

Henfield Birdwatch

Bird Report 2022



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HENFIELD BIRDWATCH

Report

2022



www.henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk

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Introduction

Henfield Birdwatch ended 2022 in a healthy position with membership still on an upward trend and interaction with our Facebook page continuing to flourish. One development that has particularly pleased me is the progress that we have made in our species recording and collection of data.

It was one of the three key aims since we set out on our first surveys way back in 1999 and over the intervening years we have accumulated tens of thousands of records. Thanks to Paul Cole, and previously Roger French, our records are now submitted to the Sussex Ornithological Society either directly or via the British Trust for Ornithology's BirdTrack system, and in turn are also held by the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre. These records are now easily accessed on a 1km square basis enabling us to look at all the records of birds in Henfield, some going way back to the early decades of the 20th century.

This data now allows us to provide a comprehensive list of all the species recorded in the Parish and will be the basis for our definitive book of the avifauna of Henfield, that will be published in 2024. All the

surveys we now undertake go onto BirdTrack and we are now able to monitor more scientifically how the populations of the birds within Henfield are doing in these ever-changing times. Paul Cole has undertaken this project and I know it has taken such a lot of work to reach this position, and many thanks go to him for all he has done to achieve this. After the Covid years, we have now got back to running a full programme of walks, talks and surveys. The Nightingale and Swift surveys were back in full swing, as was the one at Perching Manor Farm, while Val Bentley and Lesley Milward embarked on regular surveying work at the Sussex Prairie Garden. Many people enjoyed the regular walks provided by Nigel Colgate and Val as well to the more long-distance trips organised by Nigel and Debbie. So, 2023 sees Henfield Birdwatch in good health, and I hope that as members you enjoy what we have achieved in 2022, but even more that you have continued to enjoy the wonderful bird life that Henfield has to offer.

- Mike Russell, Chairman



Review of the year

January

Species **84** Records **795** Year list **84**

The year began with the welcome return of **Bewick's Swans** to the Levels after a four year absence, when five graced us with their presence on the 3rd, staying until the 6th. A **Green Sandpiper** was at the Overflow Pit and a **Water Rail** at Rye Farm, both on the 5th, and a **Pochard** turned up on floods at the latter site on the 13th. Also there was a **Great Crested Grebe** on the 17th, a **Goosander** and a **Redshank** were at Stretham on the 22nd, a **Cattle Egret** was present at Furners Lane on the 24th, along with a **Brambling** in a Village garden the same day. On the 30th a **Great White Egret** was observed along the Mill Stream.

February

Species **75** Records **969** Year list **89**

A pair of **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were seen by Furners Lane on the 5th, with **Woodcocks** noted at both Hascombe Farm and Woodmancote on the 7th. Two **Bramblings** were in a garden on the 8th, whilst on the 11th Henfield's first ever wintering **House Martin** was spotted over the Mill Stream. A superb count of 50 **Brambling** was made at Bilsborough on the 15th, a **Shelduck** was noted from the Levels on the 22nd, along with a **Green Sandpiper**. Another **Woodcock** was recorded on the 27th, again from Hascombe Farm.

March

Species **74** Records **665** Year list **93**

A garden in Dropping Holms had a regular **Brambling** visiting during early March, and a **Water Rail** was at Rye Farm again, on the 7th. On the floods there a **Water Pipit** dropped in on the 14th, another **Water Rail** was seen at Woods Mill on the 18th with a **Little Ringed Plover** noted along the Mill Stream the next day. The **Water Pipit** appeared again at two sites on the 19th and 20th, with a **Dunlin** found by Stretham on the 21st and two **Green Sandpipers** further north. An early **House Martin** was seen over St Peter's Church on the 30th, the earliest migration arrival time for this species.

April

Species **85** Records **1188** Year list **110**

A female **Goldeneye** was at Oreham on the 2nd, as were two **Red-legged Partridges**. A lovely garden observation of a **Black Redstart** came on the 4th, with a **Curlew** seen from Godsons Farm the next day. The first **Willow Warbler** was noted from West End on the 10th, and a **Wheatear** flew over the Overflow Pit the same day. On the 11th the first returning **Swallow** was seen over the Village, followed by a spate of other arrivals: a **Whitethroat** on the 11th and **Cuckoo** and **Nightingale**, both on the 12th. Two **Siskins** were in a garden, also on the 12th, the last **Brambling** of the spring was seen on the 14th, with the first **Lesser Whitethroat** at Woods Mill on the 16th. Nineteen **Mediterranean Gulls** flew over Lower Station Road on the 17th, and that day saw the first **Reed Warblers** arrive. Two **Grey Partridges** were at Oreham on the 28th, the first **Swift** of the year flew over Wantley on the 29th. That same day then saw a **Whinchat** along the Mill Stream, with another passage migrant arriving on the 30th, when a **Garden Warbler** was seen and heard on West End Levels.

May

Species **80** Records **1476** Year list **115**

The first **Turtle Doves** arrived in the Parish on the 1st, with records of single birds from the Mill Stream and Oreham Common, with another **Whinchat**, also from the Mill Stream, the same day. A **Greenshank** was also there on the 2nd, as was a **Hobby**, with another of the latter also seen at Small Dole. The same day also saw a **Redshank** on Rye Farm Levels. A **Turtle Dove** was then noted at the Mill Stream from the 4th to the 7th, with a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Stretham on the 12th. Another **Turtle Dove** was at Oreham Common on the 14th, and the same day marked the first arrival of **Sedge Warblers**, with a singing bird at Betley and another west of Chates. Another migrant then appeared on the 14th, with a **Spotted Flycatcher** along the Mill Stream. This area also had a **Sedge Warbler** there on the 18th, and another **Hobby** was then observed flying over Lower Station Road on the 19th.

June

Species **68** Records **585** Year list **116**

A **Turtle Dove** was present at Wantley on the 1st, with two reported from the Mill Stream on the 12th. A **Firecrest** was seen in the south of the Village on the 22nd and a report of two **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** came in from Oreham Common on the 26th.

July

Species **65** Records **497** Year list **117**

A **Ring-necked Parakeet** was seen along West End Lane on the 1st, as were two **Willow Warblers**. On the 3rd a **Firecrest** was noted at Lovers Lane in the Village, with **Green Sandpipers** on the Overflow Pit and at Rye Farm Levels on the 4th. The **Firecrest** reappeared on the 6th in the same spot as before, with another **Ring-necked Parakeet** at Lower Station Road on the 16th, resurfacing at Lower Faircox the next day and at St Peter's Church on the 20th. A **Turtle Dove** could still be found at Oreham Common on the 22nd, and at Woods Mill on the 29th. The 25th also saw another **Ring-necked Parakeet**, this time in Small Dole.

August

Species **66** Records **269** Year list **117**

A **Sedge Warbler** was noted at New Inn on the 1st, with a **Marsh Tit** at Woods Mill on the 2nd. A **Willow Warbler** was recorded in a Village garden on the same day, and two **Turtle Doves** were at Woods Mill on the 5th. Two young **Swifts** were seen departing a nest box in Chestnut End, also on the 5th, whilst the 7th and 8th saw a flurry of **Willow Warblers** moving through West End Levels. A **Spotted Flycatcher** was at Woods Mill on the 13th, the **Ring-necked Parakeet** was still hanging around Lower Station Road on the 20th, and three **Whinchats** were on the Levels on the 23rd, with one at Catsfold Farm on the 24th. Two **Spotted Flycatchers** were on West End Levels on the 30th, as were two more **Whinchats**.

September

Species **69** Records **244** Year list **120**

The month began with more **Whinchats**, with three at Rye Farm and a single bird on West End levels on the 1st. A **Spotted Flycatcher** was at Wantley on the 5th, along with three **Yellow Wagtails**. The **Ring-necked Parakeet** put in another appearance at Lower Station Road on the 9th, with two **Sand**

Martins noted from Betley the same day. A

Greenshank was at Rye Farm Levels on the 11th, with a fly-over from a **Peregrine** and the visit of two **Yellow Wagtails** to boot. The number of the latter on the Levels had reached six by the 13th, and then on the 25th a **Yellow-legged Gull** was seen at Stretham Manor.

October

Species **67** Records **398** Year list **121**

It was proving to be a good year for **Firecrests**, with another seen in a garden on the 13th and 16th, whilst on the latter date a **Lesser Redpoll** and a **Siskin** were also seen in the same garden. The first **Redwings** of the autumn were seen on the 20th over Lower Station Road, and then the first **Fieldfares** from the same area on the 23rd. The same day a **Whinchat** was present at Stretham, with yet another **Firecrest** seen in a garden in the Village on the 31st. The Levels then produced another **Water Pipit** record, with two seen there, also on the last day of the month.

November

Species **74** Records **461** Year list **124**

The **Ring-necked Parakeet** turned up again, this time from a Village garden on the 3rd, and this was followed six days later by a **Water Rail** at Rye Farm. A **Tufted Duck** was on floods next to the farm on the 14th, and the itinerant **Ring-necked Parakeet** was then in another garden on the 21st. The 25th turned out to be somewhat of a red-letter day with not only a **Scaup** but also a **Kittiwake** on Rye Farm Levels, with a **Water Rail** nearby and even the **Ring-necked Parakeet** managed to gatecrash proceedings, hanging around there until at least the 28th.

December

Species **77** Records **896** Year list **126**

The month was rather quiet with the first interesting record not coming in until the 17th, but at least it was worth the wait, with a **Marsh Harrier** on the Levels. A **Green Sandpiper** was also present there that day, with another further north at Rye Farm Levels on the 20th. A **Peregrine** was seen back at the levels on the 21st, and two **Tufted Ducks** were then on the Rye Farm floods on Boxing Day. The final record of the year was of a **Firecrest** in Blackgate Lane on the 29th, rounding off a great year for this species.

List of birds recorded in 2022



In 2022 there were 8,443 records received from the area covered by Henfield Birdwatch, which produced a total of 126 different species recorded in the Parish during the year. Of those records, 3,204 were from Henfield Birdwatch members whilst the remaining 5,239 came from the Sussex Ornithological Society's database. This represents a decent year, and was the first since 2019 that did not suffer from

YEAR ON YEAR COMPARISON			
Year	2020	2021	2022
Species	137	126	126
Records	7,760	9,825	8,443

any Covid restrictions. Of the 127 species recorded in 2022 there were to be none that were new to the Parish, but there were still plenty of highlights. Bewick's Swans returned to the Levels, a first was that of a House Martin sighting during a winter month and the first Scaup and Kittiwake for many a year. Raven, Red Kite, Great White Egret and Water Pipit records are still on the increase and it was a good year for Woodcock, Brambling and Firecrest sightings.

As ever it is the absentees that are also notable;

after a good few years there were to be no Garganey or Black-tailed Godwits recorded in 2022, and sadly, with no records since January 2020, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker could well no longer be a presence in Henfield. Submissions of Turtle Dove and Willow Warbler continue to decline from their previous numbers, but it's not all doom and gloom. Nightingales continue to do well and the nest box programme for Swifts is starting to show dividends. So as in previous editions, on the following pages there will be those species that are struggling, but there are those that are thriving, giving hope that all is not lost, and that by studying the avifauna in our small patch we may be well placed to ensure that things do continue in the right direction.

2022 SUMMARY

Species recorded: 126

Parish list: 192

Species recorded per month

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
84	75	74	85	80	68	65	66	69	67	74	77

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

After a peak in 2022, the numbers of Greylag Geese returned to their more usual amount this year. This is still one of the most numerous species to be encountered in the Parish, with a total count of 2,475 birds from the year. Usually seen in large flocks on fields in close proximity to the river, Greylags can also be noted elsewhere in the village as formations fly overhead between feeding grounds and roosting sites. During the first winter period counts were normally at least double figures, with 250 and 133 on 20 and 22 Feb respectively on fields west of the river at Betley. Although not recorded in June and July, fledged young were noted when two adults with eight goslings were seen on the Levels on 16 May. The highest counts of the year then came in the later months, with 370 present at Rye Farm Levels on 3 Oct.

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Canada Geese followed a similar pattern and distribution during 2022 to Greylags, but were far more numerous with a total count of 4,763 during the year. This made it the fourth most numerous species in the Parish during the year, so unsurprisingly they could gather regularly in large numbers. During the first winter period the highest count was 300, of a gaggle that were a regular sight from West End Levels in the first week of January. This area also held three-figure counts into both February and March, but elsewhere numbers were slightly lower with a high of 236 from Rye Farm on 20 Feb.

Breeding was limited to two confirmed records, with birds on a nest at Oreham in April, and then a pair with two goslings up river from New Inn on 31 May. This was the last record received until 13 Sep, when 40 were at Rye Farm Levels, and by October counts had once again reached three figures. This time the stronghold was Rye Farm Levels, with 320 recorded on 3 Oct, the highest count of the final three months of the year.

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

Mute Swans were recorded in 47% of 1km squares in the Parish, and it's not surprising that the majority of these were those that contain fields adjacent to the river. During January and February herds were

relatively small, with the highest, 15, seen from Betley on 5 Feb. Numbers then dropped as we went into March, with wintering birds departing and leaving the small breeding population behind. In all there appeared to be two confirmed nests, which were at the Overflow Pit and Woods Mill, both of which are usual nest sites. There were no records indicating any success at these locations however, but fledged birds were seen on two occasions elsewhere. On 4 Jun two adults were with three cygnets on the river by Betley Bridge, whilst on the 26 Jun probably the same family was then observed further down river opposite Chates. Post breeding and on into the winter months numbers were very poor, breaking into double figures just once, with 11 on 9 Oct from West End Levels. Indeed, the total count of this species in November and December was only 49 birds from 20 records.

Bewick's Swan

Cygnus columbianus

After a four year absence it was delightful to see the return of Bewick's Swans to the Levels. A family party of two adults and three immatures were present on the floods near Rye Farm from 3 Jan with the last sighting of them coming on the 6th.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

The upward trajectory of this species continues, with 33 records this year, compared with 22 and 23 in 2020 and 2021 respectively. The counts from each month in 2022 are shown in the table below:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
15	3	20	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	7	4

Like all our goose species they were absent in the summer months, but unlike Greylag and Canada Geese didn't return until November. This appears to be the norm for this species, and we still await our first records in September or October. The highest count was of 12 on 20 Mar from West End Levels, and this area, along with Rye Farm, remain the most reliable to see Egyptian Goose in Henfield.

Common Shelduck

Tadorna tadorna

2022 was the poorest year for this species since 2017, with just one recorded at Rye Farm Levels on

22 Feb. None were recorded in 2017, and it is a bird that fluctuates in its numbers within the Parish as the following table of counts by year illustrates:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
20	2	9	13	1

Shoveler

Spatula clypeata

Despite the number of records submitted of Shoveler being similar to 2021, the total count during the year was roughly half of those recorded the previous year. There were however some sizable counts during the first winter period, with 40 on Rye Farm Levels on two occasions, 2 and 17 Jan. This area was the most reliable for this species during the year, with smaller numbers recorded from West End Levels. As usual numbers dwindled as winter turned into spring, and by 5 Apr the last wintering bird had departed. This date was later than in previous years, with mid-March the norm. The first returning Shovelers arrived on 4 Nov - two days later than 2021 but four days earlier than 2020 - at Rye Farm Levels. This site provided all the remaining records of this species for the remainder of the year, with numbers nowhere near as high as the start of the year, with a top count of just 6 on 14 Dec.

Gadwall

Anas strepera



There were 20 records of Gadwall in 2022, providing a total count of 181 birds, the best year for this species so far. Twelve of those records came from the first four months of the year, although it supplied only a third of birds counted, with a high of eight from Rye Farm on 7 Jan. Four were present at Woods Mill on 5 Jan, and a further six on West End

Levels on 20 Feb. The last Gadwall of spring was noted on 5 Apr, and it wasn't until 4 Nov that the next one was observed. This was at Rye Farm Levels, and once again this site held the rest of the records of the year. Although records submitted were fewer than those from the start of the year counts were much higher, with 32 on 18 Nov and a massive 76 on 27 Dec, comfortably the highest ever made within the Parish.

Eurasian Wigeon

Anas penelope

A common winter visitor, Wigeon was again numerous during 2022, especially on the flooded meadows around Rye Farm. This area gave the highest count of the first winter period, with 150 counted on 17 Jan. Away from this site, 90 were on West End Levels on 9 Jan and these two areas provided the vast bulk of all the records received during the year. As in line with the previous two years they had all departed by the third week of March, and then the first sighting of returning Wigeon wasn't until 14 Nov, around four weeks later than in 2020 and 2021. Numbers were much lower in this second winter period, with nearly all records occurring from Rye Farm Levels. However, the highest count came from further south, with 50 seen at Stretham on 5 Dec.

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

As in previous years Mallards were the most widespread species of duck, and the only one to be seen in every month of the year. Three-quarters of 1km squares within the Parish held Mallards, and anywhere with just a small patch of water could potentially hold this species. The highest count of January through to April was 40 on 2 Jan from West End Levels, and it was this area that provided the first confirmed breeding record of the year, when a female with six young ducklings was noted on 24 Apr. The Overflow Pit held another female with eight ducklings on 31 May, another family party from south of the village was noted on 12 Jun and the final breeding record was of a female with a lone duckling on 4 Jul at Stretham. Autumn and winter then produced greater numbers once again, with the highest count of the year, of 53, at Rye Farm on 27 Dec.

Pintail

Anas acuta

There were 27 records of Pintail in 2022, nine fewer than 2020 but 16 less than in 2021. However, highest counts were similar to last year, and whilst not reaching the three-figure totals seen in 2020, double figures in the first winter period were commonplace. Rye Farm Levels produced a count of 40 on 13 Jan, and it was this area that provided all the records throughout the year, apart from one which came on 20 Feb of 15 at West End Levels. The last wintering bird was then noted on 19 Mar, and Pintails didn't return until 14 Nov, but it was a very poor remainder of the year, with just five records in the final two months providing a total of a lowly nine birds.

Eurasian Teal

Anas crecca

It was a good year for Teal with the second highest number of records received in a year (only beaten by 2021), and a total of 1,968 counted during the year. This tally made Teal the sixth most numerous bird within the Parish in 2022. The highest count of the year came in January, with 200 on Rye Farm Levels on the 17th. Like a lot of wintering wildfowl they were only seen in areas adjacent to the river and usually on flooded fields, but had a wide distribution in that corridor spread from Stretham in the south to Betley in the north. The last bird of the first winter period departed on 5 Apr, the latest date since 2018, and the next ones were not seen until 14 Nov, about average for the return of this species to the Levels. Unlike other wildfowl in 2022 Teal numbers held up pretty well in the final months of the year, with 145 recorded from Rye Farm Levels on 14 Dec.

Common Pochard

Aythya ferina

A single bird was observed on floods at Rye Farm on 13 Jan, bringing the Parish total up to 13 from eight records and only the third this century.

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

There were two records of this species in 2022, both coming in the last two months of the year. The first was of a single bird at Rye Farm on 14 Nov, and the

second was also at this site, but on this occasion two were observed, on 26 Dec. Since 2019 this species has now become an annual visitor, albeit still in small numbers.

Greater Scaup

Aythya marila



A female was found by Charles Waters, Mike Russell and Lesley Milward on floodwater near Rye Farm on 25 Nov. Only the third record for the Parish, this was the first to be seen locally since January 1996. The only other, and first, record for Henfield came way back in February 1986.

Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

Another brilliant find, this time by John Pointing, was of a female Goldeneye at Oreham on 2 Apr. This too was just the third record for the Parish, with three at Mockbridge in February 1996 and another lone bird on the Levels in November 2000. This Goldeneye therefore brings the Parish total up to five.

Goosander

Mergus merganser

Goosanders are now starting to become annual visitors, with 2022 the third year in a row that this species has been recorded in the Parish. This year's was seen at Stretham Manor on 22 Jan, giving Henfield its ninth record of this species.

Red-legged Partridge

Alectoris rufa

After a couple of years where this species seemed to be slightly increasing, there was only to be one record of Red-legged Partridge during the year when a pair were seen on 2 Apr at Oreham.

Grey Partridge

Perdix perdix

Following an absence of 11 years it was pleasing to hear of a pair finally appearing in the area once more. These were noted at Oreham on 28 Apr, and brings the Parish total up to 18 individual birds from seven records.

Common Pheasant

Phasianus colchicus

The number of records of Pheasant was slightly down on the previous year but still a large improvement on 2020. Although generally only encountered in small numbers, this species was recorded in 60% of 1km squares within the Parish and was therefore fairly widespread. Recorded in all months except August, the highest count was of ten from Oreham Common on 21 Dec.

Common Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

Wantley provided us with the first Cuckoo of 2022, with a single bird heard there on 12 Apr. This arrival date was seven days earlier than the average of the 19th. Two were then present at Furners Lane the next day, and then sightings settled into single birds for the remainder of the month, resulting in a total of 15 reports of Cuckoos in April. Records came from many parts of the Parish, illustrating that this is a widely distributed if not numerous species. Whilst a lot of sightings came from the Levels, Cuckoos could be heard at Park Farm in the north, Catsland Farm in the east and Small Dole in the south. Records in May followed a similar pattern, with single birds in the main, all calling males, with two near Lipride Farm on the 1st and another two at Stretham Manor on the 12th. However, as June arrived Cuckoos already seemed to be departing, with just two records. One was observed along the Mill Stream on the 6th, and the second from Rye Farm Levels on the 7th. This was also the final record of the year, and matched exactly the ten year average departure date for Cuckoos in the Parish.

Feral Pigeon

Columba livia

A species that inspires disinterest from most birdwatchers, hence Feral Pigeons only generated

Common Swift

Apus apus

KEY
SPECIES



The first Swift arrived on 29 Apr, two days earlier than 2021 and a day earlier than in 2020. During the summer parties screaming overhead were a common sight over the High Street, with a maximum count of 25 on 13 Jul. Smaller groups were regularly seen over the Leisure Centre, with a high of 7 on 13 Jun. The last record of the year was from Chestnut End on 5 Aug, a whole two weeks earlier than the 2021 departure date. Debbie Colgate gives us an account of breeding success in 2022 in the panel below.

The number of Swift sightings around the village in the summer of 2022 was very similar to 2021. More Swift boxes were erected over the winter/spring of 2021/22, making a total of 49 sites available in 2022. Thanks to vigilant Henfield Birdwatch members and my own surveys I can advise that, of those 49 sites, Swifts bred successfully in 11 with one nest failing, House Sparrows bred successfully in two and Starlings bred successfully in eight. Eighteen sites were not used and I was unable to check on nine others due to lack of access. We gauge whether a Swift nest is successful by checking on activity at the site throughout July; adults entering the nest during this month are feeding chicks. Swifts normally raise two chicks and usually we will see just the one chick looking out of the nest but, if we are lucky, we may also see the second chick. We can be confident that of the 11 sites where Swifts bred successfully in 2022, 13 chicks fledged (slightly higher than 2021) with the possibility of a further nine young.

19 records during 2022. They were recorded in all months of the year except June, with the Village, Betley Bridge and Rye Farm Levels south to Stretham being the areas that you are most likely to encounter the species, should you wish to do so. The high count of ten came on 5 Jan from the Levels.

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

Stock Doves were recorded from 21 1km squares (70% of all 1km squares) and numbers fluctuated somewhat during the year, as the total counts per month in the table below illustrate:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
27	92	10	29	46	13	9	5	5	21	8	66

The high figure in February was due to a big count of 60 on 12 Feb from on and around Henfield Common, comfortably the highest of the year. Possible breeding was reported from five 1km squares, with birds seen regularly in the same area on several occasions, but at no point during the breeding season was any success noted. During the later part of the year numbers were low, but a count of 40 on 21 Dec, again from the Common, helped end the year on a good note.

Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus



With a presence in 27 of the 30 1km squares within the Parish giving a distribution of 90%, and a total count from the year of 4,763 making it the third most abundant species, Woodpigeons were of course a familiar sight during 2022. The Village itself gave the highest count of the first winter period with 265 on

14 Feb, but surprisingly, and despite its ubiquitous status there were to be no confirmed breeding records. Counts remained high during the remainder of the year, with the highest of 2022 also coming during this period: on 30 Nov 320 were recorded from Sussex Prairie Gardens.

Turtle Dove

Streptopelia turtur



The gradual decline of this species, nationally as well as locally, sadly continues, and the table below showing the records over the last five years makes or sobering reading:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
39	52	28	22	16

The first two of those 16 records were both on 1 May, from Woods Mill and Oreham Common, and it was these two sites that were the stronghold of this species in 2022. A record from Furners Lane on 2 May gave hope of another possible territory, but with no further records during the year this bird was more likely to have been passing through. Despite several singing males and pairs noted on two occasions, both from Woods Mill, there was to be no confirmed breeding, and the last Turtle Dove was observed on 6 Aug, again at Woods Mill.

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

A species that is present in all months of the year and from various areas of the Parish, Collared Doves were usually encountered in singles or pairs during the year, with a high count of 14 from Wantley on 5 Feb. No breeding records were received apart from a pair at Bishop Park during April and singing males noted on four occasions. This could well be a case of under-reporting however.

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

There were eight records of Water Rail in 2022, the highest since 2016. Two sites contained all the sightings, Woods Mill and Rye Farm, with two from the latter in January, and two more there in March. Woods Mill provided two more records in March, and finally two in November back at Rye Farm. This allows us to assume that at least three different birds were present during the year.

Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

Moorhens were present in 21 of the 1km squares, with any reasonably sized area of water capable of being used as suitable habitat giving this species a wide distribution of 70% across the Parish. Usually encountered in small numbers, 12 were reported from Woods Mill on 5 Aug, and that figure probably includes juveniles. This is a species that usually has a good amount of breeding records each year, and in 2022 fledged young were noted on four occasions. Four chicks were seen at New Inn on 14 May, a family party at Frogshole on 6 Oct and it was this month that provided the other two: two families at Chates on the 9th and one adult with one juvenile on the river near Betley on the 16th.

Coot

Fulica atra

As usual Coots were a fairly common winter visitor with a few lingering on into the summer. Numbers however were much lower than in previous years, and whereas counts of 50 plus in the first months of 2021 were commonplace, this year they struggled to get into double figures. By May only single birds were seen at any one time, with the last record of the summer on 24 Jun. There were none recorded from July through to October, with the first of the second winter period noted on 14 Nov, when seven were at Rye Farm. All of the remaining records came from this area, culminating in a high count of 23 on 27 Dec, the last record of the year.

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

The seven records of this species in 2022 was below average, as demonstrated in the chart below showing records over the last four years:

2018	2019	2020	2021	Avg.
27	20	8	16	18

One was seen on the Levels on 5 Jan, with the next five all from the lake at Woods Mill, spread across April, May and June. Although pairs have bred here in previous years there was to be no repeat in 2022, with all records being of single birds. The final record of the year came from West End Levels on 20 Nov, where two birds were counted in separate parts of this area.

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

A single Great Crested Grebe was recorded on the floods at Rye Farm Levels on 17 Jan. A very scarce visitor to Henfield, this individual now brings the Parish total up to six.

Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

Overall numbers were down on previous years, especially during the winter months where counts of the wintering population were much lower than usual. However, this was still a relatively common visitor in the depths of winter, with birds still remaining to breed in the summer, as this table of total counts per month shows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
997	42	149	26	11	22	16	0	50	100	70	238

During the first part of the year the high count was of 300 at Rye Farm Levels on 17 Jan, and this was the main site for this species during the year. There was a smaller population at West End Levels, and the high count here was of 70 on 5 Jan. Numbers inevitably dropped away as spring got underway, and it is reckoned that this year two pairs bred near Stretham Manor Farm and another two west of the river at Betley. No success could be ascertained this year however. Numbers then built slowly from September onwards, with all records emanating from the Levels from Betley to Stretham, but the last of the year was away from the Adur valley and also provided the high count of the second winter period, when 100 were seen over the Village on 20 Dec.

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

A single bird was present on the Levels on 19 Mar, the only record of the year and the twelfth Little Ringed Plover to be recorded in the Parish.

Curlew

Numenius arquata

One was seen and heard flying over Godsons Farm on 5 Apr, and represents the fourteenth record for the Parish. A total of 18 have now been recorded in Henfield since the start of the century, compared with 22 prior to 2000, with all previous records, like this one, coming from, or near the Levels.

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

Two were present on Rye Farm Levels on 21 Mar, the fourteenth record for the Parish, and the first since 2018.

Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

Previously a sporadic visitor, Woodcock has now become an annual one, with two records this year following on from the ones in 2019, 2020 and 2021. One was present at Hascombe Farm on two occasions in February, and another was seen at Woodmancote on 7 Feb.

Common Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

2022 was an excellent year for this species, with a good number of decent counts reported. Seventy were on West End Levels on 2 Jan, and another 52 at this site on the 30th. Rye Farm Levels held smaller numbers with a high count of 12 on the 17th, and an unusual record was of one at Sussex Prairie Gardens on 1 Feb. Numbers then dropped with the last record of the first part of the year coming on 20 Mar, with ten at West End Levels. The first of the autumn was recorded on the flood meadow west of Chates on 30 Sep, and whilst October and November were quiet, counts in December took off, with 72 at Wantley on the 5th and 46 on the 14th at Rye Farm Levels. In all, a total of 581 were reported during the year, the highest on record and illustrating how important Henfield is as a wintering ground for this species.

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

Just the one record this year, of a lone bird on the river at Stretham Manor on 22 Jan. This is slightly below average when compared to the previous two years, following a purple patch at the end of the last decade:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
8	8	2	1	1

In all, there have been a total of 34 Common Sandpipers recorded in the Parish, spread over 25 separate records.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus



There were ten records of Green Sandpiper, and all but one came from Rye Farm Levels. The first was on 5 Jan, and the sole record away from Rye Farm came on the 25th along the Mill Stream east of the Downslink. Nine of the records were of single birds, with two present on Rye Farm Levels on 21 Mar. That was the last record from the first months of the year, with the next a returning migrant on 4 Jul. This was then the last one noted until December, one was recorded on the 17th and another on the 20th. The total of ten records this year is about average, following a good year in 2021 and a very poor one in 2018:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	10	9	14	10

Common Redshank

Tringa totanus

There were two records in 2022, with one at Stretham Manor on 22 Jan and the second on Rye Farm Levels on 2 May, the first to to be seen in the Parish since 2019.

Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

Greenshanks were recorded on two occasions, with one along the Mill Stream on 2 May and another near Rye Farm on 11 Sep. This brings the Parish total to 15 from ten records, and the first since 2019.

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla



Only the second record of this species in the Parish, the Kittiwake found by Charles Waters, Mike Russell and Lesley Milward at Rye Farm on 22 Nov caused much excitement but sadly only appeared to stay for a day. The first record was also of a single bird, and this was seen on the Levels on 10 Jan 1988.

Black-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus



Black-headed Gull was one of the most numerous species recorded during 2022, with a total of 3,782 counted throughout the year. Interestingly, the vast majority of these records came from the second part of the year, with just 123 recorded from the first six months and 3,659 from the last. Black-headed Gulls were present until 7 Mar in the first winter period, with records emanating from various parts of the Levels. The first returning bird was observed on 7 Aug, and from there numbers steadily built until

large numbers were noted in the winter: 2,000 on Rye Farm Levels on 14 Nov and then 1,000 on 4 Dec, this time from West End Levels.

Mediterranean Gull

Ichthyaetus melanocephalus

A flock of 19 that flew over Lower Station Road on 17 Apr was the only record of this species in 2022, but created a new record for a high count, smashing the old one of four, from June 2012. It was also the first record since 2020 and the twelfth for the Parish, therefore bringing the total recorded in Henfield up to 35.

Common Gull

Larus canus

2022 was a very poor year for this species, with just six records received. This is the lowest since 2017, and represents a return to figures from that period following increases in recent years, as shown in the table below (figures show total records per year):

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
8	11	15	22	6

Counts were also well down, with none reaching double figures, let alone the three-figure counts that had been achieved in every year since 2018. Four of the records were from the Levels between Rye Farm and Stretham, with the highest count there of six on 5 Jan. Away from the Levels, two were at Woods Mill on 22 Apr and one was seen at West End on 4 Dec, one of only two records from the second winter period.

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

There were 105 records of Herring Gull during the year spread across all twelve months as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
14	18	8	9	17	8	4	3	1	3	4	15

Counts were not particularly high during the first winter period, with 17 the best from the Village on 1 Jan. Despite several records of this species in the Parish during the breeding season there were no attempts at breeding, and it is likely that records received during those months were of immatures. There were however some high counts during the summer, with 193 at Oreham Common on 16 Jun,

but numbers dramatically dropped as autumn got underway, with counts in the final four months of the year failing to get over nine, which was the highest total, coming on 12 Dec from the Village.

Yellow-legged Gull

Larus michahellis

The one seen on 25 Sep at Stretham Manor was only the fourth record for Henfield, with three of those occurring within the last two years. This moves the Parish total on to 14, which includes the ten that were together in the first ever record, from July 1994.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

After a couple of years where there were several records of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the Parish, numbers this year dropped back to their pre-2020 levels, with just three sightings of this species in 2022. The first was from Wantley on 5 Feb of two birds, the same number at Stretham Manor on 12 May, and once again two were noted at Oreham Common on 26 Jun.

Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

Cormorants were seen in all months of the year except August, and generally in small numbers, with a high count of eight, from Rye Farm Levels on 21 March and West End Levels on 10 Apr. This species continues to be a non-breeder within the Parish, with no attempts once again recorded during the year.

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

A single bird was observed from Furners Lane by Alan Burnage on 24 Jan, giving the Parish its seventh record of this species. This takes the total recorded in Henfield up to 22 since it was first seen in the year 2000.

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

Recorded in all months of the year, Grey Herons were in the main counted in ones or twos during the first winter period, with four present in various parts of the Levels on 2 Jan. Numbers inevitably increased once they started to be observed at the

heronry near Stretham Bridge, with the first occupied nest noted on 21 Mar. All breeding records of nesting birds came from this site, but the first fledged Grey Heron was seen slightly further north on 12 May, when two juveniles were with two adults. There were a further four records of fledged young, all at or near the heronry, with the last on seen on 4 Jul. Following this record the birds dispersed from the breeding site, and counts on the whole went back to being of mainly singles for the remainder of the year, with two counted four times and a high count of three from Rye Farm Levels on 13 Sep.

Great White Egret

Ardea alba

One seen along the Mill Stream by Angela Thyer on 30 Jan was the only record during the year. This is the third year in a row that this species has now been noted in Henfield since its first appearance in 2020. The Parish total now stands at six.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

Although the number of records received were down on the previous year, 2022 was still the second best year on record. Little Egrets continue to flourish in the Parish, and apart from an absence during the height of summer are nearly an all year round presence. The number of records over the five year period is shown in this table:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
19	36	27	65	46

The aforementioned lack of Little Egrets during July and August means that this species' status is still that of a non-breeding bird, and the regular sites used in 2022 were Rye Farm Levels, the Overflow Pit and the Mill Stream, with occasional sightings at West End Levels and Oreham Common. Of the 46 records, 34 were of single birds, but four were recorded on two occasions, at Rye Farm Levels on 14 Nov, and then West End Levels on 4 Dec.

Sparrowhawk

Accipiter nisus

Henfield is not known for its woodland, so it's not surprising that once again this year Sparrowhawks were not a common occurrence. They were however seen in every month of the year and had a fairly

wide distribution, recorded from various parts of the Parish. Of the 48 records received all were of single birds, bar one of two at north Small Dole on 20 Apr, but whether these were a pair is not indicated, and once again there were no breeding records submitted this year. With no breeding records within the Parish for several years it is hoped that this is due to unnoticed activity rather than none taking place at all.

Marsh Harrier

Circus aeruginosus

A female was seen by Michael Blencowe over the southern part of the Levels on 17 Dec, the second record this century and only the fifth in total.

Common Buzzard

Buteo buteo



Although records were lower than last year, 2022 was still the second best year for this species, and a certain levelling off is to be expected as territories become squeezed. Buzzards were recorded in 23 of the 30 1km squares within the Parish, giving a coverage of 77%, and were seen in every month of the year, with the total birds seen per month as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
8	27	30	21	30	5	14	5	90	4	16	20

Despite this continued success in the Parish there was not much recorded evidence of breeding this year, with just one possible attempt on 7 Mar when two were noted on the Downslink, with displaying and calling observed from one of the birds.

Red Kite

Milvus milvus

This species continues to increase in numbers year

on year, with 2022 the best on record, as the table below showing the number of records received per year illustrates:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
4	6	13	26	26	41

All the records this year, as in previous years, are of Red Kites passing overhead and sightings of this species landing anywhere in the Parish remain rare.

Barn Owl

Tyto alba



There were just eight records of Barn Owls in 2022, the lowest since 2013. All were of lone birds, with the first of the year near Chates on 5 Jan, and the second in the same area on 27 Feb. None were seen in March or April, with a bird seen on 14 May in the Betley area likely to be a bird returning to its breeding site. Another in the very north of the Parish at Shermanbury was noted on the 25th, and from then on all remaining records were from West End Levels, with one near Chates on 21 Jun and another there on 7 Aug. That latter bird was observed catching prey and heading off with its catch to a probable nest site, the only breeding record of the year. August provided the penultimate

sighting of the year, on the 21st, with a long gap to the final record, on 29 Dec at Betley.

Tawny Owl

Strix aluco

Sightings of Tawny Owls were about average when compared with previous years, with 18 submitted in 2022, the same as last year and four fewer than in 2020. The year began with two heard records in early January and then a large gap until the next in April. During the breeding season a pair were thought to be holding a territory in the north of the Village and this was the only breeding record of the year. Records then continued in small numbers during the rest of the year, averaging one record a month until the final one from the Downslink on 23 Dec.

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

It was a quiet year for this species, with ten records producing a total count of 11 individuals. In the first half of the year there were just two sightings, on 9 Jan on the river at Betley and from Oreham on 28 Apr. The summer was slightly better, with two records in July, from Broadmare Common and Rye Farm, and another from West End Levels on 14 Aug. There were then four records in autumn, including two at Stretham Manor on 25 Sep and a lucky resident saw one in their garden on 3 Nov. The final record came from the Levels south of Rye Farm on 14 Dec.

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Dendrocopos major

Great Spotted Woodpeckers were present in 80% of 1km squares during 2022, so were a common sight in many parts of the Parish, from wooded areas to gardens. In the first winter period drumming males were reported on several occasions in January and February, and by spring this had inevitably increased as the breeding season got fully underway. An occupied nest was first noted at Shemanbury Place on 30 May. Fledged young were observed on four occasions. This included at Woods Mill on 6 Jun, gardens in Lower Faircox and Lower Station Road both saw an adult with two juveniles on the 22nd, which could well be that same family, and finally an adult with one offspring was at Blackstone

on 6 Jul. All breeding activity had ceased by this date, but sightings were still commonplace throughout the remainder of the year. Unfortunately there were no records of early drumming received during the second winter period however.

Green Woodpecker

Picus viridis

Records of Green Woodpeckers in 2022 nearly matched those of Great Spots, and were only four short of its cousin. They were, however, more widespread, and were reported from 26 1km squares giving a coverage of 87%. What was disappointing though was the lack of confirmed breeding records. None were received at all during the year, with just pairs or birds holding permanent territories noted on five occasions. This species was recorded in every month of the year, and a high count of four occurred at Furners Lane on 14 Jul.

Kestrel

Falco tinnunculus

There were 76 records of Kestrel received in 2022, the third highest total ever, beaten only by the previous two years. Sightings were made in all months of the year, with the number of records per month as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
10	7	8	11	7	3	4	2	6	3	5	7

Recorded in 60% of 1km squares within the Parish, the main areas that Kestrels were to be found in 2022 were the Levels from Betley to Stretham, Woods Mill and Wantley. Three seen south of Rye Farm on 4 Jul were reckoned to be a family, and this was the only mention of any successful breeding received during the year.

Merlin

Falco columbarius

A female was present at West End from 20 Dec into early 2023, providing Henfield with its twelfth record of this species, and the first since January 2018.

Hobby

Falco subbuteo

There were three records of this species in 2022, two in spring and one in autumn. The former were both in May, on the 2nd from Small Dole and

over Lower Station Road on the 19th, with a returning bird seen from the same location on 11 Sep.

Peregrine

Falco peregrinus

2022 was an extremely quiet year for Peregrines, with just six records. This compares with 22 and 23 in 2021 and 2020 respectively. The first of the year was on 5 Jan from Rye Farm Levels, with another that month over South View Terrace on the 31st. It was then a long wait until the next one, from Small Dole on 2 May, and again another big gap with one seen over St. Peter's Church on 12 Aug. One was again present at Rye Farm Levels on 11 Sep, and the final record was of one on 21 Dec, from the Levels north of Stretham, and was the only record of the second winter period.

Ring-necked Parakeet

Psittacula krameri

2022 was an extraordinary year for Parakeets in Henfield: previously there had been four records of this species in the Parish, but this year saw no fewer than 12 separate records received for this colourful escapee. It may have been a case of one or two birds that kept reappearing however, as all the sightings were of a single Parakeet at a time, and with several coming from the same Lower Station Road location during July and August. Further sightings came during September through to December from a similar part of the village, but two also came from Rye Farm Levels on 25 and 28 Nov, again probably the same bird.

Jay

Garrulus glandarius

Jays were recorded in just over half of all 1km squares, and were seen in all months of the year. In the first winter period the maximum count was of six from the Levels on 2 Jan, and of the 107 records received throughout the year a third came from the first two months. Another third came during the breeding season, where unfortunately there was to be no confirmed breeding activity. The second half of the year provided the final third of Jay sightings, but no big movements were noted during the autumn, and a lowly three the highest count, which came on 18 Nov from Lower Station Road.

Magpie

Pica pica

Magpie had one of the widest distributions of any species during 2022, being recorded in 28 1km squares with a coverage of 93%. With 169 records during the year it was also the fourteenth most reported species, although it was generally seen in small numbers. Winter was the best time to make decent counts, with 25 at Wantley on 5 Feb and 21 at Rye Farm on 9 Dec the two highest of the year. Counts of ten or more were made on a further eight dates, with the remainder all in single figures. Breeding activity was not noted to any great extent, with birds thought to be holding a territory noted on only two occasions.

Jackdaw

Coloeus monedula

A bird of wide distribution within the Parish and also recorded in large numbers, Jackdaws were encountered in 83% of 1km squares and it was the seventh most numerous species in 2022, with 1,871 counted from 209 records. Jackdaws were recorded in a variety of habitats, from urban areas of the Village to woodlands and open fields. Counts of over 50 were achieved on nine occasions, with a year high of 100 from Spring Hill on 3 Nov. Fields around Eatons Farm were also a reliable site, and this produced the second highest count of 85 on 7 Aug. An adult entering a chimney pot in Hollands Lane on 2 May and three recently fledged young that were noted at Rye Farm on 27 June were the only records of confirmed breeding during the year.

Rook

Corvus frugilegus

A bird that is usually more or less absent during the summer months, Rooks followed this pattern once again in 2022, as this table of records received per month illustrates:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2	8	5	5	11	0	2	1	2	6	3	5

During the first winter period counts did not get over 50, with 40 the best from Oreham Common on 12 Feb, but May proved to be the best month for this species during the year, with the most records and a decent count of 74 from the Furners Lane area on the 2nd. As already discussed numbers then dropped

as summer got underway, although there was breeding activity at the very northern tip of the Parish, with Rooks noted on nests at the rookery at Shermanbury during April. By October numbers had increased again, with counts better than the first winter period. There were 150 present on the Levels on 13 Sep, the highest count of the year and 100 at Rye Farm Levels on 3 Oct. The last two months of the year failed to match this, with 40 on 21 Dec at Oreham Common the best of the late winter.

Carrion Crow

Corvus corone

With a distribution of 90% across the Parish and the third most reported species, Crows were once again a very common sight during 2022. The first half of the year produced 178 records with a high count of 32 on 14 May, the largest of the year, but breeding evidence was restricted to nest building near Rye Farm on 24 Apr and fledged young seen in the same area on 27 June. Whether these two records are linked is of course unknown. The latter half of the year produced 93 records; counts were lower too, with a high of 17 from Henfield Common on 21 Dec.

Raven

Corvus corax

Another species that continues to increase year on year, 2022's haul of 32 records is the highest ever received in a single year, as shown in the table below:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1	3	4	13	15

Ravens were seen in nine months of the year, with June and July, and surprisingly, October, producing no sightings, and as is to be expected all records were of one or two at a time. Observations came from many parts of the Parish as befits a species that is more often than not seen flying overhead.

Coal Tit

Periparus ater

Following on from a good 2021, Coal Tit sightings have not only continued to hold steady but have also shown a small increase, marking 2022 as one of the best for this species within the Parish. Monthly records can be patchy, with none seen in March or September, and only one noted in August. Usually

seen in ones or twos, three were present in a Village garden on 20 Jan. A high count of four from another garden on 22 Jun was helped by the appearance of recently fledged young, the only confirmed breeding of the year, and just the sixth successful record for the Parish.

Marsh Tit

Poecile palustris

The two records received of this species in 2022 represent a slightly below average tally for a single year, although matches the total from 2021. The first was at Shermanbury on 12 Feb, and the second was on 2 Aug from Woods Mill.

Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus



Blue Tits were the most reported species of 2022, with 298 records received during the year. They were, however, not recorded in three 1km squares within in the Parish, giving the species a 90% distribution. During the first winter period there were some sizable counts made, including a year high of 58 from the Wantley area on 5 Feb. Once March arrived these flocks dispersed to set up breeding territories, and there were numerous breeding records. Hardly surprising as this is one of our more conspicuous nesting birds, and in all there were a total of 13 records of fledged birds. This indicates a successful year for Blue Tits, as only six fledged parties were noted in 2021 and 2020 combined. Numbers then increased post-breeding, and whilst not matching those at the start of the year, the final months saw counts of 38 and 37, from Shermanbury on 16 Dec and Rye Farm on 9 Dec respectively.

Great Tit

Parus major

Whilst not as numerous as Blue Tits, Great Tits were still the fifth most reported species during the year, with 246 records producing a total of 752 individual birds. Not quite as widespread as their cousins either, they still had a coverage of 83% and were found in 25 of the 30 1km squares within the Parish. During the first winter period some fairly large counts were made with 26 at Wantley on 5 Feb, but by March these winter flocks had dispersed and breeding got underway. The first singing male was noted on 22 Feb from Rye Farm and this became a more common sound as spring progressed. An adult carrying food was observed on 1 May from a village garden, and by the 21st the first fledged birds were recorded, the first of seven such records. Again this indicates a good breeding year, with just six records of young Great Tits from the previous four years by way of comparison. The last sighting of a freshly fledged bird came on 26 Jun from Bishop Park. The remainder of the year was then fairly quiet, never reaching the quantity or frequency of sightings from the first winter period, with a high of 13 from Oreham Common on 21 Dec.

Skylark

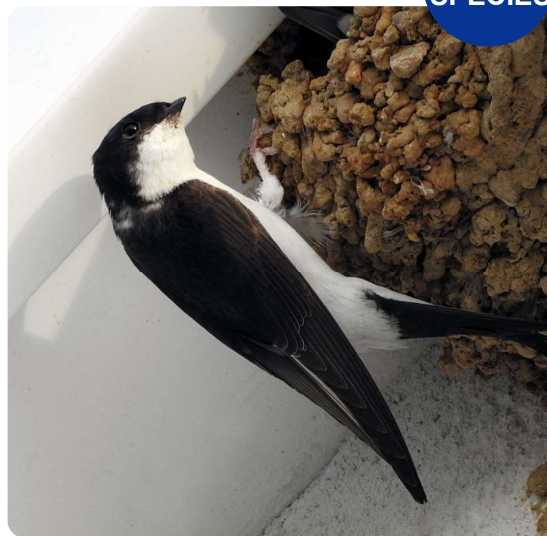
Alauda arvensis

As in common with previous years, Skylarks were seen in all months of the year except August and September, and in 2022 produced a total of 115 records, down by just five from 2021. January saw males already setting up territories with a singing bird noted in the field west of Chates on the 30th, and another from Rye Farm levels on 5 Feb. Permanent territories were then noted during the breeding season from that area plus West End Levels, open fields adjacent to the Mill Stream, Stretham Manor and near Blackstone. This was as good as any evidence of breeding got, and by 6 Jul all activity had ceased. After the vanishing act of late summer and early autumn Skylarks were then generally noted in very small numbers during the rest of the year, with the very notable exception of a flock of 42 at Morley Farm on 5 Dec, the largest count in the Parish since October 2018, but still lagging somewhat behind the record of 120 from Rye Farm Levels in January 2005.

House Martin

Delichon urbicum

KEY
SPECIES



For the first time in the Parish a House Martin was seen in the winter months, with a lone bird over the Mill Stream on 11 Feb. If this is assumed to be an over-wintering bird then the first arrival was on 30 Mar, and even then this was a new early record for this species, capping a remarkable two months. A summary of breeding during the year is given by Paul Cole below, but once into autumn the highest count was of 50 over the Levels on 13 Sep, with the last birds departing on 9 Oct, four days later than the average departure date.

House Martin breeding appeared to remain stable in the Parish during 2022, with a total of 13 confirmed active nests. Six of those were on the High Street, with regular sites used once again, including RPS off-licence with two nests. At Bishop Park there were once again seven nests, with one previously used nest not visited but a new one was built nearby and regularly visited during the summer. The first young were then noted on 26 Jun, and adults continued to visit nests right through until August, indicating the possibility of an attempted second brood. Deer Park once again failed to produce any nesting activity, and it would seem that this estate is no longer used as a breeding site.

Sand Martin

Riparia riparia

There was only one record of this species in 2022, and was of two birds seen from Betley on 9 Sep. Sand Martins are recorded less than annually in the Parish, but an upturn during the last two years, with a combined total of nine records, appears to have come to a halt.

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

The first Swallow of the year was seen over Lower Station Road on 11 Apr, matching exactly the average arrival date of the last ten years. The next was not seen until the 20th at Catsland Farm, and then a third wasn't recorded for a further seven days, this time at Blackstone. From then on sightings were daily, including a total of six counted at Woods Mill on the 29th. With a record received from every 1km square bar one, giving a coverage of 97%, this was the most widespread species during the year. Despite this far reach, nesting activity was only noted from one site during the year, at Catsland Farm, indicating that the decline in this species as a breeding bird has continued. However, here there was a minimum of three nests with at least two producing fledged young, as witnessed on 6 Jul, and nesting appeared to continue into mid-September with the possibility that this was a third brood. From August larger counts were made as birds started off on migration, with 50 from Rye Farm Levels on 13 Sep the highest of the autumn. The last departing birds were noted on 9 Oct, with two over West End Levels, three days later than the ten year average.

Cetti's Warbler

Cettia cetti

There were 47 records of Cetti's Warbler during the year, and despite being considered a resident species in 2022 none were seen during January, February or December. Why there was this absence during the winter months is not clear, and it is a species that had been recorded during those months in previous years. The first record of 2022 therefore came on 17 Mar, from Woods Mill. Whilst this site and the adjacent Mill Stream still proved to be the mainstay for Cetti's Warblers during the year, there does seem to have been an increase in their

range in 2022. One was at Rye Farm on 1 May, with another at Spring Hill on the 4th. This was the first time one had been recorded here, as was the the case with the one on West End Levels on 4 Sep. Another at Blackstone on 22 Oct was also a first for this area, and such expansion of this species' distribution bodes well. Breeding evidence was limited to singing males and birds reckoned to be holding territories, with this starting on 17 Apr and finishing on 6 Jun, with all such records coming from the Mill Stream, bar one, of a singing male at Bineham Bridge on 31 May.

Long-tailed Tit

Aegithalos caudatus

Long-tailed Tits were a common and fairly widespread species in 2022, seen in all months of the year and noted in 63% of 1km squares within the Parish. Generally seen in small numbers, ten were counted from the Levels on 5 Jan, the highest number recorded in the first winter period. Nest building was observed from Nep Town and Oreham Common in mid-May, with an active nest noted at Woods Mill on 12 Jun. This month also saw the first fledged birds appear, from a different nest at Woods Mill on the 6th, and then from a garden in Lower Station Road on the 22nd. This was the last confirmed breeding record of the year, although pairs were reckoned to be holding territories well into July. Post-breeding parties were then common place from various locations within the Parish, and by the autumn larger counts had returned, with the year high of 31 made at Rye Farm on 18 Nov, and this site also saw counts of 20 or higher on two further occasions, on 14 Nov and 14 Dec.

Willow Warbler

Phylloscopus trochilus

It was an average year for this species with 15 records, the same total as 2021. The first arrival was seen on the Downslink by Bishop Park on 10 Apr, a day later than the previous year. This bird was a singing male, and although another was heard near Rye Farm on 1 May they were the only records of any possible breeding received during the spring, and these were more than likely birds passing through. Indeed there was only one more record during spring, when one was noted at Woodmancote also on the 1st, and the next was not

then seen until 1 Aug, from the same area. Autumn passage was then remarkably short and sweet, with all Willow Warblers gone by the 30th, and counts also average, including five by New Inn on the 30th. This departure date was the earliest since 2019, and was up to a month earlier than those recorded in 2021 and 2022.

Chiffchaff

Phylloscopus collybita



Chiffchaffs were seen in all months of the year during 2022, with a coverage of 87% across the Parish. Unsurprisingly seen in smaller numbers during the winter months, the spread of records across the year was as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2	3	19	42	48	22	20	10	13	12	4	15

The first winter period saw records from West End and Rye Farm in the first week of January, and it was from the latter site that all of February’s records came, helped by a regular bird or two setting up wintering quarters on the ponds next to the access track to the farm. March saw the inevitable explosion of records, as migrants passed through and those staying to nest arrived. The first singing male was heard on 11 Mar with both records and counts reaching a peak in March. Fledged birds were noted at Blackstone on 6 Jul, the only

confirmed breeding record of the year, and reports then trailed off as the summer progressed. There was also only one record of a male singing during autumn, with a very late one heard on 18 Nov, one of four records during the month. December was then a lively one for this species, with the high number of records helped again by the Chiffchaffs choosing to spend the winter at Rye Farm. This time though the counts there were much higher, with five counted there on two occasions during the month.

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

There were just five records of Sedge Warbler during 2022, the poorest year since 2018, as can be seen in the table below:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1	11	23	9	5

The first record of the year came from Betley on 14 Mar, later than usual with mid-April the norm. This bird was a singing male, but as this was the only record it is likely it was just passing through. Likewise with the one at the Mill Stream on the 18th, and it was not until 1 Aug that another was seen, at New Inn. The final record of the year was on the 10th from the river opposite Eatons Farm, nearly three weeks later than 2021, but just two days later than the last one of 2020.

Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus

The first Reed Warbler arrived on 17 Apr, one day earlier than the ten year average, with a singing male noted at Woods Mill. A further seven records then came during the month, mainly at Woods Mill, but also from the Mill Stream on the 18th and New Inn on the 22nd. By May it was easier to determine which birds were staying to breed, with probable territories counted from the following sites:

Site	Territories
Woods Mill	4
Mill Stream	6
River Adur	8
Henfield Common	1

An adult was observed carrying food on 12 Jun, the only confirmed breeding record, and the last

singing male was heard on 19 Jul. Autumn migration was then done and dusted by the end of August, with two records from Woods Mill and the Mill Stream, and a further two from West End Levels. The final sighting of two Reed Warblers was also there on the 30th, two weeks later than in 2021, five days earlier than in 2020 and just one day earlier than in 2019.

Blackcap

Sylvia atricapilla



Blackcaps were a common sight and sound during 2022, with a distribution of 80% of 1km squares, and were seen in all months except November, with the records per month as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
4	3	3	33	45	19	15	8	5	3	0	7

The majority of records during the first winter period were from gardens, with one from Broadmare Common on 26 Feb a notable exception. The switch from wintering birds to passage migrants to those then staying to breed is always hard to determine, but the first singing male was noted on 22 Mar. The next was not until 17 Apr, but the frequency of their fine song increased swiftly as the month progressed. Active nests were then recorded from two sites during the summer, with the first fledged birds noted from south of the Village on 27 Jun. By 19 Jul the last singing was noted, with birds from this date assumed to be mainly passage migrants. Six were counted at New Inn on 15 Aug, but reports were mainly of single birds at a time, with all migrants appearing to have passed through by the first week

of October. Records of over-wintering birds were then limited to December, and again all but one were limited to garden observations, with one at Woods Mill on the 7th the exception.

Garden Warbler

Sylvia borin

There were just four records of this species in 2022, the lowest since 2018. The first was from West End Levels on 30 Apr, about average for the arrival of Garden Warblers in Henfield. All the remaining records came from May, with one at Dunstalls on the 4th, another from Woods Mill on the 8th, and the final one from Oreham Common on the 14th. Despite the first and last of these records being of singing males there was no evidence of any attempt at breeding, and there were then none noted in autumn, replicating the situation in 2021.

Lesser Whitethroat

Curruca curruca



The first Lesser Whitethroat was seen at Woods Mill on 16 Apr, matching the average arrival date for this species in the Parish. Another was noted there the next day, this time a singing male, and it was here and along the Mill Stream that provided the majority of records. Away from this area records also came from New Barn, Nep Town, West End and Stretham, with one noted at Spring Hill on two dates perhaps indicating a male holding a territory. However, despite half the records being of singing males there was no further indication of any nesting activity during the summer. The last singing bird was recorded on 12 Jun, and the autumn was a poor one, with just two records, both from August, with the final bird seen at West End on the 30th.

Common Whitethroat

Curruca communis

One of the most widespread and common warblers during 2022, Whitethroats were recorded in 87% of 1km squares within the Parish. The first one was noted on the southern Levels on 11 Apr, five days earlier than the ten year average. Records then became more frequent as the month progressed, with nearly half of all those recorded coming during May. Territories were noted from many parts of the Parish, with the river and Mill Stream proving popular sites. By June active nests were noted, from West End and New Barn, and the final singing male was heard on 4 Jul. The majority of autumn records came from West End Levels, with the river proving to be a popular migration path, and it was from this site that last record of the year came, on 4 Sep, the earliest departure date of this species for four years.

Firecrest

Regulus ignicapillus

2022 was a good year for Firecrest in Henfield, with the most records since 2018:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
7	4	5	3	7

We had to wait until the summer for the first of the year, with one in Nep Town on 22 Jun, and it was from a similar area that the second was seen on 3 Jul. One was then present along Lovers Lane on the 6th, the last of the summer. Two records from Lower Station Road on 13 and 16 Oct were probably the same bird, with another from the Village centre on the 31st. The last one of the year was on 29 Dec, in the company of a flock of Blue and Great Tits along Blackgate Lane.

Goldcrest

Regulus regulus

Goldcrests were found in 63% of all 1km squares within the Parish, and were seen in all months except September. The Village itself gave the highest count of the first winter period, with 11 on 30 Jan. The first singing bird was noted on 21 Mar from Rye Farm, and two males were seen fighting each other in the same area on 1 May, but no breeding activity beyond that was recorded during the year. The latter part of the year was also very

quiet, with high counts of four made on four occasions, from Rye Farm (twice), Nep Town and the Common.

Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

A very common bird that was seen throughout the Parish and in all months during 2022, Wrens were the tenth most recorded species during the year with a coverage of 87% of 1km squares. Singing birds were noted from February through to July, with the first nesting birds observed from early May, including adults attending nests in June. The largest counts of the year all came from May and June, with the highest, of 20, from Rye Farm Levels on 7 Jun.

Nuthatch

Sitta europaea

Nuthatches were recorded in 60% of 1km squares and in all months of the year. The highest count of the first winter period was four at Oreham Common on 12 Feb, with the majority of counts during these months of single birds. Breeding activity was extremely low-key, with just two permanent territories noted, at Rye Farm and Woods Mill, but the true figure will probably be higher than this with 43 records from various parts of the Parish between March and June. From September to the end of the year all records were of single birds, apart from four at Rye Farm on 9 Dec and then three from Oreham Common on the 29th.

Eurasian Treecreeper

Certhia familiaris

Treecreepers were seen in all months of the year, with records spread across the months as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
8	3	3	2	4	3	5	2	3	2	4	2

During the first quarter of the year all counts were of single birds apart from two at Rye Farm on 17 Jan, and there was no evidence of breeding during March or April. However, on 12 May three recently fledged young with their parents were recorded at Stretham Manor, the first successful breeding confirmed in the Parish since 2013. Records then returned to mainly singles at a time, although three different birds were counted on the Downslink between the Old Railway pub and Betley on 9 Sep.

Common Starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Starlings were recorded in 25 1km squares during 2022, giving a coverage of 83% across the Parish. Although it was the thirteenth most reported species of the year it was the second most numerous, with 5,610 counted from 176 records. The largest gathering of the first winter period was of 333 at Wantley on 5 Feb, one of four counts to make it into three figures from January through to May. The first occupied nest was noted on 16 April, with at least seven sites across the Parish containing nesting birds. The first noted hatching happened around 27 Apr when an adult was seen carrying food into a nest in Blackstone, whilst the first young was noted on 8 May at Bishop Park. Successful fledging was then noted from a further three sites during May and June, plus what appeared to be second broods at Bishop Park at the end of June. This was the last breeding record of the year, but post-breeding flocks of mixed ages continued to be seen throughout the rest of the summer, including 70 at West End on 14 Aug. This couldn't match the highest counts of the year though, both coming in December, with 450 at Betley on the 10th, and the last record of the year being of 1,000 over Rye Farm Levels on the 23rd.

Song Thrush

Turdus philomelos

Song Thrush was the eleventh most reported species of the year, and was found in 24 1km squares giving a coverage of 80% within the Parish. Nineteen were counted at Oreham on 12 Feb, the highest count of the year, and singing males were active very early in the year, with the first noted on 2 Jan from Rye Farm Levels. Although sporadic at this stage of the year, when April got underway these records became an almost daily occurrence. By May active nests were recorded, with adults seen carrying food to one in Nep Town on the 8th. This was the highest breeding evidence obtained, and all activity had stopped by early July. August through to October only produced six records, but November was much better, including the return of singing birds, noted from Rye Farm Levels on the 9th and the Village on the 29th. Despite there being 16 records in December, none involved any singing birds, but it did give the highest count of the second winter period, 7 on the 10th from Betley.

Mistle Thrush

Turdus viscivorus

Recorded in small numbers throughout the year, counts of Mistle Thrushes per month were as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
3	5	4	8	6	1	3	3	1	2	4	4

The majority of records came from the Common and adjacent cricket pitch, and it is likely that a pair bred in the woods there. Breeding activity was also noted from Blackstone, with an adult seen carrying food there on 27 Apr.

Fieldfare

Turdus pilaris

During the first winter period Fieldfares were recorded in a lowly 33% of 1km squares, but counts were reasonable, and included a high of 110 seen along West End Lane on 28 Feb. The last departing bird was noted on 17 Mar, an extremely early date when compared with previous years, where mid-April was the norm. The average date for returning Fieldfares is 30 Oct, and in 2022 the first report of the second winter period was noted on the earlier date of the 23rd. The distribution was also much wider during these later months, with the species noted in 63% of 1km squares. Counts remained high too, with Blackstone a particular hotspot. A hundred were counted there on 30 Nov, and another 54 on 5 Dec. Also of note on the 5th were 75 at Stretham Manor.

Redwing

Turdus iliacus

Redwings followed a similar pattern to Fieldfares in 2022, with a 1km square distribution of 37% in the first winter period and 73% in the second. Not only were they more widespread but also more numerous, with a total count of 1,159 compared to Fieldfare's 1,007. The last Redwing of the first winter period departed on 17 Mar, just two days earlier than the average date, with the first arrival of the autumn observed from Lower Station Road on 20 Oct, five days earlier than the average. Some sizable counts were made during both parts of the year, with 72 from Oreham Common on 12 Feb, 100 over Lower Station Road on 23 Oct, and the same amount at Stretham on 5 Dec.

Blackbird

Turdus merula



Along with Swallow and Magpie, Blackbirds were the most widespread of all species in 2022, and were reported in 29 1km squares giving a total distribution of 93% across the Parish. It was also the fourth most reported species, with 266 records during the year. Counts into double figures were common place during the first half of the year, with the highest total of 30 coming from the Furners Lane area on 2 May. Nest building got underway in April, with the first adults noted carrying food on the 17th. Nesting birds were reported through May and June, with the first fledged young seen from a garden in Lower Station Road on 22 Jun. By the first week of July all breeding activity had ceased, and counts returned to similar pre-April levels, although not quite reaching the highs of May. Indeed the highest count of the latter part of the year was 19, from Rye Farm on 9 Dec.

Spotted Flycatcher

Muscicapa striata

2022's four records are about average, if the dismal 2018 is taken out of the equation:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
0	2	4	3	4

The first was seen along the Mill Stream on 14 May, and was the only record of the spring. One was then present at Woods Mill on 13 Aug, with two on West End Levels on the 30th. The final record of the year was at Wantley, with a lone bird found there on 5 Sep. This now brings the Parish total up to 73 birds seen this century, with the vast majority occurring in late-summer and autumn.

Henfield Birdwatch 2022

Common Nightingale

Luscinia megarhynchos

KEY
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The first Nightingale was found at the Mill Stream opposite Woods Mill on 12 Apr, just one day earlier than the 10-year average. Another was heard on the Downslink north of the Old Railway the next day, and these were the first of almost daily reports. Following the breeding season the final record came on 24 Jun from Broadmare Common, one day earlier than the 10-year average. Below Val Bentley gives us a report of Nightingale breeding activity in 2022.

After two "Covid-restricted" years preventing Will Green and myself from pursuing our night-time car forays around the Parish (and beyond), it was good to resume this 20+ year exercise. Results from three such visits plus casual sightings revealed 26 singing males that were remaining faithful to their favoured locations. Woods Mill and the Mill Stream area held at least four territories, an inaccessible area south of New Barn Lane another two, Oreham Common one and Dagbrook Lane one. A pair were heard at the end of the Downslink near The Old Steam Mill, and three different males were singing between the Guide Hut and Little Betley on the Big Bird Bash Walk on 30 Apr. The "north" (Shermanbury, Wineham and Twineham) held at least nine singing males and the Perching Manor survey team found five. The only evidence of successful breeding of this secretive species was a report of young seen in the Woods Mill area on 12 Jun, though birds holding territory are indicative of probable breeding.

Robin

Erithacus rubecula

Robins were noted in 87% of 1km squares, and it was the ninth most reported species of the year. There were ten records of breeding during the spring and summer, and began with two adults busy nest building in a Village garden on 10 Mar. Birds carrying food or faecal sacs were then observed on three occasions from various sites between April and June, with the first fledged young seen at Rye Farm on 8 May. More were seen on the Levels and at West End in June, with the final fledged birds observed at Blackstone on 6 Jul. The largest count of the year was of 43 from Wantley on 5 Feb, with 24 at Rye Farm on 8 May.

Black Redstart

Phoenicurus ochruros

The one record of 2022 marks the fourth year in a row that this species has now been seen in the Parish. It came on 4 Apr, and was seen by Mike Russell in his back garden.

Whinchat

Saxicola rubetra



2022 was a good year for Whinchat in the Parish, with the highest amount of records received in a single year. The first was at Woods Mill on 29 Apr, the first spring Whinchat seen in Henfield since

2018. Another along the Mill Stream on 1 May could possibly have been the same bird, but it wasn't until the autumn that this species was seen again. Three were at the Overflow Pit on 23 Aug, with another at Catsfold Farm the next day. Two were on West End Levels on the 30th, three at Rye Farm on 1 Sep, as was another, again at West End Levels the day after. The final bird of the year was seen from Stretham on 23 Oct, making this the latest Whinchat recorded in the Parish, beating the previous latest departure by seven days.

Eurasian Stonechat

Saxicola torquatus



Stonechats were seen in all months of the year in 2022, with a particular strong showing in January:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
16	4	6	3	9	3	1	2	1	6	2	2

The Mill Stream was a favoured site during the year, with fields along the river and at Rye Farm also popular. On 10 Apr a pair were noted on the Mill Stream, and it looks as though they successfully bred, with two recently fledged young birds then seen there on 12 May. This marks the first time that there has been confirmed breeding within the Parish, a fantastic development. A second brood may have also been attempted, as an adult carrying food was then observed nearby on 12 Jun.

Northern Wheatear

Oenanthe oenanthe

The one record received marks the lowest since 2020, but at least keeps this species as an annual visitor since that year. This year's was seen on 10 Apr at the Overflow Pit.

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus

House Sparrows were seen in all months of the year, with a distribution of 77% of 1km squares within the Parish. It was also the twelfth most abundant species during 2022. Breeding was attempted at several sites within the Village, with adults also seen busy nest building at New Inn Farm and at Stonepit Cottages during May and June. Despite this activity there was no fledging witnessed, and all breeding activity had ceased by the first week of July. The highest count of the year was of 58 from the Village on 8 May.

Duncock

Prunella modularis

Duncocks were reported from 25 1km squares within the Parish, giving a coverage of 83%, and were the twelfth most reported species of the year. The first singing male of the year was noted on 21 Mar from Rye Farm, with more then following on 11 Apr along the river from Stretham to West End. This became a more common sound as the spring progressed, and fledged birds were noted on five occasions: at Rye Farm on 8 May, at Woods Mill on the 12th, Rye Farm again on 12 Jun, New Barn on the same day and finally in Lower Station Road on the 22nd. The highest count of the year was of 14 at Woods Mill on 12 May, the only double figure count of the year.

Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla flava

There were four records of Yellow Wagtail in 2022, the same amount as 2021 and one more than 2020. All came during September, with three at Wantley on the 5th, two at Rye Farm on the 11th, another two slightly further south on the same day could have been the same birds, and the last of the year were of six from the very southern tip of the Levels on the 13th. Autumn remains the best time to see this species in Henfield with only eight spring records.

Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea



Seen in all months except August, Grey Wagtails were a more common sight during the winter periods, as shown by the records per month in the table below:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
7	5	2	2	5	1	2	0	1	4	4	7

Sightings were generally of lone birds, although two were present at Rye Farm on both 6 Jan and 7 Feb. Despite a presence during the spring and early summer, no breeding attempts were recorded, and again records during the later months were restricted to ones or twos and came from several parts of the Parish.

Pied Wagtail

Motacilla alba

Pied Wagtails could be found in 60% of 1km squares during 2002, and were seen in all months of the year, although the winter months provided more records. Breeding was confirmed on two occasions when two fledged birds were with an adult in a garden at Bishop Park on 5 Jun, and another two juveniles were seen at the Overflow Pit on 4 Jul. Counts during the year were relatively small, with 15 from the cricket club on 6 Aug and the 13 at West End on 14 Feb the best received.

Meadow Pipit

Anthus pratensis

This species was present in all months except August, with the counts per month as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
53	28	20	5	7	5	4	0	13	8	5	67

As can be seen this is a bird that winters in good numbers each year, and unsurprisingly, due to the drop in numbers during the summer, there were no reports of any breeding, despite a singing male noted along the Mill Stream on 10 Apr. This area and the river were the most frequented sites during the year, with a high count of 50 from Stretham on 5 Dec.

Water Pipit

Anthus spinoletta

There were nine records of this species during the year, and probably refer to three individuals. The first was present on Rye Farm from 14 Mar until the 21st, whilst the second record was of two birds seen on the Levels on 31 Oct. This brings the Parish total up to 20 records, referring to eight individual birds.

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Chaffinches provided 156 records during the year and were present in 24 1km squares in the Parish, giving a coverage of 80%. During the first winter period counts went above 30 on four occasions, with 46 the best from Wantley on 5 Feb. The first singing male was noted on 7 March at Rye Farm, and despite another 27 heard between March and 27 Jun there were to be no records of any attempts to nest. Counts were lower during the second winter period, with 40 at Rye Farm on 3 Oct, and with only one other count making it into double figures, 15 on 21 Dec at Oreham Common.

Brambling

Fringilla montifringilla

There were five records of this species in 2022, the most since 2002. One was seen in a garden in Lower Station Road on 24 Jan, and it was joined by a second at the same location on 8 Feb. On the 12th a huge flock of 50 was seen at Bilsborough, comfortably the highest single count ever made in the Parish. One was then at Dropping Holms on 2

Mar, and the final record, possibly of the same bird, was back at Lower Station Road on 14 Apr.

Bullfinch

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Bullfinches in 2022 had both a patchy distribution, seen in various locations around the Parish without having a particular stronghold, and an irregular monthly pattern, with none seen in October and only one or two in certain other months. January and February were the best months, with a total of 22 individual birds between them, March had just three before April and May picked up with a combined total of 18. There were no confirmed breeding records, with just a couple of singing males picked up, on 15 May at Oreham and 27 Jun at Rye Farm. From that date onwards there were to be just 16 Bullfinches noted from the remainder of the year. This made it a poor year for this species in the Parish, with counts well down on the previous few years.

Greenfinch

Chloris chloris

After a torrid few years that resulted in this species moving on to the red list, the last two years appear to have seen a slight recovery. In 2022 Greenfinch was seen in 63% of 1km squares within the Parish, comparing favourably with 2021 (57%) and 2020 (43%). There was also a slight increase in the number of records received, and Greenfinches were reported in every month of the year. Seven were counted at West End on 1 Jan, and eight were seen in a Village garden on 10 Mar. The first singing male was heard on 5 Feb, becoming more commonplace by April and May. There was one record of confirmed breeding, with fledged young observed in a garden in Lower Station Road on 22 Jun. A post-breeding flock of 15 was at West End on 7 Aug, the high of the year. Counts through the remainder of the year were fairly low, with seven at Blackgate Lane on 11 Dec the best.

Linnet

Linaria cannabina

During the first winter period some decent sized flocks were noted, with 100 at Holedean Farm on 6 Mar, the highest total of the year, and 60 from Wantley on 5 Feb. On 21 Mar a small flock of 13

was noted on the southern Levels and this also contained the first singing males of the year. Breeding activity was quiet during the remainder of the spring, with just a further seven singing Linnets noted, spread through April and May, although birds were seen nest building at Lipride on 1 May. By early June any breeding activity had ceased, and counts for the second half of the year could not match those of earlier, with 20 the best, from West End Levels on 30 Sep.

Lesser Redpoll

Acanthis cabaret

There were two records of Lesser Redpoll in 2022, the lowest since 2019. The first was at West End on 9 Oct, with the second in Lower Station Road on the 16th.

Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis



Goldfinches were the most widespread finch in 2022, recorded in 26 1km squares, giving a coverage of 87%. They were also the sixth most reported species during the year, and were therefore a common sight throughout both the village and the year. In the first part of the year the largest count was of 50 at Rye Farm on 7 Jan, with 30 also there on the 24th. Breeding activity was first noted in early April, with 10 1km squares estimated to contain at least one territory. The first fledged birds were then observed from a village garden on 22 June, with more seen in a different garden on 31 Jul, and this proved to be the last signs of breeding activity for the year. In the later months there were once again large flocks noted, with an impressive 150 at Wantley on 5 Sep, and 50 on West End Levels on 21 Dec.

Eurasian Siskin

Spinus spinus

Siskins were recorded four times in 2022, about the average amount of records when compared with the previous two years, although none were recorded in 2018 and 2019. West End provided the first two records, on 1 Jan and 1 Apr, with another spring record from Lower Station Road on 12 Apr. There was only one autumn record, again from Lower Station Road, on 16 Oct.

Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus



It was a year of two halves for Reed Bunting in 2022, with a good first half followed by an indifferent second. Of the 114 records received 97 were from January to June, with the other 17 from July to December. During the first winter period the highest count was of 11 from West End Levels on 20 Feb, and during January and February up to five were regular visitors to feeders in a garden in Lower Station Road. Breeding activity was first observed on 30 Apr with a mating pair at Betley, and besides a few singing males the only other report of probable breeding was of nest building at West End Levels on 21 May. Post breeding records, as previously mentioned, were poor, with an adult visiting a feeder in a back garden on 5 Jul possibly the most interesting piece of news. The high count of four was achieved from the Levels on 1 Jul, and it was downhill from then on.

Yellowhammer
Emberiza citronella

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Records of Yellowhammer tend to fluctuate year to year, with 2022's 63 roughly matching the 58 seen in 2020, but far short of the 90 submitted in 2021 and 2019. Yellowhammers were found in 17 1km squares within the Parish giving a distribution of 57%, a slight drop from the 63% recorded in the previous year. Sizable flocks from the first winter period included 22 at Rye Farm Levels on 21 Mar and 19 on the Levels on 10 Apr. Breeding records came from six 1km squares, a worrying drop from the 14 recorded in 2021. Of those reported this year, all were of singing males and birds holding territory, with none of successful breeding. Territories during the year were to be found along the Mill Stream, by Furners Lane, West End and Rye Farm Levels, by Swains Farm and on land near Chess Bridge. All breeding activity had ceased by early July, and post-breeding and winter flocks were poor, with only seven records from that date until the end of the year. None were recorded in October or



November, with a high of just two on 11 Sep from Rye Farm Levels. The final record, of a single bird at Wantley on 5 Dec capped off a concerning twelve months for this red-listed species.

OTHER SPECIES NOTED DURING 2022

Indian Peafowl

Pavo cristatus

For the third year running these 'local celebrities' continued to be seen roaming the village, and could be seen at various times and locations, seeming to favour a corridor from Staples Barn and Flower Farm Close down to the Lower Station Road area.

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

There were six records of White Stork in 2022, and presently all are still assumed to be those of Knepp birds. Up to 40 were present on West End Levels on 16 Sep, with 30 again seen there on 20 Nov. Seven flew over the Village on the 21st. Another 20 were then seen again on West End Levels on 4 Dec, and some are pictured right.



Migrant arrival & departure dates

Table 1: Summer visitors

Species	First arrival dates		Last departure dates	
	2022	Earliest record	2022	Latest record
Garganey	NR	20 th February 1995	NR	NR
Common Swift	29 th April	21 st April 2012/20	5 th August	14 th October 2008
Common Cuckoo	12 th April	3 rd April 2011	7 th June	17 th October 1999
Turtle Dove	1 st May	12 th April 1993	6 th August	19 th September 2017
Little Ringed Plover	19 th March	19 th March 2022	NR	NR
Common Tern	NR	17 th April 2006	NR	3 rd October 1999
Hobby	2 nd May	11 th April 2012	11 th September	8 th October 2010
Sand Martin	NR	18 th March 2021	9 th September	2 nd October 2021
Barn Swallow	11 th April	15 th March 2009	9 th October	15 th November 1990
House Martin	30 th March	30 th March 2022	9 th October	20 th November 1990
Willow Warbler	10 th April	15 th March 2009	30 th August	4 th October 1989/2021
Sedge Warbler	14 th April	13 th April 1996	30 th August	6 th October 1991
Reed Warbler	17 th April	17 th April 2022	30 th August	14 th October 1991
Grasshopper Warbler	NR	14 th April 1983	NR	14 th September 1995
Garden Warbler	30 th April	15 th April 2015	NR	10 th September 2019
Lesser Whitethroat	16 th April	3 rd April 2011	30 th August	30 th September 2000
Common Whitethroat	11 th April	3 rd April 2011	4 th September	5 th October 2020
Spotted Flycatcher	14 th May	11 th May 2020	5 th September	30 th September 2000
Common Nightingale	12 th April	6 th April 2020	24 th June	27 th August 2019
Pied Flycatcher	NR	24 th April 1994	NR	23 rd September 2017
Common Redstart	NR	13 th April 2011	NR	11 th October 2011
Whinchat	29 th April	24 th April 2014	23 rd October	23 rd October 2022
Northern Wheatear	10 th April	18 th March 2010	NR	8 th October 2009
Yellow Wagtail	NR	12 th April 2004	13 th September	26 th September 2020

Table 2: winter visitors

Species	Last departure dates		First arrival dates	
	2022	Latest record	2022	Earliest record
Bewick's Swan	6 th January	15 th March 1988	NR	3 rd November 2001
Jack Snipe	NR	11 th April 2021	NR	18 th October 2015
Fieldfare	17 th March	13 th April 2021	23 rd October	19 th September 1991
Redwing	17 th March	1 st May 2014	20 th October	27 th September 1990
Great Grey Shrike	NR	14 th March 1991	NR	NR
Water Pipit	21 st March	21 st February 2021	31 st October	20 th November 2021
Brambling	14 th April	25 th April 1999	NR	22 nd October 1990

Records and reference

Most recorded species in 2022

The species below were the most recorded during 2022. A record is a report of a species irrespective of the number of birds counted.

Species	Records
Blue Tit	298
Woodpigeon	291
Carrion Crow	271
Blackbird	266
Great Tit	246
Goldfinch	218
Chiffchaff	211
Jackdaw	209
Robin	200
Wren	188
Song Thrush	185
Dunnock	180

Species with widest distribution in 2022

These species were the most widely distributed during 2022, based on their presence within a 1km Ordnance Survey square in the Parish area.

Species	1km
Magpie	93%
Blackbird	93%
Woodpigeon	90%
Carrion Crow	90%
Blue Tit	90%
Chiffchaff	87%
Common Whitethroat	87%
Wren	87%
Robin	87%
Goldfinch	87%
Jackdaw	83%
Great Tit	83%
Common Starling	83%
Dunnock	83%

Highest total counts in 2022

The species below were the most numerous species counted during the year. The figures quoted are the total counts of each species for the whole year.

Species	Total
Black-headed Gull	7,855
Common Starling	5,610
Woodpigeon	4,763
Canada Goose	4,425
Greylag Goose	2,475
Eurasian Teal	1,968
Jackdaw	1,871
Lapwing	1,755
Blue Tit	1,724
Eurasian Wigeon	1,256
Carrion Crow	1,200
House Sparrow	1,176

NEW RECORD MIGRANT DATES

The following set new records for earliest or latest migrant dates during the year.

NEW EARLIEST ARRIVALS IN 2022

Little Ringed Plover

Previous: 22nd March 1997

New record: 19th March 2022 (3 days)

House Martin*

Previous: 1st April 2020

New record: 30th March 2022 (1 day)

Reed Warbler

Previous: 20th April 2012

New record: 17th April 2022 (3 days)

NEW LATEST DEPARTURES IN 2022

Whinchat

Previous: 16th October 2016

New record: 23rd October 2022 (7 days)

*Not including overwintering bird from 11th February 2022

Final thoughts

This report highlights once again that the Parish of Henfield has a great variety of birds throughout the year for both residents and visitors to enjoy. It is notable that the reputation of Henfield is extending beyond its boundaries with more people from afar visiting and reporting sightings in addition to those seen by residents via the organised surveys, the Henfield Birdwatch members email group and through our Facebook page.

A big thank you then to all the area surveyors and everyone else who report the birds seen around the Parish, these records are so important for finding out how our birds are faring, through monitoring population changes and alerting the parish council should there be any species or habitats that could be threatened by development. Thanks also goes to all the photographers who have provided some excellent pictures that considerably enhance this report. As we approach our significant 25th anniversary in 2024, we are planning an extra programme of events alongside the Henfield Year of Biodiversity which is an exciting project and an

important step in recognising the importance of wildlife to the people within the Parish.

There is no doubt that environmental issues are rising up the agenda for many people and there is increasing concern about what is happening to our wildlife and the impact of climate change presently and in the future.

There is conclusive evidence that contact with wildlife and the natural world is good for both our mental and physical health. For those of us who live in Henfield we appreciate how lucky we are to have such close access to some wonderful countryside and the wildlife that lives alongside us.

We must continue to build on our knowledge of what is happening to our birds within the Parish and also enjoy watching, reporting and learning about them, so that when we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2049 those who follow on from us will still be surrounded by wonderful countryside and wildlife, and Henfield will remain a great place to live.

- Mike Russell

The Henfield year list and index

No.	Species	Date first recorded	Location	Page
1	Barn Owl	January 05	Henfield Levels	17
2	Barn Swallow	April 11	Lower Station Road	22
3	Bewick's Swan	January 03	Rye Farm Levels	8
4	Black Redstart	April 04	Lower Station Road	28
5	Blackbird	January 01	Henfield village	27
6	Blackcap	January 17	Lower Station Road	24
7	Black-headed Gull	January 01	Henfield village	15
8	Blue Tit	January 01	Henfield village	20
9	Brambling	January 24	Lower Station Road	30
10	Bullfinch	January 02	Henfield Levels	30
11	Canada Goose	January 01	West End	8
12	Carrion Crow	January 01	Henfield village	20
13	Cattle Egret	January 24	Furners Lane	16
14	Cetti's Warbler	March 17	Woods Mill	22
15	Chaffinch	January 01	Henfield village	30
16	Chiffchaff	January 06	Rye Farm Levels	23
17	Coal Tit	January 05	Henfield Levels	20
18	Collared Dove	January 02	Henfield Levels	12
19	Common Buzzard	January 01	West End	17
20	Common Cuckoo	April 12	Wantley	11
21	Common Gull	January 02	Henfield Levels	15
22	Common Nightingale	April 12	Mill Stream	27
23	Common Pheasant	January 05	Henfield Levels	11
24	Common Pochard	January 13	Rye Farm Levels	10
25	Common Redshank	January 22	Stretham Manor	14
26	Common Sandpiper	January 22	Stretham Manor	14
27	Common Shelduck	February 22	Henfield Levels	8
28	Common Snipe	January 02	Woods Mill	14
29	Common Starling	January 01	Henfield village	26
30	Common Swift	April 29	Wantley	11

No.	Species	Date first recorded	Location	Page
31	Common Whitethroat	April 11	Henfield Levels	25
32	Coot	January 02	Rye Farm Levels	13
33	Cormorant	January 01	West End	16
34	Curlew	April 05	Bineham Bridge	13
35	Dunlin	March 21	Stretham Bridge	14
36	Duncock	January 01	Henfield village	29
37	Egyptian Goose	January 02	Rye Farm Levels	8
38	Eurasian Stonechat	January 02	Woods Mill	28
39	Eurasian Teal	January 02	Rye Farm Levels	10
40	Eurasian Treecreeper	January 13	Woods Mill	25
41	Eurasian Wigeon	January 02	Rye Farm Levels	9
42	Feral Pigeon	January 01	Henfield village	11
43	Fieldfare	January 05	Henfield Levels	26
44	Firecrest	June 22	Nep Town	25
45	Gadwall	January 02	Henfield Levels	9
46	Garden Warbler	April 30	West End Levels	24
47	Goldcrest	January 01	Henfield village	25
48	Goldeneye	April 02	Oreham	10
49	Goldfinch	January 01	Henfield village	31
50	Goosander	January 22	Stretham Manor	10
51	Great Crested Grebe	January 17	Rye Farm Levels	13
52	Great Spotted Woodpecker	January 01	Henfield village	18
53	Great Tit	January 01	Henfield village	21
54	Great White Egret	January 30	Mill Stream	16
55	Greater Scaup	November 25	Henfield Levels	10
56	Green Sandpiper	January 05	Henfield Levels	14
57	Green Woodpecker	January 01	Henfield village	18
58	Greenfinch	January 01	Henfield village	30
59	Greenshank	May 02	Mill Stream	14
60	Grey Heron	January 02	Henfield Levels	16
61	Grey Partridge	April 28	Oreham	11

No.	Species	Date first recorded	Location	Page
62	Grey Wagtail	January 06	Rye Farm	29
63	Greylag Goose	January 02	Henfield Levels	8
64	Herring Gull	January 01	Henfield village	15
65	Hobby	May 02	Woods Mill	18
66	House Martin	February 11	Woods Mill	21
67	House Sparrow	January 01	Henfield village	29
68	Jackdaw	January 01	Henfield village	19
69	Jay	January 01	Henfield village	19
70	Kestrel	January 02	Henfield Levels	18
71	Kingfisher	January 09	Betley	18
72	Kittiwake	November 26	Rye Farm Levels	15
73	Lapwing	January 02	Rye Farm Levels	13
74	Lesser Black-backed Gull	February 05	Wantley	16
75	Lesser Redpoll	October 16	Lower Station Road	31
76	Lesser Whitethroat	April 16	Woods Mill	24
77	Linnet	January 05	Henfield Levels	30
78	Little Egret	January 17	Rye Farm Levels	16
79	Little Ringed Plover	March 19	Henfield Levels	13
80	Long-tailed Tit	January 04	Woods Mill	22
81	Magpie	January 01	Henfield village	19
82	Mallard	January 02	Henfield Levels	9
83	Marsh Harrier	December 17	Henfield Levels	17
84	Marsh Tit	February 12	Shermanbury	20
85	Meadow Pipit	January 02	Henfield Levels	30
86	Mediterranean Gull	April 17	Lower Station Road	15
87	Merlin	December 20	West End	18
88	Mistle Thrush	January 02	Henfield Levels	26
89	Moorhen	January 02	Henfield Levels	13
90	Mute Swan	January 02	Henfield Levels	8
91	Northern Wheatear	April 10	Overflow Pit	29
92	Nuthatch	January 02	Henfield Levels	25
93	Peregrine	January 05	Henfield Levels	19

No.	Species	Date first recorded	Location	Page
94	Pied Wagtail	January 01	Henfield village	29
65	Pintail	January 02	Rye Farm Levels	10
96	Raven	January 05	Rye Farm Levels	20
97	Red Kite	January 30	Henfield village	17
98	Red-legged Partridge	April 02	Oreham	10
99	Redwing	January 05	Henfield Levels	26
100	Reed Bunting	January 05	Henfield Levels	31
101	Reed Warbler	April 17	Woods Mill	23
102	Ring-necked Parakeet	July 16	Lower Station Road	19
103	Robin	January 01	Henfield village	28
104	Rook	January 02	Henfield Levels	19
105	Sand Martin	September 09	Downslink (north)	22
106	Sedge Warbler	May 14	Betley	23
107	Shoveler	January 02	Rye Farm Levels	9
108	Siskin	April 12	Lower Station Road	31
109	Skylark	January 05	Henfield Levels	21
110	Song Thrush	January 01	Henfield village	26
111	Sparrowhawk	January 30	West End Levels	16
112	Spotted Flycatcher	May 14	Mill Stream	27
113	Stock Dove	January 01	Henfield village	12
114	Tawny Owl	April 06	Nep Town	18
115	Tufted Duck	November 14	Rye Farm Levels	10
116	Turtle Dove	May 01	Oreham Common	12
117	Water Pipit	March 14	Henfield Levels	30
118	Water Rail	January 06	Rye Farm	12
119	Whinchat	April 29	Woods Mill	28
120	Willow Warbler	April 10	West End Levels	22
121	Woodcock	February 07	Hascombe Farm	14
122	Woodpigeon	January 01	Henfield village	12
123	Wren	January 01	Henfield village	25
124	Yellow Wagtail	September 05	Wantley	29
125	Yellowhammer	January 02	Henfield Levels	32
126	Yellow-legged Gull	September 25	Stretham Manor	16

A checklist of the birds of Henfield

Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	Scarce visitor
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 and scarce breeder
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	Common resident and scarce breeder
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>	Very scarce visitor
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	Common winter visitor
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	Common winter visitor
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	Common winter visitor
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Very common breeding 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>	Rare winter visitor
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	Rare winter visitor
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	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 breeding resident
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	Common breeding resident
Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Very common breeding resident
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Very scarce breeding summer visitor
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Common breeding 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 breeding species
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Very rare winter visitor
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Very rare passage migrant
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Very rare passage migrant
Ruff	<i>Calidris 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 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>	Very 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>Hydrocolobus minutus</i>	Very rare passage migrant
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus 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

Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Common winter visitor, scarce in summer
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>	Scarce visitor
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>	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 but increasing passage migrant
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Fairly common winter visitor and scarce breeder
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 but declining 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 very 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 breeding resident
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Common breeding resident
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	Common breeding 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
Ring-necked 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 breeding resident
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Very common breeding resident
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	Very common breeding resident
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	Common breeding resident
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Very common breeding resident
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Rare winter visitor
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	Fairly common resident
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 breeding resident
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Very common breeding 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>	Scarce 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 breeding resident
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Common breeding 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>	Very rare passage migrant
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	Very 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 breeding resident
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Common breeding resident
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Fairly common breeding resident
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common breeding resident, very common in winter
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	Very common breeding resident
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Common winter visitor
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Common winter visitor
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Common breeding resident
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Fairly common breeding resident
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Scarce passage migrant
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Very common breeding 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 ochrurus</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 breeding resident
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Former breeding resident, now extinct within the parish
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Very common breeding resident
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	Fairly common passage migrant, more numerous in autumn
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Common winter visitor and passage migrant
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	Common breeding 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 breeding 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 breeding resident
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	Common breeding resident
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	Fairly common breeding resident
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	Very rare passage migrant
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis caberet</i>	Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
Common Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	Very rare winter visitor
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Very scarce passage migrant
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Common breeding resident
Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	Scarce winter visitor
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	Very scarce winter visitor
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Fairly common breeding resident
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	Common breeding resident

Contributers of records in 2022

The following kindly submitted their records of what they saw in the Parish in 2022, either directly to Henfield Birdwatch or through the Sussex Ornithological Society. A big thank you goes to all that did, and we look forward to receiving many more in the years to come.

N Ambrose
D Barker
S Bedford
D Beer
A Bennett
V Bentley
P Blake
M Blencowe
D Buckingham
A Burnage
D Campbell
P Carter
P Chase
L Cheeseman
B Clay
P Cole
D Colgate
N Colgate

B Cox
H Crabtree
N Davies
O Davis
J English
R French
M Galtry
A Gibb
W Green
M Hare
H Haylock
D Herbert
L Hodgson
A Holden
T Holter
R Ives
P James
S Jesse
V Johnson
M Kent
J King
A Kitson
B Lang
A Lawson
D Leversedge
S Linington
M Luscombe
L Mayhew
L Milward

P Morrison-Price
J Newnham
G Norris
R Page
P Papps
N Parsons
M Phelps
J Pointing
G Price
B Rainbow
N Ratcliffe
A Rosenfeld
L Rusbridge
M Russell
T Sadler
L Serpis
C Smith
P Stevens
F Taylor
L Taylor
A Thornbury
A Thyer
D Tombling
M Twydell
D Tyler
C Wiechmann
L Williams
J Willis
J Wood



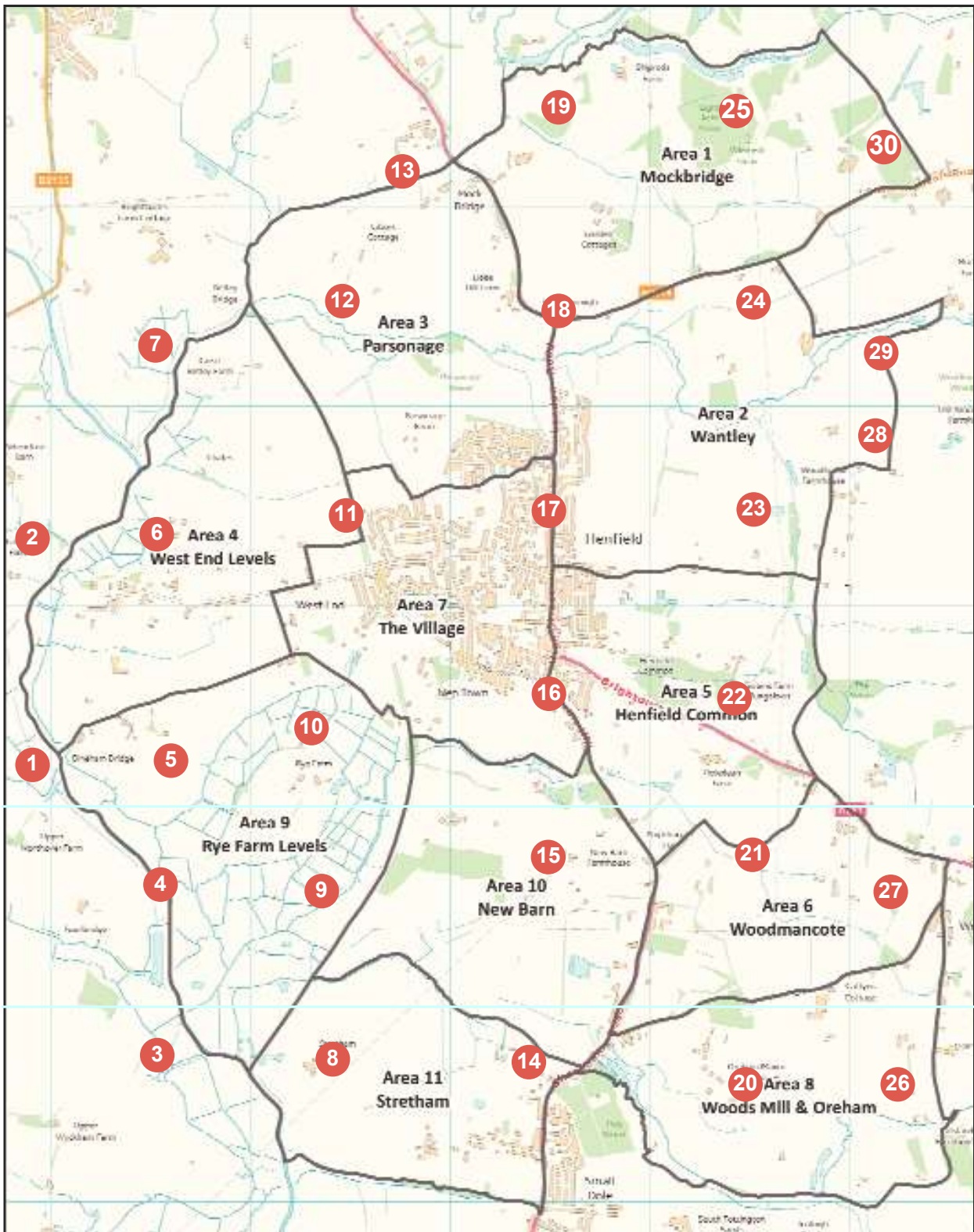
HENFIELD BIRDWATCH

We are a group with an interest in birds and wildlife in general. We welcome people whatever their birding knowledge. During the year we have:

- Monthly led group walks
- Regular talks from experts, with free admission to members
- A quarterly newsletter

If this sounds interesting and you would like to join us you would be warmly welcomed. For more information, up-to-date bird sightings in the Parish and how to join please visit: www.henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk

Map of Henfield and gazetteer



The map above illustrates the region covered by Henfield Birdwatch and the areas into which it is divided for reference purposes. The map also contains the 1km squares that are contained within the Parish, as per the grid reference system used by the Ordnance Survey. A list of these squares and points of interest are detailed on the next page. Please refer to OS Explorer map OL11 for a more detailed overview of the Parish and its features.

List of 1km squares within the Parish and points of interest

Below are the individual 1km squares that cover the Henfield Birdwatch area, with the numbers in red relating to this on the map opposite. Each square also has a reference name that is the main feature of that part of the Parish. This is followed by points of interest and their six-figure grid references. Some of the names of sites mentioned in the report are local names for places and do not therefore appear on any maps (the Overflow Pit for example). Cross referencing the grid reference with an Ordnance Survey map will indicate where this feature is located.

1	TQ1815	West Adur	11	TQ2016	West End	21	TQ2214	Oreham Common
2	TQ1816	Eatons Farm	12	TQ2017	Betley Bridge	22	TQ2215	Holedean Farm
3	TQ1913	South Adur	13	TQ2018	Bottings Farm	23	TQ2216	Furners Farm
4	TQ1914	Henfield Levels	14	TQ2113	Woods Mill	24	TQ2217	Park Farm
5	TQ1915	New Inn	15	TQ2114	Lipride Farm	25	TQ2218	Fieldlands Farm
6	TQ1916	Confluence	16	TQ2115	Broadmare Common	26	TQ2313	Catsland Farm
7	TQ1917	North Adur	17	TQ2116	Henfield	27	TQ2314	Woodmancote
8	TQ2013	Stretham Manor	18	TQ2117	Chestham Park	28	TQ2316	Woodhouse Farm
9	TQ2014	Rye Farm Levels	19	TQ2118	Mockbridge	29	TQ2317	Morley Farm
10	TQ2015	Rye Farm	20	TQ2213	Oreham House	30	TQ2318	Sussex Prairie Garden

Site	Grid ref	1km sq	Site	Grid ref	1km sq
Betley Bridge	TQ200174	12	Nep Town	TQ212155	16
Bineham Bridge	TQ190152	5	New Barn Farm	TQ216146	15
Bishop Park	TQ204162	11	New Hall Lane	TQ212132	14
Blackstone	TQ239160	28	New Inn	TQ192153	5
Bottings Farm	TQ209180	13	Oreham Common	TQ223140	21
Broadmare Common	TQ216150	16	Overflow Pit	TQ195142	9
Bylsborough	TQ230162	28	Park Farm	TQ227173	24
Catsland Farm	TQ232138	26	Parsonage Farm	TQ209169	11
Cemetery	TQ212164	17	River Adur north	TQ197172	7
Chates	TQ198166	6	River Adur south	TQ196145	4
Chestham Park	TQ218179	18	River Adur west	TQ188156	1
Confluence	TQ194166	6	Rye Farm	TQ203151	10
Cricket pitch	TQ222155	22	Rye Farm Levels	TQ204147	9
Deer Park	TQ213167	17	Sandy Lane	TQ209157	10
Downslink north	TQ204168	11	Spring Hill	TQ214153	16
Downslink south	TQ206145	9	St Peters Church	TQ212161	17
Eatons Farm	TQ189161	2	Stretham Manor	TQ201136	8
Fieldlands Farm	TQ227184	25	Sussex Prairie Garden	TQ232180	30
Furners Lane	TQ228161	23	Swains	TQ225154	22
Great Betley Farm	TQ199172	7	Tank Track	TQ189160	2
Henfield Common	TQ219156	16	Terry's Cross	TQ233146	27
Henfield Levels	TQ197147	4	Village north	TQ215165	17
Holedean Farm	TQ223151	22	Village south	TQ215159	16
Lipride Farm	TQ214144	15	Wantley	TQ217168	17
Little Betley	TQ205171	12	West End	TQ198161	6
Mill Stream east	TQ214137	14	West End Levels	TQ194163	6
Mill Stream west	TQ207142	9	Woodmancote	TQ235148	27
Mockbridge	TQ211181	19	Woodmancote Place	TQ231149	27
Morley Farm	TQ235175	29	Woods Mill	TQ218137	14

Notes



www.henfieldbirdwatch.co.uk