

An annotated Bird Species List for the parish Hopesay, south Shropshire

John Tucker



The second parish **Great Grey Shrike** on The Burrow 13– 20 March 2011,
photographed by Jim Almond on 20th.

See <http://www.shropshirebirder.blogspot.com/> for other images by Jim.

The systematic list

See pages 12-13 for Notes explaining this list.

The 110 species recorded within the parish (updated 6 August 2013).

1 Mute Swan

Seen once, a party of three flying west over the Clun 4 September 2007 (JT). Two over Beambridge flying upstream on 16 January 2013 (JT).

10 Canada Goose

Breeding confirmed on the pool at Hesterworth, 2013. One or two occasionally seen flying down the valley or more rarely encountered on or adjacent to the River Clun where not recorded breeding. A pair on field between Aston and Beambridge, in snow, seen on *BirdTrack* walk on 22 March 2013 (JT). Two over Aston flying towards Broome on 10 April 2013 (JT).

17 Mandarin Duck

Resident though rare – pair on the Clun in the Coston Bridge area, 27-29 March 2011 (JT).

[20 Gadwall

The SOS records contain a reference to 3 at Aston on Clun on 23 April 1993. The record is given as reported anonymously, is without supporting information and is best disregarded.]

24 Mallard

Occasional on the River Clun where it occasionally breeds. JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced counts of up to 10(2), 12(1), 13(1) and 16(1) on the Clun between Broome and Purslow between 1997-2002; it is difficult to image even those numbers these days though several pairs may be met with on such a walk in summer, occasionally a female with a brood.

54 Goosander

Resident, the species moved into Shropshire as a breeding species in the early 1990s and JA made the first record on 15 April 1993. Now occasional on the River Clun in spring/summer, where it now breeds. For example a female with two young downstream of Coston Bridge 18 June

2005 was within the parish boundary (J<). Nearby a female with ten very young chicks on the Clun at Clunbury Bridge 12 June 2009 and a pair with two young were about 700m upstream of Purslow Bridge on 20 April 2011 (JT).

60 Red-legged Partridge

A few years ago they were seen occasionally around Aston and JA reported two on 27 April 2002. More recently a pair on fields W of Aston on 22 January 2005, but none in the last couple of years. In Hopesay recorded into at least 2010 (J&DC). Believed to be bred locally for sport (JL).

63 Pheasant

Present and breeding locally, many birds presumably from the nearby shoot to the west.

79 Manx Shearwater

One at Aston on Clun, one of three storm-driven birds from the county after bad weather in September 1884. Reported by Beckwith in *The Field* of 11 December 1886 and by Forrest in *The Fauna of Shropshire* (1899).

85 Leach's Storm Petrel

One of a wreck of eight found dead in Shropshire following storms in late 1952, from a paper in *British Birds*, 1954 47(5):154; one found dead at Aston on Clun before 5 November.

355 Gannet

One reported, storm-driven, from Broome on 1 November 2002 by W Marler. William has added: *"I remember it vividly – it was at the end of a period of several days of very stormy weather and the bird was noticeably making very heavy weather of flying and I strongly suspect it would not have made it much further. It was flying towards Clungunford I seem to remember. We had a very good view of it while driving in the same direction. Accepted by the SOS Rarities Committee.*

89 Cormorant

Occasionally seen flying the corridor of the River Clun but not known to stop to rest or feed. Usually singles but 3 on 16 November 2008 (JT).

102 Little Egret

One on the Clun by Coston Bridge in snow in January 2013 from 21st during a cold snap and again on 'Aston Brook' north of the Clun towards the W end of Aston on tow dates (J<). It was harassed by Red Kite on 6 February (RP).

104 Grey Heron

Resident, occasional on fields close to the River Clun and up the valley to Hopesay; likely to visit garden ponds in search of fish – records of which will be welcomed. A&JS's fish pool was visited regularly by a Heron until all the fish were taken by an otter (A&JS).

112 Little Grebe

One on the Clun about 400m downstream of Beambridge on 18 December 2012 (JJT). Seen to catch one small (25-30mm) fish.

119 Red Kite

Resident and now established as a returning breeding bird in Shropshire, especially in the south, and single birds sometimes pairs can be seen at any time of the year. Recorded 21 June 2007 and 4 December 2007 (JT), early in the colonization process. Three together over Coston Bridge on 25 March 2011 (JT). One was seen to harass the Little Egret on 6 February 2013 (RP).

124 Hen Harrier

An old record: "*Cadman*. Dec. 1, female seen near Aston on Clun" from the *Record of Bare Facts of the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club*, 1931, p.12, assumed here to be within the parish boundary.

Also a male seen going west over Clunbury Hill on 19 April 2007 (JT) – just outside the Hopesay parish boundary. Accepted by the SOS Rarities Committee.

127 Goshawk

This big, powerful predator breeding in large woods in Shropshire and tending to remain within woodland but might be encountered at any time.

128 Sparrowhawk

Resident, present locally and doubtless breeding in the neighbourhood – can be seen from time to time, often when raiding bird-tables to remove small birds as food.

129 Buzzard

Resident, breeding pairs are established in the area and may nest within the parish boundary. May be encountered at any time of the year, especially when soaring on fine days. High count of 8 over the Village Green, spring 2010 (JC).

135 Kestrel

The most common falcon and recorded from the village, though not frequently. Please report instances of nesting which is known about two miles west of the parish. Three records of singles in Broome in March (2) and June (1) 2003 (WM). Records of singles 14 November 2004 and 26 January 2005 and, more recently, singles from Aston on 22 & 26 January and 23 March 2011 (JT).

139 Merlin

Another small falcon, unlike the Hobby, resident. One record on 9 February 2011 of one flying down the valley bottom towards Clun (JT); another could occur at any time. Second record: 15 August 2012, bedraggled in the rain on a garden post (SS).

140 Hobby

A summer migrant breeding in the county which may be encountered at any time from May into September, perhaps more so in the later months as young birds and adults leave their nesting grounds and wander before leaving for Africa. Recorded 8 June 2008, 12 August 2009, 21 August and 6 September 2010 (JT) and also on 4 September 2010 (WM). AM reports brief sightings in 2008, 09 and one chasing hirundines over Mill Street on 15 June 2009.

143 Peregrine Falcon

Shropshire has a small and increasing breeding population and individuals may be encountered at any time of the year. Recorded over Aston on 15 and 27 July 2006, 3 December 2007 and 2 on 6 August 2009 (J<) and several SOS records from above Oaker Wood.

150 Moorhen

Resident, scarce; sometimes recorded on the Clun and one record from the field-edge of Aston, a female or juvenile 22 November 2006 (J<). JA recorded 2-4 on the Broome-Purslow Clun between 1999 – 2002 from March – June with no proof of breeding. Likely to occur at the lake in Hopesay and until about five years ago bred at a garden pond there (JL).

183 Lapwing

Now scarce here; few occurrences, all in winter. 1-4 at Broome between 24-27 March 1997 (SOS), 30 just west of Aston on 21 February 2005 (J<), up to 85 on fields west of Aston during severe weather, 20-29 December 2009 (J<) and a smaller flock in January 2010 (A&MM). Flock of 23 immediately W of Aston on 13 December 2012 (during hard frosts) (JT). One over Hesterworth in snow on 19 January 2013 (JC) and 3 near Coston Bridge on 23rd (to JT seen by Deryn Kilgour). The closest to recent probable breeding is the report of a pair on Hopesay Hill in May in about 2008 (JL).

205 Jack Snipe

One on Hopesay Common on 26 January 2010 (I&JS).

206 Snipe

Present in winter in small numbers on wet flushes on the flood-plain or on Hopesay Common.

211 Woodcock

Recorded several times from a damp flush at Perry Gutter (IS). One at Perry Gutter, 25 March and another 2 April (I&JS).

219 Curlew

Rare with eight records of singles (two once, 15 June 2002, JA) between 12 March and 24 June, most from JA's BBS river walk or Broome (two records), the last on 12 June 2007. More recently two over Hopesay towards Hopesay Common on 13 April 2011 (B&SS). Heard calling, briefly, from Oakerley, Aston, 22 and 23 March 2012 (J<).

19 February 1953: "Aston on Clun. 5 seen; settled in the Clun Valley by Feb. 28". *Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club*, Recorder's Report for 1951-55, p.101.

224 Green Sandpiper

Rare, two records, both of singles: 22 December 2007 and 19 February 2008 on Aston Brook west of Aston (LT).

233 Common Redshank

One record – one heard and seen just west of Aston on 20 December 2004 (JT).

257 Lesser Black-backed Gull

Six over Aston on Clun on 17 May 2011. 14 over on 20 March 2013. New to the list 2011 as species 100.

258 Herring Gull

One record – nine over Beambridge, going west calling loudly, on 27 March 2011.

294 Stock Dove

Present throughout the year and breeding in small numbers.

295 Wood Pigeon

Resident and breeding, numbers considerably increased in autumn/winter by continental immigrants.

296 Collared Dove

Resident in small numbers, especially associated with conifers near habitations. JL reports, in May 2013, "I have never seen one in Hopesay".

297 Turtle Dove

JL recorded two at his Hopesay garden on 10 October 2011, after prolonged good views. A late date and the only record for this list.

300 Rose-ringed Parakeet

A rare wanderer from the expanding population further south in England; one visited garden feeders in Aston on 17 January 2011, based on a feeder in an Aston on Clun garden in early 2011.

302 Cuckoo

Summer visitor alas no longer common and in fact rather scarce. Recorded 13 and 28 May 1997 (JA). On 30 April and 29 May 2005 and 31 May 2008 (J<), events worthy of note at the time revealing the bird's scarcity. Not heard from Aston for two or three years (J<). Scarcity confirmed by JC who has not heard one around Aston for at least 5 years; they were regular prior to that. One heard in Hopesay summer 2010 (I&JS) and the first of the year at Hopesay for 2011 on 18 April (I&JS). One heard S Hopesay Hill area 2 June 2013 (SS).

305 Barn Owl

Known to occur around Aston, occasionally heard calling at night though rarely seen and believed to have bred there. Two records from Broome; one in daylight during a snow flurry on 22 March 2008 (A&MM) and one 3 February 2009 (SOS). Two from Oaker; 13 February 2004 and 31 January 2009 (2 birds). Breeding probable but needs clarification.

309 Little Owl

A scarce bird in south Shropshire. Present in the orchard between the Kangaroo and Mill Street ca. 1986 to about 1991, not since (Dave Clark). "A fresh road casualty, this year's bird recently out of the nest-probably 1 or 2 hours" reported from Aston on Clun to SOS by JT, 25 July 1996 (his 50th birthday, Ed.). An unconfirmed record of a bird distinctly heard calling W of Aston in 2011 (JT) and a sight record from JA's River Clun work 15 May 2002. In about 2008 one was watched as it wiped out the until then annual brood of Moorhens at a garden pond in Hopesay (JL).

310 Tawny Owl

Known present year-round and probably a pair breeding at Aston Hall and/or Redwood Drive/The Old Courthouse (JC) and another to the north around Perry Gutter/Hesterworth (I&JS, J&DC); possibly others.

[313 Eurasian Eagle Owl

Not officially on the British List. A report, from SOS files, of one on 24 December 2010, a bird evidently escaped from captivity: "Reported by a friend of mine by the B4368 about a mile east of Aston on Clun, near Crowsmoor Farm, at dusk (observer a given). (Observer commented – (name withheld) reported one missing 18 November 2010 in the All Stretton area".]

314 Nightjar

Rare in Shropshire with only one regular breeding site currently known in the county. Reported near Aston, singing, during summer 2008 (A&HS), precise location near Aston not determined. The record has been accepted by the SOS Rarities Committee.

320 Swift

Migrant present throughout summer. Nesting currently known only from 1 The Firs on Mill Street (A&HS) and possible at The Old Courthouse, Aston (JC). Breeding status needs clarification.

325 Kingfisher

Occasionally seen on the River Clun where know to breed (J<) further upstream. JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced one to three birds in some years. Regularly seen on Aston Brook at Mill Street (A&MM) and occasionally as far up as the lake in Hopesay. Apparently nested at the pond at Orchard House, Hopesay, in the 1990s (I&JS).

331 Wryneck

"... the Rev RE Haymes informs me that ... he has obtained [=shot] a Wryneck at Hopesay", Beckwith (1892), *Notes on the Birds of Shropshire* p.186.

332 Green Woodpecker

Occasionally heard and sometimes seen in Aston on Clun but thought not to be breeding within the parish. JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced three records of two birds each. Records from 26 July 2006, 26 July 2008 and heard on a few occasions (seen on fewer) dates subsequently (J<). Heard at Perry Gutter several times Jan-Apr 2011 (I&JS). In 2013 hear on at least 3 occasions late March/ early April, from Aston, the calls coming from the direction of the south end of Hopesay Hill.

334 Great Spotted Woodpecker

Present throughout the year and doubtless breeding; will visit garden feeders,

335 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker

Was occasionally recorded along the River Clun, associated with riverside alders. JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced up to four birds on eight occasions on dates between 1993 and 2000. More recently one on alders west of Beambridge in June 2009 (A&MM) and one the Clun, 300m downstream of Beambridge, 13 March 2011 (JT). Species in decline nationally and always worth recording.

343 Red-backed Shrike

James Blackhouse reported a "pair feeding young" at Broome on 23 June 1928, as recorded in the *Transactions of the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club, Record of Bare Facts, 1928, p.17.*
Added 27.10.11.

346 Great Grey Shrike

Something of a rarity, recorded from The Burrow in March; between 25-28 in 2010 and again between 13-20 in 2011 (SOS). The photograph at the head of this list, of the 2011 bird, was taken by Jim Almond who has kindly contributed the image to this list.

351 Magpie

Resident but seemingly unevenly distributed around the parish. Scarce in Aston, for example one on 7 January 2005 and a single around the Clun at Aston 22 and 23 March 2011 (JT). Conversely apparently increasing at Hesterworth, Hopesay, early 2011 (J&DC).

352 Jay

Resident but not common in Aston but seemingly common around Hopesay and regular at Perry Gutter (I&JS), the variation probably accounted for by the lack of woodland cover in the valley. JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced only two records and two were close to the Clun, within the parish, on 7 March 2011 (JT). An impressive group of 13 seen on the Hopesay Road, winter 2002 (JC).

354 Jackdaw

Resident and a thriving population nesting in tree-holes and down chimneys.

355 Rook

Resident and there is a long-established colony at Aston Hall; 42 nests in 2005 but only 25 in 2011 and 27 in 2012(JT). In 1975 it held 11 nests. Table of number of nests per year below:

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Nests	42	36	38	40	30	30	25	27

356 Carrion Crow

Resident and breeding, thinly distributed around the village.

358 Raven

Resident, breeding regular at the one known site within the parish. In 2006 a pair nested in a conifer within the bounds of the rookery at Aston Hall. They were very unpopular among the rooks and were harried every time they appeared. The Ravens succeeded in rearing at least two offspring that year, the final one fledged on 13 May, but they never returned to try again. A winter roost is known from Oaker Wood at which 43 were recorded on 12 November 2002 (SOS). Tom Wall has commented that counting the roost is extremely difficult and numbers may conceivably reach 100.

359 Goldcrest

Resident and likely to breed, numbers augmented in winter by visitors from Scandinavia but population much reduced after the severe winter weather 2009/10 and 2010/11.

362 Blue Tit

Resident and common; the most common tit.

363 Great Tit

Resident and common, less so than Blue Tit.

365 Coal Tit

Resident but not common.

366 Willow Tit

Much less common than Marsh Tit, from which it is difficult to separate other than on call or song. Three records from the SOS; Broome (1 bird) 9 May 2002, Beambridge (2) 16 February 2004 and The Burrow (3) 15 March 2011.

367 Marsh Tit

Resident, scarce and will visit garden bird feeders in both Aston and Hopesay. Seen using nest hole by the Clun 27.3.11 (JT). Breeding proved by adult feeding young, Beambridge, 1 May 2006 (SOS).

388 Long-tailed Tit

Resident, probably breeding and quite common.

376 Woodlark

One reported in the SOS Annual Bird Report for 1962 as "N of Hopesay, June 1st, singing (BG)", the observer being BW Bevan and the observation likely being (and here assumed to be) from Hopesay Common.

377 Skylark

Not known to breed within the village; occasionally heard passing overhead.

379 Sand Martin

One small colony on the River Clun within the boundary of the parish. JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002 produced, during 2000, 60 birds on 30 April and 72 on 15 June (perhaps an exceptionally good year for them). Attempts will be made to count the same length during extended WBBS survey in 2011 (JT).

383 Swallow

Numbers are declining nationally and possibly within the village. Two nests at Perry Gutter at least 2008-2010 (I&JS) and breeding likely at Aston House Farm (A&MM). Year-first 2013 in Aston 3 April (JT).

384 House Martin

Breeds on houses throughout the parish; numbers could be determined but they are currently not known. A parish-wide survey of nesting would be an interesting exercise.

401 Chiffchaff

Summer visitor and common in taller scrub woodland in summer and also frequent in spring and autumn when the call can be heard more widely.

403 Willow Warbler

Summer visitor and breeds on the edge of light low woodlands, especially on the margins of Hopesay Common.

404 Blackcap

Summer visitor and quite common in tall thickets and woodland edges. Song remarkably similar to that of the Garden Warbler of similar habitat; probably more frequent than Garden Warbler. A male on feeders in snow, Aston on 20 January 2012.

405 Garden Warbler

Summer visitor and quite common in tall thickets and woodland edges. Song remarkably similar to that of the Blackcap of similar habitat; probably less frequent than Blackcap.

407 Lesser Whitethroat

Summer visitor, sometimes heard singing on spring migration from well-treed hedgerows but not known to remain to breed. Recorded singing on the western boundary for a few days from 19 April 2007 (JT), from The Burrow on 15 May 2009 (A&MM). One singing for a short while in an Aston garden on 6 June 2012 and subsequently within 300m on four further occasions until 18th (JT). In 2013 one singing in W Aston on 30 April (JT).

410 Common Whitethroat

One in a thicket/hedgerow below Oaker Wood at SO383820 on 2 June 2011, an overdue and belated addition to the list as species 101 (JT). In fact holds territories in hedgerows probably throughout the parish.

429 Sedge Warbler

One singing at the bottom of a garden in Aston, at 07:50 on 27 May 2012.

441 Nuthatch

Resident and common throughout in woodland and along the River Clun.

442 Tree Creeper

Resident though not common; regular among alders by the Clun and elsewhere where there is adequate continuous tree cover including the valley at Perry Gutter (I&JS).

444 Wren

Resident with a reduced population in 2011 following two previous hard winters.

448 Starling

Resident and occurs sparingly around Aston; much diminished in numbers, nationally, in the last few decades. Proved breeding in Aston and Hopesay tetrads during Atlas survey 1985-1990 but not currently known to nest within the parish (August 2013).

450 Dipper

Resident, breeds at two sites on the River Clun within the village and in winter or at times of flood moves away from the high river up Aston Brook at least as far as Hesterworth, Hopesay (as in January 2011). Numbers on the Clun: JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced 10 individuals (2 July 1999) and 12 (15 June 2000). The survey requires that only adults are counted so the implications are of 5-6(+) pairs on the length then which the author regards as quite as many as there have been in the last few years (to 2010).

459 Ring Ouzel

One recorded as 'Cooke, 23 Sept Aston-on-Clun' in 1901; Proceedings of the *Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club* in The Bare Facts, 1901.

460 Blackbird

Resident and common, especially around gardens.

466 Fieldfare

Winter visitor and small flocks occasional throughout. Perhaps scarce locally in the winter of 2012/13 when JL reported only one on one day around Hopesay.

467 Song Thrush

Resident but not common away from settlements, occurring often in gardens and their immediately surroundings. Two singing males between Oaker and Burrow Hill in March 2011. JL reports a local decline in numbers in Hopesay (May 2013).

468 Redwing

Winter visitor and, in season, small flocks occasional.

469 Mistle Thrush

Resident with large territories and consequently thin on the ground, possibly as few as two territories within the parish (JT).

472 Spotted Flycatcher

Summer visitor but thin on the ground; known to breed at Aston Hall and along the River Clun. JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced 2-4 birds in 1999 and 2000, about the minimum of what might be expected there in 2011. Three separate family groups between Aston and The Burrow on 14 August 2009 (A&MM). Individual breeding pairs of this nationally declining species are worth recording. Perhaps declining locally in Hopesay (JL).

474 Robin

Resident and common.

499 Pied Flycatcher

Has been recorded among riverside alders on the Clun above Clunton and may occur within the parish. JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced 1-4 birds, some of which may have been within the Parish. There is one record from Aston on Clun, on 30 April 2005 (JT).

484 Redstart

Summer visitor and breeds in small numbers, tree hole-nesting in old trees in light woodland, on woodland edges or in hedgerows with suitable trees. Has bred at Perry Gutter (I&JS) and singing males heard on The Burrow on 12 August 2010 and from a small stand of oaks/Scots pine west of the village in April 2011 (A&MM). JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced 1-3 birds on the length, some of which may have been within the parish.

489 Wheatear

One record of a single, stopping off on passage, on The Burrow on 25 March 2011 (A&MM).

500 Dunnock

Resident but no-where common but more so around gardens.

502 House Sparrow

Resident. Despite a national population decline common around the village.

504 Tree Sparrow

Resident and now much rarer than hitherto. A small colony is known in Aston on Clun close to Redwood Drive (JT) – there may be other colonies. Recorded from tall field-side hedgerow in Hopesay in May 2008 (A&MM). Species in decline nationally and always worth recording.

506 Yellow Wagtail

Heard on 20th and two seen on 21 August 2011 on Bullock Field; Peter and John Tucker. First for the Parish List, species number 103.

508 Grey Wagtail

Occasional on the River Clun, on the Aston Brook as far north as the lake in Hopesay and breeding at least by the Clun. JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced 1-6 birds suggesting 1-3 pairs annually on the length, some of which may have been breeding within the parish. A similar population is probable today.

509 Pied Wagtail

Resident and a small population around the village, probably breeding. A mixed pair of Pied/White Wagtail seen breeding on the Clun at the Railway Bridge in about 2005 and a Pied pair nested in the body of a retired tractor at Beambridge about 2005 (JT). JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced (within the SOS data) only one record, of 2 on 15 June 2000. There were 50+ on the roof on a shed at Aston House Farm in October 2009, evidently a roost gathering (A&MM).

514 Tree Pipit

At least six singing males between Aston and The Burrow on 1 May 2006 (JT). 'Several pairs breed annually' on The Burrow (A&MM), confirmed by an adult with food on 9 May 2009 (A&MM).

516 Meadow Pipit

Most often encountered over-flying when on autumn/spring passage from higher to lower ground. An SOS record of five on The Burrow on 27 March 2010 and two below the hill in March 2011 (A&MM) and the possibility that breeding occurs there and on Hopesay Common should be followed up. One feeding my water-pool in snow-covered ground by the Clun on 23 March 2013. 30 passed through Aston, seemingly heading east, on 9 April 2013 (JT).

521 Chaffinch

Resident and breeding, common around the village.

522 Brambling

One in a Hopesay garden for about two weeks in February 1995 and in 2013 male plus two females there almost daily 25 March to 15 April (JL). Flock of 20 at Perry Gutter, ca.2000 (I&JS). Two records on 27 March 2013; two in garden in W Aston (LT) and almost concurrently one some 300m south of a regular *BirdTrack* walk (JT).

524 Greenfinch

Resident and breeding though, following a recent disease outbreak hitting the species, numbers are down.

526 Goldfinch

Resident and breeds around the village.

527 Siskin

Resident, will visit bird-feeders in the garden, frequent feeding from cones in alders along watercourses and, certainly in Aston on Clun. Their thin call frequently heard year-round as they fly overhead in Aston (JT). Regular on feeders in Redwood Drive (JC) but rare on feeders at Oakerley (J<).

528 Linnets

Resident, not known to breed within the parish, occasionally heard flying over Aston. Recorded (several) from The Burrow 15 June 2009, which is suggestive of breeding, and others there on 12 August 2010 (A&MM).

531 Lesser Redpoll

The first records are from JA's surveys of the Clun, Broome-Purslow 1997-2002, produced 60 on 22 March and 2 on 7 April 1999 and 3 on 13 March 2002. Perhaps overlooked among Siskins in alder trees especially along the Clun. One in a Hopesay garden in October 'a few years ago', JA. At least four with Siskins at Coston on 31.12.12 and seen nearby of several dates in January 2013, JJT. Two on feeders, SW Aston, 27.1.13 (V&PS).

534 Red Crossbill

Resident, breeds in nearby conifer forest blocks and can sometime be heard flying overhead, if you know the distinctive call. Two on pines within the earthworks at The Burrow on 1 May 2006 (J<). Two records from the SOS of 2 at Oaker Wood on 18 February 2002 and 30 over The Burrow on 15 February 2002. Three atop Larch on The Burrow on 7 August 2011. Four over the Aston-Broome road towards Clunbury on 16 August 2012, JJT.

540 Bullfinch

Resident and probably breeding but not common.

558 Yellowhammer

Resident, sometimes heard flying over in winter and a few pairs breed; eg. a pair on track west of the village in March 2011 (A&MM) and two west of Aston on 26 May 2013 (JJT).

LIST ENDS

Hopesay parish Annotated Bird Species List

NOTES

1. **This list**, now featuring 198 species, derives primarily from the observations of the author and Liz Tucker, resident in Aston on Clun since 2004, now augmented by records and comments of others – see below. This version updated 24 January 2013. It uses the combined breeding and winter season records submitted to the National Bird Atlas Scheme, field-work for which spans the five winters and breeding seasons 2007-2011, as they apply within the parish boundary. Also included are a few old records from the historical ornithological record for Shropshire – see <http://www.lanius.org.uk/sos/> - which has not yet been systematically searched for bird records within this parish.

The status of many species has changed markedly in the last two centuries and a full review may be undertaken at a later date. For example the historical ornithological record for Shropshire, including details from nearby Clungunford published by Rocke in 1865 and 1866 (see <http://www.lanius.org.uk/sos/general/sos-johnrockeacc.html>), suggests that species such as Lapwing, Corncrake and Cuckoo were widespread and indeed abundant at that time. More recent changes are also well documented elsewhere.

For a map of the parish please see <http://www.2shrop.net/2shropnet/AToZOfMini-sites/H/Hopesay/AboutUs>

Bird records from just outside the parish boundary (one, 124), those which are not acceptable (one, 20) or of species not recognised as on the British List (one, an escape, 313a) are given in italics.

2. **The list** is presented in the order of Gill & Donsker (2010) with the single exception of Long-tailed Tit which is now, as an *Aegithalos* species, regarded as a 'Bushtit', but here moved alongside the other true *Parus* tits. This recent order uses much of the recent research into the relationships of bird species to each other and provides a useful numbered order. English names for species are a hybrid of traditionally accepted and those recently revised. Further details at <http://www.bou.org.uk/recgen.html>

3. Recorders.

The following individuals have contributed records to the *list*. John Campion (JC) of Aston, Dave Clarke, Jennie Cole & Dave Cole (J&DC) of Hopesay, John Leonard of Hopesay (JL), William Marler (WM) sometimes of Broome, Andrew and Maureen Morton (A&MM) of Aston, Robert Payne, Vivian and Phil Slack (V&PS), Alex & Helen Sharpe (A&HS) of Aston, Ian & Jan Simpson (I&JS) of Perry Gutter, Bruce & Sanda Spence (B&SS) of Hopesay and John & Liz Tucker (JT, LT) of Aston.

Jean Armstrong (JA) lived in the area between 1997 and 2002 and during her stay she carried out an annual Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) on the River Clun between the Broome railway bridge and Purslow Bridge as a contribution to the national BBS scheme organized by the British Trust of Ornithology (BTO). The survey methodology for the BBS scheme enabled an annual assessment (by the BTO) of the number of breeding territories of each species. Thus Jean's work gives us useful benchmark for river corridor bird numbers during that period. Jean also contributed casual records, outwith the formal surveys, to SOS records.

The author took over survey of a shorter length of the river (Beambridge to Purslow Bridge) using the same methodology since when the Waterway Breeding Bird Survey (WBBS), with a revised methodology, has taken over. The WBBS methodology uses a shorter length again (Lawn Farm to Purslow Bridge) and provides an index of species abundance (not a formal assessment of number of territories) to the national population-monitoring scheme. Thus while Jean's BBS and the author's subsequent WBBS data are not directly comparable some comments are made under some riparian species on the parish list.

The Shropshire Ornithological Society (SOS) has provided a computer listing of records in or close to the parish (1,947 records, 13.4.11) from which have been gleaned those which enhance the

parish list. The Data Protection Act protects the names of recorders and with a few exceptions where permission has been sought and gained recorders' names are not given and they are attributed to the 'SOS'.

4. Further data.

The author welcomes any additional information to enhance that presented above. While the author knows Aston on Clun quite well, Hopesay and Broome are currently less known.

5. Acknowledgements.

The BOURC provided the species order to which JT has applied the numerical sequence. Geoff Holmes, County Bird Recorder for the SOS, kindly extracted parish data from the SOS's database of county records, computerised since 1992. Tom Wall of Kempton kindly contributed to the Raven account. Jim Almond has kindly agreed to the use of his photograph of the 2011 Great Grey Shrike, taken on 20 March; for more of his fine work from around the county see his blog at <http://www.shropshirebirder.blogspot.com/>.

The riparian landowners along the River Clun have kindly given permission for access for the ongoing survey of breeding birds over many years.

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