

Beaumonts' Birds — Annual Report 2008

Tuesday 10 February 2009, by [THORNS David](#) (Date first published: 1 January 2009).

It was another good year for Beaumonts with 126 species identified inside the park- the second highest yearlist total ever recorded. (The record was 127 species recorded in 2007)

Observer coverage in 2008 was particularly high, and the park was visited by one or more observers on almost every day of the year

In contrast to 2007 this was a poor year for waders. Two species which normally occur were not recorded at all - Common Sandpiper (Chevalier guignette) and Green Sandpiper (Chevalier cul-blanc)

On the positive side, however, this was a truly outstanding year for raptors, due undoubtedly to an increased number of 'skywatching' hours spent at the Cascade during spring and autumn when larger-than-usual numbers of Honey Buzzards, Marsh Harriers, Buzzards and Ospreys could be observed moving over the site, along with some of the rarer species (see appendix II)

Observers at Parc des Beaumonts in 2008 :

AB= Alain Bloquet AD= Anne-Laure Dussuchal AT= Alain Thellier BF= Benoit Fontaine BW= Bruno Walter DT= David Thorns JB= Julien Birard FC= Francois Chiron GL=Guilhem Lesaffre JR=Jean-Noel Rieffel LS= Laurent Spanneut MZ= Maxime Zucca PD= Pierre Delbove PM= Philip Redman, PR= Pierre Rousset SC= Stephane Chambris VB= Vincent van de Bor XJ= Xavier Japiot

SYSTEMATIC LIST

The status symbols employed are those employed by Pierre Rousset in the original birdlist :

C = Captive (escape) E = Summer Visitor F = Feral
H = Winter Visitor M = Migrant S = Resident

Great Cormorant (Grand cormoran) *Phalacrocorax carbo* M

Although recorded on 17th June (1), 30th August (10), 31st August (1) and 29th December (9), observed mainly in March and September :

72 N, 8th March - 92, 9th March - 12, 14th March - 70, 18th March [all LS/PR]

Recorded regularly throughout September with a maxima of 169 on 22/9 [DT]

Observed far less frequently during October and the first half of November although a significant southward passage of 259 birds was noted on 30th October [DT]

See Appendix I

Grey Heron (Héron cendré) *Ardea cinerea* S M

A lone individual was seen regularly (almost daily) throughout the year at the Mare Perchée. There were occasional sightings of 2-3 birds (eg: 29th April, 6th May, 5th August, 24th September)

Unusually a flock of 9 birds was observed in flight on 30th August [LS]

LS observed an unfamiliar juvenile bird feeding at the Mare Perchée on 14th November

White Stork (Cigogne blanche) *Ciconia ciconia* M

Observed migrating over the park on 3 dates (1 in spring, 2 in autumn)

4 NW, 3rd April [LS/PR] - 1 S, 8th September [DT] - 45 (one flock) S, 14th September [DT/PR]

Black Stork (Cigogne noir) *Ciconia niger* M

1 spring record

1 gliding high northeastwards on 24th April [DT]

Greylag Goose (Oie cendrée) *Anser anser* M

Observed on 6 dates

14 N, 13th March [PR] - 12 SW, 8th October [DT/PR] - 9 S, 23rd October [PR] - 24 WSW, 28th October [DT] - 220 SW, 13th November [AB/DT] - Undetermined number flying south through fog, 2nd December [LS/PR]

Canada Goose (Bernache du Canada) *Branta canadensis* F

Observed as flying flocks on 5 dates

5, 11th September [LS/PR] - 17, 27th September [DT] - 5, 18th and 20th October [DT] - 12, 26th October [DT]

Mallard (Canard colvert) *Anas platyrhynchos* S M

A pair noted regularly at the Mare Perchée in late winter and spring, from 8th February to 22nd May. Number supplemented occasionally by additional birds (eg, 3 males on 5th April) to a maximum of 8 on 10th May. Presence in park somewhat erratic as easily disturbed by dogwalkers.

Common Teal (Sarcelle d'hiver) *Anas crecca* H

A flock of 8 birds flying east on 23rd November [PR]

Osprey (Balbuzard pêcheur) *Pandion haliaetus* M

Like many of the raptors that follow, an exceptionally good year - recorded on 6 dates (1 in spring and 5 in autumn)

1 to the south of the park moving east along the river valley, 19th March [PR] - 1 S, 6th September [LS/PR] - 1 S, 9th September [DT/LS] - 1 S, 11th September [DT/PR] - 1 S, 14th September [DT/PR] - 1 SW, 2nd November [PR]

Red Kite (Milan royal) *Milvus milvus* M

Observed migrating over the park on 2 dates in autumn

1 S, 2nd November [DT/PR] - 1 S, 4th November [DT/LS]

Black Kite (Milan noir) *Milvus migrans* M

Observed on 2 dates in spring

1 S, 3rd May [DT/PM] - 1 seen circling low over the Mare Perchée and moving away to the southeast, 7th May [AB/DT]

Marsh Harrier (Busard des roseaux) *Circus aeruginosus* M

Recorded on 10 dates (3 in spring and 7 in autumn). At least 25 birds were involved (see Appendix II)

1, 4th April - 1, 12th April - 1, 19th May

2, 8th September - 2, 9th September - 5, 12th September - 1, 13th September - 5, 14th September - 6, 15th September - 1, 8th October

Interestingly the 5 birds moving south on 14th September, although widely spaced apart, were observed simultaneously flying in single file [LS/PR]

One of the 6 birds noted the following day spent roughly 2 hours at the site, appearing to land in trees on at least 2 occasions [AB/DT/PR]

Hen Harrier (Busard Saint-Martin) *Circus cyaneus* M

Recorded on 4 dates in autumn

1 S, 18th September [DT/PR] - 1 S, 28th October [DT/PR] - 3 S, 4th November [DT/LS] - 1 S, 22nd November [PR]

Two of the three birds seen on 4th November were photographed [LS] and may be consulted on the photo section of the website :

<http://www.skutchia.com/apps/photos/>

Montagu's Harrier (Busard cendré) *Circus pygargus* M

Previously unrecorded at Beaumonts, a non-adult female was seen circling over the park and moving south on 22nd September [DT]

Interestingly 2 unidentified harriers, suspected as being probably *c.pygargus*, were noted flying south on 31st August [LS] and 9th September [DT]

Common Buzzard (Buse variable) *Buteo buteo* M

Recorded on 27 dates:

5 in 'spring' (between 4th April and 9th May)
4 in 'summer' (between 12th July and 14th August)
18 in 'autumn' (between 30th August and 23rd November)

2, 4th April - 1, 5th April - 2, 24th April - 2, 8th May - 1, 9th May - 1, 12th July - 1, 27th July - 1, 11th August - 1, 14th August - 1, 30th August - 2, 8th September - 2, 16th September - 2, 19th September - 2, 24th September - 3, 26th September - 1, 27th September - 3, 28th September - 4, 4th October - 1, 28th October - 1, 30th October - 1, 2nd November - 1, 3rd November - 3, 4th November - 1, 7th November - 1, 8th November - 1, 11th November - 1, 25th November

See Appendix II

Honey-Buzzard (Bondrée apivore) *Pernis apivorus* M

Recorded on 24 dates, 4 of which were in spring (between 17th - 25th May) and 20 in autumn (from 15th August to 25th September). At least 78 birds were involved

1, 17th May - 2, 18th May - 2, 22nd May - 8, 25th May - 10, 15th August - 4, 16th August - 1, 17th August - 1, 19th August - 3, 21st August - 2, 28th August - 5, 30th August - 2, 31st August - 2, 1st September - 2, 8th September - 6, 9th September - 3, 10th September - 2, 11th September - 1, 12th September - 7, 13th September - 9, 14th September - 1, 15th September - 2, 16th September - 1, 21st September - 1, 25th September

See Appendix II

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (Epervier d'Europe) *Accipiter nisus* S

Regularly recorded (usually between 1-3 individuals) throughout the year. Breeding presumed for a second consecutive year in the woodland bordering the Parc Mabille - at least 2 juveniles were seen and heard (begging calls) in this area during the latter half of August (as was the case in 2007)

Unidentified larger raptors (Grands rapaces non identifié)

1, 8th March - 3, 8th May - 1, 30th May - 4, 23rd July - 2, 29th July - 2, 12th September - 2, 18th September - 1, 19th September

See Appendix II

Eurasian Kestrel (Faucon crécerelle) *Falco tinnunculus* S M

Although not a breeding species, 1 or 2 birds were seen on an almost daily basis in the park. Numbers supplemented in late summer and autumn by additional birds, no doubt roaming juveniles and occasional migrants (eg, 3+ on 17th June, 3 on 28th August - at least 3 birds regularly noted throughout September). On 11th September (a particularly hot and still day) at least 7 birds were observed flying high in the sky, appearing to form a loose group and apparently feeding on insects [DT/PR]

Red-footed Falcon (Faucon kobez) *Falco verspertinus* M

1 spring record

1 male (probably 2nd year) seen hunting over the park on 23rd May, spending about 25 minutes around the site before moving away westwards [PR]

An unidentified falcon, suspected to be probably *f.verspertinus*, was observed flying north on 30th May [LS/PR]

An unidentified juvenile falcon, possibly *f.verspertinus*, was seen migrating south on 4th October [DT]

Record numbers of *f.verspertinus* were recorded nationally in spring 2008, and it is therefore a little surprising that Beaumonts did not have any more !

Eurasian Hobby (Faucon hobereau) *Falco subbuteo* E M

1-2 birds recorded relatively frequently in spring, summer and autumn

First recorded in spring on 3rd May [PR] - last autumn sighting 7th October [DT]

Though not a breeding species at Beaumonts, wandering 'local' birds could be seen reasonably often in summer and early autumn, with 1-2 birds (including juveniles) seen on an almost daily basis between 29th August and 16th September. During this time birds could be seen drifting in towards the park and hunting down the local swifts - quite a spectacle !

Peregrine Falcon (Faucon pèlerin) *Falco peregrinus* M

1 autumn record

1 adult on 12th September [LS/PR]

One of the highlights of the year, the bird was watched flying in from the north and then circling relatively low over the park before moving away west

Merlin (Faucon émerillon) *Falco columbarius* M

2 records in late autumn

1 flying south on 11th November [DT] - 1 seen in the vicinity of the watertower on 22nd November [PR]

Common Moorhen (Poule d'eau) *Gallinula chloropus* S

A familiar resident breeding species, seen on a daily basis throughout the year

Although 2 pairs were present in the park on 14th May, only one pair successfully bred at the Mare Perchée, producing 5 young. The chicks appeared for the first time in early June

Common Crane (Grue cendrée) *Grus grus* M

Observed on 2 dates in spring

21 NE, 8th March [LS/PR] - 14, 9th March [LS/PR]

The birds on 8th March appeared in 2 groups of 16 and 5 birds, seen at 12h40 and 17h25 respectively

Eurasian Golden Plover (Pluvier doré) *Pluvialis apricaria* M

Observed on 4 dates, in late winter and late autumn

35 S, 22nd February [LS] - 2 SW, 23rd October [LS] - 10 SW, 8th November [DT/PR] - 16 S, 9th November [DT/PR]

Northern Lapwing (Vanneau huppé) *Vanellus vanellus* M

Observed moving generally in a southwesterly direction on 6 dates in late autumn, the largest numbers being on 2nd November

1, 30th October - 466, 2nd November - 1, 3rd November - 159, 4th November 70, 11th November - 2, 13th November

Black-tailed Godwit (Barge à queue noire) *Limosa limosa* M

1 observation in spring

22 flying north on 29th February [LS]

Eurasian Curlew (Courlis cendré) *Numenius arquata* M

1 observation in late autumn

150 seen flying south in a long, loose flock at 14h30 on 22nd November [PR]

Eurasian Woodcock (Bécasse des bois) *Scolopax rusticola* M

2 observations of single birds in flight

1, 19th April [DT] - 1, 2nd December [DT]

Common Snipe (Bécassine des marais) *Gallinago gallinago* M

1 record in autumn

2 (one on the ground and another flying southwards) on 28th September [GL/JR]

Black-headed Gull (Mouette rieuse) *Larus ridibundus* S M

Recorded somewhat erratically in low numbers throughout the year, with generally 1-10 birds noted as either singles or as very small flocks. Only rarely observed in late summer (August and early September). Higher numbers sometimes noted (eg, 20 E, 25th July - 23, 29th September - 22, 28th October - 22, 16th November)

Unusually on 13th February, and again in late autumn and winter, single birds (or perhaps the same individual) were frequently observed landing inside the park to feed, either at the Mare Perchée or on the Northern Fields

Common Gull (Goéland cendré) *Larus canus* M

Recorded on 3 dates

1 N, 9th March [PR] - 1 NE, 29th September [DT] - 2 E, 1st November [PR]

Herring Gull (Goéland argenté) *Larus argentatus* S M

Regularly recorded in very small numbers (usually 1-2 birds) throughout the year, although larger numbers reported during the winter months (eg, c7, 20th January [DT] - 7 on 23rd February with a further 58 larger gulls unidentified [LS])

Yellow-legged Gull (Goéland leucophée) *Larus michahellis* M

Like the preceeding species, seen in very small numbers throughout the year. Notable movements in early summer (eg, 108 on 28th June)

1, 12th January [PR] - 1, 9th March [PR] - 1, 8th June [LS] - 7 E, 11th June [LS] - 108, 28th June [LS] - 1, 1st July [PR] - 2, 12th July [PR]

Lesser Black-backed Gull (Goéland brun) *Larus fuscus* M

Recorded in small numbers throughout the year.

5, 26th January [DT] - 2 N, 10th February [PR] - 1, 23rd February [LS] - 1, 13th April - 1, 13th July [PR] - 1, 15th September - 7 SW, 6th December [DT/LS]

Unidentified larger gulls (Goéland indéterminé) *Larus spp*

Gull ID is tricky and many are left unidentified. Very small numbers regularly seen throughout the year (less often in late summer), with occasionally larger groupings (eg, 20 on 17th February and 58 on 23rd February [LS])

Rock Dove (Pigeon biset) *Columba livia* S

Common resident - seen daily

Stock Dove (Pigeon colombin) *Columba oenas* S

First reported on 17th February [LS]. A non-breeding, reasonably common resident. Observed fairly regularly throughout the year in very low numbers (usually 1-3 birds), either in flight or perched on buildings to the north-east of (and outside) the park

Common Wood-Pigeon (Pigeon ramier) *Columba palumbus* S M

Common breeding resident - seen daily

Large groupings of feeding birds occasionally noted (eg, 115 counted on the Northern Fields on the early morning of 4th October, 55 of which were juveniles [PD])

An interesting visible southward migration of c.palumbus occurred in early November :

2nd November - 980 (600 of which passed in a 40 minute period in the late afternoon) [PR]

3rd November - 2700 between 08h30-10h30 (including one flock of 900) [LS/PR]

4th November - 1270 between 08h00-14h30 [DT/LS]

Eurasian Collared-Dove (Tourterelle turque) *Streptopelia decaocto* S

Fairly common non-breeding resident. 1-2 birds regularly observed in flight or (rarely) perched in trees at the Mare Perchée or the re-cycling plant

Eurasian Turtle-Dove (Tourterelle des bois) *Streptopelia turtur* M

Normally a relatively uncommon passage-migrant, this species was recorded on 7 dates (firstly on 28th April and lastly on 8th September). The 3 records in August suggest local movements from breeding birds nearby

1, 28th April [DT] - 2 flying south, 19th May [DT] - 1, 25th May [LS] - 1, 5th August [DT] - 1, 14th August [PR] - 1, 30th August [LS] - 1, 8th September [DT]

Common Cuckoo (Coucou gris) *Cuculus canorus* M

1 in the evening of August 10th [PR]

Tawny Owl (Chouette hulotte) *Strix aluco* S

Sadly no longer heard in the park as in previous years. Recorded on 2 dates

1 at 18h45 on 23rd October, harassed by magpies as it flapped over the Mare Perchée and the Savanna [PR] - 1 in the Savanna throughout the morning of 26th November [DT]

Long-eared Owl (Hibou moyen-duc) *Asio otus* M

Recorded on 2 dates

1 seen and photographed as it perched in trees during the day on 22nd January [VB] - 1 seen flying in from the south and apparently landing in conifers before circling and moving away west - 15th March [LS/PR]

A photograph of the bird on January 22nd appeared in the local newspaper, the Montreuil Dépêche (n° 466 / 13-19 February 2008).

Short-eared Owl (Hibou des marais) *Asio flammeus* M

Recorded on 2 dates

1 present throughout the morning of 19th April [DT/PR] - 1 flying low over the park and moving away southeast at 09h20 on 2nd November [PR]

Video footage of the bird on 19th April may be consulted on the website : www.skutchia.com/videos.htm

Barn Owl (Chouette effraie) *Tyto alba* M

1 on 16th October [DT]

Extremely rare at Beaumonts, this was one of the highlights of the year. The bird was discovered in the Savanna, perched in a small low tree and almost completely hidden. It remained so throughout the entire day, was not seen to fly at dusk and had disappeared by the following morning.

Video footage of the bird may be seen on the website (www.skutchia.com/videos.htm)

Common Swift (Martinet noir) *Apus apus* E M

A common summer visitor, seen daily

First recorded on 22nd April [DT]. Last recorded on 9th September [DT/LS/PR]

Generally around 50 birds seen daily throughout the latter part of April to mid-July. Notable increase in numbers during the 3rd and 4th weeks of July when the local populations are presumably swollen by juveniles (eg, 400+ on 23rd July, 200+ on 26th July)

Much lower numbers during the 1st half of August (around 20-40 birds daily) and it is assumed that many of the local birds leave during this period. By the 3rd week of August the birds recorded gave the impression of being migrants, and local populations were adjudged to have largely left the area

A small increase to 30 birds (presumably migrants) 19th August constituted the last double-figure-day, with daily numbers then dropping to around 5-6 birds until the end of the month.

None was seen between 1st-8th September. The last sign of life was of 2 distant migrants, moving south with other hirundines during the early morning of 9th September.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (Perruche à collier) *Psittacula krameri* F

Absent during the 1st half of the year. First recorded on 28th August [DT]

Observed on 11 dates (2 in August, 6 in October, 2 in November and 1 in December)

Observations usually consist of small groups of around 4-5 birds flying noisily overhead (generally to the northeast). The largest single group was of 12 birds on 17th October [DT]

Cockatiel (Calopsitte élégante) *Nymphicus hollandicus* C

Observed flying over the park on 2 dates (presumably the same individual is involved)

1, 18th August [DT] - 1, 4th October [DT/PD]

[Unidentified cagebird spp] C

Un unidentified cagebird, suspected as belonging to the *agapornis* genus was heard and subsequently poorly observed in the park on August 9th [DT/PR]

Green Woodpecker (Pic vert) *Picus viridis* S

At least one resident breeding pair in or around the park - seen or heard almost daily throughout the year. 1 or more juveniles noted regularly during the autumn. 3 birds feeding together on the Northern Fields on 29th October [PR]

Great Spotted Woodpecker (Pic épeiche) *Dendrocopos major* S

At least one resident breeding pair in or around the park - seen or heard almost daily throughout the year

Middle Spotted Woodpecker (Pic mar) *Dendrocopos medius* H

1, 29th October [PR]

A rare bird at Beaumonts. The occasional (and almost annual) record suggests wandering individuals from nearby, most probably from the Bois de Vincennes where *d.medius* may be found relatively easily

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (Pic épeichette) *Dendrocopos minor* M

A rather discreet resident, presumed breeding. Few records, and very rarely recorded during spring and summer (eg, just heard once (on 3rd August) between 6th February and 27th September [DT])

Eurasian Wryneck (Torcol) *Jynx torquilla* M

1 record in autumn

1, 1st September [DT/LS/PR]

Sky Lark (Alouette des champs) *Alauda arvensis* M

Common spring and autumn passage migrant. In spring, first recorded (10 birds) on February 24th [LS]. First recorded in autumn on 14th October and small flocks then noted daily throughout the latter half of October, numbers peaking at 144 birds on 26th October [DT/PR]. Numbers dropped sharply after 4th November, and the last observation of the year was of a singleton on 16th November [DT]

Although normally observed in flight, *a.arvensis* was seen on 2 occasions to land inside the park this year, once in spring on 15th March [LS/PR] and again in autumn on 18th October [AD/DT/FC/MZ]

Woodlark (Alouette lulu) *Lullula arborea* M

Regular passage migrant in spring and autumn, although much scarcer than the preceding species. First noted on 24th February (3 birds) [LS/PR].

First recorded in autumn on 4th October (6 birds) [DT]. A flock of 10 birds flying southwest on 11th November was the last sighting of the year [DT]

Like the previous species, *l.arborea* is normally seen in flight and so it is worth mentioning the behaviour of a singleton on 23rd October which, having circled low around the Mare Perchée, eventually dropped onto the flat waste-ground nearby where it stood, completely motionless, for several minutes

Bank Swallow (Hirondelle de rivage) *Riparia riparia* E M

Seen more frequently in 2008 than in previous years, no doubt due to increased observer coverage, particularly during the summer months.

Traditionally more an autumn bird than a spring bird, this year was no exception with only one spring record, on 3rd May [DT]

Interestingly *r.riparia* was observed at the park (usually 1-4 birds) throughout the summer, with 4 records in July (24th, 25th, 27th, 30th) and 5 records in August (16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 30th). Although these birds generally appeared to be in local flight, the 2 birds noted on 27th July were perceived to be actively migrating south.

A singleton was observed on 10th September and another a few days later, on 19th September, was the last reported in 2008

Barn Swallow (Hirondelle de cheminée) *Hirundo rustica* E M

Common passage migrant in spring and autumn. Present in low numbers throughout the summer (breeding in near vicinity)

First recorded in spring on 15th March [LS/PR]. Interestingly the second spring sighting came more than 2 weeks later, on 3rd April ! Small numbers daily in spring with a peak of 20 counted on 3rd May [DT]

Small numbers reported throughout the summer (usually less than 5 birds). 6 birds noted on 27th July were considered to be actively migrating south (as was the case with 2 Bank Swallows also observed that day - see above). Numbers bolstered considerably for short periods during the autumn migration with peaks of 103 birds counted on 30th August and 345 on 10th September [DT]

The last sighting was of 2 birds migrating south on 5th October [DT]

Red-rumped Swallow (Hirondelle rousseline) *Cecropis daurica* M

1, 25th April [DT]

Constituting the first record for Ile de France, this was without doubt the ornithological highlight of the year. Unfortunately the bird was in active migration and did not stay long enough for the other local observers who so deserved a look.

An article on the sighting is published, in French, on the website of ESSF (<http://www.europe-solidaire.org/spip.php?article10365>)

House Martin (Hirondelle de fenêtre) *Delichon urbicum* E M

Passage migrant in spring and autumn. Small numbers present throughout the summer

First recorded (3 birds) on 25th April [DT] - a rather late start. Small numbers (usually less than 5 birds) seen on most days throughout the spring with a peak of 15 seen migrating northeast on 21st May [DT]

During the summer (late July-early August) seen rather more frequently than *h.rustica*, albeit in low numbers

Low numbers throughout the autumn migration (nothing like those reported for *h.rustica*) with a peak of 37 moving south on 10th September [DT]. In the late autumn *d.urbicum* was curiously absent on many days (eg, only noted on 3 dates between 11th September - 4th October)

The last sighting was of a singleton on 4th October

Tawny Pipit (Pipit rousseline) *Anthus campestris* M

Birds actively migrating south were recorded on 2 consecutive early mornings in autumn

2, 8th September [DT/LS/PR] - 3, 9th September [DT/LS/PR]

Meadow Pipit (Pipit farlouse) *Anthus pratensis* M

A fairly common passage migrant in spring and (especially) autumn

First recorded in spring on 8th March [LS/PR]. Small numbers on subsequent days (usually singles) peaking with 22 on 6th April [LS]. Last spring migrant noted on 28th May [DT]

Absent during the summer, with no reports between 28th May - 13th September

First reported in autumn on 13th September [DT/LS]. Small numbers throughout the autumn with a peak of 29+ on 4th October. Last sighting on 16th November [DT]

Tree Pipit (Pipit des arbres) *Anthus trivialis* M

Reasonably common passage migrant in spring and autumn

First recorded in spring on 12th April [PR]. 1-3 birds seen on only 10 further dates up to and including 17th May

Absent during the summer - not reported between 17th May and 30th August

First autumn record on 30th August. 1-6 birds subsequently seen on most days up to 4th October. A very late bird was observed on site on 20th and 22nd October (possibly the same individual) [DT]

White Wagtail (Bergeronnette grise) *Motacilla alba* M

A not-uncommon passage migrant in spring and (especially) autumn

Very few reported in spring.

First reported (3 birds) on 24th February [LS] and subsequently 2 on 5th March, 2 on 14th March and 9 on 15th March [LS/PR]

Absent during the summer apart from one sighting, possibly a migrant, on July 27th [DT]

Autumn migration started proper with 4 on 24th September [DT] and then small numbers observed on several dates up to and including 11th November, with a peak of 17 noted on 19th October [DT]

Yellow Wagtail (Bergeronnette printanière) *Motacilla flava* M

Passage migrant noted in spring and (especially) autumn

Only 2 spring records: 1, 4th April - 1, 6th April [both LS/PR]

Narrow window of autumn passage between 1st - 15th September, with small numbers moving south in the early mornings, a notable peak in numbers occurring between 8-10th September (13, 8th - 37, 9th - 9, 10th)

Grey Wagtail (Bergeronnette des ruisseaux) *Motacilla cinerea* S

A rather uncommon and irregular non-breeding resident

Apart from one sighting on 30th January [PR], not recorded in the park until 28th August when small numbers (1-3 birds) began to be noted up to and including 29th November. Seen on almost every day between 8th September – 26th October [DT]

Winter Wren (Troglodyte mignon) *Troglodytes troglodytes* S

Fairly common breeding resident - seen daily. At least 7 breeding pairs estimated

Dunnock (Accenteur mouchet) *Prunella modularis* S M

Common breeding resident – seen daily. At least 6 breeding pairs estimated

Interestingly discreet at the end of the breeding season (roughly between 14th June – 17th August) when hard to find and rarely recorded. Numbers swollen in the last 3 weeks of September by presumed migrants (eg, 10+ on 12th September [DT])

European Robin (Rougegorge familier) *Erithacus rubecula* S M

Common breeding resident – 1-4 birds seen almost daily. At least 5 breeding pairs estimated

Like the preceding species, increased numbers in autumn (roughly between 15th September – 23rd October), probably due to passage migrants (eg, 10 on 17th September and 10 on 14th October [DT])

Common Nightingale (Rossignol philomèle) *Luscinia megarhynchos* M

Heard on 2 consecutive dates in spring, and once in autumn

1 heard singing on 19th and 20th April [DT/PR] - 1 heard (calls) on 13th September [DT/LS]

Black Redstart (Rougequeue noir) *Phoenicurus ochruros* M

Rather irregular and uncommon migrant. Absent during the summer (although breeding in the immediate vicinity of the park)

Noted on 5 dates in spring. More frequently recorded in autumn (up to 5 birds)

2, 20th March [PR] - 1, 4th April [LS/PR] - 1, 5th April [LS] - 1, 26th April [DT] - 2, 3rd May [DT]

First recorded in autumn on 13th September [DT/LS/PR]. 1, 29th September [DT] - 1, 4th October [DT]. Subsequently 1-5 birds seen almost daily between 14th October – 4th November (the last sighting in 2008)

Common Redstart (Rougequeue à front blanc) *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* M

Uncommon migrant. Observed once in spring and on several dates in autumn

1, 20th May [PR]

1, 4th September [LS]. 1-3 birds were subsequently seen daily up to and including 5th October [DT]

Northern Wheatear (Traquet motteux) *Oenanthe oenanthe* M

1 autumn record

1, 8th September [LS/DT/PR]

Whinchat (Tarier des prés) *Saxicola rubetra* M

Uncommon passage migrant. 8 records (1 in spring and 7 in autumn)

1, 9th May [DT]

1, 30th August [DT] - 3, 9th September [DT/PR] - 1, 11th September [DT] - 1, 19th September [DT] - 1, 26-28th September [DT]

Common Stonechat (Traquet pâtre) *Saxicola torquata* M

A disturbingly poor year for a species which until quite recently bred inside the park – just 1 record in late autumn

1, 30th October [DT/LS]

Ring Ouzel (Merle à plastron) *Turdus torquatus* M

4 records - 1 in spring and 3 in autumn

1, 25th April [DT]

1, 18th October [DT] - 1, 24th October [PR] - 1, 29th October [PR]

Eurasian Blackbird (Merle noir) *Turdus merula* S M

Common resident - 1-6 birds seen daily. At least 6 breeding pairs estimated

Active migration noted in early November : 5 south, 3rd November [LS/PR] - 13 south, 4th November [DT/LS]

Fieldfare (Grive litorne) *Turdus pilaris* H M

Rather uncommon. 2 sightings in January. No further sightings before the latter half of October when noted occasionally in small numbers. 2-4 birds present on site around the Savanna between 17th November - 5th December

5, 1st January - 7, 5th January - 3+, 18th October - 29, 19th October - 8, 30th October - 2, 31st October - 1, 8th November - 2-4, 17th November-5th December

Song Thrush (Grive musicienne) *Turdus philomelos* S M

Common, if rather discreet, breeding resident with 1-3 birds seen on most days - estimated 3 breeding pairs

Passage migrants increase the numbers observed in late autumn, from roughly 13th September through to 4th November, when double figures noted on several dates (peak of 33 on 24th October [DT/PR])

Redwing (Grive mauvis) *Turdus iliacus* H M

Reasonably common migrant in late autumn – uncommon on site during the winter

2 records in January (1, 5th – 1, 20th) and observed twice in February (17th and 22nd [LS]). 6 (including 5 perched on site) on 14th March [LS].

Not recorded subsequently until 14th October when migrants began to arrive and were recorded in low numbers almost daily up to and including 2nd December. Migration peak during the last week of October (eg, 18 on 23rd - 23 on 24th - 73 on 28th - 103 on 30th)

Mistle Thrush (Grive draine) *Turdus viscivorus* S M

Reasonably common resident with 1-3 birds seen almost daily in early spring, autumn and winter. Estimated 1-2 breeding pairs either in or very close to the park. Very infrequently observed during late spring and summer (eg, only seen on 8 dates between April 21st – 1st September [DT])

Small numbers of migrants increase numbers slightly in late autumn (eg, 5 moving southwest on 28th October [DT/PR])

Garden Warbler (Fauvette des jardins) *Sylvia borin* E M

Reasonably common summer visitor – estimated 3-4 breeding pairs

First recorded in spring on 22th April [DT]. Very discreet and rarely recorded during summer (roughly between 15th June and 1st September). 1-2 birds seen on several dates in early September. Last reported on 15th September [DT]

Blackcap (Fauvette à tête noire) *Sylvia atricapilla* H E M

Unusually present throughout January and February with a male found near the entrance steps on 1st January [DT]. A second male was found on 8th February [PR] and both birds were heard singing up to and including 16th February [LS/PR]

Common throughout the spring and summer with up to 6 birds seen daily (although seen less frequently during the first 3 weeks of August)

Numbers swollen considerably by migrants in late autumn with up to 30 birds regularly noted throughout September. Significantly fewer reported in early October (up to 6 daily). Last seen on 28th October [DT]

Lesser Whitethroat (Fauvette babillarde) *Sylvia curruca* E M

Uncommon summer visitor. 1 breeding pair in the park (for the 3rd consecutive year)

First observed on 21st April [DT]. Relatively easily seen at the end of April and the beginning of May but extremely discreet and hard to find after about 17th May

A pair feeding a juvenile near the Mare Perchée on 8th June [LS]

1 was observed on 19th August [DT] and another on 1st September [LS/PR] was the last confirmed sighting for the year (although a poorly-seen sylvia warbler in the Savanna on 22nd September was believed to be this species [DT])

Common Whitethroat (Fauvette grisette) *Sylvia communis* E

Common summer visitor with up to 6 birds seen daily in spring and early autumn (last week in August and first 2 weeks of September). Discreet and infrequently seen during July and early August. Estimated 5 breeding pairs

First recorded in spring on 13th April [LS]. Last reported on 24th September [DT]

Eurasian Reed-Warbler (Rousserolle effarvate) *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* E M

Summer visitor, seen or heard daily throughout the late spring and summer. One pair bred successfully in the reedbed at the Mare Perchée

First recorded in spring with a bird singing discreetly near the Coffee Dome on 15th May [DT]. At least 2 birds were present on 8th June [LS]. 3 singing birds noted on 15th June were presumed to be 2 males and a female [DT]. An adult was observed feeding 2 juveniles on 14th July [LS].

Between 1-4 birds noted almost daily up to 24th September, usually at the reedbed although birds could also be observed flying back and forth between there and the tall weeds growing in the Savanna nearby.

A very warm and different-looking individual, presumed to be a migrant, was found skulking in the Mare de Mileu on July 30th [LS]. The bird was seen again a few days later on August 5th [DT].

1 individual remained very late at the Mare Perchée and was trapped and ringed there on 11th October [JB/BF/MZ]. The bird remained a further 3 days and was last observed there on 14th October [DT]

Marsh Warbler (Rousserolle verderolle) *Acrocephalus palustris* E M

1-2 birds seen and heard singing between 20th May and 15th June. Not definitely observed after this date and breeding unconfirmed

1, 20th May [PR] - 1, 25th May [LS] - 2, 31st May [PR] - 1, 8th June [LS] - 1, 14th June [DT] - 2, 15th June [DT]

A silent, unidentified bird in the Savanna on 24th June was believed to have been probably *a. palustris* [DT]

Melodious Warbler (Hypolaïs polyglotte) *Hippolaïs polyglotta* E M

Reasonably common summer visitor. Estimated 3 breeding pairs

First reported in spring on 1st May [PR]. On 25th June an adult was observed carrying food to a nest near the Compost and a very young and tail-less juvenile was seen in the Savanna.

As in previous years *H. polyglotta* appeared to quickly desert the park after breeding - the species was not recorded at all in July and August, and not found on migration

Willow Warbler (Pouillot fitis) *Phylloscopus trochilus* E M

Normally a fairly common breeding species, this was a particularly bad year. Probably did not breed inside the park and very seldomly observed in spring and summer. Several records post-breeding

Brief snatches of song were heard at the end of April (28th, 29th and 30th) [DT]. 1 heard on 6th May [DT]. Visually observed for the first time on 15th May when a single bird was found moving quickly and silently around the Parc Mabilie [DT]

Observed in summer on 5 dates, albeit after the breeding season: 1, 24th July - 2 juveniles, 31st July - 1, 5th August - 1 heard, 6th August - 1, 8th August [all DT]

In autumn recorded on 7 dates (usually singles) between 8th - 27th September (the last reported sighting)

Wood Warbler (Pouillot siffleur) *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* M

1 singing on 11th May [DT/PR]

Common Chiffchaff (Pouillot véloce) *Phylloscopus collybita* E M

Common summer visitor, seen daily. Estimated 7 breeding pairs

1st reported (singing) on 8th March [LS/PR]. Generally up to 6 birds seen daily in spring and summer. Increased numbers during autumn with the arrival of migrants, peaking around 23rd and 24th September when at least 15 birds could be seen. Marked drop in numbers after 17th October. Low numbers (2-3 birds) after this date, up to and including 8th November when 'autumn migration' appeared to halt

Only 3 subsequent 'winter' records: 1, 17th November [DT] - 3, 27th November [LS] - 1, 6th December [DT]

['Siberian Chiffchaff' (Pouillot de Sibérie) *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* M]

1, 24th February [LS]

No doubt the same individual as last year, the identification of which is still open to question. Identification discussion (with photographs of this individual) may be found at the following : http://www.ornithomedia.com/pratique/identif/ident_art63_1.htm

Furthermore, sound recordings (taken in 2007) may be consulted at : <http://www.skutchia.com/pdb.htm>

Goldcrest (Roitelet huppé) *Regulus regulus* S M

Present in small numbers throughout the year, although mainly observed during late autumn and winter. At least one breeding pair confirmed

1-2 birds seen almost daily in January. Seen very infrequently between early February and mid-September. Small numbers seen with regularity from mid-September to the end of the year (usually 1-2 birds but occasionally much higher numbers noted (eg, 8 on 6th November, 7 on 2nd December [DT]))

An adult, presumably a female, was observed feeding 4 juveniles on 15th June [LS]

Firecrest (Roitelet triple-bandeau) *Regulus ignicapillus* S M

Rather uncommon resident. Breeding suspected but not confirmed

Present in winter with 3 records in January and 1 noted on 6th February. In March a pair was noted on 9th, 15th and 16th [DT]. A singing male was observed in the woodland adjacent to and just east of the Avenue des Marronniers on 28th April and 3rd May [DT]. 1 on 20th June [DT]. Not observed in July or August

In autumn, 1-2 birds seen with regularity from 1st September – 8th November (the last reported sighting in 2008). Higher numbers occasionally noted during this period (eg, 3+ on 15th September and 5+ on 16th September [DT])

Spotted Flycatcher (Gobemouche gris) *Muscicapa striata* M

Passage migrant in spring and autumn. Singles recorded twice in spring and 1-4 birds reported on 11 dates in autumn between 29th August – 20th September

1, 30th April [DT] - 1, 19th May [DT]

1, 29th August - 3 on 1st & 2nd September - 4, 3rd September - 3, 4th September - 2, 8th September - 1, 9th September - 2, 10th September - 3, 12th September - 1, 15th September - 1, 20th September

European Pied Flycatcher (Gobemouche noir) *Ficedula hypoleuca* M

Passage migrant recorded once in spring and on 20 dates in autumn between 14th August – 28th October

1, 3rd May [DT]

1, 14th August [DT/PR] – 1-3 birds then recorded on 15 dates up to and including 26th September when autumn passage appeared to finish

A late migrant was present for 4 consecutive days near the Mare de Mileu, from 25th – 28th October [AB/DT/PR].

Photographs of the bird from 25th-28th October may be seen on the website
<http://www.skutchia.com/apps/photos/album.jsp?albumID=2931743>

Great Tit (Mésange charbonnière) *Parus major* S M

Common breeding resident – 1-6 birds seen daily

Coal Tit (Mésange noire) *Parus ater* H M

Normally rare at Beaumonts, an 'invasion' of *p.ater* into northern France in late autumn generated larger-than-usual numbers

1, 6th April [LS]. Not seen subsequently until 25th September when LS found 2 birds moving southwest which appeared to be in active migration.

Small numbers were then seen on 11 further dates up to and including 13th November. During this period restless little groups could be observed flying generally westsouthwest, often perching momentarily in trees before hurrying onwards

2, 25th September [LS] - 1, 11th October [JB/BF/MZ] - 15+ in 3 small groups, 14th October [DT] - 18+,

18th October [AD/DT/FC/MZ] - 10, 20th October [AD/DT/MZ] - 3, 23rd October [DT/LS/PR] - 2, 24th October [DT/PR] - 2, 27th October [DT] - 6, 28th October [DT] - 1 S, 4th November [DT/LS] - 2, 12th November [LS] - 2, 13th November [DT]

The last sighting in 2008 was of a singleton observed in the Northern Fields on 27th December [PR]

Eurasian Blue Tit (Mésange bleue) *Parus caeruleus* S M

Common resident, usually up to 6 birds seen daily. Also migratory -increased numbers noted (double-figures almost daily) between mid-September and early November. Occasional visible migration noted in late autumn during skywatches (eg, 4 WSW on 4th October - 8 WSW on 23rd October - 2 S on 3rd & 4th November)

Marsh Tit (Mésange nonnette) *Parus palustris* S

Uncommon non-breeding resident. Found more frequently than in previous years due to the occurrence of 4 colour-ringed individuals which had been released in late summer in the nearby Parc des Guilands. One of these birds paired with another (non-ringed) individual and both could be found regularly along or near the Avenue de Maronniers from 20th September to the end of the year

First seen on 27th July [DT]. Reported on a further 21 dates up to the end of the year

Summary of observations of colour-ringed birds (L=left leg /R=right leg):

BIRD 1 = L 1 silver / R 1 (reddish? - poorly seen) : 1 obs, 5th August

BIRD 2 = L 1 large, dark pink /R 1 small, silver : 1 obs, 18th October

BIRD 3 = L 1 white, large /R 2 brownish-red(upper) - silver(lower) First seen on 1st September with at least 5 further obs before end of year - established residency in park with non-ringed bird (see above)

BIRD 4 = L 1, dull reddish-brown/R 2 orange(upper) - silver(lower) : 2 obs, on 10th & 12th September

Long-tailed Tit (Mésange à longue queue) *Aegithalos caudatus* S

Fairly common resident - breeding unconfirmed, although probably occurred in the immediate vicinity around the rue des Quatre Ruelles

Up to 5 birds seen almost daily in January through to 21st May. In accordance with previous years, *a.caudatus* was then largely absent throughout the late spring and summer, appearing again on 8th September when rather higher numbers (up to 8 birds) could be seen regularly up to the end of the year

Eurasian Nuthatch (Sittelle torchepot) *Sitta europaea* S

Few records - inexplicably scarce at Beaumonts. Species has declined over recent years

1 seen flying over the Savanna on 2 occasions on 13th April [LS]

1-2 birds seen in or very near Parc Mabilie on 5 dates in September (10th, 12th, 22nd, 26th, 29th) and on 3 dates in October (2nd, 14th, 24th)

Short-toed Treecreeper (Grimpereau des jardins) *Certhia brachydactyla* S

Quite common resident. 1-2 birds seen or heard regularly throughout the year. Probably at least 2 breeding pairs

Common Magpie (Pie bavarde) *Pica pica* S

Common breeding resident, seen daily

Eurasian Jay (Geai des chênes) *Garrulus glandarius* S M

Quite common breeding resident, usually 1-3 birds seen daily

Evidence of migration in autumn (particularly around 10-15th September) with occasional singles or small groups flapping feebly at high altitude over the park (eg, 16 WSW, 15th September - 6 SSE, 4th October)

Eurasian Jackdaw (Choucas des tours) *Corvus monedula* M

Uncommon – seen flying over the park in small flocks of up to 43 birds on 9 dates: 1 in spring, 8 in late autumn and once in winter

1, 29th March [PR]

70 S, 18th October [DT] - 12 SW, 19th October [DT] - 8, 23rd October [DT/PR] - 3 N, 24th October [DT/PR] - 25, 28th October [DT/PR] - 11 S, 2nd November [DT/PR] - 8 S, 3rd November [LS/PR] - 3 SW, 4th November [DT/LS]

2 W, 26th December [PR]

Rook (Corbeau freux) *Corvus frugilegus* M

Like the above species, a rather uncommon corvid. Recorded on 19 dates: 2 in spring, 1 in summer and 16 in autumn

2, 26th April [DT] - 2, 10th May [DT]

2 NW, 1st August [DT]

Although a singleton was noted on 9th September [DT], autumn migration occurred between 17th October and 13th November. During this period small numbers observed, sometimes in small loose flocks, flying generally southwest. Numbers peaked at the end of October/ beginning of November, with 16 on 30th October, 18 on 2nd November and 17 on 4th November [DT/LS/PR]

Carrion Crow (Corneille noire) *Corvus corone* S

Common breeding resident – 1-15 birds noted daily

European Starling (Etourneau sansonnet) *Sturnus vulgaris* S M

Common breeding resident, small numbers seen daily. Almost absent in midsummer (July and early August). The presence of juveniles at the end of summer and migrants in late autumn increases numbers significantly (eg, 180 on 29th August - 160 on 23rd September - 160 on 1st October - 370 (flying generally southwest) on 2nd November [DT/PR] and 310 on 4th November [DT/LS])

Eurasian Golden Oriole (Loriot d'Europe) *Oriolus oriolus* M

1 male flying north on 29th April [DT]

House Sparrow (Moineau domestique) *Passer domesticus* S

Fairly common resident breeding nearby the park - usually 1-4 birds seen almost daily

Tree Sparrow (Moineau friquet) *Passer montanus* H

Uncommon resident - suspected to breed just outside the park (in or around the cemetery where 1-3 birds often noted)

In winter, 2 on 1st January [DT], 5 on 19th January [DT] and 4 on 16th February [PR]. Also present at the end of the year when 1-12 birds noted on several dates between 26th October - 6th December [AB/DT/PR]

Observed on 2 dates in spring inside the park, 13th & 15th May [DT]

Chaffinch (Pinson des arbres) *Fringilla coelebs* S M

Fairly common in winter. Very rarely reported during the summer - almost absent between the end of April and the 2nd week in September with just the occasional sighting of single birds (eg, 1, 15th June - 1, 21st July)

Common passage migrant in late autumn with large numbers flying generally westsouthwest and southwest, making for spectacular visible migration between early October and early November (eg, 500 on 5th October - 427 on 7th October - 150+ on 20th October - 198 on 23rd October - 213 on 24th October - 100 on 30th October 171 on 2nd November)

Brambling (Pinson du nord) *Fringilla montifringilla* M

Passage migrant recorded in spring and (especially) autumn

Recorded on 3 dates in spring: 1, 14th March [LS] - 2, 15th March [LS] - 2, 3rd April [PR]

First recorded in autumn on 4th October [PD]. Small numbers then seen almost daily until 13th November, numbers peaking at 36 on 26th October [DT]

Eurasian Linnet (Linotte mélodieuse) *Carduelis cannabina* M

Passage migrant noted in spring and (especially) autumn

5 reports in spring: 1, 24th February [LS] - 1, 15th March [LS/PR] - 11, 6th April [LS/PR] - 1, 10th April - 1, 2nd May [DT]

Singles noted on 4 dates in September. More frequently recorded in late autumn, being seen on 8 dates between 17th October - 4th November, with a peak of 48 on 23rd October [LS/PR]

Common Redpoll (Sizerin flammé) *Carduelis flammea* H M

Uncommon winter visitor and migrant

1, 27th Jan [DT]

Recorded on 2 dates in spring: 2, 21st April & 1, 25th April [DT]

Reported on 13 dates between 14th October – 26th November with a maximum of 15 (including one flock of 13) on 17th October [DT]

Birds seen in November were often considered to be in local flight rather than actively migrating. 2 birds were observed to land and feed inside the park on 2 such occasions (eg, 2, 14th November [DT])

European Goldfinch (Chardonneret élégant) *Carduelis carduelis* S M

Fairly common resident, breeding in or near the park. Usually 1-3 birds seen almost daily throughout the year

Active migration noted during late autumn, although numbers rather low (usually not more than 8 birds). Numbers peaked in third week of October (eg, 22 on 17th, 10+ on 18th and 19 on 19th)

European Greenfinch (Verdier d'Europe) *Carduelis chloris* S M

Common resident breeding in or near the park. Usually 1-4 birds noted daily

Higher numbers recorded regularly in late autumn, although generally still quite low, the highest noted on any one day being 12 on 23rd October [DT]

Eurasian Siskin (Tarin des aulnes) *Carduelis spinus* H M

Rather uncommon – present on site in small numbers in January/February. Recorded frequently as a passage-migrant in late autumn

Up to 7 birds present at or near the alders behind the Jean Moulin college from 26th January – 10th February [DT/PR]

Regularly seen in small flocks during autumn, from 27th September – 4th November. Numbers peaked during the second half of October, the highest daily count being 66 birds on 20th October [AD/DT/MZ]

European Serin (Serin cini) *Serinus serinus* S M

Fairly common resident breeding in or near the park – small numbers (usually 1-4 birds) seen regularly throughout the year

Increased numbers noted in late autumn (eg, 13 on 24th October, 15+ on 27th October)

Small feeding flock of around 12 birds present in the Savanna at the end of November and early December, peaking at around 30 birds on 5th December [DT]

Island Canary (Serin des Canaries) *Serinus canaria* C

1 on 15th September [DT]

Eurasian Bullfinch (Bouvreuil pivoine) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* S

A discreet but reasonably common resident, although in very low numbers. 1-4 birds seen fairly regularly, one pair breeding successfully in the park and raising at least 2 young

Unlike previous years, absent in the early part of the year and not recorded before 22nd April [DT]

2 juveniles observed in the company of a male on 27th July [DT]

Hawfinch (Grosbec casse-noyaux) *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* H M

A good year for this species. Several records in early spring (March and April) and September. Present on or around the site between mid-October to the end of the year

First seen on 20th March [PR]. 2, 6th April - 2, 11th April - 3, 12th April - 2, 28th & 29th April

1 noted in summer (flying southwest) on 31st July [DT]

4 records in September: 1, 10th - 1, 17th - 1, 27th - 2, 30th

Present on or around the site later in autumn, and 1-4 birds observed almost daily between 14th Oct - 31st December, often seen alighting in trees or more rarely feeding on the ground.

Numbers supplemented in autumn by migrants (eg, 12, 23rd October)

Red Crossbill (Bec-croisé des sapins) *Loxia curvirostra* E M

Small numbers noted flying southwards in summer and autumn

4, 27th July [LS/PR] - 3, 28th July [DT] - 21 [LS] & 1 [DT], 31st August - 2, 14th September [DT] - 1, 16th September [DT] - 2, 25th September [DT]

Unusually, 1 of the 2 birds seen on 25th September landed for several seconds atop a fir tree in the Northern Fields

Reed Bunting (Bruant des roseaux) *Emberiza schoeniclus* H M

Rather uncommon and irregular winter visitor. Recorded fairly often in spring and autumn.

1, 6th January [DT] - 1, 24th February [LS] - 1, 5th March [LS] - 1, 6th March [PR]

A small group of 5-9 birds was present at and around the Mare Perchée and seen daily between 15th March - 24th March [LS/PR]

1 singing male present at the Mare Perchée from 5th April - 20th April

Migrants recorded fairly often in autumn (small numbers on 17 dates) between 14th October - 2nd December, numbers peaking at 13 on 23rd October [DT/LS/PR]

Yellowhammer (Bruant jaune) *Emberiza citrinella* M

Uncommon. Recorded on 3 dates (1 in spring and 2 in autumn)

1, 3rd April [PR]

2, 11th October [JB/BF/MZ] - 1, 13th November [LS]

The bird on 13th November was seen to land, feeding for several minutes in the Savanna before flying off

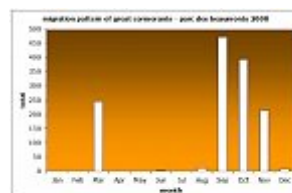
Cirl Bunting (Bruant zizi) *Emberiza cirius* H

Sadly now an uncommon, non-breeding species.

3 wintering birds (2 males and 1 female) present from 1st January - 8th February [DT/LS/PR] - 1 male on 29th December [LS]

Appendix 1

Migration pattern of Great Cormorant (Grand cormoran) : 2008



Appendix II

Migration patterns of commoner larger raptors : 2008

