



Bunkers Park

Butterflies

The creation of Bunkers Park provides a great opportunity to enhance the habitats for birds. Different species of birds have different feeding and nesting requirements. Some birds are seed feeding, some feed on berries and some such as owls feed on small mammals. Some nest in the hollows of trees, others within hedgerows and some such as the Skylark nest on the ground.

When creating the park, the requirements of bird species were taken into account. Regular monitoring of the bird populations has established which birds use the park.

Larger birds, Kestrels (*Falco tinnunculus*), Green Woodpeckers (*Picus viridis*), Greater Spotted Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos major*) and Tawny Owls (*Strix aluco*) have been observed utilising the mature trees which exist on Bunkers Park

Finches and buntings can be seen foraging along hedges, field margins and grasslands along with Blue Tits (*Parus caeruleus*) and Great Tits (*Parus major*). A nationally declining bird the Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) is also known to breed in the park. This species is known to breed in trees or bushes for nesting. Song thrushes nest throughout a long season with nests usually within 2 metres of the ground.

Another nationally declining species the Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) is also known to breed in the Park. Skylarks are a ground nesting bird which typically use areas grassland.

The grasslands also provide food for seed eating birds and food in the form of insects. In addition they also support small mammals, which provide prey for the owls and kestrels using Bunkers Park.

Other bird species observed breeding within the park include: Blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*), Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*), Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) and Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*).