

# Beaumont's Birds: Annual Report 2011

Tuesday 17 January 2012, by [THORNS David](#) (Date first published: 31 December 2011).

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124 species were recorded this year - a highly respectable total. As has been the case over the last few years, the site was visited by birders almost every day.

Although another year passed without a Green Sandpiper, 2011 was nevertheless a good one for waders. Flyover Turtle Doves were recorded again after a three-year gap.

During spring and autumn a total of 401 hours 'skywatching' hours were spent at the Cascade, an increase of 74% on the previous year. Not surprisingly the numbers of migrating raptors observed increased accordingly - 221 individuals were noted which represents an increase of 69% on 2010. A summary of the raptor migration may be found at the end of this report (Appendix I and II).

Three species were recorded for the first time : Great Egret, Night Heron and Bar-headed Goose, all of which were observed flying over the park.

Observers at Parc des Beaumonts in 2011 :

AB= Alain Bloquet BL= Bill Link BW= Bruno Walter DT= David Thorns FP= Frédéric Pouzergas GP= Guillaume Passy LS= Laurent Spanneut OP= Olivier Laporte PD= Pierre Delbove PH= Paul Hurst PM= Philip Redman PR= Pierre Rousset QD= Quentin Dubost RC=Raphaël Claustre RP= Roland Paul SC= Stéphane Chambris SD=Sebastien Detante-Brison SO=Sean Offord 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

Small numbers observed occasionally in winter. Larger numbers noted in spring (between 27<sup>th</sup> February - end of April) with a maximum of 179 on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Almost absent after 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Autumn passage noted for the first time on 14<sup>th</sup> September (4 birds) [DT]. Observed regularly in autumn until mid-November with a maximum of 202 on 7<sup>th</sup> October [PR].

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

Single birds noted irregularly throughout the year either at the Mare Perchee or perched in trees nearby. At least two different individuals noted at the beginning of April, although these were never observed together.

Almost absent in winter (January-February and December). Noted for the first time fishing on site on the 19<sup>th</sup> March [DT].

Small 'migrating' flocks sometimes noted during skywatches : 5 on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 10 on 1<sup>st</sup> September and 10 on 15<sup>th</sup> September [DT].

**Great Egret** (Grande aigrette) *Egretta alba* M

Two records in autumn.

7, 29<sup>th</sup> October [SC/DT] - 3, 31<sup>st</sup> October [PR].

Still a rarity in the region these constitute the first records for the park. Both observations were of flocks of migrating birds flying southwards.

See Appendix III.

**Night Heron** (Bihoreau gris) *Nycticorax nycticorax* M

One record in late spring.

1, 29<sup>th</sup> May [PR/DT].

This constitutes the first record for Beaumonts. It was of an individual flying purposefully towards the north, high in the sky, in the middle of the afternoon.

**White Stork** (Cigogne blanche) *Ciconia ciconia* M

Observed migrating over the park on 7 dates (1 in spring and 6 in autumn).

1, 4<sup>th</sup> June [PR/DT].

4, 20<sup>th</sup> August [PM/PR/DT] - 10, 21<sup>st</sup> August [PR/DT] - 10, 3<sup>rd</sup> September [LS/DT] - 14, 5<sup>th</sup> September [LS] - 1, 16<sup>th</sup> October [PR/DT] - 1, 29<sup>th</sup> October [SC/DT].

See Appendix III.

**Black Stork** (Cigogne noire) *Ciconia niger* M

Observed migrating over the park on 2 dates in early autumn.

1, 27<sup>th</sup> August [SC/DT] - 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> September [DT].

**Mute Swan** (Cygne tuberculé) *Cygnus olor* M

Observed flying overhead on 2 occasions (in spring and in autumn).

3, 28<sup>th</sup> May [DT].

6, 13<sup>th</sup> October [PR].

### **Greylag Goose** (Oie cendrée) *Anser anser* M

Recorded on 6 dates (2 in early spring and 4 in late autumn/winter)

97, 6<sup>th</sup> February [PR/DT] - 14, 27<sup>th</sup> February [PR/DT].

69, 5<sup>th</sup> November [PR/DT] - 74, 5<sup>th</sup> December [PR] - 6, 10<sup>th</sup> December [PR] - 79+, 18<sup>th</sup> December [DT].

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

Observed flying over the park on 6 occasions. Although this species has never been observed landing on site this nearly happened early in the morning on March 9<sup>th</sup> when a pair circled very low around the Mare Perchee.

1, 7<sup>th</sup> March [DT] - 2, 9<sup>th</sup> March [DT] - 2, 23<sup>rd</sup> March [QD] - 2, 26<sup>th</sup> May [DT] - 13, 7<sup>th</sup> September [DT] - 5, 16<sup>th</sup> September [PR].

### **Bar-headed Goose** (Oie à tête barrée) *Anser indicus* F

1 observation in autumn - a first for Beaumonts. The bird was seen early in the morning flying over the park in amongst a flock of Canada Geese.

1, 7<sup>th</sup> September [DT]

See Appendix III.

### **Mallard** (Canard colvert) *Anas platyrhynchos* S M

Small numbers observed irregularly throughout the year. A pair nested at the Mare Perchée for the third consecutive year.

As in previous years noted for the first time on site at the beginning of February (a pair also roosting overnight at this time). Later in the month a wandering group of 4 birds often observed visiting the Mare Perchee, and just as often chased away from the area by the resident pair. Up to 5 males observed almost daily in spring up until mid-April.

Breeding confirmed with the appearance of 12 ducklings on 18<sup>th</sup> April (3 weeks earlier than in 2010). Half were lost during the following 48 hours, and only 4 ducklings were left by 29<sup>th</sup> April (11 days later). These remaining birds were observed daily thereafter until the beginning of June.

Rarely observed during the second half of the year - small numbers (normally 4 - the juveniles ?) noted occasionally in flight.

See Appendix III

### **Osprey** (Balbuzard pêcheur) *Pandion haliaetus* M

Recorded on 5 dates (as was the case last year) : 1 in spring and 4 in autumn.

1, 30<sup>th</sup> April [QD/PR/DT].

1, 28<sup>th</sup> August [SC/CF/DT] - 1, 11<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT] - 1, 15<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 1, 20<sup>th</sup> October [PR].

See Appendix I and II.

**Red Kite** (Milan royal) *Milvus milvus* M

Observed migrating over the park on 4 dates (1 in spring and 3 in autumn)

2, 4<sup>th</sup> April [SC/DT].

1, 7<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 15<sup>th</sup> October [SC/DT] - 1, 16<sup>th</sup> October [PR/DT].

See Appendix I and II.

**Black Kite** (Milan noir) *Milvus migrans* M

Observations at Beaumonts continue to increase. Noted flying over the park on 8 dates (twice as many as in 2010) : 7 in spring and 1 in autumn.

1, April 16<sup>th</sup> [DT] , 3, 18<sup>th</sup> April [PR/DT] - 2, 1<sup>st</sup> May [DT] - 2, 6<sup>th</sup> May [PR] - 3, 8<sup>th</sup> May [PR/DT] - 1, 21<sup>st</sup> May [CF/DT] - 1, 29<sup>th</sup> May [PR/LS/DT].

1, 23<sup>rd</sup> August [PR].

See Appendix I and II.

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

Another good year – observed migrating over the park on 28 dates (9 in spring and 19 in autumn). At least 46 birds were involved.

1, 24<sup>th</sup> March [DT] - 4, 27<sup>th</sup> March [SC/DT] - 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> April [PR/DT] - 2, 13<sup>th</sup> April [PR] - 2, 17<sup>th</sup> April [SC/PR/DT] - 1, 27<sup>th</sup> April [DT] - 2, 30<sup>th</sup> April [QD/PR/DT] - 1, 1<sup>st</sup> May [DT] - 1, 28<sup>th</sup> May [SC/PR/DT].

1, 31<sup>st</sup> August [DT] - 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> September [DT] - 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> September [RC/DT] - 1, 7<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 1, 13<sup>th</sup> September [DT] - 1, 16<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 2, 17<sup>th</sup> September [DT] - 2, 20<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 2, 25<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT] - 1, 29<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 1, 1<sup>st</sup> October [PR/DT] - 2, 7<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 8<sup>th</sup> October [QD/PR/DT] - 1, 13<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 16<sup>th</sup> October [PR/DT] - 1, 17<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 20<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 14<sup>th</sup> November [PR] - 1, 19<sup>th</sup> November [PR].

See Appendix I and II

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

Recorded on 6 dates (3 in spring and 3 in autumn).

1, 24<sup>th</sup> March [DT] - 1, 24<sup>th</sup> April [PR/DT] - 2, 1<sup>st</sup> May [SC/QD/FP/LS/DT].

1, 11<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 1, 13<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> October [PR].

See Appendix I and II.

**Common Buzzard** (Buse variable) *Buteo buteo* M

A very good year in comparison with 2010 – more than double the number of birds recorded. Observed for the first time “on site” (even perched) in winter – 1 individual was noted on three consecutive days in January. At least 69 birds were involved.

2, 3<sup>rd</sup> January - 1, 7<sup>th</sup> January - 2, 9<sup>th</sup> January - 1, 21-23 January - 1, 29<sup>th</sup> January - 1, 30<sup>th</sup> January - 1, 6<sup>th</sup> March - 2, 20<sup>th</sup> March - 1, 27<sup>th</sup> March - 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> April - 3, 10<sup>th</sup> April - 1, 16<sup>th</sup> April - 1, 18<sup>th</sup> April - 2, 23<sup>rd</sup> April - 3, 24<sup>th</sup> April - 1, 30<sup>th</sup> April - 2, 1<sup>st</sup> May - 1, 21<sup>st</sup> May.

1, 28<sup>th</sup> August - 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> September - 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> September - 4, 24<sup>th</sup> September - 2, 25<sup>th</sup> September - 1, 1<sup>st</sup> October - 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> October - 1, 14<sup>th</sup> October - 7, 15<sup>th</sup> October - 4, 16<sup>th</sup> October - 1, 17<sup>th</sup> October - 3, 20<sup>th</sup> October - 1, 22<sup>nd</sup> October - 3, 23<sup>rd</sup> October - 3, 13<sup>th</sup> November - 2, 19<sup>th</sup> November.

See Appendix I and II.

### **European Honey-buzzard** (Bondrée apivore) *Pernis apivorus* M

Rather a good year - many more birds recorded than in 2010. Observed on 23 dates (8 in spring, 1 in summer and 14 in autumn). At least 53 birds were involved.

1, 1<sup>st</sup> May [SC/QD/FP/LS/DT] - 1, 15<sup>th</sup> May [PD/DT] - 1, 22<sup>nd</sup> May [PR/DT] - 2, 28<sup>th</sup> May [SC/PR/DT] - 1, 29<sup>th</sup> May [PR/LS/DT] - 3, 4<sup>th</sup> June [QD/PR/DT] - 4, 5<sup>th</sup> June [SC/PR/DT] - 1, 25<sup>th</sup> May [DT].

3, 31<sup>st</sup> Juillet [LS/DT].

1, 20<sup>th</sup> August [PM/PR/DT] - 1, 24<sup>th</sup> August [DT] - 6, 27<sup>th</sup> August [SC/DT] - 14, 28<sup>th</sup> August [SC/CF/DT] - 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> September [DT] - 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> September [RC/LS/DT] - 1, 5<sup>th</sup> September [LS] - 1, 6<sup>th</sup> September [PR/LS] - 1, 7<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 1, 10<sup>th</sup> September [SC/DT] - 1, 16<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 2, 18<sup>th</sup> September [QD/PR/DT] - 2, 20<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 2, 24<sup>th</sup> September [LS/DT].

See Appendix I, II and III.

### **[Unidentified large raptors]**

Unidentified larger raptors were noted on 11 dates.

24 birds were involved (17 in spring and 7 in autumn).

See Appendix I et II.

### **Northern Goshawk** (Autour des palomes) *Accipiter gentilis* M

1 record in spring.

1, 18<sup>th</sup> March [PR].

### **Eurasian Sparrowhawk** (Épervier d'Europe) *Accipiter nisus* S M

Observed regularly (normally 1-3 birds) throughout the year. Breeding confirmed for the fifth consecutive year in woodland near the Parc Mabille, the begging calls of juveniles being heard at the end of July and in early August (as was the case in 2007-2010).

The juveniles were seen for the first time on 20<sup>th</sup> July, flying around the Bois de Bordure [DT].

1-4 birds noted occasionally in active migration (observed on at least 6 occasions in autumn between 18<sup>th</sup> September - 5 November).

### **Common Kestrel** (Faucon crécerelle) *Falco tinnunculus* S M

Breeding in the vicinity, 1-3 birds (usually 1) observed almost daily throughout the year.

Although the bulk of observations involved 'local' birds, the species was noted on several occasions in active migration (for example : 1 on 9<sup>th</sup> March [LS/DT] and 1 on 13<sup>th</sup> October [PR]).

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

1-3 birds recorded in spring, summer and autumn.

Recorded far more frequently during the summer than in the last two years (noted quite often from the end of May to the end of August). At least 3 birds observed hunting high over the park on 28<sup>th</sup> August [QD/SC/DT].

Observed for the first time in spring on 17<sup>th</sup> April [SC/PR/DT] - last observation in autumn on 13<sup>th</sup> October [PR].

**Peregrine Falcon** (Faucon pèlerin) *Falco peregrinus* S M

With a breeding pair at the nearby Porte d'Ivry (94) this species has become far less of a rarity. 1-2 birds recorded on 15 dates spread sporadically throughout the year.

1, 2<sup>nd</sup> January [PR] - 1, 10<sup>th</sup> March [PR] - 1, 10<sup>th</sup> April [SC/DT] - 1, 17<sup>th</sup> April [SC/PR/DT] - 1, 22<sup>nd</sup> April [DT] - 1, 29<sup>th</sup> May [PR/DT] - 1, 7<sup>th</sup> August [DT] - 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> September [DT] - 1, 24<sup>th</sup> September [LS] - 1, 13<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 16<sup>th</sup> October [PR/DT] - 1, 20<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 20<sup>th</sup> November [PR] - 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> December [PR] - 1, 10<sup>th</sup> December [SC/PR/DT].

**Merlin** (Faucon émerillon) *Falco columbarius* M

Observed migrating over the park on 2 dates in autumn.

1, 14<sup>th</sup> September [DT] - 1, 9<sup>th</sup> November [PR]

See Appendix III.

**Common Crane** (Grue cendrée) *Grus grus* M

Recorded on 4 dates (2 in spring and 2 in autumn).

8, 26<sup>th</sup> February [DT] - 1, 10<sup>th</sup> April [SC/DT].

87, 13<sup>th</sup> November [PR] - 34, 14<sup>th</sup> November [PR]

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

Resident - 1-8 birds observed daily throughout the year.

Breeding confirmed at the Mare Perchée and at the Mare de Brie, a pair at each location producing two broods. Copulation observed at the Mare Perchée during the early morning on 6<sup>th</sup> April [DT]. A chick was observed for the first time there on the 10<sup>th</sup> May, and at the Mare de Brie on 27<sup>th</sup> May [DT].

At the end of July a minimum of 2 chicks and 2 juveniles present at the Mare de Brie, and 2 chicks and 3 juveniles at the Mare Perchée [DT].

Unfortunately a healthy (and increasing) population of rats has recently developed at the Mare Perchée and is surely responsible for the loss of many offspring.

**European Golden Plover** (Pluvier doré) *Pluvialis apricaria* H M

Observed flying high over the park in small groups. Not a particularly good year – just 1 observation in autumn.

13, 18<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT].

**Northern Lapwing** (Vanneau huppé) *Vanellus vanellus* H M

Observed flying over the park, almost always in flocks. Recorded on 11 dates ( 2 in spring and 9 in autumn/winter).

37, 26<sup>th</sup> February [DT] - 17, 13<sup>th</sup> March [PR/DT].

26, 16<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 85, 13<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 45, 29<sup>th</sup> October [SC/DT] - 104, 30<sup>th</sup> October [SC/PR/DT] - 72, 4<sup>th</sup> November [PR] - 76, 5<sup>th</sup> November [BL/PR/DT] - 21, 6<sup>th</sup> November [PR/DT] - 47, 9<sup>th</sup> November [PR] - 29, 2<sup>nd</sup> December [PR].

**Common sandpiper** (Chévalier guinette) *Actitis hypoleucos* M

1 observation in spring.

1, 12<sup>th</sup> May [DT].

See Appendix III.

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

1 observation in autumn.

5 flying south on 14<sup>th</sup> October [PR].

**Eurasian Curlew** (Courlis cendré) *Numenius arquata* M

1 observation in spring.

1 flying north on 19<sup>th</sup> March [DT].

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

1 observation in spring.

1, 12<sup>th</sup> March [DT].

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

2 observations in spring.

1, 9<sup>th</sup> April [DT] - 1, 15<sup>th</sup> April [DT].

The bird observed on 15<sup>th</sup> April circled at great height over and around the site in the early morning,

eventually descending to land momentarily at the edge of the Mare Perchée.

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

Observed regularly flying over the park in small numbers (generally 1-15) in winter, early spring and autumn. Rather uncommon and irregular from April to mid-September.

Much greater numbers observed occasionally in winter : for example 214 moving north in the space of 1 hour in the early morning of 25<sup>th</sup> February [DT] ; 80+ flying south during the afternoon of 10<sup>th</sup> December [SC/PR/DT].

An individual noted on site in winter (January and December), sometimes landing in the Northern Fields and/or the re-cycling plant.

**Common Gull** (Goéland cendré) *Larus canus* S M

Uncommon – single birds observed flying over the park on 7 dates.

1, 2<sup>nd</sup> January [PR] - 1, 20<sup>th</sup> January [PR] - 1, 18<sup>th</sup> September [QD/PR/DT] - 1, 17<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 9<sup>th</sup> November [PR] - 1, 13<sup>th</sup> November [PR] - 1, 17<sup>th</sup> November [PR].

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

Regularly observed flying overhead in small numbers (usually 1-2) in winter, spring and autumn. Almost absent between mid-May and the end of October. Greater numbers sometimes noted in winter (for example, 27 on January 2<sup>nd</sup> [PR]).

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

Less common than the preceding species, although observed more often this year than last (noted on 14 dates). Recorded mainly in spring (especially May) and in autumn (especially October).

1, 13<sup>th</sup> February [PR] - 2, 6<sup>th</sup> April [QD/DT] - 2, 1<sup>st</sup> May [SC/QD/FP/LS/DT] - 1, 12<sup>th</sup> May [DT] - 8, 24<sup>th</sup> May [DT] - 12, 25<sup>th</sup> May [DT] - 2, 26<sup>th</sup> May [QD/DT] - 1, 18<sup>th</sup> September [QD/PR/DT] - 6, 15<sup>th</sup> October [SC/QD/DT] - 7, 16<sup>th</sup> October [PR/DT] - 2, 17<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 20<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 13<sup>th</sup> November [PR] - 3, 19<sup>th</sup> November [PR].

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

Fairly common – small numbers noted regularly in winter, spring and autumn. Observed most often in March (6 dates). Apparently not recorded in June-July.

**[Unidentified gulls]** (Goéland indéterminé) *Larus* sp.

Unidentified gulls often noted in small numbers throughout the year. Sometimes greater numbers noted, particularly in early March this year (for example : 36 on 4<sup>th</sup> March [DT]).

**Common Tern** (Sterne pierregarin) *Sterna hirundo* M

1 (exceptionally late) observation in autumn.

1 flying south on 7<sup>th</sup> October [PR].

**Rock Dove** (Pigeon biset) *Columba livia* S



Common resident – seen daily.

**Stock Dove** (Pigeon colombin) *Columba oenas* S M

Breeding in the immediate vicinity, a fairly common resident and, with effort, seen almost daily throughout the year flying over the park in small numbers (usually 1-2). Up to 6 individuals noted fairly often on a building to the northeast (and outside) of the park where breeding is suspected.

Migration patterns difficult to assess with certainty, birds probably moving 'locally' in the same manner as Wood Pigeons *Columba palumbus*. Small groups noted flying west during the early morning of 22<sup>nd</sup> April [DT]. However at this period small/medium sized flocks noted in the afternoons moving in the opposite direction (for example : 18 on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 38 on 17<sup>th</sup> April [SC/PR/DT]).

Very rarely observed landing on site, it is noteworthy that a pair were attracted to the Mare Perchée during the early morning of 6<sup>th</sup> May, landing on nearby trees and at the water's edge [DT] (see Appendix III).

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

Common resident, breeding on site – seen daily.

Relatively small numbers on site boosted by local movements - small flocks or singles flying overhead in diverse directions.

At the end of the breeding season (from the end of June) groups composed of adults and juveniles regularly noted feeding on the Northern Fields, particularly early morning.

Active migration noted occasionally at the end of autumn when larger and more compacted flocks may be seen moving in unison high across the sky (for example : 246 flying south early in the morning of 31<sup>st</sup> October [DT]).

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

Fairly common resident – 1 or 2 birds seen almost daily either in flight or perched near the Mare Perchée or at the re-cycling plant.

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

Uncommon migrant. A good year and a welcome return after a 3-year absence. Recorded flying over the park in active migration on 6 occasions (3 in spring and 3 in autumn). Interestingly the spring birds all flew north in identical fashion at about the same time of day (between 08h00-08h30).

1, 2<sup>nd</sup> May [DT] - 1, 9<sup>th</sup> May [DT] - 1, 16<sup>th</sup> May [DT].

1, 2<sup>nd</sup> October [PD] - 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> October [PR] - 1, 7<sup>th</sup> October [PR].

**Common Cuckoo** (Coucou gris) *Cuculus canorus* M

Very uncommon migrant. Another good year with 4 records; 3 in spring and 1 in autumn (as was the case in 2010).

1 (singing), 16<sup>th</sup> April [DT] - 1, 28<sup>th</sup> April [PR] - 1, 12<sup>th</sup> May [DT].

1, 20<sup>th</sup> August [DT].

**Tawny Owl** (Chouette hulotte) *Strix aluco* S M

A poor year in comparison with 2010 – just 2 records.

1, 31<sup>st</sup> October [PR] - 1 (heard singing), 25<sup>th</sup> November [RP].

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

1 observation at the beginning of the year.

1, 2<sup>nd</sup> January [PR].

The bird was noted flying relatively low to the west, harried constantly by 3 Carrion Crows (*Corvus corone*).

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

A common summer visitor – seen daily.

First recorded in spring on 10<sup>th</sup> April [SC/DT]. Last observation in autumn on 5<sup>th</sup> September [DT].

Although several birds (presumably in active migration) were noted in mid-April the local populations were 'in place' on the 29<sup>th</sup> April [DT] (as was the case last year). Many more birds noted during May in comparison to 2010 (roughly 150 birds seen daily).

Numbers bolstered considerably from the end of June, no doubt by the appearance of juveniles – up to about 300 (11<sup>th</sup> July) noted daily. Local populations apparently left the area at the beginning of August. Small groups of migrants noted flying south on 7<sup>th</sup> August [DT].

Very seldomly observed after the third week in August. The last record was of a lonely-looking bird flying south in the early morning of 5<sup>th</sup> September [DT].

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

A relatively common non-breeding resident. Observations usually consist of individuals or small groups flying noisily over the park, most often in a northeasterly direction.

Almost absent at the beginning of the year (January-March) – noted for the first time (2 birds) on 14<sup>th</sup> March [DT]. 1-4 birds observed on 12 dates between 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> July. Much higher numbers noted at the end of September (for example : 31 on 23<sup>rd</sup> , and 35 on the 30<sup>th</sup> [PR]).

Birds were observed landing on site on several occasions either at the Cascade or the re-cycling plant – this behaviour is becoming less rare.

**Green Woodpecker** (Pic vert) *Picus viridis* S

At least one pair breeding in or very close to the park – seen or heard almost daily throughout the year.

At least 1 juvenile noted regularly at the end of summer and in autumn (seen for the first time on 24<sup>th</sup> July [DT]).

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

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

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

1 record in autumn.

1, 23<sup>rd</sup> September [PR].

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

A discreet resident – presumed breeding. Noted rather more often than in previous years (1-2 birds observed irregularly throughout the year).

**Wryneck** (Torcol) *Jynx torquilla* M

Rare migrant. 1 observation in autumn.

1, 24<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT].

See Appendix III.

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

Seen flying over the park. Fairly common migrant in spring and autumn.

Less frequently observed in spring than in autumn. Heard on migration for the first time on 9<sup>th</sup> February [DT]. Observed thereafter on 8 occasions until 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Recorded for the first time in autumn (4 birds) on 2<sup>nd</sup> October [PD]. Noted thereafter on 13 dates up to and including the 6<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 98 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October [SC/PR/LS/DT].

Exceptionally *A. arvensis* was noted in winter : 3 on 2<sup>nd</sup> January [PR] and 3 on 9<sup>th</sup> January [DT].

**Woodlark** (Alouette lulu) *Lullula arborea* M

Uncommon but regular migrant - seen flying over the park. Noted only in autumn with small groups observed on 4 dates between the 13<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November.

17, 13<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 6+, 16<sup>th</sup> October [PR/DT] - 6, 29<sup>th</sup> October [SC/DT] - 6, 5<sup>th</sup> November [BL/DT]

**Sand Martin** (Hirondelle de rivage) *Riparia riparia* E M

Rather uncommon migrant in spring and autumn – small numbers (generally 1-2) occasionally noted flying over the park. Observed on 14 dates (4 in spring and 10 in autumn).

First spring record on 2<sup>nd</sup> April [PR/DT]. Noted thereafter on 3 dates up to 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Observed more frequently in autumn than in 2010. Recorded for the first time on 4<sup>th</sup> August (3 migrating to the southwest in the early morning [DT]). Noted thereafter on 9 dates up to and including 25<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT].

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

Common passage migrant in spring and autumn. Very rarely observed in summer (June-July).

First recorded in spring on 24<sup>th</sup> March [DT]. Spring migrants noted in small numbers almost daily up to 27<sup>th</sup> May with a peak of 52 on 25<sup>th</sup> April [SC/PR/DT].

Autumn migrants noted regularly from 4<sup>th</sup> August - 30<sup>th</sup> October with a maximum of 331 on 25<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT].

The last observation of the year was of a particularly late bird flying north during the afternoon of 17<sup>th</sup> November [PR].

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

Passage migrant in spring and autumn. Small numbers noted irregularly throughout the summer. Greater numbers recorded than in 2010.

First recorded on 10<sup>th</sup> April [SC/DT]. Last sighting on 14 November [PR].

In spring 1-8 birds noted fairly often up to 18<sup>th</sup> May. 1-5 'local' birds noted occasionally during June - July. Greater numbers noted in August- early September when roughly 15 birds could be seen almost daily flying around the buildings to the northeast of (and outside) the park.

Low numbers reported during autumn migration (roughly 20<sup>th</sup> August - 24<sup>th</sup> September) with a maximum of 71 moving south on 7<sup>th</sup> September [PR]. Noted on only 3 occasions between 24<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**Meadow Pipit** (Pipit farlouse) *Anthus pratensis* M

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

First recorded in spring on 5<sup>th</sup> March [PR/DT]. Noted regularly thereafter until 29<sup>th</sup> April. A notable peak was evident on 12<sup>th</sup> April when several birds were found on site at dawn, and a minimum of 89 flew northeast during the hour that followed [DT].

Absent during the summer (30<sup>th</sup> April - 23<sup>rd</sup> September).

First reported in autumn on 24<sup>th</sup> September [DT]. Small numbers almost daily throughout the autumn with a rather feeble peak of 26 on 7<sup>th</sup> October [PR]. Last autumn sighting on 6<sup>th</sup> November [PR/DT].

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

Reasonably common passage migrant in spring and autumn.

First recorded in spring on 2<sup>nd</sup> April [LS/PR]. 1-7 birds seen fairly regularly up to and including 5<sup>th</sup> May. Exceptionally a bird was found singing briefly on site in the early morning of 9<sup>th</sup> April [DT].

First reported in autumn on 18<sup>th</sup> August [DT] - small numbers seen thereafter (1-10 birds) up to and including 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Water Pipit** (Pipit spioncelle) *Anthus spinoletta* M

Uncommon migrant (probably overlooked). 1 observation in autumn.

1, 13<sup>th</sup> October [PR].

**White Wagtail** (Bergeronnette grise) *Motacilla alba* M

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

First reported in spring on 28<sup>th</sup> February [DT]. Small numbers noted thereafter on 17 dates up to and including 16<sup>th</sup> April, with a maximum of 35 on 15<sup>th</sup> March [DT].

1-2 birds noted flying south at the end of July (the 24<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>) [DT].

Small numbers reported on 13 dates in autumn between 20<sup>th</sup> September – 4<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum daily total of 26 on 22<sup>nd</sup> October [LS/DT].

**Blue-headed Wagtail** (Bergeronnette printanière) *Motacilla flava flava* M

A relatively common passage migrant noted in spring and autumn.

First reported in spring on 2<sup>nd</sup> April [LS/PR]. 1-3 birds noted on 9 further dates up to and including 10<sup>th</sup> May.

First reported in autumn on 16<sup>th</sup> August [SO/DT]. Up to 17 birds noted on 18 further dates up to and including 14<sup>th</sup> 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 and 2009 mainly observed during the second half of the year. Singles noted on 5 dates between 2<sup>nd</sup> January – 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Not recorded between 24<sup>th</sup> March – 27<sup>th</sup> August.

Small numbers (usually 1) noted during the last 4 months of the year. Birds apparently in active migration noted between 8<sup>th</sup> September – 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Red-backed Shrike** (Pie-grièche écorcheur) *Lanius collurio* M

Rare migrant. 1 observation (a female) in spring.

1, 22<sup>nd</sup> May [PR/DT].

**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 – seen almost daily.

As in previous years several birds singing in the latter part of February and March when easy to find (far more discreet in summer).

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

Common breeding resident – 1-4 birds seen almost daily.

Like the preceding species discreet during the breeding season. A juvenile noted on 23<sup>rd</sup> May [DT].

Daily totals increased in spring and autumn by migrants (for example: 7 on 26<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> September).

**Common Nightingale** (Rossignol philomèle) *Luscinia megarhynchos* E M

An exceptional year with 4 birds singing on site in spring. Breeding confirmed for the first time. 1-3 breeding pairs estimated.

1 heard singing along the Sentier des Vergers on 8<sup>th</sup> April [DT]. 1-4 individuals then either heard or seen almost daily up to and including the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. A juvenile observed at the Compost on 4<sup>th</sup> July [DT].

In early autumn 2 birds heard (calls) close to the Mare Perchée on 19<sup>th</sup> August. 1-3 birds noted regularly thereafter up to 13<sup>th</sup> September.

**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). 1-5 birds noted on 20 dates (4 in spring and 16 in autumn). Noted regularly in autumn on buildings to the northeast of (and outside) the park.

2, 24<sup>th</sup> March [PR] - 3, 25<sup>th</sup> March [PR] - 1, 26<sup>th</sup> March [DT] - 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> April [OL].

4+, 9<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT] - 3, 16<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 5, 20<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 2+, 22<sup>nd</sup> September [DT] - 4+, 24<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT] - 1, 25<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 3, 28<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 4, 29<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 1, 30<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 1, 1<sup>st</sup> October [PR] - 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> October [DT] - 2, 3<sup>rd</sup> October [PR] - 1, 15<sup>th</sup> October [QD/PR/DT] - 1, 31<sup>st</sup> October [DT] - 1, 5<sup>th</sup> November [PR/DT] - 1, 13<sup>th</sup> November [PR].

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

Uncommon migrant. Observed on 8 dates (1 in spring and 7 in autumn).

1, 28<sup>th</sup> April [PR].

1, 20<sup>th</sup> August [DT] - 1, 21<sup>st</sup> August [PD] - 1, 25<sup>th</sup> August [DT] - 1, 27<sup>th</sup> August [DT] - 2, 24<sup>th</sup> September [LS/DT] - 2, 28<sup>th</sup> September [PR] - 2, 1<sup>st</sup> October.

**Whinchat** (Tarier des prés) *Saxicola rubetra* M

Uncommon passage migrant. Observed on 4 dates (1 in spring and 3 in autumn).

1, 30<sup>th</sup> April [PR/DT].

1, 21<sup>st</sup> August [PR/DT] - 1, 24<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT] - 1, 25<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT].

**Common Stonechat** (Traquet pâtre) *Saxicola rubicola* M

Uncommon passage migrant. 1 observation (a male) in spring.

1, 8<sup>th</sup> March [OL].

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

An uncommon but regular passage migrant. 1-5 birds noted on 6 dates (4 in spring and 2 in autumn).

2, 2<sup>nd</sup> April [LS/PR/DT] - 5, 14<sup>th</sup> April [DT] - 2, 15<sup>th</sup> April [DT] - 1, 17<sup>th</sup> April [PR/DT].

1, 17<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 4<sup>th</sup> November [PR].

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

Common resident - small numbers (usually 1-5 birds) seen daily. Higher daily totals at the end of autumn and winter (for example : 28+ on 27<sup>th</sup> November [PR]).

**Fieldfare** (Grive litorne) *Turdus pilaris* H M

Uncommon migrant in spring, late autumn and winter. Noted in small numbers, almost exclusively in migratory flight over the park, on 8 dates at the start of the year. Surprisingly just 1 record in autumn.

1, 2<sup>nd</sup> January [PR] - 2, 29<sup>th</sup> January [DT] - 1, 1<sup>st</sup> February [PR] - 1, 8<sup>th</sup> March [DT] - 3, 12<sup>th</sup> March [SC/PR/LS/DT] - 13, 26<sup>th</sup> March [PR/LS/DT] - 2, 30<sup>th</sup> March [DT] - 1, 14<sup>th</sup> April [DT].

4, 17<sup>th</sup> November [PR].

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

Common breeding resident with 1-5 birds seen on most days - passage migrants increase the numbers observed in spring and autumn. At least 3 breeding pairs estimated.

In spring up to 111 birds (2<sup>nd</sup> April [PR]) noted on site and/or in migratory flight north/northeast (late March and early April).

Rather more discreet in summer (late June - mid September). Numbers bolstered by migrants in autumn (from the 24<sup>th</sup> September [DT]). Migration apparent up to 6<sup>th</sup> November (generally fewer birds noted in comparison with previous years). Very few records in November-December (1-2 individuals).

**Redwing** (Grive mauvis) *Turdus iliacus* H M

Reasonably common passage migrant in spring and late autumn - small numbers observed irregularly in winter.

Fewer birds noted in winter compared to 2010: roughly 1-10 birds observed on site at the beginning of the year, and only noted twice at the end of the year (late November-December).

Spring migration evident from 26<sup>th</sup> February-6<sup>th</sup> April, with a maximum of 41 on 11<sup>th</sup> March [DT]. An individual noted on site on 15<sup>th</sup> April [DT].

First observed in autumn (44 birds) on 8<sup>th</sup> October [QD/DT] - the same date as in 2010. Migrants observed up to 6<sup>th</sup> November, with a maximum of 110 on 29<sup>th</sup> October [DT].

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

Reasonably common resident with 1-3 birds seen almost daily in early spring, autumn and (especially) winter.

Estimated 1-2 breeding pairs either in or very close to the park. Very discreet in late spring and summer (almost absent from late March to mid-September).

Observed occasionally in active migration (fewer observations compared to 2010) : in spring 1-7 birds noted twice in mid-March (the 14<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>), and in autumn (from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 5<sup>th</sup> November) 1-3 birds observed flying south on 4 dates.

**Grasshopper Warbler** (Locustelle tachetée) *Locustella naevia* M

Rare migrant. An exceptional year with 2-5 birds observed on 9 dates (in April, May, July and September). Breeding possible but not confirmed. 1 (probably 2) individuals present in the Savanna for 6 consecutive days in spring.

1, 5<sup>th</sup> April [PR/DT] - 1-2, 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> May [SC/QD/CF/PR/LS/DT].

1 (singing), July 23<sup>rd</sup> [DT].

1, 3<sup>rd</sup> September [DT].

See Appendix III.

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

A disappointing year. Usually seen and heard daily in spring and summer, this species was far more discreet in 2011. 1-2 birds noted irregularly in spring at the Mare Perchée (although observed just as often away from it). Breeding possible but (for the first time in several years) not confirmed.

Recorded for the first time in spring on 23<sup>rd</sup> April [OL]. Last observation in autumn on 3<sup>rd</sup> September [DT].

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

1 record in spring.

1, 25<sup>th</sup> May [QD/DT]

The bird sang throughout the morning from the Coffee Dome (Butte Sud).

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

Fairly common summer visitor. Fewer birds than in 2010. 1-2 breeding pairs estimated.

First recorded in spring on 13<sup>th</sup> April [YC]. Discreet in summer and seldomly seen (apparently just one observation during August). Noted for the last time on 5<sup>th</sup> September [DT].

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

Common summer visitor and passage migrant - seen or heard daily from 26<sup>th</sup> March - 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Unlike in previous years not observed in late autumn (no records between 2<sup>nd</sup> October - 10<sup>th</sup> December).

Recorded for the first time in spring on 6<sup>th</sup> March [PR]

Juveniles noted for the first time on 23<sup>rd</sup> May [DT].



As usual, numbers increased in autumn (between 25<sup>th</sup> August - 24<sup>th</sup> September), with a maximum of c30 on site on 27<sup>th</sup> August [DT].

Present on site in winter at the end of the year - at least 2 individuals noted twice in December [PR/DT].

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

A disappointing year for this attractive species which is usually present on site throughout the spring and summer (and bred successfully in 2009).

Just 2 records - (1 in spring and 1 in autumn).

1, 13<sup>th</sup> April [PR].

1, 3<sup>rd</sup> September [DT].

**Common Whitethroat** (Fauvette grisette) *Sylvia communis* E

A common summer visitor, seen or heard daily. 4-5 breeding pairs estimated.

First reported in spring on 2<sup>nd</sup> April [LS/PR/DT]. Last noted in autumn on 17<sup>th</sup> September [DT].

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

Fairly common summer visitor - 1-2 breeding pairs estimated.

First reported in spring on 27<sup>th</sup> April [OL]. Settled on site by the 10<sup>th</sup> May [PR/DT]. Thereafter heard or seen almost daily until 11<sup>th</sup> July.

It's apparent absence in late summer is typical of this species - observed for the last time on 17<sup>th</sup> August [DT].

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

A rather uncommon non-breeding species, noted in spring, summer and autumn.

First recorded in spring on 25<sup>th</sup> March [DT]. Thereafter 1-2 birds observed on 8 dates up until 4<sup>th</sup> May.

2 birds noted (1 singing) on 27<sup>th</sup> July [DT].

In autumn 1-2 birds noted on 11 dates from 18<sup>th</sup> August to 17<sup>th</sup> September.

**Wood Warbler** (Pouillot siffleur) *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* M

1 record (exceptionally early) in spring.

1, 1<sup>st</sup> April [PR].

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

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

First reported in spring on 26<sup>th</sup> February [DT], and first heard singing on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Up to 8 birds seen daily thereafter throughout the summer. Juveniles noted on 28<sup>th</sup> May [DT].

Unlike in previous years, no noticeable increase in numbers in late autumn (generally 1-6 birds noted daily throughout August, September and October).

An individual with an unusual call was present around the Mare Perchee from 5<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September - a sound recording may be consulted on

Lower numbers in November (1-2 birds noted in the middle of the month [PR]). 1-2 birds present on site in December [PR/DT].

**Goldcrest** (Roitelet huppé) *Regulus regulus* S M

Rather uncommon resident - breeding unconfirmed.

Small numbers (1-5 birds) noted in winter at the start and end of the year - apparently not recorded between April and September.

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

Rather uncommon resident. Breeding possible but not confirmed

1-3 birds present in winter at the beginning and end of the year. A singing male observed on 31<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April [DT]. Not recorded between 6<sup>th</sup> April - 24<sup>th</sup> September.

**Spotted Flycatcher** (Gobemouche gris) *Muscicapa striata* M

Uncommon passage migrant in spring and autumn. Observed on 7 dates (1 in spring and 6 in autumn).

1, 26<sup>th</sup> April [DT].

1, 20<sup>th</sup> August [PR/DT] - 2, 27<sup>th</sup> August [DT] - 1, 28<sup>th</sup> August [DT] - 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> September [DT] - 2, 9<sup>th</sup> September [DT] - 1, 10<sup>th</sup> September [DT].

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

Passage migrant recorded on 11 dates (1 in spring and 10 in autumn).

1, 28<sup>th</sup> April [PR].

1, 20<sup>th</sup> August [DT] - 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> August [PM] - 2, 27<sup>th</sup> August [DT] - 1, 28<sup>th</sup> August [DT] - 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> September [DT] - 4, 3<sup>rd</sup> September [DT] - 3, 9<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT] - 1, 21<sup>st</sup> September [OL] - 1, 22<sup>nd</sup> September [PR] - 1, 1<sup>st</sup> October [DT].

**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. Observed on 2 dates (1 in spring and 1 in autumn).

2, 2<sup>nd</sup> April [PR/LS].

2, 16<sup>th</sup> September [PR].

**European Blue Tit** (Mésange bleue) *Cyanistes caeruleus* S M

Common breeding resident. Slightly less numerous than P.major – usually 1-4 birds seen daily.

**Crested Tit** (Mésange huppée) *Lophophanes cristatus* H M

Very uncommon. 2 records (1 in winter and 1 in spring).

1, 2<sup>nd</sup> January [PR] - 2+ (adult and juvenile), 29<sup>th</sup> May [LS].

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

Fairly common resident – 1 or 2 breeding pairs estimated.

Up to 10 birds seen irregularly throughout the year. A pair observed constructing a nest from 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> February [DT]. In the Savanna observed carrying food on 26<sup>th</sup> April [DT]. Juveniles observed on 16<sup>th</sup> May [DT].

True to form, A.caudatus was either absent or very discreet for a period in summer (apparently not recorded in July and the first half of August).

**Eurasian Nuthatch** (Sittelle torchepot) *Sitta europaea* S

Inexplicably scarce at Beaumonts – just 2 records.

1, 21<sup>st</sup> January [PR] - 1, 9<sup>th</sup> September [PR/DT].

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

Reasonably common resident (at least 2 breeding pairs estimated). Small numbers (1-3 birds) either seen or heard regularly throughout the year. More discreet in spring and summer (from mid-March to mid-August).

**Eurasian Magpie** (Pie bavarde) *Pica pica* S

Very common breeding resident, seen daily.

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

Fairly common breeding resident. Usually 1-3 birds seen daily. Unlike previous years, no active migration noted in 2011.

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

Uncommon. Observed on 7 dates (5 in spring and 2 in autumn).

1, 25<sup>th</sup> February [PR] - 27, 26<sup>th</sup> February [DT] - 3, 28<sup>th</sup> February [DT] - 3, 15<sup>th</sup> March [DT] - 1, 27<sup>th</sup> March [DT].

c30, 30<sup>th</sup> October [DT] - 33, 5<sup>th</sup> November [BL/PR/DT].

**Rook** (Corbeau freux) *Corvus frugilegus* M

A rather uncommon migrant. Records typically involve small, loose groups of less than 10 birds flying purposefully overhead. This was a particularly good year: observed on 30 dates (twice as many as in 2010). Noted in every month of the year except June and December.

2, 7<sup>th</sup> January [PR].

Observed in small numbers in spring: 1-3 birds noted on 11 dates between 26<sup>th</sup> February – 28<sup>th</sup> May.

2 flying south on 11<sup>th</sup> July [DT].

In autumn up to 33 birds observed on 17 dates between 27<sup>th</sup> August and 13<sup>th</sup> November. There was a notable peak over the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> October when 54 birds flew southwest overhead.

**Carrion Crow** (Corneille noire) *Corvus corone* S

Common breeding resident - usually up to 10 birds seen daily.

Larger numbers sometimes noted, such as on 27<sup>th</sup> August when at least 20 swarmed together over the Bois de Bordure to dislodge an unwanted Honey-buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*) from the area [DT].

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

Common breeding resident; small numbers seen daily

Juveniles noted for the first time on 23<sup>rd</sup> May [DT]. The presence of juveniles at the end of summer and migrants in late autumn increases numbers significantly. Migration apparent in autumn between 20<sup>th</sup> August – 6<sup>th</sup> November. During this period large flocks sometimes noted flying over the park (for example, c400 on the 29<sup>th</sup> October including one group of 180 [DT]).

Migration also noted in spring between 10<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March, with a peak of 60 on 16<sup>th</sup> March [DT].

Unusually there were some large movements observed in winter, especially on 2<sup>nd</sup> January when c600 were seen flying southwards [PR].

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

1 record in spring.

1, 10<sup>th</sup> May [DT].

An exciting observation a bird singing from the tops of the trees around the Parc Mabilie in the early morning, between 07h15-07h45.

**House Sparrow** (Moineau domestique) *Passer domesticus* S

Fairly common resident, breeding on the outskirts of the park. Usually 1-4 birds seen daily.

Unusually a large flock of about 50 birds was present in the northern section of the park for 2-3 weeks at the end of July and the beginning of August.

**Tree Sparrow** (Moineau friquet) *Passer montanus* H

1 record in autumn.

1, 16<sup>th</sup> September [PR].

*P. montanus* has unfortunately become quite a rarity; the species has suffered a marked decline in the region.

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

Fairly common in winter with small numbers seen daily. Discreet and rarely reported during the summer (noted on only 4 dates in July-August).

Common passage migrant in early spring with small numbers noted flying northeast from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> April, with a maximum of 231 on 16<sup>th</sup> March [DT].

Migration noted in late autumn with birds flying west and southwest between 20<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> November with a maximum of 125 on 29<sup>th</sup> October [SC/DT].

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

Regular but rather uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Present on site at the beginning of the year (1-14 birds noted daily in January). Migration noted in spring and autumn. Unlike last year, not present on site in December.

Spring migration noted between 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 4<sup>th</sup> April, with a maximum of 78 on 23<sup>rd</sup> March [QD/DT].

In autumn observed for the first time on 7<sup>th</sup> October [PR]. Noted quite regularly thereafter until 5<sup>th</sup> November with a maximum of 23 on 27<sup>th</sup> October [PR].

**Eurasian Linnet** (Linotte mélodieuse) *Carduelis cannabina* M

Reasonably common passage migrant noted in spring and autumn.

First reported in spring on 26<sup>th</sup> February [DT]. Noted thereafter on 20 dates up to and including 21<sup>st</sup> May with a maximum of 14 on 2<sup>nd</sup> April [PR/LS/DT].

Observed for the first time in autumn on 21<sup>st</sup> August [PR]. Noted thereafter on 13 dates up to and including 19<sup>th</sup> November with a maximum of 15 on 1<sup>st</sup> October [DT].

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

Very uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant.

Recorded flying over the park on 7 dates (4 in spring and 3 in autumn).

1, 24<sup>th</sup> March [DT] - 1, 25<sup>th</sup> March [PR] - 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> April [LS/PR/DT] - 1, 5<sup>th</sup> April [DT].

1, 7<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 20<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 6<sup>th</sup> November [DT].

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

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

A group of 10-15 birds present on site in winter at the beginning and end of the year (January and December).

Rarely reported in summer (late June – September).

Active migration noted occasionally in spring and autumn: in spring observed on 10 dates between 2<sup>nd</sup> March-12<sup>th</sup> April with a maximum of 11 on 26<sup>th</sup> March. In autumn noted on 12 dates between 14<sup>th</sup> September-5<sup>th</sup> November with a maximum of 27 on 16<sup>th</sup> October [PR/DT].

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

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

A group of roughly 16 birds was present on site in winter (January-March and November-December).

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

Rather uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. A better year than last - observed in small numbers regularly at the beginning of the year until late March.

Visible migration in spring noted between 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 30<sup>th</sup> March with a maximum of 20 on 27<sup>th</sup> March [DT].

Observed on 10 dates in autumn from 7<sup>th</sup> October to 21<sup>st</sup> November with a maximum of 48 on 13<sup>th</sup> 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 1-2 birds) seen irregularly from early March. Very rarely recorded in summer. Irregular presence in winter – very few records in January-February. 2 birds present in the Savanna in late December [DT].

Heard singing for the first time on 22<sup>nd</sup> February [DT].

Noted occasionally in active migration (for example, 5 on 13<sup>th</sup> Octobre [PR]).

**Eurasian Bullfinch** (Bouvreuil pivoine) *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* S

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

A pair observed carrying nest material on 9<sup>th</sup> April [DT]. 2 juveniles observed at the Compost on 1<sup>st</sup> August [DT].

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

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant in spring and autumn. Observed often during the first half of the year – almost absent during the second half. A group of up to 7 birds present on site between 1<sup>st</sup> January and the end of March (observed daily).

Active migration in spring noted on 8 dates from 28<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> April with a maximum of 7 on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

3 records in late spring: 2, 21<sup>st</sup> May [DT] - 1, 26<sup>th</sup> May [DT] - 1, 5<sup>th</sup> June [PR/DT].

Inexplicably absent at the end of the year. Just 2 records in autumn: 1, 13<sup>th</sup> October [PR] - 1, 31<sup>st</sup> October [DT].

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

Fairly common in spring and autumn. Unlike previous years not recorded in winter at the start and end of the year (not recorded before 9<sup>th</sup> March and after 9<sup>th</sup> November).

1-5 birds noted in active migration in spring (on 6 dates between 9<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> March).

As was the case in 2010, absent at the end of spring and in summer - not recorded between 6<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> October.

In autumn noted for the first time on 7<sup>th</sup> October [PR]. 1-5 birds observed on a further 7 dates up to and including 9<sup>th</sup> November (the last sighting of the year [PR]).

### **Corn Bunting** (Bruant proyer) *Miliaria calandra* M

Rare migrant. 1 observation of a bird migrating south in autumn.

1, 31<sup>st</sup> October [DT].

See appendix III.

### **Yellowhammer** (Bruant jaune) *Emberiza citrinella* M

Uncommon migrant. Another good year - recorded flying over the park on 4 occasions (1 in spring and 3 in autumn).

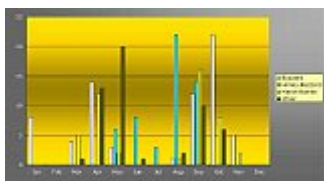
1, 15<sup>th</sup> March [DT].

1, 22<sup>nd</sup> October [LS] - 3, 29<sup>th</sup> October [DT] - 1, 4<sup>th</sup> November [DT].

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## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix I : Raptor Migration at Parc des Beaumonts 2011 - (221 individuals)**



### **Appendix II : Raptor Migration at Parc des Beaumonts 2011 - (221 individuals)**



### **Appendix III - Photos (D.Thorns)**



*Grasshopper Warbler - 4<sup>th</sup> May*



*Stock Dove - 6<sup>th</sup> May*



*Common Sandpiper - 12<sup>th</sup> May*



*European Honey-buzzard - 31<sup>st</sup> July*





*White Storks - 21<sup>st</sup> August*



*Bar-headed Goose - 7<sup>th</sup> September*



*Merlin - 14<sup>th</sup> September*



*Wryneck - 24<sup>th</sup> September*



*Great Egrets - 29<sup>th</sup> October*



*Corn Bunting - 31<sup>st</sup> October*

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