# Aston's Eyot (East Oxford) vertebrate records - monthly sightings 2018

Records included for **Aston's Eyot** (AE), **Kidneys/Swan Is.** (K), **Iffley Fields housing** (I), **Meadow Lane (north)** (Mn), **SS Mary & John (ex-Isis) School field (SF). Oxford Preservation Trust & Sea Scout land** (Sc), **Boat House Island** (B), **Long Meadow** (LM) and the **Thames down to Donnington Bridge** (D); [some nearby records of interest, e.g. in Iffley Meadows, included in square brackets, not included in monthly totals] [Notional central grid reference for Aston's Eyot: SP522050; BTO tetrad SP50H = OS SP5204; birds proved breeding during this year highlighted yellow, presumed breeders: grey (mostly confirmed in other years). possible breeders: dark grey (have bred in previous years, insufficient data current year though birds present)]

Brief description of habitats: AE: 12ha, deciduous woodland (some planted, some self-sown), scrub, open areas dominated by nettle & bramble, some restored flower meadow, surrounded by the Thames (=Isis), Cherwell New Cut & Shire Lake Ditch. B: former flood meadow now deciduous damp woodland; river banks, College boathouses (adjoins Christ Church Meadow). D: Thames below AE, walkers feed ducks, geese, swans & gulls at Donnington Bridge. I: terraced housing with moderate to large gardens, one grand house with very large grounds (Fairacres Convent). K: 3.4ha, mown meadow, rough grass, some copses & bramble patches, river bank & 2 ditches. LM: undergrazed flood meadow with fringing trees along ditch, Cherwell & sports ground; seasonal pond (the whole site often completely flooded in winter). Mn: Tree-fringed recreation field & largely tree-lined minor street with gardens one side. Sc: large lawn, fringing trees, deciduous copse, river bank. SF: Tree-fringed playing field, disturbed when children playing

## Year's highlights:

New species records on AE/Kidneys/Iffley Fields: Merlin, Brambling; Peregrine nearby Unusual/infrequent species for this area: Redpoll, Water Rail, Lapwing, Goosander, Spotted Flycatcher, Raven New breeding records confirmed: none

Observer: All observers Year: 2018

BIRDS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	О	N	D	comment
No. of Species	40	44	50	37	44	35	33	18	30	27	43	39	
No. of observers	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	
[# = flying over only]													
Great Crested Grebe													
Dabchick/Little Grebe													
Cormorant	*1	*1	*1	*							1	1	
Grey Heron	*1	*1	*1K	*	1ov			1		1\$	1		
Little Egret													
Greylag Goose (feral)	*	*	*	*	*	*y	*	1	*		*	*	no nest on AE or around
Canada Goose	*4	*	*	*	*	*	16	*	*		*	20 гм	
<u>Mallard</u>	*	*	*	*	*y	*y	*	1	*	*	*	*	
Shoveler													
Teal	*6ьм	*6ьм	*6ьм								4	*9ьм	
Wigeon													
Pochard													
Tufted Duck													

Scaup													
Goosander			2>										
Mute Swan	*	*1>	*2	*	*	*			2	2	2		injured, M'jac Pt
Osprey													
Red Kite #	*1	*1	*1	*	*1g	*1	*1	1g		*1	*1	*1	
Sparrowhawk	*1			*	*ti	*	*3+y		?yh		1	1	
Buzzard	*1		*2	*	*	1	-				1	1	
Peregrine	[1>]											[1>]	Hurst St (Jan), also Magd.Coll (OOS; Jan, Dec)
Merlin			1ov>										18/3
Hobby #													
Kestrel	1		1						18		19		
Grey Partridge													
Pheasant			*1							1DW			
Water Rail		*1	*1	*							1 <i>W</i>		
Moorhen	*2	*	*2		*y	*	*y	*1	*2	*2	*1	*3	
Coot		1>			7								6/2, M'jac Pt
Lapwing			1ov										
Redshank													
Common Sandpiper													
Common Snipe	[IM>]												OOS report Jan
Jack Snipe													
Woodcock													
Black-headed Gull	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Common Gull													
Lr.Black-backed Gull	*		*1	*	*1	*1	*1					1g	
Herring Gull	*1ov	*1SF	*2		1						1	*2	
Common Tern													
Wood Pigeon	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Stock Dove	c10	*4	*3	*	*2+	*	1K		1			*2ov	
Feral Pigeon #	*ov,g		*ov	*	*	*g	*g	*K,g		*g	*	4ov	
Turtle Dove													
Collared Dove	*g	*K,g	*ĸ,g	*	*K,g	*g					*1g	*g	
Barn Owl													
Ring-necked Parakeet													
Tawny Owl		1 <i>SR</i> >	1>						2h	1	*2	1	17/2 H on cam-trap

Short-eared Owl													
Cuckoo					*1h								
Swift #					*+g	*3g	*						
Kingfisher		*1+>				7				1к		*1	[ChM-OOS Report Feb]
Green Woodpecker	*1	*	*1к	*	*	*	*2	1h	1	1	*2	1	
Gr.Spotted Woodpecker	*1	*1	*1	*	*ty	1ML	*1	1	1		*1	*1	
Lr.Spotted Woodpecker													
Skylark #													
Swallow #							2						
House Martin #													
Sand Martin													
Meadow Pipit													
Grey Wagtail										1	1		
Pied Wagtail		1g	1мL										
Great Grey Shrike													
Waxwing													
Wren	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	1		*	*	
Dunnock	*	*	*	*	*	*	1				*2	*	
Cetti's Warbler													
Grasshopper Warbler													
Reed Warbler													
Sedge Warbler													
Garden Warbler						?h	?h						
Blackcap			*1+	*	*	*h	*2+h		1♀				
Whitethroat				*>	*	1♂	1						1 <sup>st</sup> -19/4 ( <i>LB</i> )
Lesser Whitethroat													
Willow Warbler													
Chiffchaff				*>	*	*2h	*2+		1h				1 <sup>st</sup> -10/4 ( <i>LB</i> )
Yellow-browed Warbler													
Goldcrest		*1	*1		*					1мL	*1	1	
Spotted Flycatcher									1				
Wheatear													
Robin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*у	1h	*	*	*	*	
Fieldfare											~10		
Blackbird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

Redwing	*	*	*25							~25	*	*+\$	
Songthrush	*1	*+g	*4	1	*3+	*+3h			1		*	3+1к	
Mistle Thrush/Stormcock			2		1								
Long-tailed Tit	*4	*sev	*2	*	*		*		*	*2	*5+	*12+	
Marsh Tit													
Willow Tit													
Coal Tit	*1g									*1		1g	
Bluetit	*	*	*	*	*ty	*	*		*	*	*	*	
Great Tit	*	*	*	*	*ty	*	*		*	*	*	*	
Nuthatch													
Treecreeper		*1			1				1		3 <i>GW</i>		
Chaffinch	*	*	*		*						*	*2+	
Brambling		1>											22 Feb ( <i>AC</i> )
Greenfinch												*g <i>R</i>	
Siskin		*10>	~10									-	SR saw 10, 10/2
Redpoll			1>										
Goldfinch	*	*3	*4+	2g	*g	*	*			*	*		
Linnet				-									
Bullfinch	*1♀	*3	1	*+1к	*h		*h		*h		*		
Corn Bunting													
Yellowhammer													
Reed Bunting				1g>									date?
House Sparrow	*g	*g	*g	*g	*g	*g	*g		*g	*g	*g	*g	
Tree Sparrow													
Starling #	*g	*g	*g		*g	*MLy					*g	*g	
Jay	*2	*2	*1	*2	*1	*1	1	*2+	*1>	1	*2	*1	
Magpie	*	*	*	*	*у	*	*	*	*2+	*	*	*	
Raven		1>			1>								4/2 over school (SR); 1 Iffley Rd in May (DB)
Jackdaw	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Carrion Crow	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Rook													
total birds	40	44	49	37	44	35	33	18	30	27	43	39	
MAMMALS													
Roe Deer	*1♂	*+3\$	*2	*	*		1,\$	\$		\$	*+\$	*+\$	
Muntjac Muntjac	*3	*2+,+\$	*2	*	*1+\$	*	\$	\$		2,\$	*+\$	*+\$	

Rabbit	*			*	*+\$							
Hare												
domestic cat											1,\$	
Fox	*	*+\$	*f		\$		\$	\$		\$	*+\$	*+\$
Stoat												
Weasel												
Otter												
American Mink												
Badger	*+b	*+b+\$	*+b	*	b,\$	*	\$y	\$y	b	b,\$	*+\$	*+\$
Hedgehog												
Common shrew												
Pygmy shrew												
Mole								*b	bмL	bмL	bмL	b
Bank vole												
Short tailed vole												
Water Vole												
Wood mouse												
Brown rat		1\$										\$
Grey Squirrel	*	*	*	*+K	*	*	\$	\$	*	*	*	*
Common Pipistrelle								*X				
Soprano Pipistrelle								*X				
Daubenton's Bat												
Noctule												
REPTILES												
Grass Snake												
Slow Worm												
AMPHIBIANS												
Common Frog				*								
Common Toad				*								
Smooth Newt				*								
Great Crested Newt												

#### **Notes:**

\* = seen more than once in month [number] = max number seen in month, if without '\*' then only seen on one occasion

a = Active nest, nestlings visible

b = Burrow, b+ = active burrow

c = Carrying food/faecal sac

 $d = \mathbf{D}$ ead animal found

e = **E**xcrement/faeces/droppings

f = Footprints/tracks, esp. in snow

F =only seen flying over

g = nearby Gardens (Iffley Rd & below)

h =**H**eard only (song or calls)

i = Incubating

n = Night visit

o = flying **O**ver (on this occasion)

pr = Pair

s = Singing (seen or heard)

\$ = recorded on camera trap

t = bird seen aT or building nesT

 $w = spa \boldsymbol{W} n$ 

X = ID using bat detector

\$ = seen on camera trap

### all seen on AE itself unless otherwise stated

B = Boathouse Island

BB = Boundary Brook (passes though Ms)

D = Donnington Bridge

I = Iffley Meadows

K = Kidneys (incl. Swan Is.)

LB = Long Bridges

LM = Long Meadow

Mn = Meadow Lane & rec. field (N side of D)

Ms = Meadow Lane Nature Park & fields (S side of D)

S = School Field

# observers: (principal in bold)

RA = Ruth Ashcroft

DB = David Barton

**LB** = Laurie Burrell

AC = Anthony Cheke

PC = Peter Comont

JH =Janet Hall

PJ = Paul Jepson

TM =Thelma Martin

*CML* = Claire Malone-Lee

CO = Clare Oxby

MO =many observers

JR = Jacqui Rose

RO =Steve Roby

SR = Sue Rowe

GW = Greg Webster