

# Carsington Bird Club



## FEBRUARY 2017 BIRD NOTES

**February Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Water Rail, Ruff, Jack Snipe, Kittiwake and Cetti's Warbler.**

Water levels remained low all month and as normal Wildfowl numbers began to fall as we move towards spring. The Great Northern Diver continued its stay to the month end and other water bird maximums were: 19 Little Grebe on 9<sup>th</sup>, 45 Great Crested Grebe on 9<sup>th</sup>, 27 Cormorant on 25<sup>th</sup>, Grey Heron on a few dates, 8 Mute Swan on 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, a Pink-footed Goose among the Canada Geese on several occasions, 2 Greylag Geese on 20<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 156 Canada Geese on 9<sup>th</sup>, 26 Barnacle Geese on 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 Shelduck on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 18 Wigeon on 16<sup>th</sup>, 12 Gadwall on 9<sup>th</sup>, 159 Teal on 9<sup>th</sup>, 97 Mallard on 12<sup>th</sup>, a Pintail on 1<sup>st</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, a pair of Shoveler on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17 Pochard on 9<sup>th</sup>, 84 Tufted Duck on 12<sup>th</sup>, 18 Goldeneye on 9<sup>th</sup>, 11 Goosander on 9<sup>th</sup>, a Water Rail at the Hopton reed bed on 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 8 Moorhen on 9<sup>th</sup> and 564 Coot during the WeBS count on 12<sup>th</sup>.

Notable raptor records included 2 Sparrowhawk on 16<sup>th</sup>, 8 Buzzard soaring on 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 Kestrel on 25<sup>th</sup> and several sightings of Peregrine.

Oystercatchers were back in good numbers with 9 on 7<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> including the ringed male returning for his 12<sup>th</sup> breeding season. Other waders were Ringed Plover on 3 dates, 2 Golden Plover also on 3 dates, 980 Lapwing on 14<sup>th</sup>, 6 Dunlin on 1<sup>st</sup>, the wintering Ruff all month, 3 Jack Snipe on 25<sup>th</sup>, some healthy counts of Common Snipe peaked at 79 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 Woodcock on 25<sup>th</sup>, 38 Curlew on 28<sup>th</sup> and 3 Redshank on several dates.

Roosting Gulls on 8<sup>th</sup> included 3000 Black-headed Gull, 700 Common Gull and 110 Lesser Black-backed Gull. The roost on 20<sup>th</sup> held at least 10 Herring Gull and 3 Yellow-legged Gull. Seven Great Black-backed Gull early on 20<sup>th</sup> had obviously roosted the previous evening and a Kittiwake was present on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A count of 10 Stock Dove came on 16<sup>th</sup>, Kingfisher reports were made regularly, 6 Skylark moved through on 16<sup>th</sup>, 12 Meadow Pipit were on the dam on 17<sup>th</sup> and 13 Grey Wagtail left their roost at the Hopton end on 16<sup>th</sup>. A walk from the Hopton arm to Stones Island on 21<sup>st</sup> produced 35 Wren, 27 Dunnock, 88 Robin and 28 Blackbird. Thrushes were represented by 20 singing Song Thrush on 20<sup>th</sup>, 90 Redwing on 26<sup>th</sup> and 3 Mistle Thrush on 14<sup>th</sup>. The Cetti's Warbler remained on Stones Island all month and could often be heard singing. Other counts of common birds come from the walk on 21<sup>st</sup> unless stated: 7 Goldcrest, 13 Long-tailed Tit, 9 Willow Tit on 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 Coal Tit, 51 Blue Tit, 19 Great Tit, 6 Nuthatch and 4 Treecreeper. Jackdaw leaving a roost in Tail Bay numbered 200 on 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 Raven were aloft on 20<sup>th</sup> and 200 Starling moved north the same morning. The highest Tree Sparrow count was 28 on 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 30 Siskin on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Lesser Redpoll on 24<sup>th</sup> and a healthy 18 Bullfinch on 21<sup>st</sup>.

90 species this month compared with 87 in 2016, 86 in 2015, 81 in 2014, 90 in 2013, 91 in 2012 and 90 in 2011.

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