

Rode Pool

Bird Report 2015



RODE POOL BIRD REPORT 2015

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

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

As usual only autumn records with one bird seen through July and August, then two from September to November.

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Recorded in every month with a maximum count of six adults. Six adults and six young (two broods) were seen in May and a late brood of three young was seen in August.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Less records than usual with a single in February and April, then one or two from July to December.

Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)

The third consecutive winter with a record of this very elusive species, even though it was only a single record. On 10th February one was seen to fly from the willow beds to behind the island.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

A similar pattern to 2014 with a single bird seen regularly in all parts of the pool from 1st January until 1st March. Then a single again from 24th November to the year end.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

50 nests in the heronry this year, another increase on the 43 in 2014 and 42 in 2013; with 10 on the north bank; 11 on the main island (despite the top of the main nesting tree coming down); 15 on the south bank and 14 on the small island.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

We had hoped for more success this year when two birds were present regularly through the summer but no nesting effort was noted. In October a single bird appeared and seemed to drive off the two and it remained single to the year end.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

On 22nd November eight flew over, circled round but did not land.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Continuing to increase in numbers. In the first winter period up to 29 were seen regularly in the fields of Townsend Farm, from where they regularly visited the pool. Three pairs bred and in June there were 19 adults with 14 young of three broods. The highest count in the second winter period was 34 in September.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

Recorded in every month, usually with up to 40 counted but there were an exceptional 173 in September. Probably two pairs bred successfully with 11 young seen in June.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

One with Canada Geese on 7th September.

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)

A female was seen on 14th April.

Mandarin (*Aix galericulata*)

Not present in January and February. More normal breeding data this year with two pairs using nest boxes at the pool and laid 23 eggs with 21 hatched and at least 10 small young seen but none seen fledged. Also one pair used a nest box at Ashbank Farm, laid 11 eggs and 10 hatched with six small young seen later. Present to the year end with a maximum count of 27 in October.

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

More records this year with maximum counts of 13 from January to March and seven from September to December.

Common Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Present in all months except May, with a maximum count of 25 in February and an impressive 49 in October.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) ##

Generally up to 100 present and 120 in January and 95 in November were the highest counts. Many pairs bred.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

A similar pattern to most years; present from January to April with a peak count of 31 and September to December with a peak count of 35.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

Still decreasing in numbers, following the national trend, and this year there was just one record of a male on 1st October.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

As Pochard fortunes go down so Tufted Duck goes up. Now established as a resident breeder with additional visitors in winter. Three broods were seen in July, 4, 4, and 3. Peak numbers were 33 in March and 17 in November.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

Present in January and February, maximum 3 and November and December, maximum 8.

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

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

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Seen regularly and bred with young seen and heard all summer. In June a pair were seen with two young perched on the roof of the cricket pavilion.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

On 23rd June was seen to fly in, circle the pool several times and then drift off to the south.

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

Seen regularly and probably bred.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

No records this year.

Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) ##

Seen all year, with a maximum count of ten.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) ##

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

Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Resident, although with lower numbers than usual, with up to eight seen and at least three pairs bred.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

One seen on 26th May.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Recorded during the winter but always less than ten.

Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Reported from the woods during the winter periods.

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Only recorded during March, with a maximum count of three.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

A single bird seen on 14th April.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

One seen to fly in on 24th November.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Regular from January to March and August to December with numbers usually up to 100 but an exceptional count of around 500 during February's cold spell.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

A single with the other gulls on 25th February.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

Occasional singles in the winter but ten on 25th February.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

A single was over the cricket field on 22nd September.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)

A maximum count of 19 and one pair bred in a Mandarin design nest box and fledged one young.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

Common resident with flocks of 210 in March and 400 in December noted..

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

Resident in the woods.

Common Swift (*Apus apus*)

Present during the summer.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

One or two recorded in every month and a pair were seen with at least one young in June.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

Singles heard occasionally through the year and on 21st July an adult was seen with two young on the grass of the cricket field.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) ##

The commonest woodpecker and a few pairs bred on the estate. Once again 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 most records come in early spring and the same this year, with one or two seen during March and up to 14th April.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

15 over the water on 14th April.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Present during the summer and 45 present on 14th April.

House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)

Present during the summer.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Breeding proved this year with an adult carrying food on 29th April and a pair with one young seen on 1st June.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrelli*)

Seen regularly and a pair with two young seen on 21st July.

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes troglodytes*) ##

Common resident.

Duncock (*Prunella modularis*) ##

Common resident.

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) ##
Common resident.

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) ##
Common resident.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)
Winter visitor but the largest flock seen was only 12.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)
Common resident.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)
Winter visitor with a peak count of 62 in November.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)
Common resident, with a peak count of 11 in September.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)
A pair were present in suitable breeding habitat from at least 7th to 30th June but no nest effort proved.

Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)
A male was first heard singing and then seen in the oak trees by the cricket field on 4th May. It was heard and seen in that area every day through to 21st May but a female was never seen.

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)
On 19th April one was seen in the field opposite Poolside and on 21st April three were there.

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)
Common summer visitor.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)
At least three pairs bred in the reed beds.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)
Common summer visitor.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*)
One record from 29th April.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
Common summer visitor.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)
Two records in April of this now scarce visitor.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) ##

Recorded throughout the year.

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

Resident and breeds; largest flock seen was 18 in December.

Coal Tit (*Parus ater*) ##

Common resident.

Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*) ##

Six pairs used nest boxes, laid 53 eggs, hatched 34 young and fledged only 15; a poor year for productivity.

Great Tit (*Parus major*) ##

Four pairs used nest boxes, laid 28 eggs, hatched 25 young and fledged 24.

Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) ##

A common breeding resident and one pair used a nest box and fledged seven young.

Eurasian Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

Common resident, but no nest boxes used this year.

Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) ##

Now regular on the feeders, but very wary.

Magpie (*Pica pica*) ##

Common resident.

Eurasian Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

The largest winter flock recorded was around 120 and many pairs bred.

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Common resident.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone corone*)

Common resident.

Raven (*Corvus corax*)

One or two recorded in most months of the year and probably bred in the area.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Recorded in both winter periods with a maximum count of 30 in November.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) ##

Common resident.

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)

Previously common resident. Numbers have fallen quickly due to the deadly Trichomonosis disease.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Common resident.

Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) ##

A few records in each winter period, with a peak count of 40 in October.

Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*)

Not seen every year so four with Siskin on 20th January were good to see.

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

Not regularly seen but one or two were recorded during the year.

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.

Rode Pool Regulars.

A total of 88 species recorded, with 19 species using the feeders at the hide.