

# Rode Pool

## Bird Report 2012



## RODE POOL BIRD REPORT 2012

## denotes that the species was seen using the feeding station at the bird hide.

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

Fewer records than usual and only recorded in August.

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

There seemed to be less records than usual and certainly less young seen. Not recorded during August and September. Possibly three pairs during the summer but only two broods recorded, each of just one young. A very poor year.

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

Generally only one or two seen in winter with the highest count being eight in November.

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

One was present during January and February.

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

37 nests in the heronry this year, a slight increase on the 36 in 2011; with 12 on the north bank; 8 on the main island; 10 on the south bank and 7 on the small island. After a big drop in numbers following the two severe winters the breeding success in 2012 appeared to be good and with a mild winter the population should increase significantly in 2013.

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

Sadly the pair we hoped would become resident disappeared, like their young in the previous two summers, and we just had records of three in January and three in October.

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

Recorded as present from January to July with a peak count of 17 in April, although no young were seen. This is the first blank year since 2007 when they first bred successfully. Also two seen in November.

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

The maximum count in the breeding season was 78 adults with just five young. The highest count was 102 in January.

### **Mandarin (*Aix galericulata*)**

One of the highlights of the year was the number of sightings of this spectacular little duck. However, we are frustratingly confused as to its status. On 26<sup>th</sup> June a fluffy chick a few days old was seen for just a few seconds before it disappeared in the reeds, never to be seen again. A female Mandarin was nearby but was it a Mandarin chick? They usually have a large clutch of 9-14 eggs and take six weeks to fledge so are usually very obvious. Apart from a two second view of a possible juvenile there is no proof of breeding. Also a group of eight were present in August and September whilst they moulted.

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

Low numbers of this winter duck as usual with just two in February and then present from October to the year end but with a maximum count of only seven, in November.

**Common Teal (*Anas crecca*)**

Present in all months except May and June; with a maximum count of 53 in January and 35 in December.

**Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) ##**

Generally up to 100 present but 249 in January was the highest count. Many pairs bred.

**Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)**

Becoming slightly more common; present from January to March with a peak count of 25 and September to December with a peak count of 34.

**Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)**

Decreasing in numbers, following the national trend. Only two records of a single in January and March.

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

Now established as a resident breeder with additional visitors in winter, although this summer only one brood, of six young, was seen. Peak numbers were 22 in March and 43 in November.

**Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)**

Present in the winter months with the usual numbers of up to ten in January and five in November.

**Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)**

Seen regularly zipping through the wood by the bird hide, presumably hunting for birds on the feeders.

**Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)**

One was recorded on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)**

Seen regularly and bred with young seen and heard all summer!

**Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)**

Seen regularly and probably bred.

**Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)**

One was recorded on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) ##**

Seen all year, with two regular at the feeders by the hide.

**Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) ##**

Resident with a maximum of ten seen and at least two pairs bred.

**Coot (*Fulica atra*)**

Resident with up to 11 seen and several pairs bred.

**Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)**

Two passed through on 7<sup>th</sup> May.

**Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)**

Recorded during the winter with a peak count of 30.

**Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)**

There are no doubt several in the woods during the winter and one was flushed from near the boardwalk on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

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

Two records during the spring passage period with singles seen on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> April.

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

A single bird seen on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

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

Regular during the winter months with a max count of 130 recorded.

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

Common resident but no totals recorded.

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

Resident in the woods. One was disturbed roosting in a tree next to the hide in December.

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

Present during the summer.

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

Less sightings than usual and probably reduced in numbers following the two severe winters. One or two seen in January and February and from August to November.

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

The commonest woodpecker and a few pairs bred on the estate. Two adults and a young bird were regular visitors to the feeders in late summer and autumn.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos minor*)**

Probably always resident but always difficult to see, so several sightings of a male and a female in March was good. Also recorded in September.

**Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)**

Present during the summer.

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

Present during the summer.

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

One or two seen in the winter.

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

Seen regularly and probably bred.

**Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes troglodytes*) ##**

Common resident.

**Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) ##**

Common resident.

**Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) ##**

Common resident.

**Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) ##**

Common resident.

**Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)**

Winter visitor with a peak count of 40 in November.

**Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)**

Common resident.

**Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)**

Winter visitor with a peak count of 30 in January.

**Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)**

Common resident with the usual peak of family groups in autumn giving a maximum count of 27 in September.

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

At least two but probably three pairs bred in the reedbeds.

**Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)**

Common summer visitor.

**Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)**

Common summer visitor. Also one recorded on 9<sup>th</sup> October.

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

Not recorded every year.

**Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) ##**

Recorded throughout the year.

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

One was seen at a suitable breeding site in the woods on 12<sup>th</sup> June but not seen after that. On 28<sup>th</sup> August a family party of at least four birds were seen by the cricket pavilion, presumably on autumn migration.

**Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*) ##**

Several groups of 10+ birds seen in winter and a few pairs bred.

**Marsh Tit (*Parus palustris*) ##**

The first record for this rare species was on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2002 and one has been recorded in most weeks every year until 22<sup>nd</sup> May this year, since when there have been no further records. Could it have been the same bird? Possibly – the oldest recorded Marsh Tit in Europe was aged 11 years and 11 months! The Marsh Tit was always one of the first birds on the feeders and it has been like losing an old friend!

**Coal Tit (*Parus ater*) ##**

Common resident.

**Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*) ##**

Four pairs used nest boxes, with 25 young seen in the nests.

**Great Tit (*Parus major*) ##**

Six pairs used nest boxes, with 26 young seen in the nests.

**Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) ##**

One pair used a nest box, but contents could not be checked. A common resident.

**Eurasian Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)**

Common resident.

**Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) ##**

Now regular on the feeders, but very wary.

**Black-billed Magpie (*Pica pica*) ##**

Common resident.

**Eurasian Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)**

The largest winter flock recorded was around 60 and many pairs bred.

**Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)**

Common resident.

**Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone corone*)**

Common resident.

**Raven (*Corvus corax*)**

Recorded in most months of the year and probably bred in the area.

**Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)**

Common resident and winter visitor.

**Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) ##**

Common resident.

**Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)**

Common resident.

**Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)**

Common resident.

**Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) ##**

A few records, with peak counts of 22 in January and 12 in December.

**Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*) ##**

Three were seen in the woods in January, the usual month for this elusive species.

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

At least one singing male present during the summer and also seen on the feeders in the winter.

Colin Lythgoe; SECOS Recorder.