

Stocker's Lake Bird Report 2019

JANUARY - a pair of **Goosander** on the 1st. **Siskin** increasing. Only one female **Goosander** by mid-month. Odd **Water Rails** along the Colne with **Wigeon** increasing. Some raptors were present i.e. **Red Kite**, **Buzzard** and **Sparrowhawk**. A **White Stork** showed for some lucky observers on the 10th. A single **Cetti's Warbler** at month's end. Finally 60 **Wigeon**, a drake **Smew** and a **Woodcock** ended the month.

FEBRUARY - **Great Black Backed Gulls** were showing with the odd **Little Egret**. Ice and snow produced a dozen **Goldeneye**. **Siskin** and **Redwing** were seen in numbers. **Peregrine** sightings occurred between 8th and 12th. **Oystercatchers** were present on Valentine's Day. 21 **Goldeneye** and a **Chiffchaff** were present on the 25th. **Kingfishers** were seen along the Colne during the warmest February ever. A **Brimstone** butterfly was seen on 23rd

MARCH - on 1st two **Grey Wagtail** were seen along the Colne. **Egyptian Geese** were pairing up. 5 **Chiffchaff** were singing mid-month and a **Mediterranean Gull** (a second year or second summer bird) was present. Up to 20 **Little Egret** were seen, some nesting. **Oystercatcher** were still present.

APRIL - on the 3rd four **Swallow** were at the farm. The **Mediterranean Gull** was still present on the 8th. **Sedge warblers** were arriving with 3 **Willow Warbler**. **Hirundes** were also arriving - 11 **Sand Martin** and 15 **House Martin**. **Blackcap** and **Garden Warbler** were around by mid month. **Yellow wagtails** were on the farm on 18th. By month's end there were 5 **Common Tern**.

MAY - no records were logged with Herts Bird Club. However a **Cuckoo** was calling on 1st, the odd **Swift** was present and on the 22nd a **Mandarin Duck**. A few **Swallow** and **Red-Crested Pochard** at month's end.

JUNE - in early June there were 3 **Oystercatcher** and a dozen **Swift**. On 11th a **Kittiwake** obliged, mobbed by **Black-headed Gulls**. On 14th more **hirundines** were arriving. At the end of the month a **Grass Snake** was seen swimming amongst the **Carp**.

JULY - was very hot! **Buzzard** and **Red Kite** were seen on the thermals. **Egyptian Geese** had young. There was a possible record of **Arctic Tern**. **Kingfishers** were present all month but probably under recorded this month.

AUGUST - continued warm with a week of rain. Again there were no records from Herts Bird Club. There were 12 **Wigeon** at month's end.

SEPTEMBER - **Red-crested Pochard** were increasing and there was one lone **Barnacle Goose** amongst **Greylag** and **Canada Geese**. On 20th a **Black Necked Grebe** was reported. Towards the end of the month there was some much needed rain.

OCTOBER - **Goldeneye** started arriving. 5 **Redwing** were seen mid month plus a **Barnacle Goose** again, a single bird only. 7 **Egyptian Geese** were seen from the pulpit. At the end of the month there was a **Common Sandpiper** and few **Fieldfare**.

NOVEMBER - **Common Gulls** were increasing, The first real frost was on 8th. Small numbers of **Lapwing** were around. **Goldeneye** numbers were fluctuating. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and **Jay** were seen with **Coal Tit** on the feeders.

DECEMBER - **Wigeon** and **Lapwing** were increasing. A peak count of 14 **Goldeneye** was reached. A single **Great Black Backed Gull** was seen on New Year's Eve but no partridge in a pear tree!

Steve Carter