

Aston's Eyot (East Oxford) vertebrate records - monthly sightings 2013

Records included for **Aston's Eyot (AE)**, **Kidneys/Swan Is. (K)**, **SSMJ School fields (S)**, **Iffley Fields housing (I)**, **Meadow Lane (north) (Mn)**, **Oxford Preservation Trust & Sea Scout land (Sc)**, **Boat House Island (B)**, **Long Meadow (LM)**; AE & K records not separately flagged [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 2013 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. **K:** 3.4ha, mown meadow, rough grass, some copses & bramble patches, river bank & 2 ditches. **S:** large mown playing field fringed with trees. **Sc:** large lawn, fringing trees, deciduous copse, river bank. **I:** terraced housing with moderate to large gardens, one grand house with very large grounds (Fairacres Convent). **B:** former flood meadow now deciduous damp woodland; river banks, College boathouses (adjoins Christ Church Meadow). **LM:** undergrazed flood meadow with fringing trees along ditch, Cherwell & sports ground; seasonal pond (the whole site often completely flooded in winter).

Year's highlights:

Total species recorded: 71 Most in one month: 49 (April)

New species records on AE/Kidneys/Iffley Fields: Shoveler, Reed Warbler [Jack Snipe & Barn Owl added to grid as recorded nearby – see below]

Unusual/infrequent species for this area: Teal, Water Rail, Hobby, Common Sandpiper, Cuckoo, Spotted Flycatcher, Redpoll

New breeding records confirmed: Garden Warbler

See end of list for codes used in grid squares

Observer:

ALL OBSERVERS

Year: 2013

BIRDS	Yr	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	comment
No. of Species	71	51	47	48	49	48	45	47	31	36	36	46	44	
[# = flying over only]														
Great Crested Grebe														
Dabchick/Little Grebe														
Cormorant	*	*1	*1	*	*			*1		1	*	1	*1o	
Grey Heron	*	*	*1	*1	1LM	*1	*1	*1	*1			1	1B	
Little Egret														
Greylag Goose (feral)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*y	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Canada Goose	*	*	*	*	*iBI	*	*y	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Mallard	*	*	*	*	*	*y	*	*y	*y	*	*	*	*	
Shoveler	*			prLM>	1♂LM>									24/3, 2/4 AC, LB
Teal	*			prLM>	6+LM>									27/3, 2/4 & later AC, LB

Wigeon														
Pochard														
Tufted Duck														
Scaup														
Goosander		1♂												
Mute Swan	*	*2	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Osprey														
Red Kite #	*	*1	*2K	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*1	*	*	1o,g	*1	
Sparrowhawk	*	*1	*1	*1	*1	1i	*1,i	*a	*yh			*1♂+	*1	
Buzzard	*	*1	*1	*1	*2	1	*1	*			*	*1	*1	
Hobby #	*						1g							
Kestrel	*	*1♀	*pr	*1	*2+	*	*1	*				*pr	*pr	
Grey Partridge														
Pheasant	*	*1		*	*2	1	*1	*y		*y	*	*	*	
Water Rail	*				*1>	1K>						*1K	*1K	4/4 School corner AC, > end of month, LB, 2-5/5 K LB, AC, TL; School ditch Nov & Dec several dates LB
Moorhen	*	*1	*	*	*	*y	*y	*y	*y	*y	*	*	*	
Coot	*	*3+LM	*2LM	*2LM	*2+1LM	*1		*1				*1		
Lapwing														
Redshank														
Common Sandpiper	*							1>						mid-month, exact date lost
Common Snipe		[sev I: OOS]												up to 40 Iffley Meadows in Jan (OOS)
Jack Snipe		[1 I: OOS]												
Woodcock	*													
Black-headed Gull	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Common Gull														
Lr.Black-backed Gull	*	*	*	*		*	*	*		*		*	*	
Herring Gull	*	*2K	*2	*2	*2							*2S	*2S,K	a pair had a 'territory' on the school field winter 2012-3, returning 2013-4; species

Grasshopper Warbler														
Reed Warbler	*							1>						Singing near Boathouse Corner in tiny reedbed, 7-9/7 TL,AC
Sedge Warbler														[breeds Iffley Meadows]
Garden Warbler	*						*	1t		1				
Blackcap	*	1g			*	*	*	*h		*			*♂g	
Whitethroat	*				*	*	*	*	1	1				
Lesser Whitethroat														
Willow Warbler	*				*		*1+1sK							
Chiffchaff	*				*	*	*h	*h		*	1			
Goldcrest	*	1	1+g		*3	1								
Spotted Flycatcher	*									1>				3/9
Wheatear														
Robin	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*y	*	*	*	*	
Fieldfare	*	*2, c25o			1									
Blackbird	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Redwing	*	*20+	*	*	*						*	*	*	
Songthrush	*	*1	*5-6h	*5h	*	*4+h	*3+h	*	*h		*	*1	*2	
Mistle Thrush														
Long-tailed Tit	*	*	*	*	*	*	*y	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Marsh Tit														
Willow tit														
Coal Tit	*		1g	1>+g								1g		Orchard 14/3 AC
Bluetit	*	*	*	*	*	*t	*y,t	*y	*y	*	*	*	*	
Great Tit	*	*	*	*	*	*	*y,t	*y	*	*	*	*	*	
Nuthatch														
Treecreeper	*		1		1	1	*1							
Chaffinch	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Greenfinch	*	*c15	*	*	*	*					*	*	*	

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 = **Dead** animal found

f = **Footprints/tracks**, esp. in snow

g = nearby **Gardens** (Iffley Rd & below)

h = **Heard** only (song or calls)

i = **Incubating**

n = **Night** visit

o = flying **O**ver

pr = **P**air

s = **S**inging (seen or heard)

t = bird seen a**T** or building nes**T**

w = spa**W**n

y = **Y**oung seen (not comprehensive!)

= ID using bat detector

all seen on AE itself unless otherwise stated

B = Boathouse Island

BB = Boundary Brook

D = Donnington Bridge

E = other **E**ast Oxford nearby

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

Sc = OPT land & Sea Scout etc land between K &
Donnington Bridge rd

observers:

RA = Ruth Ashcroft

LB = Laurie Burrell

AC = Anthony Cheke

PC = Peter Comont

JH = Janet Hall

PJ = Paul Jepson

TL = Tim Lee

TM = Thelma Martin

CML = Claire Malone-Lee

CO = Clare Oxby

JR = Jacqui Rose

SR = Steve Roby

GW = Greg Webster