

CARSINGTON MONTHLY BIRD REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2013

September Highlights: Garganey, Osprey, Curlew Sandpiper and Great Skua.

With winter wildfowl returning, notable and maximum wildfowl counts were as follows. There were 22 Little Grebe on 19th, 36 Great Crested Grebe on 22nd, 38 Cormorant on 16th, 8 Heron on 9th and 33 Mute Swan on 9th. Pink-footed Geese included a probable feral bird most days from 10-18th and migrating flocks of 27 on 16th, 29 heading east on 20th and 100 heading west on 27th. Other Geese included 22 Greylag on 20th, 590 Canada Geese on 13th and 26 feral Barnacle Geese on 13th. Ducks were: 27 Wigeon on 2nd increasing to 302 on 30th, 17 Gadwall on 22nd, 298 Teal on 13th, 246 Mallard on 22nd, 7 Pintail on 19th and 21st, a Garganey from 16th to the end of the month, 4 Shoveler on 13th, 1 Red-crested Pochard 1-14th, 13 Pochard on 6th rising to 107 by 30th, 408 Tufted Duck on 22nd, a Scaup on 8th, a Goosander on 16th and 1057 Coot on the WeBS count on 22nd.

Raptors included a juvenile male Sparrowhawk drinking on Sheepwash shoreline on 9th, an Osprey seen from the Wildlife Centre on 3rd, 2 Hobby heading south on 13th and 2 Peregrine on 22nd.

Wader passage was reasonable with 15 species including: an Oystercatcher on 2nd, a Little Ringed Plover on several days up to 25th, 24 Ringed Plover on 25th, a Grey Plover heard only on 25th, 300 Lapwing on 23rd, 2 Curlew Sandpiper on 11th, 12 Dunlin on 19-22nd, 2 Ruff on 6th, 6 Snipe on 5th, a Black-tailed Godwit on 2nd and 18th, 2 Bar-tailed Godwit on 17th, 5 Curlew on 6th, 2 Redshank on 6th, a Greenshank on 1st, 3rd and 11th and 1 to 2 Common Sandpiper all month.

A Great Skua was flying around Sheepwash at 0935hrs on 6th and flew off southwest over the dam wall just 10 minutes later. A first winter Little Gull was seen from Sheepwash on 13th. The gull roost held at least 4000 Lesser Black-backed Gull on 11th and 6 Yellow-legged Gull on 30th. An adult Kittiwake flew through heading north on 6th and a juvenile black Tern was on site most of the same day.

Summer migrants leaving were noted by the last Sand Martin on 19th, more than 100 Swallows on 20th, the last and late House Martin nest about to fledge on 8th, 3 Tree Pipit over on 12th, 33 Meadow Pipit on 18th, 2 Rock Pipit on 30th, 1 to 3 Yellow Wagtail most days up to the final 1 on 25th, 71 Pied Wagtail on the dam early on 20th, the last Wheatear on 21st, Sedge Warbler on 4th, 2 Whitethroat on 8th, 17 Chiffchaff still around on 11th, a Willow Warbler on 9th and a Spotted Flycatcher on 3rd.

There were 60 House Sparrow dust bathing together on Stones Island on 3rd, 57 Tree Sparrow on Wildlife Centre feeders on 8th, at least 90 Goldfinch on Stones Island on 13th, 19 Siskin on 25th, 4 Linnets on 12th, a Crossbill calling over Millfields on 12th and a Yellowhammer over Millfields on 20th.

109 Species this September compared with 106 in 2012, 124 in 2011, 117 in 2010 and 103 in 2009