



**SOUTH-EAST CHESHIRE
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

1991 BIRD REPORT

Including BIRDS OF SANDBACH FLASHES

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SECOS Recorder

Once again I am afraid that this is not a comprehensive report of all species but gives details of the more important species, and also those with significant changes in populations. The report finishes with a list of all other species recorded.

I would stress that all records submitted have been stored for future reference and have also been copied and sent to the CAWO's Records Committee for use in compiling the 1991 Cheshire Bird Report.

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Abbreviations Used

EHF	Elton Hall Flash	Ad	Adult
FF	Fodens Flash	Juv	Juvenile
PHF	Pump House Flash	pr	pair
RF	Railway Flash	m	male
WLF	Watch Lane Flash	f	female
CAWOS	Cheshire and Wirral Ornithological Society		

Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo)

Main roost site at CF where up to 33 in Jan.

Grey Heron (Ardea cinerea)

Rode Pool 29 nests. Doddington Pool 4 nests.

Mute Swan (Cygnus olor)

The main non-breeding flock in this area was located at Winterley Pool with up to 32 birds.

Whooper Swan (Cygnus cygnus)

18 over EHF on 24 Feb.

Pinkfooted Goose (Anser brachyrhynchus)

Several records of probable feral birds. 8 over EHF on 27 Dec.

Whitefronted Goose (Anser albifrons)

1 imm. at Doddington Pool on 9th March.

Greylag Goose (Anser Anser)

1 feral bird at Doddington Pool on 24 July.

Canada Goose (Branta Canadensis)

Very common resident and breeder. Around 800 birds in the area in autumn.

Barnacle Goose (Branta leucopsis)

1 feral bird around the area.

Brent Goose (Branta bernicla)

1 feral bird at PHF on 11 July.

Bar headed Goose (Anser indicus)

1 pr nested at Doddington Pool but failed.

Shelduck (Tadorna tadorna)

pairs bred at RF (6 Juvs) and Doddington (7 Juvs).

Mandarin (Aix galericulata)

Occasional records of single m. The local breeding population started in 1988 must now have disappeared.

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)
Max. 288 at SF.

Teal (*Anas crecca*)
Max. 800 in Jan. at SF.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
Max. only around 300 at SF with 470 at Doddington Pool.

Pintail (*Anas acuta*)
Max. 38 at PHF.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)
Max. of only 9 at EHF with 8 at Doddington Pool.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)
Max. of only 15 at PHF where previously up to 100 - 150.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)
2 prs. bred at RF with broods of 2 and 3.
3 prs. bred at Doddington Pool with broods of 9; 7; 4.
An excellent record.

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)
1 m. PHF 6 Jan. and up to 5 at Doddington Pool in winter.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)
1 m. at PHF on 23 Sept. and 5 Nov.
2 m. at Doddington Pool on 5 Dec.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)
Only 1 bird regular at PHF but a record max. of 54 at
Doddington Pool.

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)
1 f. at WLF in the evening of 15 April. Only the third
record for SF.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)
1 resident in Crewe Hall Woods and 1 at Swettenham in mid-
Dec.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)
Unconfirmed report of 1 at PHF on 9 Aug.

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*)
At least 2 birds, mainly around RF in winter.

Red legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*)
7 at Swettenham in March.

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)
Bred Barthomley and Bagmere but uncommon.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)
Up to 3 at WLF in Spring.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)
1 pr + 2 Juvs at EHF with failed pairs at PHF and RF.

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)
Max. 15 in June on passage.

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*)
Up to 70 roosting with lapwings at EHF.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)
Up to 2000 roosting at EHF.

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)
Up to 4 in May at PHF/EHF.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)
1 very late record of 1 at EHF on 27th Oct.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)
Present in all months at SF with max. 13 in winter.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)
Regular winter flock built up to 29 at EHF/PHF.

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minima*)
4 at WLF on 30 March.

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
Regular in winter at SF.

Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

1 at FF on 1 Dec.

Blacktailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

Exceptional series of autumn records with up to 6 regular from 7 July to 15 Oct.

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

3 singles at EHF 17 July to 6 Aug.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Winter roosting flock at EHF held max. 84 in Dec.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

Singles at PHF and RF during Aug.

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

2 around EHF/PHF in summer. Up to 14 in winter.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Good autumn passage of up to 4 from 18 July to 26 Aug.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

Max. 17 on autumn passage mid-June to mid-Sept.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

Good autumn passage of up to 3 regular from 5 to 23 Aug.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis Hypoleucos*)

Spring passage (max. 2) and autumn passage (max. 6) less than usual.

Lesser Blackbacked Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

Numbers much increased 1150 at Doddington Pool and 600 at Maw Green Tip in winter.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

Adults of a yellow legged race - probably *L.a. michahellis* - regular at PHF Aug. to early Oct.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

1 1st winter at WLF from 22 Sept to 5 Oct when it moved off after being joined by another 1st winter bird.

Stock Dove (*Columba eoenas*)
7 prs bred in boxes at Quaker's Coppice.

Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)
1 calling at Doddington on 7 July.

Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)
Earliest on 10 April at FF.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)
The Crewe Hall pair disappeared in early Spring and the Congleton pair also failed to breed. No confirmed breeding in the area.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)
Another slump in the population with breeding numbers well down.

Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)
1 f at EHF 15 Aug and 1 f at WLF 6 Oct.

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)
1 at WLF 27 May.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)
A good year with 2 breeding pairs in the small phragmites bed at WLF and also 1 pr on the marsh at EHF.

Marsh Tit (*Parus palustris*)
1 singing m at Crewe Golf Course 15 April.

Willow Tit (*Parus montanus*)
1 at FF on 3 July.

Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*)
13 prs with 78 young at Doddington and 9 prs with 58 young at Quaker's Coppice.

Great Tit (*Parus major*)
4 prs with 36 young at Doddington and 2 prs with 13 young at Quaker's Coppice.

Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*)
1 pr used a box again at Quaker's Coppice and fledged 7 young.

The following additional species were recorded in the area in usual numbers:-

Little Grebe	Swallow	Spotted Flycatcher
Great Crested Grebe	House Martin	Long Tailed Tit
Sparrowhawk	Meadow Pipit	Coal Tit
Kestrel	Yellow Wagtail	Treecreeper
Pheasant	Grey Wagtail	Jay
Water Rail	Pied Wagtail	Magpie
Moorhen	Wren	Jackdaw
Coot	Dunnock	Rook
Blackheaded Gull	Robin	Carrion Crow
Common Gull	Wheatear	Starling
Great Black Backed Gull	Fieldfare	House Sparrow
Arctic Tern	Song Thrush	Tree Sparrow
Common Tern	Redwing	Chaffinch
Wood Pigeon	Mistle Thrush	Brambling
Collared Dove	Sedge Warbler	Greenfinch
Little Owl	Lesser Whitethroat	Goldfinch
Tawny Owl	Whitethroat	Siskin
Swift	Garden Warbler	Linnet
Green Woodpecker	Blackcap	Redpoll
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Chiffchaff	Bullfinch
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Willow Warbler	Yellowhammer
Skylark	Goldcrest	Reed Bunting
		Corn Bunting