

# FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

## 2013 Bird Survey Report

In 2013 we recorded a total of 38 species. Of these, 17 species were recorded 9 or more months out of 12, these are described as resident in the list below. Dunnock, recorded 8 months out of 12, are probably also resident but their secretive habit makes them less easy to spot.

Ring-necked Parakeets were first spotted in August, and by January 2014 one pair had claimed a nesting hole and a group of 4 had been seen flying around. It seems that they are now residents.

Four species of gull are recorded in the park, with only the Lesser Black-backed gull being recorded 9 months out of 12. They are not resident in the same way as the other species, as they are generally seen only in the morning, and clearly do not nest in the park.

These are the resident species, as defined above, in order of numbers present, largest first:

1. Feral Pigeon
2. Wood Pigeon
3. Starling
4. Blackbird
5. Blue Tit
6. Great Tit
7. Magpie
8. Crow
9. Robin
10. Mistle Thrush
11. Chaffinch
- 12=. Lesser Black- Backed Gull
- 12=. Jay
- 13=. Great Spotted Woodpecker
- 13=. Green Woodpecker
- 13=. Pied Wagtail
- 13=. Wren

### Visitors

Fieldfares and Redwings were present over the winter, leaving in April as soon as the persistent easterly wind changed to a westerly, enabling them to return to northern Europe or Scandinavia. The usual large flock of Common Gulls was also present from January to March, returning in November.

Waxwings made a fleeting visit in March, and a lone Siskin was spotted in April.

We were delighted to record 2 pairs of Goldcrest from January until April, but they have not been seen since.

Pied Wagtail and Chaffinch, both residents, are also recorded in occasional larger numbers, flocks of up to 13 birds – Pied Wagtail in October and November and Chaffinch in December and January. The Chaffinches are seen in these numbers around the South Gate Wildflower Meadow.

We have recorded visiting warblers in small numbers from April to September, namely Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Garden Warbler, Whitethroat and Willow Warbler. These have also been recorded by members of the Friends group in their gardens surrounding the park.

House Sparrows nested at Margery Lodges, only one pair was seen and only 6 months out of 12.

It is thought that Sparrowhawks also nested, as a pair with at least one youngster was seen around the tennis courts during the summer months.

Many thanks to the team of bird watchers for their reliable help in counting our birds.