

WOOLSTON EYES NATURE RESERVE SYSTEMATIC BIRD REPORT 2010

THE WEATHER 2010

This was a remarkable year, with exceptionally cold weather in January and from late November to the end of December. The latter was said by the Meteorological Office to have been the coldest December for 100 years. There was heavy snow in early January, late February (a cold, raw month) and in December.

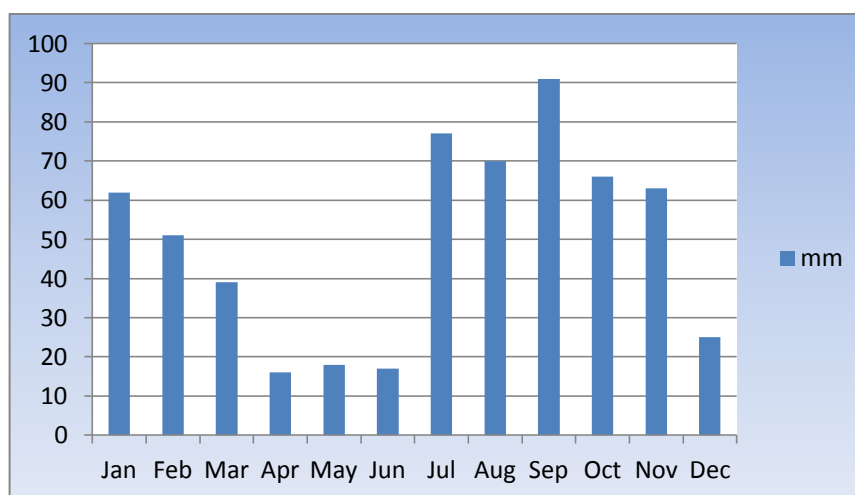
Spring was very dry, with under 20mm of rain in each of April, May and June. In fact, in the first six months no rain fell on 102 out of the 181 days and half the total of 202mm fell in just 12 days! Long dry spells interspersed with torrential downpours seem to have become a feature of recent years. January to June was the driest first six months since 1929 and the second driest in 100 years.

Although the weather was dry there were no prolonged warm spells, with only a few days in late May and ten days in late June seeing the temperature rise above 25oC. Sunshine levels were however, above average.

Not surprisingly, water levels became very low on the main waters, giving cause for concern about wildfowl and Black-necked Grebe broods. Levels were soon increased though by a wet July to November, with July once again one of the wettest months of the year. Despite the wet second six months 2010 overall was dry, with a total of 595mm (just under 24 ins) of rain recorded (c.f. 696mm in 2009 and 1003mm in 2008).

The run of mild winters now seems to have ended and during the intense cold from 6th – 10th January temperatures fell to -11oC on a number of nights and contractors working on No1. Bed reported a low of -16oC at 08:00 hours on one of those days. It was almost as cold during the long December freeze with -12.5oC noted by the Ship Canal at first light on the 12th and it well have been colder on the night of 24th/25th. All waters were frozen for many weeks, including the Ship canal. The River Mersey and the Weir Pool at Woolston did however; remain unfrozen throughout, attracting record counts of Tufted Duck and large numbers of other wildfowl.

Annual Rainfall 2010



Brian Martin

SYSTEMATIC SPECIES REPORT

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

Overall, numbers were down, particularly in the first winter period and the breeding season was disappointing.

The highest early year count of Mute Swans was 17 on 14th January, with up to 13 noted during February.

During the breeding season up to 12 were seen on several dates, with a maximum of 15 on 25th May. The only nest found on the Eyes pools was on the Loop of No4. Bed where for the second successive year a bird was seen incubating, but the nest was subsequently abandoned for reasons unknown. A second pair occupied a regular breeding site by Woolston Weir and the female was incubating on 1st May; she was still on the nest on 19th June. However, soon after a report was received of one of the pair being unwell and the bird was later found dead. No young hatched from the nest.

As in 2009 the only successful breeding occurred on the River Mersey and the Ship Canal, with a pair seen with one small young on the Ship Canal by No.1 Bed on 24th June. A pair was reported with one half-grown cygnet on the Mersey north of No.4 Bed on 27th June and 8th July and an adult with three young was present on the Ship Canal, near Bollin Point, on 16th July. Clearly, some of these pairs could well have bred away from the Eyes.

In the second half of the year numbers were similar to 2009, with a maximum of 20 on 28th October.

Monthly maxima:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
17	13	10	12	15	9	10	12	12	20	14	17

Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

For the fourth successive year Whooper Swans visited the Eyes, with a flock of 18 present on No.3 Bed on the morning of 21st November. All were adults and after a two hour stay they left to the north-west.

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

More records were submitted than in 2009, with some impressive skeins seen at both ends of the year.

The year began with 150 flying south-west over No.3 Bed on 2nd January and 110 flying north the next day. There were no further sightings until 1st February when 120 flew north. Eighty flew west on the 5th and 300 north on the 6th, whilst a total of 170 flew north-west on 12th/13th February.

Movements began earlier than normal in the autumn, with 130 south-east over No.3 Bed on 18th September and 160 east at dawn on 25th September. In October 135 flew north-west on the 8th and 100 east two days later. A large south-east movement on 16th October saw a total of 990 pass over in four skeins, the largest of which was 520 birds. Even this was exceeded on 13th November when Migration Watch at the east end of the Reserve recorded a total of 1180 Pink-feet flying east between 07:00 and 12:00 hours. Up to 120 were seen on two further November dates, but the only December sighting was of 200 moving east on the 19th.

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

Once uncommon at Woolston Greylag Geese are now annual visitors in small numbers and a pair bred in 2008. All records this year were in the period March to June with a maximum of four on 16th May and 2nd June.

Canada Goose

Branta Canadensis

Wintering numbers were slightly above average and three, possibly four pairs bred.

Typically, the largest first winter numbers were in January, with a maximum of 51 on the 7th. Small flocks were present into the breeding season – generally 10-20 and it was on 1st May that the first brood (seven young) was seen on No.3 Bed. This was soon reduced to four, one of which was taken by a fox on 12th May. On 16th May a second pair was seen with young and a third pair with eight young appeared on 29th May. The following day a pair with one half grown gosling was on the River Mersey adjacent to No.3 Bed. It is suspected that few young fledged as the brood of eight was never reported again.

Peak numbers always occur in the autumn, with 150 on the 9th October and 137 the following day, most on the Ship canal near Bollin point. The last significant count was of 92 during freezing weather on the 15th December WeBS survey, with the majority again on the Ship Canal at the east end of the Reserve.

Monthly maxima:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
51	27	17	20	22	24	16	8	60	137	59	92

Shelduck

Tadorna tadorna

A fairly typical showing with the majority of records from January to July. However, for the first time in several years moult migration was reported in late July. Two pairs bred.

In the early months up to two were noted on many dates with four present on 17th February and seven on 5th April. Peak numbers were seen in May, with nine on the 6th and 11 on the 19th.

On 19th May a brood of 12 newly hatched young appeared on No.3 Bed. How many, if any, survived is not clear as half the brood was lost in a week and by 20th June only a pair of adults was reported. A second pair bred on the Loop Pools of No.4 Bed and are believed to have fledged two young.

Moult migration of Shelduck occurs annually on late July evenings, but rarely reported. This year however, 30 were seen flying high to the east on 23rd July and a massive 339 on 27th July. A full grown juvenile was present on No.3 Bed from 28th July until 1st August, but the next records were on 17th October when one was on No.3 Bed and in December when up to two frequented the Weir Pool during bitterly cold weather.

Mandarin

Aix galericulata

A rare visitor to the Reserve, there were two sightings this year, a drake on the Mersey near Bollin Point on 27th March and a female, also on the river, near Woolston weir on the very cold 9th and 10th December. The latter bird accompanied Mallard which were being fed with bread.

The only previous records were of two singles in 1985 and one in 1989.

Wigeon

Anas penelope

Recorded in every month except March in very small numbers. A drake summered but there was no evidence of breeding.

Five on No.3 Bed on 27th January was one of only two records in that month, whilst two females were present on two dates in February. A long-staying drake was first reported on 1st May and remained until late July, with at least one female present on several dates in late August. A single Wigeon was noted by a number of observers in October and when severe weather set in during December five were present on the Weir Pool on the 7th and the maximum for the year was a count of eight on the 21st.

Gadwall

Anas strepera

After the excellent numbers reported in 2009 this year was disappointing, with both the number of adults and breeding pairs well down on previous years.

With most of the main pools frozen over during January and February it was perhaps not surprising that Gadwall numbers were relatively low, 55 on 14th January being the highest count received. By April however, many more Gadwall were present, with 85 on the 1st increasing to 90 on the 18th. Fifty two, reported on No.3 Bed on 9th April, included at least 23 pairs, which suggested the likelihood of another good breeding season. Further Gadwall continued to arrive in May, reaching a maximum year count of 157 on 12th June.

The first brood was one of seven young on the River Mersey on 16th June and was followed by a further eight broods. The successful pairs were distributed as follows; five on No.3 Bed, three on the

River Mersey and one on the Sandpit Pond. This is the lowest number of broods reported since 2002. The reason for the relatively poor breeding outcome is not clear, especially as most other breeding duck did well, but it seems that low breeding numbers were also present on waters in Greater Manchester.

The huge numbers present in the summer and early autumn of 2009 were not repeated this year with 97 on 8th July and 103 on 14th November by far the highest counts and Gadwall were notably scarce (by Woolston standards) during September and October.

Monthly maxima:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
55	45	48	90	115	157	97	53	48	30	103	60

Teal

Anas crecca

There was a slight fall in Teal numbers in both winter periods, though no doubt the freezing conditions were a factor in this. Although birds were seen in May and June once again there was no indication that breeding occurred.

January traditionally sees the highest numbers of Teal on the Reserve and this was the case this year, with 900 on the 24th the maximum recorded. This is the first time since 1997 that a four-figure count was not reported. Many Teal leave the Eyes during prolonged cold spells and the maximum count of 385 in February reflects this.

From April to July very few were seen apart from up to two males in late May and a pair on No.3 Bed on 19th June. It is highly likely that Teal do breed at Woolston, but this is one of the most difficult of duck species to prove breeding, with adults keeping ducklings hidden in cover.

The first indication of returning birds was in late August but numbers remained relatively low in the final months of the year, with those Teal that were present forced on to the river, notably during the freezing conditions from late November.

Monthly maxima:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
900	385	140	54	2	5	8	179	123	270	500	300

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Well reported throughout the year; we are indebted to one observer for his detailed records of both wintering and breeding numbers of Mallard.

Well above average counts were made in the freezing conditions in January, the peak of 395 on 7th January being the highest count since August 1991. Manu remained into February and the breeding

season with the first brood reported on No.1 Bed on 23rd April. With so many broods appearing across the Reserve it is difficult at times to decide which are new broods rather than ones seen previously. However, it is clear that a minimum of 45 pairs bred, with broods distributed as follows; five on No.1 Bed, eight on No.3 Bed, two on the Loop of No.4 Bed, five on the Sandpit Ponds, 12 on the Ship Canal and 13 on the River Mersey. This is a similar total to recent years.

In July 189 adults were found across the Eyes on the 2nd (with 11 broods also noted) and three-figure counts were made on several dates in the autumn. As always, however, the onset of the bitterly cold weather in the last five weeks of the year saw a significant influx of Mallard, with 186 on the 19th December and 286 on 22nd December.

Monthly maxima:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
395	225	100	71	81	130	189	113	90	107	135	286

Pintail

Anas acuta

A very poor year with only eight sightings, all involving single birds, five in the first three months and five in autumn.

This once common winter visitor is now extremely scarce at Woolston.

Shoveler

Anas clypeata

Numbers were well down, with the autumn passage approximately half that of 2009, although near the average of recent years. Once again there was no evidence of breeding which was last proved in 2007.

Unlike mallard, Shoveler depart from the Eyes in very cold weather, so that numbers were very low at both ends of the year. Early year maxima were 21 on 20th January and 27 on 7th March. Apart from 21 on 1st April only single figure counts were submitted for most of the spring. Two pairs were present on the Loop of No.4 Bed on 27th May, with a further eight on No.3 Bed, but no broods were seen despite regular watching. A count of 29 (20 drakes) on No.3 Bed on 19th June was high for that month, but it was late August before the annual late-summer passage brought an influx of Shoveler, with 33 on 21st increasing to 104 on the 25th and a year's maximum of 120 on 5th September. Most soon moved on and numbers reverted to spring levels. Shoveler were particularly scarce in December when the main pools were frozen for many weeks.

Monthly maxima:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
21	19	27	21	8	29	3	104	120	28	23	8

Pochard

Aythya ferina

Wintering numbers were similar to last year's although the peak count is now about a third of what it was five years ago, as Pochard numbers continue to decline at a fast rate in Britain and some other parts of north-west Europe. The breeding population, however, has remained high, with Woolston's breeding Pochard almost certainly wintering in southern Europe and possibly beyond.

The year began with low numbers present as the main pools were frozen over for several weeks. With milder conditions by the third week in January No.3 Bed began to unfreeze and a notable influx of Pochard occurred. Thirty-two were found across the whole of the Reserve on the 17th January WeBS and increased to 95 on 22nd and the year's maximum of 235 on the 24th, most of which were on No.3 Bed. As sub-zero temperatures returned in late January many Pochard departed and those that remained were forced on to the Weir Pool. On 5th February 130 were concentrated in a small area of open water on No.3 Bed and up to 85 were noted there on several other February dates. A further arrival in early March saw peak counts of 160 on the 11th and 126 on the 14th.

On 9th April of the 65 present on No.3 Bed 57 were males. A small summer population has become established on the two main pools on No.1 Bed and up to five males and four females were present throughout the breeding season. Subsequently four broods were seen there, with at least 13 broods on No.3 Bed. As many as 20 pairs could well have bred (c.f. 19 broods in 2008 and 16 in 2009).

Numbers declined rapidly in August and September and the count of 36 on 31st October was by far the highest, until the onset of the big freeze in late November and December, when 120 were found on the Ship Canal on 15th December, with a further 15 on No.2 Bed.

Monthly maxima:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
235	30	160	81	35	20	11	1	2	36	11	135

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

Without doubt Tufted Duck was one of the species of the year at Woolston with record numbers present in both winters and also the highest number of broods ever seen on the Reserve.

There is always an influx of Tufted Duck during severe winter weather and in the intense cold in early January a total of 1187 was present on the 14th, a new record for the Reserve. On 1st February 911 were found across the Reserve, the majority on the river and the Weir Pool, which remained unfrozen. Numbers gradually decreased with milder weather but 392 were present on 14th March, 224 on 15th April and 176 on 6th May.

Large numbers of adults remained into the breeding season, e.g. 33 drakes and 14 females on No.3 Bed alone on 15th May. The first brood appeared on No.3 Bed on 16th June, after which new broods came thick and fast into early August. On No.3 Bed alone one observer saw 12 broods on 2nd July.

With so many broods seen by different observers there was a high risk of double counting, but after careful analysis of the data it is clear that a minimum of 36 pairs produced young distributed as follows: 23 on No.3 Bed, five on the River Mersey, at least five on the Sandpit Ponds and three on the Ship Canal. This is a record breeding season for Woolston, well exceeding the previous high of 27 broods in 2005.

Relatively low numbers were noted during August and September, but arrival in October saw 397 on the 28th and 485 on 14th November. These numbers, however, were soon dwarfed during the intense cold weather in December, peaking at yet another Woolston record of 1528 on the 8th. These birds were concentrated on the Weir Pool, the Mersey east of Woolston Weir and at Bollin Point. A week later 1339 were counted with an astonishing 1100 packed in the Weir Pool on 28th December. Even those totals were to be exceeded in early 2011 as temperatures continued to fall.

Monthly maxima:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1187	911	392	225	176	72	81	52	78	397	485	1528

Scaup

Aythya marila

A slight improvement on 2009, with nine records submitted, all but one in the first three months.

One was reported on the Weir Pool on 10th January and what may well have been the same bird (identified as a male) was on the river nearby four days later. During the remainder of January it frequented No.3 Bed, with the last early-year report being of two on No.3 Bed on 30th March.

The only other sighting was of a female, again on No.3 Bed, on 27th November.

Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

The extreme weather in both winters attracted high numbers of Goldeneye, with a near record count in December.

The year began with up to nine regularly on the Weir Pool and the river nearby, with a peak of 12 on 10th January. Nine were still present on 11th February, with the last early-year sighting on 24th March.

The first returning birds were four on the 7th November, with numbers continuing to increase as the cold weather intensified. Eleven on 24th November increased to 17 on 1st December and 28 on the 19th, all of which were on the Mersey from the Weir to Bollin Point. This is the third highest count ever at Woolston, only exceeded by ones of 35 and 29, both in January 1997.

Goosander

Mergus merganser

A relatively uncommon but, annual visitor in small numbers.

The only record from the early part of the year was a drake on the Mersey north of No.4 Bed on 12th January. There were then no further reports until three females were found on the Weir Pool on 27th November. Four were seen on 8th December, with the year's peak of six on the Mersey north of No.4 Bed on 15th December, five of which were still present a week later.

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

With the cull of Ruddy Duck continuing numbers were similar, but slightly lower, than in 2009. The number of breeding pairs was the same as last year.

Ruddy Duck do not winter at Woolston and the first returning bird was back on 5th February. A few more arrived in the following two months, but six on two dates in April and seven on 11th May were the maximum counts of adults.

The first brood was seen on 19th June, followed by five others, mostly in July.

Up to five were reported regularly up to late September, but there was only one October record and then none until a single drake on the Mersey at Woolston Weir on 14th December.

Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

One was seen in the Sandpit Pond area on 25th March. Reports of this species have increased in recent years but this remains only the sixth record at Woolston.

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

The dramatic decline in recent years continues and there was only one record, two being found on No.3 Bed on 8th February.

Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

The year began with a count of 11 on No.1 Bed on 20th January. A total of 45 was found across the Reserve on 7th April of which 27 were on No.4 Bed. The common bird surveys in spring produced good counts with 26 on the northern section of No.4 Bed, five on No.3 Bed and eight on No.2 Bed. Breeding was reasonably successful and a minimum of four broods were reported. Two small young were on No.3 Bed on 19th June and there were three records of breeding from No.1 Bed involving a total of ten young. Few significant counts were reported thereafter with 12 on 28th October and a maximum of eight during December.

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

Numbers were similar to recent years both in terms of breeding pairs and during winter months.

Up to four were reported during January, mostly on the Mersey, but by early February birds began to move on to breeding pools in small numbers. By mid-March a total of ten was present on Nos.1 and 3 Beds, with a year's maximum of 12 on 7th April. Up to three were present on No.2 Bed, where two pairs bred in 2009, but the water there dried up in the spring and the birds left.

The first broods were seen on No.1 Bed on 5th June and subsequently a total of four pairs bred there. Four, probably five, pairs also bred on No.3 Bed and the overall total of eight or nine successful pairs is only slightly down on the ten pairs proved in 2009. None were seen this year on the Loop of No.4 Bed where breeding has occurred in the past.

During September and October up to seven were reported, but for much of November no more than one or two were present. With the onset of bitterly cold weather in late November and December there was an unusually high count of 12 on 15th December, and up to two on the Ship Canal at Latchford Locks during the final ten days of the year.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

Many records were submitted and much higher numbers of this grebe than usual were present during the spring.

Maxima of five were seen in both January and February, but typically it was March before breeding birds returned. Eighteen on 14th March WeBS was the first significant count, with 15 (six pairs plus three others) on No.3 Bed alone on 19th March. The following day one observer found a total of 29 on No.3 Bed, the Mersey and the Ship Canal. Display was frequently seen with high numbers continuing to be reported, e.g. 31 on 15th April, 33 on 6th May and the year's maximum of 37 on 25th May.

The first broods (two) were observed on 11th May and from records submitted it is apparent that a minimum of 13 pairs bred and produced young, seven pairs on No.3 Bed, three on the Mersey, one on the Weir Pool and two pairs on the Ship Canal, (c.f. 12 pairs in 2009). Many large juveniles were present during July and it is believed that most fledged.

Post breeding, the highest count was of 13 on 6th October, with smaller numbers present during the extremely cold weather in December, when they were forced on to the Mersey and Ship Canal.

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

Compared to recent years many fewer records were submitted, but it is pleasing to report an increase in the number of successful breeding pairs after the poor showing in 2009.

Two on the fairly late date of 28th March were the first, but no more were seen until 4th April. Numbers built up only slowly thereafter, with four on the 5th and six on the 15th before the first

significant arrival on 21st April, when 12 were found on No.3 Bed. There were no further arrivals until May when 14 were present on the 5th, 17 on the 9th and the maximum for the year of 22 on the 11th (c.f. maxima of 26 in 2009 and 32 in 2008).

The first brood appeared on 16th June, which is fairly late for Woolston and was followed by a further eight broods, the last on 16th July. Eleven large, mostly independent, young were present on 6th July and it is believed that most fledged. At least one (possibly two) broods of four young were seen during June, a rare event at Woolston, where broods of two young are the norm and broods of three uncommon.

By early August most of the adults had departed, the last being reported on the 8th, with the last juvenile seen on the 29th when it was fully grown.

A report was received of a Lesser Black-backed Gull, which had been seen predating Coot and Mallard chicks, taking a young Black-necked Grebe in late June.

Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

The large numbers seen in 2009 were maintained this year with again the highest counts in the first two months. As usual there were many reports of overflying birds, notably soon after dawn, but many also gathered at the two diurnal roosts on the pipe bridge between Nos.3 and 4 Beds and on pylons by the Loop of No.4 Bed. The Migration Watch on No.1 Bed counted 60 flying over in five hours on 4th December.

Monthly maxima:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
60	40	19	21	14	8	12	19	12	39	32	27

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Birds continue to be reported and as in 2009 all the sightings were in the late summer and early autumn.

The first were two flying east over No.3 Bed on 9th July, whilst on 17th July one was feeding in front of the John Morgan hide on No.3 Bed. The following day two were seen from the M6 motorway on a pool in the north-west corner of No.1 Bed. In August one flew onto No.3 Bed at dusk on the 2nd and is believed to have roosted and on the 28th another was again found in front of the John Morgan hide on No.3 Bed. Finally, on 9th October one observer saw a flock of five flying east over No.1 Bed, followed shortly afterwards by a single bird flying north-east.

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

Present throughout the year, peak numbers were seen from June to October, with notable counts of 16 on 8th July and 19 on 10th October.

Birds from a heronry in Grappenhall fly to and from Woolston during the breeding season.

Spoonbill*Platalea leucorodia*

One spent three hours feeding in front of the John Morgan hide on 27th May. This is only the second record for Woolston, the other being in April 1987.

Red Kite*Milvus milvus*

The only record was of one flying north low over No.1 Bed on 15th October. Although sightings have become more frequent in recent years, this is only the sixth to be seen at Woolston.

Marsh Harrier*Circus aeruginosus*

An early report of one being mobbed by a Buzzard over No.1 Bed, on 30th January, was the first of the year. Most records usually occur in spring and this year was no exception with a series of sightings on No.3 Bed between 29th April and 30th May, mostly of one female, although two were noted there on 11th May. Intriguingly, a female was seen in the early morning of 5th May, carrying nest material into the centre of No.3 Bed. Although this behaviour was repeated the following morning, there was no further suggestion of breeding. The final report for the first half of the year was of one on No.1 Bed on 11th June. Records resumed on 29th July when a female was reported and there were similar reports until 3rd October. All these latter sightings were from No.3 Bed apart from one report from Bollin Point on 25th September.

Sparrowhawk*Accipiter nisus*

This resident was present in small numbers throughout the year. Most reports were of single birds but up to four were found on a number of dates during the autumn period, notably on the Migration Watches at the eastern end of the Reserve. Three pairs were known to have bred: two on No.4 Bed and one on No.3 Bed where four young were found. The two juveniles ringed on this bed on 1st and 4th September were probably from this brood. The team based on No.1 Bed caught first year males on 3rd and 26th September.

Buzzard*Buteo buteo*

As usual this was the most frequently recorded raptor with 140 sightings submitted throughout the year. There were several large counts, the highest being 21 seen from No.1 Bed on 23rd March. One was seen on No.4 Bed in a tree where breeding had been attempted previously but although display was observed on a number of dates in March, there was no other suggestion of breeding taking place on the Reserve. Birds breed regularly nearby and it is quite possible that they may do so at Woolston in the future. An interesting sighting was of one taking a Weasel near the canal on 24th May.

Kestrel*Falco tinnunculus*

Over 80 records of this resident falcon were received and birds were present throughout the year. Most reports were of one or two individuals but four were at Bollin Point on 6th March and six were noted on Migration Watches on 26th September and 9th October. At least one pair nested on the Viaduct and two pairs were active in this area on 5th June. A family party of two adults and four young was seen on No.2 Bed on 13th July and these were considered to have come from one of the Viaduct nests. Around the same time there were a number of reports from the car park area indicative of adults with young. On 8th, 19th and 23rd July an adult was calling noisily and on 16th July five young birds were seen to land on the roof of the electricity substation on the south side of the canal. It seems likely that two or three pairs bred on the Reserve.

Merlin*Falco columbarius*

As in 2009 there was only one sighting when two were found on the Migration Watch on 4th December. A member of the public reported a bird which could have been of this species in an area to the north of No.2 Bed towards the end of the year but this record was not confirmed. Sightings have decreased in the past two years and this attractive falcon is now a rarity at Woolston.

Hobby*Falco subbuteo*

There were 13 records between 11th May and 18th September, all from No.3 Bed where a number of observers noted hunting activity over the reed bed. On 23rd July one was feeding on dragonflies and on 25th August one disrupted a pre-roosting flock of Swallows. A highlight for the ringing team was the capture and ringing of what was only the second to be ringed at Woolston on 27th August. Two birds were regularly present at a small roost of Swallows and Sand Martins near the Frank Linley Hide. The Hobbies made two passes over the net ride but when the net was raised by about eight inches, one was captured almost immediately.

Peregrine*Falco peregrinus*

For the third consecutive year a pair nested successfully on the Thelwall Viaduct. There were records from February to October, mostly from the Viaduct and No.1 Bed but with occasional reports from No.3 Bed. On 30th April one just failed to catch one of the pair of Kestrels also nesting on the Viaduct. A few days later the male caught a Feral Pigeon after chasing it round the Viaduct and took it to the female at the nest site. Three young were produced but one did not survive and it is considered that two fledged.

Water Rail*Rallus aquaticus*

A series of records of this elusive resident was received between January and July, mostly from the well –watched No.3 Bed, with occasional reports from No.1 Bed and the Sandpit Pond area. As in 2009 breeding was successful and at least four broods were seen. An adult with one young in front of the Tower Hide on 25th March was an exceptionally early record and on 24th April two adults with six very young chicks were in the same location. This brood was present for the next few days but only four young were present by the 29th. A pair with one young was found at the Sybil Hogg Hide on 15th May and on the 19th two adults and four very small young were present there. Juveniles were reported from Sybil Hogg and Rotary Hides during June and July, whilst what were thought to be young birds were heard calling from one of the Sandpit Ponds on 26th June. After the breeding season only four records were received, all in October, with a maximum of six heard calling across the Reserve. None were ringed this year, partly as a result of the exceptionally cold weather at the beginning and end of the year, which meant that no attempts were made to trap these birds.

Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus*

The year opened with 30 on 7th January and 28 on the WeBS count on the 17th. A maximum of 14 in February was then the highest during the first half of the year. In view of the small numbers reported it was surprising that broods were fairly plentiful with about 20 found across the Reserve. Of these, nine were on No.3 Bed and the rest divided between No.1 and 4 Beds, the canal and the river. Two adult males were ringed on No.1 Bed during November and the team on NO.3 Bed captured four, the lowest total for some years but attributable to the lack of ringing effort during the cold weather. The highest count of the year was 37 on 3rd November and there were 27 present on two dates in December.

Coot*Fulica atra*

Over 40 were present in January, with a maximum of 53 on the 27th and 44 on No.3 Bed alone on 31st. The WeBS count on 14th March produced a total of 52. Good numbers were present in the breeding season and at the end of June 40 adults and 33 young were recorded. A total of 27 broods was found, an improvement on the 20 reported in 2009. As usual the majority (16) were on No.3 Bed and of the remainder; four were on No.1 Bed, four on the river, two on the Loop of No.4 Bed

and one on the Sandpit Pond. After the breeding season fewer were seen and the large numbers recorded in September 2009 were not repeated. The highest totals of the year occurred in December when 59 were counted on the 15th and 46 on the 31st. A single bird was ringed on No.3 Bed on 6th March.

Oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

This species was reported in good numbers, with 23 records between mid-March and early July. Nearly all sightings were on No.3 Bed but there were two reports from NO.1 Bed and one was seen on the canal. The maximum number present was three feeding in front of the John Morgan Hide on 27th April. Typically most records were between March and May but there were three June sightings and the last of the year on 2nd July.

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

Permit holders submitted two records of this wader. A single bird was found at the John Morgan Hide on 9th and 15th May, the first sightings since 2008.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

There were three records of single birds on the scrape in front of the John Morgan Hide on 5th April, 25th May and 2nd June. Although this species had become quite rare at Woolston it has now been reported in each of the past three years.

Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

A report of a single bird on the Migration Watch on 9th October was only the second since 2005.

Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

Although present throughout the year, many records relate to flocks over-flying the Reserve, especially in the winter months. Exceptionally cold conditions on 7th January produced groups of 33 and 13 sitting on the frozen waters of the canal and the Loop of No.4 Bed respectively. This was the highest count for the first half of the year. By the end of March birds had begun to settle on territories. One pair took up residence on the scrape in front of the John Morgan Hide where display was observed on 3rd April and a bird was sitting on four eggs by 1st May. Sadly this nest was predated and although the birds made a new nest and laid more eggs, no young were produced. Birds nesting on No.4 Bed were more successful and on 4th June one pair was found with two very small young near the Sandpit Pond and another with two half-grown young on the Loop. A total of ten birds was

in this latter location on 12th June but no other broods were seen. On the same date the two chicks at the Sandpit Pond nest were ringed.

The usual post-breeding flock built up on the Loop: 69 on 21st July increased to 80 on 24th and 200 by the 26th. Numbers peaked on 15th August when 250 were on the Loop and 150 flew over No.3 Bed. By mid September the post-breeding flock had reduced to 85 and the only other significant totals thereafter were 249 on the Migration Watch of 13th November and 100 in flight to the north of Butchersfield Tip on the 24th.

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

Less numerous than in 2009 with only three reports submitted. One was at the John Morgan Hide on 15th and 21st May and the only other record was of one on 17th October.

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyrtus minimus

For the second successive year few records were received. One was found on No.1 Bed on 20th January and one in front of the Frank Linley Hide on 27th April. The ringing team captured two on No.3 Bed, a new bird on 6th March and a retrap on 27th March.

Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

The cold conditions at the beginning of the year produced an unusual record when one was found at Latchford Locks on the 10th January. The maximum count for the first half of the year was of 23 on No.1 Bed on 10th March. Birds are usually present only outside the breeding season but for the second successive year there was a midsummer record when one was on No.3 Bed on 26th June. The next sighting was of four on the Loop of No.4 Bed on 15th August and small numbers were present until the end of November. The year's maximum was 33 on the WeBS count on 14th November, of which 20 were on the Loop. This compares favourably with the 2009 maximum of 22. Surprisingly there were no December records. Three were ringed on No.3 Bed, two on 6th March and one on 27th.

Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

The normal pattern of sightings continued with reports from January to early March and from late November to the year end. Perhaps surprisingly all reports were from No.3 Bed with birds often flushed from cover by the activities of the ringing team. The highest total was four on 11th December. In the past there have been records from other areas of the Reserve but the only such sighting this year was of five at the eastern end on the Migration Watch on 4th December. It does not appear that this species is in decline at Woolston.

Black-tailed Godwit*Limosa limosa*

An excellent year began with no less than 24 on the John Morgan Hide scrape on 28th May. Up to six of these remained until the end of the month by which time another six had moved to the Loop of No.4 Bed. No more were reported until 23rd June when four landed briefly on No.3 Bed. In the second half of July up to 15 were seen almost daily as they moved between Nos.3 and 4 Beds. Although numbers decreased in August, up to five were still being recorded in the same areas. One September record and a final sighting on 10th October completed what was the best showing for many years.

Curlew*Numenius arquata*

As in 2009 this was an above average year for this regular visitor. There were four spring records of single birds from various areas of the Reserve. Autumn passage comprised one on 7th and two on the 10th August, both flying west over No.3 Bed. By far the highest count of the year came on 1st December when 13 flew west along the canal ahead of an approaching snowstorm and landed in a field to the south near the Viaduct.

Redshank*Tringa tetanus*

Another species to be seen in good numbers, there were seven records between 20th June and 8th October. Of these, four were from the Loop of No.4 Bed where a maximum of four was found on 8th July and three from the well-watched John Morgan Hide where up to three were reported.

Spotted Redshank*Tringa erythropus*

A single bird was found on the Loop of No.4 Bed on 16th August. It gave excellent views, at times swimming and flying briefly, allowing identification to be confirmed. The previous sighting at Woolston was in 2001 and prior to that one was seen in 1992.

Greenshank*Tringa nebularia*

There was single record of this infrequent visitor when two were seen in front of the John Morgan Hide at dusk on 18th August.

Green Sandpiper*Tringa ochropus*

This species is usually found on autumn passage but this year there was an early sighting of one on No.3 Bed on 29th May. More typical were the 15 records submitted between 20th July and 24th

September. Most reports were from the Loop of No.4 Bed where a maximum of four was present on 21st July but there were also records from Nos.1 and 3 Beds.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Another species seen mainly on passage, this year's records were typical with three spring and three autumn reports. The first was on 18th April and on 22nd one was found in flooded fields to the north of No.2 Bed whilst the last spring sighting was on 28th April. Return passage began with two on No.4 Bed on 26th July and was followed by records of single birds on 9th and 11th September.

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

In a fairly average year two adults were seen on No.3 Bed on four dates between 27th April and 1st May. On the latter date two flew over No.1 Bed and the final report was of two flying south-east over No.3 Bed on 5th June.

Black-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Early records included 500 on the WeBS count on 17th January whilst 200 were at Latchford Locks on the 20th and 250 on the 27th. The first record from No.3 Bed was on 23rd January when 200 dropped in but flew off after ten minutes. 340 were at the breeding colony on 27th February and numbers built up to 1200 by 14th March. A small colony of about 100 established itself on No.2 Bed where about 30 pairs nested during April. Falling water levels led to this colony being abandoned leaving only two pairs still on nests by early June. At the main colony on No.3 Bed the first young were noted on 31st May and a maximum count of 52 newly fledged young occurred on 8th July. By 22nd July most gulls had left the colony but about 100 were at Latchford Locks the following day. A small number of newly fledged young remained on No.3 Bed during August but there were few counts of significance thereafter. The September and October WeBS counts produced 120 and 130 respectively, whilst the Migration Watches found 902 and 108 in November and December. Concerns about the declining numbers and the possible effects on the breeding Black-necked Grebes have led to the installation of rafts on No.3 Bed in order to encourage greater numbers to breed.

Common Gull

Larus canus

Typically there were reports from January to mid-May and from July to the end of the year. As always, Latchford Locks was the favoured location; 17 were present there on 12th January and 18 on the 31st. Twenty flew east at dawn over No.1 Bed on 13th February and the same number were present on the WeBS count a week later. The last spring record from Latchford Locks was often on 7th March but there were sightings on No.3 Bed on 29th April and 16th May. The first returning bird was at the locks on 21st July and nearly all subsequent reports were from this area with a maximum

of 26 on 24th October. A Reserve total of 23 on 31st December included 20 on the canal and three in the Weir Basin.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus graellsii

One or two were present in January and from March to July; two were regularly seen on No.3 Bed. Their presence there caused problems for wildfowl and they were seen to take ducklings and coot chicks. It is feared they were responsible for the demise of at least one Black-necked Grebe chick. None were reported from No.3 Bed after 11th July apart from an arrival of 42 mostly immature birds on 5th September which flew in from the south-west but did not remain. A total of 23 flew west over No.3 Bed on 18th September and the Migration Watches produced 140 on 26th September and 74 on 4th December. The only other reports were of one or two at Latchford Locks.

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

Eight were at Latchford Locks on 12th January and 14 dropped in to No.3 Bed on 23rd January but left after about ten minutes. February saw counts of 20 and 15 over No.1 Bed and the last spring sighting was on 8th May. The only other records were of six over No.3 Bed on 18th September and eight at the Weir Basin on 27th December. The Migration Watches found 12 in September and 13 in December.

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

There were five records of this now rare visitor to Woolston. Singles were reported on 12th February and 17th March and on 29th July one was on No.3 Bed followed by an adult and an immature bird the next day. The final record was of one flying west over No.2 Bed on 19th December.

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

For the fourth year out of the last five there was a report of this rare visitor. ON 8th October one was seen at Bollin Point and flying north over No.1 Bed.

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

Only three records were submitted this year. Two were on No.3 Bed on 8th May and one on 29th May. The final sighting was of one seen diving for fish in the canal near the Viaduct on 4th June.

Artic Tern*Sterna paradisaea*

On 28th April one was seen at close quarters on No.3 Bed and on 9th October a first year bird was on the canal.

Black Tern*Chlidonias niger*

As in 2009 there was one record of this now rare visitor when one was observed hawking over No.3 Bed at midday on 18th September.

Feral Pigeon*Columba livia*

As usual, large numbers gathered at favoured sites just off the Reserve, notably Latchford Locks where 160 were counted on 24th January, 320 on 17th October and 350 on 7th November. The Telwall Viaduct is another well-used site, with 111 noted there on 3rd November.

Stock Dove*Columba oenas*

More records than usual were submitted of this often overlooked species and breeding was proved on No.1 Bed.

Only single-figure counts were made in the first four months, but 21 were present on the north meadow on No.3 Bed on 25th May and many of these remained during the next week, no doubt attracted to the winter feed seed that had recently been sown.

One was reported on several dates near a Barn Owl box on No.1 Bed and on 15th May was discovered on two eggs in the box; the outcome of this is unknown. The Migration Watch on Butchersfield at the east end of the Reserve recorded in October, November and December respective counts of 13, eight and five Stock Doves during a five hour period.

An adult was caught at the No.1 Bed feeding station on 25th June (the eight to be ringed on that bed) with seven caught on No.3 Bed, a new species for the ringing list there. One was caught in February, one each in March and April and four in June.

Wood Pigeon*Columba palumbus*

Recorded throughout the year, often in large numbers and many pairs breed.

The year began with 200 seen leaving a roost on No.3 Bed on 2nd January. Much larger numbers were present later in the month, e.g. 1000 on Butchersfield on the 27th and 2000 on No.1 Bed on 1st February and the same number on the 24th February. During the Common Bird Census transects 16 pairs were thought to be present on No.2 Bed on 10th April, with similar numbers found on Nos.3 and 4 Beds at that time.

Three occupied nests were found on No.1 Bed by John Blundell on 5th June, two with young. All three nests were approximately four metres high in Willows.

In autumn large numbers were recorded moving out of roost, e.g. 780 on 23rd October and 500 on 20th November, the latter from the centre of No.2 Bed. The Migration Watch team saw huge numbers passing over Butchersfield during their five hour morning surveys, with peak counts of 2006 on 26th September, 3955 on 9th October and 1226 on 4th December.

One was ringed on No.1 Bed on 26th June, but the 13 ringed on No.3 Bed was unprecedented, the average yearly total being three.

Collard Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

Recorded in small numbers in every month except August, with four on No.3 Bed on 22nd July. Occasional pairs breed, but the only suggestion this year was of one flushed from a possible nest site on NO.1 Bed in mid-July.

Cuckoo

Cuculus camorus

In the 2009 Report comment was made about the rapid decline in the species, not only at Woolston, but nationally. Numbers continue to fall, with just five records submitted this year, four in May and the last on 5th June. All sightings were confined to No.3 Bed.

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

What was almost certainly the bird reported in the centre of No.3 Bed in late December 2009 roosted under the John Morgan hide on several dates in the bitterly cold first ten days of January.

There were no further records until August, when one was seen on two dates at the east end of No.1 Bed. Two were watched displaying in the same area on 9th October, with one there on the 31st of that month. Interest then moved to No.3 Bed where once again, with the onset of freezing weather in late November, one was found roosting on beams under the John Morgan hide on the 29th and 30th.

Little Owl

Athene noctua

The only record received was one heard calling at dusk on 9th April at the east end of No.1 Bed.

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Up to two were reported in every month except December, with all records from the much-watched Nos. 1 and 3 Beds. A pair bred on No.3 Bed and three well grown young were ringed at the nest.

Long-eared Owl*Asio otus*

A nest with three young was found just south of the Ship canal. This was the only record received.

Swift*Apus apus*

Two flying over No.3 Bed on 26th April were the first, with six there two days later.

Many arrived in the following days and on 2nd May, which was cool and blustery, 25 were feeding over No.3 Bed and later 20 flew west over No.4 Bed in 15 minutes. As cool weather persisted 100 were above No.3 Bed on 5th May. Other notable spring counts were of 140 on No.3 Bed on 30th May and 100 over No.4 Bed on 5th June.

Later in the summer large numbers gathered over the east end of the Reserve, notably 160 by Bollin Point on 19th July in cool conditions. At the end of July and early August Swifts were seen moving west into a fresh north-west wind, with one observer noting 1070 during the morning of 6th August.

After mid-August it was clear that most Swifts had departed, with one over No.3 Bed on the 25th the last record submitted.

Kingfisher*Alcedo atthis*

During the intense cold at the beginning of January two were present on the river, but there were no further reports for another five weeks. Thereafter, there were numerous sightings into the spring, mainly of single birds.

A pair bred in the bank of the Ship Canal near the car park and it is believed that they raised two broods. Reports of four near there on 15th July and 29th August probably relate to birds from that nest.

During the remainder of the year Kingfishers became more scarce, particularly after bitterly cold weather set in at the end of November.

Four were ringed on No.1 Bed, an adult female on 1st May and three juveniles on 18th and 26th June and 30th July. A fifth was ringed on No.3 Bed, the first to be caught there for many years.

Green Woodpecker*Picus viridis*

Reports were received, mainly of single birds, from every month of the year. Most were reported from the favoured No.1 Bed, where four were noted by the Migration Watch on 26th September and two on 2nd October. The only sighting away from No.1 Bed was of one present on No.3 Bed during August and September.

A young female was ringed on No.1 Bed on 5th September.

Great Spotted Woodpecker*Dendrocopus major*

The commonest of the Woodpeckers at Woolston, with the majority of records coming from the much-watched No.3 Bed. Most reports were of one or two birds, but three were seen on two dates in early February.

Breeding was not proved this year, but drumming birds were reported on No.3 Bed and a pair was found in suitable habitat on No.2 Bed on 5th June.

A total of 23 were ringed, including nine on No.1 Bed, the third best ever number there; of these seven were juveniles. The other 14 were caught on No.3 Bed, a record for that bed, with the first juvenile ringed on 19th June.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker*Dendrocopus minor*

There were no sightings this year, but a young male flew into a mist net on No.3 Bed on 21st October, the first to be ringed there for many years.

Skylark*Alauda arvensis*

Skylarks used to breed in small numbers, mainly on No.1 Bed, but they are now mostly reported flying over the Eyes in spring and autumn.

During January and February up to five flew over and the only record of a bird on the Reserve was one heard singing at dawn on No.1 Bed on 6th March. There were then no further reports until late September/early October when southerly passage peaked at 50 on 2nd October. The Migration Watch on 9th October produced 83 south in five hours and 36 flew south on 9th November. The only other counts received were of 25 and 30 flying south over No.1 Bed on 19th and 20th November respectively.

Sand Martin*Riparia riparia*

A fairly uneventful year, with the only known breeding colonies being just off the Reserve in banks of the Ship Canal.

Fifteen over No.3 Bed on the evening of 18th March were the first and single-figure counts were made on a number of dates in the following two weeks. During cool weather with fresh north-west winds feeding flocks of 30 on the 4th April, 50 on 20th April and 30 on 16th May were the maximum counts in the spring.

Roosts formed on both No.1 and No.3 Beds, with 300 counted leaving the No.1 Bed roost on 9th and 17th July and up to 200 in the centre of No.3 Bed in early August. A total of 29 was ringed at the roosts, five on NO.1 Bed and 24 on No.3 Bed.

Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

The first birds arrived on 27th March, when up to five were feeding over No.3 Bed. In the following few days more were seen, with as many as 45 present on No.3 Bed on 3rd April. The peak spring count was of 120 on the cool blustery 20th April.

A few pairs bred under Ship Canal jetties near No.4 Bed and a pair may well have bred in the No.2 Bed pump house.

Roosts began to form in July, with 100 reported leaving a reed bed on No.1 Bed on the 9th and up to 1000 gathering there on the evening of the 16th. No substantial roosts built up this year, however. Even so, the ringing teams caught a total of 335 (296 of these in a single catch on No.3 Bed). As usual, the majority of birds caught were juveniles.

Southerly passage began in August and 250 flew south over No.1 Bed on 3rd September. This continued until October, with 18 on the 9th the last record received.

A Hobby was reported at a pre-roost gathering on No.3 Bed on 25th August.

House Martin*Delichon urbicum*

The first was over No.3 Bed on 3rd April, with 30 there three days later. In cold blustery conditions 50 were feeding over No.3 Bed on 2nd May and later in May 60 were counted on the 16th and the 29th.

There were no further reports until August, a month when House Martins begin to gather at the Eyes before their departure south. Sixty were over No.3 Bed on 28th August, whilst in September 120 flew south over No.1 Bed on the 3rd, the same number on the 10th and 150 flew to the west on the 10th. On the cool 17th September 75 were feeding low over No.3 Bed and the final report of the year was of 125 flying south over No.3 Bed in two hours on 18th September. An adult female was ringed on No.1 Bed on 19th June.

Tree Pipit*Anthus trivialis*

There were no spring records this year, but three, all juveniles, were caught together on No.1 Bed on 28th August, the 18th, 19th and 20th Tree Pipits to be ringed at Woolston. One flew south over the same bed on 4th September and another went in the same direction over No.3 Bed on 18th September.

Meadow Pipit*Anthus pratensis*

As usual most sightings were of birds flying over the Reserve. There were just three spring records, 15 on No.1 Bed on 19th March and singles flying north on 10th April and 8th May.

Autumn passage began in September with 50 flying south over No.3 Bed on the morning of the 18th. Peak numbers were seen on 2nd October, when 80 flew south in half an hour at the east end of the Reserve and on 13th November the Migration Watch recorded 55 passing over Butchersfield.

Eleven were ringed in September, seven on No.3 Bed and four on No.1 Bed.

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

Singles on No.3 Bed on 11th and 26th May were the only records received of this now very scarce bird at Woolston.

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

Relatively few records were submitted, most being of single birds.

During the summer Grey Wagtails were reported at two regular breeding sites, Latchford Locks and the Thelwall Viaduct, but with no proof of breeding. Three flying south on 2nd October and three at Latchford Locks on 13th October were the highest counts received.

Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba

Never common at Woolston, Pied Wagtails are only occasionally reported. Birds sometimes roost in small numbers in the reed beds, but there was no evidence of this in 2010.

In the first six months no more than two were seen, but breeding was proved on No.1 Bed when a bird with food was near the Thelwall Viaduct on 24th May. In early June an adult was feeding newly fledged young a short distance away.

In early autumn southerly passage was noted, peaking at 12 over No.1 Bed and four over No.3 Bed on 2nd October and ten flying south over No.1 Bed on 9th October. On the same date the Migration Watch recorded 17 flying south in five hours over Butchersfield. Only single birds were seen in November, the last on the 29th.

Waxwing

Bombycilla garrulous

A permit holder reported a flock of up to 30 feeding on land just to the west of No.4 Bed for much of December. Photographs of the flock were taken and have been seen.

Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

More information than usual was submitted, mainly as a result of the Common Birds Census (CBC) transects.

In early April, for example, a total of 41 singing Wrens was heard on Beds 2, 3 and 4, with 25 of these present on NO.2 Bed. Seventeen males were still singing on that bed on 5th June.

Three nests with eggs were found by Mike Smith in April, two on No.4 Bed and one on No.3 Bed, but the outcome of these is not known. Later in the year the only records submitted came from the Migration Watchers on Butchersfield, who recorded nine on 26th September, four on 9th October, ten on 13th November and eight on 4th December.

A total of 183 was ringed, of which 113 were caught on No.3 Bed, a record for there, with average numbers trapped on No.1 Bed. The first juvenile was caught on No.3 Bed on 19th June and on No.1 Bed on 2nd July. As usual, there were many re-traps from previous years, the oldest being originally ringed on No.3 Bed in 2007.

Dunnock

Prunella modularis

A reasonably common resident species.

On the bitterly cold 7th January, when snow lay thick across the Eyes, 11 were found on No.3 Bed, but during the CBC transects in the spring Dunnocks were fairly scarce, with the maximum count of singing males in April across Nos.2, 3 and 4 Beds being only 13. In 2009 a total of 38 Dunnocks was located during CBC fieldwork, although this did include No.1 Bed which was not covered this year.

During the breeding season Mike Smith found a total of five nests, three on No.3 Bed and one each on No.1 and 2. One of the nests was subsequently predated, but at a nest on No.3 Bed five young were ringed on 18th June. The outcome of the other three is not known.

Very few records were submitted after mid-summer, the Migration Watch recording five on 13th November and six on 4th December from the vantage point on the former Butchersfield Tip. On the latter date eight were reported on No.3 Bed.

A total of 97 Dunnocks were ringed (c.f. 156 in 2009, 78 in 2008) with most as usual on No.3 Bed and the 82 which were caught there is the second highest total ever. In contrast just 15 were ringed on No.1 Bed, the lowest number ever. The fairly low numbers caught reflects the national picture, with adult abundance and young productivity both down.

The first juveniles were ringed on both beds in mid-June and the oldest retraps were single birds on No.3 Bed from 2006 and 2007.

Robin

Erithacus rubecula

During the freezing conditions in early January eight Robins were found in the centre of No.3 Bed, where snow was up to six inches deep, and one observer attracted a hungry Robin to feed from his hand!

In April the CBC transects on Nos.2, 3 and 4 Beds located 36 singing Robins, about half the total of 2009, but that did not include No.1 Bed which was not surveyed this year.

A nest was found on No.1 Bed by J Blundell on 5th June, near the ground in a clump of Juncus. It held six young, all of which were ringed and later fledged.

Winter territories became obvious in October, with one observer finding totals of 24 and 23 Robins across the Beds on the 13th and 28th October respectively. Ten were on No.2 Bed on 27th November and 12 were counted by the Migration Watch team at the east end of the Reserve on 26th September, with smaller numbers in October, November and December.

The ringing teams caught a total of 164 Robins (c.f. 194 in 2009, 154 in 2008). The 88 ringed on No.3 Bed was the third best total ever, with the first juvenile caught on 22nd May. In contrast, it was a relatively poor year on No.1 Bed, where the fourth lowest total since 1995 was recorded. There were many re-traps, the oldest being individuals from June 2005 caught on both Nos. 1 and 3 Beds.

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

A male present in the centre of No.3 Bed from 28th April to 1st May was the only record received.

Stonechat

Saxicola torquata

On 4th March two females were found on the north bank of No.2 Bed, no other records were submitted.

Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

A scarce passage migrant at Woolston, occurring mainly in the spring. The first was near the John Morgan Hide on 23rd April and the only other report was of a brightly coloured male seen by several observers on the north meadow of No.3 Bed on 11th May.

Blackbird

Turdus merula

A common resident, with the population supplemented by autumn immigrants.

The year began with a count of 31 on No.3 Bed on 7th January when the bed was covered with deep snow. The CBC transects on beds 2, 3 and 4 found a total of 38 Blackbirds in early April and two nest finders located a total of nine nests, three of which are known to have fledged young, whilst three others were predated. On 3rd June three were seen mobbing a Tawny Owl, again on No.3 Bed.

In the autumn one observer counted 22 Blackbirds across the Reserve on 28th October and 30 were feeding along the west bank of No.3 Bed on 20th November. Up to 49 were present on 1st December, while on 13th December Blackbirds seemed to be everywhere on the Loop of No.4 Bed, the observer considering that a count of 20 was an absolute minimum.

The Migration Watch on Butchersfield Tip recorded good numbers during all four sessions, with a peak of 32 on 4th December.

A total of 92 was ringed (78 in 2009), with 52 of these on No.3 Bed, the third best year for Blackbirds on that bed. A number of retraps were handled, the oldest being one originally ringed in February 2006.

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

A winter visitor and passage migrant. No large numbers were reported in the early months, but small roosts were noted on both Nos.1 and 3 Beds. Fifty was the maximum recorded on No.3 Bed on 11th February and 60 on No.1 Bed on 19th March. Thirty on No.3 Bed on 5th April was the last spring report.

Seventeen on 16th October were the first of the returning birds and a roost which formed on No.1 Bed peaked at 150 on 5th November. The Migration Watch team recorded a total of 475 flying over their vantage point in five hours on 13th November and 88 on 4th December.

A first year female was ringed on No.1 Bed on 27th November.

Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos

Present in small numbers throughout the year.

During the very low temperatures in January a maximum of six was seen on No.3 Bed and eight at Bollin Point. The CBC transect work in April found 11 Song Thrushes across Nos.2, 3 and 4 Beds (c.f. 16 in 2009). A nest with five eggs was located on the east bank of No.3 Bed on 19th April, but was later predated. This was also the fate of another nest found on No.4 Bed in early April, while the outcome of a third nest discovered in early May, also on No.4 Bed, is not known.

Very few reports were submitted after July, with no influx on the scale of that in October 2009. The Migration Watches produced counts of five in September, four in October, seven in November and eight in December.

A total of 50 was ringed, the majority, 39, on No.3 Bed, which is a record for there. Most were caught in the period September to the end of the year.

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Very few records were received for the first winter period, with No.3 Bed the only one to hold double figure numbers; 30 on 1st February and 120 on 19th February.

The first of the autumn were 20 on No.3 Bed on 2nd October and many were seen across the Reserve during the remainder of the year, with peak counts of 113 on No.1 Bed on 31st October and 130 on No.3 Bed on 20th November.

Just five were ringed this year, one on No.1 Bed and four on No.3 Bed.

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Always a scarce bird at Woolston, this year one pair almost certainly bred on No.3 Bed.

From late April to the end of May birds were present almost daily on the north meadow of No.3 Bed, reaching a maximum of six on 16th May. It was during this period that the ringing team there caught two adults and a juvenile, with a fourth bird mist-netted on 5th June. This is the third successive year that breeding has been proved on No.3 Bed. Also on 5th June two were flushed from suitable habitat on No.2 Bed.

Very few were seen after June, with the Migration Watch recording two in September and early October, while three on the mid-November count was the last record for the year.

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

A single female (based on wing measurements) of indeterminate age, was ringed on No.3 Bed on 20th November. This was more typical than the record number of three, ringed in 2009.

Grasshopper Warbler

Locustella naevia

A slightly better year for this species, with no further decline in numbers reeling and an increase in birds ringed. The first reeling male was on No.1 Bed on 16th April with two there the following day. The maximum number of reeling males was twelve, with five on No.1 Bed on 23rd April, three on No.3 Bed on 28th April, two on No.4 Bed on 29th April and two on No.2 Bed on 5th June. Interestingly; a family party was observed, near the canal to the south of No.4 Bed, on 10th June. This was close to where a bird had previously been in song.

Both ringing teams reported better years for this declining species. Eight were ringed on No.1 Bed, the first two on 17th April. These were followed by three adults in breeding condition over the summer and then three juveniles, the first of which was ringed on 14th August. On No.3 Bed the record total of five was ringed. These included two males on 24th April and a further male on 2nd May. The first juvenile, a recently-fledged bird, was mist-netted on 3rd July, pleasingly proving breeding for the bed, with a second on the last day of the month.

The final record for the year was of one reeling on No.1 Bed on 14th August.

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Sedge Warblers seem to be at least holding steady at Woolston, with a similar number singing to the previous year and an increase in birds ringed, though with very different pictures painted by the ringing teams on Nos.1 and 3 Beds.

A single male was singing by the east pool on No.1 Bed, on the typical date of 13th April, with two present on the 17th. By month end, small numbers were present on all four beds. Systematic counts across the whole Reserve produced the following maxima; 17 on No.4 Bed on 2nd May, ten on No.2 Bed on 5th June and six on No.3 Bed on 16th June. This year no count was received for No.1 Bed. This total of 33 singing males, for the three beds counted, is similar to the 2009 total for the same beds. In comparison, analysis by the ringing teams (of adults caught in the breeding season and in breeding condition) gives the following totals; 20 males (15 on No.3 Bed and 5 on No.1 Bed) and 9 females (5 on No.3 Bed and 4 on No.1 Bed). The only confirmation of breeding relates to a nest with six eggs, discovered on No.2 Bed on 12th June.

Numbers ringed rose for the third successive year, though with very different trends evident between Nos.1 and 3 Beds. On No.1 Bed, another poor year was reported. The 44 birds ringed was the third worst total since 1995. The first of the year was caught on 24th April, the first juveniles were ringed on 17th July with the last individual caught on 4th September. There were no retraps from previous years and the continued loss of habitat on No.1 Bed does not bode well for this species, at least in the medium term. In contrast, the No.3 Bed team experienced a record year with 111 new birds ringed compared with an average of 55. The first caught was a retrap on 24th April, a day earlier than in 2009. The first juvenile was ringed on 26th June and the last bird of the year was mist-netted on 25th September, six days later than the previous year. This was the latest ever date for the bed and not surprisingly, the year's last sighting.

Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

This was another good year, with all the indications of a stable or growing population. This is not surprising, given the spread of suitable reed bed habitat on the Reserve. The first arrival was on No.3 Bed on 13th April, with one in song. BY month end Reed Warbler song was plentiful across the Reserve, in all suitable habitat. Maxima of singing males was the same as in the previous year. During the breeding season, seven nests were located, four on No.1 Bed and three on No.3 Bed. Maxima clutch size was five and the outcomes were not known.

The ringing data is indicative of a highly successful breeding season. The 748 ringed compares well with 706 in 2009 and even more so with 442 from 2008. On No.1 Bed, the 234 ringed was a reduction on the previous year's record of 292, though still the second highest total since 1995. A further 53 re-traps/controls were also caught on this bed, giving a total of 345 different birds handled. Of these, the oldest was one originally ringed in July 2003. The No.3 Bed ringing team experienced another record year with 514 new birds ringed, after passing 400 for the first time in 2009. The oldest bird re-trapped was a female ringed as an adult in May 2003 and therefore hatched no later than 2002.

It is instructive to compare the disparity between the breeding numbers assessed by transect counts of singing birds and those obtained by sampling through ringing. The former produced a total of 32 singing males, ten on No.1 Bed and 22 on No.3 Bed. Analysis by the ringing teams gives the following figures (for birds caught during the breeding season and in breeding condition): 95 males (33 on No.1 Bed and 62 on No.3 Bed) and 85 females (40 on No.1 Bed and 45 on No.3 Bed).

The year's final record was of one ringed on No.3 Bed on 9th October.

Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

An exceptional year for this species, with breeding numbers more than holding up and record numbers ringed during autumn passage. Always an early arrival, eight were in song on No.3 Bed on 3rd April, with small numbers heard across the Reserve through to month end. Maximum counts for the year were; two on No.1 Bed on 17th April, 14 on No.2 Bed on 5th June, seven on No.3 Bed on 10th April and 12 on No.4 Bed on 2nd May. This total of 35 singing males was an increase on the 28 from the previous year. The ringing teams on Nos.1 and 3 Beds produced the following totals of probable breeding adults caught: 40 males (6 on No.1 Bed and 34 on No.3) and 20 females (8 on No.1 Bed and 12 on No.3). The only sight record of confirmed breeding was of an adult with two young on No.3 Bed on 29th May.

A record year for the ringers saw a staggering 695 Blackcaps ringed. On No.1 Bed it was the third best year ever, with 180 ringed. On No.3 Bed, with its profusion of Elders with a heavy berry crop, the picture was even better, with an exceptional 515 ringed. This compared with the previous average of 283 ringed per year and was well above the 2009 record of 330.

The last bird of the autumn was ringed on No.1 Bed on 31st October, while a male. Ringed on No.3 Bed on 13th November, was almost certainly a wintering bird.

Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

An uncommon passage migrant, which stays to breed in small numbers, Garden Warblers were present in higher than usual numbers during the return passage period. The first was singing on No.4 Bed on 23rd April and again on 29th of the month. Birds were then present on all beds during the breeding season, with maxima of: one on No.1 Bed, on many dates, five on No.2 Bed on 5th June, none reported from No.3 Bed and two on No.4 Bed on several dates. This total of eight possible territories is similar to 2009 and well above the average.

Another excellent year from a ringing perspective saw 54 ringed, more than double the annual average. On No.1 Bed, the 20 birds ringed was the fifth highest total ever. The first was ringed on 7th May and the last on 28th August. Although five adults were caught during the breeding season, only one, a male, was in breeding condition. The first juvenile was caught on 23rd July. The No.3 Bed team enjoyed its best-ever year, with 34 ringed, compared with an average, since 2004, of just over 13 and a previous highest total of 19 in 2009. Only four adults were caught in the breeding season, with

one male and one female in breeding condition. The year's last record was of one ringed on No.3 Bed on 4th September.

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

Always a scarce bird at Woolston, both on passage and during the breeding season, this year's records were fairly typical. The first one was in song on No.1 Bed on 23rd April and again the following day. One was then singing in the north-west corner of No.3 Bed on 27th April and was still present on the 28th. By 1st May song had been heard on all four beds. Maximum numbers of singing males, during the breeding season, were: one on No.1 Bed, on many dates, two on No.2 Bed on 5th June, one on No.3 Bed on 2nd May and three along the canal to the south of No.4 Bed on 4th May.

Ringling numbers were low, with only four newly ringed, compared with thirteen in 2009. Of these, the one ringed on No.1 Bed, a juvenile on 27th August, was the lowest total ever. A second bird, re-trapped on the bed on 1st May, was a territorial male, originally ringed in May 2008. On No.3 Bed, the three ringed was marginally above average. The first was an unsexed bird, hatched in 2009, caught on 27th April. An adult female was caught in the reed beds on 3rd July and finally a juvenile was mist-netted on 22nd August. The last record was of one on No.1 Bed on 25th September.

Whitethroat

Sylvia communis

An early migrant was in song on No.3 Bed on 3rd April. Migration was then clearly held back, with a two week hiatus before one turned up on No.1 Bed on 17th April. Small numbers then trickled onto all four beds, with five on No.3 Bed on 20th April and six on No.4 Bed on 24th. A count, covering the whole Reserve, on 28th April, turned up no less than 36 singing males. Maxima of singing males for the year were: 24 on No.2 Bed on 5th June. 8 on No.3 Bed on 15th May and 34 on No.4 Bed in mid-May. No systematic count was made on No.1 Bed this year. The total, of 66 for the three beds, was a little lower than the 74 in 2009.

Breeding was confirmed, with two adults carrying food on No.2 Bed on 5th June and six nests located, all of which saw young fledged. Of these, one was on No.1 Bed; three were on No.2 Bed and three on No.4 Bed. Out of 35 nestlings initially present, 32 finally made it out of the nest. Ringing data for No.1 and No.3 Beds show a total of 45 adults caught which were presumed to be breeding in the localities. Of these, twelve males and eleven females were from No.1 Bed and twelve males and ten females from No.3 Bed.

The number of Whitethroats ringed continues to rise, with the excellent total of 217 free-flying birds ringed (c.f. 85 in 2007, 93 in 2008 and 127 in 2009). Nevertheless, No.1 Bed saw one of its poorest years yet, with just 78 birds ringed, which may be as a direct result of habitat loss. In addition, a further five were re-trapped from previous years, the oldest of these having been originally ringed in June 2004. In contrast, numbers ringed on No.3 Bed reached unprecedented levels, with the 139 free-flying birds ringed, more than double the average since 2004. The extensive coppicing regime on this bed is considered to have been a major factor in increasing suitable habitat for this species.

An interesting re-trap was of an individual which was first ringed on the bed, as a juvenile, in July 2003. An additional 28 were also ringed on No.2 and 4 Beds.

The final record was of one ringed on No.3 Bed on the typical date of 12th September.

Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

The year opened with one calling on No.1 Bed on 29th January, with presumably the same wintering individual still present the next day. First evidence of spring passage came with one singing from near the ferry, by the canal track, on 18th March. The same bird, plus another two on No.4 Bed the following day, suggested that migration was now underway. During the next few days, one or two could be heard singing on all four beds and by 26th March six were present on No.3 Bed alone. Two significant counts, across the whole Reserve, were made on 1st and 7th April, with totals of 27 and 77 respectively. Maxima received for the individual beds were: 13 on No.1 Bed on 3th April, 18 on No.2 Bed on 10th April, 8 on No.3 Bed on 10th April and 25 on No.4 Bed on 7th April. This total of 64 singing males is significantly more than the 50 in 2009.

Breeding was proved, with two nests found. The first, which contained five eggs on No.4 Bed, was eventually predated. The other, on No.1 Bed, produced six successfully fledged young. On Nos.1 and 3 Beds, the number of adults ringed, which were judged to be local breeders totalled 35. Of these, eight males and six females were from No.1 Bed and eight males and thirteen females from No.3 Bed.

As in 2009, near-record numbers were ringed, with the total of 492 free flying birds ringed being only slightly down on the 510 from that year. The No.1 Bed total of 303 was the second highest ever, while the No.3 Bed team achieved the excellent total of 180 (c.f. an average of 136).

During the post-breeding period and on into the autumn, substantial flocks could be encountered on any of the beds, often mixed in with other warblers and tits. Good counts of such flocks, all from No.1 Bed, included 40 on 14th August, 20 on 1st October and ten on 8th October. One, which was calling repeatedly on the Loop of No.4 Bed, on 23rd October, was the last of the year.

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

For many observers, the Willow Warbler's cascading song is final confirmation that spring has really arrived. The first of the year was in song on No.3 Bed on 3rd April. Six were then counted across the northern half of No.4 Bed on 7th April, with thirteen across the whole Reserve. Other whole Reserve counts of note included, 19 on 15th April, 31 on 22nd April and 27 on 28th April. Maxima for the individual beds were 15 on No.1 on 23rd April, 8 on No.2 on 5th June, 6 on No.3 on 21st April and 17 on No.4 on 15th May. This total of 46 is similar to that from the previous year.

As with a number of other species, efforts made by several skilled individuals to locate nests, resulted in breeding being proven. Two nests were found, both on No.4 Bed. They contained clutches of six and five eggs and it was not known whether either produced successfully fledged young. Analysis by the ringing teams suggests that at least 44 breeding adults were present on Nos.1

and 3 Beds, with eighteen males and eleven females on No.1 Bed and ten males and five females on No.3 Bed.

The total of 275 birds ringed was the highest in recent years. On No.1 Bed, the 211 was the best since 2005, with a further 21 re-trapped from previous years. The habitat on No.3 Bed is less suitable for this species, with an annual average of 36 birds newly ringed per year. It was pleasing then to see this average nearly doubled, with a final total of 62 ringed. Again, it would appear that the extensive coppicing on the bed has improved the feeding for this and other species of Warbler.

This year's closing sighting was a single bird on No.4 Bed on 27th September.

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

A much better year than 2009, with small numbers present during the winter and passage periods and an improvement in numbers ringed. The only sight record from the first winter period was of one on No.3 Bed on 13th February. Similarly, just one was recorded during March, again on No.3 Bed, on 6th of the month. There were no sight records from the breeding season and the first sign of autumn passage was on 28th August when two were moving along Weir Lane. Four on No.3 Bed on 2nd October was the year's highest count, with no more than one or two then noted through to 27th November, when two were present on both NOS.1 and 2 Beds.

The total of 70 newly-ringed during the year was a significant improvement on the previous year (c.f. 122 in 2008 and just 17 in 2009). On No.1 Bed, 43 were ringed, compared with 13 the previous year and interestingly, the first of these was a locally bred juvenile caught on 5th June. A further five juveniles were then ringed in July. The main passage began on 11th September when four were caught and reached a peak on 16th October when seven were ringed. The No.3 Bed team also saw an increase, with 27 ringed compared with just four in 2009. One in full juvenile plumage was caught on the early date, for this bed, of 15th August.

Firecrest

Regulus ignicapilla

The only record this year was of one calling near the south bank of No.1 Bed on New Year's Day.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

Always a very scarce migrant at Woolston, just one was sighted in the middle of No.3 Bed on 29th April.

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

It was a reasonably good year for this common breeding resident. During the first winter period, maximum counts were of 15 on No.1 Bed on 27th January and 20 on No.3 Bed on 30th January.

Breeding was proved with at least eight nests located five on No.3 Bed, two on No.1 Bed and one on No.2 Bed. Of these two broods fledged successfully, while the outcome of the others was unknown.

The ringing teams experienced differing outcomes, with a near-record total on No.1 Bed and an average year on No.3 Bed. The total of 179 newly-ringed was fairly typical (c.f. 166 in 2008 and 201 in 2009). The 110 ringed on No.1 Bed was just short of the 2008 record and a further 23 were re-trapped from previous years. Seven females, which were trapped during the breeding season, were thought to be breeding on or close to the bed and the first juvenile was caught on 4th June. In comparison, the 69 ringed on No.3 Bed was just average with a further 41 re-trapped from previous years. Of these, the oldest had been ringed as a juvenile on 4th June 2002 and had been re-trapped 23 times (most recently on 21st October 2010). Intriguingly, the longevity record for this species is 8 years, 8 months and 5 days – an age this particular bird is rapidly approaching. Only three females in breeding condition were trapped during the breeding season.

Maximum counts to year end were 24 on the Loop of No.4 Bed on 23rd October and 18, across the whole Reserve on 15th December.

Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus

Blue Tits are a common, though under-recorded, breeding resident. Ten on No.3 Bed on 6th January was the highest count from the first winter period. Survey work during the breeding season located seventeen possible territories: five on No.1 Bed, five on No.2 Bed, one on No.3 Bed and six on No.4 Bed.

The ringing data indicates a continuing recovery for the species, following the 2008's decline in breeding success. The total of 383 birds ringed compares favourably with the previous three year's totals of 255 in 2007, 124 in 2008 and 323 in 2009. On No.1 Bed, where 174 were ringed and a further 41 re-trapped, it was the best year since 2002 and the third best since 1995. Interestingly, despite the high numbers handled, just two adult females with brood patches were caught during the breeding season. The No.3 Bed team fared even better, with a record 209 ringed and a further 23 re-trapped. Of these, the oldest was one which had been first ringed as a juvenile in July 2003. Twenty-one young were ringed in the nest boxes on No.3 Bed and the first fledged juvenile was trapped on 5th June.

There were no sight records from the second half of the year.

Great Tit

Parus major

This species has a similar status to the previous one and exhibited a similar recovery from a low point in 2008. Ten, which were visiting the Morgan hide feeding station, in No.3 Bed, on 23rd January, was the highest count from the first winter period. Thirty-two possible territories were located during the breeding season transect counts. Of these, eleven were on No.1 Bed, ten on No.2 Bed, three on No.3 Bed and eight on No.4 Bed. An interesting breeding record came from No.1 Bed on 1st May when a female was found sitting in a Barn Owl box! She had expanded the structure of

her nest to cover the whole floor of the large box and later, on 22nd May, a brood of ten young was ringed, which later fledged successfully.

The ringing results for this species mirror those of Blue Tit, with a total of 368 comparing well with the previous years' totals of 245 in 2009 and 156 in 2008. The No.1 Bed total of 153 was the second highest since 1995 with a further 41 re-trapped from previous years. Seven females in breeding condition were handled during the breeding season. On No.3 Bed a record 215 were ringed including 106 pulli in nest boxes and a further 27 re-trapped. The oldest individual re-trapped had been ringed as a juvenile in 2003.

Counts from the second half of the year were few with a maximum of four on No.3 Bed on 18th September.

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

Once a very scarce bird at Woolston, Coal Tits are now occurring more regularly, probably due to the spread of more mature tree cover on No.1 Bed and the adjacent Butchersfield Tip. All sight records came from these two areas, with singles on No.1 Bed on 22nd January, on the Tip on 5th February (this a bird in song) and again on No.1 Bed on 5th March. There were no further indications of breeding. Further singles were present at the eastern end of the Reserve on 11th September, 25th September and 27th November.

Nine were ringed during the year, six on No.1 Bed and three on No.3 Bed.

Willow Tit

Poecile montana

This was an excellent year for this declining species, with the benefits of improved food-availability on No.3 Bed (as a result of extensive coppicing) perhaps counter-balancing the continued habitat loss on No.1 Bed. Birds are present on all four beds throughout the year, though are most easily seen visiting the Morgan Hide feeding station in No.3 Bed. Efforts are being made, both through the ringing effort and via various surveys, to increase our knowledge of the breeding population. The ringing teams have been colour-ringing all birds caught (with one colour ring above the metal ring on the left leg and two colour rings on the right leg) and would greatly appreciate reports of any sightings, giving both place of sighting and colour combinations.

Numerous sight records were received, from all beds, with the highest counts being of four on No.3 Bed on 12th June and a similar number on the same bed on 20th November. As a result of systematic breeding-bird surveys, nine territories were located, three on No.1 Bed (with two nests located), two on No.2 Bed and four on No.3 Bed (with three nests located). Of the five nests found, three probably produced fledged young with the other two suffering predation, possibly by Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Although birds were present on No.4 Bed at other times of year, no breeding information was received. Due to the inaccessibility of much suitable habitat these figures (as confirmed by the ringing data) are a significant under-estimate of the numbers breeding.

Analysis of the ringing data provides a clearer picture of prevalence, with the excellent total of 51 newly ringed (c.f. 39 in 2009 and 25 in 2008), a record 33 on NO.3 Bed and 18 on No.1 Bed. In addition, a further fourteen were re-trapped from previous years, ten from No.1 Bed and four from No.3 Bed. Thus, a total of 65 different birds were handled during the year. As Willow Tits are notoriously sedentary and little or no ringing now takes place on Nos. 2 and 4 Beds, where birds are regularly present in suitable habitat, the post-breeding population for the whole Reserve is likely to have been in the order of 80-100 individuals.

Nuthatch

Sitta europea

Although they breed close to the Reserve, Nuthatches are very uncommon visitors to Woolston. This year was exceptional though, with eleven sightings but surprisingly none ringed. The first was on Butchersfield Tip on 17th January with a long gap until the next one turned up, on No.3 Bed, on 25th April. The first of the autumn was then on No.3 Bed on 2nd August. There were then seven records from the eastern end of the Reserve, through to year end. The last of these was of two calling, on 31st December, one from No.1 Bed and the other from a small wood to the north of the bed.

Treecreeper

Certhia familiaris

An exceptional year for this usually scarce species, with highest ever numbers ringed and a couple of sight records to boot. Both sightings were of single birds on No.3 Bed, on 12th and 26th June. Both Nos.1 and 3 Beds ringing teams caught record numbers, with a combined total of twenty newly ringed (c.f. 11 in 2009 and 7 in 2008). Of these, thirteen were from NO.3 Bed and the remainder from No.1 Bed. Although Treecreeper has never been proved to breed at Woolston, the steady increase in numbers ringed, allied to the fact that a high proportion of these ringed were recently fledged juveniles, may mean that breeding has taken place but not been detected.

Jay

Garrulus glandarius

It was a good year for this skulking species, which breeds in small numbers and forms small post-breeding/wintering flocks. Highest counts from the first half of the year were; five on No.1 Bed on 12th March, six on No.3 Bed on 3rd April and eleven on the same bed on 2nd May. Small numbers were present, on all four beds, in suitable habitat during the breeding season, though without confirmation of breeding. Highest counts from the second half of the year were eight on No.1 Bed on 4th August and 22 counted, during the Migration Watch from Butchersfield Tip, on 26th September.

The twenty ringed during the year was well above average, with sixteen from No.3 Bed and the remainder from No.1 Bed. Six recently fledged juveniles, caught on No.3 Bed, were indicative of breeding in the locality.

Magpie

Pica pica

A common breeder across all of the beds, Magpies also form sizeable winter roosts. Unusually, no significant counts were received from the early part of the year. Seven occupied nests were found during the breeding season, three on No.2 Bed, three on No.3 Bed and one on No.4 Bed. The highest counts from later in the year were of 24 leaving the No.3 Bed roost at dawn and 31 across the whole Reserve on 28th October.

Typically, nine were ringed during the year, seven from No.3 Bed and the remainder from No.1 Bed.

Jackdaw

Corvus monedula

Jackdaws are most often seen flying over the eastern end of the Reserve. Large flocks regularly move from roosts to the south to feed on farmland to the north, particularly on winter mornings, with an equivalent return movement in late afternoon. Unusually, there were no large counts from the first winter period, with a maximum of fifteen flying south over No.1 Bed on 5th February. Seven, flying west over No.3 Bed on 18th September was unusual. All of the highest counts from the autumn/winter were made during Migration Watches from Butchersfield Tip, with maxima of 84 on 26th September, 61 on 9th October and 252 on 13th November.

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

The status of this species usually mirrors that of the Jackdaw, though this year saw only one record submitted. This was of six flying east over No.1 Bed on 8th October. It seems unlikely that this reflects a real change in abundance, rather than an oversight by observers.

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

A regular breeder, in small numbers, Carrion Crows also make sizeable feeding movements over the eastern end of the Reserve. Twenty, flying south over No.1 Bed on 20th February was the highest count from the first winter period. Breeding was confirmed when two occupied nests were found on No.3 Bed on 12th April. All of the highest counts to year end came during Migration Watches from Butchersfield Tip with 54 on 26th September, 40 on 9th October, 78 on 13th November and 52 on 4th December.

Raven

Corvus corax

Once a real rarity at Woolston, Ravens have become scarce but regular visitors as their breeding range extends into more lowland habitats. There were an unprecedented six sightings this year, Two flew west by the entrance to the Reserve on 24th January and one was being mobbed by crows over No.3 Bed on 30th January. The only spring sighting was of one passing over No.3 Bed on 21st April. On

2nd October two flew west over the Morgan hide, in No.3 Bed, with a lone bird over No.1 Bed later that morning. The last was seen soaring over Butchersfield Tip on 27th November.

Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Only a handful were using the No.3 Bed roost at the start of the year, with just six noted at dawn on 22nd January. A flock of 300, which were counted to the north of No.1 Bed on 27th January, was typical of the winter feeding movements to the farmland adjacent to the Reserve. A first sign of a mid-year roost forming was when 150 left No.3 Bed at dawn on 2nd June, with 200 roosting by 19th of the month. Only small numbers were then noted until Migration Watches during October and November, when 477 were noted on 9th October and 5,200 on 13th November, all flying to feed on the moss-lands to the north of Butchersfield Tip. The last sighting of significance was of 200 flying in to roost on NO.3 Bed, at dusk, on 16th November.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Although they breed in reasonable numbers nearby, House Sparrows are uncommon on the Reserve. Just five records were received, with eight in Weir Lane on 11th February, followed by a single on the south bank of No.3 Bed on 31st May. Twelve were then near the No.2 Bed Weir on 19th June and a similar number near Latchford Locks on 32st October. Finally, six were present in Weir lane on 27th November.

Three were ringed during the year, all on No.3 Bed on 10th July. They were mist-netted in a reed-bed in the centre of the bed and had been carrying large caterpillars, presumably as food for young in the nest locally.

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Chaffinches are resident breeders, which form sizeable winter feeding flocks, particularly in No.3 Bed, where they have benefited from the planting of winter seed crops. Typically, 40 were feeding in that area on 7th January, with 70 by 29th February. The only significant count away from No.3 Bed, during the first winter period, was of 30 near the No.1 Bed feeding station on 5th March. Breeding was confirmed, with a female on a nest on the south bank of No.3 Bed on 4th April and five other nests subsequently located four on No.3 Bed and one on No.2 Bed. The breeding bird transects suggested a maximum of 18 territories; two on No.1 Bed, ten on No.2 Bed, one on No.3 Bed and five on No.4 Bed. Some large flocks formed after the breeding season, with 65 on No.2 Bed on 23rd October, 130 on No.3 Bed on 20th November, through to month end. By year end, numbers had visibly reduced with, for example, 60 on 11th December.

The 384 ringed across the whole Reserve was evidence of an exceptional season (cf. 299 the previous year). Of these, 120 were from No.1 Bed, along with a further 35 re-traps, making it the third highest total for the bed. These included 11 females with brood patches, caught during the

breeding season. For No.3 Bed, it was a record year, with 259 ringed and ten re-trapped. A further five were ringed on No.2 Bed.

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

It was a typical year for this species with small numbers present during the winter and both passage periods. No more than two were noted, on many dates, from early January through to 27th March. Birds could usually be found on the north seed meadow or at the Morgan Hide feeding station. The first sign of autumn passage was of one on No.1 Bed on 9th October. On 20th November, four appeared on No.3 Bed, with all subsequent records from this area. Peak counts were of six on 1st December and eight on both 11th and 19th December.

All birds ringed were from No.3 Bed, with the total of 22 being above the average of 16.

Greenfinch

Carduelis chloris

Greenfinches breed in small numbers but pass through the Reserve in large numbers, as evidenced by the ringing data. High counts from the early part of the year included 70 on No.3 Bed on 27th January, 50 on the same bed on 27th February and 30 on No.1 Bed feeding station on 9th April. Ten singing males were found during the breeding season surveys, two each on Nos.3 and 4 Beds and one on No.2 Bed, at least one of which was successful. Peak counts from later in the year, all from No.3 Bed, were 72 on 18th September, 60 on 24th November and 70 on 29th December. Thereafter, numbers slowly declined with a maximum of 30 on 11th December.

The total of 663 ringed gives a truer indication of the numbers using the Reserve across the year and suggests something of a comeback for the species (cf. 436 in 2009, 578 in 2008 and 713 in 2007). On No.1 Bed, the total of 377 newly-ringed was the third highest ever, with an additional 35 re-trapped. Of these, the oldest were two which were both originally ringed in November 2002. Eleven females in breeding condition were caught and considered to be breeding in the locality. The situation on No.3 Bed was also an improvement on 2009, with 286 ringed, compared with 227.

Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis

Goldfinches are most evident in autumn and early winter, when they flock to feed on thistle seeds, with small numbers also present during the breeding season. The highest count from the first half of the year was of 16 feeding around the Loop of No.4 Bed on 27th February. Pairs were present on both No.2 and No.4 Beds during the breeding season and breeding was confirmed on the latter, with two females found incubating on 5th May. Post-breeding flocks started to build up from 8th July, when 20 were feeding on thistles on No.4 Bed. This flock had increased to 60 by 21st July, while the 70 feeding in No.2 Bed on 24th July was probably a separate flock. Less common in No.3 Bed 32, feeding around the north meadow on 29th July, was a good count for the bed. The highest count from the eastern end of the Reserve was of 60 at Bollin Point on 25th September. Thereafter, numbers declined, as seed stocks were exhausted, with no more than 20 noted to year end.

From a ringing perspective the 28 ringed was about average. On No.1 Bed the 17 ringed was typical of recent years, while on No.3 Bed the 11 newly ringed was a record.

Siskin

Carduelis spinus

A passage and wintering species, Siskin numbers can vary greatly from year to year. Ten at Bollin Point on 30th January was the only sight record from the beginning of the year. Spring passage was noted with just one again at Bollin Point, on 27th March. The first evidence of return passage came on 2nd October when singles were present on both No.1 and No.3 Beds. Small numbers were then regularly present on the same beds, through to the end of the year, with maxima of 16 on No.1 Bed on 20th November and 31 in No.3 Bed on 27th November.

Siskins do not always figure in the ringing totals, so it was pleasing to see three ringed on No.1 Bed. All were birds of the year and were caught in November.

Linnet

Carduelis cannabina

Linnets breed in small colonies, form sizeable post-breeding wintering flocks and use a regular roost on No.1 Bed. The highest counts from the No.1 Bed roost, from early in the year, were of 31 on 19th February, 40 on 12th March and 80 on 19th March. Unusually, there were no records of flocks on No.4 Bed during this period. As an open country species, Linnets have been historically rare on No.3 Bed. This has started to change with the planting of autumn/winter seed crops and birds were feeding on the remnants of this crop throughout March, peaking at 36 on 20th. During the breeding season, seven singing males were located on No.2 Bed and three on No.1 Bed. The excellent total of fourteen nests was found, thirteen on No.1 Bed and one on No.4 Bed. Of these, eight were judged to have successfully produced fledged young. Peak counts from the second half of the year were surprisingly low, with just 25 at the No.1 Bed roost on 4th December and 20 on No.4 Bed on 28th December. Higher counts were obtained during the Migration Watches, which relate mainly to over-flying birds, with 56 on 9th October and 46 on 4th December.

It was judged to be an excellent year from a ringing perspective with 57 free-flying birds ringed compared with 16 in 2009 and 23 in both 2008 and 2007. The No.1 Bed total of 48 included 14 nestlings ringed, with the remainder from No.3 Bed.

Common Redpoll

Carduelis flammea

A rare species at Woolston, an adult male was caught and ringed on No.1 Bed on 19th November.

Lesser Redpoll

Carduelis cabaret

No longer a breeding species, Lesser Redpolls pass through and winter in good numbers. Wintering birds were present in No.3 Bed throughout January, with a maximum of eight on the 30th. Two on

No.1 Bed on 13th March were probably on passage, with regular sightings then until early April, with maxima of 30 on No.4 Bed on 2nd April and 10 on No.3 Bed on 3rd April. There was then a hiatus until three were in No.3 Bed on 21st April. Surprisingly, this year, there were hints that a return to breeding status might be around the corner, with single males in display at the eastern and western extremities of the Reserve on 19th June.

Autumn passage was first noticed on 2nd October, when twelve were feeding on No.3 Bed. Only single figure counts were then made on this bed for the rest of the year, with all remaining high counts being from No.1 Bed. These included 27 on 8th October, 37 on 9th, 30 on 13th and 34 on 16th. All referred to parties flying south over the bed. Smaller numbers continued to pass over during November, with 18 on the 6th, 23 on the 19th and lastly, 20 on the 27th.

The ringing teams enjoyed an excellent year, with 135 newly ringed, compared with 85 in 2009. The 88 ringed on No.1 Bed was a record total, while the 47 from No.3 Bed was well above the average of 27.

Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra

A nice record of this scarce visitor came on 27th November, when one was seen and heard passing over Butchersfield Tip and then sighted again by another observer as it passed over No.1 Bed.

Bullfinch

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Bullfinches breed on all four beds and are surprisingly common, though skulking, throughout the year. They can most easily be seen as daily visitors to the Morgan Hide feeding station in No.3 Bed. Typically, eight were counted around the feeders on 3rd February. Seven territories were found during the breeding season, two on No.1 Bed, four on No.2 Bed and one on No.3 Bed. One nest was found on No.3 Bed, on 5th May, which was subsequently predated. Only single figure counts were then received from all beds till the end of the year, with maxima of seven on No.3 Bed on 21st April and eight on No.2 Bed on 15th December.

The true prevalence of this species is best understood from ringing data, with an astonishing 229 ringed during the year (cf. 199 in 2009). The No.1 Bed total of 81 was a record, with a further 21 re-trapped from previous years. These included 14 females in breeding condition. It was a similar story on No.3 Bed, with an outstanding record total of 147 ringed with 27 re-trapped.

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citronella

It was a better year for this species, with some sightings away from the stronghold at the eastern end of the Reserve. Singles were at the No.1 Bed feeding station on 1st January and 13th February, with two on the bed on 16th April, one on the 30th of the month and two on 14th May. Interestingly, two were with Reed Buntings on the No.3 Bed seed crop on 23rd October. The year's best count

came from farmland, just to the east of Bollin Point, when eight were counted on 30th October. Finally, two flew south over No.1 Bed on 27th November.

After a blank year in 2009, it was good to see Yellowhammers back on the ringing list, with five newly-ringed on No.1 Bed, all caught between 16th April and 14th May. In addition, a male was re-trapped on 13th February, having been originally ringed in March 2008.

Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

Reed Buntings breed on all beds and form substantial winter flocks and roosts. During January, up to ten were regularly feeding on the No.3 Bed seed crop, while on 23rd of the month 50 were roosting on No.1 Bed. Fifteen were then noted, on No.1 Bed, on 5th March, with 20 on 9th April. The breeding season surveys identified 21 territories, two on No.1 Bed, eleven on No.2 Bed, five on No.3 Bed and three on No.4 Bed. One nest was located on No.1 Bed from which four young successfully fledged. Peak counts from the second half of the year were of 150, roosting on No.1 Bed on 13th October and a flock of around forty, which fed on the No.3 Bed seed crop, throughout the second half of November.

In terms of numbers ringed, it seems to have been a good breeding season with 238 ringed, compared with 172 in 2009 and 83 in 2008. While it was an average year for No.1 Bed, with a total of 151 ringed, including 4 nestlings, the 87 from No.3 Bed was well above the average of 49.

Cockatiel

Nymphicus hollandicus

An escaped Cockatiel was present on No.3 Bed on 22nd May.

WOOLSTON EYES SYSTEMATIC BIRD SPECIES LIST 2010

1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
2	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>
3	Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>
4	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
5	Canada Goose	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>
6	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
7	Mandarin	<i>Aix galericulata</i>
8	Wigeon	<i>Anas Penelope</i>
9	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>
10	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
11	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
12	Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>
13	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>

14	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
15	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
16	Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>
17	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
18	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
19	Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>
20	Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
21	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
22	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
23	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
24	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
25	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
26	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
27	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
28	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
29	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
30	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
31	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
32	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
33	Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
34	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
35	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
36	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
37	Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
38	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
39	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
40	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
41	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
42	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
43	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
44	Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
45	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
46	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpine</i>
47	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>
48	Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
49	Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
50	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
51	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>

52	Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>
53	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
54	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
55	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
56	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
57	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
58	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
59	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>
60	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>
61	Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
62	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>
63	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>
64	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
65	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>
66	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
67	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
68	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
69	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
70	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
71	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus camorus</i>
72	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
73	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
74	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
75	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>
76	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
77	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
78	Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
79	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>
80	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus minor</i>
81	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
82	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
83	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
84	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
85	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
86	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
87	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>

88	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
89	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
90	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulous</i>
91	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
92	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
93	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
94	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
95	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
96	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
97	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
98	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
99	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
100	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
101	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
102	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
103	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
104	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
105	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
106	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
107	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>
108	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
109	Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
110	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
111	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
112	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
113	Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>
114	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
115	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
116	Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
117	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
118	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>
119	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>
118	Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europea</i>
119	Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
120	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
121	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>

122	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
123	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
124	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
125	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
126	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
127	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
128	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
129	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
130	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
131	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
132	Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
133	Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
134	Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>
135	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>
136	Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
137	Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
138	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citronella</i>
139	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>

Escapes:

1	Cockatiel	<i>Nymphicus hollandicus</i>
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