

DODDINGTON POOL BIRD REPORT 2020



Little Owl at the new nest box

By Mike & Andy



Turnstone

By Mike & Andy



Male Stonechat

By Colin

DODDINGTON POOL BIRD REPORT FOR 2020

An exceptional year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Occasional visits were made to the site in periods when lockdown restrictions were eased, to try to obtain monthly waterbird counts for the BTO WeBS survey. A visit in late March was adequate to count the nests in the heronry.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doddington	10	2	0	9	37	59	65	61	16	16	18	3

No breeding activity was noted this year.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

Singles in January, October and December and three in November, separate from the Canada Goose flock.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doddington	20	80	nc	nc	10	41	120	242	470	400	300	200

The usual pattern and numbers in autumn continue to increase with the September count of 470 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	214	166	nc	nc	164	96	180	210	5	600	370	200

Again following the usual pattern with much higher numbers in autumn.

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)

One was seen in January and two in December.

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

Few records with just one in February, seven in March and two in November.

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

In the first winter period peak counts of 37 in January and 2 in February. Then in the second winter period 5 in September, 8 in October, 17 in November and 6 in December.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

Much lower numbers than usual with a single in February and two in December.

Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Another poor year for this species with just two in January and February and up to six from September to December.

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 in February and March and four in December.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Recorded in all months except May but in low numbers with a maximum of ten in February and 14 in December.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

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

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doddington	103	139	173	nc	33	35	44	61	93	78	123	104

A good year with a very high count of 173 in March. Four broods were seen..

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

Five flew in together on 16th July, looking like a family party.

Mandarin (*Aix galericulata*)

Two were seen in January and then a male in December.

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

A regular winter visitor and with much bigger numbers this year. Present from January to March, with a maximum count of 27 in March (12 last year) and from October to December with a maximum of 17 in November (9 last year).

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

Just one record of a male on 2nd November.

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*)

Regularly seen in the area.

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Many reared by the shooting syndicate and released.

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Just singles in January and February. Then present from July to the year end but with a maximum count of just five in October. The previous regular autumn surge in numbers (85 in 2018) seems to have finished.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Just one record again this year with a single on 13th July.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Once again the size of the breeding colony has increased slightly with a total of seventeen occupied nests.. Successful breeding this year with at least eight juvs (but probably more) hanging around the nest site. Up to ten birds present all year.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

An increase in numbers noted through the year with a maximum of 22 seen in September but, probably due to restricted hours viewing, only one juv was recorded.

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Recorded in all months except December, usually less than ten but numbers peaked in the autumn with a count in August of 61 adults with seven juvs.

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Resident and breeds in the area.

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)

One was seen in March and then on 22nd May one appeared low down and passed slowly over, heading east.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Resident and common.

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

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

Hobby (*Falco subbeteo*)

One was recorded on 22nd June.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Singles recorded in March, August and October.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquatica*)

Singles recorded in March and December.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Present on both pools all year; maximum count of five and no juvs seen.

Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doddington	178	145	nc	nc	133	262	400	628	693	680	280	375

Doddington continues to be a major site for Coot within the county. The September count of 693 was one of the highest ever. Many pairs bred and young were seen.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

Again a very early returning bird was seen on 29th January (28th last year). Then during February numbers slowly increased from one to nine. Present continuously then through to 22nd July. As usual two pairs bred, one on the island and one on a roof in the Sailing Club. The island pair fledged two juvs to full size. The SC pair had two juvs but these were lost, presumed predated, when quite small. The pair re-laid and hatched one young but this also soon disappeared.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

The highest count in the first winter period was 85. The flock reformed in the second winter period but with a maximum of only 55 in November.

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

One was present on 28th July.

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

A scarce visitor and it is good that one was seen and photographed on 25th August.

Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

An adult was seen briefly in the morning of 6th November. There have been two previous records both in November 2005 with an adult on 4th/5th and a 1st winter bird the following week on 11th/12th.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

One record during spring passage with two seen in May. Several records of one or two on return passage from 26th June to 2nd September.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

A maximum count of 8,000 in the gull roost on 24th December.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

A maximum count of around 10 in the gull roost on 24th December.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

A maximum count of 2,400 in the gull roost on 24th December.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

A maximum count of around 50 in the gull roost on 24th December.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

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

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

Two were seen on 5th July.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)

Seen regularly but no high counts recorded.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

Very common but no large flocks noted.

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

In autumn a group was frequently seen on the wires near the road entrance, attracted by a lot of food put down at the house opposite. Highest count was 78 in August.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

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

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

Usually one but sometimes two seen frequently in the beech tree by the nest box that went up in January 2020. Hopefully used for breeding in this summer.

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

Resident and breeds. Heard occasionally in early spring.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

One was watched for a few minutes low down over the fields as it was escorted off the premises by Crows.

Common Swift (*Apus apus*)

The highest count noted was 150 on 15th May.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

One or two seen from June to October.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)

The commonest woodpecker and several pairs bred.

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*)

Seen occasionally.

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; a group of four was seen in September..

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)

Resident and breeds.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*)

No sightings recorded.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

A count of around 50 on 15th May.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Recorded in low numbers in May.

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)

The highest count noted was 50 in May.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

A summer visitor.

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*)

Several pairs nested around Lemon Pool as usual but no count this year.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Flocks of around 300 were present during January and December.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

Maximum counts of 130 in January and 80 in November.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

Maximum counts of 25 in January and 80 in November.

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

The only record was of one seen during March.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

A really poor year with just two records; two on 13th May and four on 14th May.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

In June a family party of two adults with two young was seen.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*)

A possible family party of two adults with four young was seen during May but after that just occasional ones or twos.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)

The only records were of four in March and five in October.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Commonest finch and a flock of 50 in December.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

One seen during November and December.

Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*)

Few finches recorded.

Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*)

On 23rd November a very large flock of around 200 were feeding amongst the maize stubble.

Lesser Redpoll (*Acanthis cabaret*)

Just sneaked into this annual report with 12 seen on 31st December.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Few finches recorded, maximum flock size of 20.

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

Few records.

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