

Beaumont's Birds: Annual Report 2009

Sunday 2 May 2010, by [THORNS David](#) (Date first published: 31 December 2009).

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113 species were recorded this year which was notably fewer than in 2008, the drop no doubt largely explained by fewer observer hours spent at the site

Several half-expected species did not make the list, most notably Turtle Dove (Tourterelle des bois), Marsh Warbler (Rousserolle verderolle) and Crossbill (Beccroisé des sapins). It was also a poor year for owls

Although Common Sandpiper (Chevalier guignette) went unrecorded again this was a reasonable year for waders with Green Sandpiper (Chevalier cul-blanc), Eurasian Snipe (Bécassine des marais) and higher than usual numbers of Golden Plover (Pluvier doré) recorded

Although there were generally fewer visits made to the site by birdwatchers 'skywatching' hours from the Cascade were just as intensive which resulted in another good year for raptors and storks. In the spring White Stork (Cigogne blanche) was observed on no less than 5 occasions and spotting at least one large bird of prey has become almost guaranteed at certain times of the year. A summary of raptor migration at the park may be found at the end of the report (Appendix I & II)

Three new species for Beaumonts were recorded in 2009: Mute Swan (Cygne tuberculé), Great Black-backed Gull (Goéland marin) and Eastern Rosella (Perruche omicore)

Observers at Parc des Beaumonts in 2009 :

AB= Alain Bloquet BD= Benoit Delbove BW= Bruno Walter CB= Christophe Brillaud DT= David Thorns FP= Florence Picard HD= Henri Dahiot LS= Laurent Spanneut OP= Olivier Laporte PD= Pierre Delbove PM= Philip Redman PR= Pierre Rousset RB= Rabiah Brahim RP=Roland Paul SC= Stephane Chambris SM= Stephane Malignat VB= Vincent van de Bor YF= Yves Fleury-Collet

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

Recorded fairly regularly throughout the year although only noted twice in January and almost absent during the months of June and July

Spring migration noted principally in March which saw the highest monthly total (538). During this month roughly 40 birds were seen daily with a maxima of 88 on 14th March [PR]

In autumn most were reported during October with a notable group of 130 birds flying south in the late afternoon of 10th October [PR]

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

Usually 1 individual on site and up to 6 migrating birds reported irregularly throughout the year. Sadly last year's very confiding bird is assumed to have disappeared from the park

Conspicuous by its absence at the start of the year, A.cinerea was not reported before 15th March when an individual took flight from the Mare Perchée in the early morning [DT]. Subsequently noted infrequently there in the early mornings or late evenings, rather more often by dog walkers than birdwatchers

Occasionally 2 birds noted at the Mare Perchée in late September and early October (M.Peladen pers comm)

'Migrating' birds occasionally noted on skywatches, ex: 2 E, 15th February [DT] - 5, 21st March [PR/DT] - 1 NE, 23rd March [DT] - 2, 31st March [LS/DT] - 2, 5th April [PR/LS/DT]

White Stork (Cigogne blanche) *Ciconia ciconia* M

Observed migrating over the park on 7 dates (5 in spring, 2 in autumn)

2 NNE, 25th February [DT] - 14 NNE, 13th March [PR/DT] - 2 E, 19th April [PR/DT] - 1 SSE, 1st May [BD/DT] - 2 SW, 2nd May [PR/DT]

2 S, 6th September [PR] - 1 S, 9th September [PR]

Black Stork (Cigogne noir) *Ciconia niger* M

1 spring record

1 gliding high to the northeast on 7th May [PR]

Mute Swan (Cygne tuberculé) *Cygnus olor* M

2 records (1 in early spring and 1 in autumn)

1, 14th March [PR/LS] - 2, 10th September [PR]

Given that c.olor may be found quite easily in the neighbouring Bois de Vincennes it is rather surprising that these are the first records for the park. Both involved birds in flight: the first was of a distant bird flying low and westwards along the river valley. The second (rather more spectacular) involved a pair flying purposefully southwards, high overhead

Greylag Goose (Oie cendrée) *Anser anser* M

Observed on 5 dates (2 in early spring, 2 in late autumn and 1 in winter)

80 NE, 14th February [DT] - 2 NE, 2nd March [DT] - 22 S, 5th November [PR] - 1 S, 6th November [PR] - 26 W, 20th December [PR/DT]

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

Low-flying flocks observed on 6 dates

5, 17th & 27th February [PR/DT] - 6, 22nd March [LS/DT] - 2, 3rd April [PR] - 11 N, 6th April [LS] - 8 NE, 25th October [MP/DT]

Mallard (Canard colvert) *Anas platyrhynchos* S M

First reported on 6th February with a pair present at the Mare Perchée. Breeding confirmed there for the first time with a pair rearing 10 ducklings. Larger numbers occasionally reported with up to 5 birds usually flying over the park or, more rarely, on site (eg; 3 drakes on 26th April [DT] , 5 on 18th October [MP])

The breeding pair was noted daily at the Mare Perchée from 22nd February to 31st March. At this time the female 'disappeared' to incubate inside the reedbed and was not seen again until 2nd May when she reappeared with 10 ducklings [DT]

During the following two weeks the female and the ducklings were seen daily and became a much talked-about feature of the park. Occasionally the female was joined at the pond by 1 or 2 drakes. Two of the ducklings were lost during this period, with 9 present from May 7th and 8 present on May 26th

Sadly this was the last date that the birds were observed. It is highly probable that they were poached illegally that evening by travellers from Eastern Europe who had been seen on occasions wading into the pond in the late evenings, supposedly in search 'of food' (MP,RB,PR pers comm). This depressing episode only served to exacerbate the anger felt by many at the time towards the park authorities who appeared to show little interest in offering the reserve adequate protection

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

2 flying north on 23rd March [PR]

Osprey (Balbuzard pêcheur) *Pandion haliaetus* M

Despite intensive skywatching at the right time of year, just 2 autumn records

1 S, 6th September [DT] - 1 S, 10th October [PR]

See Appendix I & II

Red Kite (Milan royal) *Milvus milvus* M

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

1 NE, 17th March [PM/DT] - 1 NE, 25th April [DT] - 1 SW, 7th November [DT]

A photograph of the individual observed on 7th November appears on the website

See Appendix I & II & III

Black Kite (Milan noir) *Milvus migrans* M

Observed on 2 dates in spring

3 SW, 8th May [PR/DT] - 1 S, 10th May [PR/DT]

See Appendix I & II

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

Recorded on 14 dates (5 in spring and 9 in autumn). At least 30 birds were involved

1, 29th March [PR/LS/DT] - 3, 5th April [PR/LS/DT] - 1, 25th April [DT] - 1, 26th April [PR/DT] - 1, 7th May [PR]

1, 23rd August [DT] - 4, 5th September [PR/DT] - 5, 6th September [PR/DT] - 5, 10th September [PR] - 2, 11th September [PR] - 1, 12th September [SM/PR/LS/DT] - 2, 13th September [CB/PR/DT] - 2, 20th September [PR/LS/DT] - 1, 27th September [PR/DT]

See Appendix I & II & III

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

Recorded on 7 dates (4 in spring, 3 in autumn)

1 SW, 14th March [LS] - 1 S, 22nd March [BW/LS/DT] - 1, 24th March [PR/DT] - 1 NW, 5th April [PR/DT]

1, 19th September [PR/LS/DT] - 1, 25th October [DT] - 1 SW, 8th November [DT]

See Appendix I & II

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

1 male moving northeast on 5th April [PR]

This was only the second record for the park, the observation occurring on an extraordinary day for circus spp with 11 individuals noted in a 3 hour period in the early afternoon

See appendix I & II

Common Buzzard (Buse variable) *Buteo buteo* M

Recorded flying over the park on 36 dates, (2 in winter , 22 in spring and 12 in autumn). At least 68 individuals were involved

1, 6th January [DT/VB] - 1, 9th January (probably the same bird) [PR/DT]

1, 28th February [PR/DT] - 1, 3rd March [DT] - 1, 13th March [PR/DT] - 1, 14th March [LS/PR/DT] - 2, 15th March [LS/PR/DT] - 3, 16th March [DT] - 1, 18th March [DT] - 2, 20th March [PR/DT] - 1, 24th March [PR/DT] - 1, 27th March [PR/DT] - 1, 29th March [LS/PR/DT] - 1, 4th April [DT] - 3, 5th April [LS/PR/DT] - 2, 12th April [SC/PR/DT] - 1, 13th April [PR/DT] - 1, 19th April [PR/DT] - 2, 23rd April [PR] - 1, 26th April [PR/DT] - 7, 30th April [PR] - 3, 1st May [BD/DT] - 1, 7th May [PR] - 4, 10th May [PR/DT]

1, 11th August [PR] - 1, 22nd August [DT] - 2, 29th August [PR/DT] - 5, 6th September [PR/DT] - 1, 8th September [PR] - 1, 10th September [PR] - 1, 11th September [PR] - 3, 19th September [SM/LS/PR/DT] - 1, 20th September [PR/LS/DT] - 4, 27th September [PR/DT] - 3, 17th October [DT] - 2, 18th October [DT]

The bird on 6th January flew unusually low over the site and was observed to land briefly in a tree in the Parc Mabille - the first report of this species landing on site [VB]

See Appendix I & II

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

Fewer reported than in 2008 with surprisingly few noted in spring. Recorded flying over the park on 17 dates (3 in spring, 14 in autumn). At least 39 individuals were involved

2, 10th May [PR/DT] - 1, 21st May [PR/DT] - 3, 1st June [AB/DT]

1, 10th August [PR] - 1, 11th August [PR] - 1, 12th August [PR] - 1, 13th August [PR] - 3, 22nd August [DT] - 1, 23rd August [DT] - 6, 29th August [PR/DT] - 6, 30th August [PD/PR/DT] - 1, 5th September [PR/DT] - 6, 6th September [PR/DT] - 2, 9th September [PR] - 1, 12th September [SM/PR/DT] - 2, 13th September [CB/PR/DT] - 1, 20th September [PR/LS]

The individual noted on 12th September (a dark juvenile) probably landed on site

A photograph of the individual on 20th September [LS] appears on the website

See Appendix I & II & III

Unidentified larger raptors (Grands rapaces non identifié)

Unidentified larger raptors reported on 14 dates

25 individuals were involved : 14 in spring (February-May) and 11 in autumn (August-September)

See Appendix I & II

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

Regularly recorded (usually 1-3 individuals) throughout the year. Breeding confirmed for a third consecutive year in the woodland bordering the Parc Mabille with begging calls from juveniles heard in this area at the end of July and early August (as was the case in 2007 and 2008)

At least 2 juveniles observed on 26th July [PD]

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

Breeding in the immediate vicinity of the park, 1-3 birds (usually 1) noted almost daily

Although the vast majority of sightings refer to local birds, some birds were perceived to have been in active migration (ex: 1 N , 14th March [DT])

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

Observed less frequently than in 2008. Up to 3 birds noted occasionally in spring, summer and autumn

In spring, observations at the end of April and early May. In autumn, sightings mainly at the end of August and in early September

In notable contrast to last year, almost absent during the summer (June - August) with just 3 sightings during this period

First recorded in spring on 15th April [DT] - last autumn sighting 10th October [PR]

1, 15th April - 1, 25th April - 3, 30th April - 1, 3rd May - 2, 8th May - 1, 26th May - 1, 11th August - 1, 16th August - 1, 29th August - 1, 5th September - 1, 8th September - 2, 9th September - 2, 10th September - 1, 19th September - 1, 20th September - 1, 10th October

Peregrine Falcon (Faucon pèlerin) *Falco peregrinus* M

For a 'rare' species this was an interesting year, the apparent presence of a pair at Porte d'Ivry (94) no doubt accounting for a sharp increase in sightings

Single birds were observed in flight on 9 dates between 27th March - 27th September, most appearing high in the sky and seemingly wandering rather aimlessly around the area

1, 27th March [PR/DT] - 1, 3rd May [PR/DT] - 1, 7th May [PR] - 1, 23rd May [PR] - 1, 1st June [DT] - 1, 5th July [DT] - 1, 11th August [PR] - 1, 9th September [PR] - 1, 20th September [PR/LS/DT] - 1, 27th September [PR/DT]

Merlin (Faucon émerillon) *Falco columbarius* M

1 record in early spring

1 migrating north on 20th March [PR/DT]

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

A familiar resident breeding species with 1-5 birds seen daily throughout the year

Breeding confirmed at the Mare de Brie with 3 feeble-looking chicks noted there on 21st June, although these were not observed subsequently

Breeding attempted at the Mare Perchée with copulation and nest-building observed in the early morning of 13th April [DT]. Although no chicks were observed at this location a single juvenile was present there on 19th September [DT]

Aggressive behaviour amongst the adults noted occasionally - a particularly violent and drawn-out battle between 5 birds at the Mare Perchée was witnessed on 24th July [PR]

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

Observed flying over the park, always high and in very small flocks, on 4 dates in autumn

9 S, 3rd October [DT] - 7 S, 5th November [PR] - 2 S, 7th November [PR/DT] - 7 S, 11th November [DT]

Northern Lapwing (Vanneau huppé) *Vanellus vanellus* M

Seen flying over the park, almost always in flocks, on 9 dates (4 in spring - 5 in autumn)

Birds observed in spring moved generally northeast - those in autumn generally southwest
180, 25th February [DT] - 165, 3rd March [DT] - 68, 13th March [PR/DT] - 1, 5th April [PR/LS/DT]

247, 31st October [PR/DT] - 343, 7th November [PR/DT] - 252, 8th November [PR/DT] - 45, 10th November [PM/PR] - 51, 11th November [DT]

Green Sandpiper (Chevalier cul-blanc) *Tringa ochrocus* M

2 records in spring

1, 14th March [LS/DT] - 1, 21st April [PM]

Both observations involved individuals flying towards the site and circling the Mare Perchée, unfortunately deterred from landing there by the presence of people and dogs

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

3 records (1 in late autumn and 2 in winter). One wintering individual is probably involved

1, 31st October [DT] - 1, 19th December [DT] - 1, 25th December [PR]

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

1 record in early spring

2, 22nd March [PR/LS/DT]

The birds arrived from the east and flew briefly over and around the site, on occasions almost landing at the Mare Perchée before disappearing away to the west

A photograph appears on the website [LS] (see Appendix III)

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

Low numbers (generally 1-10 birds) observed flying over the park fairly regularly in winter, early spring and autumn

The highest daily total was 513 moving eastwards during the late afternoon of the 17th January [PR]

Larger numbers sometimes noted in other months, ex: 32, 22nd February [DT] - 58, 13th March [PR/DT] - 43, 7th April [DT]

Infrequently observed between April and September and, like the other larides, almost absent in summer (June-August)

In identical fashion to last year a lone individual appeared particularly interested in the site during the late autumn and would often swoop low around the Mare Perchée, very rarely landing briefly on site

Mediterranean Gull (Mouette mélanocéphale) *Larus melanocephalus* M

1 record in autumn

1 flying west on 10th October [PR]

Common Gull (Goéland cendré) *Larus canus* M

Singles recorded on 7 dates in winter

1, 11th January [PR] - 1, 17th February [DT]

1, 17th October [DT] - 1, 19th October [DT] - 1, 7th November [DT] - 1, 10th November [PR] - 1 N, 28th December [PR]

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

Regularly recorded in small numbers (usually 1-2 birds) in winter, spring and autumn. Slightly larger numbers sometimes reported during the winter months (eg, 8+ , 11th January [PR])

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

Observed less frequently than the preceding species (7 dates) - similarly noted in small numbers in winter, spring and autumn

4, 11th January [PR] - 8, 17th January [PR] - 1, 27th March [PR/DT] - 1, 4th May [DT]
4, 17th October [DT] - 3, 18th October [DT] - 1, 8th November [PR/DT]

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

Not uncommon - reported in small numbers in winter, spring and autumn

1, 11th January - 5, 17th January - 1, 25th February - 1, 14th March - 3, 9th April
1, 5th September - 2, 20th September - 2, 27th September - 5, 10th October - 2, 16th October - 4, 22nd October - 1, 8th November - 3, 5th December

Great Black-backed Gull (Goéland marin) *Larus marinus* M

1 record in autumn

1, 10th October [PR]

A real rarity inland this was one of the highlights of the year and a new species for the park. The bird, probably a 3rd year, was seen in the late afternoon lumbering southeast in the loose company of around 15 Herring/Yellow-Legged Gulls

[Unidentified larger gulls (Goéland indéterminé) *Larus spp*]

Unidentified larger gulls regularly noted in small numbers in winter, spring and autumn. Occasionally larger groups noted (ex: 15+ on 10th October [PR])

Rock Dove (Pigeon biset) *Columba livia* S

Common resident - seen daily

Stock Dove (Pigeon colombin) *Columba oenas* S

A reasonably common non-breeding resident. Observed fairly regularly flying over the park throughout the year in very low numbers (usually 1-3 birds). Up to 6 birds observed perched on buildings to the north-east (and outside) of the park where breeding is suspected

Eastward movement of birds in both spring and autumn: in spring small flocks noted in mid-March

(13th-20th) with daily totals peaking at 41 on 14th [PR/LS/DT]. Similar flocks observed in autumn (17th October - 13th November) with a highest daily total of 26 on 18th October [DT]

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

Common breeding resident – seen daily

Small numbers on site supplemented by local movements of birds flying over the park in diverse directions (often in small flocks)

Larger groupings of feeding birds, both adults and juveniles, occasionally noted on the Northern Fields in late autumn and winter (ex: 23 on 31st January, 54 on 17th October)

Unlike last year no significant southward migration was observed in late autumn although a flock of 80 birds flying south was noted on 25th October [DT]. Two such flocks were observed much later in the year (130 S, 27th December - 200 S, 30th December [PR])

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

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

1 observation in late autumn

1, 8th November [PR]

The bird was observed flying low over the park towards the southeast – mobbed continually by several Carrion Crows (*Corvus corone*)

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

A common summer visitor, seen daily

First recorded on 10th April [PR]. Last reported on 6th September [PR/DT]

Although single birds (presumably migrants) were noted in mid-April the local populations appeared to arrive in force on 24th April - roughly 60 birds were then noted daily until the end of June

Numbers swollen by juveniles during July when around 150 birds seen daily throughout the month. Local populations appeared to have left by the beginning of August - the majority of birds noted during the last three weeks of the month (1-50 birds daily) were considered to be migrants

None was seen between 31st August – 5th September. The last report was of 5 on 6th September [PR/DT]

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

Reasonably common non-breeding species. Single birds and/or small flocks seen irregularly throughout the year flying noisily over the park, usually towards the northeast

Observed rather more frequently than in 2008 although not recorded in April and apparently absent during the summer (June-August)

Reported often in late autumn with 50+ birds (the highest daily count) on 10th October [AB/DT]. On this date one individual perched in a tree by the Mare de Brie, the first report of this species landing on site -a photograph appears on the website [AB] (see Appendix III)

Eastern Rosella (Perruche omnicolore) *Platycercus eximius* C

A single bird observed on 3 dates in early spring

1, 27th February [DT] - 1, 28th February [AB] - 1, 16th March [DT]

Perhaps the most extraordinary event of the year, this was a new species for the park. On each occasion the bird was seen rather briefly both in flight (calling frequently) and perched in the treetops

A photograph appears on the website [AB] (see Appendix III)

Black Woodpecker (pic noir) *Dryocopus martius* S

2 records - 1 in early spring and 1 in late autumn

1 flying west over the park on 5th March [PR] - 1 in the Parc Mabille, 15th October [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.

At least 1 juvenile noted during the late summer and autumn (first appearing in the park on July 26th [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

2 records in winter

1, 23rd January [PR] - 1, 15th February [AB]

In spite of increased coverage over the past few years this remains a rarity – birds involved are most probably wanderers from the nearby Bois de Vincennes

A photograph of the bird observed on 15th February [AB] appears on the website (see Appendix III)

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

A rather discreet resident, presumed breeding. As in previous years relatively few records and extremely discreet in spring and summer (apparently not observed between 30th March – 16th August)

Eurasian Wryneck (Torcol) *Jynx torquilla* M

1 record in spring

1, 13th May [PD]

Eurasian Skylark (Alouette des champs) *Alauda arvensis* M

Common spring and autumn passage migrant – singles or (usually) small flocks regularly observed flying over the park

Fewer noted in spring than autumn : first recorded (45 birds) on 21st February [DT] – last spring bird noted 17th March [DT]

First recorded in autumn on 17th October and small flocks subsequently noted almost daily into early November, daily totals peaking at 145 on 31st October [PR/DT]. Last reported in autumn on 8th November [DT]

Very unusually *a. arvensis* was recorded in winter - 2 birds moving west in hard, snowy weather on 6th January [DT]

Woodlark (Alouette lulu) *Lullula arborea* M

A regular but rather uncommon passage migrant

1 record in early spring. Singles or small flocks noted fairly regularly flying over the park in late autumn [PR/DT]

1, 26th February [BW/DT]

7, 27th September - 2, 11th October - 2, 14th October - 9, 15th October - 2, 17th October - 2, 18th October - 3, 19th October - 2, 23rd October - 15, 25th October - 2, 31st October

Rarely observed landing on site the spring bird put in a fine performance, flying unusually low around the Mare Perchée, vocalising often, and eventually landing on the barren flat ground nearby. Although frequently disturbed by dogwalkers it spent roughly 30 minutes on site

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

Fairly regular passage migrant in small numbers (usually 1-2 birds noted) – observed rather less frequently than in 2008 and, unlike previous years, observed in roughly equal measure in spring and autumn

First recorded in spring on 23rd March [DT]. Noted on 7 further dates up to and including 7th May

Unlike in 2008 not reported at all during summer (8th May – 30th August)

Observations in autumn occurred in late August and in the first half of September. Last reported on 20th September [PR/LS]

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 20th March [PR/DT]. Last reported in autumn on 26th September

[SC/PR/DT]

Spring migrants noted in small numbers almost daily up to 3rd May with a peak of 27 on 5th April
[PR/LS/DT]

Small numbers (1-3 birds) reported during summer flying 'locally' around the site, occasionally swooping low over the Mare Perchée to drink and/or bathe

Autumn migrants noted regularly from 15th August - 26th September with larger numbers observed between 8th - 20th September. The highest daily total during this period was a staggering 1068 birds noted in the afternoon of 20th September [LS/PR]

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

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

First recorded 9th April [DT]. Last reported on 20th September [PR/LS]

Few birds noted migrating north in spring with 1-2 birds on just 4 dates to 8th May

Low numbers reported during autumn migration (nothing like those reported for *h.rustica*) between 10th August - 20th September. The highest daily total was 286 moving south on 20th September [PR/LS]

Meadow Pipit (Pipit farlouse) *Anthus pratensis* M

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

First recorded in spring on 27th February [DT]. Up to 13 birds subsequently seen almost daily up to and including 15th April

Absent during the summer with no reports between 16th April - 18th September

First reported in autumn (3 birds) on 19th September [DT]. Small numbers almost daily throughout the autumn with a peak of 53 on October 12th [PR]. Last autumn sighting on 13th November [PR]

Unusually there was a report of *a.pratensis* on site in winter - a singleton near the Mare Perchée on January 3rd [DT]

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

Reasonably common passage migrant in spring and autumn

First recorded in spring on 31st March [LS/DT]. 1-4 birds seen on 6 further dates up to and including 26th April

First autumn record on 5th September. 1-4 birds subsequently seen on 4 dates up to and including 1st October

Although usually seen migrating overhead, individuals sometimes noted on site (eg, 31st March, 19th April, 26th September)

White Wagtail (Bergeronnette grise) *Motacilla alba* M

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

First reported in spring on 27th February – a singleton flying northeast and landing briefly on site [DT]. Small numbers reported between 11th March – 12th April with peak passage occurring in mid-March. Maximum daily total 44 on 14th March, 3 of which landed to feed on the Northern Fields [PR/LS/DT]

Just one sighting in summer - 2 birds on 1st August [DT]

Small numbers noted almost daily during autumn between 10th-31st October with a maximum daily total of 54 on 11th October [PR]

Yellow Wagtail (Bergeronnette printanière) *Motacilla flava* M

Passage migrant noted in spring and autumn. Contrary to last year seen more often in spring than in autumn (no doubt because of few early morning autumn skywatches)

First reported in spring on 26th March [DT] and 1-4 birds subsequently noted on 5 further dates up to and including 20th April

Recorded only twice in autumn : 1, 30th August - 5, 5th September

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

A rather uncommon and irregular non-breeding resident and passage migrant

As was the case in 2008, almost absent during the first half of the year with just 2 records in March (singles on 6th and 21st [DT])

Rather uncommon and irregular during latter part of the year, although birds apparently migrating south noted on 5 dates between 27th September – 22nd October

1, 15th August [DT] - 1, 19th September [DT] - 1 S, 27th September [PR/DT] - 1 S 30th September [PR] - 2, 1st October [DT] - 1, 4th October [PR/DT] - 2 S, 10th October [PR] - 5 S, 11th October [PR] - 2 S, 22nd October [PR] - 1, 31st October [DT] - 2 W, 19th December [DT]

The 2 birds observed on 1st October fed together for several minutes on the edges of the Mare Perchée

Winter Wren (Troglodyte mignon) *Troglodytes troglodytes* S

Common breeding resident – usually 1-4 birds seen or heard daily throughout the year

Dunnock (Accenteur mouchet) *Prunella modularis* S M

Common breeding resident – 1-4 birds seen almost daily

1 juvenile observed on 1st July [DT]. Discreet in July and August when rather difficult to find

Ubiquitous in February (especially the second week) during which p.modularis was ‘singing everywhere’ and up to 9 birds could be seen daily

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

Common breeding resident – 1-4 birds seen almost daily

Like the preceding species heard singing in mid-February (eg, 2, 19th February) and similarly discreet during the breeding season with few sightings between the beginning of April and the end of August

Daily totals bolstered considerably by passage migrants in autumn (roughly between 19th September – 1st November) when up to 15 birds noted

Common Nightingale (Rossignol philomèle) *Luscinia megarhynchos* M

A good year - present on site for short periods in spring and autumn

1 heard singing on 19th April [DT/PR]. Presumably the same bird was heard and/or seen on 9 further dates up to and including 10th May

In autumn, 2 seen on 15th August near the Mare Perchée [PR] and 2 birds heard calling there the following morning [DT]. At least 2 birds heard and/or seen on a further 5 dates up to and including 6th September

A rather late individual was heard singing briefly near the Compost on 26th September [SC/PR/DT]

A sound recording was made of the spring bird on 26th April which may be heard on the website (<http://www.skutchia.com/sounds/nightingale%20-parc%20des%20beaumonts-%2026apr09.mp3>)

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 from 15th March – 2nd April

Noted on 5 dates in autumn from 20th September – 5th November

1, 15th March [PR/LS] - 1, 23rd March [DT] - 2, 26th March [PR] - 1, 29th March [DT] - 1, 2nd April [PR]

1, 20th September [DT] - 1, 26th September [DT] - 3, 25th October [DT] - 1, 29th September [DT] - 1, 5th November [PR]

P. ochruros was also observed frequently just outside the park in the vicinity of the cemetery on rue Galilee - a male sang here in spring and especially autumn when it was heard daily throughout the month of September [DT]

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

Uncommon migrant. Not observed in spring although, as was the case last year, at least one individual remained on site for several days during the autumn

1, 20th-27th September [PR/LS/DT] - 3 (including an adult male) present in and around the Petit Prairie on 29th September [PR]

Whinchat (Tarier des prés) *Saxicola rubetra* M

Uncommon passage migrant. Just one record in early autumn

1, 22nd August [DT]

Common Stonechat (Traquet pâtre) *Saxicola torquata* M

Another poor year for this species which has declined markedly in recent years. Just one 1 record in early spring

1, 14th March [PR/LS/DT]

A photograph of the bird appears on the website [LS] (see Appendix III)

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

3 records - 1 in spring and 2 in autumn

1, 14th April [PR]

1, 11th October [PR] - 1, 17th October [DT]

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

Common resident - small numbers seen daily

Usually 2-5 birds observed daily. Higher daily totals (up to 15 birds) during winter. Notable increase in numbers in late autumn with the presence of migrants on site (ex, 35 on October 8th [PM])

Fieldfare (Grive litorne) *Turdus pilaris* H M

Rather uncommon. Up to 11 birds noted on just 6 dates in winter and only observed as 'present' on site on 2 occasions (19th March and 1st November)

3, 2nd March [DT] - 1, 19th March [PR] - 1, 24th March [DT]

1, 31st October [DT] - 1, 1st November [DT] - 11 S, 10th November [PM/PR]

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

Common, if rather discreet, breeding resident with 1-3 birds seen on most days - passage migrants increase the numbers observed both in spring and in autumn

In spring up to 26 birds noted on site and/or in migratory flight north/northeast (last 3 weeks of March and 1st week in April)

Discreet between mid-April and mid-September when single birds occasionally noted. Often heard singing on site in summer (between mid-June and mid-July). 1 observed carrying food on 15th August [DT]

Numbers bolstered by migrants in autumn (mid-September - late October) when up to 36 birds seen daily, either on site and/or in southward flight

Redwing (Grive mauvis) *Turdus iliacus* H M

Reasonably common migrant in late autumn - small numbers on site during the winter

1-5 birds observed on site almost daily in January and February. Spring migration noted from 1st -27th March with small numbers often observed on skywatches with a peak of 83 moving east on 2nd March [DT]

First migrants in autumn (25 birds) noted on 17th October [DT] but seldom observed subsequently, no doubt because of a lack of observer coverage in the early mornings

Curiously absent in November with just a singleton noted on 8th November [PR]. Small numbers (up to 22 birds) on site from 5th December to the end of the year

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 discreet in late spring and summer (almost absent between 1st April - 30th September)

Heard singing in March and December

Small numbers visibly migrating occasionally noted in spring and autumn (eg, 2, 11th March [LS] - 7, 9th October [PR])

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

A poor year. Although seen and/or heard daily in early spring there were notably fewer birds than in 2008. Estimated 1-2 breeding pairs

First recorded in spring on 24th April [PR]. Last reported on 15th August [LS]

1 individual carrying nest material on 9th May [DT]. Discreet and very rarely observed from mid-May - mid August

Although singing appeared to stop after the first week of June, brief song was heard in the Savanna on 25th July [DT]

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

Common summer visitor and passage migrant - seen or heard daily between mid-March and the end of October

First seen (and photographed) in spring on 3rd March [AB]

No subsequent records until 15th March - up to 8 birds seen thereafter throughout the spring and summer. Numbers supplemented occasionally in spring by migrants (eg, 12 on April 12th [DT]).

Typically sharp increase in numbers in autumn with in excess of 20 birds noted daily on site throughout September. Apparent halt to autumn migration in mid-October with 1-4 birds on site daily during the last 2 weeks of the month

As was the case last year, birds noted on site in winter : 2, 5th December (one of which was singing discreetly) [LS] - 1 female, 12th December [DT]

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

Uncommon summer visitor. Breeding on site possible but not confirmed

First observed on 11th April [DT]. Heard singing two days later but then no reports until 30th April. A single bird subsequently seen or heard thereafter up to and including 4th July

Contrary to previous (breeding-proven) years *s.curruca* continued to sing into July and was relatively easy to observe during this period

Common Whitethroat (Fauvette grisette) *Sylvia communis* E

A relatively poor year with fewer birds than in 2008, although remaining a common summer visitor with up to 4 birds seen or heard in spring – 3 breeding pairs estimated

First reported in spring on 9th April (2 birds) [PR]. Last seen in autumn on 6th September [DT]

1 male observed in the Savanna carrying nest material [DT]. An adult observed feeding juveniles on 1st July [DT]

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

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

First recorded in spring with a bird singing discreetly at the Mare de Brie on 9th May [DT]

A pair carrying nest material observed at the Mare Perchée on 30th May [DT]. An adult seen feeding a juvenile there on 10th July [PR]. Dispersal from the Mare Perchée noted in mid-July with individuals noted in the Savanna and at the Mare de Brie on 18th July [DT]

At least 2 birds noted at or near the Mare Perchée until 5th September. Thereafter singletons noted irregularly until 8th October, the last reported sighting [PM]

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

Reasonably common summer visitor although a relatively poor year with fewer birds than in 2008 – estimated 2 breeding pairs

First reported in spring on 1st May [BD/DT]. At least 2 birds either seen or heard between 8th May and 7th June (which was surprisingly the last reported sighting). Contrary to previous years no definitive proof of breeding (although its apparent absence in late summer was typical)

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

A better year for this species. Breeding possible but not confirmed

Much earlier arrival in spring compared to 2008 – first reported (singing) on 3rd April [PR] and up to 2 birds then either seen or heard irregularly up to and including 8th May

Thereafter seen on just 3 occasions up to and including 16th August (2 birds) [DT]. 1-3 birds seen daily in early September – the last reported sighting was on 19th September [DT]

Wood Warbler (Pouillot siffleur) *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* M

1 record in early autumn

1 at the Mare de Brie, 14th August [PR]

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

Common summer visitor, seen daily. At least 5 breeding pairs estimated

1st reported (singing) on 28th February [YF]. No subsequent reports until 11th March [LS] - up to 5 birds seen or heard thereafter throughout the spring and summer until the end of August

Increased numbers during autumn with the arrival of migrants - roughly 10-15 birds noted daily throughout September. Sharp drop in numbers in mid-October with 1-4 birds noted daily during the latter half of the month

1-2 birds present on site throughout November (3, 1st November - 1, 8th November - 2, 28th November [DT])

Goldcrest (Roitelet huppé) *Regulus regulus* S M

Observed less frequently than in previous years. Breeding unconfirmed

Observed only in winter although presumed to be present on site throughout the year. 1-5 birds observed almost daily in January-March and in the latter part of December

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

Rather uncommon resident. Breeding possible but not confirmed

Present in winter and early spring with singles noted on 20th-21st February and 16th March [DT]

Unusually at least 4 birds were observed on 26th March [DT] - possibly migrants

No reports between 12th April - 29th August. 3 were noted on 30th August [DT] and subsequently 1-2 birds noted irregularly throughout the remaining months of the year

Spotted Flycatcher (Gobemouche gris) *Muscicapa striata* M

Rather uncommon passage migrant in spring and autumn

1 record in spring and 1-2 birds reported on 8 dates in autumn between 1st August - 8th September

1, 16th May [DT]

2 birds together behind the Mare de Mileu on 1st August [DT]. A singleton noted in or near this area on 7 further dates in autumn (no doubt the same individual):

1, 12th August [PR] - 1, 18th August [PM] - 1, 22th August [DT] - 1, 30th August [DT] - 1, 5th September [DT] - 1, 6th September [DT] - 1, 8th September [PR]

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

Passage migrant recorded on 7 dates in autumn

First reported in autumn on 14th August – the same date as in 2008 !

2, 14th August [PR/DT] - 1, 5th September [DT] - 2, 8th September [PR] - 1, 9th September [PR] - 2, 12th September [DT] - 1, 19th September [DT] - 1, 1st October [PR]

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

Common breeding resident – usually 1-6 birds seen daily

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

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant – singles observed on 6 dates at the beginning of the year

1, 11th January [PR] - 1, 25th January [PR] - 1, 11th February [PR] - 1, 31st March [DT] - 1, 1st April [PR] - 1, 20th April [LS]

The birds noted on 31st March and 20th April both appeared to be in active migration, flying purposefully eastwards and perching briefly in bushes en route

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

Common breeding resident, although slightly less numerous than p.major - usually 1-4 birds seen daily

Marsh Tit (Mésange nonnette) *Parus palustris* S

Uncommon resident – breeding attempted without success

A pair was present around the Ave des Marronniers at the beginning of the year and showed signs of nesting, collecting nest material near the Mare Perchée on 22nd and 23rd March [PR/DT]. However, for reasons unknown, one of the birds disappeared at the end of the month and the last sighting of p.palustris was of a very agitated and very vocal single bird on 31st March [DT]

Sadly the bird which disappeared was a colour-ringed individual which had been present in the park since 1st September 2008 – his or her photograph appears on the website (see Appendix III)

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

Fairly common resident – 2 breeding pairs estimated

Up to 11 birds seen fairly regularly in winter months and autumn, from 1st January – 5th March and from early August – 31st December

Only single birds or pairs noted from mid-March – mid-May. One pair observed nest-building in the Savanna on 17th and 18th March [DT]. One of these birds was ringed (silver-coloured on left leg)

Second pair noted on 1st May in the woodland bordering the Parc Mabilie [DT]

1 adult observed feeding fledglings on 16th May near the ‘Danton’ park entrance [DT]

True to form, a caudatus was either very discreet or absent in late spring and summer (no records between mid-May and early August)

Eurasian Nuthatch (Sittelle torchepot) *Sitta europaea* S

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

4 records in winter

1, 1st January [PR] - 1, 9th January [AB] - 1, 11th January [DT] - 1, 11th February [DT]

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

1-2 breeding pairs. 1-2 birds usually seen or heard daily throughout the year

Common Magpie (Pie bavarde) *Pica pica* S

Common breeding resident, usually up to 20 seen daily

A group of 51 birds on the roof of a neighbouring building was observed on 28th December [PR]

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

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

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

Uncommon. Recorded on 8 dates (2 in winter, 5 in early spring and 1 in late autumn)

Usually single birds noted. Unlike previous years, not reported in large flocks

2 W, 11th January [PR] - 1 W, 11th February [PR] - 1, 28th February [PR/DT] - 2 E, 1st March [LS/DT] - 1, 17th March [DT] - 1, 22nd March [PS/LS/DT]

1 S, 10th November [PM/PR] - 2, 27th December [PR]

Very unusually an individual was observed to land on site on 2 occasions (17th and 22nd March) - probably the same bird was involved. A photograph appears on the website [LS] (see Appendix III)

Rook (Corbeau freux) *Corvus frugilegus* M

Like the above species, a rather uncommon corvid. Recorded migrating over the park on 24 dates - 11 in spring and 13 in autumn

Records typically involve small, loose groups of less than 10 birds flying purposefully overhead

Observed much more often in spring than in 2008. First reported on 11th February (1 SW [DT]) and subsequently noted on 10 further dates up to and including 9th April (2 SE [PR])

The maximum daily count in spring was 7, flying north on 28th February [PR/DT]

First observed in autumn on 26th September - 4 birds flying south [SC/DT]. Subsequently noted on 12 further dates up to and including 8th November (2 SW [PR/DT])

The maximum daily count in autumn was 25, flying west on 25th October [AB/PR/DT]

Carrion Crow (Corneille noire) *Corvus corone* S

Common breeding resident - 1-15 birds noted daily

Occasionally much higher numbers noted (eg, 50 on the roof of a nearby building on January 29th [PR] - 42, 11th February [DT] - 50 to north of the park on 13th September [CB/PR/DT])

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

Common breeding resident, small numbers seen daily

In spring a notable flock of 300+ flying westwards on 19th March [PR]

More discreet in midsummer - relatively few sightings from late June - early August

The presence of juveniles at the end of summer and migrants in late autumn increases numbers significantly. Roughly 30 birds on site from mid-August into early September. Autumn passage noted in late autumn, ex: 80, 25th October - 94, 31st October - 300 on 7th November - 300+ (including 207 flying SW), 8th November [PR/DT]

Larger numbers occasionally noted in December, ex: 250, 5th December [DT] - 320 flying southwest in small groups, 28th December [PR]

House Sparrow (Moineau domestique) *Passer domesticus* S

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

Tree Sparrow (Moineau friquet) *Passer montanus* H

Very uncommon resident - breeding confirmed just outside the park by the cemetery wall on rue Galilee

Recorded on 5 dates - 4 in winter and 1 in spring

6, 11th January [PR] - 8, 5th February [DT] - 5, 20th February [DT] - 2, 17th April [PR] - 2, 19th December [DT]

All reports concerned birds either inside or around the edges of the re-cycling plant. 1-2 birds noted occasionally in spring outside the park by the cemetery - 1 individual observed carrying food there on 16th May [DT]

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

Fairly common in winter with up to 20 birds on site in winter (flocks regularly found lower down near the ping-pong tables)

Very rarely reported during the summer - almost absent from mid-April to mid-September with just the occasional sighting of 1 or 2 birds (eg, 1, 8th May - 2 (a pair), 25th July - 1, 6th September)

Common passage migrant in early spring with small numbers noted flying northeast from 6th March - 5th April, with a maximum daily count of 116 on 22nd March [LS/PR/DT]

Much higher numbers flying west or southwest on return passage between 25th September - 13th November, with a daily maximum count of 401 on 25th October [AB/PR/DT]

Brambling (Pinson du nord) *Fringilla montifringilla* H M

Regular but rather uncommon passage migrant recorded in spring and autumn - usually observed

flying overhead

Recorded on 11 dates – 1 in winter, 4 in spring and 6 in October

1, 11th February [PR]

1, 14th March [PR/LS/DT] - 1 NE, 15th March [PR/LS/DT] - 2 E, 17th March [DT] - 1 N, 22nd March [PR/LS/DT/BW]

2 SW, 17th October [DT] - 1, 19th October [PR] - 1, 23rd October [PR] - 1, 24th October [DT] - 2+, 25th October [DT] - 2+, 31st October [DT]

3 of the records involved birds perched in trees on site (11th February, 14th March and 24th October)

Eurasian Linnet (Linotte mélodieuse) *Carduelis cannabina* M

Reasonably common passage migrant noted in spring and autumn

First reported in spring on 5th March [DT]. Noted on 23 further dates up to and including 23rd April (2, N [PR/DT] with a maximum of 24 on 22nd March [DT])

Few reports in autumn (a lack of early morning skywatches probably to blame). First noted on 19th September [SM]. 1-3 birds reported on just 4 further dates up to and including 31st October [DT]

Birds quite often noted landing on site (ex, 14 feeding on stubble ground near the Mare Perchée on 22nd March [DT])

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

Uncommon winter visitor and migrant

A poor year in comparison to 2008 – 3 records (2 in early spring and 1 in autumn)

1, 20th February [DT] - 1, 28th February [PR]

1, 15th October [PR]

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

1 juvenile on 5th September and a flock of 14 birds (mainly juveniles) observed on site on 1st October [DT]

Occasionally noted on skywatches and perceived to be migrating (ex, 2 E, 14th March - 6 SW 4th October - 5 SW, 18th October)

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

Common resident breeding in or near the park. Usually 1-6 birds noted daily

Highest daily totals noted in early spring (up to 20 birds on site around the 21st February). Rather discreet later in spring when seen less frequently and in fewer numbers (1-2 birds)

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

A reasonably common winter visitor and passage migrant in early spring and late autumn

Present in winter with 3 birds noted on 31st January [DT]. Up to 30 birds noted on site from 21st February – 2nd March when a small flock could be seen either in flight or feeding on the ground near the Mare Perchée

Visible migration in spring noted from 19th February (17 birds flying northeast [DT]). Thereafter seen irregularly in small numbers up to and including 9th April [PR]

Return passage noted from 25th September [PR] – 11th November [DT]. Observed irregularly in small numbers flying generally southwest with a maximum daily count of 26 on 18th October [DT]

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

Fairly common resident with 1-2 breeding pairs estimated in or very near the park - small numbers (usually 1-4 birds) seen regularly from early March throughout the year

Irregular appearance on site in winter – oddly no records in January apart from 22 birds present on 14th [DT], and in February noted only between 5th-20th (up to 14 birds)

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 2008 present on site at the beginning of the year with 1-4 birds seen daily up to 16th February. A definite pair was noted for the first time on 3rd February which was seen during the days that followed (with courtship behaviour observed on 5th February [DT])

Very discreet from the third week in March to the end of August when rarely heard or seen

A juvenile noted at the Mare de Mileu on 30th August [DT] and 1-3 birds (including 2 juveniles) noted irregularly thereafter until 7th November (the last reported sighting of the year)

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

An interesting year : a flock of up to 10 birds present on site at the beginning of the year and a pair noted on two occasions in spring and summer, raising the possibility that the species bred either in or very near the park for the first time

Usually 5-10 birds seen daily from 1st January – 1st March. During March seen less frequently and in lower numbers. 2 birds considered to be a 'pair' were observed on site on 24th March [DT]

Few reports (1-3 birds on 4 dates) in April – these included an extraordinary observation of an individual inside an abandoned nest of Common Wood-Pigeon *Columbus palumbus* on 4th April [DT]

Astonishingly a pair flew in to land briefly in the trees around the Mare Perchée on 1st June [AB/DT] – the first report of *c.coccothraustes* in summer at Beaumonts. A photograph of one of these birds appears on the website [AB] (see Appendix III)

A further 'summer sighting' occurred on 13th August – 1 (possibly 2) birds in northward flight [PR]

Just 2 records in autumn : 2, 29th September [PR] - 1, 10th October [PR]

Recorded twice in winter at the end of the year – 2, 20th December [PR] - 2, 30th December [PR]

Corn Bunting (Bruant proyer) *Emberiza calandra* M

1 seen and heard flying southwards over the park in summer

1, 25th July [DT]

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

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

2 birds present on site from 14th January – 20th January, one of which was ringed (one silver-coloured ring on left leg). Thereafter 1-4 birds noted (usually 1 or 2) almost daily up to 4th April. These included a pair moving around the site together on 5th March [DT]

Absent in late spring and summer (not recorded on site between 5th April and 10th October)

Almost no visible migration in spring (1 N on 15th March and 5 E on 18th March)

Small numbers seen regularly on migration in late autumn from 11th October – 10th November with a daily maximum total of 22 on 6th November [PR]

1 individual present around the Mare de Brie at the end of the year (19th December [DT] and 22nd December [PR])

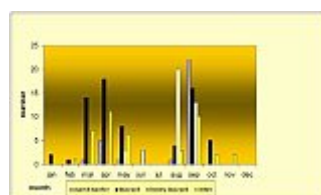
Cirl Bunting (Bruant zizi) *Emberiza cirlus* H

Sadly now an uncommon, non-breeding species.

1 male wintering on site at the start of the year – present from 1st January – 26th February. Noted singing on 22nd February [DT] and 26th February [PR]

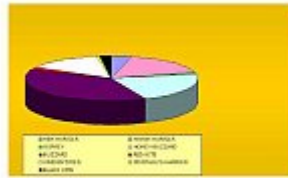
APPENDICES

Appendix I : Migration of larger raptors - 2009 (179 individuals)



Raptors2009-I

Appendix II : Migration of larger raptors - 2009 (179 individuals)



Raptors 2009-II

Appendix III - Photo

Not reproduced here. See:

<http://www.skutchia.com/annualreport09en.htm>
