

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2002

January highlights were Great Northern Diver, Green-Winged Teal, Red-crested Pochard, Mediterranean Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Glaucous Gull and reservoir record counts of Ruddy Duck.

The Great Northern Diver continued its stay into the New Year and was last recorded on the 19th. A Pink-footed Goose was observed on the reservoir on 15th and 16th, whilst 120 flew north-east at 16:25hrs on 17th c300 flew west at 11:00hrs on 27th, between six and 15 Barnacle Geese were noted regularly from the 16th.

A drake Red-crested Pochard was regularly recorded throughout the month often near the spit. A Green-winged Teal was reported on the 27th at 12:00hrs, however this bird couldn't be relocated, mainly due to deteriorating weather conditions and the following day near gale force winds.

Wildfowl counts were 20 Little Grebe on 1st, ten Great Crested Grebe on 1st, ten plus Cormorant on 26th, 20 Mute Swan most dates, single Shelduck on 10th and 11th, c200 Wigeon all month, eight Gadwall on 11th with one to six on several other dates, 80 Teal on 14th, 73 Pochard on 1st with 45 counted on 14th, 60 Tufted Duck on 1st with smaller counts on other dates, up to five Goldeneye were regularly recorded during the month, five Goosander on 11th with one to four on several other dates. Coot numbers remain high with c1200 on 1st, 30 Moorhen were counted on 27th. One to three Heron were regularly seen during the month.

A reservoir record count of 135 Ruddy Duck on 16th with 121 on 23rd, the previous record count was 118 on 28th January 2001.

Four species of waders were recorded, three Golden Plover on 1st with 12 noted flying north-east on 12th, single Dunlin on 1st and 2nd, 17 Snipe on 23rd with one to six regularly present mostly on Horseshoe Island. 570 Lapwing on 1st with 200-300 throughout the month. The wintering Common Sandpiper was last recorded on the 1st.

The Gull roost produced an adult winter Mediterranean Gull on 11th, a 1st winter on 13th, two 1st winter plus an adult winter on 14th, a 2nd winter plus an adult winter on 16th, two 1st winter plus a 2nd winter on 17th and a adult winter on 20th. A 1st winter Glaucous Gull was seen on the ice close to Millfields Car Park on 1st. Several Yellow-legged Gulls were noted during the month, 80 Common Gulls were counted on 27th, 30 plus Great Black-backed Gulls were noted on 4th.

Other species recorded were four Buzzard on 29th with singles on 16th and 22nd, Little Owl on 19th, two Kingfisher on 19th with singles on several other dates, two Skylark flew over on 11th, nine Meadow Pipit on 31st with one on the 1st, (two scarce species at Carsington) single Grey Wagtail regularly recorded throughout the month with two on 29th, four Fieldfare on 1st with 12 on 11th, 20 plus Redwing on 1st and 11th, eight Lesser Redpoll on 4th and 17th with one to four on several other dates, a single Reed Bunting on 31st, up to twelve Tree Sparrows were regularly present at the Wildlife Centre feeders.

Despite very poor weather conditions that included several days of fog, heavy rain and near gale force winds 75 species were recorded compared with 73 in January 2001, 80 in 2000 and 74 in 1999.

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2002

February highlights were Slavonian Grebe, Shag, Red-crested Pochard, Kittiwake, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Stonechat.

Two Slavonian Grebes were reported on 22nd in Shiningford Creek by four visiting West Midlands birders, a Shag was present on flat island accompanying Cormorants on 10th February the first record since April 1994, a single male Red-crested Pochard on 2nd and 3rd, single Shelduck on 6th, eight Pintail on 15th and 16th with two to seven recorded most dates until 28th.

Wildfowl counts were 12 Little Grebe on 11th, six Great Crested Grebe on 11th with several pairs displaying during the month, 15 Cormorant on 16th with smaller counts on other dates, single Heron also on several dates, 20 Mute Swan all month, a Greylag Goose on 2nd, c200 Wigeon on 14th, 25 Teal on 3rd, 14 Pochard on 1st, 11 Tufted Duck on 11th, three to six Goldeneye all month, up to five Goosander were present on several dates, Ruddy Duck numbers remained high with 133 counted on 2nd. Coot numbers declined during the month with 50 plus recorded on 11th. Barnacle Geese continued to visit Carsington with between five and 15 regularly present including a hybrid.

Seven species of waders were recorded, two Oystercatchers on 8th, three on 9th increasing to eight on 27th, 26 Lapwing on 11th, four Dunlin on 18th with one on 26th and 28th, 17 Snipe on 28th with one to eight regularly recorded, single Woodcock on 8th, two Curlew on 14th with 18 on 28th and smaller counts on other dates, single Redshank on 10th, 14th, 22nd and 28th, two were present on 24th and 26th.

Single adult Kittiwake on 3rd, with three [two adults and one 1st winter] on 24th and 25th, 100 plus Common Gulls were present on 2nd and 3rd with smaller number present throughout the month, four Buzzard on 14th, a Little Owl was seen on 14th and 18th, two Kingfishers were observed on 3rd with a single on 27th, a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker on 21st.

Other species recorded were 16 Meadow Pipits on 8th, two Grey Wagtails on 1st, a female Stonechat on 28th, seven Redwing on 24th, single Willow Tit on several dates, single Nuthatch on 8th and 24th, single Raven on 22nd, 10 Goldfinch on 27th with smaller counts on other dates. Up to eight Siskin were regularly recorded, two to three Lesser Redpoll were noted on several dates with two Mealy Redpoll reported on 21st.

The Tree Sparrows continued to visit the Wildlife Centre feeders with c15 regularly counted, several Bullfinch were reported along the path to Paul Stanley Hide, three Reed Buntings were recorded on 24th.

78 species were recorded compared with 74 in February 2000, 77 in 1999 and 86 in 1998. No monthly counts are available for February 2001 due to the Foot and Mouth closures.

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2002

March highlights were Whooper Swan, Osprey, Water Rail, Crane, Ruff, Mediterranean Gull, Iceland Gull, Kittiwake, and early dates for Sand Martin and Swallow.

A Crane was seen on 15th flying north west over Shiningford Creek at 18:10hrs, an influx of this species occurred during mid-March with the majority being seen along the East Coast. Two herds of Whooper Swan were recorded 30 comprising of 26 adults and four juveniles were on the reservoir on 1st, flying west at 16:50hrs. 11 were observed on the reservoir on 13th.

Wildfowl counts were 24 Little Grebe on 24th, 24 Great Crested Grebe on 24th, 23 Cormorant on 23rd, four Heron on 24th with one to three most dates, 12 Mute Swan on 2nd, single Pink-footed Goose from 4th to 14th, single Greylag Goose on 24th, 10 to 15 Barnacle Geese were regularly recorded during the month, two Shelduck on 22nd, 112 Wigeon on 23rd with 70 to 80 regularly counted, two to four Gadwall on several dates, seven Pintail on 20th with four on 2nd and three on 3rd, 12 Shoveler on 24th with seven on 25th and smaller numbers on other dates, 11 Goldeneye on 23rd with three to six regularly present, small numbers of Goosander were noted, the maximum being five on 3rd, Ruddy Duck declined during the month with a maximum count of 26 on 1st and 15th.

An Osprey was observed on 30th from 14:40 to 14:50 hrs, (an Osprey was seen over Ogston reservoir later the same day which was considered to be the same bird) two Buzzard on 11th and 16th with singles on other dates, a Merlin on 5th, Sparrowhawks were seen displaying on several dates.

Nine species of waders were recorded, two to seven Oystercatches all month, the first Little Ringed Plover was recorded on 23rd with three present on the 29th to 31st, single Golden Plover on 7th, 125 Lapwing on 10th, four Dunlin on 8th with three on 16th and singles on several other dates, nine Ruff on 26th with a single on 27th to 29th, 12 Snipe on 5th with one to seven regularly recorded during the month. Roosting Curlew on Horseshoe Island increased with 32 on 4th, 41 on 10th, and a maximum 57 on 12th, up to 10 were regularly present during the day on the Spit, nine Redshank on 16th with one to eight regularly noted.

The Gull roost declined during the month, highlights were adult summer plumaged Mediterranean Gull on 2nd, 1st winter Iceland Gull on 7th and 18th, 16 Kittiwake on 9th with singles on 20th and 23rd. large numbers of Common Gull were regularly present with a maximum 171 counted on 23rd.

Other species recorded were single Red-legged Partridge on 24th with two the following day, a very scarce species at Carsington, a Water Rail was seen regularly from the 10th until 29th, close to Sheepwash Hide and occasionally seen walking underneath it, single Kingfisher on 2nd and 5th, two Sand Martin on 16th with one on 18th and three on 19th, single Swallow on 30th with two on 31st, a female Stonechat on 11th, single Wheatear on 24th, 150 Redwing on 4th with smaller counts on other dates. The first Chiffchaff was heard singing on 16th, with eight on 24th, a Willow Warbler singing on 29th. Single Raven on 20th with two on 24th and 25th. Three House Sparrows were noted at the Ranger Base, single Brambling on 4th, 12th to 14th on the Wildlife Centre feeders, Willow Tit and Reed Bunting were regularly seen at the feeding station beside Paul Stanley hide.

An excellent month with 96 species were recorded compared with 78 recorded in March 2000, 83 in 1999 and 86 in March 1998.

No monthly counts are available for March 2001 due to the foot and mouth closures.

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2002

April highlights were Scaup, Hen Harrier, Osprey, Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Little Gull, Kittiwake, Common, Arctic and Little Terns and Grasshopper Warbler.

A Pomarine Skua was reported on 29th by three visiting birders from the Wirral, flying south at 17:05hrs following a heavy rainstorm. More details on this observation would be appreciated.

A female Scaup was located in the evening of the 25th, an Hen Harrier flew alongside Carsington Pastures at 18:00hrs on the 3rd, single Osprey on 2nd. A 1st summer Little Gull was present on 29th and was still present the following day, a 1st summer Kittiwake on the 30th. A Little Tern was observed from the 28th and remained until the early morning of the 30th, giving birders the opportunity to view this scarce visitor to Derbyshire only the fourth reservoir record and the first to remain for more than one day. Two Common Tern were regularly seen from 20th, single Arctic Tern on several dates from 22nd with four on 29th.

Wildfowl counts were 20 Little Grebe on 5th, 35 Great Crested Grebe on 21st, 29 Cormorant on 17th, two Greylag Geese on 17th with one on several other dates, c45 Canada's throughout often accompanied by a Pink-footed Goose, 10 to 15 Barnacle Geese during the month with a Ross's Goose accompanying them from the 6th. Single Shelduck on 30th, 20 Wigeon on 10th with smaller numbers regularly present until 19th, four Gadwall on 18th with a single on 4th, nine Teal on 9th with two to four present on several other dates, single Pochard on several dates till 21st, 20 Tufted Duck on 6th, four Goldeneye on 3rd with one to three present until 14th, single Goosander on several dates, small numbers of Ruddy Duck were present throughout the month. 50 plus Coot and 30 plus Moorhen were counted on 6th. Up to four Heron were regularly present.

With falling reservoir levels providing excellent conditions 13 species of waders were recorded, up to eight Oystercatcher were regularly present, eight Little Ringed Plovers on 15th with one to four regular recorded, three Ringed Plovers on several dates from the 18th, eight Golden Plover flew north west on 24th accompanying a Whimbrel, 17 Dunlin on 18th increasing to 26 on 25th and 24 on 29th, one to four were present on several other dates. Three Snipe were present on 7th with one to two regularly present, a possible Jack Snipe was recorded on 18th by two members of Sheffield Bird Study Group, four Black-tailed Godwit on 18th with two on 26th, single Bar-tailed Godwit on 24th, two Whimbrel on 24th with one on 27th, three on 29th. Curlew were observed roosting most evenings with maximum counts of nine on 29th, approximately 12 Redshank present throughout the month, Common Sandpiper were regularly recorded from 18th with a maximum seven on 28th.

The first Swift was recorded on 26th with 20 counted on 27th and 50 plus on 30th, Sand Martin numbered 70 plus on 29th, 200 plus Swallows on 18th, the first House Martin was noted on 18th with 30 plus on 29th, single Tree Pipit was recorded on 5th and 13th, Yellow Wagtails from 4th with four on 19th and 30th, four White Wagtails on 29th with one to two from 25th. The first Redstart was noted on 12th, single Wheatear on 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 28th two on 27th. 12 Fieldfare were noted on 9th and 14 on 20th, A Grasshopper Warbler reeling on 21st and 29th, Sedge Warbler from 21st, Lesser Whitethroat on 22nd and 23rd, single Whitethroat on 21st with nine on 24th, Garden Warbler from 11th, 14 Blackcap were recorded singing on 24th, 38 Willow Warblers were singing on 21st.

Other Species recorded were small numbers of Black-headed and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, two Common Gulls on 5th, Little Owl continues to be reported in the Shiningford Creek area, a Green Woodpecker on 14th, Raven on 9th, 11 Lesser Redpoll on 5th with smaller numbers regularly seen. Pairs of Bullfinch were reported from various locations around the reservoir.

An excellent month with 107 species recorded compared with 103 in April 2001, 101 in 2000 and 96 in 1999

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2002

May highlights were Shelduck, Pintail, Garganey, Red-breasted Merganser, Osprey, Hobby, 20 species of waders which included Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Little Stint, Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Wood Sandpiper, reservoir record counts of Dunlin and Turnstone, Little Gull, Kitiwake, Sandwich, Arctic, Little and Black Terns, Grasshopper, Reed and Wood Warblers, Raven and a new species for Carsington Purple Sandpiper.

Four Shelduck on 3rd with one on 4th, single female Pintail from 26th till 29th, a pair of Garganey were present on 13th with two males on 31st, unfortunately they weren't present the following day, a immature male Red-breasted Merganser was recorded from 18th until 22nd. Single Buzzard was noted on several dates, an Osprey flew west over the reservoir on 18th, a Hobby was observed on several dates, a Water Rail on 3rd, the previous months Little Gull remained until 11th, two Common Gull on 3rd. The 1st summer Kittiwake remaining from April was last seen on 3rd a adult Kittiwake was present on the reservoir for several hours on 18th, three Sandwich Terns on 16th which remained for most of the day but had departed by 17:30hrs, the breeding pair of Common Tern produced two young on 30th, up to three other Common Terns were recorded during the month.

A passage of Arctic Terns was noted on 5th, 7th and 8th when 28 were counted on each date, one to two were present on several other dates with one remaining for several days at the months end. A Little Tern was seen on 11th, the second record this year of this scarce visitor, three Black Tern were present on 18th.

With falling reservoir levels producing ideal conditions for passage waders, 20 species were recorded including a new species for Carsington a single Purple Sandpiper on 17th, eight Oystercatcher were present all month, 12 to 16 Little Ringed Plover all month, 13 Ringed Plover on 18th with nine on 1st and 2nd, seven on 13th with one to six regularly present, single Grey Plover on 11th, 17th and 18th, a Knot on 23rd, five Sanderling on 15th with four on 2nd, 25th and 29th, one to three were regularly present during the month, single Little Stint were noted on 11th and 13th.

A reservoir record count of 51 Dunlin on 15th with 41 on 1st, 30 on 2nd and 22 on 14th, several other counts of 12 plus were noted during the month. Five Black-tailed Godwit on 11th, two Bar-tailed Godwit on 11th with seven on 21st, a single was present on 13th, nine Whimbrel on 8th, seven on 20th, five on 1st with one two on several other dates, nine Curlew on 1st with one to four regularly recorded, up to 12 Redshank were present all month, single Greenshank on 9th, a Wood Sandpiper from 4th until 6th, nine Common Sandpiper on 1st with one to three regularly present. A reservoir record count of eight Turnstone on 13th with one to three on several other dates.

The majority of the waders were recorded on Horseshoe Island or Stones Island.

Other species recorded were 14 Great Crested Grebe, 23 Cormorant on 8th, one to five Heron all month, 21 Mute Swan all month including three pairs nesting, single Pink-footed and Greylag Geese on several dates, two to four Barnacle Geese, one Shoveler on 11th, two Pochard on 31st, 50 Tufted counted on 12th. Single Goosander on 11th and 16th a scarce bird for May. Cuckoo heard on 13th, 17th and 18th, 150 Swift on 4th with several counts of 50 plus, three Yellow Wagtail on 7th with singles on two other dates, single White Wagtails on 1st, 14th and 18th, two Wheatear on 1st and 11th, single Grasshopper Warbler heard reeling on 10th and 11th, a Reed Warbler on 20th, 21st and 31st, five Lesser Whitethroat singing on 4th, a Wood Warbler on 6th, Spotted Flycatcher on 21st and 29th. Single Raven on 18th with two on 31st.

An excellent month with 112 species recorded compared with 106 in May 2001, 92 in May 2000 and 88 in 1999.

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2002

June highlights were Common Scoter, Osprey, Hobby, Arctic Tern, eleven species of waders including Black-tailed Godwit and Turnstone with breeding records of Oystercatcher, Little Ringed Plover, Lapwing and Redshank. Common Terns successfully reared two young. Barnacle Geese bred for the first time at Carsington this was only the second county breeding record.

The feral Barnacle Geese produced two young on 1st, only the second breeding record for Derbyshire and the first for Carsington, two other individuals were also present on several dates, these birds are considered to originate from a captive flock at the JCB works at Rocester, up to 15 of these birds have been regularly present throughout the year. Great Crested Grebe, Mute Swan, Oystercatcher, Little Ringed Plover, Lapwing and Redshank all have bred successfully.

Wildfowl counts were five Little Grebe on 2nd, 18 Great Crested Grebe on 2nd, 14 Cormorant on 24th with two to five regularly present, six Heron on 11th with two to four regularly present, 32 Mute Swan on 12th, single Pink-footed Goose on several dates accompanying Canada's, two to three Greylag Goose on several dates also accompanying Canada's, 731 Canada Geese were counted on 11th which doesn't including any young. With in excess of 150 young on the reservoir this species will soon exceed 1000 birds. Four Shelduck on 4th, five Gadwall on 21st with one to three on several other dates, five Teal on 21st with three on 16th and singles on other dates. A ringed female Pintail considered to be an escape bird was present all month, two Pochard on 1st and 2nd with singles on 17th and 18th, 120 Tufted Duck were counted on 25th with 56 on 15th. 100 Coot were counted on 15th.

Three Drake Common Scoter on 17th, a party of eight on 26th comprising of six males and two females the first records for 2002.

Eleven species of waders were recorded, eleven Oystercatcher on 20th with up to eight present all month, twelve Little Ringed Plover on 25th with smaller counts on other dates, single Ringed Plover on 1st, 2nd, 8th, 15th 16th, 27th and 28th, several pairs of Lapwing were noted with young during the month, three Dunlin on 2nd with singles on 11th, 12th and 26th, a single Snipe on 30th was the only record for June, two Black-tailed Godwit on 23rd, small numbers of Curlew were present most evenings with four counted on 18th, eight Redshank on 13th with smaller numbers present throughout the month, single Common Sandpiper on 2nd, 27th and 29th, a summer plumage Turnstone was present on 10th.

Other species recorded were a single Buzzard on 8th, an Osprey was reported flying north at 8pm on 23rd, single Hobby on 2nd, Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were also recorded. A Red-legged Partridge on 18th, several female Pheasant with eight young were noted, the Arctic Tern remaining from May was last recorded on 2nd, a Tawny Owl was seen near Paul Stanley hide on 29th, 50 Swift on 10th with smaller estimates on other dates, a Kingfisher was noted on three dates, a singing Skylark on 8th, two Meadow Pipit on 30th, two Grey Wagtail on 15th, single Redstart on several dates. Lesser Whitethroat on 2nd and 25th, Spotted Flycatcher on 2nd with two on 26th. The feeders at Paul Stanley hide produced records of Great Spotted Woodpecker, Willow Tit, Coal Tit and Dunnock also in this area were Mistle Thrush, Treecreeper, Goldcrest and Bullfinch, an estimated 50 Tree Sparrows were reported near the Wildlife Centre.

A good month with 95 species recorded compared with 75 in June 2001, 74 in 2000 and 82 species in 1999.

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2002 – Eddie Walker

July highlights were Egyptian Goose, Garganey, Common Scoter, Peregrine, Sanderling, Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, Turnstone and Marsh Tit.

A Egyptian Goose was present on 7th, 20th and 30th the second record for Carsington the previous record was in March 1997, up to ten Barnacle Geese were present including the family party of two adults plus two young. Four female or immature Garganey was seen on 29th six Common Scoter including five males were observed on 20th.

Wildfowl counts were 10 Little Grebe on 7th however only one pair were noted with young, 61 Great Crested Grebe on 7th including several pairs with dependent young, 20 Cormorant on 7th with smaller counts most other dates, 16 Heron on 7th also regularly present during the month, 49 Mute Swan including broods of five, four and one. Two Greylag Geese were noted from 1st until 8th, a single male Wigeon on 6th, single Gadwall from 25th with two on 29th and 31st. Small numbers of Teal were present all month with a maximum on five on 29th, the female Pintail continues its stay being recorded all month, two Shoveler on 29th, 30th with five on 31st. Pochard were recorded on several dates during the month with five on 15th and six on 29th, 285 Tufted Duck were counted on 28th including two broods of seven and eight. 328 Coot were counted on 28th.

Fifteen species of waders were recorded, 12 Oystercatcher on 14th with smaller counts on other dates, 24 Little Ringed Plover on 3rd including 15 juveniles, single Ringed Plover on 30th with two on 31st, 194 Lapwing on 17th with smaller numbers present all month, a moulting adult Sanderling on 22nd. Dunlin were regularly present with 12 on 20th and 18 on 30th, a juvenile Ruff on 17th. Small numbers of Snipe were noted from 17th with three on 30th, four Black-tailed Godwit on 8th, single on 9th, four on 10th, three on 17th were recorded flying east at 18:00hrs, 14 in one flock were present at Paul Stanley hide on 31st, later the same day a single was noted flying south-east over Stones island at 19:00hrs (a good year for this species) The only Curlew sighting noted were a single on 2nd, two on 3rd and four on 6th. Redshank numbers declined during the month with one to two present most days, single Greenshank on 15th with two on 28th, the first Green Sandpiper of the year was recorded with one on 6th and 9th (a scarce bird at Carsington). One to eight Common Sandpiper were recorded throughout the month with a maximum 11 on 11th, a Turnstone was noted on 22nd with two on 31st. The majority of the waders were observed from the Wildlife Centre, Stones Island, Sheepwash and Paul Stanley hides,

Other species recorded were single Buzzard regularly noted during the month with three on 28th, Sparrowhawk and Kestrel also regularly observed, an interesting record on the 28th of a Kestrel chasing insects by running! , A juvenile Peregrine on 6th, the family party of Common Tern was last seen on 5th, single adults were noted on 17th, 20th, 27th and 30th, three were present on 31st. Two records of Stock Dove during the month (a scarce bird at Carsington), Little Owl on 2nd. Swift was present all month with 30 regularly counted, Swallow and Sand Martin were also present, House Martin bred again at the Visitor Centre. Single Wheatear on 17th, 18th, a post breeding flock of 16 Mistle Thrush was present in Sheepwash car park on 30th, with a family party of three young noted.

The feeders at Paul Stanley hide attracted a good variety of birds including a Marsh Tit (a scarce bird at Carsington) also Willow Tit, Coal Tit, Treecreeper, Goldcrest, Bullfinch, Reed Bunting and Great Spotted Woodpecker were all regularly seen. Spotted Flycatchers were regularly present between Sheepwash Car Park and Paul Stanley hide

An excellent month with 100 species recorded compared with 90 in July 2001, 94 in 2000 and 68 in July 1999.

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2002

August highlights were Black-necked Grebes, Little Egret, Garganey, Red-crested Pochard, Common Scoter, Marsh Harrier, Merlin, Hobby, Peregrine, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Spotted Redshank, Green Sandpiper, Turnstone, Great Skua, Black Tern, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Whinchat, Raven and Crossbill.

A juvenile Black-necked Grebe was present on 13th and 14th, a different Black-necked Grebe was also present from 20th to 23rd seen mostly from Stones Island. A juvenile Little Egret on 9th, a Little Egret considered the same bird was seen on the 11th remained until 16th giving excellent views from Sheepwash hide and the Wildlife Centre. A Garganey on 21st, a Red-crested Pochard was noted in front of Sheepwash hide from 29th to 31st, a pair of Common Scoter on 2nd, a single male on 12th and two males on 16th.

A Great Skua was observed on the evening of the 1st, the following morning it was observed to kill a drake Mallard and proceeded to pluck and eat it, whilst remaining on the water, it drifted towards the Hopton end. It was last seen flying high to the south at 16:30hrs the same day. A second Great Skua was seen flying around the reservoir on 29th landing briefly on the water before attacking a Black-headed Gull and was last seen flying south at 20:00 hrs, the fourth and fifth Carsington records. A dark phase Skua was present briefly on 10th unfortunately it was only seen for several minutes on two occasions and was not positively identified however the observers considered it was either an Arctic or a Pomarine.

The maximum monthly counts of wildfowl were 25 Little Grebe on 19th with one pair still nesting at the months end, 49 Great Crested Grebe on 2nd, 48 Cormorant on 24th, 51 Mute Swan on 9th including ten young, single Greylag Goose on several dates, 632 Canada's on 30th, four Barnacle Geese until the 8th with two remaining until 15th, two Shelduck on 29th with one on 31st. Wigeon were regularly present from 12th with 68 on 31st, eight Gadwall on 26th with smaller numbers noted all month, 84 Teal on 31st 261 Mallard on 20th, two Pintail all month, additionally two were observed flying north on 28th, small numbers of Pochard were also present all month with nine on 26th, 382 Tufted Duck on 2nd, 21 Ruddy Duck on 19th. Coot numbers continue to increase with 671 counted on 29th, 26 Heron were counted on 13th.

Twenty species of waders were recorded, eight Oystercatcher on 6th, with three to five regular until 5th, a single was present on 23rd, 24th, 25 Little Ringed Plover on 19th with smaller number present most days, 11 Ringed Plover on 8th with smaller numbers regularly present during the month, a single Golden Plover on 23rd, a single Grey Plover on 15th, 120 Lapwing on 4th with smaller counts on other dates, single summer plumaged Knot on 1st, single Sanderling on 10th and 15th. Dunlin were regularly present with 12 on 8th and 12th, nine were counted on 10th, single Ruff on 1st, 24th and 26th, two Snipe on 2nd with singles on several other dates, eight Black-tailed Godwit flew south on 8th, 18 adults and one juvenile flew south the following evening. Single Whimbrel on 8th and 11th, seven Curlew on 27th, a Spotted Redshank on 16th, two Redshank on 1st and 13th with singles on 2nd and 22nd, five Greenshank on 6th with one to two on other dates, a single Green Sandpiper (a scarce bird at Carsington) was regularly present until 18th, with on 29th. Common Sandpiper were regularly recorded all month with a maximum 12 on 3rd, single Turnstone on 1st, 8th and 26th. The majority of the waders were observed for Stones Island, Sheepwash or Paul Stanley Hides.

Other species recorded were a juvenile Marsh Harrier flew north on 20th, six Buzzard on 28th with regular sighting of one to two all month, three Kestrel on 14th, a Merlin on 29th, single Hobby on 2nd and 3rd, a juvenile Peregrine was noted on several dates. A Water Rail on 4th and 9th. A juvenile Arctic Tern on 13th a Black Tern on 19th

The Gull roost became established from the 10th when 300 Lesser Black-backs were counted, and 1500 on 13th, several Yellow Legged Gulls, were noted a single adult on 10th , 13th with five on 26th, single Common Gull were noted on several dates with two on 12th. Two Barn Owls on 8th, three Little Owls on 19th with singles on several other dates, single Green Woodpecker on several dates, a Lesser-Spotted Woodpecker on 2nd.

Yellow Wagtails became more regular with seven on 23rd, 74 Pied Wagtails were counted on 23rd, single Redstart on 4th and 5th. The first records of Whinchat for the year with a juvenile on 22nd and 30th single Wheatear on 4th, 16th and 22nd. Up to five Spotted Flycatchers were regularly observed between Sheepwash and Paul Stanley hides and the tower. The Marsh Tit continued to visit the feeders at Paul Stanley hide with Willow Tit and Coal Tit also recorded. Several Great Spotted Woodpeckers were noted. Two Raven on 2nd with one on 29th. A Crossbill flew over Sheepwash Car Park on 31st perhaps the start of an invasion?

An excellent month with 122 species recorded compared with 86 in August 2001, 97 in 2000 and 84 in 1999. Thanks to all those observers for counting and recording the commoner species.

Eddie Walker

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2002

September highlights were Red-crested Pochard, Common Scoter, Goshawk, Osprey, Peregrine, Little Stint, Great Skua, Little Gull, Rock Pipit and Crossbill.

A Red-crested Pochard was present from 1st until 13th and again on 20th, five Common Scoter one pair plus three females or immature birds were noted on 20th. A Goshawk was recorded on 25th, an Osprey was seen flying east at 12:40hrs and again recorded at 15:10hrs. Two Great Skua were observed flying in from the south at 19:30hrs on the 9th, one roosted and was observed leaving the reservoir towards the south east at 06:50hrs the following morning. An incredible run of records, this was the third record of this species in six weeks; the others were singles on 1st and 29th August. This is the first time two have ever been recorded together in Derbyshire.

Wildfowl counts were 28 Little Grebe on 7th, 23 Great Crested Grebe on 6th, 62 Cormorant on 14th, 49 Mute Swan including 10 juveniles on 11th with similar counts on other dates, single Pink-footed Goose from 27th to 30th, 50 Greylag Geese arrived at dusk on 30th, a single was present on 11th. 812 Canada's on 7th with 485 on 3rd, single Barnacle Geese on several dates, one hybrid Barnacle/Canada arrived with the 50 Greylags. Wigeon numbers increased during the month from 51 on the 2nd to 459 on 27th, 10 Gadwall on 12th and 16th with smaller counts on other dates during the month. 207 Teal on 10th with 182 counted on 23rd, 316 Mallard on 7th. One to four Pintail were regularly recorded with seven on 10th, nine Shoveler on 6th with smaller counts on other dates. 65 Pochard on 25th, 228 Tufted Duck on 16th, 18 Ruddy Duck on 18th. Heron were regularly present with eight on 3rd. 43 Moorhen on 23rd, 657 Coot counted on 6th with 851 on 26th, could this become another record year?

Seventeen species of waders were recorded, single Oystercatcher on 14th and 20th, five Little Ringed Plover on 5th with one to four on several other dates, 22 juvenile Ringed Plover in one flock on 13th with 21 on 10th, up to 12 were regularly present. 189 Lapwing on 14th with smaller numbers also counted, single Knot from 10th to 13th, four Sanderling on 13th. A Little Stint on 19th. Dunlin were regularly present all month with 11 on 19th and 13 on 20th, single Ruff on 2nd, 5th, 6th and 13th, one to three Snipe were noted on several dates with four on 21st, a Black-tailed Godwit on 28th, single Curlew on 1st, 2nd and 28th, a Redshank on 20th, single Green Sandpiper on 10th, six Common Sandpiper on 19th with smaller numbers on other dates. Two Turnstone on 5th with one on 11th.

The gull roost continues to increase with c10,000 estimated roosting, mainly Lesser Back-backs and Black headed with several Yellow-legged Gulls reported, six on 30th being the highest, a Little Gull roosted on 15th.

Other species recorded were four Buzzard on 4th with three on 14th and 21st; singles were recorded on several other dates, single Merlin on 16th, Hobby on 15th, Peregrine on 2nd. 18 Common Tern on 9th with one on 22nd, single Arctic Tern on 20th. Small numbers of Sand Martin were noted on several dates until 20th with six on 6th being the maximum. 110 Swallows on 6th with 100 on 20th smaller counts of between 30 and 80 were noted on several dates till 27th, 100 House Martin on 6th with six to 30 on several dates till 28th. Meadow Pipits increased during the month with 182 on 23rd being the maximum counted, single Rock Pipit on 29th and 30th. Yellow Wagtails were regularly recorded until 24th with nine on 10th being the maximum, single Redstart on 7th and 11th, Stonechat on 25th, single Wheatear on 10th, 12th and 30th. The first winter thrushes were recorded, seven Fieldfare on 26th and a Redwing on 24th. Warblers were regularly recorded throughout the month with a Sedge Warbler on 1st, Lesser Whitethroat on 1st with four on 4th, two to four Whitethroat till 11th, single Garden Warbler on 8th and 11th, up to three Blackcap were regularly noted. Chiffchaff was also regularly observed with three still singing on 30th. Willow Warblers were noted with five present till 14th. Late Spotted Flycatchers were seen

one on 16th with two on 21st. Single Raven were seen on several dates with two on 7th and 25th. House Sparrow and Tree Sparrow were regularly seen feeding together on the feeders outside the Goldeneye Shop in the courtyard at the Visitor Centre, quite an unusual sight in Derbyshire, six Siskin on 25th. Large flocks of Linnet were noted, mostly on Stones Island and the Sheepwash hide areas 210 in two flocks on 14th being the largest. Two Crossbill in Hall Wood on 8th and 12th.

An excellent month with 118 species recorded compared with 87 in September 2001, 97 in 2000 and 76 in 1999.

Eddie Walker

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2002

October highlights were Slavonian Grebe, Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Goose, Red-crested Pochard, Common Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Goshawk, Merlin, Peregrine, Great Skua, Mediterranean Gull, Yellow-legged Gull, Kittiwake, Arctic Tern, Rock Pipit, Stonechat and Brambling.

A Slavonian Grebe was present off Stones Island from 16:00-16:30 hrs on 17th unfortunately it couldn't be relocated, six adult Whooper Swans were observed on 18th with two present until 22nd, additionally two adults were observed flying north on the 22nd. Several skeins of Pink-footed Geese were noted, 205 flew north east in three skeins of 63, 110 and 32 on 16th, 260 flew east in one skein on 17th and 105 flew east in two skeins of 25 and 80 on 18th, a single was present on the reservoir on 4th. Red-crested Pochard were regularly recorded from the 14th with a maximum five on 21st, six Common Scoter, on 2nd, a Red-breasted Merganser on 28th.

Wildfowl counts were 50 Little Grebe on 12th, six Great Crested Grebe on 16th numbers of this species usually decline at the time of year, 43 Cormorant on 23rd, 332 Canada's on 9th, 17 Barnacle Geese on 28th, two Shelduck on 9th and 30th with singles present from 7th, 200-300 Wigeon all month, 15 Gadwall on 29th with seven to fourteen present all month, 158 Teal on 3rd Pintail were regularly recorded with seven on 1st being the maximum, ten Shoveler on 22nd and 24th with up to eight regularly seen, 92 Pochard on 29th. Goldeneye were present from 21st with three on 22nd, a single Goosander on 3rd with two on 29th, 14 Ruddy Duck on 5th was the maximum counted.

Six species of raptor were recorded a Goshawk was seen on 3rd, Buzzard were regularly present with 14 observed on 24th all in the air at the same time in groups of five, seven and two all drifting/circling eastward. A Merlin was noted on several dates between 3rd and 27th, a Peregrine was observed on 12th and 24th.

Eight species of waders were recorded, much fewer than in previous months, eight Ringed Plover on 2nd with six on 3rd and two on 4th, 18 Golden Plover on 2nd, 109 Lapwing on 3rd was the maximum counted, 10 Dunlin on 20th, nine on 22nd with smaller numbers present on most other dates, six Snipe on 4th with one to five regularly noted, two Woodcock on 15th in Hall Wood, a rather under recorded species at Carsington, single Curlew on 13th, a late Common Sandpiper on 31st.

Incredibly a juvenile Great Skua was observed briefly on the reservoir at 08:30hrs before flying North West, the fourth record since 1st August, a single 1st winter Mediterranean Gull roosted on 7th and 18th, several Yellow-legged Gulls were regularly noted roosting with five present on 18th, single juvenile Kittiwakes also roosted on 25th and 31st. The roost continued to attract large numbers of Lesser Black-backed and Black-headed Gulls, 25 Common Gulls were noted on 18th with smaller numbers on other dates. A single Arctic Tern was present on 7th.

Other species recorded were a Kingfisher on 13th and 21st, 10 Skylark on 28th with one to four present on several other dates, a scarce species nowadays at Carsington, Swallows were recorded until 19th with 49 on 14th, House Martins were noted till 18th, 40 Meadow Pipits were counted on 30th with smaller numbers on several; other dates, four Rock Pipit on 7th with one to two on several dates till 14th, a late Yellow Wagtail on 4th, five Grey Wagtails were seen on 14th, a female Stonechat on 7th, 40 Fieldfare flew south on 24th, 30 were present on 29th, Redwing were seen flying south 439 on 13th and 285 on 17th. Chiffchaff were regularly noted until 21st with one singing on 9th, a Marsh Tit was present at Paul Stanley feeders on 7th and 28th, four Raven were observed in a synchronised flying display on 12th with two to four observed on several other dates during the month. A Brambling was noted at the Wildlife Centre feeders on 17th, a scarce bird at

Carsington, 35 Siskin on 30th with smaller counts on several other dates, eight Lesser Redpoll on 30th with one to three also seen on several other dates.

An excellent month with 103 species recorded compared with 91 in October 2001, 87 in 2000 and 84 in 1999.

Eddie Walker

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2002

November highlights were Great Northern Diver, Slavonian Grebe, Red-crested Pochard, Merlin, Peregrine, Purple Sandpiper, Mediterranean, Yellow-legged, Iceland and Caspian Gulls, Stonechat, Raven and Brambling.

The month was very wet and misty reducing visibility, therefore fewer wildfowl counts are available.

A juvenile Great Northern Diver was located on the reservoir on 22nd and was still present at the month's end. A very illusive Slavonian Grebe was observed on 13th to 16th, several observers suggested that it could be the previous months individual. The wildfowl counted were 30 Little Grebe on 10th with 22 on 11th, six Great Crested Grebe on 10th, 34 Cormorant on 3rd, 30 Mute Swan on 11th, 300 Canada's on 11th. 19 Barnacle Geese on 4th, 6th and 9th with 10 to 15 on several other dates, four Shelduck on 4th with two on 6th and three on 10th, 214 Wigeon on 11th, 14 Gadwall on 2nd with two to five regularly recorded throughout the month, 123 Teal on 11th, 157 Mallard on 11th, six Pintail on 2nd with one to three regularly noted until 15th. 11 Shoveler on 2nd with 10 on 3rd, one to five were present until 20th. Red-crested Pochard remained all month with a maximum five on 2nd, 3rd, 68 Pochard on 2nd, 150 Tufted Duck on 11th. Small numbers of Goldeneye were noted throughout the month with three on 2nd being the maximum. Seven Goosander on 10th with four on 4th, singles were present on several other dates, 11 Ruddy Duck on 11th, 60 Moorhen on 11th, 650 Coot on 11th, one to three Herons were also noted. Raptors noted were a single Buzzard on 3rd, 11th, a Merlin on 3rd and 12th, a Peregrine on 26th with Sparrowhawk and Kestrel regularly recorded.

The main wader highlight was a Purple Sandpiper seen on 8th and 9th on both occasions during late afternoon, the second record this year. Golden Plover numbers were higher than in recent years with an estimated 400 present from 22nd. 400 Lapwing on 11th with smaller counts on other dates, 35 Dunlin on 3rd, 15 on 4th, one to nine were noted most other dates during the month. 14 Snipe on 20th with one to eight on several other dates, a Woodcock flew over Sheepwash Car Park at dusk on 10th, a single Curlew on 2nd (a scarce species in November) up to four Redshank were present all month.

The gull roost continued to be regularly checked with sighting of an adult winter Mediterranean Gull on 11th. A 3rd winter Caspian Gull roosted on 10th and a 1st winter on 23rd. An adult winter Iceland Gull roosted on 13th, 16th. An estimated 3500 Black-headed Gulls on 19th, 71 Common Gulls on 5th, 5000 Lesser Black-backs on 1st, 14 Herring Gulls on 5th. Two to six Yellow-legged Gulls were regularly observed with eight on 12th. Small numbers of Great Black-backs were also seen.

Other species recorded were two Little Owls on 5th, single Kingfisher on several dates, Green Woodpecker on 3rd, 26th, 60 Meadow Pipits on 9th, two Rock Pipits on 5th, female Stonechat on 3rd, 7th. Winter Thrushes were regularly recorded 520 Fieldfare and 280 Redwing on 5th being the largest number counted. One to four Ravens were regularly recorded with eight in one flock seen on 7th. Three Brambling were present on Stones Island on 9th. A single Yellowhammer seen flying over the Visitor Centre was the first record of the year.

95 species were recorded and considering the weather conditions an excellent month, compared with 84 in November 2001, 70 in 2000 and 79 in 1999.

Eddie Walker recorder

## **CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2002**

December highlights were Great Northern Diver, Bewick's Swan, Brent Goose, Mandarin, Red-crested Pochard, Water Rail, Mediterranean Gull, Little Gull, Kittiwake, Short-eared Owl, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Stonechat, Raven and Crossbill.

The juvenile Great Northern Diver continued its stay remaining into the new year, eight Bewick's Swans flew east on 5th, 18 Barnacle Geese were present on 18th and 19th accompanied by a Barnacle/ Canada hybrid. A dark bellied Brent Goose was present on 10th, a pair of Mandarin Duck were noted on 19th, only the second record of the year, up to four Red-crested Pochard were regularly recorded during the month, one to two Pintail were recorded on several dates.

The maximum wildfowl counts were 21 Little Grebe, three Great Crested Grebe, 35 Cormorant, 19 Mute Swan, 173 Canada's, 361 Wigeon, four Gadwall, 141 Teal, 193 Mallard, 70 Pochard, 211 Tufted Duck, 13 Goldeneye, four Goosander, 53 Ruddy Duck. One to three Heron were regularly present.

Five species of waders were recorded, 300 Golden Plover on 3rd with 30 the following day, a maximum 386 Lapwing, 14 Dunlin on 14th with one to eight regularly present during the month, three Snipe on 3rd with singles on several other dates. One to three Redshank were present all month.

This months gull highlights were 1st winter Mediterranean Gull on 24th and an adult winter Mediterranean Gull on 26th and 27th. A 1st winter Little Gull on 3rd and two adult winter Kittiwakes on 1st. Several Yellow-legged Gulls were recorded roosting during the month along with several hundred Lesser Black-backed and Black-headed Gulls. Small numbers of Common, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls were also recorded.

A Short-eared Owl was present on 5th seen being mobbed by three Raven, a Kingfisher on 3rd, a Green Woodpecker on 9th and a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker seen in Hall Wood on 20th, Great Spotted Woodpeckers were regularly present at the Paul Stanley feeders. Meadow Pipits were regularly seen on Stones Island with 20 on 9th being the maximum. Single Grey Wagtails were also recorded. A female Stonechat was present on several dates between 22nd and 30th. Although Fieldfare and Redwing were scarce during December, Blackbirds were numerous particularly males.

Willow Tits were regularly seen at Paul Stanley feeders, several flocks of Long-tailed Tits were noted eight being the largest counted. Raven were particularly evident with two to four regularly seen mainly in the Sheepwash area. Several large flocks of Siskin were recorded 50 on 3rd being the largest, occasionally accompanied by small numbers of Lesser Redpoll, two to six Bullfinch were regularly present. A Crossbill was observed flying over Sheepwash car park on 1st, four Reed Bunting on Stones Island on 3rd.

89 species were recorded compared with 86 in 2001, 74 in 2000 and 71 in 1999.

For the latest updates see [www.carsingtonbirdclub.co.uk](http://www.carsingtonbirdclub.co.uk) or the notice board in the entrance to the Visitor Centre or in the Goldeneye shop in the courtyard Carsington Water.

Eddie Walker recorder