

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2001

September highlights were Red-necked Phalarope, Great Skua on three dates, up to four Little Stint, three Red-crested Pochard and seven Common Scoter. A juvenile Caspian Gull roosted on 6th and 7th.

A juvenile Red-necked Phalarope was observed on the evening of the 10th amongst the roosting Gulls unfortunately the bird flew off over the dam wall at 18:30 hrs and was not relocated. A Great Skua flew over the reservoir from the south at 11:00 hrs on the 18th, leaving in a southeast direction at 11:12 hrs. On the evening of the 19th a Great Skua flew into the Gull roost killing and partially eating a Lesser Black-backed Gull before roosting on the reservoir, this bird was located the following morning and was last seen at 07:20hrs.

One to three Red-crested Pochard were present all month. a single Pink-footed Goose was seen 22nd, a single Mandarin on 5th, four Common Scoter on 22nd to 24th increasing to seven on 25th a single was seen on 30th.

The main wildfowl counts were 28 Great Crested Grebe on 3rd, 25 Cormorant on 20th, four Heron on several dates, 26 Mute Swan, 155 Wigeon on 20th and 21st with smaller counts on other dates, six Gadwall on 1st and 28th with two to five present most dates, single Pintail on 2nd, 9th and 22nd, 38 Pochard on 21st with smaller counts on other dates. Four Shoveler on 2nd with two on 8th and three on 18th, two Goosander on 22nd, 16 Ruddy Duck on 21st with six to ten regularly recorded. Several hundred Tufted Duck and Coot were also present throughout the month.

Despite high water levels twelve species of waders were recorded, the highlights being four Little Stint from 21st until 28th with two from 18th till 20th and singles on 15th and 17th. A Single Oystercatcher on 22nd, a single Ringed Plover on several dates, two Dunlin on 11th and 22nd with singles most dates from 8th till 24th, single Ruff on 22nd, ten Snipe on 15th eight on 30th and one to five most dates from 5th, a Spotted Redshank on 5th, a Greenshank 19th, a Common Sandpiper on several dates. The only Curlew record during the month was a single on 20th. C150 Lapwing were present all month.

Other species recorded were three Buzzard on 23rd with singles on several other dates, a Peregrine on 2nd, 7th and 19th, a single Common Tern on 17th with eleven on 18th, a Black Tern on 19th, two Little Owls on 20th, single Swift on 1st and 2nd, a Kingfisher on 19th, single Yellow Wagtail on 3rd and 8th, single Wheatear on 4th.

13 Chiffchaff and 11 Bullfinch were counted on a circular walk around the reservoir on the 1st.

The gull roost continues to increase with c8,000 gulls roosting at the months end comprising mostly of Lesser Black-backs with Black-headed gulls increasing steadily during the month, a juvenile Caspian Gull roosted on 6th and 7th and several Yellow-legged Gulls were seen roosting on several evenings, a Great Black-backed Gull roosted on 7th.

87 species were recorded compared with 97 in September 2000 and 76 in 1999.

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2001

November highlights were Great Northern Diver, Bewick's Swan, Barnacle Geese, Red-crested Pochard, Common Scoter, Hen Harrier, Knot, Mediterranean Gull and Kittiwake.

A Great Northern Diver was observed on 28th and remained into December, giving excellent views beside the dam, six Bewick's Swans were present on the reservoir 15th and 17th, 10 Barnacle Geese on 28th. A single drake Red-crested Pochard was seen regularly during the month, a female Common Scoter was recorded on several dates, occasionally seen resting on the bank side. A female Hen Harrier was observed from Sheepwash Hide during the afternoon of the 18th.

The main wildfowl count was 94 Cormorant on 11th, four Shelduck on 10th with two on 7th, 29th and one on 18th, 179 Wigeon on 4th, 12 Gadwall, on 3rd with between two and eight most other dates, 130 Teal on 4th, seven Shoveler on 4th with singles on 3rd, 6th and 15th, 42 Pochard on 22nd, up to five Goldeneye were present throughout the month, three Goosander on 4th with singles on other dates, 35 Ruddy Duck on 4th with smaller counts on other dates. Three Pintail were recorded on 6th. Small numbers of Heron were regularly seen.

A total of seven species of waders were recorded three Golden Plover on 28th with one on 18th, c150 Lapwing all month, single Knot on 30th, eight Dunlin on 28th, 29th with two to six regularly present, 10 Snipe on 18th with nine on 21st and 29th with smaller numbers on other dates, single Redshank on 4th. A late Common Sandpiper was regularly recorded throughout the month.

The Gull roost numbers remained at approximately 10,000 comprising mainly of Lesser Black-backed and Black-headed Gulls with increasing numbers of Great Black-backs, Herring and Common Gulls, up to six Yellow-legged Gulls were recorded most evenings with eight counted on 18th, an adult Mediterranean Gull roosted on 4th and a 1st winter on 7th. An adult Kittiwake was roosted on 24th.

Other species recorded were two Buzzard on 11th with one on 20th, single Peregrine on 11th, a Kingfisher was regularly seen from Sheepwash and Paul Stanley Hides. Great Spotted Woodpeckers were seen at the Sheepwash feeding station and on the newly constructed feeding area near Lane End Hide, single Grey Wagtails were recorded on several dates. Fieldfare and Redwing were often seen feeding in nearby fields and tree tops.

During a circular walk around the reservoir on 11th 18 Goldcrests, four Willow Tits, 34 Coal Tits and several mixed flocks of Blue and Great Tits numbering approximately 160 were counted, two Raven were also recorded during this walk, 17 Redpoll were counted on 28th with smaller numbers on other dates, single Brambling on 29th, c20 Tree Sparrows regularly visited the Wildlife Centre feeders, small numbers of Bullfinch were also recorded during the month.

84 species were recorded compared with 70 in November 2000, 79 in 1999 and 78 in 1998

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2001

December highlights were Red-throated Diver, Great Northern Diver, Red-crested Pochard, Common Scoter, Hen Harrier, Peregrine, Bar-tailed Godwit, Common Sandpiper, Knot, Mediterranean Gull, Caspian Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Iceland Gull and Raven.

A juvenile Red-throated Diver was observed at 15:50 hrs on the 16th and briefly the following morning, the first record since December 1993. Unlike the brief visit of the Red-throat the Great Northern Diver continued its stay and remained all month, giving excellent views from beside the dam. A dark bellied Brent Goose was present from the 13th till 26th usually accompanying Canada's. 15 Barnacle Geese and a hybrid were present on the 2nd. One to two male Red-crested Pochard was recorded regularly during the month, the female Common Scoter remained from November was last seen on the 2nd.

Wildfowl counts were 19 Little Grebe on 2nd, 17 Great Crested Grebe on 2nd, 76 Cormorant on 2nd, 23 Mute Swan all month, 415 Canada's on 2nd, single Shelduck on 23rd, 326 Wigeon on 2nd, seven Gadwall on 13th with smaller counts on other dates, c300 Teal on 19th with 168 counted on 17th, seven Pintail on 8th, eight Shoveler on 8th with singles on 11th and 12th, c200 Pochard on 19th with 167 counted on 2nd, 61 Tufted Duck on 2nd, up to six Goldeneye all month, four Goosander on 6th and 26th with two on 11th, 39 Ruddy Duck on 2nd with 34 on 27th. Coot numbers remained high with 1553 counted on 2nd. Heron were regularly present with up to six most dates.

Seven species of waders were recorded the highlights being a Bar-tailed Godwit on 26th a late Common Sandpiper was regularly recorded until the 30th, two were reported on the 5th, single Knot on 1st and 2nd. An increase in Lapwing numbers were noted during the month with c300 regularly present, six Dunlin on 2nd with two on 5th and singles on several other dates, seven Snipe on 2nd with smaller numbers on other dates, a Woodcock was seen on 1st.

The gull roost decreased during the month from c10,000 to approximately 3000 present at the month's end, comprising mainly of Lesser Black-backed and Black-headed Gulls, two Mediterranean Gulls roosted, an adult winter on 2nd, 8th, 9th, 17th and 22nd an adult winter and a 2nd winter roosted on several evenings from 23rd till 31st, a 2nd winter Caspian Gull roosted on 9th, a 1st/2nd winter Iceland Gull roosted on 14th and 15th, several Yellow-legged Gulls were recorded in the roost most evenings, the roost also contained increasing numbers of Common and Great Black-backed Gulls.

Other species recorded were a female Hen Harrier on 30th, two Buzzard on 26th with singles on other dates, a Peregrine on several dates, a Water Rail was observed on 11th beneath the Wildlife Centre feeding area. A Little Owl on 11th, single Kingfisher on several dates during the month with two on 19th and 26th, two Raven on 25th, c18 Tree Sparrows were regular at the Wildlife Centre feeders with two present at the new feeding station near Lane end Hide.

Flocks of Redpoll and Siskin were regularly seen with 12 Redpoll counted on 2nd and 20th, 19 Bullfinch were counted on 13th with five on 16th.

An excellent month with 86 species recorded compared with 74 in December 2000, 71 in 1999 and 78 in 1998