

TUNBRIDGE WELLS COMMON
BIRD RECORDS 2025

Maximum numbers are the maximum seen/heard on any one visit to the common (40 minutes to 1 hour approx.). 43 species in total.

Principal noteworthy changes from 2024 were:

A marked decline in bullfinches, and no breeding buzzards. I recorded Marsh Tits on four occasions (none in 2024), 4 sightings of treecreeper (one in 2024). Two new birds for the Common were Firecrest on two occasions (possible breeder?) and a common whitethroat (probably just passing through).

RESIDENT BREEDING SPECIES

Species	Maximum number	Comment
Blue Tit	15	Common and widespread
Great Tit	10	Common
Coal Tit	4	An increase compared to 2024, may have been under recorded.
Marsh Tit	2	4 records in 2025 after none in 2024. Two together in March.
Long-tailed Tit	4	Small numbers breed.
Nuthatch	4	Common, a number of breeding pairs.
Great spotted woodpecker	3	Fairly common, at least two pairs, probably more.
Robin	8	Common
Wren	17	Probably most common breeding bird
Dunnock	2	A few pairs, probably breeding.
Blackbird	6	Common
Song Thrush	2	Small numbers, one or two breeding pairs.
Goldcrest	3	Fairly common in conifers and areas of ivy/dense cover
Firecrest	1	First sighting in Tunbridge Wells. 1 seen in late March

		and again in early April. Possible breeding candidate?
Bullfinch	1	Recorded on only 2 occasions. A big decline on recent years.
Woodpigeon	11	Very common
Stock Dove	2	Recorded on 4 visits, probably breeding.
Carrion Crow	5	Fairly common
Jackdaw	4	May breed
Magpie	10	Common, breeding.
Jay	3	A few pairs, almost certainly breeding.
Common Buzzard	2	No breeding in 2025 and none seen April to September.
Tawny owl	1	Heard at night on one occasion. Possible breeder.
Species	Maximum number	Comment

SUMMER BREEDING VISITORS

Species	Maximum number	Comment
Blackcap	10	Common and widespread breeder
Chiffchaff	10	Common and widespread breeder
Firecrest	1	See above, most are summer visitors, but a few over winter in the UK.
Comon whitethroat	1	1 singing on 27 April, first and only sighting on the Common.
Garden warbler	1	A probable sighting in May, but not singing.

WINTER VISITOR

Species	Maximum number	Comment
Siskin	5 or 6	In conifers in January.
Redwing	Circa 5	In March and 1 or 2 in December.

OTHER VISITING SPECIES. NO EVIDENCE OF BREEDING

Species	Maximum number	Comment
Mallard	3	On Brighton Lake in July
Moorhen	2	On Brighton Lake in March
Canada Goose	1	On Brighton Lake in February
Grey Heron	1 records in flight	Probably visits the ponds regularly in the early morning
Sparrowhawk	2	Circling overhead on 26 April.
Herring Gull		Small numbers overhead and on cricket field.
Collared Dove	2	On 9 th July.
Swift	2	2 overhead on 8 th May.
Pied Wagtail	1	1 at Fir Tree car park.
Starling	20	In February and similar numbers in December, 15 in Spring.
Goldfinch		A flock of 6 in January and 2 in December, mainly a winter visitor.
Tree creeper	4	
Chaffinch	2	Only two February records
Green Woodpecker	1	1 record in August.

SPECIES SEEN IN THE PAST 5 YEARS BUT NOT RECORDED ABOVE

- House Sparrow
- Pheasant
- Kestrel
- Mistle Thrush
- Red kite
- Peregrine
- Grey Wagtail.