

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2023

Canada Goose

The wetland areas are regularly counted as part of the monthly WeBS. Counts here are anecdotal observations and will fall short, often markedly so, from the data systematically collected by the above survey.

Peak present:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
148	No counts	No counts	No counts	69	21	No counts	50	No counts	No counts	No counts	98

Canada Goose x Greylag Goose

Undercounted but commonly present hybrid, with a maximum of three reported on 6th December and ones and twos throughout the rest of the year.

Barnacle Goose

A tricky one, with both migrant and feral birds and some of mixed origin visiting some resident in the country or near continent.

Singles reported on 1st and 7th January, 18th February, a flock of 17 was in the Ladybridge area from 8th -13th March, many of which were ringed (at Scorton GP). The next were six on 9th and 12th October.

Greylag Goose

The wetland areas are regularly counted as part of the monthly WeBs. Counts here are anecdotal observations and will fall short, often markedly so, from the data systematically collected by the above survey. The numbers curiously dwindled over the Christmas/New Year period at the end of the year and anecdotal evidence suggested a relocation of many to the Bolton-on-Swale complex.

Peak present:

][=#	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
620	446	20	30	243	76	1334	No counts	2020	1052	No counts	606

Pink-footed Goose

Migrant and wintering species, in numbers which vary from year to year. The nearby area of Carthorpe Mires, just outside the northern limits of the recording area, has an increasing wintering population, approaching 2500 at its peak. Geese possibly also commute irregularly to and from the Humber, the north-west and also Norfolk.

Two were present on 23rd May, with a single 14th and 24th June.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
760 (18th)	200 (18th)	2	8	6	1	40	8	0	28

Visible migration:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
263 N, Peak 110N on 6th	228, all N. Peak 110N on 5th	150N all on 18th	221, all N peak 98 on 9th	14N 3rd	612 S, peak 213S 12th	309, 41 N, 268SW. Peak 128SW on 12th	462, 307 SW, 155N. Peak 67SW, 128N on 26th	112 N., 99 SW Peak 112N on 15th

Eurasian White-fronted Goose

A regular but scarce visitor to the area in low numbers almost every winter. One on multiple dates between 18th January and 19th April.

Black Swan.

The long staying bird remained on Lingham Lake throughout the year, with at least one excursion to Ladybridge Lake.

Mute Swan

The wetland areas are regularly counted as part of the monthly WeBS. At least four dead birds were found in January and at least four others during the autumn, although it is unclear whether the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) epidemic was implicated in any of the deaths.

At least two pairs raised four and five cygnets on Lingham Lake and at the Reedbed respectively.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
29	17	No counts	32	44	23	56	62	52	No counts	11	28

Bewick's Swan

One found in field by Langwith Lake on 22nd April (AMH) was last seen on 13th May. It wandered around most of the northern end of the recording area, occasionally in the company of Whooper Swans. Two on Ladybridge Lake on 12th December (MB) disappeared into the fog, but presumably the same two were there on 19th (DB) before flying off towards Snape Mires.

Whooper Swan

Regular migrant especially in late March and early April, when flocks both pass overhead or stop and feed on their journey north. In Yorkshire, probably a bigger year than last year for this species in spring, but no regular watches from Yorwaste led to relatively low counts for our recording area. Three at the beginning of May dwindled to the last spring sighting of one on 6th May.

Peak Present (aggregate total of all 'present' **different** flocks during the month)

Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	18*	4 (7)	3 (3)	11 (22)	11	3

Visible migration

Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov
None	420 all N: peaks 199 on 27th and 85 31st	52 N, 16th	70S peak 50 on 11th	5S 6th

*The flocks on 27th may were documented as moving N as all had moved off by the evening.

Shelduck

The wetland areas are regularly counted as part of the monthly WeBS. An interesting record involved a flock of 13 over Langwith Lake on 24th August, which headed off south-west. The next day 13 were over Bury Reservoir near Manchester, 81 miles to the south-west. The species is scarce at both sites at this time of year and it seems likely that this flock represented the same birds.

Peak Present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
19 (29th)	32 (24th)	No counts	15 (24th)	21 (17th)	19 (2nd)	11	3	2	0	7 (4th) 11 (18th)

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	0	0	0	13S/SE, peak 11SE on 31st	0	0	0	3SW 26th	0

Egyptian Goose

One on Langwith Lake on 17th March (TJ), with it or another at Flasks Lake on 7th June (MB).

Mandarin Duck

One on 8th March was first of the year, with one or two on two dates in April and then in escalating numbers in May, peaking at seven (6M 1F) on Flasks Lake on 27th May.

Unprecedented numbers continued into the summer and included an adult with seven young on Kiln Lake on 16th (TJ); the first confirmed breeding of this species in the recording area. Post-breeding counts included six on 9th July and four on 14th August.

Shoveler

Resident and partial migrant. One female with eight young on the Reserve on 20th May.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	48 (27th)	61 (3rd)	No formal counts	13 (11th)	11 (16th)	No counts	6	1	15	29	25

Gadwall

A duck showing a dramatic increase in numbers year on year.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
154 (5th)	148 (18th)	115 (19th)	No counts	68 (17th)	89 (4th)	No Counts	9	36	108	220 (18th)	224(17th)

Wigeon

The wetland areas are regularly counted as part of the monthly WeBS. Counts here are anecdotal observations and will fall short, often markedly so, from the data systematically collected by the above survey.

Peak present (moving birds)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1300 18th	606 (8th)	411 (19th)	No Counts	3	2	5	6	64	249 (20th)	426 (18th)	720 (16th)

Mallard

The wetland areas are regularly counted as part of the monthly WeBS.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
86	No counts	No counts	No Counts	12	60	No counts	No counts	98	32	9	192 (17th)

Pintail

Regular wintering species in small numbers.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12 (30th)	7	10	0	2	2	12 (18th)	17 (16th)

In addition to the above, five flew north-east on 1st September and 11 went south-west on 16th September, whilst in November five flew south-west on 1st and five moved north on 21st.

Teal

The wetland areas are regularly counted as part of the monthly WeBS. Counts here are anecdotal observations and will fall short, often markedly so, from the data systematically collected by the above survey.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
651	387	123	No Counts	No Counts	1	11	No counts	36	84 (20th)	1065 (18th)	1114 (17th)

Green-winged Teal

An adult male paid a fleeting visit to Langwith Lake on 15th April (MS).

Garganey

A pair was on the Reserve on 21st March (DB) and then an astonishingly late bird photographed on the Reserve on 2nd November (TJ, MM).

Red-crested Pochard

A female was found on Ladybridge Lake on 7th September (AMH), being seen sporadically until 14th October.

Pochard

No longer the common species it once was.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12 (5th)	25 (27th)	19 (10th)	0	No counts	2	2	1	8	5	9	11

Tufted Duck

A common species and breeder in the area.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
80 (5th)	No counts	No counts	No Counts	No Counts	67	208 (31st)	53	61	13	43	50

Scaup

A distant possible reported on 20th June (NB), was followed by a definite immature male on 31st October (TS) and finally a female on 11th December (DB) and then again presumably the same bird on 27th (SWor).

Common Scoter

A bumper year with as many as 23 individuals over 25 dates, amounting to 40 bird/days! A male on Langwith Lake on 26th January was a nice early record (SWor), with another at Ladybridge Lake on 19th March (SWor). Reported on four dates in April, with two birds on separate dates at either end of the month (MB, MS, SWor) and a minimum of four individuals. Two males commuted between Flasks and Langwith Lakes on 23rd/24th July, with a pair (new birds therefore) on Lingham Lake on 25th (TJ, SWor). September saw singles present on three dates and a flock numbering 11 on Flasks Lake on 18th (AMH, TJ). A single on Ladybridge Lake on 31st October was followed by another single between 11th and 18th November on Flasks Lake (DJ).

Goldeneye

Regular wintering bird in moderate numbers, especially favouring Lingham Lake. The last of the first half of the year was on 27th May and the first of the second half occurred on 13th August.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
26	54	No counts	6	1 (27th)	0	0	2	1	9	11	25

Smew

A 'redhead' was found on a choppy Flasks Lake on 30th December (DC).

Goosander

A species that often flies over the area or frequents the River Ure.

Visible migration (Peak present)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
(1)	2 on 12th	1 on three dates	4N 6th	0	(2 Flasks 13th, juvs)	(5)	0	11s, peak 8 on 2nd (0)	1 SW (3)	(2)	(1)

Red-breasted Merganser

A male on Flasks Lake on 2nd November (TJ).

Grey Partridge

Scarce breeder in the area, but this year has fared very well, even exceeding last year's great numbers. Regular spots are Yorwaste mountain (two pairs), Middle Henge/Big Field (two to three pairs), Ladybridge Lake (one pair), Langwith Lake (one pair), Reserve (two pairs plus). Particularly high counts in October, with notable peaks and aggregate total in the area probably exceeding 70 birds.

Peak counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12 (21st)	3	2	4	4	2	21* (20th)	22 (18th)	42	40(15 th)	18 (21st)	12

Pheasant

Constantly present, but rarely counted with any enthusiasm, as released by shooting interests adjacent to the recording area. General impressions of relatively scarcity in the first part of year, possibly due to less releases in the context of the avian flu epidemic. There was, however, a noticeable upturn later, suggesting releases in the Thornborough/Ladybridge/Langwith area.

Peak counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	No counts	No counts	1	4	No counts	1	No counts	No counts	No counts	7	23

Red-legged Partridge

Small numbers present throughout the year. Outnumbered by Grey Partridge by a good margin.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	No count	1	2	1	1	2	3	13	0	0	0

Red Grouse

A bird heard calling repeatedly in fields to the north of the Reedbed on 28th July (Fozz). Although at first thought this seems an improbable record, it is worth noting that (1) the nearest moorland is only 5 km away as the Grouse flies and (2) the only other record for the area was a bird flying low over the Reedbed in 2014.

Swift

Summer visitor, breeder and migrant through the area. The first two appeared on 28th April, the last was a single on 24th August.

Peak present count (visible migration)

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
7	38 31st	50 (56, of which 42 NE,)	23 (48, all S, Max 34 on 8th)	7	No records

Stock Dove

Breeder and migrant. No high 'about' counts.

Peak present (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	No counts	6	9	6 (0)	10	8	3	15	No counts	51 (26th)	26

Woodpigeon

Common breeder, present all year round. Also, a strong migrant particularly in late autumn.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
No counts	No counts	225	90	6	39	No counts	No counts	No counts	224	561	1200 (25th)

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	33 N, 6S	0	0	0	70 N 27th	No counts	43SW, 24NE all 10th	0	

Collared Dove

Breeds, with resident birds around West Tanfield, Thornborough, Nosterfield and Well. Ladybridge Farm is a favoured place for this species.

Peak Present count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	2	No counts	3	No counts	8	5	1	No counts	No counts	20	5

Water Rail

Regular but under-recorded winter visitor, with the Reedbed and the small lakes at Ladybridge and Flasks Lakes being regular haunts. Sparse records after March as birds become quiet during the breeding season.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	1	0	-	0	0	1	1 (Reed bed)	0	2	2

Moorhen

Common regular breeder, but generally overlooked outside the WeBS counts.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	No counts	No counts	No counts	No Counts	7	No counts	9	5	8	6	2

Coot

A common regular breeder, which outside the WeBS counts is generally overlooked.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38	110 (18th)	No counts	No counts	21	21	No counts	34	51	56	50	78

Little Grebe

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Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	4	No counts	No counts	4	6	8	22	8	4	5	2

Great Crested Grebe

The wetland areas are regularly counted as part of the monthly WeBS. Counts here are anecdotal observations and will fall short, often markedly so, from the data systematically collected by the above survey.

A flock of seven heading south-west on 29th July was most unusual and may well have represented a very local lake commute.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	4	36 (19th)	30	23	17 (4th)	3	3	8	No counts	4	2

Oystercatcher

Regular breeder in the area and also pre-season build-up location. From April and into the summer months, they are dotted around and fly around the area regularly, making accurate counts tricky. Very rarely, some are seen that are clearly moving, but in general, it is difficult to be precise.

Peak present /visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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19	164 (18th)	106 (2nd)	46	12 (19th)	34	8	3	0	0	1	4
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Avocet

Local breeder, as well as a migrant. The first arrived on Langwith Lake on 26th February for a few hours in the early afternoon. The breeding birds (2) were last seen on 29th July.

Peak present during breeding season.

Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
1 (26th)	4 (30th)	5	14 (15th)	18 (4th)	6

Lapwing

Breeder and present in large flocks outside the breeding season.

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This year the numbers rose and fell markedly in the winter months, as birds moved between the recording area and vary favourable feeding conditions at Carthorpe/Snape.

Peak count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1940	2818 (8th)	No counts	No counts	No counts	276	2000 (25th)	2000	2050	200	1673 (18th)	3,500 (14th)

Moving

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
53S 1st	0	0	0	0	4S	0	0	0	172SW, peak 136 10th	37N 21st	0

Golden Plover

Present in large flocks outside the breeding system, but noticeably smaller numbers than 20 years ago, when flocks of multiple thousands were not uncommon.

Peak Present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
32	389 (27th)	452 (10th)	0	0	0	0	36	122	500 (21st)	266 (1st)	500 (25th)

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
50 N on 1st	0	0	0	0	0	70 SW, 23 N	230 SW, peak 120 10th	0

Grey Plover

One flew north over Flasks Lake on 12th March, one on Flasks Lake spit on 7th May (AW) and another went north on 20th May. Two frequented the area from 3rd to 7th June. It was a good October for the species, with singles moving south on 2nd (TS), on Flasks Lake spit on 8th (DB), again on 16th (MH), three there on 19th (AW) and two on 26th (DB). Whether this series of birds reflects up to three in the area or a turnover of different individuals is a matter of conjecture. In November, singles were on Flasks Lake on 13th (TJ) and 26th (AW).

Ringed Plover

A regular migrant and breeder in the area.

Peak present count/visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	6 (20th)	5 (31st)	5 (22nd)	13 (9th)	10 (4th)	4 (14th)	5 (14th)/9SW 18th (15th) /13S all on 27th	4 /36 S inc 18S on 12th	5	0	0

Little Ringed Plover

A regular and once plentiful breeder, but now considerably declined as suitable habitat has diminished. The available data does not reflect the true status of this species.

Peak present count

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
1 (18th - first)	7	5	5	4	2	2	0

Unusually, birds were present on and off until September. Four flew south-west on 16th September.

Whimbrel

One in the Curlew roost on the evening of 11th February was the earliest ever for the recording area and may have represented an over-wintering bird. Nine moved north during April, with peaks of three on 28th and 30th, plus a single around on the latter date. A flock of 15 headed south on 12th August and one on 1st September was the last of the year.

Curlew

A regular but declining breeding species across the UK, but with a reasonably healthy population in the Reserve area. The year was notable for some very high counts, split between the Reserve and Langwith Lake, where there appear to be two distinct roosts. This included six counts over 400, peaking at 605 on 20th December - a new record for the recording area.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
285 (24th)	332 (11th)	77 (13th)	4	12	57 (22nd)	370 (20th)	408 (22nd)	403 (3rd)	290 (1st)	289 (6th)	605 (20th)

Visible migration

Mar	Apr	May	Jul
0	69 NE, 2 S; peak 65 on 20th in a single flock	17NE, 16SW peak 9SW, 3N on 10th*	0

Bar-tailed Godwit

Only one record this year, a single on Flasks Lake on 20th October (TJ).

Black-tailed Godwit

A regular migrant, sometimes in large flocks. A single lingered between 1st and 12th January. Unusually large numbers in June correlated with a similar story at coastal sites and the news that there had been massive failure of breeding in Iceland this year due to unusually cold conditions there in May.

Bird days/Peak present (visible migration)

Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
4/2	108/21	148/22	29/9 (4 N 4th, 8 N 5th)	33/14 (0)	47/21,20th (3S, 1st)	1 11th	8/3 (0)	2/1/0

November is usually a blank month for this species here, so four on 11th, with a single still present on 13th was noteworthy. A single on 18th December was similarly unusual.

Turnstone

Eight bird days between 5th and 30th May on six dates, including two together on 11th and 30th and one fly-through, heading north on 8th (HH, SWor, J Mac *et al*).

Knot

Two on the Reserve on 11th March eventually departed north (MB). Singles on Flasks Lake on 18th September (DB) and again on 16th November (TJ), with the last of the year also there on 5th December (TJ).

Ruff

A regular wintering species and migrant, with birds possible during most months of the year. During the first winter period and much of spring, birds were mostly present in the Flasks/Langwith/Ladybridge Lakes area.

Peak present (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9 (26th)	11 (11th)	7	3	1	0	1	7 (27th)	5 (30th)	3	4	6

Curlew Sandpiper

Singles on the Reserve on 30th May (DB) and at Flasks Lake on 14th (MB) and 25th September (MH).

Sanderling

Singles on 4th June at Langwith Lake (MB) and 7th June on Flasks Lake (TJ), possibly refer to the same individual. Another at Flasks Lake on 16th July (MH) and two there on 22nd (observer not recorded).

Dunlin

Passage migrant, but can be seen in any month. Decidedly lower numbers in the spring versus 2021, but a very much better second half of the year. There was a notable influx in November, with 646 bird days compared with 77 last year. The peak of 130 on 20th of that month was the highest in the recording area for over 25 years.

Birds days/ Peak present (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5/3 (0)	16/3 (0)	44/18	11/4 (0)	70/12 (16N- peak 11 25th)	10/4 (0)	13/4(20S,	10/3	41/9 (1! SW))	139/50 26th (18 SW as a single flock 1st)	646/130 (0)	401/80 (2 ESE)

Little Stint

In spring one on the Reserve on 15th June (SCI). In autumn, singles on 12th (TJ) and 29th September (observer unknown).

Woodcock

A scarce winter visitor and late autumn passage bird, probably vastly under-recorded visitor. Expect more in cold weather. None recorded in the first winter period, so the first of the year

occurred on 31st October, in the nursery area (MH) and again in the same place on 28th November (MH).

Jack Snipe

One at North Lake on 1st May (TS).

Snipe

A regular species both on, and as a migrant, over the Reserve. No recent breeding in the area (last 20+ years).

Peak present count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	12 (14th)	14 (10th)	2 (1N on 14th)	0 (0)	5	8 (5th)	4 (7SW, 10th)	12(42 W, 58NE- all the latter on 16th)	11 (20SW, peak 8 9th)	20 - 12th (35 S, 6 N; peak 20S 2nd)	25 (3rd)

Common Sandpiper

A regular migrant breeder.

Peak present count

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
2	3	1	8 (11th)	3	5 (4 th)

The first was reported on 12th April, the second to last a single present between 2nd and 5th October, with a remarkable late report of a single on Flasks Lake on 16th November (GJ). This species regularly winters in southern counties, but in Yorkshire such a late bird is a rare occurrence indeed.

Green Sandpiper

Hitherto scarce, but much more regular this year. One headed off north from Ladybridge Lake on 21st April, another was on the Reserve on 22nd and 31st July, with an impressive (for us!) eight bird days in August, peaking at four on 11th, the total including one moving south-west on 10th. In contrast to August, only one individual in September, on 23rd, with singles on five dates in October and recorded on six days in November, including two on 2nd and 18th. In December two together on Langwith Lake on 21st and 25th and Lingham Lake on 29th.

Redshank

Resident breeder, present throughout the year, with numbers augmented by migrants from time to time.

Peak present count(visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	12	18	8	14	18, 4th	5 12th	3	1	5	44 (16th)	28 (24th & 29th)

Spotted Redshank

One on the Reserve on 7th April (Swor).

Wood Sandpiper

A regular migrant in low numbers, with an abysmal showing this year; two on 5th May and one on 22nd June.

Greenshank

A regular but increasingly sparse migrant through the area, with a downward curve in occurrences. The first of the year was on 22nd April, the last on 14th September.

Peak present/Bird days (visible migration)

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1 16th	0/0 (0)	1/1 (0)	3/1 (1 S on 8th)	4/10 (5SW, inc 4 on 31st)	1/10 (7, peak flock 5 SW on 2nd)

In October a single over on 2nd and a late bird on 17th.

Kittiwake

One at the Reserve on 30th April (DB), with another north over Flasks Lake on 5th November (SWor).

Black-headed Gull

The wetland areas are regularly counted as part of the monthly WeBS. Counts of grounded birds detailed here may fall short from the data systematically collected by the above survey.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
667	No counts	No counts	nc	499	300	97	148	174	43	No counts	159

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
17 SW all 18th	No counts	No counts	347(33 8 N, peak 178 on 21st)	792, - 139S, 653 N, peak 420 N on 28th	806S 25th	25 SW all 8th	17N 5th	0	0	6S 26th	674 S, peak 482 S on 25th

As a general rule, birds are not counted until an hour after dawn and then those individuals moving steadily. This method tries to exclude birds commuting between the lakes.

Little Gull

A single was around from 3rd to 15th April (JMc), followed by 20 on 19th April of which nine finally headed off north-east (TS *et al*). In autumn a lone juvenile on Flasks Lake on 20th October (TJ).

Mediterranean Gull

Peak present count/bird days

Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
0	2/11	3 /15	2/3	1/3	1/1	1

Common Gull

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Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
45	133	No counts	2	72 (4th)	1	13	22	21	124	36	23

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4 SW	No counts	No counts	188, 187 N, peak 156N on 19th	106, 105 NE, peak 64 NE on 1st	0	13 all 8th	0	0	0	0	27S Se ven bid

Iceland Gull

A first calendar year was on Flasks Lake spit briefly before heading off north-east on 19th April (NH *et al*), a day that also included a Little Gull movement and a steady passage of Common Gulls moving north-east.

Great Black-backed Gull

In the past when the local rubbish tip was active, there was a regular presence in the winter, but now the species is scarce. In the first winter period, nine bird days were recorded in January and one bird present in February. In the second half of the year, a single on 6th and four on 8th September. In October singles were reported on three dates. A single on 17th November and 12 bird/days in December, with four moving south on 25th the maximum.

Herring Gull

A declining species in the area. Most records refer to the subspecies *argenteus*, but a single *argentatus* flew north on 2nd February.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	No counts	1	10	84	1	1	57	114	No counts	No counts	6

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30 SW, 4 N	No counts	No counts	105 NE, 1 SW: peak 43 NE on 20th	96, 81 SW, 15 N: peak 60 SW on 5th	0	0	0	13 SW all on 7th	0	16 S 26th	43 S Peak 22 on 25th

Caspian Gull

A quite remarkable year for this species in the Nosterfield recording area. 1cy birds on 19th (GJ/SC), 23rd August (TS/SC), 6th, 11th (TJ), 13th – possibly two (TS), 18th (TJ) September. Ample photographs taken of most birds suggested a turnover, with each record being a new bird - in total six individuals at least. This unprecedented passage was associated with better than average numbers of large gulls in the area for the date. We are very grateful for the expert views of Steve Clifton in appraising the *bona fides* of these birds and also to the inventors of digital photography!

Yellow-legged Gull

An adult on Flasks Lake on 4th August (TJ).

Lesser Black-backed Gull

After last year's doldrums, when this species was present only in moderate numbers in the autumn, a return to more robust numbers was very welcome.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	3	9	12	3	29	1173 (10th)	1480 (8th)	95	0	0

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 SW on 30th	No counts	No counts	25, 23 N, 2 SW peak 11 NE 20th 33 N on 8th	69, 45 SW, 24 N: peak 20 (11 SW, 9N) on 10th	8 S	7 SW, all 8th	15 SW, all 5th	134 N all 1st	0 44 on 3rd	0	0

Sandwich Tern

One at Flasks Lake on 7th June (DB), two there on 23rd July (TJ) and a single headed south-west on 7th August (TJ).

Common Tern

The first on 31st March may have been the earliest-ever record for the recording area (MB), with singles on four dates in April. In June, 13 bird/days were recorded, with a peak of six on 1st and two flew south with Black-headed Gulls on 25th. In July, 23 bird/days included peaks of four on 14th and 24th. The next and co-incidentally last of the year, was a single on 16th September.

Arctic Tern

Regular migrant, varying greatly in numbers from year to year.

In April, the first was a single flying north-east on 17th.

Peak present/bird days (visible migration)

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
0 (3 NE - singles)	0	0	0	1/ 2 (0)

A very late bird flew south-east on 20th October.

Black Tern

A count of 24 on 31st May comprised of two at Kiln Lake first thing (Holgate birder) followed by another 22 at Ladybridge Lake later in the afternoon (SWor *et al*), almost certainly an area record count.

Red-throated Diver

One was found on Langwith Lake on 17th October (DB). The next day one was found by a main road a few miles away and brought to Flasks Lake, where it was released. Presumably the same individual, although several occurred inland around the UK at this time. One was reported intermittently between 1st and 8th December on Flasks Lake (AW) and presumably the same at Langwith Lake on 17th December (DB).

Diver sp.

One flew south on 20th October – presumably a Red-throated but not confirmed as such (MB).

Cormorant

Present in variable numbers throughout the year. Because visible migration counts are most common in the morning, there may be a bias towards/contribution from 'pseudo-migration' of birds moving north off a roost to the south. However, the numbers vary from day to day, so

some genuine movement is likely to be in the mix too. A count of 47 on 20th December was the highest for some while.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	5	No counts	8	3	5	12	11	21	31	21	6

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	No counts	No counts	1 NE 21st	9 (1 S, 8N)	0	0	22	5N (7th)	0	4S 17N	0

Shag

Rare in the recording area and far from annual. One flew south through the Reserve on 28th August (PB), then a ringed juvenile (white ring/black digits XR6 - originally ringed on the island of Fidra, Firth of Forth in June) lingered from 1st to 7th November. The second bird coincided with several inland UK records during this period. A new, rather odd-looking brown and white-bellied juvenile was at Langwith Lake on 29th November (DB).

Bittern

One reported in the Reedbed on 18th July (DB), the next there on 2nd and 4th October, followed by three sightings in November.

Grey Heron

Present all year round, also a migrant, but difficult at times to know if birds moving, mostly up or down the Vale of York, are local commuters or genuine movers.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	10	No counts	2	5	4	3	16	5	9	9	10

Visible migration

Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
No counts	No counts	No counts	0	5 (2N/3S): peak 2 on 10th

Also three flew south on 10th October.

Great White Egret

Based on the upward trend in records continuing, with 35 bird-days during 2022, a more summarised approach to documenting was predicted for this year's report. As things turned out, this was not to be the case, with no records in spring, but 26 bird/days in the second half of the year, the first occurring on 25th August (TJ). After that things returned to the script, with one moving south-west on 11th September, a flock of four also heading south-west on 13th September (JL), and a single on the R. Ure on 14th September (MB), which may have been one of the four from the previous day. The next was on Ladybridge Lake on 10th October (TS), with records on four dates in November, including two on 2nd and 16th (TJ, AW *et al*). Lastly a single on Lingham Lake on 11th and 13th December (TJ).

Little Egret

Present in variable numbers throughout the year, dwindling somewhat during the winter months. Generally far fewer than last year, when the peak in September hit 40 birds.

Peak present (moving)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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6 (2SW, 1N)	2	6	2	2 (2N on 28th)	14	7	11	8	6	4	2
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Osprey

In spring there were long-staying males on and off from March.

Bird days (*different birds*)

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
1 on 21st (1)	6 (?)*	10 (5) inc 3N together 5th and one about	9 (2+)	22 (4) One of males from June	31 (6)	1 (1)

The last bird of the year and our latest ever record for this species was one drifting south on 21st October (PB). Almost certainly the same individual flew over Farnham GP about an hour later. Interestingly, one was reliably claimed at a nearby location well into November.

Sparrowhawk

Constantly around although often elusive, the counts below are poorly reflective of the true numbers. Breeding numbers likely to be in the region of four pairs at least.

Peak counts

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	3	1	2	5	3	1	1	1	1	2	2

Marsh Harrier

An increasingly common visitor to the area, particularly in the summer and early autumn

Total Bird Days/different birds (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1/1 2nd male	0	3/2/ (1NE)	5/2 (0)	2 /1 (0)	7/2 (0)	12/3 (0)	5/2 (0)	11/2 (0)	8/2 (0)	1/1 (7th)	0

A male around the reedbed in December was mentioned in conversation, but no specific information was supplied.

Red Kite

A bird that is increasing from the south, with individuals seen most days.

Bird days/peak present (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2/1	6/2	15/6	9/2	21/4 (2N- 5th)	9/3	2/1/	42	7/2	4/1	0	6/2

Common Buzzard

A common species seen throughout the area.

Although probably at most five pairs locally, from some of the vantage points it is possible to see many soaring over, or by the area, from nearby territories. These almost certainly include migrant birds at certain times of the year, but only when they are seen to travel right across the area and continue, can they be confidently called as such.

Peak count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

7	2	24	18 – 20th (0)	18 (3NE 1st)	10	9 (29th)	11	14	4	3	5
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Cuckoo

Increasingly rare species, both locally and scarce nationally. For us, a bumper year with singles on 2nd (SWar), 7th (ADV per GJ) and 19th May (GJ) and a returned (exiting) adult male photographed on 22nd July (Conor).

Barn Owl

Birds were seen north of Flasks Lake, in the Ladybridge area and around the Reserve, suggesting at least three pairs in the area.

Distinct individuals

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 Res	1 (Res)	1 (Lbr)	1 Res	2 (1 Flasks region, the other Reserve)	2 (Green Lane/Res and Langwith)	0	No recd.	No recd.	2	2	3

Tawny Owl

A showy individual performed down Flasks Lane for all comers from 24th January to 28th March. Two different birds calling in the West Tanfield area on 6th September. One at the Reserve car park on 23rd October.

In November singles were heard calling at West Tanfield and again down Flasks Lane on 19th and 25th. The Flasks Lane individual was again in its favoured tree on 20th and 31st December.

Little Owl

Regular breeder with as many as five pairs in the recording area, although this year birds only recorded from the Flasks Lane area and from September, two near a West Tanfield garden.

Peak count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	No counts	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	0

Kingfisher

Peak count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	1	1	No counts	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Regular breeder in the area.

Peak count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3 (24th)	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	1

Green Woodpecker

From one to two regularly throughout the year in the Reedbed area and occasionally near the North Hide, with a peak of three on 2nd September.

Kestrel

Resident breeder. Regular spots include around the Tarmac plant/Flasks Lane, by the minor Well Road, around the Reserve, around Ladybridge Farm and the Sleningford part of the recording area – possibly equating to at least five pairs in the area.

Peak present (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	No counts	No counts	3	4	3	2	2	2	1	2	5

Merlin

Regular, but scarce. A good start to the year with a female flying south over the Reserve on 7th Jan (SWor). Recorded on four dates in October, possibly all different birds as this is a key passage time for the species.

Lanner/Saker sp.

A presumed escapee but unringed bird was picked up injured in the Flasks Lake area on 10th November and taken into care.

Gyr Falcon

A white morph around Kiln Lake/Reedbed on 29th April was a *bona fide* escapee.

Hobby

Nearly a month earlier than last year, with the first two on 8th April (one north and one about). Regular in the area from mid-May onwards, with probable breeding not far away. The last was seen on 1st October.

Peak present /Bird days (visible migration)

April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct
1 (2N)	3/9 (0)	1/9	1/3 (0)	1/8 (0)	1/9	1/1 (0)

Peregrine

A regular species over the Reserve and known to breed not far away. In November and December, at least three different birds - an adult, a first year female and an adult male.

Peak count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1

*Although two not definitely seen on the same day, a colour-ringed and an unringed bird were regularly seen.

Great Grey Shrike

The area's second-ever recorded individual made a transient appearance in the region of the Flasks/Tarmac works area on 22nd October (EH).

Jay

Peak count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	No counts	2	1	3	4	2	10 (23rd)	3	3	2

Magpie

Kept under tight control in the area.

Peak present count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	No count	No count	No count	1	2	1	No count	No count	No count	6	2

Jackdaw

There is a considerable local breeding population. An element affecting the number variation is the degree of enthusiasm to count them, but one notable burst of keenness resulted in a phenomenal count of 863 on the Reserve on 27th July.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
113	No count	No count	No count	49	39	863 (27th)	25	135	No count	97	408 (20th)

Rook

Another overlooked and under-counted species in the area.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
79	No count	No count	No count	222 (27th)	150	No count	No count	No count	328 (20th)	No count	60

Carrion Crow

An under-recorded, thinly spread species, tightly controlled in the area.

Peak present count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	No count	No count	No count	4	10	No count	No count	No count	No count	9	12

Raven

A rare bird at Nosterfield. One flew south-west over the Reserve on 21st May (SWor).

Waxwing

A large irruption of this species to the UK commenced in November, with flocks of 500 in places. Consequently, one flying towards Green Lane on 25th November (AJ) and two around Nosterfield Village on 26th November (AMH) were very welcome, but not wholly unexpected. In December a flock of 12 was briefly at Kiln Lake (MB) before heading west and in Nosterfield village on 19th (K& PL).

Coal Tit

Under-recorded and likely breeder.

Regular sites include East Tanfield sewage farm and the fir trees in Nosterfield village and along Flasks Lane.

Peak about count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	3	2	No counts	2	0	0	2	1	1	No count	2

Marsh Tit

Species in national decline following the trajectory of Willow Tit, although a few years behind and locally scarce. The location of sightings across the year were the regular locations of Camp Wood/Reserve to North Lake path, East Tanfield Quarry and a new location, a single located in a hedge by Thornborough village on 26th November.

Peak count (bird days)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2 (5)	1 (1)	No counts	No counts	1 (5)	2(3)	0	2	1	2 (5)	2 (6)	1 (3)

Blue Tit

Common breeder. The counts represent only a proportion of the number likely to be present, but over several years may provide some useful reflection of the population trends. The large count on 20th December was mostly due to the attraction of a series of feeders at a house along the minor Well road at the northern edge of the recording area.

Peak count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
17	2	No count	No count	3	16	8	No count	No count	9	32	37(20th)

Great Tit

Common breeder.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
13	No count	No count	No count	3	2	No count	3	No count	2	12	12

Bearded Tit

One in the fen/polytunnel area on 25th October (MH).

Woodlark

One singing briefly over the Reserve first thing on 7th May (SWor).

Skylark

Regular breeder, particularly in the region encompassing the 'big field', Middle and South Henges. The pale individual noted last year was still present into January.

Peak about count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
200	100 1st	33	17 (16th)	3	28	4	No count	50 (3rd)	103 (27th)	83 (26th)	176 (6th)

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	45 14th	2 NE	0	0	0	0	7S 23rd	72 all SW. Peak 60 on 7th	0	0

Sand Martin

Transient migrant, summer visitor and breeder and typically one of the first trans-Saharan migrants to arrive.

The first was present on 16th March (MB), with numbers escalating steadily through the month. The last two of the year occurred on 13th September.

Whilst the artificial breeding wall remained unoccupied, birds bred on several sandbanks around the Tarmac plant, with one being destroyed by excavators in full view of horrified observers.

Peak present count

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
228 (31st)	1030 (29th)	No counts	200 (25th)	No counts	30	30 (1st)

Visible migration

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
0	0	No counts	35 SW, all 25th	39SW 8th	2 SW, 31st	9SW, Peak 8 on 1st

Swallow

Breeder and regular migrant. Unlike last year, seen on three dates in March, with the first on 18th (MS). The first of the year was a single on 2nd April and thereafter generally very sparse. The last, a single occurred on 13th October.

Peak present count

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
1	12 (22nd)	6	6	4	50	100	2 8th

Visible migration

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
0	3 NE	No counts	2S, 6N	7 S, peak 6 on 29th	5 SW 31st	102N, 52SS, peak 71N 16th	35S, peak 30 on 9th

House Martin

Breeds in West Tanfield, Thornborough and Well villages, as well as a regular migrant.

The first were four flying south on 10th April. As last year, local numbers stayed generally low in spring, though there was a notable movement early in May. The last was probably the area's latest record, over the North Lake on 8th November (MH).

Peak present count

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
3	No counts	20	No counts	100 (23rd)	50 (15th)	0	0

Visible migration

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
0	No counts	379 (all WNW Peak 289 on 13th)	0	0	20 (6N 14S)	149s, 21N, peak 128S on 11th	0

Spotted Flycatcher

One by the dipping pond on 10th June (AMH), another around the Quarry entrance area 12th - 14th August (JW), and singles along Flasks Lane on 1st September (VO) and the causeway on 5th September (VO).

Cetti's Warbler

Until this year a scarce visitor, but now seems to be established in the area, at least for now.

Four different birds in January, two by the plant nursery, singles at the Reedbed and Ladybridge, though not all on the same day. A single seen on four dates in February and two in March, usually in the Reedbed area. A single record in April on 4th, with no further reports until singles near the nursery and the Reedbed on two dates in September and thereafter up to five in the recording area into November (Reedbed, nursery and Ladybridge Lake) and two in December.

Long-tailed Tit

A common breeding species in the area. Not consistently counted. I suspect the totals in the recording area could reach between 50 and 100 some years.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
23	2	1	No records	4	6	33	37	22	12	45 (26th)	27 (6th)

Willow Warbler

Common breeder and migrant, but showing a national decline in comparison with Chiffchaff.

The first arrived on 5th April and the last was recorded on 20th August.

Peak present count

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
12 (19th)	3	7	10	3 (19th)	0

Chiffchaff

Breeder and common migrant in the area, but generally under-recorded. For the first time, recorded in every month of the year. In the first winter period, a single along the causeway in January and one at the sewage farm on 4th February. Presumably the same wintering bird was at the sewage farm on 11th March, but 11 in the area on 17th March were the vanguard of the spring migrants.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 18th	1 4th	11 (17th)	15 (19th)	2	6	8	4	7(1st)	4 (11th)	1	1 (23rd)

Siberian Chiffchaff (*tristis*)

A claim of one at the Reserve on one of the birding information services was made on 29th October, but no other details were forthcoming.

Sedge Warbler

Local breeder. No counts. The first was recorded on 22nd April and the last on 3rd September.

Peak present count/bird days

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1/7	2/7	1	No counts	1/2	1/2

Reed Warbler

Local breeder. The first was reported on 22nd April and last on 31st August.

Peak present /bird days

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1 /3	No counts	1/2	4/3	8/8	0

Grasshopper Warbler

One singing near the viewing gate at Langwith Lake on 3rd May (JL).

Blackcap

A common breeding species in the area.

The first was a single on the earlier date of 25th February, the next on 26th March, with the last by the Reedbed on 13th October.

Peak present count/bird days

Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
1 (25th)	1	4/13	2/5	2/3	No counts	6/2	2/7	1/1 13th

Garden Warbler

Regular summer visitor and breeder, with probably three pairs in the area. Often overlooked. The first in song was on 18th April. The last documented was on 14th June and not recorded after that, although almost certainly still around.

Peak count/Bird days

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
3/7	3/10	2/6	No counts	0/0

Lesser Whitethroat

Breeder, generally under-recorded.

In spring, the first two arrived on 18th April. The last was on 3rd September.

Peak present count/Bird days

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
5 /11	2/6	1/2	1/1	2/6	2/3

Whitethroat

Common breeder.

The first was recorded on 15th April, with the last, a single on the very late date of 7th October (MS).

Peak count/Bird days

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1 /1	No count	2/4	3/3	2/8	1/1

Goldcrest

Breeder and common migrant in the area, but generally under-recorded. The sewage farm at East Tanfield is the most reliable site.

Peak count/bird days

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	6/9	No count	0	0	0	0	2/2	2/4	2/2	2/3	2/6

Wren

Common breeder but under-counted, through a mix of relative elusiveness and low enthusiasm to count.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Ju	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
7	No count	No count	No count	1	10	5	No count	No count	2	8	7

Nuthatch

Regular, but scarcely recorded and probably breeds near the river in West Tanfield. The pattern of records reflects the pattern of birding in the area, as much as the distribution of the species.

This year was no exception, with one in Camp Wood on 5th January and 3rd February. None recorded in summer, then singles by the river at Tanfield on 14th September, 'site not specified' on 17th September and near Roger's Seat on 14th November.

Treecreeper

A breeding species, but elusive. Knowing the call is very helpful in recording the species. Given the spread of observations, there could at least eight pairs in the area.

Peak count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1

Starling

Breeder and common migrant present throughout the year. As ever, determining true migration from roost exiting and entrance at either ends of the day is a challenge and the moving counts during the winter months will almost certainly represent roost-related movements.

Peak about count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
950	No count	No count	No count	No count	57	31	60	1200 (13th)	1000	719 (26th)	2000 (8th)

*Largest estimated counts of birds flying north at dawn from roosts to the south

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
465N 1st*	No count	No count	No count	0	190 of which 108 N, 82S.	0	528, 31N, 21S	452, 442N, 10S Peak 300 N 11th Sept	1600S all 10th	6100S, 320N, peak 6000 S 6th*	300 S, 250 N

*Likely post-roost nearby.

Song Thrush

Regular wintering species and migrant in both spring and autumn.

Peak present count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	1	1	No count	1	1	1	No count	No count	No count	1	5

Mistle Thrush

Breeder and migrant. Generally under-recorded. Sometimes large gatherings in early to mid-autumn.

Peak present count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	2	No count	No count	2	3 (4NE on 12th)	2	No count	No count	3 (3 SW)	4	5

Redwing

Regular wintering thrush and migrant in both spring and autumn. The last of the spring were on 220 present on 18th March. The first of the autumn was on 5th October.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
89	91 (13th)	220 (18th)	0	1592 (28th)	108 (26th)	73

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
35N 1st	No count	No count	0	7383 all SW, Peak 6713 S 9th	0	0

Blackbird

Common breeder and migrant, with late autumn and early spring influxes a regular occurrence.

Peak present count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
93	No count	No count	No count	8	24	3	No count	No count	54 28th	69 (26th)	73 (13th)

Fieldfare

Winter visitor, spring and summer migrant through the area.

The last of the spring were three heading north on 19th April and the first of the autumn were 11 flying south on 9th October.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
93 (18th)	0	51 (18th)	0	1988 (28th)	48	59 (6th)

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
102 of which 64 SW, 38NE. Peak 72 SW on 6th	No count	No count	29 all N.	1502 of SW, Peak 904 on 27th	150 SW on 7th	0

Robin

Under-recorded, common breeder and migrant.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
11	No count	No count	No count	No count	8	6	No count	1	21	24	16

Common Redstart

Hitherto a very scarce migrant. Singles in spring along Flasks Lane on 16th April, 4th and 29th May. Post-breeding, four were present on 5th July, two between 27th and 30th August and the last, also along Flasks Lane, a single on 1st September.

Black Redstart

A single by the reedbed on 28th April (GJ).

Stonechat

Generally scarce visitor, but this was a bumper year. One of the big events of the early spring was an unprecedented influx commencing with two on 12th March and a phenomenal 13 scattered across the recording area the next day. A single was present on Yorwaste mountain on 27th March. Midsummer produced one on 15th July by the North Hide. In October, two were at Flasks Lake, one at Langwith 2nd, then up to two in the Reserve/silt lagoons area from 11th to 14th. November produced two at East Tanfield Quarry on 8th November, one again at the Silt Lagoons on 11th, another at East Tanfield Quarry on 21st and the Reserve on 25th. In December presumably the same birds as in November were still present - three on 14th comprised two at Langwith, one at the Silt Lagoons and a single again at Langwith on 15th.

Whinchat

A scarce migrant in the area. One at Langwith Lake on 13th August (DB), two at the Reserve on 24th August (MH).

Wheatear

Regular but sparse passage migrant. The first of the year was at the silt lagoon on 25th March and the last on 11th October.

Peak Present /individuals/bird days.

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
1	3/4/6	1/1/1	0	0	2/7/6	2/3/3	1(2)

Dipper

Probably regular along the River Ure, a small stretch of which is within the recording area. The number of records is highly influenced by the regularity of visits to this area.

The only records (from the River Ure) occurred on several dates scattered through the year, including 7th March and 1st May.

House Sparrow

Under-recorded, occurs pretty much wherever there is human habitation in the area.

Peak count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
27	No count	No count	No count	No count	18	No count	67	No count	No count	11	40

*Combined count over two days in complementary, non-overlapping parts of the recording area

Tree Sparrow

A local breeder in the area, which is in decline. Breeds in Nosterfield village, by Ladybridge Farm, near Well and possibly Thornborough village. No records from the old regular site at the West Tanfield end of the Reserve or along the minor Well road, but up to three different individuals in a garden in West Tanfield. One in a garden near the Sleningford lock region of the recording area on 6th December was a new location for the species.

Peak count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	2	0	1	4 (7th)	1	2	2	1	1

Dunnock

Common breeder, overlooked, ignored and undercounted! Also a migrant.

Peak present (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	No counts	No counts	No Counts	No counts	5	1	8	1	8	9	9

Yellow Wagtail

Declining summer visitor. The first was at a male near the North Hide on 15th April and the last, a single on 28th September.

A pair was regularly present in the arable field next to Ladybridge Lake in the first half of May.

In September, birds roosted in the vegetation bordering the west side of Ladybridge Lake, feeding in the fields next to the farm during the day, especially first thing in the morning, and again in the evening.

Peak count/bird days

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
9/14	4/9	1/1	1/1	1/2	2/4

Yellow Wagtail sp.

Flyover birds for which subspecies was not determined included four north on 20th April and a single south on 25th June.

Grey Wagtail

Singles present on three dates in January and two by the R. Ure on 7th March, one on 20th April, three there on 1st and one on 19th May. Lastly, two present on 30th July.

Visible migration totalled one north on 19th April, one south on 13th September. Recorded on the ground in October on two dates and one moving north on 10th. A single in the Flasks Lake area on 24th November, whilst two on 6th December were the last of the year.

Pied Wagtail

A common breeder in the area and regular migrant. Flyover birds are not always assignable to species, so included under '*alba*' below.

Good numbers were still present in the '*Stercore agrum*' field in January.

Peak count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25	No counts	No counts	4	4	2	2	No counts	3	16	3	29 (31st)

White Wagtail

A scarce migrant, occasionally occurs in reasonable numbers. Recorded on 14 bird days in April, including four on 28th in the *Stercore agrum* field and an impressive ten there the next day. Good numbers extended into May, with seven on 1st and two still there on 5th.

alba wagtail sp.

Since flyover birds are not always easy to assign to species, they are generally lumped under the above heading.

A noticeable passage in spring, but almost none in the autumn.

Moving birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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1N 19th	No count	No count	3 N	0	0	0	0	0	10SW,	3 SW	4 S 25th*
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*Pied Wagtails post-roost

Meadow Pipit

A regular spring and autumn migrant, also over-winters. This winter the *Stereocore agrum* field was the best place in January.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25 (24th)	0	80 (17th)	2	2	0	0	2	204	2	3	5

Moving birds

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	19 N Peak	0	2S	52, 37 SW, 15N	639 all SW, Peak 631 on 9th	0	0

Tree Pipit

Surprisingly scarce migrant in the recording area, especially given the numbers recorded nationally, even from the nearby Ripon Parks site. Singles flew north on 28th May (SWor) and south-east on 25th June (AMH).

Chaffinch

Widespread breeder in the area. A strong migrant, but the area does not appear to be on a particular flyway for this species, meagre numbers of moving birds in the spring and only seven in the autumn. As always, coverage plays a part in these figures.

Peak present count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
4	2	41	5	6	5	9	19 (3rd)	1	22	32	42 (8th)

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sept	Oct	Nov
0	0	0	31N	8S, 3N 13th	17SW, peak 11 on 10th	6S 15th

Brambling

One reported on three dates from 1st to 19th March, between Green Lane and the Reserve was probably the same bird (HH, K & PL). In October, one flew south, with another along Green Lane on 28th. Likewise, two along Green Lane on 11th November (MB) and again on 11th December (DB), with a single on 26th (DB).

Hawfinch

A single in the Langwith Lake area on 21st January (DB).

Bullfinch

Under-recorded resident and migrant. Judging from the spread of records, between five and seven pairs in the area.

Peak count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
23 (8th)	6	2	2	4	8	1	2	No count	1	4	5

Greenfinch

Resident and sparse breeder in the area, which has undergone a considerable national decline in recent years, with a suggestion of some recovery in the last two years. Also a migrant.

Peak present count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	3	4	No count	5	7	0	2	No count	11 13th	9 26th	4

Linnet

Regular breeder and migrant, which appears to have declined over the last few years. Big early winter flocks included 120 in a crop field along West Tanfield ridge on 22nd March and 95 on the Reserve on 8th March. In autumn, a steadily growing flock accumulated in the '*Stercore agrum*' field.

Peak count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
200 (5th)	40 (1st)	No counts	No counts	4	14	19	12	1	No counts	1	100 (8th)

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	No count	No count	38N	0	18SW 25th	0	0	15SW 11th	28 SW	0	0

Twite

A once regular wintering species in the area, but much scarcer and cannot be relied upon during the last few years.

Those with the Linnet flock in the '*Stercore agrum*' field, peaked at ten on 1st January, with the last, a single on 1st February. Sadly, no sign of this declining species in the second autumn/winter period.

Lesser Redpoll/Redpoll sp

A scarce species in most years, but can be irruptive, with many more sightings in some years.

Peak present count (visible migration)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	7 (23rd)	7 (17th)	1	0	0	0	0	1	0 (90SW, peak 46 on 27th)	10 (1S)	(14S 6th)

Crossbill

Irregular migrant over the area, with a huge year on year variation. Two flew north-east on 8th September (JL), one headed south over East Tanfield Quarry on 27th October (JL) and three went north over Camp Wood the next day (MB).

Goldfinch

Widespread breeder in the area and common migrant, generally under-recorded, but numbers generally high especially in the latter half of the year.

Peak about count

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	12	No count	16	5	15	40	20	4	92 (28th)	97	108 (8th)

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	No counts	No counts	22N	34, 22S, 12N	5 N 12th	0	0	0	44SW peak 25 on 9th	1S	0

Siskin

Generally, a wintering bird and fly-over migrant in the area. Prone to good and bad years, depending on food bounty on breeding grounds and what is available locally.

Peak present

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
38 (24th)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	30 (31st)

Visible migration

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
0	0	0	1N	0	0	0	0	8, peak 5 SW 11th	36 SW, peak 31 on 9th	0	10S 25th

Corn Bunting.

Two males singing near the southern henge on 28th May, pair present there 4th and 25th June, but no sightings thereafter

Yellowhammer

Probably in decline, but still a healthy breeding population in the area, with good wintering flocks. In the region of ten to 12 pairs in the recording area. This year a good flock built up in the stubble field next to Green Lane in the second winter period.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	No counts	12	8	5	8	3	1	2	5SW	50 (30th)	45 (1st)

Reed Bunting

Regular breeder in the area, often undercounted and this year was no exception. The species can also be a strong migrant, with peaks in early spring and again in autumn.

Peak present count (moving)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
8	No counts	No counts)	N counts	No counts	3	1)	2	2	5SW	1S	2

Contributors

As previously, some observers are only known by rather cryptic identifiers, so shout out your name if you have been missed off this list. As far as we are concerned, contributing to the conversation about wildlife in the area on the forum or in other ways is a valued contribution.

Enthusiasm is generated by mutual interest and dialogue and benefits to the overall effort, even if no novel records are provided.

Rob Adams (RA), Neil Anderson (NA), Nathan Beer (NB), Richard Bennett (RB), Dave Belshaw (DB), Martin Bland (MB), Whitfield Benson (WB), John Blacker (JB), Anne Boneham (AB), Pamela Boulton (PB), Peter Bowman (PKB), Dan Brown (DB), Sarah Burton (SB), Katherine Cavanagh-Jackson (KC-J), Steve Clifton (SCI), Steven Clough (SC), Sue Coldwell (SC), Edward (Ted) Cooper (TC), Fiona Cooper (FC), Matthew Cormack (MC), David Crawford (DC), Nathaniel Dargue (ND), Phil Dargue (PD), Simon Darling (SD), David Emerson (DE), Gary Flakes (GF), Charlie Fletcher (CF), James Forster aka Fozzy (Fozz), John France (JFra), Joe Fryer (JF), Ben Grant (BG), Steve Green (SG), Andrew (Andy) Hanby (AMH), Martin Hammond (MHa), Karen Hargreave (KH), David Hargreave (DHa), Sue Harrison (SH), Helen Hays (HH), Martin Henstock (MH), Danny Heptinstall (DH), Nigel Heptinstall (NH), David Higgins (DH), Emma Higgs (EH), David Hill (DH), Mike Hodgson (MH), Sue Hodgson (SP), Gabriel Holmes (GaH), Gordon Holmes (GoH), Richard Hoskin (RH), David Inman (DI), Alan James (AJ), Linda Jenkinson (Ljen), Dan Jolley (DJ), Tim Jones (TJ), James Longbottom (JL), Ken Limb (KL), Pat Limb (PL), John MacLoughlin (JMac), Mike Metcalfe (MM), Nicholas Mitchell (NMit), Paul Mostry (PM), Sheila Nash (SN), Andrew Nethercoat (AN), Rob Normington (RNor), Val Normington (VN), Roger Parrish (RTP), Celina Pearson (CP), Steven Penn (SP), Clare Pinches (CPi), Fiona Prestwich (FP), Ian Pritchard (IP), Malin Robson (MR), James Robson (JR), Stephen Root (SR), Simon Rudd (SRu), David Saunders (DS), Christine Seaman (CS), Brian Scar (BS), Tim Scott (TS), Jonathon Scragg (JS), Graham Sigsworth (GS), Graham Stephenson (GCS), Alan Swayne (AS), Diane Smiley (DI), Mike Smithson (MS), Phillipa Star (PS), Jo Street (JS), Alan Swayne (AS), Bernie Thornton (BT), Kevin Thornton (KT), Mike Tiffney aka Tiff (MT), Alan Tremethick (AT), Ros Wade, Rick Street (RS), Kevin Walker (KW), David Ward (DW), Jill Warwick (JCW), Simon Warwick (SWar), Christine and Colin Weaver (ChW & CoW) Adrian Wetherill (AW), Ian Webster (IW), Andrew Whappat (AWH), James Wild (JW), Jonathan Wilson (JW), Lee Wiseman (LW), Stephen Worwood (SWor).

Various Observers (VO); for multiple synchronous call-outs.