

Carsington Bird Club



BIRD NOTES

April 2026

HIGHLIGHTS: Black-necked Grebe, Ring-necked Duck, Turnstone, Sanderling, Jack Snipe, Arctic Skua (first since 2019), Osprey, Black Tern, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern and Swift.

Water bird maxima were from the WeBS count on 19th unless dated otherwise. 5 Little Grebe 10th and 12th, 36 Great Crested Grebe, 2 Black-necked Grebe 25th, 8 Cormorant 13th and 21st, 1 Little Egret 1st, 4th, 10th and 11th, 3 Grey Heron 8th and 26th, 1 White Stork (escaped bird) 13th, 3 Mute Swan 5th and 13th, 1 Pink-footed Goose 2nd, 13th, 15th, 17th and 21st, 34 Greylag Goose, 194 Canada Goose, 30 Barnacle Goose 12th, 3 Egyptian Goose 2nd, 15th and 28th, 3 Shelduck 8th and 25th, 3 Mandarin 24th, 33 Gadwall, 2 Teal 5th, 13th and 24th, 70 Mallard, 4 Shoveler 7th, 1 Red-crested Pochard reported on 10 occasions, 6 Pochard 24th, 26th and 28th, 1 Ring-necked Duck, 47 Tufted Duck, 6 Goldeneye 6th, 3 Goosander 4th, 6 Moorhen 8th, 18 Coot, 1 Kingfisher 5th.

Raptor sightings included 4 Red Kite 12th, 3 Sparrowhawk 2nd, 21 Buzzard 2nd, 1 Osprey 5th, 1 Kestrel reported on 8 dates this month, 1 Peregrine 5th.

Sixteen species of waders through this month with 13 Oystercatcher 23rd, 1 Lapwing 19th, 1 Sanderling 29th, 2 Dunlin 19th, 2 Ruff 29th and 30th, 1 Jack Snipe 7th, 8th and 9th, 1 Snipe 5th, 7th, 8th, 15th and 24th, 1 Black-tailed Godwit 5th and 21st, 2 Bar-tailed Godwit 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th, 3 Whimbrel 23rd and 24th, 3 Curlew 28th, 3 Redshank 4th, 1 Greenshank 5th, 24th and 29th, 3 Common Sandpiper 18th, 25th and 30th, 1 Turnstone 2nd.

Maximum Gull numbers were 3 Mediterranean Gull 18th, 7 Little Gull 24th, 300 Black-headed Gull 18th, 70 Common Gull 18th, 10 Lesser Black-backed Gull 21st, 3 Herring Gull 4th, 1 Yellow-legged Gull 18th, 24th and 26th, 1 Caspian Gull reported on 13 occasions, 1 Great Black-backed Gull 23rd, 24th and 26th, also seen 1 Arctic Skua 28th, 1 Sandwich Tern 8th, 4 Common Tern 11th, 26 Arctic Tern 28th, 3 Little Tern 11th, 36 black Tern 24th.

Other species noted were 1 Barn Owl 5th, 5 Tawny Owl 6th, 5 Swift 28th, 3 Great Spotted Woodpecker 23rd, 3 Skylark 18th, 400 Sand Martin 28th, 200 Swallow 28th, 10 House Martin 12th, 1 Meadow Pipit 2nd and 11th, 3 Yellow Wagtail 23rd and 26th, 2 Grey Wagtail 4th, 14 Pied Wagtail 2nd and 7th, 2 Redstart 9th, 14th, 16th and 23rd, 1 Wheatear 8th, 60 Fieldfare 6th, 2 Redwing 22nd, 13 Sedge Warbler 26th, 1 Reed Warbler 21st, 23rd and 25th, 1 Lesser Whitethroat 24th, 2 Whitethroat 29th, 6 Garden Warbler 24th, 19 Blackcap 14th, 7 Chiffchaff 10th, 8 Willow Warbler 14th, 3 Goldcrest 23rd, 3 Pied Flycatcher 23rd and 25th, 2 Willow Tit 12th, 9 Coal Tit 14th, 8 Treecreeper 14th, 5 Jay 3rd, 33 Raven 7th, 2 Greenfinch 5th, 19th, 21st and 23rd, 8 Siskin 14th, 3 Linnets 13th, 100 Redpoll 22nd, 4 Bullfinch 4th and 26th, 5 Reed Bunting 23rd.

The total 125 species noted compares to 115 in 2025, 123 in 2024, 119 in 2023, 125 in 2022, 122 in 2021. Joint highest return in April since records started.

Recorder: Rob Chadwick