

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES JANUARY 2012

Highlights include Goldeneye and record count of Black headed Gulls.

Wildfowl counts for the month include 168 Canada Geese on 10th, 40 Greylag Geese on 9th and 10th, 15 Mandarin on 13th, 13 Wigeon on 4th, 2 Gadwall on 23rd, 34 Teal on 1st and 4th, 19 Mallard on 1st, 9 Shoveler on 9th and 13th, 4 Pochard on 31st, 6 Tufted Duck on 4th, the female Goldeneye that arrived last month stayed on and was joined by a male on 27th, 20 Goosander in the roost on 13th, 7 Cormorants on 4th, a Grey Heron on 10th, a pair of Mute Swans on 27th and 31st, 10 Coot on 31st, 4 Moorhen on 31st.

4 Buzzards were noted on 4th and 11th, 2 Sparrowhawk on 4th and 2 Kestrel on 13th. 2 Snipe on 16th and 19th and 145 Lapwing flew over the reserve on 10th.

A site record count of 810 Black-headed Gulls were on the main pool on 27th. 2 Common Gulls on 9th and a single Lesser Black Backed Gull on 7th, 10th and 31st. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard drumming on 9th, a Green Woodpecker on 31st, 4 Stock Doves on 31st, a Pied Wagtail on 10th, a Meadow Pipit also on 10th, 42 Fieldfare on 9th, 19 Blackbirds on 31st, 2 Mistle Thrush on 16th, 27th and 31st, 2 Song Thrush on 31st, 4 Redwing on 1st, 17 Long-tailed Tits on 16th, 11 Robin on 31st, 8 Wren on 31st, a Bullfinch on 16th, 9 Magpies on 10th, a Jay on 10th, 6 Blue Tits on 31st, 6 Great Tits on 31st, 2 Coal Tits on 31st, 23 Siskin on 16th, c40 Goldfinch on 31st, 5 Chaffinch on 31st, 2 Lesser Redpoll on 10th and 31st, a Treecreeper on 31st, a Goldcrest on 31st and 2 Reed Buntings on 16th and 27th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES FEBRUARY 2012

Highlights include: Returning Waders, Red Kite, Crossbill, Yellowhammer and Raven.

Wildfowl counts for February include 10 Cormorants on 11th, a Grey Heron on several dates, 2 Mute Swans all month, 93 Canada Geese on 19th, 65 Greylag Geese on 19th, a Shelduck from 24th, 8 Mandarin on 13th and 18th, 18 Wigeon on 27th and 29th, a female Gadwall from the 18th, 17 Teal on 19th, 39 Mallard on 14th, 6 Shoveler on 19th and 20th, 5 Pochard on 18th and 19th, 14 Tufted Duck on 26th, pair of Goldeneye on 18th and 19th, 15 Goosander on 19th and 15 Coot on 26th and 27th.

A Red Kite was seen from the hide on the 25th before slowly drifting east, 5 Buzzards on 27th, a female Peregrine on 11th, a Kestrel on 15th, 18th and 23rd and Sparrowhawk on 13th, 19th, 23rd and 27th.

2 Oystercatchers were noted on 19th. This equals the earliest returning Oystercatcher for Wyver, when in 2010 a single bird also arrived on Feb 19th. 4 Curlew were brief visitors on 23rd, landing near the upper pool before leaving. 31 Lapwing on 23rd and 2 Snipe on 20th.

Other notable records this month include 450 Black-headed Gulls on 25th, 3 Common Gull on 19th, a Little Owl on 14th, 2 Stock Doves on several dates, 3 Skylark over on 27th and 5 over on 23rd, 3 Great Spotted Woodpeckers on 27th, a Green Woodpecker on many dates, 2 Crossbills flew over the viewing mound on 23rd, 62 Carrion Crow on 11th, 2 Raven all month, 9 Magpies on 27th, 3 Jay on 27th, 65 Redwing on 27th, 40 Goldfinch on 23rd, 10 Siskin on 23rd, 3 Bullfinch on 29th, a Yellowhammer on 25th and 3 Reed Buntings on 2nd.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES MARCH 2012

Highlights include, Osprey, Red Kite, Pink-footed Goose, Stonechat and returning migrants.

A mainly dry month with unseasonal temperatures that produced 74 species. Maximum counts include 2 Little Grebes on 31st. Grebes of any kind are rare for Wyver so to get 2 was a bonus. The last time there was 2 Little Grebes was in September 2006. Another rare visitor was a Great Crested Grebe on the 8th. Other counts include 8 Cormorants on 20th, 2 Grey Heron on 8th and 17th, 2 Mute Swans all month with 3 on 24th, there were 5 Pink-footed Geese on 1st which then increased to 7 on 9th, 73 Greylag Geese on 22nd, 60 Canada Geese also on 22nd, 2 Shelduck for most of the month, and 3 on 20th and 22nd, 7 Mandarin on 30th, 19 Wigeon on 3rd and 17th, as ever, most Wigeon had gone by the end of the month, although 1 male had stayed on and had paired up with a female Mallard. 2 Gadwall all month, 15 Teal on 29th, 8 Shoveler on 6th, 3 Pochard on 3rd, 4th and 6th, 7 Tufted Duck on 18th, a drake Goldeneye on several dates, 3 Goosander on 23rd and 24th, 21 Coots on 27th and 8 Moorhen on 2nd.

Raptors put on a good show this month. Following on from last month's Red Kite there was a further 2 sightings on 6th and 9th. A site record 12 Buzzards were seen from the viewing mound in ideal conditions on 12th, 2 Sparrowhawks on 2nd, a Peregrine on 22nd and 2 on 31st. 2 Kestrel also on 31st. The bird of the month was an Osprey that flew through on 29th. This coincided with several other sightings across the Midlands the same day.

2 Oystercatchers all month were joined by a 3rd bird on 16th, 20th and 23rd. Curlew on 1st, 10th and 24th. 15 Lapwings on 2nd. c500 Black-headed Gulls on 4th, 3 Common Gulls on 3rd, 5 Lesser-black Backed Gulls on 3rd.

A male Stonechat was in the hedgerow in front of the viewing mound on 4th. 3 Stock Doves on 4th, 9th and 20th. The first Hirundine was 3 Sand Martins on 20th which was 5 days later than last year, another 1 on 24th. The first Swallow was 1 on 24th which equals the earliest date of returning Swallows. There was also 1 on 27th and 31st. The first Chiff Chaff was on 15th which is the same date as last year. By the end of the month there was 3. The first Blackcap was on 29th. A Kingfisher on 4th was the first record this year, 14 Starling on 15th, 4 Pied Wagtails on 22nd, 70 Fieldfare on 22nd, a Skylark on 24th, 2 Green Woodpeckers on 24th, a single Meadow Pipit on 29th, 2 Raven for most of the month, 4 Jays on 17th, 15 Magpies on 18th, 3 Redwing on 17th, 10 Goldfinch on 15th, 7 Siskin on 3rd, a Lesser Redpoll on 24th and 5 Reed Buntings on 16th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES APRIL 2012

Highlights include Ring Ouzel, Little Egret, Red-legged Partridge and Redstarts.

A generally cold, wet and windy month which certainly held up the arrival of some of our migrants.

2 Little Grebes were present for most of the month. A Little Egret was a brief visitor on 17th, landing on the island then flying south several minutes later. 3 Cormorants on 9th and 12th, 2 Grey Herons on 2nd and 7th. 3 adult Mute Swans on 21st, 38 Canada Geese on 10th and a pair with 5 young noted on 26th, 32 Greylag Geese on 10th. 2 Shelduck all month, 5 Mandarin on 3rd, 2 drake Wigeon on several dates, 2 Gadwall all month, 12 Teal on 2nd, the first Mallard young noted was a female with 9 on 21st, 2 Shoveler on 2nd and 12th, 18 Tufted Duck on 29th, 4 Goosander on 29th, a Red-legged Partridge on 7th, 6 Pheasants on 26th, 23 Coot on 12th and 7 Moorhen on 9th.

Raptors this month include 2 Sparrowhawks on 7th and 9th, 10 Buzzards on 2nd, 2 Kestrel on 7th and 2 Peregrines seen throughout the month.

4 Oystercatchers on 17th and 4 Lapwings on 3rd. 23 Black-headed Gulls on 2nd, 4 Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 3rd, 5 Stock Doves on 12th, a Skylark on 3rd, 60+ Swallows on 27th, 18 Sand Martins on 7th. 5 House Martins on 12th, a Meadow Pipit on 10th, 2 Pied Wagtails on 2nd, a Grey Wagtail on 17th. On the 14th and the same date as last year there was 2 male and 1 female Redstart near Wyver Woods.

On the evening of the 29th a male Ring Ouzel was heard and then seen in the hedgerow just down the lane from the hide. It then flew towards Wyver Woods and couldn't be re-located. This is the first record of Ring Ouzel for Wyver Lane.

2 Chiff Chaffs on 2nd and 3rd, 2 Willow Warblers on 14th, a Blackcap on 2nd, Raven on 2nd and 3rd, 10 Magpies on 2nd, 2 Jays on 17th, 3 Reed Buntings on 2nd and a Brambling on 22nd.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES MAY 2012

Highlights include: Red Kite, Hobby, Reed Warbler, Common Terns, and Oystercatchers breed for the first time.

Maximum counts this month include 2 Little Grebes on 2nd and 9th, 6 Cormorants on 19th, 4 Grey Heron on 12th and 31st, 2 Mute Swans throughout the month, 42 Greylag Geese on 23rd, with the first young noted on 6th, 64 Canada Geese on 31st, and 22 young counted on 11th, 3 Shelduck on 9th, 4 Mandarin on 15th, 2 Wigeon on 9th, 4 Gadwall on 6th, 6 Teal on 2nd and 3rd, 49 Mallard on 11th including 35 young, 2 drake Shoveler on 28th, 10 Tufted Duck on 2nd, 3 Goosander on 2nd, 12 adult Coots on 11th and 4 broods of 1/1/2 & 4 by 19th, the first Moorhen young was a pair with 4 on 31st.

Raptors include a Red Kite on 9th and 13th, 8 Buzzards on 13th, 2 Sparrowhawks on 25th, the first Hobby of the year was on the 11th, with further sightings on 18th, 30th and 31st. 2 Were seen over the main pool on 28th.

At last, we have some young Oystercatchers at Wyver! After years of many failed attempts the pair of Oystercatchers nested on the island and produced 3 young on the 9th. By the end of the month all 3 were still present and growing fast. Also, throughout the latter part of the month there was a 2nd pair of adults making a total of 7 Oystercatchers which is a site record, beating the 5 on site on April 10th last year. A Common Sandpiper was around on 18th and 19th and 8 Lapwings on 24th.

10 Black-headed Gulls on 31st. 2 Common Terns from 28th. Both the Terns and a pair of Black-headed Gulls were fighting over space on the new Tern raft with the Gulls coming out on top and by the end of the month had a nest on the raft. 8 Lesser Black-backed Gulls over on 25th.

6 Stock Doves on 2nd, 85 Swift on 13th, a Skylark over on 9th was unusual given the time of year, 30 Sand Martins on 13th, 100 Swallow on 11th and 13th, 100 House Martin on 13th, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers on 11th, 4 Pheasants on 11th, 3 Pied Wagtails on 12th, Grey Wagtail on 19th, 6 Wrens on 11th, 3 Dunnock on 11th, 6 Robin on 11th, Redstart on 9th, 11th, 12th, 14th and 31st, 2 Mistle Thrush on 31st, 7 Sedge Warblers on 14th, a Reed Warbler on 14th, a Lesser Whitethroat from 14th, 7 Whitethroats on 14th, a Garden Warbler on 15th and 30th, 4 Blackcaps on 11th and 14th, 5 Chiff Chaffs on 11th, a Willow Warbler on 24th, 8 Long-tailed Tits on 23rd, 2 Jays on 11th and 19th, 2 Raven on 12th and 24th, 5 Chaffinches on 11th, 2 Bullfinch on 14th and 8 Reed Buntings on 23rd.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES JUNE 2012

Highlights include: Osprey, Crossbills, Tufted Ducks breed, and Gadwall and Black headed Gull breed for the first time.

This month's maximum counts are: 2 adult Little Grebes on 18th a fully flighted juvenile from elsewhere on 28th, 4 Cormorants on 15th, 3 Grey Herons on 7th, 3 Mute Swans on several dates, 38 Greylag Geese on 5th-also 35 on 8th including 27 young, 96 Canada Geese on 8th, a Barnacle Goose on 13th and 15th, 2 Shelduck on 1st, female Mandarin on 7th, 3 Teal on 25th, 26th and 28th, 34 Mallard on 28th, 2 Shoveler on 13th. 3 drake Gadwall were on the main pool on 1st. It was suspected that the mate of one of the drakes was sitting on the top marsh since early May. Then on June 9th the female appeared on the main pool with 9 young. This is the first confirmed breeding at Wyver, by the end of the month only 5 young remained. Another good breeding record was on the 18th when a female Tufted Duck was on the main pool with 5 very small young, although by the end of the month only 3 remained. Tufteds have bred before, but this is the first record since 1998. 3 female Goosander on 8th, 21 Coots on 15th including broods of 1/1/3 & 4, 3 Moorhen broods of 1/2 & 3 on 19th.

An Osprey flew over South on the morning of the 5th, 2 Sparrowhawks on 20th, 5 Buzzards on 20th, 2 Kestrels on 5th, 20th and 25th, 2 Hobbies on several dates and 2 Peregrines on 25th.

The 3 juvenile Oystercatchers from last month successfully fledged and was still around at the end of the month with the adults. On the 7th there was a total of 7 birds present. 2 Curlew flew NW on 6th, 20 Lapwing on 20th.

Yet another new breeding record for Wyver was on the 26th when a Black-headed Gull chick emerged on the new raft. 70 Black-headed Gulls flew through South on 27th. 3 Lesser Black-backed Gulls over on 26th. The 2 Common Terns that were ousted from the Tern raft were present for most of the month and maybe nesting nearby.

3 Stock Doves on 5th, a Collared Dove on 5th, 20 Swifts on 8th and 22nd, a Kingfisher on 7th, 60 House Martins on 9th, 2 Pied Wagtails on 26th, 8 Wrens on 19th, a male Redstart on 18th, 2 Reed Warblers on 11th, 19th and 20th, Lesser Whitethroat on 5th, 6 Whitethroats on 11th, a Garden Warbler on 19th, 5 Chiff Chaffs on 22nd, a Willow Tit on 22nd, 2 Nuthatch on 18th, 2 Jays on 6th, 11 Starlings over West on 19th, 11 Crossbills over South on 15th, and 11 Reed Buntings on 19th.

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES JULY 2012

Highlights include: Peregrine, Hobby, Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher.

This month's maximum counts are 2 juvenile Little Grebes from 23rd, 8 Cormorants on 23rd, 4 Grey Herons on 25th, 3 Mute Swans on 20th, 63 Greylag Geese on 21st, 86 Canada Geese on 31st, 4 Mandarin on 25th, female Gadwall with 5 well grown young for most of the month, 11 Teal on 26th, 72 Mallard on 25th, 3 drake Pochard on 8th, 10 Tufted Duck on 3rd and 4th, 4 Goosander on 20th, 22 Coots on 25th, 6 Moorhen on 25th, 4 Pheasants on 20th.

Raptors include 4 Buzzards on 18th, a family of 5 Kestrels on 7th, a Sparrowhawk on 17th, 2 Hobbies all month and 2 Peregrines on several dates.

A site record 9 Oystercatchers on 9th and 10th, c100 Lapwings on 5th and a Common Sandpiper on 6th.

The Black-headed Gull chick from the raft finally fledged on 23rd, 88 Black-headed Gulls flew through on 4th, 2 1st summer Common Gulls on 21st, 18 Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 17th, 2 Common Terns on 3rd and 20th, 3 Stock Doves on several dates, a Collared Dove on 2nd and 3rd, 10 Swifts on 10th, a Kingfisher on 28th and 31st, 2 Green Woodpeckers on 21st, 25th and 28th, a juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker on 7th, c50 House Martins on 11th, 9 Wrens on 3rd and 10th, 6 Robins on 18th and 23rd, a male Redstart on 11th, 8 Blackbirds on 18th, 2 Sedge Warblers on 4th, 4 Whitethroats on 10th, 6 Blackcaps on 3rd, a Garden Warbler on 26th, 10+ Chiff Chaffs on 14th, a Willow Warbler on several dates, a juvenile Goldcrest on 14th, a Spotted Flycatcher on 11th and 17th, 15 Long-tailed Tits on 14th, 6 Blue Tits on 14th, a family of 4 Treecreepers on 2nd and 3rd, 2 Jays on 21st, 10 Magpies on 7th, a Siskin on 7th, 9 Goldfinch on 11th and 5+ Reed Buntings on 21st.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES AUGUST 2012

Highlights include: Peregrine, Hobby, Spotted Flycatcher, Redstart and Raven.

A fairly quiet month with high water levels being good for returning wildfowl, but not so good for passing waders. Maximum counts for the month include 2 juvenile Little Grebes on 11th and 14th, 3 Cormorants on 14th and 18th, 3 Grey Herons on several dates, 3 Mute Swans on 21st, 29 Greylag Geese on 14th, 110 Canada Geese on 11th, 8 Mandarin on 14th, 44 Teal on 25th, 7 Gadwall on 25th and 28th, c200 Mallard on 16th, 2 Shoveler on 28th, a Pochard on 21st, 22nd, 25th and 28th, 5 Tufted Ducks on 18th, 31 Coot on 14th and 20 Moorhen also on 20th.

Raptors include 4 Buzzards on 6th and 25th, single Sparrowhawk sightings on several dates, single Kestrel sightings also on many dates, 2 Hobbies on 3rd and a Peregrine on 22nd.

c120 Lapwings on 3rd. The only other wader was a Common Sandpiper on 21st. 17 Black-headed Gulls on 11th, 5 Lesser Black-Backed Gulls on 25th, A Common Tern on 3rd and 6th, the last Swift record was of 2 on 14th, 3 Green Woodpeckers on 6th including 2 juveniles, 24 House Martins on 18th, 60 Swallows on 14th, a female/juvenile Redstart on 14th and an adult male on 18th, a Sedge Warbler on 25th, a Lesser Whitethroat on 14th and 18th, 5 Chiff Chaffs on 14th and 18th, 3 Willow Warblers on 21st, 3 Spotted Flycatchers including at least one juvenile were near Wyver Woods on 14th and on the 18th in the same location 4 birds were present including 2 juveniles, 19 Long-tailed Tits on 18th, 2 Jays on 21st and a Raven on 18th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES SEPTEMBER 2012

Highlights include: Record count of Greylag Geese, Water Rail, Woodcock, and visible migration.

Maximum counts for September include: 2 juvenile Little Grebes on 3rd and 11th with singles on other dates, 4 Cormorants on 19th and 13th, 5 Grey Herons on 2nd, 3 Mute Swans on 17th, a site record c230 Greylag Geese on 6th, 110 Canada Geese on 20th, the first returning Wigeon was 2 on 26th with up to 7 by the 29th, 7 Mandarin on 23rd, 95 Teal on 11th, 10 Gadwall on 29th and 30th, 84 Mallards on 20th, 4 Shoveler all month, 2 Tufted Duck on 29th, 2 redhead Goosander on 17th and 20th, a Water Rail heard on 28th and 29th, 33 Coots on 23rd, 22 Moorhens on 13th and 5 Pheasants on several dates.

Raptors include 3 Sparrowhawks on 11th, 7 Buzzards on 19th, 4 Kestrel on 9th, 3 Hobbies on 8th with singles on other dates, 2 Peregrines on several dates.

2 Woodcocks were seen flying around at the southern end of the reserve early morning on 30th. This is the first record since January 2005. The first Snipe of the autumn was on 3rd, but surprisingly no further sightings throughout the month. c130 Lapwings on 11th.

Some visible migration has been undertaken this month. Counts of note include Meadow Pipits: 127 on 15th, 215 on 16th, 93 on 17th and 110 on 29th. 400+ House Martins on 11th and 13th, 620 Swallows on 19th, 2 Sand Martins on 19th and 20th, 11 Pied Wagtails on 19th and 16 on 30th, 2 Yellow Wagtails on 11th, also 1 on 16th and 1 on 30th, c100 Wood Pigeons on 23rd, 2 Skylark on 29th, 26 Siskins on 19th, 17 Lesser Redpoll on 29th, 6 Greenfinch on 29th, 6 Chaffinch on 15th and 30th, 17 Starlings on 16th and 20 Goldfinch on 19th.

Other notable sightings include 160 Black-headed Gulls on 30th, 70 Lesser Black- Backed Gulls on 22nd, a Great Black-Backed Gull on 29th, 2 Tawny Owls on 30th, a Little Owl on 23rd and 30th, 18 Mistle Thrush on 13th, 5 Chiff Chaffs on 19th, a singing Willow Warbler on 5th, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers on 16th, 4 Stock Doves on 29th, 7 Blackbirds on 16th, 11 Robins on 23rd, 5 Jays on 29th, 2 Raven on 23rd, 14 Magpies on 5th, 4 Bullfinch on 11th, 4 Reed Buntings on 19th and a Yellowhammer on 17th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES OCTOBER 2012

Highlights include Pink-footed Geese, Marsh Harrier, Water Rail, Rock Pipit, Mallard young and visible migration.

Quite a good month with some quality birds and visible migration produced some exceptional counts.

Maximum counts for the month include a Little Grebe on 16th, 2 Grey Herons on 2nd, 5 Cormorants on 6th, 7th, 20th and 24th, 3 Mute Swans on 6th, 7th and 9th, a skein of 125 Pink-footed Geese flew South East on the morning of 27th, 137 Greylag Geese on 6th, 149 Canada Geese on 24th, 6 Mandarin on 4th, Wigeon numbers slowly increased to 35 by 30th, a site record 11 Gadwall on 4th, 7th and 9th, 54 Teal on 2nd, 47 Mallards on 2nd, but the real surprise was a female with 5 tiny young on 30th, 8 Shoveler on 30th, a drake Pochard from 23rd to 26th, 4 Tufted Ducks on 31st, 9 Goosander on 25th, a Water Rail on 13th, 34 Coots on 30th, 18 Moorhen on 4th and 8 Pheasants on 11th and 13th.

A cream crown Marsh Harrier was seen early evening on 21st mainly at the Northern end of the reserve, this is the first record since Sep 2011. 2 Sparrowhawks on 2nd and 27th, 6 Buzzards on 7th, 2 Kestrels on 2nd, 4th and 30th and a Peregrine on 12th, 18th, 21st and 24th.

Waders include c75 Lapwing on 13th and 3 Snipe on 18th. Black-headed Gulls peaked at 400 on 23rd, 150 Lesser Black-backed Gulls over on 16th, also 58 on 30th, 3 Common Gulls on 16th.

Visible migration has been very productive throughout the month. Wood Pigeons were moving in small numbers in the early part of the month but huge numbers were moving by the end including 3'760 on 27th and 4'590 on 30th. Other notable counts include: Meadow Pipit: 43 on 2nd, 61 on 4th, 90 on 13th, a Rock Pipit through on 18th, this is only the 2nd record for Wyver with the first being back in 1974, 9 Skylark on 6th, also 19 on 18th, 22 on 20th and 16 on 30th, 64 Pied Wagtails on 4th which is another site record, 1'070 Starlings on 30th.

Other notable sightings include 4 Stock Doves on 23rd, a Grey Wagtail on 11th and 18th, 110 Swallows on 4th, 130 House Martins on 4th, 2 Little Owls on 4th and 20th, 2 Tawny owls on 4th and 6th, 8 Wrens on 4th, 11 Robins on 4th, 6 Blackbirds on 30th, 350 Fieldfare on 27th, 2 Song Thrush on 7th, 172 Redwing on 13th, 12 Mistle Thrush on 26th, 2 Chiff Chaffs on 2nd, 3 Goldcrests on 4th and 23rd, 25 Long-tailed Tits on 4th, 7 Great Tits on 4th, 10 Blue Tits on 11th, 2 Nuthatch on 4th, 6 Jays on 13th, 15 Magpies

on 21st, 130 Jackdaw on 24th, 4+ Raven on 6th, 24 Chaffinch on 7th, a Brambling on 13th, 30th and 31st, 9 Greenfinch on 9th and 11th, c50 Goldfinch on 20th, 27 Siskin on 4th, 11 Lesser Redpoll on 31st, 3 Bullfinch on 27th, 3 Reed Buntings on 18th and 2 Yellowhammers on 30th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES NOVEMBER 2012

Highlights include: Great White Egret, Woodcock, late Swallow, and site record counts for Black-headed Gull and Canada Geese.

Wildfowl maximum counts include 2 Little Grebes on 23rd and 29th, 6 Cormorants on 29th, a Great White Egret was seen on the morning of the 25th. It was originally seen at 10.45 on the other side of the river, before settling opposite the hide before flying off in a North Easterly direction. This is only the 2nd record for Wyver Lane following one in June 2004 and follows a good run of record for this species in the county this year. 2 Grey Herons on several dates, 4 Mute Swans on 20th, 114 Greylag Geese on 9th, a site record 212 Canada Geese on 14th. Just as last Winter, Mandarins have been flying over prior to dusk. 23 were recorded on 15th, 16th and 20th, 26 Wigeon on 10th, 5 Gadwall on 27th, 63 Teal on 15th, 53 Mallard on 29th, 11 Shoveler on 16th, a female Pochard from 28th, 9 Tufted Ducks on 5th and 6th, 14 Goosander on 23rd, 2 Water Rails on 16th, 41 Coots on 5th and 19 Moorhens on 14th.

Raptors this month include 5 Buzzards on 10th, 2 Sparrowhawks on 3rd and 29th, 2 Kestrels on 26th, 2 Peregrines on 27th, and a male took a Redwing on 12th. Waders include 70 Lapwings on 9th, 8 Snipe on 26th and 29th, and a Woodcock flushed on 13th.

A site record 1'250 Black-headed Gulls were on the main pool on the 9th, as was 38 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, a Common Gull on 3rd and 5th, an adult Herring Gull on 27th....a rare sight for Wyver.

4 Pheasants on 12th and 13th, 3 Stock Doves on 23rd, 645 Wood Pigeons over during visible migration on 3rd, and 1'164 on 6th, 2 Little Owls on 9th, a Tawny Owl on 23rd, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers on 23rd, 4 Skylark on 6th, a late Swallow through South on 3rd beating the previous latest for Wyver by 2 days, 3 Meadow Pipits on 13th, a Grey Wagtail on several dates, 2 Pied Wagtails on 9th and 13th, 5 Dunnocks on 23rd, 13 Robins on 15th, 19 Blackbirds on 26th, 158 Fieldfares on 3rd, 135 Redwing on 6th, 15 Wrens on 23rd and 29th, a Chiff Chaff on 13th and 29th, 4 Goldcrests on 9th, 34 Long-tailed Tits on 23rd, 12 Blue Tits on 29th, 10 Great Tits on 29th, 2 Treecreepers on 12th and 23rd, 3 Jays on 8th, 15 Magpies on 19th, c450 Jackdaws on 14th, 85 Carrion Crows on 20th, a Raven on 8th and 20th, 55 Starlings on 3rd, 5 Chaffinch on 23rd, 22 Goldfinch on 14th, 35 Siskins on 8th, 9 Lesser Redpoll on 14th, 9 Bullfinch on 14th and 5 Reed Buntings on 15th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE BIRD NOTES DECEMBER 2012

Highlights include Bittern, record count of Mandarin and Barn Owl.

Maximum counts for the month include a Little Grebe on 5th and 8th, 5 Cormorants on 23rd, a Bittern was seen in flight over the main pool on the afternoon of the 20th. It was seen the following day but then remained quite elusive before being seen again on the 29th and 31st. This is only the 3rd record of Bittern at Wyver Lane following records in Dec 1979 and the last one in Nov 1985. 2 Grey Herons on 5th and 23rd, 2 Mute Swans on 15th and 16th, 80 Greylag Geese on 6th, 180 Canada Geese on 5th, Mandarins flying over at dusk increased to 48 on 4th and a site record of 52 the following night, 23 Wigeon on 18th, 7 Gadwall on 30th, 70 Teal on 5th, 72 Mallards on 16th, 4 Shoveler on 21st, 2 Pochard from 23rd, 11 Tufted Ducks on 30th, 18 Goosander on 23rd, 18 Coots on 8th and 2 Water Rails on 8th, 16th and 22nd.

Raptors include 2 Buzzards on several dates, a Peregrine on 26th, and Sparrowhawk and Kestrel both seen regularly. 8 Snipe on 4th and 26th.

950 Black-headed Gulls on 26th, 2 Common Gulls on 8th and 26th. A Herring Gull on 26th, also 4 over on 31st. 3 Stock Doves on 21st, a Barn Owl was hunting around the main pool at dusk on the 16th. This is the first record since Aug 2005. 2 Little Owls on 23rd, a Tawny Owl on 4th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker heard drumming on 21st, a Grey Wagtail on 30th, 6 Pied Wagtails on 21st, 8 Wrens on 6th, 4 Dunnocks on 6th, 6 Robins on 5th, 21 Blackbirds on 6th, 26 Field-fares on 18th, 40 Redwings on 22nd, a Blackcap on the lane on 21st, a Chiff Chaff all month, 2 Goldcrests on 8th, 22 Long-tailed Tits on 6th, 9 Great Tits on 5th, 2 Treecreepers on 5th, c50 Starlings on 16th, 4 Chaffinch on 6th, c30 Goldfinch on 21st, 8 Siskins on 30th, 2 Lesser Redpoll on 6th, 2 Bullfinch on 6th and 5 Reed Buntings on 18th.

Dave Newcombe