

## Stocker's Lake Bird Report 2022

JANUARY saw a cold spell with heavy rains. **Stonechat** were present on the farm while on the lake **Goosander** and **Water Rail** were observed as well as up to 36 **Siskin** and probably a **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** (on 12<sup>th</sup>). A **Cetti's Warbler** was seen on the bird table.

In FEBRUARY a cold sunny start brought counts of 4 **Goldeneye** and up to 25 **Wigeon**. Storm Eunice passing through on 18<sup>th</sup> resulted in no records between then and the 23<sup>rd</sup>. An **Oystercatcher** was present on the lake as well as a **Little Owl** on Stockers Farm.

By MARCH spring was arriving slowly. **Red Crested Pochard** were present and there was a single **Mandarin** sighting. **Kingfisher** was being reported along the Colne and there were also reports of **Reed Bunting** and **Greenfinch**. On 14<sup>th</sup> five **Chiffchaff** were recorded as well as a **Snow Goose** of unknown origin. At the end of month a male **Pintail** was seen and there were 13 singing **Chiffchaff**. As the month ended it was snowing on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

In early APRIL there were records of 3 **Brambling** and a **Marsh Harrier** as well as a few **Swallow** and then a single **Willow Warbler** on the 13<sup>th</sup>. In the middle of the month migration increased but warblers were down in numbers. Mixed flocks of **hirundines** were seen

At the start of MAY a hot spell arrived together with four **Common Tern** and a **Lesser Whitethroat**. On 4<sup>th</sup> a single **Great White Egret** flew over Stockers House and some **Swift** were arriving. A **Kingfisher** was disturbed at its nest site on the river Colne by a photographer. A **Cuckoo** was present on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

In JUNE a pair of **Kingfisher** were nesting on the Colne. There was little bird song and low numbers of **Reed** and **Sedge** warblers. By the 22<sup>nd</sup> several juvenile **Common Tern** were visible on the rafts. A single **Hobby** was seen near the end of the month.



**Common Terns on raft**

JULY was a month of sunshine and showers. Of note was a **Spoonbill** which was around for a couple of hours on 1<sup>st</sup> and a few **Hobby**. Otherwise it was a quiet month.

AUGUST was a drought month. A **Common Sandpiper** and a **Barnacle Goose** were seen on one of the rafts. Water levels receded revealing a few corpses reflecting bird 'flu on the lake. Meanwhile on the Colne a pair of **Kingfisher** were breeding

Highlights of SEPTEMBER were a male **Redstart**, a **Spotted Flycatcher** and 4 **Common Snipe**, all on Stockers farm. At the lake there was a partial footpath closure for a few days at the end of the month to allow for some conservation work on some willows.

During OCTOBER wildfowl increased to 65, mainly **Pochard**. A **Barn Owl** was seen over the lake on 12<sup>th</sup>. On 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> there were thunderstorms and a small flock of **Siskin** in the alders

At the start of NOVEMBER there was a single, female **Goldeneye** which had arrived in late October. Numbers of these then increased during the month. A maximum of nine **Lapwing** was counted on

the rafts plus a female **Goosander** was seen at times and a few **Redwing** were present at the end of the month.

DECEMBER - **Redwing** were notably increasing and a count of 278 roosting **Ring-necked Parakeet** was recorded. A highlight was a drake **Smew** early in the month before the lake froze over. A **Bullfinch** was recorded on the 8th and 15+ **Wigeon** were present at the end of the month

*Steve Carter*



**Smew**