



## Stocker's Lake Bird Report 2021

JANUARY started with a **Barnacle Goose** and 6 **Goldeneye** and there was a **Stonechat** and a **Fieldfare** on the farm. Duck numbers increased with 24 **Red-Crested Pochard** and 10 **Goldeneye**. A highlight was a **Caspian Gull**. On the 7th a **Mandarin Duck** was spotted. Storm Christopher arrived with a single **Great Black-Backed Gull** and heavy flooding on the Colne and Stocker's Lake.

In FEBRUARY a **Lesser Redpoll** was spotted in the alders followed by a cold snap with snow flurries on 8<sup>th</sup> and an **Oystercatcher** on the farm on the 9th. By the 13th wildfowl had decreased, possibly having moved West with water levels decreasing. Stocker's Lake was closed for angling due to Covid and 3 pairs of **Cormorant** were spotted nesting. **Cetti's Warbler** and **Chiffchaff** were heard calling around the 25th. By month's end there were 2 **Oystercatcher** on the farm.

MARCH arrived with a pair of **Shelduck** and on the 3rd a **Redshank**. On the 8th a **Blackcap** was singing near Stocker's House. Mid-month the fishing season ended and a **Sparrowhawk** and a **Treecreeper** were spotted near the Alders. **Little Egrets** increased to 12 on the 17th. On the 26th a single **Little Ringed Plover** was on the farm. There was more rain and a passage of **Sand Martin**. At month's end 2 **Little Ringed Plover**, 6 **Wheatear**, 4 **Oystercatcher** and 2 **Green Sandpiper** were spotted.

APRIL started with a multitude of **Chiffchaff** along with sporadic **Willow Warbler** and **Whitethroat**. On the 5th there were snow flurries and up to 3 **Little Ringed Plover**. Migrants were increasing daily. On the Colne breeding **Kingfisher** were being pressured by photographers. The first **Sedge Warbler** was recorded on the 16th as well as 25 **Egyptian Goose**. By month's end there was one **Common Tern** and 50 **Swift** on passage.

In MAY the Hirundine passage increased and there were 3 **Common Tern** at the start of the month. A **Cuckoo** was heard calling on the 8<sup>th</sup>. A **Cattle Egret** was recorded on the farm on the 16<sup>th</sup> and by now **Common Tern** had increased to 14. There were up to 6 **Cetti's Warbler** calling and unusually a **White-Fronted Goose** was observed on the farm. On the 22nd there were 2 **Hobby**, broods of **Blackcap** and **Black Headed Gull** chicks. There were significant problems with the general public disturbing breeding birds.

In early JUNE a female **Cuckoo** was bubbling and police were monitoring the reserve due to recent public abuse. The fishing season started on the 16th with 6 anglers present. On the 22nd **Common Terns** were decreasing due to public disturbance and gull predation. The **Cuckoo** was still calling at month's end.

In JULY a few **Kingfisher** were present and on 7th a **Grasshopper Warbler** was calling on the north side of the Colne. A single **Common Sandpiper** was seen and there was more wild swimming in the lake and Colne by the general public.

AUGUST arrived with heavy rain. Generally it was a quiet month with losses of **Common Tern** noted, **Hobbys** were seen chasing Hirundines at month's end.

SEPTEMBER and the seasonal Hirundine passage produced 46 **Swallow** and 2 **Sand Martin**. On the 7th a **White Stork** obliged. **Yellow Wagtails** were seen on the farm along with **Whinchat**.

OCTOBER - a **Grey Wagtail** was spotted on the Colne and also 2 **Brambling** on the 16th. This was another under-recorded month due to Covid and the problems it posed.

In NOVEMBER **Water Rails** were calling and on the 16th a pair of **Goosander** were seen. Roosting birds including 600 **Jackdaw** and 582 **Ring-necked Parakeets** were spotted. **Great Black Backed Gulls** were reported on the 22nd and a **Siberian Chiffchaff** was seen on the Colne.

DECEMBER varied with frosts. A female **Goosander** was present throughout the month. A **Lesser Redpoll** was seen amongst **Siskin** on 10th. A pike match produced a few *Esox Lucius*. 3 **Goosander** were seen on the 18th. Christmas Day produced 5 **Goldeneye** but no partridge in a pear tree!

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*Steve Carter*