

Archive of Ring Ouzel Sightings 2020

Winter sightings (2020/2021)

14th February 2021 (Berwyn Clarke)

Long Thurlow, Suffolk

Single bird in garden yesterday (Long Thurlow Suffolk). Stayed around 1.5 minutes - breast band looked scaly and more beige than white (Possible female?). Larger than resident blackbirds, more size of our local fieldfare population.

16th January 2021 (Lisbeth Dring)

Roslisyton, Nr Burton On Trent

Heard what sounded like a regular mistle thrush and was surprised to see a blackbird with a white chest. Later identified as a Ring Ouzel. Eating Rowan berries and fighting off mistle thrush and blackbird. Thrilled to have seen one.

16th January 2021 (Robin Rostron)

Northumberland

Seen a male in my garden several times in the last few days. I live in north Northumberland near the coast

1st January 2021 (David Gilbert)

Bishopstone, Wiltshire

Sighted today at 11:30am on 1st January 2021

Male Ring Ouzel. At Bishopstone on side of a hill in a gully

Coords: SU249826

The bird was on the grass path ahead of us. White crescent on chest clearly visible.

I am a member of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

13th December 2020 (David Daniels)

Wisborough Green, West Sussex

Sighted in Wisborough Green, West Sussex RH14 0DQ on Sunday December 13th at 14.40 - single bird only

Autumn Migration (2020)

13th November 2020 (Martin Green)

Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire

Glimpsed a bird in a hedge near Symonds Yat in the Forest of Dean....similar size to a blackbird with a white collar...sadly the friend with me didn't spot it.

27th October 2020 (Alan & Sue Watson)

Kington St Michael, Wiltshire

Paddock End. Kington St Michael. SN146QL. 51.496400-2.139554.

It has been in the garden most of the day eating berries of one of our bushes by the bird feeders. it doesn't seem to be worried about us watching it from the back windows. The back of our house and garden looks out over large open fields and is fairly secluded away from traffic and other noise.

[SEE PHOTO HERE.](#)

22nd October 2020 (Melvyn Norman)

Brampton Ash, Northants

Spotted a Ring Ouzel eating Rowan Berries outside my House. We are situated in Hermitage Road Brampton Ash Northants LE16 8PE

19th October 2020 (Eddie Trick)

Uton, Crediton, Devon

19th October on river bank of the Yeo just below Uton farm.

10th October 2020 (Janet Hamilton)

Auchencairn, Dumfries & Galloway

Grid reference NX76435 53172. Saw a ring ouzel on the top of a larch tree in our garden. We are surrounded by farmland and we have rocky outcrops with heather and bracken. Managed to take a photo.

5th October 2020 (Alastair Gray)

Ashdown Forest, East Sussex

3 birds seen at Old Lodge SWT, Ashdown Forest, East Sussex 05/10/20.

One Adult Male & one Juvenile, (Third bird seen briefly).

2nd October 2020 (Jack Hannah)

Reading, Berks

Reading, (new town) 0835 Friday 02/10/2020

Whilst watching the stormy conditions from my back door it landed in my garden, remained for at least two minutes then flew off into a neighbour's garden, I regularly put food out for the birds and see lots of local birds but this was a first ring ouzel, looked dark brown in colour with a distinct broad white band round the throat, size, would be an oversized black bird.

23rd September 2020 (Gareth Reed)

Todmorden, Calderdale

Saw female Ring Ouzel today 23/09/20 at grid reference SD948262 at 11.30am. On stone wall looking for food.

21st September 2020 (Julian Tipper)

Old Winchester Hill, Petersfield Hants

1x adult male seen and heard on Old Winchester Hill, in Ash trees next to the North ramparts of the Earthworks. Seen for about fifteen minutes.

First heard 10.15 am, in a yew tree, singing.

10.38 am, first seen flying into Ash tree. Then observed flitting about for fifteen minutes, making a chack chack call.

15th September 2020 (Tim Melling)

Crowden Valley, Derbyshire

[Two great PHOTOS of Ring Ouzels](#) preparing for migration in the Crowden Valley, Derbyshire, taken by Tim Melling.

5th September 2020 (David Tyler)

Horsham, West Sussex

Single ring ouzel sighted close to marginal reeds and undergrowth at the main lake in Southwater Country Park, near Horsham, West Sussex. Checked the unfamiliar markings on return home and are in no doubt about identification. Saw this is time for migration south, with sightings possible near coast (Southwater is 15 miles from the sea).

4th September 2020 (Megan Toplass)

Crowden, Derbyshire

Saw several Ringed Ouzels (male and females) at Crowden (Peak District) while looking for the bearded vulture.

1st September 2020 (Steve Tivey)

Crowden, Derbyshire

Above Crowden Reservoir Looking for the Bearded Vulture

Above the learning centre up the hill to the penine way there are some rock spoil heaps with rowan and a copse of softwoods.

At least 50 Ringouzels in a flock with as many Mistle Thrushes.

We first saw a single and as we walked further we were aware of calling from all directions. One Rowan had 6 birds in it gorging on berries completely in the open.

Then the birds started across the valley and birds just kept coming out of the rocks at least 50 ringouzels were counted it is possible we may have counted a few thrushes with them but I think 50 is fair.

A stunning sight and I did not know they gathered like this.

Spring/Summer Breeding

25th August 2020 (Sue Herring)

Exmoor, Devon

We spotted what seems to be a ring ouzel on the roof of a shed on adjoining land. I do not know our map reference, but our post code is EX16 9NL. We are only a couple of miles from Exmoor, in the country, and our garden borders a tributary of the River Exe, the River Batham. The small quiet lane that we live on leads to a steeply wooded area that leads down to the River Batham. Apart from the rather broad collar, the bird could easily be mistaken for a blackbird. We were never aware of any song, but the bird was on the roof for more than 10 minutes and dipped a lot in the same way that a pied wagtail does.

18th August 2020 (Tim Kilbride)

Crowden, Derbyshire

At least 3 in and around the quarry at Crowden, Derbyshire. Seen on August 19 & 20th 2020.

First my wife and I have ever seen. The vulture wasn't bad either!

6th August 2020 (Paul Harvey)

Borrowdale, Lake District

One ring ouzel sighted and heard on thursday 6th August 2020 on top rocks of Cam Crag scramble above Langstrath valley, Borrowdale ,Lake District; grid reference NY 261 113.

1st July 2020 (Michael Smith)

Bamford Edge, Derbyshire

Today, 1 July 2020 about 1430, a male at SK 2071 8573 at the northern end of Bamford Edge. Also a few minutes earlier and perhaps 200m further south a group of 3 female or near full sized juvenile (brown) ring ouzels.

21st June 2020 (Alexander Westenberger)

Cow Green Reservoir, County Durham

I saw at least 2 birds, a male and a female just south of Cauldron Snout waterfall by Cow Green Reservoir in County Durham on 21st June 2020.

21st June 2020 (Sheila Pankhurst)

Skiddaw fells, Cumbria

Another sighting from the 'back-o-Skiddaw' fells in Cumbria. Lower slopes of eastern side of Great Calva, grid reference NY299 309. Around 20.30, clear evening. Male perched on fence post, calling, female nearby but flew off and dropped down into area of thick heather. Captured video footage on phone - poor quality but good enough to confirm

sighting. Will send in video clip by email. Second pair seen briefly and heard, much higher up on Great Calva (not a repeat sighting of first pair as could still hear faint calling from first male now below us). Approx grid reference for second pair NY292 310, on fence running through thick heather.

14th June 2020 (Marc Stirrup)

Dunnerdale, Lake District

SD242981 Tongue House Close, Dunnerdale

Nest site on S facing crag opposite Seathwaite Tarn path.

Male spent most of the time calling from above the nest. Female doing all of the feeding.

Quite low for the lakes at c.250m asl?

12th June 2020 (Rob Hannam)

Mennock Pass, Dumfries & Galloway

Mennock Pass road B797. NS 872116 Male.

Also : PAIR seen lower down the pass between 21st and 29th May NS 869107, and male between 7th and 9th June, moving farther up the pass between that location and today's.

Second male heard 12/6 at Nether Shiel Cleuch NS 847104.

9th June 2020 (Meg Stark)

N.Yorks

NY 93627 01396 Female flew off from small crag, rather alarmed. Possible nest site? Last year saw a pair here, also displeased by a my presence

NY 94001 01220 Female, flew in front of me in stages down Gunnerside Gill for several minutes

6th June 2020 (Sheila Pankhurst)

Skiddaw, Cumbria

NNE of Skiddaw, Cumbria, Saturday 6th June. Single male bird, on fence post, calling. 20.15, fine clear evening, About 100m (vertical height) below the summit of Bakestall, just east of Birkett Edge. Grid reference NY 270309. We watched with binoculars for a couple of minutes - it flew off and disappeared into dense heather before I could get my camera out. Heard calling again lower down in the same area about an hour later - possibly the same bird but couldn't see it.

5th June 2020 (Lisa Bruntjen)

Teesdale, North Pennines

We have spotted a group of about 4 ring ouzels today. The location was upper Teesdale, North Pennines. Near Cronkley Scar along the Tees.

2nd June 2020 (Ade West-Samuel)

Bleaklow, Peak District

Single female seen and heard calling perched on tree guard on clough side. This was in Upper North Grain on Bleaklow in the Peak District @ SK100929. 02/06/2020.

30th May 2020 (Marc Stirrup)

Great Langdale, Lake District

Kettle Crag NY278049 Great Langdale

Birds seen and heard throughout the day.

Possible nest site in Skull Gill.

28th May 2020 (Ian Bradley)

Buttertubs, N. Yorks

2 adult ring ouzels, and possibly a third, seen Buttertubs SD874961 28/5/20. In addition two fledglings. The fledglings were just below the rim of the northern most of the Buttertub pothole complex just west of the road. When I looked down the pot they took off and I retreated immediately. Surprised to find ring ouzels at what is generally a

popular spot - a result of lockdown I suppose. I have since been informed that ring ouzels in pots are rather rare, hence this report. For completeness several ring ouzels spotted just below Cauldron Snout on the River Tess 2/6/20.

28th May 2020 (Marc Stirrup)

Mallerstang Common, Cumbria

Pair of birds gathering food.

Appeared to have nest in the largest of the Angerholme potholes (fenced pothole with trees).

28th May 2020 (Michael Smith)

Stanage Derbyshire

Pair of ring ouzels with the male apparently checking out potential nesting niches in Bamford quarry's western face. SK 2173 8427

Pair of settled ring ouzels on a triangular rock above the fence above Long Causeway SK 2315 8480

A male in flight below Stanage (North) End / Crow Chin SK 2261 8547 seen previously by others at High Neb

26th May 2020 (Meg Stark)

Swaledale, N Yorks

- One pair (possibly plus another bird but didn't see all three at the same time exactly) at Gunnerside Gill, Swaledale NY93978 01047 on 26th May 2020

- Light male or very dark female, Botcher Gill (feeds Gunnerside Gill), Swaledale NY 93588 00615 on 26th May 2020

24th May 2020 (Stephen Fraser)

Marsden, West Yorkshire

Quarry above a62 Marsden, West Yorkshire.

28th May 2020 (Rob Hannam)

Mennock Pass, Dumfries & Galloway

5.00pm. PAIR seen close to the Mennock Pass road NS869107.

Female leading, as they flew from place to place on the Middle Moor slopes.

Also saw them on the 21st, early in the morning.

23rd May 2020 (Catherine Hamey)

Axe Edge Moor, Buxton

Male ring ouzel just below to right of A54 Bosley to Buxton road as you get to Axe Edge Moor approximate grid ref

SK009699

I have usually seen or heard ring ouzel here for past few years

22nd May 2020 (Michael Barry)

Pooley Bridge, N Yorks

Pair of Ring ouzels spotted regularly in the last few weeks on the fell close to Roehead above Pooley bridge.

21st May 2020 (Nigel Coe)

Old Man of Coniston, Lake District

Male seen at the topmost, left-hand of the Cove Quarries on the Old Man of Coniston, SD 271975, at 5pm on 21.5.22. Too far away to see from the photo whether it had coloured rings.

20th May 2020 (Phil Clifford)

Stanage Edge, Derbyshire

SK 21369 84331 along Stanage Edge above Bamford, mainly at or near skyline on rocks, occasionally amongst heather and bilberry at top of slope. Occasional flight but essentially patrolling favoured rocks and calling by one settled male, one other male interloper called back and was chased off 3 or four times over a period of around an hour.

17th May 2020 (Rosemary Charlton)

Wensleydale, N.Yorks

About 7 pm). Thornton Rust Moor, Wensleydale, N.Yorks

SD96434 87231. Altitude 365 m

Grouse moor, mature heather slope with rocky areas, areas of grass and marshy areas, just below a shooting box. A male flew out ahead of me as I approached (running) and flew over to a rocky outcrop about 60 m away. White breast clearly visible and unmistakable alarm call. Flew over to another rock further away, still with alarm call.

17th May 2020 (Michael Smith)

Kinder Scout, Derbyshire

Sunday 17 May 2020, 0945 hrs, SK 08440 89991 one ring ouzel at the foot of Nether Red Brook clough

17th May 2020 (Rob Hannam)

Mennock Pass, Dumfries & Galloway

Starn Capel Nook, Mennock Pass road (B797) Dumfries & Galloway. NS 842101

Male in tree, chattering.

Single males seen at other times while this website was down. All seen from the Mennock Pass road between Starn Capel Nook and the highest point (The Hass) : 31/3/20, 3/4/20, 17/4/20, 7/5/20, 12/5/20.

11th May 2020 (Bj Inkson)

Burbage, Derbyshire

Male Ring Ouzel, Burbage, watched for 2-3 min 8.15pm, about 10m from path.

9th May 2020 (Michael Smith)

Highshaw Clough, Sheffield

10am. 100m N of Cutthroat Bridge in Highshaw Clough, east side of stream, SK 2136 8750. Female

Early arrivals

There were an abnormally low number of sightings in Spring 2020 due to the national Covid-19 lockdown crisis.

18th March 2020 (Anne Beck)

Threlkeld, Lake District

Male perched in tree seen fairly close range with binoculars on lower Blease Fell near Threlkeld early afternoon today

NY 313 257

12th March 2020 (Amanda Chartres)

Merrivale Quarry, Dartmoor

Male Ring Ouzel seen today, 12 March 2020, at Merrivale Quarry, SX546753, Dartmoor.

Winter sightings (2019/2020)

21st February 2020 (Jane Burke)

Greenwich Naval College, London

Saw three or four (?) ring ouzels grass-feeding with redwings on open grass near Thames in grounds of Greenwich Naval College, London, on 18th February 2020. This was my second sighting of flock of migrating redwings around here. Had clear white breast marking, roughly crescent-shaped, plus speckled white edges to wings and underparts.

Behaviour looked like feeding blackbirds and blackbird sized, but in definite group with redwings.

On 20th February 2020 saw four (?) ring ouzels perching on top of hawthorn and wild rose bushes on small area of thick scrub on waste ground (fenced-off, abandoned garden) near Penge East Station, South London. Again black heads and white chests noticeable, plus white edges to wings and faint speckled effect below. Did not see clearly in flight. Bushes inhabited by flock of sparrows all year and by passing starlings at times. These birds flew on quickly and were not feeding.

I know these sights might not be correct but please let me know if you think very unlikely. I would not expect to see these birds around here but am aware they migrate in and are seen around the South - East of England especially the coast when migrating.

Have studied pictures of leucistic blackbirds and think it was definitely white breast rather than throat (as noted effect of black cap over head and neck), plus definitely black and white edges to wing feathers.

Would be grateful to know if you think these sightings could be correct!

24th January 2020 (Matt Eade)

Cuckmere Haven, East Sussex

Between 24th January - 31st January 2020 a single 1w Male Ring Ouzel was at Cuckmere Haven, East Sussex (TV 511,986). Observed on various days during this period and seen by many observers.

17th January 2020 (Ann Pearl)

Verwood, Dorset

My husband and I were walking in MOORS VALLEY COUNTRY PARK, near Verwood, Dorset today, 17/01/20 at about 2:45 pm when we saw what we believe is a Ring Ouzel. We got a couple of photographs and have compared them to various photographs on birding web sites which seem to confirm that it was a RING OUZEL. We first saw it on an open footpath and from there it went into the growth, shrubs / trees at the side of the footpath, The ground was extremely wet, muddy with standing water. The bird appeared to be pecking into the wet ground and turning over leaves etc. From what I can gather RING OUZELS should not be here at this time of the year but I am confident that this is what we saw.

16th January 2020 (Adrian Roach)

Pitstone Hill, Bucks

Male Ring Ouzel present for at least a month at Pitstone Hill, Bucks

12th January 2020 (Jim Craigie)

Cramlington, Northumberland

This morning, just before mid day, a female ring ouzel was even in my back garden perched in the hawthorn hedge. I was very surprised to see it, as I thought they would not be around in Northumberland until later in the year. Seen in Cramlington, Northumberland.

12th January 2020 (Renee Bligh)

Burscough, West Lancs

I saw a blackbird with a white fluffy collar in mid December. It came from beneath a shrub in my garden . I did not want to get up and take a photo because I was sure that it would fly away. I told my husband to look at it because I wanted to be sure that I was not dreaming. Eventually, one of the black birds flew aggressively towards it and it flew off.

I live in Burscough, West Lancs. on the edge of Yew Tree farm which is now being turned into a massive housing estate and Business Estate. It is flat and susceptible to flooding. It is not the right environment ,or time of year, for the Ring Ouzel

I feel privileged to have seen one.

29th December 2019 (Terry Coleman)

Aber Valley, Conwy

Today in the Aber Valley on the way to Llyn Anafon, Conwy. On the rocky scree to the left as you walk up the valley, EXACTLY where I usually see a pair of ring ouzels, year in year out. A female, alarm calling at me from approx. 20 - 25 metres away, and half way up the rocky, gorsy, bracken scree. What a surprise. Is it possible that this one has not migrated?

21st December 2019 (Michael Bird)

Pitstone Hill, Chilterns

Arriving at Pitstone Hill (SP954149) in the Chilterns at 09.35 on a bright sunny day I noticed the bird flying towards me chacking as it flew. It was probably no more than 20metres from me. It was a male and it flew into a Hawthorn Bush where I could focus my Binoculars (Zeiss 10x42 HF Victory) onto it. I could see the white gorgette clearly. I am very familiar with Ring Ouzels having seen them several times before on the Ivinghoe Beacon and elsewhere.

Nearby was a single Redwing and a pair of Stonechats.

I watched the bird for a couple of minutes before moving on.

I'm aware that this is an unusual sighting for the time of year.