

Carsington Bird Club



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.

Recorder: Robert Chadwick: rob.chadwick322@gmail.com