

Henfield Birdwatch

A Record of Birds in the Parish of Henfield in 2020





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Foreword

When the idea was mooted at the start of 2020 to produce an annual Henfield bird report it seemed like a very good idea. After all, how hard could it be? Well, with over 7,000 records produced during the year giving 136 different species it didn't quite turn out to be the few nights' work originally envisaged. However, although it was a more daunting task than first thought, it was still a hugely enjoyable and rewarding project to be a part of and hopefully the fruits of this labour within these pages are well worth the effort.

Of course, there was nothing wrong with producing a report every five years as has happened since 2000, but it did mean that the intervening four years would have no complete assessment of the birdlife within the Parish. By producing an annual account a more accurate picture can be built up, and with several red-listed species occurring regularly in the Parish their numbers can be monitored and we can hopefully in a small way help to offer them some protection. One reason that the reports were only produced

every five years was that the amount of resources required to produce such an in-depth report would have made a yearly report very hard to do, survey fatigue could well have become a problem.

Therefore this year's is a "stripped down" effort when compared to the "big book" of last year. However, monitoring of breeding Swifts and House Martins will continue every summer, whilst the area surveys, previously only carried out every five years, are now carried out every year. The popular garden bird survey will return in 2024, which will also mark the silver jubilee of Henfield Birdwatch. As in the 2019 report, all the photographs have been taken locally and by members of Henfield Birdwatch, so a big thank you goes to all who provided their pictures.

And of course a massive thanks must go to everyone who has provided records of what they have seen in Henfield during the year; without those sightings a publication like this would not be possible.

- Paul Cole

Credits

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Final thoughts: The River Adur at dusk, Val Bentley **Rear cover:** Reed Bunting, Val Bentley



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Introduction

2020, a year in which the world as we know it changed due to a pandemic that began over the other side of the world but affected us all in so many different ways. If you can draw any positives from this pandemic it could be said that confinement to your home and immediate surroundings has led to a greater interest in the birds and other wildlife life around us. Consequently, membership of Henfield Birdwatch has reached an all time high and the number of people in our Facebook group has increased sixfold. This has also generated an increase in the number of sightings of birds within the Parish, some accompanied by excellent photographs. We are also extremely lucky that Paul Cole, one of our newest committee members, just loves assimilating and compiling records and volunteered to produce an annual report, of which this is the first. This list of birds recorded in 2020 is compiled from the area winter and breeding surveys carried

out throughout the year, and the three parish common surveys that we now undertake regularly. We also monitor yearly the Swift and House Martin populations while Val Bentley and Will Green have continued their parish Nightingale Survey, although this year, due to covid restrictions, they weren't able to do their joint night-time visits, but have used members' reports of Nightingales seen or heard in the parish. Other records have come from sightings submitted by individuals through the Birdwatch email group, Facebook page, members' walks throughout the parish, from BTO BirdTrack data and Henfield Big Bird Bash Reports. So, thank you to all those who sent in records and photographs and a really big thank you to Paul for co-ordinating and producing this comprehensive report of the birds recorded in Henfield in 2020 and I hope you enjoy reading about these birds as much as I will.

- **Mike Russell, Chairman**



Red Kite Photo: Roger French

Review of the year

January

The month, and therefore the year, got underway with a cracking start when a Water Pipit was found on Rye Levels on New Year's Day. The 'Fab Four' were then out on the 3rd, taking part in the annual SOS bird race. Managing one more than the previous year, their 61 included Raven, Green Sandpiper, Barn Owl and Red Kite. The next few days were rather quiet, but this all changed on the 6th when a Glossy Ibis appeared on the floods by Rye Farm. This was the first record of this species for Henfield, and although being hard to find at times, stayed until at least the 13th. Returning back to the 6th, three Black-tailed Godwits were also present that day (remaining for a further two days), and on the 10th a decent count of 100 Snipe was recorded. A Green Sandpiper was present at the Overflow Pit on the 11th and 12th, and on both those days up to 20 Gadwall were seen on floods south of Hollands Lane. On the 17th both a Jack Snipe and a Marsh Tit were noted south of Rye Farm, then the next day a Peregrine and a Kingfisher were spotted from the Downslink north of Stretham.

February

Over-wintering Warblers were in evidence with both a Chiffchaff and a Blackcap noted in the Furners Lane area on the 1st, and on the 2nd a reminder that spring is not too far away when a Skylark was singing by the river north of the confluence. Another was heard on the 5th, this time at Rye Farm, together with the first Chiffchaff song of the year. On the 6th a lone Egyptian Goose appeared on the Levels; Two days later a Grey Wagtail was feeding on a field alongside the river near Eatons Bridge, and another was seen at the back of Wantley on the 11th along with a fly-over Raven; On both the 14th and 15th.

Red Kites were noted over the village. It was then rather quiet until the 25th when a Peregrine was observed flying over Chates, and that record also turned out to be the last of the month.

March

On the 9th two scarce Henfield species were both found on the same day, with a Great Crested Grebe and an Oystercatcher alongside the river. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen by the Mill Stream on the 14th, then the next day either another or the same Oystercatcher then appeared on Rye Levels. Waders were still prominent on the 23rd with a Ruff on Rye Levels and a Redshank by Stretham Manor. A male Marsh Harrier was then reported from just south-west of there on the 29th.

April

A Black Redstart got the month underway when one popped up at Bishop Park on the 2nd, then on the 5th a drake Mandarin was seen flying downriver opposite Eatons Farm. On the 6th the first Nightingale of the year was heard and set a new record for the earliest arrival date for this species. Another Redshank was present along the Mill Stream on the 7th, whilst not far away on Rye Levels a third or fourth winter Caspian Gull was found, giving the Parish another new species to add to its list. A Little Owl was seen at Rye Farm on the 11th, a Mediterranean Gull flew over on the 16th, then on the 21st a pair of Garganey were on the Overflow Pit and a Common Sandpiper nearby on the river. The next day a Hobby and; Another Mediterranean Gull flew over the village and a third new species for the Henfield list was added, with a Great White Egret on Rye Levels. The month was rounded off with a fantastic record, when a Hoopoe was found on private farmland on the 29th.

May

The very welcome return of a Turtle Dove was noted on the 2nd when a purring bird was heard

along the Mill Stream, then on the 6th a Wheatear turned up by the Mill Stream. Another passage bird, a Spotted Flycatcher, was also seen at New Inn Farm on the 11th, the earliest in the Parish. On the 26th three Mediterranean Gulls flew over West End, and then two days later a Golden Oriole was heard as it passed over Lower Station Road heading west.

June

If May seemed quiet then June was even more so. The only records of note were of two Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 26th at Rye Levels and a Water Rail by Furners Lane on the 27th. There were also two Kingfishers noted by Bineham Bridge on several occasions throughout the month and Red Kites were a regular occurrence.

July

The summer lull continued with another quiet month. A Common Sandpiper was seen near Stretham on the 1st and two Crossbills were then noted from West End on the 5th. Fifteen Cattle Egrets were then observed near Betley Bridge on the 23rd – an astonishing number for the area.

August

Autumn migration was truly underway during this month, with Willow Warblers, Lesser Whitethroats, Common Whitethroats and Reed Warblers passing through in good numbers. Also of note was a male Redstart at Woods Mill on the 24th and two Wheatears by the Adur confluence on the 29th.

September

On the 8th a Little Owl was seen from West End Lane, and the next day a Whinchat was noted from Rye Levels. On the 10th ten Sand Martins were counted at Spring Hill, the only record of this species during the year. There were several records of Yellow Wagtail during the month, and the final one, on the 26th, proved to also be the latest ever recorded for this species. The next day three Crossbills were again seen over West End.

October

Following on from its debut in Henfield in April, another Great White Egret was seen this month. One flew over Chates on the 3rd, and was then recorded again the next day in the same area. On the 5th the last Common Whitethroat of the year was noted, giving another latest departure record. Things then went rather quiet until the 28th when a Grey Phalarope was found on floods by Rye Farm. This fantastic bird stayed until the 31st when it met an unfortunate end in the talons of a Sparrowhawk. The last day of the month also produced the only record of Woodcock during the year, from Woods Mill.

November

The first week was extremely quiet but the month exploded into life on the 8th. An influx of White-fronted Geese into the country also meant that some found their way to the Levels, along with a Brent Goose; a pair of Goosanders were seen near Stretham Bridge; a Firecrest was found in Nep Town; and a Crossbill flew over Stretham Manor. White-fronted Geese continued to be seen during the month, and another Firecrest turned up in Nep Town on the 22nd. Finally, on the 30th a Black-tailed Godwit was found on Rye Levels.

December

The Black-tailed Godwit was still present on Rye Levels on the 1st, but this would be the last day it was noted. A Golden Plover was also present there that day, and on the 5th seven Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted on Rye Levels, growing to ten by the 15th. The White-fronted Goose influx continued into this month too, and by the last day of the month and year a high count of 33 was made, once again from Rye Levels.

2020 SUMMARY

Species recorded: 137

Parish list: 189

New species added: 3

Species recorded per month

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
72	56	77	89	79	71	74	66	75	63	69	74

List of birds recorded in 2020



The Glossy Ibis that caused quite a stir on henfield Levels in 2020 Photo: Val Bentley

There were a total of 136 species recorded in the Parish of Henfield during 2020. This included three new species added to the Parish list: Great White Egret, Glossy Ibis and Caspian Gull. Of these, it is Great White Egret that could well become a more regular visit to the Parish, with two records during the year. The list of species was accumulated from 7,760 records submitted through the year from two sources. The Sussex Ornithological Society's database provided 5,069, whilst Henfield Birdwatch members added another 2,691 directly to HBW (although there was inevitably some duplication between the two).

During 2020 there was a welcome return to the Levels of White-fronted Geese after an absence of three years, whilst we had the first Goosanders seen in the Parish since 2012. There was only the

sixth record of Great Crested Grebe and the second of both Oystercatcher and Grey Phalarope. Hoopoe and Golden Oriole gave a couple of lucky birders good local finds during the year, a Black Redstart appeared for the second year running and we had only our second Water Pipit since the early eighties.

The year also marked the earliest ever arrival dates for Spotted Flycatcher and Nightingale, and the year's first Swift was the joint earliest. A late Common Whitethroat set a new departure record, along with the latest Yellow Wagtail yet recorded. 2020 will be mainly remembered as the year in which a global pandemic wreaked havoc on an unimaginable scale, but it may be a small crumb of comfort that it was a very good year for birdlife in the Parish of Henfield.

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

This species is present in the Parish throughout the year, but is more numerous in the winter months when birds congregate on flood water on the Levels. Numbers drop as adults disperse to breed in the spring, and this year there were at least four active nests, including two that were precariously



placed on the river bank between the confluence and Betley Bridge. Cygnets were then noted on June 15th and 22nd, with a later record on September 9th by Rye Farm. Following this, birds started to return in bigger numbers, culminating in the highest count of the year, 26, on December 26th on Rye Levels.

White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons

In November and December there was an influx of this species into south-east England from Russia, and Henfield was fortunate to welcome some here too. Three were present from 8th to 10th November on floods by Rye Farm, and birds were then seen throughout December with a high count of 33 made on the very last day of the year. These were the first White-fronts to grace the Parish since February 2017, and prior to this year's visitors there had been only 24 records this century.

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

A very familiar sight and sound in the Parish, this species congregated in large numbers during the winter on the Levels where three figure counts were common. Numbers dropped dramatically

from March onwards with only two or three noted at a time between April and June, but breeding was confirmed at two separate sites in May when goslings were noted on the 4th and 8th. By July counts had returned to the hundreds as the breeding season came to a close, and these numbers then held constant throughout the rest of the year, peaking in December with a high count of 300 on the 31st.

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Canada Geese followed a very similar pattern to their cousin the Greylag, with three figure counts again made from the start of the year right into March. Numbers declined rapidly in April and May, and there were none recorded in June at all. There were also no records of confirmed breeding during the year. Counts then took longer to build up in late-summer and Autumn with just one bird recorded in the whole of August, but by the second winter period they outnumbered Greylags, including a high count of 454 on December 14th.

Brent Goose

Branta bernicla

After an absence of six years there was a record of this species in 2020, when a lone bird was present near Rye Farm from the 8th to the 10th of November. This represents only the twelfth record for the Parish.

Egyptian Goose

Alopchen aegyptiaca

Sightings of this species in Henfield continue to grow, with 23 records during the year. The highest individual count came at the very start of the year on New Year's Day, when 12 were noted west of the river by Great Betley Farm. During February just one was seen, on the 6th, but in March numbers made it back into double figures on several dates. A few then held on into the summer up until June, but this species then vanished until October, when two were recorded on West End Levels on the 29th. Two were also seen on the Levels on November 29th, and December was a lot better with 12 records throughout the month. This is this best monthly showing for this species since it was first recorded in the Parish in 2000.

Common Shelduck

Tadorna tadoma

There were nine records of this duck during the year, with the first a pair on Rye Levels on January 12th. This was the only record in the first winter period, but another pair were seen at the late date of April 1st in the same area. It wasn't until November 30th when an individual returned to Rye Levels, and this bird was then seen several times throughout December.

Mandarin Duck

Aix galericulata

A male was seen flying downriver by Eatons Farm on April 5th, and this gives the Parish only its fifth record of this exotic duck.

Eurasian Wigeon

Anas penelope

Wigeon are a common feature of any trip to the Levels during winter, and tend to favour the floods around Rye Farm. There were numerous records in the first three months of the year, but just one in April, of 20 on the 1st. That was the last sighting of this species until October 28th when small numbers started to return, but by mid-November counts had returned to three-figures, with an impressive count of 400 on the 30th, and records in good numbers continued for the remainder of the year.

Gadwall

Anas strepera

This species is a winter visitor in small numbers, with a total of 13 reports during the year. The first birds noted were 20 on January 11th on floods behind Buckwish Farm, with 14 still present the next day. Two were noted on February 6th on Rye Levels, and these birds were possibly present up until mid-March, and the last record of the spring came on the 23rd. A pair returned there on November 9th, and it is likely that these two provided three more records in November and into early December. However, the last sighting of the year came further north, from a flooded ditch west of Chates on December 13th.

Eurasian Teal

Anas crecca

Another common species during the winter, Teal

are present in the Parish from November to February, with a few stragglers hanging on until March. The last record of the first winter period was actually April 1st, with 20 seen on Rye Levels. The next birds were then not seen until November 8th, with regular records coming in during the rest of the month and then throughout December. Although Teal are seen in slightly smaller numbers than Wigeon, they too prefer the flooding around Rye Farm, and it was here that the highest count of the year was made, 250 on February 18th.

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Mallards can be seen throughout the Parish where there is even a moderate body of water, and is a familiar species all year round. It's always a pleasure to see adults with ducklings, and there were several records of successful breeding during the spring and summer. One pair managed to raise eight young on the drainage pond located at the south-west corner of Bishop Park, providing the residents of the estate with much delight during the first lockdown.

Pintail

Anas acuta

This species of duck is another that frequents floodwater on the Levels during winter, sometimes in quite sizeable numbers. January provided 13 records but only broke into double figures on two occasions, but by the end of February numbers had built up including a count of 200 from Rye Levels on the 18th. High numbers continued in March, with the largest total of the year, 250 on the 15th, again coming from the floods south of Rye Farm. The last wintering birds had departed by early April, and it wasn't until October 25th that returning birds were noted, with four seen on Rye Levels. During this second winter period Pintails were a constant presence in this area, although counts rarely made it into double figures with a high of 16 on October 28th.

Garganey

Anas querquedula

A pair of this migratory duck were found by a lucky birdwatcher on the Overflow Pit on April 21st. Interestingly, this was the same spot that a pair

were seen the previous year, on April 14th 2019. The 2020 pair represent the 27th record of this species for Henfield, and all of those have been birds seen during spring migration.

Shoveler

Anas clypeata

This species overwinters in the Parish in variable numbers, and all records submitted during the year came from Rye Levels. Maximum counts during January were 50 on the 6th, and then numbers built steadily during February with 200 noted on the 18th reaching a high of 250 on March 15th. No more sightings were reported after March 23rd, and it took until November 8th for the first wintering birds to return. The good numbers of late winter and early spring were not repeated during the latter stages of the year, with a high count of just 34 on December 14th.

Common Pochard

Aythya ferrina

This is a scarce species to see in Henfield, so it was pleasing to hear of at least one visiting the Parish. There were two records, possibly of the same bird, on March 8th and 15th on floods south of Rye Farm. This individual represents the thirteenth record for the Parish, and the first one to grace us since November 2014.

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

This is another species of duck that is not guaranteed to visit us every year, but in 2020 we were lucky enough to have four records of Tufted Duck in the Parish. All were from March and the first was of four on the 1st, on a flooded field at the end of Adams Gardens. The other three records were probably of the same birds, with six or seven seen between the 8th and 15th, all from the floods by Rye Farm.

Goosander

Mergus merganser

An excellent bird to find locally, two were observed near Stretham Bridge on November 8th. These were only the twelfth record for Henfield, with the last occurring in Henfield way back in February 2012.

Common Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

The species is possibly under-reported, but it was seen, or at least heard, in all months of the year in small numbers. The highest counts were of just three, made on two occasions, and there was no evidence of any pairs attempting to breed.

Great Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

This is non-breeding species within the Parish, with sightings peaking in the mid-winter before tailing off as we go into spring. This year none were recorded from May to July, with returning birds first observed at the end of August. The vast majority of the records came from Rye Levels, and this is where the highest count occurred, with fourteen on March 15th.

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Just the one record in 2020, but a decent one at that with a flock of no fewer than fifteen observed by Betley Bridge on July 23rd. Prior to this there had only been two individuals recorded in the Parish, one that stayed for a few days in January 2000, followed by one that was seen on November 28th 2019. This year's sightings therefore brings the Parish total up from two to seventeen in one fell swoop!

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Now a familiar sight in areas of the Parish with a decent amount of water, Little Egrets were recorded in every month of the year apart from August. Normally seen individually, a good count of six together came from west of Rye Farm on March 23rd. At present this species does not appear to breed in the Parish, and all records are currently of migratory and wintering birds.

Great White Egret

Ardea alba

Like its cousins Cattle and Little Egrets, Great White Egrets have been encroaching into southern England for some time, but whilst Cattle and Little Egrets were first recorded in Henfield back in 2000, we had to wait until 2020 to be graced with this

species for the first time. This addition to the Parish list was found by Mike Russell and Lesley Milward on April 22nd on Rye Levels. It hung around for another observer to see it in the afternoon but by the next day it had gone. This was, however, not to be the only record of the year, as another Great White appeared in October. Seen by two separate observers on the 3rd and 4th, this one was located by Chates.

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Seen throughout the year, Grey Herons can be found mainly in the ditches and scrapes on the Levels, but can be encountered almost anywhere in the village, including garden ponds. Counts only went higher than four birds on just one occasion, with six counted on November 28th. The heronry near Stretham was again active this year, with breeding confirmed when young were observed in one of the nests on April 15th.

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

As in 2019, all records of this species are treated as Knepp birds, so are still not officially on the Henfield list. However any White Storks observed locally are still noted, as the two that were seen near the confluence on May 6th have been. These were also the only records of the year.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Quite possibly the bird of the year, this species caused much excitement both locally and from birders from outside the Parish. A first for Henfield, it was found by Val Bentley on the floods by Rye Farm on January 6th and stuck around for at least ten days with the last confirmed sighting on the 16th. This period allowed many to see it (although unfortunately not this author, despite several attempts!), although it could appear rather elusive at times. By the 13th it had moved towards the Mill Stream, where the last sighting came three days later. Thought to be a first-winter bird, this was one of six seen in Sussex during 2020, and only 39 have been recorded in the County since the turn of the century of this Southern European species.

FINDING THE IBIS

At 11am on one of my regular walks with Maya the collie on 6th January 2020, I was scanning the partly flooded fields with binoculars (my 'scope was broken!) from the old railway line. A flock of Lapwing were between the path and Rye Farm. They suddenly lifted off from the ground and I realised that one of the birds was all dark, with a long neck and long down-curved bill. Glossy Ibis – a first for Henfield! Actual body size larger than the Lapwing, but not by that much? View was very brief as the flock moved slightly further south and my view of them was obscured by bushes at the side of the track. I walked back through the fields to see if I could relocate it but no luck, so no photo. It wasn't sunny, but it was morning and I was looking west, so the light conditions were pretty good. I posted the encounter on the SOS Sightings page. The bird was there again the following morning, feeding in the grass by Rye Farm. Alan Kitson, a birder from Steyning, was there when I arrived and had it in his 'scope. I also had mine today - stuck back together with sellotape! Both of us watched it for 10 minutes or so, before it dropped down into the ditch and didn't reappear. This time I got a record shot, though a really poor one. The light wasn't good – of course the sky cleared about 20 minutes later, but by then the bird was out of sight. On the 12th I was accompanied by Mike Russell Lesley Milward on my area walk, which we did in reverse, so the Rye Farm fields were last instead of first. We scanned and scanned the fields with 'scopes for the Glossy Ibis – nothing. Packed 'scopes away and headed off through the last gate, when a cry came from Lesley "There it is!" - the bird was on the bank of a ditch at the edge of the field we were in – super. We could see speckling on the head (which should age it as a first winter bird) and the sheen on the back. Excellent stuff!

Val Bentley

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

There were 12 records of Little Grebe in 2020, with precisely half of them coming from Woods Mill. Here a pair were present for most of the year, but breeding was not confirmed. Away from Woods Mill, three on March 13th on Rye Levels gave the highest count and also the first record of the year.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

Whilst this species is common in Sussex, it is somewhat of a rarity in Henfield, and the one seen on a flooded field west of the river at West End on March 9th was only the sixth record for the Parish and the first since June 2012.

Red Kite

Milvus milvus

It was another good year for this species, illustrating just how much more common a sight they are in the 21st Century. Overall, records were broadly similar to 2019, where the majority were single birds passing through, with two seen together on just four occasions. As in the previous year, Red Kites were seen in every month up to and including June. None were then seen until October, with just one record, and a total of five more were reported in November and December.

Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

There was one record of this raptor this year, the first since 2018 and just the sixth for the Henfield area. This bird, a male seen hunting to the west of Stretham Manor, was encountered on March 29th before departing high to the south.

Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

There were 34 records of this species in 2020, and as is nearly always the case with birds of prey they were all of single birds. Sparrowhawks were seen in every month of the year with January, April and September being the peak months, each with five records. There was no evidence of any breeding and numbers dropped to just one sighting a month from May to August. Sightings picked up in

September, including a female observed making an unsuccessful hunting attempt at a Pied Wagtail in Bishop Park, and another female gained instant notoriety in October when it took the Grey Phalarope that was present on Rye Levels.

Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo

This is now by far the commonest bird of prey in the Parish, with 128 records received during the year. Buzzards can be encountered anywhere in the village, usually drifting on thermals overhead, and were recorded in all months of the year. The peak months were March and April, with 30 birds counted in total. September was also a good month with 12. An adult observed taking nest material into trees just west of the confluence on May 10th was an indication of possible breeding, but there was no evidence of any success during the year.

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

All five of the records received for this species in 2020 were of single birds, and all in the second half of the year. All were from Woods Mill, except one in the Furners Lane area on June 27th, followed by the first at Woods Mill on July 13th. There was then a two and a half months break until the next, on October 31st, then the final two records were on November 28th and December 17th respectively.

Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

A common resident, Moorhens were seen throughout the year and occurred anywhere where there was a large enough body of water. This included the Tanyard Pond where a pair raised at least two chicks; breeding was also confirmed near Rye Farm, when recently fledged young were observed on September 9th.

Common Coot

Fulica atra

Whilst not seen as often as Moorhens, Coots tend to congregate in larger numbers, especially in the winter, favouring larger bodies of water. Counts of double figures were common during the first three

months of the year, with a high count of thirty on March 9th when much flooding was still in evidence. Numbers inevitably dropped off as the breeding season got underway, and breeding was confirmed at three sites, including fledged young on the Overflow Pit in May and then on Rye Levels in September. Strangely numbers did not pick up again post-breeding, there were no records submitted in October or November at all and just two in December, on the 19th and 27th. It was this latter date that gave the highest count of the second-winter period, of just nine birds.

Oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

Prior to 2020 there was just one record of Oystercatcher in the Parish, from 2008, but this year two were submitted, both from March. They presumably refer to the same bird as both records were of one individual separated by just six days. The first was in a field alongside the river near Great Betley Farm on the 9th and the second south of Rye Farm on the 15th.

Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

A lone individual flew in and settled by a flock of Lapwing on the Levels near Rye Farm on 1st December, giving Henfield its first record of this species since March 2018.

Northern Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

This is our commonest wading bird, with sizable flocks gathering on the Levels during the winter. Several pairs also attempted to breed during the summer, making it our only wader that can be seen throughout the year. The largest flocks tended to gather on the Levels south of Rye Farm with a January maximum of 600 and the highest count of the year, on February 6th, with up to a thousand recorded. West End Levels attracted fewer, but 140 west of Great Betley Farm on February 2nd was still a decent count. Numbers then dwindled through March and into the breeding season. At least two pairs were present in a field west of the river opposite Great Betley Farm during the summer, spending a fair bit of time chasing off the local Crows, but breeding could not be confirmed

there. There was more evidence further south however, where a possible seven pairs attempted to breed by Stretham Farm. Birds were seen regularly there during April and May, with displaying birds witnessed on May 2nd. Breeding was then confirmed when fledged young were observed on May 31st. By June and July numbers dropped again, before starting to build up once autumn got underway. Numbers did not match those of the first winter period though, with a high count of 253 made on December 5th. Once again, the majority of records during the last months of the year came from the floods south of Rye Farm.

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

This species has now become an annual visitor to the Levels, albeit in small numbers, and this trend continued into 2020. Three were present on Rye Levels for at least three days, with records from both January 6th and 8th, and a single bird was then observed in the same area on November 30th and December 1st.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

One was observed on Rye Levels on March 23rd, the only record of the year.

Grey Phalarope

Phalaropus fulicarius

You have to go back to 2014 for Henfield's first, and up until 2020, only record of this fascinating bird, but the Parish now has its second. This latest one was found by Val Bentley on Rye Levels on October 28th, and like its forebear stayed for three days, allowing many birders to catch up with it. However, whereas the one six years ago appeared to move on of its own accord, sadly this one met an unfortunate end when it was taken by a female Sparrowhawk on the 31st.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

This was a quiet year for this species, with just two records during the whole of 2020, the lowest since 2016. One was seen on the river up from Stretham on April 21st, with the second in the same area on July 1st.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

There were twelve records submitted of this wader in 2020, a regular visitor to the parish in winter and on passage. The first four were at the Overflow Pit in January, and were probably of the same bird. On January 12th one was seen along the western end of the Mill Stream, but none were recorded in February and just two in the spring, again along that stretch of the Mill Stream on March 9th and April 5th. Birds returning on passage first appeared on July 19th Woods Mill, with another present on the pond by New Inn Farm from August 8th to the 12th. Two were observed on the eastern stretch of the Mill Stream on August 15th, but it was a long wait until the next, and last, record of the year with a single bird noted on the Overflow Pit on December 23rd.

Common Redshank

Tringa totanus

Just two records during the year, both of single birds. The first was on March 23rd on the river north of Stretham, whilst the second was along the Mill Stream on April 7th.

Jack Snipe

Lymnocyptes minimus

An elusive bird at the best of times, there was just one record received of Jack Snipe in 2020, of a lone bird in the Stretham area on January 17th.

Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

One was noted at Woods Mill on October 31st.

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

The first records of Snipe came in early January when 100 were counted on Rye Levels on the 10th, this was also the largest count of the year. Numbers then struggled to get into double figures for the rest of the first-winter period, although birds were regularly seen throughout February and March, with the last record of spring coming on March 29th from the flood meadow next to Chates. Brief "drumming" was heard west of Stretham on 6th March. Post-breeding birds returned on October 11th, with 13, again near Chates. This area

also gave the high count of the latter part of the year with 42 on December 13th, with Rye Levels also providing plenty of records during this time, although only ones and twos were counted at a time. The Mockbridge area also held Snipe, when 13 were noted on November 21st.

Black-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

A very common winter visitor that gathers in large numbers on the Levels, Black-headed Gulls can also be encountered in smaller groups almost anywhere in the village. The highest count of the year came from fields by the Adur confluence, with 500 on the very first day of the year. Birds continued to be



Photo: Val Bentley

seen until near the end of March, with the last record coming from Rye Levels on the 23rd. Returning birds came back in small numbers from July 1st, slowly building during September and October before reaching a peak at the end of December, with 300 noted on December 27th.

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

Following an absence of two years it was pleasing to hear of three records of this species. All were of birds flying over the village, with singles noted on April 16th and 22nd, and then three together observed flying over the West End on May 26th. This brings the number of 'Med' Gull records for the parish up to eighteen, with the first ever record coming from 1995.

Common Gull

Larus canus

Like Black-headed Gulls this species is purely a winter visitor, again sometimes in impressive

numbers. However, this is a bird that will only be seen on the floodplains beside the river, mainly on Rye Levels, and so it proved in 2020. During the first winter period numbers fluctuated somewhat, with a high count of 600 on February 18th, which also turned out to be the highest of the year. By the end of March the last lingering birds had moved away and it wasn't until November 9th that they started to return, again in smaller numbers, before a peak of 367 on the Levels on December 24th.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

A scarce visitor, there were five records in 2020. One was observed by the Mill Stream on March 14th, with two then noted on June 26th on Rye Levels. One was present there on October 28th, and then seven on December 5th. That increased to ten on the 15th, both the highest count and the last record of the year.

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

The only Gull in the Parish likely to be seen in every month of the year, although numbers during the summer months tend to be much lower than during the winter months when this species moves inland from its traditional coastal sites. The high count of the year was of 100 on the floods south of Rye Farm on October 28th, and this was the only count submitted that reached three-figures. Despite there being birds present throughout spring and summer in the village no records of breeding attempts were received.

Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans

Recent developments in large Gull identification is a subject that either thrills or bores birdwatchers, and with several subspecies now having full species status it does offer the chance to make additions to many birders' lists. One of these is Caspian Gull, formerly a subspecies of Herring Gull but now recognised as a full species in its own right. Over recent years they have expanded their range westwards and are now a regular visitor to Britain. And now this species can also be added to the Parish list when a third or fourth winter bird was found by Mike Russell on April 7th, next to a pool

on Rye Levels. Mike gives us his account of finding this species in Henfield for the first time below.

A VISITOR FROM THE EAST

Looking across the little remaining pool of water on the Levels to Rye Farm, there were a couple of gulls by the pool that I felt obliged to have a look at, one being a juvenile Herring Gull and the other an adult. Looking through the telescope there seemed to be something different about the adult, it had a flat head, leading to a slightly longer, narrower beak that had a black ring on the end and drooped slightly at the tip. Unlike the fierce looking yellow eye of a herring gull, this one had a smaller black eye. Both gulls seemed to be unsettled by the noisy lapwings so took off and flew north so got a reasonable look at the wings in flight and the patterning again was slightly different to the Herring Gull so I cautiously thought that we might have been looking at a Caspian Gull! On returning home I checked the reference books and photo images and it appeared to be a third or fourth winter bird, and a first for Henfield to boot.

Mike Russell

Feral Pigeon

Columbia livia

Unsurprisingly this species is no doubt under-reported, and whilst being fairly common in the Parish there were only 12 records submitted, though known to be seen regularly under and near both Stretham and Betley Bridges. Breeding was probable around Rye Farm and Betley Bridge with pairs noted, but was not confirmed anywhere.

Stock Dove

Columbia oenas

Stock Doves were recorded in all months of the year, with the winter months producing the highest counts. This included 40 on January 3rd from the very south of our patch by Oreham. Most records were of birds in twos or threes though, especially during the breeding season. Unfortunately breeding was not confirmed within the Parish, but a pair were noted on the southern

stretch of the Downslink making it probable that there was some success there at least. Calling males were heard on several occasions from April to June, mainly from Woods Mill, the Mill Stream and Betley.

Wood Pigeon

Columbia palumbus

A very common breeding resident, 129 records were submitted of this species in 2020. The largest count within the Parish was a lowly 34 from the West End on January 26th, but this is probably another species that is under-reported. Breeding was probable from multiple sites, but was not confirmed anywhere.

Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur

One of the iconic species of Henfield, we are still fortunate enough to have this species visit us in the spring and summer. The first record of the year came from the eastern end of the Mill Stream when purring was heard on May 2nd, the same date and location for this migrant's arrival in 2019. Every record bar one came from this site and with one exception all were of a single bird, likely the same male holding a territory there. Two were counted on May 11th but this was the only time a pair was possibly present and unsurprisingly breeding was not confirmed. Away from the Mill Stream there was just one more record, when two were observed north of the West End on May 19th. Records of single birds continued to come from the Mill Stream into June and July, and the last one of the year came on August 8th.

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

A fairly common resident, this species was recorded in every month of the year in small numbers. A pair were present in West End Lane throughout the year, indicating probable breeding there. Another pair were also frequently seen in Staples Barn. The highest count was of just three on two dates that were split by the entire year: the first record was on New Year's Day in the West End, the second on New Year's Eve from Rye Farm.

Common Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

The first returning bird of the spring was on April 9th at Stretham, which was the earliest arrival since 2011. That was the first of 13 reports in that month, with a further 19 in May. Areas where



males appeared to concentrate their efforts were Chates, Betley, New Inn Farm, Stretham Manor, the Mill Stream and Woods Mill. Records then started to reduce dramatically with only three records in June, and the last record came from New Inn Farm on June 15th, pretty much inline with the previous ten year departure dates. Levels.

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Records of this species fluctuated throughout the start of the year, with four records in January, none in February, two in March and none again in April. These records came from Chates, the western end of the Mill Stream and Mockbridge, indicating that Barn Owls have a wide distribution in the Parish during winter, with a lot depending on the levels of flooding in the fields they hunt over. Breeding was confirmed in at least two areas, Stretham and Betley, with a pair from the latter regularly seen hunting by the river in July, taking any captured prey back in the direction of Great Betley Farm. Post breeding, birds continued to be seen in the remaining months of the year averaging one or two records a month, with the last of the year coming from the Levels, of two on December 24th.

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Tawny Owls were seen, or more likely heard, in all

months of the year, averaging around two or three records a month. One or two were regularly reported by the Tanyard, starting from the very first day of the year, with the last heard there on October 1st. Other records came from West End Lane on January 3rd, Woods Mill on July 18th, the Downslink by Bishop Park on November 19th and the last record came from the West End on December 24th

Little Owl

Athene noctua

There were two records in 2020, about average for this declining species, both of single birds. The first, on April 11th, was at Rye Farm, the second was seen from West End Lane on September 8th.

Common Swift

Apus apus

The first Swift of the year was recorded on April 21st with one seen over the Levels, equalling the previous earliest arrival date, set in 2012. It was then nine days until another sighting, this time over Stretham Manor. Once we were into May they became an almost daily occurrence for the remainder of the month and throughout June, with birds screaming over the High Street a regular and pleasing sight and sound. Twenty were counted overhead there on June 26th, the highest count from that location, whilst the largest gathering from the Parish as a whole was of 100 above the Mill Stream on June 8th. Henfield now has 34 Swift boxes installed in various locations around the village, and of these nine had active nests, two more than the previous year. Of those nine, four definitely produced young, a four fold increase on 2019. Records then started to peter out in July, with just six records covering a total of nine birds, with the one seen over Rye Levels on the 21st the last record of the year. (Many thanks to Debbie Colgate for providing the data on the Henfield nest boxes).

Eurasian Hoopoe

Upupa epops

One was seen and photographed on private land in the southeast of the Parish on April 29th, a brilliant record for Henfield. This gives us just our fifth record of this species in Henfield, with the last

occurring 15 years previously in May 2005.

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

It was a very quiet first half of the year for this species, with just six records between the start of the year and the end of June. The first was of a single flying over the Levels north of Stretham on January 18th. None were seen in February and just one in March on the 3rd. However, in June two



were regularly by Bineham Bridge at the start of the month, with at least one reappearing from time to time there during July and August. The second half of the year was much better, providing 13 records, mainly of single birds and generally seen along the river. The final record of the year came on December 4th from the West End Levels.

Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

This species is a fairly common resident within the Parish, recorded in all months of the year. Whilst there were birds observed in suitable habitat on several occasions there was no evidence that breeding took place this year.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopus major

The Woodpecker most likely to be seen and heard in Henfield, there were over 140 records of this species submitted. These came from 19 different 1km squares throughout the Parish, illustrating how widespread this species is. Drumming males were heard from the start of the year through to the end of April, and a nest with young noted in the Chates area during May. No drumming was reported at the tail end of the year however.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Dryobates minor

A record of one seen along the Downslink path south of Hollands Lane on January 13th gives some small hope that this species clings on in the Parish. However, with records less than annual and only of single birds, unfortunately the outlook looks somewhat bleak.

Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

Nearly a hundred records were submitted of this species in 2020, and came from all months of the year. A nest with young was noted in the Woods



Photo: Val Bentley

Mill area in June, and this was the only evidence of successful breeding during the year.

Hobby

Falco subbuteo

This species is a passage migrant in Henfield, and the first bird was noted on April 22nd. During spring passage there were three more records, a single bird at Stretham Manor on May 8th, one flying over the river towards Eatons Farm on May 24th with another over the West End the same day. West End then provided two in August on return migration, on the 2nd and 9th, and again in September on the 6th. The final record of the year was of one flying over the confluence on September 26th.

Peregrine

Falco peregrinus

There were 23 records of this Falcon submitted in 2020, all from outside the breeding season with none seen in June, July or August. One adult was regularly seen on the pylons that overlook the Mill

Stream, but all other records were generally of birds passing overhead.

Rose-ringed Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

There were two records of this species in 2020, comprising three birds. Two were seen in the Woods Mill area on November 3rd, and in the same month another was recorded in the West End on the 15th. Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, these are only the third and fourth records of Parakeets in the Parish, although this may be due it being an under reported species.

Golden Oriole

Oriolus oriolus

One was heard calling from behind Lower Station Road on May 28th, before heading off in a westerly direction.

Magpie

Pica pica

A very common resident, this species was recorded in all months of the year and throughout the Parish in 2020. Despite birds noted in suitable habitat on several occasions there were however no records of successful breeding.

Jay

Garrulus glandarius

A common resident, Jays were noted in ones and twos only for most of the year. It wasn't until October that more than two were noted at a time, as passage birds started to pass through in the autumn. The highest count, of four together, was made on the Downslink near Bishop Park on November 15th, and it was also there that an adult was seen carrying food on May 4th, a good indicator that at least one pair nested in the area.

Jackdaw

Corvus monedula

A very common resident that can often be encountered in large numbers, Jackdaws were seen in all months and in all areas of the Parish during the year. Fledged young were seen at the very northern extreme of our area, near The Bull public house, on May 31st, and the largest count was of a hundred on September 29th from Rye Levels.

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

Whilst not as common in Henfield as Jackdaws or Carrion Crows, Rooks were still recorded in every month of the year, although this species is more likely to be seen on open fields away from the village itself. The highest count was of 25 in a field alongside the Mill Stream on January 10th, and there was no record of any successful breeding this year.

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

A very common resident, this is a familiar species seen throughout all parts of the Parish and in every month of 2020. Outside of the breeding season they can gather in fairly large numbers, with 30 noted on October 31st on the southern stretch of the Levels and 59 by Stretham Manor on December 17th.

Raven

Corvus corax

Another species that has expanded its range in recent years, Ravens were noted in every month of the year apart from June and October. The majority of birds seen were singles or pairs flying over, averaging one or two records a month, and in all a total of 18 were reported. August was the best month, with three records giving a total of five birds.

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

There were 36 records of Goldcrest submitted during 2020, from all months of the year. Of those records 30 were of lone birds, with a highest count of five coming on December 5th from the Downslink north of Stretham.

Firecrest

Regulus ignicapillus

A far more scarce species in Henfield than its close cousin, there were three records of Firecrest during the year, and all came from November. Two were seen in Nep Town on the 8th, with another the next day near Dunstalls. Then on the 22nd the third record, again from Nep Town, was of a single bird. Firecrests are an annual visitor to Henfield, with on average five or six records a year. Three is

therefore the lowest number reported since 2010.

Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus

One of our more familiar birds, this garden favourite was seen in all areas of the Parish and throughout the year. As is to be expected higher counts were made in the winter months as they form flocks outside of the breeding season, with a high of 22 from the Mill Stream on December 5th. Breeding was confirmed from several locations within the village, nearly all from the use of nest boxes.

Great Tit

Parus major

Like Blue Tits, this species is a very common breeding resident, seen throughout the parish and in all months of the year. However, Great Tits are not seen in as large a number as Blue in the winter flocks, with counts of this species struggling to get into double figures. There was also less obvious breeding activity, with a report of fledged young on the Downslink by Betley on May 3rd and an occupied nest by Rye Farm later in May indicators of breeding success. Val Bentley also managed to capture and ring two juveniles in June and August.

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

This species is mainly a migrant and winter visitor in Henfield, and then only in small numbers. During the first half of the year there were just three records: from the south of the village on January 13th, then one was seen on a feeder next to Stonepit Lane on February 2nd, and again from there on March 7th. Apart from one seen in a garden on July 27th this species was then absent until September 14th with one appearing in the village centre and then another near Mock Bridge on October 8th. Two were seen at a feeder in a Nep Town garden in early November and the last record of the year then came on December 5th, from the Mill Stream

Marsh Tit

Poecile palustris

A declining species not only in Henfield but throughout the country, there were just four

records of Marsh Tits received during 2020. The first was from the Downslink north of Stretham on January 17th and that turned out to be the only record from the first half of the year. It wasn't until October when the next one was seen, in a garden in Deer Park on the 13th, and the last two records both came from Woods Mill. Two were observed there on November 7th and the second, and last of the year, was on December 19th of a single bird.

Skylark

Alauda arvensis

Although dropping in numbers considerably over the years, this is still a familiar bird of open farmland within the Parish. This species was noted in all months of the year, with the first singing male heard on February 2nd from alongside the river south of Betley Bridge. Singing birds were then heard throughout the spring and summer from various locations with the last one noted on June 26th by Chates. From that date Skylarks then started to gather in larger numbers into the autumn and winter, culminating in the highest count coming on the very last day of the year from fields either side of the Mill Stream, of an impressive 117.

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

This is a scarce passage migrant in the Parish, and there was only one record during the year. This came from Spring Hill, with ten observed there on September 10th.

House Martin

Delichon urbicum

Like Swallow, the first sighting of the year was recorded on April 1st, but this time over the village centre. There were then just three more records in April, presumably of passage birds, before our breeding birds began to return to their nesting sites. These continue to be the High Street and Deer Park, with the new colony at Bishop Park gaining a further two nests bringing its total to five. However, it appeared to be a poor breeding season for this species. Only two broods were raised in Deer Park, a steep fall from the 19 from the previous year. At Bishop Park one nest collapsed and no fledging was witnessed from the remaining nests. On the High Street four nests were once again active, although

any success was again not confirmed. Once the breeding season drew to a close numbers of records in the Parish rose quickly as House Martins began to pass through on the return journey to Africa. Double figure counts were regular in August and September, with a high of 70 noted over the river near Stretham Bridge on September 4th. Numbers then gradually reduced going into October, and the last sighting was of four by Stretham Bridge on October 13th.

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

The first Swallow of the summer was noted flying over West End on April 1st. Sightings then became increasingly more frequent as the spring went on, with daily records received during late May and into June. Juveniles were first noted from Lipride Farm on July 9th, and this area also had the highest count of the year, 22, a week later on July 16th. Surprisingly, there were no big gatherings noted in September or October, with counts struggling to get into double figures in those months, and the last records came from New Inn Farm on October 30th.

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

There were 52 records of this species received in 2020, and it was recorded in all months of the year except February. The first singing male was noted on April 2nd up river from Stretham Bridge, however it is the eastern end of the Mill Stream that continues to be its stronghold, with the majority of sightings coming from there. On June 30th an adult was seen carrying food within Woods Mill, a good indicator of successful breeding. All further sightings were then from the south of the Parish, along the Mill Stream and down to Stretham Manor, with the last of the year from the Mill Stream on December 31st.

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

A common resident, Long-tailed Tits were recorded in every month of the year. Peak counts were made in the winter months as they gathered in larger flocks with other species of tits, but this is a species that is rarely seen on its own and single

birds were only noted on two occasions during the whole year. It is also a species that is tricky to get breeding records for, but a record of an adult carrying food at Woods Mill on May 28th was welcome.

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

Sadly this species has now ceased breeding in the Parish, with the majority of records coming from birds on passage in autumn. A few are still recorded in spring however, and the first of the year was one in the village on April 26th. A singing male was heard at Woods Mill on May 2nd, but unfortunately this was also the last record until July with early returning birds noted from various locations on the 10th, 18th, 26th and 30th. Numbers peaked in August, with a total count of 18 from five records, and then dropped again in September, with just four from three records, including the last one of the year seen from Lower Station Road on September 21st.

Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita

This is a common breeding bird in the Parish, with numbers increasing during passage, particularly in



autumn, and a few over-winter with birds recorded in every month of the year during 2020. Two were recorded in January and three in February, including a singing male on February 5th from the Downslink by Rye Levels. Inevitably sightings increased dramatically in March as migrants started to arrive, with its familiar song heard frequently along the entire length of the Downslink and Woods Mill in particular. Records then levelled out during the summer and then peaked in September with a total of 66 counted in the month. Numbers tailed off quickly into

October with just four records, and then it was back to just a few wintering birds in November with two records and then finally four in December, including four birds seen along the Mill Stream on the 31st.

Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla

Another Warbler that is seen every month, with small numbers also over-wintering. There was one record in January of a male in a garden in Lower Station Road on the 23rd, and also one on February 1st from Furners Lane. Numbers increased in March as migrants started to arrive, with the first male heard singing its fine song on April 2nd. Records then peaked in April and May as males marked out their territories, and then tailed off during June and July as the summer wore on, with just two records from August. Autumn migrants swelled numbers again in September and October, then there were just one record apiece from the last two months of the year. One was seen in a garden off Church Street on November 22nd, and finally a female was seen in the same garden on the last day of the year.

Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

There were just six records of this species during the year, and all came from spring and early summer. The first of the year was from near Mock Bridge on April 25th, two were noted near Rye Farm on May 2nd and a singing male was heard from the southern end of the Downslink on the 4th. One was seen north of New Inn Farm on the 18th, with another one in full song from Woods Mill on the 28th. The final record of the year was also from that area, on June 15th.

Lesser Whitethroat

Sylvia curruca

There were 76 records received of this species in 2020, with the first, of a singing male, at Stretham Manor on April 7th. The majority of records were from Woods Mill and the Mill Stream, with singing males noted on 20 occasions. Away from those two areas possible territories were noted at the north-east corner of Bishop Park and at Catsfold Farm, both in May. Despite all of this singing, no breeding could be confirmed during the summer. All birds had either departed or passed through by early August, and the last record came from the river near Chates on the 8th.

Common Whitethroat

Sylvia communis

The first Whitethroat, a common breeding migrant to the Parish, was reported from the Downlink north of Stretham Manor on April 4th. This was followed by a further 105 records, spread over the six months from April through to September. The peak was in May, of both records and counts, no doubt helped by the males singing their easily recognisable song from exposed perches. Indeed, there were over 30 records of males doing exactly that from various parts of our area, although none led to any confirmed breeding. Records declined steadily into the summer, with a slight spike in August as migrating birds passed through. September was unusually quiet however, with just three records, and one in October, on the 5th near Stretham proved to be the last of the year. This also provided a new latest departure date for this species, beating the previous from 2016 by a massive twelve days.



Photo: Val Bentley

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

The first of the year was noted from the Mill Stream on April 21st, and it was from this month and May that the majority of records came. There were eleven in April and seven in May, with a total of six males appearing to hold a territory. Most of these came from the Mill Stream, giving hope that this species does breed in the Parish. One was noted on the western end of the Stream in June, with two probable migrants seen at the Overflow Pit on July 12th. The final records of the year came from August and the river north of the confluence, with one there on the 2nd and three counted on the 8th, the last of the year.

Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

A common migratory breeding species, Reed Warblers can be found where there is even a tiny patch of reeds in the Parish. The first was recorded on April 16th from the Mill Stream, and this was one of the best areas to hear and hopefully see one during the year. Territories were also held along the length of the river, with singing males heard at Betley, New Inn Farm and Stretham. A pair were reckoned to be holding a permanent territory on the western end of the Mill Stream as late as July 16th with no confirmation that they bred there. Three were heard in the Henfield Common Reedbed on April 27th and one on June 7th. August was very quiet with just three records of migratory birds, all by the river west of Chates, and the last was seen at Woods Mill on September 5th, the only record of that month.

Nuthatch

Sitta europaea

A common resident, this species was recorded in all months of the year. Nuthatches could be found wherever there was a reasonable stand of mature trees in the Parish, and was a regular visitor to many bird tables and feeders during the colder months.

Eurasian Treecreeper

Certhia familiaris

The total of records received was broadly similar to 2019, and this species was noted in every month

except November. Out of all of the records just three were of more than one bird, and of those only one offered any potential of breeding with a pair seen together at Woods Mill on June 3rd. However, this is a secretive species that probably goes under-reported, and the true numbers and breeding success is quite possibly higher than the current data suggests.

Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

A very common breeding resident within the Parish, Wrens are a familiar sight and sound from throughout the village and surrounding area. Recorded in all months and all areas, there were nearly 200 records received in 2020.

Common Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Despite being a common breeding resident and very common winter visitor, and therefore a familiar sight in Henfield, this is a red-listed species as numbers have plummeted in the UK over recent years. Counts are much higher during the winter months when Starlings flock together, on the Levels especially. The highest submitted during the year was 200 from alongside the open section of the Mill Stream on November 16th, and during the winter months counts of over 100 were common. Numbers tail off in March as birds depart to breed, with some staying on to nest in the village. Indeed, a new colony has been established at Bishop Park, where enterprising males found gaps in the new build houses to build their nests, with at least five successful pairs breeding. Recently fledged young were noted there on May 18th, but sadly this was the only reported evidence of successful breeding. Again this is probably due to under-reporting, but it is important that all records of breeding are noted to monitor the progress of this threatened species.

Blackbird

Turdus merula

A very common breeding resident, this species is seen throughout the village and is a regular visitor to many gardens. Seen in all months of the year, numbers are swelled by migrant birds visiting us in the colder months, with November and December both containing the most records. There was just

one record of confirmed breeding, when an adult male was observed regularly collecting worms from a lawn in Bishop Park during May.

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

A common winter visitor, Fieldfares can gather together in sizeable flocks, and during the first winter period counts of thirty plus were commonplace. There was even a three-figure report when 150 were noted around Stretham on January 23rd. Numbers dropped during March, with



just 16 birds recorded, and the final spring record was five near Chates on April 5th. The first returning birds were observed on October 15th from the Levels, one of two records in the month. November saw more arrive, with sightings common place during the month and through to the end of the year, with 60 seen by the Overflow Pit on November 16th the highest count of the second winter period.

Song Thrush

Turdus philomelus

A common resident, males start to sing and hold a territory during the depths of winter, and the first doing just that was noted on January 8th. Singing birds were then heard sporadically through the remaining winter months, with the onset of spring increasing the numbers of males eager to find a mate. Fledged young were observed on July 13th near Betley, and the last male in song was heard in the same month, on the 21st. As usual for this species, sightings dropped dramatically in August and September, but increased again in the autumn and winter, with December holding the largest amount of records received during the year.

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Not recorded quite as much as Fieldfares, Redwings are nevertheless a common sight during the winter in the Parish. Seen regularly during the first months of the year, 70 were noted from the Betley area on January 3rd, with a further 60 near Bishop Park on February 15th. Just two were seen in March, and the last of the spring were observed south of Holedean Farm on April 3rd. The first one of the autumn was noted in a garden on October 3rd, the earliest arrival date since 1990. This turned out to be just one of two records that month, with only five in November, but December was better with 21 records giving a total of 252 birds counted in the final month of the year.

Mistle thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Mistle Thrushes were seen every month except February when strangely no records were submitted. The peak month was July which saw double the records of any other month, and breeding was probable at at least two sites. The end of the year saw a slight upturn in sightings, but with a maximum of two birds counted on any single day.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

There were seven records of this declining species within the Parish, and the first of the year set a new early arrival date, when one was seen at New Inn Farm on May 11th. One was at Woods Mill on June 22nd, and three were noted in July: a single bird on the 7th at Lipride Farm and then two on the same day just up the road at Nep Town. The final three records were all in September, with two separate observers noting one and two from West End on the 18th, and the last of the year was recorded at Woods Mill on the 21st. As in recent years there were not any records of breeding activity, once again sadly confirming that this species has probably ceased breeding within the Parish.

Robin

Erithacus rubecula

One of our most common birds in Henfield, this is a species that is seen throughout the year and in

every part of the Parish. The highest numbers were recorded in the winter months when they are more likely to be seen in gardens, whilst there was a slight dip in late summer as birds become flightless whilst moulting and keep themselves out of view. Recently fledged young were noted on just two occasions, but like other common species Robins probably suffer from under-reporting.

Common Nightingale

Luscinia megarhynchos

Nightingales continue to be one of Henfield's notable breeding species, with numbers appearing to remain stable in Henfield from 2019. The first of the year was noted at the Mill Stream on April 6th, the earliest this species has been record in the Parish, and this area once again proved good, with at least three males setting up a territory. The



Photo: Nick Davies

Downslink, as in the previous year, once again had singing males, with three noted between Bishop Park and Betley, with a further two on the stretch from Sandy Lane to Stretham Bridge. Furners Lane also had a returning male, noted on several dates in April and May. Just to the north, in the Parish of Shermanbury, there were between three and five along the bridleway between Shermanbury Place and Frylands Lane. This summer visitor was done and dusted by June, and the last of the year was recorded at Woods Mill on the 15th.

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros

One appeared at Bishop Park on April 2nd, the only record of the year. Interestingly this was the exact spot where one was seen in the previous autumn, and as in 2019 it also cropped up in the observer's garden. This was the fourteenth record

for the Parish, and as some of those will be of multiple records of the same bird the true figure of Black Redstarts to grace the village is probably closer to eight individuals.

Common Redstart

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Just the one record of this species in 2020, with a male seen at Woods Mill on August 24th. This brings the Parish total up to 18 for this scarce passage migrant within Henfield.

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra

There was just one record of Whinchat during the year, and as with the vast majority of previous records this also came during the autumn. It was of a single bird on the Levels south of Rye Farm on September 9th.

Eurasian Stonechat

Saxicola torquatus

This species is a reasonably common sight during the winter months, especially along the river and Mill Stream. Birds were seen regularly during January and February, often in pairs, but sightings dwindled as spring arrived, and the last record of the first half of the year was on the southern part of the Levels on May 12th. None were seen during the summer, and it wasn't until October 5th that the next ones were seen, with four noted north of the Mill Stream towards Lipride Farm. They marked the start of the winter arrivals of this species and Stonechats were once again a locally common occurrence during the remainder of the year.



Photo: Val Bentley

Northern Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

Although perfectly common as a passage migrant just a stone's throw away on the South Downs, in Henfield this is a scarce bird, the fact that there were only two records during the entire year reinforces this. There was one spring record and one from late summer, and the first was of a single bird by the Mill Stream on May 6th. The later record was on August 29th, when two were observed by the Adur confluence.

Dunnock

Prunella modularis

A common breeding resident, this is probably another familiar species that gets overlooked and is therefore under-reported. However, it was still recorded in all parts of the village and in all months during 2020.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

Locally this species is still a common breeding species in Henfield, with colonies scattered across the village. The main concentrations were in the centre of the village itself, with records also coming from Staples Barn and Stonepit Lane, where at the latter birds were noted entering nest boxes attached to a cottage there. On the whole most records were of birds in ones and twos with no large flocks noted in the urban areas, though chirruping from roost sites in privet hedges such as outside Stokes and on the Common may suggest otherwise.

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

There were seven records of Yellow Wagtail in 2020, and all occurred in September. Two birds were first noted in the field between Adams Gardens and the river on September 14th, and these were then joined by more over the course of the next week, with a peak of five on the 20th. This area provided five of the records, with the penultimate on September 24th in the far north of the Parish by the Bull Pub, and the final sighting was two days later from the Mill Stream. This date also proved to be the latest that this species has ever been recorded in the Parish.

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea

This species was recorded in every month except March, with most of the records coming from Woods Mill. There a pair successfully bred, with fledged young noted on both June 5th and 8th, and at least two young raised. Away from Woods Mill the southern stretch of the Levels proved reliable, but all records came from the winter months only.

Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba

A common breeding resident, this species was seen in all months and most parts of the Parish. Just as likely to be seen in an urban environment as in the countryside, Bishop Park was a hotspot during 2020, with several birds regularly recorded there throughout the year. The included at least one pair successfully breeding and a family with young visited a garden within the estate on several occasions during May, with a possible second brood noted in July. There were no sizeable flocks seen however, the largest being just 6, observed on September 18th by the confluence.

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

A common winter visitor and passage migrant, a few were also noted during the summer months in 2020. A couple of males were even observed doing their marvellous flight song and parachuting display, but whether these stayed to breed or were just excitable birds passing through is not known, and the breeding status of this species within the Parish remains unclear. The highest count was of 17 near Stretham Manor on October 5th, but apart from that there were no other counts in double figures throughout the year.

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

On New Year's Day a single Water Pipit was observed on the Levels south of Rye Farm, only the fourth record for the Parish. This follows on from one that was recorded last year, whilst the other two occurred way back in 1983 and 1984 respectively.

Brambling

Fringella montifringella

There was just one record of this scarce winter visitor, of a single bird on January 17th from the southern area of the Levels. This was the first record since 2016, and only the 48th for the Parish.

Chaffinch

Fringella coelebs

A common breeding resident, this species has suffered a small decline in the Parish recently but the male's song is still a familiar sound during spring in most parts of the village. In 2020 Chaffinches were recorded in all months of the year, but all records bar one were in single figures. Twenty-eight were seen along the Mill Stream on the final day of the year.

Bullfinch

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Numbers of this Finch are holding steady in the Parish, with a similar amount recorded in 2020 as in the previous year. Seen throughout most of the year, there were none seen in August, and only two in each of September and October. Sightings picked up in November with December bringing much better news with seven records submitted.

Greenfinch

Chloris chloris

Although much declined in recent years due to the Trichomonosis parasite, this species can still be seen in decent numbers within the Parish. Recorded in all months except November during 2020, the peak month was January which also included the highest count, of 19 on the 5th in the West End area. Although there was a slight reduction in sightings as winter gave way to spring, records were submitted on a regular basis until a sharp drop in the summer with just one record in June. This then set a very quiet pattern throughout the remainder of the year, with just a handful of records from July to December, although September managed a decent count of 12 on the 20th, again from West End.

Linnet

Carduelis cannabina

2020 got off to a very slow start for this species,

with just two records involving a grand total of four birds from the first three months of the year. The arrival of April opened up the floodgates with 24 records, mainly from the river and Mill Stream, with May and June also proving good. Although pairs together were noted on several occasions during this period there was no confirmed breeding, and records soon dropped again in late summer, with just one from July, albeit of a count of 12 birds. August then had the high count of the year, with a flock of 30 noted along the river by the confluence. There was then a steady decline in autumn, with eight records in September, three in October and none in November, with a slight improvement in December which had four records submitted including one from Furners Lane on the 10th.

Lesser Redpoll

Carduelis cabaret

There were five records during 2020, all coming from the last three months of the year. The first from, October 18th, was of 75 over Lower Station Road giving us a record count for this species. The previous high was of 70 from a field by the Lydds in December 2015. During November nine were noted at West End on the 1st, four were on the river's edge south of Betley on the 8th, and on the same day 13 were present again at West End. The final record of the year was from the Downslink north of Stretham on December 5th.

Common Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra

Prior to 2020 Henfield had only two records of this species, but it now has five. Of the three records during the year the first was of two on July 5th from West End, with a further three seen in the same area on September 27th. November 8th saw the last record, with one observed at Stretham Manor. Both of the previous records came from 2012, therefore this species has been encountered in only two years within the Parish.

Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis

This is now our most common finch in the Parish, no doubt assisted by the ready availability of seed in garden feeders. Seen in every month and in most areas, the largest counts during the year were of 25

made on three dates. However, despite singing males and pairs observed in suitable habitat no actual nesting or successful breeding was noted.

Eurasian Siskin

Carduelis spinus

This was a good year for this species, with nine records received. These were the first since 2017 and represents the best total for Siskin in the Parish since 2011. September was the peak month with four records giving a total of 16 birds. Sightings came from the village centre, West End and Lower Station Road, and the largest count was of ten, from the latter site, on September 20th.

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citronella

A red-listed species that has suffered huge losses over the last quarter of a century, Henfield still manages to do fairly well with breeding Yellowhammers. The male's song can be heard at regular intervals along the river with several territories noted in 2020. Birds were also seen along the Mill Stream during the breeding season, and slightly north of there by Lipride Farm. No large gatherings were observed during the winter, with just three noted at a time the highest count, but birds were recorded on many occasions during the colder months, mainly along the river.

Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

A common resident, this species was a familiar sight along the river during both the breeding season and the winter in 2020. Pairs and singing males were noted from Betley, west of Chates, New Inn Farm, Rye Farm, the Mill Stream and Stretham Manor. The highest count outside of the breeding season was of fifteen from Woods Mill on December 19th, and there were also at least two gardens that were visited by this species during the winter.

ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS NOTED IN THE PARISH DURING 2020

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus*

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus*

Migrant arrival & departure dates

Table 1: Summer visitors

Species	2020 arrival dates		2020 departure dates	
	First arrival	Earliest record	Last departure	Latest record
Garganey	21st April	20th Feb1995	NR	NR
Little Ringed Plover	NR	22nd March 1997	NR	NR
Common Tern	NR	17th April 2006	NR	3rd Oct 1999
Turtle Dove	2nd May	12th April 1993	8th August	19th Sept 2017
Cuckoo	12th April	3rd April 2011	15th June	17th Oct 1999
Swift	21st April	21st Apr 2012/20	21st July	14th Oct 2008
Hobby	22nd April	11th April 2012	26th April	8th Oct 2010
Sand Martin	21st April	26th March 2006	10th September	25th Sept 2012
Swallow	1st April	15th March 2009	30th October	15th Nov 1990
House Martin	1st April	5th April 2012	13th October	20th Nov 1990
Willow Warbler	26th April	15th March 2009	21st September	4th Oct 1989
Garden Warbler	25th April	15th April 2015	15th June	10th Sept 2019
Lesser Whitethroat	16th April	8th April 2014	8th August	30th Sept 2000
Whitethroat	4th April	3rd April 2011	5th October	5th Oct 2020
Grasshopper Warbler	NR	14th April 1983	2nd September	14th Sept 1995
Sedge Warbler	21st April	13th April 1996	8th August	6th Oct 1991
Reed Warbler	16th April	8th April 2012	5th September	14th Oct 1991
Spotted Flycatcher	11th May	11th May 2020	21st September	30th Sept 2000
Nightingale	6th April	6th April 2020	15th June	27th August 2019
Pied Flycatcher	NR	24th April 1994	NR	23rd Sept 2017
Redstart	NR	13th April 2011	24th August	11th Oct 2011
Whinchat	NR	24th April 2014	9th September	16th Oct 2016
Wheatear	14th April	18th March 2010	1st September	8th Oct 2009
Yellow Wagtail	NR	12th April 2004	26th September	26th Sept 2020

Table 2: winter visitors

Species	2020 departure dates		2020 arrival dates	
	Last departure	Latest record	First arrival	Earliest record
Bewick's Swan	NR	15th March 1988	NR	3rd Nov 2001
Jack Snipe	17th January	11th April 2021	17th January	18th Oct 2015
Fieldfare	5th April	3rd March 1984	15th October	30th Dec 1983
Redwing	7th March	13th April 1996	3rd October	19th Sept1991
Great Grey Shrike	NR	1st May 2014	NR	27th Sept1990
Water Pipit	1st January	14th March 1991	1st January	NR
Brambling	17th January	25th April 1999	17th January	6th Oct

NR: species not recorded during that period of 2020; dates in bold indicate a new earliest or latest date

Final thoughts

I hope you enjoyed reading about the wonderful range of birds we still have around our parish and it was nice to record three new species in the year to boost our overall total, the likelihood is that all of them will be recorded again as they are extending their breeding range. Undoubtedly, more people are birdwatching in Henfield so the more eyes that are looking the more birds will be seen and reported. All your records are important as it is crucial that we monitor the populations as the changing landscape and climate has an enormous impact on our birdlife and helps us deliver one of the original targets when we set up Henfield Birdwatch way back at the end of the last century. I've been looking back in my diaries that go back to when I arrived in Henfield in 1985 and it's sobering and depressing that of species recorded regularly then such as Bewick's Swans, Tree Sparrow, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Spotted Flycatcher, but now the first two were not recorded at all 2020, the third was only seen once and the fourth is reduced to an uncommon species only recorded on migration. Just recently, other species seen in the parish, Greenfinch, Swift and House Martin, have been

added to the red data list of Birds of Conservation Concern so we need to continue monitoring them and encouraging their continued breeding in the parish. On a more positive note, in that same period we have seen increases in, and new arrivals of, some species, Little Egrets being one and the likelihood is that both Cattle and Great White Egrets will now follow their example. Common Buzzards and Red Kites are now regularly seen in the skies above our parish and we can perhaps look forward to seeing more White Storks and White-tailed Eagles due to re-introduction programmes. This summary is the first report that we intend to produce every year in the future and is yet another big step forward in understanding, learning about and enjoying the birds in our parish. It is an important part of providing information not just to our members but everyone residing within our parish and beyond our boundaries through our website, Facebook page and email group. As an organisation, I feel we are in a very strong position to carry on with what I believe is vital for the prosperity of birds that live alongside us.

- **Mike Russell**

A checklist of the birds of Henfield

Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Common resident
Bewick's Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Bean Goose	<i>Anser fabalis</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Common resident
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Common resident
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	Scarce visitor
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Fairly common winter visitor
Mandarin	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	Rare visitor
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Common winter visitor
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Fairly common winter visitor
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Common winter visitor
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Very common resident
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Fairly common winter visitor
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Rare passage migrant
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Common winter visitor
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Rare winter visitor
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Scarce resident
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Very scarce visitor
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Common resident
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Very rare winter visitor
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Fairly common winter visitor
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	Very rare winter visitor
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Very rare vagrant
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Very rare vagrant
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Very scarce visitor
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Fairly common winter visitor and rare resident

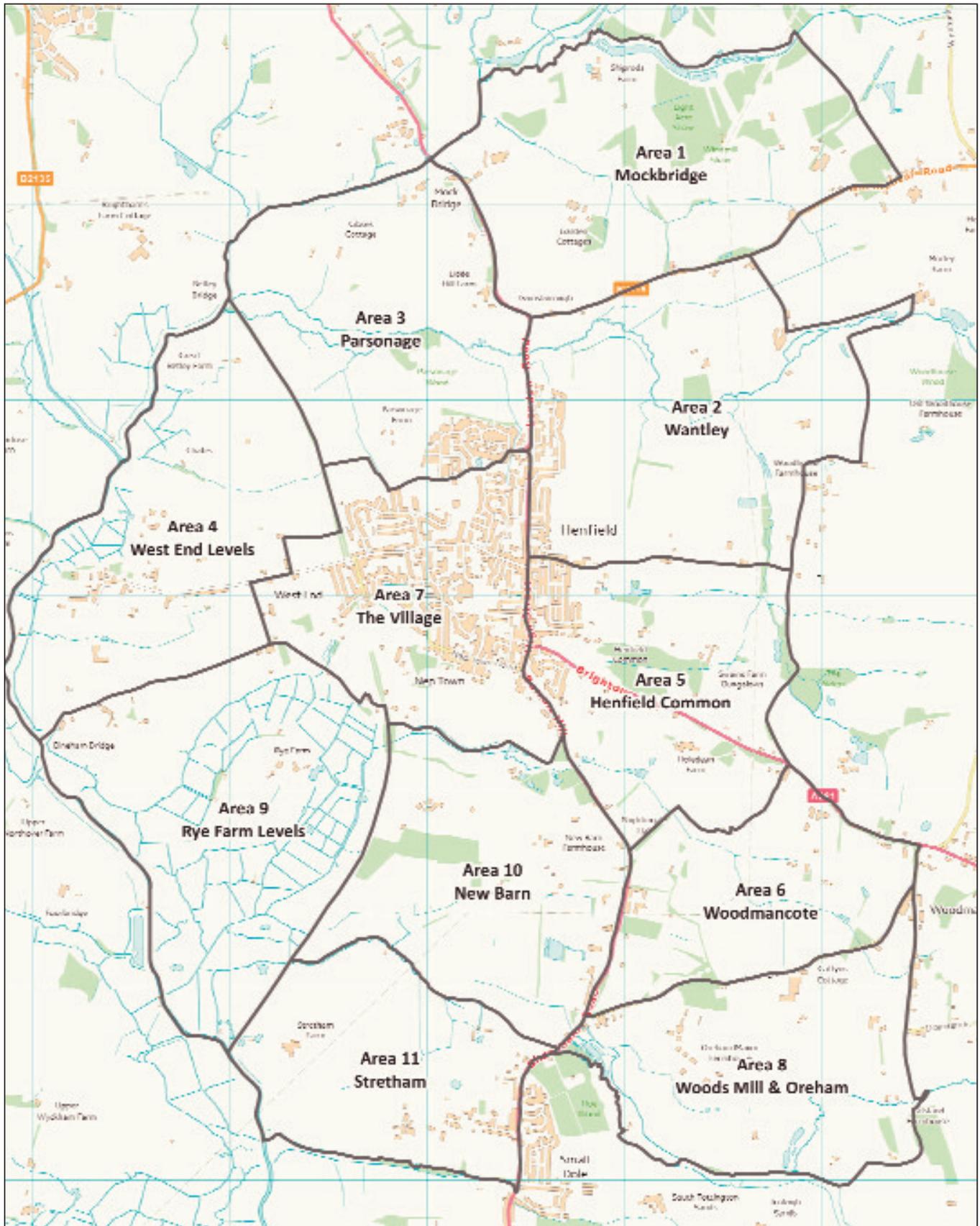
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Fairly common breeding resident
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Very rare passage migrant
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	Very rare passage migrant
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	Scarce breeding bird and winter visitor
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	Fairly common resident
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Rare passage migrant
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Very scarce visitor
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Fairly common breeding resident
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Fairly common breeding resident
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Scarce resident
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common breeding resident
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	Fairly common breeding resident
Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	Very rare passage migrant
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Very common winter visitor and scarce breeding species
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Grey Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Fairly common winter visitor

Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Very common winter visitor
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	Very rare passage migrant
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Fairly common winter visitor
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Fairly common resident
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Common resident
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Rare winter visitor
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	Very rare winter visitor.
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Common resident
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Common resident
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Very common resident
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Common resident
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Very scarce breeding summer visitor
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Fairly common breeding summer visitor
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Scarce breeding resident
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	Scarce breeding resident
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	Fairly common breeding resident
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Very scarce visitor
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	Very rare passage migrant
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	Fairly common breeding summer visitor
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	Rare passage migrant
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Fairly common winter visitor and scarce breeding resident
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	Very rare passage migrant
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	Fairly common resident
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Common resident
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>	Very scarce resident
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common resident
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Fairly common resident
Rose-ringed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Very scarce visitor

Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Very rare passage migrant
Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Very rare winter visitor
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Very common resident
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Common resident
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Very common resident
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Common resident
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Very common resident
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	Fairly common breeding resident
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	Scarce resident
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	Very common resident
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Very common resident
Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>	Common winter visitor
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	Former breeding resident, now extinct within the parish
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	Scarce resident
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Common breeding resident
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Fairly common passage migrant, more numerous in autumn
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Fairly common breeding visitor and very common passage migrant
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Fairly common breeding visitor and very common passage migrant
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	Scarce resident
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Common resident
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Common breeding visitor, very common passage migrant, a few are seen in winter
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Common passage migrant, formerly bred
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Common breeding visitor, very common passage migrant, a few are seen in winter
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Scarce breeding visitor and passage migrant
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Fairly common breeding visitor and passage migrant
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Common breeding visitor and very common passage migrant
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Scarce passage migrant, all records from spring
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	Rare passage migrant
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	Scarce breeding visitor and common passage migrant
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	Common breeding visitor and passage migrant
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Rare winter visitor
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Common resident
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Fairly common resident
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Very common resident
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common resident, very common in winter

Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Very common resident
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Common winter visitor
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Common resident
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Common winter visitor
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Fairly common resident
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Very common resident
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	Scarce breeding summer visitor
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Rare passage migrant
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	Very scarce passage migrant, more numerous in autumn
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Fairly common passage migrant, more numerous in autumn
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	Fairly common winter visitor and rare breeding resident
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Very common resident
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Very common resident
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Former breeding resident, now extinct within the parish
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Fairly common passage migrant, more numerous in autumn
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	Common resident
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Common winter visitor and passage migrant
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Common resident
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Fairly common resident
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Common resident
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Fairly common resident
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Very rare winter visitor
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Common resident
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Fairly common resident
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Common resident

Area map of Henfield



The map above illustrates the region covered by Henfield Birdwatch and the areas into which it is divided for reference purposes.

Notes



www.henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk