

Rode Pool

Bird Report 2017



Photo by John Triner

RODE POOL BIRD REPORT 2017

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

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

Continues to frustrate us, with records of one or two in both winter periods but they don't stop to breed.

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Recorded in all months with a maximum count of four adults. Two pairs bred with broods of three (survived) and one (later failed). This pair bred again and one juv was seen in August.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Recorded in all months except May and June. Usually up to four but eight in October and nine in November.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

An increase in numbers and frequency of records. Up to four during January, five during February and four during March. We hoped they may stay to breed in the heronry but there was only one record of a single after 19th March. They returned in winter with one or two during November and December except for a super record of six roosting together on a fallen tree over the pool on 12th December (see front cover).

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

52 nests in the heronry this year, up from 50 in 2016; with 10 on the north bank; 11 on the main island ; 19 on the south bank and 12 on the small island.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

More disappointing than usual this year since a pair did breed and hatch a brood of at least four youngsters in June but they all disappeared within two weeks and the adults left the site.

Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*)

Not included on the British List although escapees from collections have bred in the wild. A single bird was recorded during February and April.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

A single was recorded during February.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Peak counts of 39 in February and 49 in March and one pair stayed to breed and fledged two young.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

Recorded in every month with peak counts of 46 in February and 72 in July although usually under 20. Three pairs bred and broods of eight, five and one were seen.

Mandarin (*Aix galericulata*)

Present in all months except January with less than ten in the first winter period. Two pairs bred in nest boxes, laid 25 eggs with 21 hatched and at least five young seen, but they are too secretive to count accurately. The same comment applies to the adults in the second winter period when the birds tend to get out of the water and roost in overhanging tree branches. Occasionally flushed to count them and a peak count of 51 was recorded in November.

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

Lower numbers than usual but followed the regular pattern with one or two present from January to March and three or four from November to December.

Common Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Not recorded during the summer but higher numbers in the winter with a peak count of 71 in January in the first winter period and 70 in December in the second winter period.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) ##

Generally up to 100 present but 170 in January and 130 in December were the highest counts. Many pairs bred.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

As with Teal they were not recorded during the summer but higher numbers in the winter with a peak count of 35 in February in the first winter period and 19 in December in the second winter period.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

A poor year with no records this time.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

Recorded in all months except August with peak counts of 23 in February and 14 in November. Two pairs bred and broods of four and three were noted.

Smew (*Mergellus albellus*)

A single female was a long stayer, being present from 1st January through to 6th March.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

Present in January and February maximum three, and November and December maximum just two.

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.

Kestrel (*Falco tinninulus*)

A few records during the summer.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

Three records in early September with singles on 1st and 6th and two seen on 9th.

Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) ##

Seen all year, with a maximum count of ten.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)

On 31st October two were heard calling by the hide.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) ##

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

Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Resident with a maximum of 12 seen and at least three pairs bred.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

Two records of flyovers with a single in spring on 14th April and three over on 1st September.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Recorded during the winter but always less than ten.

Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Fairly common in the woods during the winter and two birds were flushed there on 24th January.

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Singles were seen on 6th March and 31st October but on 26th March a group of 18 appeared and were photographed in flight by John Triner.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

A single bird in front of the hide on 4th June.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Regular from January to March and September to December with numbers usually less than 20 but exceptional counts of around 500 during February's cold spell and 360 in November.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

Increasing in numbers with 20 in February and 15 in March.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

A single with the other gulls during February.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

One was seen to fly over in March.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)

A good count of 150 feeding in a stubble field in February. Two pairs used nest boxes, laid four eggs, hatched three and fledged three young.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

Common resident but no large flocks noted..

Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

On 17th May one was heard calling for an hour at sunset, close but behind the island so not seen. (At the same time an otter was seen in the water!). from John Triner.

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

Resident in the woods.

Swift (*Apus apus*)

Five seen over in spring.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

One or two recorded in every month except December and one was seen carrying food in July so they probably bred in the area but breeding was not proved.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

Recorded several times in spring and in September an adult was seen with two young.

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 there were no recorded sightings this year.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

Present during the summer.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Present during the summer, first on 31st March.

House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)

Present during the summer, max count of 20 in April.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Recorded in the first winter period and in the summer.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrelli*)

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

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, 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 the biggest count was only ten in the autumn this year.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)
A single was seen on 23rd May (24th last year) on Poolside and there again on 4th June but not seen after then.

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)
Common summer visitor.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)
First record on 9th May and 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 22nd March.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) ##
Recorded throughout the year.

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*) ##
Resident and breeds; the largest flocks were 15 in February and 13 in December.

Coal Tit (*Parus ater*) ##
Common resident.

Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*) ##
Five pairs used nest boxes, laid 43 eggs, hatched 34 young and fledged 34; an average productivity rate of 6.8 young per nest.

Great Tit (*Parus major*) ##
Five pairs used nest boxes, laid 44 eggs, hatched 43 young and fledged 43; an excellent productivity rate of 8.6.

Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) ##

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

Eurasian Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

Common breeding 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 120 in December 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 but no large flocks seen.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)

A flock of ten over on 26th September.

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 and up to 40 seen in autumn.

Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) ##

A few records in each winter period, with a peak count of 30 in January but just eight in December.

Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*)

Three seen on 9th March and three again on 28th November.

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 82 species recorded, with 19 species using the feeders at the hide.