

# Carsington Bird Club



## NOVEMBER 2017 BIRD NOTES

**Highlights: Great Northern Diver, Great White Egret, Whooper Swan, Pink-footed Geese, Common Scoter, Jack Snipe, Bar-tailed Godwit, Mediterranean Gull, Caspian Gull, Kittiwake, Crossbill and Hawfinch.**

101 species is very healthy and above average for November. And unsurprisingly there were some quality birds to see. Every winter we expect to see a Great Northern Diver or two and November didn't disappoint. One was seen in flight on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> and may have been down before leaving. Then on the 24<sup>th</sup> an adult was located off Stones Island and was still present at the month's end raising hopes that it's the returning adult. Water bird maximums come from the WeBS count on 19<sup>th</sup> unless stated: 30 Little Grebe, 42 Great Crested Grebe, 31 Cormorant, a Great White Egret at Sheepwash on 12<sup>th</sup>, 42 Mute Swan on 27<sup>th</sup>. The first Whooper Swans of the season were 16 on 2<sup>nd</sup> followed by several more records including 26 on 12<sup>th</sup>. Numerous Pink-footed Geese records were observed with notable skeins of 190 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 160 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 100 on 16<sup>th</sup>. 390 Greylag Geese on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 270 Canada Geese, 339 Wigeon on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 48 Gadwall, 277 Teal, 108 Mallard, single Pintail on several dates, 5 Shoveler on 7<sup>th</sup>, 276 Pochard, 227 Tufted Duck, a female Common Scoter on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 14 Goldeneye on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9 Goosander on 18<sup>th</sup>, up to 2 Water Rail in Hopton reedbed, 10 Moorhen and 860 Coot.

Raptors of note this month include 3 Sparrowhawk on 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 Buzzard on 5<sup>th</sup>, 3 Kestrel on 30<sup>th</sup> and Peregrine on 7<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.

A good spread of wader records including 2 Ringed Plover on 6<sup>th</sup>, 4 Golden Plover on 5<sup>th</sup> with other smaller counts throughout the month, 650 Lapwing on 12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 16 Dunlin on 14<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, Ruff on site all month with a maximum of 5 on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 Jack Snipe in Hopton reedbed on 30<sup>th</sup>, 43 Snipe on 15<sup>th</sup>, 3+ Woodcock on 23<sup>rd</sup>, a Black-tailed Godwit on 10<sup>th</sup>, a Bar-tailed Godwit on 9<sup>th</sup> and 9 Redshank on 19<sup>th</sup>.

Some good Gull counts this month with an adult Mediterranean Gull on 26<sup>th</sup>, c7000 Black-headed Gull on 9<sup>th</sup>, c1000 Common Gull on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, c2500 Lesser Black-backed Gull on 9<sup>th</sup>, a Caspian Gull on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 Yellow-legged Gulls on 5<sup>th</sup> and a 1<sup>st</sup> winter Kittiwake on 20<sup>th</sup>.

A count of 16 Stock Dove was made on 11<sup>th</sup>, and 960 Wood Pigeons flew south on 5<sup>th</sup>. 7 Tawny Owls were calling at Hopton at first light on 26<sup>th</sup>, 10 Skylark over on 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 50 Meadow Pipits on 1<sup>st</sup> and a site record 19 Grey Wagtails left Hopton reedbed first thing on 12<sup>th</sup>. Some counts undertaken on 29<sup>th</sup> yielded 36 Wren, 24 Dunnock, 50 Robin, 50 Blackbird, 21 Fieldfare, 18 Song Thrush, 43 Redwing, 8 Goldcrest, 11 Willow Tit, 38 Blue Tit, 44 Great Tit, 9 Nuthatch, 24 Tree Sparrow, 21 Chaffinch and 18 Bullfinch. Other notable sightings include a Stonechat on 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Chiffchaff on 28<sup>th</sup>, 6+ Raven on 18<sup>th</sup>, 4000 Starling out of the Hopton reedbed roost on 12<sup>th</sup>, 22 Brambling on 7<sup>th</sup>, c50 Siskin on 21<sup>st</sup>, 17 Lesser Redpoll on 21<sup>st</sup> and 3 Crossbill over on 11<sup>th</sup>. The huge irruption of Hawfinch across the UK showed no sign of abating with records on 23 days in the month. Although generally in small numbers there were counts of 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and a massive 28 on 7<sup>th</sup>. While most of these were heading South or Southwest, towards the end of the month some could be seen perched up at several locations, however the favoured area was at Millfields in the amphitheatre area.

101 species recorded compared with 99 in 2016, 101 in 2015, 96 in 2014, 92 in 2013 and 95 in 2012

Recorders: Dave Newcombe: [danewcombe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:danewcombe@hotmail.co.uk). Clive Ashton: [cliveashton@btinternet.com](mailto:cliveashton@btinternet.com)

