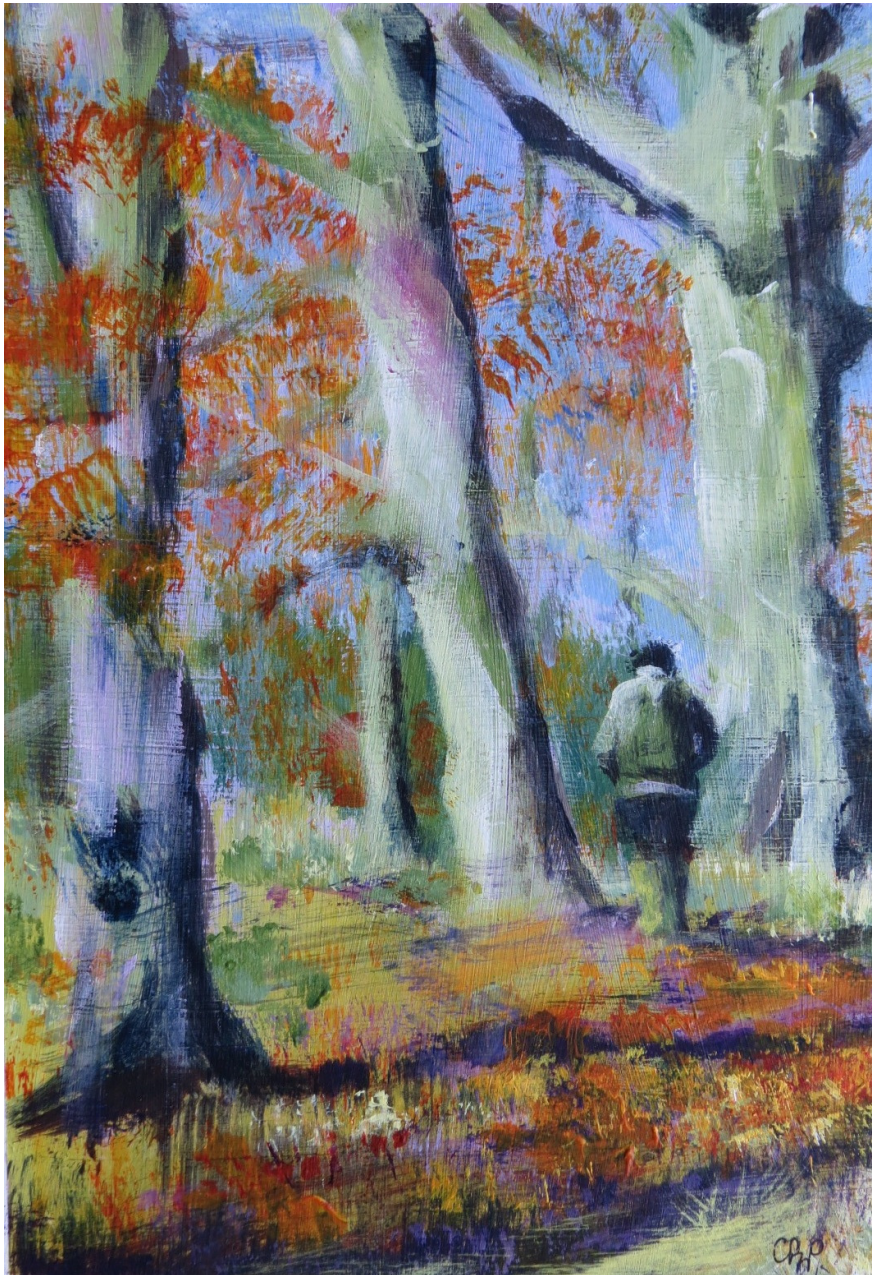


Rode Pool

Bird Report 2018



'Mick along Poolside' by Chris Parry

RODE POOL BIRD REPORT 2018

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*)

Up to five recorded in the first winter period and then two pairs bred with broods of two and three seen. One pair nested for a second brood and a small juv was seen in July. Surprisingly there were no records after July.

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Recorded in all months except June. Usually up to five but high counts of 20 in October and 32 in November. A similar peak in numbers in October and November also occurs at Doddington annually. A surplus of young fish available or young cormorants dispersing?

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Once again an increase in numbers and frequency of records. Seen on most visits from January through to May with the highest count being seven in April. Sadly our hopes of a breeding attempt were not realised and no activity from Little Egrets was noted in the heronry. Birds returned from early November and one, two or three were noted roosting on the island through to the end of the year.

Great Egret (*Egretta alba*)

Although Great Egrets are becoming more widespread they are still very scarce and so we were excited when one appeared late in the year. It was first recorded on 30th October and seen through to 19th November. It then re-appeared on 1st December and stayed through to the year end. For the one evening of 8th December an additional bird appeared and there were two Great Egrets and two Little Egrets roosting together on the island.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

56 nests in the heronry this year, up from 52 in 2017; with 11 on the north bank; 13 on the main island ; 22 on the south bank and 10 on the small island.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

One or two recorded in most months and a pair were displaying during May but no breeding attempt was noted.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Peak counts of 45 in January and 53 in February. A more successful breeding season with 19 young seen with eight adults in June. In the second winter period numbers peaked at 48 in December.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

Recorded in every month with peak counts of 50 and 56 in the first winter period. A good breeding season with 16 young seen with 33 adults in May. In the second winter period numbers peaked at 46 in November and 62 in December.

Mandarin (*Aix galericulata*)

Present in all months except October and November. Usually less than ten in the first winter period except for 22 briefly in late March. Two pairs bred in nest boxes. One pair laid 17 eggs, 14 hatched and unusually two small young were seen with a female in late May. The second nest held 32 eggs and all failed to hatch. In the second winter period the peak count was 17 in December.

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

An unusual count of 35 in January, then the more normal counts of two or four up to April and two in December.

Common Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rode Pool	40	30	31	6	0	0	9	7	42	53	48	35

The commonest duck after Mallard.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) ##

Lower numbers than last year with generally up to 50 and a peak count of 97 in August. Several pairs bred.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rode Pool	22	23	22	17	2	0	0	0	0	6	23	26

Normal numbers and pattern.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

Up to four recorded from January to March.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rode Pool	19	20	19	12	4	2	2	0	0	1	11	9

Possibly two pairs stayed to breed but only one small young was seen.

Smew (*Mergellus albellus*)

These are scarce winter visitors from Northern Europe and we have been fortunate to have one visit here for the past two winters. In the 2017/18 winter a female type was present from 23rd January until the 13th March. In the second winter period i.e. 2018/19 one appeared on the 1st December, which was good but became even better when a second bird appeared on 8th December. They were still present to the year end.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

Present from January to April, with eight in January down to one in April. Then five during December.

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)

One was seen at 07-45 on 3rd July as it flew over.

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 tinninculus*)

A few records during the summer.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

Only one record but a good one. On 28th August one appeared in front of the hide, performed well for several minutes and then perched in full view.

Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) ##

Seen all year, with a maximum count of ten.

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)

Singles heard calling during January, September, October and December.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) ##

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

Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Resident with a maximum of 13 seen and at least two pairs bred.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

Two records of flyovers with two on 14th May and one on 5th June.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

A few records in the autumn with 16 in August and 23 in September.

Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Fairly common in the woods during the winter and birds were flushed there on 18th February and 2nd December.

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Present during the winter periods with a peak count of seven in the first winter period. However, they are difficult to count accurately since they blend in so well with the phragmites reeds. This was highlighted in December when something flushed around 50 out of the reeds!

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Two were seen on 8th July.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Regular from January to March and August to December with numbers usually around 70 to 80 but a high count of 121 in November.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

Fewer numbers than usual with just three in August and singles from September to December.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

A single was seen in July.

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*)

One was seen with other gulls several times from 14th to 28th August.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*) ##

No big flocks recorded but four nest boxes were used; 8 eggs laid, 4 hatched and 4 juvs fledged.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

Common resident and the largest flock noted was 120 in February.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

One was seen coming out of a nest box at Bank Farm on 12th January.

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

Resident in the woods and two heard calling in November when they are pairing and holding territory.

Swift (*Apus apus*)

Five seen over in spring.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

One or two recorded in every month except August and one was seen carrying food in June and flying east towards the brook where they probably had a nest.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

Recorded several times through the year and one was seen in June.

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*)

On 23rd October a male was seen near the hide and gave good views for a few minutes.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

Present during the summer.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Present during the summer.

House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)

Present during the summer, max count of 100 in April.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Recorded in January and October.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrelli*)

At least one pair bred when a pair was seen with three young in 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 biggest count was only 11.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)

Common resident.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

Winter visitor with a peak count of 240 in February.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)

Common resident, but the biggest count was only five in the autumn this year.

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.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

On 6th April one was singing by the hide; presumably on passage since they are not common here.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) ##

Recorded throughout the year.

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

Resident and breeds; the largest flock was 25 in July.

Coal Tit (*Parus ater*) ##

Common resident.

Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*) ##

Four pairs used nest boxes, laid 34 eggs, hatched 28 young and fledged 28; an average productivity rate of 7.2 young per nest.

Great Tit (*Parus major*) ##

Six pairs used nest boxes, laid 42 eggs, hatched 31 young and fledged 31; an average productivity rate of 5.2 young per nest.

Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) ##

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

Eurasian Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

Common breeding resident and young seen 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 80 in February 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 four flew over together in October.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Recorded in both winter periods. A very large local flock of around 300 was seen in March.

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 20 seen in autumn.

Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) ##

A few records in each winter period, with a peak count of 80 in February.

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 and the Rode Pool Regulars.

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