

Rode Pool

Bird Report 2022



by Chris Parry

RODE POOL BIRD REPORT 2022

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. Recorded from January to April and then a single in October.

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Recorded in every month except November and December. Three pairs were together in March and probably two remained to breed, although no young were seen.

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Recorded from January to April and then from August to the year end. Usually one, two or three but six in January.

Great White Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Presumably the single that took up residence in November last year stayed and was often seen up to 7th April. On 31st March two were seen. A single returned on 11th October and was seen occasionally in November and then frequently to the year end.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Up to seven were present in the first winter period up to 23rd May, when they move away to breed. Returning on 14th November when five were seen roosting on the island. On 31st December a total of 11 were roosting on the island.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Present in small numbers all year. Nesting activity started early as usual with five birds guarding nest sites in early February. The total number of nests was 47, one down from last year with large island 0, north bank 11, small island 8 south bank 28. This continues to be an important site, probably still the second largest in Cheshire.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

The only records were of two in January.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Recorded from January to July and then 40 in December. Slightly lower numbers than usual and no breeding was noted. The highest count was 43 in June.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

Present in every month but again slightly lower numbers. Probably three pairs bred and 12 juvs were seen. The maximum count was 48, 40 adults and eight juvs, in July.

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)

One pair has been resident through the year. They seem to favour residing on the side of the island facing the Hall and so not viewable from Poolside. Occasionally seen feeding in the grass field across Poolside.

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

Two were present throughout January.

Mandarin (*Aix galericulata*)

A fairly steady year with four nest boxes used, two successful and two failed with eggs abandoned. In total 75 eggs were laid, 20 hatched and six small juvs were seen. Recorded in every month with less than ten in summer and a maximum count of 22 in winter. Similar numbers to 2021 when 27 eggs hatched and a few young were seen.

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

Counts of 33 in January and 23 in February but no more records.

Common Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rode Pool	16	22	13	13	0	0	5	7	35	38	43	8

The commonest duck after Mallard, but no breeding records.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) ##

Slightly lower numbers with peak counts of 19 in February and 57 in August. Several pairs bred.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rode Pool	11	26	16	2	0	0	0	0	0	15	6	2

Generally normal numbers and pattern, with the last early winter period bird seen on 7th April and the first returning birds on 11th October.

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

Just one record of a pair on 6th March.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

Maximum	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Rode Pool	12	8	8	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Numbers continue to reduce with only one pair present during spring and no evidence of breeding. The recent trend of numbers returning later in the second winter period has been taken to the ultimate with no records after June.

Smew (*Mergellus albellus*)

No records this year.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

Many records from January to 22nd March, with a maximum of 10 on 31st January. Then frequent from 18th October to the year end, with a maximum of 14 on 5th December.

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Occasionally seen chasing through the wood by the hide.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Seen regularly and bred. In late December 2021 there was a wake of up to 20 Buzzards seen for a few weeks feeding in the grass field across from Poolside. This continued through January 2022 and numbers finally reduced in February.

Kestrel (*Falco tinninculus*)

Probably present.

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*)

One flew low over the pool on 1st February.

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

No records this year.

Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) ##

Seen all year,

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)

A very much under-recorded winter visitor although one was seen on 28th March and one on 6th September.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) ##

Resident with a maximum of eight seen and broods of two and three recorded.

Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Maximum count of 13 recorded in April but generally around four seen and no broods were seen this year.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

Two were present on 31st March.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

No flock size was recorded.

Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Singles were recorded in January. In December a bash through the rhododendrons behind the cricket clubhouse produced six sightings of at least four birds.

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Present during the winter periods with nine recorded in January and seven in December, whilst viewing from Poolside. However, they are difficult to count accurately since they blend in so well with the phragmites reeds, as shown by a flock of at least 30 flushed from the reeds when a boat was in use nearby.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

With habitat not really suitable for migrating waders the two seen on 9th August were an unusual record.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

One on 2nd August and three on 6th September.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Maximum 50 in the first winter period. Then less than ten in autumn, building up to 70 in the second winter period.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

Occasional records of one or two in winter.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

One was recorded on 30th August, spending all morning picking insects off the water surface.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*) ##

Present all year and at least two pairs bred.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

Common resident, a very large flock of 2500 was noted going in to roost in December.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

A few sightings from the main road at dusk.

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

Resident in the woods and occasionally heard.

Swift (*Apus apus*).

Three on 31st May and seven on 26th July

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

One or two recorded in every month except June. Although no breeding activity was proved there were four seen in October and November.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates minor*) ##

No records this year.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

Recorded several times through the year and very vocally active during the summer in the woods so presumably bred there.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*) ##

The commonest woodpecker and a few pairs bred on the estate.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrelli*)

Present all year, particularly around the cricket club where they usually breed and two were seen feeding a juv there in July.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Sightings during September.

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes troglodytes*) ##

Common resident.

Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) ##

Common resident.

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) ##

Common resident.

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) ##
Common resident.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilarus*) ##
Recorded in December.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)
Common resident.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)
On 18th January a flock of around 200 were feeding in the grass field opposite Poolside.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)
A pair seen at a nest in late March and a count of 11 in September.

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)
The largest flock counts were just four in March and six in November.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)
Two heard singing on 25th April.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)
At least three singing males recorded in the reed beds.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)
Common summer visitor.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
Common summer visitor.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) ##
Only singles in January.

Blue Tit (*Parus caeruleus*) ##
Several pairs used the nest boxes but we were unable to do detailed checks of nest box contents.

Coal Tit (*Parus ater*) ##
Several sightings, frequently on the feeders and must breed.

Great Tit (*Parus major*) ##
Several pairs used the nest boxes but we were unable to do detailed checks of nest box contents.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*).
Sightings of 50+ moving through in April and 25 in September.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
Several records through the summer, the latest was three on 11th October.

House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)

A few autumn records, maximum 25 on 23rd August.

Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*) ##

A common breeding resident, but unable to check the nest boxes this year.

Eurasian Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*)

Common breeding resident.

Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) ##

Resident.

Magpie (*Pica pica*) ##

Common resident.

Eurasian Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*)

Many pairs bred and the largest flock recorded was 80 in February.

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Common resident.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone corone*)

Common resident.

Raven (*Corvus corax*)

The resident pair nested in the Bathing Wood again and at least two young were seen.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Recorded in both winter periods.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) ##

Common resident.

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*)

Occasional records.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Common resident and a group of 25 was recorded in August.

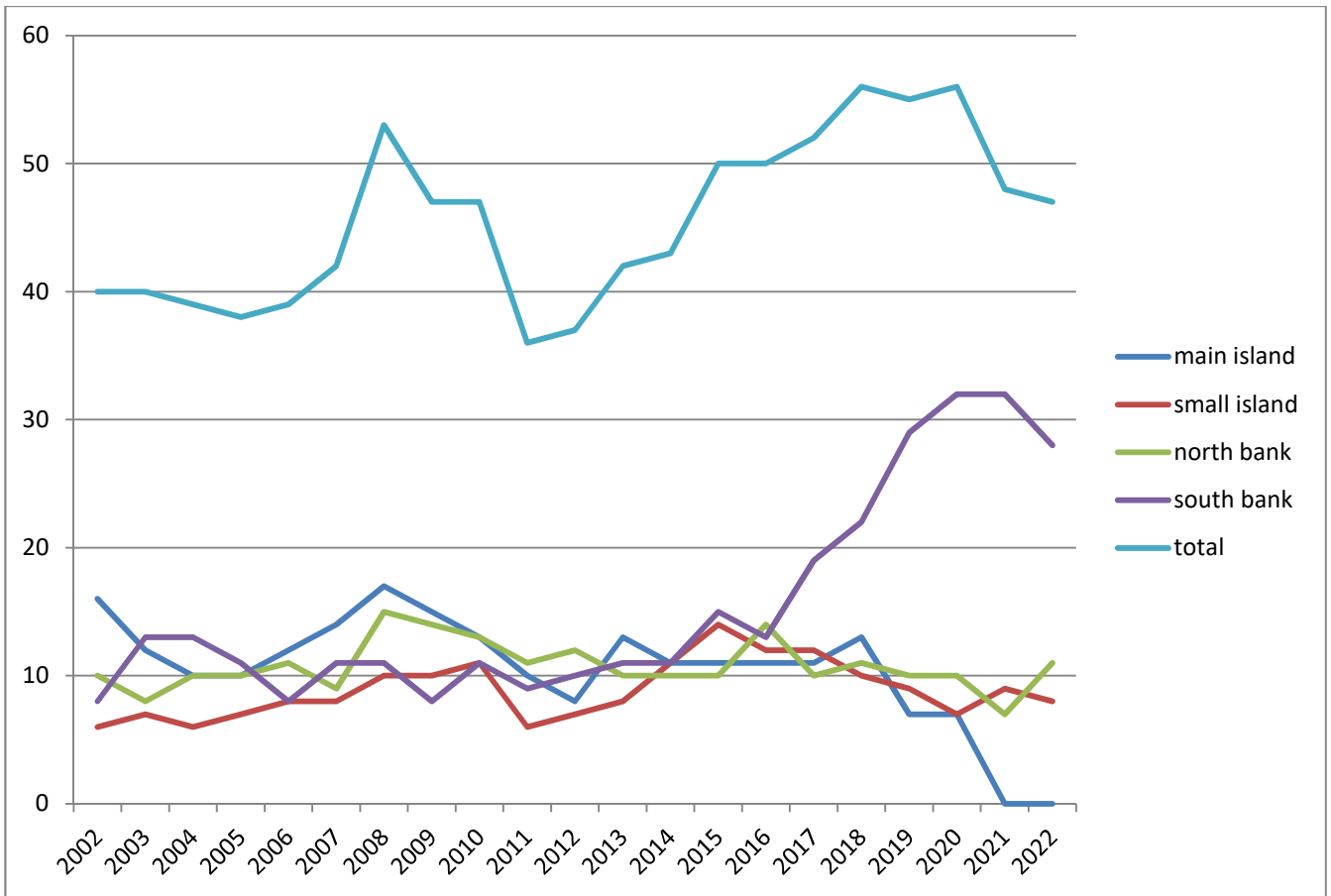
Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) ##

A flock of 15 was seen in February and just three in March.

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) ##

One heard in December.

Colin Lythgoe and the Rode Pool Regulars, with John Triner



RODE POOL HERONRY 2002 TO 2022