

# Winter Bird Survey 2021-22

Courtyard Farm, Ringstead



*Red Kites*

**John R. Williamson**

# Winter Bird Survey 2021-22

## Courtyard Farm, Ringstead

The Courtyard Farm Winter Bird Survey 2021-22 was conducted by John Williamson between November 2021 and February 2022 using the same methodology as previous Winter Bird Surveys.

The farm was surveyed on two separate visits during each of the months November 2021 to February 2022 by walking transects. During those visits the numbers of birds using each field were recorded. Those bird species recorded in any number on a regular basis form the bulk of the results, as presented later in this report, but for completeness a full list of all species recorded during the survey work is also included.

The field usage was also recorded for each of the clearly defined fields on the farm and the results as presented to determine any correlation between field content, and bird species and numbers utilising those fields. Flocks of passerines using feeding stations were also recorded.

A total of five suspended tube feeders are currently provided on the farm for passerines, being aimed predominantly at Tree Sparrows, various finches and tits, but obviously benefiting other species as well. The tube feeders are located mainly just within the woodland edge, where it adjoins field crops. In addition, two extensive areas of wild-bird seed-strips are sown on the farm to benefit small seed-eating birds and Grey Partridges throughout the winter period. On occasions, supplementary winter feeding within the wild-bird seed-strips is undertaken, commencing before the sown food source is exhausted. This is intended to fill the 'hungry gap' of late-winter and early-spring.

November opened with bright and very mild with a south-westerly airflow predominating. A very brief spell of easterly winds punctuated the westerly airflow towards the end of the first fortnight with conditions overhead generally overcast until mid-month when prolonged spells of sunshine brought milder weather. The month ended with a prolonged spell of northerly or north-westerly winds, often blustery and bringing considerable precipitation.

December opened with continued blustery north-westerly winds, snow and sleet showers on 2<sup>nd</sup> with colder air prevailing for much of the first ten days of the month. After the first ten days a return of high pressure and warmer south-westerlies had lifted daytime figures into double figures °C with prolonged periods of sunshine mid-month. Temperatures fell again with the return of a northerly airflow from the end of the third week before a return to warmer south-westerlies and continued regular precipitation by month end.

New Year opened with high pressure, prolonged spells of sunshine, light south-westerly winds and daytime temperatures reaching 15°C (the warmest New Year's Day on record), with overnight temperatures still in double figures. Continued westerly airflow brought further high pressure and a return to more seasonal temperatures by mid-month, but still with limited precipitation. Falling air pressure at month end brought blustery, at times strong north-westerly winds and some showers.

February opened with daytime temperatures creeping towards double figures and blustery north-westerly winds with occasional showers. A brief period of high pressure at the end of the first week brought settled weather with some prolonged spells of sunshine before a series of storms passed through on strong south-westerly winds around mid-month, bringing much milder air and some rain, at times very heavy.

John Williamson  
February 2022

# Full Systematic List

## All bird species recorded on Winter Bird Survey 2021-22

**Cormorant:** singles were noted occasionally, generally heading south or south-west. Additionally 3 flew south-west over Bell's Charity on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Grey Partridge:** all birds recorded – see tabulated results.

**Red-legged Partridge:** all birds recorded – see tabulated results.

**Common Pheasant:** all birds recorded – see tabulated results.

**Moorhen:** small numbers continue to be regularly seen around the farm building complex with 2 seen near Paddock Pond and feeding beneath the adjacent suspended feeder on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Subsequently 1-2 were seen on Paddock Pond or on the pond on Two Fourteen Acres on most visits.

**Pink-footed Goose:** small numbers were flying south-east on November 2<sup>nd</sup> when 4 skeins totalling 630 birds passed over the northern half of the farm. Mid-November saw impressive numbers flying over the farm (to and from feeding areas at Ringstead) when c.9100 flew north-east mid-morning having been disturbed by a microlight aircraft and several skeins totalling c.4650 flew back south-west around midday. Early December saw small movements of birds to and from Ringstead with c.850 feeding there on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Large numbers of Pinkfeet continued to feed in the Ringstead area where a flock of c.12500 was disturbed on December 16<sup>th</sup>, with c.3500 of these alighting on the stubble on Cherry Trees whilst the majority of the remainder passed overhead in the direction of the coastal roosts. By New Year much of the sugarbeet in the area had been lifted and numbers noted overhead returned to much lower levels with 675 seen heading south on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, whilst only c.100 were noted flying south on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Very few birds were noted during February.

**Tundra Bean Goose:** one was with c.3500 Pink-footed Geese on Cherry Trees on December 16<sup>th</sup>, part of a flock of c.12500 disturbed from feeding near Ringstead.

**Todd's Canada Goose:** one of the mid-sized species within the Canada Goose complex, this North American vagrant goose had been present in the general area for a few days and was feeding with c.9100 pink-footed geese just to the south-west of the farm near Ringstead, and was watched flying over the farm when the flock was flushed by a microlight aircraft on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Mallard:** perhaps surprisingly scarce throughout much of the winter with the first record involving a pair Paddock Pond on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> two drakes were seen in flight over Two Fourteen Acres, before heading towards the farm building complex. On February 16<sup>th</sup> a pair had returned to Paddock Pond.

**Red Kite:** one was circling over Landing Strip on November 16<sup>th</sup> whilst 2 were over Chalk Pit on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. On January 16<sup>th</sup> one was over Upper Whins whilst a further 2 were over Landing Strip. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> one was drifting south over Barn Breck and on 16<sup>th</sup> one was over Bottom Breck.

**Hen Harrier:** a single ringtail flew south over Upper Whins and continued south over the Burnham Road on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Marsh Harrier:** apparently a little less obvious in the survey area this winter: a female was hunting over Courtyard on November 16<sup>th</sup> and a male flew south over Barn Breck on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. On December 16<sup>th</sup> a female flew high south over Upper Whins and another female flew west over Barn Breck. A male was noted flying south over Bush Breck on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and a male and a female flew south over Lower Whins together on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. On February 16<sup>th</sup> a female was hunting over Courtyard before heading north over Jay's Field.

**Sparrowhawk:** relatively scarce throughout the period with a female hunting along the hedgerow on the western side of Barn Breck on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and on January 16<sup>th</sup> a female low over Chalk Pit with a male hunting the hedgerow on the east side of Clapper Hills the same day. On February 16<sup>th</sup> a female was hunting hedgerows along the green lane before heading south over Wharton's Belt.

**Common Buzzard:** recorded in small numbers on all visits across the survey period. This species remains the most commonly recorded raptor during winter. A minimum of 6 different birds noted on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, and on February 2<sup>nd</sup> a kettle of 7 were briefly soaring together over Wharton's Belt before 4 drifted off high to the east.

**Kestrel:** a male was seen on the eastern boundary of the farm (north of the Burnham Road) on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and was seen in the same area on 16<sup>th</sup>. Presumably the same male was perched in the hedgerow on the western side of Two Fourteen Acres on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. On December 16<sup>th</sup> a male was over Courtyard and a female was perched in the hedgerow on the western boundary of Clapper Hill. On January 2<sup>nd</sup> a male was hunting over Barn Breck and a female was perched in the hedgerow on the west side of Bush Breck. These birds remained until February 16<sup>th</sup>, though were only rarely seen in proximity of each other.

**Golden Plover:** all birds recorded – see tabulated results. Additionally 26 flew east over Lower Whins on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Lapwing:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results. In addition 3 flocks totalling 325 flew west over the northern half of the farm on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. On January 16<sup>th</sup> a flock of c.40 flew west over Hatchet Breck.

**Woodcock:** first bird recorded on November 2<sup>nd</sup> when one was flushed from the base of the hedgerow between Landing Strip and Black Hean. On November 16<sup>th</sup> singles were in Jessica's Wood and in the hedgerow between Upper and Lower Whins. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> singles were flushed from Julian's Wood and the stubble on Bush Breck. Singles were flushed from Jessica's Wood and Ringstead Common on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Overnight survey work revealed higher levels of Woodcock present on the farm than would be detected during normal diurnal survey work when discovery is almost wholly dependent on the accidental flushing of daytime-roosting birds: overnight on 3 nights between December 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> totals of 7, 7 and 3 were located, predominantly on Courtyard but also on other areas of Stewardship Grassland, one of which was caught and ringed.

On January 2<sup>nd</sup> a total of 3 were flushed from stubble and hedgerow bases on and around Hatchet Breck and Lower Whins. On January 16<sup>th</sup> singles were flushed from Dark Wood, Ringstead Common and Jay's Field. On February one was flushed from Dark Wood and another was flushed from stubble on Fourteen Acres.

**Curlew:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results.

**Mediterranean Gull:** a single winter-plumaged adult was with Black-headed Gulls on Horse Breck on November 16<sup>th</sup>; whilst on January 16<sup>th</sup> 3 adults in winter plumage were feeding amongst the pigs on Clapper Hills with a single adult there on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. On February 16<sup>th</sup> a total of 4 adults in summer plumage were amongst the throng of gulls on Clapper Hills.

**Black-headed Gull:** see tabulated results – groups of over 5 recorded.

**Common Gull:** see tabulated results – groups of over 5 recorded.

**Herring Gull:** see tabulated results – all birds recorded.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** two immatures were with Herring Gulls on Black Hean on November 16<sup>th</sup>, whilst on the January 2<sup>nd</sup> immature and 2 adults were present. Two adults were together on Horse Breck on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, and on 16<sup>th</sup> 3 adults were together on Clapper Hills.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** remains scarce: an immature was on Black Hean on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. On December 16<sup>th</sup> 2 adults and an immature were present in the company of the Pink-footed Goose flock on Cherry Trees.

**Feral Pigeon:** Numbers apparently fairly stable with c.20-25 birds present around the farm buildings and in the pig-rearing units on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Stock Dove:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results.

**Woodpigeon:** all birds recorded – see tabulated results.

**Collared Dove:** all birds recorded – see tabulated results.

**Barn Owl:** a few fresh pellets in the livestock shelter adjacent to the Paddock Pond suggested that probably just one bird was roosting there from early November. Singles were seen on December 22<sup>nd</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Unfortunately one was found dead along the Burnham Road on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Tawny Owl:** a daytime calling bird located in Dark Wood on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Green Woodpecker:** quite scarce throughout the winter period. One was calling from Wharton's Belt on January 16<sup>th</sup> and one was seen in flight over Chalk Pit on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker:** remains unobtrusive during winter: a male was in oaks along the eastern edge of Hatchet Breck on November 16<sup>th</sup>, whilst a female was in Dark Wood on December 16<sup>th</sup>. On January 2<sup>nd</sup> one was heard calling from Wharton's Belt, with another seen in Dark Wood, whilst on January 16<sup>th</sup> one was drumming from North Wood. On February 2<sup>nd</sup> a pair was in the southern end of North Wood and another was drumming in the east end of Wharton's Belt; presumably the same birds were recorded on February 16<sup>th</sup>, when both males were observed drumming.

**Skylark:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results.

**Meadow Pipit:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results.

**Pied Wagtail:** fair numbers recorded in autumn when 9 were around the pig-rearing units and a further 2 were noted around the farm building complex on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. On December 16<sup>th</sup> a total of 13 were associating with pigs on Clapper Hill and Horse Breck, with at least one additional individual in the farm building complex. On January 2<sup>nd</sup> just 8 were located in and around the pig rearing units. On January 16<sup>th</sup> a total of 9 were feeding amongst the pigs with another 2 noted around the farm buildings but numbers fell into early February when just 5 were recorded in the farm building complex and on the pig-rearing units.

**Wren:** encountered in small numbers during each visit, predominantly recorded in woodland, hedgerow and deciduous scrub whilst at least 3 birds overwintered in the small patch of gorse in the corner of Smith's Piece.

**Duncock:** this remains a species with a population in steady decline. It was encountered on all visits, predominantly in woodland edges, hedgerow and scrub, often favouring the area around the gardens of the farm building complex and on Ringstead Common. Wintering numbers remain down on those at the start of the previous decade; this being reflected in recent annual breeding surveys.

**Robin:** recorded on all visits in small numbers but with a clear increase recorded in mid-November, presumably following an arrival of Continental immigrants. Many, if not all of the Robins wintering on the farm are likely to be of Continental origin and it will be these birds that bolstered numbers from mid-November. It was recorded mainly in woodland, scrub and hedgerows.

**Blackbird:** numbers very low in early-November with an apparent lack of Continental migrants, when an estimated c.25 in hedgerows and woodland on 2<sup>nd</sup>. A marked increase of presumed Continental immigrants noted in mid-November when c.65 were in hedgerows and adjacent scrub on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Numbers had fallen slightly by early December when c.50 were recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Fieldfare:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results.

**Song Thrush:** small numbers present in woodland throughout the winter period. No real evidence of Continental immigration noted.

**Redwing:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results. In addition a number of small flocks totalling c.45 birds flew south-west early in the morning of November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Mistle Thrush:** remains scarce. One was present throughout the early part of the survey period, defending its chosen holly bush at the west end of Dark Wood on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, whilst two flew south over Lower Whins on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Goldcrest:** again scarce throughout the survey period: two were noted in Julian's Wood on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 2-3 were in Wharton's Belt on December 16<sup>th</sup>. One was singing from Dark Wood on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Chiffchaff:** one was on Ringstead Common on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Long-tailed Tit:** largest flock numbering 9 birds was seen on November 2<sup>nd</sup> in North Wood.

**Coal Tit:** relatively small numbers were noted on most visits, occasionally at the suspended feeders. Maximum recorded was 3 on November 16<sup>th</sup> in Chalk Pit Plantation.

**Blue Tit:** recorded on all visits in small numbers; largest group was 12 noted attending the suspended feeder in the farmhouse garden on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Tit:** less frequently encountered than the above species but still present on all visits. Maximum of 8 recorded at the suspended feeder in Julian's Wood on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Jay:** recorded on all visits. Despite the almost total failure of the United Kingdom acorn crop good numbers were recorded on November 2<sup>nd</sup> when at least 13 different birds were either seen or noted calling from woodland areas, including one party of 4 and another of 5. Some of these birds may have been displaced in a general eruptive movement particularly prominent in southern England where birds moved in search of winter food. Good numbers were still present on December 2<sup>nd</sup> when at least 10 were recorded. Apparently fewer present after the turn of the year when a maximum of 6 were recorded on both January 16<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Magpie:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results. The Ringstead Common roost now appears to be abandoned and consequently numbers visiting the farm remain very low.

**Jackdaw:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results.

**Rook:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results.

**Carrion Crow:** relatively small numbers seen on each visit, usually in single figures and predominantly associated with the pig rearing units; largest counts 10 on Landing Strip on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Starling:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results. In addition several flocks totalling c.650 flew south-west early on the morning of November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Brambling:** four were in woodland on the northern edge of Two Fourteen Acres on November 16<sup>th</sup>. On January 16<sup>th</sup> a flock of 10 was feeding with Chaffinches in the wild-bird cover on the north side of Clapper Hills.

**Chaffinch:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results.

**Greenfinch:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results. In addition 2 were seen flying west over Barn Breck on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Goldfinch:** a small flock of 4 was feeding in the western hedgerow on Barn Breck on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and perhaps the flock, now numbering 8, was in the hedgerow on the north-eastern edge of the same field on November 16<sup>th</sup>. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> a small flock of 4 were at the southern end of North Wood. The North Wood flock had grown to 12 on December 16<sup>th</sup>, perhaps the union of the two flocks recorded on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Linnet:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results.

**Bullfinch:** again, generally rather scarce during the survey period: at least 2 were noted calling in the hedge on the boundary of Courtyard on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and a presumed family party of 4 (2 adults and 2 immatures) were on Ringstead Common on December 16<sup>th</sup>. On January 2<sup>nd</sup> a pair was seen in scrub at the west end of Dark Wood and on 16<sup>th</sup> one was calling on Ringstead Common. On February 16<sup>th</sup> at least 4 were on Ringstead Common

**Yellowhammer:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results.

**Reed Bunting:** first birds noted on November 16<sup>th</sup> when a group of 5 was in the hedgerow on the north-eastern edge of Barn Breck on November 16<sup>th</sup>. On December 16<sup>th</sup> a flock of 12 were in the wild-bird seed-strip on Courtyard. On January 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 were noted in the wild-bird seed-strip on Horse Breck.

**Corn Bunting:** all birds recorded - see tabulated results.

# Results

To complement the full list of species recorded in the previous section the results of selected species from the Courtyard Farm Winter Bird Survey 2021-22 are presented in this section in tabulated format. The dates of the eight visits, spaced as evenly throughout the survey period as weather and availability would allow, are indicated below:

Visit 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2021
Visit 2	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
Visit 3	2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021
Visit 4	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
Visit 5	2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2022
Visit 6	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Visit 7	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2022
Visit 8	16 <sup>th</sup> February 2022

The criteria for the minimum size flock or loose gathering of each species is highlighted in the full species list in the previous section. For example, due to the increased scarcity of species such as Greenfinch, Chaffinch and Yellowhammer, all individuals of these species are now recorded.

In a few cases, particularly towards the end of the survey with the onset of spring, zero counts do not necessarily mean a lack of presence for a species but may relate more to that species having abandoned its winter flocking habit to form small groups or potential breeding pairs.

Some selected results are also presented later in this section in block chart format to illustrate changing numbers within certain species on the farm as autumn arrival and spring departures progress.

In association with the selected results referred to above, the content of each field on the farm during the survey period is also presented in tabulated form, whether this is standing stubble, nitrogen replacement fertiliser crops, permanent grassland, livestock or a combination of any of these.

## Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Molly Brown, Roger Skeen and Paul Eele for information relating to the overnight Woodcock surveys conducted during December 2021.

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species
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### Visit 1 - 2nd November 2021

	Red-legged Partridge	Grey Partridge	Common Pheasant	Lapwing	Golden Plover	Curlew	Black-headed Gull	Common Gull	Herring Gull	Stock Dove	Woodpigeon	Collared Dove	Skylark
Farm and outbuildings										2			
Bells Charity													
Ten Acres													
Barn Breck													8
Lambert Hill Breck		6											14
Fourteen Acres													2
Eighteen Acres													
Common Breck			1										
Smith's Piece													
Bush Breck													23
Bottom Breck											27		
Chalk Pit						7							33
Six Acres													
Cherry Trees	10					11							11
Black Hean	4										12		3
High Dual													10
Landing Strip													
Horse Breck							252	97	112	6			
Clapper Hills							169	22	41	2			
Two Fourteen Acres										2			
Home Piece													
Home Twenty			1										
Middle Twenty													
Top Twenty			1										6
Common South			1										
Common North													
Jays Field													
Courtyard													5
Hatchet Breck											13		
Lower Whins													2
Upper Whins	4												4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>121</b>



## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species
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### Visit 1 - 2nd November 2021 (Continued)

	Meadow Pipit	Fieldfare	Redwing	Magpie	Jackdaw	Rook	Starling	Tree Sparrow	Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Corn Bunting
Farm and outbuildings					34								
Bells Charity													
Ten Acres													
Barn Breck	43								2			2	
Lambert Hill Breck									4				
Fourteen Acres													
Eighteen Acres													
Common Breck									6			6	
Smith's Piece					4								
Bush Breck													
Bottom Breck					11				2				
Chalk Pit					4				7				
Six Acres					14								
Cherry Trees									2				
Black Hean													
High Dual							31						
Landing Strip													
Horse Breck													
Clapper Hills							85						
Two Fourteen Acres													
Home Piece													
Home Twenty													
Middle Twenty													
Top Twenty													
Common South													
Common North													
Jays Field													
Courtyard					3								
Hatchet Breck													
Lower Whins	8												
Upper Whins													
<b>Totals (Continued)</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species
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### Visit 2 - 16th November 2021

	Red-legged Partridge	Grey Partridge	Common Pheasant	Lapwing	Golden Plover	Curlew	Black-headed Gull	Common Gull	Herring Gull	Stock Dove	Woodpigeon	Collared Dove	Skylark
Farm and outbuildings	2		1										
Bells Charity										2			
Ten Acres				22							9		2
Barn Breck		6	2			1					82		
Lambert Hill Breck													2
Fourteen Acres													
Eighteen Acres													
Common Breck													
Smith's Piece													
Bush Breck						13							36
Bottom Breck											36		17
Chalk Pit		3											41
Six Acres													
Cherry Trees	10												9
Black Hean											12		3
High Dual													14
Landing Strip											27		
Horse Breck							410	210	135	8			
Clapper Hills							325	82	57				
Two Fourteen Acres							12	9					
Home Piece													
Home Twenty													3
Middle Twenty	6		2										4
Top Twenty			1										
Common South													
Common North													2
Jays Field													2
Courtyard													11
Hatchet Breck													
Lower Whins													2
Upper Whins													
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>148</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species
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### Visit 2 - 16th November 2021 (Continued)

	Meadow Pipit	Fieldfare	Redwing	Magpie	Jackdaw	Rook	Starling	Tree Sparrow	Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Corn Bunting
Farm and outbuildings				2	82		21		4				
Bells Charity	2		7						11		9	10	
Ten Acres													
Barn Breck													
Lambert Hill Breck		77	15						4			4	
Fourteen Acres							14						
Eighteen Acres													
Common Breck									8			4	
Smith's Piece					4								
Bush Breck	22										46		
Bottom Breck	37												
Chalk Pit	37												
Six Acres									4				
Cherry Trees	14								4				
Black Hean													
High Dual							22						
Landing Strip													
Horse Breck						11	67						
Clapper Hills							110						
Two Fourteen Acres													
Home Piece													
Home Twenty													
Middle Twenty													
Top Twenty													
Common South													
Common North													
Jays Field													
Courtyard													
Hatchet Breck									5				
Lower Whins													
Upper Whins	5												
<b>Totals (Continued)</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species												
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### Visit 3 - 2nd December 2021

	Red-legged Partridge	Grey Partridge	Common Pheasant	Lapwing	Golden Plover	Curlew	Black-headed Gull	Common Gull	Herring Gull	Stock Dove	Woodpigeon	Collared Dove	Skylark
Farm and outbuildings			2								16	2	
Bells Charity													
Ten Acres	5										11		4
Barn Breck		6	2								40		
Lambert Hill Breck													
Fourteen Acres													
Eighteen Acres	2												
Common Breck													
Smith's Piece													
Bush Breck						7							22
Bottom Breck											36		27
Chalk Pit		3											53
Six Acres													
Cherry Trees	4												5
Black Hean											12		2
High Dual			1										22
Landing Strip										10	92		
Horse Breck							485	144	22				
Clapper Hills							290	57	12				
Two Fourteen Acres							40	42					
Home Piece													
Home Twenty													13
Middle Twenty	6		2										
Top Twenty			1										
Common South													
Common North													2
Jays Field													2
Courtyard													11
Hatchet Breck													
Lower Whins													2
Upper Whins	2		2	17									
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>165</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species
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### Visit 3 - 2nd December 2021 (Continued)

	Meadow Pipit	Fieldfare	Redwing	Magpie	Jackdaw	Rook	Starling	Tree Sparrow	Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Corn Bunting
Farm and outbuildings				2	135		32		6				
Bells Charity	2		19						11			6	
Ten Acres													
Barn Breck													
Lambert Hill Breck									4			11	
Fourteen Acres													
Eighteen Acres													
Common Breck									8				
Smith's Piece					11								
Bush Breck	11			2							65		
Bottom Breck	55												
Chalk Pit	25												
Six Acres									11				
Cherry Trees	14												
Black Hean													
High Dual	18												
Landing Strip													
Horse Breck						22	66						
Clapper Hills					32		175						
Two Fourteen Acres					10		34						
Home Piece													
Home Twenty													
Middle Twenty													
Top Twenty													
Common South													
Common North													
Jays Field													
Courtyard				2									
Hatchet Breck									9			6	
Lower Whins													
Upper Whins	5												
<b>Totals (Continued)</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species
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### Visit 4 - 16th December 2021

	Red-legged Partridge	Grey Partridge	Common Pheasant	Lapwing	Golden Plover	Curlew	Black-headed Gull	Common Gull	Herring Gull	Stock Dove	Woodpigeon	Collared Dove	Skylark
Farm and outbuildings											84	2	
Bells Charity													
Ten Acres	6										22		4
Barn Breck			1								17		
Lambert Hill Breck													
Fourteen Acres			2										5
Eighteen Acres													3
Common Breck											11		
Smith's Piece													
Bush Breck													42
Bottom Breck		8											
Chalk Pit													3
Six Acres													4
Cherry Trees													22
Black Hean	4							7					19
High Dual											22		5
Landing Strip	14							10			17		21
Horse Breck			2				505	309	145		16		
Clapper Hills							277	111	40				
Two Fourteen Acres							67	55	19				
Home Piece			1								82		
Home Twenty										6	11		4
Middle Twenty													2
Top Twenty													
Common South													
Common North													2
Jays Field													2
Courtyard													13
Hatchet Breck													
Lower Whins													4
Upper Whins			2			12							
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>155</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species											
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### Visit 4 - 16th December 2021 (Continued)

	Meadow Pipit	Fieldfare	Redwing	Magpie	Jackdaw	Rook	Starling	Tree Sparrow	Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Corn Bunting
Farm and outbuildings					85		12		4				
Bells Charity	13		21						9			6	
Ten Acres													
Barn Breck													
Lambert Hill Breck												12	
Fourteen Acres													
Eighteen Acres	5												
Common Breck					9				10				
Smith's Piece					8								
Bush Breck	17				11				6		52		
Bottom Breck	8												
Chalk Pit	7												
Six Acres					8								
Cherry Trees	3			1									
Black Hean					12	15							
High Dual		6											
Landing Strip					16	9			6				
Horse Breck							275						
Clapper Hills							108		34				
Two Fourteen Acres				1									
Home Piece													
Home Twenty													
Middle Twenty	22												
Top Twenty	13												
Common South													
Common North												4	
Jays Field													
Courtyard				2									
Hatchet Breck									8			8	
Lower Whins													
Upper Whins	5			3									
<b>Totals (Continued)</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species
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### Visit 5 - 2nd January 2022

	Red-legged Partridge	Grey Partridge	Common Pheasant	Lapwing	Golden Plover	Curlew	Black-headed Gull	Common Gull	Herring Gull	Stock Dove	Woodpigeon	Collared Dove	Skylark
Farm and outbuildings			1								70	2	
Bells Charity													2
Ten Acres						9							2
Barn Breck											11		4
Lambert Hill Breck		5	2								160		11
Fourteen Acres													2
Eighteen Acres		2											6
Common Breck								42			10		
Smith's Piece								5			18		
Bush Breck											186		21
Bottom Breck													
Chalk Pit	16												14
Six Acres													
Cherry Trees								13					10
Black Hean	4		2					8					17
High Dual													7
Landing Strip								21			21		18
Horse Breck							480	228	110		33		
Clapper Hills							322	167	37				
Two Fourteen Acres							91	104	25				
Home Piece								6					
Home Twenty											41		6
Middle Twenty											112		
Top Twenty											33		
Common South													
Common North													2
Jays Field													2
Courtyard													21
Hatchet Breck													
Lower Whins													
Upper Whins				142	15	6							2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>147</b>



## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species
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### Visit 5 - 2nd January 2022 (Continued)

	Meadow Pipit	Fieldfare	Redwing	Magpie	Jackdaw	Rook	Starling	Tree Sparrow	Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Corn Bunting
Farm and outbuildings			14	1	76				6				
Bells Charity	6												
Ten Acres	4								4				
Barn Breck	7	110										7	
Lambert Hill Breck	6												
Fourteen Acres													
Eighteen Acres	4												
Common Breck		4			4								
Smith's Piece					14				2				
Bush Breck													
Bottom Breck	8												
Chalk Pit	7												
Six Acres					8								
Cherry Trees	3			1									
Black Hean					12	22							
High Dual						1							
Landing Strip					22	4			6				
Horse Breck							235						
Clapper Hills							77		29				
Two Fourteen Acres				1									
Home Piece					16								
Home Twenty	19												
Middle Twenty	11												
Top Twenty	7			2									
Common South	7												
Common North									4				
Jays Field													
Courtyard	18											6	
Hatchet Breck													
Lower Whins					6								
Upper Whins				2									
<b>Totals (Continued)</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species
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### Visit 6 - 16th January 2022

	Red-legged Partridge	Grey Partridge	Common Pheasant	Lapwing	Golden Plover	Curlew	Black-headed Gull	Common Gull	Herring Gull	Stock Dove	Woodpigeon	Collared Dove	Skylark
Farm and outbuildings			1								12	4	
Bells Charity													
Ten Acres													4
Barn Breck											15		
Lambert Hill Breck		7	2								135		14
Fourteen Acres	8										11		
Eighteen Acres								11					6
Common Breck								30			22		
Smith's Piece								9			18		
Bush Breck													41
Bottom Breck	6		2										
Chalk Pit													4
Six Acres													
Cherry Trees											14		14
Black Hean		2											
High Dual							97	159	42		21		2
Landing Strip											12		6
Horse Breck			5				382	183	98		37		
Clapper Hills							285	265	43				
Two Fourteen Acres													
Home Piece													
Home Twenty											29		5
Middle Twenty											80		
Top Twenty											43		
Common South													
Common North													4
Jays Field													
Courtyard													20
Hatchet Breck													
Lower Whins			2										
Upper Whins													3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>764</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>123</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species											
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### Visit 6 - 16th January 2022 (Contiued)

	Meadow Pipit	Fieldfare	Redwing	Magpie	Jackdaw	Rook	Starling	Tree Sparrow	Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Corn Bunting
Farm and outbuildings			15		90				4				
Bells Charity	8												
Ten Acres	12								7				
Barn Breck	19			2								14	
Lambert Hill Breck	4												
Fourteen Acres													
Eighteen Acres													
Common Breck					8								
Smith's Piece									4				
Bush Breck													
Bottom Breck													
Chalk Pit					8				8				
Six Acres					26								
Cherry Trees	8												
Black Hean						10							
High Dual							42						
Landing Strip	7								14				
Horse Breck					60	31	29						
Clapper Hills							103		17				
Two Fourteen Acres	11								42				
Home Piece					4								
Home Twenty	19												
Middle Twenty	11												
Top Twenty	9			2									
Common South													
Common North									4				
Jays Field													
Courtyard	22			1								10	
Hatchet Breck													
Lower Whins													
Upper Whins				3					7				
<b>Totals (Continued)</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species
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### Visit 7 - 2nd February 2022

	Red-legged Partridge	Grey Partridge	Common Pheasant	Lapwing	Golden Plover	Curlew	Black-headed Gull	Common Gull	Herring Gull	Stock Dove	Woodpigeon	Collared Dove	Skylark
Farm and outbuildings											67	4	
Bells Charity													
Ten Acres													2
Barn Breck	4					9							39
Lambert Hill Breck		8											18
Fourteen Acres			2										
Eighteen Acres													3
Common Breck													2
Smith's Piece													
Bush Breck							39	54					
Bottom Breck											163		
Chalk Pit											84		
Six Acres											15		
Cherry Trees							11	42					
Black Hean							13	36					
High Dual			1				64	18	30				
Landing Strip						6							17
Horse Breck							267	183	44				2
Clapper Hills			1				182	162	32				
Two Fourteen Acres	4		2					5			44		11
Home Piece	2												
Home Twenty													4
Middle Twenty	8												
Top Twenty			1					4					6
Common South													4
Common North													
Jays Field													
Courtyard													15
Hatchet Breck						8							
Lower Whins													
Upper Whins				86									4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>127</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species												
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### Visit 7 - 2nd February 2022 (Continued)

	Meadow Pipit	Fieldfare	Redwing	Magpie	Jackdaw	Rook	Starling	Tree Sparrow	Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Corn Bunting
Farm and outbuildings			6	2	58				4				
Bells Charity													
Ten Acres	8				6		12					8	
Barn Breck	12											14	
Lambert Hill Breck	21												
Fourteen Acres			6										
Eighteen Acres													
Common Breck													
Smith's Piece									4				
Bush Breck					18	12							
Bottom Breck									2				
Chalk Pit									2				
Six Acres					7								
Cherry Trees													
Black Hean													
High Dual													
Landing Strip				1	31		31				5		
Horse Breck									22				
Clapper Hills				3	46				16				
Two Fourteen Acres													
Home Piece													
Home Twenty	22												
Middle Twenty							8		4				
Top Twenty	8												
Common South													
Common North													
Jays Field													
Courtyard	9										16		
Hatchet Breck													
Lower Whins	6												
Upper Whins													
<b>Totals (Continued)</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>0</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species										
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### Visit 8 - 16th February 2022

	Red-legged Partridge	Grey Partridge	Common Pheasant	Lapwing	Golden Plover	Curlew	Black-headed Gull	Common Gull	Herring Gull	Stock Dove	Woodpigeon	Collared Dove	Skylark
Farm and outbuildings												4	
Bells Charity													
Ten Acres											18		4
Barn Breck	2												23
Lambert Hill Breck		8	1										21
Fourteen Acres													
Eighteen Acres			1										4
Common Breck													4
Smith's Piece			1								63		
Bush Breck			1				121	46					6
Bottom Breck							8						
Chalk Pit	6						31	18			33		
Six Acres	2		1								29		
Cherry Trees							46	22					5
Black Hean							11	15					4
High Dual							69	31	21				
Landing Strip							11	31					4
Horse Breck							62						
Clapper Hills							325	185	122				
Two Fourteen Acres													3
Home Piece			2										
Home Twenty							26	18					4
Middle Twenty							19	32					3
Top Twenty													
Common South											53		
Common North													
Jays Field													
Courtyard	2		1										4
Hatchet Breck	5												
Lower Whins													2
Upper Whins													6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>97</b>

## Courtyard Farm - winter bird survey 2021-22

Location	Species											
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### Visit 8 - 16th February 2022 (Continued)

	Meadow Pipit	Fieldfare	Redwing	Magpie	Jackdaw	Rook	Starling	Tree Sparrow	Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Corn Bunting
Farm and outbuildings									7	4			
Bells Charity	14												
Ten Acres	9												
Barn Breck	11								10			20	8
Lambert Hill Breck				2	12								
Fourteen Acres									2				
Eighteen Acres												2	
Common Breck	7											4	
Smith's Piece													
Bush Breck													
Bottom Breck													
Chalk Pit													
Six Acres									4				
Cherry Trees					41	13	21						
Black Hean													
High Dual													
Landing Strip													
Horse Breck					13				4				
Clapper Hills					68		32						
Two Fourteen Acres	5												
Home Piece													
Home Twenty													
Middle Twenty													
Top Twenty	6												
Common South													
Common North									3				
Jays Field													
Courtyard	6												
Hatchet Breck													
Lower Whins	18												
Upper Whins	4								4				
<b>Totals (Continued)</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>

## Courtyard Farm - Winter bird survey 2021-22

Visit	Species												
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### Species totals - All visits

	Red-legged Partridge	Grey Partridge	Common Pheasant	Lapwing	Golden Plover	Curlew	Black-headed Gull	Common Gull	Herring Gull	Stock Dove	Woodpigeon	Collared Dove	Skylark
Visit 1 2nd November 2021	18	6	4	0	0	18	421	119	153	12	52	0	121
Visit 2 16th November 2020	18	9	6	22	0	14	747	301	192	10	166	0	148
Visit 3 2nd December 2020	19	9	10	17	0	7	815	243	34	10	207	2	165
Visit 4 16th December 2020	24	8	8	0	0	12	849	492	204	6	282	2	155
Visit 5 2nd January 2021	20	7	5	142	15	15	893	594	172	0	695	2	147
Visit 6 16th January 2021	14	9	12	0	0	0	764	657	183	0	449	4	123
Visit 7 2nd February 2021	18	8	7	86	0	23	576	504	106	0	373	4	127
Visit 8 16th February 2021	17	8	8	0	0	0	729	398	143	0	196	4	97
Average per visit to nearest whole number	19	8	8	33	2	11	724	414	148	5	303	2	135



## Courtyard Farm - Winter bird survey 2021-22

Visit	Species												
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### Species totals - All visits (Continued)

	Meadow Pipit	Fieldfare	Redwing	Magpie	Jackdaw	Rook	Starling	Tree Sparrow	Chaffinch	Greenfinch	Linnet	Yellowhammer	Corn Bunting
Visit 1 2nd November 2021	51	0	0	0	70	0	116	0	23	0	0	8	0
Visit 2 16th November 2020	117	77	22	2	86	11	234	0	40	0	55	18	0
Visit 3 2nd December 2020	130	0	19	6	188	22	307	0	49	0	65	23	0
Visit 4 16th December 2020	93	6	21	7	149	24	395	0	77	0	52	30	0
Visit 5 2nd January 2021	107	114	14	7	158	27	312	0	51	0	0	13	0
Visit 6 16th January 2021	130	0	15	8	196	41	174	0	107	0	0	24	0
Visit 7 2nd February 2021	86	0	12	6	166	12	51	0	54	0	21	22	0
Visit 8 16th February 2021	80	0	0	2	134	13	53	0	34	4	0	26	8
Average per visit to nearest whole number	99	25	13	5	143	19	205	0	54	1	24	21	1

## Courtyard Farm - Winter Cropping 2021-22

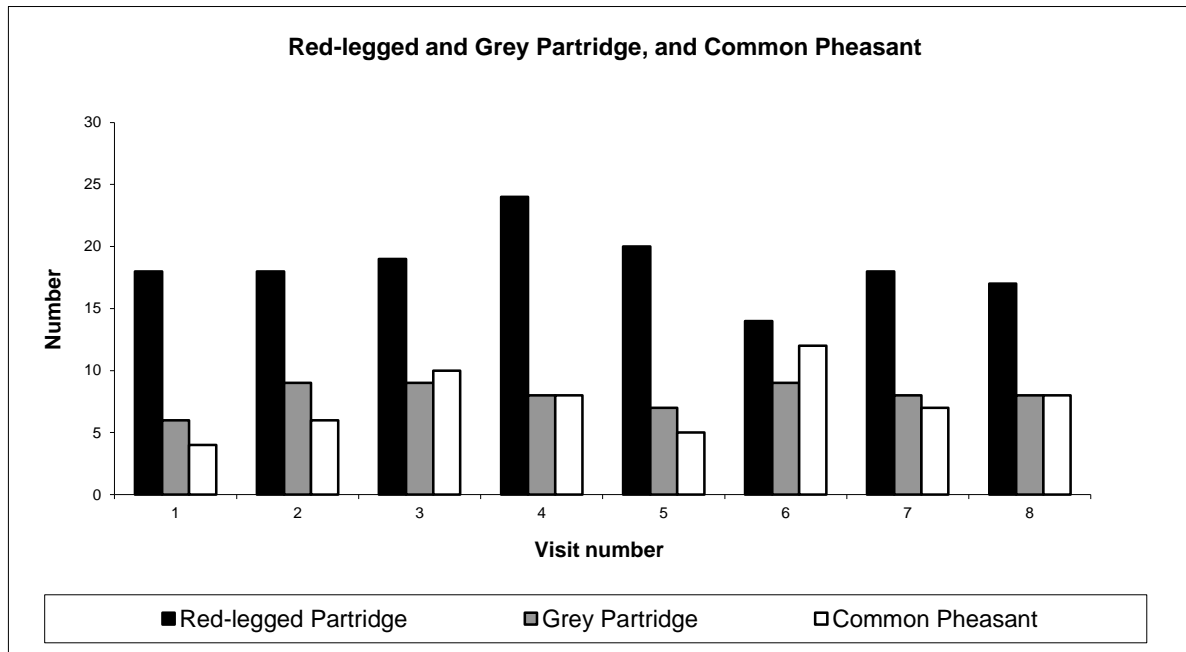
Field Name	Crop	Livestock/Grazing
Bells Charity	Clover	
Ten Acres	Clover	
Barn Breck	Clover	
Lambert Hill Breck	Clover	
Fourteen Acres	Clover	
Eighteen Acres	Clover	
Common Breck	Stewardship grass	Sheep early November/cattle late November
Smiths Piece	Stewardship grass	Sheep early November
Bush Breck	Fallow	
Bottom Breck	Mustard	
Chalk Pit **	Mustard	
Six Acres	Stewardship grass/Clover	
Cherry Trees	Mustard	
Black Hurn	Fallow	
High Dual	Clover	Pigs
Landing Strip	Mustard	
Horse Breck *	Clover	Pigs
Clapper Hills *	Clover	Pigs
Two Fourteen Acres	Stubble turnips	Sheep mid/late November
Home Piece	Stewardship grass	Sheep mid/late November
Home Twenty	Stubble turnips	Sheep mid/late November
Middle Twenty	Stubble turnips	Sheep mid/late November, again late January
Top Twenty	Stubble turnips	Sheep mid/late November, again February
Common South	Stubble turnips	Sheep mid/late November
Common North	Stewardship grass	Sheep early November
Jays Field	Stewardship grass	
Courtyard *	Stewardship grass	
Hatchet Breck	Clover	
Lower Whins	Clover	
Upper Whins **	Clover	

\* *Wild bird feed strip*

\*\* *Wader plots*

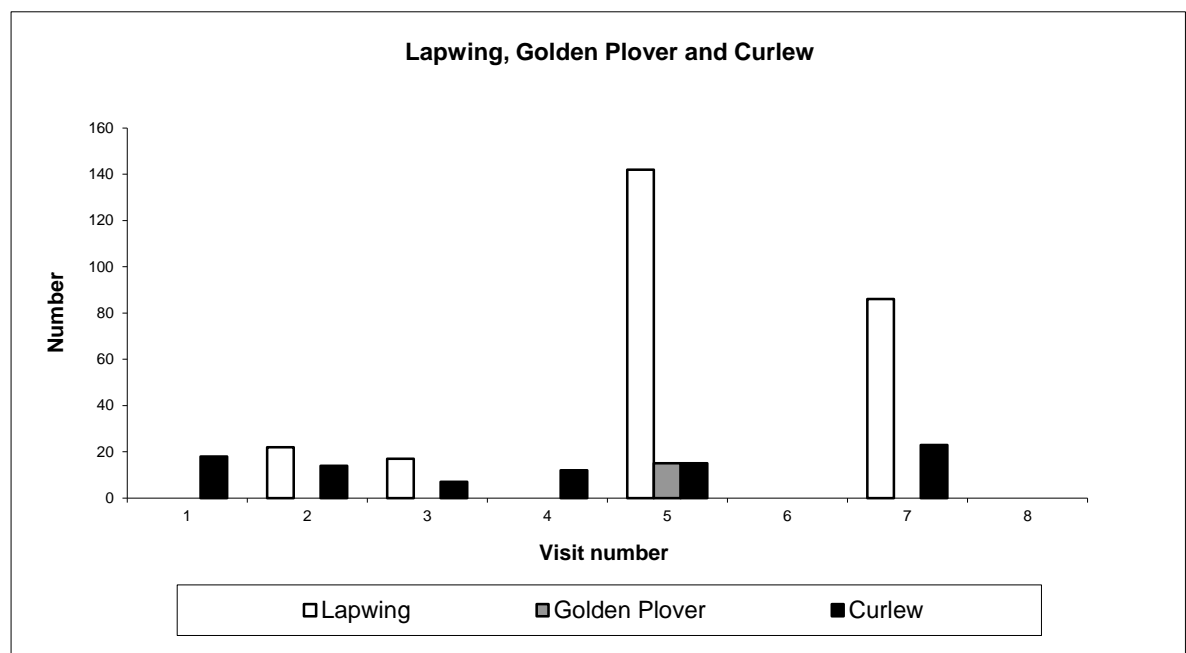
### Chart 1 – Red-legged Partridge, Grey Partridge and Common Pheasant

Grey Partridge numbers remain low but relatively stable with small numbers found predominantly in cereal stubble; there remain no indications of a reversal in this trend. Once again there were no game releases of Common Pheasant or Red-legged Partridge on adjacent farms and for the second consecutive year the graph reflects this in reduced numbers recorded for both species.



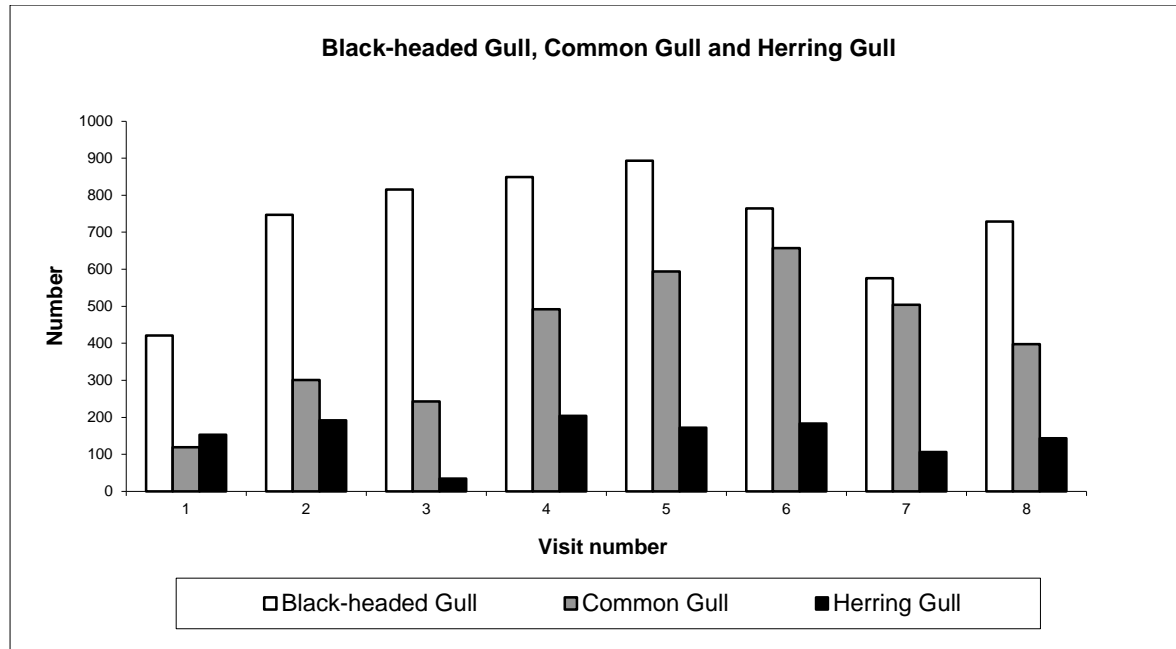
### Chart 2 – Lapwing, Golden Plover and Curlew

Both Lapwing and Golden Plover remain somewhat erratic in appearance and numbers with late-autumn often the most productive time. However, once again Lapwing peaked early in the New Year following a county-wide arrival of birds during a colder spell. Curlew flocks were much reduced and the general continued run of milder winters and fewer frosts and icy spells suggests that numbers are likely to remain quite low throughout the winter period.



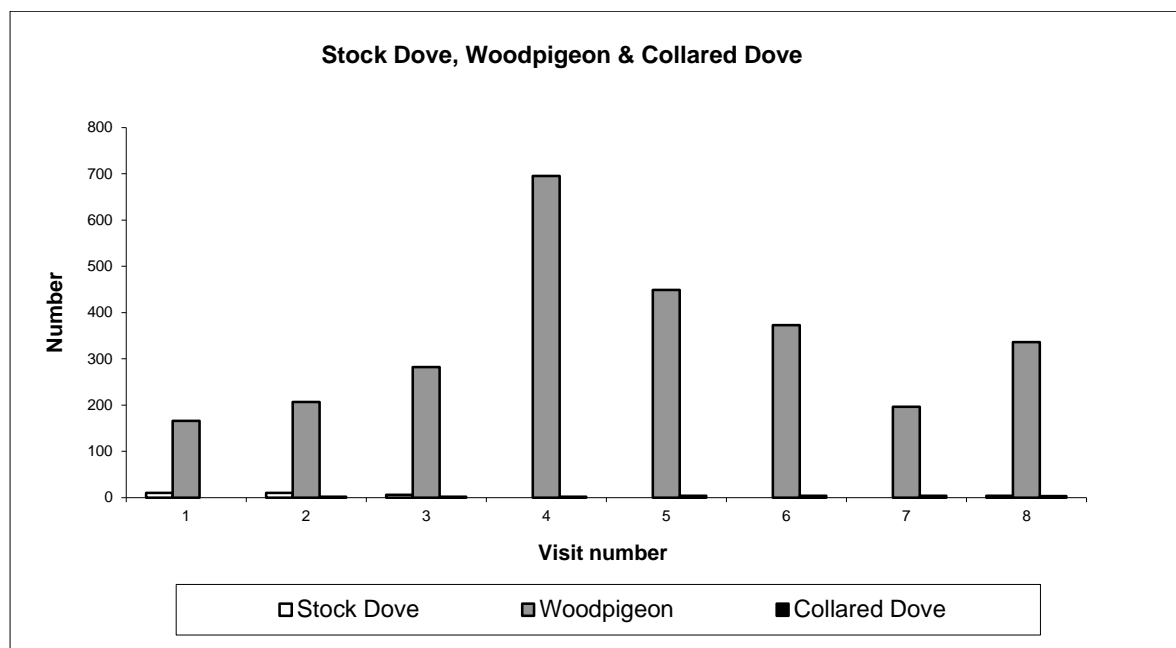
### Chart 3 – Black-headed Gull, Common Gull and Herring Gull

Much movement between local sites with pig-rearing units still occurs, particularly during feed rounds. Black-headed gull numbers were down on those for previous winter, peaking at 895. Common Gull numbers were similar to the previous year, peaking at 594 in late-winter. Herring gull numbers continue to remain strong, albeit slightly down on the previous winter, peaking at just over 200 during late early-winter. The reduced numbers in early December were likely as a result of good foraging on the foreshore following a spell of stormy weather.



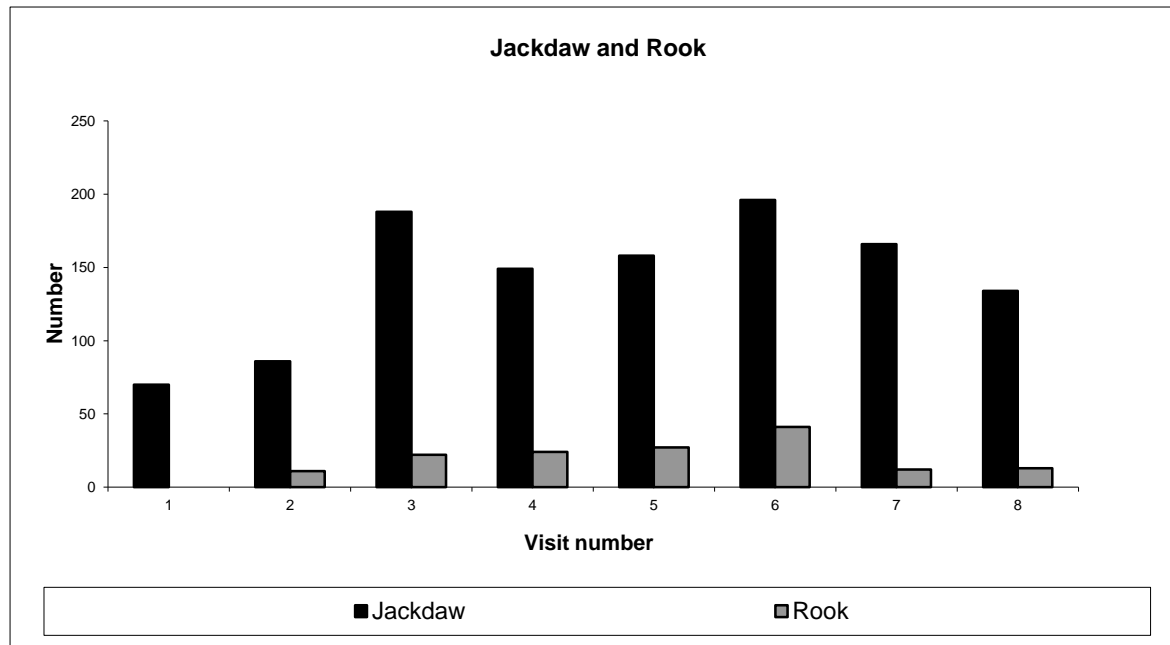
### Chart 4 – Stock Dove, Woodpigeon and Collared Dove

Woodpigeon numbers were similar to the previous winter with particularly good numbers in late-autumn, peaking at 695. In an almost identical winter to the previous one, Stock Doves continue to remain worryingly scarce; recorded on only five occasions they peaked at just 12. Collared Doves are only normally recorded around the farm buildings and were absent at the start of survey work and remained scarce throughout the survey period. Numbers remain at an all-time low.



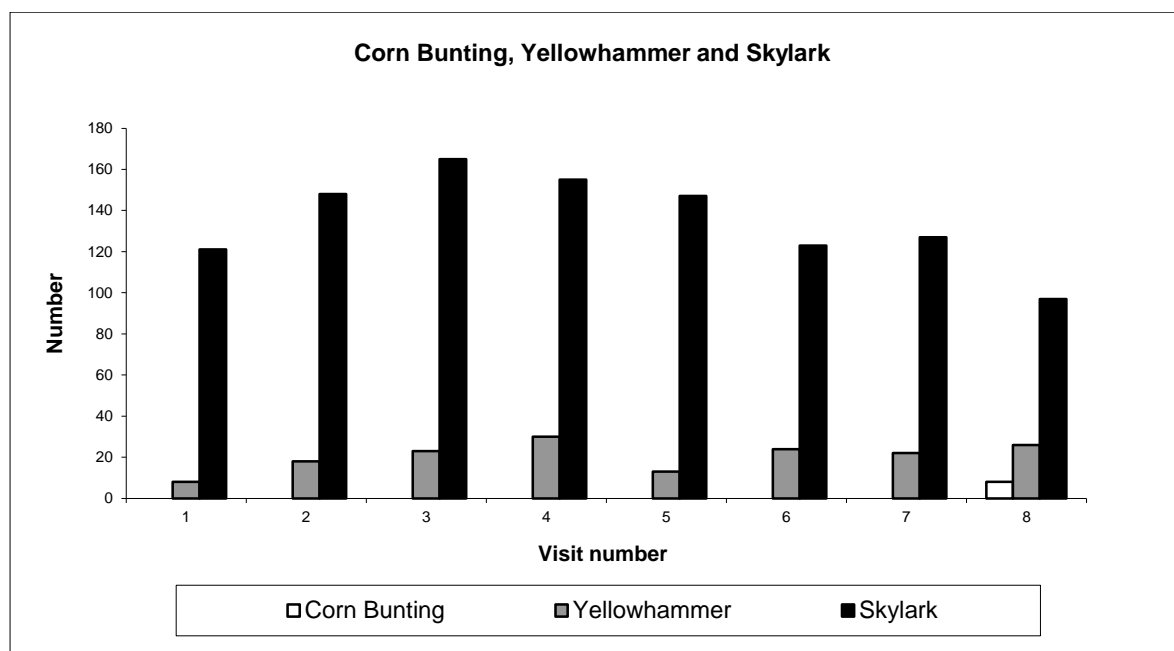
### Chart 5 – Jackdaw and Rook

Jackdaws visit the pig-rearing units and congregate daily around the farm buildings. Numbers were fairly stable from early-winter but there were further signs that wintering numbers are falling with no count exceeding 200. Rooks remain relatively scarce on the farm, though the suggestion is that they may be increasing. Associated primarily with the pig-rearing units the usual times of appearance are late-autumn and late-winter. Numbers peaked at 41 over this winter period.



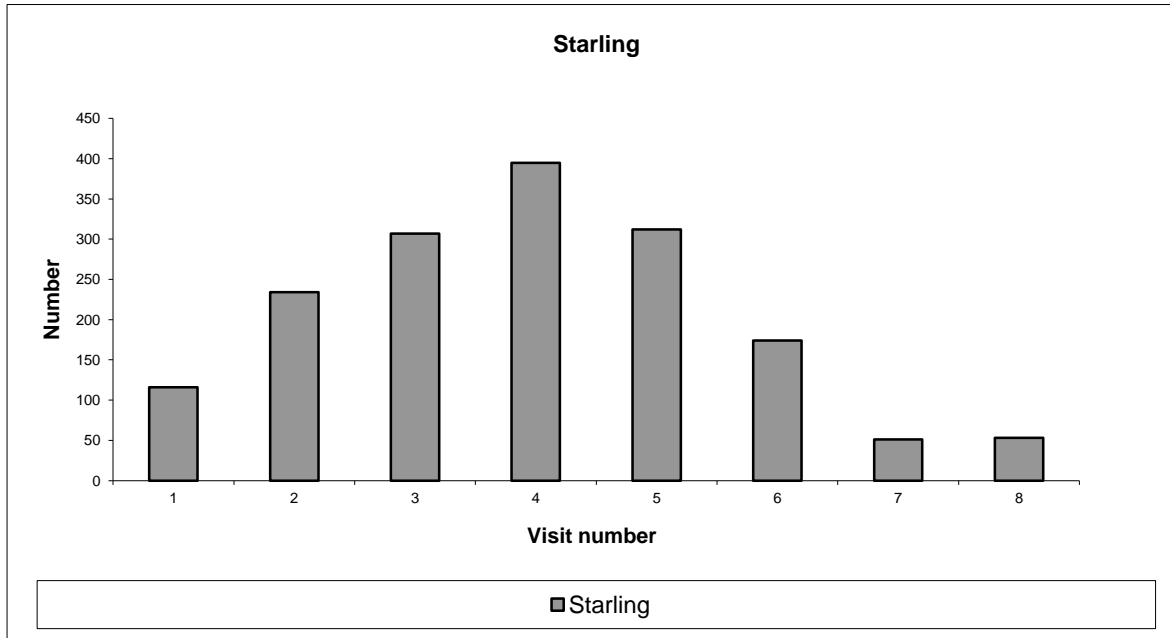
### Chart 6 – Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer and Skylark

Rather disappointingly (but in common with the surrounding area) Corn Buntings were completely absent until late-winter, recorded on just one occasion they peaked at a lowly 8. Yellowhammer numbers were much reduced, peaking at just 30 in early-winter. This represented the worst year on record for the species on the farm. Skylark numbers were down somewhat on the previous year but remained quite stable throughout the survey period. Numbers peaked at 165 in late-autumn.



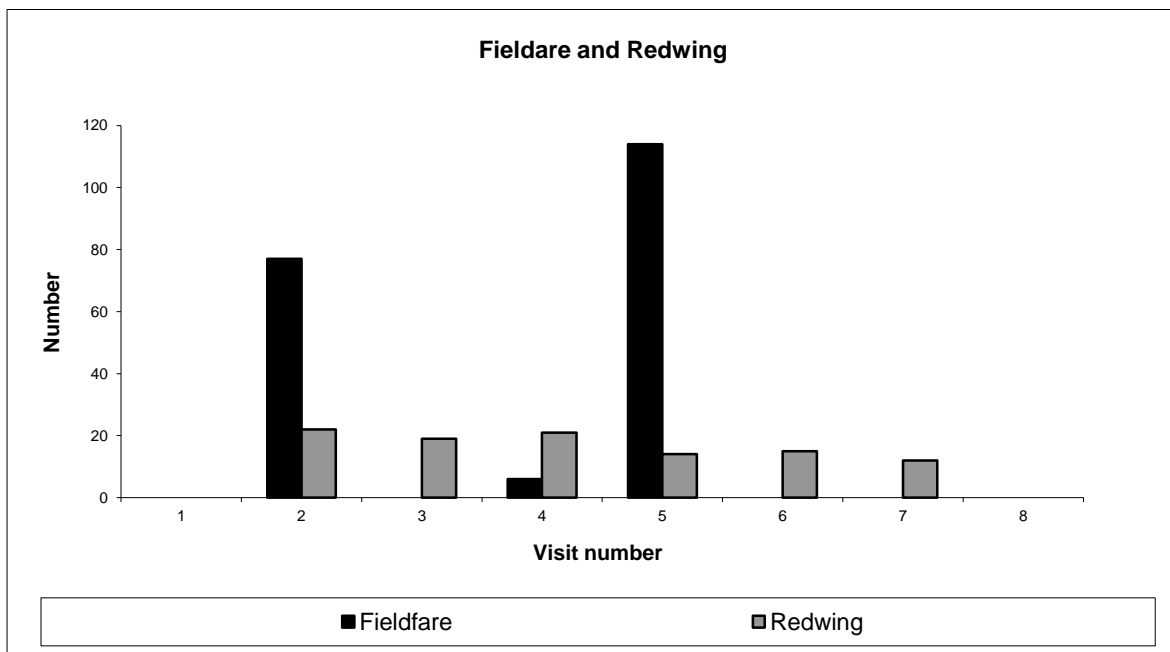
### Chart 7 – Starling

The autumn of 2021 became the third consecutive one without any sizeable arrival of immigrant Starlings into the county. Although better than the previous year numbers remained low throughout the period, peaking at just below 400 in late-autumn. Numbers remain well short of the levels recorded immediately after the return of outdoor pig-rearing.



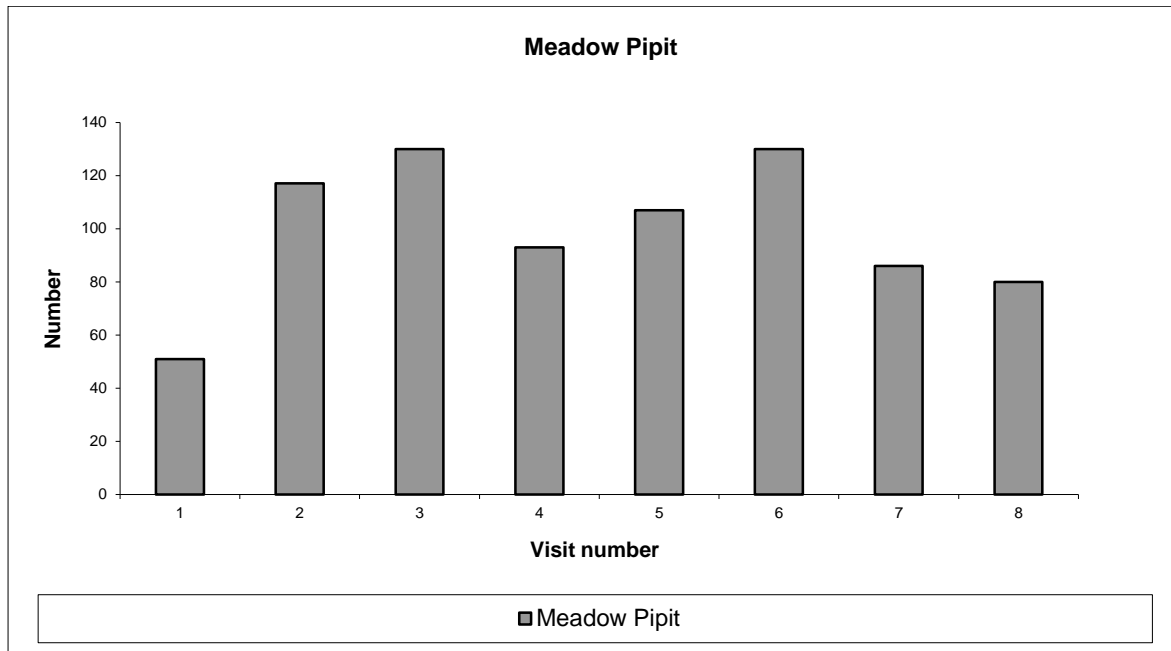
### Chart 8 – Fieldfare and Redwing

This was another poor year for both species across much of the survey period, and indeed across much of the county. Fieldfares arrived in low numbers in late-autumn and only a late cold-weather movement early in the New Year boosted the peak number recorded to 114. Despite some quite large autumn Redwing movements over the North Sea very few of these birds made landfall in Norfolk, most continuing overhead in a westerly direction. Peak count was a miserly 22, the majority of which were in scrub and woodland around the farm building complex.



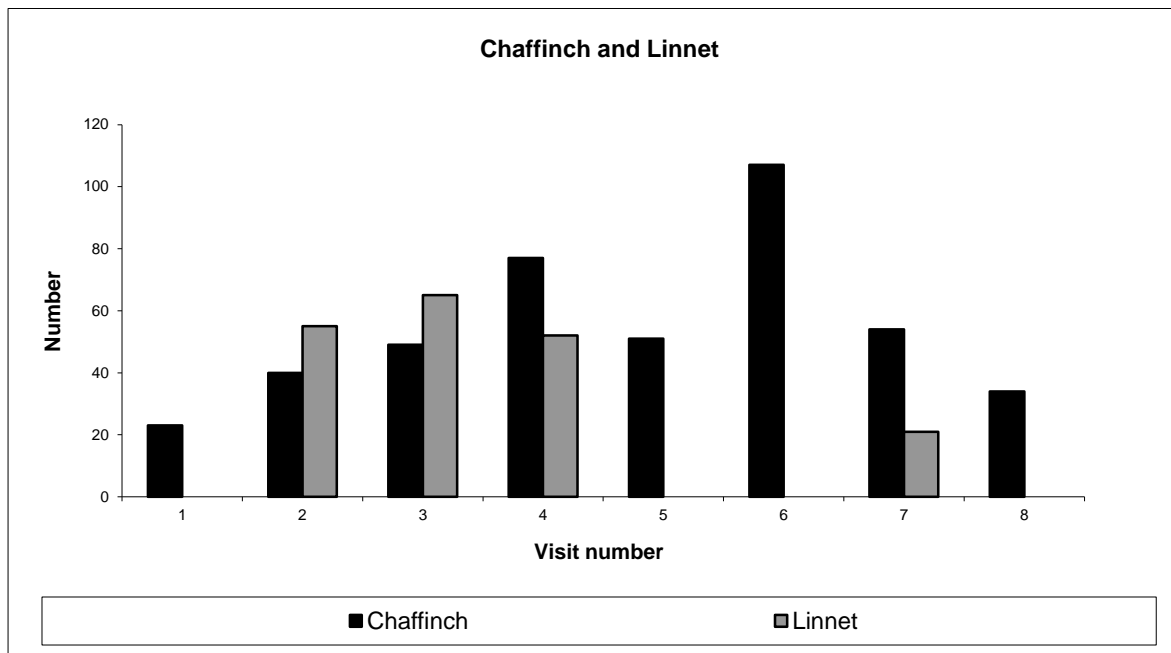
### Chart 9 – Meadow Pipit

Bucking the trend of most others this species continues to become both more predictable and more numerous. Numbers were good for the fourth consecutive winter survey winter period, peaking twice at 130 in both late-autumn and mid-winter. There followed the usual gentle decline into late-winter as birds departed for breeding grounds. Stewardship grassland, undersown clover and cereal stubble remain the preferred occupied habitats.



### Chart 10 – Chaffinch and Linnet

Chaffinch numbers were less erratic and slightly higher than the previous winter, peaking at 107 in late-winter; the majority of these were located feeding in wild-bird seed strips, with smaller numbers in standing stubble. Linnet numbers proved to be erratic and for the third successive winter and proved very similar to the previous year. The peak count was just 65 in early-winter but they had all disappeared completely by the New Year, albeit with a very small flock re-appearing in late-winter.



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