

**DECEMBER 2019 BIRD NOTES**

**Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Red-necked Grebe, Great Egret, Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Geese, Water Rail, Jack Snipe and Cetti's Warbler.**

The juvenile Great Northern Diver from last month remained and was joined by what is probably the long returning adult on 16<sup>th</sup>. Water bird maxima come from the WeBS survey on 14<sup>th</sup> unless stated: 24 Little Grebe, 50 Great Crested Grebe on 28<sup>th</sup>, a Red-necked Grebe on 30<sup>th</sup>, 32 Cormorant on 31<sup>st</sup>, a Great Egret on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 3 Grey Heron on 7<sup>th</sup>, 4 Mute Swan on 24<sup>th</sup>, 9 Whooper Swan on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 200 Pink-footed Geese on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 22 Greylag Geese on 30<sup>th</sup>, 210 Canada Geese on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 21 Barnacle Geese on 31<sup>st</sup>, 2 Ruddy Shelduck on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 Shelduck on 10<sup>th</sup>, 97 Wigeon on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 38 Gadwall on 30<sup>th</sup>, 61 Teal on 24<sup>th</sup>, 129 Mallard on 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 Pintail on 3 dates, 6 Shoveler on 16<sup>th</sup>, 429 Pochard on 7<sup>th</sup>, 163 Tufted Duck, 15 Goldeneye, 10 Goosander on 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 Water Rail on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 6 Moorhen and 623 Coot.

Raptor records included 2 Sparrowhawk on 3 dates, 6 Buzzard on 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 Kestrel on 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and Peregrine on 4 dates.

Waders recorded this month included: 30 Golden Plover on 9<sup>th</sup>, 670 Lapwing on 16<sup>th</sup>, a Ruff on 20<sup>th</sup>, a Jack Snipe all month from 7<sup>th</sup>, 40 Snipe on 7<sup>th</sup>, 4 Woodcock on 3 dates and 3 Redshank on 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

Roosting Gull peaks were: 11,000 Black-headed on 7<sup>th</sup>, 2,000 Common on 31<sup>st</sup> and 760 Lesser Black-backed on 29<sup>th</sup>. Other Gulls noted were 4 Herring on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 Yellow-legged on 31<sup>st</sup> and 4 Great Black-backed also on 31<sup>st</sup>.

Eight Tawny Owl were calling at the Hopton end on 28<sup>th</sup>, Kingfisher were seen regularly with 2 on 16<sup>th</sup> and 8 Great Spotted Woodpecker were counted on the west side on 30<sup>th</sup>. Counts of passerines included: 18 Wren and 15 Dunnock on 28<sup>th</sup>, 33 Blackbird on 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 Fieldfare on 18<sup>th</sup>, 8 Song Thrush on 9<sup>th</sup> and 350 Redwing on 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Cetti's Warbler from last month remained to 24<sup>th</sup> at least and there were 3 over-wintering Chiffchaff around site. Other counts made this month were 26 Long-tailed Tit on 29<sup>th</sup>, 7 Willow Tit on 10<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 Coal Tit on 30<sup>th</sup>, 40 Blue Tit on 28<sup>th</sup>, 25 Great Tit on 30<sup>th</sup>, 6 Nuthatch and 7 Treecreeper both on 30<sup>th</sup>. Corvids were represented by 1,000 Jackdaw on 26<sup>th</sup>, 82 Rook on 16<sup>th</sup>, 18 Carrion Crow on 30<sup>th</sup> and 4 Raven on 1<sup>st</sup>. Forty House Sparrow were around the Visitor Centre on 28<sup>th</sup> and 12 Tree Sparrow were present on 16<sup>th</sup>. Finches included: 18 Chaffinch on 30<sup>th</sup>, a single Brambling on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 11 Greenfinch on 17<sup>th</sup>, 135 Goldfinch and 75 Siskin on 29<sup>th</sup>, a Linnet on 1<sup>st</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 40 Lesser Redpoll on 4<sup>th</sup> and 16 Bullfinch on 30<sup>th</sup>. Ten Reed Bunting were calling from the Hopton reed bed on 3<sup>rd</sup>.

93 species recorded compared with 87 in 2019, 92 in 2017, 95 in 2016, 93 in 2015 and 91 in 2014.

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## **NOVEMBER 2019 BIRD NOTES**

Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Geese, Scaup, Common Scoter, Water Rail, Woodcock, Ruff, Jack Snipe, Cetti's Warbler and Yellowhammer.

November 2019 was a month of almost continuous rainfall, but hardy birders managed some good records including: a juvenile Great Northern Diver from 2<sup>nd</sup> to the month-end and the site's second record of Cetti's Warbler. Maximum water bird counts come from the WeBS survey on 17<sup>th</sup> unless stated: 31 Little Grebe, 45 Great Crested Grebe, 20 Cormorant on 29<sup>th</sup>, a Little Egret, 3 Grey Heron on 10<sup>th</sup>, 4 Mute Swan on 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 3 Whooper Swan on 13<sup>th</sup>, 150 Pink-footed Geese on 6<sup>th</sup> (and at least 7 other skeins during the month), 26 Greylag Geese on 29<sup>th</sup>, 170 Canada Geese on 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 Barnacle Geese on several dates, a drake Mandarin on 12<sup>th</sup>, 62 Wigeon on 11<sup>th</sup>, 22 Gadwall, 78 Teal, 108 Mallard, a Pintail on three dates, 2 Shoveler on 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 Red-crested Pochard on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 314 Pochard (highest count for almost 6 years), 159 Tufted Duck, a juvenile Scaup on 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 Common Scoter on 18<sup>th</sup>, 15 Goldeneye, 6 Goosander on 26<sup>th</sup>, 2 Water Rail on 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 8 Moorhen and 647 Coot.

Raptors of note this month included 3 Sparrowhawk on 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 Buzzard on 20<sup>th</sup>, 3 Kestrel on 27<sup>th</sup> and Peregrine on three dates.

Wader highlights included: a Golden Plover on 13<sup>th</sup>, 350 Lapwing on 16<sup>th</sup>, a Dunlin on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 4 Ruff on 20<sup>th</sup>, a Jack Snipe on 19<sup>th</sup>, 60 Common Snipe on 11<sup>th</sup>, 3 Woodcock on 12<sup>th</sup> and 4 Redshank on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Gulls were not widely reported but included: 10,000 Black-headed on 28<sup>th</sup>, 932 Common on 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 Herring on 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 Yellow-legged on several occasions and 2 Great Black-backed on 29<sup>th</sup>.

Wood Pigeon movements, usually associated with November, were hardly noted with the maximum being 495 on 29<sup>th</sup>. Six Tawny Owl were calling on 10<sup>th</sup> and 3 Kingfisher were reported during the WeBS survey on 17<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-five Skylark moved through on 17<sup>th</sup>, 10 Meadow Pipit were present on 16<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and winter thrushes passing over site included 190 Fieldfare and 2,480 Redwing on 21<sup>st</sup>. The site's second Cetti's Warbler was found on 2<sup>nd</sup> and it remained all month, the only other warbler being single Chiffchaff on 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Other counts and notable records this month included: 7 Goldcrest, 26 Long-tailed Tit, 7 Willow Tit, 4 Coal Tit, 16 Blue Tit, 50 Rook, 4 Raven, 500 Starling, 60 House Sparrow, 21 Tree Sparrow, 16 Chaffinch, single Brambling on two separate dates, 11 Greenfinch, 153 Goldfinch, 30 Siskin, 12 Lesser Redpoll, 18 Bullfinch and a site scarce Yellowhammer, which flew over on 20<sup>th</sup>.

95 species recorded compared with 93 in 2018, 101 in 2017, 99 in 2016, 101 in 2015 and 96 in 2014.

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## **OCTOBER 2019 BIRD NOTES**

**Highlights: Slavonian Grebe, Manx Shearwater, Great Egret, Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Geese, Common Scoter, Water Rail, Grey Phalarope, Long-tailed Skua, Mediterranean Gull, Caspian Gull, Arctic Tern, Black Tern, Rock Pipit and Stonechat.**

A very exciting month drew plenty of observers to the reservoir and there are four county rarity records to be considered by the county rare birds committee! A Manx Shearwater, found on the morning of 21<sup>st</sup>, became the 5<sup>th</sup> site record although it was fortunate to escape the attention of a hunting Peregrine later in the day. Water bird maxima come from the Webs survey on 12<sup>th</sup> unless stated otherwise: 20 Little Grebe, 38 Great Crested Grebe, a much admired Slavonian Grebe from 4<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> at least, 40 Cormorant on 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 Little Egret on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Great Egret on 24<sup>th</sup>, 4 Grey Heron on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 18 Mute Swan on 14<sup>th</sup>, 40 Whooper Swan on 21<sup>st</sup>, 300 Pink-footed Geese on 9<sup>th</sup>, 203 Greylag Geese on 5<sup>th</sup>, 148 Canada Geese on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 Barnacle Geese on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 Shelduck on 7<sup>th</sup>, 50 Wigeon on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23 Gadwall, 65 Teal on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 142 Mallard, a Pintail on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 5 Shoveler on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 201 Pochard on 26<sup>th</sup>, 147 Tufted Duck, single Common Scoter on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 Goldeneye on 29<sup>th</sup>, a single Goosander, a Water Rail on 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 Moorhen and 750 Coot.

The main raptor records were: 3 Sparrowhawk on 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 Buzzard on 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 Kestrel on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and 3 sightings of Peregrine.

Wader records were thin on the ground with just 7 species noted including: single Golden Plover on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 88 Lapwing on 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 Dunlin on 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 24 Snipe on 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 Redshank on 16<sup>th</sup>, single Common Sandpiper on 3 dates and a bit of quality in the form of a Grey Phalarope on 4<sup>th</sup> which became the 9<sup>th</sup> site record.

A small Skua species, seen near Flat Island on 7<sup>th</sup> in very poor weather conditions was at first considered to be an Arctic. Subsequent examination of photographs however, showed it to be the first site record of Long-tailed Skua, so quite a bonus for the hardy observers to whom thanks go out for their perseverance in identifying this scarce county bird. Gull highlights included: a 1<sup>st</sup> winter Mediterranean Gull on 3 dates mid-month, 5,000 Black-headed Gull on 10<sup>th</sup>, 131 Common Gull on 11<sup>th</sup>, 3,500 Lesser Black-backed Gull on 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 Herring Gull on several dates, 2 different Caspian Gull on 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 Yellow-legged Gull on 16<sup>th</sup>, and 11 Great Black-backed Gull on 10<sup>th</sup>. The only Terns were 3 Arctic Tern on 1<sup>st</sup> and a juvenile Black Tern on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

Five Tawny Owl were calling on 12<sup>th</sup>, Kingfisher were regular with probably 4 different birds noted on 15<sup>th</sup> and 36 Skylark were on the move on 5<sup>th</sup>. The final hirundine records of the month, and most probably the year, were 2 Swallow on 15<sup>th</sup> and 13 House Martin on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meadow Pipits were on the move with 42 noted on 9<sup>th</sup> and the sightings of Rock Pipit on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> were possibly the same individual. Single Stonechat were seen on 15<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 64 Fieldfare flew down the east bank on 29<sup>th</sup> and a count of at least 254 Redwing came on 15<sup>th</sup>. The only remaining warblers were Blackcap and Chiffchaff with the last dates of the month being 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> respectively. Other counts this month were 10+ Goldcrest on 12<sup>th</sup>, 48 Long-tailed Tit on 7<sup>th</sup>, 12 Jay on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 350 Jackdaw on 5<sup>th</sup>, 84 Rook on 10<sup>th</sup>, a massive 47 Raven (site record) on 5<sup>th</sup> including a single flock of 46, 26 Tree Sparrow on 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, a Brambling on 29<sup>th</sup>, 7 Greenfinch on 9<sup>th</sup>, 100 Goldfinch on 4<sup>th</sup>, 32 Siskin on 15<sup>th</sup> and 2 Lesser Redpoll on 12<sup>th</sup>.

103 species recorded this October compared with 106 in 2018, 107 in 2017, 108 in 2016 and 96 in 2015

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## **SEPTEMBER 2019 BIRD NOTES**

**Highlights: Great Egret, Pink-footed Geese, Red-breasted Merganser, Osprey, Merlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Greenshank, Arctic Skua, Arctic Tern and Tree Pipit.**

A below average species count this September but there were still good birds to be seen for those who put in the hours, often in poor conditions! Water bird maxima come from the WeBS count on 15<sup>th</sup> unless stated: 19 Little Grebe on 10<sup>th</sup>, 50 Great Crested Grebe, 44 Cormorant on 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 Little Egret on several dates, the first Great Egret of the year on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 Grey Heron on 10<sup>th</sup>, 14 Mute Swan, 28 Pink-footed Geese on 17<sup>th</sup> (1 down and a skein of 27 Northeast) on 17<sup>th</sup>, 150 Greylag Geese on 25<sup>th</sup>, 1,075 Canada Geese on 17<sup>th</sup>, 30 Barnacle Geese on 19<sup>th</sup>, 15 Wigeon on 10<sup>th</sup>, 20 Gadwall on 1<sup>st</sup>, 31 Teal on 19<sup>th</sup>, 135 Mallard, 13 Pintail on 19<sup>th</sup>, 5 Shoveler on 1<sup>st</sup>, 80 Pochard on 28<sup>th</sup>, 293 Tufted Duck, a female type Red-breasted Merganser on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6 Goosander on 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 Moorhen and 625 Coot.

Raptor reports included 2 Sparrowhawk on several dates, 9 Buzzard on 2<sup>nd</sup>, Osprey on 5 dates, 3 Kestrel on 1<sup>st</sup>, a female Merlin on 7<sup>th</sup>, 2 Hobby on 1<sup>st</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and several Peregrine sightings.

Waders were not plentiful but included: 2 Oystercatcher on 16<sup>th</sup>, a juvenile Ringed Plover on 18<sup>th</sup>, single Golden Plover on 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 97 Lapwing on 15<sup>th</sup>, 2 Dunlin on 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 Snipe on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 Black-tailed Godwit on 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 Curlew on 12<sup>th</sup>, Redshank on 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, a Greenshank on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2 Common Sandpiper on 1<sup>st</sup>.

The main event of the month was surely the 2 pale-phase adult Arctic Skuas which put in an appearance at Millfields on 1<sup>st</sup>, albeit briefly. Gull counts were 600 Black-headed on 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 Common on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4,500 roosting Lesser Black-backed on 10<sup>th</sup>, 5 Yellow-legged on 28<sup>th</sup> and 3 Great Black-backed on 13<sup>th</sup>. A Juvenile Arctic Tern flew through on 18<sup>th</sup>.

A healthy count of 11 Stock Dove was made on 8<sup>th</sup> and Kingfisher were regular, with as many as 4 seen on 15<sup>th</sup>. Skylark were starting to move peaking with 10 over on 30<sup>th</sup>. Hirundines were still in evidence with 3 Sand Martin on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 120 Swallow on 8<sup>th</sup> and 100 House Martin on 10<sup>th</sup> (a pair of which were attending young under the Visitor Centre eaves). There were 3 records of Tree Pipit including our latest ever individual on 18<sup>th</sup> and as the migration season moves into full swing an impressive 1,404 Meadow Pipit flew Southwest in a 2- hour period on 29<sup>th</sup>. Wagtail records included 3 Yellow on 10<sup>th</sup>, 12 Grey on 7<sup>th</sup> and 127 roosting Pied on Watersports on 10<sup>th</sup>. The last Redstart was noted on 12<sup>th</sup> and 3 Wheatear were on the dam on 7<sup>th</sup>. All our common warblers hung on with Sedge Warbler on 18<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Reed Warbler on 12<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 3 Lesser Whitethroat on 3 dates, 2 Common Whitethroat on 16<sup>th</sup>, Garden Warbler on 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 16 Blackcap on 12<sup>th</sup>, 60 Chiffchaff on 12<sup>th</sup> and 3 singing Willow Warbler on 8<sup>th</sup>. Other notable counts were 9 Goldcrest on 12<sup>th</sup>, 4 Spotted Flycatcher from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 4 Jay on 17<sup>th</sup>, 123 Rook on 1<sup>st</sup>, 9 Raven on 10<sup>th</sup>, 70 Starling on 1<sup>st</sup>, 30 Tree Sparrow on 7<sup>th</sup>, 100 Goldfinch on 1<sup>st</sup>, a Siskin on 18<sup>th</sup>, 31 migrating Linnet on 29<sup>th</sup>, the first Lesser Redpoll of the autumn on 29<sup>th</sup> and 11 Bullfinch on 12<sup>th</sup>.

107 species this month compared with 115 in 2018, 117 in 2017, 112 in 2016, 104 in 2015 and 107 in 2014.

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## AUGUST 2019 BIRD NOTES

**Highlights: Common Scoter, Red Kite, Osprey, Sanderling, Black-tailed Godwit, Turnstone, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Black Tern, Tree Pipit, Whinchat and Corn Bunting.**

August is always an interesting month as Wildfowl trickle back and observers keep a look out for passage Terns and Waders. The big surprise though this month must go to the Corn Bunting, briefly on Stones Island, which is the first at the reservoir since 1995! Water bird maxima come from the WeBS survey on 4<sup>th</sup> unless stated: 20 Little Grebe, 47 Great Crested Grebe, 76 Cormorant on 30<sup>th</sup>, 4 Little Egret on 3 dates, 6 Grey Heron on 3 dates, 73 Mute Swan (site record), a Pink-footed Goose on 3 dates, 66 Greylag Geese on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 640 Canada Geese on 30<sup>th</sup>, 4 Barnacle Geese, a Shelduck on 11<sup>th</sup>, 4 Wigeon on 30<sup>th</sup>, 26 Gadwall on 9<sup>th</sup>, at least 32 Teal on 26<sup>th</sup>, 193 Mallard, 2 Pintail on 28<sup>th</sup>, 3 Shoveler on 26<sup>th</sup>, 3 Red-crested Pochard on 30<sup>th</sup>, 11 Pochard on 29<sup>th</sup>, 294 Tufted Duck, 4 Common Scoter on 1<sup>st</sup>, 17 Moorhen and 590 Coot.

Raptors included: 3 Red Kite over Millfields on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Sparrowhawk on 7<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 Buzzard on 29<sup>th</sup>, Osprey on an impressive 10 dates including 2 on 24<sup>th</sup>, 4 Kestrel on 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 Hobby on 9<sup>th</sup> and regular Peregrine sightings.

The last Oystercatcher was seen on 9<sup>th</sup> as they moved out post breeding and other waders included: 2 Little Ringed Plover on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, a Ringed Plover on 10<sup>th</sup>, 71 Lapwing on 31<sup>st</sup>, single Sanderling on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 Dunlin on 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 Snipe on 26<sup>th</sup>, a summer plumage Black-tailed Godwit on 10<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile from 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Curlew on 15<sup>th</sup>, 3 Redshank on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Greenshank on 10<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 Common Sandpiper on 10<sup>th</sup> and 7 Turnstone on 11<sup>th</sup>.

Gull records included a count of 226 Black-headed Gull which included 47 Carsington reared juveniles on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 Common Gull on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Herring Gull on 21<sup>st</sup>, 1730 Lesser Black-backed Gull roosting on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Yellow-legged Gull on 29<sup>th</sup> and 4 Great Black-backed Gull on 7<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. A good selection, if not good numbers, of terns included a Sandwich Tern on 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 Common Tern on 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 Arctic Tern on 29<sup>th</sup> and 2 Black Tern on 24<sup>th</sup>.

A decent count of 8 Stock Dove was made on 13<sup>th</sup> and 18 Swift were over the reservoir on 21<sup>st</sup> (with the odd individual lingering to the month-end). Kingfisher were reported from several areas, mainly Brown Ale Bay and Millfields, with possibly as many as 4 birds present on 11<sup>th</sup>, though they are mobile. Hirundine maxima were 10 Sand Martin on 15<sup>th</sup>, 80 Swallow on 26<sup>th</sup> and 50 House Martin on 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Tree Pipit were in Wildlife Centre fields from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> peaking at 3 on 22<sup>nd</sup>, an unusual event these days as they are usually only recorded as an autumn flyover, the occasional Meadow Pipit trickled in with 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>. Wagtails were well reported with 7 Yellow on 25<sup>th</sup>, 6 Grey on 31<sup>st</sup> and 80+ Pied on 30<sup>th</sup>. Redstart breeding appears to have gone well with 7 birds reported, including juveniles, on 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. A juvenile Whinchat was a good find on the dam on 29<sup>th</sup> the same day as 2 Wheatear were at the same location and a large post-breeding flock of 43 Mistle Thrush were in Sheepwash Wood on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Warblers were still present with maximum counts being 5 Sedge on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 Reed on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 Lesser Whitethroat all month, 4 Whitethroat on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Garden on 8<sup>th</sup>, 13 Blackcap on 30<sup>th</sup>, 37 Chiffchaff on 29<sup>th</sup> and 4 Willow on 26<sup>th</sup>. Groups of 3 Spotted Flycatcher were noted at different locations on 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Other counts of note included 80 Jackdaw on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a massive 120 Rook on 30<sup>th</sup>, 7 Raven on 11<sup>th</sup>, 60 Starling on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 70 House Sparrow on 9<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 35 Tree Sparrow on 6<sup>th</sup>, 150 Goldfinch on 29<sup>th</sup> and 100 Linnets on 21<sup>st</sup>. Star billing of the month though went to the afore mentioned Corn Bunting on 10<sup>th</sup>, which proved a great find for one of the regular observers.

112 species this month compared with 113 in 2018, 114 in 2017, 106 in 2016, 106 in 2015 and 108 in 2014.

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## **JUNE 2019 BIRD NOTES**

Highlights: Hobby, Knot, Black-tailed Godwit, Green Sandpiper, Turnstone, Mediterranean Gull and Cuckoo.

A mainly wet month yielded 94 species which is about average for June. Water bird maxima come from the WeBS survey on 16<sup>th</sup> unless stated: 7 Little Grebe, 45 Great Crested Grebe, 22 Cormorant on 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 Little Egret on 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 Grey Heron on 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 35 Mute Swan on 13<sup>th</sup>, 82 Greylag Geese on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 675 Canada Geese on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7 Barnacle Geese on 13<sup>th</sup>, 9 Gadwall on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a drake Teal on numerous dates, 73 Mallard, 3 Shoveler on 21<sup>st</sup>, a drake Pochard on 27<sup>th</sup>, 86 Tufted Duck, a drake Common Scoter on 30<sup>th</sup>, 5 Moorhen and 124 Coot.

Raptor records included a Sparrowhawk taking prey to Hall Wood on 9<sup>th</sup>, 8 Buzzard on 21<sup>st</sup>, a Kestrel plucking what appeared to be a young Redshank on 16<sup>th</sup>, a Hobby on 13<sup>th</sup> and a Peregrine on 21<sup>st</sup>.

A reasonable return of waders for June included 15 Oystercatcher on 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 3 Little Ringed Plover on 18<sup>th</sup>, 4 Ringed Plover on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 15 Lapwing on 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Knot on 27<sup>th</sup>, a Dunlin on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 26 summer plumage Black-tailed Godwit on 30<sup>th</sup>, a single Curlew on 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 Redshank on 13<sup>th</sup>, a Green Sandpiper on 16<sup>th</sup>, Common Sandpiper on 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and a summer plumage Turnstone on 6<sup>th</sup>.

Gull and Tern reports included a Mediterranean Gull on 30<sup>th</sup>, 152 Black-headed Gull on 16<sup>th</sup>, a 1<sup>st</sup> summer Common Gull on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 20 Lesser Black-backed Gull on 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 Yellow-legged Gull on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 Great Black-backed Gull on several dates and 3 Common Tern on 9<sup>th</sup>.

A site scarce Cuckoo was heard between the Wildlife Centre and Shiningford Creek on 18<sup>th</sup> and 2 fledged Tawny Owl young were at the Hopton end on 13<sup>th</sup>. Fifty Swift were noted on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4 young Swallow were around the overflow grill at Millfields on 21<sup>st</sup> and an active House Martin nest was at the Visitor Centre on 5<sup>th</sup>.

Warblers were well represented with 7 Sedge Warbler on 29<sup>th</sup>, 9 Reed Warbler on 13<sup>th</sup>, 4 Lesser Whitethroat on 29<sup>th</sup>, fledged Whitethroat near Millfields Island on 13<sup>th</sup>, 2 singing Garden Warbler on 29<sup>th</sup>, several records of Blackcap carrying food to young and Chiffchaff with food at the Hopton end on 16<sup>th</sup>. A Spotted Flycatcher was at Penn Carr on 5<sup>th</sup>, fledged Long-tailed Tit were noted there on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a healthy count of 18 Willow Tit on 7<sup>th</sup> included 3 families with at least 9 young in total. Five Raven were counted on 21<sup>st</sup>, 45 House Sparrow on 5<sup>th</sup>, 25 Tree Sparrow included many young on 6<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and fledged Reed Bunting were on Stones Island on 7<sup>th</sup>.

94 Species this June compared with 91 in 2018, 97 in 2017, 94 in 2016, 90 in 2015 and 99 in 2014.

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## **MAY 2019 BIRD NOTES**

Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Garganey, Red Kite, Marsh Harrier, Avocet, Grey Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Greenshank, Turnstone, Arctic Tern, Little Tern, Black Tern and Green Woodpecker

A good month with some excellent birds to enjoy, but we didn't expect a Budgerigar! The Great Northern Diver departed, as expected, being last seen on 7<sup>th</sup>. Water bird maxima come from the WeBS survey on 19<sup>th</sup> unless stated: 5 Little Grebe on 1<sup>st</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 51 Great Crested Grebe, 16 Cormorant on 17<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 3 Little Egret and 3 Grey Heron both on 20<sup>th</sup>, 10 Mute Swan on 16<sup>th</sup>, a Pink-footed Goose on 2 dates, 40 Greylag Geese on 31<sup>st</sup>, 194 Canada Geese on 30<sup>th</sup>, 12 Barnacle Geese on 16<sup>th</sup>, a Shelduck on 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 Mandarin on several dates, 8 Gadwall on 26<sup>th</sup>, 4 Teal on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 55 Mallard, a pair of Garganey on 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 Shoveler on 12<sup>th</sup>, 70 Tufted Duck, 6 Moorhen on 31<sup>st</sup> and 59 Coot. Brood numbers included: 1 of Mute Swan, 5 Greylag, 6 Canada, 2 Barnacle, a massive 29 Mallard, 1 Moorhen and 3 Coot.

Raptor highlights included 2 records of Red Kite, a cream crown Marsh Harrier on 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 Sparrowhawk on 2 dates, 8 Buzzard on 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 Kestrel on 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Hobby on 27<sup>th</sup> and 2 Peregrine on 19<sup>th</sup>.

A diverse selection of waders included: 10 Oystercatcher on 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 Avocet on 14<sup>th</sup>, 3 Little Ringed Plover on 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Ringed Plover on several dates, 2 Grey Plover on 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 Lapwing on 26<sup>th</sup>, 5 Dunlin on 9<sup>th</sup>, 3 Bar-tailed Godwit on 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 Whimbrel on 10<sup>th</sup>, 4 Curlew on 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 Redshank on 25<sup>th</sup>, a Greenshank on 8<sup>th</sup>, 3 Common Sandpiper on 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and a Turnstone on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The only wader breeding noted were 2 broods of Oystercatcher and 1 of Redshank.

Notable Gull reports were 100 Black-headed Gull on 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 Common Gull on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 60 Lesser Black-backed Gull on 20<sup>th</sup>, 3 Yellow-legged Gull on 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and 18 Great Black-backed Gull on 16<sup>th</sup>. Terns were represented with 2 Common Tern on 8<sup>th</sup>, 25 Arctic Tern on 9<sup>th</sup>, a site scarce Little Tern on 10<sup>th</sup> and 3 Black Tern on 9<sup>th</sup>.

At least 63 Swift were overhead on 10<sup>th</sup> and a Green Woodpecker was a good find on 25<sup>th</sup>. Hirundine maxima were 700 Sand Martin on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 120 Swallow on 7<sup>th</sup> and 200 House Martin on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. Notable Wagtail reports were 2 Yellow Wagtail on 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 broods of Grey Wagtail on 20<sup>th</sup>, a White Wagtail on 10<sup>th</sup> and several Pied Wagtail feeding young by the month-end. Four Redstart were singing on 20<sup>th</sup> and a Wheatear was near the Visitor Centre on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Two observers covered the whole site on 22<sup>nd</sup> and made some impressive counts including: 107 Wren, 17 Dunnock, 89 Blackbird, 34 Song Thrush, 7 Sedge Warbler, 7 Reed Warbler, 6 Whitethroat, 26 Garden Warbler, 62 Blackcap, 58 Chiffchaff and 18 Willow Warbler. Spotted Flycatcher arrived on 12<sup>th</sup> with 2 noted on that and other dates. Other counts on 22<sup>nd</sup> were 32 Long-tailed Tit, 14 Willow Tit, 31 Great Tit, 9 Treecreeper, 6 Jay, 22 Chaffinch, 24 Bullfinch and 12 Reed Bunting.

108 Species this month compared with 109 in 2018, 114 in 2017, 112 in 2016 and 107 in 2015.

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## **APRIL 2019 BIRD NOTES**

**Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Common Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Avocet, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit, Greenshank, Kittiwake, Sandwich Tern, Rock Pipit and Crossbill.**

The Great Northern Diver remained, as expected, and had attained summer plumage by the month-end. It was however seen flying around on a couple of occasions as it prepares for the journey north in May. Maximum water bird counts are from the monthly WeBS survey on 21<sup>st</sup> unless stated: 7 Little Grebe on 14<sup>th</sup>, 35 Great Crested Grebe, 26 Cormorant on 11<sup>th</sup>, a Little Egret on several dates, 4 Grey Heron, 14 Mute Swan, 2 Pink-footed Geese, 26 Greylag Geese on 13<sup>th</sup>, 131 Canada Geese, 24 Barnacle Geese on 14<sup>th</sup>, 4 Shelduck on 20<sup>th</sup>, 4 Mandarin on 18<sup>th</sup>, 2 Wigeon on 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 Gadwall, 18 Teal on 20<sup>th</sup>, 56 Mallard (and 9 broods of ducklings by the month-end), 2 Pintail on 1<sup>st</sup>, a site record 18 Shoveler on 12<sup>th</sup>, 75 Tufted Duck, 4 Common Scoter on 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 Goldeneye on 16<sup>th</sup>, a female Red-breasted Merganser on 18<sup>th</sup>, a drake Goosander on 5<sup>th</sup>, 5 Moorhen on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and 75 Coot.

Raptors this month included an adult male Marsh Harrier on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3 Sparrowhawk on 2 dates, 12 Buzzard soaring on 25<sup>th</sup>, an Osprey carrying a fish on 4<sup>th</sup>, 4 Kestrel on 25<sup>th</sup> and 3 records of Peregrine.

Wader maxima were 13 Oystercatcher on 2 dates, a single Avocet on 11<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> record this year), 5 Little Ringed Plover on 21<sup>st</sup>, a Ringed Plover on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 Lapwing on 17<sup>th</sup>, a Dunlin on 4 dates, 14 Snipe on 4<sup>th</sup>, 2 Black-tailed Godwit on 12<sup>th</sup>, 2 Bar-tailed Godwit on 25<sup>th</sup>, a Whimbrel on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 3 Curlew on 10<sup>th</sup>, 6 Redshank on 20<sup>th</sup>, a Greenshank on 2<sup>nd</sup> and another from 20<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> at least, a Green Sandpiper on 20<sup>th</sup> and 2 Common Sandpiper on 17<sup>th</sup>.

Gulls included 500 Black-headed on 7<sup>th</sup> (but nest sites around the Wildlife Centre had been abandoned by 22<sup>nd</sup>), 11 Common on 29<sup>th</sup>, 280 roosting Lesser Black-backed on 9<sup>th</sup>, 20 Herring on 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 4 Yellow-legged on 24<sup>th</sup>, 73 Great Black-backed on 11<sup>th</sup> and a first summer Kittiwake on 27<sup>th</sup>. Terns were represented by a Sandwich Tern on 21<sup>st</sup>, 2 Common Tern on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2 Arctic Tern on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Two Swift arrived on 25<sup>th</sup>, Sand Martin peaked at 150 on 12<sup>th</sup> and Swallow at 50 on 13<sup>th</sup>. The first returning House Martin was on 3<sup>rd</sup> rising to 20 by the month-end. A Rock Pipit was heard on the dam on 14<sup>th</sup>, the first Yellow Wagtail came on 9<sup>th</sup> and there were 5 on 25<sup>th</sup>, Grey Wagtail were already feeding fledged young at Millfields on 30<sup>th</sup> and there were 2 White Wagtail on 17<sup>th</sup>. Some big counts around the whole site on 23<sup>rd</sup> included 120 Wren, 15 Dunnock and 60 Robin, 77 Blackbird, 26 Song Thrush and 7 Mistle Thrush. The first record of Redstart was on 14<sup>th</sup> and a Wheatear arrived the following day. The final winter thrushes were 60 Fieldfare on 14<sup>th</sup> and 2 Redwing on 11<sup>th</sup>. A Sedge Warbler arrived on 18<sup>th</sup> and a Reed Warbler the following day was the earliest ever for the site. Other first arrival dates were Lesser Whitethroat on 20<sup>th</sup>, Common Whitethroat 19<sup>th</sup> and Garden Warbler 20<sup>th</sup>. Counts of our earlier arriving warblers on 23<sup>rd</sup> included 89 Blackcap, 79 Chiffchaff and 29 Willow Warbler. Further counts on that day were 8 Coal Tit, 95 Blue Tit, 50 Great Tit, 11 Nuthatch, 6 Treecreeper, 19 Magpie, 18 Chaffinch, 25 Goldfinch, 15 Bullfinch and 10 Reed Bunting. Seven Raven on 22<sup>nd</sup> included an apparent family of 5 and a Crossbill flew southwest over Millfields on 21<sup>st</sup>.

118 species were recorded compared with 117 in 2018, 124 in 2017, 119 in 2016, 117 in 2015 and 119 in 2014.

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## **MARCH 2019 BIRD NOTES**

**Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Red Kite, Osprey, Avocet, Mediterranean Gull, Kittiwake, Brambling and Crossbill.**

The Great Northern Diver remained all month and was seen to be showing a few white spots on its upperparts. Water bird maximum counts come from the WeBS survey on 24<sup>th</sup> unless stated: 10 Little Grebe, 34 Great Crested Grebe, 22 Cormorant on 2<sup>nd</sup>, a Little Egret on 21<sup>st</sup>, 5 Grey Heron on 8<sup>th</sup>, 11 Mute Swan on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29 Greylag Geese on 24<sup>th</sup>, 141 Canada Geese, 27 Barnacle Geese on 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Shelduck on 3 dates, at least 7 Mandarin on 27<sup>th</sup>, 5 Wigeon on 17<sup>th</sup>, 19 Gadwall on 19<sup>th</sup>, 17 Teal, 68 Mallard, 4 Shoveler on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 6 Pochard on 20<sup>th</sup>, 41 Tufted Duck, 8 Goldeneye on 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 Goosander on 5<sup>th</sup>, a showy Water Rail was in the Brown Ale Bay area on several dates and another was heard at the Hopton end on 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 Moorhen on two dates and 102 Coot.

A Red Kite drifted over the Visitor Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> and another was over Millfields on 31<sup>st</sup>, 2 Sparrowhawk were seen on 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 13 Buzzard were aloft on 19<sup>th</sup>, an Osprey flew in to Fishtail Creek carrying a fish at 0700hrs on 31<sup>st</sup> before appearing to fly West sometime later, 2 Kestrel and 2 Peregrine were noted on 12<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively.

Waders included a maximum 15 Oystercatchers on 27<sup>th</sup>, single Avocet on 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, the first returning Little Ringed Plover on 14<sup>th</sup> was the earliest ever for the site, 80 Lapwing on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Dunlin on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 Ruff from 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, 14 Snipe on 3 dates, 5 Woodcock on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 42 Curlew on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12 Redshank on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Gulls were represented by a now seemingly site scarce Mediterranean Gull on 25<sup>th</sup>, the usual Black-headed Gull, Common Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull (although these species went uncounted), 20 Herring Gull left roost on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 Yellow-legged Gull on 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 Great Black-backed on 14<sup>th</sup> included a Norwegian ringed individual and an adult Kittiwake was in Brown Ale Bay on 16<sup>th</sup> following classic weather conditions for this species.

Eight Stock Dove on 18<sup>th</sup> included an individual flight displaying in Tail Bay, 5 Tawny Owl were calling at the Hopton end on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and a Kingfisher was also noted on the latter date. A Sand Martin flew past Flat Island on 3<sup>rd</sup> and is the earliest ever by a full 8 days and the first Swallow was over Sheepwash on 30<sup>th</sup>. Meadow Pipit were on the move with 63 Northwest on 21<sup>st</sup> and there were 7 Grey Wagtail on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Two observers covered the whole site on 29<sup>th</sup> and recorded some impressive counts: 87 Wren, 37 Dunnock, 91 Robin, 57 Blackbird, 17 Song Thrush, 8 Mistle Thrush, 7 Blackcap (first arrival 24<sup>th</sup>), 104 Chiffchaff, 4 Goldcrest, 18 Long-tailed Tit, 18 Willow Tit, 17 Coal Tit, 116 Blue Tit, 75 Great Tit, 18 Nuthatch, 12 Treecreeper, 3 Jay, and 24 Magpie. Other counts of note included: 6 Raven on 8<sup>th</sup>, 150 Starling on 17<sup>th</sup>, 24 Tree Sparrow on 16<sup>th</sup>, 25 Chaffinch on 29<sup>th</sup>, single Brambling on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 30 plus Siskin on 27<sup>th</sup>, at least 20 Lesser Redpoll on 27<sup>th</sup>, a single Crossbill on 18<sup>th</sup>, 14 Bullfinch and 12 Reed Bunting both on 29<sup>th</sup>.

100 species this March compared with 102 in 2018 110 in 2017, 108 in 2016, 103 in 2015 and 95 in 2014.

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## **FEBRUARY 2019 BIRD NOTES**

### **February Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Pink-footed Geese, Water Rail, Barn Owl, Stonechat and Snow Bunting.**

A mainly dry, often foggy month, ended with unseasonal temperatures in the high teens giving a very spring like feel. Thanks go out to Severn Trent Rangers for some sterling work erecting nest boxes on site which should benefit several species. The Great Northern Diver was present all month and other water bird maximum counts come from the WeBS survey on 10<sup>th</sup> unless stated: 32 Little Grebe, 54 Great Crested Grebe on 5<sup>th</sup>, 20 Cormorant on 7<sup>th</sup>, a Little Egret on 4 dates, 2 Grey Heron regularly, 6 Mute Swan on 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 70 Pink-footed Geese on 1<sup>st</sup>, 24 Greylag Geese on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 350 Canada Geese on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 29 Barnacle Geese on 26<sup>th</sup>, 3 Shelduck on 12<sup>th</sup>, 47 Wigeon, 63 Gadwall on 4<sup>th</sup>, 239 Teal, 115 Mallard, 4 Pintail on 9<sup>th</sup>, 2 Shoveler on 15<sup>th</sup>, 5 Pochard, 23 Tufted Duck, 11 Goldeneye, 6 Goosander on 1<sup>st</sup>, a Water Rail on several occasions, 8 Moorhen and 281 Coot.

Very quiet raptor wise with 2 Sparrowhawk on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 6 Buzzard on 4<sup>th</sup>, the usual Kestrel reports and several sightings of Peregrine.

Oystercatchers were back with 8 on 20<sup>th</sup> (including the barcode ringed male returning for his 14<sup>th</sup> breeding season and again paired with the ringed female from last year). Other wader highlights were 407 Lapwing on 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 Dunlin from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 5 Ruff on two dates, at least 30 Snipe on 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 Woodcock on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12 Curlew through on 27<sup>th</sup>, and 6 Redshank on several dates.

Gull records included 5,000 Black-headed Gull on 9<sup>th</sup>, 350 Common Gull on 7<sup>th</sup>, 300 Lesser Black-backed Gull on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 45 Herring Gull on 10<sup>th</sup>, 3 Yellow-legged Gull on 7<sup>th</sup> and 3 Great Black-backed Gull on 10<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

A Barn Owl was near the dam at dusk on 9<sup>th</sup> and 6 Tawny Owl were calling at dawn on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kingfisher were reported on 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 12 Skylark flew over on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8 Meadow Pipit were at Watersports on 5<sup>th</sup> and 8 Grey Wagtail left their roost at the Hopton end at dawn on 2<sup>nd</sup>. A Stonechat was a good find on 19<sup>th</sup> and a walk from the Hopton end to Stones Island on 6<sup>th</sup> produced 20 Dunnock, 36 Robin, 35 Blackbird and 11 Song Thrush. Four Mistle Thrush on 28<sup>th</sup> included a pair with a well-built nest in a traditional area. A Chiffchaff sang for a while on Stones Island on the morning of 28<sup>th</sup> and became the earliest record of song for this species. Further counts from the walk on 6<sup>th</sup> were 19 Long-tailed Tit, 13 Willow Tit, 10 Coal Tit, 61 Blue Tit, 36 Great Tit, 5 Jay and 12 Magpie. Other counts of note were 4 Raven on 9<sup>th</sup>, c30 Tree Sparrow on 4<sup>th</sup>, 15 Chaffinch on 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 Brambling on 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 Greenfinch on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12 Goldfinch on 6<sup>th</sup>, 20 Siskin on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5 Lesser Redpoll on 9<sup>th</sup>. A Valentine's Day walk paid off spectacularly for one observer when 3 Snow Bunting flew over the Visitor Centre towards Stones Island but, unfortunately, they could not be relocated. Eleven Reed Bunting left the Hopton reed bed at dawn on 10<sup>th</sup>.

92 species this month compared with 87 in 2018, 90 in 2017, 87 in 2016, 86 in 2015, 81 in 2014 and 90 in 2013.

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**January Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Whooper Swan, Brent Goose, Water Rail, Jack Snipe, Caspian Gull and Waxwing.**

**JANUARY 2019 BIRD NOTES**

Generally, a quiet month but there were a few decent birds for those prepared to put in the hours. The adult Great Northern Diver remained all month though it was often elusive. Water bird maximum counts come from the WeBS survey on 20<sup>th</sup> unless stated: 25 Little Grebe, a healthy 58 Great Crested Grebe on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 18 Cormorant on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Grey Heron on several dates, 4 Mute Swan on 16<sup>th</sup>, 17 Whooper Swan, a single Pink-footed Goose from 26<sup>th</sup>, 36 Greylag Geese on 27<sup>th</sup>, 150 Canada Geese on 25<sup>th</sup>, 17 Barnacle Geese on 22<sup>nd</sup>, a dark-bellied Brent Goose on 4<sup>th</sup>, 9 Shelduck, 74 Wigeon, 47 Gadwall on 28<sup>th</sup>, 403 Teal, 91 Mallard, 6 Shoveler on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 19 Pochard on 1<sup>st</sup>, 89 Tufted Duck, 11 Goldeneye, 9 Goosander, a Water Rail in the Hopton reed bed on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 Moorhen on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 444 Coot.

Four species of raptor only but they included 3 Sparrowhawk on 27<sup>th</sup>, 8 Buzzard on 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 Kestrel on 26<sup>th</sup> and 2 Peregrine on numerous occasions, often perched on the Sheepwash shoreline.

The first returning Oystercatcher arrived on 28<sup>th</sup> and there were 3 the following day. Other waders of note were: single Golden Plover on 11<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 492 Lapwing on 17<sup>th</sup>, 3 Dunlin throughout the month, 4 Ruff on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, a Jack Snipe at the Hopton reed bed on 20<sup>th</sup>, 44 Common Snipe on 26<sup>th</sup>, at least 5 Woodcock early morning on 26<sup>th</sup>, a Curlew from 23<sup>rd</sup> and 5 Redshank on 14<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

Gulls were roosting in huge numbers with an estimated 10,000 Black-headed Gull at dawn on 17<sup>th</sup>, 900 Common Gull on 11<sup>th</sup>, 420 Lesser Black-backed Gull on the same date, 3 Yellow-legged Gull on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3 Great Black-backed Gull on two dates.

Six Stock Dove flew over on 25<sup>th</sup>, 6 Tawny Owl were calling at the Hopton end early morning on 26<sup>th</sup> and there were several sightings of Kingfisher including a regular female perched in Willows in Brown Ale Bay. Five Great Spotted Woodpecker were noted on 21<sup>st</sup> and drumming was heard by the month-end, 9 Meadow Pipit were on Watersports Island on 11<sup>th</sup> and 9 Grey Wagtail left the Hopton reed bed roost site on two dates. Another record of Waxwing came on 17<sup>th</sup> when 3 birds flew over the road near to the Sailing Club junction. Wintering Chiffchaff were seen on 3 dates, 7 Willow Tit were on Stones Island on 30<sup>th</sup>, 50 Rook flew over the north end on 16<sup>th</sup> and 4 Raven were seen on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Five hundred Starling flew south following a cold snap on 30<sup>th</sup> at least 20 Tree Sparrow were recorded on 18<sup>th</sup> as were 35 Siskin on 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 Lesser Redpoll on 5<sup>th</sup>, 13 Bullfinch on 11<sup>th</sup> and 16 Reed Bunting leaving roost on 26<sup>th</sup>.

91 species this month compared with 96 in 2018, 91 in 2017, 91 in 2016, 81 in 2015, 82 in 2014 and 89 in 2013

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