

Carsington Bird Club



JUNE 2017 BIRD NOTES

Highlights: Breeding Red-crested Pochard, Common Scoter, Osprey, Knot, Sanderling, Black-tailed Godwit, breeding Common Sandpiper and Crossbill.

A month of surprises saw the first Derbyshire breeding record of Red-crested Pochard, a brood of 6 being discovered on 18th, sadly only 1 remained by the month end. Mute Swan also surprised us, with all breeding attempts thought to have failed it was nice to be proved wrong when a single cygnet was seen around Sailing Club Island and then a pair with 5 cygnets was found in the road by Hopton Pond and were escorted to safety on the reservoir by STW Rangers. So water bird broods to date are: 2 Mute Swan, 4 Greylag Goose, several Canada Goose, 3 Barnacle Goose, 2 Gadwall, 18 Mallard, 1 Red-crested Pochard, 6 Tufted Duck and 4 Coot. Maximum counts come from the WeBS on 11th unless stated: 2 Little Grebe on several dates, 41 Great Crested Grebe, 12 Cormorant on 22nd, 4 Grey Heron on 27th, 47 Mute Swan on 27th and 30th, a Pink-footed Goose on 1st, 40 Greylag Geese, 580 Canada Geese on 20th, 10 Barnacle Geese on 16th, 10 Gadwall, 2 Teal on 25th, 78 Mallard, 4 Shoveler on 22nd, 2 Red-crested Pochard all month, single Pochard on 24th and 27th, 79 Tufted Duck, 6 Common Scoter on 6th, 3 Moorhen on 30th and 148 Coot.

Raptor sightings included 2 Sparrowhawk and 10 Buzzard on 9th, Osprey on 11th and 17th, 3 Kestrel on 11th, Hobby on 7th and 9th and a Peregrine also on 9th.

Maximum wader counts were: 15 Oystercatcher on 11th, 9 Little Ringed Plover on 11th, 7 Ringed Plover on 6th, 20 Lapwing on 22nd, 2 Knot on 29th, 2 Sanderling on 28th, 2 Dunlin on 6th, a Black-tailed Godwit on 28th, 2 Curlew on 13th and 13 Redshank on 11th. A pair of Common Sandpiper was suspected as breeding on 19th and this was confirmed the following day with young seen, this is the first breeding record since 1992.

Few formal Gull records this month but young Black-headed Gull were on the wing by the month end, there were 30 Lesser Black-backed Gull on 19th, 2 Herring Gull on 1st, a Yellow-legged Gull on 4th and 9th and 2 Great Black-backed Gull on 24th and 26th. A group of 4 Common Tern was noted on 16th and smaller numbers were seen on other days.

A juvenile Tawny Owl was recorded on 24th and there were several reports of Kingfisher. Sand Martin activity around the purpose built nest bank unfortunately ended but Swallow were feeding young near the draw off tower on 16th. Both Grey and Pied Wagtail were confirmed as breeding as were Redstart with young seen behind the Wildlife Centre from 23rd. Sedge Warbler appear to have bred on Sailing Club Island and an excellent count of 13 Reed Warbler on 30th included a fledged juvenile. There was plenty of evidence of success for other warblers with breeding activity noted for Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler. A walk from Millfields to Middle Wood, via Sheepwash, on 16th yielded 31 Blackcap, 32 Chiffchaff, 6 Willow Warbler and 6 Goldcrest all singing. Spotted Flycatcher had fledged young by midmonth as had all our resident Tits, Nuthatch and Treecreeper. Five Raven together on 27th were probably a family party, around 20 Tree Sparrow were seen on 9th and included juveniles, 2 Crossbill flew over Middle Wood on 13th and 7 Reed Bunting were counted on 16th.

97 Species this June compared with 94 in 2016, 90 in 2015, 99 in 2014, 87 in 2013 and 88 in 2012.