

Name: **Marsh warbler**
Acrocephalus palustris

UK status: [UK BAP Priority](#). Rapid recent decline. BoCC Amber List.

London status: Rare breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

Protected status:

- W&CA, S.1 (1-5, Schedule 1)
- Bern Convention, Appendix II

‘Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England’ (CRoW Act, 2000)

Relevant London HAPs: Rivers and Streams; Reedbeds; Wasteland

Citation:

A summer visitor to the UK, the marsh warbler is a rare breeding bird that disappeared from its former strongholds in the West Midlands over the last decade. It is currently recorded most frequently in the southeast of England, and the bird may be staging a slow comeback here at the edge of its European range. Possibly due to elevated observer effort, Greater London has seen an increasingly regular presence of this species in recent years. Most breeding pairs turn up in eastern boroughs north of the River Thames, in sites such as the Ingrebourne Valley (LB Havering). Given the species’ infidelity to breeding sites it is difficult to make special provision for its conservation, although the strict legal protection from any disturbance whilst breeding requires site managing authorities to carefully manage observation by birdwatchers whenever it does make an appearance.



Conservation priorities:

- Monitor and protect all suspected breeding pairs
- Maintain adequate undisturbed tall herb stands in successional management units associated with river valleys

[Both address UK SAP target T1]

References:

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