

## CARSINGTON MONTHLY BIRD REPORT – OCTOBER 2013

**October Highlights: A long list of rare birds seen at Carsington this month included 4 on the Derbyshire rarities list. The strong East and North winds, experienced mid-month, brought in some of these good birds and others just happened to land here, consisting of:**

A juvenile Gannet on site for 20 minutes on a windy 12<sup>th</sup>, plunge diving and resting on the water.  
An immature Gannet on the water and in flight on the foggy 18<sup>th</sup>, the sixth and seventh record here.  
A Little Egret, mobile about the site on 6-8<sup>th</sup>.  
1 Whooper Swan on 13<sup>th</sup> and another (or the same) on 19<sup>th</sup>.  
A Brent Goose on the water on 1<sup>st</sup>, distant but probably dark-bellied.  
A drake Green-winged Teal at Wildlife Centre from 19<sup>th</sup>, last recorded on 28<sup>th</sup>, the fourth record here.  
A Garganey present from September and also last recorded on 28<sup>th</sup>.  
A drake Common Scoter seen from Sheepwash on 12<sup>th</sup>.  
6 redhead Red-breasted Merganser at Sheepwash on 13<sup>th</sup>.  
A Grey Phalarope viewable from Sheepwash and Lane End Hides on 19<sup>th</sup>, the sixth record here.  
2 Great Skua for 20 minutes on 11<sup>th</sup>, landed mid-water, then flew around Sheepwash, then southwest.  
1 Great Skua 1000-1200hrs on 13<sup>th</sup>, then flew off northeast.  
A first winter Little Gull seen from Sheepwash on 13<sup>th</sup>.  
1 Rock Pipit on 1<sup>st</sup> and another on 20<sup>th</sup>.  
A Male Stonechat in Wildlife Centre Creek 21-23<sup>rd</sup>.  
2 Crossbill flew over Sheepwash on 13<sup>th</sup>.

Back to the usual birds here with maximum counts of waterbirds: 21 Little Grebe and 34 Great Crested Grebe on 15<sup>th</sup>, 23 Cormorant on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4 Heron on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 30 Mute Swan on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 58 Greylag Geese on 8<sup>th</sup>, 29 feral Barnacle Geese on 16<sup>th</sup>, 2 Shelduck on 28<sup>th</sup>, 324 Wigeon on 11<sup>th</sup>, 19 Gadwall on 11<sup>th</sup>, 462 Teal on 15<sup>th</sup>, 7 Pintail on 7<sup>th</sup>, 4 Shoveler on 15<sup>th</sup>, 255 Pochard on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 448 Tufted Duck on 15<sup>th</sup>, 3 Goosander on 24<sup>th</sup> and 1184 Coot on the formal WeBS count on 15<sup>th</sup>.

Waders this month included: 1 Oystercatcher on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 Ringed Plover 1-21<sup>st</sup>, 4 Golden Plover on 20<sup>th</sup>, at least 300 Lapwing on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3 Dunlin on 25-28<sup>th</sup>, 5 Snipe on 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Redshank on 25-26<sup>th</sup>, a Green Sandpiper on 26<sup>th</sup> and 2 Common Sandpiper on 26<sup>th</sup>. An Arctic Tern flew through on 14<sup>th</sup> and a juvenile also flew through on 20<sup>th</sup>, both of these being the latest ever at Carsington.

Kingfisher has been seen almost daily, but at various locations with 2 together on 8<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. 7 Skylark flew over on 20<sup>th</sup> and a late Swallow went through on 27<sup>th</sup>. Winter thrushes passing through included 63 Fieldfare and 465 Redwing on 20<sup>th</sup>. A Blackcap was still around on 30<sup>th</sup> and 3 Chiffchaff on 21<sup>st</sup> were the last of the month. Corvids included 200 Jackdaw over Sheepwash at dawn on 27<sup>th</sup>, 13 Rook in dam fields on 1<sup>st</sup> and 5 Raven in the air on 28<sup>th</sup>. A small Starling flock (250 on 21<sup>st</sup>) have roosted near the Visitor Centre recently and there were 5 Greenfinch on 20<sup>th</sup>, 35 Goldfinch on 21<sup>st</sup>, 5 Siskin on 21<sup>st</sup>, 8 Linnet on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2 Lesser Redpoll on 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

103 species recorded this October compared with 104 in 2012, 103 in 2011, 109 in 2010 and 108 in 2009.