

List of birds reported at Rode Pool in 2025



"Reflections": an ink and bleach painting by Chris Parry

Not so much a report: just a list of birds / count this year. In an effort to keep the size of this document as short as possible, please refer to the 2024 Bird Report for the site I compiled (found at <https://www.secoss.org.uk/site-bird-reports/>) for the potted history of the estate, access conditions, names of the contributors and a list of all the species recorded on this site over the years it has been monitored.

Parts of the Rode Hall Estate is private, the area SECOS members had access to: the hide in the woods by the cricket ground is now longer viable. The hide was burnt down and the boardwalk to the site of the hide is rotten and is too **dangerous** to walk on.

There has been some antisocial behaviour at Poolside and the Water Bailiff has increased the frequency of his visits to deter anyone who hasn't a permit to access Poolside. This area of the Estate is **only accessible to those with permits** from Stoke-on-Trent Angling Society.

My thanks go to the Rode Pool Regulars, Estate staff and the fishermen. Some records were also extracted from social media platforms, local and national websites. We are also grateful to HJ Lea Oakes Ltd, who provides feed for some of the local feeding stations

The tables below list the species in Clements / eBird Systematic Order as of November 2025 and is made up of two tables: water birds and other species.

Cells highlighted in light blue indicate a new highest count.

Total of water birds: **40** Total of other birds: **46** Total of all species for 2025 = **86**

Water birds:

Sightings of some of the commoner species are not always shared which may account for some gaps in the tables

Species	Best Ever Highest Count	2025											
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Mute Swan	20	4	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Canada Goose ¹	350	801	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Barnacle Goose	1	1		✓	✓	✓							
Greylag Goose	140	100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Domestic Goose ²		1											✓
Pink-footed Goose	190	2											✓
Mandarin Duck	51	11		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Egyptian Goose	4	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shelduck	2	3	✓										
Ruddy Shelduck ³		1											✓
Goosander	25	21	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
Red-crested Pochard ⁴		1											✓
Tufted Duck	43	26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Shoveler	40	19	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
Gadwall	3	2	✓							✓			
Wigeon	62	2											✓
Mallard	260	135	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Domestic Mallard ⁵		1									✓	✓	✓
Pintail	2	1		✓									
Teal	72	21	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Grebe	10	2									✓	✓	✓
Great Crested Grebe	19	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	3	1	✓										
Moorhen	15	9	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Coot	31	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oystercatcher	5	2		✓	✓								
Lapwing	200	100	✓	✓	✓								
Snipe	50	5	✓	✓	✓								
Common Sandpiper	3	1											✓
Black-headed Gull	560	490	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Herring Gull	8	3	✓	✓									
Lesser Black-backed Gull	20	7	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cormorant ⁶	32	21	✓							✓	✓	✓	✓
Little Egret	21	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Great White Egret	2	3	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron ⁷	116	108	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kingfisher	4	3	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reed Warbler		2					✓	✓					
Grey Wagtail		1						✓					✓
Reed Bunting		3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
Total		40											

Notes: -

1. a smaller Canada Goose was originally thought to be a Cackling Goose but closer looks at its bill size, it is now believed to be a 'runt'
2. including 2 Sebastopol Geese

3. the head & neck colour of this bird differs in tint / tone to the bird photographed at EHF, Sandbach Flashes
4. a bird matching the description of this species was videoed – a 'First' for the site
5. a number of oddly-marked ducks (all thought to be Mallard sub-species) have been seen and are believed to be introduced by a former resident of a neighbouring property
6. occasional shoots under licence take place to control the species there
7. a heronry nest count of 54 apparent occupied nests (AON) : =3rd highest there

Other species -

Sightings of some of the commoner species are not always shared which may account for some gaps in the tables

Dunnock	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow					✓							
Pied Wagtail (<i>yarrelli</i>) ²					✓				✓	✓	✓	
Chaffinch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Greenfinch					✓							
Goldfinch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Siskin	✓	✓							✓	✓		
Total: 46												

Notes: -

- 1 Barn Owl carcass found in Feb and 1 heard in Sept
- 2 Pied Wagtail (*yarrellii*) – subspecies of White / Pied Wagtail