Friends of Selsdon Wood
Working to improve our wood

Birds - species seen (or heard - h) in Selsdon Wood

The following bird list was originally based on Ted Forsyth's regular observations over many years, with additions from David Malins. This information is given in the Notes and Sightings column. Red text shows a bird sighted for the first time this year or rare species not sighted for many years previously.

Species recorded between 1972 & 1977 in the Penry-Jones booklet* are noted by a Y in the 1978 column. Photographs on our website are indicated by a Y in the Photo column. Sightings in 2020 and thereafter are first recorded sightings/photographs (or hearings - marked with H) of the year supplied mainly by FSW members and members of the FSW Facebook group. Initials indicate the spotter/photographer:- Jack Branscombe (JB), Steve Budd (SB), Ruth Budd (RB), Neale Fox (NF), Lee Butcher (LB), James Moon (JM), Heather Govier (HG), Sarah Murton (SM), Ted Forsyth (TFo), Tony Flecchia (TFl), Rosalyn Heaton (RH), Gillian Davey (GD), Lorna Wall (LW), Chris Bennett (CB), Mark Hodges (MH), Owen Moore (OM), Alan Wickenden (AW), Chris Green (CG), Susanne Hulme (SH), Lucinda Offer (LO), Morag Niven (MN), Lisa Singh (LS), Slawomir Wnuk (SW), Denise Tann (DT), Samantha Coppock (SC), Annette Lawrence (AL), Enma Darei (ED),

Birds are listed in alphabetical order, although some are grouped in families.

2023 Marks birds heard on the 6th May Dawn Chorus Walk. This includes a Cuckoo which has not been heard in our wood for almost a decade.

Less than half of these species have been photographed and we would love to have more pictures. If you can spot any of them and send us a photograph, we would love to hear from you.

* We have a booklet entitled "*Selsdon Wood Nature Reserve - Its history and Management: Some records of Flora and Fauna"* which was produced in 1978 by Jack Penry-Jones on behalf of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society. This contains lists of fungi, flora, birds, mammals, reptiles & amphibians, macro-lepidoptera, spiders and mollusks seen in Selsdon Wood.

Bird	Notes & Sightings	1978	Photo	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
American Bald Eagle	Flying over - an escape from captivity									
Blackbird	Resident – breeding.	Y	Y	18/5/20 (TFl)	10 Jan (RB) Predated egg 3 Apr (RB)	9 Feb (TFl)	28 Jan (RB) *	11 Jan (m&f) (RB)	24 Jan (RB)	6 Feb (RB) m
Blackcap	Summer visitor – Breeding. Occasional Winter visitor.	Y	Y	6/5/20 (JB)	30/3/21 (RB)	16 Apr (RB)	3 Apr (RB) *	16 Jan (RB)	17 Apr (SB)	7 Apr (SB)
Brambling	Rare - Occasional Winter visitor. Small flock in Farleigh border - 6.1.85		Y			8 Apr (RB)				
Bullfinch	Resident - Breeding	Y			28/1/21 (SM)	22 Jan (RB)			14 Feb (LO)	
Buzzard	Year round visitor		Y	11/3/20 (SB)	6/1/21 (RB)	24 Apr (RB)	7 Jan (RB)	13 Feb (RB)	7 Jan (RB)	4 Mar (RB)
Buzzard, Honey	Rare - Occasional passage migrant		Y							
Carrion Crow	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	27/3/20 (SB)	7/1/21 (RB)	9 Feb - (HG)	20 Jan (RB)	31 Jan (RB)	4 Jan (LS)	1 Jan (RB)
Chaffinch	Resident - Breeding	Y			11/1/21 (RB)	2 Jan (RB)	20 Jan (RB)	14 Jan (f) (LW) 21 Jan (m) (LO)	9 Jan (RB)	12 Jan (LO)
Chiffchaff	Summer visitor - Breeding	Y	Y	6/7/20 (RB)	16/3/21 (RB)	15 Mar (RB)	20 Mar (RB)	16 Mar (RB)	19 Mar (RB)	5 Mar (RB)
Cormorant	Occasional flying over									

Corn Bunting	Now a rare vagrant. Singing in Haggler's Dean - 20.7.74									
Crossbill	1 flying West – 14.9.90. 11 flew out of larches in The Gorses 18.7.10.			22/6/20 (DB)						
Cuckoo	Rare - Occasionally recorded in Spring. Heard - 5.5.86						6 May (CG)			
Dove - Collared	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y							
Dove - Stock	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y		H 5/2/21 (TFo)		24 Apr (RB)		2 Jan (RB)	13 Feb (LO)
Dunnock	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y		21/3/21 (RB)	9/2/22 (RB)	20 Jan (RB)	16 Jan (RB)	16 Jan (RB)	4 Feb (LO)
Fieldfare	Regular Winter visitor	Y	Y							
Firecrest	Rare - might be found with Goldcrests in Autumn/Winter								13 Nov (LO)	
Goldcrest	Autumn/Winter visitor, rarely all year - bred in 2017, 5.3.18	Y	Y	12/12/20(RB)	28/1/21 (SM)	2/2/22 (RB)	1 Jan (CB)	20 Jan (CG)		1 Jan (RB)
Golden Oriole	Rare passage migrant. Heard singing. Female seen - 5.74, 29.5.82. 1 sang for an hour 8.5.93									
Goldfinch	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	4/5/20 (JB)	15/1/21 (JB)	17/1/22 (SB)	11 Feb (RB)	20 Feb (RB)	15 Feb (RB)	25 Feb (RB)
Goose - Canada	Frequently flying over in breeding season				13/5/21 (RB)					
Goose - Greylag	Occasional flying over in breeding season									
Goose, Whitefront	Rare. 7 flying over Markfield garden - 28.12.82									
Great Grey Shrike	Rare Autumn visitor. Recorded in Linden Glade - 24.2.74									
Grey partridge	Rare – Calling from Haggler's Dean - 12.9.83									
Greenfinch	Resident - Has bred but numbers much reduced by disease	Y								
Grey Heron	Occasional flying over									
Gull - Blackheaded	Occasional Autumn/Winter flocks in field by Farleigh Border						8 Jan (RB)			
Gull - Common	Ditto above + individuals/ small groups over SW fields									
Gull - Herring	"		Y		26/1/21 (HG)			4 Aug (SB)	15 May (SB)	
Gull - LesserBlackback	"									
Harrier - Hen	Rare – 1 flying over Markfield garden - 2.83, Species flying over Haggler's Dean - 5.90.									

Harrier - Marsh	Rare - 1 flew over Haggler's De 26.9.2002an & SW field									
Hawfinch	Rare - Occasional visitor in the Autumn. 1 flew over Markfield – 16.9.90. Singles seen the ground in The Wend 1.1.06 & Greenhill Way 9.08.									
Hobby	Rare - Occasional passage migrant. 1 flew along Great Field - 8.4.05, 1 seen from Brookscroft garden 9.9.16.									
House Martin	Summer visitor nesting outside wood. Also on Autumn migration	Y								
Jackdaw	Resident – Breeding, Regular feeding flocks in fields	Y	Y	24/5/20 (SB)	11/1/21 (RB)	31 Mar (RB)	13 Apr (RB)	22 Apr (RB)	12 Apr (RB)	28 Jan (RB)
Jay	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	26/4/20 (JB)	H 5/2/21 (TFo)	14 Jan (LW)	16 Mar (AW)	6 April (MN)	8 Jan (RB)	5 June (ED)
Kestrel	Occasional Summer visitor over rough grassland. Probably bred in the past. Seen over Haggler's Dean – 5.91, 8.91, 8.96. In the wood 29.9.06 & Steven's Larch 7.5.08	Y	Y	29/12/20 (RB)	15/1/21 (RB)		29 May (RB)		16 Apr (SB)	29 May (LO)
Lapwing	Rare flying over. Winter flock flying SW – 10.2.79									
Lesser Whitethroat	Occasional passage migrant. Nested in Markfield gdn - 27.5.87									
Linnet	Rare - May have bred in past. 1 singing in Haggler's Dean 30.4.93	Y								
Magpie	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	11/3/20 (SB)	9/1/21 (SB)	10 Jan (RB)	7 Jan (RB)	18 Feb (HG)	16 Jan (RB)	30 Jan (AL)
Mallard Duck	Occasionally flying from local ponds - seen on Jubilee pond		Y		6/5/21 (RB)				18 May (RB)	3 Apr (RH)
Meadow Pipit	Rare – 1 in Haggler's Dean 24.1.03.							12 Sept (SB)		
Mistle Thrush	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y		15/3/21 (RH)					14 Jan (LO)
Moorhen	Rare - Visited Markfield & Brookscroft gardens									
Nightingale	Rare - Has bred in the past, now locally extinct									
Nuthatch	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	30/3/20 (RR)	7/1/21 (RB)	14/1/22 (RB)	25 Jan (RB)	11 Jan (RB)	2 Jan (RB)	14 Jan (LO)
Owl - Little	Breeds in adjoining Elm Farm, we have put up a box.									
Owl - Tawny	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	26/5/20 (RB)	22/2/21 (HG)	23 Jan (SB)	12 Apr (TFo)	16 Jan (SH)	24 Jan (RB)	11 Jan (RB)
Peregrine	Rare - Occasional flying over. Seen from Brookscroft Garden – 26.1.13.									

Pheasant	Resident - Breeding		Y	18/9/20 (OM)	2/3/21(RB)				4 Feb (SB)	
Pigeon Feral	Frequent Autumn/Winter flocks in field by Farleigh Border									
Pigeon Racing Homer	This is a distinct breed. Found exhausted in Middle Gorse					11 May (RB)				
Raven							13 Jan (TFo)	27 July (RB)	3 Feb (RB)	10 Oct (CG)
Redwing	Regular Winter visitor	Y	Y	11/2/20 (SB)	7/1/21 (RB)	8 Dec (RB)	11 Feb (RB)	1 Jan (RB)	13 Jan (RB)	4 Jan (LO)
Reed Bunting	Rare – 1 by Court Wood gate 22.1.13.									
Red Kite	Regularly flying over through the year. Courtwood Lane – 10.11.15, Baker Boy Lane 4.5.16, over wood 19.6.16.		Y	27/3/20 (SB)	6/1/21 (RB)	2 Jan (RB)	15 Jan (HG)	31 Jan (RB)	13 Feb (SC)	17 Jan (RB)
Redpoll Lesser	Photographed at Jubilee Pond - a first sighting in our wood		Y		22/2/21 (RB)			6 Feb (SB)		1 Jan (RB)
Ring-necked Parakeet	Resident - Breeding		Y	17/2/20 (SB)	23/1/21 (NF)	27 Jan (RB)	7 Jan (RB)	14 Jan (LW)	2 Jan (RB)	3 Jan (DT)
Robin	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	17/3/20 (SB)	6/1/21 (LB)	5 Jan (SB)	20 Jan (RB)	1 Jan (RB)	2 Jan (RB)	2 Jan (RB)
Rook	Were Selsdon & Gravel Hill rookeries. Now locally extinct.									
Sandwich Tern	Rare flying over. 1 seen/heard from Markfield garden 2.9.89.									
Siskin	Winter visitor		Y							
Skylark	Summer visitors in field by Farleigh Border. Large winter flock over Haggler's Dean 5.1.79	Y			H 9/3/21 (HG)	10 Feb (HG)	19 Feb (RB)	26 April (heard) (CG)		13 Feb (heard) (RB)
Song Thrush	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	4/5/20 (JB)	6/1/21 (RB)	5 Jan (SB)	16 Apr (AW)	16 Jan (RB)	22 Feb (RB)	28 Jan (RB)
Sparrowhawk	Resident - Breeding		Y	24/3/20 (SB)	17/1/21 (NF)	11 Aug (SB)	1 Jan (SB)	31 Jan (SB)	9 Dec (LO)	23 Jan (RB)
Sparrow - House	Resident but more likely in gardens near the wood	Y	Y		26/5/21 (RB)		20 May (RB)	4 May (RB)	24 Apr (RB)	
Sparrow - Tree	Rare - Occasional wanderer from Beddington? Although they are in decline. Seen in Markfield garden - 2.1.81.		Y							
Spotted Flycatcher	Rare - Has bred in past but now locally extinct. Occasional passage migrant. Seen in Brookscroft garden - 1.5.16	Y								10 Oct (CG)
Starling	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	20/4/20 (TFl)		13 May (TFl)		19 June(TFl)	6 May (RB)	23 Apr (RB)
Stonechat	Rare - Occasional Autumn/Winter visitor. Occasional seen on golf course.									

Swallow	Summer visitor breeding outside woods & on Spring & Autumn migration	Y	Y	16/5/20 (SB)		28 June (SB)				
Swift	Summer visitor breeding outside the woods	Y	Y	14/5/20 (JB)	14/7/21 (RB)	27 June (RB)		26 July (SB)	2 June (RB)	5 Jun (LO)
Tit - Blue	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	16/3/20 (SB)	9/1/21 (SB)	3 Jan (SB)	4 Jan (RB) *	14 Jan (LW)	2 Jan (RB)	4 Jan (LO)
Tit - Coal	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y		9/1/21 (SB)	3 Jan (RB)	7 Jan (RB)	16 Jan (RB)	2 Jan (RB)	4 Jan (LO)
Tit - Great	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	17/3/20 (SB)	24/2/1 (SB)	3 Jan (RB)	4 Jan (RB)	14 Jan (LW)	2 Jan (RB)	4 Feb (LO)
Tit - Long-tailed	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	17/3/20 (SB)	15/1/21 (JB)	6 Jan (RB)	7 Jan (RB)	14 Jan (LW)	2 Jan (RB)	4 Jan (LO)
Tit - Marsh	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y		19/3/21 (GD)	24 Nov (RB)		26 Dec (RB)	2 Jan (RB)	4 Jan (RB)
Tit - Willow	Present 1984 now locally extinct									
Tree Pipit	Rare - Occasional passage migrant. Has bred. Singing in Gorses – 5.5.74 & 2.5.82. Haggler's Dean - 7.5.84.									
Treecreeper	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	24/4/20 (SB)	28/1/21 (SM)	10 Jan (RB)	7 Feb (MH)	31 Jan (RB)	2 Feb (SW)	4 Jan (LO)
Wagtail - Grey	Rare - Occasional Winter visitor to ponds. Brookscroft garden – 16.5.10.								16 Dec (SB) trail camera	
Wagtail - Pied	Occasional Winter/Spring visitor. Singles 1.11.06 & 10.12.06	Y								
Warbler - Garden	Occasional Summer visitor usually on passage – 23.4.87, 6.16, 8.10.	Y								
Warbler - Grasshopper	Rare – no recent sightings on migration.	Y								
Warbler - Willow	Occasional passage migrant - may have bred.	Y							28 Apr (RB)	
Warbler - Wood	Rare - Occasional passage migrant - may have bred. 1 singing in The Wend - 2.70 & in Courtwood Grove - 20.4.05.	Y								
Whitethroat	Rare - Occasional on passage, May have bred in the past. I in Markfield garden - 4-5.7.88	Y								
Woodcock	Rare - Has been recorded but no evidence of breeding									
Woodpecker – Gr Spott	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	26/4/20 (JB)	8/1/21 (JM)	4 Feb (RB)	2 Jan (RB)	4 Jan (RB)	16 Jan (RB)	1 Jan (RB)
Woodpecker - Green	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	16/3/20 (SB)	18/3/21 ((RB)	2 Feb (TFl)	30 Jan (RB)	21 Jan (LO)	7 Jan (RB)	17 Jan (RB)
Woodpecker - Lesser Spotted	Rare - Has bred. I Middle Gorse 10.5.95. May now be locally extinct.									
Woodpigeon	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	11/3/20 (SB)	H 5/2/21 (TFo)	5 Jan(SB)	19 Feb (OM)		25 Feb (RB)	28 Feb (RB)
Wren	Resident - Breeding	Y	Y	17/3/20 (SB)	13/1/21 (RB)	6 Jan (RB)	13 Jan (RB) *	12 July (RB)	4 Jan (RB)	12 Jan (LO)

Yellowhammer	Rare - Has bred on golf course.	Y								