

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT JANUARY 2009

Both Wigeon and Teal have been in low numbers this month with only a maximum of 45 Wigeon on the 31st and 12 Teal on the 13th. The Goosander roost peaked at 20 on the 17th with 11 females and 9 males. A pair of Gadwall have been present all month.

Pochards which are not a common bird down Wyver lane have been present most of the month with the best count of 9 on the 27th. A single Ruddy Duck on the 22nd, 8 Tufted Duck on the 31st and 4 Shoveler also on the 31st. Mallards reached a maximum of 35 on the 27th.

200 Canada Geese were counted on the 14th and a high of 15 Greylag Geese on the 27th. c50 Pink Footed Geese were flying South East on the 13th. 400 Black Headed Gulls on the 14th and 500 on 13th. The only other Gulls noted were a single Common Gull on the 13th and 21st and a Lesser Black Backed Gull on the 27th.

At least 2 Water Rails are present and can often give brief views walking across the little clearing by the water mark post to the left of the hide.

Raptors have been in short supply with a maximum of two Buzzards on the 7th, a male Sparrowhawk on the 13th and a Kestrel seen on several dates.

A male Stonechat was feeding in front of the hide on the 27th. 2 Skylarks flew over South West also on the 27th. Winter Thrushes include 30+ Fieldfare and 30+ Redwing again on the 27th.

Up to 7 Stock Doves have been noted on several dates. 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers were seen on the 27th. The new feeding station is proving productive with at least 10 Reed Buntings giving good views together with the more common Tits and Chaffinches.

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2009

Wildfowl numbers continue to fluctuate but 80 Wigeon on the 24th was the best of the Winter with many smaller counts. Other counts include: 16 Goosander on the 14th including 10 female, 10 Pochard on the 18th, 4 Gadwall on the 18th, 11 Teal on the 24th, 4 Shoveler on the 17th and 24th and 9 Tufted Duck on the 11th. 50 Greylag Geese on the 21st and 57 on the 24th. Single Water Rails have been seen or heard throughout the month with 2 birds on the 24th. A single Little Grebe has been present on the main pool all month. 3 Grey Herons on the 26th. A lone Mute Swan has been noted on several dates and maybe one half of the regular breeding pair.

Raptor sightings have again been in short supply with only single sightings of both Kestrel and Sparrowhawk although 2 Buzzards were noted on the 10th.

A returning Oystercatcher was noted on the 21st and was still there at the months end. 80 Lapwing on the 2nd with 60 the following day and 5 Snipe on the 24th were the only Waders reported.

Gulls as ever mainly consist of Black Headed Gulls with numbers regularly around the 250 mark but 320 was noted on the 26th. A single Common Gull on the 18th, 24th and 26th.

Other highlights was a notable 16 Stock Doves feeding in the field to the right of the hide on the 24th with the possibility of as many as 20 birds present. Up to 11 Reed Buntings are giving good views around the feeding station giving many opportunities to any budding photographer.

A single Stonechat was noted on the 2nd, and 2 were present on the 15th. A few Winter Thrushes were seen with 21 Redwing on the 10th, and 4 Fieldfare on the 3rd. A solitary Meadow Pipit was flying South on the 3rd. Great Spotted Woodpecker have been observed and drumming now very evident, and a single Green Woodpecker seen on the 17th and 24th.

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2009

March highlights; Wheatear, Water Rail, Stonechat and the return of Hirundines.

Maximum counts for March include 11 Grey Herons on 29th, 80 Wigeon on 3rd and a maximum of 16 by the 31st, 5 Shoveler on 17th, 4 Pochard on 3rd and 7th, 9 Tufted Duck on 29th, 8 Goosander on 7th, 14 Teal on 23rd and 31st, 90 Canada Geese on 3rd, 56 Greylag Geese on 3rd, 1 Pink Footed Goose present all month often with the local Canadas and Greylags, A lone male Mute Swan on 17th, a Little Grebe on 3rd and 18th, a Water Rail on 3rd and 17th, and 11 Coot on 17th.

4 Buzzards were seen on 31st with 3 on 7th and 23rd, 2 Sparrowhawks on 23rd and 29th, 2 Kestrel on 23rd.

2 Oystercatchers on 23rd and single birds on the 3rd, 7th and 16th, 2 Snipe on 31st and a Curlew was heard calling also on 31st, c20 Lapwing on 16th.

The only species of Gull reported was Black Headed Gull with 86 on 3rd and 93 on 7th.

A Tawny Owl was heard calling on 23rd and a Little Owl also heard calling on the 23rd. The first Sand Martin was recorded on 19th and surprisingly not again for the remainder of the month. The first Swallow was a record of three birds on 23rd, 1 on the 27th and 10-15 through on the 30th.

A Wheatear was seen on the old landfill site on 16th. A Stonechat on 7th, a Chiff Chaff on 16th and 2 on 19th and 29th. A Raven on the 29th and 30th. 11 Reed Buntings on 3rd, Skylark over on 23rd, 4 Siskin on 23rd, and 20+ Starling on 23rd. 4 Stock Doves on 3rd and 30th, 3 Mistle Thrush on 3rd and a Green Woodpecker on 3rd, a drumming Great Spotted Woodpecker on the 16th. The only Winter Thrush of the month was c30 Fieldfare on 17th.

A pair of Grey Wagtails have been observed at the north end of the reserve for most of the month and a pair of Pied Wagtails were around the main pool area on the 25th. A possible Linnet with nesting material was seen on 23rd.

A Treecreeper on 17th and 10 Magpies and 2 Jays also on 17th.

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT APRIL 2009

A fairly quiet month but Warblers return and the first Hobby of the year also makes a brief appearance.

Very little Wildfowl to report as ever at this time of year as birds leave for their breeding grounds. Maximum counts include 18 Teal on 6th, 6 Tufted Ducks on 29th, drake Gadwall on 28th, a pair of Mandarin on 20th, the last report of Wigeon was of a single bird on 6th, a brood of 8 Mallard young on 24th although three had been lost by the following day, drake Goosander on 28th.

The first Hobby of the year was of a single bird on the 24th, a Peregrine flew through on 4th, 2 Buzzards were in the air on 24th and 29th with singles on many dates, a male Sparrowhawk with prey on 28th.

c40 Swallows flew through on the 4th, 12 House Martins on 28th, 3 Sand Martins on 6th and 28th.

2 Blackcaps and 2 Whitethroats on 28th, the first Sedge Warbler was seen on the 20th with at least 3 birds in song on the 29th, 2 Chiff Chaffs also on 29th.

3 Oystercatchers on 4th and a pair seen most days through the month. A Curlew on 20th, a Common Sandpiper on 17th 3 Lapwings on 28th, a single Snipe on 29th. A Raven on 4th, a Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming on 20th, 2 Pied Wagtails on 20th, 4 Grey Herons on 25th, 6+ Reed Buntings on 28th, 3 Cormorants on 29th, 2 Stock Doves on 28th, The first Kingfisher of the year was seen on 28th, 4 Pheasants on 6th.

Dave Newcombe.

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT MAY 2009

Highlights this month include Red Kite and Reed Warbler.

Wildfowl counts for May include 2 Gadwall on 5th, 7th and 8th, 3 male Goosander on 7th and 4 females and a male on 5th, 11th, 8 Tufted Ducks on 5th, 8 Mallard young on 5th and 4 broods of Mallard by the 19th including 3/6/6 and 8. The first Coot young was 2 on the 26th.

A Red Kite flew west over the main pool on 19th and coincided with several other sightings in the county of these magnificent birds. This is only the second record of Red Kite for Wyver Lane. A Hobby on the 12th, a male Sparrowhawk on 4th and a pair the following day.

Waders of note include a possible Green Sandpiper on 5th, the bird was seen briefly on the top pool and couldn't be positively identified. 3 Oystercatchers on several dates with one on 24th, a single Curlew on 8th.

The first Swifts arrived on 3rd with 5 birds and 12 on 5th, c 50 Swallows, c 20 Housemartins and 8 Sandmartins all on 5th.

6 Grey Herons on 11th and newly fledged bird also seen on 11th, 51 Canada Geese on 19th.

A Reed Warbler was reported on 24 and 26th, 4 Sedge Warblers, 3 Whitethroats, 2 Chiff Chaffs and a Blackcap all on 5th. 2 Garden Warbler on 19th. A Raven on 26th, Kingfisher on 28th, 24 Long Tailed Tits on 19th, 8 Pied Wagtails were around the main pool on the evening of the 5th, a pair of Grey Wagtails were seen feeding one young on 16th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT JUNE 2009

Highlights include Red Legged Partridge, Reed Warbler, Shelduck

At least 9 Grey Herons present on the 9th and 15th which included 5 juveniles. This bird has bred nearby for the first time. A single Gadwall recorded on 15th. 2 Shelduck on the 2nd and 3rd. A female Goosander on the 1st. A report of 2 Wigeon on the 8th would be an early record for this normally wintering bird. Although one or two records have been recorded in the county of late. 3 Shoveler on the 30th, 2 Teal on 29th and 43 Mallards also on 29th. 30 Canada Geese on 2nd.

Lapwings have started to return already with up to 30 on 27th. Black Headed Gulls were noted on several dates with 5 on 8th.

Raptors this month include a Hobby on 15th and 30th, 4 Buzzards on 15th and 3 on 2nd and 8th. A male Sparrowhawk on 8th, a Kestrel on 2nd.

A Red-Legged Partridge was seen on 22nd and is the first record for many years. A Reed Warbler was heard singing on 8th and 15th. 5 Whitethroats on 8th including adults feeding 3 young. 2 Blackcaps also on 8th. 3 Garden Warblers on 15th.

Other sightings include 3 Stock Doves on 2nd, 2 Linnets on 22nd. A Skylark on 22nd, a Green Woodpecker on 11th and 30th, 5 male Reed Buntings singing on 11th.

A family of Coal Tits was noted on 8th and two families of Long-Tailed Tits on 11th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT JULY 2009

Wildfowl this month include 2 Teal on 7th, 21st and 26th and 4 on 18th. A drake Gadwall on 9th, 15th and 18th and a female on the 21st. 2 Tufted Ducks on 7th and 21st, 44 Mallards on 21st, 3 Female/juvenile Goosander on 28th. 110 Canada Geese on 21st and 50+ Greylag Geese on 26th and 27th.

Raptors this month include a male Peregrine with prey on 8th, 7 Kestrels in the air on 17th including 5 together, a Sparrowhawk on 27th. A Little Owl was heard calling on 7th.

Waders include c70 Lapwings on 7th rising to 300+ on 27th, a Snipe on 23rd and a Common Sandpiper on 27th.

A report of 300 Black-Headed Gulls on the 18th would probably be a July record as these kind of figures are generally recorded in the winter months. 42 was observed on 28th including 35 juveniles and some already moulting into 1st winters. A single Lesser-Black Backed Gull on 30th. 2 Common Terns made a brief stay on 30th.

Other records this month include 4 Grey Herons on 7th, 2 Linnet also on 7th, 2 Stock Doves on 9th and 21st, 2 Sedge Warblers on 21st and an adult feeding a youngster on 7th. A Kingfisher and a Green Woodpecker on 7th and a male Great Spotted Woodpecker and a juvenile on 21st.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT AUGUST 2009

Wildfowl counts for August include 3 Gadwall on 13th and a female most of the month, 3 'redhead' Goosander flew up river on 25th and a single 'redhead' on 31st, c20 Teal on 25th, 2 Shoveler on 29th and 3 female/ juvenile Mandarin on 25th, 50+ Mallards on 29th, c50 Greylag Geese on 3rd. A single Little Grebe has been present on and off throughout the month.

An Osprey gave excellent views on 4th as it unsuccessfully made three attempts at catching a fish. The bird was around the reserve for around 20 minutes and eventually flew off west after catching the attention of a Crow. This is only one of a handful of records of Osprey for Wyver Lane and could well be the only record of a bird actually fishing here. The sighting also coincided with several other sightings in the county in early August. On the 11th, 4 Sparrowhawks were seen together and prior to this, young were heard calling from a known nestsite nearby. Buzzard sightings have been regular all month with 2 to 3 birds seen almost daily but 4 were seen on 25th. A Hobby was seen on 17th.

With water levels being high all month, the only species of Wader was Lapwing which were often found in the surrounding fields with 250 most days and c300 on 1st. An adult and a juvenile Common Tern were present on 5th and a probable Common Tern on 7th.

Several Willow/Chiffs have been feeding up along the lane including a Chiff Chaff in song on 25th, a Whitethroat on 25th and a Lesser Whitethroat on 11th.

16 Long Tailed Tits were counted on 11th, also 6 juvenile Coal Tits on 11th. 100's of Housemartins were feeding around the reserve on 29th and 15 Swallows on 31st, 4 Swifts on 25th a single Swift on the 29th could well be the last record until next year. A Green Woodpecker has been seen or heard most days, as has a Kingfisher. 3 Grey Herons on 13th and 29th, 3 Cormorants on 29th and 4 Stock Doves on 4th and 25th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT SEPTEMBER 2009

Wildfowl counts for September include 70+ Teal on 22nd, 120 Mallards on 19th and 12th, 2 drake Gadwall on 26th and 28th and a female on 1st and 5th, 3 female Goosander on 10th and 19th and 1 on 1st, 2 males on 22nd, 6 Shoveler on 15th and 29th, a female/juvenile Mandarin on 8th and a male on 19th, the only record of Wigeon was of a single bird on 15th. c100 Pink-footed Geese flew west on 27th. 9 Cormorants on 22nd, 4 Grey Herons on 19th. A single Little Grebe on 8th.

Raptors include 2 Buzzards regularly seen, Kestrel seen almost daily, 2 Sparrowhawks on 15th, a male on 1st and a male caught a Blackbird left of the hide on 10th. A Little Owl was heard calling on 29th.

Water Levels are now quite low after a very dry month but Waders have still been few and far between. c200 Lapwings recorded on several dates and Snipe numbers are slowly building up with a maximum of eight on 27th.

A 1st winter Common Gull was among the Black Headed Gulls on 15th, Black Headed Gulls peaked at 185 on 29th and 29 Lesser Black Backed Gulls also on 29th.

At least 5 Jays were seen on 15th, c20 Long-tailed Tits on 8th plus c10 Willow/Chiffs, 3 Chiff Chaffs on 15th including one singing, Chiff Chaff singing on 29th, a Whitethroat on 1st. Green Woodpecker and Great Spotted Woodpecker were both seen regularly throughout the month. 40 Housemartins on 19th, 20 Swallows on 19th and also 1 Sand Martin on 19th. 9 Swallows and 7 Housemartins on 29th. The Hirundine highlight was a 1'000 plus Swallows around dusk on 10th. A Water Rail on 19th, 28th and 29th, 4 Mistle Thrushes on 8th, 2 Stock Doves also on 8th, 3 Siskin on 19th and 1 on 29th, 22 Jackdaws on the island on 26th, 3 Grey Wagtails on 29th, and a Skylark and Meadow Pipit both over on 29th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT OCTOBER 2009

Wildfowl for October include 36 Wigeon on 1st (this figure is down on recent years and was no doubt due to the ongoing work causing disturbance around the upper pool area), 8 Shoveler on 7th, 94 Teal on 20th, 12 'redhead' Goosander on 19th, 100 Mallard on 8th, 62 Greylag Geese on 13th, 58 Canada Geese on 23rd. c300 Pink-footed Geese were flying North West on 20th, 2 juvenile Mute Swans have been present for most of the month. 3 Water Rails were seen on 1st, 6 Grey Herons on 5th and 14th, and 9 Cormorants on 23rd.

8 individual Buzzards were in the air on 1st, 2 Sparrowhawks also on 1st with singles of both male and female seen regularly, a Little Owl on 4th.

Because of a very dry month some good areas of mud formed so Waders have been much easier to see. The highlight has been several records of a Jack Snipe on 13th, 23rd and 29th. Common Snipe have been seen in good numbers with a high of 30 on 15th and many other counts in the high twenties. A Green Sandpiper on 14th, 68 Lapwings on 8th and a possible Dunlin heard on 14th.

Gulls this month include 200 Black-headed Gulls on 13th, 140 Lesser Black Backed Gulls on 25th and a Common Gull on 15th.

The last of the Hirundines was 4 Swallows and 2 Housemartins on 1st. A Chiff Chaff was singing on 1st. 50 Redwings on 12th and 135 on 13th, 3 Grey Wagtails on 1st, 6 Pied Wagtails on 5th, 2 Stock Doves on 13th, 2 Green Woodpeckers on 8th, 20 Long-tailed Tits on 13th, Skylark on 13th, 20th and 26th, 3 Goldcrests on 15th, a Stonechat on 23rd and 26th, 8 Meadow Pipits on 20th, 2 Linnets on 20th, 15+ Siskin on 26th, 15 Goldfinches on 4th, 2 Jays on 11th and a Treecreeper on 13th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT NOVEMBER 2009

Wildfowl counts for November include 12 Goosander on 27th, 8 Tufted Duck on 18th, 6 Shoveler on 5th, 5 Pochard on 10th, a Shelduck on 10th, 2 Gadwall on 10th, 12th and 13th, 25 Mallard on 24th, 35 Teal on 12th, 13 Wigeon on 12th, 122 Canada Geese on 24th, 2 juvenile Mute Swans most days, a maximum of 3 Cormorants most days, 4 Grey Herons on 3rd and a Little Grebe on 7th and 10th. Water Rail on 3rd, 7th and 18th.

A possible Merlin with prey was seen in fading light on the afternoon of 14th. 2 Buzzards on 3rd, 5th and 24th and Sparrowhawk on 3rd and 18th.

Rising water levels have made Waders more difficult to see so only 50 Lapwings on 18th and 4 Snipe on 10th noted. Gulls this month include c100 Black-headed Gulls on 12th, 12 Lesser-black Backed Gulls on 15th and a Common Gull on 3rd.

A probable Water Pipit was seen all too briefly on the morning of the 24th. 2 Meadow Pipits on 24th, 4 Skylark over on 7th, 5 Reed Buntings on 3rd, c40 Goldfinches on 10th, 2 Stock Doves on 3rd and 27th, c100 Fieldfare on 10th, 3 Treecreeper on 14th, 10 Redwings on 10th, 4 Goldcrests on 5th, 20 Long-tailed Tits on 5th, 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers on 10th, Green Woodpecker on 3rd, 2 Grey Wagtails on 3rd, 3 Pied Wagtails on 5th, 2 Mistle Thrushes on 10th, 6 Blackbirds on 10th and 5 Dunncocks and 5 Wrens both on 10th.

Dave Newcombe

WYVER LANE MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2009

5 Mute Swans arrived on 3rd, 4 juveniles and an adult with the juveniles present until 14th. Despite the majority of the water being under ice for the latter part of the month some good maximums were still recorded. They include 25 Goosander on 10th including 11 drakes, 11 Shoveler also on 10th, 43 Teal on 15th, 24 Wigeon on 15th, 6 Pochard on 29th, 26 Mallards on 3rd, 5 Tufted Ducks on 7th, 2 Gadwall on 4th, 150 Canada Geese on 7th and 8th, 4 Greylag Geese on 22nd and 4 Cormorants on 10th. A Water Rail on 8th and 29th and 2 Grey Herons on 8th.

For one lucky observer a female Merlin sat on the post in front of the hide on 30th for 5 minutes before flying off towards the river. Other Raptors include 2 Buzzards on 10th, 2 Sparrowhawks on 8th, and a Kestrel seen almost daily.

197 Lapwing were sitting on the ice on 22nd and c70 Golden Plover flew south over the reserve also on 22nd. This followed a small movement of both these species no doubt triggered by the cold snap. Gulls this month include 173 Black-headed Gulls on 1st, and 2 Common Gulls on 29th.

Other species include a Raven on 1st and 8th, an impressive 20+ Skylark in one flock heading east on 1st, 4 Reed Buntings on 1st including a leucistic individual on 8th, 2 Stock Doves on 8th and 10th, 48 Fieldfare on 1st, 13 Redwing on 8th, 2 Grey Wagtails on 8th, 11 Goldfinch on 14th, 4 Siskin on 3rd, 5 Black birds on 3rd, 3 Mistle Thrush on 14th, 2 Song Thrush on 29th, and Kingfisher and a Linnet both on 1st.

Dave Newcombe