

BIRDS OF EARLHAM CEMETERY, NORWICH

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This list of birds includes species found in the Cemetery and flying overhead. It is a work in progress and will be updated as new information comes in.

Last updated: 23rd March 2021.

The initial list was compiled by Craig Robson between 1984 and 2008.

The order of this list follows **Collins Bird Guide** by Lars Svensson and Peter J. Grant, illustrated by Killian Mullarney and Dan Zetterström (Collins 1997).



Herring Gull (photo by Vanna Bartlett)

Species	Comments
Cormorant, <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Regularly flies over Cemetery.
Grey Heron, <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Occasionally seen flying over. In 2010 a juvenile perched in a Rowan tree looking intently at a garden pond for several minutes before flying off. One flew over on 3 rd March 2018 & 4th May 2019 (GW).
Mute Swan, <i>Cygnus olor</i>	Flew over Cemetery 8th July 2018 (GW)
Bewick's Swan, <i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Flocks occasionally heard flying over at night, including in winter 1992 and winter 2009/10.
Pink-footed Goose, <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Flocks occasionally heard flying over at night, including in November/December 2012.
Mallard, <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Occasional. A pair was present on the Memorial Garden pond in mid-March 2008.
Wigeon, <i>Anas penelope</i>	5 Birds flew over early morning of 14th April 2018 (GW)

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Teal, <i>Anas crecca</i>	Migrating over Cemetery soon after dusk on 22 nd March 2018 (GW).
Osprey, <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Flew over Cemetery and Hotblack Road 24th April 2019, Seen and photographed by Graham Etherington, notified to us by GW.
Common Buzzard, <i>Buteo buteo</i>	Fly over the Cemetery in most summers. One flew over on 3 rd March 2018 (GW). Two circling overhead on 27 th February 2021 (ML).
Sparrowhawk, <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	Resident. Nests and frequently seen flying over Cemetery and surrounding streets.
Hobby, <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	Summer visitor, seen hunting Swifts in 2010 and 2011.
Peregrine Falcon, <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Occasional visitor, seen several times.
Pheasant, <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Occasional visitor. Seen 1995, 2005, both March.
Oystercatcher, <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	Circled over a few times and calling over the Cemetery on 6th April 2019 (GW).
Golden Plover, <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	Flying over the Cemetery calling 4th August 2018 (GW).
Woodcock, <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	Flushed in Cemetery on more than one occasion in the winter and once seen flying into Cemetery. Sightings include 14th March 2018 (VB & JB), 21 st March 2021 (CB).
Black-headed Gull, <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Regular visitor.
Common Gull, <i>Larus canus</i>	Visitor. Sometimes seen "puddling" for worms. (NB: Other species of gull fly high over the Cemetery.)
Herring Gull, <i>Larus argentatus</i>	Regularly fly over, on way to roosting site and sometimes seen in Cemetery itself. One photographed perched on a grave stone, 2 nd January 2017 (VB).
Lesser Black-backed Gull, <i>Larus fuscus</i>	Fly over fairly regularly, on way to roosting site.
Great Black-backed Gull, <i>Larus marinus</i>	Fly over fairly regularly, on way to roosting site.
Wood Pigeon, <i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common resident. Nests.
Feral Pigeon, <i>Columba livia</i>	Resident in small numbers.
Stock Dove, <i>Columba oenas</i>	Resident in small numbers. Nests.
Collared Dove, <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Resident in small numbers. Nests.
Cuckoo, <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Occasional visitor. One heard May 1993 and another May 2000. Heard 22nd April 2018 (GW)
Ring-necked Parakeet, <i>Psittacula krameri</i>	One was seen flying out of the Cemetery and over Godric Place, on 18th April 2018 (VB).

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Tawny Owl, <i>Strix aluco</i>	Heard most years. May be becoming scarcer. Three Tawny Owl chicks discovered by GW on 15 th June 2019 (and one also seen by VB on 18 th June 2019).
Swift, <i>Apus apus</i>	Summer visitor. Feeds over Cemetery every year.
Green Woodpecker, <i>Picus viridis</i>	Resident. Probably nests. Heard more than seen. Photographed by GW on 4th May 2019.
Great Spotted Woodpecker, <i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Resident. Nests in old trees.
Skylark, <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	One flew over Cemetery and Helena Road on 28th February 2018, a very snowy morning (GW).
Sand Martin, <i>Riparia riparia</i>	Two seen flying above Cemetery in 1993.
Barn Swallow, <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Summer visitor. Feeds over Cemetery every year.
House Martin, <i>Delichon urbica</i>	Summer visitor. Feeds over Cemetery every year.
Meadow Pipit, <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Flew over on autumn migration, several days in 2012. Flew over 14th October 2018 (GW)
Pied Wagtail, <i>Motacilla alba</i>	Seen occasionally flying over the Cemetery 2018 & 2019 (GW)
Grey Wagtail, <i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Flew over on 24th March 2018 (GW).
Waxwing, <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Flew over in winter 2011/12. 13 birds seen in Lime trees by Bowthorpe Road/Dereham Road traffic lights, 17th March 2013. (Seen in colder winters in varying numbers on berries in the Stafford Street area.) A flock of 20+ flew over the Cemetery on 19th November 2016 (VB/JB).
Wren, <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Resident. Nests. Adults seen spring 2016 (CP). Several heard 2nd January 2017 and a newly fledged juvenile seen and photographed May 2017 (VB).
Dunnock, <i>Prunella modularis</i>	Resident. Probably nests.
Robin, <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	Resident. Probably nests.
Song Thrush, <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Seen most years. Nested in 1990s. Fledged young seen summer 2018 (GW)
Redwing, <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	Winter visitor. Flew into Holm Oaks late in day (assuming going to roost) on 4th March 2018, roosted nightly during 2018/19 winter (GW).
Mistle Thrush, <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	Seen most years until 2010 and now seen occasionally. Two flew over on 16th March 2018 (GW). Pair present with Male singing and defending territory spring 2019 (GW).
Fieldfare, <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	Winter visitor in bad weather. Sightings include three on 3rd March 2018 (GW). Flew into Holm Oaks late in day (assuming going to roost) on 4th March 2018 (GW).

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Blackbird, <i>Turdus merula</i>	Resident. Nests. May be less frequent than it used to be.
Blackcap, <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Summer visitor. Present every year; probably nests. 2 overwintered 2018/19 (GW)
Whitethroat, <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Summer visitor. Seen in gardens on Helena Road adjoining Cemetery 2011.
Lesser Whitethroat, <i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Summer visitor, seen once several years ago.
Willow Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	Summer visitor. Heard 1993, 1997.
Chiffchaff, <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	Summer visitor. Present every year; probably nests.
Wood Warbler, <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	Seen in a mixed flock of birds on 12th September 2015 by Craig Robson. (Thanks to James Emerson for notifying us of this sighting.)
Goldcrest, <i>Regulus regulus</i>	Resident. Nests. Seen spring 2016 (CP). Seen regularly during 2018 & 2019 (GW)
Firecrest, <i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	Nested once in late 1980s / early 1990s. Seen in NE corner of Cemetery on 4 th May 2019 by GW and near Burial Chapel on 24 th December 2019 by JB & VB.
Spotted Flycatcher, <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	Seen 1992, 2000. In serious decline nationally and not seen recently.
Pied Flycatcher, <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	Occasional. Seen spring 2012 and five were seen and photographed on 3rd May 2018 by GW.
Great Tit, <i>Parus major</i>	Resident. Nests.
Coal Tit, <i>Parus ater</i>	Resident. Nests.
Blue Tit, <i>Parus caeruleus</i>	Resident. Nests.
Long-tailed Tit, <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	Resident. Nests.
Nuthatch, <i>Sitta europaea</i>	Resident. Heard more often than seen. Several in spring 2016. At least one pair nesting 2018 & 2019 (GW).
Treecreeper, <i>Certhia familiaris</i>	Resident. Probably nests. Seen spring 2016 (CP). Seen regularly during 2018 & 2019 (GW)
Great Grey Shrike, <i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Rare visitor. Seen once c 2000, when a single bird shot out of the Cemetery and landed beside a lady hanging out washing in a garden on St. Thomas' Road.
Magpie, <i>Pica pica</i>	Common resident. Nests. Has become much more common over last 20 years.
Jay, <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Common resident. Nests. Increasing.
Jackdaw, <i>Corvus monedula</i>	Seen since 2010. Nests. Increasing.
Carrion Crow, <i>Corvus corone corone</i>	Resident in small numbers. Nests. Often found in areas of newly cut grass, which they search for food. Two juvenile birds seen and photographed April 2017 (JB).

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Starling, <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Visitor? Nested in the past in hollow trees but becoming less common.
House Sparrow, <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Nested in adjoining gardens until the mid 1990s. In general decline, though still seen in Norwich in bushes and hedges, e.g. Recreation Road, The Avenues.
Chaffinch, <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Resident. Probably nests.
Bullfinch, <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	A pair were seen on 11th April 2018 (VB). On 29th August 2018 a very young juvenile Bullfinch was seen and at least two other Bullfinches were heard (GW). A male was seen on 29th March 2019 (SP). A pair seen on 20 th March 2021 (CB).
Brambling, <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	Occasional winter visitor, seen in 1990, 1991 and 1998. Likes beech mast. Seen 14th October 2018 (GW)
Linnet, <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	A pair in tree tops 14th April 2018 (GW)
Redpoll, <i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Winter visitor, seen March 1991. Seen in small numbers most winters on Alder catkins by River Wensum.
Goldfinch, <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Resident. Probably nests. Also seen in flocks in winter.
Greenfinch, <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Resident. Probably nests. Also seen in flocks in winter.
Siskin, <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	Winter visitor, seen 1994, 2001, 2004. March to April 2018 (GW). Seen most winters on Alder catkins by River Wensum, including 2018 (JB & VB).
Hawfinch, <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	March 1991 – two sightings on consecutive days, including four birds seen at top of a tall Horse Chestnut (JB & VB).
Common Crossbill, <i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	One flew over in March 2012.
Yellowhammer, <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	One flew over Cemetery 7th April 2018 (GW).