Birdwatching Group Report 2026

One of the newest U3A Caterham groups, Birdwatching, got off to a flying start.

In just over a year we saw or heard 133 different species. They ranged from the common, such as Wood Pigeons and Collared Doves, to birds that had strayed off course on migration, such as Black Terns and White-winged Black Terns.
We ranged from RSPB Dungeness in Kent to RSPB Pulborough Brooks and RSPB Pagham Harbour in West Sussex and up to the Isle of Grain in Kent.

Highlights included a family of newly hatched Dartford Warblers, an aerobatics display by a pair of hobbies, the courtship of nightjars and a range of waders such as black-tailed godwits, little stints and curlew sandpipers.

We witnessed the miracle of the spring and autumn migrations, with the first birds, such as cuckoos, heading back to Africa as early as July.

We go out at least once a month to reserves around the southeast. New members are always welcome. No previous knowledge is needed, just an interest in nature.

Here is the full list:
Avocet, Black Tern, Blackbird, Blackcap, Black-headed Gull, Black-tailed Godwit, Blue Tit, Brent Goose, Bullfinch, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Cattle Egret, Cetti's Warbler, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Common Gull, Common Sandpiper, Common Tern, Coot, Cormorant, Cuckoo, Curlew, Curlew Sandpiper, Dartford Warbler, Dunnock, Dunlin, Egyptian Goose, Feral Pigeon, Fieldfare, Gadwall, Garden Warbler, Goldcrest, Golden Plover, Goldfinch, Great Black-backed Gull, Great Crested Grebe, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Great White Egret, Greenfinch, Green Sandpiper, Greenshank, Green Woodpecker, Greylag Goose, Grey Plover, Grey Wagtail, Heron, Herring Gull, Hobby, House Martin, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Kingfisher, Knot, Lapwing, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Lesser Whitethroat, Linnet, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Little Gull, Little Ringed Plover, Little Stint, Long-tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Mandarin Duck, Marsh Harrier, Marsh Tit, Meadow Pipit, Mediterranean Gull, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Nightingale, Nightjar, Nuthatch, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Pintail, Pochard, Raven, Red Kite, Red-Legged Partridge, Redshank, Redwing, Reed Bunting, Reed Warbler, Ringed Plover, Ring-necked Parakeet, Robin, Rock Pipit, Rook, Ruff, Sand Martin, Sandwich Tern, Sedge Warbler, Shelduck, Shoveler, Skylark, Snipe, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Spotted Redshank, Starling, Stock Dove, Stonechat, Swallow, Swift, Teal, Treecreeper, Tree Pipit, Tufted Duck, Turnstone, Turtle Dove, Whimbrel, Whitethroat, White-winged Black Tern, Wigeon, Willow Warbler, Woodlark, Woodpigeon, Wren, Yellowhammer, Yellow Wagtail.

John Ingham
Group Leader
October 2026