

This is a list of birds seen in and around Steeple Ashton. Next to each bird is a brief description of when and where you might expect to see them. If reading this on line; To hear their song press CTRL and click on the link or copy and paste into your browser.

This list is compiled by sightings reported to and from members of the club. Please report any sightings to any member or to Roger Ferguson by email to r.ferguson550@btinternet.com or by phone to 01380 870860.

Species	Description/Notes
 Black Redstart	Summer visitor and seen on passage. About Sparrow size and scarce. Only a few breed in UK. Could pop up anywhere. Only one sighting locally in 2010 http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/black-redstart/
 Blackbird	Common, seen all year round. Member of the Thrush family. Numbers boosted in winter by visitors from Northern Europe. http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-blackbird/
 Blackcap	Common summer visitor with a sweet song. Female has a brown cap. About Robin size. Breed locally and can be seen in light woodland. A few over winter and feed on bird feeders in gardens. http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/blackcap/
 Black Headed Gull	Medium sized Gull and can be seen all year round. Will feed in newly ploughed fields. http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/black-headed-gull/
 Bluetit	Common, seen all year round. Will readily feed from feeders. Hole nesters and will readily use tit boxes in gardens. http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/blue-tit/
 Brambling	The Northern cousin of the Chaffinch. Winter visitor from Northern Europe. If you are lucky you will see small flocks in bare trees and feeding on the ground. Do not usually visit gardens. http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/brambling/
 Bullfinch	Larger than a Chaffinch. Can be seen all year round usually in pairs. (male and Female) Will visit gardens but mostly seen in woodland. Quite shy. http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/bullfinch/
 Buzzard	Most common bird of prey in the area. Seen all year round and breed locally in woodland building large nests in trees. Large bird with 3-4Ft wingspan. Feeds on carrion and small mammals. Can often be seen feeding on worms in ploughed fields. http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-buzzard/

<p>Barn Owl</p> 	<p>Seen all year round. Nocturnal, but can be seen hunting for small mammals such as mice and voles at dusk. Hole nester and will nest in suitable boxes and as their name suggests, barns!</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/barn-owl/</p>
<p>Canada Goose</p> 	<p>An introduced species from North America. Seen all year round and covers almost all of the UK. Locally breeding on Rood Ashton lake.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/canada-geese/</p>
<p>Carrion Crow</p> 	<p>Common bird seen feeding in flocks or alone in fields of corn etc. All year round. Separated from the Rook by having a blacker beak and generally looking smarter</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/carrion-crow/</p>
<p>Cattle Egret</p> 	<p>Scarce in UK but becoming a more frequent visitor especially in winter. Can be seen anywhere. As name suggests usually seen around cattle feeding on the insects they disturb. Distinguished from Little Egret by yellow beak</p> <p>Song not available</p>
<p>Chaffinch</p> 	<p>Common, seen all year round. Will use garden feeders. Male very colourful in breeding plumage.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/chaffinch/</p>
<p>chiffChaff</p> 	<p>Small summer visiting Warbler with an easy recognisable song. It sings his own name! Found locally in woodland usually singing from high up. Easily confused with the Willow Warbler on looks</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/chiffchaff/</p>
<p>CoalTit</p> 	<p>More slender and not so colourful as the Blue and Great tits. resident in all of the UK. Will come into gardens for food. Form flocks with other tits in winter</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/coal-tit/</p>
<p>Collared Dove</p> 	<p>Collared doves are a pale, pinky-brown grey colour, with a distinctive black neck collar (as the name suggests). Their monotonous cooing will be a familiar sound to many of you. Although you'll often see them on their own or in pairs, flocks may form where there is a lot of food available. Seen all year round</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/collared-dove/</p>
<p>Common Gull</p> 	<p>Not so common locally as their name suggests. Similar to Herring Gull and can be seen with other Gulls feeding in fields. Seen in winter</p> <p>https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-and-wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/c/commongull/</p>

 Coot	<p>Commonly seen on open lakes and ponds. Locally seen on Rood Ashton lake. All year round</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/coot/</p>
 Cormorant	<p>Mainly seen on coasts but on lakes and large ponds in winter. Often seen perched with wings outstretched drying them. Locally seen on Rood Ashton lake</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/great-cormorant/</p>
 Corn Bunting	<p>Mainly seen on Salisbury Plain where they breed but will feed in stubble fields in flocks. Can be seen all year round.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/corn-bunting/</p>
 Cuckoo	<p>Sadly becoming scarce. One or two heard locally. Use other birds nests to lay their eggs and raise their young. Mainly Dunnock, Reed Warbler and Meadow Pipit nests used. Summer visitor.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-cuckoo/</p>
 Dunnock	<p>Common garden bird. Mainly feeds on the ground usually under feeders. Seen all year round</p> <p>https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-and-wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/d/dunnock/</p>
 Fieldfare	<p>A member of the thrush family and a winter visitor to the UK. Larger than a song thrush and gregarious. Flocks are capable of stripping all the berries from a hawthorn hedge in hours.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/fieldfare/</p>
 Garden Warbler	<p>Summer visitor with a very similar song to the Blackcap. Not as common in the south as Blackcap. Seen and heard locally at Spiers Piece.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/garden-warbler/</p>
 Goldcrest	<p>The UK's smallest bird. Common and seen all year round with numbers boosted by Northern European migrants in winter. Look for them at the tops of fir trees where they nest. They especially like churchyards.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/goldcrest/</p>

 Golden Plover	<p>Medium sized bird seen here in breeding plumage. Seen in the south in winter in largish flocks without the black frontage. Look for them communally roosting in fields at dusk.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/european-golden-plover/</p>
 Goldfinch	<p>Small common finch easily identified by its red face and gold wing bars. Will come into gardens. They love sunflower or niger seeds. Seen all year round</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/goldfinch/</p>
 Grasshopper Warbler	<p>Common summer visitor but rarely seen as they are shy and keep to the undergrowth. Best identified by their insect like song.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/grasshopper-warbler/</p>
 Great Crested Grebe	<p>Large water bird seen all year round. Breed locally on Rood Ashton Lake. Carry their young on their back.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/great-crested-grebe/</p>
 Great Spotted Woodpecker	<p>Common woodpecker seen all year round. Listen out for their drumming in woodland around the early part of the year when they are establishing territories.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/great-spotted-woodpecker/</p>
 Great Tit	<p>Common garden bird seen all year round. Hole nester and will readily take up residence in tit boxes</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/eurasian-great-tit/</p>
 Green Woodpecker	<p>Common and seen all year round. Partial to ants and will dig them out of your lawn. Listen for their high pitched 'yaffel' call.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/green-woodpecker/</p>
 Greenfinch	<p>Common finch and seen all year round. Numbers took a dip in recent years due to disease. Will come into gardens to feed.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/greenfinch/</p>

 Grey Heron	<p>Common all year round bird. Seen on lakes and occasionally 'fishing' in garden ponds.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/grey-heron/</p>
 Grey Wagtail	<p>Seen all year round. Usually seen near running water i.e. streams and rivers. More yellow than grey and wagging their tail.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/grey-wagtail/</p>
 Hen Harrier	<p>Winter visitor to the south. Picture shows a male. Females are brown. Roost communally on Salisbury plain but can be seen hunting on the lower land. sadly in decline and not currently a breeding bird in England.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/hen-harrier/</p>
 Herring Gull	<p>Common Gull seen all year round and similar to the common Gull. Pinker legs and uglier than common gull. Their call is the best identifier.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/european-herring-gull/</p>
 Hobby	<p>The bird of Wiltshire and a summer visitor. A fast falcon that likes dragon fly's but also partial to other birds such as Swallows and House martins. looks like a large Swift when in flight. Seen hawking over lakes and fields.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/eurasian-hobby/</p>
 House Martin	<p>Common summer visitor which builds mud nests on fascia's close to roof overhangs on houses. Can be seen nesting on numerous buildings within the village.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/northern-house-martin/</p>
 House Sparrow	<p>Common and seen all year round. Will feed in gardens. Now red listed as their numbers are in decline.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/house-sparrow/</p>
 Jackdaw	<p>Common and seen all year. Not as large as the Rook that it hangs out with. Nests in holes and chimneys. Best identified by its grey head and 'Jak jak' call.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/jackdaw/</p>

 Jay	<p>Shy member of the crow family. Most mistaken identity bird. Very colourful with pink, blue, black and white colouring. Its call is a blood curdling screech. Seen all year round.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/jay/</p>
 Kestral	<p>Common falcon that hunts by hovering and observing ground movement looking for voles and mice. the only bird of prey that truly hovers. Seen all year round.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-kestrel/</p>
 Kingfisher	<p>Seen all year round. Usually seen perched, waiting for the opportunity to dive for a fish. Sometimes seen flashing past when you see the electric blue of its back for a brief second. seen on lakes, rivers and streams</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-kingfisher/</p>
 Lapwing	<p>A medium sized wader that can be seen all year round but more common in the winter when it migrates from the north in large flocks. Once very common but now a rare treat to see. Head crest is a good identifier.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/northern-lapwing/</p>
 Lesser Black Backed Gull	<p>Common Gull and seen all year round feeding in fields. Identified by its much darker back compared to Herring and common gulls. Nest locally on the factory roofs on the town industrial estate.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/lesser-black-backed-gull/</p>
 Little Owl	<p>An introduced species from Europe (Italy) but now established as a breeding owl. Scarce locally. Smallest of all UK owls. Seen all year round. Hole nester</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/little-owl/</p>
 Linnet	<p>Common finch of the countryside. Seen all year round. Forms large flocks in the winter. The male (shown) has a bright red breast during the breeding season. Look out for them feeding in the fields. Used to be caught and caged for their lovely song.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-linnet/</p>
 Long Tailed Tit	<p>Described as a cotton wool ball on a stick, this small tit is seen all year round. Will visit gardens and bird tables. In the winter goes around in small flocks of 10-20 and seem to get everywhere at some point.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/northern-long-tailed-tit/</p>

 <p>Magpie</p>	<p>Member of the crow family and about the same size as the Carrion Crow. Seen all year round and builds a roof over its large nest in trees.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-magpie/</p>
 <p>Mallard</p>	<p>Common Duck seen all year round. seen locally on Rood Ashton lake.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/mallard/</p>
 <p>Marsh Tit</p>	<p>Seen all year round and despite their name are more commonly seen in broad leaved woodland. Very similar in appearance to Willow Tit.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/marsh-tit/</p>
 <p>Meadow Pipit</p>	<p>Small brown streaky bird of the countryside. Has a high piping call and during the breeding season can be seen singing whilst descending to the ground like a parachute. seen all year and forms gregarious flocks in winter.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/meadow-pipit/</p>
 <p>Merlin</p>	<p>Falcon smaller in size to Hobby but visits this area in winter. Mainly eat small birds</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/merlin/</p>
 <p>Mistle Thrush</p>	<p>Largest member of the thrush family. Usually one of the first birds to start singing at the start of the breeding season. Seen all year round it has a rattling flight call.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/mistle-thrush/</p>
 <p>Moorhen</p>	<p>Seen all year round on lakes, ponds and even ditches. Common.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/moorhen/</p>
 <p>Mute Swan</p>	<p>Large water bird seen all year round.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/mute-swan/</p>

 Nightingale	<p>Now a scarce summer visitor. Their song is arguably the finest of all songbirds. Un-partnered males will sing through the night. Nest at about deer grazing height in woodland.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-nightingale/</p>
 Nuthatch	<p>Seen all year round this colourful bird can be seen feeding on the trunks of trees. Nests in holes and has one of the biggest repertoire of songs.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/wood-nuthatch/</p>
 Peregrine	<p>Fastest recorded animal when in a stooped flight. A powerful bird of prey that traditionally nests on cliff faces but more commonly now nests in tall buildings.</p> <p>Can be seen all year round hunting for birds. One of its favourites is feral pigeon.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/peregrine-falcon/</p>
 Pheasant	<p>Common game bird seen all year round. Bred locally for shooting. Ones that escape the guns become wild and breed.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-pheasant/</p>
 Pied wagtail	<p>Black and white tail wagging bird seen all year round. Form largish flocks in winter and roost together on roofs for warmth.</p> <p>https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-and-wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/p/piedwagtail/index.aspx</p>
 Raven	<p>Largest member of the Crow family being twice as large as the Rook. Totally black they nest on cliffs and tall trees. Breed locally on Salisbury Plain and can be seen locally flying over looking for carrion. Very deep grunting flight call.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-raven/</p>
 Red Kite	<p>Large bird of prey seen all year round. Identified by forked tail, effortless gliding and colouring. Becoming more common as their territories expand.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/red-kite/</p>
 Red-Legged Partridge	<p>Game bird seen all year round. Originally introduced from Europe for shooting. Sometimes referred to as French partridge.</p> <p>https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-and-wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/r/redleggedpartridge/index.aspx</p>

 Redstart	<p>Summer visitor immediately identified by their bright red tail. They 'bob' in a Robin like manner and are about the same size.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-redstart/</p>
 Redwing	<p>A small winter thrush. Large numbers migrate here from Northern Europe and Scandinavia in winter. Identifiable by the red patch on their bodies and white eye stripe. Form large flocks sometimes along side Fieldfare. Look for them feeding on berries.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/redwing/</p>
 Robin	<p>Common all year round bird that likes gardens. Everyone loves the Robin although it can be ferocious against other Robins when holding its territory.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/european-robin/</p>
 Rook	<p>Common member of the Crow family. Told apart from the Carrion Crow by its large white/grey beak. forms large noisy rookeries in woodland.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/rook/</p>
 Sedge Warbler	<p>Small plump warbler and a summer visitor. Identifiable mainly by the striking cream/white stripe above its eye. Best seen around the edges of lakes / ponds.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/sedge-warbler/</p>
 Short Eared Owl	<p>Winter visitor to this area. Best seen in open grassy areas just before or at dusk hunting for small mammals. Appears to be white from underneath.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/short-eared-owl/</p>
 Siskin	<p>Similar to Greenfinch but smaller. Can be seen all year round. Numbers are boosted in winter by migrants from N. Europe. Will come into gardens to feed.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/siskin/</p>
 Skylark	<p>Seen all year round. Nest on ground and best seen as they hover above their territory and sing almost constantly. They drop like a stone back to ground.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/sky-lark/</p>

 <p>Snipe</p>	<p>Medium sized wading bird seen all year round. Identified by long beak used for probing wet ground for invertebrates and worms.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-snipe/</p>
 <p>Song Thrush</p>	<p>Possibly the most common resident thrush (apart from Blackbird). Likes to sing in the open on high perches. Red listed due to population decline.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/song-thrush/</p>
 <p>Sparrow Hawk</p>	<p>Resident bird of prey. As its name suggests it eats mainly small birds. Females which are larger than the male can take down a fully grown Wood Pigeon.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/sparrowhawk/</p>
 <p>Starling</p>	<p>Seen all year round. Will come into gardens to feed. Numbers boosted in winter by migrants from Northern Europe. Form very large roosts in winter. common but red listed due to dramatic fall in population. famous for their murmerations.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-starling/</p>
 <p>Stock Dove</p>	<p>More common than realised by most. same size as Wood Pigeon but identified from wood pigeon by lack of white neck band and wing bars. Nests in holes, often abandoned Owl boxes. It's call is quite different from Wood Pigeon. Seen all year.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/stock-pigeon/</p>
 <p>Swallow</p>	<p>Common summer visitor from S. Africa. Builds mud nests on barn rafters. Can be seen feeding on aerial borne insects around houses or over fields.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/barn-swallow/</p>
 <p>Swift</p>	<p>Another common summer visitor. Nests in crevice's in walls and under roof tiles. Can be seen in small flocks 'screaming' at low level. First to leave for their African winter grounds.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-swift/</p>
 <p>Tawny Owl</p>	<p>Seen all year round. Large Owl that nests in holes or boxes. Usually seen when caught in car headlights whilst hunting in the dark for mice and other small mammals. calls are heard at night.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/tawny-owl/</p>
 <p>Treecreeper</p>	<p>Seen all year, this lovely little bird is common to woodland where it can be seen creeping up tree trunks using its long curved beak to probe for food. Always travels up trees never down. Nests under the bark.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/tree-creeper/</p>

 Tufted Duck	<p>Medium sized duck seen all year round on lakes and large ponds. recognisable by the tuft at the back of its head and black and white markings.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/tufted-duck/</p>
 Turtle Dove	<p>Summer visitor and on the edge of extinction as a breeding bird in the UK. A dainty bird a bit bigger than a blackbird and identified by its gentle purring call.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/turtle-dove/</p>
 waxwing	<p>Winter visitor from Northern Europe. Starling shape but identified by their crested head and yellow and white wings. extremely cold weather can bring eruptions which see more birds further west.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/bohemian-waxwing/</p>
 Wheatear	<p>Summer visitor from central Africa where it winters. Male identified by striking eye stripe and orange/buff breast. Slightly larger than a Sparrow. More likely to be seen on salisbury Plain but have been spotted in Spiers Piece.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/northern-wheatear/</p>
 Whitethroat	<p>Common Summer visitor. Identified by its white throat and singing from tops of hedges. It can't help showing off by taking off, fluttering around and landing again in the same place whilst singing its scratchy song.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-whitethroat/</p>
 Willow warbler	<p>Another summer visitor and easily confused with the ChiffChaff. Luckily their songs are completely different. Not as common in the south as the chiffchaff. Seen in woodland.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/willow-warbler/</p>
 Woodcock	<p>Large, bulky wading bird that's mainly nocturnal. Seen all year round. Usually only seen if flushed from undergrowth. Likes wet/soggy ground</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/woodcock/</p>
 Wood Pigeon	<p>Most common bird and seen all year round either by itself or large flocks. Breeds all year round. Nest is usually just a few twigs in any suitable tree or bush. Distinctive call. Can be seen anywhere from fields, trees to gardens</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/common-wood-pigeon/</p>

 Wren	<p>Tiny bird almost as small as the Goldcrest. Identified by its constant tail wagging. Has one of the most powerful songs for a bird its size. resident.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/wren/</p>
 Wryneck	<p>Seen on passage. small sparrow sized bird is a member of the woodpecker family and feeds almost exclusively on ants. Seen mainly on the ground and doesn't climb trees like other woodpeckers. Only seen once locally but could pop up anywhere.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/wryneck/</p>
 Yellow Hammer	<p>Resident chunky bunting. Identified by its brown and yellow markings and distinctive song. 'a little bit of bread and no cheese'. can be seen and heard locally on and around hedgerows.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/yellowhammer/</p>
RECENT SIGHTINGS	
 Curlew	<p>Large wading bird seen around the coast in winter and inland during summer. Identified by long curling beak and long legs. Like wet ground to probe for food.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/curlew/</p>
 Reed Warbler	<p>Summer visitor. Builds nest in reed beds. Locally seen at Rood Ashton Lake. Quite secretive and best identified by its song.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/reed-warbler/</p>
 Little Egret	<p>About the size of a Grey Heron it was once just a winter visitor to Southern UK but now established as a breeding bird in the south. Can be seen around lakes, ponds and rivers.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/little-egret/</p>
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<p>A rare resident and a lot smaller than the Greater Spotted Woodpecker. Sparrow sized and usually seen in woodland. Seen locally in the Acre Short Lane area.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/lesser-spotted-woodpecker/</p>
 Whinchat	<p>Summer visitor. Male similar to Stonechat with the white eyestripe being the notable difference. Scarce locally but spotted in the Acre Short Lane area.</p> <p>http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/whinchat/</p>