

Rode Pool

Bird Report 2023



By Chris Parry

RODE POOL BIRD REPORT 2023

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

No records this year.

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Present all year and probably two pairs bred.

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

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

Great White Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Singles recorded in January, February, April and September. Then two were seen through December and roosted on the island.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Continues to increase in numbers and 17 were recorded in the evening roost in January. They moved away to breed and returned in November when up to 12 were seen roosting on the island.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Present in small numbers all year. The total number of nests was 54, five more than last year. This continues to be an important site, probably still the second largest in Cheshire.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

A pair were present in spring but did not stay to breed. Also seen in November.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

A big increase in numbers and also recorded in every month. In June 57 total included three broods and the highest count was 140 on 19th December.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

Present in every month but again slightly lower numbers. Probably three pairs bred and 12 young were seen. The maximum count was 90 in November.

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)

One pair has been resident through the year and they were occasionally joined by another pair. A breeding attempt was reported but not successful.

Mandarin (*Aix galericulata*)

A total of six boxes were available, five boxes were used and a total of 97 eggs laid. One box was monitored by Peter Durnall and was progressing nicely and would have resulted in an excellent video, but sadly it was predated and all the eggs taken. The other four boxes were abandoned or never started. Incubation may have started but then been abandoned as no other warm eggs were noted. So 97 eggs and no young.

Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)

Three in January and five in February.

Common Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Present from January to April with a maximum count of 20 and then three in December.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Peak counts of 51 in January and 57 in August. Several pairs bred.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

A winter visitor with maximum counts of 12 in February and nine in November.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

Numbers continue to go down with maxima of six in February and seven in November with no records in summer.

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)

Many records from January to March, with a maximum of 15 on 14th February. Then regular in November and December with a maximum of 17 on 14th November.

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Occasionally seen chasing through the wood by the hide.

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Seen regularly and bred.

Kestrel (*Falco tinninculus*)

A pair recorded in May.

Common Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Seen all year,

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)

A very much under-recorded winter visitor.

Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)

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

Coot (*Fulica atra*)

Maximum count of only four seen and no broods were seen this year.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

Singles seen on 5th July and 18th July.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

35 present in January and 30 in December.

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 11 recorded in February 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 and probably many more were present.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

One on 1st August.

Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)

Greatest numbers at each end of the year with 80 in January and 140 in December.

Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

On 15th November one was reported as being seen feeding on a dead sheep in the field opposite Poolside.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

Occasional records of singles..

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)

Present all year and at least two pairs bred.

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

Common resident but no large flocks noted.

Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

Resident in the woods and occasionally heard.

Swift (*Apus apus*).

None recorded this year.

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

One or two recorded in every month except June and October.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

Recorded several times through the year and very vocally active during the spring 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.

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes troglodytes*)

Common resident.

Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*)

Common resident.

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)
Common resident.

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)
Common resident.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilarus*)
No records.

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*)
Common resident.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)
Maximum count of 15 in January.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)
Seen in summer and autumn and probably bred.

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)
The largest flock count was 12 in June..

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)
Two heard singing on 6th April.

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

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*).
Just one record of a single in June.

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Several records through the summer, the highest was 20 in April.

House Martin (*Delichon urbica*)

A few records, maximum of 10 in April.

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 50 in September.

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*)

No records

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Common resident.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Occasional records.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

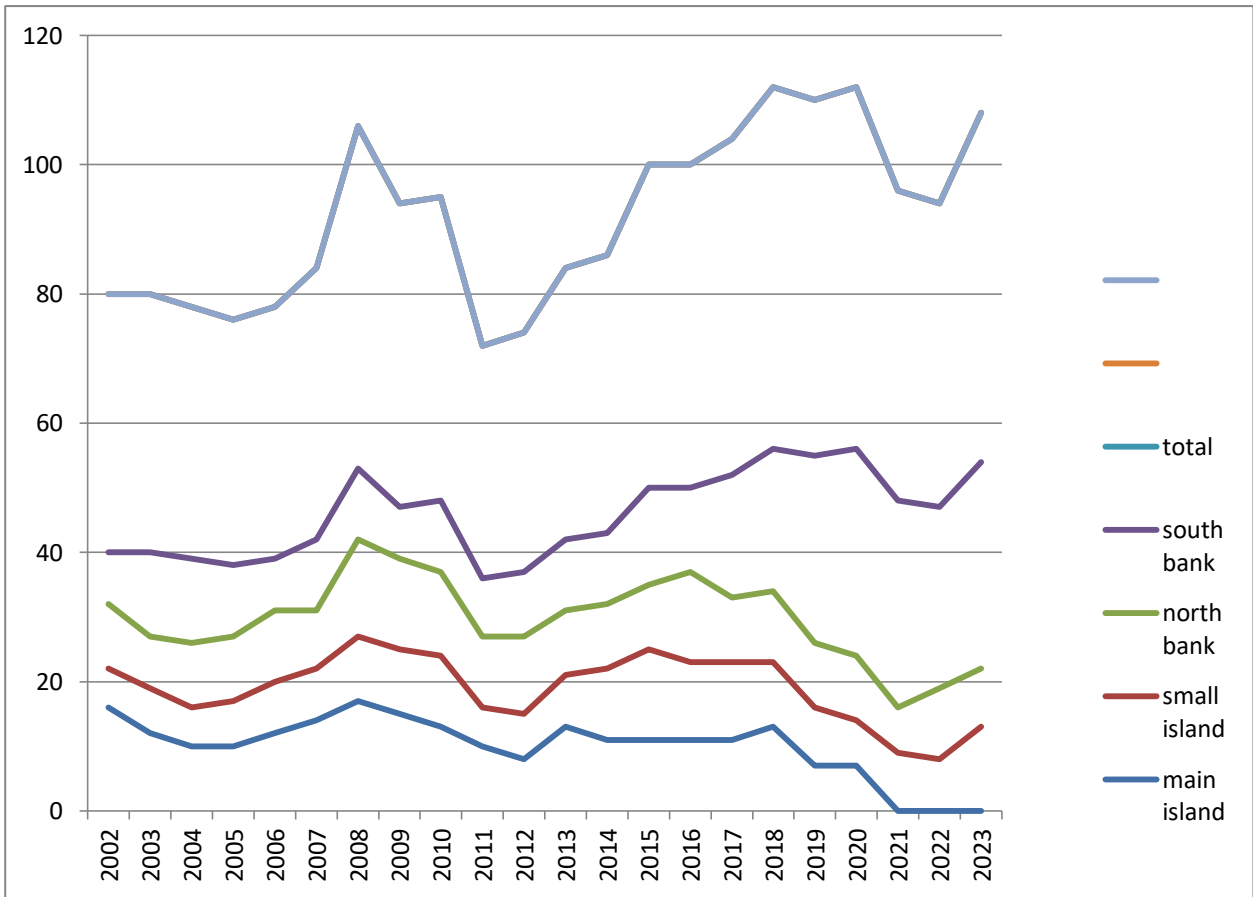
Occasional records.

Colin Lythgoe and the Rode Pool Regulars, with John Triner

Note:

On 26th February the bird hide and all the contents were totally destroyed by fire, with all of the walls and floor turned to ash, only the metal roof remained.

It was still possible to make some observations at that end of the pool but as the vegetation grew it became impossible and visits ceased in the summer. This has impacted the report since fewer records are available.



RODE POOL HERONRY 2002 TO 2023