

COUNTY RARITIES

(FOR WHICH A DESCRIPTION IS ESSENTIAL)

This list provides an update of County Rarities and excludes those considered by the *British Birds Rarities Committee* (BBRC). Most have occurred in our recording area fewer than 10 times per year over the last five years. The order follows the IOC taxonomy adopted by BOU (as at 24 Jan 2020).

Black Grouse	Bee-eater
Quail (<i>non-calling birds</i>)	Wryneck
Bean Goose	Red-footed Falcon
American Wigeon	Red-backed Shrike
Green-winged Teal	Great Grey Shrike
Red-crested Pochard (<i>fem/imms</i>)	Golden Oriole
Ring-necked Duck	Chough
Lesser Scaup	Hooded Crow
Velvet Scoter away from the coast	Marsh Tit (<i>away from proven breeding sites</i>)
Nightjar	Willow Tit (<i>away from proven breeding sites</i>)
Alpine Swift	Bearded Tit
Turtle Dove unless calling	Penduline Tit
Corncrake	Woodlark
Spotted Crake	Shore Lark
Crane	Red-rumped Swallow
Red-necked Grebe	Wood Warbler (<i>unless singing</i>)
Slavonian Grebe (<i>winter plumage only</i>)	Yellow-browed Warbler
Black-necked Grebe (<i>winter coastal records</i>)	Pallas's Warbler
Stone-curlew	Radde's Warbler
American Golden Plover	Chiffchaff (<i>all races except collybita</i>)
Dotterel	Greenish Warbler
Temminck's Stint	Blyth's Reed Warbler
White-rumped Sandpiper	Marsh Warbler
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Icterine Warbler
Pectoral Sandpiper	Barred Warbler
Red-necked Phalarope	Dartford Warbler
Grey Phalarope	Subalpine Warbler
Sabine's Gull	Rose-coloured Starling
Ring-billed Gull	Bluethroat
Caspian Gull	Nightingale
Roseate Tern	Red-breasted Flycatcher
White-winged Black Tern	Black Redstart (<i>inland only</i>)
Pomarine Skua (<i>other than adult with spoons</i>)	Yellow Wagtail (<i>non-flavissima races</i>)
Long-tailed Skua	Citrine Wagtail
Little Auk	Richard's Pipit
Black Guillemot	Water Pipit (<i>other than regular freshwater wintering sites near Dee & Mersey estuaries</i>)
Puffin	Rock Pipit (<i>petrosus away from rocky coasts and littoralis away from estuaries</i>)
Red-throated Diver (<i>inland only</i>)	Hawfinch
Black-throated Diver	Common Rosefinch
Great Northern Diver	Common Redpoll (<i>unless trapped</i>)
Storm Petrel (<i>except Jun to Sep</i>)	Arctic Redpoll
Fulmar (<i>blue phase</i>)	Serin
Sooty Shearwater	Lapland Bunting (<i>other than calling birds over saltmarsh and migration watchpoints</i>)
Balearic Shearwater	Snow Bunting (<i>inland records only</i>)
White Stork	Ortolan Bunting
Shag (<i>inland only</i>)	Cirl Bunting
Glossy Ibis	Little Bunting
Night-Heron	
Cattle Egret (<i>inland records only</i>)	
Purple Heron	
Honey-buzzard	
Goshawk	
Montagu's Harrier	
Black Kite	
White-tailed Eagle	
Rough-legged Buzzard	
Long-eared Owl (<i>flight only</i>)	
Hoopoe	

We also require descriptions for any species new for the county. Lesser Canada Goose, Snow Goose and Ruddy Shelduck are mostly recorded as feral or escaped individuals. Genuine vagrants are rare nationally. If you really suspect that you have a vagrant, a description will be required to be forwarded to the BBRC. Otherwise, descriptions for these species are not required.

Descriptions may also be required for migrants occurring out of season (March Lesser Whitethroats and November Willow Warblers are about as frequent as Pallas's Warblers!) or of birds otherwise out of context (e.g. Red Grouse in Birkenhead Docks!).

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