

Doddington Pool



Bird Report
2013

DODDINGTON POOL BIRD REPORT FOR 2013

Details of all the water related birds and birds of prey that we have recorded have been included, together with most of the more noteworthy species.

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

A slight drop in breeding pairs with one brood seen on Main pool and two broods on Lemon Pool. Maximum total count was ten adults and five young on 3rd August.

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

A late breeding season but a very good one. Main Pool produced at least seven broods of young with another two on Lemon Pool. Peak count in the usual post breeding gathering in September and October was a very high 84.

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Not recorded from March to June. During the other months usually less than ten, except for a yearly autumn surge in numbers, usually during September and early October but this year in October and November with a maximum of 32 in October and 48 in November but down to ten in December.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

In December a single bird was seen at the beginning and end of the month with two birds present together on 19th and 20th.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

For the second year an autumn/winter gathering has formed by Main Pool with up to 16 regular this year. This may be related to the new heronry reported from the trees behind the hall. The number of nests is not known but young were fledged from there.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doddington	32	1	2	10	18	44	48	50	16	7	6	5

The resident pair built a nest on the island and hatched six cygnets, with five fledging.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Breeding proved this year with two adults and five young present on Lemon Pool on 27th June. Also a flock of up to 37 was seen regularly from January to April and then a flock of up to 20 was seen regularly from August to December.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

Present all year in varying numbers as flocks move about. The peak was in October as it usually is, with a maximum of 367. Higher than usual number of young seen with counts of 125 adults with 59 young on Main Pool and 7 adults with ten young on Lemon Pool.

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

A single on Main Pool during January and February, nine on 19th April and another single on 19th December.

Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*)

A female was reported to be feeding with 200 Mallard on a flight pond.

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

A winter visitor of usually less than ten but with occasional high counts in mid-winter. This year gave a high count of 82 in January and 106 in December.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

Two records of this uncommon duck with a single male seen in January and on 19th April.

Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Just 25 in January in the first winter period. Then present from August to December with the highest count being a very low 11 in November.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

A very common resident, with around 600 counted on the two pools in autumn; many released, and many young seen.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Present from January to April with a maximum of just five, and from August to the year end with a maximum high count of 43 .

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

A reasonable maximum count of 27 in January but a low count of 13 in December for this winter visitor.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Doddington	148	70	114	90	72	39	72	48	39	97	57	76

An excellent breeding season with five broods noted on Main Pool and two broods on Lemon Pool.

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

A regular winter visitor and only present from January to April, maximum 19 in February, and November to December, maximum 20 in November.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

Now uncommon at what used to be the South Cheshire stronghold, a single female was recorded on 14th March and then six appeared in early December but down to one by the end of the month.

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)

One was seen flying by the old tower around 15-00 on 3rd February. Presumably the same bird was reported from Woore around the same time.

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Resident and breeds in the area.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

At least nine seen feeding together in a field in February. One was seen with a green wing tag in October; this had been ringed and tagged as a juvenile in 2012 on the Wirral.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

A poor year, with not a single record

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)

Resident and breeds in the area.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

A very poor year with just one record of a single on 2nd August.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Just a single record with one seen on 28th December.

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*)

Regularly seen in the area.

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*)

A few seen occasionally.

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Many reared by the shooting syndicate and released.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Always lower numbers than expected with a maximum of eight seen on Main Pool and five on Lemon Pool. (They prefer smaller waters).

Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Numbers peaked in July, August and September as usual but with a low maximum count of 427 compared with 634 in 2012. Several pairs bred and many young seen.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

The first birds returned on 15th February and once again two pairs bred successfully, one with a nest on Main Pool island and the other on the flat roof of the yacht club. By mid June both pairs had three large young and there were also two extra adults present.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*)

Just one record on spring passage with a single on Main Pool on 10th May.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

A winter flock seen regularly over nearby fields with a maximum count of 150. Now lost as a breeding species.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Just one record on spring passage with a single on Main Pool on 3rd May.

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*)

Numbers of this winter visitor are very low and it is also quite secretive and rarely seen; so the single we flushed from by Main Pool on 6th December was a pleasant surprise.

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Not annual nowadays following the drainage work to remove the wet grassland so a single on 12th April was a nice record.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Just one record on spring passage with a single on Main Pool on 10th May.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

The commonest wader although fewer records than in 2012. Three records of one or two on spring passage from mid April to 10th June; then several records of singles on return passage from 13th July to 4th October.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

This site continues to be important in south Cheshire for its overnight roost of gulls in the winter months although the numbers appear to be declining slightly. This year numbers peaked at a total of 7000 in January and in December.

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*)

One was reported on 22nd February.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

A maximum count of around 300 in the gull roost in January.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

A maximum count of 1,100 in the gull roost in January and 800 in December.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

Becoming more common here and now recorded regularly in the gull roost with 45 in January and 80 in December.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*)

A first winter bird was reported to be in the gull roost on 30th January.

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)

A report on the pager network of one in the gull roost on 2nd February.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

Two singles on return passage with one on 13th July and one on 2nd August.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)

Seen regularly but no counts recorded.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

Very common with a large flock of up to 1,000 birds in December.

Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*)

No records this year.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

Does breed and adults occasionally seen at dusk from the main road.

Little Owl (*Athene noctua*)

Two reported as breeding this year.

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

Resident and breeds. Heard occasionally in early spring.

Common Swift (*Apus apus*)

No large numbers recorded with a maximum count of just 20 on 10th May.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

Again no breeding season records but seen regularly in autumn and winter. Usually seen flying over water so one over a grass field was an unusual record as it moved from Lemon Pool to Main Pool.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

One was seen on 19th April.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)

The commonest woodpecker and several pairs bred.

Sky Lark (*Alauda arvensis*)

Two singing over a cereal field in March and June and probably just hanging on as a breeding species.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

First record on 11th April. 100 feeding over the pool on 10th May.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

First record on 12th April and the last on 7th September. A huge flock of around 800 hirundines over the water on 12th May included 500 Swallows. Several pairs have nests in the timber yard shed.

House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)

First record on 11th April. 200 feeding over the pool on 12th May.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)

A good record on 12th April with flocks of 50 and 20 recorded.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)

Once again a good year with probably three pairs breeding by the road to the units. Three males seen on territory and adults seen later carrying food and dropping into the cereal crop.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Surprisingly no records this year.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrelli*)

Up to three birds recorded during June. On 27th April a single of the sub-species White Wagtail *M. a. alba* was seen..

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*)

A nice male seen on 28th March.

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

A poor year with just a single on 27th April.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

High counts were 200 in February and 45 in November.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

50 in a mixed flock of thrushes feeding on the ground with nine Buzzards on 7th February.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

One was seen and heard singing in the main reed bed at Lemon Pool on 12th May.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

The first record was two on 27th April. A slight increase in numbers this year with five singing males in Lemon Pool reed beds on 27th June; three in the main reed bed, one in the south reed bed and one in the sluice reed bed. Also a singing male by the yacht club on 14th June.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

A summer visitor.

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*)

A summer visitor.

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*)

A summer visitor.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

A summer visitor.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

A summer visitor.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)

Resident and breeds.

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)

Sadly no records again this year.

Raven (*Corvus corax*)

The resident pair were recorded in most months and probably bred in Georges Wood as usual, with five seen together in mid March.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

A big flock of 400 feeding on the ground with 250 winter thrushes and nine Buzzards on 7th February.

Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)

No records this year.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

I am not sure whether we are unlucky in not connecting with any large flocks of finches or whether there aren't any! The largest number of Chaffinches seen was 25 in February.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

The only good finch species thanks to food put out by the timber company staff behind their office. Present continuously from the start of the year until mid March with a maximum count of 25 in February (we usually count ourselves lucky to see three or four in a year).

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)

Present but no large winter flocks noted.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

The biggest flock recorded was 120 in September, the usual month for peak numbers.

Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*)

Singles seen in January and February.

Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*)

No large flocks noted.

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

A few pairs breed, with three singing males around the yacht club and south bay in June and two on Lemon Pool. A few also remain for the winter.

Colin Lythgoe; SECOS Recorder; and David Meakin.