

CLOPHILL
Bird Trail

1 The High Street

At any time of the year the common garden and hedgerow birds can be seen just about anywhere on the route, **Blue and Great Tits, Chaffinches, Goldfinchs and Greenfinchs, Blackbirds, Dunnocks, Robins and Wrens. Collared Doves and Wood Pigeons** are often seen on overhead wires, as are **Starlings and Jackdaws** (the latter two species also being fond of roofs and chimneys in the breeding season – they seem to favour properties in the High Street). **House Sparrows** form colonies often near older properties including some in the High Street and Great Lane. **Swifts** often form “screaming parties” in summer over the High Street and Cainhoe Road.

Some water birds (**Moorhens, Mute Swans, Mallards**) can sometimes be seen from the High Street on the Flit mill stream.

Kingfishers can also be seen here, especially in gardens with bird feeders.



Robin
 (erithacus rubecula)



Blue Tit
 (cyanistes caeruleus)

2 Apple Orchard, Great Lane

Coal Tits and **Goldcrests** are fairly abundant. They prefer the conifers near the Apple Orchard but are often difficult to spot.

Carrion Crows, Rooks and Magpies are often seen in the open fields of the Apple Orchard. Both **Great Spotted** and **Green Woodpeckers** are fairly common, the former often come to garden bird feeders, but the latter are more likely to be seen digging for ant larvae in open grassy fields such as the Apple Orchard.

In autumn and winter Clophill’s resident birds are joined by over-wintering **Redwings** and **Fieldfares**. These often form small mixed flocks on the lookout for trees and shrubs with berries; when the berries are depleted they tend to frequent open fields such as the Apple Orchard.



3 Old Church

Bullfinches are more likely in the hedgerows and overgrown areas such as near the Old Church.

House Martins in summer are now rarer in Clophill but are sometimes seen feeding on the wing over the Greensand Ridge.

If you are lucky, various birds of prey can be seen, including

Kestrels (especially near the Old Church), **Sparrowhawks** (often on high speed runs near bird feeders) and, increasingly

Buzzards. The latter are often seen soaring on thermals in the warmer months. **Red Kites** are seen regularly.

Barn Owls can be seen at dawn and dusk hunting and **Little Owls** have been seen in the past from the Old Church.



Buzzard
 (buteo buteo)

4 Great Lane Fields

Barn Owls are often seen hunting in the “Great Lane fields”.

In spring and summer, many species of **Warblers**

(Chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers, Blackcaps, Garden Warblers, Whitethroats and Lesser Whitethroats)

arrive to breed. Good habitats are the hedgerows around Great Lane and Kiln Lane, and the scrub in “Great Lane fields”.

A Grasshopper warblers has been heard (but not yet seen!) in the same location.

5 Pedley & Chicksands Woods

Tawny Owls can sometimes be heard hooting. They are probably resident in Pedley and Chicksands Woods.

6 A6 Quarry

The **Spotted flycatchers** are in steep decline but might be seen in the copse by the A6 quarry.



Spotted Flycatcher
(muscapa striata)



Tawny Owl
(strix aluco)

Lisa King Photography

Other Birds.....



Long-Tailed Tits - are easy to see in the autumn and winter when they form roving parties and visit gardens; they often disappear in the summer.

Song & Mistle Thrushes - are present all year but are more obvious from spring onwards when they often perch in trees to sing.

Yellowhammers & Linnets - are most likely to be seen in the arable fields and hedgerows.

Siskins - often appear at garden feeders in the winter.

Bramblings - may be seen within Chaffinch flocks in winter.

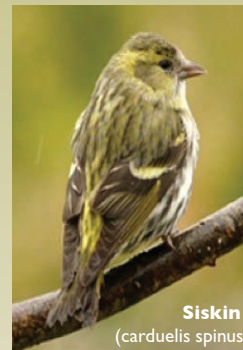
Cuckoos - are more often heard than seen.

Sskylarks - although resident all year, are more likely to be seen from spring onwards, singing high above arable fields.

Waxwings and Pheasants - often visit the churchyard



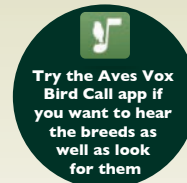
Song Thrush
(turdus philomelos)



Siskin
(carduelis spinus)

In recent surveys for the Bedfordshire Bird Club and the British Trust for Ornithology, a total of 65 species has been logged in the area covered by this circular walk.

Roger Christopher - Wildlife Trust



Goldcrest

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By Clophill Heritage Trust

