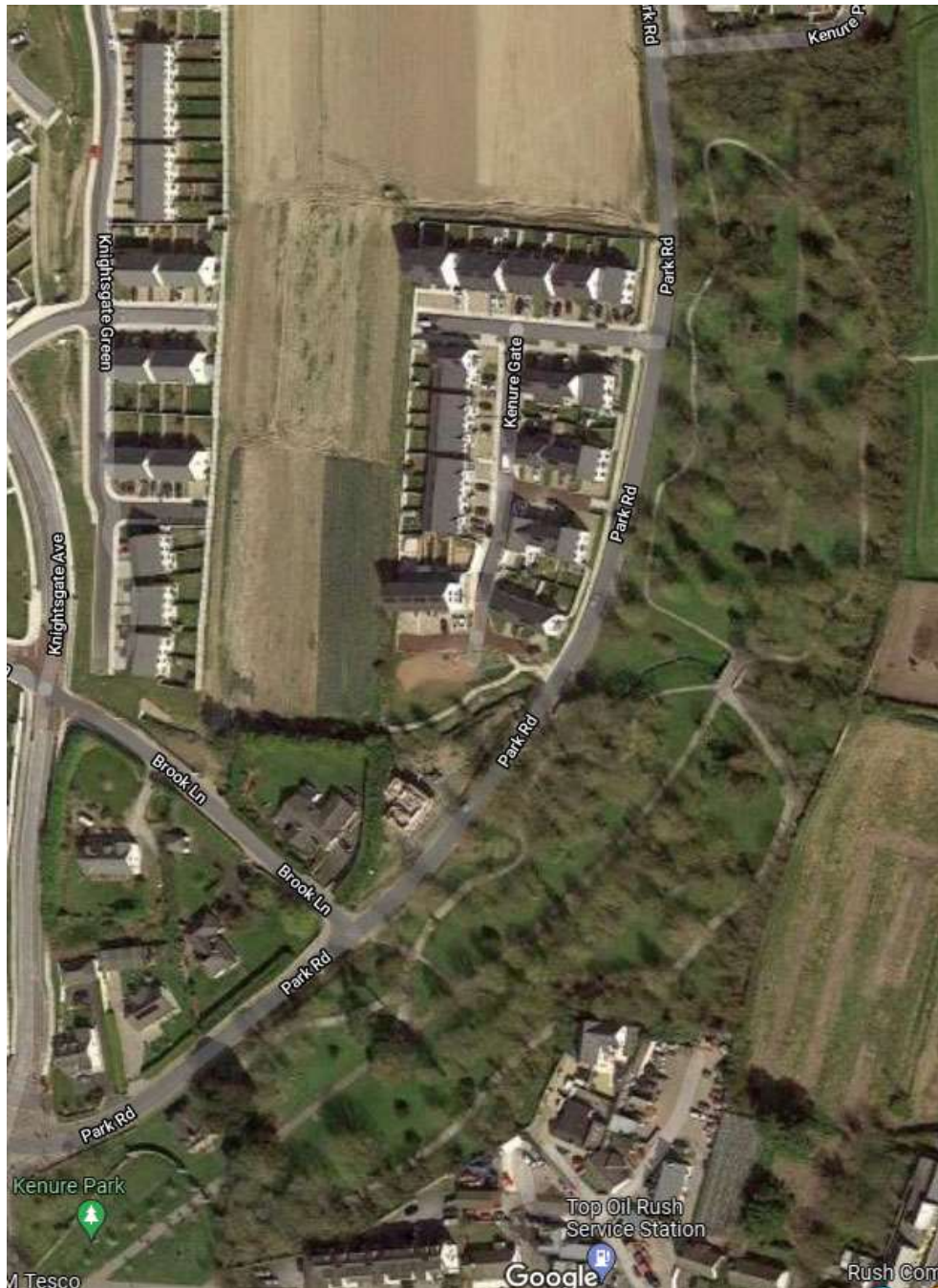


Kenure Woods Bird Survey 2021

Introduction

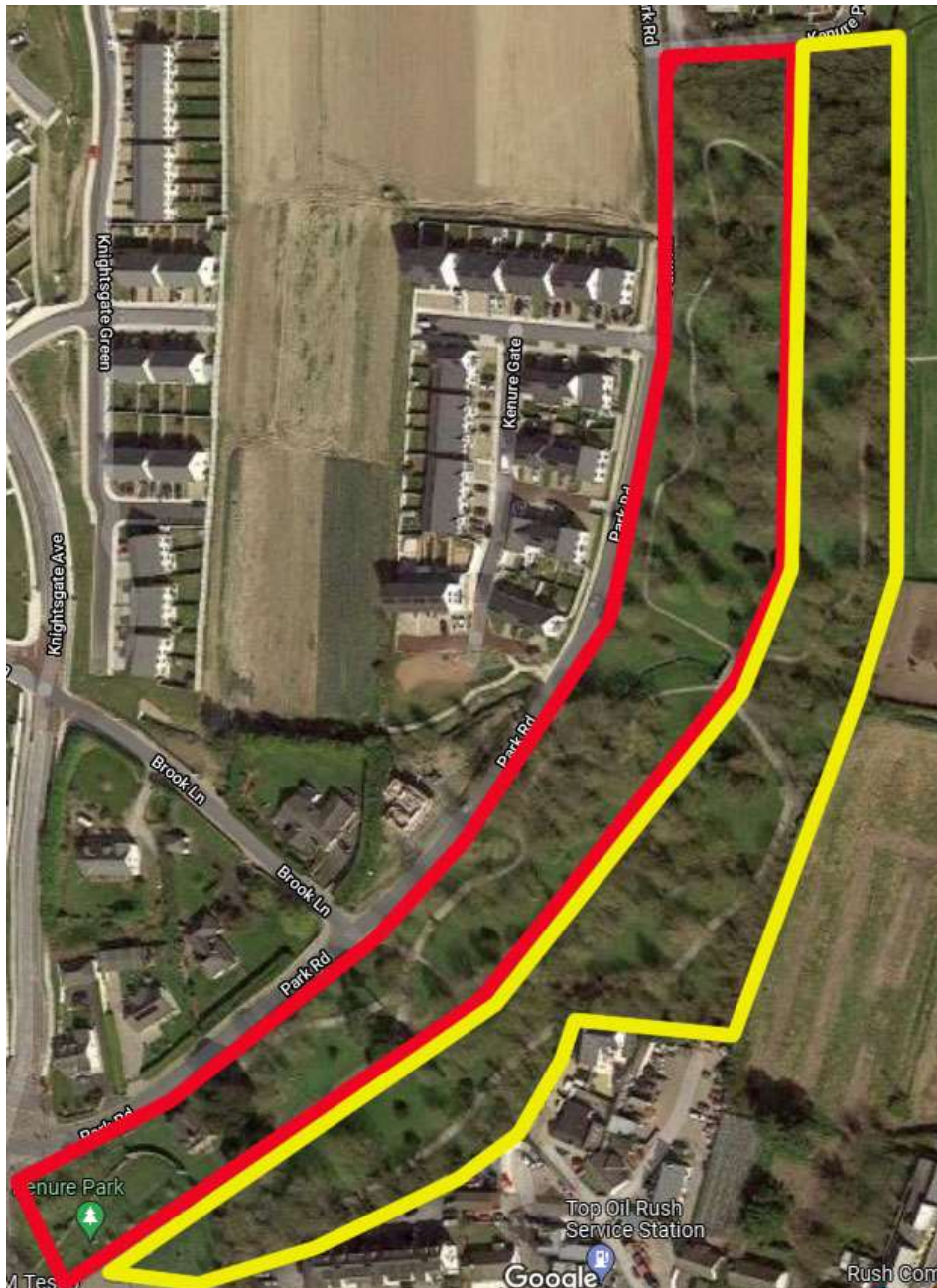
Kenure Woods is a small open park which consists of typical parkland mix of trees, hedgerow and grass. There is a small amount of undergrowth mostly at the North end, the remainder is mainly covered in grass, which up to recently was regularly mowed. Now some sections are allowed to grow wild. The park is approximately 11 acres(4.45Ha) in size and measures about 90m wide by 490m long and is curved in shape and divided in the centre by the Brook Stream.



It has a paved path running down the centre and a gravel figure of eight path around the edges.

It's a popular walking route for people from the nearby estates going to and from the town and is used by dog walkers, cyclists and people exercising as well as families with young children.

As a regular user of the park, I had a good idea of what species were present and this survey was a one-off count of species and numbers at an optimal time of year when the birds are establishing territories and proclaiming them through song. The survey took place between 5.15 and 6.00 am on the 15th May 2021. It was a dry day, with cloud cover, very little breeze, and good visibility. The park was divided into two transects, one either side of the paved path. Each transect was walked and all birds seen and heard were recorded.



Transect 1 (red), Transect 2 (yellow)

Results

Below is a list of the total number of birds recorded in the survey. A total of 20 species were recorded. Other species such as Moorhen, Little Egret and Sparrowhawk, among others occasionally use the park but were not recorded during the survey and do not breed in it. Buzzards are regularly seen flying overhead. It should be noted that only males sing at this time of year so in cases where birds were detected and identified by song the numbers may be undercounted as females may have been present but not seen.

	Transect 1	Transect 2	Total
Woodpigeon	11	14	25
Collard Dove	2	2	4
Wren	4	5	9
Dunnock		2	2
Robin	1	2	3
Blackbird	7	2	9
Song Thrush	3	3	6
Mistle Thrush	2	3	5
Blackcap		1	1
Goldcrest		2	2
Blue Tit	2	1	3
Great Tit	1	1	2
Hooded Crow		1	1
Magpie		2	2
Starling	1		1
Chaffinch	4	1	5
Goldfinch	5	1	6
Herring Gull		4	4
Rook(pairs)	27	14	41
Jackdaw	13		13

Table 1: Shows the number of species recorded in the survey.

Rooks established a small rookery at the northern end of the park over 10 years ago and it has been gradually growing since, with 27 pairs nesting. There is now a smaller rookery on the south-eastern end containing 14 nests. With a total of 82 individuals (based on number of nests) this is the most abundant species in the park. Jackdaws nest in tree hollows and in buildings, but there is probably no more than 2 or 3 pairs nesting in the wood. The others most likely nest nearby.

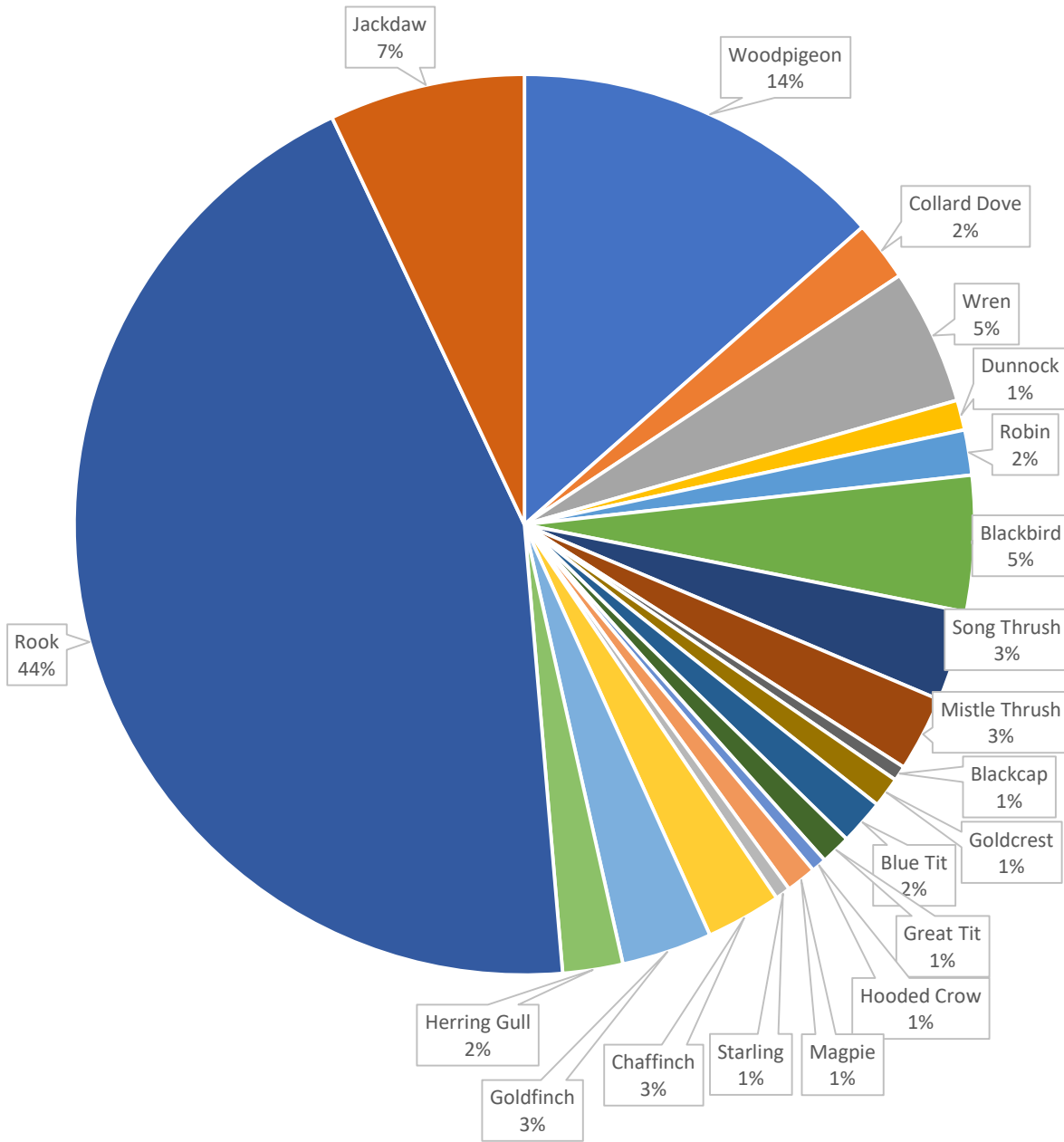
Woodpigeon are the second most abundant species, comprising of 14% of the total birds.

The Herring Gull were feeding on food discarded along the path and do not breed in the wood.

The other species are all typical park/woodland birds, and their abundance is reflected by the size of the park and how many territories it can hold.

All were seen or were in song and therefore are probably breeding. One pair of Mistle Thrush were observed feeding recently fledged chicks.

Bird Species Recorded



- | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| ■ Woodpigeon | ■ Collard Dove | ■ Wren | ■ Dunnock | ■ Robin |
| ■ Blackbird | ■ Song Thrush | ■ Mistle Thrush | ■ Blackcap | ■ Goldcrest |
| ■ Blue Tit | ■ Great Tit | ■ Hooded Crow | ■ Magpie | ■ Starling |
| ■ Chaffinch | ■ Goldfinch | ■ Herring Gull | ■ Rook | ■ Jackdaw |

Discussion:

The park is an invaluable **green oasis** for both the local human population and wildlife in an increasingly urbanised area.

The birds recorded in the survey represents a reasonably **varied population** of the more common species of Irish passerine birds.

The growth of the **human population** is naturally increasing the pressure on the park and its habitats. **Respect** for the park and its regulation are vital for its long-term viability both as a recreational venue for local residents and a safe home for nature. With that local interest an increasing human population can contribute to the **protection** of the park and its environs.

The practice of leaving some areas of grass uncut by the council is to be encouraged as it helps insect life and the biodiversity of the park.

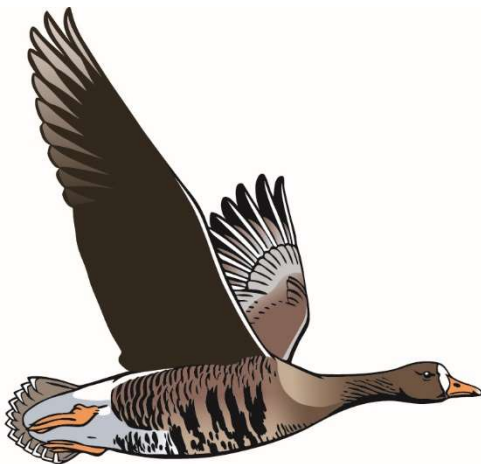
There are no ground nesting birds in the park therefore the only disturbance caused by **dogs walked** off the leash is to ones that are feeding on the ground.

Cats preying birds in the park from the nearby estates are also a problem for nesting birds.

Litter is generally cosmetic and is regularly cleaned up by Rush Tidy Town volunteers.

Paul Lynch

May 2021



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