

DODDINGTON POOL BIRD REPORT 2019



Images courtesy of Dennis Swaby

DODDINGTON POOL BIRD REPORT FOR 2019

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.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doddington	62	58	1	8	39	83	64	56	23	33	6	3

No breeding activity was noted this year.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)

Nine called in briefly on 1st February and another group of nine on 21st October.

Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)

One appeared on 14th May and stayed through to 16th July when it was found dead on Main Pool.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

Two were present during January and February and one was seen on 30th October.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doddington	2	90	7	6	10	61	110	413	370	360	430	300

The usual pattern and numbers in autumn continue to increase with the November count of 430 being a site record. No breeding activity was noted.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doddington	145	90	178	110	153	150	110	250	350	330	420	250

Again following the usual pattern with much higher numbers in autumn. A good breeding success as usual with a total of 63 young seen.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

Two records of singles this year with the Canada Goose flock, on 31st January to 1st February and 1st May.

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

Frustratingly they refuse to stay and breed in what is a suitable habitat! As usual up to four birds present from January to end of May, with 16 in March, then they move off (where to?) Also one on 15th August and five on 28th December.

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

In the first winter period peak counts of 11 in January, 10 in February and 1 in March. Then in the second winter period 22 in October, 16 in November and nine in December.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

Much lower numbers than usual with a single female in January, two pairs during March and a single male in April.

Teal (*Anas crecca*)

A really poor year for this species and only recorded in January max 75, February max 11 and October max 2.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

A very common resident and with some birds released no accurate counts are made but over 700 were counted on the two pools in autumn and many young seen.

Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

Two were present on 11th February.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Present from January to June, with an unusually high maximum of 66 in February, and from August to the year end but lower numbers with a max of five in November and 11 in December.

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)

An unusual record of six, three males and three females, present for the day on 4th November.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

Numbers get ever lower for this once common species. Present from January to March with a maximum of just 12 in January. A single in July and then in the second winter period just six in November and 12 in December.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doddington	71	90	137	136	49	42	44	55	79	136	77	120

A good year with the now regular high numbers in winter and good breeding success. Five broods were recorded with a total of 29 young seen.

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

A female was seen on 28th March and three males on 29th July.

Mandarin (*Aix galericulata*)

More records this year with two males and a female on 29th January and again on 8th November. Then a single male on 28th December.

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

A regular winter visitor although with lower numbers this year. Present from January to March, with a maximum count of 12 in February and from October to December with a maximum of nine in November..

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

Several records of either a single male or a single female from October to the year end.

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*)

Regularly seen in the area.

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)

None actually recorded.

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Many reared by the shooting syndicate and released.

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Recorded in January max of eight and March max of three. Then June through to December. For several years there has been a regular autumn surge in numbers, which last year was 42 in September and October and then a very high 85 in November. This year the max monthly counts were 19 in September, five in October and seven in November.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Just one record this year with a single on 28th March.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Once again the size of the breeding colony has increased with a total of sixteen occupied nests counted on 5th April. Successful breeding this year and by June there were at least 16 fledged young hanging around the nest site. Up to ten birds present all year.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

An average year for breeding with two pairs on each pool. Two broods of two on Main Pool and broods of three and two seen on Lemon Pool. The peak autumn counts were good with a max count of eleven on each of the pools.

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Not a good year for breeding. On the Main Pool around 21 birds summered but just two pairs nested with broods of one and one seen. On Lemon Pool one pair had one juv. The post-breeding flock peaked at a low 42 in August then surprisingly a pair appeared with four new juvs in mid September.

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

One was recorded on 2nd August and seen on most visits through to 22nd August.

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Resident and breeds in the area.

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)

On 1st April one passed over and drifted away north west. On 4th November one was seen low over the woods and then drifted away south.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Resident and common.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

No records this year.

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

Resident and two seen regularly near the sailing club and probably bred nearby.

Hobby (*Falco subbeteo*)

Three records of singles on 7th July, 1st August and 30th August.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Seen more often in recent times and wandering singles were seen in January, February, March, August and December. Also two, a probable pair, on 19th December.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquatica*)

After a good year last year there was just one record this year, on 11th December.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Bred on both pools and young seen on each. Maximum count was six on Main Pool and five on Lemon Pool, but usually under-counted due to its shy habits.

Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doddington	179	150	132	73	106	370	469	316	129	215	128	142

Doddington continues to be a major site for Coot within the county. Many pairs bred and the highest count in July contained many young.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

A very early returning bird was seen on 28th January. Then during February numbers slowly increased from one to nine. Present continuously then through to 23rd August. As usual two pairs bred, one on the island and one on a roof in the Sailing Club. The Sailing club pair had two chicks but they soon disappeared.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

The highest count in the first winter period was 70. Numbers increased from August and reached a regular flock size of around 100.

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

Two were seen on 25th May.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

Just three records of singles on 8th April, 28th May and 13th July.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Two flew over on 26th June.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

Two were present on 22nd April, one in full breeding plumage.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Three records during spring passage in May with a max count of three. Seven records on return passage in July and August with a max count of two.

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

A single seen on 21st March.

Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Two flushed in George's Wood on 23rd February as I walked to the Raven nest tree.

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

A really poor year, with no Jack Snipe and singles only of Common Snipe during January and March and none in the second winter period.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

Two singles on return passage on 27th July and 9th August.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

A maximum count of 9,500 in the gull roost on 17th December.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

A maximum count of around 50 in the gull roost on 17th December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

A maximum count of 1,300 in the gull roost on 17th December.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

A maximum count of around 50 in the gull roost on 17th December.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

None seen in the gull roost, but one recorded earlier in December.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)

Seen regularly but no high counts recorded.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

Very common but no large flocks noted.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

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

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

A pair present and probably bred near the Sailing Club.

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

Resident and breeds. Heard occasionally in early spring.

Common Swift (*Apus apus*)

The highest count noted was 85 on 28th May. Six birds seen on 6th September were very late.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

One or two seen in July and August, then singles in October and December.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)

The commonest woodpecker and several pairs bred.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*)

A nice male was watched for several minutes on the estate during a BTO survey.

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

Seen fairly often but breeding not proved.

Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

Very common and many pairs breed in and around the hall.

Raven (*Corvus corax*)

The resident pair were recorded in most months and seen guarding the usual nest site in Georges Wood, although no family group was seen.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)

Resident and breeds.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)

Several records from January to June with up to five males singing.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

An exceptional count of around 300 on 5th April.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

The highest count noted was around 100 on 4th May. Several pairs are just hanging on to nest in the old timber yard shed.

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)

The highest count noted was 40 on 5th April.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

A summer visitor, except for one bird that was seen on the 1st December. This is the second consecutive winter that a Chiffchaff has been recorded.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

A summer visitor.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

A summer visitor.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*)

A summer visitor.

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)

A summer visitor.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

A summer visitor.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

An average year with seven pairs nesting around Lemon Pool.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

A flock of around 200 present during December.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

Just small numbers recorded with a max of ten in March.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

Small numbers recorded

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)

In June a pair were seen taking food towards the yard by the old stables so presumably feeding young there. Also two seen on 6th September.

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

Another really poor year with just two records; one on 5th April and one on 19th August.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

A poor year for this species as well. Five birds were seen on 28th April, then one on 4th May perched on the wires and dropped into the cereal crop as if breeding. Two were seen here on 14th May but then only one record of a single after that so presumably none stayed to breed this year.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Just one record of a single on 21st October.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*)

Another exceptionally poor spring passage. Numbers started to build in March with a peak of 17 on the 23rd but then quickly dropped away, with none in April and one in May. Probably one pair bred with young seen. Few records on autumn passage with just four in August. The only records for White Wagtail *M.a. alba* were singles on 13th March and 23rd March.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)

Virtually no passage records with just one record of three in March and none on return passage. Winter records of five in October and 11 in December.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Commonest finch but few records.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

Two during March and three on 5th April.

Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*)

Few finches recorded.

Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*)

A flock of 43 perched on wires above a game cover crop on 23rd February.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Few finches recorded.

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

A few pairs breed, with two singing males around the yacht club and south bay in April, May and June and one on Lemon Pool. A few also remain for the winter.

Colin Lythgoe; Mike Warner ; Andy Warner; Sylvia Jarvis.

With half a page spare this year and an unused image this seemed a good place to put it!

Thanks Dennis

