

Long Meadow Bird Report



Jay



Song thrush

The meadow supports a variety of mainly woodland birds some of which also use the grassland. Blue, great and long-tailed tits are regularly seen or heard. Both great spotted woodpecker and green woodpecker are sometimes heard or seen. In 2013 both blue tit and great spotted woodpecker nested in one of the veteran ash trees. Such veterans, with broken limbs and many crevices and holes, are so valuable in themselves and as hosts to other plants, lichens, insects and birds.

During the breeding season woodland songsters such as blackbirds and both song and mistle thrushes, dunnocks, robins and wrens are very vocal and are regularly seen or heard singing within their territories. These are joined during spring and summer by migrants such as blackcaps and chiffchaffs that have flown northwards from Africa to breed. Another woodland bird heard more often than seen is the nuthatch. Flocks of redwings visit to feed during the winter.

Of the larger birds using the meadow the crow family is represented by jays, magpies and carrion crows. Both wood pigeons and stock doves are present. Birds of prey such as kestrel and sparrowhawk occasionally visit the meadow hunting for rodents and small birds respectively.

The adjacent River Pinn provides feeding opportunities for kingfisher, grey wagtail, little egret, heron, moorhen and mallard.



Great tit



Robin