

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2003

January highlights were Great Northern Diver, Bewick's Swan, Mandarin, Red-crested Pochard, Greater Scaup, Water Rail, Mediterranean Gull and Stonchat.

The Great Northern Diver remaining from 22nd November 2002 was last recorded on 5th, two Bewick's Swans were located on the spit on 7th at 12:15hrs unfortunately only staying for a short time, four Mandarin Duck were present on 5th and 7th, one to three Red-crested Pochard were noted on several dates from 1st until 21st. A female Greater Scaup was seen near the draw off tower, beside the dam on 7th being joined by another female on 16th, both remaining until 29th.

Wildfowl counts were five Great Crested Grebe on 8th, single Greylag Geese on 10th and 19th, 18 Barnacle Geese on several dates during the month, often accompanied by a Barnacle/Canada type hybrid, 250 Wigeon on 8th, one to three Gadwall were regularly present. 19 Goldeneye including six males on 14th with 16 on 22nd, one to 15 were regularly recorded during the month, five Goosander on 7th with one to five on several other dates, 103 Ruddy Duck on 28th with 92 counted on 19th. Cormorants were regularly present with 17 counted on 18th, single Herons were also regularly seen.

Raptors recorded were two Sparrowhawk on 9th with singles on other dates, single Buzzard on 3rd, single Kestrels also regularly present, a Merlin was seen being mobbed by two Raven on 22nd, a Peregrine was recorded on 30th.

Five species of waders were noted, a single Oystercatcher from 21st with two on 30th, 470 Lapwings on 22nd with 200 to 400 present on several other dates, a single Dunlin on 8th, nine Snipe on 7th with one to seven regularly noted. Two Redshank were also regularly present throughout the month.

Other species recorded were a Water Rail seen regularly beside the Wildlife Centre, two Mediterranean Gulls on 5th, a Yellow-legged Gull also on 5th, a single Kingfisher was regularly seen during the month. A Green Woodpecker on 15th, Great Spotted Woodpeckers were often seen at the Sheepwash and Paul Stanley feeders. 12 Meadow Pipits on 15th and 18th with smaller number regularly present, single Grey Wagtail on several dates, a female Stonechat on 4th, 5th and 15th. 300 Fieldfare on 21st with several smaller flocks noted, however Redwing were particularly scarce with 15 counted on 4th and 24th these being the only records. Five Mistle Thrush on 19th. A Chiffchaff was seen near Paul Stanley hide on 1st, 10 Long tailed Tits on 10th with smaller counts on other dates, one to two Willow Tits were regularly present at Paul Stanley feeders, a Nuthatch on 3rd with two reported at the Wildlife Centre feeders on several dates. Two Raven were regularly recorded during the month with four on 4th. 73 Siskin on three flocks were counted on 21st with several other counts of 20 plus on other dates, seven Lesser Redpoll on 21st with smaller counts on other dates, four Bullfinch on 17th, a Reed Bunting on Stones Island on 30th, a rather scarce bird at Carsington in winter.

87 Species were recorded compared with 75 in January 2002, 73 in 2001 and 80 in January 2000.

For the latest sightings see www.carsingtonbirdclub.co.uk or the notice board outside the Goldeneye shop in the Visitor Centre courtyard of in the entrance when closed.

Eddie Walker recorder

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2003

February highlights were Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Goose, Red-crested Pochard, Water Rail, Jack Snipe, Mediterranean and Iceland Gulls.

On 12th three adult Whooper Swans were present on the reservoir from 12:00hrs until 15:20hrs, 125 Pink-footed Geese flew west in one skein at 09:00hrs on 13th, three Red-crested Pochard were present on 26th with singles on several other dates.

Wildfowl counts were nine Little Grebe on 1st, five Great Crested Grebe on 16th, 18 Cormorant on 1st, 10 Mute Swan on 1st, 451 Canada's on 17th, 19 Barnacle Geese plus a Canada/Barnacle type hybrid regularly present, a further 23 flew north west on 17th. Two Shelduck on 11th and 12th with a single on 16th and 17th, 248 Wigeon on 16th, three Gadwall on 28th with one to two on several other dates, 79 Teal on 14th, 142 Mallard on 19th. Five Shoveler on 25th with one remaining on 26th, 38 Pochard on 6th, 346 Tufted Duck on 3rd, 23 Goldeneye including ten males on 8th, several other counts of 15 plus were noted during the month. five Goosander on 8th with a pair regularly seen. 82 Ruddy Duck on 19th, 24 Moorhen on 25th, 355 Coot on 20th. A single Heron was also regularly observed.

Raptor sightings were one to two Buzzard on several dates, a Merlin on 24th, a Peregrine on 1st and 9th. Sparrowhawks and Kestrels were regularly seen.

Eight species of waders were recorded, one to three Oystercatcher were regularly present with six on 24th and five on 28th, nine Golden Plover on 24th, 515 Lapwing on 15th with several other counts of 400 plus during the month, a Jack Snipe on 19th, seven Common Snipe on 19th with six on 23rd and singles on other dates, a Woodcock on 23rd with two on 25th. The first Curlew of the year was noted on 10th, two were present on 25th and five on 28th, two Redshank were also regularly present.

Other species recorded were a Red-legged Partridge on 12th, a Water Rail was regularly seen beside the feeders at the Wildlife Centre. Two Mediterranean Gulls an adult and a 1st winter on 1st, an adult on 2nd and 9th, 37 Common Gulls on 25th, four Yellow-legged Gulls roosted on 3rd, an Iceland Gull on 12th probably a 2nd winter. Herring Gulls and Great Black-backs also roosted.

Little Owls were seen on several dates, a Kingfisher was observed on 10th and 11th, a Green Woodpecker on 1st, Great Spotted Woodpeckers were regularly seen on the feeders at Sheepwash and Paul Stanley hides. Two Skylarks (a scarce bird nowadays at Carsington) were noted flying over on 11th and 28th with a single on 25th, ten Meadow Pipits on 19th with one to four on several other dates, a Grey Wagtail was regularly recorded. 44 Blackbirds were counted going to roost on 18th, 30 Fieldfare on 28th, 242 Redwings on 22nd. Two Raven were regularly present. A single flock on 700 plus Starlings were noted on 5th, 15 Lesser Redpoll on 9th with smaller counts on other dates, up to four Bullfinch usually beside the paths to Sheepwash and Paul Stanley hides.

92 species were recorded during a rather quiet month, compared with 78 in February 2002, 74 in 2000, 77 in 1999 and 86 in 1998.

No monthly counts are available for February 2001 because of the foot and mouth restrictions.

For the latest sighting see www.carsingtonbirdclub.co.uk or the notice board outside the Goldeneye shop in the Visitor centre courtyard, or in the entrance when closed.

Eddie Walker recorder

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2003

March highlights were Whooper Swan, Merlin, Water Rail, Peregrine, Black-tailed Godwit, Mediterranean and Iceland Gull, Kittiwake and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

The main highlight of March must certainly be the 74 Kittiwake which roosted on 8th, which is the largest single flock recorded at Carsington. Two were still present the following morning. This flock was observed to arrive at 17:30hrs and consisted mainly of adults, they gathered near to spit end and kept themselves away from the other roosting gulls.

Maximum wildfowl counts were 14 Little Grebe on 28th and 29th, 22 Great Crested Grebe on 30th with several pairs displaying. 37 Cormorant on 1st, six Mute Swan all month. Two adult Whooper Swan on 14th were noted arriving at 12:00hrs and remained for several hours.. A Pink-footed Goose, accompanying some of the 410 Canada's was present from the 6th, two Greylags were noted on several dates. The regular flock of 19 Barnacle Geese were present all month. Small number of Heron were noted.

Two Shelduck were recorded on 19th and 29th, 154 Wigeon on 8th. Small numbers of Gadwall were present, three on 23rd being the maximum, 61 Teal on 9th, 131 Mallard on 29th, four Pintail on 20th with three on 19th, one to two Shoveler on several dates with a maximum of three on 22nd. A drake Red-crested Pochard on 19th, 51 Pochard on 21st, 168 Tufted Duck on 21st. Goldeneye were present all month with 21 including five males on 1st being the maximum, five Goosander on 1st with smaller numbers on several other dates. Raptors recorded were several sightings of Sparrowhawk and Kestrel. One to three Buzzard were regularly noted with four on 19th, a female Merlin was regularly observed from 2nd, a scarce bird at Carsington. A female Peregrine was recorded on 6th and 9th.

With high water levels reducing suitable feeding areas only nine species of waders were recorded, up to ten Oystercatchers were present all month, the first Little Ringed Plover was seen on 22nd with two on 23rd and on several other dates until the months end. 155 Lapwing on 2nd with several birds displaying, single Dunlin on seven dates, 21 Snipe on 30th with smaller counts on several other dates, single Woodcock on 1st and 17th with two on 3rd, a Black-tailed Godwit on 30th. Curlew were regularly noted coming into roost, the highest count being 56 on 13th with 50 on 9th. Up to eight Redshank were present all month.

Other species recorded was a Water Rail on several dates beside the feeders at the wildlife centre, a Mediterranean Gull on 21st, a passage of Common Gulls was observed on 9th with a minimum 50 moving through, a Iceland Gull on 10th. A very early Common Tern was reported on 14th. A Green Woodpecker was recorded on 1st and 20th with two on 12th, a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was seen at the Lane end feeders on 6th. The first Sand Martin was recorded on 21st when two were present, 18 were counted on 25th. 12 Meadow Pipits on 1st with smaller numbers most other dates, single Grey Wagtails regularly noted, four White Wagtails on 26th, a Stonchat on 4th. 75 Fieldfare on 31st was the largest March count, 202 Redwing on 1st with several other counts of 100 plus noted, a Blackcap on 22nd. Chiffchaffs were regularly noted from the 12th with a large influx on 21st when 65 were counted on a circular walk around the reservoir. A very early Willow Warbler was recorded on 23rd with a second on 31st. Ravens were regularly noted with four on 2nd and 3rd.

101 species were recorded compared with 96 in March 2002, 78 in 2000, 83 in 1999 and 86 in 1998.

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

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Eddie Walker recorder

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2003

April highlights were Fulmar, Eider, Common Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Merlin, Peregrine, Water Rail, Sanderling, Ruff, Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Greenshank, Turnstone, Little Gull, Kittiwake, Black Tern, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Water Pipit, Wood Warbler and Raven.

The main highlight was a Fulmar, a new species for Carsington, observed on 18th at 09:20hrs, unfortunately it left at 09:55hrs and couldn't be relocated. 16 Eider were present on the reservoir on 21st, comprising of three males, one immature male and 12 females. They appeared on the reservoir at approximately 18:00hrs and remained until after dark, they weren't present the following morning. Common Scoter were recorded on several dates, two males and a female on 6th, one male, two females on 10th. A single male was present from 17th and remained until 25th. A pair of Red-breasted Merganser was noted on 23rd.

Maximum wildfowl counts were 30 Little Grebe on 24th, 32 Great Crested Grebe on 22nd, 10 Cormorant on 1st, 13 Mute Swan on 29th, a single Pink-footed Goose all month. Three Greylag Geese on 24th, 25th with one on 15th, 16 Barnacle Geese on 3rd with smaller numbers most dates. Two Shelduck on 12th with singles on 16th and 26th, 64 Wigeon on 2nd with smaller counts until 23rd, two Gadwall on 12th and 15th, 18 Teal on 6th with one to four most dates until 23rd, one male remained on the 30th, 70 Mallard on 21st, a female with 14 young was noted on 18th. Two Shoveler on 6th, 15th with one 9th, single Pochard on 12th, 128 Tufted Duck on 24th. One to two Goldeneye were present until 21st, nine Ruddy Duck on 23rd. One to two Heron were present most dates.

Despite high reservoir levels 17 species of waders were recorded, up to ten Oystercatcher all month, nine Little Ringed Plover on 17th, two Ringed Plover on 16th and on most dates until 21st, three were noted on 29th, single Golden Plover on 7th, 30 Lapwing on 3rd with one pair plus three young on 28th, a Sanderling was reported on 15th. Small numbers of Dunlin were present during the month, seven on the 27th being the maximum counted. A Ruff was present from 5th until 10th, seven Snipe on 1st and 2nd with one to four noted most dates. Three Black-tailed Godwit on 21st, two Bar-tailed Godwit on 17th with one on 18th, three on 20th, two on 21st. The first Whimbrel on 15th with one on 20th three on 21st, two on 22nd, four on 23rd, two on 24th, six on 27th, three on 28th, five on 29th and three on 30th, 12 Curlew on 1st 24 on 6th 18 on 29th with smaller counts most other dates. 12 Redshank all month. A Greenshank was present from 18th until 25th. The first Common Sandpiper was noted on 9th with two to four regularly present from 15th. Single Turnstone on 18th and recorded most dates until 30th.

Other species noted were, up to four Buzzard regularly seen during the month, single Merlin on 1st, 2nd and 20th, a Peregrine on 5th, a Water Rail beside the wildlife centre feeders on several dates, eight Little Gulls (seven adults/ one 1st summer) on 17th with two on 20th, adult Kittiwake on 2nd, 6th and 22nd, single Common Tern on 13th with one to three on several other dates, six Arctic Tern on 17th with singles on 27th and 30th, a Black Tern on 17th. The first Swift was reported on 19th, three on 25th and 100 plus on 27th. Lesser Spotted Woodpecker on 6th and 22nd, the first Swallow was noted on 6th and the first House Martin on 13th.

A large movement of Swallows and Martins occurred from 19th to 29th when in excess of 150 Sand Martins, 250 Swallows and 300 House Martins were present. A Water Pipit was seen on Stones Island on 15th the second Carsington record. The first Yellow Wagtail was present on 1st with two to five regularly noted from 13th, single White Wagtails on 5th, 27th and 30th. The first Redstart was seen on 15th with six present at the month's end, a single Wheatear on 4th was the only record. Winter Thrushes noted were, 41 Fieldfare on 2nd 83 on 9th 100 on 13th 61 on 17th

and 15 on 20th. Redwing sightings were 65 on 5th 39 on 6th 27 on 7th 12 on 9th three on 15th 20 on 23rd and one on 24th. The first Sedge Warbler on 24th with three on 29th, Lesser Whitethroat on 22nd and on several other dates. Whitethroat on 17th with 13 on 23rd, Garden Warbler on 14th with ten on 26th, 37 Blackcap on 23rd. A Wood Warbler was singing from 21st until 27th, 13 Chiffchaff on 3rd with 17 on 23rd, 61 Willow Warblers on 23rd. A Marsh Tit on 15th, several records of Willow Tit were recorded mostly from the feeders at Paul Stanley hide. Several Raven were present all month.

120 species were recorded compared with 107 in April 2002, 103 in 2001, 101 in 2000 and 96 in 1999

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Eddie Walker recorder

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2003

May's highlights were Black-throated Diver, Red-crested Pochard, Red-breasted Merganser, Osprey, Hobby, Peregrine, Water Rail, Sanderling, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Kittiwake, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Raven.

A juvenile Black-throated Diver was located close beside Millfields Car Park on the 9th and remained into June, giving excellent views and photo opportunities.

The maximum wildfowl counts were ten Little Grebe on 14th, 14 Great Crested Grebe on 10th, six Cormorant on 10th, 20 Mute Swan on 24th, two Pink-footed Geese on 15th with a single present all month, two Greylags on 13th and 15th with one recorded on several other dates. 204 Canada's on 6th with the first young noted on 3rd, ten Barnacle Geese on 2nd, a pair with three young were recorded on 25th, the second consecutive year this species has successfully bred. Four Shelduck on 6th, single Gadwall on 16th. A drake Teal was present all month, 68 Mallard on 1st, single Shoveler on 12th, a male Red-crested Pochard on 15th and 25th, 75 Tufted Duck on 7th with a hybrid Tufted type noted on several dates between 8th and 14th. Two drake Red-breasted Merganser on 6th, single Goosander on 5th with two on 18th, two Ruddy Duck on several dates.

Single Buzzards were regularly seen with two recorded on 25th, Single Osprey on 7th and 30th, a Hobby on 25th single Peregrine on 10th and 25th Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were regularly recorded. Two Red-legged Partridge on 18th (a scarce bird at Carsington) The Water Rail which has been seen regularly feeding beside the Wildlife Centre during the past few months was last recorded on 6th.

Despite the high water levels, 14 species of waders were recorded, ten Oystercatcher present all month, 12 Little Ringed Plover on 15th with six to eight present most dates, two Ringed Plover on 15th with a single most dates from 11th until 14th, 26 Lapwing on 7th including several young, single Sanderling on 13th and 15th with two on 20th, single Little Stint on 13th, a single Curlew Sandpiper also on 13th. Dunlin were regularly noted, with 18 on 13th being the maximum, single Snipe on 1st and 10th, two Black-tailed Godwit on 1st, five Whimbrel on 1st with two on 8th, 11 Curlew on 1st with one to two noted on several other dates, ten Redshank on 1st with two young present from 23rd. Single Common Sandpiper were regularly noted with three on 18th.

Other species noted were a adult Kittiwake on 1st, single Common Tern on several dates, (unfortunately not breeding this year) single Arctic Tern on 1st, one to four Little Owl regularly present mostly at dusk, 600 Swift on 1st, two Kingfisher on 24th, a Green Woodpecker on 7th, a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker on 15th. The large movement of Swallows and Martins noted at the end of April continued into May with counts of 150 Sand Martin on 3rd, 1000 Swallows on 1st, 200 House Martin also on 1st.

One to two Yellow Wagtails were regularly seen until 15th, a White Wagtail on 3rd, three Wheatear on 1st with one on 11th, the first Spotted Flycatcher was noted on 5th with two on 20th. Raven were regularly present throughout, five pairs of House Sparrows were counted nesting around Carsington.

110 species were recorded compared with 112 in May 2002, 106 in 2001, 92 in 2000 and 88 in 1999.

For the latest updates see www.carsingtonbirdclub.co.uk or the notice board outside the Goldeneye shop in the courtyard at the visitor centre Carsington Water

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2003

June's highlights were Black-throated Diver, Common Scoter, Red Kite, Osprey, Hobby, Little Stint, Reed Warbler, Wood Warbler and Raven.

The juvenile Black-throated Diver continued its stay and was regularly present beside the dam close to Millfields Car Park, first arriving on 9th May, and looking as if its here for the summer. A Common Scoter was seen on 22nd, this year there has been fewer records of this sea duck than in previous years. Other wildfowl recorded were several broods of Little Grebe with Great Crested Grebe young often seen riding on the backs of their parents.

Only single records of Cormorant and up to three Heron were recorded.

Several pairs of Mute Swan also have young, 26 adults were counted on 28th, a single Pink-footed Goose was seen with the Canada's on 2nd and 8th, one to three Greylag Goose were regularly present with four on 27th, 400 plus Canada Geese, including c100 young were present all month. Barnacle Geese bred for the second successive year, with 13 adults and 11 young counted on 12th, a Gadwall was seen on 8th with two on 12th, one to two drake Teal were noted on several dates until 9th, a Shoveler on 29th. Two drake Pochard on 27th with one present the following day, 107 Tufted were counted on 8th, with 47 young Tufted Duck counted on 29th, one to two Ruddy Duck were also seen.

A Red Kite was reported by a jogger flying over Carsington pastures on 7th, four Buzzard were seen flying together on 15th with singles recorded on other dates, a Osprey flew over on 16th, a Hobby was seen on 9th. Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were also regularly present.

Eight species of waders were recorded, up to five Oystercatchers all month, four Little Ringed Plovers also all month, 57 Lapwing on 21st, a Little Stint on 4th with two the following day, single Snipe on 6th, three Curlew on 21st with singles on other dates, six Redshank including two young on 8th, single Common Sandpiper on 3rd, 21st and 25th.

Other species recorded were ten Common Tern on 2nd with one on 21st, a pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers seen feeding two young at the feeders beside Paul Stanley hide, a pair of Redstart with young on 3rd with singles regularly recorded, a Reed Warbler on 2nd, three Lesser Whitethroat on 8th with singles on several other dates, five Whitethroat on 8th with smaller counts on several other dates, seven Garden Warbler on 8th. A family party of Blackcap were present beside Paul Stanley hide on 28th. A Wood Warbler on 12th, the second record this year. A pair of Spotted Flycatcher on 12th with singles noted on other dates. A Willow Tit on the feeders beside Paul Stanley hide, five Raven on 16th with one to two seen on several other dates, 40 plus juvenile Tree Sparrows were seen together in one flock on 14th, up to seven Bullfinch were noted during the month.

Despite several rare species present including the first county record of a June Black-throated Diver, the month was very quiet with only 84 species recorded compared with 95 recorded in June 2002, 75 in 2001, 74 in 2000 and 82 species in 1999.

For the latest updates see www.carsingtonbirdclub.co.uk or the notice board outside the Goldeneye shop in the courtyard at the Visitor Centre Carsington Water.

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2003

July's highlights were Black-throated Diver, Common Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Osprey, Peregrine, Black-tailed Godwit, and Marsh Tit.

The immature Black-throated Diver was regularly seen close beside the dam wall near to Millfields car park, since its arrival on 9th May it has now clocked up 89 days a county record for this species. Three Common Scoter were present on the reservoir on 17th, a pair of Red-breasted Merganser were recorded on 16th with one drake noted the following day.

Other wildfowl sightings were five pairs of Little Grebe with seven young present on 14th and 17th, 36 Great Crested Grebe including 10 young on several dates. 18 Cormorant on 14th with smaller counts on other dates, four Heron on 2nd with one to three regularly seen, 38 Mute Swan including 14 young all month. Single Pink footed Goose on 21st, one to three Greylag Geese regularly noted, 798 Canada's counted on 20th, 142 young were counted on 4th. 24 Barnacle Geese including 13 young all month.

Seven Shelduck briefly on 17th, two Wigeon on 2nd with one on 9th, single Gadwall on 30th, a male Teal regularly present until 22nd, 164 Mallard including 49 young on 10th, five Shoveler on 19th. Pochard were present from 2nd with 11 counted on 15th, 185 Tufted on 22nd, 35 young were present on 11th with further broods seen towards the months end. With constant water levels, this species is enjoying an excellent breeding season with fresh broods appearing almost daily. Single Goosander on 6th and 13th, 10 Ruddy Duck were present on 25th. 529 Coot were counted on 22nd.

Birds of prey seen were three Buzzard on 22nd with singles regularly present, an Osprey on 18th, two Peregrine on 15th and 22nd, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk were also regularly seen.

Whilst high water levels are favouring Tufted Ducks, with very little mud around the reservoir providing few feeding areas for passing waders, only seven species were recorded. 12 Oystercatcher on 10th with smaller counts on other dates, six Little Ringed Plover on 4th with one to two on several other dates, 150 Lapwing on 23rd with smaller counts on other dates. Two Black-tailed Godwit on 10th, six Curlew on 11th with one to three on other dates, 19 Redshank on 10th with smaller counts on other dates, five Common Sandpiper on 9th with one to two on several other dates.

Other sightings were single Common Tern on 16th with two on 23rd, up to six Little Owls were seen, usually in the Shiningford creek area, single Kingfisher on 12th and 20th, single Yellow Wagtail on 24th, a very scarce bird nowadays at Carsington. Several pairs of Redstart with young were seen. Singing Lesser Whitethroats were heard during the month, a single Spotted Flycatcher was noted from 22nd. A Marsh Tit was seen again on Paul Stanley hide feeders, also present on the same feeders were two Willow Tits., two Raven on 23rd with one on 2nd. 119 Tree Sparrow were counted on 14th.

Generally a quiet month, however 95 species were recorded compared with 100 species in July 2002, 90 in 2001 and 94 in July 2000.

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CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2003

August's highlights were Black-throated Diver, Black-necked Grebe, Mandarin, Pintail, Red-crested Pochard, Common Scoter, Marsh Harrier, Goshawk, Peregrine, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Green Sandpiper, Turnstone, Black Tern, Green and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Raven.

The juvenile Black-throated Diver remained all month, completing its mould and was seen flying again, on the 31st August it had clocked up 114 days. A Black-necked Grebe was observed briefly on 16th and again on 19th.

Wildfowl counts were 43 Little Grebe on 23rd, 49 Great Crested Grebe on 17th, 18 Cormorant on 8th and 22nd, six Heron on 29th, 39 Mute Swan on 30th, single Greylag on 1st, 694 Canada's on 23rd, 23 Barnacle Geese including 13 young on 1st. Two juvenile Shelduck on 26th, a female Mandarin 8th and 19th with an eclipse male present from 25th, two Wigeon from 27th, single Gadwall on 11th increasing to six on the 31st. 93 Teal on 26th, including a flock of 58 flying over, 202 Mallard on 18th, four Pintail on 26th, single Shoveler on several dates between 8th and 24th. Three eclipse male Red-crested Pochard were noted on 20th increasing to six on 31st, two Pochard on 7th with 10 on 16th, 417 Tufted on 17th, a single male Common Scoter on 12th, 32 Ruddy Duck on 17th, 47 Moorhen on 30th, 623 Coot on 20th.

A juvenile Marsh Harrier (cream crown) was observed flying down the reservoir on 25th, up to five Buzzard were regularly seen during the month, a female Goshawk was seen chasing Lesser back-backed Gulls on 26th, a single Hobby was noted on 11th, 12th and 31st, a female Peregrine on 21st, Sparrowhawk and Kestrels were also recorded.

Despite the lowering water levels waders numbers were very low, however 13 species were recorded. Three Oystercatcher on 2nd with singles present most dates until 28th, single Ringed Plovers were noted between 22nd and 27th, two were seen on 24th, a Golden Plover flew over on 17th, 275 Lapwing on 8th with smaller counts on other dates. Dunlin were present with two on 4th then a very tame bird from 18th until 28th, five were noted on 31st. Five Snipe on 19th with smaller counts most other dates, single Curlew on 25th and 26th, a winter plumage Spotted Redshank on 10th, eight Redshank on 22nd with a juvenile from 4th until 8th, a Greenshank on 11th and 12th with three on 19th and 26th, a Green Sandpiper on 20th. One to two Common Sandpiper were regularly recorded with four on 25th, three Turnstone on 25th.

The Gull roost became established during the month with c4500 Lesser black-backs, small numbers of Herring, Common and Black-headed Gulls roosting at the months end, several Yellow-legged gulls were also present. A single Common Tern on 17th and 26th, seven adults were seen on 25th and 11 including eight adults on 27th, a single Arctic Tern from 27th until 30th, three Black Tern briefly on 2nd with one on 28th.

Other species recorded were five Swift on 31st, single Kingfisher regularly noted, a Green Woodpecker on 20th, a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker on Paul Stanley feeders on 4th and 6th, movements of Swallows and Martins were noted, 600 plus Sand Martins south on 8th, 500 Swallows south plus a further 200 west on 31st, 280 House Martins were counted on 10th. Single Yellow Wagtail on several dates from 17th to 22nd, four Redstart on 18th with one to two on several other dates, a Wheatear on 27th, a Sedge Warbler on 17th. Lesser Whitethroats were observed feeding young on 8th with singles noted until 17th, three Whitethroat on 31st, a Garden Warbler on 23rd. A family party of Spotted Flycatchers was noted from 1st with two to three birds seen until 23rd, one to two Raven were regularly recorded, 51 House Sparrows and 42 Tree Sparrows were counted on 31st. Finch flocks noted were, 30 Chaffinch on 31st, 120 Goldfinch on 12th, 26th and 31st, 67 Linnet on 7th, 29 Lesser Redpoll on 26th with up to nine noted on several other dates between 17th and 20th, 11 Bullfinch on 31st, four Reed Bunting on 31st.

Still very quiet and apart from Swallows and Martins, there appears very little migration. Despite lower water levels few waders are present.

110 species were recorded compared with 122 species recorded in August 2002, 86 in 2001, 97 in 2000. Thanks to all those observers for counting and recording the commoner species.

For the latest updates see www.carsingtonbirdclub.co.uk or the notice board outside the Goldeneye shop in the courtyard at the Visitor Centre Carsington Water.
Eddie Walker recorder

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2003

September highlights were Black-throated Diver, Black-necked Grebe, Pintail, Red-crested Pochard, Osprey, Hobby, Peregrine, Knot, Rock Pipit, Whinchat and Raven. A Yellow-browed Warbler was reported on 7th, seen briefly in Millfields car park, unfortunately it couldn't be relocated, if accepted it would be a new Carsington record. The first Fieldfare and Redwing were noted.

The juvenile Black-throated Diver was last recorded on 5th September a recorded breaking 119-day stay, A Black-necked Grebe was present in Millfields bay on 4th, probably the same bird reported the previous month.

Maximum wildfowl counts were 54 Little Grebe on 16th, 40 Great Crested Grebe on 16th, 38 Cormorant on 22nd, 43 Mute Swan on 27th, 742 Canada's on 10th, single Shelduck on 27th. Wigeon increased during the month with 308 on 27th, 17 Gadwall on 22nd with one to 11 regularly reported, 117 Teal on 27th, 284 Mallard on 7th. A single Pintail was present from the 9th, six Red-crested Pochard all month with nine on 21st, 55 Pochard on 19th, 675 Tufted on 27th, 30 Ruddy Duck on 21st, up to six Heron were noted most dates.

Buzzards were regularly seen with seven in the air together on 25th, an Osprey was present on 16th, single Hobby on 7th, 8th and 23rd, single Peregrine on several dates with two on 23rd (one with a broken leg) Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were also regularly recorded.

Falling water levels failed to produce any notable wader counts except for 12 Knot seen briefly on 9th (a reservoir record count). Other waders recorded were single Oystercatcher on 11th and 13th, a Ringed Plover on 13th, a Golden Plover flew over on 22nd, 125 Lapwing on 9th, six Dunlin on 28th with two to four on several other dates. Snipe become more regular with seven on 29th, four Curlew on several dates between 1st and 12th, single Redshank on 11th with two on 16th, a single Common Sandpiper was noted on 1st.

The Gull roost continued to attract attention with several Yellow-legged Gulls noted. The last Swift was seen on 3rd, Kingfishers were regularly seen from the Wildlife centre, Sheepwash and Paul Stanley hides, 15 Sand Martin on 14th, 120 plus Swallow on 13th, 200 House Martin on 12th. A Rock Pipit flew over on 30th, a single Yellow Wagtail on 11th. The last record of Redstart was a single on 5th, a Whinchat on 15th (the only record of the year). Single Wheatear on 3rd, 13th and 15th.

The first Fieldfare was seen on 29th when six were present and on the same day four Redwing were noted, a Sedge Warbler on 2nd, 3rd and 15th. A Lesser Whitethroat on several dates until 7th, single Whitethroat on 3rd and 5th, a Garden Warbler on 2nd and 3rd, four Blackcap on 4th with singles recorded throughout the month. 11 Chiffchaff on 8th with one to three regularly recorded until the months end, five Willow Warbler on 7th with one on 15th being the last date, two Spotted Flycatchers on 19th. Willow Tits were present on Paul Stanley hide feeders, nine Coal Tits were counted, eight together, possibly a migrating family party? Jays became more notable during the month with four counted on 29th. Ravens were again regularly reported. 35 House Sparrow on 11th. Up to four Tree Sparrows were noted on the Paul Stanley hide feeders with 23 at the Wildlife centre on 23rd, 170 Goldfinch were counted on 9th, several Siskin flocks were counted, 12 on the 27th being the largest, three Lesser Redpoll on 26th, eight Reed Bunting on 9th.

Two escape species were present a Black Swan and a pair of Ringed Teal.

104 species recorded compared with 118 species recorded in September 2002, 87 in 2001 and 97 in 2000.

For the latest updates see www.carsingtonbirdclub.co.uk or the notice board outside the Goldeneye shop in the courtyard at the Visitor Centre Carsington Water.

Eddie Walker recorder

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2003

October highlights were Whooper Swan, Red-crested Pochard, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Little Gull, Caspian Gull, Knot, Jack Snipe, Grey Phalarope, Rock Pipit and Twite.

Five adult Whooper Swans were located on the reservoir on 10th and were still present at the months end, its unusual for wild swans to remain this long, probably the large number of wildfowl present encouraged them, whatever the reason lets hope that they continue their stay. An adult Long-tailed Duck was observed on 14th, unfortunately it only stayed the one-day, a juvenile Grey Phalarope was present on 15th and 16th giving birders excellent views.

Wildfowl counts were 49 Little Grebe on 5th, 22 Great Crested Grebe on 5th, 45 Cormorant on 19th, 28 Mute Swan on 9th 29 Barnacle Goose on 9th, two Shelduck on 13th with one the following day, five were present on 20th with two on 21st. Wigeon continue to increase with 395 counted on 5th, 32 Gadwall on 13th with five to 25 present most dates, 289 Teal on 5th, ten Pintail on 19th with one to four regularly noted, ten Shoveler on 16th with smaller numbers present all month. Red-crested Pochard were observed all month with nine including five drakes on 22nd being the maximum. 280 Pochard on 21st, 400 Tufted Duck on 5th. The first Goldeneye were noted on 12th with four present on 28th, a Red-breasted Merganser on 9th, 21 Ruddy Duck on 5th. 91 Moorhen on 5th, 1663 Coot counted also on 5th. Up to six Heron were present all month. Buzzards, again were present, six in the air at the same time on 2nd with several records on two together reported, a Peregrine on 9th, several sighting of Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were noted.

Twelve species of waders were recorded, single Ringed Plover on several dates between 2nd and 13th, 60 Golden Plover circled the reservoir on 27th with 50 also circling the reservoir on 28th. A Knot on 1st, small numbers of Dunlin were present at the beginning of the month increasing to a maximum 26 plus on 28th, several counts of 11 to 21 were noted from 22nd. A single Ruff on 15th and 16th, a Jack Snipe was present in front of the wildlife centre on 5th, Snipe were recorded all month with 16 on 27th being the maximum. Single Curlew on 2nd, up to four Redshank were noted all month, a late Common Sandpiper on 27th.

Single juvenile Little Gulls were noted on 8th, 9th, 10th, 16th and 20th, Gulls roosting on 1st were 500 plus Black-headed Gulls, 30 plus Common Gulls, 6000 plus Lesser Black-backed gulls, ten Herring Gulls, eight Yellow-legged Gulls, a 4th winter Caspian Gull. An unidentified Tern species was observed on 7th, unfortunately only seen briefly, but was considered by the observer as being probably a Little Tern.

Other species noted were a Barn Owl on 21st, one to two Kingfishers regularly seen all month, small numbers of Skylark were observed flying over the reservoir in various directions on several dates during the month. The last Swallows were two on 9th, a single House Martin was seen on 1st. 37 Meadow Pipits were counted on 1st with smaller counts most dates, mainly recorded on stones Island, single Rock Pipits on 15th and 24th also on Stones Island, single Grey Wagtails were noted regularly.

Several flocks of Fieldfare were observed, 46 in two flocks being the largest, 58 Redwing in three flocks was the largest number counted, single Chiffchaff were seen on several dates up to 21st, four were counted on 5th. Jays were regularly seen during the month with seven noted on 5th, Raven were recorded on several dates, a Brambling on 28th was the first record of the winter, 16 Siskin on 28th with smaller counts on other dates, 12 Lesser Redpoll on 1st, five Reed Bunting on 21st.

The large numbers of wildfowl present particularly in the conservation zone was the most notable feature of the month. 94 species were recorded compared with 103 species in 2002, 91 in October

2001, 87 in 2000.

For the latest updates see www.carsingtonbirdclub.co.uk or the notice board outside the Goldeneye shop in the courtyard at the visitor centre Carsington Water.

Eddie Walker recorder

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2003

November highlights were Great Northern Diver Whooper Swan, Garganey, Red-crested Pochard, Long-tailed Duck, Knot, Little Stint, Ring-billed Gull, Shorelark Rock Pipit and Brambling. 16 species of duck.

Reservoir record counts of Wigeon, Gadwall and Snipe.

A Great Northern Diver was reported by several birdwatchers on 29th, however it couldn't be relocated, further details would be welcome. The Five adult Whooper Swans continue their stay, often seen in front of Sheepwash hide. An unseasonal Garganey, a 1st winter male was present from 16th until 22nd.

An immature/female Long-tailed Duck was located near Paul Stanley hide on 18th and remained all month, often proving difficult to locate.

Wildfowl counts were 27 Little Grebe on 16th, 15 Great Crested Grebe on 16th, 38 Cormorant on 16th, 30 Barnacle Geese on 9th with smaller counts on several other dates. Two Shelduck on 13th with one on 25th, two drake Mandarin on 2nd with three (two drakes) on 18th 920 Wigeon on 16th a reservoir record count, 47 Gadwall on 16th also a reservoir record count, 551 Teal on 16th. 13 Pintail on 16th with smaller numbers present all month. Nine Shoveler on 18th with three to six regularly recorded, eight Red-crested Pochard on 21st with smaller counts on several other dates, 473 Pochard on 16th, 335 Tufted Duck on 16th. Up to four Goldeneye were present all month, three Goosander on 13th with one on 18th, 65 Ruddy Duck on 29th.

Single Buzzard were reported on several dates, a Peregrine on 20th, 26th and 27th. Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were regularly noted.

Eight species of waders were recorded, 100 plus Golden Plover on 5th with several flocks between two and 20 were noted, 21 were on spit end on 9th. Approximately 400 Lapwing on 18th, a Knot from 2nd until 14th, a late Little Stint on 12th. Dunlin were present all month 18 on 25th being the maximum counted, several other counts of ten plus were noted. A reservoir record count of 130 Snipe on 20th, the observer noting that only part of the reservoir was covered, a count the following day numbered 78. Up to nine Redshank were present all month. A Green Sandpiper on 28th, 29th was unusual, as this species is scarce at Carsington, even during the passage periods.

An adult Ring Billed Gull was seen on several dates in late afternoons from 15th until the month's end either from Sheepwash or Lane end hides, the second Carsington record, the previous record being a first summer bird on 21st April 2001. 30 plus Common Gulls on 3rd. 6000 plus Lesser-Black backed Gulls on 3rd, ten Herring Gulls on 3rd. Yellow-legged Gulls were noted an adult in Sheepwash Car Park in thick fog on 4th, three adults on the reservoir 24th with several other sighting of one to two roosting.

Other species noted were one to three Kingfisher regularly present, a Green Woodpecker on 9th. A Shorelark briefly on Stones Island on 15th, the second Carsington record the previous record being two from 24th-29th November 1996 also on Stones Island. A Rock Pipit on 13th. There were few records of winter thrushes, 12 Fieldfare on 25th and six to ten Redwings on three dates were the only ones noted. Three Raven on 18th with several other records of singles during the month. Bramblings were regularly noted 12 on 20th being the largest, several other counts of one to 11 were recorded.

An excellent month particularly, the large numbers of wildfowl present which included reservoir record counts of Wigeon, Gadwall and Snipe. 92 species were recorded with fog making viewing

difficult on several days, compared with 95 in November 2002, 84 in 2001 and 70 in 2000.

For the latest updates see www.carsingtonbirdclub.co.uk or the notice board in the entrance to the Visitor Centre Carsington Water.

Eddie Walker recorder

CARSINGTON MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2003

December highlights were Bewick's Swan, Whooper Swan, Red-crested Pochard, Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Common Scoter, Smew, Green Sandpiper, Mediterranean Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Gull, Rock Pipit and Brambling.

Two Bewick's Swans were present on 7th, only staying the one day. The Whooper Swans continued their stay being joined by four more on 7th. Four Whoopers were last recorded the following day. Whooper Swans were continuously present since 10th October, a record stay of 58 days. Two Scaup were noted on 13th, the Long-tailed Duck continued its stay, although illusive, it was regularly seen throughout the month from Paul Stanley hide. A female Common Scoter on 7th, a drake Smew was present on 3rd, unfortunately only present the one day. 40 Pink-footed Geese flew southwest at 09:20hrs on 7th.

Wildfowl counts were 69 Little Grebe on 2nd, 43 Great Crested Grebe on 2nd, 40 Cormorant on 18th, 33 Mute Swan on 6th, 792 Canada's on 2nd, 31 Barnacle Geese on several dates, a Canada/Barnacle hybrid was also regularly noted. A reservoir record count of 1211 Wigeon on 2nd, 55 Gadwall on 3rd also a reservoir record count. 641 Teal on 18th, 424 Mallard on 3rd. One to two Pintail were present on several dates, four Shoveler on 3rd and 12th with smaller counts throughout the month. Two to six Red-crested Pochard were regularly noted all month, 463 Pochard on 2nd, 949 Tufted Duck on 2nd, 16 Goldeneye on 24nd with six to ten regularly present. Small numbers of Goosander were recorded during the month, 199 Ruddy Duck on 3rd.

Single Buzzard on 22nd, a Merlin on 6th, a Peregrine on 6th, both Sparrowhawk and Kestrel were regularly seen.

Eight species of waders were recorded, a Oystercatcher on 29th, 57 Golden Plover on 2nd, 50 on 30th, 29 on 3rd, several other single figure counts were noted. A Grey Plover on 23rd, 520 Lapwing on 8th. One to eight Dunlin were regularly present, nine on 3rd and 24th being the highest counted, 63 Snipe on 2nd with single figure counts on most other dates. Redshank were regularly present 13 on 15th being the highest number counted, eight on 8th with two to six most other dates, the Green Sandpiper recorded in November remained until 27th, unusual at Carsington, this species is scarce even during the migration periods.

An adult Mediterranean Gull was present on 7th, 8th and 18th, the adult Ring-billed Gull recorded last month was again noted on several dates from 1st until 17th, 88 Common Gulls on 2nd, c6000 Lesser Black-backed Gulls on 9th, 25 Herring Gulls on 8th, four Great Black-backed Gulls on 22nd and 30th, several Yellow-legged Gulls were also noted. A Caspian Gull roosted on 13th.

Other species noted were one to two Barn Owls on several dates, three Little Owls on 2nd with one to two on other dates, up to four Tawny Owls were heard calling on several dates, a Kingfisher was regularly seen, a Green Woodpecker on 10th. Great Spotted Woodpeckers were seen at Paul Stanley hide feeders, 22 Meadow Pipit on 2nd, a Rock Pipit on 3rd and 9th, a single Grey Wagtail was regularly noted. Two Fieldfare on 28th and one on 6th were the only ones recorded, 110 Redwing on 2nd with 22 on 22nd. A Chiffchaff on 9th, Willow Tits were regularly seen at Paul Stanley hide feeders, three Raven on 22nd, two on 3rd and one on 31st, 39 Tree Sparrow on 31st, 21 House Sparrow on 31st. Bramblings were seen on several dates at the Paul Stanley hide feeders, c100 Siskin on 23rd with smaller counts on several dates, a single Linnet on 17th and 19th, (quite a scarce bird in winter at Carsington) 25 Lesser Redpoll on 2nd, 10 Bullfinch on 9th.

Another excellent month for wildfowl with reservoir counts of Wigeon, 97 species were recorded in December, compared with 89 in December 2002, 86 in December 2001, 74 in December 2000.

For the latest updates see 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