava* Shore lark, but I did see an American horned lark in the U.K. at Staines Reservoir, Surrey on 26 January, 2018, which could be referred to as the principal Shore or Horned lark prototype. There are 42 subspecies globally.  
At Capel Fleet, probably 200 Golden plover and 1,000 Brent. Also, a small flock of White-fronted goose and a Red kite

**Marsh Farm Country Park. South Woodham Ferrers, Essex: January 23, 2022**

My 300th U.K. species, **RED-BREASTED GOOSE** (new species for U.K.); present, 8 Jan.-6 Feb., 2022. I arrived at the site at approximately 9 a.m. just as another birder, Daniel Field, a Canadian ornithologist teaching and researching at Cambridge University, arrived, too, so we introduced ourselves and decided to find the goose together. It was not in the flock of Brent present, and we walked all the way around the country park to where Clementsgreen Creek meets the River Crouch, where we saw the Red-breasted goose fly in all on its own. We searched for it along the river bank, but then heard word that it was within the original flock. After that, we had great views, and it, and the flock, came somewhat close. Also, Grey plover; Golden plover; Dunlin; Rock pipit, and a "Black" brent, subspecies (*Branta bernicla nigricans*)

#### **Oslo, Norway: January 24-27, 2022**

A work trip, and I did not leave Central Oslo, but the crow here is only the Hooded crow, and in the harbour was a pair of resplendent Goldeneye

#### **Eastbourne, Sussex: February 12, 2022**

**AMERICAN ROBIN** (new species for U.K.), seen not so far from the sighting of the Hume's leaf warbler less than a calendar month before; present, 8-15 Feb., 2022. Glorious sunshine, and I arrived at 7 a.m. Seen immediately, and it flew and perched within 15 feet for fantastic views. (I am aware that I never gave a second glance of the 500,000 of this species I saw when I lived in the US, apart from enjoying its habit of walking fast forward three steps, coming to a halt, then repeating.) I went to see if I could see the Hume's leaf warbler again, but the surf was making a lot of noise, it was chilly and the wind blew, so I did not give it long. On the way home, right on the outskirts of Eastbourne at Polegate, there was a Hooded crow. A local said it had been there for three weeks, and I rather suspect the same is true of the American robin, even though it came to birders' attention only on February 8

#### **Priory Country Park, Bedford, Bedfordshire: February 26, 2022**

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** (new species for U.K.). A gorgeous sunny day, mild for the time of year, and this new species that took some while to find. There were not so many teal, at least even half-visible, but a slow scan through lots of reeds finally revealed one with the tell-tale white bands going down through the breast. Also there, one Greater white-fronted goose; Marsh harrier; 3 x Snipe; 2 x Oystercatcher, and a flock of 40 feral Barnacle geese. A stop off at RSPB Sandy, the organisation's HQ and a place I have never been to, showed Siskin; Coal tit; 3 x Red kite, 2 x Greenfinch, and a Nuthatch

#### **Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: February 27, 2022**

Common sandpiper; 20 x Redshank; 20 x Black-tailed godwit; Wigeon; Pochard; Gadwall; 100s of Teal; Linnet; Peregrine

#### **Epping Forest, Essex: March 20, 2022**

On a walk with friends, a Firecrest in really good light

#### **Mayow Park, Sydenham, London: March 29, 2022**

Francesca took a photo of a "strange bird" she saw while out on a run, and it was the escaped Crested caracara from London Zoo, which has been roaming around south and southeast London (and last heard at Kemsing, Kent) for three weeks. A team came from the zoo to see if they could recapture it, but they failed, obviously. (It was finally recaptured.)

#### **Lower Pond Lane Ponds, Marlow, Buckinghamshire: April 3, 2022**



**BLUE-WINGED TEAL** (new species for U.K.). So, two American teal U.K. lifers for me in a row, this one being a female; also, a Red kite landed in a tree very close to me, and I got a couple of good photos before it saw me and dashed off

**Abberton Reservoir, Peldon, Essex: April 9, 2022**

**LESSER SCAUP** (new species for U.K.), which took some finding. There were only two flocks of tufted duck on the reservoir, a small flock of six and a large flock of maybe 200. It was not in the smaller flock, and in the larger flock it took a lot of searching, but finally I saw the grey back, upright head and small bobble to the back of the head. It was not windy today, but all the ducks were diving, and it was very easy to lose. Also, a pair of Goldeneye and my first Swallow of the year

**Mucking Marshes, East Tilbury, Essex: April 9, 2022**

My second-ever Temminck's stint, which I believe is the same bird that has been seen in Cliffe, Kent, and was found by a friend of mine, Paul Dietrich. Really tidy individual, with the pale brown head and breast band showing nicely. Also, a Ringed plover and a Little ringed plover, my first for the year

**Ham Wall RSPB Reserve, Somerset: April 23, 2022**

A very unpromising day that turned into a very warm one, albeit with some gusts of strong breeze. The highlights were six Glossy ibis all in a group (five of which later took to the air, scared off by an overenthusiastic photographer) and five Garganey, including four males. Also, Great egret; Willow warbler; Blackcap, and a Bittern, although also we heard three or four booming, one very close but still unseen

**Grunwald, Berlin, Germany: May 2, 2022**

The first train stop—albeit a fairly long one from the Zoo area of Berlin—to a very large deciduous wood area dropping down to the Havelsee lake. Incredible birding so close to the city centre, with Hawfinch; Redstart; Nightingale; Wood warbler; Black woodpecker; Treecreeper; Nuthatch, and a pair of Crane on the small Platsee

**Richmond, London, to Oxford, 100-mile Centurion Running race: May 7-8, 2022**

I ran 100 miles—actually, 102 due to a bridge being closed by the Environmental Agency the evening before the race's start—from London to Oxford along the Thames Path. Forty-two species recorded, including Green woodpecker, Marsh tit and four calling Cuckoo

**Regents Park, London: May 14, 2022**

Heard numerous times before seen, an Iberian chiffchaff. The second time I have seen this species, but the first time I have heard and seen it singing repeatedly

**Skokholm Island, Pembrokeshire, Wales: May 29, 2022**

Quite extraordinary how I got here. On a trip to celebrate Francesca's birthday, and a trip modelled on her pace and interests, we had a planned trip to Skomer Island, essentially to see Puffin, but due to northerly winds it is impossible or dangerous for boats to land there, even if the sea looks like a millpond. I was told it has everything to do the swell. For a few days I had seen that on the normally inaccessible island next to Skomer, Skokholm, there had been a **MOLTONI'S SUBALPINE WARBLER** (new species for U.K.) present, so when I got an email saying the Skomer trip was cancelled, I called the number for the special birding boat organised, especially to see that species. Apparently, it is only the third time this century a boat has been organised to land at the bird reserve, which is always off limits (the other two

boat trips were organised to see a Swainson's thrush and a Yellow-rumped warbler). Twenty-nine birders were met at the jetty and literally frogmarched to where the warbler had been seen. It was very elusive, but I saw it well twice, but never long enough to photograph; present, May 27-29, 2022

Also, spotted an **ICTERINE WARBLER** (new species for U.K.), among the few birders who were far enough along the trail to get back to the boat, so I got two new species, even though it, too, was very flitty. Also, Puffin; Razorbill, and Guillemot, my best views of these three birds I have ever had. Raven, too. It was a real privilege to come to this island. A memorable day. The Moltoni's warbler is, I believe, the 12th record for the U.K., and all of them have been in fringe, usually very isolated destinations, with the exception of two at Blakeney Point, Norfolk. It also is the first for Wales. The Icterine warbler was the 30th for Skokholm but the first since September 2014, just the third this century and the second to be seen in May



(Moltoni's warbler twitch, Skokholm Island, Wales; May 30, 2022)



(I am the last in line up the hill from the jetty, Skokholm Island, Wales)

### **Worth Marshes and Stodmarsh, Kent: June 2, 2022**

Capping off what has been a very remarkable week of birding an **ELEONORA'S FALCON** (new species for U.K.), the first-ever twitchable example of the species for the country, with its previous appearances always being for one day only; present, 26 May-4 June, 2022. This one has been here for since May 26, the day before I was happily ensconced in Wales. I was there at 0645, and I waited until 0712 before it dropped from its roost in the Great Wood to start patrolling the marsh in front of it. Very good views, including one of its hunting and devouring a dragonfly. Also, my second-ever Red-footed falcon, this one a juvenile with a white face and belly; also, a Hobby. There were at least six Hobby in Stodmarsh, as well as several Marsh harrier. Also, at Worth were several Avocet with chicks and two Little ringed plover

### **City of London: June 11, 2022**

A non-birding day to a series of "secret" gardens opened up once a year as part of the Open Gardens event. At the Nomura Insurance Co. headquarters on Angel Lane, I was very privileged to be invited to the rooftop garden, usually out of bounds, and not open during this event, to see Small-flowered tongue orchid, which were discovered at the site in 2021 and which were the first of its species to be discovered in the United Kingdom since 1989. There are almost 30 spikes, but already this year they were fading, but there was one with some flowers. Obviously, a new species for me

### **Old Lodge, Ashdown Forest, Nutley, Sussex: June 12, 2022**

12 x Redstart, males and females; 12 x Dartford warbler, with the first time I have managed to photograph one; 2 x Tree pipit; Wood lark; Red kit; Buzzard, and Hobby. (Also, Heath-spotted orchid)

**Bempton Cliffs RSPB, Yorkshire, and Idle Washlands, Nottinghamshire: June 26, 2022** At long last, a chance to catch up with the famed **BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS** (new species for U.K.) that erroneously arrived here in summer 2021 and has returned for a second lost but wonderfully so year; present, 30 Mar.-Aug. 3, 2022. I arrived at 9 a.m. and waited for 90 minutes before it decided to launch itself off some hidden rock crag, but the wait was well worth it, the huge bird circling three or four times right beneath me. It then disappeared, and it did not reveal itself for more than five hours. I had long gone, with the winds picking up noticeably. Also, Puffin; Razorbill; Guillemot; Fulmar, and Kittiwake. By the visitor centre were several Tree sparrow

On the way home, stopped off at Idle Washlands to see a **CASPIAN TERN** (new species for U.K.); present, 25 June-2 July, 2022. This is the largest tern species, and it dwarfed a Black-headed gull standing next to it. Also, one Wood sandpiper

**San Francisco, California: July 19-26, 2022**

**Fort Mason, Crissy Field and the Presidio — HOODED ORIOLE** (new species for US); **RED-MASKED PARAKEET** (new species for US); **VESPER SPARROW** (new species for US); **HUTTON'S VIREO** (new species for US); **ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD** (new species for US); Black phoebe; Pygmy nuthatch; **BUSHTIT** (new species for US); **CALIFORNIA TOWHEE** (new species for US); Song sparrow; White-crowned sparrow; Lesser goldfinch; Nuttall's woodpecker; Surf scoter; Western grebe; **LAZULI BUNTING** (new species for US); **HEERMANN'S GULL** (new species for US); **CALIFORNIA SCRUB-JAY** (new species for US); Pacific wren; Cooper's hawk; Red-tailed hawk; Red-shouldered hawk; Peregrine; Killdeer; Pigeon guillemot; Brown pelican; American white pelican; Great blue heron; Brewer's blackbird; Pied grebe; Ruddy duck; American coot, and Collared dove  
**HALF MOON BAY PELAGIC, with Alvaro's Adventures —** Pigeon guillemot; Brown pelican; **BLACK TURNSTONE** (new species for US); **WANDERING TATLER** (new species for US); **ASHY STORM-PETREL** (new species for US); **BLACK-FOOTED ALBATROSS** (new species for US); Black oystercatcher; Pelagic cormorant; **BULLER'S SHEARWATER** (new species for US); California gull; **CASSIN'S AUKLET** (new species for US); Double-crested cormorant; **ELEGANT TERN** (new species for US); **GREY PHALAROPE** (new species for US); Guillemot; Heermann's gull; Marbled murrelet; **BRANDT'S CORMORANT** (new species for US); **PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER** (new species for US); Red-necked phalarope; Rhinoceros auklet; Sooty shearwater; Sabine's gull; Tufted puffin; Western gull; **LONG-TAILED SKUA** (new species for US); Arctic skua, **FULMAR** (new species for US), and **POMARINE SKUA** (new species for US)

Also, Killer whale (x 3); Humpback whale (x2); Harbour seal, and California sea lion

**Pagham Harbour RSPB and Medmerry RSPB reserves, July 30, 2022** A trip to see **SQUACCO HERON** (new species for U.K.), which was seen with no fuss at all intermingling with 20 or so Cattle egret. Very little else at the reserve.

At Medmerry, on what remained a humid if not sunny day, Curlew sandpiper in mostly summer plumage; Yellow wagtail; Ringed plover, and a Wood sandpiper that I rediscovered deep in grass but which then took a long walk along and back along a stretch of mud. A great many Sand martin were flying around

**Greenwich, London, July 31, 2022** Following seeing a wonderful photograph online of four Peregrine falcon on a church weathercock, a quick hop to see two of them. I waited for 40



minutes before I saw one fly by quickly, and then two play-fought acrobatically and settled on two protuberances of the Catholic Church of Our Lady Star of the Seas. The priest of the church, Father Kevin, happened to be on a stroll, and he invited me into his back garden to get a better look as the light in the afternoon was directly in front of me if I stood in front of the church. He and his wife, Frances, and daughter, Lisa, were very kind and hospitable, and I promised I would send some photos to them for their use, even if I did issue the caveat that the steel-grey light was not perfect for photography

**Dungeness, Kent: August 6, 2021** 5 x Glossy ibis and 5 x Great egret; also, Ringed plover; Little ringed plover; Common sandpiper; Sedge warbler; 4 x Lesser whitethroat; 2 x Black redstart; one male Pied flycatcher; one Wheatear and one Yellow-legged gull

**Ohio: August 13-15, 2022**

**Cleveland Lakefront Nature Reserve**—Blue grosbeak; Eastern wood pewee; Song sparrow; Pine warbler; Wilson's warbler; American goldfinch; Field sparrow; Chipping sparrow; Chimney swift; Red-breasted nuthatch; Ruby-throated hummingbird; and Downy woodpecker

**Magee Marsh**—Bald eagle, adult and immature; 2 or 3 Prothonotary warbler; Blue-grey gnatcatcher; Baltimore oriole; Ruby-throated hummingbird; Red-eyed vireo; Yellow warbler; Swamp sparrow; Green heron, and Ovenbird

**Ottawa National Reserve**—Sandhill crane; Long-billed dowitcher; Short-billed dowitcher; Semipalmated plover; Killdeer; Least sandpiper; Lesser yellowlegs; Pectoral sandpiper, and Greater yellowlegs

**Huntingdon Beach**—Indigo bunting; 2 x Belted kingfisher; Great crested flycatcher; Great blue heron; Northern flicker; Willow flycatcher, and Red-headed woodpecker

**Central Park, New York City, New York, USA: August 21, 2022** Blue-grey gnatcatcher; Great crested flycatcher; Willow flycatcher; Ruby-throated hummingbird; American redstart; Northern waterthrush; Yellow-rumped warbler; Baltimore oriole, and Canada warbler

**Timberland Fen, Timberland, Lincolnshire: August 27, 2021** **ROLLER** (new species for U.K.), a species I have dreamed of seeing since I received my first book on birds—"Bird spotting" by John Holland, illustrations by Rein Stuurman, published by Blandford Press, which contained a poor illustration of a Roller, but one that still caught my imagination—in the late 1970s. The bird was a juvenile, and it kept a little distant, but it flew off from its perch like a Spotted flycatcher quite often, which showed its blue wings to excellent effect. Also, Peregrine; Kestrel; Buzzard, and Red kite; present, 21-27 Aug., 2021

**Cliffe, Kent: August 29, 2022** Birding with Mike, in which he saw four lifers—Curlew sandpiper (approximately 15, including one with reddish splodges); Little stint; 2 x Stone curlew (only my second ever), which took some searching before being obvious and then just as suddenly disappearing after 10 minutes of watching them), and Pectoral sandpiper, which we saw on two occasions. Also, 100 x Avocet; Whitethroat, and Sanderling. Bumped into Barry Wright, a well-known Kent birder who I birded with in the 1980s but have not seen for 35+ years. We did not see the reported Glossy ibis, which was again reported after we left

**Wanstead Flats, Manor Park, London: September 2, 2022** On a chase for a reported Wryneck that I managed to see disappointingly zipping out of cover and then lost to view. Also, 2 x Wheatear and a Whinchat in an area wonderfully sealed off from the feet of Londoners to help nesting Skylark and other birds

**Pett Level, Sussex, and Dungeness, Kent: September 3, 2021 RED-NECKED**

**PHALAROPE** (new species for U.K.), a species I would have thought I would have seen before now, but some say it is not too easy to see, although 2022 seems to have reported a few individuals; present, Sept. 2-5, 2021. Wonderful views in the front area of the middle of a pond, the juvenile bird zigzagging and constantly following a small group of Black-headed gulls. Also, Bearded tit; Yellow wagtail; 6 x Curlew; 2 x Spoonbill; Gannet; Common tern; Sedge warbler; Bearded tit; Whinchat, and Sedge warbler  
At Dungeness, Pectoral sandpiper at Denge Marsh and, in wonderful light, at the ARC Pit, 2 x Glossy ibis; 2 x Snipe; Wood sandpiper; Curlew Sandpiper; Common sandpiper (these last four species very close to the hide); 200 x Golden plover

**Anchor Bottom, Steyning, Sussex: September 4, 2022** A first visit here, in the South Downs National Park, to find 100, maybe 200, spikes of a new orchid species for me, Autumn lady's-tresses, the U.K. last flowering orchid of the year. Also, 2 x Kestrel and a Buzzard

**West Peckham, Kent: September 10, 2022** Seem sitting on a wire, a Turtle dove, apart from the one I saw out of season in 2020 the first summer one I have seen in more than three decades

**Walmer, Kent: September 25, 2022** I believe today is my first butterfly twitch, I saw maybe five, perhaps seven, Queen of Spain fritillary, a rarity in the U.K. and which created much excitement. Later at Kingsdown, three Wheatear, perhaps 40 Stonechat, several juvenile Mediterranean gull following a plough with hundreds of other gulls and a Wall brown butterfly

**Isles of Scilly, Cornwall, England: October 7-16, 2022** 108 species, seen from the moment Alex Carlisle, Mike Edwards and I left Timsbury to my return home

((**Cheddar Reservoir, Somerset** (October 7)—no sign of the Glossy ibis, but a Whooper swan ))

((**Hayle Estuary, Cornwall** (October 7)—2 x Lesser yellowlegs; Little stint; Grey plover, and 8 x Bar-tailed godwit ))

**Isles of Scilly**

Scillonian III Crossing (Penzance to Hugh Town): Eider; **POMARINE SHEARWATER** (new species for the U.K.); Manx shearwater; Razorbill; Guillemot, and Gannet; (also, Common dolphin); on the boat back to Penzance, Great shearwater and Kittiwake

**Hugh Town**—Great Northern diver, in summer plumage, the first example I have seen in the U.K.; also, 2 x **COMMON ROSEFINCH** (new species for the U.K.), one in Hugh Town, the other near Holy Vale, after failing to see even one in 2021 on the Isles of Scilly

**St. Mary's**—**RADDE'S WARBLER** (new species for the U.K.), seen on two occasions on the same day, the only day it was present, one on the wall of the church in Old Town, the other two field lengths farther away; present, Oct. 9. On Porthellick Pool, from the Stephen Sussex Hide, a Water rail; Greenshank, and **WILSON'S SNIPE** (new species for the U.K.), which after a wait was flushed out by a Moorhen but circled back around to show underwing barring and different head pattern. There was one pale-looking snipe present, too. At the road side of Higher Moor, **MELODIOUS WARBLER** (new species for the U.K.), which I saw very well (present, Oct. 13-14, 2022) just before all pandemonium broke loose (see Bryher section below), and at Trenoweth, on my third attempt, **OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT** (new

species for the U.K.), which I saw after an organised, and gentle) flush of the bird from overgrown weeds and crops

**Others on St. Mary's**—Wryneck; Pied flycatcher; Spotted flycatcher; Goldcrest; 3 x Firecrest; Sandwich tern; Whitethroat; Blackcap; 3 x Sparrowhawk, Kestrel; Peregrine; Whimbrel; Wheatear; Mistle thrush (not common on the isles), and Redstart and Black redstart, the first time I have ever seen both on the same day

**Bryher**—**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** (new species for the U.K.; present, 13-28 Oct., 2022). See the write-up below, but suffice to say, a mega-sensation in Scilly birding, the seventh ever for the Western Palearctic, the fourth ever for the U.K. and the first for England, and the only really twitchable individual of this species. One the way there, a Long-tailed duck

**Tresco**—**SWAINSON'S THRUSH** (new species for the U.K.), the first of three mega-species seen on the islands (I saw it on the Saturday of my arrival and again two days later; present, 6-13 Oct., 2022); also, an initially confirmed Two-barred greenish warbler that was later determined an odd-looking Yellow-browed warbler missing the dark borders to its wing bars. A Yellow-browed warbler was seen on Tresco, as well as two on St. Mary's; also, Wryneck, a very approachable one in the middle of the village of New Grimsby; Cattle egret; Black-tailed godwit; Curlew sandpiper; Whinchat, and Lady Amherst's pheasant (I have never seen one before), although certainly an introduced one to the Abbey Gardens

### **Blackburnian warbler sightings, Western Palearctic**

7. Bryher, Isles of Scilly, England—October 13, 2022
6. St. Kilda, Outer Hebrides, Scotland—September 12-14, 2009
5. Fair Isle, Shetland, Scotland—October 7, 1988
4. once in Greenland (date?)
3. once in The Azores (date?)
2. Iceland; found dead on a fishing trawler 75 kilometres NW of Horni, Westfjörds—September or November 1987 (the bird was taken to the Iceland Museum of Natural History where the body remains)
1. Skomer, Pembrokeshire, Wales—October 5, 1961

**Aldeburgh, Suffolk: October 28, 2022** A very fortunate sighting of a bird that stayed only for a little more than a day, an **ALPINE ACCENTOR** (new species for the U.K.), which initially was a distant speck but gradually came closer for wonderful views. A birder standing next to me said he was on the same dinghy as I was to see the Blackburnian warbler (see above), which probably in the birding world is not a coincidence. He also said it was the first of this species he had seen in the U.K. for 44 years. Another birder said he had already dipped three times trying to see one.

At one point, a child—maybe three or four years old—ran out on the path right in front of the bird, which caused merriment and frustration in equal measure. This is the 40th registered sighting of this species in the U.K. and it is the first to be seen in the U.K. for 20 years. Only 30% of those records are from autumn, the rest are in spring; another one turned up two days later in Norfolk, and I suppose it could have been the same individual; present, 27-29 Oct., 2022

**Port Lympne and Dungeness, Kent: November 5, 2022** A windy, wet day that started in Port Lympne, Kent, right by the entrance of the zoo, with an extremely approachable Sabine's gull, a first-year but very nice patterned bird. This is only the second time I have seen one in the U.K. Then off to an even wetter Dungeness for a **SIBERIAN STONECHAT** (new species for the U.K.); present, 5-6 Nov., 2022. It had been reported while I was

watching the Sabine's gull. Good views, but it was an active individual. At the ARC Pit, two Glossy ibis; Yellow-legged gull, and Caspian gull

**Seaton Wetlands, Colyford, Devon: December 21, 2022** On the way down to see Alex in Somerset, I decided after visiting Stonehenge early in the day (the druids for the Winter Solstice were due on the 22nd, I was told) to see the **ISABELLINE WHEATEAR** (new species for the U.K.) that had been reported the afternoon before. I have never been to this very attractive reserve; present, 20 Dec.-14 Jan., 2022. The bird was on a boardwalk, hopping up onto its rails or feeding in a marsh of open and low vegetation. Alex and his son Jay had decided that morning to go and see it, too, as it is a bird Alex has never seen despite now having a British list of 425 species, and he thought about telling me, but it would have been impossible for me to have caught him up. When I arrived at his house, the first thing we said to one another is that we both had a lifer that day!

**Chew Reservoir, Somerset: December 22, 2022** A day of grey cloud and some drizzle, but two hours of birding was managed before the bad weather set in. 31 x Goosander; 3 x Goldeneye, two being males, and 3 x Great egret. Also, a flock of Long-tailed tit right in front of a hide standing in reeds made golden yellow by a rare piece of sunshine, but my camera's autofocus button on the lens was on manual mode, and the moment was lost

## **2022 Wrap-up**

The year 2022 has proved to be a phenomenal year for birding for me, mostly as I have put in the effort. In 2017 I saw 22 lifers in the U.K., and I did not have a car in that year, but the more bird species one sees, the fewer there are to see, so 2022 must count as a success, beating that score by one:

## **Terence Baker's Birding Year, 2022**

My 12 months of birding in 2022 were notable, more so when good chunks of it were still under COVID-19 regulations, the Omicron variant of coronavirus giving the country much to think about and a death rate still ominously high.

Francesca Terenzi, my wife, also turned 50 years of age in May, and she took several trips to Italy, her home, during the year, to see family she had not seen for the 30 months of the pandemic, to be with her twin sister for a holiday in Ischia and, as a special treat, to a cooking school in Sicily. This gave me extra weekends to devote to birding, and there was not a month in which I did not see something new in the U.K., except for March.

My first outing birding in 2022 was to the isles of Grain and Sheppey, Kent, where I began my birding life in the late 1970s with Alex Carlisle. I was there this time with Mike Edwards, both of whom were with me for the most memorable bird of the year in October (see below). Mike wanted to see a Glossy ibis, and he failed to see one on several occasions in 2022, including this time around. We did see at Leysdown approximately 100 Brambling, several Sanderling and seven Shore lark, which was the first time I had seen the European subspecies *Eremophila alpestris flava*, what Europeans regard as the full species, rather than the Horned lark, what Americans regard as the full species (the scientists can argue this amongst themselves), which I saw at Staines Reservoir, Surrey on 26 January, 2018. I learnt since there are 42 *Eremophila alpestris* subspecies globally. The Shore lark we saw on this occasion we re-found, which was satisfying.

The first trip Francesca took to Italy was right in the middle of January, and after dropping her off at Gatwick Airport I continued straight down the M23 to the English Channel to see my first United Kingdom lifer of the year, **HUME'S LEAF-WARBLER**. It was off The Parade in Eastbourne in a layered mass of trees that drop down from the top of a bluff to the



English Channel. After two minutes of waiting, I saw the warbler in question zip over my head and land on a branch. Its two wing bars, the one closest to the head being no more than a large dot, provided the necessary identification, and it also called. Bird calls are not a specialty of mine, but I had learnt this one. This was an excellent start to the year, certainly as the only other two birders there said they waited 90 minutes before they saw it the same moment as I did.

My second lifer of the year was just a few miles north of the River Thames in Marsh Farm Country Park, South Woodham Ferrers, Essex. On January 23, I saw what is my 300th U.K. species, **RED-BREASTED GOOSE**. I had arrived too early, something I am very apt to do.

When I arrived, I was told the flock of Brent it was spending time together had arrived the day before at 11 a.m., so instead of waiting I decided to walk around the site, a very large marsh, and I was joined by a Canadian ornithologist, Daniel Field, who teaches and researches ornithology at Cambridge University. As we circled back around to a spot where Clementsgreen Creek meets the River Crouch, I saw the Red-breasted goose fly in all on its own. It was very evident and quite wonderful, but I could not relocate it along the river.

Looking a few minutes later at my phone, I saw that it was in the field everyone expected it to return to, the day before being its second day present, and there I had excellent views of it amid a sizable flock of Brent that included one Brent, the American subspecies *Branta bernicla nigricans*. The general principle is that if a Red-breasted goose arrives with and spends time with Brent, it is highly likely to be a wild bird; if it turns up and spends time with Greylag, probably that is not the case.

The first mega came in early February. There is agreement amongst birders the **AMERICAN ROBIN** might have been present for some days before it was known by the birding community to be spending time in a small corner of the extreme eastern end of the South Downs wedged behind an innocuous housing estate in an obscure part of Eastbourne. This was an odd species for me to twitch, living as I had for 20 years in New York City. I have probably with no exaggeration seen half a million of this species. I always enjoyed watching hundreds of them in February and March occupy lawns in Central Park in displays where they would walk forwards rapidly three steps and then come to a halt, wait a few seconds and then repeat the process. Initially, in Eastbourne, I had walked not through the housing estate but to its far side, wanting to be away from what I knew would be a large crowd. A narrow path led uphill and around to the other side of the houses, but the view here was less than adequate, so I retraced my steps and saw the bird at around 7 in the morning and with five other people. The sun was shining, and the robin decided to fly remarkably close to us and land on a berry bush immediately in front of five flat-roofed houses. I saw no residents the whole time I was there. Perhaps they were scared by the sight of hundreds of telescopes? Soon, the expected crowds arrived, and it never again came so close. I went to see if I could see the Hume's leaf warbler again, but the surf was making a lot of noise, it was chilly and the wind was blowing, so I did not give it long. On the way home, right on the outskirts of Eastbourne at Polegate, there was a Hooded crow. A local said it had been there for three weeks.

Later in February I drove to Priory Country Park near Bedford to see **GREEN-WINGED TEAL**. It was another gloriously sunny day, and it needed to be because the lake the duck was supposed to be on was large, and the walk around it was long, the path hardly ever sticking to the edge of the water. In addition, there were hundreds and hundreds of Teal, and many were only half-visible in the reed beds. Searching Teal by Teal, finally I found the one with the identifying white lines down its breast. There also was present one solitary Greater white-fronted goose.

On the way home I stopped off at RSPB Sandy, the organisation's headquarters, a place I have never been to, but the only notable species was a Siskin.

In late March, Francesca called me while she was on a run to tell me a “strange” bird was walking around Mayow Park, a tiny park in Sydenham local to where we live. She had taken a photo on her phone, so I immediately saw it was a Crested caracara, a species I have seen in Latin America. When I arrived, it was tugging worms out of a flower bed, and then it hopped up into the low branches of a tree. Apparently, it had escaped from London Zoo in Regent’s Park and had avoided capture by zoological staff for three weeks. It always preferred South London, and it had been seen in Putney and Streatham, too. It also flew to Kent, landing in Kemsing. Eventually, it was caught and returned.

In early April in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, I saw the other species of American teal that occasionally arrives in the U.K. the **BLUE-WINGED TEAL**. It was a female, and discussion since has raged as to its provenance. Some have staid it also showed signs of Cinnamon teal. No decision has been made thus far.

This duck was followed a week later by another, **LESSER SCAUP**, which took some finding on huge Abberton Reservoir, Essex. Finding it was made a little easier by there being only two flocks of duck, the first one a group of six Tufted duck, the second one, which took a long time to come into a view, comprising of maybe 200 Tufted duck. I was reminded why it might be a promising idea to purchase a telescope, and I was indebted to one birder who put me on the bird we were looking for, the one with the grey back, upright head and small bobble to the back of the head. It was not windy, but all the ducks were diving, and it was amazingly easy to lose sight of the Greater scaup.

On the way home, I saw my second-ever Temminck’s stint in East Tilbury, Essex.

A few weeks later, in late April, I visit Alex Carlisle and he and I, and his son Jay, went down to Ham Wall in Somerset to see six Glossy ibis, five Garganey, including four drakes, and a Bittern. We ate lunch to the sound of one booming Bittern.

On May 14 in Regents Park, I saw my second-ever Iberian chiffchaff, and this was notable as I heard it while I was looking at it, the only sure way identification can be assured.

In late May I took Francesca to Wales for a 50th birthday present, staying in wonderful Roch Castle, Pembrokeshire. The plan was that there would be no birding, as this was a trip for Francesca, not for me. The only exception—and Francesca did not know any of this and did not know even to where we were going until we crossed the Severn Bridge—was a trip to the isle of Skomer to see Puffin, as my thought process was that everyone loves seeing Puffin.

Indeed, she was excited when I told her of this part of the trip, but on the Saturday evening, the day before we were to go to the isle, as we were having dinner in St. David’s, I received an email saying the trip might be cancelled due to northerly winds making it impossible to land there. Both the pier at the embarkation point at Martin’s Haven and on Skomer are very rudimentary, and a northerly wind just creates too much chop for a safe landing. The email said if at 8 a.m. on the Sunday no additional emails are forthcoming, then the trip is on. On waking, the first thing I saw was the dreaded email. Thankfully, on the Saturday on

BirdGuides, an app most birders subscribe to for sightings, there had been a notable sighting on the neighbouring island, the normally inaccessible Skokholm. The warden and his volunteer team had found a **MOLTONI’S SUBALPINE WARBLER**, and they announced that it was still present on the Sunday morning, then a special birders’ boat trip would be organised on May 29 by the same boat crew as would have taken us to Skomer. I called them immediately, and I got the two of us on the passenger list of a boat that was not leaving from Martin’s Haven but a village named Dale, no more than three or four miles away that was also where I had coincidentally booked dinner for that night. There were maybe 40 people on board, nearly all twitchers. Only one party of three had, as we had done, asked the organisers if there was another trip they could take now that the Skomer one was no more. Later that morning, I spoke to a few local birders who all said there were no Puffin on Skokholm.

There were many, though, presumably recent colonists. As the boat neared the isle, we were greeted to hundreds of Puffin, Guillemot and Razorbill. The visit was regimented. It was only the third time in the 21st Century “normal” visitors had been allowed on the isle. Usually, it is only volunteer staff who are allowed on, so we felt very privileged. We were met at the small quay, literally marched to where the warbler had been seen and told to please not move very far at all. Francesca was allowed back down to see Puffin, and she very much enjoyed that. The rest of us waited and waited and waited, aware that the clock was ticking, but we all did get views of the bird, even though it was adept at skulking.

I was among the first people back down to the quay because I wanted to see if I could get some photos of Puffin before we started the journey back. I and three others were perhaps 50 feet ahead of the rest of the crowd, and it was only us who spotted an **ICTERINE**

**WARBLER**, which also was very flitty and very soon disappeared. The Moltoni’s subalpine warbler, a recent split, was, I believe, the 12th record for the U.K., all of which have been found in very isolated destinations on islands, except for two at Blakeney Point, Norfolk. It also was a first for Wales. The Icterine warbler was the 30th for Skokholm but the first since September 2014, just the third this century and the second to be seen in May.

For a day and a half before the Wales trip, the birding world in the U.K. has been made aware that a mega had been found near Deal in Kent, about as far as one could get in a straight line across the country from far-west Wales. The **ELEONORA’S FALCON** on Worth Marsh is considered to be the first-ever twitchable example of the species for the country, and it became the runner up in the “2002 U.K. Bird of the Year” poll. A young lad on the boat to Skokholm, there with his father, had made a journey from the Swindon area on the Saturday with a friend, slept in their car overnight and then saw the falcon in the morning before heading back to Swindon and then onto Pembrokeshire. I hoped I could do the same but in the other direction, albeit with a couple of days in the office in between, but thankfully it was still there on Thursday, June 2, the first day of the official holiday for the Queen’s platinum jubilee. Very bright and early I drove through Kent and walked onto the marsh. There were five or six people already there, and we watched what is only my second Red-footed falcon, a juvenile to add to the adult male I saw in Lakenheath, Suffolk, in May 2013. Someone mentioned the Eleonora’s falcon often came out of its roost at just after 7 a.m., and after waiting 25 minutes or so, it did break cover to everyone’s delight at 7:12 a.m. It drifted across a line of trees before landing on a post. After 40 minutes it started hawking for dragonflies, and with one in its mouth it flew to a small tree right in front of us and gave wonderful views. It flew off not to be seen again mid-morning on June 4.

The next notable bird I saw was also a mega, **BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS** at Bempton Cliffs RSPB, Yorkshire. I had taken Francesca to Stanstead Airport and believing that the battle is all but won if one leaves early to get through London in one-quarter of the time it would take you in rush hour, I continued north. This albatross became a star in 2021 when it showed up at this site, and it obviously considered itself to be in the right place when it returned the following year. As are all its family, this species is long lived, so it might come back for years to come, but I thought I really wanted to see it and why not now? Bempton Cliffs is a dramatic and wonderful place, and until the albatross showed I enjoyed watching Gannet, Razorbill, Fulmar, Kittiwake, Puffin and Guillemot on the cliffs or over the sea. Without any warning, out soared the albatross for several loops of honour, and it was majestic, effortless in flight and dwarfing every other bird around it. After several pirouettes, it disappeared around the other side of the cliff stack I was standing on and thus completely lost to sight from anywhere along the cliff. It did not appear again, so said write-ups on BirdGuides, for another five hours. There were many Tree sparrow around the visitor centre. On the way home I broke up the journey with a stop at Idle Washlands, Nottinghamshire, to see **CASPIAN TERN**, which was easy to pick out, it being the largest of any tern species

and one that dwarfed an adjacent Black-headed gull. There also was a Wood sandpiper present.

At the end of the month, I caught up with a species I had longed to see in the U.K., having only seen one once before in Puglia, Italy, **SQUACCO HERON**. Seeing this was just a matter of parking, walking up to a bridge and spying it among 20 or so Cattle egret. The only other birds of note were a Curlew sandpiper and another Wood sandpiper that I found deep in grass and alerted other birders to.

At the end of August, I saw something in the U.K. I had dreamed off seeing since receiving my first book on birds in the late 1970s, the less-than-stellar “Bird spotting” by John Holland, illustrations by Rein Stuurman, published by Blandford Press. In it, there were perhaps 100 illustrations of birds common in the U.K., House sparrow, Robin, Dunnock and the like, but also—presumably, to give it some colour and exoticness—there also were illustrations of Golden oriole and Roller, and it was these two birds that naturally caught my eye. So, to Timberland Fen, Lincolnshire, and perched on a wire there it was, a **ROLLER**. The bird was a juvenile, and it kept a little distant at first. I drove to the other side of the field in which it was in. I relocated it, but my best views were back where I started viewing it from, and there it was a lot nearer although still not that close. It flew repeatedly off and back onto a low bush along a low hedge, and despite the heat haze it was a riot of blue and pink.

A week later, another new species, this time at Pett Level, Sussex, where a **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** sat confidently on a small pond. Seemingly, it was happy staying a few feet behind a Black-headed gull, which gave me a wonderful side-by-side comparison. The phalarope zigzagged behind its friend and took all the attention away from a pair of Spoonbill that were half-hidden anyway.

Between October 8 and 15, I took a trip to the birding Mecca that is the Isles of Scilly, visiting with Alex Carlisle and Mike Edwards. What a trip it turned out to be, for the company, for the wonderful destination that this group of islands is and for an Autumn migration season of birding that will live long in the memory of those lucky enough to have been there.

The trip started along its usual trajectory, a Thursday evening drive to Alex’s and an overnight stay, followed on the Friday by a drive to Hayle, Cornwall, where we spent the night. There was time that day to stop off at Cheddar Reservoir, Somerset, to see a Whooper swan and at Hayle itself to see two Lesser yellowlegs, which Alex, essentially, found both of, as the reports of the first one had not trickled down to us and no one knew a second was there at all. There also were a Little stint, a Grey plover and eight Bar-tailed godwit, a species we saw there in 2021, too.

Another bird species that repeated itself was an Eider in Penzance Harbour, again an individual flying in as we lined up to board the Scillonian III ferry.

In 2021, I saw a new species on the crossing, a Balearic shearwater, and the 2022 trip gave me something new, too, a **POMARINE SHEARWATER**.

It was straight off the ferry and directly—thanks to Alex and Mike kindly taking my suitcase to the guest house—on the boat to Tresco, where relatively effortlessly I saw the first of the three mega-species I was to see that season, **SWAINSON’S THRUSH** (all three of us went back to see it on the Monday) on Racket Road that gave great views and was followed by a very obliging Wryneck right in the middle of the small village of New Grimsby, flitting around a fence and bin set into a sandy wall and feeding on ants. A walk around the island uncovered a Cattle egret on the main pool and a Lady Amherst’s pheasant, a species I have never seen before but is undoubtedly one of the plastic, introduced species made to bring colour to the island’s main tourism centre, Abbey Gardens.

The second day there, the Sunday, brought with it two new species for me, **RADDE’S WARBLER**, fairly elusive but seen along the Old Town Churchyard wall and, on our second

visit that day, along a line of trees two fields farther back, and a species I had started to consider a bit of a nemesis, **COMMON ROSEFINCH**. I was guilty of beginning to chase sightings of this species, the first being one in the allotments in Hugh Town. I caught up with one, probably the same individual, near to the Dump in Hugh Town. It was perched high up a bank, although one birder only needed to open the window of his flat for a view of it at the very same level. I thought about knocking on his door but thought better of it. After lunch, Alex, Mike and I saw another one, near Rocky Mount, where we also saw Pied flycatcher and a couple of Stick insects, quite a speciality on the isles.

The next few days brought good birding, although nothing extraordinary. Species did include another Wryneck, Yellow-browed warbler, Firecrest and a summer-plumage Great northern diver right in the middle of Hugh Town. I had never seen this species in the U.K. in its summer colours. That day we also saw a Redstart at Porthellick and a Black redstart at Porthlooe, the only time I have ever seen both U.K. redstart species on the same day.

The Wednesday brought some excitement when a Two-barred greenish warbler was confirmed, also on Tresco. Many birders went. I did see for a few seconds the bird of interest. The two bars on each wings showed absolutely no edging, which was the ID sign we all hastily learned distinguished it from Yellow-browed warbler, but in the end the experts determined it was indeed an odd-looking Yellow-browed warbler, so some disappointment and a lot of conversation ensued. (Another Two-barred greenish warbler was “demoted” to a Yellow-browed warbler in Cornwall in late November, which risks the notion other historical records should be looked it, perhaps.)

That “miss” was water off a duck’s back when the events of Thursday, October 13, unfurled, a saga in which a single bird elevated the Isles of Scilly Autumn 2022 Migration Season to legendary status and by a large majority was voted Bird of the Year 2022.

That morning Alex, Mike and I remarked that if one day brought an epic bird with it, it was this one, and Alex joked he needed to see a lifer for that trip, too, his list being notably larger than Mike’s and mine. The day started off slowly, birding to no success along The Garrison wall. Three Yellow-browed warbler were seen, but we decided upon an early lunch after finding some freshly sprouted Shaggy parasol mushrooms, which we ate with eggs.

Immediately after lunch, news came in of a **MELODIOUS WARBLER** on Porthellick Road, so Alex suggested I hurry along to see it. I jogged to the site and immediately saw it perched on the very top of a tree. This was very fortuitous as in the 20 minutes I was there I only saw it again flitting out of and straight back into dense leaf cover, and because at 1:30 p.m. all pandemonium broke loose.

Alex and Mike were half a mile away watching a barred warbler, which I would have loved to have seen, too, having only ever seen one once before, but then the report came in of a **BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER** having been found on the neighbouring island of Bryher by a birder called John Judge, the sighting that has instantly become a mega, mega, mega-sensation in Scillonian and British birding.

“Blackburnian warbler found on Bryher! I repeat, Blackburnian warbler found on Bryher!” I heard crackle on someone’s radio walkie-talkie. Others found out about the bird on mobile phones, pagers and the Isles of Scilly Birders’ WhatsApp group. Normally present in North America during spring and summer and in Latin America in autumn and winter, this errant individual is the seventh ever for the Western Palearctic, including The Azores, the fourth ever for the United Kingdom and the first ever for England. Added to that, it really is the only “twitchable” individual of this species ever seen—that is, people could actually get to where it was to see it. A skewed sense of direction or extraordinarily strong winds blew the bird on a wrong trajectory and thousands of miles over the Atlantic Ocean.

Birders on all the four Scilly islands that are not Bryher started running to their respective quays to get a boat in any manner possible. The news came in that due to the extremely low

tide, the first boat to leave St. Mary's would be at 3 p.m., but even so I ran to catch up Alex and Mike and after putting back our dinner reservations, we immediately lined up on the quay, perhaps 40th or so back in the line, with the idea we'd have 75 minutes to wait. As I jogged to catch up Alex and Mike, I was told more than once not to hurry, but birders telling other birders not to hurry is really the same thing as telling them to sprint and being a marathon and ultramarathon runner, I can, and did.



Someone in the line piped up that he'd been told the first boat to make the journey to Bryher would now leave at 2 p.m., thanks to the quick organisation of the Scillonian Boat Owners. We managed to get on it and sit in a spot close to the exit steps of the boat, which proved fortuitous as it gave us good views of a Long-tailed duck and because when we left St. Mary's no one knew that the boat would have to stop 200 metres from the Bryher shore and then everyone would be ferried 12 at a time to Rushy Bay Beach by a motorised dinghy. Even then, the last 15 steps or so required wading through the water with boots and socks in hand, and birding equipment. We got on the second run of the dinghy, with those left on board (perhaps 10 more dinghy-loads) looking impatiently on for their turn. The first people on the main boat, all smiles no doubt then, suddenly looked less chirpy.

The BBC write-up of the bird was a little dramatic, comparing the scene with the Normandy Landings (although no one was running up any beaches being strafed by enemy bullets) and depicting birders struggling waist deep in the sea, but it was gripping stuff and lent a definite excitement and idea of legend to the proceedings and the bird itself. On the first dinghy run, someone did fall into the water having lost their balance on the dinghy's rubber side, but I did not see if any equipment took a soak. On board our and other boats must have been hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling of telescopes, binoculars, tripods and 600mm cameras.

There was a quick, bare-footed dash up the sandy lands of Bryher for 10 minutes to the spot where the bird had been seen, and we then waited—more birders coming every five minutes or so—for 45 minutes until the bird showed. It would disappear for a while, but excellent views were had by all day.

In the U.K., it was previously seen only on three islands—remote Skomer, off Wales (one day only in October 1961); very remote Fair Isle, Scotland (two days in October 1988) and



extremely remote St. Kilda, Scotland (two days in September 2009). Someone remarked that our particular individual is probably the only one of its type to have seen a British tree. No one looking at the Scilly bird had ever seen this bird before in the U.K., it goes without saying, as the three previous sightings, it is estimated, were only enjoyed by a total of less than 10 people. I have never seen so many birders smiling.

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**Report: John Judge, the bird's finder —**

[https://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/Content/Finders\\_in\\_the\\_Field\\_Blackburnian\\_Warbler\\_Popplestone\\_Fields\\_Bryher\\_Isles\\_of\\_Scilly.aspx?s\\_id=288922774](https://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/Content/Finders_in_the_Field_Blackburnian_Warbler_Popplestone_Fields_Bryher_Isles_of_Scilly.aspx?s_id=288922774)

**“Finders in the Field”: Blackburnian warbler, Popplestone Fields, Bryher, Isles of Scilly**

This year was my 34th consecutive autumn break on the Isles of Scilly, where, until recently I have been basing myself on St Mary's. The last six years however I have spent at least one week staying on Bryher and this year I had booked two weeks there. I arrived on October 1st, but by the 12th birding was proving very hard work as there seemed to be very few common migrants on the island. The only saviour had been the passage of shearwaters that seemed to be endlessly going around all of the islands, and I managed to see five species in the course of three days. Cory's, exceptional in October here, plus Great, Sooty, Balearic and Manx, and I had some decent views of all of them.

Thursday 13th, however, will long live in my memory, and not for any seabirds! I started out checking the hedgerows and fields on the east of the island, near to where I was staying and there seemed to be a bit of movement on the bird front, with seemingly some Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Song thrush and Blackbird new-in. Next, I headed up north, onto Shipman Head Down but saw little there until I reached the western, Popplestone side, where a Woodlark flew straight over my head, calling, as it headed back east. This is a rare bird for Bryher so I doubled back to see if I could relocate it for other keen “Bryher-listers” but to no avail.

I then headed back to the Popplestone area and decided to check the fields as this is usually a good sheltered spot and has held good birds in the past. Arriving at the first field just before 1pm I saw movement at the very far end, in the elms. The only bird I had seen at this spot in nearly two weeks was a Spotted Flycatcher and it was usually in that exact area. I didn't even bother with my binoculars but set my scope up as I thought it would be just sitting partly obscured on one of the branches. As I scoped around slowly looking for it, I saw a bird with a bright and I mean yellow throat! It flicked slightly and I saw a dark back and two prominent white wing bars. At this point I would love to say I knew exactly what it was, but no. Instead, and despite being on my own, nine words came out of my mouth, all in rapid succession, all four-letter ones, and all starting with F! I knew immediately it was a North American wood warbler but which one? I have been to New York three times but only seen spring birds and my brain went into total meltdown.

I had seen a couple of birders in the next field as I arrived, so tried as quietly as possible to whistle/shout to them as they were walking away. I eventually got their attention and was joined by Chris Corrigan and Penny Darmody. I told them that I had just seen an American wood warbler but the look on Chris's face was a picture when he clapped eyes on it – because he hadn't heard the American bit! I had also just seen Will Wagstaff, the ex-Scilly Bird Recorder, leading a tour on Bryher in the morning. Fortunately, I was able to ring him - no mean feat due to the very poor phone signal. Luckily, he was just dropping his group off at Hell Bay Hotel for an hour for lunch. Needless to say, it didn't take him very long to cover the few hundred yards to the fields. By the time he arrived the bird had moved across to the left of the field and was still showing occasionally. With some brief views the discussion

settled on Blackburnian, and after managing to check a first winter shot online it was the perfect match, apart from the fact that ours was much, much brighter. Will saw me typing on my phone and asked if I was putting the news out. Oh, yes! Thence ensued, whenever the poor phone reception allowed, a deluge of calls and messages from friends across Scilly and the rest of the UK.

However, it was currently low tide and a very low one. There was no water to land boats at the quays on Bryher until after 3 p.m., indeed, not even enough water to get up the channel between Tresco and Bryher. With a mega to get to, two hours was going to seem like a lifetime to be stuck on the other Islands. So close and yet so far! I was aware that stress levels were going through the roof. All I was hearing, apart from "Congratulations," was "I need to get to Bryher, now." Well, as is pretty much always the case, St. Mary's Boatmen stepped right up and did a sterling job – going for 'Normandy-style' low tide landings, with the first group soon dropped off by dinghy into the shallows on the beach on the southwest side of Bryher at Rushy Bay. Breathless and with soggy feet and trousers they arrived, but the bird was not on show.

From the time the first birder arrived, it was a long and agonising hour or so until it showed again. More and more people arrived, including birders who had been on Tresco, stranded the other side of Tresco channel, just a few hundred yards away from the bird. They told me that the channel neither had enough water for boats, not little enough for to paddle across. They walked and hitch-hiked to the south end of Tresco, to Carn Near, and boarded the Sapphire to head back toward St. Mary's and to a mid-channel rendezvous with Joe Badcock's Bryher-bound Guiding Star. Joe, with a boatload of very tense and eager birders, had been heading to join the queue to land by dinghy, but experience told him that it would be quicker for his passengers if he took them all the way up the west side of Bryher, around the top, past Shipman Head and back down the channel to Anneka Quay. He knew that by the time he got there, there would be just enough water for his shallow drafted wooden boat to nose in just far enough in to disembark his eager load. Birders on that boat later told me that they did indeed make it to Popplestone ahead of the last of those who had landed by dinghy off the boat ahead of them.

They were followed by yet more birders from across Scilly. A boatload arrived from St. Agnes, including St. Agnes resident birder Doug Page, whom I was told had not left the island in three years! Yes, this was truly a "biggie." Fortunately, the bird and the birders all behaved very well. The crowd was so quiet at times as they waited for the bird to reappear that you could hear a pin drop – it was amazing. Once it started showing, the not-so-tall birders were invited to the front in order that they too could get views. The atmosphere was joyous, friendly, good natured and the bird seemed not to notice at all. It just carried on feeding in front of everyone, showing down to within a few feet of the closest birders at times as camera shutters whirled and grown adults whimpered out-loud in delight. According to the boatmen, over 350 people made it on that first day, coming from every island on Scilly, and to say that all went away very happy would be the understatement of the decade. Two birders even made it from the mainland, but arrived just after it last showed. Fortunately, they saw it shortly after dawn the next day.

I never stopped smiling all day (and in fact still am now) and have never had so many handshakes, man hugs and kisses. The enormity of how rare it was only hit me when I returned to my guest house that evening and could Google it, and then even more when I looked into the previous records. Certainly, a bird of a lifetime and as I have said to friends, I have set the bar slightly high for next year! Hopefully this will encourage more birders to go to off islands (or indeed come to Scilly) and search for themselves, as I know if I had been staying on St Mary's I would most likely have been playing catch-up with birds that other people had found, and not have as much time actually birding myself. Will I be back next



year? You bet, and to stay and bird again on one of the best islands, Bryher. Meanwhile, the St. Mary's Boatmen's Association have very kindly thanked me with the promise of some free boat tickets, for which I am very grateful.

**Report: Rare Bird Alert weekly —**

[https://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/Content/WeeklyRoundup2022\\_42.aspx?s\\_id=288922774](https://www.rarebirdalert.co.uk/v2/Content/WeeklyRoundup2022_42.aspx?s_id=288922774)

**Weekly Birding Round-up: October 11-17, 2022**

Even by October standards, the week just gone was a bit special. Those persistent westerlies worked their magic, and how... with first records for England and Wales alike, and a fine supporting cast of lesser Nearctic vagrants for good measure. But really, the week was all about just one bird, a bird destined to make national newspaper coverage and, above all, many birders very happy indeed. One of the great, perennial blockers was about to fall.

There are no words. Except, of course, there must always be words. In the wake of events on Scilly in the past week, they ought to be as glowing as the bird itself.

One of the ultimate blockers finally fell in recent days. Britain's first **Blackburnian Warbler** was a one-day bird on Skomer (Pembrokeshire), back in the relative mists of birding time on 5th October, 1961... Our second record came nearly 30 years later, another one day bird near the Observatory on Fair Isle (Shetland) on 7th October, 1988... and our last record, while it hung around for a little longer on 12th-14th September, 2009, was about as difficult to twitch as they come, being out on St Kilda (Western Isles).

A bit of a theme developing there, then. All on islands, and all enjoyed by the merest handful of fortunate observers. For that alone, we'd have been yearning another bite at the cherry, an obligingly settled bird somewhere more accessible.

But just *LOOK* at first-winter male **Blackburnian Warblers**... is there a prettier young American wood warbler at this time of year? Arguably not. So yeah, this was a blocker that we craved a chance to connect with. And, on precedent at least, probably didn't hold out a great deal of hope we'd ever really get a fair go at.

Step forward, this week, Scilly and, in particular, the man of the moment, John Judge. Given the supply of rapid transatlantic weather systems that had been dropping choice Nearctic birds into Western Europe lately, hopes of finding something decent would have been elevated even before John found himself face to face with a luminous first-winter male **Blackburnian Warbler** on Bryher in the early afternoon of 13th. But all the same, just imagine how that must have felt...

Cue absolute scenes on Scilly as the news broke and resident and visiting birders scrambled for the inter-island boats. Unhelpfully low tides made for some dramatic landings, embellishing many a successful twitcher's account with an element of mild daring that went beyond the usual risk associated with the last sweaty sausage roll in a petrol station's hot cabinet in the small hours of an overnight drive to god-knows-where.

As the news reverberated further afield, those who could drop everything did just that, and headed west. And, joyously, the bird stayed put on Bryher into the weekend, showing at times outrageously well, and still present as the week drew to a close on 17th.

Quite frankly, with the first English record of **Blackburnian Warbler** under its belt, and a twitchable example at that, Scilly could remain resolutely birdless for the rest of the autumn and we'd consider the Scilly season of 2022 a resounding success. But that's not what's gonna happen... there will surely be more birds to come.

**Report: Lucy McRobert, Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, report —**

<https://www.birdguides.com/articles/comment/lucy-mcrobert-bird-of-a-lifetime>

**Bird of a Lifetime**

“Don’t worry, I won’t be twitching today,” I said as I slid into my office chair at 9.05 a.m. I meant it. My twitching buzz had been killed the previous day by a futile dash to Tresco to dip a now-dubious Two-barred warbler in horizontal rain. Consequently, it didn’t register when I saw the fateful WhatsApp message: “Blackburnian Warbler Bryher.”

And that was it. No capitals, no emojis, not even an exclamation mark to show for this mind-bendingly cataclysmic moment. Birders across Scilly experienced 30 seconds of bewildered calm, before chaos erupted.

Think fast. I’d played my twitching card at work too soon. So, I would have to take the office with me. Three colleagues plus a volunteer were immediately cajoled into action (although it didn’t take much effort with the CEO). This was team building.

Next, Bryher. Seriously low tides meant that we couldn’t land on the quay until 3.30 p.m. Five minutes of enforced concentration, before: “Argh! The child!” An apologetic call to nursery followed by another to the husband: “Get the child, NOW. I’ll meet you on the quay.”

Meanwhile, across the islands, every birder was experiencing a micro-drama of their own. A tour group was unpacking sandwiches on St Agnes when news broke. One couple were 10 minutes into an online mortgage meeting they had waited weeks for; they simply slid down the screen and disappeared. Pasties were abandoned mid-bite. My favourite moment came from Liam (usually very down-to-earth) who messaged the entire Scilly Bird News WhatsApp group: “What do I do?” He claims he meant to send it to a friend, but it was very relatable.

When I checked in with husband, I was bemused-then-horrified to discover he was aboard a boat already. But how was he getting to Bryher? Beach landing!

To clarify, a beach landing involves jumping from a tripper boat into an inflatable dinghy a few feet below, which then runs you ashore. Think Normandy, with less explosions. This is not something you want to do under pressure with a small child. I didn’t see what followed but have since been told that she behaved impeccably up until the point where she had to jump into the dinghy. “Daddy, I’m scared,” was heard by at least three witnesses as daddy tossed her to a birder below. She then clung to his neck the whole way to the beach and had to be peeled off. Daddy was in trouble later, and she still reminds him of it at least once a day.

Meanwhile, boats galore were converging on Bryher. There were several mid-channel swaps; birders from St Martin’s jumped aboard the boat from Tresco, whilst St Agnes had commandeered their own charter (it’s unclear whether Liam had just started swimming at this point). This was a triumph of logistics for St Mary’s Boatmen’s Association. Some went on an agonising hour-long circumnavigation of Bryher to approach from the north (rather than the closer but shallower south). One birder convinced a fisherman to run him across Tresco channel in his tiny punt.

Back on St Mary’s quay, 70 of us were piling aboard the next tripper. If you can imagine it, politely put, these were the birders who had been physically unable to get to the quay more quickly. As such, when you factor in optics and cameras, we were riding a bit low and temporarily ran aground on a sandbar.

We landed, and I set off at a run. A couple of us reached the site in four minutes, staggering into the crowd. The atmosphere was electric. The bird had been seen, but not by all. It was poetry in motion as ripples ran through the line that it was showing; we’d all sway one way, then another, by some great ornithological magnet. The clattering of cameras would alert you to a sighting in the next field, whilst a collective sigh told that it had just hopped over the hedge.

I finally got in position. A hush fell as everyone held their breath. Then suddenly out it popped: This glorious sunflower of a bird, bright and bold, strikingly beautiful. Swearing,

hushing, gasps of admiration. A contingency of Dutch birders stood behind us (they celebrated with champagne that night) and shared a few native expletives.

Serenely surveying the scene was the finder. John Judge had stayed two weeks on Bryher with only a handful of flycatchers to show for it. When he clapped eyes on the bird for the first time he simply blithered. Bird of the year? Forget that; he had found the bird of the century. Resident birders from St Agnes shook hands with birders from St Martin's (they hadn't met in years). Everyone looked ecstatically happy. Even daughter seemed politely interested.

Calling the Bird Log that night was something else. I got to write "Blackburnian Warbler, Bryher" in the book, complete with the exclamation marks, smiley faces, stars and hearts it deserved. What a moment to be part of.

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That evening's restaurant dinner—one of only two we took on the isles—turned into a celebratory meal, and we followed it up with a visit to the Scillonian Bar for its famous Bird Log that evening, which was packed with birders. There was Tony Morris, someone Alex and I have known since we were children, so afterwards we popped in to where he was staying with a bottle of Highland Park whisky for more celebrations as he did not want to go to the Mermaid pub with his grandson Jack, who is the son of my school friend Peter, and his two friends. A grand day by any birders' standards.

The week already was a momentous success, but I followed that up with finally catching up with **OLIVE-BACKED PIPIT**, which had been incredibly elusive. The Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust organized a gentle flush of the bird at Trenoweth, where it was utterly alone, no other birds of any species in attendance with it. A donation was requested, and Dick Filby, who was conducting proceedings, gave me a nice compliment when he said I had been the only birder to stick a fiver in the pot before events, regardless of whether I saw the bird or not. See it we did, albeit just grabbing the identification marks as it flew in a circle around the scraggy field in which it was hidden quite happily on the other two occasions I tried to see it. On the Saturday, our last day there, I popped to Porthhellick Pool, where from the Stephen Sussex Hide, I saw **WILSON'S SNIPE**, my third mega of the trip and which after a wait was flushed out by a Moorhen. It circled back around to show its underwing barring and head pattern different to a Common snipe. I might have seen this mega-rare snipe on one morning in which I had the hide all to myself, as it was suspected that it had been here for a little while and most likely will spend the entire winter. There was one pale-looking Snipe present, too, which complicated matters up to the moment in which it fortunately took wing.

The megas did continue in 2022.

I was told at work I needed to take some days off work, so I decided to do just that at lunchtime on October 27. Minutes later, news came in that an **ALPINE ACCENTOR** had been seen in Suffolk, so the next morning, the bird still there, I went to see it.

Initially, it was a distant speck, but it gradually came closer in the sunshine for wonderful views of its string of white, pearl-like wing feathers and rosy-orange breast, a quite delightful thing. The birder standing next to me said he was on the same dinghy as I was on to see the Blackburnian warbler, which I did not consider to be a coincidence, and said it was the first of this species he had seen in the U.K. for 44 years. At one point, a child—maybe three or four years old—ran out on the path right in front of the bird, which caused merriment and frustration in equal measure. This is the 38th registered sighting of this species in the U.K.; another one turned up two days later in Norfolk, and the consensus is that it is a different

individual. The one I saw roosted overnight and then took off at first light, not to be seen again.

The penultimate new species of the year was a **SIBERIAN STONECHAT** at Dungeness on a windy, wet day in early November. I had started that day at Port Lympne, Kent, with an extremely approachable Sabine's gull, a first-year but very nicely patterned bird. The stonechat was flitty, and the light was quite terrible. It had gone by the next morning. After a memorable 11 months, it seemed as though December would be quiet. I spent 10 days in Rome and, when I returned, the weather was terrible, with an uncharacteristic icy spell of snow and cold.

I went to visit Alex in Somerset for a couple of days, and as he said he had a few chores to do during the day, I aimed to get to his house in the afternoon. At the last moment, I decided to drive across the border from Somerset to Devon—Seaton Wetlands Reserve, Colyford, to be exact—to see a reported **ISABELLINE WHEATEAR**. I could not resist rounding of 2022 with 25 lifers. The bird was easy to see, even though I made a couple of short errors in my route to it. It was hopping around a boardwalk that crossed a marsh of low, open grass, and the bird occasionally popped on it. Finally, it flew 100 metres away and then appeared to land in a tree.

When I reached Alex's, the first thing he said to me was, "I got a lifer today." He, like me, had seen the report of the wheatear late the evening before, and as he did not know what time I was driving down, or if I'd be awake when he left to see it with his son, Jason, he had decided to go down to it early in the morning. He said he thought about telling me that he was going, but he thought I could go down the next day very early if I really wanted to see it. I had thought, well, I know Alex has some chores to do, so I'll go down and see it myself. So, that all worked out well to everyone's advantage and meant we could spend the next day together birding around Chew Reservoir, where we saw three Goldeneye, including two males, three Great egret and 31 Goosander

## **2022 Wrap-up**

The year 2022 has proved to be a phenomenal year for birding for me, mostly as I have put in the effort. In 2017 I saw 22 lifers in the U.K., and I did not have a car in that year, but the more bird species one sees, the fewer there are to see, so 2022 must count as a success, beating that score by three:

**January** — 16th: Hume's leaf warbler; 23rd: Red-breasted goose

**February** — 12th: American robin; 26th: Green-winged teal

**March** —

**April** — 3rd: Blue-winged teal; 9th: Lesser scaup

**May** — 29th: Moltoni's subalpine warbler, Icterine warbler

**June** — 2nd: Eleonora's falcon; 26th: Black-browed albatross, Caspian tern

**July** — 30th: Squacco heron

**August** — 27th: Roller

**September** — 3rd: Red-necked phalarope

**October** — 8th: Pomarine skua; Swainson's thrush; 9th: Radde's warbler, Common rosefinch; 13th: Melodious warbler, Blackburnian warbler; 14th: Olive-backed pipit; 15th: Wilson's snipe; 28th: Alpine accentor

**November** — 5th: Siberian stonechat

**December** — 21st: Isabelline wheatear

**Swalecliffe, Kent: January 7, 2023** Another windy, wet, grey winter's day in Kent, but a **PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER** (new species for the U.K.), which I found in a comical way.

I walked to where I thought the reported bird was, but I found myself on the other side of a small brook from a group of 10 birders. Etiquette demanded I could not walk in front of them, so I backtracked to the beginning of the path and saw the bird flick low into a tree right in front of me. Noticeably yellow. I had a brief but good look, maybe 10 seconds, and then it was gone. Also, on the Thames shore, 2 x Purple sandpiper; Ringed plover; Sanderling; one Great black-backed gull, and many Oystercatcher

**Elmley, Kent: January 28, 2023** My first time to this reserve since, I think, the late 1980s when it was a RSPB reserve. It now is private. On the slow, two-to-three-kilometre drive to the car park, a stunning male Merlin on a post, but I did not have my camera set up, a mistake I hope not to repeat. When on foot, Dartford warbler; Water pipit, and a lot of Lapwing. On the creek, one solitary Avocet

**Worth Marshes, Swalecliffe and Oare, Kent: January 29, 2023** A drive down to Worth Marshes, to the exact spot of 2022's Eleonora's falcon to see the reported **WHITE STORK** (new species for the U.K.), which was feeding in a marsh, had a staring contest with a Grey heron but did not come any closer. Good views. I watched it on my own for quite some time. There always is controversy with White stork due to the reintroduction project at Knepp, Sussex, but this bird is un-ringed and, obviously, free-flying. There is debate as to where it originated, with the principal line of thinking being that it was among five to have escaped a zoo in 2005 or 2006. A legitimate bird, or a plastic one? Such an argument could be used for many species, including the two Grey partridge I saw on my way to the White stork. Also, Great egret; Marsh harrier, and Kestrel

At Swalecliffe, I had my second view of the Pallas's warbler, which has been on site but always elusive for three weeks. I saw the head markings clearly, with a view a little better than the one I had on Jan. 7, 2023.

At Oare, where the water levels on the East Flood, are tremendously high (natural or controlled?), 2 x Turnstone on the river and, perhaps thanks to those high-water levels, 20 x Pintail, some very close to the viewing point on the road that leads to the river

**Greenwich, London: February 18, 2023** With Mike Edwards, a search for the Firecrest that had been seen just inside the park walls at the Charlton Way entrance. We saw it several times, and more amazingly I heard it twice and then saw it, a testament to having my ears syringed for the first time following a slight inflammation and a partial loss of hearing in my right ear. I have never been able to hear before the high-pitch calls of Firecrest and Goldcrest. Also, a flock of Goldfinch and Long-tailed tit. Then a pint down the Hare & Billet

**Pegwell Bay and Reculver, Kent, England: March 5, 2023:** First off, to Pegwell Bay, where I had not been to for decades: Mediterranean gull in pretty much summer plumage (also two at a service station a few miles in land when I stopped to send a message to Francesca); Sanderling; Curlew; Redshank; Oystercatcher; Dunlin, and Buzzard. (Also, Grey seal). Then to Reculver, where the highlights were four Snow bunting and a Short-eared owl. Large flock of Brent on a field; four Common scoter in flyby, and a female Black redstart by the abbey

**Kingsgate, Kent, England: March 23, 2023:** To Margate to essentially visit the town and have lunch with Francesca at Bottega Caruso, an Italian restaurant, and after espresso, stopped off at Kingsgate, overlooking a golf course, and saw three reported **ALPINE SWIFT** (new species for the U.K.), part of an unprecedented irruption of this mainland

European species around the British Isles and Ireland, an original seven being first spotted in southern Ireland

**Hothfield Nature Reserve and Elmley, Kent, England: April 1, 2023:** To Hothfield and a rare piece of Kentish heathland for Great grey shrike, with excellent views. Also. 12 x Yellowhammer. Then to Elmley, chilly with a noticeable wind, for the briefest views of 2 x Penduline tit; several Reed bunting; an immature White-tailed eagle flying over my head, one of the birds from the new release project from the Isle of Wight; Chiffchaff; 6 x Marsh harrier, four together, the other two on a field some distance away, and, in the short grass by the car park, Short-eared owl

**Fan Bay, Dover, Kent, England: April 7, 2023:** A dash down to the edge of Kent on a very pleasant day (not been many of them this year so far) but failed to see the Short-toed treecreeper, which appeared twice on this day and twice (at Bockhill, a mile farther up the coast) on April 8, the bird (two birds?) appearing at 9 to 10 a.m. and then disappearing. I did see a Black redstart; several Linnet; 3 x Skylark. The person who found the treecreeper was Jamie Partridge, who I know from his days living and birding in London, but who lives in Dover now. I last saw him on St Agnes, Isles of Scilly, in October 2021 as we both watched a Snow bunting

**Wye Downs; Conningbrook Lakes Country Park, and Whetsted, Kent, England: April 15, 2023:** Birding with Mike Edwards. Shocking rain on way down, which forced us to get breakfast at a very nice spot inside a farm called Perry Court. Went back to the Wye Downs, and it turned into a nice day. We found three Early purple orchid, one of which was more advanced than the others. Skylark; Red kite; and Meadow pipit  
At Conningbrook, looking for a reported Black redstart, which we did not find, I saw the first Swallow of my year; Blackcap, and two courting Great crested grebe  
The last stop, at Whetsted—all three places I have never been to before—was to search for a Hoopoe, but again no luck finding a reported individual. I did bump into Barry Wright. Also, male and female Goldeneye

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: April 16, 2023**

10 x Redshank; 6 x Black-tailed godwit; Pochard; Gadwall; 2 x Cetti's warbler, both visible; Reed warbler; Peregrine; Blackcap, and excellent views of a Short-eared owl. I saw a birder, the only other one I saw there between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. crouched down beside a bank, and I could not see what he was looking at. I was 100 metres away, and then I suddenly saw the owl rise from the ground and fly in circles towards a far line of trees. The other birder, it turned out, had binoculars but only his iPhone, so he was carefully trying to get a shot of it

**Al-Ha'ir Lakes and Parks, Al-Ha'ir, Saudi Arabia: May 6, 2023** On the advice of an expat birder, Jem Babbington, who I corresponded with on line, I visited this area about 30 kilometres southwest of Riyadh, a warm (41°C), sandy, rocky area alongside a lake of recycled treatment water. With no phone signal, getting home turned into a wonderful day of Arabic hospitality, first with a truck driver called Adi who dropped me in the small town of Al-Ha'ir, six kilometres from the birding area, and then with a student called Zahid who introduced me to his family and the family of his friend Mubak.  
Birds at the site included Black-crowned night-heron; Squacco heron; Black scrub robin; Red-backed shrike; Spotted flycatcher; Blackstart; Namaqua dove; Arabian green bee-eater; Reed warbler; Wood warbler; Hoopoe, and Pallid swift

**Döberitzer Heide Nature Reserve, Elstel, Berlin, Germany: May 13, 2023** A few train stops east of Berlin, a sandy area of forest and heathland. A dozen Red-backed shrike, including both male and female on the same bushes; Wheatear; Tree pipit; Wood lark; 2 x Cuckoo; Hoopoe; 6 x Crane; Yellowhammer; Spotted flycatcher; Stonechat; Corn bunting; Skylark, and Red kite. I am pretty certain I heard a Golden oriole, but I am still yet to see this species

**Yalding, Kent: May 28, 2023** While having a beer at the Boathouse pub, a Great-spotted woodpecker; Pied wagtail, and Grey wagtail entertained us along the Medway River

**Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent: May 29, 2023** An adult or second-year, male Red-backed shrike. I cannot remember the last time I saw one in the United Kingdom, apart from the juvenile in London in September 2018. Great views for half an hour, which was lucky as it would disappear for 90-minute to two-hour periods. Also, the first Swift and House martin I have seen, and, in addition, Marsh harrier and Hobby (Also, at Park Gate Down for orchids, and a new species, Chalk fragrant orchid, as well as a number of Monkey orchid (numbers seem down, and also the flowers were small, perhaps due to the rains we had in March and April); Common spotted orchid; Early purple orchid, and Common twayblade)

**Minsmere, Suffolk: June 3, 2023** I stopped off at a site near Ipswich called Mill River trying to relocate a Golden oriole seen the day before, but I had no luck, even with hearing its call. The area is very nice, with good deciduous woodland, a small stream and boardwalks in some places. I did hear a Nightingale and saw Blackcap, Buzzard and 3 x Treecreeper. I did not know what Minsmere would hold, but as soon as I got there I saw a report of a Roseate tern on the South Scrape, and after five minutes it flew back to there. This is the first time I have seen one settled on shingle. Also, a report of a Red-backed shrike (after not seeing one for years, the last few weeks in three countries have revealed to me more than 30), which was shown to be a female, so I also have the full sweep. Also, Whitethroat; a very orange Little stint; Marsh harrier; Hobby; Bar-tailed godwit; Black-tailed godwit, and Sanderling

**Hutchinson's Bank, New Addington, Surrey: June 4, 2023** I decided to come to this local reserve just as the sun was shining and the spring had been late, so I thought there would be a good chance I'd see Glanville fritillary, and I did, some five or six, all in very good condition, but when I reached the small residential close where it is possible to park, it was completely full, and there were also 10 or so cars parked on the main road. I had no idea that several Black-veined white butterfly had been found there, quite the national story, and one that made the BBC news. I located a previously seen individual after it had disappeared for 90 minutes, and the chase was on. It flew around for a while before settling down once and for only about 15 seconds, but I managed to get a few good photos. Of course, the discussion is rampant as to whether they (maybe up to a dozen) were released or came from a female that laid eggs last year. Perhaps we will never know, but as this was the species Winston Churchill adored and tried to reintroduce into his Kentish home of Chartwell, it was sure to receive much media attention and people from all over the country trying to get a glimpse. Also, Dingy skipper; Painted lady; Peacock; Small Copper; Brimstone; many Small blue, and Common blue



**Mount Caburn and Ashdown Forest, East Sussex, June 10, 2023** At Mount Caburn, a successful search for Chalk fragrant orchid in a full state of bloom, unlike the one I saw on May 29 of this same year; also, Round-headed rampion, Sussex's official flower, apparently. Numerous skylark

At Ashdown Forest, perhaps eight Redstart, as well as a Cuckoo; Tree pipit; Blackcap, and Chiffchaff

**Slimbridge, Gloucestershire: June 24, 2023** On my way to Alex's for the weekend, stopped off at this World Wetland Trust reserve to see my second Bluethroat, as with the one at Titchfield Haven (September 2019), also with a white, not red, throat patch. Excellent views, but a tad distant for photos. It is the same bird that was here in 2022, perhaps also in 2021. Also, my fourth U.K. Black-winged stilt, and I took a photograph of it next to a Spotted redshank, of which I saw one of two present; Rook; Green sandpiper; Ringed plover; Sedge warbler, and Reed warbler

With Alex in **East Woodlands, Somerset**, a Marsh tit low on a tree branch that crossed a footpath. Also, seven to 10 pristine Silver-washed fritillary and new Large skipper and Ringlet butterflies

On the way home at Milk Hill, Wiltshire, Red kite; Kestrel; Buzzard, and Hobby, as well as Yellowhammer and Skylark; and Pyramidal orchid

**RSPB Ouse Fen, Willingham, Cambridgeshire, and Welney Wetland Centre, Welney, Norfolk: July 8, 2023** I went to the former spot to tick one of my nemesis birds in the U.K., **BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON** (new species for the U.K.), a species I have dipped on at least four or five times in this country. I am very familiar with this species, and in the US it seems to me to be a species that just hangs out for all to see, on yacht cables, in the middle of ponds and other obvious places. Not so easy in the U.K., that is my experience. I waited a while before it suddenly appeared, and I watched it out in the open standing on a rock for 10 minutes before it flew to the edge of the river and stayed half-hidden, stock-still at the edge, pretty much invisible unless you saw to where it flew.

At Welney, two Spoonbill, one seemingly with a damaged wing, although I saw both fly in; also, Great egret; 2 x Ruff in remains of summer plumage; Black-tailed godwit; Avocet; Marsh harrier; Tree sparrow; Stock dove, and 2 x Garganey most likely to be preparing to migrate south

**Stoney Cross, Hampshire, and London Wetland Centre, London: July 9, 2023** Went to see a Bog orchid but had no luck despite researching exactly where to see one, or more, and on the same weekend as were seen in the same spot last year. I must research how they disperse.

At the Wetland Centre, very quiet, as befits a warm day in July, save for a pair of Stock dove, but I bumped into someone I know, Martin, who was with a group of friends, and we saw a Lesser emperor dragonfly, which are rare but apparently having a boon year

**Oare, Kent: July 15, 2023** Bonaparte's gull on East Flood, the 11th year this North American bird has returned to Oare, with the notion being that it disappears with thousands of Black-head gulls on Sheppey when it has moulted and thus far harder to pick out. Two Greenshank, Common tern and a few Little tern far out from the Sea Hide.

Bumped into Barry Wright, who I have known since the early 1980s, and he showed me some interesting insects, including Fiery clearwing moth, known only in two spots in the country, both in Kent; also, Six-banded clearwing moth; also, a visit to the church at nearby Ospinge to see Wall lizard, which has colonised only recently.



**Sandwich, Kent: July 16, 2023** Very few birds around, but there were many butterflies in sheltered rides away from the blustery wind, including Brown argus, Gatekeeper, Common blue, Small copper and Holly blue. Also, and my goal for the day, a new species of orchid, Marsh helleborine, which took more than 90 minutes of searching. Also, Lizard orchid, but on the way out; Southern marsh and one fine Pyramidal orchid all on its own, with many of its type almost gone for the year. For other insects, I was shown a site for Dainty damselfly, one of also only two spots for it in the country. I saw one on my return from looking for birds from two hides, neither of which produced anything

**Rainham Marshes RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: September 16, 2023** Not much about, but there was a juvenile skua species on the Thames, which was confirmed from photos and video as **LONG-TAILED SKUA** (new species for the U.K.). First seen sitting on the river, it flew off in two circles before disappearing upstream towards London. Saw barring on a lighter-colour belly and underwings. Elsewhere, 5 x Curlew; 3 x Whinchat and individual Common sandpiper, Ruff and Cattle egret

**London Wetland Centre, London: September 17, 2023** Not much here either but 2 Green sandpiper, a Snipe and a Garganey that was close enough to let me study it in its eclipse plumage

**Ham Wall RSPB Reserve, Somerset: September 23, 2023**

With Alex Carlisle and Paul Obey, the latter I have not been birding with for perhaps 40 years. Maybe 200 Cattle egret in fields on the Levels before we reached Ham Wall, while there we saw Great egret and a Little egret flyover that made the full set. Also, sighted were three or four Bearded tit, with one or two adult males standing up on the tops of reeds for a few seconds

**Otmoor, Oxfordshire: September 30, 2023**

I drove Francesca to a friend's home in Oxford, so I decided to visit Otmoor, a place that I have never been to. Seven Cattle egret, one Great egret, a pair of Goldeneye, numerous Red kit and one Crane that flew over

**Oare, Kent: October 1, 2023** 2 x Spoonbill, scared away from a loud noise from a shooting club somewhere. They flew to the next bay, where they were still visible, before circling back overhead and back down on the East Flood. Also, several Knot, 3 x Curlew sandpiper, a few Bearded tit, including one that stood up on the tip of a reed, and 3 x Sandwich tern. In addition, 2 x Swallow, always good to see in October

**Isles of Scilly, Cornwall, England: October 7-14, 2023** 100 species seen, a very good number considering this was the first trip in which drove directly from and back to Timsbury, Somerset, during the hours of darkness

**Scillonian III Crossing (Penzance to Hugh Town):** Eider; the sole Manx shearwater; 3 x Great shearwater; Kittiwake; Razorbill; Guillemot, and Gannet; (also, Common dolphin) and, one of the highlights of the entire trip, 100s of Cory's shearwater following their unprecedented year this year. On the boat back to Penzance, quieter, with Great skua, Kittiwake and high numbers of Cory's shearwater

On the first full day on the islands, Sun., Oct. 8, we took the "tourist" boat to the Western Isles and Bishop Rock lighthouse, via St. Agnes, and saw **RED-FOOTED BOOBY** (new species for the U.K.), which was first sighted on August 7 but had not been seen for the last

two weeks due to bad weather and fewer boat excursions there; present, 7 Aug.-15 Sept.; Oct. 8-11, and Oct. 22, 2023

**St. Mary's:** Pallid harrier, a juvenile, seen on Oct. 13 and 14; Snow bunting at Giant's Castle; Glossy ibis; Peregrine; Wheatear and Black redstart at Peninnis. Also, Peregrine; Pink-footed goose; Brent; 2 x Wryneck; 2 x Richard's pipit; 5 x Mediterranean gull; Great egret; Water rail; Red-throated diver; Hobby; 2 x Jack snipe; Redwing; Fieldfare; Swallow; several Pied "White" wagtail, which seems to be the predominant subspecies here, and, all week, a showy juvenile Rose-coloured starling at Porthcressa

**St. Agnes:** An even showier, closer Buff-breasted sandpiper than the one we saw on Bryher in 2021, sometimes to within five feet and, with everyone else rushing to see the booby, enjoyed almost alone. Also, Pied flycatcher and 2 x Wheatear

**Bryher:** After some searching, juvenile **ORTOLAN** (new species for the U.K.), which I relocated following it going missing for an hour. Seen on the west side of Samson Hill; I managed to alert about 20 others to get to see it. Also, 2 x Whinchat and a Whimbrel. Two days before, a very obliging Dotterel on Shipman's Head, also even closer than the one seen on Tresco in 2021

**St. Martin's:** **ARCTIC WARBLER** (new species for the U.K.), seen by me alone on Oct. 13 but again by two other birders on Oct. 14, all sightings in another spot on the island from the one seen on Oct. 12. It could be a new bird? Also, 195 Sanderling

**Pelagic boat trip:** On Oct. 10, a quite wonderful pelagic to the Eastern Islands and beyond, with hundreds of Cory's shearwater, 3 x Sooty shearwater, 4 x Manx shearwater; 20 x Greater shearwater; Great skua; Pomarine skua; Sandwich tern 2 x Grey phalarope; Puffin; Sabine's gull, and the fifth-ever example of Caspian gull for the Isles of Scilly. Non-bird sightings included numerous Clouded yellow; 2 x Painted lady; Hummingbird hawkmoth; Common porpoise; Common dolphin; several Portuguese man o' war, and a Blue-fin tuna, a species that returned to British waters only in 2021; Stick insect, and Red-cage fungus

## Isles of Scilly; October 7-14

(With Alex Carlisle)

Alex and I, and all birders, always have high hopes when setting off for an Isles of Scilly birding trip in the second week of October, traditionally the strongest week for rarities, and the year 2023 did not disappoint.

One of the highlights of this year is the influx of **Cory's shearwater**, not just in the expected period of late July and into August but right through to mid-October. Not long after we left Penzance Harbor on the **Saturday, October 7 Scillonian III** ferry—the obligatory **Eider** was bobbing around, but unlike the last two years, a female, not a male—we started seeing this shearwater species in notable numbers. It really gave me ample opportunity to have the species become cemented in my brain, especially its flight pattern. Also present were good numbers of **Great shearwater**. In comparison, I saw only one **Manx shearwater** on that Cornwall-to-Scilly trip, and Alex missed it completely. The other wildlife viewing was of a pod of **Common dolphin**, before a thick fog fell 10 miles before we reached the islands. We could only just pick out St. Mary's Quay as we rounded the Garrison headland. The mist did evaporate quickly on our arrival.

There was a **Wryneck** at Maypole, St. Mary's, which gave me some half-decent views, but they were eclipsed by seeing another one the next morning on the Garrison in wonderful light.

As Alex and I were having breakfast, we read on the Isles of Scilly birders' WhatsApp group that there was a boat going to the Bishop Rock lighthouse, and we decided to take our chances on the possibility of seeing the **Red-footed booby** that has been resident there since

early August. It does go missing, or fishing, though, and there had not been any reports of it having been seen for two weeks. Joe Pender, owner of the *Sapphire*, the principal birding-pelagic boat in St. Mary's, told us when we saw him on the quay that there had only been two boats passing the lighthouse in the last two weeks due to poor weather. The booby had not been seen from either.

There were only 10 birders on this **Sunday, October 8** 0930 boat of maybe 80 passengers, some of which were picked up on the isle of St. Agnes, and the tour essentially was to see some of the outer, uninhabited islands, the seals, other wildlife, notably several Portuguese man-o-war jellyfish, the numerous wreck sites, with all their history, and the lighthouse itself. We became more optimistic when we saw a group of "old hands" birders on the boat, and as we neared the lighthouse straight on, suddenly someone called that the bird was there.

It was a glorious moment. The nonbirders were thoroughly nonplussed at our excitement, and we explained the significance of the booby, the second-ever for the United Kingdom and the first living example. Our boat, Osprey, circled the lighthouse four times. Despite its name, what struck me was how bright and red the booby's feet were. It is now the rarest bird I have seen in the U.K.

Someone relayed word of our success, and panic duly ensured on all the five inhabited isles, birders calling for boats, and boatmen organising them. Our boat returned to St. Agnes, and we took the opportunity to, sort of, get an island trip for free and see the **Buff-breasted sandpiper** on Wingletang Down that had been given glorious views for the last few days.

As we walked off up the quay there were already two dozen birders waiting for the arrival of hastily arranged boats to go to see the booby, and we knew or recognised several of those nervously waiting. After 2022's madness surrounding the discovery of the Blackburnian warbler on Bryher—which we were very much part of—it was nice not to be involved in this particular circus.

On the way to the sandpiper, I saw a **Pied flycatcher**, my only one of this visit. We walked at a normal pace due to Alex's sore ankles, the result of a sprain caused during a football match and a pair of football boots that might have been half a size too small.

Buff-breasted sandpipers often are unphased by birders, and this one appeared very unperturbed, coming to within a few feet of us. At one point the five birders there—a reduced number as everyone else was heading booby-wards—put down their binoculars and cameras and just enjoyed the privilege of this wonderful bird flitting over the heath.

Two **Wheatear** also were present.

Before heading back to St. Mary's, we had a pint at the Turk's Head on St. Agnes, right by the island's quay, and luxuriated in the sun and a first great day of birding.

On the Monday and Tuesday, there were more specially arranged Bishop Rock boat trips, but the booby was not seen on either. Fortunately for birders, it was seen on the Wednesday, the last boat for several days due to more bad weather. I knew of one birder who had dipped on the bird on four different occasions, one of them being the day before a Brown booby was discovered just below the **Red-footed booby**, an unprecedented double-find. I hope he was on that Wednesday boat, or on the boat that went out on Sunday, October 15, billed as the very last boat to go to the lighthouse in 2023.

Bryher was the destination on **Monday, October 9**. Two **Whinchat** were showy, but a Melodious warbler reported in the days before continued its elusive behaviour.

A walk up on Shipman's Head, where in 2021 there was a very approachable Buff-breasted sandpiper, produced a **Dotterel**, which came to within 10 feet. We slowly shifted ourselves on our backsides to get the sun behind us and then patiently waited for it to near us, which it did. We enjoyed an hour with the bird, but it disappeared for good, so I was told, 20 minutes after we had left, just as the Buff-breasted sandpiper did 24 months before.

A presence at Porthcressa and in Hugh Town all week was a juvenile **Rose-coloured starling**, which on occasion showed very well.

On **Tuesday, October 10**—perhaps much to the discomfort of Alex's sore ankles—we elected to take part in a six-hour pelagic trip on the *Sapphire*. It was a fantastic trip, more evidence of a crazy October for seafaring species. Single examples of **Puffin** and an adult **Sabine's gull** did not stay around for long, as neither did a **Great skua**, but the sightings of very showy **Pomarine skua**, two **Grey phalarope**—which I had not seen for decades and that was fast becoming a bogie bird—and the fifth-ever **Caspian gull** for the Isles of Scilly made for a sense of palpable excitement. Also seen were hundreds of **Cory's shearwater** and **Great shearwater** and a few examples of **Manx shearwater** and **Sooty shearwater**, that last species never appearing to entertain the option of coming nearer vessels. Both the Pomarine skua and Caspian gull followed the boat for a considerable distance, which certainly allowed improved ID skills for the latter, although I have an inkling I would still need a lot of help if gazing at a sleeping example on a barge on a grey day on the River Thames, the stretch I grew up along around Erith being, seemingly, the centre of U.K. sightings of this increasingly familiar species.

A notable non-bird sighting was a **Blue-fin tuna**, which I initially assumed was a dolphin or porpoise. This species has been present in British waters only in the last two years. A **Red-throated diver** and three **Bar-tailed godwit** were spotted on the way home, the former tucked into Innisidgen Cove.

In the afternoon I walked to Porthlooe on St. Mary's and saw a **Ruff**, before heading to near Carrig Dhu Gardens where a **Glossy ibis** had been present for a few days. It was walking up and down a small pool of water, one of many that had collected in a huge sheet of plastic laid over a ploughed field. The transparent-and-white plastic and the dark plumage of the ibis produced what resembled a lunar scene.

From there I conducted a somewhat frenetic dash across St. Mary's to see two **Richard's pipit**. Initially, the birds were in a field at Carn Vean, but when I reached that spot, I was told the birds had just the minute before taken off in the direction of the airport at Higher Moors. I walked along a footpath across Kittydown that I had not taken before and then climbed the airport road, only for the two birds at that very moment to be above my head flying back up the island towards the golf course. I saw two larger pipits with long tails and more barrel-like chests, but the view was very disappointing.

I decided to see the two **Jack snipe** present at Lower Moors, from the Isles of Scilly Bird Group hide, and they performed admirably, the closest sightings I have ever had of the species. As I was walking back up through Old Town with the idea of heading to the north entrance of Higher Moors, I bumped into a birder who was dashing back up to the airport on a report that the **Richard's pipit** had returned, so around I turned, too. This time, the pipits remained on the ground, and an adjacent Meadow pipit provided a great size comparison. **Richard's pipit** is twice as large, with longer legs and a very upright stance.

Back in Hugh Town there was a Great egret perched in a tree on the Garrison but visible from Porthcressa, which it flew across in a wide arc before disappearing.

On **Wednesday, October 11** I decided to go to Bryher to search for the **Ortolan** that had been discovered the day before just up from Church Quay. Despite a good search, it was not to be seen in that original place, and most of the rest of the day on this beautiful island proved disheartening in terms of bird sightings, with only a couple of quick views of a juvenile **Red-backed shrike**. A **Whimbrel** and the same pair of **Whinchat** added some colour.

The **Ortolan** was spotted at 1230 on the west side of Samson Hill, not too far from where I was, so I ran back, but it had already disappeared.

I almost had one foot on the 1430 boat back to St. Mary's when I saw Henry Wyn-Jones and Jonathan Farooqi get off the boat and hurry past without seeing me. They were staying in

Hugh Town with two friends, Jack Morris and Dan, and Tony Morris, Jack's grandfather. Alex and I have known the Morris family for more than 45 years. Jack is the son of Pete Morris, a birder friend who went to the same senior school as Alex and I did.

Behind the two was a small group of birders who like me had been searching on Bryher earlier that day, so we all walked back swiftly the long way around Samson Hill. Again, though, we were too late. It had flown, so we were told, deep into the foliage of a tree. Henry had a thermal camera, and he could pick out only one bird, which we assumed was our bird, but even with a telescope trained at it and perhaps two mylar stripes being discernible it mostly resembled a piece of soggy tissue. Fifteen minutes later, the bird in question moved an inch or two, and what revealed itself was a grey bill. No, it was not what we were looking for. Henry and Jonathan decided to walk around the adjacent beach to see if they could relocate it, others stayed put, and I decided—I cannot remember why—to walk along the narrow grass path to where the bunting had been seen on the first occasion that day.

As I rounded a curve, I saw a bird rooting in the grass. Remembering what Alex always tells me, that is, snap photos, confirm the ID and then tell others, I with some jubilation saw that it was indeed the **Ortolan**. I waved to the group of stationary birders and whistled loudly, so well, Henry and Jonathan were able to hear, turn full circle, run and see a bird species that for them also was a lifer. They said they heard a whistle, and wondered if it was a dog-walker but decided not to take the chance that it was not a bird alert. I managed to get eight or so birders onto the bunting, which showed very well for another three minutes, feeding and hopping along the grassy path before once more disappearing. I was thanked profusely as we all sauntered to get the last boat home at 1630.

At the Scillonian Club that evening our group was in celebratory mode as we played a round robin of games of pool.

I think the Thursday of every week birding on the Isles of Scilly is when the body tells me to slow down a little, so on **Thursday, October 12** I did not leave St. Mary's. Alex and I pottered around the island and saw a **Water rail** in Higher Moors but failed to see the **Glossy ibis** where I had seen it previously. We saw the two **Jack snipe** at Lower Moors, which were very much closer on this occasion, literally beneath the hide. There always was, though, wherever they sauntered, an errant piece of grass in front of both birds that hindered photography. Elsewhere that day, we also saw a **Hobby**, not a common sighting on the isles, and a **Pink-footed goose** in flight.

A **Snow bunting** was feeding at Giant's Castle, and there also was a **Black redstart**. Viewed from the coastal path at the airport, there was a **Buff-breasted sandpiper**, which well could have been the same individual seen earlier in the week on Wingletang Down, St. Agnes, It was with 20 **Golden plover** and one **Dunlin**. The sandpiper had been seen earlier in the day by Alex and myself flying with a group of **Snipe**, its size notably smaller than its companions as it moved from the back of the group to the front. At one point two groups of airborne **Snipe** came together as one, numbering around 60.

On the last full day, **Friday, October 13**, Alex and I wandered down to Lower Moors again, but this time around there was very little to see, apart from a **Kingfisher** that flew up and perched in a distant tree and then over the pool in front of the hide.

I decided to visit Higher Moors, but there was not much there either, apart from the only **Coot** I saw in the entire week, but as I was starting to walk along the coastal trail back to Hugh Town, news sounded that a **Pallid harrier** was on the move, flying from the isle of St. Martin's where it had been seen the day before towards the main isle of St. Mary's. Several birders were looking up into the sky and following radio and WhatsApp messages, and the bird was pinned down to pretty much the same tree the **Kingfisher** had been in. I jogged back to the hide and got so-so views of it half-obscured by branches, a view that showed you what it was, a juvenile, but which it was not worth pointing a camera at.



Later, Alex said he wanted to see if he could photograph the **Rose-coloured starling**, so I went with him but after 10 minutes or so I decided to head to St. Martin's on the last boat there of the day, the 1230, to see if I could see the **Arctic warbler** that had been found by Jack and Dan two days before.

The boat was almost empty. When it arrived at Lower Quay, there were five or six birders waiting to return to St. Mary's. There had been no reports of the warbler so far that day. Everyone leaving the boat went off in cars or into the very nice Karma St. Martin's hotel adjacent to the quay. I was left on my own. I had only walked 30 feet, to the spot where the narrow "main" road crosses the length of this thin isle, when I saw a warbler alight on a branch of a conifer tree.

I was sure it was the **Arctic warbler**, but as I raised my camera, I realised I had left its battery charging back on St. Mary's. Of course, I should have been carrying a spare. I called Alex and told him I had seen the bird, and I put out a "probable" sighting announcement on the WhatsApp group.

By this time, it had started to rain. Indeed, the day was forecasted to be potentially a washout, but it transpired just to be a day of mixed conditions with little in the way of precipitation. I popped into the Seven Stones pub, which is 100 metres from where I saw the warbler and named after the reef where the Tuesday pelagic boat had sailed to.

Apart from me and three employees it was empty, and it was too close for the season two days later. After a pint, I left to find myself in 10 minutes of sunshine, and I saw the **Arctic warbler** again in the same spot, and this time I saw all the features that identified it. I alerted the WhatsApp group. At the daily bird log at the Scillonian Club that evening (Tony, Jack and the crew had returned to the mainland that afternoon on what was a very choppy passage) there was a comment from the master of ceremonies that my warbler could well have been a different one to the previous example. On the Friday, the original **Arctic warbler** was not seen where it had been discovered on the Wednesday and relocated on the Thursday. That was a site in Higher Town. Perhaps the poor weather scared people off from looking. As I walked along St. Martin's from my site of discovery in Lower Town to Middle Town and then on to Higher Town, I saw only four other birders, two of whom were resident and one of whom was staying on the isle and rarely leaving.

It is said that this species tends not to move much once it has discovered a food source, and as my one was seen approximately 1.5 miles away from the original, it could well be a different bird, in which case it would qualify as a self-found bird.

I probably will never know one way or the other.

I was very happy to read the next day that "my" warbler had been seen twice, once in exactly the same spot and once by the Seven Stones.

I saw a large flock of **Sanderling** on the St. Martin's beach known as Lawrences, along with 30 or 40 **Oystercatcher** and four **Curlew**, but there was not much else venturing out.

I met the one birder who was staying on the island, Chris Townend, in Higher Town. He waited for me to reach him to ask if I was the one who had seen the warbler. He had seen it the day before and was off to the other end of the island to see if he could see my one. He said he knew several birder friends in common, namely Alex, Barry Wright and Pete Morris. On the boat back, there was only one other person, the fourth birder, Terry Doman, who said he had been coming to the Isles of Scilly every October for the last 38 years.

It was amusing to get a cheer at the Scillonian Club bird log when I mentioned the exact number of Sanderling I had seen, 195. Alex told me not to say I saw a rounded-up 200.

We had one last drink that evening at the Mermaid before going home half an hour or so, apparently, before a mini riot broke out there that spilled onto the street.

On our last day, **Saturday, October 14**, we did not venture far due to our passage on the Scillonian III leaving in the afternoon. Alex and I wandered up to Peninnis Head along King

Edward Road and, after seeing phone alerts, saw the **Pallid harrier** fly over the airport. We watched it circle a few times before it headed with some urgency straight out to sea, never to come back. At that very moment the Isles of Scilly-bound Scillonian III was coming in, and the birders on board would have certainly read that the harrier was on the move, but if anyone on board had seen the bird it would not have been any more than a tiny, dark, unidentifiable dot. There was a **Black redstart** on Peninnis.

With 90 minutes left in which to bird, we enjoyed watching the **Rose-coloured starling** on Porthcressa, tucked around the edge of the base of the Garrison and completely on its own, with not a single regular starling in sight. It quite often popped onto the top of large rocks encrusted in yellow lichen.

We met up with Bernie Beck, another birder we have known for decades, at the Mermaid for a drink. He was on the incoming ferry and confirmed no one on his sailing would have possibly been able to spot the harrier. Then it was time to embark on the passage back, which provided a good number of **Cory's shearwater**, a handful of **Great shearwater** and **Kittiwake**, along with one **Great skua**.

In total, 100 species from leaving Penzance to the point when we left Hugh Town for the sailing back to the mainland.

We saw during the week a number of Clouded yellow butterflies and two Painted lady butterflies, which we wished we had taken a closer look at because in the days after our departure there were sighted four or five American painted lady, a separate species and very much a rarity in the U.K. Also seen was a Hummingbird hawkmoth, while another curious sighting was of a fungi species called Red-cage fungus, which for want of a better description looks like underwater coral exploding out of meringue.

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: November 10, 2023** I went to the reserve for a very quick 45 minutes after I attended the demonstration—well, more a showing of numbers and a photo opportunity—to show opposition to energy company Cory's development plans to extend its Belvedere site onto the nature reserve, which does have scientific protection. One thorn is that the developers have said their plans will help the government carbon targets, and thus paperwork bypasses local administration and heads straight to the relevant national ministry. Two of the Save Crossness campaigner, Ralph Todd from RSPB Bexley and the indomitable Donna Zimmer, showed the Member of Parliament for Erith and Thamesmead, Labour Party member Abena Oppong-Asare, around the reserve, so I hope that helps. I saw them as left the Crossness hide, but I just said "good morning." Donna and Ralph probably only had 15 minutes with her, and I did not want my conversation to waste any of that time.

I saw a handful of Stonechat and three raptors, a Kestrel, a Buzzard and a wonderful female Sparrowhawk sitting on a branch opposite the hide window.

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: November 25, 2023** The first time I have taken Alex Carlisle to two of my local spots, even though he grew up in the area, too. The reserves back then did not exist. At Rainham, we saw distantly five juvenile Whooper swan fly, but fortunately there was an adult Whooper swan sitting on the Target Pool that gave great views. There was not a lot else, but Wigeon; 20 x Pintail; several Fieldfare and Redwing, the first of the year; 5 x Curlew; Marsh harrier, and Kestrel

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: November 25, 2023** The outflow on the Thames was the best spot, with maybe 200 x Black-headed gull; 12 x Dublin; Black-tailed godwit; Redshank, and a pair of Little egret. A Buzzard was in the unfenced part of the reserve

**London Wetland Centre, London: December 10, 2023** Not much about on possibly the most dismal day of weather I have encountered at this reserve, although things brightened up significantly by the time I left. Two Black-headed gull showing almost completely black heads; a handful of Wigeon, Pochard, Gadwall and Shoveler; a slightly bedraggled Kestrel, and two Redwing

**Pulborough Brooks RSPB, Pulborough, Sussex: December 11, 2023** A very nice sunny late-autumn day. Highlight were the two adult White-tailed eagle, one of which soared over the marsh, settling on a tree with its mate. Both sat there for some time before flying off. Huge wing spans. Also, a Peregrine in the tree across from another hide. Few waders, with four Dublin, scatterings of Lapwing and a great many Black-tailed godwit. Nuthatch and Coat tit a joy to watch at the two feeder stations, and there were one or two each of Fieldfare and Redwing. Also, three other raptors in Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and Marsh harrier

**Abberton Reservoir, Layer de la Haye: December 12, 2023** The rain came down heavily on my way there and back, but the sun was out when I arrived at 8:30 a.m. The large flock of Pochard contained the one **CANVASBACK** (new species for the U.K.), which could be picked out for its darker, longer bill and more bulbous head. Birders now await to see if the BOU designates this a wild bird, or an escape, although it is free-flying, un-ringed and had an arrival with a storm front. I will be prepared to take this off my U.K. list if prompted. Also on the reservoir were a dozen Goosander, both male and female, and a pair of Goldeneye. Also, one Redshank. In the Essex Wildlife Trust Abberton reserve, there were perhaps 200 or 300 Fieldfare, quite a wonderful sight, along with just two Redwing. A pleasant surprise was the one Meadow pipit, but there was not a great deal around, and then it was clear the weather was going to change again, and for the worse

**Kings Hill, East Malling, Kent and Elmley, Kent: December 23, 2023** My intent was to get to the Elmley reserve first thing in the morning, but news came in that three Waxwing were present at Kings Hill, a species I have not seen for almost seven years. 2023 has been a decent year for their presence in the south of the country, with the last good year being 2017. They were found effortlessly on Monarch Terrace, but then they flew. I relocated them on the one tree in the middle of a roundabout facing a Waitrose supermarket, and on occasion they flew to a much smaller rowan tree, which allowed me to photograph them if they dropped down even further to below the building line of the adjacent houses

At Elmley, there was a large number of Curlew, some of whom were calling. Also, a couple of quick flashes of Bearded tit, one Reed bunting, which felt a surprise much as the Meadow pipit did the day before, three Marsh harriers, a female Hen harrier over the marsh between the ticket entrance and the main facilities, and a Goldcrest skulking at the base of thicker vegetation. The stars, though, were the three owls present. The Long-eared owl was extremely well hidden in a thicket, and I needed to be shown where it was by one of the wardens, Fiona, and which I managed to see the body and, just once, an “ear” and half an eye. The two other owl species Barn owl and Short-eared owl, were far more obvious when they decided to pop up out of the grass and start hunting, quartering a field and both providing great views. The Short-eared owl perched on a fence post, but the Barn owl dropped into the long grass. A flock of Brent flew by. Over the four days, I saw 70 species

**Oare and Pegwell Bay, Kent: December 20, 2023** Sunny day, but not a great deal at Oare. A Black-necked grebe floated down the Swale, which also had Curlew; Avocet; Shelduck; Oystercatcher, and Redshank. There were three Spoonbill on the East Flood, mostly viewed



as they slept. A small flock of Fieldfare also was present, and there has been some reeds cleared or cut as I even birded from the East Flood Hide, something I have never done in more than 10 years. The Greater white-fronted /Greylag hybrid goose with a broken wing remains, and it has been months now. People I spoke to said it seems to be quite happy. At Pegwell Bay, I caught up with two Twite, a species I have not seen since before I moved to the US. I was fortunate. I talked to someone leaving the area it was reported in who said that no one had seen it properly that morning, although someone located it in the salt marsh with an infrared camera. I was there only for a few minutes when both flew to the branches of a tree and fed. They then dropped down to the salt marsh and displayed on the top of a piece of vegetation. I watched them for 10 minutes, and then they disappeared, not to be seen again by me. Also, Grey plover; Dunlin; Curlew; Redshank, and a male Eider

**Rajasthan, India: December 27, 2023-January 10, 2024** My first time to India, a two-week visit with Francesca and two friends, Jessica and Oliver. We visited Delhi, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur, as well as two rural places, Chanod and the RAAS Chhatrasagar resort near Nimaj. It was not a birding trip, but I squeezed out as much as I could, especially in Chanod and Chhatrasagar. There also was a visit to the Jhalani reserve near Jaipur where we saw Leopard and two owl species, Eurasian scops owl and Brown boobook. Worryingly, not a single vulture species

Ashy drongo; Ashy prinia; Asian brown flycatcher; Asian green bee-eater; Asian koel; Asian palm swift; Indian pied myna; Bank myna; Bar-headed goose; Baya weaver; Bay-backed shrike; Black-bellied tern; Black-crowned night heron; Black drongo; Black-headed cuckooshrike; Black-headed ibis; Black kite; Black redstart; Black-rumped flameback; Black stork; Black-tailed godwit; Black-winged kite; Black-winged stilt; Brown boobook; Booted warbler; Brahminy starling (*25th species*); Brown shrike; Buzzard; Cattle egret; Chestnut-bellied nuthatch; Chiffchaff; Citrine wagtail; Collared dove; Common iora; Common myna; Common sandpiper; Coot; Coppersmith barbet; Crane; Oriental darter; Dusky crag martin; Eurasian scops owl; Fan-tailed warbler; Feral pigeon/Rock dove; Glossy ibis; Graceful prinia; Cormorant; Great crested grebe; Great egret; Greater coucal (*50th species*); Greater flamingo; Greater racket-tailed drongo; Greater spotted eagle; Greater white pelican; Great grey shrike; Great tit; Greenish warbler; Greenshank; Grey-breasted prinia; Grey francolin; Grey heron; Greylag; Grey phalarope; Grey-throated martin (Asian plain martin); Grey wagtail; Hoopoe; House crow; House sparrow; Indian cormorant; Indian nightjar; Indian peafowl; Indian pond heron; Indian robin; Indian roller; Indian spotted creeper; Medium egret (*75th species*); Jungle babbler; Jungle prinia; Kestrel; Laggar; Large grey babbler; Laughing dove; Lesser whitethroat; Little cormorant; Little egret; Little grebe; Little ringed plover; Long-tailed shrike; Mallard; Marsh harrier; Marsh sandpiper; Montagu's harrier; Moorhen; Oriental magpie-robin; Oriental white-eye; Osprey; Painted stork; Pallid harrier; Pied bush chat; Pied kingfisher (*100th species*); Pied wagtail; Pintail; Plain prinia; Plum-headed parakeet; Pochard; Purple heron; Purple sunbird; Red-naped ibis; Red-necked falcon; Red-rumped swallow; Redshank; Red-vented bulbul; Red-wattled lapwing; Ringed plover; Ring-necked parakeet; River tern; Rose-coloured starling; Ruddy shelduck; Ruff; Red-tailed shrike; Rufous treepie; Sarus crane; Shikra; Short-eared owl (*125th species*); Short-toed lark; Shoveler; Small minivet; Snipe; Spoonbill; Spotted dove; Spotted owl; Steppe eagle; Stonechat; Striped heron; Taiga flycatcher; Tailorbird; Teal; White-browed fantail; White-browed wagtail; White-eared bulbul; White-eyed buzzard; White-throated kingfisher; Wire-tailed swallow; Wood sandpiper; Woolly-necked stork; Yellow-eyed babbler, and Yellow wagtail. ... 148 species in total, and 39 new species. (Also, Blackbuck; Black-faced langur; Five-striped palm squirrel; Indian grey mongoose; Jungle cat; Leopard; Marwari (horse); Nilgai (Bluebuck); Rhesus macaque; Sambar, and Wild boar)

**Heybridge, Essex: January 14, 2024** Early start to get to the site where for the last week there have been sightings of **NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH** (new species for the U.K.), my second US warbler species seen in the U.K. Maybe 30 birders already on site before first light, and one of them picked a likely candidate out with an infra-red torch. It turned out to be the bird in question. Excellent views, even in the dark, of it and its behaviour, and it was heard to call as it flew over the narrow dyke from side to side. It often popped onto small rocks. I saw it at 07:30, the exact time (due to the arrival of sunset at this time of the year) that it mostly has been seen, and then it returned at 08:17 for better views in better light. Maybe 100 birders on site for this American mega. A Cetti's warbler was displaying well, even if very few birders were giving it any time. At 10 a.m., I was back home. It is the eighth to be seen in the U.K., but only the third U.K. mainland record and the first British record since 2011. The first was found on St. Agnes, Isles of Scilly, in September 1958, with the isles seeing four more, the most recent in September 2011. All previous British records have been found in the autumn; present, Jan. 3-22, 2024

**Amwell Nature Reserve, Great Amwell, Hertfordshire: February 3, 2024** The first time to this reserve just north of London. I was not exactly sure as to what pond or lake to find the lone, drake Smew on, but I finally located it on the largest lake, and I had excellent views of a duck species I have not seen for decades. On the smaller pond on the road-side of the rail line, with only one small sightline possible, I saw a pair of Goldeneye

**Dacres Wood and Mayow Park, Sydenham, London: February 4, 2024** A slow 90-minute amble to a couple of spots within walking distance of my home, and in Dacres Wood I saw three titmice species, Long-tailed tit, Great tit and Blue tit, Goldfinch and Goldcrest, while in Mayow Park I saw a Jay and a Nuthatch

**Southwark, London: February 8, 2024**

On the top of the Globe Theatre, the re-creation of the medieval playhouse supposedly frequented by William Shakespeare, a minute's walk from my office, a female Black redstart hopping across the mossy roof and occasionally popping up onto and sitting on a metal protuberance

**River Lea, Hackney, London: February 18, 2024**

A walk along a stretch of the River Lea close to the stadium of West Ham United, one Greenfinch, one Redwing and one Goldcrest among 20 species in total

**Tice's Meadow, Runfold, Surrey, and Effingham Woods, Effingham, Surrey: February 25, 2024**

Two new sites for me. At the first, Tice's Meadow, a pair of Black-necked grebe, 2 x Snipe, a displaying Cetti's warbler, a male Siskin, while at the second—with the light quite shockingly poor—Goshawk, with one flying through a wood, another briefly appearing over a canopy of fir trees; one Hawfinch perched on a fir; Treecreeper; 4 x Marsh tit, and a flock of Redpoll

**Thameside Nature Discovery Reserve, Standford-le-Hope, Essex: March 2, 2024**

Pretty gruesome morning's weather, with rain that never quite stopped, a strong breeze and even hail, but, before the large, good visitor centre opened, there is a hide for shelter, and from it there must have been 500 Avocet scattered over the spot where Mucking Creek joins the Thames. Also, 2 x Stonechat, numerous Shelduck, and 4 x Curlew. I left at 11:30

**Effingham Woods, Effingham, Surrey, and Headley Heath, Surrey: February 25, 2024**

A return here but this time with birder friend Paul Moss. Excellent view of Goshawk flying through the wood, and we had only seen that because we had got a little lost trying to find the viewpoint where most of the Goshawk sightings have been. When we did find it, we saw several appearances of the raptor again, occasionally two at the same time; on another occasion, a Buzzard with a Goshawk squaring off to one another but with no contact. Also, 2 x Treecreeper; Marsh tit; Coat tit, and a dozen Siskin. At Headley Heath, a very nice male Kestrel; 60 x Linnet, and 2 x Redpoll in two different spots

**The Ridgeway, West Ilsley, Berkshire, and Didcot, Oxfordshire: March 9, 2024**

On a failed search for the Giant orchid, which has been reported last year and this, blooming three weeks earlier in 2024. I did not know where it was, and I have not been able to get anyone to tell me, not that I tried so hard. If people wish to keep its location a secret, so be it. Nevertheless, on a sunny day, I found a pale-morph Buzzard, which, at first, I thought was a gull species and then an Osprey; also, several Yellowhammer; Stonechat; Corn bunting; Marsh harrier, and numerous Skylark and Red kite

**Staines Reservoir, Berkshire, and London Wetland Centre, Barnes, London: March 10, 2024**

Weather was largely miserable, but in the morning the rain mostly kept off. Slavonian grebe, the first one I have seen in the U.K. in decades, in winter plumage; 4 x Goldeneye; brief views of Water pipit; a Dunlin; distant view of Great northern diver (I failed to see the Black-throated diver, which was seen while I was there), and 3 x summer-plumage Black-necked grebe, which might well be the first time I have seen the species in summer colours. At the London Wetland Centre, the rain caught up with me, but I re-found a Water pipit, with very good views; also, a Snipe and a bright Chiffchaff

**Dungeness RSPB Reserve, Lydd, Kent: March 23, 2024** Quite chilly in the wind, but in sheltered spots the sun warmed things up a bit. First Wheatear of the year by the bird observatory, and a Peregrine. At the ARC pit, oddly, my second sighting of one Slavonian grebe and three Black-necked grebe on the same bit of water in the space of 13 days. Also, a Goldeneye. On Burrowes Pit at the RSPB centre, another Goldeneye, several Common gull and three Little gull, including one adult male

**Albufera Marshes, Valencia, Spain: March 27 and 31, 2024** Two mornings at the Racó de l'Olla reserve, with the first day also spent birding the three kilometres between the reserve and the village of El Palmar. At the reserve were Greater flamingo; Black-winged stilt; Glossy ibis; Avocet; Grey heron; Common tern; Mediterranean gull; Ruff; Redshank; Shelduck; 2 x Pochard; Marsh harrier; Swift; Swallow; Little grebe; Sanderling; Common sandpiper; House martin, and a very distant bird that I could not ID but turned out to be a Water pipit in summer plumage. The walk to El Palmar proved largely fruitless, certainly compared with the same walk in Dec. 2018, but there were flocks of Serin and Cattle egret at the entrance to the village. On the second day, most of the birds seen at the reserve were repeated, with the addition of 30 x Sandwich tern and 5 x Slender-billed gull, a species I had not previously seen

**Parc Municipal de Sant Vincent, Llíria, Comunitat Valenciana, Spain: April 1, 2024** A walk around this park full of Easter Monday families produced, a little to the side of where the masses were, a Sardinian warbler and a Hoopoe, which I could show my niece, Martina

**Grunewald; Döberitzer Heide Nature Reserve, and Tiergarten, Berlin, Germany: April 13-17, 2023** A few bits of birding around the annual hotels conference I attend in Berlin. This event was a month earlier this year than it was in 2023, and that made all the difference, I suspect, in the migratory birds that I could not find during this trip. There were no Red-backed shrike; Wood lark; Cuckoo; Hoopoe, and Spotted flycatcher. In Grunewald, I saw a Garden warbler, 2 x Crane, and the best views I have had of Black woodpecker, two of them. At Döberitzer Heide, which since last year has opened a very nice visitor centre, I arrived via its Dallgow-Döberitz entrance, where I saw Redstart and Black redstart. Deeper into the reserve I also saw 2 x Wheatear; 2 x Crane; Red kite; Corn bunting, and Stonechat, as well as Bison, but it was not a patch on last year. I visited the central Tiergarten park that was right behind my hotel, and on my visit quick visit of three quick visits I saw a Goshawk land on a branch just above my head. It moved quickly away. That was at about midday. On the next morning, at around 6:15 to 7, I failed to see it, but on my last morning, at 6, I saw two fly in, one of which stayed on a branch as I slowly moved around to where the light was perfect for photos. Suffice to say, I have never seen this majestic bird so close, and it was a thrill

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: May 6, 2023** A day of rain and overcast skies, but there were a few things popping around, notably Swift; Swallow; Sand martin; Kingfisher; Sedge warbler; Cetti's warbler; Reed warbler; Whitethroat; Marsh harrier; Kestrel; Peregrine and Hobby. A Cuckoo was heard but not located

**Chappetts Copse, West Meon, Hampshire: May 25, 2024** A first visit to this Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust site, essentially to see two new species of orchid for me, which I was successful in doing. The Sword-leaved helleborine was in a patch of approximately 200 specimens, but there were also others scattered in much smaller groups. After some searching, I found the other species, Bird's-nest orchid. There were four, but only one was fresh. I also saw two examples of another flower, Solomon's seal, and a family of Marsh tit

**Battlesbury Hill and Cotley Hill, Warminster, Wiltshire: May 26, 2024** A day of mixed weather, so we started a little earlier than the prime butterfly hours, firstly at Battlesbury Hill where I found one single example, and a very small one at that, of a new butterfly species for me, Marsh fritillary. It has long been a project for me and Alex Carlisle for me to see my first one away from Hutchinson's Bank where one was found—almost undoubtedly “dumped” as a caterpillar or pupae during the pandemic—along with a number of other species of dubious provenance. We had more luck at Cotley Hill, where we saw probably a dozen examples, as well as individual examples of Adonis blue; Large skipper; Green-veined white; Small blue, and Wall. There were also two Brown argus and a scattering of Dingy skipper and Grizzled skipper

**Mile Oak Farm, Portslade, Sussex: June 9, 2024** A trip that means that I do not have to do the long drive down to Devon, a trip I have thought of and even half-planned, as a singing **CIRL BUNTING** (new species for the U.K.) has turned up in the eastern section of the country. I last saw this species in the south of France in 1985. It has been present since the morning of June 3. It was moving around in a large circle but stopped to sing in front of viewers relatively often. Only other birds were a family of Whitethroat. It is the first Cirl bunting to be seen in Sussex this century, and the last accepted record in Sussex was one at Sidlesham in March 1996, which was also the only county record of the species in the 1990s

**Namibia: June 22-July 3, 2024**

(some bird species seen in more than one of the following destinations\_

**Windhoek, Daan Viljeon Wildlife Reserve and Aris Dam:** Egyptian goose; Pale chanting goshawk; Rock kestrel; Helmeted guineafowl; Red-billed spurfowl; Feral pigeon/rock dove; House sparrow; Ring-necked dove; Laughing dove; Rosy-faced lovebird; Grey go-away bird; Bradfield's swift; White-backed mousebird; Southern yellow-billed hornbill; Large rock martin; Fork-tailed drongo; African red-eyed bulbul; Cape penduline tit; Yellow-bellied eremomela; Burnt-necked eremomela; Chestnut-vented warbler; Marico flycatcher; Pririt batis; Brubru; Cape starling; Wattled starling; Scarlet-chested sunbird; Marico sunbird; White-browed sparrow-weaver; Red-billed quelea; Southern red bishop; Short-toed rock thrush; Long-billed crombec; Grey heron; Little grebe; Red-billed teal; Spike-heeled lark; Ostrich; Red-knobbed coot; Moorhen; Blacksmith lapwing; Three-banded plover; Stark's lark; Grey-backed sparrow-lark; Groundscraper thrush; Capped wheatear; Pale-winged starling; Southern masked weaver; Blue waxbill; Common waxbill; Yellow canary; Great white pelican; African pipit; Cape wagtail; Kittlitz's plover; Common scimitarbill; South African shelduck; Greater flamingo; White-breasted cormorant; Reef cormorant; Mountain wheatear; Great egret; African jacana; Black-headed heron; Amethyst sunbird, and Speckled pigeon

**Etosha National Park:** Red-crested korhaan; African pied barbet; Freckled nightjar; Spotted thick-knee; Pied crow; Cape crow; Namaqua dove; Sociable weaver; Ludwig's bustard; Greater kestrel; Red-headed finch; Ashy tit; Crowned lapwing; Lilac-breasted roller; Purple roller; Red-necked falcon; Southern red-billed hornbill; African palm swift; Western reef heron; Double-banded sandgrouse; Swallow-tailed bee-eater; Scaly-feathered weaver; Bradfield's hornbill; Chestnut-backed sparrow-lark; White-bellied sunbird; Red-capped lark; Double-banded courser; Fan-tailed warbler; Desert cisticola; Brown-throated martin; Sabota lark; Buffy pipit; Bare-checked babbler

**Otjisazu:** African hoopoe; Grey-backed camaroptera; Pearl-spotted owlet; Rüppell's parrot; Southern white-crowned shrike; Rattling cisticola; Kalahari scrub robin; Bearded woodpecker; Cardinal woodpecker; Damara red-billed hornbill; Red-tailed buffalo-weaver; Brown-crowned tchagra; Southern pied babbler; Common buttonquail; Ant-eating chat; White-backed vulture; Burchell's starling; Barred wren-warbler, and Lark-like bunting ... 119 species in total

(Other animals: Yellow mongoose; Barred mongoose; Slender mongoose; Honey badger; South African ground-squirrel; Plains zebra; Giraffe; Oryx; Springbok; Greater kudu; Impala; Waterbuck; Blesbok; Sable antelope; Warthog; Chacma baboon; Elephant; White rhinoceros; Black rhinoceros; Lion; Rock hyrax, and Blue wildebeest)

**Stoney Cross, Hampshire, and London Wetland Centre, London: July 7, 2024** I did not realise that I went to the London Wetland Centre last year (see July 9, 2023) after also going to Stoney Cross in the New Forest. In 2023, I failed to find a Bog orchid there despite doing what I thought was some cast-iron sleuthing and an incredible piece of luck looking at Google Maps satellite images, but I returned this year and found one. Just the one! It is my 30th U.K. orchid species. As I returned to the area of bog I scouted last year, I immediately saw the spike, which is no more than five to six inches high. I took some photos, and I returned to get a one-pound coin to give the flower some dimension. I took more photos with my fixed-60mm lens, but when I returned to my camera bag a second time to get a normal 18mm-105mm lens, I simply could not find the spike again, despite thinking I knew exactly where it was. After searching for another 15 minutes, I left  
At the LWC, there was a little about. There was Swift; Swallow; Sand martin, and House martin. There was a tumultuous downpour that I saw coming and had lunch during, and when

it finished, I returned to the Peacock Tower hide, hoping a few things had emerged after the storm, and I was rewarded with five Lapwing and a juvenile Green sandpiper

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Erith, Kent, and Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex:**

**July 14, 2024** A very early start to see the reported (July 13) **FRANKLIN'S GULL** (new species for the U.K.) found at the outflow of the pumping station, with the first high tide of the day due to approximately 7:30 a.m.; present, 13-17 July, 2024. I arrived at 5 a.m., and the bird, usually resident in the middle states of the US and migrating southwards from there, was re-found quite quickly, and by me. Great views for 45 minutes, but then it flew to sit on the nearby pier, where its darker back could be easily seen from that of the 500 or so Black-headed gull. There was one leucistic Black-headed gull. Also, Yellow-legged gull  
At Rainham, on a sunny day, there were two sleeping, distant Spoonbill amid 20 or so Little egret, and there were another 20 of this species elsewhere on the reserve. I finally got a photo of a male Bearded tit without a reed stalk in front of it, albeit on a grit table. A Kingfisher perched nicely from the hide in front of a purposefully placed perch and artificial nesting wall. Also, Chiffchaff, Cetti's warbler, Reed warbler, 2 x Ringed plover, Common tern and a Marsh harrier. 51 species seen in total over the two spots

**Effingham Woods, Effingham, Surrey: July 21, 2024** An attempt to see if I could again see Goshawk here, and perhaps even Honey buzzard, which have been reported in the southeast, but I was lucky with neither, but I did find some Broad-leaved helleborine and, looking at one that looked distinct, my first Narrow-lipped helleborine. Also, Silver-washed fritillary

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: July 21, 2024** The doldrums of mid-July. Red kite; a Redshank; two Black-tailed godwit; Great egret; Cetti's warbler; Sedge warbler; Reed warbler, and three Curlew. Also, a Water vole

*Housekeeping notes* — I think this is a first for me since I started writing up these notes, although more than likely my "list" needs revision elsewhere. Anyway, on July 22, 2024, it was announced by the International Ornithological Committee in a major taxonomic shake-up that Redpoll is to be lumped into a single species. So, gone are Lesser Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*; Arctic Redpoll *Acanthis hornemanni*, and Common Redpoll *Acanthis flammea*, and all former subspecies within those three including three subspecies within those three types. I am not sure what the new species will be? Perhaps, Redpoll *Acanthis cabaret*? My U.K. list dropped from 334 species to 333, but spare a thought for those who lost two "redpoll" species and dropped down to 498 or 398.

**Chilgrove, Sussex: August 29, 2024** With Francesca on a two-day stay-over in Sussex, and on a walk from the White Horse hotel, a Honey buzzard, not too far above our heads cresting a hill

**Isles of Scilly, Cornwall, England: October 4-11, 2024** 103 species seen, a record by two species, although the range of species seems to always differ

**Scillonian III Crossing** (Penzance to Hugh Town): From Penzance Harbour, 25 Chough flew over; from the ferry journey itself, Manx shearwater; 5 x Great shearwater; 20 x Kittiwake; 3 x Razorbill; 3 x Guillemot; many Gannet; Great skua. (Also, Common dolphin) On the boat back to Penzance, 2 x Great skua, 2 Manx shearwater; 10 x Great shearwater, and again high numbers of Cory's shearwater. (Also, Risso's dolphin, a first sighting for me)

**St. Mary's — GREATER SHORT-TOED LARK** (new species for the U.K.) and **TAWNY PIPIT** (new species for the U.K.); Wilson's snipe (my second, a bird we are regarding as

self-found' present, Oct. 10-13, 2024); Isabelline wheatear (my second; present, Oct. 11, 2024); Yellow-browed warbler; 4 x Cattle egret; Ortolan; Dotterel; Osprey; Hobby; Sparrowhawk; Peregrine; Merlin, and Kestrel. Also, Bar-tailed godwit; Black-redstart; Little tern; 5 x Mediterranean gull; 20 x Wheatear; Jack snipe; several "White" wagtail; 20 x Sandwich tern; Kingfisher; Great spotted woodpecker; Wryneck; 3 x Spotted flycatcher; Pied flycatcher; 2 x Sabine's gull; 5 x Whooper swan; 3 x Great egret, and Red-backed shrike. (Also, 2 x Death's-head hawkmoth and Lesser white-toothed shrew (known here as Scilly shrew), both new sightings for me

**Bryher** — Hoopoe (my second in the U.K.); Grey plover; 16 x Barnacle goose; Willow warbler; Yellow-browed warbler, and Arctic tern

**St. Agnes** — 2 x Olive-backed pipit (my second); Snow bunting; Whooper swan; Short-eared owl, and Pink-footed goose

**Western Rocks** — from a boat trip to Bishop's Rock, Peregrine and 6 x Purple sandpiper

**Full species list** — Mute swan; Whooper swan; Pink-footed goose; Barnacle goose; Wigeon; Mallard; Pheasant; Cory's shearwater; Great shearwater; Manx shearwater; Gannet; Cormorant; Shag; Cattle egret; Little egret; Great egret; Grey heron; Sparrowhawk; Osprey; Water rail; Moorhen; Coot; Oystercatcher; Grey plover; Golden plover; Dotterel; Ringed plover; Curlew; Bar-tailed godwit; Turnstone; Sanderling; Dunlin; Purple sandpiper; Greenshank; Jack snipe; Wilson's snipe; Snipe; Great skua; Razorbill; Guillemot; Little tern; Sandwich tern; Arctic tern; Sabine's gull; Kittiwake; Black-headed gull; Mediterranean gull; Lesser black-backed gull; Herring gull; Great black-backed gull; Rock dove/Feral pigeon; Woodpigeon; Collared dove; Short-eared owl; Hoopoe; Kingfisher; Great spotted woodpecker; Wryneck; Kestrel; Merlin; Hobby; Peregrine; Red-backed shrike; Chough (25 x Penzance Harbour); Carrion crow; Goldcrest; Blue tit; Great tit; Skylark; Short-toed lark; Swallow; House martin; Yellow-browed warbler; Chiffchaff; Willow warbler; Whitethroat; Wren; Starling; Blackbird; Fieldfare; Song thrush; Redwing; Spotted flycatcher; Robin; Pied flycatcher; Black redstart; Stonechat; Wheatear; Isabelline wheatear; Dunnock; House sparrow; Grey wagtail; Pied wagtail; Olive-backed pipit; Tawny pipit; Meadow pipit; Rock pipit; Chaffinch; Greenfinch; Linnet; Goldfinch; Snow bunting, and Ortolan

**Isles of Scilly; October 4-11** (With Alex Carlisle) ... There might not have been any wild birding escapades this early October week on the Isles of Scilly to match the Blackburnian warbler twitch of 2022 or the good fortune we had to be on the tourist boat that rediscovered the Red-footed booby in 2023, but 2024 was instantly marked out as adventure merely in reaching the isles at all.

On Oct. 3, minutes after returning to my office from my late-morning appointment at my London dentist, Alex called me to say that he had received notification that our scheduled Sat., Oct. 5 ferry from Penzance had been cancelled due to the forecast of adverse weather and that we had been automatically rebooked for the day before, Oct. 4.

It was scramble-time, with Alex on a mission to book accommodation for an extra night and with me tasked to rush home and then drive to Alex's home 24 hours ahead of schedule. I called my wife, Francesca, and then my work manager before racing home, packing a few last items, changing the cats' litter and giving them some food. I drove down the M4 listening to The Waterboys, in the hope that would calm my adrenaline flow. I arrived at Alex's home near Bath at 6:30.

We left for Penzance Harbor at just after 3 a.m. and were on the Scillonian III ferry on **Friday, October 4** at 8. (The proposed new service from Harland Wolff to have debuted in mid-2024 was abandoned at the 11th hour and the ship returned to The Netherlands in a strategy, plan, programme and cancellation that left a lot of Scilly islanders angry. Mostly



their anger, I was told, was directed at the Isles of Scilly Steamship Co., which operates the Scillonian III, as, allegedly, it was first offered the newer, faster service in a sale-and-leaseback scheme but declined the offer). On board, we soon saw many old Scilly birder faces, but everyone stopped chatting when there was a very unlikely flyover of 25 **Chough**, only the second time I have ever seen the species.

The week was punctuated often with me seeing several species only for the second time. The passage over was one of smooth sailing, and indeed the whole day was a calm, pleasant one, the weather only changing after 8 p.m. or so. From the deck, we saw **Manx shearwater**, **Great shearwater** and, most numerous, **Cory's shearwater**, as well as **Kittiwake**, one **Great skua** and a small group of both **Guillemot** and **Razorbill**. There also was a sighting of Common dolphin.

On arriving at the quay at Hugh Town on St. Mary's, we almost dare not look at the queue of two days' worth of returning birders and holidaymakers. We had increased our trip by one day but many in this queue would no doubt have received a shock on that Thursday informing them that they were to lose one. Everyone we knew or recognised on our sailing had their own tales of anxiety and scramble to relate, including roadworks seemingly on every southern motorway in England.

Our accommodation for the first night was The Bell Rock Hotel. Initially, Alex had only been able to book a room with a king-size bed, but when we arrived, the hotelier said a twin room had been vacated. We did not ask why, presumably by guests who were at that precise moment waiting to board the ferry back to the mainland and which was leaving three hours ahead of schedule to avoid the worsening weather. It was explained that the most unwelcome part of the weather for the ferry crew was its southerly winds and resultant waves.

For us, though, at that point in time, the sun was shining, so we headed towards Peninnis Head and saw the first of two lifers for me on our trip, a **Greater short-toed lark** off King Edward's Road. It was patrolling funnels of a ploughed field and was viewable from two sides of the area. It showed more feather intricacy and head patterns and colours than I expected it would do, although it is another in a long list of essentially "little brown jobs" that I do not need to chase again with too much freneticism.

The next species that we hoped had stayed since its initial sighting was in the Standing Stones Field in Old Town, and it was still there, a juvenile **Red-backed shrike**.

In the morning of **Saturday, October 5** — on what should have been our day of travel to the islands and in which we started the day with a cooked breakfast at the hotel — we started off with much-better views of the **Greater short-toed lark** and a **Merlin** buzzing over Buzza Tower and Porthcressa. Some new footpaths have been created to more easily link King Edward's Road with Old Town, and on our way down, I had the quickest glimpse of a Lesser white-toothed shrew, known here as a Scilly shrew. In Old Town Church, I saw a **Pied flycatcher**, and we saw **Sandwich tern** at Porthcressa. We moved to 3 Bay View, our self-catering cottage on Little Porth, the very small cove that is divided from Porthcressa by a mere handful of rocks on which sat **Rock pipit**, a species that appeared very often throughout our stay in many parts of the island.

We popped our heads into the Isles of Scilly Bird Group hide on Lower Moors and were greeted by exactly zero birds.

Opening the curtains to the living room on **Sunday, Oct. 6** we were greeted by the sight of a **Little tern** whizzing over both Little Porth and Porthcressa. It might have been a good idea to start a garden/cottage checklist with such a species, and it is quite an unusual sighting on the isles, but those who were hopeful of something even rarer were quickly disappointed by WhatsApp messages that Least tern could be ruled out.

Word got out that a **Tawny pipit** was present on the Airfield. I quickly rushed up there for my second and last lifer of the trip, with Alex sauntering behind; he's seen more than one in the



U.K. already. Sunday is the only day in which it is permitted to walk across the Airfield, and that was quite a treat, although the pipit by the time I reached its original site had moved over to the Peninnis coastal path. I found a small crowd of people watching it down a small slope bathing in small pools of water on the path. Its leg coloration stood out a long way, and I could see the black stripe that went from its eye to its beak and was one of its identification marks.

It returned to the Airfield later that day, and I followed it to see it again, but unlike the **Greater short-toed lark**, which stayed for about two weeks, the **Tawny pipit** disappeared some time that evening. On or over the Airfield also were **Hobby** on the first occasion and a small flock of **Skylark** on the second.

Just as we reached the brow of the coastal trail that drops down to Porthhellick, Alex spotted an **Osprey**, which performed a couple of loops of the airspace above us before being harassed by corvids and disappearing. At least two **Osprey** had been continually seen on other islands, notably Tresco and St. Martin's, but it was nice to see this one, especially as literally one minute before I had told Alex it had been a decade or more since I had seen an example of this raptor. That occasion had been in later 2012 with Alex at Shapwick in Somerset.

There was a very active — that is, bobbing — **Jack Snipe** at the IOSBG hide and a **Kingfisher** and **Yellow-browed warbler** at nearby Shooters Pool.

From **Monday, Oct. 7** onwards, the isles were subject to bands of rain, the worst of which was a three-hour soaking on the afternoon of Oct. 8. It was easy to know when it was going to rain. All we had to do was to walk to where a **Wryneck** was showing intermittently along the wall that marks the boundary of the coastal trail at Peninnis. The moment one of us reached it, together or alone, down would come rain.

We went to see a strange site of thousands upon thousands of Goose barnacles clustered around what we assumed was a tree trunk. The Goose barnacle, or the log, if that is what they were on, had been wedged into a rocky grip by the storm or a strong tide. The barnacles were mostly alive. We were told that would not last long. Few people on the isles had seen this phenomenon before, so it attracted quite a regular crowd of people. The legend of the Barnacle goose is that ancient people believed they were derived from goose barnacle because no one knew where the geese disappeared to at certain times of year and no one believed birds could migrate long distances, as we now know they do.

On the birders' WhatsApp portal, there was an alert of an odd-looking hirundine at Longstones. Just as we arrived, a group of birders were becoming even more excited than groups of birders usually get, and the odd hirundine appeared over our heads. It was very dark, uniformly so, and its tail feathers were raggedy, but Alex and others managed to get half-decent photos of it, and when these were enlarged, a white rump of sorts materialised. It was accepted this was merely an odd-looking House martin, and no official denial of that assumption was announced. Still, it is better to have seen this individual and be told of its relative mundaneness than not to have bothered and it being identified as an American tree swallow, as one possible explanation.

Our last stop was to the IOSBG hide at Lower Moors. Despite Alex and I not having high hopes, I persuaded Alex to enter it again. What we saw this time were four snipe, but one, the one nearest us, just had something different about it. It was colder, had more barring in its rear quarters, was feeding furiously and was keeping apart from the other snipe. We murmured as to whether it could possibly be a **Wilson's snipe**, all 12 records of which have occurred on the Isles of Scilly. We know that cold coloration is not a definite identification feature and that you must see its underwings to be sure of its correct identity, but when someone mentioned they, too, possibly saw one of the American species, Alex put his photos on the WhatsApp group, and it was confirmed by the experts as being **Wilson's snipe**. We are claiming this to be self-found, Alex for posting the photos and getting the conversation

started—and ended—and me for somehow persuading Alex to take one last look from inside that usually quiet hide.

There always is so much conversation and high hopes about this species, and there was a lot of talk, argument and counter-argument about subsequent photos, sightings and behaviour, and repudiations of people's photos and reminders of the unlikelihood of seeing Wilson's snipe, et cetera. The conversation probably is still going on. We are happy we saw the U.K.'s 13th **Wilson's snipe** and both of our second sightings of the species, our firsts not being of the same individual.

The day of **Tuesday, Oct. 8** proved to be a thing of two halves, with the morning being quite beautiful. First thing, I saw a **Sparrowhawk** on the Garrison, and after breakfast, Alex and I took a walk along the coastal footpath from Hugh Town all the way up past the golf course and burial chambers to have our picnic at Pendrathen Bay with a view of Bar Point at the extreme northwest tip of St. Mary's. On the way, we saw a very nice Wheatear on a lichenised rock, and at Porthlooe we saw **Ringed plover; Oystercatcher; Sanderling; Turnstone; Rock pipit; (White wagtail)**, and one **Bar-tailed godwit**. I caught a glimpse of a **Black redstart** in its favourite spot among the beached boats. At Pendrathen Bay, there was a **Spotted flycatcher**. Just as we were finishing lunch, I saw an alert that someone had trapped in their moth trap overnight two Death's-head hawkmoth, a species we had always wanted to see. After a search as to where "Peacehaven" was (we initially thought it meant the town in Hampshire) and a couple of WhatsApp messages to and fro, we realised we were a 20-minute walk from a cottage of that name at the same end of the island. We walked at rapid pace. The moths had been "collected" by Chris Lewis, who very kindly answered the door when we knocked and indicated where the moths were. Both had been gently placed on a stone post. They were magnificent, possibly better than any bird species we had seen that day. We took dozens of photos, and then the rain started to fall heavily. Chris very kindly invited us in for a cup of tea, and we met his wife, Alison. Both had been coming to the isles for decades. We did not want to outstay their kind welcome, so we said thank you and goodbye and headed out into the murk.

There were interludes in the rain, but the heaviest bout came when we reached Holy Vale. Several birders were hidden beneath the trees looking for a Red-breasted flycatcher, so we joined them so as not to get soaked, but the best bird we saw was another **Pied flycatcher**. Cutting our losses, we decided to walk speedily to nearby Longstones café and take the easier route of sponge cake and pale ale.

It was also the last day we stayed at 3 Bay View, our cottage right on Little Porth. The Friday evening storm that fast-forwarded our stay on the isles resulted in a tidal surge that threw much seaweed onto the beaches. With them came thousands, if not tens of thousands, of Sand hopper (*Talitrus saltator*), which eat decaying seaweed and need to stay moist in wet sand. Why they decided like lemmings to enter our cottage, jump over the barricade of empty pizza boxes we erected to try and stop them and head directly to our lounge heater, we never did work out. They are a major source of food for birds, so I am not going to be disgusted by them, but we did spend considerable time trying with varying degrees of success to splatter them with the soles of Alex's slippers. Some were minute, others the size of small prawns. Alex sent an email to Come2Scilly, the accommodation organisers. We did state we realised nature was in control on the islands, but they very kindly rehoused us 50 feet around the corner in a cottage called Perran. From 3 Bay View we saw a **Little tern** from the window; from Perran, we also looked towards Little Porth, and from there we later saw a **Black restart**, so things remained good.

I walked to the golf course on **Wednesday, Oct. 9** to see a Dotterel that kept its distance; I have been spoilt with very close-up Dotterel on both Tresco and Bryher, so that this one kept to itself was not a disappointment. I caught up with Alex, and we saw four **Cattle egret** along

Sandy Lane and found a Stick insect in their usual haunt to both sides of the road around Farmer Brown's bulb shop. We split up again so that I could go to near the Airfield to see the **Ortolan** that had been proving elusive for a couple of days. It was found three-quarters hidden behind a small tussock of grass in a furrowed field, but I did get one very good glance of its head and eye-ring.

At Old Town Bay there was a **Greenshank**, **Great egret** and **Mediterranean gull** in the same binocular view.

In the late afternoon we braved Peninnis again, knowing it would probably rain. It did drizzle, but we finally had generally decent views of the **Wryneck** that had been giving us the runaround all week. We met a birder called Rob McGowan, who lives in Brixton, and we spent a memorable evening with him at The Mermaid pub in Hugh Town on the Friday evening. I saw him a few weeks later at Beachy Head, Sussex, where we had both gone independently to see a Desert wheatear (see below), a lifer for both him and me.

From **Thursday, Oct. 10** until we had to leave the islands, the weather turned better, at least for most of the time, and many birders, just as we did, decided to venture off St. Mary's to the other inhabited isles.

We went to Bryher, and our first stop was to see a **Hoopoe**, which initially gave us the round-around, too, but it was then seen twice in flight, once across the bay of Great Parr. It was wonderful to see it fly across open water. Before we saw it there was a fly-by of a **Grey plover**.

On the Great Pool, one **Whooper swan** gave the closest view I have had of these species, after which we stopped for our packed lunch on Gweal Head to look at 16 **Barnacle geese** on the small island of Gweal. They were initially hard to pick out sitting on the steep slope, but, suddenly they decided to take a slow walk up a slope, which was fun to watch. We assumed they were part of the feral population of the south of England, not the Greenland population that winters on the Solway Firth on the border of England and Scotland, but we were wrong. A photo was taken of a leg band on one of the geese, and the ring was traced to a trapping station in Ireland. It turned out this one, and maybe its fellow geese on Gweal, were ringed by one David Cabot on Mar. 23 at Inishke, County Mayo, and the tracker attached to it showed that it had flown from Eastern Greenland to the Isles of Scilly via Iceland. It was not plastic, and it was after our return tracked back at Inishke via North Wales.

Around Hillside Farm there was a sunny, still, warmer corridor along which we saw a **Yellow-browed warbler**, a **Willow warbler** and a Laboratory stick insect (I am not sure of the difference between Laboratory and Smooth stick insects, although the Prickly — the third and final variety on the islands — is easier to distinguish).

Back on St. Mary's, right in front of our new cottage we saw five **Whooper swan**, which came incredibly close and were a joy to watch.

I walked in the late afternoon to Porthellick and Carn Friars and saw **Yellow-browed warbler** and my first records of late 2024 of **Fieldfare** and **Redwing**.

Our last full day, **Friday, October 11** was a very good day. We decided to take a tourist boat out to Bishop's Rock Lighthouse, but it did not turn out quite as spectacular as that idea did in 2023. There were no seabirds at all, but we did see six **Purple sandpiper** (we were the only birders to see this species during our week) and one **Peregrine** on a very isolated rock.

The boat dropped us off at St. Agnes, which allowed us not to be with the hordes of birders who had gone there specifically to see two **Olive-backed pipit**. We caught up to them and had fantastic views, which certainly allowed me to say I have seen this species, following the poor views I had of one in a turnip field in 2022. The pipits raced around and effortlessly disappeared even into low scrub and weeds.

On the island there was also a **Snow bunting** and a forlorn **Pink-footed goose**, and we saw a **Short-eared owl** flying out to an off-island.

On the boat back to St. Mary's we made sure we sat close to the exit of the boat so that we could walk speedily up to the Garrison to see the reported **Isabelline wheatear**. This, like the Hoopoe and Olive-backed pipit, was only my second time seeing the species, and at times it came ridiculously close to us.

On the day of departure, **Saturday, October 12**, we stayed close to Hugh Town and saw **Black redstart** and (**White wagtail**) on Little Porth and Porthcressa.

On the ferry back to Penzance we saw a great number of **Cory's shearwater**, five or six **Great shearwater**, one **Manx shearwater** and two **Great skua**. We also saw a pod of Risso's dolphin, which I had not seen before

**Beachy Head, Sussex: October 27, 2024** A trip specifically to see a **DESERT WHEATEAR** (new species for the U.K.), which was very easy to find. It seemed not to care that a handful of birders were in front of it, or that lots of hikers and tourists were enjoying the unseasonably warm day on the first day the clocks went back. The wheatear showed off on the top of a piece of gorse or strutted around on the chalk turf. Also present was a Dartford warbler, which gave a couple of good views but was generally furtive, and a pair of Raven. It was nice to see this species just over two weeks since seeing an Isabelline wheatear on the Isles of Scilly, and I bumped into Rob McGowan, who we met on the Isles of Scilly just a few weeks ago

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: November 2, 2024** A short visit before I attended the Save Crossness Nature Reserve to raise money to battle the incinerator company that wishes to build on part of the reserve. Approximately 80 people attended, and it did raise some money, so that is a reason to celebrate. On the reserve, one Snipe flew in, and there was also Buzzard; Redshank; Lapwing; Dunlin; hundreds of Teal, and some Wigeon

**Dungeness RSPB Reserve, Lydd, Kent: November 3, 2024** A very good day's birding. Arrived at Dungeness at 8 a.m. to the sight of 9 x Black redstart, including two males, between the pebble sea wall and the wall of the power station. By the old lighthouse, a Ring ouzel perched on a telephone wire, which disappeared into the lighthouse's garden was never seen again. That garden revealed during a search of the ouzel, 6 x Goldcrest and one Firecrest. The Burrowes pit at the RSPB reserve had Yellow-legged gull and Caspian gull, with scopes set up by some pleasant birders to help people distinguish the two species. There were also Slavonian grebe; 2 x Black-necked grebe; male and female Goldeneye, and tucked around the corner immediately in front of the Scott Hide and all for myself, a Red-throated diver, of which I have never seen a closer one

**Splash Point, Seaford, Sussex: November 16, 2024:**

A failed attempt with Mile Edwards to see the Pied wheatear, which had been present all week up until, presumably, Friday night or, perhaps, until very early on the Saturday. There was a female or juvenile Black redstart and, later and quite showy, a male. The wheatear was a shame. I could not get to it on the weekend before or during the week, but if I had seen it, I would have seen Northern; Isabelline; Desert, and Pied all within 36 days

**Oare Marshes and Shellness, Kent: November 17, 2024:**

The eight Spoonbill, which probably will be residents from now on at Oare, largely were sleeping, with a little preening going on. A nice sunny morning, with sightings of Curlew; Avocet; Turnstone; Redshank, lots of Black-tailed godwit; two male Pintail; one Greenfinch, and a Swallow, likely the very latest in the year I have seen one.

At Shellness, two Marsh harrier and four or five Grey plover. Also, a good number of Turnstone, and a Cetti's warbler was showy at the car park

#### **Swalecliffe and Elmley, Kent: November 20, 2024:**

A visit to Swalecliffe in the forlorn hope of seeing birds such as Little auk and Leach's storm petrel, but the northeasterly winds were never sufficiently strong, but I did find a Snow bunting and, mixed with a handful of Turnstone, a Purple sandpiper. It was the first chilly day of the year, the first frost, too

At Elmley, a little more sheltered from the cold, there were no sightings of Short-eared owl, but there were a remarkable 300 or so Curlew scattered around and two patrolling Marsh harrier. Also, a chiffchaff

**New Hythe, Kent, England: December 24, 2024:** Christmas came early with a report at lunchtime of a **YELLOW WARBLER** (new species for the U.K.). I saw it at approximately 2:30, and the light held up somewhat, certainly enough to see the bird's bold yellow coloration. It favoured a group of five taller trees, but once it flew down to low bushes on the other side of the 200 or so birders who scrambled to get there, and the light was much better from that angle. It is the 10th record for the U.K. but only the second record for mainland U.K., the other one being in Portland, Dorset, in 2017. Bumped into Gary Howard and Henry Wynn-Jones ... and I still managed to get to East Croydon train station to pick up my Spanish relatives who are spending Christmas and New Year with us

- i. **Aug. 29, 1964** — Bardsey Island, Caernafon, Wales (trapped; died next day)
- ii. **Nov. 3-4, 1990** — Helendale, Shetland, Scotland
- iii. **Aug. 24, 1992** — North Ronaldsay, Orkney, Scotland (trapped)
- iv. **Oct. 2-7, 2004** — Brevig, Barra, Outer Hebrides, Scotland
- v. **Sept. 15-17, 2005** — Garths Ness, Shetland, Scotland
- vi. **Aug. 21, 2017** — Portland, Dorset, England
- vii. **Sept. 5-11, 2023** — Ham, Foula, Shetland, Scotland
- viii. **Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 2023** — Kilmoluaig, Loch Bhasapol, Tiree, Inner Hebrides, Scotland
- ix. **Oct. 12-23, 2023** — Hoswick, Shetland, Scotland
- x. **Dec. 24, 2024—Jan. 2, 2025** — New Hythe Gravel Pits, Snodland, Kent, England

#### **Weekly Report, Bird Guides: Dec. 23, 2024-Jan. 5, 2025 —**

<https://www.birdguides.com/articles/review-of-the-week-23-december-2024-5-january-2025>

This past festive season delivered an all-time classic Christmas twitch when a male "American" Yellow warbler was discovered at New Hythe Gravel Pits, Kent, early on the afternoon of 24 December. The first-winter bird was vocal as it fed in the alders by the east flank of the adjacent sewage works and spent more time in view than not until the end of Boxing Day. Sightings became more sporadic between then and the last sighting early in the morning on 3rd, with some twitchers visiting on multiple occasions before securing a view. Optimistic searches since the last report drew repeated blanks and by close of play on (Jan.) 5th (2025) it seemed like this season's Christmas marvel may genuinely have moved on.

This first-ever wintering record will bring the British total for the species into double figures, with the Nearctic passerine arrival of 2023 providing the 7th, 8th and 9th national records of "American" Yellow Warbler. Despite that astonishing arrival, which brought two to Shetland and another to Argyll, the Kent bird offered many their first chance to experience the species in Britain, with a previous dip of the Portland, Dorset, bird in 2017 shared among much of the crowd.



**London Wetland Centre, London: January 12, 2025** I thought there might be a piece of good luck that I would see a Bittern walking on ice, something I have never seen before, and 10 minutes after arriving, I saw just that. The Bittern was on the right-hand side of the channel from the Headley Hide, and that side does not have a great deal of reed vegetation. For 10 minutes it stood half-hidden, but then it took half a move before crossing the icy channel with purpose. I took my best photos of the species, and then it disappeared into the thicker reeds to the left and was not seen again all day. Also, 4 x Redpoll and 2 x Siskin, but despite being a very pretty day—chilly but sunny—there was not much about.

On my return home, I stopped off at **Tooting Bec Common** to see the first-winter female Ferruginous duck, which is said to have come from “unknown origins,” has been there for several months and was, when I saw it, associating solely with a male Tufted duck. Also, a small flock of Redwing

**Crossness Nature Reserve, Belvedere, Kent: February 2, 2025** A few hours on a crisp, icy morning that turned very pleasant with blue skies and even some warmth. A Barn owl in a nest box and a Buzzard greeted me; also, Redwing; Fieldfare; flock of Linnet, and, on the outflow, Wigeon; 100 x Dunlin and a Common sandpiper

**London Wetland Centre, London: February 8, 2025** A grey, drizzly day, coupled with winter having been wet, not cold, so possibly birds are not seeking shelter farther into the middle of the country. Really, there was nothing. One Coal tit on the feeders; a Song thrush, and a pair of Great crested grebe that sort of went through the beginning of a courtship ritual but perhaps realised it was too early in the year

**Tate Modern Community Garden, London: March 4, 2025** A Redpoll has been present in the small community garden and in the birch trees just to its side from the Millennium Bridge for a week now. Great views in the sunshine today

**London Wetland Centre, London: March 8, 2025** A sunnier day, but still there was not much about. Highlights included solitary Green sandpiper and Oystercatcher, a couple of Lapwing and some Greenfinch

**Birchett Wood, Orlestone, Kent: March 9, 2025** A gloriously warm and sunny day, the last of about a week of fair weather, especially for early March. The temperature might have reached 20 degrees C in some sheltered woodland rides, and there were butterflies, Comma, Brimstone and Peacock, as well as Red underwing moth. The prize was a reported Large tortoiseshell, a new butterfly species for me, and the 55th I have seen in the U.K. It took a while, but then I probably realised I had arrived too soon. After a couple of hours, those that flew quickly over the tops of the trees became more lethargic and settled on the sides of birch trees. Also, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Nuthatch and a Goshawk flying around

**Berlin, Germany: April 1-3, 2025**

Firecrest; Hawfinch; Redwing; Greenfinch; Goshawk; Nuthatch, and Buzzard. Also, Red squirrel, and, I had no idea there were there (apparently, there is a very small handful), a Eurasian beaver, a species I have never seen before. It was swimming along one of the thinner arms of the Neuer See in the Tiergarten, where all the bird species above were seen

**Dungeness RSPB Reserve, Lydd, Kent: April 18, 2025** A day's birding with Mike Edwards, and despite a southeasterly wind and sunshine in migration season, not a lot about.

A Red kite; 4 x Raven; 4 x Whitethroat; 6 x Wheatear, and several Skylark and Linnet, and a pale-morph Buzzard

**Samphire Hoe, Dover, Kent** Found four spikes of Early spider orchid, and a pair of nesting, courting Kestrel on the chalk cliffside. Also, Orange tip and Grizzled skipper butterflies

**Worth Marshes, Sandwich, Kent: April 19, 2025** A quick stop-off while visiting various places in Kent with Francesca, Laura and Martina. I did not see the Purple heron that had been reported, but I did see my first Swallow of the year; 2 x Spotted redshank; one Pochard and a female Hen harrier

**Sydenham, London: May 1, 2025** Francesca and I moved to our new home at the end of March, and I awaited the four to six Swift that are the only ones to come to this area. I spotted my first of the year on May 1 from our garden, and they have been overhead every day. I have been watching these Swift, or their offspring, for 13 years, and from our new garden I saw one land in the brickwork and guttering across the road. On another day I saw one try and land on another house, but it flew away each time immediately. It might have been searching for a nesting site. As we know, these sites are becoming fewer and fewer because of modern house-building materials and processes, or because fewer nest because of such factors and no offspring is born that would return to any one individual site

**Grafham Water and Ouse Fen RSPB Reserve, Cambridgeshire, and Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex: May 3, 2025** A warm, sunny day of birding. First, up to Grafham Water where the prize of the day as a summer-plumage Spotted sandpiper, only my second in the U.K. Also, 2 x Yellow wagtail; 3 x Common sandpiper, one of which scared off the Spotted sandpiper; Garden warbler; several Blackcap, and a confiding Sanderling and a Dunlin on the reservoir edge

Next it was to Ouse Fen where a very vocal Great reed warbler (also my second for the U.K.) was very visible, although not completely so as reeds and reed heads were always practically obscuring it, and its weight (at one point it did show close to a Reed warbler, and the size difference is notable) bent over whatever reed it was perching on, which caused more of the bird to disappear. Also, Red kite; several Hobby and Kestrel, but the Red-footed falcon(s) there were very, very distant, and the heat haze did not allow them to be seen, at least by me/ Finally, on the way home, to Rainham where a female Blue-winged teal (again, my second for the U.K.) was associating with a male Shoveler. There was also ca. 15 Hobby, five of which I saw from the car park; 4 or 5 x Lesser whitethroat; Whitethroat; 20 x Avocet, and 10 x Redshank

**Dungeness RSPB Reserve, Lydd, Kent: May 24, 2025** A grey day, unseasonably cool, but a visit to see the female Red-footed falcon that was hawking with 15 or so Hobby. The falcon hunted differently to the Hobby, which was interesting to see. I have now seen three Red-footed falcon in the U.K.—one male; one juvenile, and now one female. Also, Common gull; Whitethroat; Sedge warbler; Corn bunting; Yellow wagtail; Cuckoo, and Great egret

**Rainham RSPB Reserve, Purfleet, Essex and Dungeness RSPB Reserve, Lydd, Kent: May 25, 2025** A very productive early morning walk along the River Thames, and I did not actually go into the reserve itself. On the Thames was a Roseate tern, and technically a sighting in London; also, Little gull; Sanderling; Redshank; Ringed plover; Grey plover, and Mediterranean gull

I would not necessarily have gone to Dungeness two days in a row, but an alert came in that there was an **EASTERN BONELLI'S WARBLER** (new species for the U.K.) present in the

trapping area by the observatory. It is a first for Kent. There were a few people present when I arrived and the number swelled throughout the day. I saw it twice sufficiently well, but it was always proving to be elusive. It was heard singing much, much, much more than it was seen, but with diligence it could be espied. I saw it once on the ground, once perched at eye level and once moving fast through the understory. On BirdGuides, it went from being described as “elusive,” which is when I saw it, to “very elusive” It, apparently, is the 11th record for the U.K.:

- i. **Oct. 8-10, 1987** — St. Mary’s, Isles of Scilly, Cornwall, England
- ii. **Sept. 20-29, 1995** — Whitley Bay, Northumbria, England
- iii. **Aug. 27-28, 1998** — Sumburgh, Shetland, Scotland
- iv. **Apr. 26, 2004** — Lundy, Devon, England
- v. **May 1, 2009** — Portland, Dorset, England
- vi. **May 3, 2014** — Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumbria, England
- vii. **Oct. 10-13, 2015** — Skalloway, Shetland, Scotland
- viii. **May 6, 2016** — Calf of Man, Isle of Man
- ix. **Apr. 19-24, 2025** — Skaw, Whalsay, Shetland, Scotland
- x. **May 15, 2025** — Northbay, Barra, Outer Hebrides, Scotland
- xi. **May 25, 2025** — Dungeness, Kent, England

**Langford Lakes Nature Reserve, Hanging Langford, Wiltshire: May 30, 2025** A stop-off on the way to Alex’s and somewhere I had not been to before, which had a nice café with incredibly slow service. Garden warbler was everywhere. Also, Little ringed plover

**Ham Wall RSPB Reserve, Somerset: May 30, 2025** Cattle egret and Yellow wagtail on the way to the reserve, while at the reserve were Cattle egret, Great egret, Little egret, Bittern, Kestrel, Marsh harrier and Hobby. Garden warbler remained hidden. Most evident were the dragonfly species, and there were present numerous Small tortoiseshell butterfly

**Sydenham, London: June 1** On my return, I was happy to see three more Swift had joined the group, for a total of nine, the most I have ever seen in the area, although this is the first year I have lived under what seems to be their major hunting and nesting area hereabouts ... and finally up to 11 ... in mid-July, 14

### **Cape Town, South Africa, and surrounding areas, June 14-23, 2025**

120 species in total, 60 of which are new, and some of which were seen in multiple places (first instances recorded). South Africa endemics or near-endemics listed in red, in total 26 **Mowbray, Cape Town** — African sacred ibis; **Hadada ibis**; Reed cormorant; Red-knobbed coot; Spur-winged goose; Yellow-billed duck; **African black duck**; **Red-billed teal**; Helmeted guineafowl; Blacksmith lapwing; Kelp gull; **Hartlaub’s gull**; Speckled pigeon; Mourning collared dove; Pied crow; **Cape bulbul**; Olive thrush; **Cape white-eye**; **Fiscal flycatcher**; Southern fiscal, and Red-winged starling

**East of Cape Town** — **Sir Lowry’s Pass, Rooi-Els, Betty’s Bay, Harold Poter National Botanical Garden** Cape bunting; **Cape siskin**; **Southern double-collared sunbird**; **Orange-breasted sunbird**; **Cape sugarbird**; Cape batis; Blue-mantled crested flycatcher; Grey-backed cisticola; Neddicky; Cape robin-chat; Familiar chat; **Cape rockjumper**; **Sentinel rock thrush**; **Sombre greenbul**; African red-eyed bulbul; **Karoo lark**; **White-necked raven**; Cape crow; Large rock martin; **Black saw-wing**; Cape wagtail; Ring-necked dove; Red-eyed dove; **Greater crested tern**; African oystercatcher; **Cape spurfowl**;



African marsh harrier; **Jackal buzzard**; Cormorant; **Bank cormorant**; **Crowned cormorant**; **Cape cormorant**, and **African penguin**

*West of Cape Town — Paternoster, Landesbaan, Jacobs Bay, West Coast National Park* — Yellow canary; **White-throated canary**; **Cape weaver**; **Cape sparrow**; **Pied starling**; **Bokmakierie**; **Bar-throated apalis**; **Karoo prinia**; Long-billed crombec; Cape penduline tit; **Cape grassbird**; **Karoo scrub robin**; Capped wheatear; **Grey tit**; **Cape longclaw**; African pipit; **Cape long-billed lark**; White-backed mousebird; Speckled mousebird; **Spotted eagle-owl**; Whimbrel; **White-fronted plover**; Kittlitz's plover; Red-capped lark; Crowned lapwing; **Southern black korhaan**; **Blue crane**; **Grey-winged francolin**; Ostrich; **Rock kestrel**; Pale chanting goshawk; Black-winged kite; **Black harrier**; Black-headed heron; Greater flamingo; **Lesser flamingo**; Grey-headed gull; **African spoonbill**, and South African shelduck

*Kirstinbosch National Botanical Garden* — **Forest canary**; **Forest buzzard**; African olive pigeon; **African dusky flycatcher**; **Malachite sunbird**; **Greater double-collared sunbird**; Fork-tailed drongo; African harrier-hawk, and **Swee waxbill**

*Others* — Verreaux's eagle; Little swift, and **Southern boubou**

**East Dean and area, Sussex: July 11-12** Two Peregrine, one of which sat on a post maybe 50 metres away (I did not have my big lens); also, Oystercatcher; Grey wagtail; Corn bunting, and four Whitethroat on the same bush