

## Stocker's Lake Bird Report 2017

The year started with a dozen **Red-Crested Pochard**, but no partridge in a pear tree, up to 140 **Wigeon** and a redhead **Smew**. Wildfowl counts were relatively high. The spring held 28 **Little Egrets** at roost, **warblers** arriving in April, **Cuckoos** in May and a breeding **Goldeneye** on adjacent Springwell Lake.

June, July and August provided a variety of **warblers** and sightings of up to 3 red eared terrapins. Large numbers of **black headed gulls** and **common terns** suffered from predators, amongst them **coots**. August highlights were a **Sparrowhawk** breeding nearby and Muntjac on the reserve.

In September there was no early passage of migrants until on 21st when a mixed **hirundine** flock obliged. A **stonechat** and **kestrel** were at Stocker's farm. October saw increased numbers of **greylag** and **cormorant**, flocking **long-tailed tits** and 4 **cetti's warblers** along the river with **redwing** and 30 **red-crested pochard** on adjacent Bury Lake.

November was still relatively mild with working parties at the lake in full swing. A **Peregrine** flew over and the BBC Country File team was on the reserve. Small numbers of **Siskin** arrived with the odd redpoll. **Goldeneye** numbers were increasing (immature males) by mid-month along with an appearance of a **Great White Egret**, probably the long-staying Maple Lodge individual. At month's end **Chiffchaff** were calling along the Colne, Red crested pochard were up to 32 on Bury Lake, there was a single **Goosander** on Springwell and **Siskins** were increasing.

December started cold and was then mild with rain and gales. By mid-month a few **fieldfare** and **redwing** were around, **goldeneye** were increasing up to 8, along with a few **Water Rail**.

A full species by species report for the year follows below.

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE** - Good numbers bred nearly all year - up to 13 birds in winter juveniles present till December. 25 birds in November.

**LITTLE GREBE** - 2 pairs seen in March was the maximum count

**CORMORANT** - up to 25 wintering birds; have bred; seen eating Pike and Tench.

**LITTLE EGRET** - highest count up to 28 birds roosting; good numbers of breeding birds

**GREAT WHITE EGRET** - one sighting of (probably) the Maple Lodge individual in November

**GREY HERON** - Heronry consisted of least 30 birds

**MUTE SWAN** - breeding pairs wintering in greater numbers on Bury Lake. 1 pair

had 5 cygnets in May

GREYLAG GEESE - 25 birds seen on 14th September, 40 on 30th January.

CANADA GEESE - a common breeder in good numbers

EGYPTIAN GOOSE - a maximum of 9 birds of this increasing Goose.

BARNACLE GOOSE - one record - probable escape

WIGEON - highest count 140

MALLARD - wildfowl counts, i.e. 11 and 12, seem low for this common species.

GADWALL - 31 was the highest count of this common duck species

SHOVELER - this common dabbler feeds explosively in circles - 68 and 53 in Oct and Nov

COMMON TEAL - always low numbers of this species

MANDARIN - 1 bird Seen in April

RED-CRESTED POCHARD - averaging a dozen on Stocker's; however 32 were present on adjacent Bury GP.

POCHARD - breeding in June; 1 female with 2 juvs; 8 wildfowl count

TUFTED DUCK - highest count of 74 birds in the Winter

GOLDENEYE - highest count up to 17 individuals. A female with 7 young once again on Springwell Lake

SMEW - 1 Redhead seen in January

RED KITE - 5 birds seen in January

SPARROWHAWK - a regular species. Bred in Alder woodland on Bury Lake and seen hunting regularly.

BUZZARD - 2 birds seen in Feb plus other singles

OSPREY - 1 sighting in May

KESTREL - a few records of this common species

HOBBY - 4 Sightings in the summer.

PEREGRINE - 2 Sightings in January and 1 in November when 'BBC Country File' was present.

MERLIN - a female seen from the kingfisher hide.

WATER RAIL - up to 3 birds seen over the winter

MOORHEN - 8 birds a maximum. Under recorded

COOT - 135 in October; numbers down on previous years.

OYSTERCATCHER - 2 Max; Spring thru Summer

LAPWING - up to at least 30 birds in the early winter

COMMON SANDPIPER - 3 Records for this year

GREEN SANDPIPER - 1 sighting in July

COMMON SNIPE - 1 record

JACK SNIPE - 1 February record

GREAT SKUA - 21st August by DB Hale

BLACKHEADED GULL - highest count 70 approx. breeding regular on rafts designed for terns

COMMON GULL - highest count of 13

HERRING GULL - highest count of 6

LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL Up to 8 birds maximum

GREATER BLACK BACKED GULL Highest count of 17  
YELLOW LEGGED GULL 1 on 12th January  
COMMON TERN Common breeder on rafts provided heavily predated this year  
and displaced by black headed gulls.  
BLACK TERN 1 on 9th May  
WOODPIGEON - Common resident  
CUCKOO - 2 Birds recorded in May  
RING-NECKED PARAKEETS - Increasing population 13 max  
LITTLE OWL - One individual on Stockers farm  
SWIFT - Highest count of 40 in June  
KINGFISHER - Highest daily count of 3; mostly along the Colne.  
GREEN WOODPECKER - More heard than seen; opposite canal in Garrets  
Wood.  
GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER - Commonest woodpecker seen regularly  
LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER 1 in March, 2 in April  
SAND MARTIN - A rare hirundine; 3 in July, 20 in September  
SWALLOW - 1st on 30th March; up to a dozen bred at Stockers farm  
HOUSE MARTIN - 50 in September  
MEADOW PIPIT - Small flock of around 12 at the farm.  
PIED WAGTAIL - under recorded  
GREY WAGTAIL - few records mostly near canal  
WREN - common breeding species  
DUNNOCK - common resident  
ROBIN - common resident  
STONECHAT - one at Stockers farm  
WHINCHAT - August and September records at the farm  
BLACKBIRD - common breeder  
FIELDFARE - lower numbers this year; a few along the Colne in Hawthorns  
REDWING - more numbers; above 60 in February  
SONG THRUSH - under recorded; a few records only  
CETTI'S WARBLER - a maximum of 5 singing individuals  
SEDGE WARBLER - 6 singing birds max.  
REED WARBLER - common summer resident  
GARDEN WARBLER - 5 Singing birds in May  
LESSER WHITETHROAT - one April record  
WHITETHROAT - a few records in May  
BLACKCAP - a maximum of 8 birds in the summer  
WILLOW WARBLER - up to 3 birds calling  
NIGHTINGALE - 1 bird heard in May  
CHIFFCHAFF - wintering along the Colne seen in December. Highest count was  
6 in March  
GOLDCREST - seen flocking with tits in Winter  
SPOTTED FLYCATCHER - a single record  
BLUE TIT - a common passerine seen at feeders

GREAT TIT - a common passerine  
LONG TAILED TIT - seen in family parties in winter and summer.  
NUTHATCH - breeding pairs calling and on feeders  
TREECREEPER - a pair seen in March  
STARLING - decreasing resident although seen roosting over Springwell reed bed  
JAY - a number of birds seen in the Alder woodland  
MAGPIE - a common breeding resident  
RAVEN - a few sightings this year  
CARRION CROW - a common resident  
HOUSE SPARROW - always at Stockers House  
CHAFFINCH - seen in Alders in Winter  
SISKIN - big flocks of up to 80 in Winter  
GOLDFINCH - flocking with Siskins; a common species  
BULLFINCH - numbers improving recently; 3 birds in March (2 males and 1 female).  
GREENFINCH - 1 record in March  
LESSER REDPOLL - 1 Sighting in Alders with Goldfinch  
LINNET - Small flock at Stockers Farm  
REED BUNTING - Breeding bird; singing males in Spring  
BLACK SWAN - Escapee

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*Steve Carter*