

3308537 BRISLINGTON MEADOWS

RUPERT HIGGINS, APPEARING FOR BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL ECOLOGY PROOF: EXTRACT FROM AVON BIRD REPORT 2021, pp129-130

Systematic List

129

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Weston STW	2020	nc	10	4	4	3	9	7	16	21	19	35	17
	2021	13	8	6	6	12	5	4	28	11	23	16	16
Newton St Loe	2020	6	8	9	3	3	nc	6	6	2	15	15	25
	2021	25	12	7	4	8	8	2	8	5	8	15	24
Saltford	2020	18	27	24	19	27	24	34	16	37	32	52	37
	2021	42	18	14	18	49	36	45	51	42	55	31	36

Monthly maxima at three regularly sites

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

[Red 3]

Scarce spring passage migrant. Rare on autumn passage. Last recorded breeding in 1996.
Descriptions required for autumn records.

Counts were back to average on spring passage, the first relatively early, but as usual none in autumn.

Two noted in Goblin Combe on April 9th were only a day later than the previous earliest arrival, in 1998, but although they used to breed in this area, there were no subsequent records here. The 11th saw one in Kingsgate Park, Yate, followed by another at Littleton Brick Pits on 20th, still here on 23rd, with one found at Sand Point on this latter date. A gap until May 9th when there was a mini-influx, single birds being recorded from OPS, Portishead, Stoke Park and Yate Common (see opposite page 129).

As in 2020, a singing male was heard on a few dates in late May on the Avon/Somerset boundary in the Burrington Combe area, and two were present near Wick on 31st, but again with no positive evidence of breeding was received.

The table below shows the numbers recorded on spring passage in each of the last 12 years.

2010	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	2021
8	2	7	6	6	5	13	11	6	5	11	9

Passage totals in spring each year (Latest ten-year average = 6)

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus* (79, 1)

[Amber 5]

Scarce autumn visitor; rare in winter.
Descriptions required

One record, possibly part of the record influx into our area in the autumn of 2020 was of one at Willsbridge Mill on Jan. 25th (B Mulgrew).

There were, unusually, no autumn records, the first blank since 2009.

The table below gives the numbers this century.

2000	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	2021
0	1	0	2	1	2	2	2	5	0	1	3	3	1	5	6	9	1	9	3	14	1

Individuals each year this century (2001/10 av = 2; 2011/20 av = 0)

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

[Amber 3]

Common passage migrant and declining breeding summer visitor.

There were no obvious changes, and arrival and departure dates were typical.

Arrival this year started on the fairly standard date of March 23rd, with one each at Ashton Court and Worle. The next day saw two at CI-Y and one at NW/PL, and again two at CI-Y on 25th. On 28th one was found in Eastville Park and two near Saltford. Three were noted at BL on 29th, with singletons at five other sites. From 30th and through to April 8th daily counts were in double figures, between 15 and 37 from a wide scatter of places. There was a clear influx around 9th to 11th, with daily totals of 100, 129 and 130, respectively, from up to 27 sites on these three days.

By 16th daily totals were back down to around 20 and stayed at this level for a week or so, gradually dropping towards the end of the month. In general, most sites recorded between one and three individuals on any occasion, so they were widely if relatively thinly scattered.

The general pattern of the spring passage can be exemplified by counts at two regularly watched sites. At Sand Point, migration started with one on March 30th, ten there the next day, then single figure counts regularly to the middle of April, peaking at 25 on 13th and 14th, followed by another small influx on 19th, when 20 were counted. From then on only relatively small numbers were reported through to the last one on May 6th. Similarly, at BL, between one and three were noted from March 29th to April 9th, then 14 were counted on 11th, with 16 on 15th, but just one on 18th, but no more.

The first evidence of breeding was of one carrying nesting material at Chipping Sodbury Common on April 13th. Between mid-May and the end of June, reports came from Abbots Pool, Ashton Court, Avonmouth, Backwell Lake, Badminton, Bath (Lansdown, Twerton), Barrow Gurney, BL, Bristol Airport, Burrington Ham, Cameley, Coalpit Heath, Cold Ashton, CVL (just one on three dates, eggs laid but nest failed), Dolebury, Dunkerton, Dunkirk, Felton Common, Frampton Cotterell, Gordano Valley, Little Sodbury, Lower Strode, Marshfield, Nailsea, North Wick, OPS, Patchway, Portishead, Priston, Saltford, Severnside, Siston, Stoke Park, Tickenham, Tortworth, Wnford and Yate. Most reports were just of one or two individuals, so they remained very sparsely spread, and it is hard to ascertain how many were actually breeding. The BBS reported them from 32 squares, some possibly migrants.

On July 16th, two were seen on Chipping Sodbury Common, and one was found near Saltford on 18th, both the first since the spring at these two sites, indicating the start of autumn dispersal. They were widely reported in August and through to mid-September, mostly in ones and twos, although nine at CVL on Aug. 12th was an exception. The ringers at Cameley and Littleton caught small numbers during this period through to Sept. 8th, with sightings elsewhere daily to 13th. The last few reports came from Chipping Sodbury Common (two on 15th), Halstrow (two also on 15th), Ham Green (two on 17th), Saltford and Crew's Hole (one each on 20th) with one at Severn Beach on 21st and 22nd.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

P. c. collybita Common passage migrant and breeding summer visitor. Also an uncommon winter visitor and therefore possibly an uncommon resident.

No major changes noted, winter or summer.

To get some idea of the wintering population, there appeared to be at least 37 individuals in January at 19 sites, taking the maximum at any (loosely defined) site as a guide. This compares with 36 at 14 sites in January 2020, so relatively similar. Taking the first three weeks of February, one obtains 34 individuals at 20 sites, indicating a reasonably stable population. If one looks at the month of February as a whole, this rises to 57 individuals and 33 sites, showing there was a definite increase in the first week, unlike the situation in 2020 when migrants only started to appear in early March. As in previous years, wetland and waterside sites such as CVL, Lyde Green Lake, Newton Park Lake, Portishead, Saltford and Severn Beach were among those favoured. The majority of records were between one and five in any one area. The table below summarises the data for the past few years.

		2014	15	16	17	18	19	20	2021
January	Individuals	41	56	52	41	29	28	36	37
	Sites		21	20	18	14	14	15	19