

Birds in the Hamptons Estate

2017



Bob Smith

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Introduction

During 2017 67 species were seen within or flying over the Hamptons Estate(HH). There was one new species a **Raven** flew high over to the east during May. This gives a cumulative species count of 101 between 2007 and 2017. Highlights included one or two records of **Little Egrets**, two **Egyptian Geese** in **Mayflower Park (MP)** (they moved to Morden Cemetery where they bred), and a **Red Kite** flew over in July. There were several fly-over **Common Buzzards** and two fly-over **Hobbies**. Two **Water Rails** were recorded in November. It was a very poor year for **Moorhen** and **Coot** young-something that will be need to be monitored. **Kingfishers** were seen fairly regularly on the pools in Mayflower Park. **Redwings** were regular in the scrub in Mayflower Park (MP) during both winter periods. There was a **Sedge Warbler** territory in MP and six or more **Reed Warblers** held territories from late April. There were two **Firecrest** records, one in October and one in December. There were two elusive **Bullfinches** in the scrub in MP in December. A pair of **Reed Buntings** bred on the pools in MP.

Coverage, Observers and Acknowledgements

I would like to thank everyone who supplied observations of birds. Particular mention must go to **Bill** and **Janis Reid (B&JR)** who probably spent a longer time in the field than myself. Also **John Mc Sweeney (JMCS)** and **Danny Ramsay (DR)** both patch regulars. DR works on the Hamptons and has an intimate knowledge of the area **Gary Weaving** and the fishing team-especially **Martin Walsh** and **Graham** - supplied many observations. **Frank Nugent (FN)**, who watches St. James Park visited the patch on a couple of occasions in the pursuit of Little Egrets .He supplied interesting observations. Some other observations were gleaned from London Birders Wiki –supplied by **Simon Osborne (SO)** and **Julie Drewett (JD)** .Also many members of the public took an interest in the birds on the Hamptons and supplied casual observations.

Finally **Michael Freter** is a great supporter of the project and kindly distributed the report to various local council members.

Bill Reid took most of the photographs that appear in the report. **Robin Lloyd (RL)**, and **Bob Smith** also contributed photos.

My coverage, in days, of the patch was as follows.

January	9	February	16	March	21	April	12	May	17	June	8
July	24	August	14	September	0	October	19	November	19	December	2

A total of 161 days. Best year of coverage: 2016(112), 2015(139), 2014(157), 2013(133)

Most periods of watching was between 0900 and 1200. Bill and Janis Reid also watched in the morning but also in the afternoon.

Most of the observations were within Mayflower Park with occasion's forays, especially in the breeding season, into the housing part of the estate.

Changes in Habitats

In Mayflower Park the reeds on the wetlands were cut back to a small extent. The board walk was closed temporarily in January, due to a small fire damaging the woodwork.

In Mayflower Park a new notice board was installed in December. This board illustrates and describes the water birds likely to be encountered on the wetlands.

Species List and Comments

Listing as in Collins Bird Guide- Svensson et al

Little Grebe: The days when this species bred on the pools in Mayflower Park seem to be long gone. A single bird from March 20th to April 1st (RL). Another on April 30th

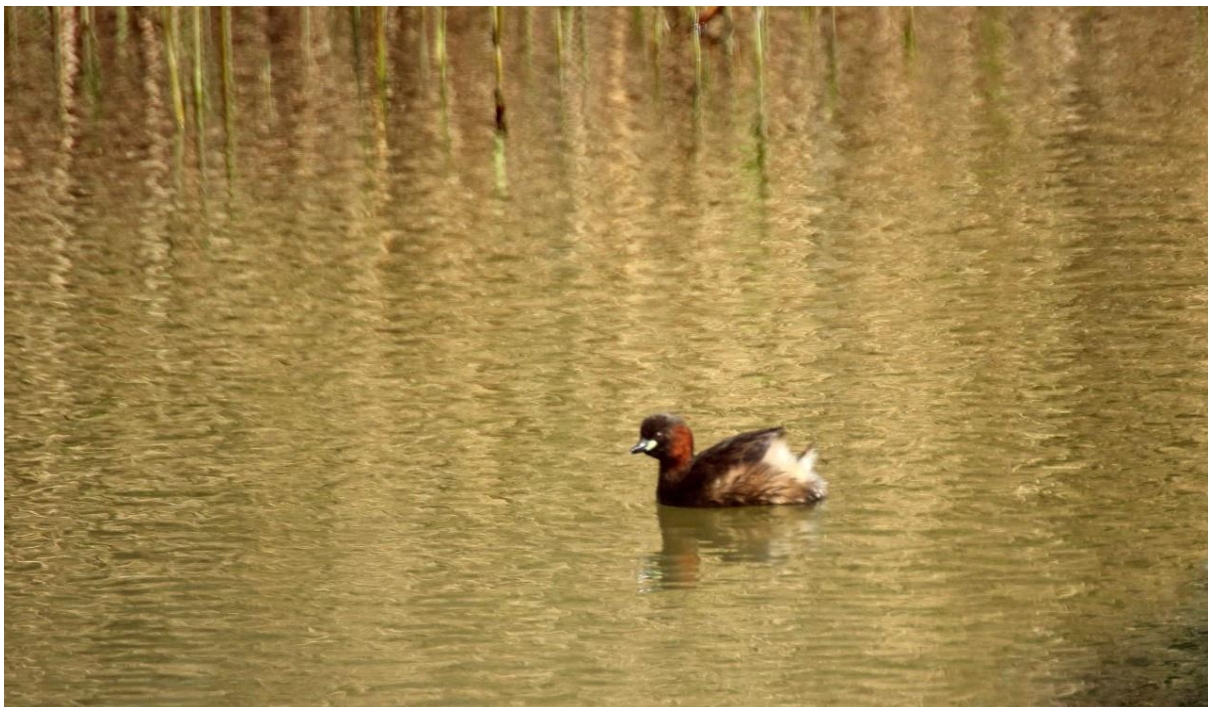


Photo RL

Cormorant: singles present on pools MP on seven days between March and July. August 16th 2 high to the east. One arrived on pools MP on 22 October. The fish stocks on the pools are an attraction.



Photo RL

Little Egret: Regular just outside the HH patch in winter but occasionally wandered over to pools on MP or flying over. 6th April one flew over, 7th April one briefly on pools



Photo BS

Grey Heron: One or two **present** all year on pools MP.

Mute Swan: The presumed male that remained on the pools of MP was present for long periods. It flew off during the summer but returned in the autumn. 16th February 2 North West, 31st October 2 adults and immature south, 11 November an immature on pools.

Canada Goose: First seen in 2017 on pools MP 3 on 17th February then between 2 and 4 regularly up to 25th May. Then was no obvious attempt to breed. Thereafter irregular up until end of year but 6 on 14th October

Egyptian Goose: A pair were on the pools MP from 26th March to 6th April they then moved to Morden Cemetery where they nested in a pollarded willow. Four young were seen on 15th May but not subsequently. The adults were not seen after this date.



Photo BR

Mallard: Mainly on pools MP. Irregular in first part of winter with maximum 6 on February 20th. March 20th 5 males and 2 females. No sign of any young. Numbers increased post breeding season with up to 21 in July and 20 in August. Irregular in autumn and winter maximum 15 o 15th November.

Red Kite: Observed flying over HH on two dates: 15th March one south –east and 24th June (SO)

Common Buzzard: A good year with fly over birds: 27th March one south over HH, 31st March one south west over HH, 16th April one soaring over HH, 22 October south over HH



Common Buzzard mobbed by Carrion Crow photo BS

Sparrow Hawk: Regular hunting birds all year

Kestrel: An adult male was regular in MP all year. There was no evidence of breeding



Peregrine: One or two birds on the pylon in MP on four dates. Breeds in Morden so likely bird(s) came from there

Hobby: Two observations: May 5th one hunting over horse fields and into HH and 12th August one over HH (SO).

Water Rail: Two heard calling from a pool in MP on 15th November (BS, B & J R)

Moorhen: Present on pools in MP all year. Also present on Beverley Brook by GSW and PE. Some monitoring of numbers on pools in MP with max per month and number of young:

Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	10	9	4pairs	4 pairs	4pairs	4pairs	NC	9	8	8	
						+13 Y	5 y				

So in summary for breeding season: **4 pairs with maximum of 13 young**. By the end of the year there were **3 pairs of adults and 2 immatures**. Compared with 2016 the number of young is **less (17 juveniles)** and remaining birds at end of year was less than 2016-**12/14** birds.

The success or otherwise of Moorhens on the pools requires careful monitoring.



Moorhen dispute photo BR

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Coot: Present on the pools in MP all year. Some counts on pools with maximum numbers per month and breeding success.

Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July
5	8	9	NC	8 + 6 y	8 +4y	4+4y
Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
2	NC	3	3	4		

Several things need to be mentioned: **Four pairs bred** but only **six young** were seen. This compares with **five pairs** and **24 young** in 2016. The apparent disappearance of adult birds in July. It is possible that conditions on the pools in 2017 were not conducive for feeding, hence the disappearance of adults and low breeding success. **As for Moorhen this needs monitoring in 2018**

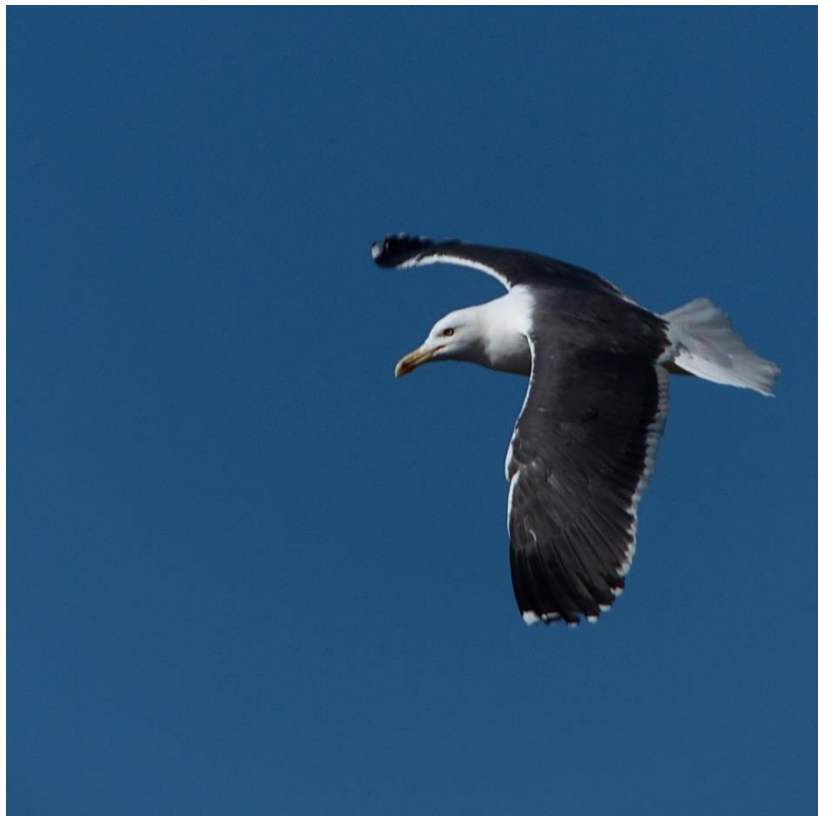
Snipe: 9th November one flew high over HH. First record since 2008.

Black-headed Gull: Present in MP during the winter and early spring and then from August onwards. Present up to 26th March. In the winter up to 40 on pools MP. Many birds flying over in the morning and evening to and from roost on the Reservoirs towards Walton-on Thames.

Common Gull: quite a scarce species. Mainly seen occasionally flying over to and from roosting areas on reservoirs.

Herring Gull: Usually flying over HH to and from roost at reservoirs. Occasionally circling the pools on MP.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Same comment applies here as for Herring Gull.



Feral Pigeon: Generally seen flying over.

Stock Dove: This bird is generally found outside the Hamptons especially in Morden Cemetery however it is seen over the Hamptons as birds seems to commute to other areas- perhaps Nonsuch Park and beyond. Possibly there is some migration to the south in autumn for instance 20 birds south on 10th November.

Woodpigeon: Present all year round. Breeds in the trees along the north edge of HH.

Collared Dove: Present all year round. Two pairs bred in MP. Often present around the board walks MP.

Swift: Present over HH and in particular the pools of MP where birds came to drink. First 2nd May last 5th August. Maximum 10 22nd July on pools MP

Ring-necked Parakeet: Found all year round especially mainly outside HH but present in MP especially around the dump area where frequents oaks. One pair at least bred.

Kingfisher: One on pools of MP on eight dates 23rd May to 21st October. On two occasions a bird was seen flying across HF towards Beverley Brook. Also seen on two occasions by GW on a small pools within the housing part of HH.

Green Woodpecker: Generally comes into HH to feed on the grassy areas. Fairly regular but not breeding.

Great-Sotted Woodpecker: Regular in MP especially in autumn. Drumming regularly in oaks by dump in MP.

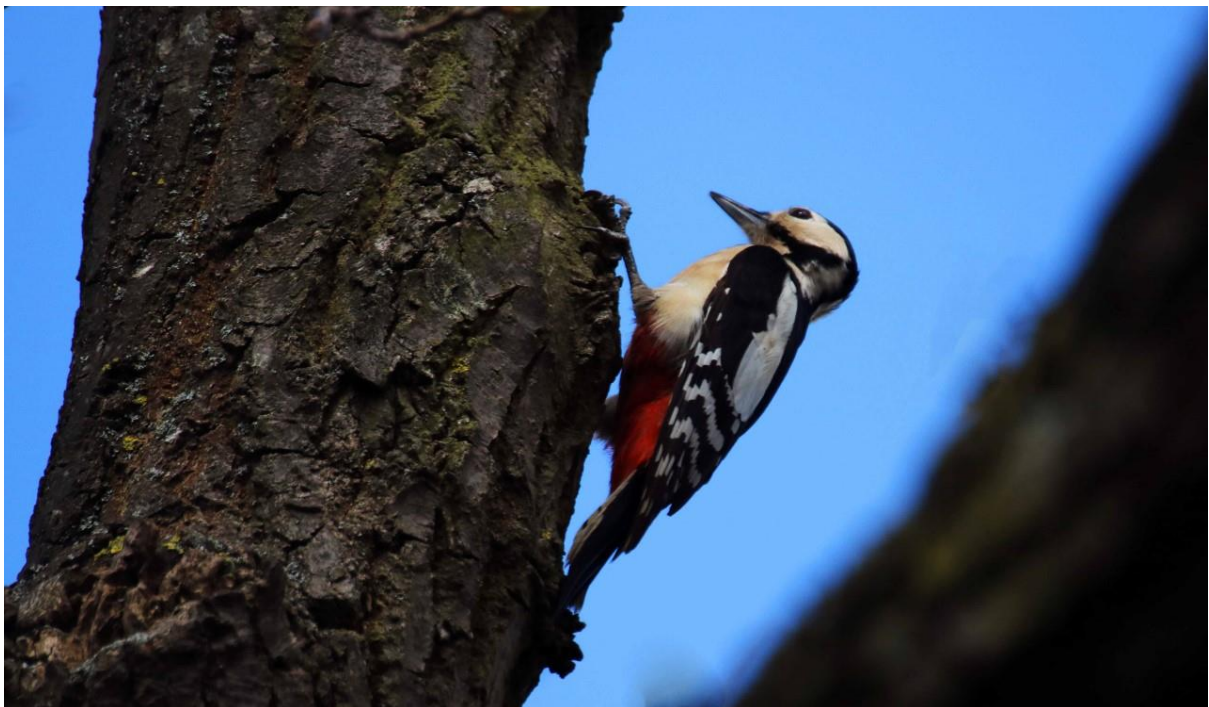


Photo RL

Skylark: Birds heard on passage in autumn: 30th October one heard over HH and 31st October two heard over HH.

Swallow: 27th March and 4th April north, 1st, 4th, 6th May, 23rd May, 17th June up to 3 north. 3rd, 16th, 23rd August up to 3 south.

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House Martin: 18th August 5 south west over HH the only observation

Meadow Pipit: Present occasionally in MP in autumn: 12th and 13th October 3

Pied Wagtail: Occasionally present two pairs bred on HH.

Wren: Present all year. Breeding estimate MP 5 territories.

Dunnock: Present all years. Breeding estimate MP 7 territories.



Photo BR

Robin: Present all year. Breeding estimate MP 8 territories.



Photo BR

Song Thrush: Present all year. Breeding season estimate was 2 territories in MP.



Photo BR

Redwing: Present in winter and late autumn mainly in MP dump and shrubbery area. Present up to March 4th with maximum of 60 3rd February. 100 west 9th October and then in shrubs in small numbers maximum 10 on 30th December.

Fieldfare: 28th February one in oak by dump. In November and December close to HH.



Photo BS

Blackbird: Present all year five breeding territories in MP.

Blackcap: Present from early spring to early autumn. One present 6th /7th March may have been a wintering bird. First song in two places 16th March. Total breeding territories MP 7. Last seen 5th October MP.



Photo BR

Whitethroat: Summer visitor first seen 27th April. Last seen 19th August. Two breeding birds in MP.

Chiffchaff: Present late winter, as a breeding bird and up to late autumn. First birds seen in March 13th. March 16th four by March 23rd five, March 28th five, April 1st five. In October two on 6th, five on 10th, four on 12th, three on 19th. One breeding territory in MP

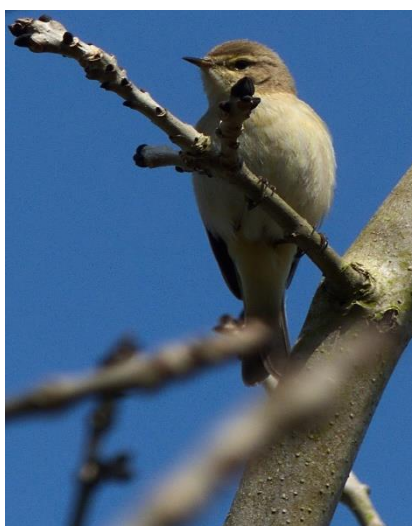


Photo Bill Reid

Willow Warbler: spring and late summer passage migrant. A good year. Five April records the first on the 1st. One each on 17th and 18th August.

Sedge Warbler: There was one breeding territory on pools MP, another was singing but did not stay. Arrival 23 April (FN) and last heard singing 30th May. 4th May two singing.

Reed Warbler: There were a minimum of six breeding territories on pools MP. 27th April two singing, 28th April 3 singing. Last seen 8th August.

Goldcrest: Present in winter and autumn in MP especially around the dump area. Maximum of six on November 2nd.

Firecrest: two observations in MP: 28th October MP (BS) and December 27th MP (JD).

Great Tit: Present throughout the year. Two breeding territories MP

Blue Tit: Present throughout the year. Two breeding territories MP

Long-tailed tit: Present winter, early spring and autumn. Not proven to breed on HH. Maximum 12th October 10MP

Magpie: Present all year round. At least one pair bred.

Jay: Present all year round but mainly in autumn in MP when collecting acorns.

Carrion Crow: Present all year. Sometimes up to 50 on grassy areas of HH. Maybe one or two pairs bred on boundary of HH. Often around the boardwalks of MP seeking food.



Raven: One flew over high to east on 23rd May- a new bird for the patch

Jackdaw: Irregular mainly flying over, occasionally in MP.

Starling: Mainly on grassy area of HH especially in May with young birds around. An unknown number breed in Swift nest boxes.

Chaffinch: Present all year but mainly in MP in autumn and winter. Four territories breeding territories in MP. 10

Goldfinch: Present all year especially in late summer and early autumn. Up to 20 late summer in MP. At least two pairs bred within HH where there are fruit trees.



Greenfinch: Becoming a scarce bird outside the breeding season. Very few observations in both winter periods and autumn. 17th February 3HH. In breeding season five territories in MP. . Only one autumn observation three in MP 2nd November.

Siskin: one observation- 12th November in MP (FN).

Bullfinch: There was a very secretive pair in MP on five dates from 3rd November to the end of the year.

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House Sparrow: Throughout the year especially in MP and HH. Bred In HH. 14th March 25 on the edge of HH in hawthorn hedge. DR said that there were good numbers on edge of HH. Unknown numbers bred in the Swift boxes in HH.

Reed Bunting: Present in MP in winter and spring. One breeding territory on pools MP. Present in scrub and reeds MP –up to two females irregularly in first part of winter. A male there on 26th March. A pair seen irregularly in MP up to 5th May but not thereafter. Regular in reeds MP from 18th October. Generally one or two but five on 23rd November.

The Breeding Species

This account of the breeding species is based on mapping territories mainly within Mayflower Park. The method used involves plotting on maps song contacts-that is evidence showing the holding of territories. Strictly speaking singing involves maintenance of a territory and not proof of breeding. Note Only casual observations were made within the housing part of the Hamptons.

Mute Swan a male from a pair present during the breeding season.

Canada Goose: Present on and off on the pools but no breeding attempt

Mallard: Present during the breeding season, one or two paired birds but no young seen

Moorhen: four pairs only

Blue Tit: territories

Coot: four pairs

Magpie 1 territory

Wood Pigeon : 2 territories

Carrion Crow: 1 territory

Collared Dove: 2 territories

Starling: unknown

Ring-necked Parakeet: one pair

Chaffinch: 4 territories

Great Spotted Woodpecker : one territory

Greenfinch: 5 territories

Pied Wagtail: 2 territories

Goldfinch: 2 territories

Wren: 5 territories

House Sparrow: unknown

Dunnock: 7 territories

Reed Bunting: one territory

Robin: 8 territories

Song Thrush: 2 territories

Blackbird: 6 territories

Blackcap: 7 territories

Whitethroat: 2 territories

Chiffchaff: 1 territories

Reed Warbler: 6 territories

Sedge Warbler: 1 territory

Great Tit: 2 territories

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Cumulative list of birds 2007-2017

Little grebe

Cormorant

Grey Heron

Little Egret

Mute Swan

Canada Goose

Greylag Goose

Egyptian Goose

Shelduck

Mallard

Gadwall

Shoveler

Wigeon

Teal

Pochard

Tufted Duck

Mandarin

Buzzard

Red Kite

Kestrel

Peregrine

Hobby

Sparrow Hawk

Pheasant

Moorhen

26

Coot

Water Rail

Lapwing

Snipe

Wood Sandpiper

Green Sandpiper

Black-headed Gull

Common Gull

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Greater Black-backed Gull

Herring Gull

Feral Pigeon

Stock Dove

Wood Pigeon

Collared Dove

Cuckoo

Tawny Owl

Little Owl

Swift

Kingfisher

Rose-ringed Parakeet
Green Woodpecker
Great Spotted Woodpecker
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
Skylark
Sand Martin
House Martin
Barn Swallow
Meadow Pipit

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Pied Wagtail
Grey Wagtail
Yellow Wagtail
Wren
Dunnock
Robin
Black Redstart
Whinchat
Stonechat
Northern Wheatear
Song Thrush
Redwing
Fieldfare
Mistle Thrush
Blackbird
Garden Warbler
Blackcap
Whitethroat
Lesser Whitethroat

Sedge Warbler

Reed Warbler

Cettis Warbler

Chiffchaff

Willow Warbler

Goldcrest

Firecrest

Spotted Flycatcher

Blue Tit

Great Tit

Long-tailed Tit

Nuthatch

Starling

Waxwing

Jay

Magpie

Carrion Crow

Jackdaw

Raven *(new 2017)

House Sparrow

Chaffinch

Greenfinch

Linnet

Redpoll

Goldfinch

Bullfinch

Reed Bunting

Yellowhammer

101 species

Historical Records pre-Hamptons Estate (Records for Worcester Park Sewage Treatment Works)

Redshank	Water Pipit
Little Ringed Plover	Willow Tit
Golden Plover	Brambling
Common Sandpiper	Treecreeper
Jack Snipe	Tree Pipit
Turtle Dove	
Short-eared Owl	29

Plans for the future

To record all species seen on the Hamptons during the year.

To monitor carefully the breeding success of Moorhen and Coot on the pools in Mayflower Park

To attempt to get an estimate of breeding numbers of House Sparrows and Starlings within the estate.

To attempt to estimate breeding numbers of species such as Goldfinch, Greenfinch and Chaffinch within the estate

To estimate the breeding numbers of warblers within Mayflower Park

