

**Name:****Tree sparrow***Passer montanus***UK status:**

[UK BAP Priority](#). Rapid recent decline. BoCC Red Listed.

**London status:**

Rare, localised breeding resident

**Protected status:**

- W&CA S.1(1-3); general protection from intentional killing, injury and catching, possession, and nest destruction.
- ‘Species of principal importance for the conservation of biological diversity in England’ (CRoW Act, 2000)

**Relevant London HAPs:**

Wasteland; Farmland

**Citation:**

Nationally, the tree sparrow crashed in numbers between the late 1970’s and ‘80s. So much so that its distribution has contracted substantially, resulting in much local extinction. The reasons are likely to be similar to those behind the decline of many other herbivorous birds relying heavily on marginal farmland habitats. In London a single breeding colony involving significant numbers remains at Beddington sewage works in LB Sutton. A few pairs may also be present in the Ingrebourne and Lea river valleys. A small population has been displaced by the new Terminal 5 at Heathrow airport. The Beddington population is subject to concentrated local conservation efforts and now appears to be stable, at around 50 pairs.



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**Conservation priorities:**

- Continue to monitor Beddington population
- Continue to deploy nest boxes and feeders at Beddington and wherever any further birds noted
- Farmland biodiversity conservation practices [All address UK SAP targets **T1**, **T2**]

**References:**

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