

seen
heard only

TOOTING COMMON BIRDS JANUARY 2011

DATE	2	11	19	23	29	29
SPECIES RECORDED	37	35	37	35	31	37
House Sparrow						
Starling						
Woodpigeon						
Stock Dove						
Common Crow						
Magpie						
Jay						
Jackdaw		H			H	H
Blackbird						
Mistle Thrush		H			H	
Song Thrush						
Redwing						
Robin						
Wren		H	H			H
Duncock			H			H
Blue tit						
Great tit						
Coal tit						
Long tailed tit						
Goldcrest						
Pied Wagtail						
Greenfinch						
Chaffinch						
Goldfinch						
Nuthatch			H			
Great Sp. Woodpecker						
Green Woodpecker		H	H	H		
Ring N. Parakeet						
Little Owl						
Sparrowhawk						
Mute Swan						
Canada Goose						
Egyptian Goose						
Mallard						
Tufted Duck						
Shoveler						
Pochard						
Loon						
Moorhen						
Grey Heron						
Cormorant						
Black-headed Gull						
Common Gull						
Herring Gull						
Grey Lag Goose						
Lesser Black-back Gull						
Waxwing						
Kestrel						

NOTES

Visits 6
Species seen 47
Heard only 1
Total 48
Daily Average 35

WAXWING On 29th. I lead 23 LNHS members hurriedly from the Ecology Pond to the far North East corner of the 'Triangle' by the children's playground. On the 29th about 60 Waxwings had been reported there and as we were at the Ecology Pond news came through on a mobile 'pager' that 35 were then showing. When we arrived at the spot we had good views of what we counted to be about 45 birds in a tree. We were very lucky indeed as after about 5 minutes the birds flew away; most likely due to a Sparrowhawk soaring overhead. It is the second time I have recorded Waxwings on this common, the first being of 9 birds in a tree by Dr. Johnson's car Park on 16th. February 2005.

GREY LAG GOOSE A flock of 7 calling birds seen to fly over the Lake without stopping (unless they had been on the water earlier) on 11th. The first I have seen on the common since 26th April 2007.

KESTREL On 29th. the LNHS members and I saw a very high soaring Kestrel by the college, very high when it was seen to plummet earthwards.

SPARROWHAWK The only record was of the one mentioned above on 29th that put up the Waxwings.

LITTLE OWL One seen well in their usual tree in Cafe Wood on 2nd and both birds seen together there on the same branch on 19th but neither bird seen thereafter, a disappointment for the LNHS members on 29th who had to make do with the Waxwings.

JACKDAW Recorded seen or heard only on every visit. They seem to favour the trees along Dr. Johnson's Drive or Avenue, although I saw two over the Clairview Road portion of common on 19th.

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REAWING (1) birds heard calling in Graveney Wood on 19th with one seen; (2) about 4-5 in Snettisham Wood on 23rd (3) one seen on 29th and (4) probably up to 15 birds seen generally on 29th by LNHS.

GOLDCREST one seen on Public Birdwalk in Bedford Wood on 23rd; one seen in Graveney Wood on 2nd and a few LNHS members saw one at the Waxwing spot on 29th.

COAL TIT one calling bird seen in Graveney Wood on 19th and one in Cafe Wood on 23rd.

PIED WAGTAIL My only record was of two on the ground in the old, enclosed horse paddock beyond the Toilet Block on 23rd although I understand one LNHS member saw one on 29th (but kept it to himself!)

STOCKDOVE Really have increased in number with about 10 in Cafe Wood on 2nd. A few birds may now be seen feeding in the midst of several Feral Pigeons on the Graveney Playing Fields. Look for the short black line on their wings and, when they fly, the light grey square patches on the wings.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE 6 at Lake on 2nd; 2 on 11th; 4 on 19th, 23rd and 29th. On the 23rd what caused some excitement for 20 people on my Public Birdwalk were two Egyptian Geese having a really vicious fight, at one stage with one seemingly trying to drown the other. The victim came out of the water to us seeking protection perhaps but that still did not prevent the other attacking it by our side. Probably fighting over a female.

SHOVELER continued to be present in varying numbers throughout month. 3 males on 2nd; 5 male and 1 female on 11th; 1 pair on 19th; 2 pair on 23rd; 4 male and 1 female on 29th; and 10 there on 29th.

POCHARD Two male on the Lake on 2nd.

CORMORANT Surprising lack of; recorded on two dates, maximum 3 present on 19th.

COMMON GULL one at the Lake with many Black-headed on both 19th and 29th.

LESSER BLACK-BACK GULL one seen flying over on 11th and two over on 29th.

TUFTED DUCK At least 20 on the Lake on 11th.

BIRDWALK I have agreed to do one hour birdwalk for 'The Friends of Tooting Common' on Sunday, 13th February, meeting at the Cafe at 10 am. The walk will, of course, be extended and for longer at least by myself, but anyone is welcome to join us.

P. B. White