

## **CARSINGTON MONTHLY BIRD REPORT - APRIL**

**April Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Red Kite, Little Gull, Kittiwake, Whiskered Tern, Water Pipit and record numbers of Wagtails.**

The cold and windy winter weather carried on for most of April, holding back many migrants, but there were some exciting birding days such as Apr 12<sup>th</sup> with Kittiwakes, Terns, Hirrundines, Warblers and Winter Thrushes passing through in good numbers, many being the first for the year. The wintering 4 Great Northern Divers were still present on 15<sup>th</sup>, then 1 of the juveniles left, the rest stayed on all month and the adult attained full summer plumage. Wildfowl counts were: 58 Great Crested Grebe on 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 3 Mute Swan on 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 Whooper Swan on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 Greylag Geese on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 34 Canadas on 14<sup>th</sup>, 26 Barnacles on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7 Shelduck on 20<sup>th</sup>, 110 Wigeon and 60 Teal during a big duck movement day on 6<sup>th</sup>, 38 Mallard on 14<sup>th</sup>, 3 Shoveler on 6<sup>th</sup>, 64 Tufted Duck on 14<sup>th</sup>, a drake Common Scoter on 16<sup>th</sup>, 9 Goldeneye on 14<sup>th</sup>, 2 Goosander on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 113 Coot on 14<sup>th</sup>. There were no early broods of Mallard seen this month which is unusual but reflects the bad weather conditions.

A Red Kite glided over the Wildlife Centre and Sheepwash on 12<sup>th</sup>. A Sparrowhawk took a bat from the eaves of the Wildlife Centre on 16<sup>th</sup>. Osprey passage missed Carsington this month but May may be better. There were 7 Common Buzzard in the air on 12<sup>th</sup> and a Peregrine was noted on 4<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

With no wader broods yet some Oystercatcher, Lapwing and Redshank were on nests. Maximum counts of waders, including passage and local breeding birds, were: 12 Oystercatcher on 19<sup>th</sup>, 4 Little Ringed Plover on 24<sup>th</sup>, 2 Ringed Plover on 26<sup>th</sup>, 14 Dunlin on 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 Snipe on 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 1 Woodcock on 12<sup>th</sup>, 7 Black-tailed Godwit on 26<sup>th</sup>, 1 Bar-tailed Godwit on 19<sup>th</sup>, a site record 17 Whimbrel through on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8 Curlew on 16<sup>th</sup>, 7 Redshank on 8<sup>th</sup>, and 8 Common Sandpiper on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Three first summer Little Gull were present from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> when they were joined by an adult. Following this, 2 of the immature Little Gull stayed on to the end of the month. Counts were 600 Common Gull on 8<sup>th</sup> and 100 Lesser Black-backed Gull on 22<sup>nd</sup>. A second winter moulting into summer Yellow-legged Gull was on site from 4<sup>th</sup>. A flock of 12 adult Kittiwake landed at Sheepwash for half an hour on the windy 12<sup>th</sup>. Tern passage started with 3 Sandwich Tern on 7<sup>th</sup>, another on 12<sup>th</sup> and another on 13<sup>th</sup>. The only Common Tern were 2 on 28<sup>th</sup> but the first Arctic Tern were 2 days earlier than ever recorded here, with 5 on 12<sup>th</sup>, followed by 6 on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and 1 or 2 on many days. The Tern highlight of course was a Whiskered Tern at 0710hrs on 24<sup>th</sup>. This bird was seen for less than 2 minutes, before leaving and spending the rest of the day nearby at Blithfield Reservoir in Staffordshire. Whiskered Tern is a new species for Carsington Water and is only the sixth Derbyshire record.

Other migrant arrivals were: 1 Swift on 20<sup>th</sup> and 20 on 28<sup>th</sup>, a Sand Martin on 7<sup>th</sup>, which is very late for this species, 3 Swallow on 10<sup>th</sup> and over 100 on 12<sup>th</sup>, 1 House Martin on 12<sup>th</sup>, over 70 Meadow Pipit together in a field behind the Wildlife Centre on 8<sup>th</sup>, a rare Water Pipit on 19<sup>th</sup>, a Yellow Wagtail on 13<sup>th</sup> and a site record 31 on 29<sup>th</sup>, a 'Channel' type Blue-headed on 19<sup>th</sup> and a Blue-headed on 29<sup>th</sup>, 8 White Wagtail on 15<sup>th</sup> and a site record of at least 40 on 19<sup>th</sup>, 2 singing Redstart on 24<sup>th</sup>, a Wheatear on 10<sup>th</sup>, a Sedge Warbler on 25<sup>th</sup>, a Lesser Whitethroat on 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Whitethroat on 18<sup>th</sup> and 9 on 27<sup>th</sup>, 2 Garden Warbler on 28<sup>th</sup>, a Blackcap on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26 on 26<sup>th</sup>. A site rare Wood Warbler on Stones Island on 27<sup>th</sup> attracted many observers and Chiffchaff, which arrived last month, totalled 41 on 27<sup>th</sup>. A Willow Warbler arrived singing on 12<sup>th</sup> and there were 49 by 27<sup>th</sup>.

115 Species were recorded compared with 115 in April 2012, 111 in 2011, 118 in 2010 and 110 in 2009.