

CARSINGTON MONTHLY BIRD REPORT – AUGUST 2013

August Highlights: Little Egret, Turnstone, Black Tern, Tree Pipit and Crossbill.

A reasonable August with 106 species and generally calm, warm weather providing good feeding for the young broods, helping some species catch up after the bad start to their breeding season. There were a few fresh broods on the water, 1 of Great Crested Grebe, taking their total to 7 broods this year and 5 Tufted Duck, totalling 28 broods this year, which is just less than the record 29 during 2010. Waterbird maximum counts included: 11 Little Grebe on 28th, 27 Great Crested Grebe on 25th, 45 Cormorant on 28th, 1 Little Egret on most days from 9th to 18th, 11 Heron on 9th, 35 Mute Swan on 25th, a Cackling Goose (escapee) on 29th, 174 Canada Geese on 18th, a drake Mandarin Duck on 23rd, 32 Wigeon on 30th, 10 Gadwall on 25th, 110 Teal on 25th and 27th, 221 Mallard on 25th, 1 Pintail on 30-31st, 5 Shoveler on 24-25th, 2 Red-crested Pochard 23-28th, 12 Pochard on 25th, 382 Tufted Duck on 25th, 5 Common Scoter on 24th, 8 Goosander on 24th and 640 Coot on the WeBS count on 25th.

Raptors included Sparrowhawk activity showing breeding success at 2 locations, 7 Common Buzzard on 14th, a Kestrel taking a vole into the Sheepwash Hide dead tree to eat on 3rd, regular Kestrel activity around Stones Island and Wildlife Centre, Peregrine almost daily, with 2 on 25th and 28th and a Hobby on 27th.

There were 14 species of Wader noted, with the local breeding birds leaving by the end of the month. Counts, including passage birds were: 9 Oystercatcher on 1st and none after 9th, 2 Little Ringed Plover on 28th, 2 Ringed Plover on 21st, 21 Lapwing on 25th, 4 Dunlin on 6th, an unusual sight of a flock of 15 Snipe flying through on 24th, a Black-tailed Godwit on Millfields Island on 9th, Whimbrel heard on 7th, 9th, 14th and 24th, 31 Curlew flying through in flocks of 16 then 15 on 23rd, 3 Redshank on 10th, 2 Greenshank on 28th and singles on other days, a Green Sandpiper on 3rd and 10th, 6 Common Sandpiper on 7th and 2 Turnstone on 23rd and singles on 1st and 7th.

Gulls included 33 young Black-headed Gull still around their new breeding colony on Millfields Island on 11th, 3 Common Gull on 14th, 54 Lesser Black-backed Gull on 8th and a Herring Gull on 24th. The regular Yellow-legged Gull was around all month and was tentatively attacked during flight by a juvenile peregrine on 1st. There were 3 Common Tern on 1st and 11th and fewer on days between, a juvenile Arctic Tern on 24-25th, 5 Black Tern early on 24th and another later in the day.

The last Swift record was 3 on 14th, 2 Sand Martin on 23rd, a pair of Swallow were at last feeding their first brood in the Stone Barn on 21st, 100 Swallow were roosting on the dam wall early on 22nd and 120 House Martin noted on 19th. A House Martin was feeding nestlings at the Visitor Centre on 12th, this being only the second brood here when the usual is a colony of 20-plus nests. A Kingfisher was regularly noted, with 2 on 15th, 21st and 29th. Tree Pipit were heard flying over on their migration south, with 2 on 25th and 1 on 27th and 31st. Yellow Wagtail were also moving south with singles from 19th, 3 on 28th and 2 on 31st. There were 2 Redstart on 9th and 14th, a Wheatear on 25th and 28th, 2 Sedge Warbler on 7th, 8 Reed Warbler (including a presumed family of 6) on 1st, 3 Lesser Whitethroat on 7th and 14th, 3 Whitethroat on 7th, 3 Garden Warbler on 4th, 22 Chiffchaff on 10th, 8 Willow Warbler on 14th, 7 Spotted Flycatcher on 14th, 3 Willow Tit on 10th,

20 Blue Tit on 14th and 3 Nuthatch on 10th. Another unusual fly-by flock was 13 Raven on 26th and other local flocks were 58 House Sparrow together at the Visitor Centre on 9th, 85 Tree Sparrow at the Wildlife Centre on 18th, 56 Goldfinch on Stones Island on 28th and 24 Linnets in Shiningford Creek on 10th. A Lesser Redpoll was in Fishtail Creek on 10th and a Crossbill flew over Paul Stanley Hide on 4th.

106 Species recorded this August compared with 94 in 2012, 119 in 2011, 95 in 2010 and 102 in 2009.