

# Ecological Survey

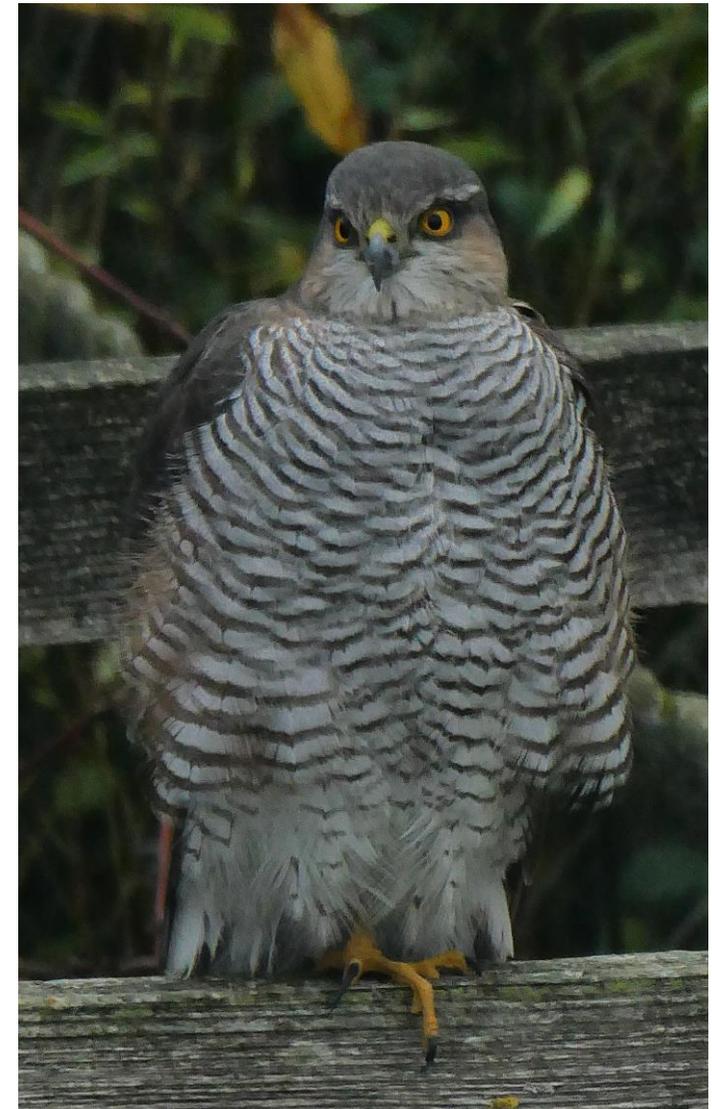
A remarkable range of familiar and rare species are recognised and protected in the Curbridge village landscape. This important part of the Curbridge Village Design Statement was prepared by villagers for Curbridge Parish Council.



Elm Bank Ditch and beyond from a home on Main Road

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Sparrowhawk

# Ecological Survey Introduction

The northern edge of Curbridge Parish is just 2 miles from the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Beauty does not end there. It continues south through a landscape described as River Meadowlands and Lowland Village Farmlands until it meets the Upper Reaches of the Thames. This is where you will see Rooks and Jackdaws browsing through quiet areas of short grass. You may find rare terrestrial bees, like *Bombus Humilis*, the Brown-banded Carder Bee, nesting on the ground or occupying a redundant burrow.

This is an area of Ancient Woodlands, Bluebell woods, fields of *Fritillarias* and streams and ditches edged with pollarded willows. Flycatchers will launch off a willow branch, catch its prey, and return to the same convenient perch. It is a delightful part of the Upper Thames Vale.

Parishes of Curbridge and Lew sit, west of Witney, at the head of this beautiful landscape. Wide views from Curbridge village include fields, hawthorn hedges with trees, woodlands, two or three farmhouses, streams, ditches & open skies. The hawthorn hedges represent safe corridors for Long-tailed Tits and Yellowhammers. Barn Owls will track along the base of hedges to catch unwary mammals. There is no sign of urban development.

The whole area is laced with footpaths, bridleways, cycleways and minor roads.

The southern part of the village including Caswell lies mostly on Oxford clay with alluvium (unconsolidated soil) along brooks and ditches. This alluvium alongside Elm Bank Ditch in the centre of the village has accumulated over hundreds of years. This part of the village is unlikely to provide a stable foundation for buildings and it certainly presents a significant risk of flooding.

The land throughout the village has been improved and farmed for centuries. Ridge and furrow evidence indicates that crops have been managed since the immediate Post-Roman period. See "A Romano-British Settlement at Curbridge" by R. A. Chambers.

Hedges and trees run through all parts of Curbridge village. These "wildlife motorways" are supplemented by trees and shrubs planted in large gardens which back onto the landscape described above. We have established a tree count of 383 in just 3 village properties where planting has taken place over a period of 25 years. Those trees support colonies of House Sparrows, Goldfinches and Starlings. A nest box in one tree has helped Tawny Owls to produce chicks in the last 2 years.

Curbridge nestles less than 8 miles (12.87km) from the southern edge of an extraordinary bird survey area covering twelve 10km squares. Members of the Banbury Ornithological Survey have kept detailed records over more than 60 years. "Birds of the Heart of England" is a magnificent book which records their significant efforts.

Just as important we have a National Nature Reserve which is just 5 miles (8.05km) South of Curbridge on the Upper Reaches of the Thames. It is called Chimney Meadows and it supports a rich variety of plants and breeding birds, particularly waders. The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) manages by cattle grazing and four meadows being cut for hay and then grazed. It is an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) reserve of 122.8 acres and a National Nature Reserve.

Curbridge lies in this "wildlife corridor" and supports its own wildlife and nurtures local and migratory birds. Fieldfares, Redwings and Spotted Flycatchers are amongst our favourites.

Our natural surroundings help to explain the wonderful range of wildlife that we enjoy.

# Ecological Survey Introduction

Another explanation lies within the village where gardens provide food and shelter for many creatures. A survey of villagers showed that 56% feed birds every day and a further 28% feed them frequently.

The land which we have described supports spectacular wildlife, e.g. we can illustrate breeding pairs of 31 different bird species and fledglings from 16 of those species. The bat population has a significant score at "County Level". The *Barbastella barbastellus* Bat demands an extreme level of protection.

This section of our Village Design Statement lists all the protected species which have been identified and photographed within Curbridge village. The appendices show the remarkable range of all species of birds, mammals, herptiles, butterflies and bees together with insects and other food sources. See appendices.

The number of protected species is very surprising. Nobody can afford to underestimate the importance of these findings which have been corroborated and/or supported by recognised authorities. See above:

Bat Conservation Trust  
Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)  
Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (BoCC4)  
Bumblebee Conservation Trust  
Campaign to Protect Rural England  
Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty  
GOV.UK  
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)  
Joint Nature Conservation Committee - UK  
Biodiversity  
Action Plan Priority Species  
Natural England  
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 - Aug. 2010  
Robert Alexander Courts MP  
Thames Valley Police  
The British Trust for Ornithology  
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 European Protected Species in England (All [bats](#) protected).  
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)  
The Wildlife Trusts  
UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework  
West Oxfordshire District Council  
Wild Oxfordshire

**Please study appendices 1-14**

**Page 2**

# Wildlife and Countryside Act – Schedule 1 - JNCC

## Protected species Britain

### Schedule 1 species

Brambling  
Fieldfare  
Red Kite  
Barn Owl  
Redwing

All of these species are evident in Curbridge. We know where they forage and we observe them frequently.

These are birds which are protected by Special Penalties at all times.

For these species, there is a precautionary principle: “..... that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site.”



Brambling



Fieldfare



Red Kite

# The State of the UK's birds – 2017    SUKB 2017

SUKB 2017 is produced by a coalition of three NGO's: the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Wildlife & Wetlands Trust (WWT), together with the UK's statutory nature conservation bodies: the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland (DAERA), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Natural England (NE), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

They are using a 'traffic lights' system which identifies the degree of concern for individual bird species. The Red list describes bird species which are of "highest conservation concern". The Amber list gives warnings, such as species showing "a moderate decline in population".

The listed species were identified and photographed in Curbridge.

## Red 10 Species

Coal Tit  
Starling  
Song Thrush  
Mistle Thrush  
Spotted Flycatcher  
House Sparrow  
Linnet  
Lesser Redpoll  
Fieldfare  
Redwing



Coal Tit

## Amber 9 species

Mallard  
Kestrel  
Stock Dove  
Tawny Owl  
Swift  
House Martin  
Dunnock  
Bullfinch  
Reed Bunting



Starling

# The State of the UK's birds – 2017    SUKB 2017



Song thrush



Spotted Flycatcher



Lesser Redpoll



Mistle Thrush



Fieldfare



Linnet

# Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act Section 41

## Updated 2014/05/14

**Biodiversity 2020** is a national strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services; it was published in 2011. It set out the government's ambition to halt overall loss of England's biodiversity by 2020, support healthy well functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Curbridge is a rural community which is home to many of our rarest and most threatened species.

These species which require Priority Actions, as listed by government on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013, are illustrated by photographs taken in the village between November 2017 and October 2019.

All the species are listed below in Appendix 4.

It is headed UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework 17 July 2012.



Elm Bank Ditch runs through the centre of Curbridge village. It has served villagers and wildlife for over 1,000 years as it flows to the Upper Reaches of the Thames.

# UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework 17 July 2012

This data was last edited on 29 September 2018.

The 'Framework' covers the period from 2011 to 2020.

It responds to:

1. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD's) *Strategic Planning for Biodiversity 2011-2020* 5 strategic goals and 20 'Aichi Biodiversity Targets' published in October 2010.
2. The EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBS), released in May 2011.

EU countries and the UK intend to contribute to, and benefit from, work on 23 identified areas. The Implementation Plan produced in 2013 has now been updated and revised in June 2018. England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales will continue to use the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) priority species and habitats as a basis for much of their biodiversity work.

Local authorities now have a legal duty to have regard to conserving biodiversity.

Species of principal importance in England (priority species) was published by Natural England in May 2014.

## UK BAP priority bird species in Curbridge

Lesser Redpoll	Carduelis cabaret
Common Linnet	Carduelis cabaret subsp. autochthana/cannabina
Hawfinch	Coccothraustes coccothraustes
Common cuckoo	Cuculus canorus
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus
Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus
Common Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelus
Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus

## UK BAP priority herptile species in Curbridge

Common Toad	Bufo bufo
Grass Snake	Natrix helvetica

## UK BAP priority terrestrial invertebrate species in Curbridge

Brown-banded Carder Bee	Bombus humilis
Moss Carder Bee	Bombus muscorum
Red-shanked Carder Bee	Bombus rudericus
Shrill Carder Bee	Bombus sylvarum

## UK BAP priority terrestrial mammal species in Curbridge + all other EC bats

Water Vole	Arvicola amphibious
Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus
Brown Hare	Lepus europaeus
Barbastelle	Barbastelle barbastellus
Serotine	Eptesicus serotinus
Brand's bat	Myotis brandtii
Daubenton's	Myotis daubentonii
Whiskered bat	Myotis mystacinus
Natterer's bat	Myotis nattereri
Leister's bat	Nyctalus noctula
Common pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pipistrellus
Soprano pipistrelle	Pipistrellus pygmaeus

# UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework 17 July 2012



Bullfinches



Moss Carder Bee



Hare



Reed Bunting



Red-shanked Carder Bee



Hedgehog

# European Commission The Birds Directive

## Threatened Bird Species

### Article 4 Annex 1 The subjects of special conservation measures

Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula murina</i> (form)
Brambling	<i>Fringilla coelebs ombrosia</i> (form)
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes fridariensis</i> (form)
Greater Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major canariensis</i> (form)
	<i>Dendrocopus major thanneri</i> (form)
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus azorica</i> (form)
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus grantii</i> (form)
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>

### Annex 1 Member States must designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for their survival and for all migratory bird species.

These sites then automatically become part of the Natura 2000 Network. Common examples of migratory birds are shown below.

Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulous</i>
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>

See **Migrants** and **Species Tables** for the complete list.



Common Tern



Red Kites

# Migration

## Article 4

“2. Member States shall take similar measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex 1, bearing in mind their need for protection in the geographical sea and land area where this Directive applies, as regarding their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migratory routes.”

This is law which applies to all members of the European Union. For the UK and Curbridge this means providing protection for migratory species. It is expected that we will continue with these measures regardless of membership.

Approximately a third of the bird species that we enjoy arrive in our village at various times of the year. We are there to protect them and enjoy their presence. It is no wonder that 56% of Curbridge villagers feed birds every day and a further 28% feed them regularly. The village is well furnished with seeds from plants, shrubs and trees and plenty of worms, slugs and insects to supply further provisions for our visitors.

### Protected summer visitors

Chiffchaff	Common Tern	Cuckoo
Spotted Flycatcher <sup>1</sup>	Swallow	Swift <sup>2</sup>

### Protected winter visitors

Brambling	Fieldfare <sup>1</sup>	Long-tailed Tit
Redwing <sup>1</sup>	Robin	Sparrowhawk

### Partial migrants

Blackbird	Chaffinch	Lapwing
Pied Wagtail	Robin	Starling <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Red listed   <sup>2</sup> Amber listed



Redwing



Sparrowhawk

# Migration

Surprisingly, more than half of the birds which were identified in the BTO 2km square are either summer or winter migrants to and from Europe or passage migrants making return trips to Europe or Africa with stops on the way.

Birds continue to lose habitat to farmland and housing. They have to develop new strategies to cope with loss of food and habitats. Their few choices expose them to enormous risks and those dangers inevitably lead to large reductions in the populations of many species.

The “stop at home” birds in our village are permanent residents in the UK and are likely to stay with us as long as we protect them from the growing pressures of land usage. Migrating birds will return and EU law is promising to protect them throughout their journeys. Provision of safe areas are being advocated. Land between Curbridge and the Upper Reaches of the Thames may represent a perfect example.

## Summer migrants from Europe

Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Common Tern  
Swift  
Swallow  
Chiffchaff  
House Martin  
Willow Warbler  
Blackcap  
Garden Warbler  
Lesser Whitethroat  
Redstart  
Yellow Wagtail

## Winter migrants from Europe

Grey Heron  
Jackdaw  
Rook  
Starling  
Blackbird  
Fieldfare  
Redwing  
Mistle Thrush  
Brambling  
Siskin

Key to migrants on last page Table 5

## Passage migrants

Mallard  
Grey Heron  
Red Kite  
Sparrowhawk  
Lapwing  
Black-headed Gull  
Common Tern  
Stock Dove  
Jay  
Jackdaw  
Rook  
Gold Crest  
Swallow  
House Martin  
Chiffchaff  
Waxwing  
Starling  
Blackbird  
Fieldfare  
Songthrush  
Redwing  
Spotted Flycatcher  
Robin  
Pied Wagtail  
Meadow pipit  
Chaffinch  
Greenfinch  
Goldfinch  
Siskin  
Linnet  
Reed Bunting  
**Appendix 7**

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# Migrants

## Summer migrants from Europe



House Martin



Chiffchaff

## Winter migrants from Europe



Jackdaw



Siskin

## Passage migrants



Mallards



Goldfinch

# The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017

This action consolidates the Conservation of Habitats and Species 2010 with subsequent amendments. The regulations transpose Council Directive 92/43/EEC, on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora (EC Habitats Directive), into national law. They also transpose elements of the EU Wild Birds Directive in England and Wales. The Regulations came into force on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of “European sites”, the protection of “European protected species”, and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.

Under the Regulations, competent authorities i.e. any Minister, government body, or person holding public office, have a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive and Wild Birds Directive.

There is an opportunity to propose a site which is worthy of designation. It may be identified as a Site of Community Importance (SCI). EU Member States must then designate that site as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) within six years. The Regulations also require the compilation and maintenance of a register of European sites, to include SACs and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive), These sites form a network termed Natura 200.



Grey Heron

## European protected species



Jay



Gold Crest



Robin



Rooks



Greenfinch



Chaffinch

# British Birds Rarities Committee

## The risk of extinction for birds in Great Britain

Published on 04 September 2017

By Andrew Stanbury, Andy Brown, Mark Eaton, Nicholas Aesbischer, Simon Gillings, Richard Hearn, David Noble, David Stroud & Richard Gregory

### Abstract:

“..... Of the 241 species assessed, 100 (43%) had at least one population (breeding and/or non-breeding) that qualified as threatened using the standard IUCN Red list criteria and categories.

Of 289 separate assessments of breeding or non-breeding populations, 39% qualified as Threatened (8% Critically Endangered, 14% Endangered, 17% Vulnerable) with a further 10% classified as Near Threatened.

Both Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* and **Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*** were assessed as being Critically Endangered (Possibly Extinct) as breeding species, in addition to seven species that are already extinct (either Extinct or Regionally Extinct).

The proportion of GB birds qualifying as Threatened was high compared with birds elsewhere in Europe and other taxonomic groups in G.B..



Fieldfare



Fieldfare

## Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP)

An independent body supported by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

The RBBP reports annually on the fortunes of over 80 rare breeding species. They rely mainly on reports by birdwatchers through the county bird recorder network.

Recording areas are grouped into regions of the UK. Oxfordshire is part of the region **England, SE.**

The British Trust for Ornithology keeps a list of County Recorders. Records can be sent to Ian Lewington, Oxfordshire, email: [Lewbirder@btinternet.com](mailto:Lewbirder@btinternet.com)

Redwings and Fieldfares, which are Red-listed under Birds of Conservation Concern, are believed to be rare breeders.

The UK is situated at the edge of their breed ranges. The RBBP depends on us to report any scarce and rare breeding birds to them and, particularly, any known breeding pairs of Redwings and Fieldfares.

The BTO and the RSPB have a recording system which enables you to store all your birdwatching records and to support species and site conservation.



Fieldfare



Redwing

# The British Trust for Ornithology

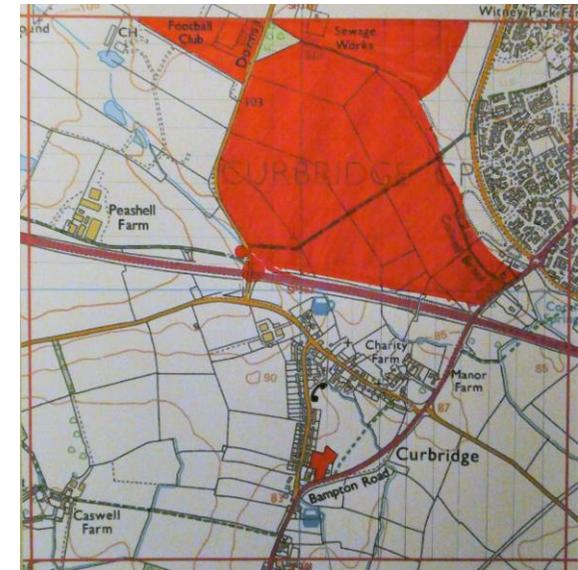
The British Trust for Ornithology was actively involved in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP). It was one of just ten organisations which were singled out for special recognition for their involvement in the Government's plan.

We prepared a detailed brief for BTO describing our intention to provide an accurate account of bird life in Curbridge village. Any information additional to our own observations would serve to inform West Oxfordshire District Council in their consideration of any development which might be detrimental to wild birds.

The BTO provided us with detailed data on a 2km square centred on Curbridge which enabled us to corroborate so much of our own analysis. It gave us an additional insight into the species which enjoyed other environments beyond village boundaries. The response from BTO was thorough and remarkably fast.

Their long-term monitoring of data on the status of UK birds sets the standard worldwide for understanding the effects of environmental change on wildlife. Over 40,000 volunteer birdwatchers, in partnership with professional research scientists, collect high quality monitoring data on birds and other wildlife. The combination of professional ecologists, long term datasets (some in excess of 50 years) and volunteers participating all over the country gives the BTO a unique, impartial and knowledgeable voice in nature conservation.

All birds which feature in this document were photographed in Curbridge unless stated otherwise. Our thanks to a number of vigilant photographers.



Red areas of recent urban development which are occupying more than 20% of the square.

## Protected species terrestrial invertebrates, terrestrial mammals and herptile



Bombus humilis



Bombus ruderarius



Bombus sylvarum



Bat



Bufo bufo



Natrix helvetica

## Protected and/or Listed Birds



Barn Owl



Tawny Owl



Kestrel



Hawfinch



Swift



Woodpigeon

## Established Bird species in Curbridge



Greater Spotted Woodpeckers



Green Woodpecker



Carrion Crow



Magpie



Buzzard

# Explanatory Notes on Species Table

The British Trust for Ornithology provided us with a list of birds which were recorded in a 2km square that included Curbridge.

Over the course of a year we identified and photographed 54 bird species in Curbridge village.

16 of the birds listed by the BTO are not present in our collection of images.

The Species Table has 7 columns. Each of these columns is described below:

## Column 1

Common names and Latin names of all the listed bird species.

## Column 2

This column indicates, with a Blue rectangle, those birds which are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act - Schedule 1. There are 5 birds in total.

## Column 3

The NERC Act generated a national strategy for England's wildlife called Biodiversity 2020. They determined that the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) priority species and habitats would continue to be the basis for their work. Ten of the village's birds are featured in the UK BAP priority bird species. The same framework applies to other creatures.

## Column 4

The State of UK Birds - 2017 forms a coalition of the Royal Society for Protection of Birds, the British Trust for Ornithology and the Wildlife & Wetlands Trust together with the UK's statutory nature conservation bodies, i.e., DAERA, JNCC, NE, NRW and SNH. They use a 'traffic lights' system which shows the degree of concern for individual species.

The Red rectangle describes those 10 birds which are of "highest conservation concern"

An Amber rectangle gives various warnings such as a specie showing "a moderate decline in population". 9 birds are featured.

## Column 5

The European Commission is responsible for The Birds Directive which highlights "Threatened Bird Species" such as the Common Tern, Red Kite and forms of birds such as Bullfinch and Brambling.

They also advocate active protection of all migratory bird species throughout Europe and the UK.

SCM in Red indicates subjects of Special Conservation Measures.

A Blue rectangle indicates Summer migrants from Europe.

A Red rectangle indicates Winter migrants from Europe.

A Green rectangle indicates passage migrants travelling in any direction through our territories and beyond.

## Column 6

Black rectangles confirm specie photographs.

## Column 7

Comments and observations



Starling **Red listed**



# Bird Species List

Species	Sched. 1 WCA species	Section 41 NERC Priority species	The state of the UK's Birds 2017 SUKB 2017 Birds of Conservation Concern 4 Red list species    Amber list species	European Commission The Birds Directive Special Conservation Measures (SCM) Protection of all migratory birds Annex 1 List 1    List 2    List 3	photo ■	Comments
<b>Common Tern</b> <i>Sterna hirundo</i>				 	■	3 or 4 at a time flying over the village. Occasionally stopping near standing water.
<b>Stock Dove</b> <i>Columba oenas</i>					■	Rests in branches of large trees and feeds on Curbridge farmland.
<b>Woodpigeon</b> <i>Columba palumbus</i>				SCM specie	■	Prefers tall trees with open views. Consumes seed from bird tables and farmland.
<b>Collared Dove</b> <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>					■	A dozen or more will gather in large trees. They are reasonably comfortable with humans.
<b>Barn Owl</b> <i>Tyto alba</i>					■	Areas of rough grassland with Field voles■ and Wood Mice■ are plentiful beside Elm Bank Ditch.
<b>Tawny Owl</b> <i>Strix aluco</i>					■	Villagers experienced 3 fledglings from 2 sites in the village in 2017. They are heard most nights.
<b>Swift</b> <i>Apus apus</i>					■	Only observed in flight, in quite large groups.
<b>Green Woodpecker</b> <i>Picus viridus</i>					■	Numerous sightings throughout the village. Ants Are encouraged in our lawns.
<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b> <i>Dendrocopus major</i>				SCM species	■	Many sightings along Elm Bank Ditch. Seen taking Masonry bees and young being fed on pole■.
<b>Magpie</b> <i>Pica pica</i>					■	Numerous in the village. Usually in family groups. A nuisance to any breeding birds.
<b>Jay</b> <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>					■	Likes woodland and village gardens. During snowy weather it will fill its crop with peanuts.
<b>Jackdaw</b> <i>Corvus monedula</i>				 	■	In the central field, often with Rooks. Always very wary. Eat almost anything.
<b>Rook</b> <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				 	■	Hundreds browse in the centre of the village. They pour in from all directions to roost at night.
<b>Carrion Crow</b> <i>Corvus corone</i>					■	Pairs working together are a common sight. Fields with horses seem to attract them.
<b>Raven</b> <i>Corvus corax</i>					■	Flying above Elm Bank Ditch. Recognisable by its Profile. Only one seen.

# Bird Species List

Species	Sched. 1 WCA species	Section 41 NERC Priority species	The state of the UK's Birds 2017 SUKB 2017 Birds of Conservation Concern 4 Red list species    Amber list species	European Commission The Birds Directive Special Conservation Measures (SCM) Protection of all migratory birds Annex 1 List 1    List 2    List 3	photo ■	Comments
<b>Goldcrest</b> <i>Regulus regulus</i>					■	Observed in conifers and undergrowth near the churchyard.
<b>Blue Tit</b> <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>					■	Nested in a small hole in the house wall. Common in all parts of the village.
<b>Great Tit</b> <i>Parus major</i>					■	Common in our gardens and farmland. Takes food to a safe distance.
<b>Coal Tit</b> <i>Periparus ater</i>			■		■	Nests in <i>Picea pinsapo glauca</i> . Collects seed and carries it away for storage
<b>Skylark</b> <i>Alauda arvensis</i>						BTO sighting. Significant numbers were evident on untrodden grassland at Downs Road site.
<b>Swallow</b> <i>Hirundo rustica</i>					■	Commonly seen between March to November. Nesting in stables and stone buildings.
<b>House Martin</b> <i>Delichon urbicum</i>			■		■	Present for a shorter period than the Swallow. Most easily seen when collecting mud for nest.
<b>Long Tailed Tit</b> <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					■	Groups follow connected hedgerows through the village, stopping briefly for peanuts and fat-balls.
<b>Chiffchaff</b> <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>					■	Feed in deciduous trees backing on to gardens on the east side of Main Road.
<b>Willow Warbler</b> <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					■	BTO 2km square sightings.
<b>Blackcap</b> <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>					■	Female blackcap sighted in a Spindleberry tree in a village garden.
<b>Garden Warbler</b> <i>Sylvia borin</i>					■	BTO 2km square sightings.
<b>Lesser Whitethroat</b> <i>Sylvia curruca</i>					■	BTO 2km square sightings.
<b>Whitethroat</b> <i>Sylvia communis</i>					■	Sighted in dense shrubs and brambles. The throat is a very distinctive white feature.
<b>Tree Creeper</b> <i>Certhia familiaris</i>						BTO 2km square sightings.

# Bird Species List

Species	Sched. 1 WCA species	Section 41 NERC Priority species	The state of the UK's Birds 2017 SUKB 2017 Birds of Conservation Concern 4 Red list species    Amber list species	European Commission The Birds Directive Special Conservation Measures (SCM) Protection of all migratory birds Annex 1 List 1    List 2    List 3	photo ■	Comments
<b>Wren</b> <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				<b>SCM specie</b>	■	Nesting in thick ivy on the side of the house. Also noted in large multiple occupancy "ball" in hedge.
<b>Starling</b> <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		■	■	■    ■	■	Roosting in Holly trees and Brambles. Beginning to form organised groups.
<b>Blackbird</b> <i>Turdus merula</i>				■    ■	■	Common in territorial pairings throughout the village.
<b>Fieldfare</b> <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	■			■    ■	■	Seen by the footpath across the fields in the top branches of a large shrub.
<b>Song Thrush</b> <i>Turdus philomelos</i>		■	■	■    ■	■	Regular garden visitor. Finding worms beneath a pile of composting niger seeds.
<b>Redwing</b> <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	■			■    ■	■	In a village garden which backs onto fairly dense woodland to the east of Main Road.
<b>Mistle Thrush</b> <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			■	■	■	A vigilant bird which is attracted to Holly berries from trees planted by villagers.
<b>Robin</b> <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>					■	Churchyard and gardens provide for a large number of Robins. Fiercely territorial.
<b>Redstart</b> <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				■	■	BTO 2km square sightings.
<b>Dunnock</b> <i>Prunella modularis</i>			■		■	In village gardens and hedgerows. Loss of hedgerows will reduce their numbers.
<b>House Sparrow</b> <i>Passer domesticus</i>		■	■		■	Near the bottom of Main Road we have a roost of at least 40 House Sparrows.
<b>Yellow Wagtail</b> <i>Sylvia curruca</i>				■		BTO 2km square sightings.
<b>Grey Wagtail</b> <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>						BTO 2km square sightings.
<b>Pied Wagtail</b> <i>Motacilla alba</i>				■	■	Seen taking flies from manure. British & European birds are sighted. Distinctive grey areas on latter.
<b>Meadow Pipit</b> <i>Anthus pratensis</i>						BTO 2km square sightings.

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<b>Chaffinch</b> Fringilla coelebs					■	They love dense hedgerows and enjoy a wide range of seeds.
<b>Brambling</b> Fringilla montifringilla	■			■ SCM Form	■	Drop down to ground and browse widely. They are seed eaters. Seen October to April in gardens.
<b>Greenfinch</b> Carduelis chloris					■	Prefer seed from farmland areas but have become familiar with garden feeding stations.
<b>Goldfinch</b> Carduelis carduelis					■	Prefer to take cover in evergreen trees such as Holly. Consume niger seeds in gardens.
<b>Siskin</b> Carduelis spinus					■	Appear in late Winter in our gardens. Happy to consume niger seed.
<b>Linnet</b> Carduelis cannabina		■	■		■	Likes weed seeds. Consequently, it is seen in gardens which back onto fields.
<b>Lesser Redpoll</b> Acanthis cabaret		■	■		■	Arrived in Curbridge in early Winter and is still here during March. Has no fear of other small birds
<b>Mealy Redpoll</b> Acanthis flammea flammea					■	A very distinctive difference relative to the Lesser Redpoll. White stripes, particularly back and tail.
<b>Bullfinch</b> Pyrrhula pyrrhula		■	■	■ SCM Form	■	Amelanchier trees were planted to provide fruits for the Bullfinches in a village garden. Successful!
<b>Hawfinch</b> Coccothraustes coccothrauste		■			■	A very shy bird, almost impossible to photograph. "s" – This letter finishes the Latin species name.
<b>Yellowhammer</b> Emberiza citrinella						BTO 2km square sightings.
<b>Reed Bunting</b> Emberiza schoeniclus		■	■		■	Caught on camera near to water, but not on reeds.
<b>Corn Bunting</b> Emberiza schoeniclus		■	■			BTO 2km square sightings.