

# Carsington Bird Club



## December 2023 BIRD NOTES

**HIGHLIGHTS: Great Northern Diver, Red-crested Pochard, Egyptian Goose (site record), Woodcock, Caspian Gull, Waxwing, Marsh Tit, Willow Tit.**

Water bird maxima were from the WeBS count on 17<sup>th</sup>, unless dated otherwise. 1 Great Northern Diver present from 28<sup>th</sup> till month end this is the 18<sup>th</sup> year 'our' adult has over wintered here at Carsington, 24 Little Grebe, 53 Great Crested Grebe 15<sup>th</sup>, 28 Cormorant, 1 Little Egret 1<sup>st</sup>, 1 Grey Heron 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 9 Mute Swan 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 9 Whooper Swan 8<sup>th</sup>, 150 Pink-footed Goose 25<sup>th</sup>, 89 Greylag Goose 16<sup>th</sup>, 386 Canada Goose, 35 Barnacle Goose 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 7 Egyptian Goose 26<sup>th</sup>, 1 Mandarin 10<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 72 Wigeon, 138 Gadwall, 51 Teal, 232 Mallard, 1 Pintail 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 Shoveler 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4 Red-crested Pochard 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 468 Pochard, 180 Tufted Duck, 21 Goldeneye, 1 Goosander 12<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 1 Water Rail 2<sup>nd</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 8 Moorhen, 1092 Coot, 1 Kingfisher 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Raptor sightings included 7 Red Kite 30<sup>th</sup>, 4 Sparrowhawk 16<sup>th</sup>, 8 Buzzards 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 Kestrel 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2 Peregrine 16<sup>th</sup>.

With the water levels very close to 100% it is no surprise that only four species of wader were recorded this month with 75 Lapwing 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 Snipe 6<sup>th</sup>, 3 Woodcock 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 Redshank 5<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, With water levels close to 100% full

Maximum Gull numbers were 1400 Black-headed Gull 10<sup>th</sup>, 3250 Common Gull 10<sup>th</sup> (county record) 168 Lesser Black-backed Gull 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 Herring Gull 8<sup>th</sup>, 1 Yellow-legged Gull 30<sup>th</sup>, 1 Caspian Gull on 5 dates this month, 1 Great Black-backed Gull on 18 dates this month.

Along with the other species were 6 Tawny Owl 16<sup>th</sup>, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker on 7 dates this month, 2 Grey Wagtail 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 1 Waxwing 17<sup>th</sup>, 101 Blackbird 29<sup>th</sup>, 250 Fieldfare 16<sup>th</sup>, 200 Redwing 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 38 Long-tailed Tit 29<sup>th</sup>, 1 Marsh Tit 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 5 Willow Tit 29<sup>th</sup>, 400 Jackdaw 24<sup>th</sup>, 70 Rook 30<sup>th</sup>, 12 Raven 25<sup>th</sup>, 500 Starling 13<sup>th</sup>, 5 Tree Sparrow 5<sup>th</sup>, 38 Chaffinch 29<sup>th</sup>, 1 Brambling 11<sup>th</sup>, 13 Greenfinch 14<sup>th</sup>, 51 Goldfinch 29<sup>th</sup>, 245 Siskin 29<sup>th</sup>, 2 Linnets 16<sup>th</sup>, 3 Lesser Redpoll 14<sup>th</sup>, 17 Bullfinch 29<sup>th</sup>, 5 Reed Bunting 15<sup>th</sup>.

The total 93 species noted compares to 99 in 2022, 97 in 2021, 94 in 2020, 93 in 2019, 87 in 2018.

Recorder: Robert Chadwick