

# Rode Pool

## Bird Report 2016



Great Crested Grebes by Chris Parry

## RODE POOL BIRD REPORT 2016

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

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

Singles recorded in eight months of the year but to no real pattern and two in April.

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

Recorded in all months except December with a maximum count of six adults. Two pairs bred, each with two young and then one pair had a second brood of three in September.

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

Singles in January and February and then July to October, with two in November and three in December.

### **Bittern** (*Botaurus stellaris*)

No record this year after three consecutive years of winter records.

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

Not as many records as in 2016 but to a similar pattern. One seen between 7<sup>th</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> March and one seen on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December.

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

50 nests in the heronry this year, the same as in 2016; with 14 on the north bank; 11 on the main island ; 13 on the south bank and 12 on the small island.

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

They continue to disappoint with up to four irregular visitors but no residents.

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

Up to 29 regular from January through to June and one pair bred with six young (but three broods in 2016) and strangely no records after the 38 in July.

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

Recorded in most months with up to 41 regular but not in August and by November down to one and none in December. Three pairs bred with a total of 15 young seen.

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

Breeding effort started in March with three fresh eggs found in a nest box on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, although no birds had been seen yet! Maximum count was 15 in July. Two pairs used nest boxes, laid 22 eggs and all hatched but as usual although young were seen it is very difficult to get an accurate count of fledging success. Few records in winter and most seem to go to Lawton Hall pool then.

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

Followed the regular pattern of up to five present from January to March and up to 13 from September to December.

**Gadwall** (*Anas strepera*)

A single male was seen in January.

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

Present in all months except May, as in 2016, but in increased numbers, with a maximum count of 42 in January and an impressive 72 in November.

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

Generally up to 100 present and 56 in January and 108 in November were the highest counts. Many pairs bred.

**Shoveler** (*Anas clypeata*)

Only missing in July but with slightly lower numbers and a maximum of 18 in January and 17 in December.

**Pochard** (*Aythya ferina*)

A slightly better year with one in February, two in March and three in April.

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

Regular numbers at the beginning of the year with a maximum of 28 in March but then quite poor. Only one breeding record with a brood of six seen in June but they all disappeared within a week. Numbers in the second half of the year down to a maximum of 10 in November and none in December.

**Goosander** (*Mergus merganser*)

Present in January and February, maximum 4 and November and December, maximum 7.

**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.

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

Seen all year, with a maximum count of ten.

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

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

**Coot** (*Fulica atra*)

Resident with a maximum of 11 seen and at least three pairs bred.

**Oystercatcher** (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

One seen on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Lapwing** (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Recorded during the winter but always less than ten.

**Curlew** (*Numenius arquata*)

One was seen to fly over on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

**Woodcock** (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Fairly common in the woods during the winter and two birds were flushed; one on 23<sup>rd</sup> February and one on 27<sup>th</sup> December.

**Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Only a single record this year with one on 10<sup>th</sup> January.

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

A single bird seen on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

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

One seen to fly in on 1<sup>st</sup> September.

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

Regular from January to March and October to December with numbers usually up to 100 but an exceptional count of around 400 during February's cold spell.

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

A single with the other gulls during February.

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

Occasional singles in the winter but ten during February.

**Great Black-backed Gull** (*Larus marinus*)

One was seen to fly over in March.

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

Lower than usual numbers with a maximum count of just five. However, two pairs used nest boxes (one sharing with a Mandarin Duck), laid four eggs, hatched four and fledged three young.

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

Common resident but no large flocks noted..

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

Resident in the woods.

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

One or two recorded in every month and probably bred but breeding was not proved.

**Green Woodpecker** (*Picus viridis*)

Few records this year but still in the area.

**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 this year had just one recorded sighting on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

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

Present during the summer.

**Swallow** (*Hirundo rustica*)

Present during the summer, first on 31<sup>st</sup> March.

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

Present during the summer.

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

Recorded in the second winter period.

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

A maximum count of six seen during the second winter period.

**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 no big counts in the autumn this year.

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

Common resident.

**Redwing** (*Turdus iliacus*)

Winter visitor with a peak count of 70 in November.

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

Common resident, but no big counts in the autumn this year.

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

A single was seen on 24<sup>th</sup> May and two were watched on the cricket field fence as they moved through the area on 16<sup>th</sup> August.

**Pied Flycatcher** (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

One was seen on 26<sup>th</sup> April.

**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.

**Chiffchaff** (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

Common summer visitor, with the first singing bird on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

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

Recorded throughout the year.

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

Resident and breeds; largest flock seen was 24 in June.

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

Common resident.

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

Seven pairs used nest boxes, laid 62 eggs, hatched 53 young and fledged 44; an average productivity rate of 6.3 young per nest.

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

Three pairs used nest boxes, laid 24 eggs, hatched 24 young and fledged 24; an excellent productivity rate of 8.0.

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

A common breeding resident but no nest boxes used this year.

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

Common resident and one pair used a nest box, laid five eggs, hatched five and fledged four young.

**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 50 but there are more than that 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 80 in February.

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

Common resident.

**Greenfinch** (*Carduelis chloris*)

Previously common resident. Numbers have fallen quickly due to the deadly Trichomonosis disease. Not recorded this year.

**Goldfinch** (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Common resident.

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

A few records in each winter period, with a peak count of 80 in January and 30 in November.

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

Two were recorded on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

**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 80 species recorded, with 19 species using the feeders at the hide.