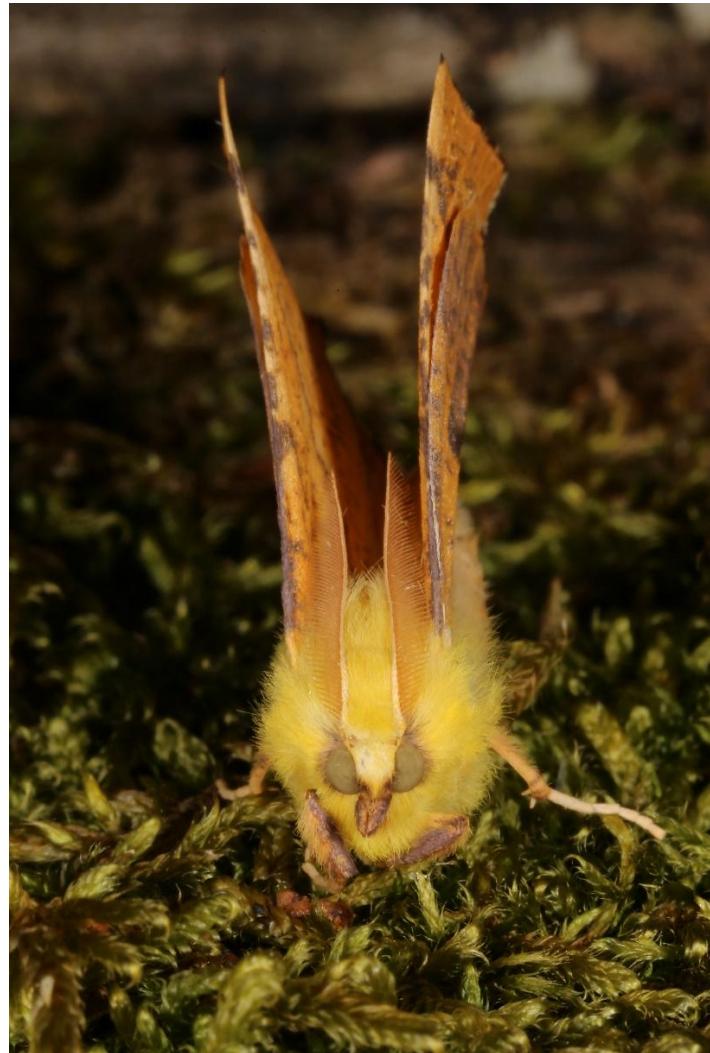


# KEYNSHAM WILDLIFE

## 2023

Compiled by John Aldridge



Canary-shouldered Thorn, Handel Road, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023



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## INTRODUCTION

This is the thirty-seventh annual report on our local natural history and is aimed primarily at members of the Keynsham group of the Avon Wildlife Trust and other local naturalists. A customary word of caution has to be added to state that, although they are believed to be accurate, the following notes have not been subjected to independent scrutiny. The format has changed little over the years. The graphs that were first included in 2019 have been updated to include 2023. Some locations appear many times within the report including gardens; records from elsewhere in the area have the potential to widen the report so please look at what is around and record what you see.

A map of the area that this report is based upon can be found in Appendix D.

## BIRDS

Appendix A1 shows the results of Breeding Birds surveys, the results of which were fed into national and local databases. Appendices B1 to B3 are the continuation of winter bird surveys, the results of which were fed into a county survey. Appendix C1 shows information from a garden in Park Road and Appendix C2 information in or over a Balmoral Road garden. Appendix C3 shows information from a garden in Manor Road but not the adjacent woodland. Appendix C4 shows a graph created from data gleaned over a period of 28 years during a breeding birds survey organised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Results for 2023 are in Appendix A1; these plus previous years' totals have been accumulated into a single chart by simply totalling all birds seen on both spring counts. This one kilometre square consists of two walks one of which is along roads and the other mainly through the Memorial Park. The surveys have been undertaken by the same person over the same route each year so provide a stable base. The graph shows a clear decline over this period but no attempt has yet been made to examine the data by species except for House Sparrow.

### *Water birds*

#### **Little Grebe**

Just two reports. One on 11<sup>th</sup> February along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon and another on New Year's Eve along the Hanham stretch.

#### **Great Crested Grebe**

Two on Holm Mead on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, our first for 12 years.

#### **Diver**

A bizarre report of an unspecified diver on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Although seen over Saltford, its flight suggested that it would pass over Keynsham as it was flying fast and direct. A first for our area, of course.

#### **Cormorant**

Seen in all months except June, July and August. Highest counts were six along the Hanham stretch of the River Avon on 27<sup>th</sup> February and along the Swineford stretch on 21<sup>st</sup> November. The Memorial Park hosted birds in January, February and December. Away from the rivers, one over the town on 13<sup>th</sup> March, another over Manor Road in March, three over the High Street on 7<sup>th</sup> October and four over Balmoral Road on 21<sup>st</sup> October. One over Queen Charlton on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **Little Egret**

Just two sightings. One over Manor Road in February and one at Dapps Hill on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

#### **Grey Heron**

Thirty-seven reports of one or two birds except for three in the Mill Grounds on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Many were along the River Avon and its immediate vicinity. The Memorial Park is a good

place to see them as they were noted in eight months. Elsewhere, one flew over Waitrose on 26<sup>th</sup> January, over Balmoral Road on 18<sup>th</sup> June and Stockwood Vale in June and July.

### **Night Heron**

At first light on 9<sup>th</sup> November. It came from the direction of Stidham Farm, which has prime foraging habitat, and headed towards Newton Park. Although a scarce bird in the UK, this is the third in our area, the previous two were a long time ago in 1986 and 1987.

### **Great White Egret**

One flew low to the south near Boyd Bridge on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Pink-footed Goose**

One on the floodwater near Boyd Bridge on 4<sup>th</sup> April. Although it seemed to be wild, it is more likely to be an escape. A first for our area!

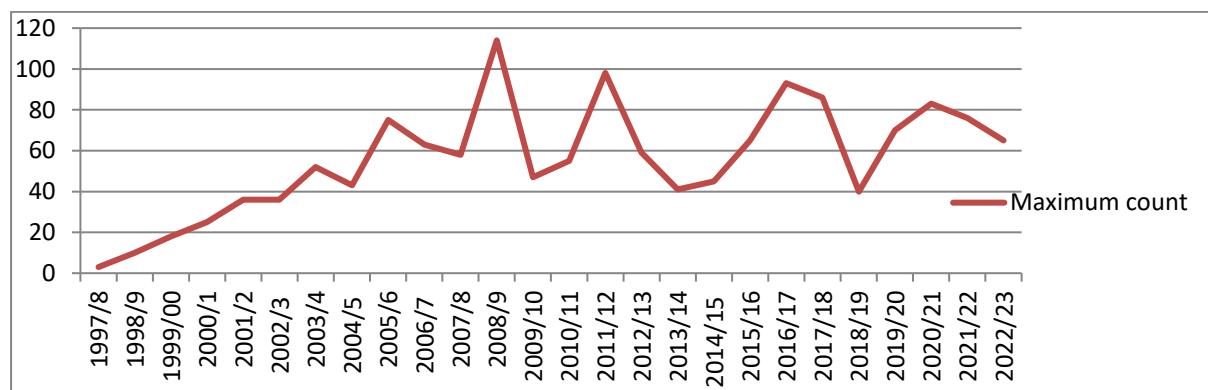
### **Mute Swan**

Nested in the marina where a pair with three cygnets were seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. The family was still together on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Seven flew over Pixash Lane on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, nine were counted along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 27<sup>th</sup> January and 13 in the same area on 11<sup>th</sup> December. One passed over the town on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

### **Canada Goose**

Avon Valley Country Park and the River Avon that runs past was the stronghold for this species as usual. However, the pattern was not the same as in recent years. In the first winter period the highest count was 65 on 11<sup>th</sup> February. In the second winter period 13 were seen in the sewage works area on 23<sup>rd</sup> December but other counts were even lower. There were five on Somerdale Hams on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Three flew over the town on 4<sup>th</sup> March, two on 4<sup>th</sup> April, five the following day and 12 over Manor Road on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

The maximum count of the birds by the River Avon during recent winters is as follows:



### **Mandarin Duck**

A male near Boyd Bridge on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and two in the same area two days later.

### **Shoveler**

Three upstream from Boyd Bridge on 7<sup>th</sup> September.

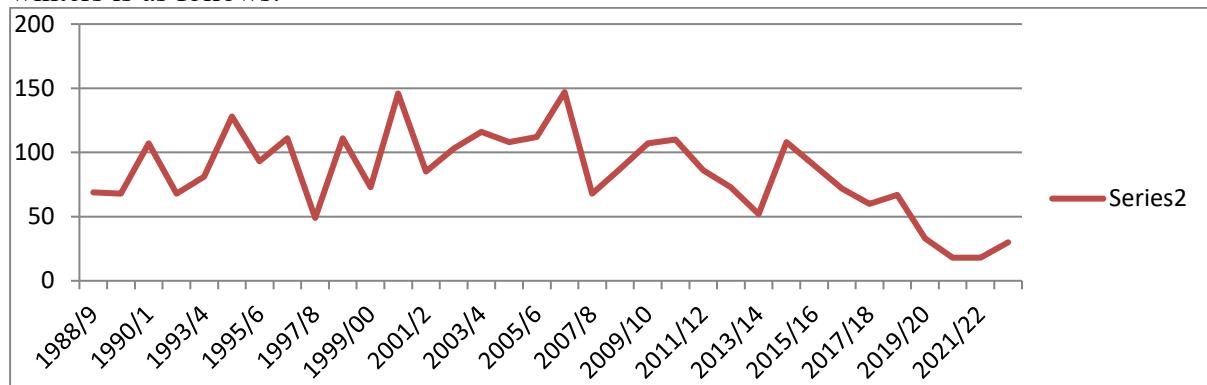
### **Wigeon**

Eight to the north over Boyd Bridge on 17<sup>th</sup> March, and one or two heading in the same direction in the same place on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

## **Mallard**

Present all year in the Memorial Park. The highest count was lower than 2022 at 64 on 9<sup>th</sup> August; although numbers are usually significant, just eight were seen on 14<sup>th</sup> January and two on 5<sup>th</sup> December. Thirty near the sewage works on 17<sup>th</sup> December suggests a local movement between the two sites. Three families were noted in the marina on 5<sup>th</sup> June but only three, two and two young. Elsewhere, 16 in the Mill Grounds on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

The following graph shows the maximum count of birds on the River Avon during recent winters is as follows:



## **Tufted Duck**

Eight on floodwater at Holm Mead on 3<sup>rd</sup> April and two flew downstream from Boyd Bridge on 7<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Goosander**

Just a pair along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

## *Birds of Prey*

### **Red Kite**

Following an encouraging year in 2022 when 20 were seen, 2023 produced just one less but anecdotal reports suggest that there were more. Most were in March and spread across the area. All were singles except for two on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

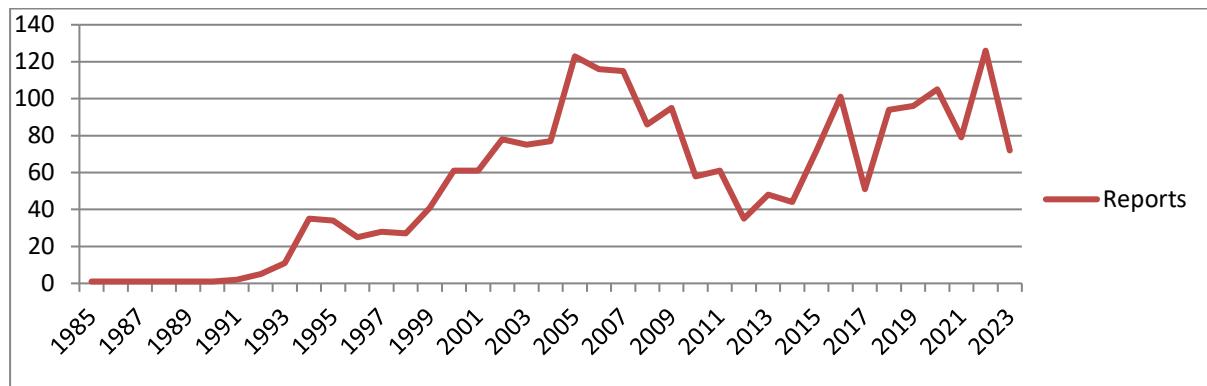
### **Sparrowhawk**

There were 38 reports (35 in 2022) spread across the year. All were of single birds except for two on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Most were seen over the town although Stockwood Vale hosted them on a few occasions. One sat on a fence eyeing up the feeders in Park Road on 4<sup>th</sup> January. Another caught a Goldfinch and there were instances of birds perched on garden trees.

### **Buzzard**

Seventy-two reports look like a good number although 2022 produced 126. Nevertheless, this is our commonest raptor. A field off Manor Road was regularly used and they were often seen in Stockwood Vale. Six were noted moving south over the town on 21<sup>st</sup> April. Other notable counts were four circling high over West View Road on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and four over the sewage works on 21<sup>st</sup> October. Three over Charlton Fields were notable and the rest were in ones or twos.

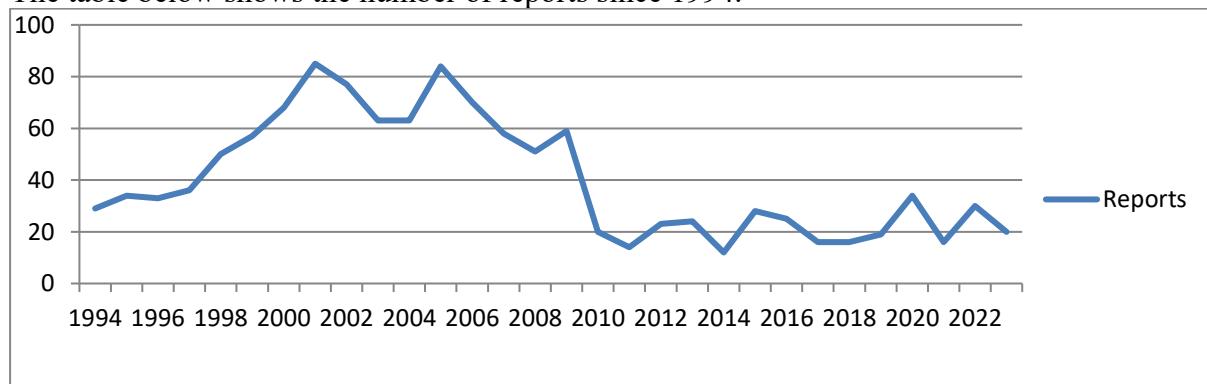
The following table shows the number of reports since 1985.



### **Kestrel**

Twenty records this year is not a very good number. Perhaps more time spent at Charlton Fields and Queen Charlton would produce a higher figure. Somerdale produced three of the reports and Stockwood Vale six. Others were along the Wellsway, Manor Road, Durley Hill, Redlynch Lane and the top of Charlton Road.

The table below shows the number of reports since 1994.



### **Merlin**

A female just east of Boyd Bridge on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Hobby**

Just one during a Breeding Bird Survey on 31<sup>st</sup> May over Park Road.

### **Peregrine**

Just three reports. One high over West View Road on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, one at Hicks Gate on 25<sup>th</sup> November and two over Cleeve Wood on 8<sup>th</sup> December that then settled high on a pylon.

### **Partridges and Pheasants**

#### **Grey Partridge**

Up to four seen around Manor Road on several occasions had probably been recently released as happened from Kelston in 2022.

#### **Red-legged Partridge**

Four along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

#### **Pheasant**

Noted very regularly in Stockwood Vale and by Manor Road and occasionally elsewhere in the countryside. No significant counts this year.

## **Rails**

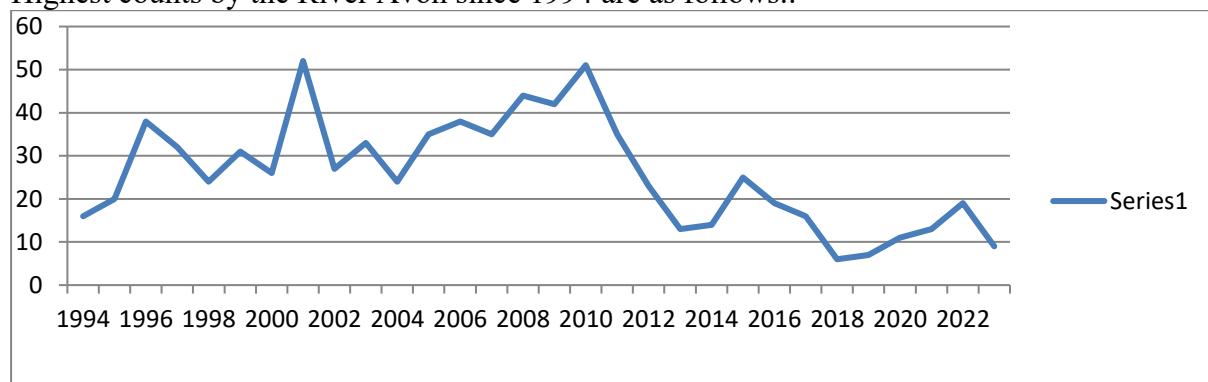
### **Water Rail**

Birds have had extended winter stays by the pond in the Memorial Park a few times. There was one this year but it hid for most of the time. Noted in February and March.

## **Moorhen**

The highest count along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon was very low. In the first winter period it was just nine and only three in the second. Present in the Memorial Park all year, peaking at six in December. Elsewhere, three in the Mill Grounds on 27<sup>th</sup> July and one took up residence in Stockwood Vale in June.

Highest counts by the River Avon since 1994 are as follows.:



## **Wading birds**

### **Lapwing**

Floodwater in January attracted two significant flocks. A flock of 120 circled around the sewage works on 30<sup>th</sup> and possibly the same (counted as 90 this time) at Holm Mead. A single bird by the River Avon, Hanham direction on 24<sup>th</sup>. Later in the year, two near the sewage works on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Curlew**

One flew west from the direction of Long Wood in Saltford on 9<sup>th</sup> April and must have entered Keynsham airspace.

### **Woodcock**

One by Durley Lane in the wood between the bypass and the trainline on 16<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Gulls**

### **Black-headed Gull**

Opportunities provided by receding floodwater in January produced the largest number. One thousand were estimated along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon and 300 at Somerdale, all on 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Sixty on pools at Somerdale on 9<sup>th</sup> April is unusual for April, and they were noted over Balmoral Road up to the end of the month. Not noted again until 21<sup>st</sup> August. Counts increased again in November when there were sixty along the Hanham stretch of the River Avon on 17<sup>th</sup>. Broadmead Lane and the sewage works area held constant flocks of 200 to 250 in December. A bird carrying a metal ring on its left leg appeared in a Handel Road garden on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> February; this may well be the same bird that has visited this garden in most years since 2014. Birds often use the pond in the Memorial Park bathing and waiting for food.

### **Common Gull**

740 on floodwater at Somerdale on 7<sup>th</sup> January was a good count that far exceeded any others. The next highest count was 100 by the sewage works on 16<sup>th</sup> December. Twenty appeared at Charlton Fields on 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull**

Counts were not very high, particularly when compared to the peaks of the previous two species. Fifty at Somerdale on 7<sup>th</sup> January and 20 at Queen Charlton on 15<sup>th</sup> April were the best. Otherwise a few were around for most of the year. The 2020, 2021 and 2022 reports included a ringed bird (F900 black) in Handel Road. It came back again in 2023, this time on 11<sup>th</sup> June, and 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

### **Herring Gull**

Although always with us across the area, they are rarely noticed. Fifty resting on fields at Queen Charlton on 2<sup>nd</sup> October was interesting, and 21 by the sewage works on 3<sup>rd</sup> December was noticeable.

### **Unidentified gulls**

A flock of 500 of mixed species on flooded fields at Somerdale on 6<sup>th</sup> December. No attempt was made to count each species.

### **Cuckoo**

One in willows just upstream of Boyd Bridge on 11<sup>th</sup> June and another heard from Manor Road in June.

### **Pigeons**

#### **Feral Pigeon**

During survey work 35 were counted in the one kilometre square around central Keynsham on 19<sup>th</sup> February and 76 on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Overlooked for most of the year.

### **Stock Dove**

Seen throughout the year in Stockwood Vale. The highest count was eight east of Chewton Keynsham on 26<sup>th</sup> January. Also noted in the Mill Grounds, Manor Road Community Woodland, near the sewage works and Charlton Fields.

### **Woodpigeon**

A high count of 150 around Manor Road Community Woodland on 17<sup>th</sup> November. Other counts were somewhat lower but worth noting. Thirty-two in central Keynsham during survey work on 19<sup>th</sup> February and 58 on 16<sup>th</sup> April in a spring survey. 35 at the top of Wellsway on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Garden counts in The Meadows showed that birds were present throughout the year, with a high count of 12 in August.

### **Collared Dove**

A widespread species but rarely in significant numbers. Noted in most surveys. Counts of twelve in Balmoral Road on 8<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December were higher than usual.

### **Owls**

#### **Barn Owl**

One in fields by Meadow Wood near Bitton on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Heard from Manor Road in August and October.

#### **Tawny Owl**

Frequently encountered in Stockwood Vale and Manor Road throughout the year. Four were reported from Manor Road on 14<sup>th</sup> June. Present in the cemetery on 16<sup>th</sup> September and nearby at the bottom of Durley Lane on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

## *Kingfishers*

### **Kingfisher**

Thirty-five reports of which 28 were in and around the Memorial Park and seen by many people. Four dates from Keynsham lock, two at the sewage works and one at Somerdale. All single birds except for two on three occasions.

## *Woodpeckers*

### **Great Spotted Woodpecker**

Well represented in the area with 44 reports. Drumming first heard in Cleeve Wood on 24<sup>th</sup> January, and later along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon, Manor Road Community Woodland, Stockwood Vale and Somerdale. Also noted in the Memorial Park, Keynsham lock, Abbey Park, Chewton Keynsham, the sewage works and Durley Lane. Seen throughout the year in Stockwood Vale.

### **Green Woodpecker**

Thirty-nine scattered reports. Seen or heard in gardens in Stockwood Vale, Manor Road, Balmoral Road and Handel Road. Also noted along both stretches of the River Avon, Queen Charlton, Chewton Keynsham, the Memorial Park and Somerdale

## *Larks*

### **Skylark**

Song heard at Somerdale in April and again in November. Unusually, song was heard from Park Road on 10<sup>th</sup> June. Winter birds noted along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon in February, March and November. A flock built up to 30 birds near the sewage works in December. Nine at Queen Charlton on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

## *Swifts and hirundines*

### **Swift**

Not seen until 30<sup>th</sup> April. Numbers were low throughout the season; eleven over Park Road on 13<sup>th</sup> May was an exception as were 14 over Queen Charlton on 7<sup>th</sup> July. They may well have nested in West View Road. Last noted on 11<sup>th</sup> August over Manor Road.

The following table shows earliest dates since 2005:

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
24/4	21/4	23/4	26/4	25/4	18/4	21/4	29/4	26/4	4/5	2/5	3/5	19/4	3/5	30/4	2/5	4/5	8/5	30/4

### **Sand Martin**

Only noted at the sewage works on 12<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April, ten on both occasions.

### **Swallow**

An early bird at the sewage works on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, and 30 there on 12<sup>th</sup>. April birds also over Wellsway, Somerdale, Queen Charlton, Warwick Road, Balmoral Road and the Swineford stretch of the River Avon. Twenty at Somerdale on 16<sup>th</sup> August and a big flock of between 100 and 200 in the same area on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

### **House Martin**

The season started with a bang when 120 recent arrivals were seen feeding over the sewage works on 12<sup>th</sup> April. Seventy were counted the following day and 200 on 25<sup>th</sup> April. There were about 18 nests in Queens Road. Last seen over the pitches at Somerdale on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

## *Pipits and Wagtails*

### **Meadow Pipit**

Infrequently found in the first winter period; 30 at Somerdale on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and two by the

River Avon four days later. From 21<sup>st</sup> October they were often seen around the sewage works and nearby stubble fields with a maximum count of ten. Twenty-five were noted at the marina on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Grey Wagtail**

One or two noted many times in the Memorial Park in every month except June and September. Keynsham lock was another location where they were found on a few occasions and, from October, were often seen near the sewage works. Elsewhere, seen at Tesco's, Market Walk, Durley Lane and in a Handel Road garden.

### **Pied Wagtail**

Floodwater at the start of the year produced 33 at Somerdale and 36 along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 2<sup>nd</sup> January. On 13th the Somerdale flock increased to 80. Numbers increased again towards the end of the year when 100 were estimated near the sewage works on 17<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December. Somerdale produced 25 on 14<sup>th</sup> December. Also noted in gardens in Stockwood Vale, the Meadows and Manor Road.

### ***Wrens, Dippers and Accentors***

#### **Wren**

Winter bird surveys revealed eight by the River Avon in the first winter period and three in the second. In central Keynsham there were six in the first winter period but none in the second. Breeding bird surveys produced 11 in central Keynsham and four at the top of Wellsway. Also noted in Manor Road, Stockwood Vale, Park Road and Handel Road gardens.

#### **Dunnock**

Winter bird surveys produced three by the River Avon in the first winter period and two in the second. In central Keynsham the figures were seven and one respectively. Breeding bird surveys revealed two in central Keynsham and five at the top of Wellsway. These counts were significantly lower than 2022 but birds were often noted elsewhere.

#### ***Thrushes***

#### **Robin**

Winter bird surveys produced eleven by the River Avon in the first winter period and seven in the second. In central Keynsham the figures were 19 and two. Breeding bird surveys produced 21 in central Keynsham and seven at the top of Wellsway. A widespread species. Fledged young recorded in Stockwood Vale.

#### **Black Redstart**

One at Somerdale on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **Redstart**

One near Boyd Bridge on 13<sup>th</sup> April. Always a delight to see.

#### **Whinchat**

One in the horse paddock near Manor Road Community Woodland on 5<sup>th</sup> May, our first since 2017.

#### **Wheatear**

Two at Queen Charlton on 25<sup>th</sup> April was the only report.

#### **Stonechat**

At the start of the year, one or two at Somerdale in January, and two south of Queen Charlton on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Later in the year, two at Somerdale on 17<sup>th</sup> October. One by the sewage works

on 21<sup>st</sup> October was present until 10<sup>th</sup> December (unless birds came and went).

### **Song Thrush**

Not recorded many times this year but still widespread. Noted in the Memorial Park, along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon, West View Road, Manor Road Community Woodland, Somerdale, Charlton Fields, the sewage works, Stockwood Vale, Durley Lane and The Meadows. Highest count was three.

### **Redwing**

A good start to the year with 40 at Keynsham lock on 22<sup>nd</sup> January and 58 along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 27<sup>th</sup>. Last overwintering birds were six in the Memorial Park on 12<sup>th</sup> March. The first returning birds were heard over the sewage works on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Up to 20 were noted at various places to the end of the year, the exception being 100 in Manor Road Community Woodland on Christmas Eve. Noted in West View Road, Park Road and Manor Road gardens.

### **Mistle Thrush**

Just four reports. Single birds in Stockwood Vale, Queen Charlton, the top of Wellsway and the sewage works.

### **Fieldfare**

In the first winter period, seven by the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 27<sup>th</sup> January and 40 at Queen Charlton on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Noted several times near the sewage works in December, peaking at 50 on 17<sup>th</sup>. Also noted in Manor Road Community Woodland, Stockwood Vale and by the marina.

### **Ring Ouzel**

One in the boundary hedge between Saltford and Keynsham on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Blackbird**

Winter bird surveys produced two by the River Avon in the first winter period and four in the second. In central Keynsham the figures were four in the first period and five in the second. Breeding bird surveys produced nine in central Keynsham and 11 at the top of Wellsway. Unsurprisingly, seen in many other places but the only recorded breeding was in Stockwood Vale.

### ***Warblers***

#### **Chiffchaff**

Only noted once in the first winter period; this was in The Meadows. There was clearly an influx from 18<sup>th</sup> March when 17 were heard in Manor Road Community Woodland, and five appeared in a local garden the following day. The following three days produced birds by the Ambulance Station, St Clements Road, Handel Road, Balmoral Road, by the cycle track and along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon. Gardens were still used up to 6<sup>th</sup> April. Many birds were seen in various locations throughout the rest of the spring and summer and the final autumn one may have been on 22<sup>nd</sup> September although one in a Handel Road garden on 27<sup>th</sup> October may well be a departing bird. The sewage works became a haven from 21<sup>st</sup> October to the end of the year with a peak of six on Boxing Day.

### **Willow Warbler**

The first two appeared in a town garden on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Heard in Manor Road Community Woodland on 7<sup>th</sup> April, two at the sewage works on 12th and one in Handel Road on 23<sup>rd</sup>. No subsequent reports.

### **Reed Warbler**

One by the River Avon on 30<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Blackcap**

In the first winter period they were seen in Handel Road, Balmoral Road, West View Road and Stockwood Vale. The start of spring migration is not easy to spot but may have been 19<sup>th</sup> March. They were then found in many locations including a singing bird at Waitrose on 16<sup>th</sup> June. Two in a Handel Road garden on 18<sup>th</sup> November signalled the start of the winter incomers. Other gardens hosted them in December including The Meadows.

### **Garden Warbler**

One just downstream of Boyd Bridge on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

### **Whitethroat**

Two at Charlton Fields and one at the sewage works on 25<sup>th</sup> April, then one in Manor Road Community Woodland and by the River Avon on 30<sup>th</sup>. Two at the sewage works on 1<sup>st</sup> May, then occasional reports from Somerdale and Queen Charlton.

### **'Crests'**

#### **Goldcrest**

Plenty of reports but for no obvious reason, none between 9<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> October. Five around Durley Lane on 16<sup>th</sup> December was the highest number. Also noted at the marina, Somerdale, West View Road, Stockwood Vale, the sewage works, the Memorial Park, Manor Road Community Woodland and Handel Road.

### **Tits**

#### **Long-tailed Tit**

There was a nice series of records from the Memorial Park with seven on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 16 on 1<sup>st</sup> August, eight on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 26 on 6<sup>th</sup> November, eight on 18<sup>th</sup> November and 25 on 4<sup>th</sup> December. Manor Road Community Woodland was another good spot for them in December; 11 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 15 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 40 on 24<sup>th</sup>. In January ten or more came to a feeder in Stockwood Vale. Various other reports including four in The Meadows in October.

#### **Blue Tit**

Winter bird surveys revealed five by the River Avon in the first winter period and seven in the second. In central Keynsham the figures were seven and two respectively. Breeding bird surveys revealed eight in central Keynsham and only one at the top of Wellsway. Often seen elsewhere including seven in the Meadows in October and 12 around a large feeder in Stockwood Vale in December.

#### **Great Tit**

A breeding bird survey revealed five in central Keynsham and four at the top end of Wellsway. Often overlooked but 15 in Manor Woods on 21<sup>st</sup> December was exceptional.

#### **Coal Tit**

Seen in Stockwood Vale in seven months of the year. One or two by the River Avon, the entrance to Somerdale, Manor Road Community Woodland, Durley Lane and a Manor Road garden.

### ***Nuthatches and Treecreepers***

#### **Treecreeper**

One near Keynsham lock on 26<sup>th</sup> January and one singing along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 21<sup>st</sup> February. The other reports were from the Memorial Park in January, March, May, July, August and November. Are they nesting there?

### **Nuthatch**

One near the marina on 18<sup>th</sup> January, and along the cycle track on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and 10<sup>th</sup> August.

### **Crows**

#### **Magpie**

Winter bird surveys revealed 14 by the River Avon in the first winter period and eight in the second. In central Keynsham the figures were 28 and seven respectively. Breeding bird surveys revealed eight in central Keynsham and 18 at the top of Wellsway. Counts of 13 in the Mill Grounds on 1<sup>st</sup> April and 14 on a Park Road rooftop on the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> September were significant.

### **Ring-necked Parakeet**

Noted somewhere in Keynsham on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September, and in Charlton Park later in the month. One in Charlton Road on Christmas Day.

### **Jay**

As in 2022, found in Stockwood Vale in all months of the year. Manor Road Community Woodland produced four on 18<sup>th</sup> March. There were 20 other reports most of which were in October from Keynsham lock, Somerdale, Queen Charlton, Handel Road, the sewage works, the Memorial Park, Durley Lane and gardens in The Meadows and Manor Road.

### **Jackdaw**

Winter bird surveys revealed a huge count of 233 by the River Avon in the first winter period and a more normal 27 in the second. In central Keynsham the figures were 39 and 50 respectively. Breeding bird surveys revealed 24 in central Keynsham and 14 at the top of Wellsway. Evening flocks in winter are often encountered. 172 were counted going to roost (probably in Cleeve Wood) on 6<sup>th</sup> February and 100 on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. 100 circling around on 28<sup>th</sup> February were doubtless going to do the same at some point in the evening. Thirteen in a single tree in West View Road was interesting; they are often seen in that road and probably breed on rooftops.

### **Rook**

The Manor Road Community Woodland rookery was not counted this year. There were five nests in the Memorial Park and nine in Cleeve Wood. Thirteen in the Meadows in September was interesting and lower counts there at other times.

### **Carrion Crow**

Winter bird surveys revealed 275 (the same day as the Jackdaws) by the River Avon in the first winter period and 96 in the second. In central Keynsham the figures were 11 and seven respectively. Breeding bird surveys revealed 19 in central Keynsham and 11 at the top of Wellsway. Other significant counts were 89 on sodden fields at Somerdale on 7<sup>th</sup> January and 60 in similar conditions on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Also ten or more noisy birds in a West View Road garden on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 33 in the Memorial Park on 1<sup>st</sup> November and a pre roost gathering in Charlton Park in September.

### **Raven**

Twenty-nine reports this year. They probably nested in Chewton Place this year as young were heard calling from a nest on 1<sup>st</sup> April. Five over Manor Road on 3<sup>rd</sup> September was the highest count, the same day that they appeared over Balmoral Road and Handel Road. Also noted at Somerdale, Manor Road Community Woodland, Queen Charlton, the sewage works and near the marina.

## **Mixed corvids**

The partly flooded fields at Somerdale produced 270 corvids on 2<sup>nd</sup> January but breaking them down to species was not practically possible.

## **Starling**

Winter bird surveys revealed 51 by the River Avon during the first winter bird surveys but none in the second. In central Keynsham the figures in the two winter periods were 51 in the first and 22 in the second. Breeding bird surveys revealed 23 in central Keynsham and ten at the top end of Wellsway. Over 50 gathered in a Birch tree in West View Road on 11<sup>th</sup> June. Over 100 were noted around Handel Road on 18<sup>th</sup> October, the same day that an influx occurred in other parts of Avon. 200 appeared around another garden on 12<sup>th</sup> November. There were good counts around The Meadows in most months with a maximum of 25 in July.

## **Sparrows**

### **House Sparrow**

Winter bird surveys revealed 44 in central Keynsham in the first winter period and 14 in the second. Breeding bird surveys revealed 43 in central Keynsham and five at the top end of Wellsway. Two thriving colonies in West View Road were within the central Keynsham survey.

## **Finches**

### **Chaffinch**

Rather a poor year in our area. Complete absence in West View Road. Fifteen at the sewage works on 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> December were the best counts. The RSPB big garden birdwatch produced six in Stockwood Vale on 27<sup>th</sup> January.

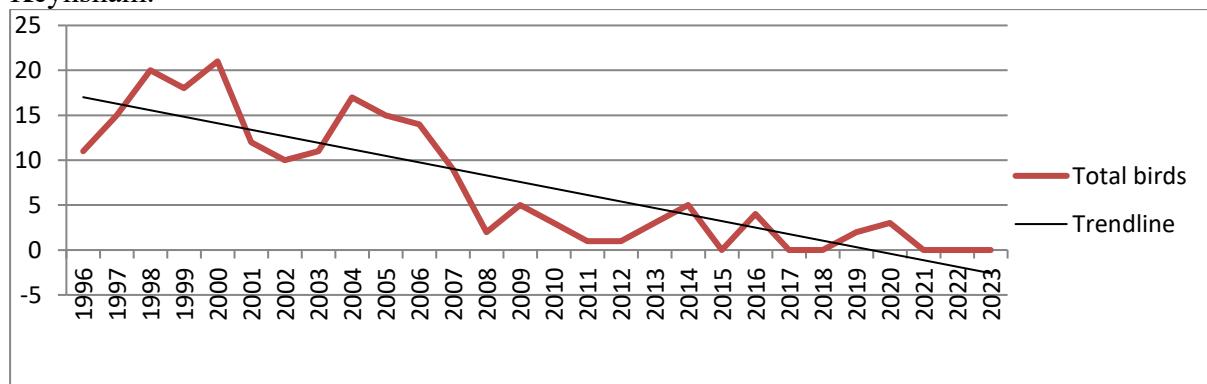
### **Bullfinch**

A little better than the past two years, encountered on seven days in Manor Road Community Woodland, Stockwood Vale, Queen Charlton and along the cycle track.

### **Greenfinch**

Noted in eleven months of the year in Stockwood Vale. Eight in Manor Road Community Woodland on 3<sup>rd</sup> December was reasonable; a few noted by the marina, Queen Charlton, Charlton Fields, the Mill Grounds, Park Road and the sewage works. None seen in West View Road this year.

The following graph shows the decline as measured by the breeding bird survey in central Keynsham.



## **Crossbill**

Four of an unidentified species just east of Boyd Bridge on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Goldfinch**

Winter bird surveys revealed 82 by the River Avon in the first winter period and 51 in the second. None seen in central Keynsham. Breeding bird surveys revealed seven in central Keynsham and six at the top end of Wellsway. The Meadows managed 14 in December and up to 30 were noted in other gardens but generally, garden records were low. One hit a window in Stockwood Vale and failed to recover.

### **Siskin**

Three records. Five by Durley Lane on 28<sup>th</sup> October, four along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 11<sup>th</sup> December and ten at Somerdale on 15th.

### **Linnet**

A very good showing around the sewage works towards the end of the year. Eight noted on 21<sup>st</sup> October, then 15 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 40 on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 50 on 10<sup>th</sup> and still 50 on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Away from this area, ten over the town on 27<sup>th</sup> February, two at Charlton Fields on 25<sup>th</sup> April and 14 at Queen Charlton on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Buntings**

#### **Corn Bunting**

Encountered for the second year running! One over Boyd Bridge on 7<sup>th</sup> November, the same location as 2022.

### **Yellowhammer**

Only two records, both at Queen Charlton; 15<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Reed Bunting**

The sewage works produced one on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and 17<sup>th</sup> December, and two on Boxing Day. One at Somerdale on 11<sup>th</sup> May and Durley Lane on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

## **BUTTERFLIES**

*Quite a few of the following sightings cannot be attributed to a particular place; most are from gardens in the town.*

#### **Skippers**

##### **Small Skipper**

Recorded between 21<sup>st</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> July along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon, Somerdale and a Handel Road garden. A skipper in West View Road on 7<sup>th</sup> July was either this species or a Large Skipper.

##### **Large Skipper**

Seen in Manor Road Community Woodland, Somerdale and along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon (six on 16<sup>th</sup> June).

#### **Whites**

##### **Brimstone**

First seen in Park Road and Manor Road on 17<sup>th</sup> March, and Charlton Park the following day. A female was watched laying eggs on Alder Buckthorn in West View Road on 28<sup>th</sup> April and again on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. One on 12<sup>th</sup> June is difficult to pin down as being one of last year's or a fresh one from 2023. Four in a garden on 17<sup>th</sup> July was a good count. Noted in Balmoral Road, the entrance to Somerdale, by the River Avon, Temple Street, the railway station and Stockwood Vale. Last seen on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

##### **Orange Tip**

First noted by the sewage works on 20<sup>th</sup> April and again on 1<sup>st</sup> May. A male and female appeared in a West View Road garden on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Also seen in Handel Road, Stockwood

Vale and Somerdale.

### **Large White**

Lots of reports from various gardens, the highest count being five on 6<sup>th</sup> August. Twelve were seen in the Memorial Park on 25<sup>th</sup> July and nine in Manor Road Community Woodland on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Also noted at Somerdale and Queen Charlton. Last seen on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Small White**

As with the previous species, many garden records from 8<sup>th</sup> April. Also at Somerdale, by the River Avon, the sewage works, Chewton Keynsham and Stockwood Vale. Last seen on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

### **Green-veined White**

Only scattered reports of single butterflies. At Somerdale, the Memorial Park, Chewton Keynsham, by the River Avon, the stoney lane that runs down to Chewton Place and a few gardens.

### *Blues*

#### **Brown Argus**

One along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 5<sup>th</sup> June, in Manor Road Community Woodland on 27<sup>th</sup> July and in Stockwood Vale on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

#### **Common Blue**

Noted between 17<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August. Seven were in Manor Road Community Woodland on 27<sup>th</sup> July. Also noted in Stockwood Vale and various gardens.

#### **Small Copper**

One in the Mill Grounds on 11<sup>th</sup> June, two in Maor Road Community Woodland on 1<sup>st</sup> August and three in different gardens.

#### **Holly Blue**

Forty-eight records. The first generation started on 9<sup>th</sup> April (as in 2022) in gardens in Park Road and Handel Road. West View Road joined in on 15<sup>th</sup> April where there were many sightings until 19<sup>th</sup> May. The final one of this generation was probably on 30th May (29<sup>th</sup> in 2022) with the first of the second generation appearing on 24<sup>th</sup> June. They continued to be seen up to 1<sup>st</sup> October, which is our latest ever date. Locations were Chewton Keynsham, Somerdale, Stockwood Vale, the railway station, near Lays Farm, the stoney lane that runs down to Chewton Place, Manor Road Community Woodland and various gardens.

### *Nymphalids*

#### **Small Tortoiseshell**

Twenty-three reports which is similar to 2022, and only seen in ones or twos between 7<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> October. Locations were the Memorial Park, Somerdale, the sewage works, the Mill Grounds, by the River Avon, Stockwood Vale and gardens in Balmoral Road, West View Road and Handel Road.

#### **Peacock**

A nice spread of records between 7<sup>th</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> October. The gap between 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> July probably separates the two generations. Eight were counted at Somerdale on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, ten in a garden on 3<sup>rd</sup> August and 12 in another garden three days later. Away from gardens, they were noted by the River Avon, the sewage works, Chewton Keynsham and Manor Road Community Woodland.

## **Comma**

The season got under way on 24<sup>th</sup> March in a West View Road garden. A few overwintering ones were noted up to 13<sup>th</sup> April and then again from 22<sup>nd</sup> June when the next generation got under way. There were two interesting counts; 11 at Somerdale on 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 7 at Chewton Keynsham on 27<sup>th</sup>. Most other reports were from gardens (up to 15<sup>th</sup> October).

## **Red Admiral**

Recorded 72 times, far more than 2022. The first flew through a Handel Road garden on 19<sup>th</sup> February and must have overwintered. It was over two months to the next one which was at Somerdale on 13<sup>th</sup> April, then 11<sup>th</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June. Numbers really picked up from 2<sup>nd</sup> July. There were three reports in September, nine in October and four in November (up to 20<sup>th</sup>). Twenty at Somerdale on 23<sup>rd</sup> July was our highest count in a single location since 1996. Locations were the sewage works, Abbots Wood, Avon Close, Charlton Park, Chewton Keynsham, the cycle track, Dapps Hill, the Memorial Park, the Mill Grounds, Stockwood Vale and West View Road.

## **Painted Lady**

Just the one. It was in a Balmoral Road garden on 21<sup>st</sup> June.

## **Browns**

### **Ringlet**

Found between 24<sup>th</sup> June and 3<sup>rd</sup> August in the Memorial Park, Manor Road Community Woodland and a few gardens.

## **Speckled Wood**

Lots of records between 8<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> October. Twenty-nine were from a Handel Road garden and 12 from West View Road. There were nine in Manor Road Community Woodland on 4<sup>th</sup> June and along the stoney lane that runs down to Chewton Place on 27<sup>th</sup> July. Six by the entrance path to Somerdale on 13<sup>th</sup> July was also noteworthy. Others seen at the sewage works, by the River Avon, the Memorial Park, Chewton Keynsham, Queen Charlton, the cycle track and Stockwood Vale.

## **Meadow Brown**

First seen along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 5<sup>th</sup> June. There were no actual significant counts although many were in Manor Road Community Woodland on 25<sup>th</sup> June. Also found at Somerdale, the stoney lane that runs down to Chewton Place, Chewton Keynsham, the Memorial Park and Stockwood Vale. Gardens are not really their prime habitat but quite a few were recorded in them including five in Handel Road. Last noted on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. One along the High Street on 27<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Marbled White**

Two in Manor Road Community Woodland on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Gatekeeper**

Four at Somerdale on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Eight in the Mill Grounds on 27<sup>th</sup> July and at Charlton Fields on 22<sup>nd</sup> August. Five in Manor Road Community Woodland and three in Chewton Keynsham on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Several gardens hosted a few.

## **MAMMALS**

### **Badger**

Regularly seen in a Stockwood Vale garden. There was evidence of this species in a Manor Road garden in May and a sett was found by the cycle track.

### **Roe Deer**

Recorded on 24 occasions throughout the year, most of which were in Stockwood Vale as in 2022. A family of three plus two others seen in January and a big male with antlers in full velvet appeared there in February. Up to three in the fields by the Swineford stretch of the River Avon, one in a field by Manor Road on 12<sup>th</sup> May, Somerdale on 16<sup>th</sup> February, Queen Charlton on 2<sup>nd</sup> October and slots by the sewage works in April. One became the victim of a road traffic accident on the junction of Charlton Road and Queen Charlton in January.

### **Muntjac**

All reports except one were in Stockwood Vale garden covering most of the year. Mostly singletons but a pair on 29<sup>th</sup> November and three in January. Slots by the sewage works in October suggested that they were also present there.

### **Fox**

The trail camera that had been used in Handel Road since 2020 was switched on regularly resulting in one or two being recorded on 88 occasions. Up to five in Stockwood Vale throughout the year. An injured male was noticed on 10<sup>th</sup> November so a trap was set in an attempt to capture it but only succeeded and imprisoning a cat. Homeopathic treatment was attempted on a mangey Fox in February but it was difficult to determine whether or not this was working because of the other animals that were present. Also seen in a few other locations. Noted in Manor Road on a few occasions and often in Dunster Road. Others in Lays Drive, Rock Road, Coronation Avenue, West View Road and near the New Inn. Two played in Torridge Road on 12<sup>th</sup> December. One became a road traffic casualty on the bypass in May.

### **Hedgehog**

The camera trap in Handel Road that recorded the Foxes also found Hedgehogs on 29 occasions (31 in 2022) between 13<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> November; there were two on three nights. Up to four (feeding on peanuts on 2<sup>nd</sup> June) in Stockwood Vale between January and 6<sup>th</sup> November. Visited a West View Road garden on five occasions; a small one ran into a pond on 11<sup>th</sup> July, swam across and managed to get out again. One in Banwell Close during the year and a dead one on the Wellsway on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Grey Squirrel**

A Handel Road garden was once more home to squirrels throughout the year where they have a drey near the top of a Birch tree. Two were often seen and three on two occasions. Present in Stockwood Vale throughout the year. This is doubtless so in many other places but they are overlooked as they are so common. Actual records came from Balmoral Road, the cycle track, Manor Road Community Woodland and the Swineford stretch of the River Avon.

### **Mole**

So often overlooked as they are rarely actually seen. Molehills were recorded in Manor Road Community Woodland, Somerdale and along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon. It is a matter of conjecture as to whether or not they have a method of surviving floodwater.

### **Brown Rat**

Still present in the Memorial Park, perhaps because they like remains of food that is provided for the ducks. One scuttled along the bank of the Hanham stretch of the River Avon and a dead one along the cycle track. Noted in Stockwood Vale for most of the year.

### **Otter**

Anecdotal information suggests that they are often around our area but rarely recorded. This year one was watched at close range along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon carrying a large fish on 21<sup>st</sup> February. Possible footprints noted along the Hanham stretch in April.

## Rabbit

Seen in a field off Manor Road in January and June and Charlton Fields in August. A young rabbit was on a garden lawn in Stockwood Vale on 28<sup>th</sup> August.

## FLORA

Very little recording took place this year so that results in a significant gap in this report once more.

### *Fox and Hounds Woodland*

**Lesser Celandine, Primrose, Snowdrop and Ivy Broomrape.**

### *Manor Road Community Woodland*

**Marsh Marigold** and **Lesser Celandine** from 13<sup>th</sup> February and **Primroses** from 26<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen **Scarlet Elf Cups** on 26<sup>th</sup> February.

### *Somerdale*

**Mistletoe, Common Toadflax, Narrow-leaved Everlasting Pea, Oxeye Daisy, Perforate St John's-wort, Purple-loosestrife, Tansy, Valerian, Cuckooflower, Yarrow and a Tare species. Flowering Rush** on the edge of the River Avon could be seen from the Somerdale footpath.

### *Memorial Park*

Two **Small Teasel, Winter Heliotrope** and **Common Toadflax. Himalayan Balsam** is becoming very dominant.

### *River Avon*

**Himalayan Balsam** is increasing by the marina and adjacent car park. **Trifid Bur-marigold, White Water-lily and Yellow Water-lily** along the Swineford stretch and **Mistletoe** towards Hanham.

### *Elsewhere*

A **Pyramidal Orchid** appeared in some long grass in a West View Road garden so perhaps had laid dormant for many years.

Three **Snake's-head Fritillaries** by the footpath off the Avenue had probably been discarded from a nearby garden.

**Danish Scurvy-grass** at the top of Wellsway. **Dark Mullein** in Chewton Keynsham. **Rue-leaved Saxifrage** on Bath Hill. **Tall Melilot** at Charlton Fields. **Water-plantain** in the Mill Grounds. **Woolly Thistle** at the top end of Stockwood Vale. **Yellow Water-lily** at Chewton Place.

## MOTHS

The moth traps that have previously been operated in Handel Road and Balmoral Road were run again. Table 1 combines sightings from both sites. Scientific and common names are shown together with counts. No less than 8741 moths of 322 species were identified in 2023.

There were just four new species this year. These were:

**Dewick's Plusia**, a migrant first found in the Avon area in 2011. Several in Avon this year.

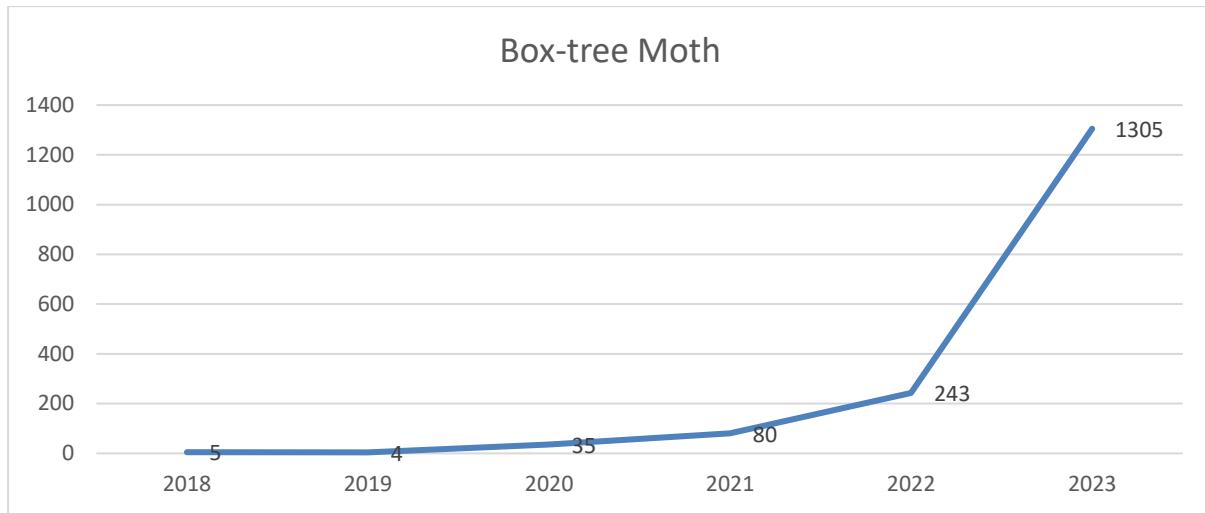
**Toadflax Pug**. Although widespread, has missed us until now.

**White-point**, a migrant first found in the Avon area in 2018 but now encountered occasionally.

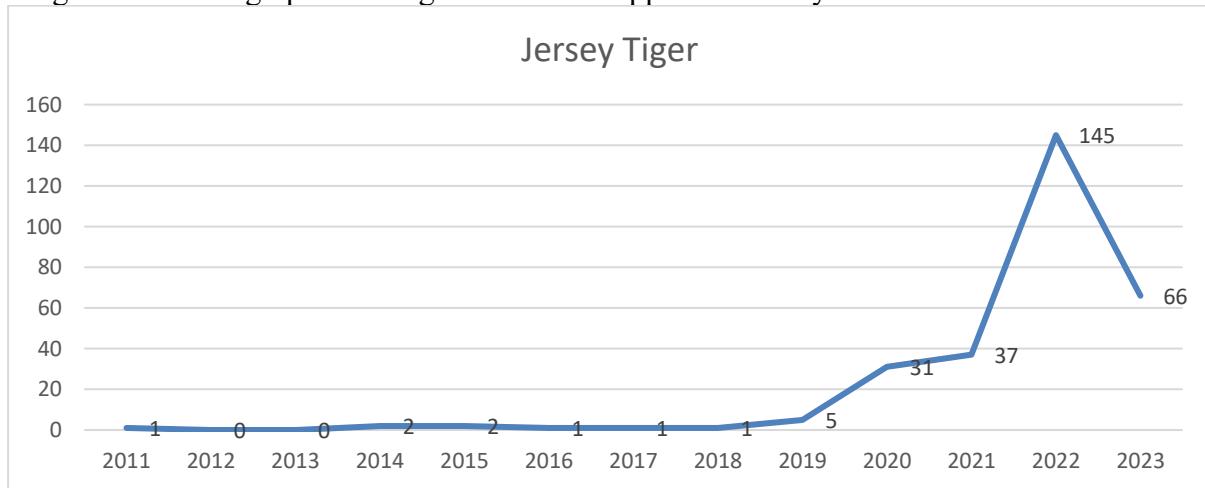
**Ypsolopha ustella**. Only three previous Avon records.

The rise of **Box-tree moths** continues – 1306 were caught this year. Thirty-four were of the distinctive dark form. 11<sup>th</sup> September produced a phenomenal count of 250! A graph showing

the number trapped over the past six years:



**Jersey Tigers** are now becoming established after first appearing in 2011. Sixty-six were caught in 2023. A graph showing the number trapped since they were first recorded:



**TABLE 1 – HANDEL ROAD and BALMORAL ROAD**

Common name	Scientific name	Count
Angle Shades	<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>	10
Apple Leaf Miner	<i>Lyonetia clerkella</i>	42
Ash Bud Moth	<i>Prays fraxinella</i>	1
August Thorn	<i>Ennomos quercinaria</i>	3
Barred Sallow	<i>Tiliacea aurago</i>	8
Barred Straw	<i>Gandaritis pyraliata</i>	2
Beaded Chestnut	<i>Agrochola lychnidis</i>	31
Beautiful Hook-tip	<i>Laspeyria flexula</i>	1
Beautiful Plume	<i>Amblyptilia acanthadactyla</i>	10
Bee Moth	<i>Aphomia sociella</i>	33
Bird-cherry Ermine	<i>Yponomeuta evonymella</i>	7
Black Arches	<i>Lymantria monacha</i>	1
Black Rustic	<i>Aporophyla nigra</i>	17
Blair's Shoulder-knot	<i>Lithophane leautieri subsp.  hesperica</i>	11
Blood-vein	<i>Timandra comae</i>	2
Box-tree Moth	<i>Cydalima perspectalis</i>	1296
Bright-line Brown-eye	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>	22
Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	146

Brindled Beauty	<i>Lycia hirtaria</i>	35
Broad-barred White	<i>Hecatera bicolorata</i>	1
Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua fimbriata</i>	8
Brown House Moth	<i>Hofmannophila pseudospretella</i>	33
Brown-spot Pinion	<i>Agrochola litura</i>	1
Brussels Lace	<i>Cleorodes lichenaria</i>	1
Bud Moth	<i>Spilonota ocellana</i>	2
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lutea</i>	14
Buff-tip	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>	1
Burnished Brass	<i>Diachrysia chrysitis</i>	32
Cabbage Moth	<i>Mamestra brassicae</i>	4
Canary-shouldered Thorn	<i>Ennomos alniaria</i>	2
Carnation Tortrix	<i>Cacoecimorpha pronubana</i>	7
Centre-barred Sallow	<i>Atethmia centrago</i>	6
Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix	<i>Pandemis corylana</i>	1
Cherry Bark Moth	<i>Enarmonia formosana</i>	5
Chestnut (moth)	<i>Conistra vaccinii</i>	2
Chinese Character	<i>Ciliix glaucata</i>	1
Cinerous Groundling	<i>Bryotropha terrella</i>	4
Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	3
Clay	<i>Mythimna ferrago</i>	2
Clifden Nonpareil	<i>Catocala fraxini</i>	1
Cloaked Minor	<i>Mesoligia furuncula</i>	6
Clouded Border	<i>Lomasplilos marginata</i>	2
Clouded Drab	<i>Orthosia incerta</i>	14
Clouded Silver	<i>Lomographa temerata</i>	5
Codling Moth	<i>Cydia pomonella</i>	29
Common Birch Bell	<i>Epinotia immundana</i>	1
Common Carpet	<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	4
Common Emerald	<i>Hemithea aestivaria</i>	7
Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	16
Common Grass-veneer	<i>Agriphila tristella</i>	47
Common Grey	<i>Scoparia ambigualis</i>	3
Common Marble	<i>Celypha lacunana</i>	14
Common Marbled Carpet	<i>Dysstroma truncata</i>	63
Common Plume	<i>Emmelina monodactyla</i>	34
Common Pug	<i>Eupithecia vulgata</i>	26
Common Quaker	<i>Orthosia cerasi</i>	29
Common Rustic	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i>	132
Common Slender	<i>Gracillaria syringella</i>	1
Common Swift	<i>Korscheltellus lupulina</i>	9
Common Wainscot	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	36
Common Wave	<i>Cabera exanthemata</i>	2
Common Yellow Conch	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	7
Copper Underwing	<i>Amphipyra pyramidea</i>	10
Crescent Plume	<i>Marasmarcha lunaedactyla</i>	3
Cypress Carpet	<i>Thera cupressata</i>	4
Cypress Pug	<i>Eupithecia phoeniceata</i>	31
Cypress Tip Moth	<i>Argyresthia cupressella</i>	2
Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	95
Dark Ash Bud Moth	<i>Prays ruficeps</i>	1
Dark Chestnut	<i>Conistra ligula</i>	1
Dark Dagger or Grey Dagger (undetermined)	<i>Acronicta psi/tridens</i>	1
Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix	<i>Pandemis heparana</i>	1
Dark Spectacle	<i>Abrostola triplasia</i>	1

Deep-brown Dart	<i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>	2
Delicate	<i>Mythimna vitellina</i>	1
Dewick's Plusia	<i>Macdunnoughia confusa</i>	3
Diamond-back Moth	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	6
Dingy Footman	<i>Eilema griseola</i>	11
Dingy Shell	<i>Euchoeca nebulata</i>	1
Double Square-spot	<i>Xestia triangulum</i>	3
Double-striped Pug	<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	76
Double-striped Tabby	<i>Hypsopygia glaucinalis</i>	3
Dun-bar	<i>Cosmia trapezina</i>	5
Dusky Thorn	<i>Ennomos fuscantaria</i>	16
Early Grey	<i>Xylocampa areola</i>	19
Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	13
European Corn Borer	<i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>	4
Eyed Hawk-moth	<i>Smerinthus ocellata</i>	3
Fan-foot	<i>Herminia tarsipennalis</i>	10
Feathered Thorn	<i>Colotois pennaria</i>	3
Figure of Eighty	<i>Tethea ocularis</i>	3
Flame	<i>Axylia putris</i>	12
Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	44
Flounced Rustic	<i>Luperina testacea</i>	41
	<i>Eupithecia intricata</i> subsp. <i>arceuthata</i>	3
Freyer's Pug	<i>Blastobasis adustella</i>	7
Furness Dowd	<i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i>	50
Garden Carpet	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>	280
Garden Grass-veneer	<i>Evergestis forficalis</i>	20
Garden Pebble	<i>Acleris variegana</i>	2
Garden Rose Tortrix	<i>Arctia caja</i>	2
Garden Tiger	<i>Hypsopygia costalis</i>	8
Gold Triangle	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	3
Green Carpet	<i>Tortrix viridana</i>	2
Green Oak Tortrix	<i>Pasiphila rectangulata</i>	7
Green Pug	<i>Allophyes oxyacanthalae</i>	2
Green-brindled Crescent	<i>Acrobasis advenella</i>	3
Grey Knot-horn	<i>Scythropia crataegella</i>	4
Hawthorn Moth	<i>Agrotis clavis</i>	72
Heart and Club	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	481
Heart and Dart	<i>Orthosia gothica</i>	54
Hebrew Character	<i>Scoliopteryx libatrix</i>	1
Herald	<i>Eucosma cana</i>	1
Hoary Belle	<i>Rhopobota naevana</i>	1
Holly Tortrix	<i>Crambus lathonellus</i>	14
Hook-streak Grass-veneer	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	1
Jersey Tiger	<i>Acronicta rumicis</i>	17
Juniper Webber	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>	64
Kent Black Arches	<i>Dichomeris marginella</i>	3
Knot Grass (moth)	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	1
Lackey	<i>Scopula immutata</i>	1
L-album Wainscot	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	12
Large Fruit-tree Tortrix	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	2
Large Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	331
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	<i>Pheosia gnoma</i>	1
Lesser Swallow Prominent	<i>Noctua comes</i>	193

Light Arches	<i>Apamea lithoxylaea</i>	2
Light Brown Apple Moth	<i>Epiphyas postvittana</i>	136
Light Emerald	<i>Campaea margaritaria</i>	38
Lime Hawk-moth	<i>Mimas tiliae</i>	3
Lime-speck Pug	<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>	2
Long-horned Flat-body	<i>Carcina quercana</i>	22
Lunar Underwing	<i>Omphaloscelis lunosa</i>	98
Lunar-spotted Pinion	<i>Cosmia pyralina</i>	1
Lychnis (moth)	<i>Hadena bicruris</i>	17
Magpie Moth	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	1
Maiden's Blush	<i>Cyclophora punctaria</i>	2
Maple Button	<i>Acleris forsskaleana</i>	5
Marbled Beauty	<i>Bryophila domestica</i>	1
Marbled Bell	<i>Eucosma campoliliana</i>	1
Marbled Green	<i>Nyctobrya muralis</i>	4
Marbled Minor	<i>Oligia strigilis</i>	25
Marbled Orchard Tortrix	<i>Hedya nubiferana</i>	1
March Moth	<i>Alsophila aescularia</i>	1
March Tubic	<i>Diurnea fagella</i>	1
May Highflyer	<i>Hydriomena impluviata</i>	1
Meal Moth	<i>Pyralis farinalis</i>	6
Merveille du Jour	<i>Griposia aprilina</i>	1
Middle-barred Minor	<i>Oligia fasciuncula</i>	7
Miller (moth)	<i>Acronicta leporina</i>	1
Mother of Pearl	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	38
Mottled Beauty	<i>Alcis repandata</i>	1
Mottled Rustic	<i>Caradrina morpheus</i>	1
Mouse Moth	<i>Amphipyra tragopoginis</i>	3
Muslin Moth	<i>Diaphora mendica</i>	16
Nut-tree Tussock	<i>Colocasia coryli</i>	3
Oak Beauty	<i>Biston strataria</i>	1
Oak Hook-tip	<i>Watsonalla binaria</i>	1
Old Lady	<i>Mormo maura</i>	1
Olive Pearl	<i>Udea olivalis</i>	4
Orange Footman	<i>Eilema sororcula</i>	4
Orange Swift	<i>Triodia sylvina</i>	4
Orchard Ermine	<i>Yponomeuta padella</i>	29
Pale Mottled Willow	<i>Caradrina clavipalpis</i>	86
Pale Pinion	<i>Lithophane socia</i>	2
Pale Prominent	<i>Pterostoma palpina</i>	1
Pale Tussock	<i>Calliteara pudibunda</i>	3
Pebble Hook-tip	<i>Drepana falcataria</i>	2
Peppered Moth	<i>Biston betularia</i>	8
Pine Leaf-mining Moth	<i>Clavigesta purdeyi</i>	1
Plum Fruit Moth	<i>Grapholita funebrana</i>	1
Plum Tortrix	<i>Hedya pruniana</i>	4
Poplar Grey	<i>Subacronicta megacephala</i>	1
Powdered Quaker	<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	1
Privet Hawk-moth	<i>Sphinx ligustri</i>	8
Privet Twist	<i>Clepsis consimilana</i>	14
Purple Bar	<i>Cosmorrhoe ocellata</i>	1
Red Piercer	<i>Lathronympha strigana</i>	1
Red Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe spadicearia</i>	4
Red Underwing	<i>Catocala nupta</i>	1
Red-barred Tortrix	<i>Ditula angustiorana</i>	12
Red-line Quaker	<i>Agrochola lota</i>	3

Riband Wave	<i>Idaea versata</i>	55
Rosy Footman	<i>Miltochrista miniata</i>	3
Rosy Minor	<i>Litoligia literosa</i>	2
Rosy Rustic	<i>Hydraecia micacea</i>	1
Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	3
Ruddy Streak	<i>Tachystola acroxantha</i>	157
Rush Marble	<i>Bactra lancealana</i>	1
Rush Veneer	<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>	1
Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina blanda</i>	48
Rustic Shoulder-knot	<i>Apamea sordens</i>	13
Rusty Dot	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	11
Sallow (moth)	<i>Cirrhia icteritia</i>	3
Satellite	<i>Eupsilia transversa</i>	1
Satin Grass-veneer	<i>Crambus perlella</i>	2
Scalloped Hazel	<i>Odontopera bidentata</i>	1
Scalloped Oak	<i>Crocallis elinguaria</i>	13
Scarce Footman	<i>Eilema complana</i>	1
Scarlet Tiger	<i>Callimorpha dominula</i>	11
Scorched Carpet	<i>Ligdia adustata</i>	3
Scorched Wing	<i>Plagodis dolabraria</i>	1
September Thorn	<i>Ennomos erosaria</i>	3
Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	107
Shaded Broad-bar	<i>Scotopteryx chenopodiata</i>	1
Shoulder-striped Wainscot	<i>Leucania comma</i>	3
Shuttle-shaped Dart	<i>Agrotis puta</i>	184
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	95
Single-dotted Wave	<i>Idaea dimidiata</i>	2
Six-striped Rustic	<i>Xestia sexstrigata</i>	10
Small Blood-vein	<i>Scopula imitaria</i>	17
Small China-mark	<i>Cataclysta lemnata</i>	2
Small Dusty Wave	<i>Idaea seriata</i>	19
Small Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila porcellus</i>	1
Small Emerald	<i>Hemistola chrysoprasaria</i>	1
Small Grey	<i>Eudonia mercurella</i>	11
Small Magpie	<i>Anania hortulata</i>	30
Small Phoenix	<i>Ecliptopera silaceata</i>	1
Small Square-spot	<i>Diarsia rubi</i>	3
Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	16
Snout	<i>Hypena proboscidalis</i>	44
Spectacle	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	16
Spruce Carpet	<i>Thera britannica</i>	1
Square-spot Rustic	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	172
Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	16
Straw Grass-veneer	<i>Agriphila straminella</i>	40
Straw Underwing	<i>Thalpophila matura</i>	82
Swallow-tailed Moth	<i>Ourapteryx sambucaria</i>	5
Tawny Marbled Minor	<i>Oligia latruncula</i>	21
Thistle Ermine	<i>Myelois circumvoluta</i>	2
Toadflax Pug	<i>Eupithecia linariata</i>	3
Treble Bar	<i>Aplocera plagiata subsp. <i>plagiata</i></i>	1
Treble Brown Spot	<i>Idaea trigeminata</i>	5
Treble Lines	<i>Charanyca trigrammica</i>	70
Turnip Moth	<i>Agrotis segetum</i>	5
Twenty-plume Moth	<i>Alucita hexadactyla</i>	4
Twin-spotted Quaker	<i>Anorthoa munda</i>	1
Uncertain	<i>Hoplodrina octogenaria</i>	145

Vapourer	<i>Orgyia antiqua</i>	1
Vestal	<i>Rhodometra sacraria</i>	3
Vine's Rustic	<i>Hoplodrina ambigua</i>	446
V-Pug	<i>Chloroclystis v-ata</i>	5
Water Veneer	<i>Acentria ephemerella</i>	7
Waved Umber	<i>Menophra abruptaria</i>	6
Wax Moth	<i>Galleria mellonella</i>	1
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>	3
White-point	<i>Mythimna albipuncta</i>	6
White-shouldered House Moth	<i>Endrosis sarcitrella</i>	9
White-spotted Pug	<i>Eupithecia tripunctaria</i>	2
Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	367
Winter Moth	<i>Operophtera brumata</i>	1
Wormwood Pug	<i>Eupithecia absinthiata</i>	3
Yellow Oak Button	<i>Aleimma loeflingiana</i>	1
Yellow Shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>	14
Yellow-barred Brindle	<i>Acasis viretata</i>	7
a bryotropha species	<i>Bryotropha</i>	1
a Caloptilia species	<i>Caloptilia</i>	2
a Cnephasia species	<i>Cnephasia</i>	4
a Coleophora species	<i>Coleophora</i>	3
a longhorn moth	<i>Nematopogon swammerdamella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Agonopterix arenella</i>	3
a micro-moth	<i>Argyresthia spinosella</i>	2
a micro-moth	<i>Blastobasis lacticolella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Borkhausenia fuscescens</i>	3
a micro-moth	<i>Bryotropha domestica</i>	5
a micro-moth	<i>Bucculatrix nigricomella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Caloptilia rufipennella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Caloptilia semifascia</i>	3
a micro-moth	<i>Caloptilia stigmatella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Cochylis atricapitana</i>	8
a micro-moth	<i>Crassa unitella</i>	3
a micro-moth	<i>Depressaria daucella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Infurcitinea argentimaculella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Mompha epilobiella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Mompha ochraceella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Monopis</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Monopis crocicapitella</i>	4
a micro-moth	<i>Oegoconia deauratella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Parornix</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Teleiodes vulgella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Tinea trinotella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Yponomeuta irrorella</i>	1
a micro-moth	<i>Ypsolopha ustella</i>	2
A Nematopogon species	<i>Nematopogon</i>	1
a november or autumnal moth (unidentified)	<i>Epirrita</i>	6
a Oligia minor moth (unidentified)	<i>Oligia</i>	2
a Phyllonorycter species	<i>Phyllonorycter</i>	2
a pyralid moth	<i>Acrobasis suavella</i>	1
a pyralid moth	<i>Agriphila geniculea</i>	34
a pyralid moth	<i>Anania coronata</i>	18
a pyralid moth	<i>Anania crocealis</i>	1
a pyralid moth	<i>Endotricha flammealis</i>	18
a pyralid moth	<i>Ephestia woodiella</i>	6

a pyralid moth	Eudonia angustea	22
a pyralid moth	Eudonia lacustrata	27
a pyralid moth	Euzophera pinguis	6
a pyralid moth	Nephopterix angustella	4
a pyralid moth	Palpita vitrealis	2
a pyralid moth	Pyrausta aurata	11
a pyralid moth	Pyrausta purpuralis	1
a pyralid moth	Udea prunalis	7
a small ermine moth (unidentified)	Yponomeuta	73
a tortrix moth	Acleris	1
a tortrix moth	Acleris sparsana	3
a tortrix moth	Acleris umbrana	1
a tortrix moth	Ancylis achatana	2
a tortrix moth	Celypha striana	47
a tortrix moth	Cydia fagiglandana	1
a tortrix moth	Epinotia bilunana	1
a tortrix moth	Grapholita janthinana	1
a tortrix moth	Grapholita lobarzewskii	1
a tortrix moth	Lozotaenia forsterana	2
a tortrix moth	Lozotaeniodes formosana	2
a tortrix moth	Notocelia cynosbatella	6
a tortrix moth	Notocelia trimaculana	5
a tortrix moth	Pammene regiana	1
a tortrix moth	Syndemis musculana	2
An Acrobasis species	Acrobasis	1
an Elachista species	Elachista	1
An Oegoconia species	Oegoconia	1

Evidence of **Box-tree moths** was found in several places. Decimated bushes were in Avon Close, the Memorial Park, Banwell Close, the cemetery, Culvers Road, Stockwood Vale and Somerdale.

Elsewhere, the following species were found:

**Cemetery**

**Box-tree Moth, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Square-spot Rustic, Dusky Thorn, Large Yellow Underwing, Snout, Brimstone Moth, Common Marbled Carpet, Willow Beauty, Flounced Rustic, Garden Rose tortrix and Hypsopygia glaucinalis.**

**Stockwood Vale**

**Jersey Tiger, Silver Y, Willow Beauty, Lime Hawk-moth, Box-tree Moth and Pyrausta purpuralis.**

**West View Road**

**Humming-bird Hawk-moth, Large Yellow Underwing, Pyrausta aurata and Scarlet Tiger.**

**Somerdale**

Two female **Muslin Moths**, Three **Mullein Moth** larvae, 171 **Cinnabar** larvae on 13<sup>th</sup> July, **Ruby Tiger** larvae and **Celypha lacunana**.

Hedges were stripped bare by **ermine** larvae on Durley Hill and **Spindle Ermine** were recorded at Queen Charlton. **Cinnabar** larvae were recorded on Ragwort in Charlton Park and Park Road. **Yellow Shell** were seen in daylight by the cycle track, the Mill Grounds and the stoney lane that runs down to Chewton Place. Two **Privet Hawk-moths** near Manor Road Community Woodland, a rare **Convolvulus Hawk-moth** on a door that faces onto the

woodland and an **Elephant Hawk-moth** larva in the Memorial Park. A **Jersey Tiger** in Charlton Park, **Magpie Moth** in Manor Road Community Woodland and a **Silver Y** on the bank of the River Avon. A dead **Leopard Moth** on an unspecified road on 24<sup>th</sup> June.

Apart from those mention in the table above, the larvae of **Knot-grass**, **Cinnabar** and **Elephant Hawk-moth** were found in Handel Road

## **DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES**

Records of dragonflies are a bit thin on the ground again. Not because of falling numbers but the lack of records. Information about any species in future years would be very welcome.

### **Beautiful Demoiselle**

Three at Somerdale on 11<sup>th</sup> May and two on the approach path a few days later. Three along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 5<sup>th</sup> June. One or two in Manor Road Community Woodland, the Memorial Park, Chewton Keynsham, Chewton Place and even one in Ashton Way car park (on 24<sup>th</sup> June). Last recorded on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Banded Demoiselle**

First seen at Somerdale on 11<sup>th</sup> May. The Swineford stretch of the River Avon is a stronghold for this species. A count of 58 there on 5<sup>th</sup> June is not particularly high and there were probably many more a little later in the summer. A few were present in the Memorial Park, Chewton Keynsham, Chewton Place and the Mill Grounds. Gardens in West View Road and Handel Road were also visited. Last noted on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### **White-legged Damselfly**

As usual, it was the Swineford stretch of the River Avon that best suited them - 117 were counted on 5<sup>th</sup> June. A few were also seen at Somerdale, the Memorial Park, Chewton Keynsham and the Mill Grounds. Last seen on 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Large Red Damselfly**

Very few reports. A West View Road garden, Somerdale, Manor Road Community Woodland and Stockwood Vale.

### **Azure Damselfly**

Seven in Manor Road Community Woodland on 4<sup>th</sup> June and along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon the following day. Also seen in Stockwood Vale, the Mill Grounds, Somerdale and a West View Road garden.

### **Blue-tailed Damselfly**

Nine along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon, then at Somerdale and Chewton Keynsham. Visited a Handel Road garden on to occasions – 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

### **Red-eyed Damselfly**

Seven along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Southern Hawker**

Noted in a Handel Road garden on seven days including a female that was caught in a moth trap. Also seen in Stockwood Vale and along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon.

### **Brown Hawker**

Singles at Somerdale and along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon between 23<sup>rd</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Emperor Dragonfly**

Four along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 5<sup>th</sup> June and singles there up to 4<sup>th</sup> September. Also in Stockwood Vale.

### **Scarce Chaser**

Twenty-one along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 5<sup>th</sup> June. Three males rested on a single branch over the river at Somerdale on 11<sup>th</sup> June. Also in Stockwood Vale.

### **Broad-bodied Chaser**

One at Somerdale on 11<sup>th</sup> June and another in Manor Road Community Woodland on 12<sup>th</sup> June and another along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Back-tailed Skimmer**

Three along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Common Darter**

Only noted at Chewton Keynsham, Stockwood Vale, the Swineford stretch of the River Avon and Kelston Road. The latter was on a rather late date of 15<sup>th</sup> November, our second latest on record.

## **OTHER INSECTS**

### *Ladybirds*

**2-spot Ladybirds** at Somerdale on 21<sup>st</sup> June and by the cycle track on 6<sup>th</sup> October.

**7-spot Ladybirds** at Somerdale, by the cycle track, the Memorial Park and Queen Charlton between 11<sup>th</sup> May and 6<sup>th</sup> October.

A **14-spot Ladybird** at Somerdale on 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Several **Harlequin Ladybirds** caught in a Handel Road moth trap.

An **Orange Ladybird** caught in a Handel Road moth trap on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

A **10-spot Ladybird** caught in a Handel Road moth trap on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

### *Shieldbugs*

Only one **Birch Shieldbug** entered a moth trap in Handel Road this year. A Birch tree in the garden has probably been the source for several years so why they have been in short supply this year is a mystery.

**Dock Bugs** were only recorded twice so have doubtless been overlooked. Both were noted at Somerdale.

**Forest Bugs** in a Handel Road moth trap on six occasions between 5<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September and at the cemetery on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Green Shieldbugs** were seen twice, one in Handel Road and the other at Somerdale.

A Handel Road garden hosted a **Parent Bug** on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, a **Cabbage Bug** on 23<sup>rd</sup> July and **Juniper Shieldbugs** on two occasions (17<sup>th</sup> March on a washing line and 7<sup>th</sup> September in a moth trap).

### *Bugs*

Two gardens revealed most of the bugs that were identified. West View Road hosted a **Meadow Plant Bug**, **Pond Skaters** and several **Water Measurers**. Handel Road revealed **Acericus heydenii**, **Issus coleoptratus**, **Ledra aurita**, **Tremulicerus** and **Zygina flammigera**. **Leptoderma dolabrata** was identified at Somerdale.

### **Beetles**

**Alder Leaf Beetles** in West View Road between 15<sup>th</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> June (they were recorded up to 28<sup>th</sup> September in 2022).

**Cantharus rustica** along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Two **Cockchafers** in Handel Road on 27<sup>th</sup> May and one along the Swineford stretch of the River Avon on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Many copulating pairs of **Common Red Soldier Beetles** on Ragwort at Somerdale on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

**Green Dock Beetles** and an **Oedemera** species at Somerdale.

A **Musk Beetle** in Stockwood Vale on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

A **Black Sexton Beetle** in Handel Road on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

A dead **Rose Chafer** in Park Road on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

A **Thick-legged Flower Beetle** in West View Road on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

**Whirligigs** on the pond in Manor Road Community Woodland.

### **Flies**

Many **Semaphore Flies** by the pond in a West View Road garden on 23<sup>rd</sup> June.

Galls of **Canada Thistle Gall Flies** in the Mill Grounds on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

A **Dark-edged Bee-fly** in Handel Road on 20<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Grasshoppers and Crickets**

**Dark Bush-crickets** at Somerdale, the Swineford stretch of the River Avon between May and July.

A **Field Grasshopper** in a Handel Road garden on 21<sup>st</sup> August.

A **Roesel's Bush-cricket** at Somerdale on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Bees and wasps**

**Common Wasps** were a regular hazard in a Handel Road moth trap. A total of nearly 1700 were extracted between 13<sup>th</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> October; the highest number was 114 on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

Many **Hornets** were seen along a 250 yard stretch of the cycle path on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Also two in Manor Road Community Woodland on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**Tree Bumblebees** used a nest box in West View Road. A queen **Red-tailed Bumblebee** visited the same garden and **Wool Carder Bees** were seen on several occasions patrolling Lamb's Ear plants.

### **Hoverflies**

A **Hornet Hoverfly** in Handel Road.

**Chrysotoxum bicinctum** and **Marmalade Hoverfly** around Somerdale.

**Volucella pellucens** in Stockwood Vale.

### **Others**

A **Black Lace-weaver spider** in Handel Road on 17<sup>th</sup> April and a **Garden Cross Spider** on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

## **WATER QUALITY**

River dipping took place again in the River Chew at Dapps Hill on 24<sup>th</sup> September on a clear, fine, mild autumn afternoon. In common with recent years, there was an age limit of seven years, any younger enthusiasts directed to pond dipping at Wellsway school the previous afternoon.

Eighteen people took part, including 12 children, and nine kick samples were taken. The river level was low enough for most wellies, although the flow rate was quite good over

the small dam of stones (which is now well-established), as well as over a second riffle, newly established this year, about five metres downstream from the first.

Fifteen major invertebrate indicator groups were represented. In common with recent years, most samples had relatively low numbers, apart from **Stonefly** nymphs, **Burrowing Mayfly** nymphs and the ever-present **Water Mites**, which were more abundant than usual in most trays. Some trays also contained unusually large numbers of **Small Cased Caddisfly** larvae, like small pieces of twig crawling around the tray! Fish were again caught in a few samples, including **Minnow** and **Bullhead**.

Overall, the main indicator groups and species were all present, sufficient to suggest that the quality of water remains good. Certainly, there is still no obvious sign of poor water quality (e.g. increased sediment, sludge, or a bad smell). **Stonefly** nymphs and **Burrowing Mayfly** nymphs were present in most samples, comparable with last year's good results. Some samples contained good numbers of **Cased** and **Uncased Caddisfly** larvae (including *Hydropsyche* species), more evidence of well-oxygenated water. There was a much lower diversity of molluscs than last year, only a few **Pea Shell Cockles** and a **Bladder Snail** found. It is impossible to explain why this should be; it could just be a reflection of the relatively small sample size and the particular areas kicked lacking in molluscs. **Bloodworms**, **Sludgeworms**, **Leeches** and other polluted water indicators were present in low numbers, reflecting a continuing healthy river ecosystem here.

(Note: % Frequency scores on the table below indicate the number of trays in which at least one individual was found. At least one **Stonefly** nymph was found in all 9 trays, hence the 100% frequency score.)

### *Wellsway School pond dipping*

This event was put on for younger children on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Fifteen species were taken. These were **Chironomid midge larva (bloodworm)**, **Flatworm**, **Freshwater Shrimp**, **Greater Diving Beetle**, **Greater Water Boatman**, **Lesser Diving Beetle**, **Lesser Water Boatman**, **Mayfly nymph (Baetis sp)**, **Mosquito** larva / pupa, **Non-red midge larva**, **Phantom Midge** larva, **Pondskater**, **Tubifex worm (Sludgeworm)**, **Water Louse** and **Water Spider**.

The following table shows the '% frequency' of each species group, i.e. based on the number of trays in which one or more species was found. The first column shows 1998 when the first dipping was organised and the others show the last six years.

Species group	1998	2016	2017	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023
Stonefly nymph	27	73	67	86	70	82	60	100
Mayfly nymph (swimming)	40	7	7	7	10	64	30	44
Mayfly nymph (burrowing)	27	53	33	71	10	82	80	67
Cased Caddis larva	13	66	33	36	30	18	20	33
Uncased Caddis larva	47	33	60	14	50	36	30	67
Freshwater Shrimp	67	7	7	0	0	0	0	0
Waterlouse	7	7	7	7	30	0	0	0
Leech	53	0	33	21	20	9	10	22
Midge larvae (red - Bloodworm)	73	33	60	57	50	54	40	56
Midge larvae (non-red)	7	40	53	29	10	27	30	11
Sludgeworm (annelid worm)	73	53	67	79	30	18	60	78
Molluscs	53	40	7	21	20	45	80	22
Arachnids	73	53	73	64	60	64	70	100
Beetles	13	0	7	7	0	9	10	0
Other insects (e.g. fly larvae)	40	33	13	14	10	27	20	33
Flatworms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fish	0	40	13	43	20	55	70	33

## AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES, MOLLUSCS and other species

The first **Frog** appeared in a Handel Road pond on 12<sup>th</sup> February and the first frogspawn the following day. The first in West View Road were four days later and spawn the next day. The number of clumps in Handel Road rose to 13 and West View Road peaked at over 50. A lot of frogspawn was noted in the pond in Manor Road Community Woodland by 14<sup>th</sup> March, and both **Frog** and **Toad** spawn was identified later.

**Palmate Newts** were present in West View Road throughout the year.

A big **Pike** was caught near Dapps Hill on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

## CONCLUSION

I hope that this report has proved to be interesting. Although many species are the same as in previous years, new ones continue to be found. The report has been compiled from over 6,000 individual items of data, which is significant for a fairly small area. Much of the data is passed on to Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC) by the finders, and I know that they appreciate this; they are interested in all aspects of wildlife, not just the rarer species, so please send them the data as well as to me. It is very easy to do this via their website [www.brerc.org.uk](http://www.brerc.org.uk).

Thank you very much to everyone who has contributed to this report again. Particular thanks go to Jenny Aldridge, Alan Bone, Janet Cann, Will Duckworth, Kathy and Martin Farrell, Andrew Harrison, Alan Hewett, Tony Kirby, Nick Page, Elspeth Rolls, Liz and Keith Strover, Paul Tompkins, Andy Wait and Liz Wintle. Information has also been picked up from various websites and blogs including Avon Birds that is updated daily and includes a huge amount of information and photographs. It can be found at <https://avonbirding.blogspot.com/> and is available to everyone.

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Orange Ladybird,  
Handel Road, 5<sup>th</sup> September  
2023

**Appendix A1      Breeding Birds Survey for one kilometre squares ST6666 (Top end of Wellsway) and ST6568 (including the River Chew north of Dapps Hill)**

Note that the inclusion of any species does not necessarily mean that it bred or attempted to do so, but that the species was present during the breeding season.

<b>Species</b>	<b>1 kilometre square ST6666</b>		<b>1 kilometre square ST6568</b>	
	<b>17/4/23</b>	<b>4/6/23</b>	<b>16/4/23</b>	<b>31/5/23</b>
Blackbird	11	8	9	9
Blackcap	2	4	9	4
Blue Tit	1	1	8	2
Canada Goose	3			
Carriion Crow	7	11	19	5
Chiffchaff	1	1	1	
Collared Dove	5		6	6
Cormorant	2			1
Dunnock	5	1	2	
Feral Pigeon	20	8	21	23
Goldfinch	1	6	7	5
Great Spotted Woodpecker			1	
Great Tit	4		5	
Greenfinch	1	3		
Grey Heron			1	
Herring Gull	1	2	1	1
Hobby				1
House Sparrow	5	4	44	16
Jackdaw	10	14	24	22
Lesser Black-backed Gull		10	10	5
Magpie	8	18	8	7
Mallard			17	31
Mistle Thrush	1			
Moorhen			2	1
Pheasant	4	2		
Robin	7	5		12
Rook	5	4	21	5
Song Thrush	1	1	1	2
Starling	8	10	17	23
Swallow		1	1	
Swift		3		
Woodpigeon	35	20	58	22
Wren	4	3	8	11

**Appendix B1****First winter counts for one kilometre squares ST6669 and ST6768  
(both by the River Avon)**

<b>Species</b>	<b>1 kilometre square ST6669</b>		<b>1 kilometre square ST6768</b>	
	<b>27/1/23</b>	<b>21/2/23</b>	<b>27/1/23</b>	<b>21/2/23</b>
Black-headed Gull	161	41	237	1
Blackbird	2	1		1
Blue Tit	2	3	3	1
Canada Goose	5	1	60	59
Carriion Crow	12	6	263	5
Chaffinch		1		
Coal Tit	1			
Common Gull	4	1	3	
Cormorant	3	2	2	2
Dunnock	3	3		
Feral Pigeon	2	3		
Fieldfare			7	6
Goldfinch	2	6	80	3
Goosander			2	
Great Spotted Woodpecker			2	1
Great Tit	4			1
Green Woodpecker			1	2
Grey Heron	1	1		
Grey Wagtail		1		
Herring Gull	2		2	
Jackdaw	15	2	218	8
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	1	6	
Long-tailed Tit				2
Magpie	11	5	3	3
Mallard	3	6		8
Meadow Pipit			2	
Moorhen	4		5	8
Mute Swan	6	3	3	3
Pheasant			1	1
Pied Wagtail	3		21	
Redwing			58	
Robin	6	7	2	4
Rook			8	
Skylark				3
Song Thrush	1	1		1
Starling			51	
Treecreeper		1		
Woodpigeon	7	11		15
Wren		3	1	5

**Appendix B2      Second winter counts for one kilometre squares ST6669 and ST6768  
(both by the River Avon)**

<b>Species</b>	<b>1 kilometre square ST6669</b>		<b>1 kilometre square ST6768</b>	
	<b>21/11/23</b>	<b>11/12/23</b>	<b>21/11/23</b>	<b>11/12/23</b>
Black-headed Gull	48	83	8	1
Blackbird	3	1	1	
Blue Tit	2	7		
Canada Goose	2			8
Carrion Crow	9	14	87	60
Chaffinch	1	4		
Common Gull		20		
Cormorant	5	3	1	1
Dunnock	2	2		
Feral Pigeon	11	12	3	
Fieldfare		5		
Goldfinch	21	6	30	8
Great Spotted Woodpecker		1		
Great Tit	3	3		
Green Woodpecker			1	
Grey Heron				1
Herring Gull			3	2
Jackdaw	1	2	26	9
Kingfisher				
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	9		
Long-tailed Tit	7			
Magpie	3	5	2	3
Mallard	4	7	6	5
Meadow Pipit				1
Moorhen	1	1	2	2
Mute Swan	2	8	6	5
Redwing		1	1	6
Red-legged Partridge			4	
Robin	4	7	1	
Siskin				4
Skylark			2	
Woodpigeon	8	7	16	3
Wren	2		1	1

**Appendix B3      First and second winter counts for one kilometre square ST6568  
(central Keynsham)**

Species	19/2/23		2/12/23
Black-headed Gull	22		31
Blackbird	4		5
Blue Tit	7		2
Carriion Crow	11		7
Collared Dove	6		6
Dunnock	7		1
Feral Pigeon	35		76
Great Tit	1		1
Grey Wagtail	1		
Herring Gull	1		4
House Sparrow	25		14
Jackdaw	39		50
Kingfisher	2		
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1		2
Long-tailed Tit	1		
Magpie	28		7
Mallard	46		27
Moorhen	3		2
Pied Wagtail	1		1
Robin	19		2
Rook	10		14
Song Thrush	1		
Starling	51		22
Woodpigeon	32		14
Wren	6		

## Appendix C1 Park Road garden

A tick indicates that the species was present.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackbird	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blue Tit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Carrion Crow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Collared Dove	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dunnock		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Feral Pigeon		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goldfinch			✓	✓			✓		✓		✓	
Great Tit	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenfinch		✓			✓	✓	✓					✓
House Sparrow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jackdaw					✓				✓			
Long-tailed Tit			✓									
Magpie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Robin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Starling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Woodpigeon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wren				✓		✓						

## Appendix C2 Balmoral Road

A tick indicates that the species was present either in a garden or flying over.

Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Blackbird	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blackcap	✓		✓									✓
Black-headed Gull	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓
Blue Tit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Buzzard				✓	✓	✓	✓					
Carriion Crow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chaffinch	✓	✓	✓		✓							✓
Chiffchaff			✓	✓								
Coal Tit			✓					✓	✓			✓
Collared Dove	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dunnock	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Feral Pigeon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goldcrest	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Goldfinch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
Great Spotted Woodpecker												
Great Tit	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenfinch			✓									
Green Woodpecker				✓				✓		✓		
Grey Heron						✓						
Grey Wagtail												
Herring Gull	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		
Jackdaw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit												
Magpie	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mallard				✓								
Mute Swan								✓				
Pied Wagtail	✓									✓	✓	✓
Raven			✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			
Red Kite												
Robin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook		✓							✓			
Sparrowhawk				✓								
Starling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swallow				✓								
Swift					✓	✓	✓	✓				
Woodpigeon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wren	✓		✓	✓	✓							
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>

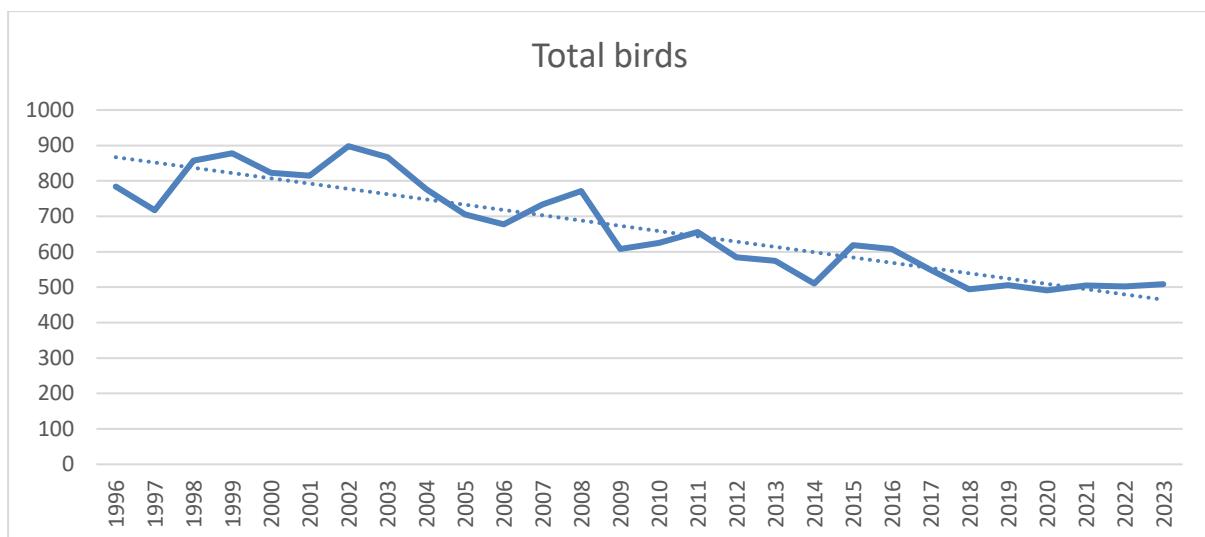
### Appendix C3      Manor Road garden

A tick indicates that the species was present either in the garden or flying over.

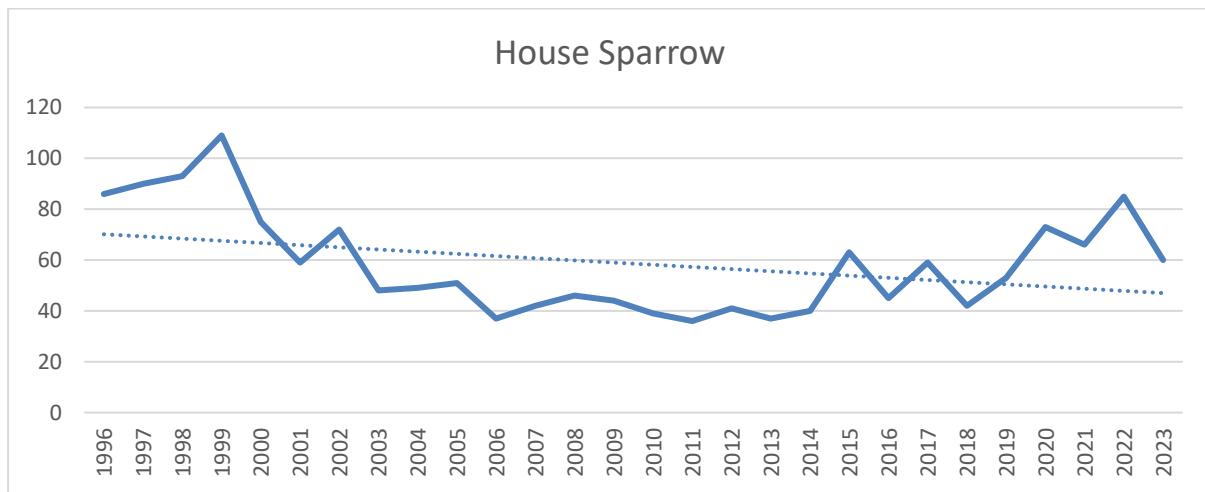
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Barn Owl								✓		✓		
Black-headed Gull			✓								✓	✓
Blackbird	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blackcap												
Blue Tit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Buzzard	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓
Carriion Crow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chaffinch	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓	✓
Chiffchaff			✓		✓		✓					
Coal Tit	✓	✓	✓		✓						✓	✓
Collared Dove	✓											
Cormorant			✓									
Cuckoo						✓						
Dunnock	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Feral Pigeon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Goldfinch	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Great Tit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Spotted Woodpecker						✓						✓
Green Woodpecker	✓		✓	✓			✓		✓		✓	
Grey Partridge							✓	✓	✓			
Herring Gull	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jackdaw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jay							✓					
Kestrel		✓										
Little Egret		✓										
Long-tailed Tit		✓	✓	✓								
Magpie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pheasant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Pied Wagtail	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓
Red Kite							✓					
Redwing		✓										
Robin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	✓	✓						✓		✓		
Song Thrush	✓	✓										
Starling	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Sparrowhawk			✓	✓								✓
Swallow				✓								
Swift					✓	✓	✓					
Tawny Owl	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Willow Warbler												
Woodpigeon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wren		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Appendix C4 Analysis of breeding birds in central Keynsham

Surveys of birds counted in a one kilometre square in central Keynsham since 1996 for the British Trust for Ornithology and undertaken by the same recorder have been analysed. The square has a mixture of built up parts and the Memorial Park. This graph shows accumulated totals of all birds counted during the breeding season between April and June. Sixty-two species have been seen over this period but many will not have actually bred in the area. The trendline shows that there has been a significant decline over this period.



House Sparrows have been looked at in more detail. They seem to have passed their low point although 2023 is lower than 2022.



## Appendix D      Map of the Keynsham area

The area covered by this report is within the solid line.

