

# YACWAG LITTLEWOOD BREEDING BIRD SURVEY REPORT

ST438683  
Spring 2022



Photos: top-left Great Spotted Woodpecker; bottom-left Blackcap; right Jay



Registered charity  
No. 1076362

# Introduction

This is YACWAG's nineteenth annual survey of breeding birds in Littlewood.

Littlewood is a linear five acre strip of woodland on Kenn Moor SSSI. It is shown as 'Plantation' on maps dating from 1821 but some of the veteran Alders are thought to pre-date its creation. It now has the characteristics of a natural wood with Oak, Ash, Sycamore, Willow, Blackthorn, Guelder Rose, Holly and Alder Buckthorn as well as a thriving understorey. The glades contain plants that are a rare remnant of the natural vegetation of a peat moor.

For birds and mammals the wood provides a place of welcome shelter in the middle of the exposed and open moor. The Alder trees produce a large crop of seeds in the winter and this food source is exploited by large flocks of Goldfinches and, in some years, Siskins and Lesser Redpolls, although these have been absent in recent years, perhaps partly due to climate change. In spring the Willow blossoms attract a multitude of insects which feed hundreds of nestlings including many Blue Tits and Great Tits which use the nest boxes and bat boxes.

The wood was acquired by YACWAG in 2003 and spring bird surveys commenced the following year, so this report is the nineteenth. For survey purposes the wood was divided into eight sections (see site map) and birds were mapped using a system based on the original British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Common Bird Census scheme. The BTO have now moved away from that type of recording to a tabular system suitable to digital analysis so we have moved to the new system. Now the wood is divided into three equal parts. Section A (formerly 1-4), Section B (5-6) and Section C (7-8). The survey visits are all timed to take one hour evenly spaced over the length of the wood.

The 2022 survey showed little change or any surprising records. The wood is almost certainly more valuable for bats, fungi and some flora as well as its veteran trees. That said, it holds a good population of common breeding birds relative to its size. Tawny Owl, Sparrowhawk and Great Spotted Woodpecker nested and it is likely that Stock Dove and Treecreeper also bred.

Visibility in the wood in Spring is not good for detecting birds by sight and it is likely that many non-singing species are missed. The number of Great Tit and Blue Tit nests in our boxes greatly exceeds the number of birds recorded on the survey.

There was an astonishing passage of Siskins on 12 March 2022 when every Alder seemed to hold some, there were at least 150 feeding voraciously on the seeds. A week later and all had moved on.

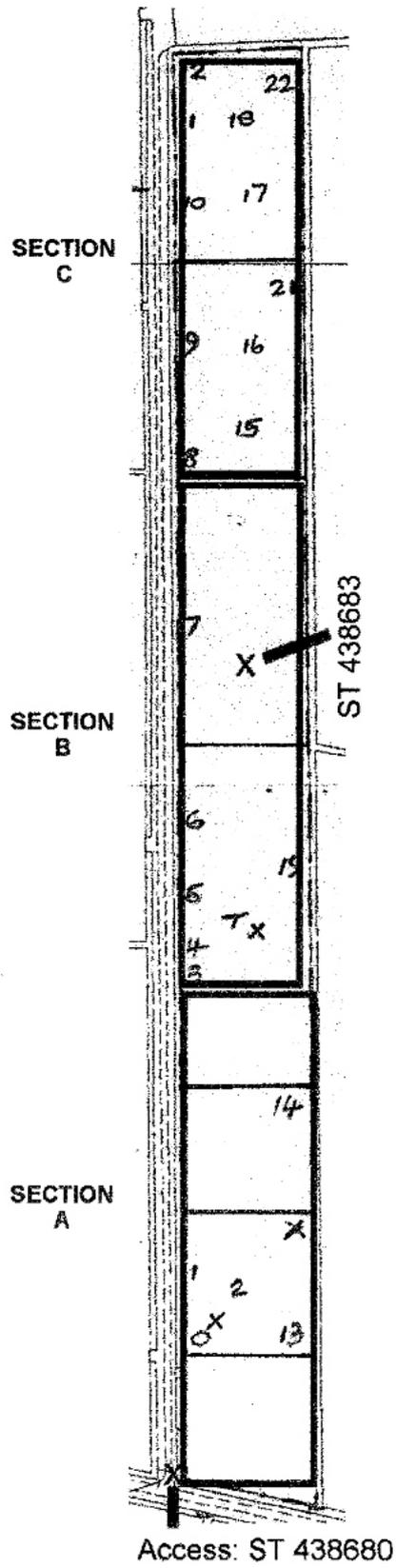
Thanks to Reserve warden John Croxton for his assistance with the surveys and to Bob Evans, Jon Thobroe and Viv French for their help too.

Eric Allcock has stepped down from producing the report due to issues with his eyesight. He has designed, printed and digitised the report from its inception in 2004 to 2021. A huge thank you to Eric for the hours of work he has put in over the 18 years.

Jon Thobroe has kindly produced the report this year so a big vote of thanks to Jon for stepping in.

Trevor Riddle. July 2022.

Site map



Location: <a href="#">Littlewood, Kenn Moor</a>										
Date: 09/04/2022										
Start time: 08:30										
End time: 09:30										
Conditions: Sunny, light N										
Observers: TR/JC/BE										
SECTION		A		B		C		TOTALS		
LIST		Total	Sing	Total	Sing	Total	Sing	Total	Sing	
PH	Pheasant					1		1		PH
MA	Mallard									MA
SD	Stock Dove									SD
WP	Woodpigeon	1				1		2		WP
SH	Sparrowhawk	1						1		SH
BZ	Buzzard									BZ
TO	Tawny Owl									TO
GS	G S Woodpecker			1	1			1	1	GS
J.	Jay			2				2		J.
JD	Jackdaw									JD
C.	Carrion Crow									C.
BT	Blue Tit			1		3		4		BT
GT	Great Tit	1	1			2	1	3	2	GT
LT	Long Tailed Tit			2				2		LT
CC	Chiffchaff	2	2	1	1	3	2	6	5	CC
BC	Blackcap	2	2	2	2			4	4	BC
WR	Wren	2	2	3	3	1	1	6	6	WR
TC	Treecreeper									TC
B	Blackbird	1		1				2		B
ST	Song Thrush			1	1			1	1	ST
R	Robin	2	2	2	2	1	1	5	5	R
D	Dunnock									D
CH	Chaffinch									CH
BF	Bullfinch									BF
GR	Greenfinch									GR
GO	Goldfinch									GO
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>	

**Supplementary notes:** 3 Mallard flew from ditch by section B

**Initials:** TR - Trevor Riddle  
 JC - John Croxton  
 BE - Bob Evans  
 JT - Jon Thobroe  
 VF - Viv French

Location: <a href="#">Littlewood, Kenn Moor</a>										
Date: 25/04/2022			Start time: 08:30			Conditions: Sunny, light-mod NE				
			End time: 09:35			Observers: TR/JC/BE				
SECTION		A		B		C		TOTALS		
LIST		Total	Sing	Total	Sing	Total	Sing	Total	Sing	
PH	Pheasant									PH
MA	Mallard									MA
SD	Stock Dove									SD
WP	Woodpigeon			1		1		2		WP
SH	Sparrowhawk									SH
BZ	Buzzard									BZ
TO	Tawny Owl									TO
GS	G S Woodpecker									GS
J.	Jay									J.
JD	Jackdaw									JD
C.	Carrion Crow									C.
BT	Blue Tit	3				2		5		BT
GT	Great Tit	4	3					4	3	GT
LT	Long Tailed Tit					2		2		LT
CC	Chiffchaff	4	3	1	1	3	3	8	7	CC
BC	Blackcap	3	3	1	1	1	1	5	5	BC
WR	Wren	6	5	3	3	2	2	11	10	WR
TC	Treecreeper	1						1		TC
B	Blackbird			1	1	1		2	1	B
ST	Song Thrush									ST
R	Robin			1	1	1	1	2	2	R
D	Dunnock			1	1			1	1	D
CH	Chaffinch									CH
BF	Bullfinch									BF
GR	Greenfinch									GR
GO	Goldfinch									GO
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>29</b>	

**Supplementary notes:** Green Woodpecker 'singing' section B, Great Spotted Woodpecker calling section B, After 09:35 Reed Warbler singing Eastern Drive opposite section A

Location: [Littlewood, Kenn Moor](#)

Date: 09/05/2022

Start time: 08:30

End time: 09:35

Conditions: Hazy sun, light S

Observers: TR/JC/BE

SECTION		A		B		C		TOTALS		
LIST		Total	Sing	Total	Sing	Total	Sing	Total	Sing	
PH	Pheasant					1		1		PH
MA	Mallard									MA
SD	Stock Dove			1	1			1	1	SD
WP	Woodpigeon	1		2		1		4		WP
SH	Sparrowhawk									SH
BZ	Buzzard									BZ
TO	Tawny Owl					1		1		TO
GS	G S Woodpecker					1		1		GS
J.	Jay	1						1		J.
JD	Jackdaw									JD
C.	Carrion Crow					1		1		C.
BT	Blue Tit	2				3		5		BT
GT	Great Tit	2	2	2	2			4	4	GT
LT	Long Tailed Tit									LT
CC	Chiffchaff	4	3	1	1	3	2	8	6	CC
BC	Blackcap	2	2	3	3			5	5	BC
WR	Wren	4	4	4	4	3	3	11	11	WR
TC	Treecreeper									TC
B	Blackbird			1				1		B
ST	Song Thrush									ST
R	Robin	3	3	3	3			6	6	R
D	Dunnock									D
CH	Chaffinch									CH
BF	Bullfinch									BF
GR	Greenfinch									GR
GO	Goldfinch									GO
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>33</b>	

Location: <a href="#">Littlewood, Kenn Moor</a>										
Date: 21/05/2022										
Start time: 08:30										
End time: 09:30										
Conditions: Overcast, light SW										
Observers: TR/JC/JT										
SECTION		A		B		C		TOTALS		
LIST		Total	Sing	Total	Sing	Total	Sing	Total	Sing	
PH	Pheasant									PH
MA	Mallard									MA
SD	Stock Dove									SD
WP	Woodpigeon	1		3		1		5		WP
SH	Sparrowhawk					1		1		SH
BZ	Buzzard									BZ
TO	Tawny Owl									TO
GS	G S Woodpecker			1				1		GS
J.	Jay									J.
JD	Jackdaw	1						1		JD
C.	Carrion Crow									C.
BT	Blue Tit	1		4		3		8		BT
GT	Great Tit			2	1	3		5	1	GT
LT	Long Tailed Tit					3		3		LT
CC	Chiffchaff	2	2	1	1	2	2	5	5	CC
BC	Blackcap	1	1	2	2			3	3	BC
WR	Wren	4	4	3	3	3	1	10	8	WR
TC	Treecreeper									TC
B	Blackbird	1	1	1		2		4	1	B
ST	Song Thrush									ST
R	Robin	3	3	1	1	2	2	6	6	R
D	Dunnock			1		2		3		D
CH	Chaffinch	1	1			1	1	2	2	CH
BF	Bullfinch									BF
GR	Greenfinch									GR
GO	Goldfinch									GO
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>26</b>	

*Supplementary notes: 2 Reed Warbler singing adjacent to section A, Great Spotted Woodpecker chicks in nest section B*

Location: <a href="#">Littlewood, Kenn Moor</a>										
Date: 18/06/2022										
Start time: 08:25										
End time: 09:30										
Conditions: Overcast, light NW										
Observers: TR/JC/VF										
SECTION		A		B		C		TOTALS		
LIST		Total	Sing	Total	Sing	Total	Sing	Total	Sing	
PH	Pheasant			1				1		PH
MA	Mallard									MA
SD	Stock Dove									SD
WP	Woodpigeon	1		2	1			3	1	WP
SH	Sparrowhawk									SH
BZ	Buzzard	1						1		BZ
TO	Tawny Owl									TO
GS	G S Woodpecker									GS
J.	Jay					1		1		J.
JD	Jackdaw									JD
C.	Carrion Crow			2				2		C.
BT	Blue Tit	1		1		1		3		BT
GT	Great Tit					2		2		GT
LT	Long Tailed Tit									LT
CC	Chiffchaff	1	1	2	2	2	2	5	5	CC
BC	Blackcap	1	1	1	1	2	2	4	4	BC
WR	Wren	2	2	6	6	2	2	10	10	WR
TC	Treecreeper									TC
B	Blackbird			4	2	4	2	8	4	B
ST	Song Thrush	1	1					1	1	ST
R	Robin	2	2	1	1			3	3	R
D	Dunnock									D
CH	Chaffinch	1	1					1	1	CH
BF	Bullfinch									BF
GR	Greenfinch									GR
GO	Goldfinch									GO
TOTALS		11	8	20	13	14	8	45	29	

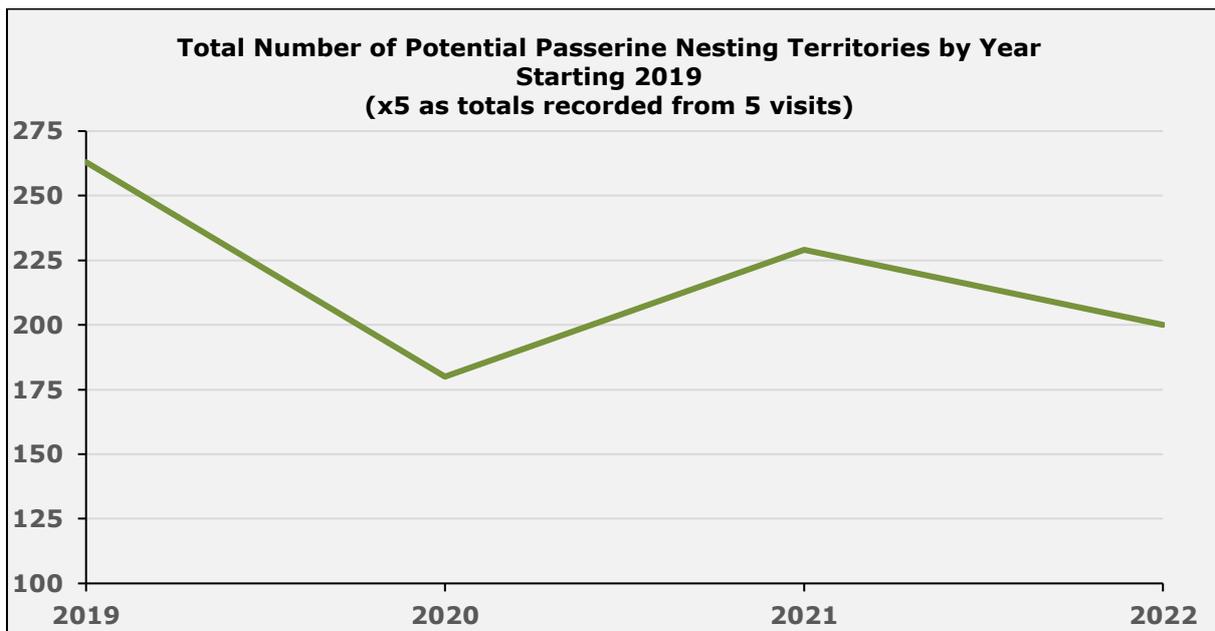
*Supplementary notes: 2 Reed Warbler singing adjacent to section A*

Location: <a href="#">Littlewood, Kenn Moor</a>														
Grand total: All species														
DATE		09/04/2022		25/04/2022		09/05/2022		21/05/2022		18/06/2022		TOTALS		
LIST		Total	Sing	Total	Sing									
PH	Pheasant	1				1				1		3		PH
MA	Mallard													MA
SD	Stock Dove					1	1					1	1	SD
WP	Woodpigeon	2		2		4		5		3	1	16	1	WP
SH	Sparrowhawk	1						1				2		SH
BZ	Buzzard									1		1		BZ
TO	Tawny Owl					1						1		TO
GS	G S Woodpecker	1	1			1		1				3	1	GS
J.	Jay	2				1				1		4		J.
JD	Jackdaw							1				1		JD
C.	Carrion Crow					1				2		3		C.
BT	Blue Tit	4		5		5		8		3		25		BT
GT	Great Tit	3	2	4	3	4	4	5	1	2		18	10	GT
LT	Long Tailed Tit	2		2				3				7		LT
CC	Chiffchaff	6	5	8	7	8	6	5	5	5	5	32	28	CC
BC	Blackcap	4	4	5	5	5	5	3	3	4	4	21	21	BC
WR	Wren	6	6	11	10	11	11	10	8	10	10	48	45	WR
TC	Treecreeper			1								1		TC
B	Blackbird	2		2	1	1		4	1	8	4	17	6	B
ST	Song Thrush	1	1							1	1	2	2	ST
R	Robin	5	5	2	2	6	6	6	6	3	3	22	22	R
D	Dunnock			1	1			3				4	1	D
CH	Chaffinch							2	2	1	1	3	3	CH
BF	Bullfinch													BF
GR	Greenfinch													GR
GO	Goldfinch													GO
TOTALS		40	24	43	29	50	33	57	26	45	29	235	141	

Location: <a href="#">Littlewood, Kenn Moor</a>														
Grand total: Passerines														
DATE		09/04/2022		25/04/2022		09/05/2022		21/05/2022		18/06/2022		TOTALS		
LIST		Total	Sing	Total	Sing									
BT	Blue Tit	4		5		5		8		3		25		BT
GT	Great Tit	3	2	4	3	4	4	5	1	2		18	10	GT
LT	Long Tailed Tit	2		2				3				7		LT
CC	Chiffchaff	6	5	8	7	8	6	5	5	5	5	32	28	CC
BC	Blackcap	4	4	5	5	5	5	3	3	4	4	21	21	BC
WR	Wren	6	6	11	10	11	11	10	8	10	10	48	45	WR
TC	Treecreeper			1								1		TC
B	Blackbird	2		2	1	1		4	1	8	4	17	6	B
ST	Song Thrush	1	1							1	1	2	2	ST
R	Robin	5	5	2	2	6	6	6	6	3	3	22	22	R
D	Dunnock			1	1			3				4	1	D
CH	Chaffinch							2	2	1	1	3	3	CH
BF	Bullfinch													BF
GR	Greenfinch													GR
GO	Goldfinch													GO
TOTALS		33	23	41	29	40	32	49	26	37	28	200	138	

**Note:** Species that were recorded last years have been included in the lists even where they were not recorded this year.

Location: <a href="#">Littlewood, Kenn Moor</a>						
Total Number of Birds Recorded by Section and Date						
SECTION/DATE	09 April	25 April	09 May	21 May	18 June	Total
A	12	21	19	15	11	78
B	16	9	17	19	20	81
C	12	13	14	23	14	76
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>235</b>
Total Number of Birds Recorded by Passerine/Non-passerine and Date						
ORDER/DATE	09 April	25 April	09 May	21 May	18 June	Total
Passerine	33	41	40	49	37	200
Non-passerine	7	2	10	8	8	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>235</b>



YEAR	COUNT	NOTE
2019	263	
2020	180	extrapolated from three visits
2021	229	
2022	200	

*Note: Beside this document the data is also saved in spreadsheet format.*