

Carsington Bird Club



NOVEMBER 2014 BIRD NOTES

November Highlights: Black-necked Grebe, Little Egret, Pink-footed Geese, Red-breasted Merganser, Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, and Mediterranean and Caspian Gulls.

An average month species wise with 96, but maybe the real surprise was the absence of a Great Northern Diver. Only the second blank November since 2004. Hopefully December will bring our now to be expected Diver(s). Water bird maximums for November are on the WeBS on 16th unless stated: 17 Little Grebes on 7th, 41 Great-crested Grebes, the Black-necked Grebe last seen at Millfields on 10th, 23 Cormorants on 10th, a Little Egret on and off throughout the month, 3 Grey Herons, 40 Mute Swans. Movement of Pink-footed Geese were noted with 30 SE on 24th, and 130 E on 30th. 3 Greylag Geese on 1st, 60 Canada Geese on 21st, a Barnacle Goose on 3rd, 5 Shelduck on 30th, 220 Wigeon on 7th, 18 Gadwall, 181 Teal on 7th, 172 Mallards, 4 Pintail on 7th, 9 Shoveler on 1st, 4 Red-crested Pochard up to 22nd, with just 2 thereafter, 132 Pochard on 30th, 299 Tufted Duck, 8 Goldeneye on 21st, a Red-breasted Merganser on 6th, and another on 17th, 15 Goosander on 24th and 1242 Coot.

Raptors this month include 3 Sparrowhawks up together over Hall Wood on 5th, 5 Common Buzzards on 5th, a Kestrel on many dates and a Peregrine on 5th, 8th and 17th. Waders include c30 Golden Plover on 16th, 571 Lapwing on 16th, a Knot on 9th, 2 Dunlin on 10th and 24th, 25 Snipe on 24th, a Woodcock flew over the dam wall on 22nd, a Bar-tailed Godwit on 24th and 26th, 3 Curlew on 30th and 3 Redshank on 21st.

Interestingly this month there has been three different ages of Mediterranean Gull recorded. Firstly an adult roosted on 21st-22nd, then a 2nd winter on 24th followed by a 1st winter in the roost on 29th-30th. An adult Black-headed Gull with a colour ring was seen from Sheepwash Hide on 21st. The digits on the ring were determined and traced back to being ringed in Oslo, Norway. 8 Herring Gulls on 9th, 5 Yellow-legged Gulls roosted on 22nd, an adult Caspian Gull on 22nd and 24th and 7 Great Black-backed Gulls on Sheepwash Spit on 9th.

3 Stock Doves were noted on 21st, 1200 Wood Pigeons migrating through on 1st, a Kingfisher seen at many locations including at Paul Stanley hide giving good photographic opportunities. A site rare Green Woodpecker at Millfields on 21st and 29th, 14 Skylarks through on 1st, 15 Meadow Pipits on 3rd, 2 Stonechat on 2nd, then a lone female up to 16th, Thrush numbers boosted by wintering birds include 30 Blackbirds on 6th, 100 Fieldfare on 2nd with 125 on 6th, 5 Song Thrush on 6th and 50 Redwing on 6th. Either a very late or wintering Chiffchaff on 3rd, 6 Goldcrest on 5th and 10th, 520 Jackdaws out of a nearby roost on 1st, 405 Starlings on 10th, 2 Brambling on 6th, 55 Goldfinch on 14th, c20 Siskin on 10th, 15 Linnets on 1st, 2 Lesser Redpoll on 6th, 2 Yellowhammers on 15th and 5 Reed Buntings on 30th.

96 species this month compared with 92 in 2013, 95 in 2012, 99 in 2011 and 95 in 2010.

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