

Carsington Bird Club



APRIL 2017 BIRD NOTES

Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Common Scoter, Red Kite, Osprey, Grey Plover, Sanderling, Ruff, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone, Mediterranean Gull, Arctic Tern, Little Tern, Black Tern, Cuckoo and Grasshopper Warbler.

Another good month and another record, 124 species eclipsing the 120 in April 2003. So unsurprisingly there was some good bird on show. The long staying Great Northern Diver attained its summer plumage late in the month and was seen flying around on several occasions in readiness for its migration north. Other notable water bird maximums were: 6 Little Grebes on 8th, 37 Great Crested Grebe on 8th, 12 Cormorants on 8th, Little Egret on 4th, 2 Grey Heron on 9th, 5 Mute Swan on 8th, a Whooper Swan on 1st, a Pink-footed Goose from 15th-17th, 9 Greylag Geese on 8th, 128 Canada Geese on 8th, 25 Barnacle Geese on 6th, 2 Shelduck on 5th & 16th, 3 Mandarin on 25th, the last record of Wigeon was 3 on 28th, 7 Gadwall on 26th, 11 Teal on 8th, 41 Mallard on 8th (plus up to 5 broods), 2 Shoveler on several dates, a pair of Red-crested Pochard from 19th, 58 Tufted Duck on 8th, 11 Common Scoter on the morning of the 30th had risen to 18 by the evening, 4 Goldeneye on 8th, a Goosander on 4th, 8 Moorhen on 8th and 72 Coot on 8th.

Two Red Kites were seen flying west together on 17th, and a single on 23rd, 4 Sparrowhawks seen together on 2nd, 11 Buzzard on 22nd, an Osprey on 7th was followed by records on 14th, 16th & 18th, and 2 Kestrel on 15th/16th.

Wader highlights include: 12 Oystercatcher on 8th, 6 Little Ringed Plover on 18th/19th, 7 Ringed Plover on 15th/16th, 3 Golden Plover flew through on 7th, a Grey Plover on 30th, 10 Sanderling on 30th is a site record, c20 Dunlin on 30th, a Ruff on 30th, 5 Snipe on 8th, 2 Black-tailed Godwits on 20th & 25th, a Bar-tailed Godwit on 18th & 30th, 11 Whimbrel on 30th, 4 Curlew on 30th, 5 Redshank on 16th, a Greenshank on 22nd & 30th, 5 Common Sandpiper on 25th and a Turnstone on several dates.

A 1st summer Mediterranean Gull from 15th then a different 1st summer bird on 27th, 4 1st summer Common Gulls on 28th, 90+ Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 28th, 3 Herring Gulls on 16th, single Yellow-legged Gull on several dates, 5 Common Tern on 30th, 3 Arctic Tern on 29th, 4 Little Tern on 30th and 10 Black Tern also on 30th.

A Cuckoo was heard from the Wildlife Centre on 23rd. The first Swift on 21st, and a Green Woodpecker in Tail Bay on 7th. Sand Martin peaked at 150 on 7th, and numerous Swallows mixed in with Sand Martins on 17th and just 10 House Martin on 26th. The first Yellow Wagtail on 9th but no big numbers throughout the month, White Wagtail arrived on 1st with 7 on 18th. As with last month some huge counts were undertaken on 26th when the whole site was covered. These include: 96 Wren, 20 Dunnock, 77 Robin, 80 Blackbird, 21 Song Thrush, 4 Sedge Warbler, 3 Garden Warbler, 52 Blackcap, 86 Chiffchaff and 46 Willow Warbler.

Other notable sightings include a Grasshopper Warbler heard reeling on 29th near Middle Wood which is the first record since 2011. The first Redstart on 8th, Reed Warbler arrived on 23rd with 2 on 29th. Other arrivals were Lesser Whitethroat on 23rd with 2 on 26th and Whitethroat on 26th with 5 on 30th. c15 Linnets on 8th and 8 Bullfinch on 4th finish off a quality month.

124 species were recorded compared with 119 in 2016, 117 in 2015, 119 in 2014, 114 in 2013 and 115 in 2012.

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