Annual Bird Report 2018

 A good year for Rutland birdwatchers saw a number of rare birds at the reservoirs with Brent Goose, Purple Heron, Black-winged Stilt, White-winged Black Tern, Bearded Tit, Shore Lark and Snow Bunting all recorded. These were topped by a Barred Warbler, a new bird for Rutland, ringed at Rutland Water. The cold weather of February and March adversely affected some of our breeding birds, as the results of our long-running CBC at Beaumont Chase Farm showed. Wildfowl counts continued at our major sites and I would like to thank Ian Misselbrook (Holywell Lake), Phil Langston (Greetham Golf Club) and Brian Moore (Eyebrook Reservoir) for providing the monthly figures. Thanks, too, to all our members who send in their records, either for specific and well watched sites or of birds seen on their travels around the county.

 The species notes show the ups and downs of our birds – regular sightings now at Rutland Water of Great White Egrets and Marsh Harriers, Red Kites over our towns and villages and Ravens becoming more widespread. On the downside Grey Partridges remain very local and Turtle Doves have virtually disappeared, whilst there were no records this year of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker or Corn Bunting. Even Tree Sparrows seem to be disappearing from their regular haunts with few reported from the Lyndon reserve this year.

 Terry Mitcham

See also Monthly Wildfowl Counts.

Mute Swan. Two pairs bred at FHP, one producing a Polish morph cygnet in a brood of eight. Single pairs bred at

 Ext Park lake and Banthorpe Gravel Pit with breeding also at RW and EBR.

Bewick’s Swan. Two were at EBR on 09.01. Two were at RWNA on 19.11. with seven at EBR between 21.-24.11.

 A pair and three juvs were at RWEg1 between 22.11. and 24.12., when an additional bird was present. One was at EBR between 22. and 25.12. Bewick’s Swans are now scarce visitors to the county.

Whooper Swan. In the first winter period five were at EBR on 08.01. with three next day. An unknown no. flew over

 Leigh on 04.02. and 28 passed east over RW on 22.02. when five were in NA. 12 were at RW on 01.03. and 48 moved north there on 24.03. One at RW on 01.10. was the first autumn record with up to eight recorded at both reservoirs on ten dates to 30.10. In Nov. there were reports on six dates from the reservoirs, with a peak of nine at EBR on 20. Six flew over LFP on 25.11. Three flew over RWEg on 13.12.

Pink-footed Goose. Most overflying flocks are of birds commuting between Norfolk and Lancashire. 200+70 flew

 over RW on 05.01. with 180 flying north-west over Pilt next day. One was at RWEg between 27.03. and 10.04. 55 were over RW on 28.09. with two over GHW on 18.10. and c.90 east over Greet GC on 30.11. Four were at RWNA between 09. and 12.12. with one at FHP on 16.12. and two at EBR on 22.12.

White-fronted Goose. Four were at RWEg/NA between 17.02. and 23.03., visiting FHP between 24. and 26.02. One

 was on winter cereals at FHP on 24.03. A single was at RW between 20. and 24.11.

Greylag Goose. Regular at both reservoirs and FHP, with largest nos. in winter and breeding at all these sites. A

 pair were on a pond at KQ on 15.05. 310 were at FHP on 16.12.

Canada Goose. Present at both reservoirs throughout the year with breeding at both sites. Now irregular at FHP but

 one pair bred there and four pairs bred at KQ.

Barnacle Goose. 44 presumed feral birds were at RW on 30.01.

Brent Goose. One was at RWHamb from 13. to 21.01.

Egyptian Goose. Resident at RW, where breeding occurred, with birds visiting other local sites. Four were at LFP on

 01.01., 12 were at FHP on 02.02. and seven were at Rygate Lake in Ext Park on 10.02. A pair were prospecting nest sites in BW on 18.04.

Shelduck. Present at FHP up to 07.07. with a max. of five in March with a pair breeding and producing two young,

 which were predated. Noted at both reservoirs. A pair returned to FHP on 12.11., remaining to the end of the year. A pair was on a pond in PC on 28.01. and 27.03. and at LFP on 18.03. and one was at KQ on 15.05.

Mandarin Duck. This species was recorded in every month from lakes and ponds at FHP, Ext Park, LFP, Wg, Geest,

 Pilt, Greet GC, Pick and RW, usually as singles, pairs or up to four. There were five at RW and two ducklings at RW in June. The peak count was ten on Rygate Lake in Ext Park on 27.10.

Wigeon. Away from the reservoirs present on a flooded field at Cott between 18.02. and 15.04. with 61 on 17.03. 450

 were near Leigh on 24.02. Present at FHP to 15.04. with 128 on 16.03. and 154 were in Ext Park on17.02. Noted at FHP from 27.09. with 78 on 20.12. and in Ext Park 72 on 08.12.

American Wigeon. A male was at RWEg from 01.01. to 19.04. and again from 17.09. to 18.10. and from 05.12. to the

 end of the year.

Gadwall. Resident at both reservoirs and FHP with highest nos. in autumn and winter. 16 were at LFP on 24.02. 57

 on 05.01. was the peak in the first winter period at FHP. Bred at both reservoirs, FHP (two pairs) and Ext Park (one pair). 83 were counted at FHP on 12.11.

Teal. Present at FHP to 15.04., with a max. of 27 on 17.02. , and from 16.06. to the end of the year with a peak of 74

 on 18.10.

Mallard. Widespread on water bodies of all sizes but under-recorded. 42 were on a flooded field at Cott on 18.02.

 Bred at both reservoirs, FHP and Ext Park. The peak at FHP was 222 on 20.12.

Pintail. One was at RWEg3 on was at FHP on 30.06. with up to four on six dates between 08.09. and 03.11.

Garganey. Males were at RWEg on 25.and 20.05. with a pair from 28.05. to 12.06. From 10.07. to 19.09. birds were

 regular at RW with a max. of seven on 24.08. Two were at EBR on 07.08. and two were at FHP from 27.08. to 22.09.

Shoveler. Present at both reservoirs and FHP with peak nos. in autumn. 42 were at FHP on 03.11. A pair remained

 there to July but breeding was not confirmed.

Red-crested Pochard. Most records came from RW where birds were seen in Jan., March, April and from 02.07. to

 the end of the year. Ideal feeding conditions in SA attracted record nos. from Nov. with 64 noted on 15.11. Two were at EBR on 30.10. and 04.11.

Pochard. Much lower nos. are now the norm with this species. One or two were at FHP to 24.03. and three were at

 PC ponds on 28.01. with five at LFP on 25.03. A pair bred at RW where a female and seven ducklings were

seen on Eg3 on 01.07. One or two were at FHP from 27.10. to the end of the year.

Tufted Duck. Resident at the reservoirs and FHP with breeding confirmed at all sites. A pair at FHP had six ducklings

 on 11.08. A female at RWEg on 10.-11.11. had a blue nasal saddle which had been fitted in France in 2011 and this bird has been seen here in previous years.

Scaup. Records were received from 01.01. to 27.04. from RW with a max. of 11 on 20.03. One was at EBR on 01.01.

 Present again at RW from 05.11. to the end of the year with five in NA on 18.12. Single females were at EBR on 21. and 22.11.

Common Scoter. A male was at RWSA on 04.02., 19.03. and 24.03. increasing to four next day. Spring passage was

 noted between 08.04. and 13.05. on five dates with a peak of nine on 14.04., when there were 18 at EBR. Singles were at RW on 12.07. and from 03. to 15.08. Further singles were at RW on 09.09. and 24.11.

Goldeneye. Present at both reservoirs in winter but no relevant arrival or departure dates were received.

Smew. This attractive duck was well reported during both winter periods. Records from RW saw birds present to

 27.03. with a max. of 16 on 09.01. Present at EBR to 10.03.with a max. of ten on this date. The first autumn arrival was at RW on 28.10. with nos. there increasing to seven by 23.12. EBR had a single on 18.11. and nos. here climbed to nine on 24.12.

Red-breasted Merganser. A male was at RWDam between 12.-15.01. and four, including a male, were in NA on

 26.12.

Goosander. Two were at LFP on 28.01. with singles there on 24.02. and 14.04., the last spring record. Up to five

 were on Rygate Lake in Ext Park between 28.01. and 17.02. Ten were at RWEg6 on 10.02. and two were on the R.Welland at Stam on 09.03. The first autumn bird was at RWNorm on 16.10. but nos. were low until Dec., when 20 were at RW.

Ruddy Duck. A female was at RW between 12.04. and 19.05.

Red-legged Partridge. A Widespread farmland bird, especially where released for shooting but poorly reported. Ten

 were at Lyndon on 21.08. and 28 there on 09.09.

Grey Partridge. Records of one or two were received from Mounts Lodge, Pick and Cow Close Farm. Bred at RWEg

 with three adults and 12 young seen on 13.07. Eight were in Ext Park on 01.09.

Pheasant. Common on farmland and in woodlands across Rutland – a pure white male was flushed in TunnW on

 20.12.

Red-throated Diver. A juv. was at RWDam/Whit between 25.-27.11.

Great Northern Diver. Extended stays at RW are now normal for this diver. Four on 01.01. declined to three by 12.02.

 with two throughout March; three again on 06.04. and one to 14.04. Two were present from 03.05. to at least 03.06. with one to 08.09. A single arrived on 12.11., to be joined by a second on 04.12. with both remaining to the end of the year.

Fulmar. One was at RWSA on 21.04.

Cormorant. Resident at RW with breeding in BFP and at EBR. Up to four were at FHP in Jan. with two in June and

 three in July.

Shag. Dec. saw an influx of 1st. winter birds at RWDam with birds present from 11.12. Four were present from 12.

 to 15. with up to three for the remainder of the month.

Bittern. All records were of singles at the Eg3 reed bed. :- 01.01., 19.01. 29.06., 08.09. and 21.09. and 12. and 1712.

Little Egret. Found at RW throughout the year with breeding confirmed but also noted increasingly as singles at other

 water bodies – Bel, Geest, LFP, FHP and Banthorpe GP. Peak counts away from RW were seven at EBR on 26.04., six over LFP on 06.08., five at Banthorpe GP on 28.08. and 07.09. and three at FHP on 27.08.

Great White Egret. Singles were at RW in Jan., Feb. and April with records then from 14.07. to the end of the year,

 peaking at 16 on 13.10. Now an expected species at RW, the only other records were one at EBR on 06.-07.01/ and flying over Martinsthorpe on 18.10.

Grey Heron. A regular species at the reservoirs throughout the year with no records from other sites apart from

 Banthorpe GP and FHP, where one or two were present from May to the end of Aug., with up to four in Sept. and Oct., when the water level was very low.

Purple Heron. One of the highlights of the year was a juv. in BFP at RW from 22.07. to 23.08.

Glossy Ibis. Three birds in the same year indicates how this species is spreading in the UK. One was in flight near

 Pilt on 13.01. and singles were at RWEg between 16.07. and 29.07. and from 05.10. to 14.10.

Spoonbill. One was briefly at RWEg4 on 04.05. and three flew over RWEg on 01.08.

Little Grebe. A rather local species, most common in autumn and winter. Present at FHP up to 16.03. with a max. of

 17 on 14.01. Autumn birds noted from 14.07. to the end of the year with a max. again of 17 on 01.12.

Great Crested Grebe. Resident at both reservoirs with breeding confirmed at both – there were eight nests at EBR on

 08.07. One was at FHP between 10.-24.03.

Red-necked Grebe. One was in RWSA from 01.01. to 26.03. with presumably the same bird there from15.08. to the

 end of the year.

Slavonian Grebe. A winter-plumaged bird was in RWSA from 24.03. to 05.04.with one in almost complete breeding

 plumage at the Dam from 03. to 10.04. Two were at the Dam on 20.11. with two off Hamb peninsula on 23.11. A single was at Whit and then in NA from 24.11. to 22.12. with two present from 24.12. to the end of the year.

Black-necked Grebe. One was in RWNA from 01.01. to 07.04. with two seen between 30.03. and 03.04. One was in

 SA on 13.08. with two next day and two were in NA from 06.12. to the end of the year.

Red Kite. Widespread with records from all parts of the county with birds seen over villages and towns. Scavenged

 scraps from Stam gardens in June and July. Bred FHP and probably Ext Park with a successful nest at another site and adults and young seen at Bden. Five on roadkill near Wg on 12.10. was our peak count.

Marsh Harrier. Noted at RWEg between 04.02. and 19.05. and from 01.07. to the end of the year, when two were

 regular over the lagoons. It cannot be long before breeding occurs in the extensive reed beds there. Other birds were seen at Leigh on 03.05. and Barrow on 27.10.

Sparrowhawk. Most records came from gardens at Stam, Upp, Norm, Barrow and Oak where prey included Dunnock,

 Robin and Long-tailed Tit. Hunting birds were noted at QF, FHP, Ext Park, Mkt Overton and Pick with display seen over WW and BW in April.

Buzzard. Probably our most common bird of prey, few are now reported. Noted at woodlands across the county,

 usually displaying pairs in spring with birds seen regularly over Stam. Fledged young were heard in Ext Park and at Wg in Aug.

Osprey. The first female returned to Lynd on 12.03. One was seen over Ext, carrying a fish, on 22.03. By mid-April

 20 birds had returned and nine pairs eventually nested, fledging 14 young. Birds regularly visited EBR and HM trout hatchery and flew up the valley to FHP. One or two visited LFP to 29.08., our final record.

Water Rail. Present at RWEg/Lynd throughout the year with breeding confirmed at Eg. Singles were at LFP on 07.

 and 11.03. and from 11.10. to 14.12.

Moorhen. Present on water bodies throughout Rutland, even small ponds. One was tape-recorded flying over Man at

 night on 18.03. The peak count at FHP was 38 on 16.09.

Coot. Present at the reservoirs and larger water bodies at FHP and Ext Park throughout the year, with large nos.

 wintering at RW. FHP winter peaks were 105 on 05.01. and 95 on 08.12. A colour-ringed bird at RWEg4 on 23.03. had been ringed there in Dec. 2015 and seen there in July 2016.

Crane. Singles were seen over RWEg on 13.04.and Oak on 03.05.

See Also Monthly Wader Counts at Rutland Water.

Avocet. All records were from RWEg where birds were noted from 10.03. to 14.06. with a max. of five at the end of

 May. Two autumn birds were on RWEg1 on 23.09.

Black-winged Stilt. One visited RWEg on four dates between 05. and 27.05. and four dates between 01. and 18.06.

Oystercatcher. One was at RWEg on 26.01. Breeding occurred on the lagoons with at least two pairs with young on

 22.06. Two flew over Wg on 07.04. and one was at LFP on 14.04. Last reported at RW on 17.07.

Grey Plover. One was at RWEg on 31.03. Spring birds were noted there between 11.05. and 07.06. with four on

 26.05. One was over Leigh on 28.05. and two were at RWEg1 on 09.10.

Golden Plover. 20 flew north over Whit on 07.01. with 20 south-west at Leigh. On19.01. 40 were at Rid. Three were

 at EBR on 21.01. Up to 11 were around Leigh/Martinsthorpe in Feb. and c.140 were near LCast on 07.02. One over Leigh on 14.04. was the last spring record. Autumn birds were noted from 31.08. but nos. were generally low at Leigh/Pilt through to Nov. Larger flocks were 127 at RWEg on 20.10., c.250 over Tin Lodge Cottages next day and 450 at EBR on 11.11.

Ringed Plover. One was at RWEg on 25.-26.01. and one was over Leigh on 11.03. Present at RWEg in every month

 from 19.03.to 14.10. with spring passage from 25.04. to 06.06., when there was a max. of 37 on 27.04. and 27.05. with northern ‘tundrae’ birds on the latter date. Breeding nos. at RW were small – only one or two pairs. The peak autumn count at RW was 13 on 16.09. At EBR autumn passage was between 07.08. and 14.09.

 with a max. of 12 on 20.08. and 12.09.

Little Ringed Plover. One at RWEg4 on 27.03. was the first with up to six noted there to June.. Single pairs bred

 there and at EBR, where there were three on 22.07. and two on 09.08. No reports after 14.08. at RW.

Lapwing. Flocks in the first winter period were c.290 over south at Pilt on 08.01., c.200 at Leigh on 17.01. and c.600

 west at Leigh on 19.01. There were 343 at EBR on 21.01. Display was noted from 25.03. at Wg, Mounts Lodge and KQ, with breeding confirmed at the latter site and RWEg. 67 on pasture at Wg Burrows on 08.07. were the first autumn birds with 57 at EBR on 15.07. and 75 on 12.08. Autumn flocks were not large with 267 at EBR on 11.11. increasing to 1591 on 09.12. c.400 passed south-west over Martinsthorpe on 13.12. with 455 south-west at LFP next day.

Whimbrel. Spring passage was from 18.04. to 24.06.,mainly at RW but with birds also seen/heard over BW, Leigh

 and Ash. The peak no. was five on 05.05. at RWEg4. Autumn birds were noted between 22.07. at Man and 10.09. at EBR with singles on three Aug. dates at RW.

Curlew. There were records in all months except Aug., mainly from RW. In the Leigh/Martinsthorpe area one or two

 passed through in most months. Breeding season records of display and song between 26.03. and 01.06. came from Barrow and Leigh. We had no summer records from Cott or Luff Airfields this year.

Black-tailed Godwit. Reported from RW between 21.04. in every month to the end of the year. Spring passage was

 light with a peak of 21 on 21.05. but nos. increased from 02.07. as autumn passage got underway. 91 were present on 05.07. Counts then to the end of Dec. were mainly single figures but 11 were noted on 09.08. At EBR autumn birds were seen from 02.07., when 12 flew over, to 13.11. 11 were present on 09.08.

Bar-tailed Godwit. One was at RWEg4 on 17.-24.04 with four there on 24.05. and one in NA on 04.11.

Turnstone. Spring birds were at RW between 19.04. and 25.05. with three on 17.05. One was at EBR on the latter

 date. Two autumn birds were at RWDam/Hamb Peninsula on 02.09.

Knot. One was found dead in RWNA on 05.03. One was on Eg4 on 29.06. and Eg1 on 17.07. and singles were at

 EBR on 02. and 17.11.

Ruff. A winter bird was at EBR on 15.01. 12 were at RW on 18.04. with ten next day. Noted at EBR from 01.07. to

 the end of the year in low nos. peaking at eight on 09.09. RW had birds from 02.07. to 07.12. with a low peak of seven on 09.-10.09.

Curlew Sandpiper. Spring birds were at RWEg4 on nine dates between 21.04.and 03.06. with three on 08.05.

Sanderling. An early bird was at RWEg4 on 13.04. with passage there from 07.05. to 04.06., peaking at 15 on 26.05.

 One was at EBR on 26.05. with four there next day. Autumn birds at RW were seen on four dates between 12.08.and 21.09. with two on 13.08.

Dunlin. There were records from RW in all months with singles figures until 25.04. when 13 were present. The

 spring peak was c.20 on 26.04. Singles figure counts were made to 16.09. when there were 16. Ten were present on 16.11. At EBR 40 were present on 24.01. but spring passage was poor with singles on 26.05. and 06.06. It was a better autumn with birds noted from 20.07. to 22.12. with 15 on 12.08., 19 on 30.10.28 on 13.11. and 42 on 21.12.

Purple Sandpiper. Two were at RWDam on 03.10.

Little Stint. Singles were at RWEg4 on 25.-27.05. and Eg1 on 19.08.

Pectoral Sandpiper. One was at RWBFP on 18.09.

Red-necked Phalarope. A long staying bird was at RWSA between 12. and 20.08.

Grey Phalarope. Singles were at EBR and RWSA between 20. and 22.09. with a second bird at RW on the latter

 date.

Common Sandpiper. There were unseasonal records of singles at EBR and RW on 01.01. with the RW bird also

 reported between 09. and 16.01. Spring passage was noted at RW and EBR between 15. and 30.04. with a max. of three at RW on the latter date. Autumn birds were present between 07.07. and 15.09. with a RW max. of eight on 19.07. and an EBR peak of six on 01.08.

Green Sandpiper. There were records in every month from 06.06. to the end of the year with birds noted at both

 reservoirs, FHP and LFP. The RW peak was eight on 08.09. and at EBR five on 20.08. At LFP birds were seen between 24.06. and 29.09. with five on 30.07. FHP had four on 27.08. with one or two to 27.10. then four on 12.11. and the last single on 16.12. One was along the R.Chater near Wg between 26. and 31.12.

Spotted Redshank. One flew over Leigh on 19.04. Autumn singles were at RWEg on 04. and 18.08. and EBR on

 02.09. with three there on 04.11.

Greenshank. Spring singles were noted at RW on six dates between 12.04. and 27.05. with one at EBR on 22.05.

 Autumn passage was from 30.06. to a late 17.11. Peak counts were five at RW on 01.07. and three at EBR on 08.07., and between 27.08.and 04.09. Migrating birds were heard over Leigh on 09.07. and 07.and 14.08. The late bird was at EBR between 02. and 17.11.

Wood Sandpiper. A good spring passage saw up to seven on four dates at RWEg between 21.04. and 26.05. with

 one over Leigh on 20.05.and one at EBR on 25.05. Two at EBR on 28.07. were the first autumn birds with up to two at RWLynd between 01.08. and 15.08. and singles at EBR on 03.08. and 02. to 11.09.

Redshank. Present at RW throughout the year with c.13 noted for much of May and eight chicks reported in June.

 Few reports from EBR with a pair on 24.05. and one on 11.11.

Jack Snipe. A very welcome bird was at RWEg from 09.10. to the end of the year, often affording close views.

Woodcock. In the first winter period from 01.01. records, mostly of singles or two, came from Leigh, Rid, RW, Norm

 and Pilt. Multiple sightings were from WestlandW (five on 20.01.), six in TunnW on 10.03., four at BCF on 11.03. and eight at TunnW on 24.03. One at Leigh on 30.03.was the last in this period. A roding bird at BW on 05.05. showed that Woodcock are just holding on as a breeding species in Rutland. One flew past the Eg Visitor Centre on 30.06. The first autumn bird was at RW on 23.10. with subsequent records from Leigh, Rid and TunnW, where three were flushed on 01.12. Four were ringed on Lax Hill at RW on 13.12. during a nocturnal ringing session.

Snipe. From early Jan. to 29.03. up to three were seen at the following sites:- FHP,Cott, Banthorpe GP,Wg and BCF.

 Five were at RW on 26.02. Autumn birds were noted at or over the same sites plus Pilt, Martinsthorpe and TunnW with the first at Banthorpe GP on 13.07. Nine were at RWEg3 on 22.07., five flew over Pilt on 18.08. and three were at LFP on 10.12.

Arctic Skua. A dark morph adult was at RWDam on 08.04.

Great Skua. One was in RWSA on 22.09. and two passed through at RWNorm on 15.10.

Little Tern. One or two noted at RWEg on twelve dates between 07.05. and 14.06. with three on 25.05. One was

 there on 03.07.

Black Tern. This species gets no commoner with the large flocks of the past now a memory. Spring passage at RW

 was between 08.05. and 07.06. with a max. of 11 on 21.05. EBR had one on 13.05. and eight on 24.05.

A poor autumn passage saw four at RWEg4 on 30.06. two at EBR on 26.07. and one at RWSA on 27.08.

White-winged Black Tern. One was at EBR on 20.05. with two there on the next two days.

Sandwich Tern. One was at RWEg on 18.04.

Common Tern. Three at RWEg on 15.04. were the first arrivals increasing to 58 on 15.05. and 82 on 12.06. with 71

 on 14.08. and still 22 on 09.09. The last bird was on 14.10. Bred on Eg lagoons and in NA. At EBR there were 17 pairs in June and 31 chicks were ringed. 32 were counted on 15.07. one flew past Pilt on 15.08.

Arctic Tern. One at RWEg on 14.04. was the first, with passage until 27.05. on eleven dates and 84 present on 02.05.

 A first-summer was present on 15.06. Autumn juvs. were at EBR on 20.08. with two at RW on 21.09. and 06.10.

Kittiwake. Two were at RWDam on 13.03. and two in NA on 08.04.

Black-headed Gull. Present all year at RW with greatest nos. in winter. 8000 were present in Feb. declining to 1100

 in April, which included c.700 potential breeding birds. 700 were present in May. Common across the county in winter with birds on farmland and scavenging in parks and gardens.

Little Gull. One was in RWSA on 23.02. Spring birds were at RW between 03.04. and 22.04. with a max. of nine on

 15.04., when there were six at EBR. A first-winter was at RWDam on 12.12.

Mediterranean Gull. One was at RWEg on 22.02. with one on 05. and 17.03. A second-summer was at Eg from

 27.03 to at least 20.04. – a Polish bird among the Black-headed Gulls on Eg3. Two adults were in NA on 19.05. and a second-summer on 25.05. Singles were on 14., 15. and 21.07 and an adult was at EBR on 20.12.

Common Gull. Mainly a winter and passage bird with few in summer. 120 were at Oak in Jan. 3000 in March at RW

 declined to 850 there in April when 700 were in fields near Braun . Only four were noted at RW in May with one in June and 28 in July. There were 14 in Aug. at RW and just four at EBR. Nos. increased towards the end of the year with 221 at EBR and 900 at RW.

Lesser Black-backed Gull. A passage and winter visitor. The only record was 25 in July at RW.

Herring Gull. Mainly a winter visitor. 1200 were at RW in Feb. and four in April. 30 were at EBR in Sept.

Yellow-legged Gull. Singles were at RW in Jan. and March with three in June and 23 on 17.07. and 14 on 14.08.

 In Sept. EBR had singles in Aug., Sept. and Oct. with one at RW IN Oct.

Caspian Gull. One was at RW in Jan. with two in March. An adult carrying a red colour ring was present on 22.06.

 and there were singles on 20.07. and 12.08.

Iceland Gull. On 09.02. a second - winter was at EBR with an adult on 24.02.

Glaucous Gull. A juv. roosted at EBR between 06. and 11.01. with an adult on the first date. A juv. was at RWEg4 on

 12.02. and an adult was at EBR on 24.-25.02.

Feral Pigeon. No counts were received but the species was common in Oak, Stam and Upp, with many at Kett

 cement works. Increasing in suburban areas where they shelter and nest beneath solar panels on domestic roofs and access garden feeding stations.

Stock Dove. c.40 were around Leigh on 21.02. One or two fed in the garden at BCF in both winter periods with one in

 an Oak garden in April. Bred at many woodland sites and in nest boxes at RWEg, Ext Park and Cow Close Farm, with singles ringed at the latter two sites. 47 flew over Leigh on 27.08. and there was evidence of autumn passage there with 93 south-west on 27.09. and 112 south-west on 11.10.

Woodpigeon. c.900 flew from a roost near Pilt on 14.01. and 600 were regular at Barrow in Jan. Between 25. and

 31.10. 3313 flew south-west at Martinsthorpe. c.600 flew over Leigh on 19.11. with 480 over Martinsthorpe on 24.11. A very common species even in suburban gardens.

Collared Dove. Regular in suburban gardens but in reduced nos. and few were reported. In one Stam garden nos.

 peaked at 13 in Feb. and 11 in Oct/Nov.

Turtle Dove. Singles were at RWEg on 29.06. and 02.07.

Cuckoo. Records came from 12 (15 last year) mainly woodland sites – BW, PGW, PC, GreetW Far, GunW and

 StokeW between 18.04.and 11.06. Also noted at Leigh, Barrow, Barleythorpe, Pilt and Wg.

Barn Owl. There were records from an encouraging 22 sites (21 last year) but cold weather in March affected

 breeding success with confirmed breeding at three nest boxes and two broods ringed, a three and a single chick. One found dead near Norm on 11.03. had been ringed as a chick at Geest in 2016.

Little Owl. Noted at nine sites (eight last year) but not reported from the regular EBR site after 11.02. The most

 regular site was Barrow.

Tawny Owl. Noted at 15 sites, a considerable improvement on the nine reported last year. A pair gave close views

 near Leigh on 19.04. Two young were ringed at a Kestrel nest box in Ext Park on 22.05. Five were calling at Leigh on 17.02. and three were heard regularly at Leigh, Martinsthorpe and PC from 27.08. when birds were establishing territories. Four were calling at Lang on 25.12.

Short-eared Owl. The only records were singles at RWEg4 on10.03. and EBR on 13.11.

Swift. First noted at RW on 20.04. with 12 present on 22.04. Reports came from EBR, Bden, Oak, FHP and Stam to

 mid-May. Later passage was seen on 07.06. and 19.06. at Gun when 19 moved west Records from likely breeding sites came from Stam, Bden, Oak and Upp, where reduced nos. were noted with only six seen at any one time in June. Up to six visited a Stam nest box in June and July. Small nos. passed south over RW and Oak throughout Aug. and the last was one there on 22.09.

Kingfisher. One was at EBR inflow on 11.02. with no more records until the next at LFP on 11.07. with other July

 records from the R.Chater near Wg on 24. and 26. One was at FHP in July. The next were two along the Oak Canal on 25.10. followed by birds at LFP throughout Nov., Martinsthorpe on 01.11. and singles at Tin Pumping Station and Geest on 17.12. Hard weather in Feb. and March has probably reduced nos.

Green Woodpecker. Reported from 13 sites (14 last year) in woodland and on old pasture. Two visited an Upp

 garden several times in Feb.. An adult and three fledged young were at Geest on 06.07. QF, on the outskirts of Stam provided records of two or three throughout the year.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. A much better showing this year with birds reported from 21 sites with drumming

 reported from 11 (six last year). Drumming was noted between 05.01. and 24.04. Feeders were visited at Oak, Ext, BCF, Norm and TunnW, mainly for peanuts. The only confirmed breeding was in TunnW, where young were calling from a nest on 19.05.

Kestrel. Birds, usually hunting, were recorded at 18 sites across the county. One roosted on a house in Wg on 04.04.

 and there were two confirmed breeding records with three young ringed at a nest box in Ext Park in June. Between 29.08. and 09.09. five or six, presumably a family party, were in the Leigh area.

Merlin. It was a good year for this scarce visitor. One was at EBR on 24.01. and a late bird was at RWEg on 01.05.

 Female/ imms. were seen at RWNA on 21.09., between NLuff and SLuff on 13.10., at Martinsthorpe on 25.10. and BCF on 15.12.

Hobby. Following the first at Sounding Bridge on 18.04. there were reports from 11 sites, mainly around RW, where

 birds were regular at Eg throughout the summer with up to five (15.05.) present. One breeding pair was confirmed. A pair were over FHP on 11.08. and a juv. was there on 27.08. and 01.09. The last was over Man on 16.09.

Peregrine. There were records for every month, particularly around RW in the winter . Away from RW birds

 were noted over StretW and BCF in Feb. and over Man in March. Other records were from Leigh, Barrow, GHW, Martinsthorpe, LFP and KQ. A pair were at a regular breeding site throughout the year.

Ring-necked Parakeet. Singles were seen (and heard !) in Oak on 09.04. and 12.and 30.08. with one at Leigh on

 14.08. and Rid on 14. and 24.12. This species is one to watch out for now at garden feeding stations.

Golden Oriole. A singing male was in the poplars at Burl Bushes on 07.05. but did not linger. This is our first Rutland

 record since one in BW in May 1997.

Magpie. A widespread and common species, especially in scrub and where large hedgerows are present. Few

 records received but seven were at QF on 07.02.

Jay. Essentially a woodland bird, with records from BW, RWEg, WardW and the RW and Ext Park woodlands. Two

 fed regularly at an Emp bird table in Jan and Feb. and three were noted over Leigh on 25.04.

Jackdaw. Especially common at quarries, in parkland and feeding on pasture where there is livestock. Large flocks

 assemble in winter. A northern race ‘Nordic’ bird was near HM on 21.01. and c.750 were noted flying south-west at Pilt on 17.08.

Rook. There were no rookery counts and the only record was of the reduced no. of nests at BCF (see CBC results).

Carrion Crow. Now regular in some suburban areas such as Stam, where they are not persecuted. Common in open

 countryside where hedgerow trees provide nest sites and in woodland.

Raven. Now a well established resident with birds flying over open country (e.g. Mounts Lodge, Pick, Oak and Pilt)

 as they commute between nest sites. Pairs were seen at six regular breeding sites with young noted at two. There were no records from the west of Rutland this year. The peak count was eight, flying north at FHP on 12.12.

Goldcrest. A bird of conifers and mixed woodland with occasional garden records. Nine were on the filter beds at

 Geest STW on 09.01. and birds visited gardens in Ext on 06.02. and Norm on 23.02. One was seen attacking its reflection in a window at Wg on 11.04.

Firecrest. A singing male was in BW between 23.04. and 31.05. Mature conifers there are a likely breeding site.

Blue Tit. A common and widespread species. Up to 16 at a time visited the TunnW feeders in both winter periods.

Great Tit. As for the previous species with fewer (up to nine) at the TunnW feeders. Not apparently affected by harsh

 winter weather at the BCF CBC plot.

Coal Tit. Well distributed in coniferous and mixed woodland and regular in winter at bird tables in Upp and Stam.

Willow Tit. Now a rare resident with up to four noted throughout the year at LFP, Rid, PiltW and near Wg. All our

 records came from one diligent observer.

Marsh Tit. A more widespread species than the Willow Tit with birds at Ext Park woodlands, RWEg, EBR, BW (nine

 on 25.06. and seven on 28.06.), Leigh, FHP, Man, PGW, Greet GC and CPW (five on 18.11.). Feeders were visited at Hall Farm Ext, TunnW and Greet GC.

Bearded Tit. Present in RWEg3 reed bed from 26.10.with four on that date and three next day. Birds were heard on

 23.11. and two were ringed on 14.12.

Skylark. Present as a breeding species on farmland and waste ground (QF). There were no records of flocks in

 either winter period with autumn passage providing most reports. Birds were noted between 24.09. and 13.11. moving south or south-west over Leigh and Martinsthorpe with 218 on 17.10.

Shore Lark. One flew north over RWEg3 on 06.11.

Sand Martin. One at RWEg on 12.03. was the first with other arrival there and at EBR within a week.. Birds were

 noted throughout the summer in small nos. at FHP and successful breeding continued at RWEg in the artificial banks. Our final record, at RWLynd, was on the fairly early date on 21.09.

Swallow. The first arrival were six at RWEg4 on 27.03. with two there on 03.04. and two at FHP on 12.04. The first

 birds at the regularly monitored Bden site were on 15.04. with several nests successful and c.40 noted there on 05.08. Higher counts in Aug. were c.100 at LFP on 05., c.300 around Lynd on 23. and 130 around Pilt on 28. Passage in Sept. saw c.296 south-west at RWManBay on 18. with 254 next day. The last bird was at Martinsthorpe on 12.10.

House Martin. Singles at RW on 03.04. and EBR next day were the first with four near Burl the only other April birds

 reported. On 04.05. eight arrived at their Bden nest sites and only low nos. were noted in other villages up to late June. c.50 were at Bden on11.07. where five nests were watched. On 07.08. c.30 were noted around the steeple of Emp church. Breeding nos. at Oak seemed down this year, with none in Market Place. Despite generally low breeding nos., a pair nested on a Wg house for only the third time in 42 years. Late Sept saw a strong passage through RW with 543 on 19. and 250 on 20.in ManBay and c.3000 estimated over the whole reservoir next day. The last birds were singles at Bden on 03. and Man on 05.10.

Cetti’s Warbler. Hard weather in Feb. and March affected this species badly at RW and our only record was of a

 singing male at Eg on 29.04.

Long-tailed Tit. All records were of birds at garden feeders between Jan. and April and in Nov. and Dec. Noted at

 Barrow (max. ten) and Oak (a pair)

Chiffchaff. Two were at Geest STW on 01.02. and one was calling at RWGorseClose on 10.02. Song was heard first

 at LFP on 16.03. with other March records from Wg, PGW, Leigh and FHP. Well distributed from April with 43 singing in BW on 18. and others at BarnsG and Ext Park woodlands. Birds remained widespread throughout Sept. with four at QF on 25. and singles at Leigh/LFP on 06., 13. and 30.11. with Dec singles at Rid on 04., Geest on 17. and Wg on 26.

Willow Warbler. The first singing males were at RWEg on 03. and FHP on 10.04. Also noted at QF, Greet GC and

 BW in April. On 05.05. 19 were singing around Leigh with other at Kett, RWLynd and Ext Park woods. 28 sang around Leigh on 12.06., declining to 13 by 31.07. The last bird was at RWManBay on 19.09.

Blackcap. Birds were in three Oak and one Upp garden to 31.03.,mostly singles but a pair in one Oak garden on

 02.01. Peanuts and seed were taken. Our first singing bird was on 05.04. at Leigh with birds also at QF, BW (35 on 18.04.), Barns Gardens. FHP and Ext Park woods. A pair passed through a Bden garden on 22.04. A single was at FHP on 22.09. with garden records from Stam on 17.10. and Oak between 05.and 30.12.

Garden Warbler. First noted at RW on 20.04. Most records were from BW with three singing on 23.04. and ten on

 09.05. Three were in song near Eg village on 20.05. with others noted in TunnW and WestlandW at Ext., Banthorpe GP and EBR One sang in an Upp garden in June. There were Aug. records from Leigh on 13. and 21. 08. with the last at LFP on 27.08.

Barred Warbler. A juv. was ringed near Harrier hide at RWEg on 31.08.. This is a first record for Rutland of a bird

 which is usually found on the east coast in autumn. A very skulking species, it was not seen again after release.

Lesser Whitethroat. One singing near Leigh on 16.04. was the first arrival with six in the area by 22.04. and six near

 Wg on 20.04. Other April birds were at RWVTC, EBR and FHP. Four or five continued to sing around Leigh into June with one or two at QF. Our last was at Banthorpe GP on 07.09.

Whitethroat. One near Pilt on 15.04. was our first record with the next at BarnsG on 22.04. Widely reported from late

 April – BCF, Pick, QF, Leigh (16 singing on 05.05.), Kett, Eg village, Ext Park and Gun (14 seen on 27.07.). Our last birds were three at QF on10.09.

Grasshopper Warbler. Now a very local species, up to four sang in a felled area of BW between 18. and 21.04. but

 not subsequently. From 27.04. one sang for several weeks at the TTW near RWVTC and in the Leigh/Bushy Wood area one or two sang from 05.05. to 27.06. A late, perhaps passage, bird sang at EBR on 20./21.07.

Sedge Warbler. RWEg/Lynd remain the main sites for Sedge Warblers with the first at Eg on 07.04. and birds well

 distributed there from mid-April. One sang at KQ on 15.05., two at Gun on 19.06., one at FHP on 07.07. and singles were at Wg and Leigh on 24. and 25.07. One was at LFP between 05.and 27.08., our last rather early record.

Reed Warbler. A poorly reported species first noted at RW on 16.04. and well distributed in the reed beds by the end

 of the month. c.12 sang at Geest in May and singles at two QF ponds on 03.06. One was at Leigh on 25.06. and one at LFP between 02. and 14.08. There was no significant final date.

Nuthatch. A well distributed resident in woodlands around RW, BW, FHP and the Ext Park woods, CPW and PGW.

 Regular at TunnW feeders in both winter periods and at feeders in an Upp garden and in Oak.

Treecreeper. Thinly distributed and often overlooked in deciduous and mixed woods. Eight were in song in the

 northern part of BW on 31.05.

Wren. Badly affected by harsh weather in the first winter period – see CBC results.

Starling. Still a well distributed species in villages and towns but fewer reported nesting in woodlands. Records of

 autumn migration at Martinsthorpe on 28./29.10. had 2036 passing west. On four dates between 03. and 19.11., 2038 flew over Martinsthorpe and Leigh.

Ring Ouzel. Single males were at RWEg on 06. and RWLynd 16.04.

Blackbird. Common in woodlands, gardens and Hedgerows with the largest nos. in winter, when continental migrants

 are present. 26 were noted around Rid on 30.11. and 50 around Wg on 25.12. Nos. in a Stam garden peaked at 13 in Jan./Feb.

Fieldfare. c.270 were at Pilt on 14.01. and c.235 flew south-east at Leigh on 28.01. In Feb. there were 250 at ColdO

 on 05. and c.230 going south-east at RWLynd on 22. Hard weather at the end of the month brought birds into gardens with three in one Oak garden on 26. and up to six along Woodland View, Oak on 28. Singles were in two more Oak gardens on 04.03. with two in a Stam garden on 18.03. On 01.04. c.100 flew north-west over Leigh and the last birds were two near Pilt on 15.04. The first autumn birds were 300 over Luff Airfield on 07.10 with smaller flocks at HM, Oak and Barrow until 22.10. when 317 flew west at LFP. Passage there and at Martinsthorpe produced 2045 west to 29.10 and in Nov. 1178 west on four dates to 25. Between 06. and 09.12. 1436 passed west at Pilt and hawthorn berries along North Brook attracted 300 to FH on 12.12.

Song Thrush. This species was a little more obvious this year with garden records from Ext and Oak in Jan and Feb;

 the Oak bird feeding on spilt seed. Singing birds were widely, if thinly distributed. Three on telephone wires at HM on 22.09. which flew off high to the west may have been migrants.

Redwing. c.50 flew over near Pick on 29.01. Up to three were in two Oak gardens on 26.-27.02. with two at Norm on

 04.03. One over Leigh on 14.04. was the last record. One over Leigh on 03.10. was the first autumn arrival with passage there between 07. and 31.10. noting 1646 moving west on four dates. 17 were at FHP on 07.10., when 2287 passed over Luff Airfield and seven were at Barrow.

Mistle Thrush. Much the scarcest of our resident thrushes with singing birds noted at BarnsG, BW, FHP and Ext Park

 17 fed on rowan berries at GHW between 20.-23.08.

Spotted Flycatcher. Two in Berrybut SpinneyRW on 11.05. were the first with birds subsequently at 15 sites (14 last

 year). Breeding was confirmed at Upp with other pairs or possible nesting at Gun, Leigh, Prest, Wg and LFP. The last bird was at KQ on 25.09.

Robin. No counts were received. A common resident but hard hit this year by harsh winter weather – see CBC

 results.

Nightingale. An early bird was singing at RWEg on 08.04. with two noted there to mid-May. The only other birds were

 a single at GreetW Near on 28.04. and two in PGW on 01.05. This total of five singing birds is down on the seven noted last year.

Redstart. Singles were near Wg on 20. and 25.04. A singing male at Leigh on 03.06. did not stay. There was an

 extended autumn passage in the Leigh area between 20.07. and 10.09. with birds noted on 14 mainly Aug. dates. Most were singles but two were seen between 29.08. and 09.09. One was at Luff Airfield on 17.08.

Whinchat. The only spring birds were singles at Luff Airfield on 25.04. and Cott Airfield on 03.05. Autumn passage,

 between 05.08. and 01.09., produced singles at RWLynd and Eg, Pilt and Leigh with two at Luff Airfield on 25.08.

Stonechat. One or two were at RWEg and Lynd, EBR and FHP in the first winter period between 01.01. and 27.02.

 From 16.09. to the end of the year singles or pairs were at the same sites with a male also at GHW on 18.10.

Wheatear. Spring passage was between 01.04. and 12.05. with birds on 12 dates at RWEg/Dam, Greet GC, Luff

 Airfield, Cott Airfield and Leigh. Five at Luff Airfield on 01.04. and 05.04. was the peak count. Autumn birds were at the same sites plus EBR and FHP between 08.08. and 23.09., all singles apart from eight at Luff Airfield on 25.08. and two at Leigh on 04.09.

Dunnock. An unobtrusive species on farmland, in woodlands and gardens, frequent at feeding stations. No records

 received but nos. at BCF CBC site almost halved this year.

House Sparrow. Two rural birds were on a hedge near Leigh, well away from buildings on 09.03. At BCF birds were

 also noted at a barn in April and May away from the main breeding colony. Most records were of garden flocks, maintained by regular feeding - 40 at Man on 02.09., 22 at Barrow in Oct and 38 at Stam in Dec. A flock of c.100 were on stubble near Pilt on 15.08.

Tree Sparrow. Up to four fed in an Ext garden from 02.01. to 27.03. Four were on game crops at Leigh on 09.03. with

 one or two flyovers there on 11. and 13.03. Two were at RWLynd feeders on 12.05. c.12 pairs bred at EBR and 33 young were ringed. One was a Barrow garden feeder on 08.08. Autumn birds flew over Leigh/Martinsthorpe between 06.09. and 06.11., mostly singles but five on 01.11. Three fed at millet feeders at Hall Farm, Ext, from 03.11. to the end of the year.

Yellow Wagtail. This species has become quite scarce in recent years. One or two were at RWDam from 02.04. into

 May with a peak of 24 there on 20.04. Passage over Leigh was noted from 14.04. to 23.05. with five on the first date. Breeding activity was noted at Gun (two pairs), Ext (three pairs) and a singing male at BCF on 03.06. Autumn birds were reported from 24.07. over Man with four at FHP on 28.07. 17 were over Pilt on15. and 26.08.with eight over Leigh on 29.08. The final bird was over RWManBay on 28.09.

Grey Wagtail There were few records this year with one at Geest STW on 08.01. and 01.02. the only one in the first

 winter period. A pair at LFP throughout May may have been breeding. There were singles at FHP on 13. and 22.09. with more frequent singles there at Geest and RW from 03.11. to 17.12.

Pied Wagtail. Few records submitted. Regular at RWDam and bred at BCF. 11 were on a waterlogged field at Pick

 on 24.01.

White Wagtail. All records were from RWEg4 in April with five on 04., two on 14.04. and one on 16.04.

Tree Pipit. One flew over Leigh on 22.04. There was a strong autumn passage over Leigh with 15 birds noted on

 eight dates between 11.08. and 06.09., mostly one or two but seven on 25.08. plus two on a large hedge. One was at Luff Airfield on 17.08.

Meadow Pipit. Present on passage, in winter and breeding in favoured localities. Flocks in the first winter included 30

 at LFP on 19.01., 20 near Berrybut Spinney, RW on 29.01. 50 at Leigh on 18.02. and 30 at Lynd Top on 23.02. Spring passage was reported between 13.03. and 14.04. with 306 north at Leigh on four dates with a max. of 120 on the last date. Display/song was noted at Luff and Cott Airfields, GHW and Seat Meadow. Up to 08.06. Autumn migration was over RWManBay on 21.09., when 304 moved south and at Leigh next day, when 567 were counted flying south. c.20 were in Ext Park on16.12.

Rock Pipit. Singles were at RWNA on 21.01. and RWEg on 17.03. On autumn passage one flew over Leigh on

 24.09. and there was a good run of mostly singles at RW between 06.10. and 30.10 with five on the first date. One was at EBR on 06.10.

Brambling. Most records were from the Leigh and Wg finch roosts up to 07.04. with 20 at Leigh on 26.01.and 19 at

 Wg on 06./07.04. Ten were at Leigh on 09.03. and smaller nos. were at Pilt, Martinsthorpe, a Man garden, RWLynd and Banthorpe GP in this period. One over RWLynd on 07.10 was the first autumn bird with passage over Martinsthorpe between 20.10. and 04.11. producing 38 birds. Over Leigh, 35 were noted between 06. and 25.11. and there were one or two over Pilt, Rid and Wg to 31.12.

Chaffinch. The Leigh finch roost had 73 on 07.and 72 on 26.01. The roost near Wg had 120 on 02.02. and 180 on

 05.02. Game crops at Leigh supported up to 150 between 16.02. and 26.03. Autumn passage over Martinsthorpe produced 465 moving west between 17. and 25.10.

Hawfinch. The large influx of autumn 2017 resulted in some remaining into 2018. Singles were in Ext Park and Clips

 on 01.01. when one was at LFP with one there on 12.01. and two on 19.01. Singles then passed over this area on nine dates to 05.04. One visited a seed feeder briefly in a Stam garden on 02.05. and one flew over Leigh on 20.05. One flew west with Redwings over Martinsthorpe on 20.10.

Bullfinch. A widespread bird of scrub and overgrown hedgerows, with records from Leigh (18 on 20.07. and 20 on

 21.08.), BCF, CPW, Oak Canal and Ext Park. A pair frequented an Upp garden on 16.01. and one visited a Barrow garden on 13.12.

Greenfinch. There were few records, mainly of small nos.at feeders in Oak, Upp and Stam in the first winter period.

 Six singing males were at BarnsG on 22.04. No flocks were reported.

Linnet. c.80 were at Leigh between 14. and 25.04. with 100+ on 03.05. Breeding birds were noted only at BCF and

 QF (six singing males on 11.06.). Nevertheless Linnets remain widespread across the county. 137 were around Leigh on 22.09. and c.80 were on a weedy sugar beet field at Mounts Lodge on 19.12.

Lesser Redpoll. In the first winter period there were records from two Oak gardens and from Ext and Norm up to

 13.04. with a max. of four in Ext on 23.01. Two were in PGW on 04.02. and three in TunnW on 10.03. One or two birds passed over Leigh and BW between 22.04. and 09.05. Four or five were at RWEg on 16.11. and 13 in TunnW on 29.12.

Crossbill. One flew over Leigh on 07.03. There were records for May to Aug. and Oct. to Dec. with one or two in BW

 between 09.05. and 06.07., seven over Leigh on 12.06. and five at KQ on 15.06. 14 flew over Man on 19.10. with five over Leigh on 15.11. Two over LFP on 10.12. was the final record of the year.

Goldfinch. Well reported from garden feeders at Stam, Bden and Oak with flocks of 60 at LFP on 09.07., 200 near

 Leigh on 14.09. and 165 there on 22.09. 139 were still in the area on 03.10. and hardhead seed attracted c.60 at GHW in Sept. and Oct.

Siskin. Noted in gardens in Oak and Ext from 12.01. with up to six in one Oak garden between 27.01. and 13.04.

 Flocks in open country were 17 near Wg on 02.02. and 40 at RWSA on 23.02. There were two April and two May records of singles in BW (breeding ?) and one over Leigh on 08.06. A poor autumn produced only 17 at RWMan and 12 at BCF on 15.12.

Snow Bunting. One flew over RWWhit on 26.01. Two were at RWDam on 12./13.12. and 23.12. with one in the

 intervening period and to 31.12.

Yellowhammer. Three-figure winter flocks are a thing of the past – 20 were near Pilt on 14.01. and ten near Pick on

 29.01. in the first winter period were the only ones reported. Still widespread in much reduced nos. as a breeding bird with six at QF on 09.06. On 24.11. 25 were around Martinsthorpe and c50 were near Mounts Lodge on 19.12. Perhaps as an indication of reduced food in winter, nine were in a Norm garden on 02.12.

Reed Bunting. Garden records came from Oak, Stam and Ext between 24.01. and 27.03. with a max. of four at

 Stam on the first date. Bred at FHP, RWEg and Lynd, QF (five singing males on 03.06.) and Seat Meadows. One visited a Stam garden on 02.12.

 Eyebrook Reservoir Wildfowl Counts (No Count in October)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 21.1. | 18.2. | 18.3. | 15.4. | 20.5. | 17.6. | 15.7. | 12.8. | 9.9. | 11.11. | 9.12. |
| Mute Swan | 97 | 64 | 40 | 33 | 53 | 94 | 103 | 105 | 93 | 123 | 118 |
| Greylag Goose | 167 | 104 | 25 | 12 | 45 | 125 | 72 | 311 | 391 | 335 | 59 |
| Canada Goose | 210 | 1 | 30 | 3 | 2 | 205 | 109 | 219 | 555 | 137 | 76 |
| Shelduck |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wigeon | 746 | 560 | 684 |  |  |  |  |  | 11 | 386 | 476 |
| Gadwall | 55 | 28 | 2 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 1 | 110 | 8 | 123 | 240 |
| Teal | 517 | 325 | 64 | 25 |  | 13 | 12 | 5 | 690 | 218 | 890 |
| Mallard | 336 | 96 | 12 | 21 | 72 | 106 | 234 | 469 | 536 | 213 | 296 |
| Pintail | 15 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 15 | 14 | 35 |
| Shoveler | 1 | 2 |  |  |  | 4 |  | 7 | 33 | 1 | 1 |
| Red-crestedPochard |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 9 | 1 |
| Pochard | 2 | 3 | 4 |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 48 | 66 |
| Tufted Duck | 109 | 223 | 26 |  | 5 | 29 | 49 | 28 | 122 | 586 | 811 |
| Goldeneye | 34 | 49 | 16 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 44 | 56 |
| Smew | 2 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| Goosander |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| Cormorant | 34 | 26 |  |  | 9 | 10 | 23 | 5 | 37 | 72 | 26 |
| Little Egret |  | 1 |  | 2 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 15 | 6 | 1 |  |
| Great White Egret | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grey Heron | 3 | 1 |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Little Grebe Grebe |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| Great Crested Grebe | 31 | 65 | 21 | 30 | 44 | 25 | 38 | 53 | 56 | 81 | 123 |
| Moorhen | 4 | 2 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |  |  |
| Coot | 209 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 58 | 142 | 207 | 280 | 426 | 403 |
| TOTAL | 3013 | 1563 | 931 | 154 | 263 | 691 | 800 | 1543 | 2844 | 2821 | 3685 |

 Rutland Water Wildfowl Counts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 21.1. | 18.2. | 18.3. | 17.4. | 15.5. | 12.6. | 17.7. | 14.8. | 9.9. | 14.10. | 11.11. | 9.12. |
| Mute Swan | 157 | 110 | 127 | 209 | 163 | 311 | 423 | 381 | 401 | 388 | 412 | 477 |
| Bewick’s Swan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5 |
| Whooper Swan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| Pink-footed Goose |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 |
| White-fronted Goose |  |  | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Greylag Goose | 542 | 76 | 355 | 215 | 268 | 798 | 846 | 814 | 394 | 761 | 430 | 620 |
| Canada Goose | 612 | 386 | 144 | 99 | 81 | 857 | 739 | 1215 | 415 | 457 | 357 | 545 |
| Barnacle Goose | 2 | 47 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |
| Brent Goose | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Egyptian Goose | 39 | 33 | 17 | 35 | 23 | 31 | 53 | 78 | 70 | 12 | 17 | 39 |
| Shelduck | 7 | 19 | 21 | 49 | 18 | 16 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Mandarin Duck |  |  | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| Wigeon | 3543 | 2711 | 1842 | 16 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 13 | 588 | 3109 | 4846 | 3351 |
| American Wigeon | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gadwall | 519 | 322 | 213 | 101 | 98 | 544 | 1921 | 845 | 1343 | 1173 | 1517 | 933 |
| Teal | 924 | 182 | 126 | 61 |  | 20 | 52 | 284 | 720 | 1252 | 1726 | 1945 |
| Mallard | 682 | 505 | 279 | 243 | 298 | 551 | 1149 | 1315 | 1507 | 1580 | 1766 | 1070 |
| Pintail | 8 | 7 | 8 | 3 |  |  |  |  | 48 | 106 | 166 | 66 |
| Garganey |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 |  |  |  |
| Shoveler | 35 | 40 | 33 | 50 | 8 | 26 | 26 | 98 | 342 | 428 | 246 | 95 |
| Red-crested Pochard | 2 |  | 4 |  |  |  |  |  | 8 | 8 | 64 | 31 |
| Pochard | 78 | 47 | 44 | 12 | 9 | 19 | 24 | 50 | 95 | 29 | 57 | 15 |
| Tufted Duck | 3026 | 1500 | 936 | 648 | 243 | 310 | 2364 | 3179 | 4368 | 2100 | 5699 | 4251 |
| Scaup | 1 | 3 | 10 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 4 |
| Common Scoter |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| Goldeneye | 405 | 373 | 205 | 4 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 164 | 255 |
| Smew | 10 | 10 | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |
| Goosander | 17 | 15 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4 | 12 |
| Ruddy Duck |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Great Northern Diver | 1 | 2 | 2 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  | 2 |
| Cormorant | 132 | 178 | 110 | 109 | 134 | 154 | 234 | 432 | 768 | 686 | 591 | 312 |
| Bittern |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |
| Little Egret | 11 | 5 |  | 5 | 13 | 14 | 71 | 54 | 54 | 83 | 26 | 12 |
| Great White Egret | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 4 | 19 | 23 | 10 |
| Grey Heron | 9 | 11 | 3 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 17 | 22 | 17 | 21 | 20 | 12 |
| Glossy Ibis |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  |
| Little Grebe | 116 | 88 | 37 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 40 | 104 | 183 | 142 | 201 | 153 |
| Great Crested Grebe | 251 | 185 | 131 | 118 | 112 | 167 | 280 | 472 | 711 | 670 | 761 | 208 |
| Red-necked Grebe | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |
| Slavonian Grebe |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| Black-necked Grebe | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 2 |
| Water Rail | 1 | 8 | 8 |  | 8 | 12 | 10 | 1 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| Moorhen | 118 | 128 | 38 | 49 | 25 | 39 | 112 | 98 | 211 | 309 | 150 | 154 |
| Coot | 2705 | 1385 | 508 | 191 | 129 | 292 | 1118 | 1389 | 2407 | 2534 | 1804 | 2556 |
| Kingfisher |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 1 |  |  |
| TOTAL | 13947 | 8378 | 5218 | 2231 | 1651 | 4189 | 9503 | 10574 | 14674 | 15877 | 21056 | 17162 |

 Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park Lake Wildfowl Counts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 19.1. | 17.2. | 16.3. | 15.4. | 19.5. | 16.6. | 14.7. | 11.8. | 8.9. | 13.10. | 12.11. | 8.12. |
| Mute Swan | 9 | 17 | 9 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 20 | 21 | 21 | 18 | 16 |
| Greylag Goose | 36 | 506 | 3 | 12 | 21 | 6 | 5 |  | 6 | 21 | 80 | 6 |
| Canada Goose |  | 2 |  |  |  |  | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Egyptian Goose | 1 |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shelduck | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 |  |  |  |  | 2 | 2 |
| Mandarin Duck |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| Wigeon  | 104 | 273 | 141 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  | 7 | 63 | 150 |
| Gadwall | 42 | 32 | 49 | 24 | 17 | 18 | 13 | 12 | 72 | 67 | 88 | 76 |
| Teal | 12 | 37 | 3 | 7 |  |  | 2 | 6 | 37 | 49 | 57 | 31 |
| Mallard | 122 | 142 | 75 | 48 | 58 | 60 | 85 | 161 | 160 | 168 | 253 | 244 |
| Pintail |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| Shoveler | 10 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |  | 15 | 34 | 38 | 27 |
| Pochard |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Tufted Duck | 39 | 78 | 56 | 54 | 21 | 43 | 20 | 3 | 18 | 20 | 18 | 19 |
| Goosander |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cormorant | 5 |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  | 2 | 1 |
| Little Egret |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| Grey Heron | 2 | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Little Grebe | 16 | 4 | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 3 | 2 |  | 9 | 11 |
| Great Crested Grebe |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Moorhen | 13 | 13 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 18 | 24 | 33 | 20 | 17 | 5 |
| Coot | 90 | 71 | 54 | 39 | 22 | 32 | 38 | 57 | 81 | 93 | 102 | 99 |
| TOTAL | 504 | 1186 | 411 | 209 | 158 | 177 | 198 | 290 | 449 | 510 | 754 | 694 |

 Holywell Lake Wildfowl Counts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 13.1. | 18.2. | 15.3. | 21.10. | 8.11. | 10.12. |
| Mute Swan |  | 2 | 2 | 2 |  | 2 |
| Greylag Goose |  | 22 |  | 97 | 98 |  |
| Canada Goose | 29 | 3 | 25 | 6 | 31 | 14 |
| Wigeon | 74 | 30 | 40 | 16 | 40 | 4 |
| Gadwall | 14 | 22 | 21 | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Teal | 2 | 12 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 4 |
| Mallard | 141 | 107 | 30 | 174 | 149 | 204 |
| Shoveler |  |  |  | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Red-crested Pochard |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Tufted Duck | 36 | 20 | 12 | 16 | 17 | 5 |
| Little Egret | 2 | 2 | 1 |  | 2 |  |
| Grey Heron |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| Little Grebe | 15 | 18 | 12 | 20 | 28 | 19 |
| Moorhen | 12 | 13 | 11 | 11 | 14 | 21 |
| Coot | 2 | 2 | 9 | 1 |  |  |
| Kingfisher |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 327 | 253 | 177 | 358 | 396 | 286 |

 Banthorpe Gravel Pit Wildfowl Counts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 19.1 | 16.. | 16.3. | 13.4. | 20.5. | 15.6. | 13.7. | 11.8. | 07.10. | 13.10. | 9.11. | 7.12. |
| Mute Swan | 2 |  | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Greylag Goose | 30 |  | 36 | 17 | 22 | 4 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Teal | 42 | 34 | 52 | 7 |  |  |  |  | 22 | 22 | 9 | 56 |
| Mallard | 2 |  | 10 | 1 | 2 |  |  | 1 | 26 | 16 | 1 | 6 |
| Shoveler |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| Tufted Duck | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cormorant |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |
| Little Egret |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |  | 5 |  |  | 1 |
| Grey Heron | 1 | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 4 | 3 |  | 3 | 1 |  | 1 |
| Little Grebe |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 |  |  |  |
| Moorhen |  | 2 | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 |  | 1 |
| Coot |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 78 | 38 | 101 | 28 | 27 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 68 | 44 | 13 | 68 |

 Greetham Golf Club Wildfowl Counts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 21.1. | 18.2. | 17.3. | 15.4 | 20.5. | 18.6. | No Count | 11.8. | 8.9. | 12.10. | 11.11. | 9.12. |
| Mute Swan |  |  | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Greylag Goose |  |  |  | 2 | 2 | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Canada Goose |  |  | 2 | 2 |  |  |  | 5 |  |  |  |  |
| Mandarin Duck |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gadwall |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mallard | 6 | 30 | 17 | 14 | 11 | 7 |  | 23 | 89 | 39 | 27 | 41 |
| Tufted Duck |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Little Egret |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |
| Grey Heron |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |
| Moorhen | 17 | 15 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 14 |  | 22 | 20 | 21 | 28 | 24 |
| Coot | 4 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 5 | 3 |  | 6 | 3 |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 27 | 51 | 41 | 41 | 32 | 31 |  | 56 | 113 | 61 | 56 | 66 |

 Rutland Water Wader Counts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 21.1. | 18.2. | 18.3. | 17.4. | 15.5. | 12.6. | 17.7. | 14.8. | 9.9. | 14.10. | 11.11. | 9.12. |
| Oystercatcher |  | 27 | 21 | 49 | 18 | 28 | 9 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Avocet |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Golden Plover | 130 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 16 | 25 | 2 |
| Grey Plover |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lapwing | 668 | 258 | 21 | 32 | 46 | 51 | 231 | 196 | 232 | 6 | 1690 | 1591 |
| Little Ringed Plover |  |  |  |  | 2 | 2 | 5 | 3 |  |  |  |  |
| Ringed Plover |  | 1 | 1 |  | 6 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 |  |  |
| Whimbrel | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Curlew | 6 | 12 | 12 |  |  | 10 | 2 |  | 3 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| Black-tailed Godwit |  |  |  |  |  |  | 85 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 2 |  |
| Bar-tailed Godwit |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Turnstone |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Knot |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ruff |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 6 |  |  |  |
| Dunlin | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |  | 2 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 80 |
| Red-necked Phalarope |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| Common Sandpiper |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 | 4 | 7 |  |  |  |
| Green Sandpiper | 2 |  |  |  |  |  | 4 | 17 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Greenshank |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 |  |  |
| Redshank | 9 | 9 | 2 | 14 | 8 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 15 | 10 |
| Snipe | 3 | 5 | 9 |  |  |  | 5 | 8 | 33 | 6 |  |  |
| TOTAL | 826 | 314 | 69 | 98 | 86 | 111 | 356 | 243 | 308 | 27 | 1744 | 1692 |