



## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE HERON KIND

If you haven't already been to view the livestream of the Heron's nest at Stocker's Lake, we highly recommend you try it now.



3 eggs have been laid and they should hatch around the second week of March. You can view the stream on our website or YouTube channel using a phone, tablet, laptop, PC or Smart TV.

The website link is [www.fosl.org.uk/livestream](http://www.fosl.org.uk/livestream) Alternatively visit our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@friendsofstockerslakefosl2445>) where you will also find recordings of previous days' streams. Web browsers vary but all should provide the possibility of full screen viewing and/or scrolling back up to 12 hours.

### UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

It has taken a lot of work, but we are delighted to let you know that, for the first time, we are streaming live pictures from an active Stocker's Lake Grey Heron nest. This means you can watch herons nesting, mating, incubating their eggs and in due course bringing up their young, all up close and personal.

We have already seen three eggs being laid, the first arrived on February 10<sup>th</sup>, the second on February 12<sup>th</sup> and the third, and what we think will be the final one, appeared on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

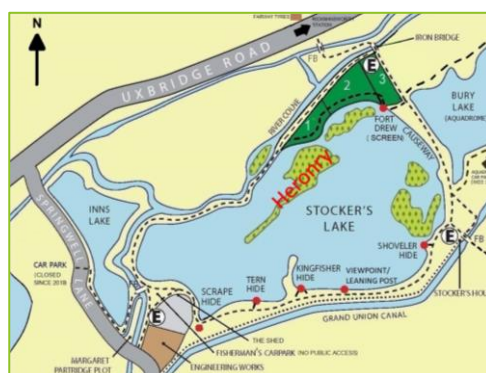
This should mean that hatching will take place around the second week of March so make sure you tune in then.

The stream uses the latest camera and mobile phone technology and we are grateful to Jason Fathers of Wildlife Windows for designing and implementing the technology. A special thanks also to our Treasurer, Dick Beeden, who has patiently driven this project over the last five years.

Do please note that there is no sound. The key equipment is off-shore so it is inaccessible during the nesting season. It relies on being solar-powered. This means the stream is off overnight and may not get going until late, or in the worst case possibly at all, on an especially overcast day".

### IF YOU WANT TO SEE HERONS LIVE

The map below shows where the heronry is and the viewing point opposite on the other side of the Lake but do note that you'll need your own binoculars.



Alternatively, you can join our "Heron and Egret Watch" on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Full event details are on our website at [www.fosl.org.uk/events](http://www.fosl.org.uk/events).



Did you  
know?

With up to 20 nests every year, Stocker's Lake is home to the largest heronry in Herts

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](http://www.fosl.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/friendsOfStokersLake](https://www.facebook.com/friendsOfStokersLake)





# Friends of STOCKER'S LAKE



## SAVING BROADWATER LAKE SSSI - AN UPDATE

Hillingdon Council has confirmed that they received 1200 comments in objection to the planning application to develop a new Watersports Facility and Activity Centre at Broadwater Lake.

We were delighted to see objections were made by Natural England and the Environment Agency. These are particularly important as they are statutory consultees. As well as our own, objections were also submitted by Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Colne Valley Regional Park, London Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. Even though the official planning consultation window has now closed, you can still continue to use your voice to stand up for nature at Broadwater Lake SSSI.

Wherever you live, you can still reach out to your elected representatives (local Councillors or your MP) to share your concerns and highlight how this will influence how you vote later this year.

### BIRDS

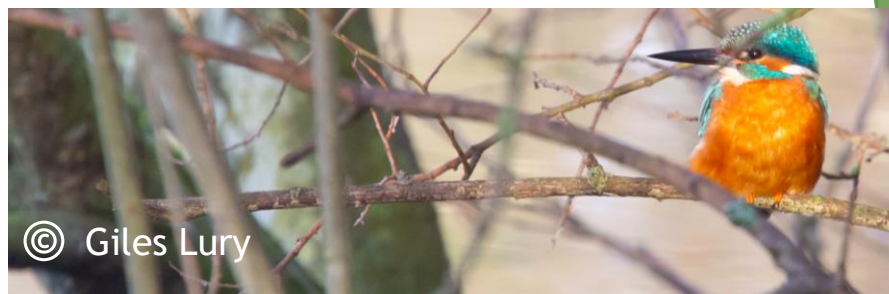


© Steve Carter

Our FoSL bird recorder, Steve Carter, has published his annual bird report for 2023. Steve's assessment of key sightings from the year covers various highlights including the presence on the lake of a rare and attractive male Smew during February and March plus a successful breeding season for our resident Kingfishers.

Steve's full report can be downloaded from the website.

### & MORE BIRDS



© Giles Lury

Two Wildfowl Walks have been held this year, the first on January 14<sup>th</sup> and the second on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Both have been very successful with lots of different species being seen - Wetland birds included Cetti's Warblers, Common Gulls, Goldeneyes, Kingfishers, Lapwings, Red Crested Pochard, Shovelers & Wigeon; Woodland birds included Chaffinch, Collared Dove, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Pied Wagtails, Redwing and Siskins.

Thanks to Vaughan Ryall for leading both walks and the other members who supported and attended. Full reports on the website.

### THE WORK NEVER ENDS

In January and February, the volunteers work parties continued their on-going work around the Lake.

They have opened up a more user-friendly access route into Shoveler Hide with the ground to the south of the hide being cleared of vegetation. It will now be levelled with some gravel and then fenced to off.

A second group of volunteers set about pollarding willow in Meadow 1. This is essentially to stop further encroachment of the trees and allow more light to the field.

Thanks to all who helped. (More details on the website [www.fosl.org.uk](http://www.fosl.org.uk))



### FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Walks and AGM	Work parties/Recruitment Drives
Heron And Egret Watch 24 Mar 2024 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	March Work Party 3 March 2024 9:55 am - 12:30 pm Check location with <a href="mailto:warden@fosl.org.uk">warden@fosl.org.uk</a>
2024 Annual General Meeting 17 Apr 2024 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	April Work Party 7 Apr 2024 9:55 am - 12:30 pm
Spring Chorus & Warbler Walk - May 2024 12 May 2024 8:30 am - 11:00 am	May Work Party - May 2024 5 May 2024 9:55 am - 12:30 pm