

# Carsington Bird Club



## JANUARY 2017 BIRD NOTES

**January Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Whooper Swan, Knot, Ruff, Jack Snipe and Cetti's Warbler.**

A month in which visibility was hampered by fog on many days, produced a very respectable 91 species. The adult Great Northern Diver continued its stay throughout the month as was expected. Waterbird maximums come from the WeBS count on 14<sup>th</sup> unless stated: 12 Little Grebe, 33 Great Crested Grebe, 24 Cormorant on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Grey Heron on several dates, 22 Mute Swan, 38 Whooper Swan on 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 Pink-footed Geese on 4<sup>th</sup>, 10 Greylag Geese on 7<sup>th</sup>, 333 Canada Geese on 15<sup>th</sup>, 29 Barnacle Geese on several dates, 3 Brent Geese flew north on 1<sup>st</sup>, a Shelduck on 29<sup>th</sup>, 35 Wigeon, 33 Gadwall, 163 Teal, 143 Mallard, 5 Pintail, 12 Shoveler on 6<sup>th</sup>, 55 Pochard, 187 Tufted Duck, 17 Goldeneye, 9 Moorhen and 950 Coot.

Very few raptor reports this month but Sparrowhawk and Buzzard were present, there were 3 Kestrel on 4<sup>th</sup> and 2 male Peregrine on 14<sup>th</sup>.

An Oystercatcher returned on 20<sup>th</sup> and other waders included 8 Golden Plover on 1<sup>st</sup>, 1000 Lapwing on 10<sup>th</sup>, a Knot on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9 Dunlin on 12<sup>th</sup>, the wintering Ruff all month, 4 Jack Snipe on 10<sup>th</sup>, 95 Snipe on 8<sup>th</sup>, 4 Woodcock on 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, single Curlew on 6<sup>th</sup> and 3 other dates and up to 3 Redshank.

The only notable Gull records were a large count of 1400 Common Gull roosting on 11<sup>th</sup>, 500 Lesser Black-backed Gull on 70<sup>th</sup>, 12 Herring Gull on 15<sup>th</sup>, Yellow-legged Gull on 2 dates and 5 Great Black-backed Gull on 7<sup>th</sup>.

Three Tawny Owl were calling at dawn on 2 dates and Kingfisher were reported regularly with 2 on 12<sup>th</sup>. A Skylark flew over on 20<sup>th</sup> and 2 Meadow Pipit were seen on 15<sup>th</sup>. Grey Wagtail were roosting in the Hopton reed bed all month and 9 were counted at dawn on 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. One observer walked from the Hopton end to Stones Island on 6<sup>th</sup> and recorded some good counts of common birds including: 27 Wren, 21 Dunnock, 47 Robin, 65 Blackbird, 19 Song Thrush and 82 Redwing. Two Mistle Thrush were singing on 10<sup>th</sup> and the Cetti's Warbler continued its stay on Stones Island to 20<sup>th</sup> at least and is probably still present. Other counts from the 6<sup>th</sup> included 3 Willow Tit, 10 Coal Tit, 52 Blue Tit, 30 Great Tit, 5 Nuthatch and 4 Treecreeper. Five Jay were noted around the Hopton arm on 23<sup>rd</sup> and there were 2 Raven on 8<sup>th</sup>. Finch counts were 28 Chaffinch on 6<sup>th</sup>, a single Brambling on 26<sup>th</sup>, 35 Siskin on 12<sup>th</sup>, a Linnet on 8<sup>th</sup>, 8 Lesser Redpoll on 19<sup>th</sup> and 15 Bullfinch on 12<sup>th</sup>.

91 species this month compared with 91 in 2016, 81 in 2015, 82 in 2014, 89 in 2013, 92 in 2012 and 89 in 2011.

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