

Barn Owl

Seen
occasionally

A glorious arrival around
the fields in 2013. Can
sometimes be seen
flying at dusk.



Blackbird

Seen
regularly

A bird with one of those
slightly inaccurate
names because the
females are brown!



Blackcap

Summer
visitor

This summer visitor
has a truly beautiful
song. Again the name is
slightly misleading
because the females
have brown caps!



Black-headed
Gull

Seen
regularly

A smallish gull which in
winter loses its dark
head and just has a
spot behind the eye
(see picture).



Blue Tit

Seen
regularly

Cute!



Brambling

Winter visitor

A bit like a Chaffinch but with an orange front and darker head



Bullfinch

Seen regularly

The males are gorgeous and are more often heard than seen, making a lovely gentle peeping sound.



Buzzard

Seen occasionally

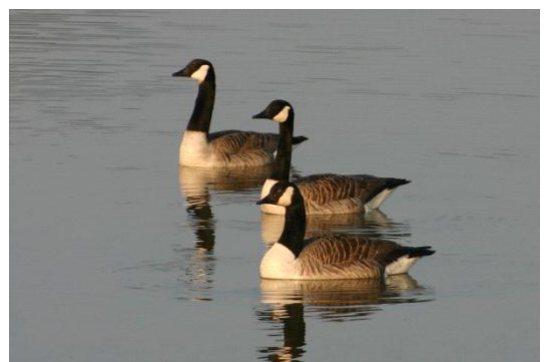
Chunkier than a Red Kite with a rounded tail and wings that are held in a slight V when soaring.



Canada Goose

Occasionally flying over

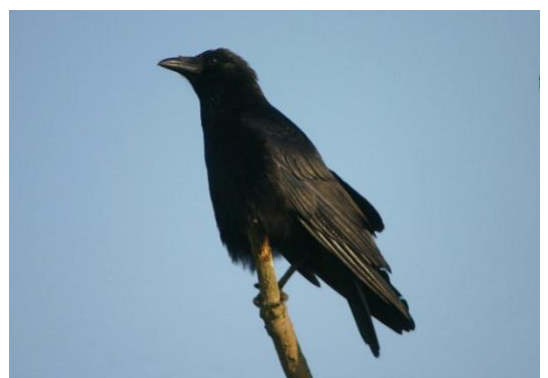
Big noisy goose.



Carrion Crow

Seen regularly

Bit solitary and generally seen in ones or small groups of two to four.



Chaffinch

Seen
regularly

If they were not so common we would surely marvel at their colours. As is often the case the females are rather duller but still have the white wing flashes.



Chiffchaff

Summer
visitor

Maybe 10 to 15 pairs of these buffy little warblers visit our fields each summer. Their name is a clue to their slightly monotonous song.



Coal Tit

Seen
occasionally

Rather shy and prefers the woods.



Collared Dove

Seen
regularly

Do they need any further comment? As with other places the numbers seem to have declined in the last couple of years.



Cormorant

Occasionally
flying over

Large back bird with
purposeful wing beats.



Cuckoo

Summer
visitor

Heard and sometimes
seen most summers
but often for only a few
days.



Dunnock

Seen
regularly

Very unassuming but
not quite as dull and
uninteresting as first
meets the eye.



Feral Pigeon

Seen
regularly

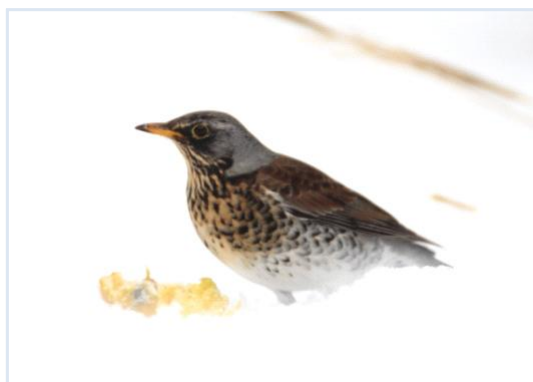
Small flocks often over
the houses in
Hazlemere and
occasionally over the
fields. Very variable in
colour.



Fieldfare

Winter visitor

Big thrushes with grey
heads. Make a rather
distinctive clacking
sound as they fly over.



Garden Warbler

Summer
visitor

A chunky but very non
descript warbler.
Described by one bird
guide as having no
distinguishing features!



Goldcrest

Seen
occasionally

Smallest bird in Europe.
Flitters about restlessly
often preferring conifers



Golden Plover

Occasionally
flying over

Flocks of up to 40 some
autumns often circling
for several minutes as if
deciding whether to
land or not.



Goldfinch

Seen
regularly

Rather gaudy and very
chirpy. Sometimes in
the autumn can gather
into flocks of 50 or
more.



Grasshopper
Warbler

Migrant seen
briefly

More often heard than
seen as it skulks deep
in a bush and drones on
like a demented
grasshopper.



Great Tit

Seen
regularly

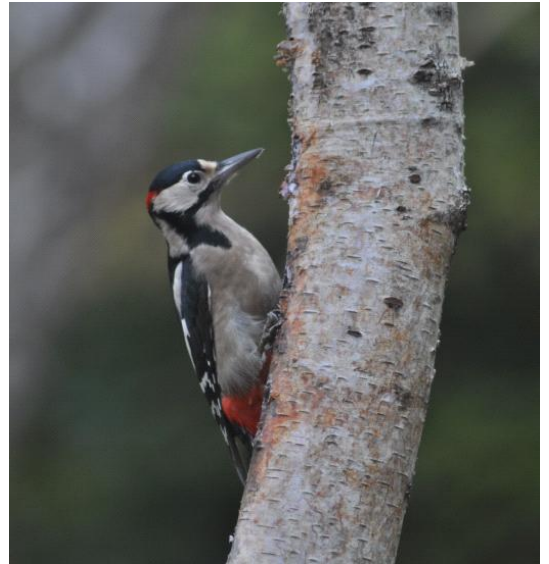
Bigger than a Blue Tit
and has an amazing
range of songs and
calls.



Great Spotted
Woodpecker

Seen
regularly

Really colourful. You
might see one half way
up a tree doing what it's
name suggests it
should.



Green
Woodpecker

Seen
regularly

Often feeds on the
ground as it love ants.
Call is a mad witchlike
cackle!



Greenfinch

Seen
regularly

A good one seen of a
sunny day can be really
bright. They often call
from the tops of trees
sounding like an old
man wheezing.



Grey Heron

Occasionally
flying over

Sometimes land to feed
on worms and anything
else they can find.



Grey Wagtail

Occasionally
flying over

A longer bird overall
than Pied Wagtails with
yellow chest and bum!



Herring Gull

Seen
occasionally

Big chunky gull with
grey back and wings
which have back tips.



House Martin

Summer
visitor

Flocks flying overhead
but lower than Swifts
and higher than
Swallows. But
sometimes they land to
collect mud for their
nests.



House Sparrow

Seen regularly

Often in chattering little groups. Lovely colony around the North Road and Grange Road junction.



Jackdaw

Seen regularly

Seem to like sitting on the roofs and chimneys of houses. Midway in size between Blackbirds and Crows



Jay

Seen regularly

Most colourful member of the crow family. Particularly busy in the autumn when collecting and burying acorns.



Kestrel

Seen regularly

Sometimes called a windhover for obvious reasons



Lapwing

Occasionally flying over

Becoming less and less common. Very distinctive with rounded ends to the wings and often flying erratically.



Lesser Black-backed Gull

Seen regularly

Big chunky gull with dark grey back and yellow legs.



Lesser Redpoll

Winter visitor

Very cute little finch with a little red cap.



Lesser Whitethroat

Summer visitor

Another greyish warbler and only very rarely seen round the fields.



Linnet

Seen regularly

Cute member of the finch family which nests locally. Sometimes big flocks can build up in the autumn (I once counted 150 with the aid of a photo)



Little Owl

Seen
occasionally

Not seen for a couple of years. Previously regular near Cockshoot Wood and probably bred there.



Long-tailed Tit

Seen
occasionally

Simply adorable. Has bred locally. In the winter they often form extended family groups of 10 to 20 birds.



Magpie

Seen
regularly

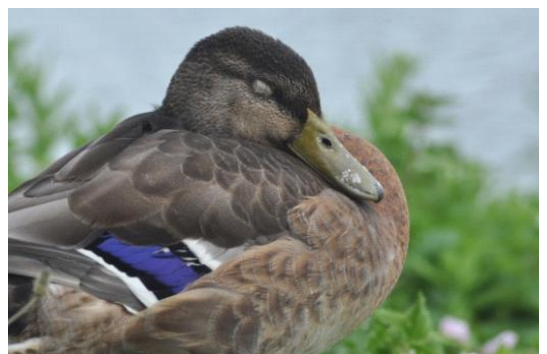
Distinctive and often a bit rowdy.



Mallard

Seen
occasionally

Sometimes settle for a few days round Grange Farm otherwise occasionally seen flying over.



Meadow Pipit

Sometimes
seen for a
few days on
migration or
in winter

Easy to miss as they
are the typical little
brown jobs scuttling
around in the grass.



Mistle Thrush

Mostly a
winter visitor

A big Thrush and
prefers open spaces.
Bigger than a Song
Thrush and the
markings on the chest
are round whereas for a
Song Thrush they are
arrows.



Moorhen

Seen
occasionally

Seen a few times in the
ditches round Grange
Farm. Surprising how
little water they need.



Mute Swan

Occasionally
flying over

Bit obvious really!



Nuthatch

Seen
occasionally

Cockshoot Wood and
the trees nearby are the
best place to look.



Peregrine Falcon

Very
occasionally
flying over

Was this one of the
birds that have nested
in Aylesbury?



Pheasant

Seen
regularly

Not as many as there
used to be probably due
to number of walkers
and dogs. Has bred
locally



Pied Wagtail

Seen
occasionally

Sometimes seen
catching insects on the
rec.



Raven

Seen
occasionally

Like a big chunky Crow
with a distinctive
"Cronk, Cronk" call.



Red Kite

Seen
regularly

What to say? So lucky to have these wonderful birds locally. How long before they breed in Cockshoot Wood?



Red-legged
Partridge

Seen
occasionally

Generally secretive and only seen in small numbers once or twice a year



Redstart

Migrant
occasionally
seen briefly

The females are a bit dull apart from the red tail (hence the name) but males are real stunners.



Redwing

Winter visitor

Lovely Thrushes with as the name suggest rusty red wings but the yellowish eye stripe is a useful identifier too.



Reed Bunting

Seen occasionally generally in spring

Lovely little bird but with a slightly grumpy looking face!



Reed Warbler

Summer visitor

Only seen for a few days in the 2012 summer in the tiny reed bed at Grange Farm



Ring Ouzel

Migrant seen briefly

Like a Blackbird with a tasteful white bib. Saw three flying over a couple of Augusts ago.



Ring-necked Parakeet

Occasionally flying over

First seen a few times in November 2013. Seem to be spreading out from the Thames.



Robin

Seen regularly

Needs no description (but if in doubt see Christmas cards)!



Rook

Seen
occasionally

Surprisingly not often
seen. Like Crows but
with a paler beak and
"trousers"



Sedge Warbler

Summer
visitor

Only seen for a few
days in the 2012
summer in the tiny reed
bed at Grange Farm



Siskin

Winter visitor

Only seen rarely. Smart
yellow and black finch.



Skylark

Seen
regularly

More often heard
singing way up high
than on the ground. To
me their song
announces winter is
over and spring is really
here.



Song Thrush

Seen
regularly

Surprisingly hard to
spot when not singing.
Local birds are
sometimes boosted by
winter visitors



Sparrowhawk

Seen occasionally

Blink and you might miss this speedy killer as it flies low over hedges to ambush its prey!



Spotted Flycatcher

Migrant seen briefly

Another small brown bird but one that behaves in a distinctive way dashing from a favourite perch to catch a fly then returning to the same perch.



Starling

Seen regularly

Seem to come and go in small flocks but generally not as many as there used to be



Stock Dove

Seen regularly

Only a few at a time. Smaller and darker than Wood Pigeons and can be confused with juveniles.



Stonechat

Migrant seen briefly

Helpfully likes to sit on the top of bushes and posts saying “Cht, cht”



Swallow

Summer visitor

Nest locally and often fly very close to the ground when hunting insects.



Swift

Summer visitor

Flying high overhead or in rowdy gangs round the houses along Green Road in Totteridge.



Tawny Owl

Heard regularly

Heard far more often than seen. Might be some of the breeding birds from Penn Wood out hunting.



Treecreeper

Seen
occasionally

Cockshoot Wood and the trees nearby are best. Tiny bird crawling up the tree hunting insects in the crevices in the bark.



Wheatear

Migrant seen
briefly

Gorgeous buffy bird showing a flash of white on its rump when it flies off.



Whinchat

Migrant seen
briefly

Rather similar to the Stonechat.



Whitethroat

Summer
visitor

Lovely little warbler with a scratchy song. Several pairs nest locally each summer



Willow Warbler

Migrant seen briefly

Similar to Chiffchaffs but most just pass through and nest further north



Wood Pigeon

Seen regularly

British numbers are swelled in the winter by large numbers of visitors from Europe.



Wren

Seen regularly

Very noisy for such a tiny bird.



Yellowhammer

Seen regularly

Last but by no means least - we are so lucky to have these breeding locally.

