

The Shropshire Bird Report 2022

Shropshire Ornithological Society



This edition of the Shropshire Bird Report
is dedicated to the memory of
Geoffrey Edward Holmes

The first fledglings out of the nest were recorded until the end of the month were recorded at the Wyre Forest, Reabrook and Porth-y-waen between 28-31 Mar.

The nestbox schemes at Eardington and Newcastle-on-Clun both returned 100%.

Scheme	Great Tit nests	No. Eggs Laid	Av. Cl. Size
Eardington NR 2022	4	26	6.5
Newcastle-on-Clun (R. Clun and Folly Brook) 2022	43	291	6.7 (4-1)
<i>All above sites (2021)</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>317</i>	<i>6.7</i>
Other Sites			
Craig Sychtyn 2021	8	45	5.6

Great Tit nestbox records

The highest count submitted this year was on 10 Mar. Thirty or more were reported at Edge trails on 19 Sep. 38 and 30 at Shavington Park on 27 Oct and 10

Mimicry is common in Great Tits but the only reference this year is one giving an excellent rendition of a Marsh Tit at Chelmarsh on 1 Feb.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Shropshire Status:	Common resident
National Conservation Status:	Red List
Shropshire Conservation Status:	Green List
Author:	Glenn Bishton
Number of Records:	1,201 (BT=830, CR=23, eB=348)

A total of 1,201 records were received, up from 1,165 in 2021; recorded in every month of the year.

There were no exceptionally large flocks in the first winter period, though 30 fed in an oil-seed rape field at Ercall Heath on 8 Jan, 40 in cereal at Buildwas on 18 Jan and 50 in stubble at Eyton on Severn on 22 Feb.

Territorial song was first noted on 28 Jan at Cantlopgrove when some males in a small flock of 15 gave bursts of song. This was followed by further snatches of song at Uppington and Starvecrow, 1 Feb, VP on 2 Feb, Homer and Bridgnorth 3 Feb and Sheinton on 9 Feb. Additional song was recorded from individuals within flocks at: Cantlopgrove on 12 Mar (30 individuals), from Upper Longwood 5 Mar (thirteen birds), and from Brown Clee on 23 Mar (18 birds). Fourteen individuals were recorded singing on the Long Mynd on 14 Apr.

Breeding activity was first noted at Stapley Hill on 27 Mar, with possible nest-building, followed by further records of potential nest-building at Westcott, 4 May, and at Wall Farm on 9 May. Breeding was confirmed at Magpie Hill, 29 May, Mitchell's Fold, 15 Jun, Cantlopgrove, 23 Jun, Howlett Hall, 7 Jul and Titterstone Clee 21 July.

Movements south from Scotland and northern and western Europe augment resident Skylark numbers in autumn and was well documented with records of Skylark flying over and calling. Two were noted at Whixall Canal Floods (Sinker's Fields), 23 Sep, one at Aston, 28 Sep, 66 Cantlopgrove, 30 Sep, and at least 10 at Titterstone Clee, 1 Oct, with some "attempting song". A substantial 340 were recorded heading mainly southwest at Cantlopgrove on 2 Oct and 300 were there on 9 Oct, "250 of which flew southwest". Fifty-two at VP on 11 Oct headed mainly south and west and 200 were noted at Hollywaste on 16 Oct. Further movements at Cantlopgrove comprised 70 on 25 Oct, 130 on 31 Oct, 75 on 1 Nov and 80 on 12 Nov. Approximately 30 headed south at Whixall Moss NR on 25 Oct but by early November fewer movements occurred. The largest flocks in this winter period comprised 150 at Downton Hall on 20 Nov and 150 at Cressage on 15 Dec.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Shropshire Status:	Fairly common summer visitor
National Conservation Status:	Green List
Shropshire Conservation Status:	Amber List
Author:	Tom Wall
Number of Records:	230 (BT=147, CR=25, eB=58)

The average date for the first sighting over the last 30 years is 16 Mar, so the first, one at Wood Lane on 10 Mar, was quite an early bird. The next was at VP on 12th, where there were records of 1-3 on subsequent dates, but the highest March counts were 40 at Crosemere on 21st, and 30 at The Mere, Ellesmere on 31st. Subsequent monthly maxima were 170 at White Mere in April; 100 at Bridgwalton Quarry, near