

# **Doddington Pool**

## **Bird Report 2012**



## DODDINGTON POOL BIRD REPORT FOR 2012

*Details of all the water related birds and birds of prey that we have recorded have been included, together with most of the more noteworthy species.*

### **Little Grebe** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

A much better year than 2011 but not yet returned to the numbers of four years ago. Present all year and three broods seen on Main Pool and one brood on Lemon Pool.

### **Great Crested Grebe** (*Podiceps cristatus*)

On Main Pool present all year except for December and five broods of 4, 4, 3, 3 and 2 were noted during the summer, with 17 adults present. One pair regular on Lemon Pool but no young seen. Numbers in the usual post breeding gathering in September and October were back up to a healthy 74, compared to only 30 last year.

### **Cormorant** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Not recorded during the summer. During the other months usually less than ten, except for September and early October when every year the numbers surge briefly; a maximum of 51 in September and 50 on 1<sup>st</sup> October but down to six by the 12<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Little Egret** (*Egretta garzetta*)

One was seen on 16<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Grey Heron** (*Ardea cinerea*)

Seen in most months, usually less than ten but 19 in September.

### **Mute Swan** (*Cygnus olor*)

| Maximum    | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Doddington | 41  | 38  | 17  | 21  | 9   | 64  | 72  | 79  | 12  | 12  | 18  | 16  |

The resident pair built a nest on the island in April but abandoned it in May for unknown reasons.

### **Greylag Goose** (*Anser anser*)

A flock of up to seven was seen regularly from January to April and then a flock of up to 47 was seen regularly from August to November.

### **Bar-headed Goose** (*Anser indicus*)

One was present with the Canada Geese in late December.

### **Canada Goose** (*Branta canadensis*)

Present all year in varying numbers as flocks move about. The peak was in October as it usually is but with a higher than usual total of 615. Following the provision of a small fence to keep predators off the island there was some breeding success with 36 young seen in June. (Not necessarily a good thing but it also helps the Oystercatchers breed successfully on the island!)

### **Barnacle Goose** (*Branta leucopsis*)

One was with the Canada Goose flock during January, as it was in 2011.

### **Shelduck** (*Tadorna tadorna*)

Two were on Lemon Pool on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Wigeon** (*Anas penelope*)

A winter visitor with a high count of 139 in January and just 22 in December.

### **Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*)

Just one record of this uncommon duck with a male seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Teal (*Anas crecca*)**

Just 13 in January and one in February. Then present from August to December with the highest count of 120 in November.

**Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)**

A very common resident, with around 600 counted on the two pools in autumn; many released, and many young seen.

**Pintail (*Anas acuta*)**

Four records of this lovely duck with two in January, one in February, one in March and one in October.

**Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)**

Present from January to April with a maximum of 16 and from August to the year end with a maximum of 10 .

**Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)**

Last year's slight increase maintained with maxima of 31 in February and 24 in December.

**Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)**

| Maximum    | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Doddington | 82  | 98  | 120 | 125 | 78  | 56  | 32  | 29  | 74  | 126 | 114 | 136 |

Several pairs stayed to breed but only two broods were noted, a poor year compared to the five broods in 2011.

**Scaup (*Aythya marila*)**

The male that was first seen in eclipse plumage on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011 stayed through the winter, moulting into breeding plumage, and was last recorded on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)**

Only present from January to April, maximum 20 in January, and November to December, maximum 15 in December.

**Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)**

Resident and breeds in the area.

**Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)**

Now a very common resident with up to six seen together in the area.

**Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)**

Three separate birds moving north on spring passage, with singles on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> May.

**Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)**

Resident and breeds in the area.

**Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)**

Several sightings in summer but breeding not proved. On 8<sup>th</sup> June whilst sitting in the hide with 100+ swifts flying close in front of us a hobby caught a swift in the air and struggled to fly off with it.

**Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)**

Only one record during the year with a single seen on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

**Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*)**

Regularly seen in the area.

**Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)**

A few seen occasionally.

**Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)**

Many reared by the shooting syndicate and released.

**Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)**

Always lower numbers than expected with a maximum of just five seen on Main Pool and six on Lemon Pool.

**Coot (*Fulica atra*)**

Numbers peaked in July, August and September as usual with the highest count of 634 in August. Several pairs bred and many young seen.

**Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)**

Once again two pairs bred successfully. One pair on the island was seen with two young. The pair on the flat roof of the sailing club failed with the first attempt and then re-laid. This nest was inspected on 10<sup>th</sup> June and held three eggs with two young seen later up to the fledging stage. A pair also took up residence on the small island on Lemon Pool but by mid-April they had moved away.

**Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)**

A single was recorded on 20<sup>th</sup> April on Main Pool and on Lemon Pool. Two were also on the small island on Lemon Pool (a potentially good breeding site) on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)**

A huge flock on 17<sup>th</sup> February when 500 were seen in nearby fields. The largest flock in the second winter period was 130 in November. Again no breeding pairs were noted.

**Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)**

One spring passage bird seen on 15<sup>th</sup> April on the island on Main Pool.

**Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)**

One bird seen on return passage on 17<sup>th</sup> August.

**Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)**

Again an excellent series of records on both spring and return passage. Up to three birds recorded on several dates from 13<sup>th</sup> April to 11<sup>th</sup> May. Then one or two from 5<sup>th</sup> July right through to 16<sup>th</sup> November, the same last date as in 2011.

**Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)**

Just one record of a single on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)**

This site continues to be important in south Cheshire for its overnight roost of gulls in the winter months although the numbers appear to be declining. This year numbers peaked at a total of 7,500 in December.

**Common Gull (*Larus canus*)**

A maximum count of around 400 in the gull roost in December.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)**

A maximum count of 1,100 in the gull roost in December.

**Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)**

Previously only recorded infrequently in the gull roost but at least 45 present in December.

**Common Tern** (*Sterna hirundo*)

Two records of birds on spring passage with four on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and one on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Stock Dove** (*Columba oenas*)

The largest flock recorded was 45 in September.

**Wood Pigeon** (*Columba palumbus*)

Very common but no large flocks recorded.

**Cuckoo** (*Cuculus canorus*)

One was seen briefly on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

**Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*)

Does breed and adults occasionally seen at dusk from the main road.

**Little Owl** (*Athene noctua*)

Previously resident but no records this year. Declining nationally.

**Tawny Owl** (*Strix aluco*)

Resident and breeds.

**Common Swift** (*Apus apus*)

200 over the pool in June.

**Common Kingfisher** (*Alcedo atthis*)

Numbers are at a low level following the recent harsh winters and they are not thought to have bred here. However, an encouraging record on 24<sup>th</sup> August when an adult with two fledged young were flying round the pool and feeding.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** (*Dendrocopos major*)

The commonest woodpecker and several pairs bred.

**Sky Lark** (*Alauda arvensis*)

Two singing over a cereal field on 10<sup>th</sup> June and probably just hanging on as a breeding species.

**Sand Martin** (*Riparia riparia*)

First record on 6<sup>th</sup> April. 200 feeding over the pool on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*)

First record on 6<sup>th</sup> April and the last on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Several pairs have nests in the timber yard shed.

**House Martin** (*Delichon urbica*)

First record on 6<sup>th</sup> April. 400 feeding over the pool on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

**Meadow Pipit** (*Anthus pratensis*)

No records this year.

**Yellow Wagtail** (*Motacilla flava*)

Another good year with several records during April of up to five birds. At least one pair bred and was seen feeding young.

**Grey Wagtail** (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Two were seen in October and one in November.

**Pied Wagtail** (*Motacilla alba yarrelli*)

A few records in spring of up to five birds. A bit more effort this year on identifying the sub-species White Wagtail *M. a. alba* revealed a passage from 12<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April of up to three birds, with 20<sup>th</sup> having three White and five Pied together.

**Wheatear** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

Just one record of two birds present on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April.

**Fieldfare** (*Turdus pilaris*)

A high count of 120 on 6<sup>th</sup> April.

**Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*)

Never common in either winter period this year.

**Sedge Warbler** (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

A male was singing in the typha bed by the yacht club on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

**Reed Warbler** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

Again four pairs bred in the phragmites reed beds at Lemon Pool. They are now well established here. Also two by the yacht club on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**Blackcap** (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

A summer visitor.

**Garden Warbler** (*Sylvia borin*)

A summer visitor.

**Whitethroat** (*Sylvia communis*)

A summer visitor.

**Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

A summer visitor.

**Willow Warbler** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

A summer visitor.

**Goldcrest** (*Regulus regulus*)

Resident and breeds.

**Spotted Flycatcher** (*Muscicapa striata*)

Sadly no records this year.

**Raven** (*Corvus corax*)

The resident pair fledged probably two young this year, from Georges Wood as usual.

**Tree Sparrow** (*Passer montanus*)

Up to 10 regular in the hedges round the church yard.

**Chaffinch** (*Fringilla coelebs*)

A disappointing year for all finch species, particularly in the second winter period. The maximum count for Chaffinch was only 150 in January.

**Brambling** (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

Disappointingly no records again this year.

**Greenfinch** (*Carduelis chloris*)

Present but no large winter flocks noted.

**Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*)

A big flock built up feeding on chicory seeds, with 200 late September, 300 in October and at least 400 by early November but by the end of the month they were all gone.

**Siskin** (*Carduelis spinus*)

Six were seen in the woods in March.

**Linnet** (*Carduelis cannabina*)

The largest flock size noted was just 70 in August.

**Bullfinch** (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

Fairly common resident.

**Reed Bunting** (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

A few pairs breed, with three singing males around the yacht club and south bay in June. A few also remain for the winter.

Colin Lythgoe; SECOS Recorder; and David Meakin.