

# Henfield Birdwatch

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*A Survey of Birds in the Parish of Henfield in 2021*

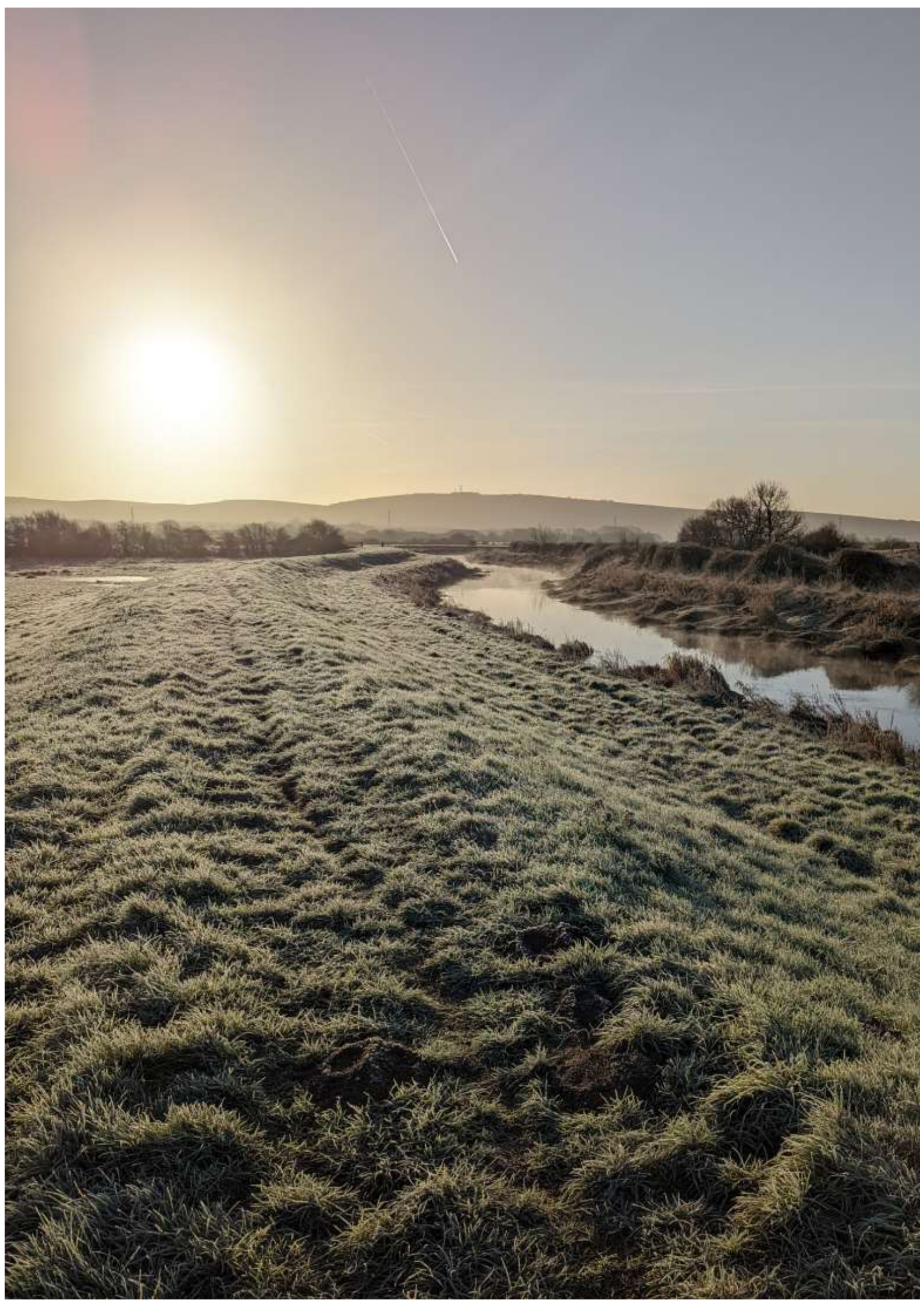




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# Foreword

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Welcome to the 2021 Henfield Birdwatch report, the second of our now annual summary of the birdlife within the Parish.

This year sees some improvements over the 2020 edition, with advances made in the way that the data is collected which will give us a much more accurate record of the birds that are present within the Parish during the year. This also enables us to send all records held solely by Henfield Birdwatch on to the Sussex Ornithological Society, the end result being that each year every bird recorded within Henfield will find its way onto their database, approximately some 10,000 records annually (give or take few hundred)!

This year also sees two extra articles included. The first is a report of the ongoing survey work at Perching Manor Farm, a fascinating project giving an insight into how farming and wildlife can go

hand-in-hand, whilst the second is a review of Swift nesting success, a key species within the village that has been assisted by the erection of artificial nest boxes.

These improvements and additions will hopefully make this publication a more accurate and interesting read, but it won't stop here; over time more ideas and innovations will be included, enabling the Henfield Bird Report to go from strength to strength and be a vital record of the avifauna of the Parish.

One thing has not changed this year though: once again all of the photographs within these pages were taken in the Parish itself and all bar two by Henfield Birdwatch members. We are very fortunate to have so many excellent photographers within our ranks.

- Paul Cole

## Credits

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Front cover: Wheatear, Val Bentley Page two: The Adur at dawn, looking towards Truleigh Hill, Paul Cole  
Final thoughts: Chanctonbury Hill at dusk, Paul Cole Rear cover: Starling, Paula Blake



[www.henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk](http://www.henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk)



2021 saw life gradually moving back to a certain level of normality although coronavirus still affected many aspects of our lives. We managed to re-institute walks and visits around the parish and beyond albeit with limited numbers at first and in September we held our Big Bird Bash weekend again. By September, we felt the time was right to have a belated face-to-face AGM and were rewarded with a good turn-out of members who appeared to really enjoy not only meeting together again but of course Nigel Colgate and Will Green's esoteric quiz! Also, by the end of the year, we were able to reinstate the annual talk and a good audience enjoyed Mark Mallalieu's presentation on Honey Buzzards and Goshawks in Sussex. Our breeding and winter area surveys continued and the Perching Manor Farm survey team of Nigel and Debbie Colgate, Lesley Milward and Will Green resumed their farmland bird surveys and a report of the results appears later on in the book. Nightingale territories were

estimated from casual records again this year, while Debbie Colgate continued to monitor and promote the parish Swift population. Membership of Henfield Birdwatch continued to grow as did the number of people joining our Facebook group. It was great to see the interaction that now takes place amongst members, and the increasing number of posts. Once again, a huge thanks goes to Paul Cole who undertook collating all the records accrued through the various surveys, email and Facebook sightings and by combing through local records held by the Sussex Ornithological Society. He has then written and produced this book, under the editorial eye of Val Bentley, which is a huge task. I hope you agree that this is an excellent publication which continues to provide an ongoing record of birds in the parish, keeping Henfield at the forefront of community involvement in wildlife conservation in the UK.

- Mile Russell, Chairman

# Review of the year

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## January

Species **84** Records **1,235** Year list **84**

The year began with a male Goosander on the river at Stretham on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, with a Firecrest at Catsland Farm the same day. Five White-fronted Geese were present on the floods by Rye Farm the next day, and on the 6<sup>th</sup> a Jack Snipe was flushed from the Levels. The five White-fronted Goose re-appeared at Betley on the 9<sup>th</sup>, with three Great Black-backed Gulls loafing on Rye Farm Levels on the 18<sup>th</sup>, which had reduced to one by the next day. A Water Pipit stayed around the same area from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>, and was joined by a Tufted Duck on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Then, on the 26<sup>th</sup>, a Firecrest was found along Sandy Lane.

## February

Species **81** Records **1,394** Year list **90**

A Water Rail was seen at West End Levels on the 6<sup>th</sup>, with a Golden Plover further south on the Levels on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The next day another Great Black-backed Gull was noted, this time at at Oreham Common. Then on the 21<sup>st</sup> a Turnstone was observed on the river by Stretham, the first time this species has been recorded in the Parish, and the same day and area saw another Water Pipit there. A Dunlin was recorded on Rye Farm Levels on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and also that day a Firecrest was reported from the Village.

## March

Species **83** Records **617** Year list **98**

Another species was added to the Parish list when two Avocets were seen on the levels on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and on the 12<sup>th</sup> a lone White-fronted Goose was observed west of Stretham, the first time this species has been recorded in March. Five Lesser Black-backed Gulls were present on Rye Farm Levels on the 13<sup>th</sup>, with a Mandarin by Eatons Bridge the next day. Two Black-tailed Godwits were noted from Rye Farm Levels on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and

on both the 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> a Great White Egret was seen at Stretham Manor and Pear Tree Farm respectively.

## April

Species **94** Records **1,394** Year list **118**

Four Garganey were present on the Overflow Pit from the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and a pair stayed until at least the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Great White Egret reappeared on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at various locations, with a Little Ringed Plover at the river confluence on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and another four turning up at Stretham Manor the next day. An Osprey was seen flying over Woods Mill on the 7<sup>th</sup>, with a Marsh Tit there on the 8<sup>th</sup> too. A Redstart turned up at Betley, also on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with a Jack Snipe at West End Levels on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the Great White Egret was then seen at Wantley on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The next day a Water Rail was at Woods Mill, a Brambling was noted at West End on the 18<sup>th</sup> and a Black Redstart was found at Mock Bridge on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Then on the 30<sup>th</sup> a migrating Yellow Wagtail was noted from the Levels.

## May

Species **86** Records **1,718** Year list **122**

The month got off to a great start with a Wryneck along the Mill stream on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, whilst on the 4<sup>th</sup> a Common Sandpiper was seen on the river's edge at Stretham Manor, and a Lesser Black-backed Gull was nearby the same day, being seen on and off for the next few days. The first Turtle Dove of the year was noted at Little Oreham Farm on the 5<sup>th</sup>, with a Marsh Tit at Stretham the same day. Three Whimbrels were recorded from the Levels on the 7<sup>th</sup>, with individual Spotted Flycatchers at Stretham on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the Common on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A Red-legged Partridge was then noted from the Betley area on the 29<sup>th</sup>, a rare visitor to the Parish. Our breeding migrants also began to arrive in good numbers, with Nightingale, Cuckoo, Swift and various warblers all becoming more conspicuous.

## June

Species **72** Records **893** Year list **122**

After the excitement of the spring June turned out to be a lull, with the number of records and therefore species recorded much lower. Highlights of the month proved to be a Red Kite over the Village on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Hobby at Woods Mill on the 4<sup>th</sup>, a Little Grebe, also at Woods Mill on the 5<sup>th</sup>, and another Hobby flew past the Overflow Pit on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

## July

Species **61** Records **397** Year list **122**

Somehow July was even more subdued than June, with highlights hard to come by. Hunting Barn Owls were noted over West End Levels on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, with Tawny Owls heard on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Screaming parties of Swifts became a common sight over the Village, whilst the last Nightingale record of the year was received, from Parsonage on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

## August

Species **65** Records **187** Year list **123**

Although the number of species recorded was slightly up, August still had less than half the records of the previous month. There was still the odd interesting bird around to see however, with a Lesser Black-backed Gull at West End Levels on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and a Peregrine seen over New Hall Lane on the 4<sup>th</sup>. A Little Owl was a great record and was seen at Wantley on the 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Wheatear at Bishop Park on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Migration activity increased as the month wore on, with two Yellow Wagtails, one of the more scarce passage birds in the Parish, noted from Woods Mill on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

## September

Species **57** Records **147** Year list **125**

The summer malaise continued into the Autumn, with both the lowest amount of species seen and the lowest amount of records received of the year. It was however a good month to see Red Kites in

the Parish, with several records spread throughout the month and from various locations. Elsewhere, a Whinchat was seen in Woodmancote on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a Hobby was observed from Woods Mill on the 6<sup>th</sup>. A Spotted Flycatcher was at Wantley on the 10<sup>th</sup>, with another Wheatear at Bishop Park on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The next day saw two Whinchats at the Overflow Pit and a Yellow Wagtail at Stretham. Also from that site was a Wheatear on the 17<sup>th</sup>, with more decent migration activity noted when a Pied Flycatcher was seen in a West End garden on the 19<sup>th</sup>, followed by another Wheatear on the 20<sup>th</sup>, again from West End.

## October

Species **75** Records **443** Year list **125**

The month was mainly notable for the return of winter visitors, with Teal, Wigeon, Pintail, Redwing and Fieldfare all re-appearing in the Parish. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> a late Sand Martin was noted at West End Levels, with a Red-legged Partridge at Oreham Common on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. On the 5<sup>th</sup> a Whinchat was then observed at the Overflow Pit, the last one of the year.

## November

Species **73** Records **416** Year list **126**

It proved to be a long wait until the first highlight of the month, when a Water Pipit was found on Rye Farm Levels on the 20<sup>th</sup>. A Water Rail was then present upriver from Stretham on the 21<sup>st</sup>, followed by a flushed Jack Snipe from the Levels on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and on the same day a Woodcock was found in a member's garden in the centre of the Village.

## December

Species **73** Records **763** Year list **126**

The quiet second half of the year continued into December, rounding off a 2021 of two halves. A Water Rail was seen along the Mill Stream on the 8<sup>th</sup>, and a Great Black-backed Gull was then noted from Wantley on the 14<sup>th</sup>, making the year a good one for this species in the Parish.



# List of birds recorded in 2021



The Mill Stream Wryneck Photo: Neal Ambrose

The year saw a total of 126 different species of bird recorded, eleven fewer than 2020. These species were contained in 9,825 records, over 2,000 more than were received the previous year. Of these, 4,497 were solely from Henfield Birdwatch with the remaining 5,328 garnered from the Sussex Ornithological Society's CoBRA database. 2021 saw two new additions to the Parish list, with Avocet and Turnstone recorded on the Levels, which now moves the total up to 192.

Other highlights included the tenth record of Goosander, further records of Great White Egret, a Wryneck along the Mill Stream, the first Osprey for five years and another appearance of Water Pipit. Covid still cast a huge shadow over the country in 2021, and this also had an affect on the records collected during the year. With lockdown restrictions continuing during the first part of the

year birdwatchers were forced to stay local, but had more freedom from the summer onwards. Therefore the number of records submitted were much higher in the first half of the year than the latter, skewing the results somewhat. This did not mean there were fewer birds around in the final six months, just not as many people around to record them as birdwatchers ventured further afield following nearly 18 months of having to stay local.

## 2021 SUMMARY

**Species recorded:** 126

**Parish list:** 192

**New species added:** 2

### Species recorded per month

| J  | F  | M  | A  | M  | J  | J  | A  | S  | O  | N  | D  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 84 | 81 | 83 | 94 | 86 | 70 | 61 | 63 | 57 | 75 | 73 | 73 |

## Red-legged Partridge

*Alectoris rufa*

This was a good year for this species: for the first year on record Red-legged Partridges were reported on three occasions, the previous best being two separate records in 2015. The first of this year's was on 21 Mar in Nep Town, the second east of Betley Bridge on 29 May and finally one was in the Oreham area on 3 Oct. These records bring the Parish total up to twenty individuals from eleven records.

## Common Pheasant

*Phasianus colchicus*

If 2020 was a quiet year for Pheasants in the Parish, then 2021 more than made up for this with nearly double the records compared to the previous year. Whether this is due to under-reporting in 2020 or a sudden explosion in the population in Henfield is yet to be seen, but in all there were 87 records of this species during the year, with the vast majority of one or two birds at a time. Counts higher than this occurred on only six occasions, with the highest being seven on 4 Apr.

## Greylag Goose

*Anser anser*

Greylags are a frequent winter visitor to Henfield, although numbers can fluctuate dramatically. In January, February and March records ranged from single birds to counts of 140, the latter on three occasions. A count of 163 from the west side of the river opposite Chates on 14 Mar was the highest of the first winter period, and by April and May numbers had returned to much lower levels, single figures being the norm. There was only one record of breeding success during the year, when a pair with twelve goslings was seen by Shiprods on 26 May. There were then only three records in June and only one from then until 4 Oct - of 12 at Rye Farm on 2 Aug - following a similar pattern to previous years. From October through to the end of the year numbers once again increased, with the highest count of the year coming on 2 Nov at Rye Farm Levels, of 200.

## Canada Goose

*Branta canadensis*

Canada Geese follow a similar pattern to their

Greylag cousins, with sizeable flocks gathering on the Levels during the winter months, before dispersing during the breeding season. The biggest flock of the first half of the year was of 250 on West End Levels on 15 Jan, with sizeable gatherings carrying on through to March. Unlike Greylags, however, this species was recorded in every month of the year. There was also successful breeding noted when a pair raised six goslings on a lake located on private land near the south-west border of the Parish during May, but it wasn't until June that a surprise presented itself: one of the young was actually a Greylag. How this happened remains a mystery, but adult hybrids are not unusual on the Levels. Canada x Greylag hybrid birds were also seen near Stretham on several occasions, their strange appearance causing some confusion for observers.

From October wintering birds started returning in good numbers, culminating in counts of over 200 on 5 Oct and 17<sup>th</sup> and 2 Nov, but it was on 12 Dec that the highest count of the year was made, 410 at Rye Farm Levels.



## White-fronted Goose

*Anser albifrons*

An influx of this species to Sussex in the latter stages of 2020 led to a fair few sightings in Henfield, and a handful of birds stayed on into the very beginning of 2021. Five were observed on floods near Rye Farm on 3 Jan, and presumably the same birds were then observed further north near Betley Bridge on the 9<sup>th</sup>. An unusual record of a lone White-fronted Goose in the south-west of the Parish came on 12 Mar; this is the first ever record for this species in that particular month, and therefore the latest ever one too.

## Mute Swan

*Cygnus olor*

As ever, this species is recorded throughout the year and is a common sight in the Parish. Numbers are swelled outside the breeding season by wintering birds, and in the first winter period a high count of 32 was made on both 18 Jan and the 19<sup>th</sup> at Rye Farm Levels. The first confirmed breeding attempt was from Woods Mill on 8 Apr, with an active nest noted. A pair also nested at the



Overflow Pit in April, and although pairs were noted in suitable habitat in other parts of the Parish these were the only two nests recorded during the year. However, these two breeding attempts were both successful, with six cygnets noted at the Overflow Pit on 2 Jun and two at Woods Mill on 2 Jul. Counts of Mute Swans then remained in single figures through late summer and early autumn, and it wasn't until 5 Oct that a higher one was made, with 18 on the river at Stretham Manor. Interesting behaviour was also noted here, with the rear bird assuming a threatening posture, turning around when the other 17 had been safely ushered beyond the bridge. This area also gave the highest count of the later months of the year, 20 on 5 Dec

## Egyptian Goose

*Alopchen aegyptiaca*

The rise of this species within the Parish continues, and it is now becoming a much more familiar sight locally. The 23 records received matches 2020's total, and these two years combined are more than all the records received prior to this. Interestingly, the distribution of these records in 2021 also matches those of the preceding year: the majority of the records occur from January to April, with a few in late spring/early summer and then none until

December. The main areas to encounter this species are Rye Farm Levels and the fields west of the river at West End, and it was from the former that the highest count of the year was made, ten on 22 Jan. Whilst a pair was noted in suitable habitat by Rye Farm on 30 Apr there were no other breeding records received this year. Three records of this species came during May, four birds were counted west of Mock Bridge on 6 Jun, with the last two records coming during December, on the 5<sup>th</sup> south of Betley and the 28<sup>th</sup> from Rye Farm Levels, counts of two and four respectively.

## Common Shelduck

*Tadorna tadoma*

There were fourteen records of Shelduck, all from the first three months of the year, and it is assumed that they all involved the same individual. Present on Rye Farm Levels from 3 Jan until the last record on 11 Mar, there was at least a bit of excitement when on three dates at the end of February and early March it was joined by a second bird.

## Mandarin Duck

*Aix galericulata*

There was just one record of this species in 2021, of a male on flood water next to the river south of the confluence on 14 Mar. A scarce visitor to Henfield, this was just the seventh record for the Parish.

## Garganey

*Anas querquedula*

In 2019 and 2020 Garganeys visited the Overflow Pit during April, and in 2021 this was once again the case. However, whereas the previous two years featured just a pair, this time four graced us with their presence. First found on April 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Buckingham, the two pairs were present until at least the 12<sup>th</sup>, and after this date it seemed that one pair had departed, leaving just two birds that were then noted on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Shoveler

*Anas clypeata*

Shovelers were seen in good numbers on the Levels during 2021, with their range restricted to flooded fields alongside the river, from West End down to Rye Farm. They were regularly noted into

double figures in all the months they were recorded, which was January to March, and both November and December. It was during this first three-month period that the highest count of the year occurred and managed to make it into three figures with a hundred counted on 19 Feb at Rye Farm Levels. The last birds of spring were noted at the same location on 24 Mar, and then returning wintering birds were once again at Rye Farm, on 2 Nov. During the final two months sightings and numbers were down compared to the start of the year, with a high count of 30 on 20 Dec. This was once again on Rye Levels, illustrating that this site remains the best place to observe this species in the Parish.

### Gadwall

*Anas strepera*

2021 proved to be a very good year for this species, with a record number of sightings. Of the 24 records received, nineteen were from the first three months, with the first of a lone bird on 6 Jan by Rye Farm. This individual appeared to stay around for the next two weeks before it was joined by another two on the 21<sup>st</sup>. This count then jumped to sixteen on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and then they promptly vanished. Another Gadwall was then not seen until 12 Feb, again on Rye Farm Levels, but away from this site ten were noted at West End Levels on the 14<sup>th</sup>. All other records for the spring then came from the Rye Farm area, generally of singles, although double figures were reached on 18 Feb and the 19<sup>th</sup>, and the last record from the first part of the year was of a pair on 5 Mar.

Of the five records received from the latter part of the year, the first was of a single bird on West End Levels on 24 Oct. Three were at Woods Mill on 2 Dec (curiously there were no records from November), and the remaining three records were all from Rye Farm Levels, including the last of the year on 28 Dec.

### Eurasian Wigeon

*Anas penelope*

A common over-wintering duck, with all records received emanating from flooded fields alongside the river, with the main congregation on Rye Farm Levels. It was here that the highest count of the year was made, of 350, on both 18 Jan and the

19<sup>th</sup>. Counts into three-figures were commonplace, including well into March, with numbers dropping until the last spring record on 17 Mar, in line with the departure dates of previous years. Returning birds usually appear in October, and this held in 2021 with two noted on Rye Farm Levels on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Numbers then continued to rise throughout the remainder of the year, although never reaching the highs of earlier, with a high count during the second winter period of 100, achieved on three separate occasions.

### Mallard

*Anas platyrhynchos*

Our only resident duck, Mallards can be found anywhere in the village where there is a reasonable amount of water. The majority of records in 2022 were from the Adur and the Levels, but this species was also noted at Woods Mill and the various ponds around the village. One of these was the drainage pond located at the south-west of Bishop Park, and here a pair raised eight ducklings during June. This was the second year running that a pair had raised young here, and it unfortunately turned out to be the only breeding records of the year. This is possibly due to under-reporting, and this could also explain why there were no records of Mallards received at all during August. There were records from every other month however, with the highest count of the year coming on 14 Feb, when 43 were recorded on West End Levels.

### Pintail

*Anas acuta*

Pintails were recorded in the first three months of the year, with nearly all sightings coming from Rye Farm Levels. The exceptions were from West End Levels on 6 Feb of a lone bird, and then a pair was noted on the Mill Stream on 22 Mar, which was also the last record of the first winter period. The first returning Pintails were then seen on the very last day of October by Rye Farm, with sightings becoming more frequent as November progressed. Numbers in the last two months of the year were lower than those in the first three months - the best count was of 35 from Rye Farm Levels on 19 Feb - and it wasn't until 28 Dec that a count in double figures was made.

## Eurasian Teal

*Anas crecca*

Whilst not reaching the high counts of Wigeon, Teal were still a common sight on the Levels during the non-summer months, with again three-figures a regular occurrence. Most of the records came from Rye Farm Levels, but this species could also be found in reasonable numbers on West End Levels too. The high count of 200 was made on three occasions, all from January and February. Whereas all Wigeon had left the Parish by March, there was still the odd Teal to be seen right through until May, with the one seen in the south-west of the Levels on the 5<sup>th</sup> only the second ever record for the month. It was also the last of the spring, and precisely five months later the first returning birds were observed on Rye Farm Levels on 5 Oct. This turned out to be the only record for the month, and it wasn't until November that frequent records were received. However, numbers failed to get anywhere near those seen at the start of the year, with none reaching three-figures and the count of 90 from Rye Farm on 20 Dec was the largest of the final three months of the year.

## Tufted Duck

*Aythya fuligula*

A scarce visitor to Henfield, the individual observed by Rye Farm on 24 Jan was only the 25<sup>th</sup> record for the Parish.

## Goosander

*Mergus merganser*

Prior to this year this species had only been recorded on nine occasions, so it was pleasing to get a tenth during 2021. It was of a male found by Mel Barnhurst on the river by Stretham Bridge on 2 Jan.

## Common Swift

*Apus apus*

The first Swift of the year was seen from Bineham Bridge on 1 May, a day later than the first of 2020. It was a gap of four days until they started appearing over the skies of the actual village, with two on the 5<sup>th</sup>. At first seen in ones and twos, a count of eight over the village on the 7<sup>th</sup> and ten on the 24<sup>th</sup> were the highest counts of the month. Moving into June, most of the records then came

from the village, as Swifts returned to their usual breeding sites (for a more detailed account of breeding success during the year please refer to page 37). As the breeding birds were joined by later returning immatures in July, counts began to increase, with 13 on 1 July, 16 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and another 16 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, all of these records coming from the skies above the village centre. This was also the peak, and numbers, along with records, dropped as August got underway. Of the six records from the month, four were of two birds, peaking at nine on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and three observed over the village on the 21<sup>st</sup> were also the last of the year.

## Common Cuckoo

*Cuculus canorus*

2022 appeared to be a good year for this species, with the highest number of records ever received for this summer visitor, with 76 submitted (40-50 being the norm). Unsurprisingly, the vast majority were of single birds and mainly males, who helpfully advertise their presence with their famous call. Then first of the year was from the Stretham area on 9 Apr, slightly earlier than the average of the last five years. As mentioned before, all the records were of one Cuckoo, and it wasn't until 7 May that two were seen on the same day, at Oreham Common. These double sightings were few and far between, and only one record made it higher than that, when three different males were believed to be present on West End Levels on 29 May. There was to be no confirmed breeding this year, with all breeding evidence restricted to calling males. June then returned to mainly single sightings, and this month also proved to be the last in which Cuckoos would be seen. The final record, from West End on the 30<sup>th</sup>, followed the trend of the last few years where the last week of June sees the final departure of this species from the parish.

## Feral Pigeon

*Columbia livia*

No doubt another of our under-reported species (although birders always seem happy to record them on Bird Races and the like!), Feral Pigeons clocked up 62 records during the year, in all months apart from September and in nine of the eleven Henfield areas. The resident flock

at Betley Bridge were still going strong during 2021, with four pairs believed to be nesting there. These birds provided the bulk of the records, and away from these no other indication of breeding was recorded.

### Stock Dove

*Columbia oenas*

Stock Dove records were way higher than any previous year for this species, with 139 submitted during 2021. The species does appear to be thriving within the Parish, with a good spread of sightings throughout the year, although the autumn months were somewhat quieter. Not noted in any great numbers at any one time, counts remained in single figures until December, with 14 noted along Furners Lane on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and this was the first of only four double-figure records, the other three, all counts of ten, were also made in December. Breeding records were on the whole of singing males from several parts of the Parish, although an occupied nest was observed at Henfield Common on 7 May.

### Woodpigeon

*Columbia palumbus*

One of our most common and familiar species, Woodpigeons are encountered in all parts of the Parish throughout the year. The highest count was of 190 from the village on 22 Mar, with another three-figure count, of 162, on 8 Mar from the same area. An occupied nest was seen in the Village centre on 7 May, but it was from Rye Farm Levels that the only juveniles were noted, both from June on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Turtle Dove

*Streptopelia turtur*

The sad decline of this species continues, with the lowest number of records since 2013. The first of the 22 records submitted came on 5 May from Little Oreham Farm, with the first week of May the average time for this species to arrive in the Parish. The next four were then all from the traditional stronghold of the Mill Stream, in early May, with one paying a visit to a lucky member's garden at West End on the 12<sup>th</sup>. One was present in Small Dole on the 14<sup>th</sup> and then Wantley on the 18<sup>th</sup>. All but two of the remaining records were once again

from the Mill Stream, with what appeared to be a lone male holding territory there into June, but with no indication whether he was successful in meeting up with a female. Sadly, by the 16<sup>th</sup> he appeared to have departed, and this last record of the year meant that for the first time since 2003 there were to be no Turtle Dove records from July.

### Collared Dove

*Streptopelia decaocto*

This species of Dove is at least doing well in Henfield, seen throughout the village and recorded in all months of the year, with the first sighting in 2021 coming on 1 Jan and the last on 31 Dec. Whilst indications of breeding were limited to pairs in suitable habitat, these occurred in several parts of the village, including West End Lane, Staples Barn and Chates, so the likelihood is that this species was successful in the year. Counts of Collared Doves made it into double figures on only one occasion, with 15 noted in a member's garden on 14 Jan.

### Water Rail

*Rallus aquaticus*

There were four records of this species during the year, all of lone birds. The first was on West End levels on 6 Feb, the second at Woods Mill on 15 April, and the final two were seen in the second winter period both along the Mill Stream, on 21 Nov and 8 Dec respectively.

### Moorhen

*Gallinula chloropus*

This is another species that had a record year, with a total of 122 records received during 2021. Encountered throughout the year and anywhere where there is a reasonable amount of water, counts generally remained below five but 11 counted on West End Levels represented a good total. The first fledged chicks were noted on the Overflow Pit on 3 Jun, with a further five seen at Batts Pond on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Seven more were counted on Rye Farm Levels on the 26<sup>th</sup>, with these the last confirmed breeding records of the year. From then on sightings returned to one or two adults at a time, but this species does seem to be increasing, if not thriving, within the Parish.

## Coot

*Fulica atra*

Whereas Moorhens are a common sight in Henfield throughout the year, Coots are mainly a winter visitor to the Parish, with counts of over 50 from November through to February not uncommon. Eighty were recorded on Rye farm Levels on 12 Feb, the highest of the year, with another 60 counted there on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Numbers then drop dramatically as March gets underway, with counts struggling to get over five and only a handful of birds remaining during the breeding season. This did lead to a breeding record however, with an adult accompanied by four recently fledged chicks at the Overflow Pit on 11 Jul, only the 26<sup>th</sup> breeding record for the Parish. Numbers did increase once winter came along, although never quite reaching the totals seen in the first winter period.

## Little Grebe

*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

There were eighteen records of this charming species during the year, mainly from the pond at Woods Mill. Although two were present there on 27 Feb and 25 Apr, all other records in 2021 related to just one bird. One was noted at Woods Mill throughout April and May, with the last sighting on 5 Jun. Unsurprisingly, with just a lone bird, there were no breeding records this year. Reports from the rest of the year were all away from Woods Mill: one along the Mill Stream on 3 Oct, with possibly the same individual seen on Rye Farm Levels on the 8<sup>th</sup>, then two records from the latter site in December, on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Avocet

*Recurvirostra avosetta*

Two were observed in amongst other species on Rye Farm Levels on 7 Mar, giving Henfield a new species.

## Northern Lapwing

*Vanellus vanellus*

Lapwings are by far the most numerous wader present within the Parish during the year, and this was certainly borne out in 2021. During the first months of the year a flock of over 200 was a common sight on Rye Farm Levels, with this figure

culminating at 1,000 on 19 Feb. Following this peak, numbers declined fairly rapidly as March got underway as wintering birds moved on leaving a handful of breeding pairs. At the main breeding sites, a maximum of four pairs were reckoned to have held territories north of Stretham Farm, with a further two pairs north of the confluence. At the former three chicks were noted on 9 Jun, but at the latter site no young were noted so successful breeding could not be confirmed. Returning wintering birds started to appear in early to mid-August, with 24 noted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, but it wasn't until November that any sizeable flocks were noted – 220 on the 9<sup>th</sup>. The remainder of the year was very disappointing, with only seven records from the rest of the month and December, with a high count of just 70 on 24 Dec.

## Golden Plover

*Pluvialis apricaria*

An individual was noted on the Levels on 15 Feb, just the thirteenth record this century.

## Little-ringed Plover

*Charadrius dubius*

A mini-fall of this species occurred on 5 and 6 Apr, with one noted by the confluence on the former and four recorded by Stretham Manor on the latter date. There were only the fourth and fifth records for Henfield, bringing the Parish total up to eleven individual birds.

## Eurasian Whimbrel

*Numenius phaeopus*

A possible four individuals were present on the Levels on 7 May, with one observer noting three south of Rye Farm and another just the one by Stretham Manor. Another scarce visitor, these were only the ninth and ten records for the Parish and the first since 2004.

## Black-tailed Godwit

*Limosa limosa*

An annual visitor in variable numbers, this year saw two visit Rye Farm Levels on 17 Mar.

## Turnstone

*Arenaria interpres*

On 21 Feb a report of a single bird on the river

north of Stretham was posted on Birdguides. An unusual record so far from the coast, which helps explain why this is the first time this species has ever been recorded in the Parish.

### Dunlin

*Calidris alpina*

Another wader that is far more common on the coast than it is inland, the one seen on Rye Farm Levels on 24 Feb was only the thirteenth record for Henfield, and the first since March 2018.

### Woodcock

*Scolopax rusticola*

One seen feeding in a member's garden just off of Church Street on 24 Nov was a great record, and keeps this species as just about an annual visitor to the Parish..

### Jack Snipe

*Lymnocyptes minimus*

There were two records of this hard to find species in 2021, with the first seen on the Levels on 6 Jan, and the second on 11 Apr.

### Common Snipe

*Gallinago gallinago*

Of the 35 records of Snipe received during the year, 26 came from the first winter period, with just nine in the latter months of the year. It was also the former that gave the highest count of the year, with 29 in the field west of Chates on 14 Mar. The last of the spring sightings came on 25 Apr, with the first returning wintering bird noted on 10 Sep. All sightings were restricted to fields next to the river and the western open stretch of the Mill Stream, but of course these figures probably do not give a true indication of the wintering population.

### Common Sandpiper

*Actitis hypoleucos*

This species averages two records a year, and 2021 followed this trend. The first was on 15 Feb on the Levels, and the second was from Stretham Manor on 4 May. Both were of single birds, and April and May remain the best months to see this species in Henfield. However, the February record was the first time Common Sandpiper has been recorded in

the Parish in that month.

### Green Sandpiper

*Tringa ochropus*

There were 15 records of Green Sandpiper in 2021, although it is likely that at least some of those relate to the same individual. The first block of records came on the 3 and 9 Jan, the first along the Mill Stream on the eastern part of the open stretch, the second from the Overflow Pit. During April there were ten records, nearly all from the Overflow Pit and spanning from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>. On the 14<sup>th</sup> three flew up from the Overflow Pit, with three again noted there on the 17<sup>th</sup>. They were the last records until December, with one seen along the Mill Stream on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and two records of two birds on the 20<sup>th</sup>, once again from the Overflow Pit.

### Black-headed Gull

*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

A very common winter visitor, this species can be seen almost anywhere within the Parish in small numbers, but to see the larger gatherings the Levels



is the place to go. Three-figure counts are not uncommon, with 400 on 24 Feb from Rye Farm Levels the highest count of the year. Numbers and records dropped as spring got fully underway, with only one record each from April and May – the bird seen on 9 May at Woods Mill was in fact only the seventh ever record for this species in that particular month. The first returning bird arrived on 3 Oct, traditionally the month when Black-headed Gulls return to Henfield, with another large count noted on the 8<sup>th</sup> of 350. However, that was the



only three-figure count of the second winter period, with only one other making it over 50 (54 on 10 Oct, observed west of Betley Bridge, to be precise).

### Common Gull

*Larus canus*

Not as widespread or as numerous as Black-headed Gulls within the Parish, Common Gulls were only recorded from Rye Farm and West End Levels in 2021. During January a maximum count of 30 was made, but on 1 Feb the second ever highest count of this species was made, with 500 noted on Rye Farm Levels (still a hundred short of the all-time best, 600, from the same area in February 2020). Most birds have departed to their breeding grounds in the north by March, but this year unusually at least one was still present until the end of April. The second winter period however was unfortunately extremely poor, with just the one record: six were noted on Rye Farm Levels on 9 Nov.

### Great Black-backed Gull

*Larus marinus*

A scarce winter visitor to these parts, there were duly just four records for the year. Three were observed from the Rye Farm area on 18 Jan, where they were either joined by another or one stayed behind as an individual was then recorded the following day. One was present at Oreham Common on 16 Feb, with the final record, again of a lone bird, coming from Wantley on 14 Dec.

### Herring Gull

*Larus argentatus*

Still the only Gull that can be seen all year round in Henfield, this species was recorded in small numbers at several sites around Henfield during 2021. Two counts made it into three-figures, with



Photo: Paula Blake

150 west of Betley on 30 Apr, and 100 three days later, this time from the fields adjoining the Mill Stream. Despite a few pairs loitering with intent on various rooftops around the village during spring and early summer there was once again no attempts at nesting within the Parish.

### Lesser Black-backed Gull

*Larus fuscus*

This was a very good year for this species. Where previously there had been just five records, in 2021 there were no fewer than six, more than doubling the total. The first was of five on Rye Farm Levels on 13 Mar, then three days later one was observed flying over the village centre. On the 4 and 5 May one was present at Stretham, so was presumably the same individual, with another record of a lone bird a bit further north on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Finally, on 3 August, another singleton was observed flying over West End.

### Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

There were 73 sightings of Cormorants received in 2021, making this another species that had a record year. Reported in every month of the year and throughout the Parish, although the majority were inevitably from along the river. The winter months were also unsurprisingly the more productive, with a high count of ten on 24 Dec on one of their favoured roosting trees next to the Downslink north of Stretham.

### Grey Heron

*Ardea cinerea*

Grey Herons were seen in every month, with the majority of records received being of single birds. Sightings were spread across the Parish, with predictably most occurring from the Levels. Counts increased as the heronry near Stretham Bridge became established in early spring, with a maximum count of five there on 17 Mar. Two occupied nests were then noted from 14 Apr, with young birds first recorded in early June. Four or five were then regularly seen at this site until 18 Aug, and following this date records returned to just one or two seen at a time, although three were south of Rye Farm on 20 Dec.

## Great White Egret

*Ardea alba*

The first and only previous record of this species came as recently as October 2020, and it didn't take long for a second to follow. In 2021 there were a total of seven records submitted, spread from 18 Mar to 14 Apr. All these were of a lone bird, so it is likely that they were of the same individual.

## Little Egret

*Egretta garzetta*

This species is now fully established as a non-breeding species in the Parish, and in 2021 was noted on 65 occasions and in every month apart from September. With a large range on the outskirts of the Parish away from the village centre, Little Egrets were recorded mainly in ones and twos, but there was an impressive record of seven from a field adjacent to Furners Lane on 7 Feb, and later in the year of five at Rye Farm Levels on 2 Dec.

## Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus*

One seen over Woods Mill on 7 Apr was the twelfth record and the first seen in Henfield since 2017. Interestingly all of those twelve records have been this century.

## Sparrowhawk

*Accipiter nisus*

Sparrowhawks were noted in every month apart from August, a month they are often absent from the Parish, with just one August record since 2014. Of the 46 records received all were of single birds, and there was no mention of any breeding activity at all.

## Red Kite

*Milvus milvus*

There were 26 records of this species during the year, the majority from spring and autumn indicating that Red Kites remain a migratory bird within the Parish. There were however five records from January and February, and a further four from December. Only one was recorded in June, and none at all in July or August. Counts were limited to ones and twos at a time, with a great exception

to this when five were noted over Rye Farm Levels on 2 Dec, the highest count yet recorded in Henfield.

## Common Buzzard

*Buteo buteo*

This is now the most common raptor to be seen in Henfield, with the 172 records received in 2021 exactly the same as Sparrowhawk, Red Kite and Kestrel combined. Sightings were spread fairly evenly throughout the year, although there was a slight lull in August and September. Most records were of lone birds, but four were noted around



Photo: John Pointing

West End Levels on 14 Feb, with this area proving popular for this species when five were counted there a month later on 14 Mar, the highest count of the year. Despite this explosion of records in the Parish Buzzards remain sporadic breeders and in 2021 there were no confirmed breeding attempts, the closest being a pair present at Woods Mill on 30 May.

## Barn Owl

*Tyto alba*

Of the 23 records received for this species, over half came from the first three months of the year and mainly from West End Levels. One bird was a regular sight from a member's Oreham garden in January and February, and another was present at



Photo: Amelie Berman

### Little Owl

*Athene noctua*

One was observed from the Wantley area by Nigel Colgate on 11 Aug, bringing the total of Parish records this century to 63, almost double the amount that was seen in the last two decades of the previous one.

### Kingfisher

*Alcedo atthis*

This year seemed to be a good one for Kingfishers in Henfield, with the largest number of records ever received for this species during the year. One was present around Rye Farm during January, and although none were noted in February another was then a regular sight along the Mill Stream in March and April. May was a good month, with six records and also an adult collecting food at Woods Mill on the 5th. It raises the prospect of Kingfishers once again breeding there, but it unfortunately could not be confirmed. Away from Woods Mill and the Mill Stream one was noted in Wantley on 18 May, and another near Stonelands Farm, Blackstone, on 28 Jun. Three were present on the river near New Inn Farm on 16 Aug, with another single at Woods Mill the following day. The rest of the year's records, all but one, came from the river between Betley and New Inn, all of single birds, but two at Rye farm on 2 Dec proved the exception and were also the last record of the year.

### Wryneck

*Jynx torquilla*

One was present along the Mill Stream, as found by visiting birder and photographer Neal Ambrose on 2 May. This represents the eighth record for the Parish, although this total likely only involves four individual birds. These visited us in September 2002, May 2005, August 2019 and of, course, now May 2021.

### Green Woodpecker

*Picus viridis*

Recorded in all months of the year and in all areas of the Parish, Green Woodpeckers were a well reported species in 2021. The first record came on New Year's Day and the last on New Year's Eve, with counts usually in ones or twos. Five were noted on Oreham Common on 27 Feb, with a

Woods Mill on 7 Feb. The area from Chates to Great Betley Farm remained the mainstay for Barn Owls for the rest of the year, with a pair breeding in the area and producing three healthy young which were ringed by the Sussex Barn Owl Study Group. Other breeding activity was not noted, although a bird possibly held a territory at Woods Mill. Post breeding activity was also extremely quiet, with just two records from August, again both from West End, and one in November, at Rye Farm Levels on the 6<sup>th</sup>, rounding off a distinctly average year for this species.

### Tawny Owl

*Strix aluco*

More likely to be heard than seen, there were 18 records of Tawny Owls in the Parish during 2021, the lowest tally since 2018. These reports were spread evenly during the year, although they were absent during March and April. Four were noted in the same vicinity around Batts Pond on 15 Jan, comfortably the highest count of the year, with all other records of singles or pairs. A pair were heard hooting to one another on several occasions from West End during late summer and autumn, with another two noted together near The Cabin at Berretts Farm on the evening of 18 Dec.

total count of eight made from Henfield Common and Woodmancote on 22 Jul. Breeding records were sadly non-existent however, and it is hoped that this is due to under-reporting rather than any issues with this species during the year.

### Great Spotted Woodpecker

*Dendrocopus major*

Like their Green cousins, Great Spotted Woodpeckers were seen throughout the year, from the first day through to the last. Also seen in all areas of the village including several gardens where they are a regular visitor to bird feeders. Drumming was first noted on 25 Jan from the Downlink west of the Mill Stream and continued



Photo: John Pointing

in many areas throughout the spring. The first nest was then noted near Morley Farm, Blackstone, on 25 May with fledged young then seen on 28 Jun. Sadly this proved to be the only breeding record received during the year, with the remainder of the year rather quiet and no reports of early winter drumming forthcoming.

### Kestrel

*Falco tinnunculus*

The most common falcon within the Parish, as well as one of our most familiar birds of prey, Kestrels were reported in every month of 2021. Of the 100 records received all but 14 were of lone birds, with a high count of four from around Woods Mill made on 11 Jun. A pair was found to be nesting in the Oreham area in early April although no mention was made if this proved a successful attempt. Young birds were seen elsewhere though, with an adult and fledged young seen opposite Eatons Farm on 2 Aug, and the same month also saw two probable juveniles indulging in aerial acrobatics over Nep Town on the 20<sup>th</sup>. September produced just one record, whilst October saw a total of four counted over West End Levels on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Apart from two in the same area on 7 Nov and another brace around Lipride Farm on 21 Dec normal service was resumed and only lone birds were then recorded throughout the remainder of the year.

### Hobby

*Falco subbuteo*

There were four records of Hobby in 2021, slightly fewer than the preceding two years but still about average with all years considered. The first of the year was seen at Woods Mill on 24 Apr, with the second at the same site on 4 Jun, the third flew over the Overflow Pit on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and the only autumn record was again at Woods Mill on 6 Sep.

### Peregrine

*Falco peregrinus*

This species is becoming more of a familiar sight within the Parish, with 2021's 22 records nearly matching 2020's 23 and a vast improvement over previous years where the best was seven records in 2014. Still primarily a winter visitor with a few passing through in spring and winter, Rye Farm Levels and the western end of the Mill Stream remain the best area to see the falcon in Henfield. All records were of lone birds, with the exception of two noted from Rye Levels on 21 Dec.

### Jay

*Garrulus glandarius*

A common resident species with numbers

augmented by passage birds during autumn, Jays were seen in all months of the year and most areas of the Parish. A record of three recently fledged young at Rye Farm on 26 Jun was the only confirmed successful breeding of the year, and this day also produced the highest count with a total of nine from the village centre.



Photo: Paula Blake

### Magpie

*Pica pica*

Another common member of the Crow family in Henfield, this is a well reported species throughout the year, with 270 records received in 2021. It was however a quiet year in terms of breeding activity, with none confirmed, and the high count was of just 16, from Woods Mill on 11 Jun.

### Jackdaw

*Corvus monedula*

A common sight in many parts of the Parish during 2021, Jackdaws gathered in sizeable flocks during the winter months, this included counts of over 100 on 15 Feb at Spring Hill, Nep Town, and from

The Hooks on 2 Nov. Outside of these dates counts of double figures were commonplace from many sites, with numbers understandably lower during the spring and early summer as breeding became the priority. Nesting birds were noted at Woods Mill during April, with other possible nesting attempts recorded from the chimney pots of Staples Barn and in the Rye Farm area.

### Rook

*Corvus frugilegus*

Like Jackdaws, Rooks are sociable birds that can be seen in large gatherings, but unlike their smaller relatives they breed in more localised sites in the Parish. The highest counts of the first winter period were both on 16 Feb, with 65 on Henfield Common and another 60 further north at Park Farm. Breeding records only came from the one site, the rookery at Woodmancote, where on 17 Apr 15 occupied nests were noted. Rooks were still notable during June, but from then until October there were just two records, both in August, with numbers rising only slightly, with ten noted on both 5 and 17 October. Indeed, all the records from November and December were all of lone birds, with the exception of six seen at Stretham on 22 Dec, the final record of the year.

### Carrion Crow

*Corvus corone*

Carrion Crows were recorded in all areas of the Parish and in every month of the year and are a common sight throughout the village and its surrounds. Whilst reputedly a more unsociable species when compared with Rooks, this tends not to be the case in reality and counts of double figures were common during 2021. The highest was of 33 around Lipride Farm on 24 Feb, closely followed by 30 on 17 Oct from West End Levels. Breeding reports were patchy, with pairs in suitable habitat noted on several occasions, but an occupied nest was reported from Henfield Common on 7 May, and an adult with two juveniles was noted from by The Bull pub on 6 Jun.

### Raven

*Corvus corax*

A species that has increased its range in recent years, 2021 once again saw a record number

of sightings, going two better than the previous high, set in 2020. In all there were 15 records of Ravens during the year, with the majority of birds flying overhead, alerting the observer with their distinctive 'cronking' call. Unusually all the records, bar one, were of single birds, but on 14 Apr four were noted over Henfield Common.

### Coal Tit

*Periparus ater*

Despite not being as common a bird in the Parish as Blue or Great Tits, Coal Tits were still seen in all months of the year, albeit in small numbers. Indeed, there were only five occasions where two were seen, and just one when three were present, the latter at Woods Mill on 13 Aug. From the 49 records received there were just three possible



breeding birds, with a singing male at Rye Farm on 5 Mar, another at Woods Mill on 8 Apr, and the third was of a male singing from a conifer tree on Staples Barn on 19 Apr. However, there were no follow up records to indicate these were permanent territories, and this species remains a very scarce breeder within Henfield.

### Marsh Tit

*Poecile palustris*

The year produced two records of Marsh Tit, with the first at Woods Mill on 8 Apr, the second from the north-west of the Parish on 5 May. Interestingly, the former was of a singing male, but with no further records this unfortunately looks unlikely to have been a successful attempt at breeding.

### Blue Tit

*Cyanistes caeruleus*

One of our more popular species, 2021 produced a total of 345 records. There were some large

counts submitted this year, including two that surpassed any of those previously recorded. On 30 Aug 60 were counted passing through a member's garden in Lower Station Road, and the same month saw the highest ever total, with 70 recorded from around Rye Farm on the 21st. These both beat the previous best of 55 from West End in September 2020. Unsurprisingly this species has a wide range of breeding records to its name during the year, with many gardens hosting a pair in a nest box. There were also five records of recently fledged young recorded, all from June and July.



## Great Tit

*Parus major*

Not quite as widely reported as Blue Tits, Great Tits still managed 290 records during the year. Counts were also not as large as their near relatives either, with a high of 23 from the centre of the village on 22 Mar. This did however represent the biggest count since 2012, and this species does appear to have fared well in 2021. Although most breeding records were of singing males and pairs present in suitable habitat, recently fledged birds were noted on 28 and 30 Jun, from Morley Farm and Henfield Common respectively.

## Skylark

*Alauda arvensis*

Skylarks were recorded in every month except August, and during the first winter period there were several double-figure counts achieved. This included the year high of 24 from Morley Farm on 12 Feb, and this month also had the first singing bird of the year, when one was noted along the open stretch of the Mill Stream on the 27th. A tricky species to confirm breeding due to their usual habitat within the Parish of land without easy access, there were 41 records of possible breeding, however. These came from 21 different 1km squares, covering Woodmancote and Oreham in the east, Stretham and the Mill Stream in the south and fields adjoining the river in the west, plus the area around Rye Farm, with records from the north of the Parish somewhat patchy. The last singing males were noted in early July, and following this date most records were of single birds, with a high count from the second winter period of 16, from fields around Furners Lane on 11 Dec.

## Sand Martin

*Riparia riparia*

The first Sand Martin of the year was recorded on 18 Mar, the earliest this species has been seen in the Parish and beating the previous record from 2006 by eight days. There were then three more spring records, with birds passing through on 3 and 4 Apr, and then 2 May. The latter was of two birds along the Mill Stream. The first returning bird was noted on 11 Sep by Betley Bridge, and then last sighting of the year was from West End Levels on 2 Oct. This too set a new record, this time of the

latest sighting of this species, beating the previous best by seven days.

## Barn Swallow

*Hirundo rustica*

This summer visitor was first noted by Eaton Bridge on 29 Mar, when two were seen, followed by another by Swains the next day. Sightings then continued right through April, with twelve over the Mill Stream on the 4<sup>th</sup> and another 20 there the next day. Records were still frequent into May, including 18 counted over the Levels on the 14<sup>th</sup>, but from then on sightings, whilst still regular, were of much smaller numbers as passage birds were replaced by those intending to breed. However, as in the previous three years there were sadly no records of actual nesting pairs, as this species continues its sad decline as a breeding species within the Parish. Fledged Swallows were noted along Furners Lane on 28 Jun, and from hereon numbers began to swell as adults and juveniles gathered post-breeding, culminating in a year high count of 120 over Betley Bridge on 11 Sep. This was one of two three-figure counts made during the year, the other, of 100, came on 2 Oct from by the Adur Confluence. The last records of the year also came from early October, averaging 30-40 birds at a time, including the last sighting of the year, with 40 passing over Bishop Park on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

## House Martin

*Delichon urbicum*

2021 appeared to be a year of mixed fortunes for House Martins with small gains and some losses. The first of the year was observed over Woods Mill on 4 Apr, with a further four there the next day. That was it for precisely three weeks, with the subsequent record not coming until the 26<sup>th</sup> from Small Dole. Records then became more frequent as May got underway, with these probably being passage birds, with the first House Martins observed returning to previous years' nests on 22 May at Bishop Park. Here, there appeared to be a nett gain of four nests, although one of those unfortunately collapsed early on, resulting in eight active nests. Sadly, this was not the same story at Deer Park where it seems that there were no active nests, marking a sharp decline at this site. Whether these House Martins have relocated to

Bishop Park is unknown but seems possible as an explanation. Away from the new build estates, nests held stable along the High Street, with four, and a pair nested on a house at The Hooks. No fledged birds were noted from any site, so success this year was hard to gauge. Numbers then started to slowly build in the Parish as post-breeding migration got underway, with double figure counts not common place until the latter stages of September, with October a much better month. A hundred were noted feeding over West End Levels on the 2nd and then 150 at Rye Farm Levels on the 5<sup>th</sup>, the final record of the year.

### Cetti's Warbler

*Cettia cetti*

There were 60 records of Cetti's Warblers during the year, a slight improvement on 2020 and continuing the upward trajectory of this species in Henfield. Recorded in every month except February, the stronghold of Cetti's Warblers remains the tree-lined section of the Mill Stream, with roughly half of all records, whilst other areas that produced records were Stretham Manor, the Overflow Pit and the Levels south of Rye Farm. Breeding records were on the whole of singing males, unsurprising considering this species' secretive nature, but was thought probable on three occasions in May and June, and all from the Mill Stream once again.

### Long-tailed Tit

*Aegithalos caudatus*

This is a common and widespread bird within the Parish, and Long-tailed Tits were recorded in every month of the year. Usually seen in family parties,



Photo: Paula Blake

records of single birds were however surprisingly frequent during the year, with counts in double figures occurring on six occasions. There were two confirmed breeding records, both in May, with a nesting bird noted on the 7<sup>th</sup> from south of the village and then a fledged bird was seen at Mock Bridge on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Willow Warbler

*Phylloscopus trochilus*

Despite the arrival date of 9 April equalling the previous earliest on record, Willow Warbler continues to now be a fairly scarce bird within the Parish. There were actually two separate sightings from the 9<sup>th</sup>, with two by the south-western section of the river and another by Stretham, with the next not until the 24<sup>th</sup>. All other spring records were then from May, with four in total, including a singing male on the 11<sup>th</sup>. None were reported in June, but July saw a total of five from four records with another singing male at Broadmare Common on the 12<sup>th</sup>. With no further sightings of this latter bird it seems likely that once again this species did not breed in the Parish. August marked the start of Willow Warblers passing through on return migration, with seven birds from four records. It proved to be a quiet autumn however with none seen in September and then one final record of a late bird at Wantley on 4 Oct.

### Chiffchaff

*Phylloscopus collybita*

The first two months of the year produced 17 records, with six in January and eleven in February. Of these, four were seen together near Rye Farm on 13 Feb, with another four in the village the same day. March contained 18 records as winter turned to spring, with the first singing bird of the year heard on 13 Mar at Stretham Manor. Singing males then became a constant presence during April through to July, with territories spread throughout the Parish where there is suitable habitat. The last singing summer bird was recorded on 18 Jul at Woods Mill (although there was still one having a last try on 26 Sep near Chates), but August was very quiet with just two records, both of four birds from West End Levels on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Numbers improved during September and October as migrating birds passed through,



including five by Rye Farm on 5 Oct. Over-wintering birds were then noted on just one occasion in November, with one on Rye Farm Levels on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and then three were reported in December, on the 8<sup>th</sup> along the Mill Stream, the 11<sup>th</sup> at Park Farm and the last of the year was at Broadmare Common on the 21<sup>st</sup>.



### Sedge Warbler

*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

There were nine records during 2021, with the first from Woods Mill on 25 Apr. A singing male was then reported from north of Stretham on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and a further non-vocal one the next day from the Levels. Whilst there were to be no confirmed breeding records this year, a singing male was noted from the Overflow Pit on three separate dates during June and July, giving some optimism that a pair could have nested there. The final record was of two on 18 Jul from Stretham Manor, an early departure date for this species with birds normally passing through into at least August.

### Reed Warbler

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Another warbler that equalled its earliest recorded arrival date, the first Reed Warblers were noted on 20 Apr from both Woods Mill and Stretham, the latter being a singing male. This heralded a steady stream of records during the remainder of the month and into May, peaking at a count of six along the Mill Stream on 16 and 17 May. Territories were held at several locations, with numbers of pairs estimated to be four at Woods Mill, five along the Mill Stream, three along the river at West End, up to two by New Inn and at least one each at the Overflow Pit and Henfield Common. The last singing birds were noted in early July, and passage was short and sweet with just five records between

10 Jul and 15 Aug, the latter from West End Levels being the last of the year.

### Blackcap

*Sylvia atricapilla*

This species of warbler over-winters in Henfield too, with just one more record than Chiffchaff from January and February. Unlike Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps are more likely to be seen in gardens, especially on feeders, and nearly half of those first winter period records were from various gardens. It's always tricky to draw a line between those spending the winter here and the beginning of passage and breeding birds arriving, but the first singing male was noted on the early date of 25 Feb at Broadmare Common. No singers were recorded in March however, and there were only three records at that, but things became more lively in April, with males in song more frequently, especially at Woods Mill. Numbers then built throughout the Parish going into May and then June, but despite numerous territories noted there was no confirmed breeding recorded. The last singing bird was heard on 18 Jul, with the autumn passage then proving remarkably quiet. There were four records totalling just five birds in the whole of August, and none at all in September. Two records in October, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> were possibly late passage birds, and the second winter period was very poor, with only one record from south of the village on 7 Nov.

### Garden Warbler

*Sylvia borin*

There were only six records of this species in 2021, and all from spring, and all of individual birds. The first of the year, on 14 Apr at Wantley, set a new record for the earliest arrival in the Parish, beating the previous by just one day. April produced two more records, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at Broadmare and the 27<sup>th</sup> in north Wantley, with the final three all from May: Stretham on the 7<sup>th</sup>, and the last two both on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, from Nep Town and the Mill Stream respectively.

### Lesser Whitethroat

*Curruca curruca*

The first of the year was reported at Wantley on 14 Apr, followed by the first singing bird on the

23<sup>rd</sup> from Woods Mill. This then led to a continuous run of daily records for the remainder of the month, mainly from Woods Mill, but also from Small Dole in the south and Shermanbury in the north. The number of records increased during May, albeit more sporadically, with singing males recorded frequently, especially at Woods Mill and along the tree-lined section of the Mill Stream. This was also the case in June, which included two at Oreham Common on the 30<sup>th</sup> which was the last record of a singing bird of the year. There were then just two records in July, from the south of the Levels on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, and then just another two from August. Both were from West End Levels, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, the latter the last record of the year.

### Common Whitethroat

*Curruca communis*

The scratchy song of the male Whitethroat is a common sound during the summer, with the first bird arriving in the Parish at Woods Mill on 9 Apr. This ushered in a steady flow of migrants turning up in various locations, with males beginning to hold permanent territories from May onwards. The main breeding areas were the length of the river, the Mill Stream, Woods Mill and Oreham Common, but almost any site away from built up



Photo: John Pointing

areas with suitably scrubby habitat was capable of holding at least a singing male. Adults carrying food were noted on several dates and locations during the summer, indicating a good level of breeding success, but no fledged young were recorded. All breeding activity had ceased by mid-July, with a feeble autumn migration to follow. There were four records from August and just one in September, on the 13<sup>th</sup> from the Mill Stream, the last of 2021.

### Firecrest

*Regulus ignicapillus*

A scarce visitor to the Parish, there were just three records in 2021, all coming in the first winter period. One was present at Catsland Farm on 2 Jan, another down Sandy Lane on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and the final one from Rye Farm on 24 Feb.

### Goldcrest

*Regulus regulus*

Recorded in every month of the year, nearly all Goldcrest sightings relate to one or two birds at any one time. There were three counts higher than this however, a total of six from Woods Mill on 7 Feb, a year high of seven on 28 Dec around Rye

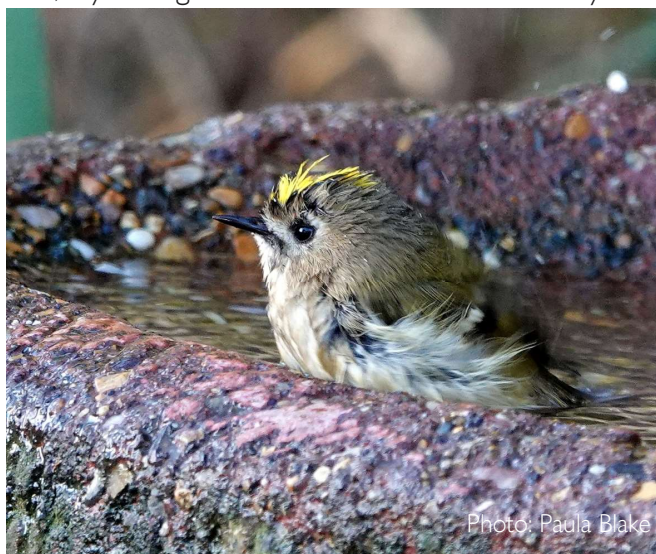


Photo: Paula Blake

Farm and then three, again at Woods Mill, on the 31<sup>st</sup> which also proved to be the final record of the year. The only breeding records were a smattering of singing males between early March and the start of July, with no evidence of any success recorded.

### Wren

*Troglodytes troglodytes*

One of Henfield's commonest birds, and therefore one of the most widely reported. Records were received throughout the year and from all parts of the Parish, including many residents' gardens. The first singing males were noted in early March and continued through the spring until late June, and an adult was seen feeding two recently fledged young in Nep Town on 30 Jun. The centre of the village proved to be a good area for Wrens during 2021, with total counts of over 20 regularly made there, with a high of 28 on 26 Jun.

## Nuthatch

*Sitta europaea*

A regular sight, or just as likely, sound, in any area that contains at least a few trees, Nuthatches were recorded in all months during 2021. Also a regular visitor to gardens with feeders, this species was



Photo: John Pointing

usually recorded in ones or twos. Despite a few records of birds holding a permanent territory during the spring and early summer there was to be no confirmation of successful breeding.

## Eurasian Treecreeper

*Certhia familiaris*

This unobtrusive bird can be underreported, but there was a good showing during the first half of the year with 70 records. This included a count of five from the Rye Farm area on 17 May and an adult carrying food at the same spot on 26 Jun, hopefully indicating a successful nesting attempt. The second half of the year was much quieter however, with one record in July, from West End on the 1<sup>st</sup>, and none at all in August and September. With just one in October, along the Mill Stream on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, things improved slightly in the final two months of the year, with 12 records, culminating in a count of four from the Village on 28 Dec.

## Common Starling

*Sturnus vulgaris*

This red-listed species appears to be doing well in Henfield, with a good over-wintering population and an increase in breeding pairs. During January 50 were noted from the Levels on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a similar sized flock at Rye Farm on the 29<sup>th</sup>, but it

was during February that numbers increased dramatically. Flocks of over 100 were noted from various parts of the Levels, peaking at 800 on the west side of the river at West End Levels on the 10<sup>th</sup>, with this building to 1,000 there on the 14<sup>th</sup>. March had two counts of over 100 on two occasions, with numbers declining as the breeding season got underway. Breeding adults were recorded in at least five areas of the Parish; the new colony at Bishop Park continued to expand, with an estimated seven pairs nesting there in 2021. The first fledged young were then noted at Blackstone on 25 May, in a flock with adults totalling 100. In June the largest gathering of adult and fledged Starlings was 66, from the Village on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and then another mixed flock of 125 from the Overflow Pit on 5 Jul. August was quiet with just two records, but numbers picked up in September with 300 at Stretham on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The remainder of the year then had just two three-figure flocks, with 100 on Rye Farm Levels on 5 Oct and 104 around the Village on 11 Dec.

## Blackbird

*Turdus merula*

There were 316 records of Blackbird during 2021, making it one of our most widely reported species. During the first two months of the year wintering birds were prevalent throughout the village, with total area counts often reaching double figures including 51 from the north of the village on 13 Feb. The first singing male was recorded by Rye Farm on 24 Feb, and this number increased steadily as spring got underway and territories were set up throughout the village. The first nesting birds were then noted on 7 May at West End, with fledged young starting to appear from late June. The final



Photo: Paula Blake

record of a singing bird came from Broadmare Common on 12 Jul as birds dispersed following breeding, and the species remains a common sight during autumn as wintering birds joined resident ones. Whilst numbers were not quite as high during the second winter period as they were in the first, double figure counts were still common place, with a high of 22 from Furners Lane on 11 Dec.

### Fieldfare

*Turdus pilaris*

Fieldfares were recorded from the first day of the year all the way through to 13 Apr, when the last wintering birds departed. This record was of 52 from the very north of our patch near the Bull Pub, and matches the Parish record for the latest departure date, set in 1996. This was also the highest count, with 45 around the Village on 8 Mar the runner-up. The first returning bird was recorded on 31 Oct, slightly later than the previous five year average, when a single bird was seen at Rye Farm. There were then only 14 records during the rest of the year, all of single birds, bar one occasion when two were recorded near the Overflow Pit on 20 Dec.

### Redwing

*Turdus iliacus*

This year there were more reports of Redwings than Fieldfares, a reverse of 2020. Of the 92 records 70 of them came from the first three months of the year, with counts of 50 or higher made on five occasions, including 100 from Blacklands on 12 Feb and 77 from the Village the next day. On 28 Mar 25 were counted flying over Great Betley Farm, and these proved to be the last of the winter. The first returning Redwings appeared on 13 Oct, when one flew over the Railway pub in Upper Station Road whilst the observer enjoyed a drink in the beer garden. Twenty were then present at West End on the 24th and the same figure on Rye Farm Levels on 6 Nov, these records proving to be the highest counts of the second winter period.

### Song Thrush

*Turdus philomelos*

Unusually for this species there were no early

January singing records in 2021, with the first singing male not reported until 19 Feb near Rye Farm. During this period there were three counts in double figures, with ten from around the Levels on 3 Jan, 20 on 12 Feb from Blackstone and another ten in the Village the next day. Going into spring 25 were counted from Furners Lane on 8 Mar, with counts becoming lower as the breeding season got fully underway. Apart from multiple singing male records, breeding evidence was thin on the ground with just one recently fledged bird



witnessed, on 26 Jun at Nep Town. Males then continued singing all the way into July, with the last recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Numbers through autumn and into winter then remained small, with mainly ones or twos reported at any one time, with just one early singing record received, of a lone male near Chates on 19 Dec.

### Mistle Thrush

*Turdus viscivorus*

2021 was a good year for this species, with 53 records, more than the previous two years combined. Seen in all months apart from August and September, there was no evidence of breeding success although pairs in suitable habitat were noted on two occasions and several singing males were also recorded. The vast majority of records were of one or two birds at a time, but there was an interesting record of 15 counted from Furners Lane on 30 Jun.

### Spotted Flycatcher

*Muscicapa striata*

Sadly, this was another poor year for this species, with just three records. One was seen near the Levels on 11 May, another at the Common on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and two were observed at Park Farm on 10 Sep, the only autumn record.

### Robin

*Erithacus rubecula*

Unsurprisingly for such a familiar and common bird this was a widely reported species during the year, with 333 records received. Recorded in every month, double-figure area counts were also commonplace, with a high of 35 from around the Village on 7 May. Singing birds were rife during the breeding season, and there were four records of recently fledged birds: the first was from Blackstone on 25 May, the second, on 15 Jun, was from a resident's garden, the third came from Rye Farm on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and the same day gave the last record, this time from the Downslink south of Hollands Lane.

### Common Nightingale

*Luscinia megarhynchos*

The first Nightingales of the year were recorded on 9 Apr, with one singing male along the Mill Stream and a further three were heard tentatively singing at the same location by a separate observer the same day. This location provided the majority of the records for the rest of the month, with other singing males also noted on the Downslink north of the Railway pub and at Mockbridge. There was a high count of four from the Mill Stream on the 29<sup>th</sup>, with three the usual total there. In 2021 the ongoing pandemic hampered survey work of this species, but thirteen pairs were reckoned to breed in the Parish this year, although this figure is possibly an underestimate. Territories ranged from the Downslink and Mill Stream, to Wineham in the east and Shermanbury in the north, and the breeding window closed almost as soon as it had opened, with the last singing bird heard on 16 Jun and the last record an early 7 Jul.

### Pied Flycatcher

*Ficedula hypoleuca*

After a three-year gap it was nice to receive a

record of this species from Roger French's garden in West End on 19 Sep. This was the ninth record for the Parish, with seven coming from Autumn and two from spring.

### Black Redstart

*Phoenicurus ochruros*

There was one record in 2021, of a single bird near Mock Bridge on 24 April. The thirteenth record for Henfield and only the second for spring, with all other records emanating from the final three months of the year.

### Common Redstart

*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Like Black Redstart a very scarce migrant within Henfield, one was noted in the north-west of the Parish on 8 Apr. This represents the earliest date that this species has been recorded in Henfield, beating the previous earliest by five days.

### Whinchat

*Saxicola rubetra*

There were three records of this passage migrant during 2021, with two from September, at Woodmancote on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Overflow Pit on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and one from 5 Oct, again from the Overflow Pit.

### Eurasian Stonechat

*Saxicola torquatus*

This species is usually far more common in winter months than the rest of the year, and this was once again true in 2021. There were 26 records from January and February, mainly from the river and the Levels, and then one in March, five apiece from April and May. There were no records from the summer at all, and it wasn't until 13 Sep that another was recorded, from the Mill Stream. From that date until the end of the year there were then another 22 records, with all records during the year of one or two at a time, with three noted on the river south of Betley on 31 Jan and at Stretham on 22 Dec.

### Northern Wheatear

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

This species remains a scarce migrant in these parts, although 2021 was the best year yet seen

with eight records in total. The first of the year was of two birds seen in the very south of the Parish at New Hall Lane, Small Dole, on 9 Apr, with the next two records both coming on the same day. One was on the Levels on 14 Apr, and another at Wantley, with the last of spring passage coming on 7 May from Stretham. The first Wheatear of autumn was noted at Bishop Park on 13 Aug, with another there on 12 Sep. One was then at the Overflow Pit on 17 Sep, and the final record of the year was another at Bishop Park on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

### House Sparrow

*Passer domesticus*

This species still appears to be doing well in Henfield, with numbers holding steady and at least one new nesting site recorded, good news for this red-listed species. During January numbers were small, with a high of 15 noted at Stonepit Lane on the 31<sup>st</sup>, but February was much better, with double figure counts regular, and a peak of 96 counted from around the Village centre and Wantley on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. March saw the first singing males, from Wantley on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with this site also offering the month high, of 37 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. During the breeding season nesting activity was noted at Stonepit Lane, Staples Barn, the aforementioned Wantley, Stretham Manor, Blackstone, Nep Town, West Woodmancote, Rye Farm, New Inn and Catsfold Farms and a new nesting site at Bishop Park where at least four enterprising pairs found handy gaps in the roofs there. Breeding success from these sites was patchy, but the spread of these sites and their numbers gives much encouragement. Breeding activity died down from late June and into July, with numbers returning to January levels. The only double-figure count from late summer and autumn was of 15 on 11 Jul from Rye Farm, and it wasn't until 11 Dec that anything like a decent total was made, with 41 once again at Wantley.

### Dunnock

*Prunella modularis*

Dunnocks were recorded in all months of the year and from all areas of the Parish, resulting in 205 records during 2021. It was especially prevalent in the Village itself, Wantley and Oreham Common where double figure counts were made during

surveys of these areas. Although males were heard singing right from February through to late June, breeding activity was very quiet, with no fledged young noted, although successful nesting attempts were recorded on three occasions during May and June with adults observed collecting food.

### Yellow Wagtail

*Motacilla flava*

There were four records of this passage Bird during the year, with the first noted on 30 Apr on the Levels. This was the only spring record, not unusual as Yellow Wagtails are far more common during the autumn in the Parish, with the other three records spread evenly between August, September, and October. Two were present at Oreham on 27 Aug, a good count of eight came from Stretham on 13 Sep, and the final record was of another at Oreham on 2 Oct. This date was also the latest that this species has been recorded in Henfield, the previous last departure date was 26 Sep, set the previous year.

### Grey Wagtail

*Motacilla cinerea*

More common than Yellow, but not as Pied, this Wagtail was recorded on 28 occasions. All records appear to be of wintering or passage birds, with only one seen at any one time apart from three occasions when two were noted. The bulk of the records came in January and February and then October and November, with none seen in March, June, or December. The best site to see Grey Wagtails during 2021 was along the track to Rye Farm, where they were attracted to shallow standing water there, and there were three garden records. Two were from the same one, in Lower Station Road, including two on 20 Oct, whilst the other was from Meadowside on 7 Nov.

### Pied Wagtail

*Motacilla alba*

A common sight on the roads, rooftops, meadows and farmland of the Parish, there were 120 records in 2021. Twelve were counted from the Village centre on 12 Feb, the highest count of the first winter period. Counts of just one or two were the norm however, and ten from the same area on 8 Mar represented the last double-figure count until

late August. For the fourth year running a pair successfully bred in Bishop Park, with fledged young noted in a garden on 2 Jun. Apart from an adult carrying food near Catsfold Farm on 5 Jul, this was the only confirmed breeding record, with the rest of the year rather quiet. Eighteen were counted from Oreham on 27 Aug, but all other totals struggled to get above three.

### Meadow Pipit

*Anthus pratensis*

A common winter visitor, mainly along the river and Mill Stream, Meadow Pipits were frequently noted during January and February, with a high count from the latter site of 17 on 24 Feb. This was bettered in March, with 36 counted from Furners Lane and the north of the village on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Whether this species actually breeds within the Parish remains a matter of debate, and although records still came in all the way through to June,



Photo: Val Bentley

only two were possibly of breeding birds, a male singing by the Overflow Pit on 7 Apr and another appearing to hold a territory along the Mill Stream in late June. None were recorded during July or August, with numbers increasing as autumn got underway. Twenty were recorded on two separate occasions, 17 Sep from Stretham and 2 Oct from West End Levels. These proved to be the highest counts from the latter part of the year, which produced mainly single-figure counts, apart from a dozen noted at Park Farm on 11 Dec.

### Water Pipit

*Anthus spinoletta*

Prior to 2021 there were just three records of this species, but this year there were no fewer than eight. Admittedly six of those were of the same individual which stayed on Rye Farm Levels from 23 to 28 Jan, enabling many local birders to add the species to their patch list. Another was then noted at the Overflow Pit on 21 Feb, and then later in the year from south of Rye Farm Levels on 20 Nov. This still represents three individual birds recorded, a fantastic year for this species within the Parish.

### Chaffinch

*Fringilla coelebs*

This was a bumper year for Chaffinch records, with 158 submitted compared with just 65 in 2020. However, with 153 records in 2019 this looks like it was a temporary blip. Twenty-two were counted around the Village on 12 Feb, the highest count during the first two months of the year. The first singing male was noted on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the first of 37 that were recorded, including several that appeared to be holding a permanent territory. There were no breeding records better than that. It was a disappointing autumn, with just one each from August and September, but numbers improved as winter got close, leading to a year best total of 45, counted north of the village on 11 Dec.

### Brambling

*Fringilla montifringella*

Just the two records of this winter visitor, although both of them were actually in April. The first was on the 18<sup>th</sup> from West End, the second on the 24<sup>th</sup> from Rye Farm. The latter was only one day inside the latest ever departure date, which was set in 1999.

### Bullfinch

*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Records of this species were up and down during the year, with 15 in January and February but none in March and just five in April. May was then much better with pairs in suitable habitat noted on several occasions, before a noticeable summer lull. There was however a pair observed nesting by Lipride Farm on 16 Jun, but this turned out to be

the best and last breeding record of the year. One record of a pair was submitted in August, none in September and then four each from the last three months, mainly of single birds, rounding off a strange year for Bullfinches in Henfield.

### Greenfinch

*Chloris chloris*

Despite their recent troubles, Greenfinches appear to be holding their own in the Parish, with a steady stream of records during the year, albeit with a slight dip in the autumn. The Village held a decent population, with 17 counted on 13 Feb, 10 on 22 Mar, which also included the first singing bird of the year, and 18 on 7 May. Despite several territories noted from various parts of the Parish there was to be little successful breeding recorded, other than 5 juvenile birds ringed in a garden in Blackgate Lane between 11 Jun and 3 Jul and all activity had ceased by early July. A few were then observed, again mainly from the Village, during the rest of the month, but none were seen in August and only three from two records in September. Most records for the remainder of the year then came from Rye Farm and naturally the Village, but numbers were low, with a high of five from West End on 1 Oct.

### Linnet

*Carduelis cannabina*

Linnets were recorded in every month of 2021, although records tended to fluctuate somewhat. There were just three reports in January, two from the Levels and one from Wantley giving a total of just three birds. February was a bit better, with eight records, but still all of one or two Linnets at a time. The first record of March was much better with a flock of 60 near Furners Lane on the 8<sup>th</sup>.



Photo: Val Bentley

However, March was still quiet with just four records, but the species became much more prevalent in April, with 19 records, the first singing males and a count of 40 on the 4<sup>th</sup> from Furners Lane again. With the breeding season well underway the number of records increased hugely, with over thirty in May and June, including several singing males, some of whom appeared to be holding a territory. There was no firm evidence of successful breeding, despite activity continuing into July. Unfortunately, that latter month was also a poor one, with just two records, and this set the tone for the remainder of the year, where records averaged just four a month from September through to December. There were four double figure counts during this period, including a high for the latter part of the year of 24 on 11 Dec, again from Furners Lane, illustrating that in 2021 at least, this was the most reliable area for this species in the Parish.

### Lesser Redpoll

*Carduelis cabaret*

There were eleven records in 2021, all of them from the first three months. There were five in January, including a handsome party of nine that appeared in a garden in West End on the 5<sup>th</sup>, five records in February all of single birds, apart from three that were present in Craggits Lane on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The final record was of another threesome, upriver from the confluence on 14 Mar. A relatively scarce bird in these parts, there have now been 69 Parish records with the first only coming in 1990.

### Goldfinch

*Carduelis carduelis*

This species continues to go from strength to strength, with the highest ever number of records received in a single year. They were seen throughout the Parish in every month of the year, with a small dip in numbers in the autumn. Counts of over 20 were made on 15 occasions, predominantly from areas alongside the river, with a high of 50. This number was recorded twice and a day apart, from Furners Lane on the 25 Jan and Lower Station Road the very next day. Apart from a few singing males breeding activity was very quiet, as was autumn and winter, with 24 on 11 Dec from Furners Lane the only record of note.



## Eurasian Siskin

*Carduelis spinus*

Another one of our scarce finches, there were just five records during 2021, with the first on New Year's Day, when two were present at West End. It wasn't until March that the next were seen, with one in a garden in Lower Station Road on the 10th, and another, also in a garden, on the 25th at West End. Two were once again at West End, a good area for Siskin it would seem, on 1 Apr, and the final record was a good count of six from Rye Farm on 6 Nov, the only record from the second half of the year.

## Yellowhammer

*Emberiza citronella*

Records increased in 2021 compared to previous years, and this red-listed species appears to be holding its own in Henfield. There were just shy of 100 records for the year, with small winter flocks noted on several occasions during January, February and March, especially from the north-west of the Parish. On 28 Apr 25 were counted from Furners Lane, the highest count of the year. During May



singing males were widespread, their song a fairly common sound from areas of the Parish with suitable habitat, and there were 23 records of singing males during the spring and summer, compared with 24 the previous year, so the population does at least appear to be stable. Activity subsided in July, with the last bird in song heard on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and the remainder of the year containing records of just one or two at a time, with no large winter flocks noted anywhere during the last few months.

## Reed Bunting

*Emberiza schoeniclus*

A common breeding resident within the Parish, Reed Buntings were reported on 130 occasions, with some decent counts during the first quarter of the year. This included 20 from the Mill Stream on 7 February, and 25 from Furners Lane on 8 Mar which was the highest total of the year. During the breeding season smart males seemed to line the river at regular intervals, with the first singing birds noted in early March. An adult carrying food observed on 6 Jun west of Chates was the only confirmed breeding record, and by the first week of July all activity had ceased as birds dispersed from their nesting sites to appear in other parts of the village not associated with water. These included several gardens, especially in Lower Station Road where Reed Buntings took advantage of feeders to see them through the winter months.

### OTHER SPECIES NOTED DURING 2021

#### Black Swan

*Cygnus atratus*

One record of a species (and possibly the same bird) that has been recorded several times over the last few years or so. This one was seen on the Levels on 11 Mar.

#### Bar-headed Goose

*Anser indicus*

Almost a local celebrity amongst Henfield birders, this has been a regular visitor for some time, with seven records in 2021. These spanned from early January to mid-March and nearly all from Rye Farm Levels, although it did make it as far north as Betley on one occasion.

#### Indian Peafowl

*Pavo cristatus*

Loathed by some, loved by others (especially the children of the village), several of these still roam the village at will.

#### White Stork

*Ciconia ciconia*

One record of two birds on 10 June, and these are still likely to be Knepp Storks, hence their inclusion here and not the main list.

# Migrant arrival & departure dates

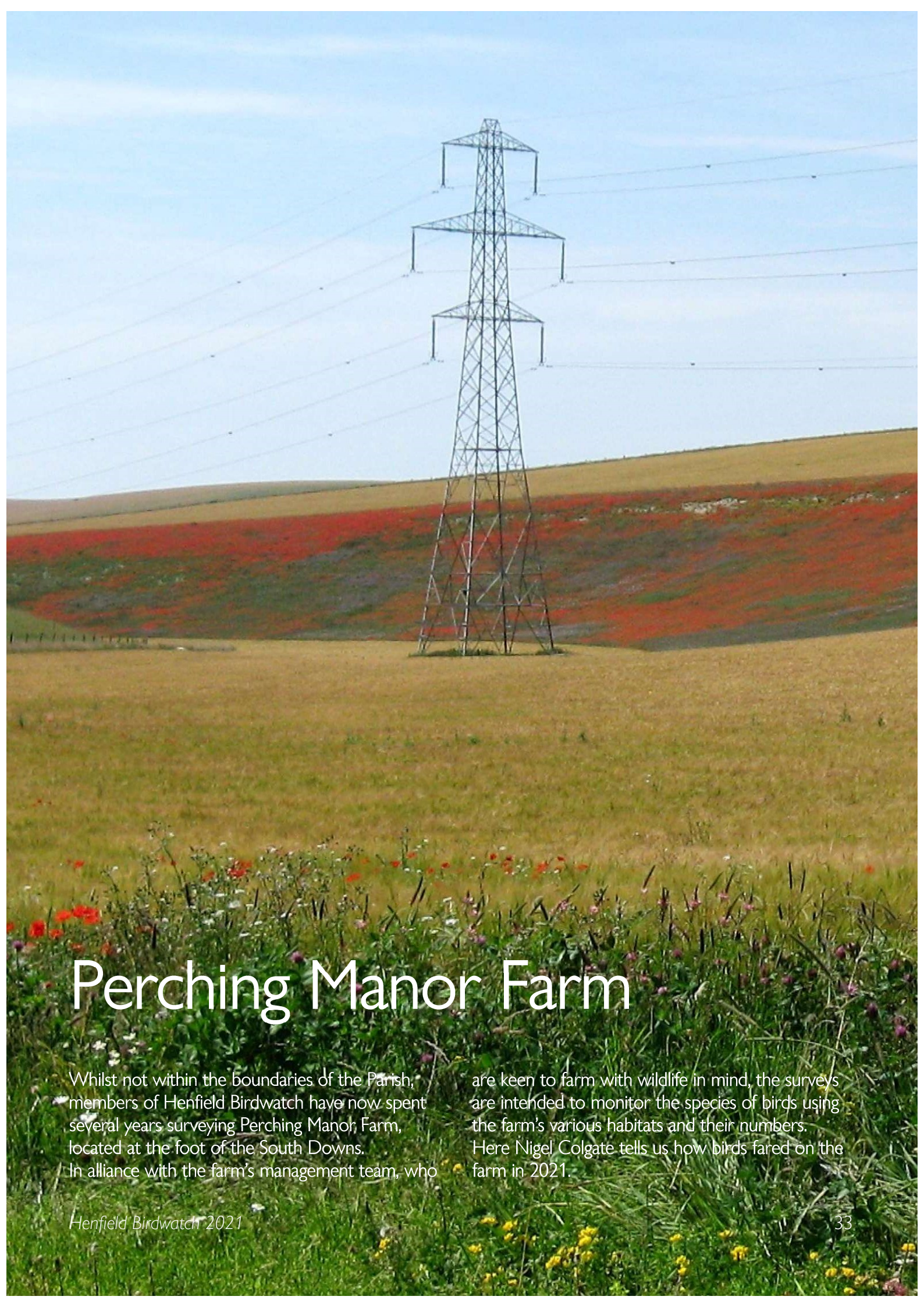
Table 1: Summer visitors

| Species              | 2021 arrival dates     |                              | 2021 departure dates       |                                 |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                      | First arrival          | Earliest record              | Last departure             | Latest record                   |
| Garganey             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> April  | 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb1995     | NR                         | NR                              |
| Common Swift         | 1 <sup>st</sup> May    | 21 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2012/20 | 21 <sup>st</sup> August    | 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2008       |
| Common Cuckoo        | 9 <sup>th</sup> April  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2011   | 30 <sup>th</sup> June      | 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 1999       |
| Turtle Dove          | 5 <sup>th</sup> May    | 12 <sup>th</sup> April 1993  | 16 <sup>th</sup> June      | 19 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017      |
| Little Ringed Plover | 5 <sup>th</sup> April  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 1997  | NR                         | NR                              |
| Common Tern          | NR                     | 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2006  | NR                         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct 1999        |
| Hobby                | 24 <sup>th</sup> April | 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2012  | 6 <sup>th</sup> September  | 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2010    |
| Sand Martin          | 18 <sup>th</sup> March | 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2021  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> October    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021    |
| Barn Swallow         | 29 <sup>th</sup> March | 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2009  | 7 <sup>th</sup> October    | 15 <sup>th</sup> November 1990  |
| House Martin         | 4 <sup>th</sup> April  | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020   | 5 <sup>th</sup> October    | 20 <sup>th</sup> November 1990  |
| Willow Warbler       | 9 <sup>th</sup> April  | 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2009  | 4 <sup>th</sup> October    | 4 <sup>th</sup> October 1989/21 |
| Sedge Warbler        | 25 <sup>th</sup> April | 13 <sup>th</sup> April 1996  | 18 <sup>th</sup> July      | 6 <sup>th</sup> October 1991    |
| Reed Warbler         | 20 <sup>th</sup> April | 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2012  | 15 <sup>th</sup> August    | 14 <sup>th</sup> October 1991   |
| Grasshopper Warbler  | NR                     | 14 <sup>th</sup> April 1983  | NR                         | 14 <sup>th</sup> September 1995 |
| Garden Warbler       | 14 <sup>th</sup> April | 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2015  | NR                         | 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 |
| Lesser Whitethroat   | 14 <sup>th</sup> April | 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2011   | 15 <sup>th</sup> August    | 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2000 |
| Common Whitethroat   | 9 <sup>th</sup> April  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2011   | 13 <sup>th</sup> September | 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2020    |
| Spotted Flycatcher   | 11 <sup>th</sup> May   | 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2020    | 10 <sup>th</sup> September | 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2000 |
| Common Nightingale   | 9 <sup>th</sup> April  | 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2020   | 7 <sup>th</sup> July       | 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2019    |
| Pied Flycatcher      | NR                     | 24 <sup>th</sup> April 1994  | 13 <sup>th</sup> September | 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2017 |
| Common Redstart      | 8 <sup>th</sup> April  | 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2011  | NR                         | 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2011   |
| Whinchat             | NR                     | 24 <sup>th</sup> April 2014  | 5 <sup>th</sup> October    | 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2016   |
| Northern Wheatear    | 9 <sup>th</sup> April  | 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2010  | 20 <sup>th</sup> September | 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2009    |
| Yellow Wagtail       | 30 <sup>th</sup> April | 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2004  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> October    | 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 |

Table 2: winter visitors

| Species           | 2021 departure dates      |                                | 2021 arrival dates        |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                   | Last departure            | Latest record                  | First arrival             | Earliest record                 |
| Bewick's Swan     | NR                        | 15 <sup>th</sup> March 1988    | NR                        | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2001   |
| Jack Snipe        | 11 <sup>th</sup> April    | 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2021    | NR                        | 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2015   |
| Fieldfare         | 13 <sup>th</sup> April    | 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2021    | 31 <sup>st</sup> October  | 19 <sup>th</sup> September 1991 |
| Redwing           | 28 <sup>th</sup> March    | 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2014       | 18 <sup>th</sup> October  | 27 <sup>th</sup> September 1990 |
| Great Grey Shrike | NR                        | 14 <sup>th</sup> March 1991    | NR                        | NR                              |
| Water Pipit       | 21 <sup>st</sup> February | 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2021 | 20 <sup>th</sup> November | 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2021  |
| Brambling         | 24 <sup>th</sup> April    | 25 <sup>th</sup> April 1999    | NR                        | 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 1990   |

NR: species not recorded during the period indicated



# Perching Manor Farm

Whilst not within the boundaries of the Parish, members of Henfield Birdwatch have now spent several years surveying Perching Manor Farm, located at the foot of the South Downs. In alliance with the farm's management team, who

are keen to farm with wildlife in mind, the surveys are intended to monitor the species of birds using the farm's various habitats and their numbers. Here Nigel Colgate tells us how birds fared on the farm in 2021.

2021 was the year of the Sunflowers! David Ellin, the farm manager, planted some large patches of this wonderful seed producing plant and left them throughout the winter. The subsequent numbers of feeding finches was awe inspiring. To cheat a little it has to be reported that in early 2022 these were joined by a mass of their northern cousin, the Brambling.

Overall we gained a total of 8 more species from 2020. We lost Siskin, Grey Wagtail, Mistle Thrush and Great Black-backed Gull but gained the following species: Greylag, Canada and Egyptian Goose plus Mallard, Moorhen, Peregrine, Cuckoo, Yellow Wagtail, Wheatear, Whinchat, Coal Tit and Spotted Flycatcher.

We are not trained to make scientific insights to the numbers although no doubt this is done to some extent through our recordings of results on the Birdtrack national database. However, below are some observations on general trends in comparison with 2020:

- More water fowl although small numbers
- Raptors showed stable numbers plus a lone Peregrine
- Pheasants were stable but very few Red legged-Partridge
- Gulls of various species wandered in and out of patch so actually not regular users of the farm in any numbers
- Lapwings were down from 18 to 7 but fairly

- confident those on the farm bred
- Stock Doves still showed large numbers along with wintering Wood Pigeons
- The Barn Owl continues to thrive
- Small increase in numbers of both Woodpeckers
- Skylarks beautiful and predictable with numbers overall varying by 1!
- Swallows up but House Martins down
- More autumn migrants were observed noticeably Willow Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Wheatear, Whinchat and Yellow Wagtail.
- Nightingales flourished with possibly an extra territory making 6
- Common birds that remained stable were Blackbird, Song Thrush, Wren, Robin, Dunnock and Tits although Blue Tit showed an increase
- All corvids up a bit including a pair of breeding Ravens
- Starling numbers were down by about half but they are a roving winter bird so this may not mean too much
- Finches were up toward the end of the year, due to the aforementioned Sunflowers, with Linnets increasing 650%!

Once again a thoroughly enjoyable year rounded off by our presentation to an audience at Henfield Village Hall in 2022 showcasing all the effort David Ellin is making to maximise production on the farm while at the same time providing a great home for a great variety of wildlife.



Perching Manor farm is a working farm, set in the foot of the Downs between Edburton and Fulking

## Birds recorded at Perching Manor Farm in 2021

| No. | Species                  | No. recorded | Out of 10 visits | Most on a visit | Highest month |
|-----|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1   | Grey Heron               | 1            | 1                | 1               | Feb           |
| 2   | Greylag Goose            | 5            | 2                | 3               | Feb           |
| 3   | Canada Goose             | 6            | 1                | 6               | Mar           |
| 4   | Mallard                  | 7            | 2                | 5               | Apr           |
| 5   | Moorhen                  | 2            | 2                | 1               | Jun/Nov       |
| 6   | Egyptian Goose           | 1            | 1                | 1               | Oct           |
| 7   | Common Buzzard           | 18           | 9                | 4               | Apr           |
| 8   | Sparrowhawk              | 2            | 2                | 1               | Mar/Nov       |
| 9   | Kestrel                  | 14           | 8                | 4               | Aug           |
| 10  | Hobby                    | 1            | 1                | 1               | July          |
| 11  | Peregrine                | 2            | 1                | 1               | Sep/Nov       |
| 12  | Red-legged Partridge     | 2            | 2                | 1               | Jun/July      |
| 13  | Common Pheasant          | 50           | 6                | 16              | Apr           |
| 14  | Black Headed Gull        | 30           | 3                | 27              | Feb           |
| 15  | Herring Gull             | 64           | 9                | 13              | Nov           |
| 16  | Lesser Black Backed Gull | 3            | 3                | 1               | Mar/Apr/Jul   |
| 17  | Lapwing                  | 8            | 2                | 7               | Jun           |
| 18  | Stock Dove               | 138          | 9                | 90              | Nov           |
| 19  | Wood Pigeon              | 627          | 10               | 200             | Oct           |
| 20  | Collared Dove            | 9            | 1                | 9               | Oct           |
| 21  | Common Cuckoo            | 1            | 1                | 1               | Apr           |
| 22  | Barn Owl                 | 2            | 2                | 1               | Feb/Aug       |
| 23  | Common Swift             | 22           | 1                | 22              | Jun           |
| 24  | Green Woodpecker         | 28           | 8                | 6               | July          |
| 25  | Great Spotted Woodpecker | 30           | 10               | 6               | Jun           |
| 26  | Skylark                  | 169          | 10               | 48              | Apr           |
| 27  | Barn Swallow             | 48           | 4                | 25              | Sep           |
| 28  | House Martin             | 4            | 2                | 3               | Jun           |
| 29  | Meadow Pipit             | 43           | 6                | 15              | Sep           |
| 30  | Pied Wagtail             | 25           | 8                | 7               | Aug           |
| 31  | Yellow Wagtail           | 5            | 2                | 3               | Aug/Sep       |
| 32  | Wren                     | 52           | 9                | 10              | Apr/Oct       |
| 33  | Duncock                  | 40           | 9                | 8               | Feb           |
| 34  | Robin                    | 109          | 10               | 19              | Feb           |
| 35  | Nightingale              | 6            | 1                | 6               | Apr           |
| 36  | Northern Wheatear        | 7            | 2                | 4               | Aug           |
| 37  | Whinchat                 | 4            | 1                | 4               | Aug           |
| 38  | Stonechat                | 7            | 5                | 9               | Sep/Oct       |
| 39  | Song Thrush              | 35           | 8                | 90              | Feb           |

| No. | Species            | No. recorded | Out of 10 visits | Most on a visit | Highest month |
|-----|--------------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 40  | Redwing            | 118          | 2                | 90              | Feb           |
| 41  | Fieldfare          | 42           | 3                | 30              | Feb           |
| 42  | Blackbird          | 99           | 10               | 19              | Apr           |
| 43  | Blackcap           | 20           | 5                | 7               | Jun           |
| 44  | Lesser Whitethroat | 1            | 1                | 1               | Apr           |
| 45  | Whitethroat        | 36           | 4                | 13              | Jun           |
| 46  | Willow Warbler     | 14           | 3                | 7               | Aug           |
| 47  | Chiffchaff         | 42           | 7                | 14              | Sep           |
| 48  | Goldcrest          | 3            | 2                | 2               | Feb           |
| 49  | Spotted Flycatcher | 3            | 1                | 3               | Aug           |
| 50  | Great Tit          | 72           | 9                | 19              | Feb           |
| 51  | Blue Tit           | 205          | 10               | 35              | Apr           |
| 52  | Coal Tit           | 1            | 1                | 1               | Feb           |
| 53  | Long Tailed Tit    | 34           | 6                | 12              | Aug           |
| 54  | Nuthatch           | 6            | 4                | 3               | Mar           |
| 55  | Treecreeper        | 2            | 2                | 1               | Mar/Aug       |
| 56  | Magpie             | 79           | 10               | 16              | Feb           |
| 57  | Jay                | 15           | 6                | 5               | Oct           |
| 58  | Jackdaw            | 152          | 9                | 51              | July          |
| 59  | Rook               | 199          | 9                | 150             | July          |
| 60  | Carrion Crow       | 194          | 10               | 38              | Mar           |
| 61  | Raven              | 3            | 2                | 2               | Feb           |
| 62  | Starling           | 209          | 7                | 114             | Feb           |
| 63  | House Sparrow      | 42           | 7                | 12              | Feb           |
| 64  | Chaffinch          | 166          | 10               | 98              | Nov           |
| 65  | Goldfinch          | 91           | 9                | 52              | Nov           |
| 66  | Greenfinch         | 51           | 5                | 25              | Oct           |
| 67  | Bullfinch          | 16           | 5                | 5               | Oct           |
| 68  | Linnet             | 494          | 8                | 300             | Oct           |
| 69  | Reed Bunting       | 35           | 4                | 20              | Feb           |
| 70  | Yellowhammer       | 157          | 10               | 40              | Feb           |



Both Stock Dove and Yellowhammer, typical farmland birds, thrive at Perching Manor Farm, helped by careful stewardship of the land that aims to help wildlife as much as is possible.



# Swift breeding report 2021

*Debbie Colgate*

In 2021 there was a reduction in the number of Swift sightings reported and also a reduction in the number of Swifts seen in screaming parties. There were seven more nesting sites available; one site was identified under the eaves of a house, four sites were boxes which had been up for a few years but not previously made known to us and two were new boxes put up over the winter of 2020/21. This made 42 available nesting sites in total.

In 2021 Swifts were seen visiting or entering 16 of these sites and adult Swifts were seen entering 12 of the sites in late June which is indicative of chicks being fed.

It is probable that there were 12 fledglings, unfortunately the exact number is not known.

We will be able to provide a more definite number of fledglings in future years.



## Swift breeding success in Henfield during 2021

There were a total of 42 nest sites in the Village during 2021, and of these 38 were in boxes put up by Henfield Birdwatch and the remaining four were natural nests.

Details of these nests and their success is outlined in the following table:

| Status of nest          | Number |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Contained chicks        | 10     |
| Swifts nesting          | 3      |
| Swifts visting, no nest | 5      |
| Used by other species   | 11*    |
| Not used                | 12     |
| Status unknown          | 1      |

\* Ten boxes used by Starlings, one used by a pair of House Sparrows

• This gave a success rate of 24% compared to just 10% in 2020 and just one successful nest in 2019, indicating that the Swift breeding population in Henfield is growing year by year at a healthy rate. The nest boxes do appear to be assisting in this, although the Swifts have taken several years to show an interest.

• Of the four natural sites three saw chicks successfully raised. Two were located on private property, with both having chicks, whilst the other two, at Southdown Galleries on the High Street had one successful nest and one that did not appear to raise any young.

• Thirty of the boxes are attached to residents' houses, with eight on commercial premises on the High Street. These were four on Stokes Newsagents and four on the Henfield Club.

• Stokes had one successful nest with chicks, with the other three unused.

• The Henfield Club had one successful nest that raised chicks, one pair nesting with no proven success and two empty boxes.

# Final thoughts

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As ever, this report highlights the great diversity of birdlife that can be recorded within the parish boundaries and is also testament to the enthusiasm of everyone watching, reporting and enjoying birdwatching here. It's interesting now that people who live outside Henfield are coming to enjoy birding here. The ever-increasing number of eyes, binoculars, telescopes and cameras are adding new species to the parish list, and in 2021 these were Avocet and Turnstone. However, what is important is the involvement of local people reporting and monitoring our common birds on a regular basis as these are the keystone species that indicate the state of our environment. It is essential that we continue to do this, particularly in view of the impact that climate change may have on our birds. A big thanks

go to all the area surveyors, the species monitors, to all those who report and submit records and to those who provide their photographs. 2023 will be a particularly busy year for us. The following year will be our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we are planning to produce the definitive book of the birds of Henfield, not an inconsiderable task! In the same year Henfield Parish Council are proposing a Year of Biodiversity, bringing opportunities for us to make even greater strides in promoting and conserving the birds of the parish. I look forward to us making a significant contribution to this year-long event. In the meantime, I hope you enjoyed reading about our birds and will continue to support our efforts to help the wonderful wildlife that we live alongside.

- Mike Russell



## The Henfield year list and index

| No. | Species             | Date first recorded | Location          | Page |
|-----|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------|
| 1   | Avocet              | 07 March 2021       | Rye Farm Levels   | 13   |
| 2   | Barn Owl            | 02 January 2021     | Catsland Farm     | 16   |
| 3   | Black Redstart      | 24 April 2021       | Mockbridge        | 27   |
| 4   | Blackbird           | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels   | 25   |
| 5   | Blackcap            | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End | 23   |
| 6   | Black-headed Gull   | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels   | 14   |
| 7   | Black-tailed Godwit | 17 March 2021       | Henfield Levels   | 13   |
| 8   | Blue Tit            | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels   | 20   |
| 9   | Brambling           | 18 April 2021       | Henfield West End | 29   |
| 10  | Bullfinch           | 02 January 2021     | Catsland Farm     | 29   |
| 11  | Buzzard             | 01 January 2021     | Henfield Levels   | 16   |
| 12  | Canada Goose        | 01 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels   | 8    |
| 13  | Carrion Crow        | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels   | 19   |
| 14  | Cetti's Warbler     | 01 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels   | 22   |
| 15  | Chaffinch           | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End | 29   |
| 16  | Chiffchaff          | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End | 22   |
| 17  | Coal Tit            | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End | 20   |
| 18  | Collared Dove       | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels   | 12   |
| 19  | Common Gull         | 03 January 2021     | Henfield Levels   | 15   |
| 20  | Common Sandpiper    | 15 February 2021    | Henfield Levels   | 14   |
| 21  | Coot                | 01 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels   | 13   |
| 22  | Cormorant           | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels   | 15   |
| 23  | Cuckoo              | 09 April 2021       | Henfield Levels   | 11   |
| 24  | Dunlin              | 24 February 2021    | Henfield Levels   | 14   |
| 25  | Dunnock             | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels   | 28   |
| 26  | Egyptian Goose      | 01 January 2021     | Betley            | 9    |
| 27  | Feral Pigeon        | 01 January 2021     | Village           | 11   |
| 28  | Fieldfare           | 01 January 2021     | Betley            | 26   |
| 29  | Firecrest           | 02 January 2021     | Catsland Farm     | 24   |
| 30  | Gadwall             | 06 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels   | 10   |

| No. | Species                  | Date first recorded | Location                | Page |
|-----|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------|
| 31  | Garden Warbler           | 14 April 2021       | Wantley                 | 23   |
| 32  | Garganey                 | 02 April 2021       | Henfield Levels         | 9    |
| 33  | Goldcrest                | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End       | 24   |
| 34  | Golden Plover            | 15 February 2021    | Henfield Levels         | 13   |
| 35  | Goldfinch                | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 30   |
| 36  | Goosander                | 02 January 2021     | Stretham Bridge         | 11   |
| 37  | Great Black-backed Gull  | 18 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels         | 15   |
| 38  | Great Spotted Woodpecker | 01 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 18   |
| 39  | Great Tit                | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 21   |
| 40  | Great White Egret        | 18 March 2021       | Henfield Stretham Manor | 16   |
| 41  | Green Sandpiper          | 03 January 2021     | Henfield Woods Mill     | 14   |
| 42  | Green Woodpecker         | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End       | 17   |
| 43  | Greenfinch               | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End       | 30   |
| 44  | Grey Heron               | 03 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 15   |
| 45  | Grey Wagtail             | 06 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 28   |
| 46  | Greylag Goose            | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 8    |
| 47  | Herring Gull             | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 15   |
| 48  | Hobby                    | 24 April 2021       | Henfield Woods Mill     | 18   |
| 49  | House Martin             | 01 April 2021       | Henfield West End       | 21   |
| 50  | House Sparrow            | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 28   |
| 51  | Jack Snipe               | 06 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 14   |
| 52  | Jackdaw                  | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 19   |
| 53  | Jay                      | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 18   |
| 54  | Kestrel                  | 03 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 18   |
| 55  | Kingfisher               | 21 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels         | 17   |
| 56  | Lapwing                  | 03 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 13   |
| 57  | Lesser Black-backed Gull | 13 March 2021       | Henfield Levels         | 15   |
| 58  | Lesser Redpoll           | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End       | 30   |
| 59  | Lesser Whitethroat       | 14 April 2021       | Wantley                 | 23   |
| 60  | Linnet                   | 06 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 30   |
| 61  | Little Egret             | 06 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 16   |
| 62  | Little Grebe             | 27 February 2021    | Henfield Woods Mill     | 13   |

| No. | Species              | Date first recorded | Location                | Page |
|-----|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------|
| 63  | Little Owl           | 11 August 2021      | Wantley                 | 17   |
| 64  | Little Ringed Plover | 05 April 2021       | Adur confluence         | 13   |
| 65  | Long-tailed Tit      | 01 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 22   |
| 66  | Magpie               | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 19   |
| 67  | Mallard              | 01 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels         | 10   |
| 68  | Mandarin Duck        | 14 March 2021       | Henfield Levels         | 9    |
| 69  | Marsh Tit            | 08 April 2021       | Henfield Woods Mill     | 20   |
| 70  | Meadow Pipit         | 03 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 29   |
| 71  | Mistle Thrush        | 06 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 26   |
| 72  | Moorhen              | 01 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels         | 12   |
| 73  | Mute Swan            | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 9    |
| 74  | Nightingale          | 09 April 2021       | Henfield Woods Mill     | 27   |
| 75  | Nuthatch             | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End       | 25   |
| 76  | Osprey               | 07 April 2021       | Henfield Woods Mill     | 16   |
| 77  | Peregrine            | 06 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 18   |
| 78  | Pheasant             | 06 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 8    |
| 79  | Pied Flycatcher      | 19 September 2021   | Garden obs.             | 26   |
| 80  | Pied Wagtail         | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 28   |
| 81  | Pintail              | 05 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 10   |
| 82  | Raven                | 02 January 2021     | Henfield Stretham Manor | 19   |
| 83  | Red Kite             | 02 January 2021     | Swains                  | 16   |
| 84  | Red-legged Partridge | 21 March 2021       | Swains                  | 8    |
| 85  | Redstart             | 08 April 2021       | Betley                  | 27   |
| 86  | Redwing              | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 26   |
| 87  | Reed Bunting         | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End       | 31   |
| 88  | Reed Warbler         | 20 April 2021       | Henfield Stretham Manor | 23   |
| 89  | Robin                | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels         | 27   |
| 90  | Rook                 | 01 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 19   |
| 91  | Sand Martin          | 18 March 2021       | Henfield Stretham Manor | 21   |
| 92  | Sedge Warbler        | 25 April 2021       | Henfield Woods Mill     | 23   |
| 93  | Shelduck             | 03 January 2021     | Henfield Levels         | 9    |
| 94  | Shoveler             | 01 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels         | 9    |

| No. | Species             | Date first recorded | Location            | Page |
|-----|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------|
| 94  | Siskin              | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End   | 31   |
| 95  | Skylark             | 05 January 2021     | Henfield Levels     | 21   |
| 96  | Snipe               | 05 January 2021     | Henfield Levels     | 14   |
| 97  | Song Thrush         | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels     | 26   |
| 98  | Sparrowhawk         | 01 January 2021     | Henfield West End   | 16   |
| 99  | Spotted Flycatcher  | 11 May 2021         | Henfield Levels     | 27   |
| 100 | Starling            | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels     | 25   |
| 101 | Stock Dove          | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels     | 12   |
| 102 | Stonechat           | 01 January 2021     | Henfield Levels     | 27   |
| 103 | Swallow             | 29 March 2021       | Eatons Bridge       | 21   |
| 104 | Swift               | 01 April 2021       | Henfield West End   | 11   |
| 105 | Tawny Owl           | 01 January 2021     | Downslink           | 17   |
| 106 | Teal                | 01 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels     | 11   |
| 107 | Treecreeper         | 01 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels     | 25   |
| 108 | Tufted Duck         | 24 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels     | 11   |
| 109 | Turnstone           | 21 February 2021    | Henfield Levels     | 13   |
| 110 | Turtle Dove         | 05 May 2021         | Little Oreham Farm  | 12   |
| 111 | Water Pipit         | 23 January 2021     | Rye Farm Levels     | 29   |
| 112 | Water Rail          | 06 February 2021    | West End Levels     | 12   |
| 113 | Wheatear            | 09 April 2021       | New Hall Lane       | 27   |
| 114 | Whimbrel            | 07 May 2021         | Henfield Levels     | 13   |
| 115 | Whinchat            | 03 September 2021   | Woodmancote         | 27   |
| 116 | White-fronted Goose | 03 January 2021     | Henfield Rye Farm   | 8    |
| 117 | Whitethroat         | 09 April 2021       | Henfield Woods Mill | 24   |
| 118 | Wigeon              | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels     | 10   |
| 119 | Willow Warbler      | 09 April 2021       | Stretham            | 22   |
| 120 | Woodcock            | 24 November 2021    | Garden obs          | 14   |
| 121 | Woodpigeon          | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels     | 12   |
| 122 | Wren                | 01 January 2021     | West End Levels     | 24   |
| 123 | Wryneck             | 02 May 2021         | Mill Stream         | 17   |
| 124 | Yellow Wagtail      | 30 April 2021       | Henfield Levels     | 28   |
| 125 | Yellowhammer        | 03 January 2021     | Henfield Levels     | 31   |

## A checklist of the birds of Henfield

|                        |                              |  |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Red-legged Partridge   | <i>Alectoris rufa</i>        | Scarce resident                        |
| Grey Partridge         | <i>Perdix perdix</i>         | Very scarce visitor                    |
| Common Pheasant        | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>   | Common resident                        |
| Brent Goose            | <i>Branta bernicla</i>       | Very scarce winter visitor             |
| Canada Goose           | <i>Branta canadensis</i>     | Common resident                        |
| Barnacle Goose         | <i>Branta leucopsis</i>      | Very scarce winter visitor             |
| Greylag Goose          | <i>Anser anser</i>           | Common resident                        |
| Bean Goose             | <i>Anser fabalis</i>         | Very scarce winter visitor             |
| White-fronted Goose    | <i>Anser albifrons</i>       | Scarce winter visitor                  |
| Mute Swan              | <i>Cygnus olor</i>           | Common breeding resident               |
| Bewick's Swan          | <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>    | Scarce winter visitor                  |
| Egyptian Goose         | <i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>  | Scarce visitor and very scarce breeder |
| Common Shelduck        | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>       | Fairly common winter visitor           |
| Mandarin Duck          | <i>Aix galericulata</i>      | Rare visitor                           |
| Garganey               | <i>Anas querquedula</i>      | Rare passage migrant                   |
| Shoveler               | <i>Anas clypeata</i>         | Common winter visitor                  |
| Gadwall                | <i>Anas strepera</i>         | Fairly common winter visitor           |
| Eurasian Wigeon        | <i>Anas penelope</i>         | Common winter visitor                  |
| Mallard                | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>    | Very common resident                   |
| Pintail                | <i>Anas acuta</i>            | Fairly common winter visitor           |
| Eurasian Teal          | <i>Anas crecca</i>           | Common winter visitor                  |
| Common Pochard         | <i>Aythya ferina</i>         | Very scarce winter visitor             |
| Tufted Duck            | <i>Aythya fuligula</i>       | Scarce winter visitor                  |
| Greater Scaup          | <i>Aythya marila</i>         | Rare winter visitor                    |
| Velvet Scoter          | <i>Melanitta fusca</i>       | Very scarce winter visitor             |
| Goldeneye              | <i>Bucephala clangula</i>    | Very scarce passage migrant            |
| Smew                   | <i>Mergellus albellus</i>    | Very scarce winter visitor             |
| Goosander              | <i>Mergus merganser</i>      | Very scarce winter visitor             |
| Red-breasted Merganser | <i>Mergus serrator</i>       | Rare winter visitor                    |
| Nightjar               | <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> | Rare passage migrant                   |
| Common Swift           | <i>Apus apus</i>             | Fairly common breeding summer visitor  |
| Common Cuckoo          | <i>Cuculus canorus</i>       | Fairly common breeding summer visitor  |
| 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                   |
| Turtle Dove            | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>   | Very scarce breeding summer visitor    |
| Collared Dove          | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | Common resident                        |
| 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                         |
| 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         |
| Oystercatcher           | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>      | Rare passage migrant                              |
| Avocet                  | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>     | Rare passage migrant                              |
| Lapwing                 | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>          | Very common winter visitor and scarce             |
| Golden Plover           | <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>        | breeding species<br>Scarce winter visitor         |
| Grey Plover             | <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>       | Very rare winter visitor                          |
| Ringed Plover           | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>       | Very scarce passage migrant and<br>winter visitor |
| Little Ringed Plover    | <i>Charadrius dubius</i>          | Very scarce passage migrant                       |
| Eurasian Whimbrel       | <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>          | Very scarce passage migrant                       |
| Curlew                  | <i>Numenius arquata</i>           | Very scarce passage migrant and<br>winter visitor |
| Black-tailed Godwit     | <i>Limosa limosa</i>              | Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant         |
| Turnstone               | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>         | Very rare passage migrant                         |
| Knot                    | <i>Calidris canutus</i>           | Very rare passage migrant                         |
| Ruff                    | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>         | Scarce passage migrant                            |
| Curlew Sandpiper        | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>        | Very rare passage migrant                         |
| Dunlin                  | <i>Calidris alpina</i>            | Very scarce passage migrant                       |
| Woodcock                | <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>         | Scarce winter visitor                             |
| Jack Snipe              | <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>        | Very scarce winter visitor and<br>passage migrant |
| Common Snipe            | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>        | Fairly common winter visitor                      |
| 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         |
| Common Redshank         | <i>Tringa totanus</i>             | Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant         |
| Spotted Redshank        | <i>Tringa erythropus</i>          | Very rare passage migrant                         |
| Greenshank              | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>           | Scarce passage migrant                            |
| Kittiwake               | <i>Rissa tridactyla</i>           | Very rare 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                      |
| Great Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus marinus</i>              | Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant         |

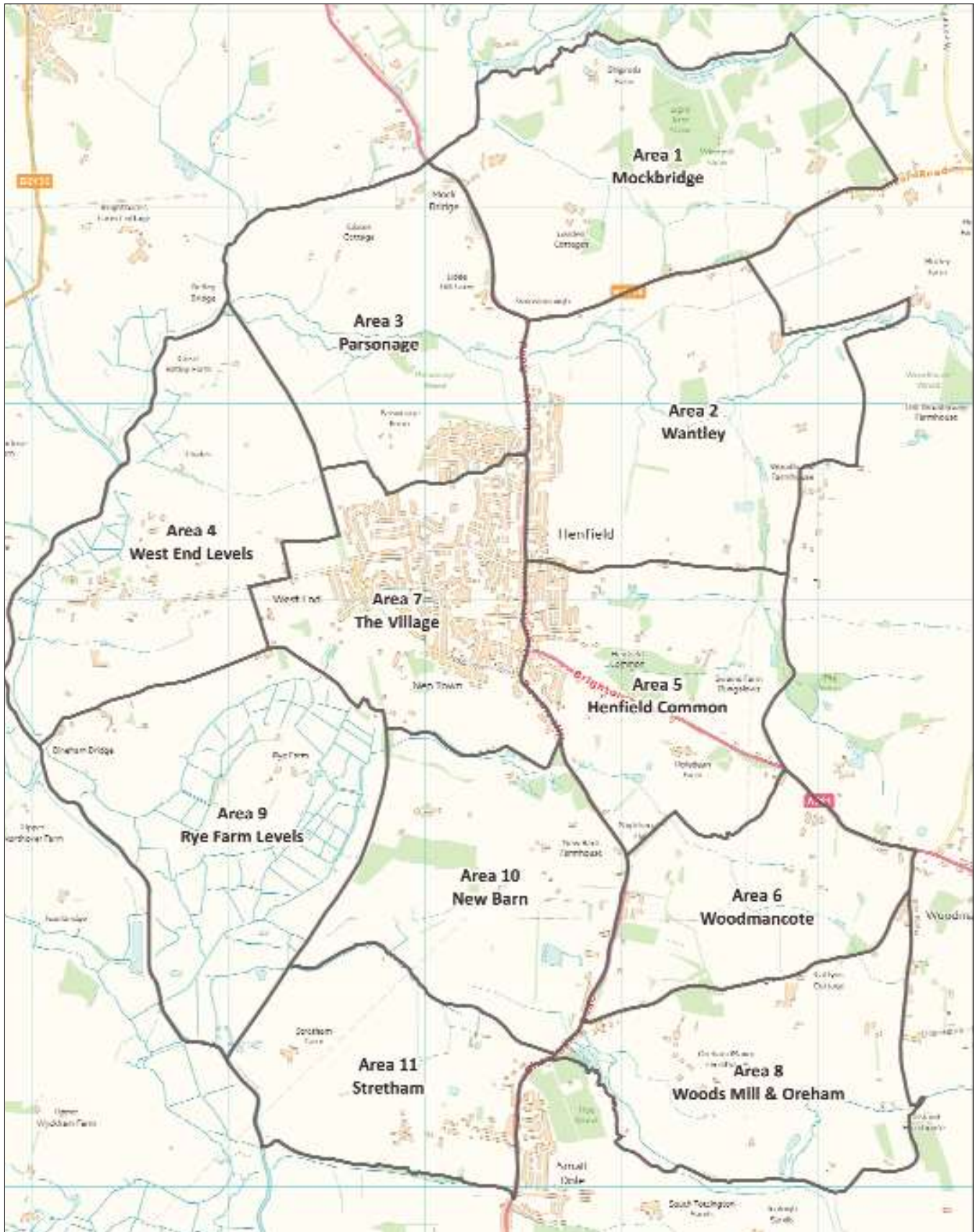
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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Herring Gull              | <i>Larus argentatus</i>         | Common resident   |
| Caspian Gull              | <i>Larus cachinnans</i>         | Very rare winter visitor.                                 |
| Yellow-legged Gull        | <i>Larus michahellis</i>        | Rare winter visitor                                       |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull  | <i>Larus fuscus</i>             | Fairly common resident                                    |
| Common Tern               | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>           | Scarce passage migrant                                    |
| Long-tailed Skua          | <i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i> | Historical record from 1862                               |
| Red-throated Diver        | <i>Gavia stellata</i>           | Very rare winter visitor                                  |
| Cormorant                 | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>      | Fairly common winter visitor                              |
| Shag                      | <i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>      | Very rare passage migrant                                 |
| Glossy Ibis               | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>     | Very rare passage migrant                                 |
| Spoonbill                 | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>      | Very rare passage migrant                                 |
| Eurasian 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                                       |
| Grey Heron                | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>            | Fairly common breeding resident                           |
| Great White Egret         | <i>Ardea alba</i>               | Very scarce passage migrant                               |
| Little Egret              | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>         | Fairly common winter visitor and rare resident            |
| Osprey                    | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>        | Scarce passage migrant                                    |
| Honey-buzzard             | <i>Pernis apivorus</i>          | Very scarce passage migrant                               |
| Sparrowhawk               | <i>Accipiter nisus</i>          | Fairly common breeding resident                           |
| Goshawk                   | <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>       | Very scarce visitor                                       |
| Marsh Harrier             | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>       | Rare passage migrant                                      |
| Hen Harrier               | <i>Circus cyaneus</i>           | Scarce winter visitor                                     |
| Red Kite                  | <i>Milvus milvus</i>            | Fairly common resident                                    |
| Common Buzzard            | <i>Buteo buteo</i>              | Fairly common breeding resident                           |
| Barn Owl                  | <i>Tyto alba</i>                | Scarce breeding resident                                  |
| Tawny Owl                 | <i>Strix aluco</i>              | Fairly common breeding resident                           |
| Little Owl                | <i>Athene noctua</i>            | Scarce breeding resident                                  |
| Long-eared Owl            | <i>Asio otus</i>                | Very scarce visitor                                       |
| Short-eared Owl           | <i>Asio flammeus</i>            | Very scarce winter 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>           | Rare passage migrant                                      |
| Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dryobates minor</i>          | Very scarce and declining resident                        |
| Green Woodpecker          | <i>Picus viridis</i>            | Fairly common resident                                    |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker  | <i>Dendrocopos major</i>        | Common 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            | <i>Falco peregrinus</i>           | Fairly common resident   |
| Rose-ringed Parakeet | <i>Psittacula krameri</i>         | Very scarce visitor  |
| Great Grey Shrike    | <i>Lanius excubitor</i>           | Very rare winter visitor   |
| Golden Oriole        | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i>            | Rare passage migrant   |
| Jay                  | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>        | Common resident  |
| Magpie               | <i>Pica pica</i>                  | Very 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   |
| Waxwing              | <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>        | Rare winter visitor  |
| Coal Tit             | <i>Parus ater</i>                 | Common winter visitor  |
| Marsh Tit            | <i>Poecile palustris</i>          | Scarce resident  |
| Willow Tit           | <i>Poecile montana</i>            | Former breeding resident, now extinct within the parish                        |
| Blue Tit             | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>        | Very common resident   |
| Great Tit            | <i>Parus major</i>                | Very common resident   |
| Bearded Tit          | <i>Panurus biarmicus</i>          | Very rare visitor  |
| 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                         |
| Barn 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  |
| Wood Warbler         | <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>    | Very scarce passage migrant  |
| Willow Warbler       | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>     | Common passage migrant, formerly bred  |
| Chiffchaff           | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>     | Common breeding visitor, very common passage migrant, a few are seen in winter |
| 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                                    |
| Icterine Warbler     | <i>Hippolais icterina</i>         | Rare passage migrant   |
| Grasshopper Warbler  | <i>Locustella naevia</i>          | Scarce passage migrant, all records from spring                                |
| 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>Curruca curruca</i>            | Fairly common breeding visitor and passage migrant                             |
| Common Whitethroat   | <i>Curruca communis</i>           | Common breeding visitor and very common passage migrant                        |



|                      |                                      |  |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Firecrest            | <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>           | Scarce resident  |
| Goldcrest            | <i>Regulus regulus</i>               | Fairly common breeding resident                                |
| Wren                 | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>       | Very common resident   |
| Nuthatch             | <i>Sitta europaea</i>                | Common resident  |
| Eurasian Treecreeper | <i>Certhia familiaris</i>            | Fairly common resident   |
| Common 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  |
| Redwing              | <i>Turdus iliacus</i>                | Common winter visitor  |
| Song Thrush          | <i>Turdus philomelos</i>             | Common resident  |
| 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   |
| Bluethroat           | <i>Luscinia svecica</i>              | Very scarce passage migrant                                    |
| Common Nightingale   | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>         | Scarce breeding summer visitor                                 |
| Pied Flycatcher      | <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>            | Rare passage migrant   |
| Black Redstart       | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>          | Very scarce passage migrant, more numerous in autumn           |
| Common Redstart      | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>       | Very scarce passage migrant                                    |
| Whinchat             | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>              | Fairly common passage migrant, more numerous in autumn         |
| Eurasian Stonechat   | <i>Saxicola rubicola</i>             | Common winter visitor, passage migrant and very scarce breeder |
| Northern Wheatear    | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>             | Scarce passage migrant   |
| House Sparrow        | <i>Passer domesticus</i>             | Very common resident   |
| Tree Sparrow         | <i>Passer montanus</i>               | Former breeding resident, now extinct within the parish        |
| Dunnock              | <i>Prunella modularis</i>            | Very common resident   |
| 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                                     |
| Chaffinch            | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>             | Common resident  |
| Brambling            | <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>      | Scarce winter visitor  |
| 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   |
| Twite                | <i>Linaria flavirostris</i>          | Very rare passage migrant                                      |
| 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.





[www.henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk](http://www.henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk)