

### Spring 2017

I started writing this newsletter the day after our first fall of snow at home. The following day I was on the train travelling to Cornwall when people on the east coast were being evacuated due to the storms and possible tidal surge. The weather changes so quickly because, just a few days ago, I heard my first Song Thrush of 2017. The Mistle Thrush has been singing for a few weeks now. It reminds me I must go and clear out the nestboxes. However, not many of them were used last year and, those that were, had very small clutches. You will probably have read, if you get e-mails from the BTO, BirdTrack or Garden Birdwatch, about how it was a very poor nesting season in 2016 for tits. This seems to be the case especially in our area. Of course any data adds to how the BTO know this so, any way in which you can contribute to this data, is extremely important.

I am sure everyone will be hoping for a better spring/summer for breeding birds. I am also hoping to recruit more surveyors for the House Martin survey. More on this later. As I mentioned in my Christmas e-mail, the BTO have decided to extend this survey for a further year due to the poor spring/summer weather.

As you will appreciate, from my last e-mail, I started writing the Spring newsletter quite early in the year. The first draft was prepared before I went away on holiday and, since then, my life has changed quite drastically with a fractured shoulder and, currently, no use of my right arm. I have been amazed at the offers of help I have received but I am hoping still to be able to carry on with my surveys. I can still hold and focus my binoculars with my left hand (albeit a bit more slowly) and, as I have always used a voice recorder to record what I see on my surveys, I do not need to write down what I see or hear during a survey.

Spring is definitely here now with a Wren building a nest outside one of the windows and two Blue Tits checking out the camera nest box. At present the tits seem to be clearing it out rather than bringing any nest material in.

### Surveys – The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)

Since my last newsletter the BTO has produced a new map in order to make it easier to find WeBS sites that need surveyors. Here is a link to the site

<http://app.bto.org/websonline/sites/vacant/vacant-sitesjsp#region=102>

You will see I have taken you straight to the Surrey area.

This map is excellent. First of all you can see quite clearly where the current WeBS sites are. The sites are coloured in order to indicate whether or not they are already covered by a

surveyor. If you are interested in taking on the site, if you click on the site, you can see what name has been given to it by the WeBS team (sometimes this is different to the local name). Then, if you would like to take on the site, you can send me an e-mail. There is a contact e-mail form on the WeBS website for those people who do not know me but, as you are reading this newsletter, you will have my e-mail address (at the end of this newsletter if you have forgotten it).

In addition to the map (although it is not as obvious as you are taken to the map when you click on the icon called 'List View') (next to the icon called 'Map view') there is a text list of all the sites (in alphabetical order). Again this list makes clear if the site is covered by a surveyor or not.

However, I think what is really helpful is to see where there is a site (or should I call it potential site) which is not covered by the WeBS survey at the moment. To do this you need to be looking at the map (and it is much easier if you scroll in). For example, if you look at the River Thames in London, you will see there is one stretch which needs a surveyor. However if you look outside London itself you can see that there are quite a few stretches of the Thames which are not even WeBS sites. Likewise various stretches of the River Wey and River Mole plus the canals. All these areas of water will have some species which are recorded for WeBS. The sites may not have

the large numbers recorded at some sites but they probably make a lovely walk and a great way to start off if you are new to surveying.

It is relatively easy creating a new WeBS site. You just need to let me know what area of water you would like to cover. I then set the site up in my own database and ask the WeBS team to set the site up in the BTO database and allocate the site to you. This might take a couple of weeks but there is no reason why you cannot go and record what is at the site in the meantime. Either through BirdTrack (if you go on non-WeBS survey dates) or by keeping paper records until the WeBS site has been created and then entering them once you know the site is on the BTO website. I can let you have (in pdf format) a paper copy of the form so that you can see what information needs to be recorded on any visit.

Therefore, if you would like to get involved, please do have a look at the WeBS map.

I just need to add that the BTO and I have found that some of the sites are not actually accurately recorded as to whether or not they have a surveyor. You may therefore contact me thinking a site is not covered when it is. I know



the BTO are working as hard as possible to make sure that all the sites are correctly shown on the map as to whether or not they have a surveyor currently covering the site.

Please also remember to record all the birds you see whilst doing a WeBS survey and put them into BirdTrack too.

As the map on the BTO website is so clear now I am not going to include a list of my vacant sites in this newsletter. However, if you would like me to e-mail you a current list just let me know.

**The WeBS survey dates for the rest of this year are:**

9 April	14 May	11 June
23 July	13 August	10 September
8 October	19 November	10 December

Here are some of the WeBS statistics for the 2015–16 survey season (some surveyors only cover their sites for the main survey period namely September to March)

**The highest number of birds of one species at one site:**

Black-Headed Gull	Thames Kew to Richmond	1,371	15/11/2015
Black-Headed Gull	Thames Kew to Richmond	1,216	14/12/2015
Black-Headed Gull	Thames Putney to Barnes	1,200	21/02/2016
Black-Headed Gull	Thames Kew to Richmond	1,190	18/01/2016
Black-Headed Gull	Hogsmill	1,000	17/01/2016

Perhaps the birds were moving around!

**The next highest species recorded is:**

Tufted Duck	QE II Reservoir	956	16/08/2015
Tufted Duck	QE II Reservoir	588	19/07/2016

*And then*

Mallard	Lonsdale Reservoir	458	13/09/2015
Herring Gull	Thames Kew to Richmond	329	09/05/2016
Teal	Beddington	325	15/11/2015

**The following species were only recorded on one site on one occasion**

Bar-headed Goose	Winkworth Arboretum	22/02/2016
Bar-tailed Godwit	Lambeth Reservoirs	08/05/2016
Dunlin	Tices Meadow	17/08/2015
Garganey	Beddington Sewage Farm	13/09/2015
Great Skua	Island Barn Reservoir	15/11/2015
Greenshank	Island Barn Reservoir	13/09/2015
Grey Plover	Enton Ponds	18/10/2015
Little Gull	Lambeth Reservoirs	08/05/2016
Paradise Shelduck	Enton Ponds	13/12/2015
Sandwich Tern	Knight and Bessborough Reservoirs	10/04/2016
Slavonian Grebe	Lambeth Reservoirs	08/05/2016
Spotted Redshank	Island Barn Reservoir	13/09/2015

**House Martin Survey**

I am including the House Martin map (see right) created for the Surrey Bird Atlas for 2007–12 (hopefully being published later this year). You will see there are a large number of 2-km squares where there was possible or probable breeding of House Martins. This makes the 2016 survey in Surrey really disappointing for me.

Either House Martin numbers have gone down substantially in Surrey since 2012 or not many people got involved in the survey. Only six sites were covered (and I covered one of them)

and these are the results from that survey.

Site location	No of nests	No of successful nests	Last date seen at nest	Other comments
Chobham	13	12	2/8/16	-
Merstham	1	0	Not known	Abandoned after nest destroyed
Godalming	3	1	1/9/16	2 never completed
Chilworth	2	Not known	Not known	-
Guildford	4	3	19/9/16	2 broods in each successful nest
Redhill	2	Not known	6/5/16	-

I know of another couple of nests (in Chobham High Street) which were also successful (the person I encouraged to get involved and record the nests failed to do so).

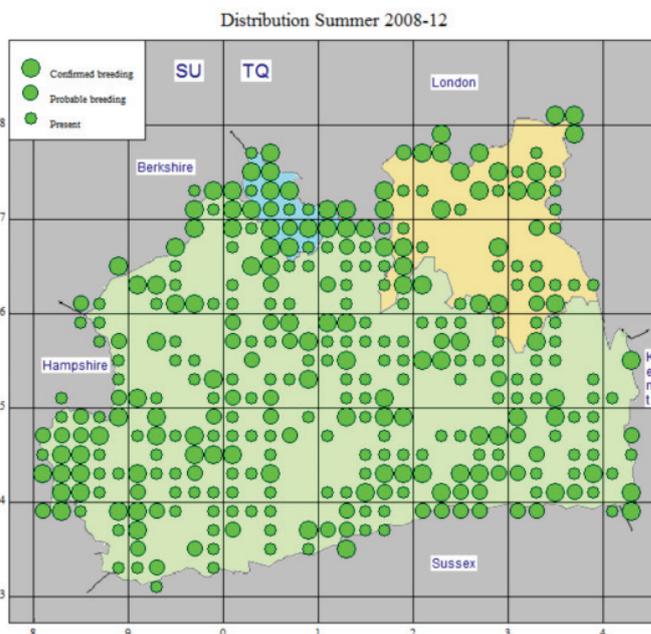
However, look at the sightings of House Martins in Surrey in 2016 (pp 3–6) reported through BirdTrack (thank you to the County Recorder, Eric Soden for providing me with these). You will see there are quite a few sightings (especially in Caterham Town Centre where the House Martins were clearly nesting).

**In 2015 certain 1 kilometre squares were covered and nests were found in these squares.**

Grid Reference	No of colonies
SU8346	1
SU8849	10
SU9357	5
TQ0435	4
TQ0648	1
TQ0652	1

Would you be able to go and check these squares again and report on the nests? If you can let me know I will try and find out from the surveyor exactly where the nests were.

Also, if you know of nests from 2016, then why not cover them in 2017. Although completing the information online looks a bit daunting when you first go in to enter information, it really is quite straightforward.



No seen	Date	Where	Grid Ref	Comments	How told
1.	29-04-2016	Bay Pond Godstone	TQ353516		email
2.	13-05-2016	Bay Pond Godstone	TQ353516		email
4.	28-05-2016	Bay Pond Godstone	TQ353516		email
3.	11-06-2016	Bay Pond Godstone	TQ353516	Monthly max	email
7.	20-07-2016	Bay Pond Godstone	TQ353516	Monthly max	email
12.	04-04-2016	Bell Weir Lock, R Thames	TQ017720		BirdTrack
2.	22-05-2016	Bookham Common	TQ130565		BirdTrack
5.	28-05-2016	Bookham Common	TQ130565		BirdTrack
4.	05-06-2016	Bookham Common	TQ130565		BirdTrack
3.	13-07-2016	Bookham Common	TQ130565		BirdTrack
2.	17-07-2016	Bookham Common	TQ130565		BirdTrack
3.	20-07-2016	Bookham Common	TQ130565		BirdTrack
3.	29-07-2016	Bookham Common	TQ130565		BirdTrack
7.	05-08-2016	Bookham Common	TQ130565		BirdTrack
2.	28-08-2016	Bookham Common	TQ130565		BirdTrack
1.	22-05-2016	Boundless Farm	SU904367		BirdTrack
2.	05-06-2016	Boundless Farm	SU904367		BirdTrack
3.	07-05-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
2.	13-05-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
4.	24-05-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
2.	16-06-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
8.	08-07-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
20.	17-07-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
12.	18-07-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
16.	19-07-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
3.	11-08-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
12.	16-08-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
4.	18-08-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
8.	18-08-2016	Bournbrook, Chobham	SU9861		BirdTrack
2.	02-05-2016	BWC, Newchapel	TQ365434	TQ368438	KN
3.	05-06-2016	Brockham	TQ195496		BirdTrack
5.	03-05-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ341555	First of the year	BirdTrack
5.	04-05-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ341555		BirdTrack
4.	16-05-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ341555		BirdTrack
10.	18-05-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ341555		BirdTrack
3.	26-05-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ341555		BirdTrack
4.	04-06-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ3455		BirdTrack
4.	14-06-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ3455		BirdTrack
3.	22-06-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ3455		BirdTrack
6.	27-06-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ3455	Nest with young	BirdTrack
5.	22-08-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ341555		BirdTrack
	23-08-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ341555	Nest with young	BirdTrack
	24-08-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ341555	Nest with young	BirdTrack
	29-08-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ341555		BirdTrack
1.	31-08-2016	Caterham town centre	TQ341555		BirdTrack
5.	26-07-2016	Chertsey Meads	TQ061662		BirdTrack
5.	27-06-2016	Chobham Common N	SU973648		BirdTrack
5.	16-07-2016	Chobham SU96Q	SU96Q	13 Occupied nest (ON) 3	BirdTrack
4.	18-08-2016	Chobham Village	SU9761		BirdTrack
1.	01-07-2016	Clandon Park	TQ032517	Catching insects over the plant area in the Plant Centre	BirdTrack
2.	26-04-2016	Claypit Wood, Farnham	SU8247		BirdTrack
18.	25-05-2016	Common Meadow, R Mole	TQ157567	Seen flying over water meadows.	BirdTrack
4.	25-06-2016	Coxes Lock, Addlestone	TQ061641		BirdTrack
2	1-05-2016	Denbies Hillside	TQ140500		LNHSNL
25.	02-05-2016	Downside	TQ110580		BirdTrack
2.	06-05-2016	E Horsley (Bishopsmead Parade)	TQ095529	No longer at site from 28th May.	BirdTrack
1.	10-04-2016	Egham Hythe Lake	TQ026702		BirdTrack
4.	19-05-2016	Elstead	SU907437		BirdTrack
6.	25-06-2016	Elstead	SU907437		BirdTrack
8.	04-07-2016	Englefield Green (SU97V)	SU97V		BirdTrack
1.	23-04-2016	Epsom Common	TQ190605	From mobile, no site name given,	
			Epsom Common area TQ191603		BirdTrack
	15-06-2016	Esher & West End commons	TQ1262		BirdTrack

2.	14-07-2016	Fairoaks Airfield area	TQ0062		BirdTrack
2.	26-07-2016	Foxburrow Hill Road, Unstead	SU996453		BirdTrack
	26-04-2016	Frensham Great Pond	SU845402		BirdTrack
	17-05-2016	Frensham Great Pond	SU845402		BirdTrack
	01-06-2016	Frensham Great Pond	SU845402		BirdTrack
	09-04-2016	Frensham Little Pond	SU858416		BirdTrack
	30-05-2016	Frensham Little Pond	SU858416		BirdTrack
	13-06-2016	Frensham Little Pond	SU845402		BirdTrack
4.	18-05-2016	Godalming	SU9744		BirdTrack
20.	18-05-2016	Godalming (Fox Dene)	SU964426	29 Fox Dene	BirdTrack
5.	22-05-2016	Godalming (Shackstead lane)	SU965431		BirdTrack
8.	10-05-2016	Godalming -Charterhouse	SU9644		BirdTrack
3.	17-05-2016	Godalming -Charterhouse	SU9644		BirdTrack
12.	29-05-2016	Godalming -Charterhouse	SU9644		BirdTrack
3.	19-05-2016	Godalming -Charterhouse	SU9644		BirdTrack
10.	30-07-2016	Godalming -Charterhouse	SU9644		BirdTrack
	18-07-2016	Godalming -Charterhouse	SU9644		BirdTrack
1.	25-05-2016	Godalming Charterhouse W	SU9544		BirdTrack
2.	19-08-2016	Godalming Charterhouse W	SU9544		BirdTrack
6.	01-05-2016	Godalming Lammas Lands/Farncombe S	SU9744		BirdTrack
13.	16-05-2016	Godalming Lammas Lands/Farncombe S	SU9744		BirdTrack
15.	05-06-2016	Godalming Lammas Lands/Farncombe S	SU9744	Nest building	BirdTrack
11.	24-06-2016	Godalming Lammas Lands/Farncombe S	SU9744		BirdTrack
9.	11-07-2016	Godalming Lammas Lands/Farncombe S	SU9744		BirdTrack
20.	31-07-2016	Godalming Lammas Lands/Farncombe S	SU9744	Occupied nest	BirdTrack
23.	22-08-2016	Godalming Lammas Lands/Farncombe S	SU9744		BirdTrack
	15-05-2016	Godstone Green	TQ348515		BirdTrack
30.	26-08-2016	Green Lane, Bletchingley	TQ331522	Very high up c 100ft	BirdTrack
8.	13-05-2016	Heather Farm, Horsell Common	SU995607	Group flew over, then 2-3 birds feeding on insects over pond regularly for remainder of time.	BirdTrack
15.	17-05-2016	Heather Farm, Horsell Common	SU995607		BirdTrack
c3.	16-04-2016	Hedgcourt Lake	TQ355403	TQ352403	KEN
5.	04-06-2016	Hedgcourt Lake	TQ355403		BirdTrack
2.	08-04-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
9.	17-04-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
2.	18-04-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
10.	21-04-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
20.	24-04-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
1.	26-04-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
8.	28-04-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
15.	02-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
5.	03-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
4.	06-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
20.	08-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
30.	09-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
30.	11-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
10.	12-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
12.	12-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	12 House martins flying around above lake, but two nests being built on a property directly beside the lake.	BirdTrack
20.	16-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
10.	19-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
20.	23-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
25.	26-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
40.	29-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
35.	30-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
10.	31-05-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
20.	02-06-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
25.	06-06-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On nest On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
10.	17-06-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
10.	21-06-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
10.	24-06-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
10.	27-06-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
10.	30-06-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
10.	04-07-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack

10 .	05-07-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
40 .	07-07-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	Recently fledged young. On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
15 .	11-07-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
15 .	14-07-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
25 .	18-07-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	Recently fledged young. On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
65 .	19-07-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	Recently fledged young. On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
40 .	21-07-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
70 .	25-07-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
70 .	26-07-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
40 .	28-07-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
60 .	01-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
60 .	04-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
50 .	05-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
70 .	08-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
60 .	10-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
40 .	11-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
50 .	15-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
50 .	16-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
110 .	18-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
50 .	22-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
60 .	23-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
30 .	25-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
95 .	30-08-2016	Holmethorpe SP	TQ292515	On twice-weekly c7 mile circuit	BirdTrack
2 .	05-05-2016	Horsell Common	TQ010610		BirdTrack
25 .	14-07-2016	Horsell Common	TQ010610		BirdTrack
	20-07-2016	Horsell Common	TQ010610		BirdTrack
10 .	15-08-2016	Horsell Common	TQ010610	High up circling and heading broadly south	BirdTrack
	24-08-2016	Horsell Common	TQ010610		BirdTrack
	26-06-2016	Horton .ry Park	TQ190627		BirdTrack
	03-07-2016	Horton .ry Park	TQ190627		BirdTrack
	07-08-2016	Horton .ry Park	TQ190627		BirdTrack
15 .	14-04-2016	Leith Hill	TQ139431	N 15	BirdTrack
8 .	05-05-2016	Leith Hill	TQ139431	N 8	BirdTrack
6 .	29-06-2016	Leith Hill	TQ139431		BirdTrack
6 .	29-06-2016	Leith Hill	TQ139431		BirdTrack
42 .	29-08-2016	Leith Hill	TQ139431	S 42 Observers M. Phelps, R. Stride	BirdTrack
	21-08-2016	Lingfield (Weir Lodge)	TQ389421		BirdTrack
4 .	12-07-2016	Meadowlands, Addlestone	TQ0664		BirdTrack
2 .	17-06-2016	Mickleham	TQ1753		BirdTrack
	28-08-2016	ND Way Watts Gallery to River Wey	SU9547		BirdTrack
3 .	19-05-2016	New Addington Rowdown	TQ390628	Around nest colony on flats near Fieldway	BirdTrack
3 .	04-05-2016	Newark Lane, Pyrford	TQ0357		BirdTrack
	30-04-2016	Painshill Park	TQ096603		BirdTrack
	14-05-2016	Painshill Park	TQ095600		BirdTrack
	28-08-2016	Painshill Park	TQ096603		BirdTrack
	28-04-2016	Papercourt	TQ0356		BirdTrack
10 .	02-05-2016	Papercourt (TQ051)	TQ051		BirdTrack
1 .	05-06-2016	Papercourt (TQ051)	TQ051		BirdTrack
1 .	21-04-2016	Parkgate nr Newdigate	TQ2044		BirdTrack
3 .	27-05-2016	Peper Harow	SU9344		BirdTrack
	15-05-2016	Pewley Down & Warren Farm, Guildford	TQ0149		BirdTrack
9 .	08-07-2016	Pewley Down & Warren Farm, Guildford	TQ0149		BirdTrack
6 .	07-08-2016	Pewley Down & Warren Farm, Guildford	TQ0149		BirdTrack
4 .	02-07-2016	Queen Mary Reservoir	TQ0569		BirdTrack
90 .	01-07-2016	Runnymede	SU996730	Recently fledged young	BirdTrack
11 .	05-08-2016	Runnymede	TQ0072		BirdTrack
	19-04-2016	Send village	TQ025559		BirdTrack
	21-06-2016	Send village	TQ025559		BirdTrack
15 .	27-07-2016	South Park Farm, Godstone	TQ342488		BirdTrack
4 .	22-08-2016	Staines & Stanwell Moor	TQ0372		BirdTrack
5 .	27-04-2016	Staines Moor	TQ033734		BirdTrack
4 .	27-04-2016	Staines Moor	TQ033734		BirdTrack
90 .	24-04-2016	Staines Reservoir - North Basin	TQ051736		BirdTrack
6 .	05-05-2016	Staines Reservoir - North Basin	TQ051736		BirdTrack

1.	17-05-2016	Staines Reservoirs	TQ051730		BirdTrack
1.	19-04-2016	Stoke Water Meadows/Riverside Park	TQ004516		BirdTrack
6.	23-04-2016	Stoke Water Meadows/Riverside Park	TQ004516		BirdTrack
30.	21-05-2016	Stoke Water Meadows/Riverside Park	TQ004516		BirdTrack
2.	10-07-2016	Stoke Water Meadows/Riverside Park	TQ004516		BirdTrack
3.	08-07-2016	The Paddocks, Normandy	SU932502	at least 1 chick	BirdTrack
16.	12-04-2016	Thursley Common	SU910414		BirdTrack
7.	21-04-2016	Thursley Common	SU910414		BirdTrack
4.	26-06-2016	Thursley Common	SU910414		BirdTrack
2.	21-07-2016	Thursley Common	SU910414		BirdTrack
6.	21-07-2016	Thursley Common	SU910414		BirdTrack
6.	09-08-2016	Thursley Common	SU910414		BirdTrack
1.	28-03-2016	Tice's Meadow, Badshot Lea	SU870489		BirdTrack
	04-04-2016	Tice's Meadow, Badshot Lea	SU870489		BirdTrack
	30-04-2016	Tice's Meadow, Badshot Lea	SU870489		BirdTrack
3.	24-04-2016	Triggs Lock	TQ013549		BirdTrack
5.	28-03-2016	Unstead SF	SU995455		BirdTrack
	08-07-2016	Virginia Water	SU9667		BirdTrack
4.	03-05-2016	Weatherhill Common	TQ306435		BirdTrack
2.	17-05-2016	Weatherhill Common	TQ306435		BirdTrack
10.	21-05-2016	Weatherhill Common	TQ306435		BirdTrack
16.	23-04-2016	Wey canal to Papercourt Meadow	TQ0356	group flying over northwards	BirdTrack
6.	12-07-2016	Wire Mill Lake	TQ367417		BirdTrack
1.	13-05-2016	Wisley RHS Gardens	TQ063580		BirdTrack
2.	05-06-2016	Wisley RHS Gardens	TQ063580		BirdTrack

Remember, when not recording nests, do put your sightings into BirdTrack.

If you have not got involved in doing a survey in the past, then this is an ideal survey with which to start. There is only one species which you have to identify (and if you need any help you can go to the BTO's ID video recording which explains how you differentiate between House Martins and Swallows at [www.bto.org/about-birds/bird-id/bto-bird-id-hirundines-and-swift](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/bird-id/bto-bird-id-hirundines-and-swift)). This recording not only helps with what they look like but also their calls.

You also do not have to go out early in the morning and you can monitor nests on your house, your neighbour's house or near your place of work. However the survey does run throughout the summer so, in all, entails a reasonable time commitment.

If you know of a public or office building where there are nests and you would like to encourage the occupants to get involved e.g. school children at a school then just let me know and we can get a BTO leaflet about the survey dropped off/sent to the site.

There is lots more information about House Martins on the BTO website. Here is the link:

<http://app.bto.org/birdfacts/results/bob10010.htm>

What the BTO need you to do is visit a site where you know House Martins nest, preferably in mid-April before the start of the nesting season. You record what nests are there and then visit the site regularly (preferably once a week) and record what happens to those nests. If the nests are on private property, and you need access to view the nests, then there are some leaflets available that you can give to the owner of the property to help you obtain the necessary consent. I can supply you with them.

The BTO appreciates that you might well be going away for a period so, if you miss a couple of weeks, it is not a problem. However, if you can keep monitoring the nests rights into September, that would be fantastic. As I said above, you will be able to enter your results online but, if you are not happy

with using the online system set up by the BTO or do not have access to a computer, you can do it on paper. If you would prefer to do the survey on paper then please contact me and I will ensure that you are sent the necessary paperwork.

There are video recordings showing you how to map the site and how to enter the results. These can be found at [www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey/house-martin-nest-study-2016/resource](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/house-martin-survey/house-martin-nest-study-2016/resource)

By the way a big thank you very much to everyone who has contributed to the data I have used in this section (and indeed the others).

## Heronries Census

As I have said before, as far as I am aware, all the known heronries in Surrey are covered. Two new sites were discovered in 2016 and one of them, plus an existing site, had Little Egret breeding. Little Egret are clearly becoming established in Surrey now (they were seen at the following WeBS sites in 2015–16) so there probably are some other places where they are breeding.

Beddington Sewage Farm	Holmethorpe – Watercolour Lagoons
Chelsea Reservoirs	London Wetland Centre
Claremont Lake Esher	Milton Court Dorking
Enton Ponds	Pen Ponds (Upper)
Fetcham Mill Pond	River Mole – Leatherhead
Frensham Great Pond	River Wandle – Mitcham Bridge to Morden Hall Tram Crossing
Frimley Gravel Pits	Thorpe Water Park – Pit 3
Hogsmill Sewage Works	Tices Meadow

The BTO are keen to improve the coverage of Heronries across the UK in the build-up to the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the scheme in 2018 so please do report active heronries to me so that I can check that they are being covered.

I recently asked Ian Woodward at the BTO to remove some sites from my list of heronries because, as far as I am aware, the

sites are no longer active. Ian has asked me to confirm that:

1. All the nesting habitat has gone, e.g. the trees have been cut down; or,
2. they've been visited at least a couple of times in the last three years and there was no sign of any herons and the nests are no longer there or are clearly not being maintained; or
3. they've been visited regularly over the last three years (e.g. someone's local patch) and herons definitely no longer nest at the site.

Would you be able to check any of the sites for me? They are:

Site	Grid Reference
Ashley Park, Weybridge	TQ0965
Cobham Park	TQ1159
Burwood Park	TQ1064
Broadwater, Farncombe	TQ0865
Town Pond, Godstone	TQ3551
Sendholme, Send	TQ017547
Stanley Pool, Pirbright	SU928564
Wrecclesham	SU804593

## Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) &

### Waterways Breeding Bird Survey (WBBS)

This survey runs from the beginning of April until the end of June and only involves two visits to the site in order to carry out the bird survey (a site visit when you first take on a site is also recommended in order to work out the route and look at the habitat). It is therefore not a huge time commitment. It does mean getting up early (but that is definitely the best time to be up at that time of year between April and June).

Below I set out the sites where I still need some surveyors (there are quite a few **new** sites due to surveyors stepping down plus the BTO have allocated a **further 10 new** BBS squares to Surrey this year which means I have almost double the number of squares to get covered as compared to last year.

10km	BBS Name	BBS Grid Ref
SU84	Tongham	SU8949
SU93	SE of Haslemere	SU9231
SU93	SE of Haslemere	SU9430
SU94	Elstead	SU9143
TQ03	Oxoncroft Copse (on Sussex Border footpath)	TQ0232
TQ03	Cranleigh	TQ0539
TQ03	Massers Wood (S of Cranleigh)	TQ0735
TQ03	SE of Cranleigh	TQ0837
TQ03	The Windbreak (S of Ewhurst)	TQ0937
tq04	East of Winkworth	TQ0041
TQ04	Palmer's Cross (S of Woner's)	TQ0240
TQ04	Rooks Hill (SW of Shamley Green)	TQ0242
TQ04	East Guildford	TQ0249
TQ04	Fowls Copse (N of Cranleigh)	TQ0641
TQ05	Woking	TQ0059
TQ05	SE of Woking	TQ0258
TQ05	E of West Horsley	TQ0952
TQ14	E of Ewhurst	TQ1040
TQ15	West of Great Bookham	TQ1353
TQ25	Betchworth	TQ2150
TQ25	South Merstham	TQ2952
TQ25	M23 SE of Chaldon	TQ2954
TQ34	South of Godstone	TQ3647
TQ35	North west of Oxted	TQ3752
TQ35	S of Woldingham	TQ3755

If you would like to take on one of the sites, please do contact me. Remember if you are going to get involved you do need to be able to identify British breeding birds by both sight and sound. If you know the common birds why not choose an urban site with which to start.

Many surveyors also record the mammals that they see. In addition surveyors are strongly encouraged to cover the site again in July and August for the Wider Countryside Butterfly Monitoring Scheme.

## Ringling & Nest Recording Scheme (NRS)

According to the BTO, thanks to the amazing efforts of all of ringers and nest recorders, 2016 turned out to be another great year. By December 2016, 837,643 ringling records had been received (c 50,000 more than this time last year) as well as 36,925 nest records. All NRS and CES submissions received by the end of October were included in the preliminary breeding season trends.

The BTO Nest Record Scheme is funded by a partnership between the British Trust for Ornithology and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (on behalf of: Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland). The BTO supports nest recording for scientific purposes and all recording is undertaken following a code of conduct designed to ensure the welfare of birds and their nests are not adversely affected.

It is hoped that in 2017, there will be a new system for entering your data. There have been 40 people testing the basic ringling data entry functions on the live database, finding and reporting any bugs and glitches. The IT wizards at BTO are busy fixing these issues and building the NRS/CES/RAS sections ready for the whole database to be rolled out to everyone at the start of the 2017 breeding season. I am told feedback so far has been really positive. I will let you know as soon as the online recording program is available for the nest recording scheme.

## Reporting any ringed bird that you see

Although I would love to get involved in bird ringling I do not currently have the time. However, whenever I find a dead bird, I always check to see if it has any ring on it. It is easy to report any ringed bird that you find. Here is the link [www.ring.ac](http://www.ring.ac). You just click on the type of ring on the bird e.g. metal, coloured etc., then click on the type of species, e.g. large gull, cormorant etc. and then fill in an online form. Please remember to do this too with any living bird you see with colour rings on. At the BTO annual conference there is always at least one speaker who is doing research which is assisted by getting reports of sightings of colour-ringed birds.

## Garden Birdwatch

I love this survey. I have carried it out for many years and record not only the birds that I see in the garden but also mammals, butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles and amphibians plus other insects. It is great to be able to go back and look at previous records in order to see when I saw, for example, my first Red Admiral in a previous year. My first one this year was on 5 March.

When I am speaking to the public about surveys and I mention Garden Birdwatch they always know about the RSPB Garden Birdwatch scheme but do not seem to have heard of the BTO one. Quite a few people, when I speak to them, are very interested in taking part so please do mention to your

friends who have any interest in birds, or indeed other wildlife, about the BTO Garden Birdwatch. Here is a link to the relevant part of the BTO website that deals with the Garden Birdwatch scheme: [www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw)

### The European Breeding Bird Atlas

If you are going on holiday to Europe this year please do put all your records into BirdTrack through the Global Data Entry part of the website. In particular do put breeding evidence in with the sighting. Please do this not only with your sightings abroad but also the ones in the UK. The reason for this is the European Atlas will include UK data from 2013 onwards so any information you have can contribute to this project.

In addition, if you have been on holiday to Europe since spring 2013 please go and find your records and enter them. Such records will go into this Atlas. And, if you are still thinking about where to go on holiday this year, the BTO would like to encourage you to go to Eastern Europe as this is where records are badly needed. By the way, for UK sightings, you can enter them either through BirdTrack or through the global Data Entry section.

This is what the BTO has just sent me

#### *“European Breeding Bird Atlas*

This spring and summer we will be undertaking ‘gap-filling’ for the second European Breeding Bird Atlas project (known as EBBA2). By early April we will have a map online on the BTO website which will show the 50 x 50 km squares that require most effort in terms of increasing the species list and upgrading breeding evidence to a higher level. We will be using familiar atlas codes that will allow a species to be recorded as possible, probable or confirmed breeding. Until now, we have been providing the EBBA2 organisers data based on BirdTrack, ringing and nest record data. We will be asking volunteers to enter their records, together with the appropriate breeding evidence code, to BirdTrack”.

### Woodcock survey

I have remembered that, when I was at the Regional Network Committee meeting at the BTO recently, it was mentioned that Greg Conway would like to encourage more people to get involved with the Woodcock survey particularly as Woodcock numbers are decreasing. I will check with Greg to see what he would like carried out in Surrey and then send a separate email updating everyone with his requirements. I am aware quite a few people in Surrey are already helping by covering the squares that they covered in the last Woodcock survey and reporting results to Greg each year from that site.

### BirdTrack

Several features that allow you to visualise your BirdTrack data in new ways have been launched this week. Perhaps the most groundbreaking of these is the notable observations feed, through which you can search the more unusual records that have been logged in BirdTrack. You can find all the new features under ‘Explore data’ when you’re logged in to the global portal.

By the way I know the County Recorder is really pleased with the increasing number of sightings and species going into BirdTrack even though it gives him more work to do! In order to help him please do ensure, when you create a site, it is easily identifiable **and include a grid reference**

## How else you can help the BTO

### 1. Join the BTO

If you are not a member please think about joining the BTO. The more membership subscriptions and donations that the BTO has, the more it can put funds into the research it wants to carry out.

Also there is a great offer for new BTO members this month, you will receive a free Garden BirdWatch subscription for a year which includes Kate Risely and Clare Simm’s new Garden Birds and Other Wildlife book.

### 2. Leave a legacy to the BTO

### 3. Organise a local survey

Dawn Balmer, Head of Surveys at the BTO, recently asked Regional Reps for information about local surveys that were organised. Quite a few counties organise some atlas type surveys for the winter period. For example, in Gloucestershire, 1 km squares are covered. The survey method just asks the surveyor to go into the square for two hours and record the species seen (including the number of each species). It is a useful survey to get new surveyors involved and also allows the ‘regulars’ to keep in touch during the winter. Around 100 1 km squares are covered in that county. Is this something that would interest you? If so please do let me know. If there is enough interest expressed I will put something together for winter 2017–18 (unless the BTO does something first).

## How you can help other individuals and organisations

I am sometimes contacted by others who would like help with surveys/educating the public. Here are some details:

### Birds

#### Nightjar Surveys on the Thames Basin Heaths 2017

As part of the monitoring of Nightjars on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, there will again be co-ordinated surveys of three of the large sites in the spring. At present the dates are anticipated to be

- Wednesday 31 May Chobham Common
- Wednesday 7 June Ash Ranges
- Wednesday 14 June Pirbright Ranges
- June 21 reserve day for Ash, Pirbright & Chobham

If you would like to help, please contact John Clark at [johnclark50@sky.com](mailto:johnclark50@sky.com). John will be approaching all the usual surveyors but, if you have not helped previously and would like to take part, you do need to contact him. No experience of Nightjars is necessary. Observers are organised in pairs or threes so, if you are not too experienced, you will be put with someone who is! Good views of Nightjars are pretty much guaranteed

Ben Hapgood is organising the annual Nightjar surveys at Barossa. Here are the dates

- 17 & 18 June
- 24 & 25 June reserve day

Here is more information about Barossa [www.surreywildlifetrust.org/reserves/barossa](http://www.surreywildlifetrust.org/reserves/barossa)

Ben’s contact details: [Ben.Hapgood@surreywt.org.uk](mailto:Ben.Hapgood@surreywt.org.uk)

### Help at a Bioblitz

A Bioblitz is being held at Tices Meadow between Friday 28 and Sunday 30 April 2017. In Surrey we are quite restricted

in areas of water that are good for wading birds. There is of course the London Wetland Centre in Barnes run by WWT but one relatively new site is Tices Meadow near Aldershot. It is in Surrey (just) and has been having a really good number of species recorded there. Here are just some of the statistics about the site

- 150 acre reserve on the site of the former Farnham Quarry
- 190 species of bird recorded on site
- 152 species of bird were recorded in 2016 – a new record annual count - including Pectoral Sandpiper, Bearded Tit, Black Redstart, Common Crane, Spoonbill, Caspian Gull, Garganey, Goshawk, Honey Buzzard, Whooper Swan and Yellow-browed Warbler
- Important inland breeding site for Little Ringed Plover, and Common Tern
- Pan-species list of 1,032 species
- An active group of volunteers who help manage and improve the habitats, educate visitors and engage with the local community
- Bioblitzes have been held in the last two years
- Last year c90 members of the public attended, 86 species of bird recorded, including 5 Little Ringed Plover, 2 Dunlin, 3 Wheatear, a Yellow-legged Gull, 3 Hobby and good numbers of Yellow Wagtail
- Stalls from Surrey Bird Club, BTO and Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership

As well as bird walks, ringing took place too plus lots of other species surveys. It is all going to take place again this year at the end of April so why not go along and get involved. Here is a link to the website which tells you more about it [www.ticesmeadow.org/](http://www.ticesmeadow.org/).

Unfortunately I cannot attend this year as I have a prior engagement.

The National Trust at Morden Hall Park is holding a BioBlitz (its third year) on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 June 2017 (10am – 4pm). When I have more information about this I will let you know.

### The Woking Peregrines

You will know that I am also involved with Surrey Bird Club. The club has supported the installation of a nestbox in Woking Town Centre which has cameras on it and can be watched online (when the birds are nesting). In 2016 the pair of peregrines successfully raised two young. The club had a stand in the town centre on various dates. As well as having some telescopes there, at the stand, in order to look at the adult(s) (and then the young birds once they were out of the nest), we also had a laptop so that members of the public could look at the live video feed whilst we were explaining what was happening.

The club is going to do this again this year and is looking for volunteers to be at the stand. We have provisionally booked the following dates (it is all subject to when/if the eggs are laid):

In May, Saturday 13, Saturday 20, Tuesday 30, and in June Saturday 3 and Sunday 11.

Timing to be 10 am–4 pm with two shifts. 10 am–1 pm and 1 pm–4 pm.

Set up from 9.30 and taking down to 4.30

It is very rewarding talking to the public about the project (and indeed birds generally) and BTO leaflets are on the stand too in order to encourage more recording of birds. If you would like to help please could you contact Charlotte Gray on 07971 000568 or [charlottegray88@gmail.com](mailto:charlottegray88@gmail.com) as she is organising the schedule of helpers. I am hoping to be there on some of those dates.

### Other species

I have finally managed to get a new phone which is modern enough to allow me to enter my BirdTrack sightings through the phone. However there are lots of other free Apps which allow you to record species other than birds. For example I have downloaded one for butterflies (IRecord) where the data goes to Butterfly Conservation and one called Mammal Tracker. It means that, when I see things out in the field, I can record them straight away. Otherwise I do find that sometimes the records never get to the relevant organisations due to me not having the time when I get home (and, admittedly, quite often forgetting to do so).

There is an App for the Bee Conservation Trust too but that is only suitable, at present, for iphones, whereas the others are suitable for both iphones and Android phones.

### Where to meet me and training

Due to my shoulder injury I cannot be as active as I want to be but I hope to be at the following events.

- The Surrey nightjar surveys mentioned above (Chobham, Pirbright and Ash).
- The Surrey Bird Club AGM on Friday 30 June. David Darrell-Lambert is coming to give a talk on Migration. Please do join us. Everyone is welcome, the event is free and you do not have to be a member of the bird club. The event starts at 8 pm at East Horsley Village Hall, Kingston Avenue, East Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey KT24 6QT.

Some of the Surrey bird club field trips (here are the details [www.surreybirdclub.org.uk/events.html](http://www.surreybirdclub.org.uk/events.html)).

### Updates to my database

If you are receiving this newsletter by post and have an e-mail address, please do let me (and the BTO [samantha.graham@bto.org](mailto:samantha.graham@bto.org).) have it so that the newsletter can be sent to you by email from now on. Remember it saves the BTO money which means more can go towards funding their work.

In this newsletter I have asked you to contact me if you can help. Below are my contact details.

#### Penny William's contact details:

Email: [penny@waxwing.plus.com](mailto:penny@waxwing.plus.com)  
Phone: 01276 857736  
Website: [www.surreybtorep.co.uk](http://www.surreybtorep.co.uk)

Address: Bournbrook House  
Sandpit Hall Road,  
Chobham GU24 8HA