

December 2021 BIRD NOTES

HIGHLIGHTS: Whooper Swans, Smew, Kittiwake, Red-necked Grebe and calling Tawny Owls

Sadly the Great Northern Diver failed to appear after a run of over wintering birds running back till 1998/99 with the only exception of a no show in the winter 2004/05. Hopefully they will return next year.

On 22nd WeBS count 33 species were recorded which helped towards an end of month total of 97 species being noted.

Water bird maxima were from the WeBS count on 22nd unless dated otherwise. 27 Mute Swan 7th and 11th, 13 Whooper Swan, 46 Pink-footed Goose, 65 Greylag 30th, 300 Canada Goose 9th, 18 Barnacle Goose 22nd, 2 Shelduck 21st, 11 Shoveler 26th, 270 Wigeon, 3 Pintail 2nd and 7 other dates within the month, 145 Gadwall, 274 Mallard 11th, 475 Teal 11th, 46 Pochard 11th, 205 Tufted Duck, 12 Goldeneye 2nd, 1 Smew (female) 9th seen for around 50 minutes the first since 2011, 7 Goosander 24th, 39 Little Grebe, 74 Great Crested Grebe, 2 Red-necked Grebes 22nd and 25th then 1 seen most days till the end of the month, 32 Cormorant 31st, 2 Little Egret 4th, 5th and 9th, 2 Grey Heron 12th and 22nd, 1 Water Rail 3rd, 23 Moorhen 2nd and 22nd, 1268 Coot, 2 Kingfisher 26th.

Raptor sightings included 7 Buzzards 8th, 3 Red Kite 8th, 4 Sparrowhawk 2nd, 2 Kestrel 9th, 1 Peregrine 1st, 8th and 29th.

Six species of waders through this month with 750 Lapwing 29th with a steady increase in numbers all month, 1 Ruff seen from the 1st to the 21st, 1 Dunlin 11th the only report this month, single Jack Snipe 11th, 22 Common Snipe 31st and 5 reported 29th and 30th, 4 Redshank 2nd and 3 28th, singles reported most days.

Maximum Gull numbers were 10000 Black-headed Gulls (Roost count), 9 Herring Gulls 8th, 3 Yellow-legged Gull 31st, 1000 Lesser Black-backed Gulls 3rd (roost count), 2 Great black-backed Gulls 3rd, 10th, 29th and 30th, 1500 Common Gulls (roost count), 1 Caspian Gull 22nd and 25th, an adult Kittiwake flew around the reservoir 7th.

Among other species were 3 Woodcock 2nd, 7th, 18th and 22nd, 2 Green Woodpecker 9th, 3 Great Spotted Woodpecker 9th, 3 Tawny Owl 2nd, 7th and 22nd heard calling, 2 Skylark 7th, 12th and 28th, 6 Meadow Pipit 9th, 4 Grey Wagtails 2nd, 30 Blackbird 2nd, 6 Fieldfare 5th, 600 Redwing 1st, (mainly in two large flocks), 4 Mistle Thrush 1st, 1 Chiffchaff 5th, 3 Goldcrest 1st, up to 5 Willow Tit most days, 1400 Jackdaw 4th and 5th post-roost, 7 Tree Sparrow 1st, 1 Brambling 26th and 29th, 15 Goldfinch 4th, 6 Greenfinch 10th, 100 Siskin 24th, 1 Linnet 21st, 20 Lesser Redpoll 31st, 11 Bullfinch 8th, 1 Yellowhammer 9th over Stones Island and 24th.

A high 97 species for December is the best since 2006 compared to 93 in 2020, 93 in 2019, 87 in 2018, 92 in 2017.

NOVEMBER 2021 BIRD NOTES

HIGHLIGHTS: Gannet, Great Northern Diver, Hawfinch, and Brent Goose

On 7th WeBS count 20 species were recorded which helped towards an end of month total of 102 species being noted.

Water bird maxima were from the WeBS count on 7th unless dated otherwise. 31 Mute Swan 18th, 9 Whooper Swan 13th, 75 Pink-footed Goose 4th, 19 Greylag 11th, 274 Canada Goose 22nd, 2 Barnacle Goose 8th, 1 Brent Goose (Pale Bellied) 8th, 3 Shelduck 22nd, 4 Shoveler 6th (2 male and 2 Female), 296 Wigeon 24th, 1 Pintail (Drake) 20th, 83 Gadwall 24th, 174 Mallard, 289 Teal 24th, 84 Pochard, 207 Tufted duck, 12 Goldeneye 24th and 8 reported 23rd and 26th, 8 Goosander 17th, 1 Great Northern Diver 17th (flew over), 42 Little Grebe, 75 Great Crested Grebe 10th with good numbers all month, 37 Cormorant, 1 Juvenile Gannet made a short 5 minute appearance which was seen by 2 observers, 2 Little Egret 23rd, 3 Grey Heron 9th, 22nd and 29th, 2 Water Rail 8th, 34 Moorhen, 1395 Coot, 2 Kingfisher. 19th.

Raptor sightings included 7 Buzzards 5th and 18th, 2 reports of a single Marsh Harrier 5th and 25th (25th sighting bird had red wing tags), 12 Red Kite 17th, with 2 records of 4 birds 1st and 5th, 3 Sparrowhawk 2nd, 22nd and 23rd, 2 Kestrel 9th, 1 Merlin 3rd, 1 Peregrine 3rd, 7th 22nd and 26th.

7 species of waders through this month with 16 Golden Plover 3rd, 611 Lapwing 21st with a steady increase in numbers all month, 1 Ruff seen from the 19th onwards, 6 Dunlin 5th, and 2 reported 3rd, 8th and 17th, 2 Jack Snipe 6th, 9 Common Snipe 11th, 4 reported 16th, 1 Redshank reported most days.

Gull numbers were 10000 Black-headed Gulls 19th (roost estimate), 10 Herring Gulls 17th, 1 Yellow-legged Gull seen most days, 5000 Lesser Black-backed Gulls 15th (roost estimate) 2 Great black-backed Gulls 6th, 500 Common Gulls 19th, 1 Caspian Gull 2nd, 15th, 21st and 25th.

The first Woodcock of the season were noted with 1 reported 13th, 4 on 22nd, 2800 Woodpigeon flew south in a 4 hour period 3rd, 1 Rock Pipit 8th and 16th, 6 Grey Wagtails 4th, 8 Pied Wagtails 11th, 6153 Fieldfare flew Southwest in a 7 hour period 5th, 4525 Redwing flew Southwest over 3 hours 4th, 7 Mistle Thrush 18th, 1 Chiffchaff 26th, 6 Willow Tit 11th in 3 different areas of the reservoir, 2769 Starling flew West between 07:00 and 14:00 5th, 9 Tree Sparrow 16th, 2 Brambling 6th and 13th, 80 Goldfinch 9th, 10 Greenfinch 9th, 100 Siskin 12th with a flock of 90 in Hall Wood, 4 Hawfinch flying Southwest 5th, 16 Lesser Redpoll 17th.

Previous year counts for November 101 in 2020, 95 in 2019, 93 in 2018, 101 in 2017.

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OCTOBER 2021 BIRD NOTES

HIGHLIGHTS: Scaup, Pintail, Spoonbill, Osprey, Jack Snipe, Snow Bunting and returning Redwings

On WeBS count 68 species were recorded which helped towards an end of month total of 104 species being noted.

Water bird maxima were from the WeBS count on 10th unless dated otherwise. 32 Mute Swan 11th, 3 Whooper Swan 21st, 220 Pink-footed Goose flew over 11th in a south easterly direction with other sighting on 6th, 10th, 13th and 21st, 800 Greylag 1st, 1300 Canada Goose 2nd, 11 Barnacle Goose 1st, 1 Shelduck 23rd and 29th, 4 Shoveler also reported 3rd, 14th and 26th, 312 Wigeon 31st, 7 Pintail 2nd and 4th also reported 3rd and 14th, 52 Gadwall and good numbers 3rd, 13th, 18th and 31st, 127 mallard, 124 Teal, 1 drake Mandarin 21st, 99 Pochard, 4 Scaup 31st, 1 on 13th, 207 Tufted duck, 1 Common Scoter 13th, 1 Goldeneye 28th and 31st, 2 Goosander 11th, 21st, 31 Little Grebe, 49 Great Crested Grebe, 51 Cormorant 21st, 4 Little Egret 2nd, 2 Great White Egret 9th and 24th, 7 Grey Heron, 1 Juvenile Spoonbill reported 9th on Horseshoe Island and Sheepwash early morning on the WeBS count, 1 Water Rail 11th, 13th, 26 Moorhen, 1223 Coot, 2 Kingfisher.

Raptor sightings included 1 Osprey on 3rd, 21st seen taking a fish by a fisherman out on his boat, 10 Buzzards with smaller numbers reported most days, 6 Red Kite 24th with 8 records for the month, 3 Sparrowhawk 14th, 3 Kestrel 2nd, 1 Peregrine 23rd.

7 species of waders through this month with 1 Ringed Plover 25th, 27th, 400 Lapwing 27th, 26 Dunlin 24th, 1 on 8th, 9th, 14th and 18th, 11 Common Snipe 24th, 2 Jack Snipe 23rd, 1 reported 18th and 19th in Hopton reedbed, 2 Curlew 14th, 1 Redshank 26th.

Gull numbers were 9000 Lesser Black-Backed Gull 11th, 8000 Black-headed Gulls 20th, 2 Yellow-legged Gulls 25th, 2 Great black-backed Gulls 1st and 31st, 6 Common Gulls 20th, Caspian Gull reported 20th and 29th, 1 Herring Gull 27th.

The Last Swallows of the year were noted 2nd, 108 Meadow Pipits 2nd, 1 Rock Pipit over Stones island on 25th, 6 Grey Wagtails 2nd, 3rd, 15 Pied Wagtails 3rd, 8990 Woodpigeon flew south in a 3 hour period 21st with another 1600 23rd within a 4 hour period, 2100 Redwing 14th over a 2.5 hour period with large numbers reported most days, 2 Blackcap 3rd, 11 Chiffchaff 3rd, Willow Tit still present around Stones island, 230 Starling 14th, 1 Brambling 10th, 11th, 19th and 23rd, 75 Siskin 19th, 14 Lesser Redpoll 23rd, 1 Snow Bunting probable adult female reported from 5th to 24th spending all of its time around the Dam wall at Millfields end. This proved a very popular bird which attracted many Derbyshire birders to Carsington.

Previous year counts for October 106 in 2020, 103 in 2019, 106 in 2018, 108 in 2017

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SEPTEMBER 2021 BIRD NOTES

HIGHLIGHTS: Common Scoter, Pintail, Cattle Egret, Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Merlin and fly over Arctic Terns and Rock Pipits

On 6th a coordinated all day watch was carried out and 84 species were recorded which helped towards an end of month total of 115 species being noted.

Water bird maxima were from the WeBS count on 12th unless dated otherwise Common Scoter reported from 17th till 21st, 1,915 Canada Goose 26th, 56 Barnacle Goose 21st, 763 Greylag Goose 26th, 36 Mute Swan, 79 Gadwall 19th, 208 Wigeon 23rd, 240 Mallard, 253 Teal, 80 Pochard 23rd, 231 Tufted Duck, 4 Shoveler 6th, 26 Pintail 20th, 28 Little Grebe, 56 Great Crested Grebe, 52 Cormorant 27th, 10 Grey Heron 19th, counts of 5 Little Egret on 6th and 9th, 1 Great white Egret reported on 5th and 29th, 1 Cattle Egret 4th and 5th, 31 Moorhen, 1032 Coots, 1 Water Rail 9th, 4 Kingfisher at various locations on 6th.

Raptor sightings included 1 Osprey on 6th 7th 8th and 13th, 17 Buzzards on 20th but smaller numbers seen most days, 1 Marsh Harrier off Stones island on 15th, 4 Red Kite 15th with 5 records for the month mostly on the east side, 5 Sparrowhawk 15th, 4 Kestrel 2nd, 1 Merlin on stones 29th, 1 Hobby reported on 3rd, 15th and 16th, 1 Peregrine 17th and 23rd.

13 species of waders through this month with 1 Avocet reported on 3rd, 1 Little Ringed Plover 4th, 1 Ringed Plover 5th, 1 Grey Plover 8th, 80 Lapwing 26th on Horseshoe island, 1 Ruff 17th, 5 Dunlin 6th, 10 Common Snipe 22nd, 1 Black-tailed Godwit on 5th and 10th, 1 Redshank 6th, 1 Greenshank on 2nd 17th and 18th, 3 Common Sandpiper 5th.

Gull numbers were 8800 Lesser Black-Backed Gull 17th, 1000 Black-headed Gulls 17th, 3 Yellow-legged Gulls 1st and 9th, 2 Great black-backed Gulls 9th, 17th and 24th, 4 Common Gulls 15th and 26th and a Caspian Gull reported 18th. There were 5 Arctic Terns through on 23rd and 1 on 24th, single Common Terns on 1st and 27th with 6 Black Tern through 5th.

The latest report of a Swift 5th with 2 seen, 18 Sand Martin 2nd with the last reported on 10th, 150 Swallow seen off the Dam wall on 5th, 50 House Martins reported 9th and 12th, 420 Meadow Pipits counted flying south through the morning 29th, 3 Rock Pipits over Stones island on 26th, 5 Yellow Wagtails 8th, 10 Grey Wagtails 26th, large counts of Pied Wagtails most days in the month the stand out days were 215 on 10th, 200 on 11th, 15th and 17th, 180 on 6th and 8th, 1 Redstart 10th. Late records of White throats, Blackcaps and Willow Warbler rounds up the month.

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