

## Higher Tremarcombe Pipewell and Toyz Pond Restoration Breeding Bird Survey 2014

Introduction As mentioned in my 2013 report, I decided to carry out this further survey due to the unusual weather experienced in 2013. Last year we had a very cold winter with snow in January; and the cold weather continued into April. However, 2014 started with a very wet but mild winter, followed by a spring of sunshine and showers. The conditions were typically normal for Cornwall.

Looking through the four survey year recordings, I was able to analyse the impact that the restoration work had on the allotted area. It is quite considerable and favourable.

Species diversity rose only slightly 2011- 29                      2012-31                      2013-34                      2014-31

However, the total number of established breeding territories steadily increased with each year

2011 – 81                      2012 – 83                      2013 – 95                      2014 – 111

As in previous years the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) Territory Mapping method was again used. During the breeding season territories can be ascertained by conspicuous bird song, display and periodic disputes with neighbours. These territories are revealed on the maps by a series of clusters. Additionally this method can identify nesting, feeding and fledged young.

Observations of birds and their activities are recorded on the maps using a code system. These codes are shown below and the Symbols for Bird Activities may be found in the 2011 report

Standard bird mapping codes \* denotes Nesting, √ denotes present, but not showing evidence of nesting, f/o denotes fly-overs

CD – Collared Dove*	BT – Blue Tit*	GT – Great Tit*
HS – House Sparrow*	GO – Goldfinch*	WR – Wren*
D – Dunnock*	WP – Woodpigeon*	CH – Chaffinch*
BC – Blackcap*	R – Robin*	B – Blackbird*
JD – Jackdaw*	CC – Chiffchaff*	WW – Willow Warbler*
J – Jay*	BF – Bullfinch*	MA – Mallard*
LT – Long Tailed Tit√	PW – Pied Wagtail√	GW – Garden Warbler√
RN – Raven f/o	HG – Herring Gull f/o	MG – Magpie*
GC – Goldcrest*	ST – Song Thrush*	C – Common Crow√
SG – Starling√	BZ – Buzzard√	Ro – Rook√
SL – Swallow f/o	CG – Canada Goose f/o	

Summary So what does this report reveal as regards the surveys over a four year period?

The most important years were 2011, when the survey took place before the restoration started and in 2014, when restoration work was complete. Studying the survey figures of the birds recorded in the list below reveals the impact that the restoration work had on the birds that habited in the designated area. The number of different species remained fairly constant. So species diversity showed little change. This was due to the survey habitat having limited diversity.

However, the number of breeding territories increased dramatically from 80 territories in 2011 to 111 in 2014.

The increases were with resident species which would have used the area all year, whereas summer migrant birds remained fairly stable.

What does the list tell us? It is good news. The restoration was a great success.

Bird Species Recorded	2011	2012	2013	2014	Species Status
Collared Dove*	3	1	3	3	Stable
Blue Tit*	5	6	6	9	Increase
Great Tit*	4	3	5	3	Stable
House Sparrow*	3	3	3	8	Increase
Goldfinch*	1	1	4	3	Increase
Wren*	7	3	4	5	Decrease
Duncock*	3	2	3	4	Increase
Woodpigeon*	7	10	13	12	Increase
Chaffinch*	7	8	8	12	Increase
Blackcap*	4	3	8	3	Stable
Robin*	5	7	7	8	Increase
Blackbird*	14	19	17	24	Increase
Jackdaw*	3	4	1	1	Decrease
Chiffchaff*	1	2	1	1	Stable
Willow Warbler*	4	3	4	4	Stable
Carrion Crow*	✓	1	2	✓	Stable
Magpie*	1	1	2	3	Increase
Jay*	✓	1	1	1	Increase
Gold Crest*	–	✓	1	1	Increase
Bullfinch*	–	1	1	2	Increase
Long Tailed Tit*	1	✓	1	✓	Stable
Song Thrush*	4	3	1	3	Stable
Mallard*	–	–	1	1	Increase
Starling	✓	–	✓	✓	Stable
Stock Dove*	1	✓	✓	–	Decrease
Buzzard	f/o	f/o	f/o	f/o	Stable
Pied Wagtail*	1	✓	✓	✓	Decrease
Greenfinch*	✓	1	✓	✓	Stable
Coal Tit	✓	✓	–	–	Decrease
Garden Warbler	✓	✓	✓	✓	Stable
Siskin	–	✓	–	–	Stable
Raven	f/o	f/o	f/o	f/o	Stable
Swallow	f/o	f/o	f/o	f/o	Stable
Redwing	–	–	✓	–	Stable
Sparrow Hawk	–	–	✓	–	Stable
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	–	–	✓	–	Stable
Mistle Thrush	–	–	✓	–	Stable
Rook*	1	–	–	✓	Decrease
House Martin	–	–	1	–	Stable
Herring Gull	f/o	f/o	f/o	f/o	Stable
Canada Goose	–	–	–	f/o	Increase
Totals species holding breeding territories	21	21	24	21	
Species present but not indicating breeding	6	7	9	7	
Overall Totals	27	28	33	28	

Fly-Overs	3	3	3	4	
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What of the future ? My recommendations are. Keep on top of the Himalayan Balsam; do not allow the pond plants to spread too much across the water surface. In addition, may I make a further suggestion? Look at the blank recording map. I have marked an area that did not hold many birds. This is probably due to lack of sufficient ground cover, as the tree canopy cut out a lot of light. Ground cover is essential for ground nesting birds such as Wren and Chiffchaff.

I suggest that some trees have their branches pruned to let in more light.

Finally, I congratulate all who took part in the restoration work. You should be proud of what has been achieved.

Bob Stockhausen July 2014