

Wick Country Park

Wildlife Sightings – 2025



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Photographs on header:

Common Gull
Lesser Broad Bordered Yellow Underwing
Gooden's Nomad Bee
Mallard & Chicks
Large Headed Resin Bee
Hairy Footed Flower Bee (fm)

All photographs in this report were taken at the Wick Country Park during 2025.

Introduction

We have now completed our 6th year of regular wildlife walks at the Wick Country Park! These started in 2020 and generally take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, depending on weather, holidays etc. For the last two years (2024 & 2025) wildlife identified on other walks and events have been included in the data e.g. January Jaunt, Spring Picnic and the Autumn Ramble. The aims of the walks are:

1. To enjoy the park, its wildlife and get some fresh air.
2. To record and count the wildlife we see/hear, namely: birds, butterflies, dragonflies, mammals, and anything else of note, e.g. moths, reptiles and insects.
3. To gain a greater understanding of what wildlife lives in and/or uses the park and monitor any changes in their populations.
4. To promote the wildlife of the park to the Friends group and general public via the Website and Facebook etc.
5. To share our wildlife recordings with all relevant groups and organisations e.g. Basildon Council, Essex County Recorders, and the Essex Amphibian and Reptile Group.

Methodology

We walk approximately the same route each month, covering the most likely wildlife friendly habitats of the park. The number of each individual species seen or heard is recorded to gain some idea of abundance/population. We also attempt to record whether any of our bird species are breeding in the park.

It would be impossible to record 100% of the wildlife that lives in or uses the park but over time; by carrying out a regular count, we will be able to record the vast majority of the wildlife that exists in the park and get a rough estimate of their numbers. However, for some species, e.g. nocturnal species, a more targeted approach may be needed, i.e. specific nighttime walks or events. One such event is the annual “moth night”, which began in 2021 and resulting from this, we have started to build good records of moth species in the park. In addition, we have also held nighttime bat watches and wildlife picnics during the summer.

Reporting

Each month, an email report will be issued, recording the wildlife identified that month. At the end of the year, an annual report on that years sightings will be issued. This report will also detail all the species we have seen over the years together with the data for each and attempt to analyse the data to look at possible population trends etc.

All bird records will be sent to the Essex Bird Recorder, as part of the wider monitoring of UK bird populations. Similarly, all butterfly, moth and dragonfly records will be sent to the various Essex recorders for these orders of insects. Amphibians and reptiles will be recorded via an online recording site for such animals called “The Record Pool”. Mammals have not been included in this wider recording process at the moment, mainly because we see so few, but this may be something to consider in the future, especially in respect of bat species.

In 2024 we started recording “other wildlife” mainly insects and other invertebrates, and I will investigate who in Essex is responsible for collating such records. The Essex Field Club will be a good starting point for this.

Finally, a notable omission in our recording over the years has been plants and flowers. However, recordings were carried in 2020 and 2025 and the details will be set out in this report.

Thank You

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who took part in the walks and especially Barbara Chapman and John Attiwell who organized and carried out the walks and recording while I was away in July and August.

Species Recorded in 2025

Below are the detailed lists of all the wildlife seen/heard/identified in 2025. In contrast to previous reports, in this section, I will not compare the numbers to previous years here. This will be done in a separate part of the report in more detail than in previous years.

Birds – 56 Species

Wick Country Park - Birds Recorded 2025				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	Annual Total
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	8	6	1
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	50	14	1
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	28	10	1
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	46	14	1
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	1	1	1
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	5	11	1
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2	3	1
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	9	9	1
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	2	3	1
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1	1	1
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1	3	1
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	4	14	1
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	9	3	1
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	130	14	1
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	16	2	1
Common Whitethroat	<i>Currucà communis</i>	4	4	1
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	61	14	1
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	4	12	1
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	11	5	1
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	30	15	1
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2	2	1
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	6	8	1
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	5	8	1
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	3	11	1
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	4	6	1
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	14	15	1
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1	3	1
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	2	1
Eurasian Wren (British)	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus</i>	12	12	1
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	17	13	1
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	2	8	1
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	7	9	1
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	4	8	1
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	18	14	1
Gadwall	Mareca strepera	2	1	1
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	3	4	1
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	2	4	1
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	21	15	1

Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	1	1	1
Greylag Goose	Anser anser	2	1	1
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	12	15	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	1	2	1
Lesser Whitethroat	Curruca curruca	2	4	1
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	14	15	1
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	22	14	1
Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis	2	1	1
Mediterranean Gull	Ichthyaetus melanocephalus	2	1	1
Redpoll	Acanthis flammea	2	2	1
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	23	4	1
Rock Dove (Feral)	Columba livia 'feral'	15	4	1
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	4	4	1
Stock Dove	Columba oenas	4	3	1
Western House Martin	Delichon urbicum	5	1	1
Western Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	6	3	1
Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	1	1	1
White Wagtail (British)	Motacilla alba yarrellii	3	3	1
				Species 2025 56
				New Birds 2025 5

Birds were recorded on 15 visits during 2025 (12 monthly walks plus the January Jaunt, Spring Bird Song Walk and the Autumn Ramble,) and we identified 56 species, which is in line with previous years.

Five new species were added to our bird list in 2025, detailed above in red:

A pair of **Gadwall** (*Mareca strepera*) were on the lake for a brief period but mainly “hidden” at the back of the island. At least two **Meadow Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*) were heard and seen overhead during our October walk, likely passing through the park on migration. Two **Mediterranean Gull** (*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*) were identified in a large gull flock over the back of the lake during our April walk. A favourite of mine, **Redpoll** (*Acanthis flammea*) were seen early in 2025 in the boardwalk area with a pair on the ground and a female feeding on the alder. Finally, a **Western Marsh Harrier** (*Circus aeruginosus*) was seen briefly flying overhead at the back of the lake during our March walk.

In respect of other bird species in the park, good numbers of birds can usually be seen around the lake, with large flocks of **Black-headed Gull** and **Canada Goose** present, especially during winter months. **Mallard** too can be seen here in increasing numbers, with up to 20 plus birds present at times. Counts of other common birds around the park produced some record numbers with **Carrion Crow** (46), **Common Wood Pigeon** (61) and **Common Starling** (130) showing just how many of these are in the area. Many of our migrant warblers seem to be doing well with good numbers of **Common Chiffchaff** (9), **Common Reed Warbler** (9), and **Eurasian Blackcap** (11) in the park at springtime. Most of these were identified by hearing singing males, so these figures possibly represent breeding pairs too! **Common Kingfisher** is now a regular sighting at the lake, perhaps one day we will get a breeding attempt again.

In respect of finches in the park, **European Goldfinch** is by far the most common but **Eurasian Chaffinch** and **European Greenfinch** are clinging on with both seen regularly despite a huge reduction in numbers in the UK. Nice to see that **Eurasian Bullfinch** is still around the park being identified twice this year.

Another bird that has not yet deserted us is the **Eurasian Skylark**, seen/heard on three occasions during the year.

Finally, the humble **House Sparrow** looks to be doing well, having been seen on every visit during the year with up to a dozen individuals at times. After years of decline, hopefully their numbers will continue to increase.

Butterflies 2025 – 21 Species

Wick Country Park - Butterflies Recorded 2025				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	Annual Total
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	4	2	1
Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	2	2	1
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	2	3	1
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	1	2	1
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	50	2	1
Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>	7	3	1
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	3	1	1
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	2	2	1
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	7	2	1
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	10	2	1
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	90	3	1
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	4	1	1
Peacock Butterfly	<i>Inachis io</i>	1	1	1
Purple Hairstreak	Quercusia quercus	1	1	1
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	3	2	1
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	3	1	1
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	1	2	1
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	1	1	1
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglaia urticae</i>	1	1	1
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	3	2	1
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	4	5	1
				Species 2025
				21
				New Species 2025
				1

One new butterfly species was identified in 2025, at long last a **Purple Hairstreak (Quercusia quercus)** was seen in July. It is likely that colonies have been present in the park for a while, but we have failed to find them previously. A good addition to the park list.

Generally, it was a good year for butterflies, with **Brown Argus**, **Common Blue**, **Small Copper** plus both **Essex** and **Small Skipper** returning to the list after a couple of years absence. Let's hope this trend continues. There were also good numbers of **Gatekeeper** and **Meadow Brown** this year and it is good to see that **Marbled White** is now firmly established as a breeding butterfly in the park.

On the minus side, we did not see **Brimstone** or **Red Admiral** in the park this year! I doubt this is due to their decline in the area as many of both species were seen regularly in Wickford during the year but simply due to the fact that we did not see them during our walks.

Dragonflies & Damselflies – 6 Species

Wick Country Park - Dragonflies and Damselflies Recorded 2025				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	Annual Total
Black-tailed Skimmer	Orthetrum cancellatum	1	2	1
Blue-tailed Damselfly	Ischnura elegans	1	2	1
Broad-bodied Chaser	Libellula depressa	1	2	1
Emperor (Blue) Dragonfly	Anax imperator	1	1	1
Migrant Hawker	Aeshna mixta	1	1	1
Willow Emerald	Chalcolestes viridis	2	1	1
			Species 2025	6
			New Species 2025	1

We added one new Dragonfly this year, **Broad-bodied Chaser** (*Libellula depressa*). These are quite impressive dragonflies, especially the male with its bright sky blue abdomen. Both male and female were seen in the park, so hopefully we will see more in future years.

We saw six species this year, in line with previous years, but we only saw a selection of the dragonfly/damselfly species that live in the park, and I wonder if their life cycle is the reason for this. Some of the larvae (e.g. Emperor) will develop underwater for up to three years depending on water temperature and food availability. So, a good year for the adults of species one year, may not necessarily mean a good year the following year but perhaps in two or three years? I suppose one of the great things about nature is that we will never understand everything and continue to learn.

Mammals – 3 Species

Wick Country Park - Mammals Recorded 2025				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	Annual Total
Brown Rat	Rattus norvegicus	1	1	1
Eastern Grey Squirrel	Sciurus carolinensis	3	8	1
Red Fox	Vulpes vulpes	2	1	1
			Species 2025	3
			New Species 2025	1

A new mammal species was recorded this year, although it has always been present! **Brown Rat** (*Rattus norvegicus*) was seen scurrying around the pavilion garden during the Autumn ramble. Not everyone's favourite and another introduced species, but one more for the list.

Otherwise, we did not identify any bats this year so only the regular daytime mammals were recorded. Muntjac deer continues to avoid us, but we will catch up with this species one day!

Moths – 28 Species

Wick Country Park - Moths Recorded 2025				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	Annual Total
Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	Noctua fimbriata	3	1	1
Common Footman	Eilema lurideola	5	1	1
Dark Arches	Apamea monoglypha	1	1	1
Elephant Hawk-moth	Deilephila elpenor	1	1	1
Garden Straw	Agapeta hamana	1	1	1
Heart And Dart	Agrotis exclamationis	1	1	1
Jersey Tiger	Euplagia quadripunctaria	1	1	1
Least Carpet	Idaea vulpinaria	1	1	1
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	Noctua janthe	4	1	1
Lesser Yellow Underwing	Noctua comes	1	1	1
Light Arches	Apamea lithoxylaea	1	1	1
Mother of Pearl	Pleuroptya ruralis	1	1	1
Mottled Umber	Erannis defoliaria	1	1	1
Riband Wave	Idaea versata	1	1	1
Rosy Tabby	Endotricha flammealis	1	1	1
Ruby Tiger	Phragmatobia fuliginosa	2	1	1
Scarce Footman	Eilema complana	1	1	1
Scorched Carpet	Ligdia adustata	1	1	1
Six-spot Burnet	Zygaena filipendulae	1	1	1
Smoky Wainscot	Mythimna impura	2	1	1
Spindle Ermine	Yponomeuta cagnagella	12	1	1
The Cinnabar	Tyria jacobaeae	1	1	1
The Dun-bar	Cosmia trapezina	7	1	1
The Lackey	Malacosoma neustria	1	1	1
The Uncertain	Hoplodrina alsines	1	1	1
The Vapourer	Orgyia antiqua	1	1	1
Willow Beauty	Peribatodes rhomboidaria	1	1	1
Yellow-banded Longhorn	Nemophora degeerella	2	1	1
				Species 2025
				28
				New Species 2025
				19

Having cancelled our moth night in 2024 due to bad weather, it was good to get out on a decent night and attract some moths to the lights. Weather was not perfect, warm and cloudy but a bit too windy. However, we probably saw more moths than on any other moth night in the park including lots of new moths for the list. Overall, we recorded 28 moth species in 2025, with 19 new species. I will not list all of these, but they are shown in red above.

Nice to see Elephant Hawkmoth and Jersey Tiger on the moth night – both large and colourful species. The Yellow-banded Longhorn was also a good find, with spectacular antennae at least three or four times the length of the moth itself!



Amphibians & Reptiles – 0 Species

No Amphibians or Reptiles were recorded in 2025.

Invertebrates & Others – 24 Species

Wick Country Park - Invertebrates & Others Recorded 2025				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	Annual Total
Buff Tailed Bumblebee	Bombus terrestris	61	4	1
Cinnamon Bug	Corizus hysoscyami	1	1	1
Common Carder Bee	Bombus pascuorum	4	7	1
Common Red Soldier Beetle	Rhagonycha fulva	1	1	1
Common Wasp	Vespa vulgaris	1	1	1
Dark Edged Bee Fly	Bombylius major	2	2	1
Eared Leaf Hopper	Ledra aurita	3	1	1
Early Bumblebee	Bombus pratorum	1	2	1
European Hornet	Vespa crabro	1	1	1
Footballer Hoverfly	Helophilus Pendulus	1	1	1
Gooden's Nomad Bee	Nomada goodeniana	1	1	1
Green Bottle Fly	Lucilia sericata	1	1	1
Grey-Patched Mining Bee	Andrena nitida	1	1	1
Hairy Footed Flower Bee	Anthophora plumipes	2	1	1
Harlequin Ladybird	Harmonia axyridis	2	3	1
Honey Bee	Apis mellifera	1	1	1
Hornet Mimic Hoverfly	Volucella zonaria	1	1	1
Large Headed Resin Bee	Heriades truncorum	1	1	1
Marmalade Hoverfly	Episyrphus balteatus	2	1	1
Red Tailed Bumblebee	Bombus lapidarius	1	1	1
Roesel's Bush Cricket	Metrioptera roeselii	2	1	1
Seven Spot Ladybird	Coccinella septempunctata	25	2	1
Stripe Faced Dronefly	Eristalis nemorum	1	1	1
Yellow Legged Mining Bee	Andrena flavipes	1	1	1
				Species 2025
				24
				New Species 2025
				11

Twenty four species were recorded in 2025, with eleven of these being new species for the park. I will not list all of the new species here, but they are shown in red above. Of the new species there are some interesting bees, that I had never heard of before but after research found that most are reasonably common in South East England. However, the **Large Headed Resin Bee** (*Heriades truncorum*) is quite an interesting species and once regarded as a great rarity. This is not a native bee, its nearest relative is in the USA but as the name suggests it creates its nest in dead wood using resin (mainly from pines) to create cell membranes for its eggs. It is likely to have been introduced to the UK in Victorian times within imported wood and is slowly spreading in the UK from the London area.

Plants and Flowers – 51 Species

Wick Country Park – Plants and Flowers Recorded 2020 & 2025		
CommonName	ScientificName	Sighting
Autumn Hawkbit	<i>Scorzonerooides autumnalis</i>	2
Bee Orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	1
Black Horehound	<i>Ballota nigra</i>	2
Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	1
Bramble	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> (agg.)	1
Bristly Ox-tongue	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	2
Century Flower	<i>Agave americana</i>	1
Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	1
Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	2
Common Centaury	<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	2
Common Earthball	<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	1
Common Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	1
Common Mallow	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	2
Common Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	1
Common Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	1
Creeping Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	1
Creeping Thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	1
Crow Garlic	<i>Allium vineale</i>	1
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	1
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	1
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	2
Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	1
Field Mushroom	<i>Agaricus campestris</i>	1
Fleabane	<i>Publicaria dysenterica</i>	1
Goat's Rue	<i>Galega officinalis</i>	2
Grass Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	1
Great Willowherb	<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	2
Greater Plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	1
Hawkweed Ox-tongue	<i>Picris hieracioides</i>	1
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	1
Hedge Bedstraw	<i>Galium album</i>	1
Hedge Bindweed	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	1
Hedge Parsley	<i>Torilis japonica</i>	1
Hoary Ragwort	<i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	1
Knapweed	<i>Centaurea nemoralis</i>	2
Meadow Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	2
Meadow Vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	1
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	2
Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot-trefoil	<i>Lotus tenuis</i>	1
Pineappleweed	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	1
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	1
Red Bartsia	<i>Odontites vernus</i>	3
Red Clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	2

Ribwort Plantain	Plantago lanceolata	2
Sloe	Prunus spinosa	1
Spear Thistle	Cirsium vulgare	2
Tall Melilot	Melilotus altissimus	1
Teasel	Dipsacus fullonum	1
White Clover	Trifolium repens	2
Wild Carrot	Daucus carota	2
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	1
Species		51

We have recorded fifty one species since 2020. The highlight for me are the Bee Orchids, which, despite plenty of disturbance from the public and a lack of water last year, still survive and put on a show each year. Hopefully, we will have a good year in 2026.

Additional Visits 2026:

In addition to the monthly walks, the following will take place in 2026:

1. **Moth Night.** This has become a successful and entertaining event and will continue in 2026 – **Friday 3rd July 2026** is in the diary.
2. **Bat Watch/Night Walk.** We are overdue a Bat Night and I will look to get a summer date in the diary in the next few weeks, especially now I have my brand new bat detector!
3. **Late Spring Picnic.** We will look to hold this on a Saturday sometime in June – date tba.
4. **January Jaunt, Spring Birdsong Walk, Autumn Ramble.** These are annual events in the park and wildlife is recorded on each visit. Dates proposed for these events are currently being agreed and will be confirmed by the FOWCP and detailed on their website.

Recap 2025

Another successful year of wildlife walks and as previously mentioned we now have six years of data to look at. Our knowledge and understanding of the park and its wildlife has greatly increased and it continues to surprise us year after year. The walks are as popular as ever and are becoming well known with other wildlife organisations in the County.

My highlights of the year were:

1. Good views of the Kingfisher at the lake – at last!
2. Some very interesting “new” bees identified in the park.
3. A fabulous Broad-bodied Chaser in the hedgerow.
4. A very good moth night with some excellent species seen.

I am sure you all have your own personal 2025 wildlife highlights that you will remember, and I am looking forward to more in 2026.

Martin Singleton
b512rubble@btinternet.com

Trends and Totals 2020 - 2025

In this section of the report, where we have sufficient numbers to make the exercise worthwhile, I have attempted a very simple analysis of all of the data for each species compared to previous years. From this we can possibly gauge which species are increasing and which are declining in the park. You will also see which species are occasional or very occasional visitors to the park.

Birds – 79 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	Base	Average 2020 to 2025	% Inc/Dec
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	15	34	8	10.8	35%
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	300	74	105	110.8	6%
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	55	65	17	30.0	76%
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	46	87	10	16.2	62%
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	2	8	1	1.2	17%
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	10	70	9	8.2	-9%
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	2	17	1	1.0	0%
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	12	42	5	8.0	60%
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	10	10	2	3.0	50%
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	9	1	1.0	0%
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	1	8	1	N/A	N/A
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	4	1	4	N/A	N/A
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	12	85	12	7.3	-39%
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	1	2	1	N/A	N/A
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	2	2	1	N/A	N/A
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	9	28	8	6.7	-17%
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	6	2	1	1.2	17%
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	130	60	30	54.3	81%
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	16	16	11	7.3	-33%
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	1	2	1	N/A	N/A
Common Whitethroat	<i>Currucà communis</i>	5	28	5	3.5	-30%
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	70	90	40	46.5	16%
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	5	46	5	4.2	-17%
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	11	36	7	8.8	26%
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	35	84	30	25.3	-16%
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	2	3	1	N/A	N/A

Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	6	25	3	3.3	11%
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	15	46	15	6.2	-59%
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	5	72	4	4.2	4%
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	1	1	1	N/A	N/A
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	4	30	4	3.2	-21%
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	16	90	13	13.7	5%
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	12	2	3	2.5	-17%
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	3	11	1	1.2	17%
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	13	1	N/A	N/A
Eurasian Wren (British)	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus</i>	12	58	10	8.7	-13%
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	27	79	23	19.2	-17%
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	5	44	5	3.2	-37%
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	7	45	7	5.7	-19%
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	20	42	3	6.8	128%
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	23	87	19	19.2	1%
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	60	7	30	16.8	-44%
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	2	1	2	N/A	N/A
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	1	1	1	N/A	N/A
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	1	2	1	N/A	N/A
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	6	19	2	3.3	67%
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	2	4	2	N/A	N/A
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	3	20	1	1.5	50%
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	21	70	7	9.3	33%
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	2	5	1	1.0	0%
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	3	9	2	1.7	-17%
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	16	58	5	10.2	103%
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	6	21	2	2.2	8%
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>	5	15	2	2.0	0%
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	1	2	1	N/A	N/A
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1	1	1	N/A	N/A
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	22	66	17	16.2	-5%
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	22	83	5	12.2	143%
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	2	1	2	N/A	N/A

Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	2	3	1	N/A	N/A
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	2	1	2	N/A	N/A
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	9	3	4	3.7	-8%
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	2	1	2	N/A	N/A
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	1	4	1	N/A	N/A
Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	2	2	2	N/A	N/A
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	200	20	200	58.8	-71%
Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	15	13	6	7.5	25%
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	20	4	1	5.3	433%
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1	1	1	N/A	N/A
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	4	33	2	2.5	25%
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	1	1	1	N/A	N/A
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	4	16	1	2.3	133%
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	3	5	3	1.3	-56%
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	30	13	4	8.5	113%
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	21	9	21	8.7	-59%
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1	1	1	N/A	N/A
White Wagtail (British)	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	3	9	1	1.8	83%
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	2	1	2	N/A	N/A
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	1	1	1	N/A	N/A

Our park list now stands at 79 species which I think you will all agree is a surprisingly good total for a small park in an urban area. I wonder what our 80th species will be? In respect of the numbers above:

Max Count is the highest count of birds on an individual walk/visit across all years.

No of Sightings is the total number of times we have seen that species on all of the walks/visits.

Base is the start point for any data analysis. Here this is the “Max Count” during the year we first saw the species – for most species this will be 2020 but for species we do not see regularly this will be the first year we saw them.

Average 2020 to 2025 is the total of all the “Max Counts” over the years divided by the number of years i.e. 6. So, it’s the average “Max Count” per year. For some occasional species we do not have enough data to produce a sensible number here, so I have shown these as N/A. Any figure less than 1 is shown in this way.

% Inc/Dec is the “Base” i.e. our starting point, compared to the “Average” and expressed as a percentage.

What do the numbers tell us? None of this is scientific or probably statistically significant as small numbers are involved in a small area over a relatively short period of time, but they do show which species we are seeing more of and which we are seeing fewer of. Over time, from this data, we can see which species are possibly

or decreasing in park. This may not be true for the Wickford area or in the whole UK, just we are seeing more or fewer in the park, but it is very likely that the species we see in the park will mirror both local and UK trends for that species.

I will not comment on every individual species, but the overall numbers are interesting to review and compare to UK trends. Overall, out of 79 species we have 54 where we can produce reasonable data (for the remaining 25 species we do not see them enough to produce enough data.) Of the 54 species, 33 are showing increased numbers, while 21 are showing reduced numbers. Compared to our total species list of 79, expressed as percentages, 42% of species in the park are increasing in number, and 27% are reducing in number.

BTO/UK Government figures show that overall, in the UK, 29% of species have declined since 1970 and a similar percentage of species has increased, 28%. Our figures are not too far away from these and it is very likely that what we are seeing in the park is exactly what is happening elsewhere in the UK.



Common Whitethroat



Common Chiffchaff

Butterflies – 26 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	Base	Average 2020 to 2025	% Inc/Dec
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>	2	6	1	1.2	17%
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	4	4	1	1.3	33%
Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	5	15	1	2.5	150%
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	6	10	6	2.2	-64%
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	7	8	1	2.7	167%
Gatekeeper	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i>	240	13	43	80.8	88%
Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>	7	13	6	4.8	-19%
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	20	14	2	5.5	175%
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	3	6	1	1.5	50%
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	23	22	23	11.2	-51%
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>	29	9	1	11.8	1083%

Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	135	23	36	74.0	106%
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	10	7	2	3.7	83%
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	1	1	1	N/A	N/A
Peacock Butterfly	<i>Inachis io</i>	14	17	2	6.0	200%
Purple Hairstreak	<i>Quercusia quercus</i>	1	1	1	N/A	N/A
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	8	13	1	3.0	200%
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	6	7	6	2.3	-61%
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	3	3	2	1.0	-50%
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	2	4	2	N/A	N/A
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	7	7	3	3.2	6%
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	6	10	1	2.5	150%
Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	25	24	2	13.2	558%
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	10	35	6	6.5	8%
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	1	2	1	N/A	N/A
White-letter Hairstreak	<i>Strymonidia w-album</i>	2	1	2	N/A	N/A

Our park list now stands at 26, which is a very good total for this area. In respect of these numbers, we see so few of some butterflies, that one good year will distort the data for years, hence the large percentage increases/decreases shown for some species. Such small numbers will always be susceptible to this effect. However, some of the figures do bear relation to what we are seeing. There is no doubt that Marbled White has increased considerably in the park and the general area. Similarly, Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper both seem to be doing well in the park, with good numbers every year. However, for most of the species here, I am not confident that these numbers tell us anything yet, perhaps in another five or six years we will have more data to produce more reliable statistics.



Dragonflies and Damselflies – 13 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	Base	Average 2020 to 2025	% Inc/Dec
Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	1	2	1	N/A	N/A
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	7	7	4	2.8	-29%
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	7	12	4	4.2	4%
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	1	2	1	N/A	N/A
Brown Hawker	<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	2	4	2	N/A	N/A
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	10	4	6	3.0	-50%
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	5	8	5	1.8	-63%
Emperor (Blue) Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	1	2	1	N/A	N/A
Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	2	1	2	N/A	N/A
Large Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	3	2	3	N/A	N/A
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	13	19	13	7.0	-46%
Southern Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>	2	1	0	N/A	N/A
Willow Emerald	<i>Chalcolestes viridis</i>	2	4	2	N/A	N/A

Our Dragonfly and Damselfly list now stands at 13, which is a good total for the park. This table I am afraid, shows that with such relatively small numbers seen each year, the statistics produced are not really valid. Here they show that all of our dragonfly species are reducing, which may be the case, but we would certainly need much more data before we come to this conclusion. What it perhaps shows is that we are not seeing consistent numbers of these insects each year and numbers vary considerably. All we can do is continue looking and counting!



Invertebrates and Others – 38 Species

Wick Country Park – Invertebrates & Others – Totals and Trends 2020 to 2025				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	No
Buff Tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>	61	5	1
Cinnamon Bug	<i>Corizus hysoscyami</i>	1	1	1
Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>	4	8	1
Common Red Soldier Beetle	<i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>	1	1	1
Common Wasp	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>	1	1	1
Cucumber spider	<i>Araniella cucurbitina</i>	1	1	1
Dark Edged Bee Fly	<i>Bombylius major</i>	3	3	1
Dock Bug	<i>Coreus marginatus</i>	1	1	1
Eared Leaf Hopper	<i>Ledra aurita</i>	3	1	1
Early Bumblebee	<i>Bombus pratorum</i>	4	3	1
European Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>	1	1	1
Flower Crab spider	<i>Misumena vatia</i>	1	1	1
Footballer Hoverfly (Sun Fly)	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	1	2	1
Fourteen Spot Ladybird	<i>Propylea quatuordecimpunctata</i>	1	1	1
Gooden's Nomad Bee	<i>Nomada goodeniana</i>	1	1	1
Green Bottle Fly	<i>Lucilia sericata</i>	1	2	1
Grey-Patched Mining Bee	<i>Andrena nitida</i>	1	1	1
Hairy Footed Flower Bee	<i>Anthophora plumipes</i>	2	2	1
Harlequin Ladybird	<i>Harmonia axyridis</i>	4	4	1
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	1	2	1
Hornet Mimic Hoverfly	<i>Volucella zonaria</i>	1	2	1
Labyrinth Spider	<i>Agelena labyrinthica</i>	1	1	1
Large Headed Resin Bee	<i>Heriades truncorum</i>	1	1	1
Marmalade Hoverfly	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>	2	1	1
Meadow Grasshopper	<i>Chorthippus parallelus</i>	1	1	1
Pellucid Fly	<i>Volucella pellucens</i>	1	1	1
Red Tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>	2	2	1
Roesel's Bush Cricket	<i>Metrioptera roeselii</i>	2	2	1
Seven Spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	25	3	1
Soldier Fly	<i>Chloromyia formosa</i>	1	1	1

Southern or Vestal Cuckoo Bee	<i>Bombus vestalis</i>	3	1	1
Speckled Bush Cricket	<i>Leptophyes punctatissima</i>	2	1	1
Spring Epistrophoe Hoverfly	<i>Epistrophoe eligans</i>	6	1	1
Stripe Faced Dronefly	<i>Eristalis nemorum</i>	1	1	1
Tapered Drone Fly	<i>Eristalis pertinax</i>	1	1	1
Tree Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus hypnorum</i>	1	1	1
White Tailed Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>	2	1	1
Yellow Legged Mining Bee	<i>Andrena flavipes</i>	1	1	1
			Total Species	38

Our list now stands at 38. As numbers for each species are so low and we have only really been recording seriously for two years, I have not attempted any statistical analysis here. In future years if we see enough species regularly then this may be a useful exercise but after only two years recording it will not be worthwhile at this time.



Mammals – 5 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	No
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	1	1	1
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	27	3	1
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	3	32	1
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	3	5	1
Soprano Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pygmaeus</i>	5	2	1
			Species	5

Our mammals list stands at five and is unlikely to increase much beyond this. Again, with such small numbers any statistical analysis will not be worthwhile.

Moths – 63 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	No
Box Tree Moth	<i>Cydalima perspectalis</i>	1	1	1
Bramble Shoot Moth	<i>Notocelia uddmanniana</i>	1	1	1
Bright-line Brown-eye	<i>Lacanobia oleracea</i>	1	1	1
Brimstone Moth	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	1	3	1
Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua fimbriata</i>	3	1	1
Buff Ermine	<i>Spilosoma luteum</i>	1	1	1
Cloaked Minor	<i>Mesoligia furuncula</i>	1	2	1
Common Emerald	<i>Hemithea aestivaria</i>	1	1	1
Common Footman	<i>Eilema lurideola</i>	5	2	1
Common Rustic	<i>Mesapamea secalis</i>	1	1	1
Common Wainscot	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	3	3	1
Dark Arches	<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>	1	1	1
Diamond-back Moth	<i>Plutella xylostella</i>	1	1	1
Dingy Footman	<i>Eilema griseola</i>	1	1	1
Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>	1	1	1
Emperor Moth	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>	6	2	1
Flame Shoulder	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	1	1	1
Fleabane Pearl	<i>Anania crocealis</i>	1	1	1
Fox Moth	<i>Macrothylacia rubi</i>	1	1	1
Garden Straw	<i>Agapeta hamana</i>	1	2	1
Green Longhorn	<i>Adela reaumurella</i>	8	1	1

Gypsy Moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>	1	1	1
Heart And Dart	<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	2	3	1
Jersey Tiger	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i>	1	1	1
Least Carpet	<i>Idaea vulpinaria</i>	1	1	1
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	4	2	1
Lesser Yellow Underwing	<i>Noctua comes</i>	1	1	1
Lime-speck Pug	<i>Eupithecia centaureata</i>	1	1	1
Light Arches	<i>Apamea lithoxylaea</i>	1	2	1
Lunar-spotted Pinion	<i>Cosmia pyralina</i>	1	1	1
Marbled Minor	<i>Oligia strigilis</i>	1	1	1
Mother of Pearl	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	1	1	1
Mottled Umber	<i>Erannis defoliaria</i>	1	1	1
Oak Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa quercus</i>	1	1	1
Oak Processionary	<i>Thaumetopoea processionea</i>	1	1	1
Old Lady	<i>Mormo maura</i>	1	1	1
Orange Swift	<i>Hepialus sylvina</i>	1	1	1
Pale-shouldered Brocade	<i>Lacanobia thalassina</i>	1	1	1
Riband Wave	<i>Idaea aversata</i>	1	1	1
Rosy Tabby	<i>Endotricha flammealis</i>	1	1	1
Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>	2	2	1
Scarce Footman	<i>Eilema complana</i>	1	1	1
Scorched Carpet	<i>Ligdia adustata</i>	1	1	1
Setaceous Hebrew Character	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	1	1	1
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	3	3	1
Six-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	1	1	1
Small Magpie	<i>Anania hortulata</i>	1	1	1
Smoky Wainscot	<i>Mythimna impura</i>	2	1	1
Spindle Ermine	<i>Yponomeuta cagnagella</i>	12	1	1
Straw Dot	<i>Rivula sericealis</i>	1	1	1
Straw Underwing	<i>Thalpophila matura</i>	2	1	1
The Cinnabar	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	1	1	1
The Dun-bar	<i>Cosmia trapezina</i>	7	1	1
The Lackey	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	2	2	1

The Magpie	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>	1	2	1
The Spectacle	<i>Abrostola tripartita</i>	1	1	1
The Uncertain	<i>Hoplodrina alsines</i>	1	1	1
The Vapourer	<i>Orgyia antiqua</i>	1	2	1
Water Veneer	<i>Acentria ephemerella</i>	2	2	1
White-point	<i>Mythimna albipuncta</i>	1	1	1
Willow Beauty	<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	1	2	1
Yellow-banded Longhorn	<i>Nemophora degeerella</i>	2	1	1
Yellow Shell	<i>Camptogramma bilineata</i>	1	1	1
			Species	63

Our moth list stands at 63 and with a couple of good years of moth nights, we may overtake birds in the “number of species” list! Again, we have not enough data on individual species to produce any meaningful statistics. I still feel though that there are plenty more moth species in the park for us to find!



Reptiles & Amphibians – 3 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Max Count	No of Sightings	No
Adder	<i>Vipera berus</i>	1	3	1
Common lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>	1	1	1
Unknown terrapin		1	1	1
			Species	3

Our list stands at 3 and we did not record any such species in 2025. I am surprised that we have not recorded any frogs, toads or newts in the park – perhaps there are just too many predatory fish in the lake!