

## Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* in Ashton-under-Hill

Roger Umpelby

Late morning on Thursday 15 March 2018, I was alerted by a neighbour of a 'parrot' in a cherry tree between our gardens. It turned out to be a Ring-necked Parakeet which subsequently stayed in the two gardens for some time, periodically feeding on sunflower hearts from bird-feeders. The bird was cautious of people, and the neighbour's dogs, but seemed unfazed by quite a wide range of other wild birds nearby. The bird disappeared after about 30 minutes and, despite alerting others in the village, has not been reported since (over a week at the time of writing).



01. Ring-necked Parakeet in Ashton under Hill 15 March 2018.  
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According to the RSPB, this species was first recorded breeding in the UK in 1969 in south-east London and now breeds throughout London and other parts of south-east England with an estimated 8600 pairs. Although not recorded as breeding elsewhere, individual birds have been recorded in many counties, including in eastern Wales and the Scottish Borders. Although many, or perhaps most, records are probably of wild birds moving from their main breeding area, some records may be escapees from captivity.

At Harry Green's suggestion I contacted Steven Payne (the county bird recorder for West Midlands Bird Club) and he kindly sent me records of this species for Worcestershire. The first confirmed record was of a single bird in 1984 and from then until 2000 there were only 9 records. Records remained low until 2008 and from then on there have been records every year, with numbers peaking in 2016 and 2017, each with 8 records each year. It is thought that some of the sightings were of the same bird, but that was not possible to check. Six of the records were from Upton Warren, and several were from the Pershore area.

Interestingly two of the last 2017 records were from Evesham; firstly on 01 December in the north of the town, and secondly on 10 December about 2km away to the south. A further sighting was recorded on 22 January 2018, again in the south of Evesham, only

about 300m from the 10 December record. Given that the 22 January record is only about 6km from Ashton-under-Hill to the north-east, and recently the prevailing winds had been north-easterly to easterly, could it be that this latest record is the same bird as recorded in Evesham?

### Acknowledgement:

Special thanks are due to Steven Payne for sharing his comprehensive records of this species.

### References:

RSPB: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/ring-necked-parakeet>  
Steven Payne; personal communication