



# Friends of West Ham Park

## West Ham Park Bird Survey – Annual Report 2022

**By Lyndsay Jones for the Friends of West Ham Park**

In 2022 we recorded a total of 36 species, a full list is included with this report, and shows which months each species was present. The numbers given are the maximum number seen each month. 14 species were recorded every month or 11 months out of 12. No new species were added to our overall total of 46 species, which includes some “once only” recordings.

One species which was only recorded 8 months out of 12 is the *Mistle Thrush*, up until 2022 they were a frequent sighting in the park, recorded every month. A suggested reason for the decline is ground compaction making worms hard to find. The park has suffered considerably from this effect, made worse by the long dry summer, which has adversely affected the trees as well as turning all the grass brown for much of the summer. *Green Woodpeckers*, which feed largely on ground insects, were also absent for the second half of 2022. The winter visiting *Gull* flocks recorded smaller numbers than before, and this may also reflect the reduction in worm numbers. If this is the case, the soil quality will be suffering, as worm numbers are directly involved in maintaining soil structure.

*Great Spotted Woodpeckers* and *Nuthatches* maintained their numbers, as did *Goldcrests* which were seen 11 out of 12 months. *House Sparrows* continue to do well, appearing to be recovering from the decline of the 1990s.

We recorded summer visiting warblers, *Blackcaps*, *Chiffchaff* and *Willow Warblers*, and we're surprised by a single visit by a *Grey Wagtail*, only our second recording of this species which is usually associated with running water.

*Mallard ducks* used the pond in the wildlife garden by East Lodge in spring, but did not nest, which is probably just as well as the ducklings would be very vulnerable to traffic when the time came to leave the park.

We had a brief visit from 4 *Redwings* in December, but saw no *Fieldfares* at all. It may be that the weather further north was not severe enough to cause them to migrate this far south, or it could be another effect of soil compaction and lack of available worms.

Once again, many thanks to the bird watching team, especially those who covered for me on the time before and after my knee surgery when I was not able to do my share. Goodbye and thank you to Alison, who has now left the area. She has been our warbler expert, and a very diligent recorder.

SPECIES	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackbird	9	5	15	8	14	12	13	6	8	11	14	13
Blackcap		1	1	4	4	3						1
Blue Tit	41	30	34	31	23	21	13	11	18	20	33	19
Chaffinch	6	5	1	2	3				3	1		
Chiffchaff			1	1					1			
Coal Tit (NONE)												
Collared Dove (NONE)												
Crow	26	21	21	28	13	12	11	13	14	17	14	14
Dunnock	2	2	1	2	2	1		2	2	1	1	1
Egyptian Goose	2											
Feral Pigeon	117	84	131	79	113	113	123	138	135	180	192	140
Fieldfare (NONE)												
Goldcrest	1	5	3	3		2	2	1	2	6	6	2
Goldfinch	20	12	14	11	11				2	1	2	4
Great Tit	34	37	33	23	27	15	14	13	23	24	32	20
Green Woodpecker		2	2	1		1						
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	2	2	2	1	1	1		3	2	1	2
Grey Wagtail									1			
Gull – Black Headed										5		2
Gull – Common	12	42								21	24	20
Gull – Herring										6		9
Gull – Lesser Blackback												1
House Sparrow	14	15	14	10	16	10	17		10	17	16	8
Jay	2	1	1	2	2				2	1	3	4
Long Tailed Tit	15	11	1	6	9	8		2	5	4	7	1
Magpie	20	20	23	15	12	10	15	14	16	18	16	16
Mallard			2	2	2							
Mistle Thrush	1		2	5	1	5	10				2	2
Nuthatch	4	3			3		2		3	4	3	1
Pied Wagtail	5	2	1			1						
Redwing												4
Ring Necked Parakeet	27	41	30	6	9	16	18	8	7	23	24	20
Robin	7	13	11	13	13	8	5	10	9	11	12	6
Sparrowhawk	2		2	1		1	4	4				
Starling	25	11	32	5	57	60	50				30	20
Swift (NONE)						20						
Willow Warbler				1				1	2			
Wood Pigeon	63	58	76	31	26	35	27	30	23	44	32	45
Wren	3	1	4	6	4	3	3	2	4	3	4	2