

Species data curation

Data validation and verification

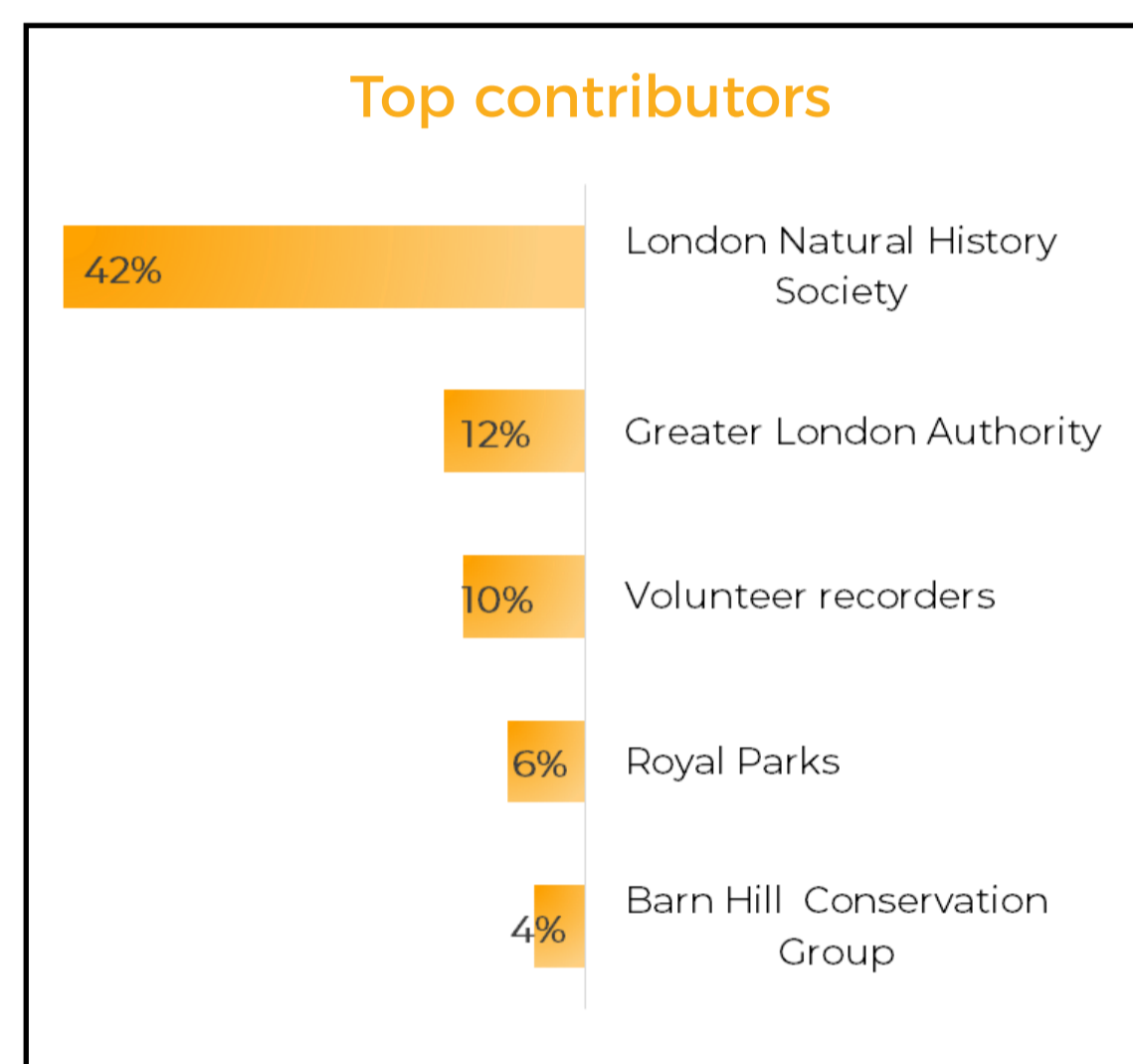


Where does our species data come from?

We receive species data from a wide range of sources, including boroughs and ecologists but the largest number come from our wide range of volunteer recorders.

The majority of our volunteer data comes in from the London Natural History Society, a group of expert recorders and verifiers, who provide us with regular species data.

We also collect data from our web forms and receive regular data from a number of other volunteers and volunteering groups. For many, GiGL is a reservoir for their entire species records.

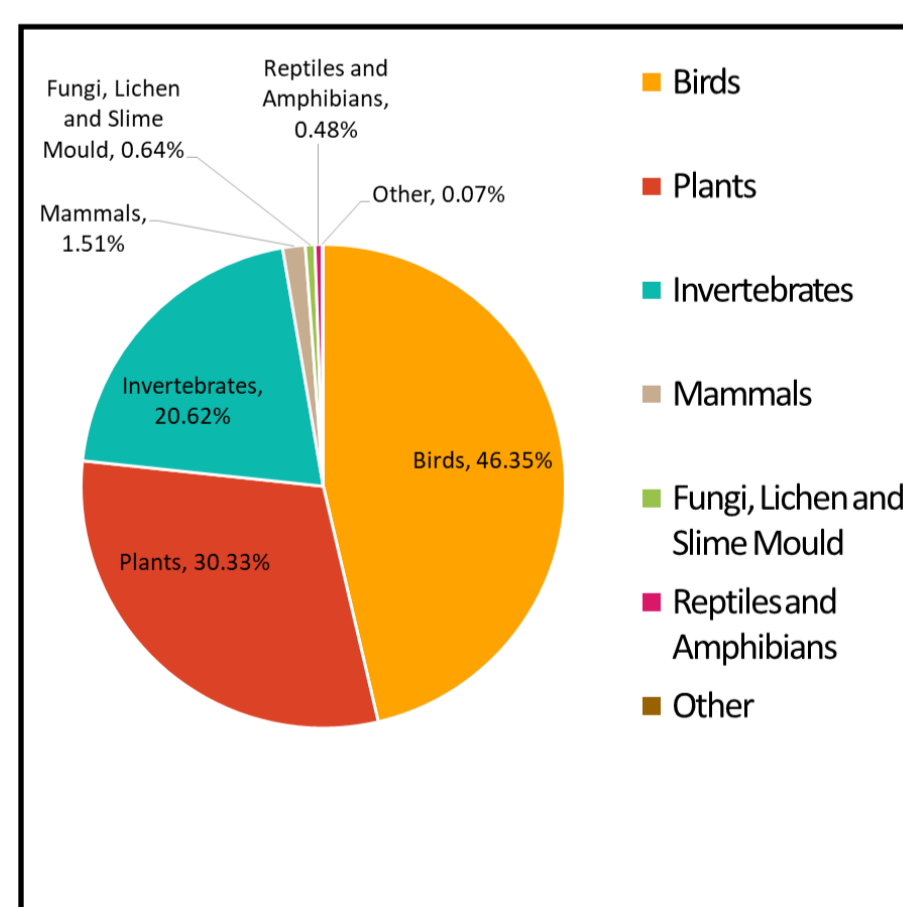
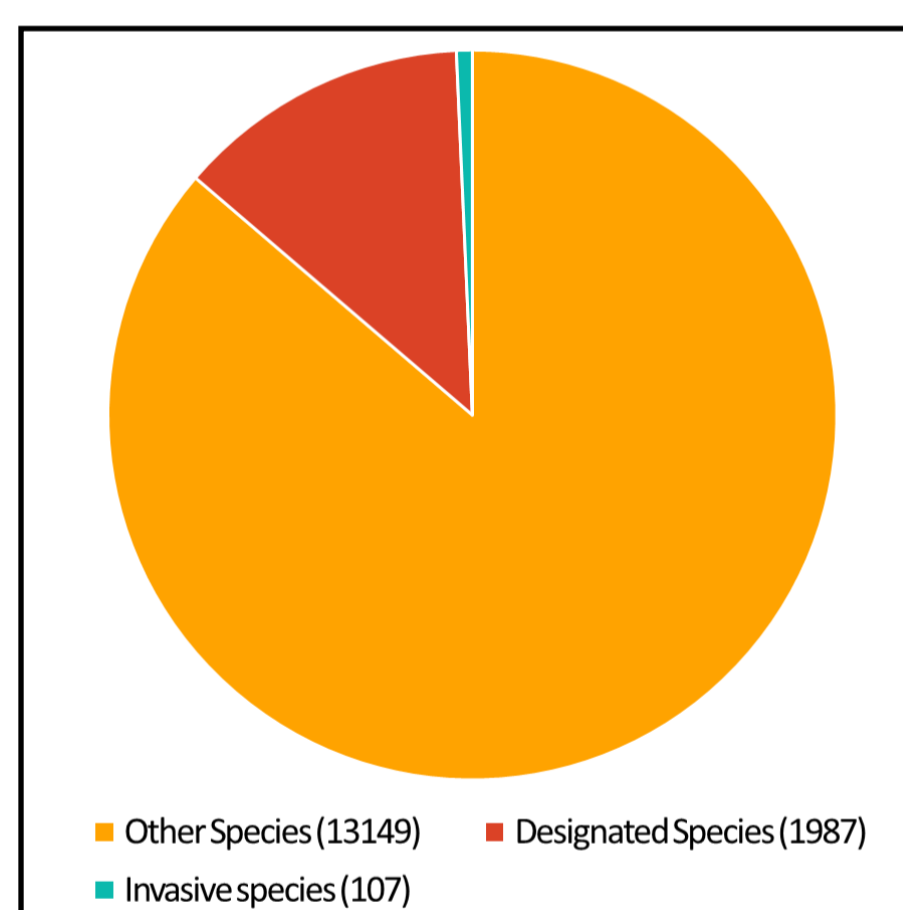


Species breakdown

London is home to over 15,000 species, these fall into three categories: Designated, Invasive and Other.

Designated species are species that are afforded a degree of protection eg London BAP; Invasive species are listed on the London Invasive Species Index and Other includes any species that have no afforded protection or invasive species status.

Of our species records, birds are the largest group. A big part of this are the LNHS bird surveys, we receive these every year and each survey can be as much as 250,000 records. Plants, the second largest group are also enthusiastically recorded by the LNHS.



Why validate and verify data?

Data validation is the carrying out of standardised, often automated checks on the completeness, accuracy of transmission and validity of the content of a record. Data validation is usually done at the point of importing data, focusing on the 'who', 'where' and 'when' of a record.

The aim of data verification is to ensure the accuracy of the species identification and takes place after the validation process.

Due to the many different sources that supply GiGL with data, verification and validation is extremely important to maintain accurate and good quality data.



Data validation

There are 5 key considerations when validating data:

- Know the source of the data
- Different datasets will need different approaches
- Automate/standardise validation processes
- Validate data in different areas and at different granularity and scale
- Welcome feedback on the quality of the data



Data Verification

- All our verifiers are experts in their fields
- Verifiers assess the species, location, date and recorder details of a record and assign a verification tag from category 2 in the below table
- Records arriving from verifiers or other experts are tagged as verified on arrival at GiGL
- Not all of our data can be verified due to the labour intensive nature of the task and so certain species

3,661,691

Species records in London

2,306,734

Verified records

63%

of Records are verified

As of 10/01/2020

