



WELCOME BACK

October 14th was World Migratory Day. It celebrates the millions of birds on the move.

The UK is a vital winter home for huge numbers of birds seeking to avoid harsher winters in the Arctic Circle, Scandinavia and other colder parts of Europe ...and Stocker's Lake is a prime destination.

So it's a great time to plan another visit to the lake.



Photographs © Kevin Blake, Giles Lury

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

Shovelers, Goldeneyes, Siskins, Fieldfares, Gadwalls and Redwings should all be starting to appear on and around the lake.

The number of Common Pochards and the more dramatic Red Crested Pochard are likely to increase too. Severe weather and storms on the continent will encourage Lapwings to move west and arrive in the UK ...some at Stocker's Lake.

And if last year was anything to go by, though not migratory, Kingfishers will be around in November.

All the old favourites will be around too - Coots, Moorhens, Grey herons, Cormorants, Mallards, Canada Geese, Egyptian Geese, Greylag Geese, Red Kites, Grebes and many more

IF WE'RE REALLY LUCKY

A number of our twitchers are hoping we get another visit from the Smew which came last year, and maybe some other less frequent visitors like goosanders and Barnacle Geese

AND CHRISTMAS IS COMING

And with Christmas now on the horizon, make sure you keep your eyes peeled for robins.



Did you know?

By far the longest migration known in the animal kingdom is made by the Arctic Tern. It travels 90,000 km (55,923 m) from Pole to Pole every year – from Greenland in the North to the Weddell Sea in the South

Friends of Stocker's Lake is a registered charity No. 1080501. It aims to support conservation at Stocker's Lake Local Nature Reserve.

www.fosl.org.uk www.facebook.com/friendsOfStokersLake

Friends of STOCKER'S LAKE



BIRDS AREN'T THE ONLY LONG HAUL TRAVELLERS



Many species of bats are migratory; one of these which is the rare Nathusius Pipistrelles. We're delighted to report that on a recent bat count conducted by Patty Briggs, Nicola Padzierska and Catherine Green, two Nathusius Pipistrelles were found. One of these was wearing a ring which revealed it had last been detected at the reserve back in 2019. The other bore no ring and so was ringed by the team.

The Nathusius Pipistrelle is one of Britain's 17 breeding bat species. Weighing just 8 grammes on average it is the largest and rarest of our three pipistrelle species and is typically found around wetland habitats. It occurs across the UK with a peak in records during the late summer and autumn when many individuals migrate from Eastern to Western Europe.

In addition to the two Nathusius Pipistrelles, the team also counted 12 Soprano Pipistrelles. The Soprano is a much commoner species but it is nevertheless great to know that it is present on our reserve and making good use of our boxes.

THE CALENDAR SELLING FAST



Now printed and available via the website <https://www.fosl.org.uk/news-blog/fosl-2023-wall-calendar-now-available-c3dky-57swm> the 2024 calendar is selling fast. Last year we sold out completely and expect to again this year, even with an increased run. Still a bargain at only £10 each.

ALWAYS MORE TO DO



Our work parties have been hard at work, they successfully coppiced willow to open up sections on the canal side of the lake to improve diversity along the ditch. In November they will do more willow coppicing in the reed beds on the river Colne side of the lake, enhancing the margins for water voles by opening up the visibility to the water.

The work parties will also be laying hedge laround the cattle fields and reconfiguring the entrance to Shovelers' hide.

Thanks to all who helped. (More details on the website www.fosl.org.uk) and as there is lots to do, please volunteer if you can.

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Further details and updates will be on the website <https://www.fosl.org.uk/upcoming-events>

Talks and Walks/Calendar	Work parties/Recruitment Drives
Calendar on sale now	November Work party 5 Nov 2023 9:55 am - 12:30 pm Check location with Jack Westbrook
	December Work party 3 Dec 2023 9:55 am - 12:30 pm Check location with Jack Westbrook
Wildfowl Walk - Dec 2023 6 Dec 2023 10:00 am - 12:30 pm Meet at the Causeway Seat - what3words: list.chase.from	