**Rutland Natural History Society**

**ANNUAL BIRD REPORT 2022 Recorder: Terry Mitcham**

During 2022 there were regular reports from Barrow, both reservoirs, the Exton Estate and Fort Henry, Greetham Golf Course, the Leighfield area, Quarry Farm and Ketton Quarry. Monthly wildfowl counts were received from five sites and the Common Birds Census at Beaumont Chase Farm continued for a final (31st) year. Burley Wood received scant attention and there were few records from the Welland valley or the north of the county.

A number of scarcer species were recorded, mainly at the reservoirs and included wildfowl and waders: Pink-footed and White-fronted Geese, Ring-necked Duck, Red-throated and Great Northern Divers, Pectoral and White-rumped Sandpipers. A wintering Garganey at Fort Henry ponds was notable. ‘Heron’ species were well reported with record counts of Great White Egret and sightings of Glossy Ibis, Cattle Egret, Bittern and Crane. On the debit side of these successes there was only a single record of Turtle Dove; Cuckoos and Nightingales are barely ‘hanging on’ in the county. There were no records of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker or Corn Bunting. My thanks to the following for their records:-

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**Photo: Garganey © Peter Scott**

**Abbreviations Used**

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| Ash – Ashwell | Luff - Luffenham |
| Barns – Barnsdale | Man - Manton |
| BGP – Banthorpe Gravel Pit | MThorpe - Martinthorpe |
| Bis – Bisbrooke | MM – Merry’s Meadow |
| BFP – Burley Fishponds | Norm - Normanton |
| BCF – Beaumont Chase Farm | Oak - Oakham |
| BW – Burley Wood | Pick - Pickworth |
| CPW – Clipsham Park Wood | PGW – Pickworth Great Wood |
| CBC – Common Birds Census | QF – Quarry Farm |
| CottesW - Cottesmore Wood | RWEg – Rutland Water Egleton Reserve |
| EastW – East Wood | RWLynd – Rutland Water Lyndon Reserve |
| EW – Edith Weston | RWNA – Rutland Water North Arm |
| Emp – Empingham | RWSA – Rutland Water South Arm |
| Ext – Exton | Stam - Stamford |
| EBR - Eyebrook Reservoir | SDW – Stoke Dry Wood |
| Geest – Geeston | Tin - Tinwell |
| GC – Golf Course | TunnW – Tunneley Wood |
| GGorse – Gibbet Gorse | Upp - Uppingham |
| Gt Cast – Great Casterton | WardW – Wardley Wood |
| Greet – Greetham | WestW - Westland Wood |
| Kett – Ketton | Whit - Whitwell |
| Lang – Langham | WFL – Wing Fishing Lakes |
| Leigh – Leighfield | WG - Wing |
| LFP – Leighfield Fishponds | Whiss - Whissendine |

**See Also Wildfowl Counts and Wader Counts**

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| **Brent Goose** | Two were at RWNA and SA on 30.11. |
| **Canada Goose** | Regular at both reservoirs throughout the year, with breeding confirmed at both. One at Rygate Lake in Ext Park was the only Ext record. |
| **Barnacle Goose** | There was a pair at BGP between 05.05. and 08.06. |
| **Greylag Goose** | Large numbers were at the reservoirs in autumn and winter. c.200 were at FHP on 15.10. Breeding was confirmed at both reservoirs, FHP and BGP. |
| **Pink-footed Goose** | Five were at RWNA/Burley Fishponds from 19.01. to 14.03., visiting Rygate Lake on 25.01. Approximately 25 flew over Wg on 16.09. and there were singles at RWNA on 25.09. and 04.12. and EBR on 01. and 29.10. |
| **White-fronted Goose** | Two were at RWNA between 03.02. and 08.03. |
| **Mute Swan** | Present at both reservoirs throughout the year with breeding confirmed at both sites. Single pairs bred at BGP, Geest and Rygate Lake with two pairs at FHP. The outbreak of avian flu in the autumn killed 12 juveniles at FHP/Rygate Lake and dead individuals were also seen at EBR and RW. |
| **Bewick’s Swan** | Now a scarce visitor to Rutland, four were at EBR on 05.01. and four were in RWSA3 on 20.11. |
| **Whooper Swan** | One at RWEg4 on 09.04. was the only spring record. Three in RWNA on 29.09. were the first autumn birds with one at EBR on 08.10. Five were in RWSA3 on 14.10. with nine in Burley Fishponds on 19.10. Thirteen flew over RW on 04.11. and one or two were at both reservoirs on five dates between 12.11. and 05.12. Two flew over QF on 29.11. |
| **Egyptian Goose** | Present at RW throughout the year with breeding confirmed: a pair had six goslings near the Sailing Club on 02.05. One at FHP on 23.02. was the only Ext record. |
| **Shelduck** | Present at FHP from 12.02. to 26.06., mostly one or two but three on 09.04. and 22.05. A flock of ten were off the dam at RW on 11.04. and there was a pair at LFP on 07.05. There were two broods of young on RWEg3 on 12.06. Five were at EBR on 06.08. |
| **Ruddy Shelduck** | One was at RWEg between 12. and 31.07. |
| **Mandarin Duck** | There were records from RW (bred at Berrybut Spinney), Rygate Lake, the Chater valley, WFL and LFP. Most were of single birds or pairs but seven were near WFL on 26.12. |
| **Garganey** | A female was at FHP between 03.01. and 16.04., an unusual case of overwintering as the bird was first seen in Oct. 2021. There was a pair at EBR on 15.04. and at RWEg3 on 23.04. A male and a pair were at RWEg on 14.05. In June there was a pair at BGP on 08.6. and two at RWEg4 on 10.6. with a female the next day. Single birds were at RWEg4 on 24. and 30.07. with three on 06.08. One was at EBR on 26.and 27.08. with one at FHP on 28.08. which was still present on 03.09. In September single birds were at EBR (01. to 06.) and RWSA3 (22.). Three were at this latter site on 08.10. and a female was back at FHP on 30.10. and 20.11. |
| **Shoveler** | Present all year at RW and FHP but no confirmed breeding records with a strong autumn passage. Numbers at FHP increased from two on 18.08. to peak of 95 on 30.10. with 55 still present on16.12. |
| **Gadwall** | Present and confirmed breeding at both reservoirs. There were three broods (two, three and five) at FHP on 11.06. and a brood of four in Ext Park on 26.06. Peak winter numbers at FHP were 68 on 03.01. and 65 on 03.12. |
| **Wigeon** | Large numbers wintered at both reservoirs. A flooded field at Cott held 65 on 23.01. with one still present on 19.04. Winter peaks at FHP were 106 on 05.02. (last recorded on 02.04.) and 66 on 16.12. with the first autumn bird on 02.10. The Rygate Lake peak was 48 on 25.01. |
| **Mallard** | Widespread on water bodies of all sizes with breeding confirmed at both reservoirs, FHP (at least four pairs bred), Rygate Lake and BGP. Numbers increased in autumn. FHP peak counts were 107 on 09.01. and 132 on 19.11. |
| **Pintail** | Present in variable numbers at both reservoirs, peaking in the autumn. Single males were at FHP on 25.01. and RWEg4 on 29.04. |
| **Teal** | Present at both reservoirs into the spring and from late-summer with a strong autumn passage. Forty were at LFP on 03.02. with c.120 there on 11.09. At FHP the peak counts were 81 on 03.01. with the last two on 09.04. and 79 on 07.10. with one returned on 18.06. The November count at RW was the highest ever at the reservoir. |
| **Red-crested Pochard** | Three at EBR was the only record in the first winter period. One was at RW on 28.07. and there were records there on four dates from 10.09. to 11.12. with 14 in SA3 on 04.12. Two were at EBR on 29.10. and 25.11. |
| **Pochard** | A declining autumn and winter visitor. Present at RWEg throughout the year but breeding was not confirmed. For the first time there were no records from FHP. |
| **Ring-necked Duck** | The female at EBR, present from 13.11.21. remained to 06.03. It, or another was at RWSA on 18.04 and 19.04. |
| **Tufted Duck** | Present throughout the year at the reservoirs, with high autumn counts at RW. Present at FHP all year and irregular in small numbers at Rygate Lake and BGP. Bred at RWEg and FHP (a brood of nine, declining to five fledged). FHP peaks were 73 on 26.02. and 63 on 03.12. |
| **Scaup** | Well reported from EBR in the first winter period with birds present to 26.03. and a peak of seven on 02.01. and 05. and 06.03. Two were at RWSA3 on 22.02. with five there (four males) on 26.02. Three were at RW on 05.03. with two the next day. In April two were at RWSA3 on 09.04. with one on 23.04. and a female was at Eg3 on 03. and 07.05. Autumn numbers were low, with one in RWNA on 13.10., and in SA3 between 20. and 25.11. A male was at EBR on 25. and 28.11. |
| **Common Scoter** | Birds were heard passing over Man on the night of 24.03. A female was at EBR on 02.04. and there were three females in RWNA on 22.05. Three females were at the same site on 10. and 12.09. |
| **Goldeneye** | A winter and passage visitor at both reservoirs with feeding flocks of 20/50 birds regular at RW. Our last spring bird was at EBR on 10.04. One was at RW on 19.07. Our first autumn bird was on the late date of 06.11. RW numbers were low to the end of the year. A female was at FHP on 19. and 26.11. |
| **Smew** | A regular winter visitor at both reservoirs. At EBR there were records between 03.02. and 06.03. with a peak of seven on 05. and 10.02. RWEg had birds from 03.02. to 14.03., peaking at six on 08.02. and 08.03. A late redhead was at RWEg4 on 02.04. A redhead at EBR on 23.11. was the first autumn arrival with numbers increasing there to eight (five males) on 20.12. A redhead at RWEg3 was present from 26.11. to 31.12. |
| **Goosander** | A winter visitor to both reservoirs in decreasing numbers with occasional records from Rygate Lake, where there were single males on 09.01. and 11.12. RW numbers in the first winter period were low with no significant last date. One at RW dam on 16.10. was our first autumn bird with up to ten there through to November. |
| **Red-breasted Merganser** | A female was at RWEg3 on 03.12. |
| **Red-legged Partridge** | Resident on farmland with large numbers released for shooting, especially in the east of Rutland. Records were received from Ext Park, EBR, BCF, Lynd, Mounts Lodge and EW. |
| **Grey Partridge** | A widespread but scarce resident. There were coveys of ten near Eg and 14 north of G Cast on 02.01. One called near Man on 26.01. and 02.02. There was a pair in Ext Park on 09.04. and a covey of ten there on 10.09. Other records were from Leigh, Belmesthorpe and GGorse Meadow, where there were six on 24.10. |
| **Quail** | One sang at LFP on 22.06. |
| **Pheasant** | A species introduced for shooting; abundant in some areas but less common where this is not the case, as at QF, where there was only one record. A female and four chicks were at Ext Park on 26.06. |
| **Red-throated Diver** | One, almost in breeding plumage, was at RW Dam on 14.04. |
| **Great Northern Diver** | Present at RW from 01.01. with the last on 09.05. One or two were seen regularly but three were noted to at least 05.04. A juvenile was present, mainly near RW Dam, from 03.11. to at least 04.12. |
| **Little Grebe** | A regular passage and winter visitor at the reservoirs and FHP with occasional birds at Greet GC, Rygate Lake and BGP. One was on a flooded field at Cott on on 20.03. Peak counts at FHP were eight on 05.02. and 11 on 05.11. Breeding was confirmed at RWEg and on a pond in Ext Park and trilling birds were heard at Clipsham Ford on 22.05. and Braunston on 09.06. |
| **Great Crested Grebe** | Present all year and breeding at both reservoirs with peak numbers in winter. Present at FHP between 02. and 23.04. with a pair on 16.04. There were five nests at EBR on 19.06. |
| **Slavonian Grebe** | One was at RWNA and Lynd from 01.01. to at least 22.02. with one, possibly the same bird at EBR from 01.03. to 08.05. One was at RWNA/SA3 between 05.11. and 26.11. |
| **Black-necked Grebe** | The only records were from RW with single birds on 26.07. and 09.-22.10. |
| **Glossy Ibis** | One was at EBR on 07. and 08.09. |
| **Spoonbill.** | Singles were at EBR on 09.05. and RWEg4 on 10.06. |
| **Bittern** | All records were from RW, mostly Eg3, with one on 17.02. and autumn birds were recorded on 28.10., 10.11. and 19.11. One was over RWNA on 08.07. and seen on Eg2 on 29.07. |
| **Cattle Egret** | One was at RW Burley Fishponds and Eg between 10. and 19.08. with another at Eg between 22. and 24.09. |
| **Grey Heron** | Present all year at the reservoirs with a heronry at BFP. Also frequent at FHP, BGP and Rygate Lake. Three were over Oak on 14.03. There were three at BGP on 08.06. and eight juveniles were at EBR on 17.06. |
| **Great White Egret** | There were records in all months except July and Aug. RW remains the main site, where autumn numbers peaked at 56 on 24.09. One was at LFP on 03.02., singles were at EBR on 26.03. and 17.06., with two on 27.11. One was at FHP between 05. and 12.02. and on 11.06. One was in a farm paddock at Teigh on 02.12. and two flew over MThorpe on 15.12. |
| **Little Egret** | Regular throughout the year at the reservoirs with breeding at RW. Ones and twos were noted at other sites: one on the North Brook at FHP on 27.02., two by the R. Gwash at Bel on 08.03., one on the R. Gwash at Braunston on 10.03. and two at FHP on 19. and 25.10. |
| **Shag** | An immature was on the island at RWSA on 22.11. |
| **Cormorant** | Resident and breeding at RW Burley Fish Ponds with birds regular at EBR and also visiting Rygate Lake, FHP and BGP. Noted at FHP in all months with a maximum of six on 03.01. |
| **Osprey** | A migrant breeder at RW and other sites with birds regular at EBR and other water bodies. The first bird was back at RW on 12.03 with three present by 24.03. One was over Wg on 18.04. and one flew over QF on 07.05. Eight were present on 14.05., with three chicks at the Lynd nest on 26.05. One was over LFP on 29.07. and four were at EBR on 06.08. Single birds were at FHP on 18.08. and 16.09. and there were other late juveniles at RWEg on 23.09.and EBR on 06.and 08.10. |
| **Marsh Harrier** | Two seen at RWEg on 24.03 were the first of the year with apparent nest building in Man Bay in April though the outcome of this is not known. Birds were present at RWEg for the rest of the year, with two seen regularly from 12.09. and three roosting on 20.11. Elsewhere a female was near MM on 19.06. and one was in Ext Park on 07. and 12.08. On 08.10. one was by the R. Chater at Pilt. |
| **Harrier sp.** | A ring-tail harrier was at RWEg1 on 22.10 |
| **Red Kite** | The species is well distributed with sightings over woodland, farmland and built-up areas across the county. Bred at FHP, fledging two young. Nineteen were over a field being cut for silage at BCF on 20.05. and a minimum of seven were at FHP on 07.08. |
| **Buzzard** | A commonly seen raptor with birds noted throughout the year over woods and farmland, being less inclined to cross built up areas than the Red Kite. Six soared over Ext Park in April and May. Bred at QF and fledged calling young were heard in Ext Park, at FHP and BW. Nineteen or twenty birds were hunting worms in a field being cultivated at BCF on 08.10. |
| **Water Rail** | Resident and breeding at RWEg/Lynd with autumn and winter records from other suitable wetland sites. Forty-one were located at RW on 14.01. using tape playback. At FHP there was one on 16.01. and two called there on 05.11. with one on 26.11. One called at FHP on 22.12. |
| **Moorhen** | A common species at all wetland sites where there is suitable cover. Extensive muddy shallows at FHP produced high autumn counts with a peak of 67 on 07.10. |
| **Coot** | A breeding resident on larger water bodies with high winter numbers at the reservoirs. The peak count at FHP was 63 on 19.11. and 16.12. |
| **Crane** | Five flew over RW on 19.03., two flew east over RWManBay on 11.04. with three east on 21.04. |
|  | **SEE ALSO RUTLAND WATER WADER COUNTS** |
| **Oystercatcher** | Regular at RW with breeding confirmed on the Eg lagoons. One was at EBR on 26.03. with two there on 26.04. Breeding birds had left RW by August but one was in SA3 on 08.10. and near Norm on 10.12. |
| **Avocet** | Three were at EBR from 01.01. to 05.02. and nine were at RWEg4 on18.03. with 14 there on 24.04. On 27.05. there were 12 nests on Eg4 with three broods of chicks. |
| **Lapwing** | An uncommon breeder with large numbers on passage and in winter. At FHP 120 flew east on 25.01. At EBR the counts were 188 on 23.01., three on 17.04., 94 on 09.10. with 179 on 16.10. and roughly 100 on 27.11. Display or the presence of birds at breeding sites was noted at RWEg, Ext Park (from 27.03.), EBR, Cott (two chicks on 15.05.), BGP and Bis. |
| **Golden Plover** | There were 1650 birds at RWEg in mid-Jan with 30 over Lynd on 27.01. and around 120 there next day. Twenty five flew over Glebe Farm on 01.03., a regular passage site. The last spring birds were 20 at RWEg4 on 12.04. One over Ext Park on 16.09. was the first autumn record with birds at RW from Oct. There were 146 at EBR on 16.10. |
| **Grey Plover** | Spring birds were reported at RWEg on seven dates between 09.04. and 05.05. with a maximum of four on 23.04. One or two were at RWEg between 22. and 29.09. with one on 04.10. and two on 22.10. One flew south over Preston on 09.10. |
| **Ringed Plover** | One flew over RW on 11.02. with the next there on 21.03. Spring passage extended to 05.06. with peak counts of 40 on 14.05. and 30 on 28.05. Breeding was confirmed on Eg4. A good autumn passage at EBR saw birds present from 19.08. to 16.10. with double figure counts between 25.08. and 08.10 and a peak of 33 on 11.09. At RW there was one on 16.08., five on 18.08. and eight on 10.09. The last record was one at RW on 19.10. |
| **Little Ringed Plover** | The first bird was at RWEg4 on 12.03. and birds were present there throughout the summer with the last on 11.09 and a peak of 11 on 08.09. Breeding was confirmed on the Eg lagoons. At EBR there was one on 21.06. and then regular records from 04.08 to 09.09. with a peak of four throughout Sept. |
| **Whimbrel** | There were fewer birds and records this year following exceptional numbers in 2021. Spring passage at RW was between 21.04. and 26.05. with birds on five dates and a peak of eight on 29.04. At EBR five flew north on 23.04. with single birds on 29.04. and 07.05. The only autumn records were of one over RW on 18.07. and two on 19.08. |
| **Curlew** | Regular at RW except during the breeding season. Returning birds were first heard at Barrow on 26.02. with song from 08.03. Seven passed over RW on 12.04. A pair was at Cott Airfield on 03. and 09.04. and a pair mobbed a Red Kite at MM on 28.05., so ten in a nearby field on 19.06. probably indicates local breeding. Eight were at RWEg1 on 24.11. |
| **Bar-tailed Godwit** | Spring singles were at EBR on 05.03.and 28.04. Spring passage at RWEg4 produced one or two between 22.04. and 03.05. |
| **Black-tailed Godwit** | Single birds were at RWEg on 21.01. and 02.04. Twenty eight birds on 12.04. was the spring peak, with six on 29.04. being the only other record. Autumn passage at RWEg began with 35 on 02.07. with birds present to 15.09. but only one more double figure count, 26 on 30.07. Up to three were reported from EBR between 09.07. and 23.09. Between 14.10. and 10.12. up to 12 (20.10.) were at RWEg |
| **Turnstone** | One wintered at RWSA/Eg from 08.02. to at least 02.04. Two were on Eg4 on 29.04. and 15.05., with one present next day. An early autumn bird was at EBR on 26.07. and up to three were at RWSA3 between 02. and 15.09. |
| **Knot** | Single birds were at RW on 11.03. (Eg4) and SA3 from 22. to 22.11. |
| **Ruff** | Two at RWEg4 on 12.04. were the only spring birds. EBR had a good autumn passage beginning with one on 30.06. and extending to 26.09. with a peak of ten on 11.09. A late bird was seen on 18.10. At RWEg autumn birds were noted between 31.07. and 09.10. with a maximum of five on the first date. |
| **Curlew Sandpiper** | There were no spring records. Autumn migration saw birds at RWEg from 02.09. to 21.09. and a peak of seven on the first date. EBR had birds from 05.09. to 29.09., with a maximum of three on 22.09. |
| **Temminck’s Stint** | Single birds were at RWEg4 on 06.05., 09. and 10.05. |
| **Sanderling** | Spring passage was noted at RWEg from 02.05. to 10.06. with a maximum of ten on 13.05. The only autumn birds were singles at EBR on 06.08 and at RWEg3 on 09.08. |
| **Dunlin** | At RW there were records for all months with birds wintering and passing through on migration. Sixteen were in Man Bay on 05.02. Spring passage, between 02.04. and 06.06. saw a maximum of 40 on 14.05. Autumn birds, from14.07. onwards peaked at 63 on 06.11. with up 15 to the end of the year. At EBR there was a January maximum of c.50 on 11.01. with 14 on 05.03. and five on 15.03. Autumn passage there, between 14.07. and 19.10., produced a peak of 19 on 26.09. |
| **Little Stint** | One bird on 28.05. at RWEg4 was the only spring record. Autumn passage at RWEg was from 04.09. to 22.10. with a peak of four on 19.10. At EBR birds were noted from 03.09. to 16.10. with a maximum of six on 01.10. |
| **White-rumped Sandpiper** | One was at RWEg4 on 21. and 22.05. and one was at EBR from 04. to 10.08. |
| **Pectoral Sandpiper** | One was at EBR from 25.08. to 03.09. |
| **Woodcock** | There were some good totals in the first winter period with birds noted at PGW, LyndW, Man Junction, BW, WestW (ten on 18.01.), SDW (c.15 on 29.01.), RWEg/Lynd and TunnW (seven on 05.02.). The last birds were three at TunnW on 27.02. One in PGW on 14.11. was the first autumn bird. There were three in WestW on 25.11. and two in TunnW next day and on 03.12. |
| **Jack Snipe** | Most records were of single birds at RWEg between 27.09. and 29.10. with three on 04.10. One was at EBR on 30.10. |
| **Snipe** | A passage and winter visitor in low numbers. In the first winter period, up to 26.04., records came from RWEg, Man Junction, MThorpe, Cott,,FHP, BGP and QF with five at Man Junction on 06.04. Autumn records from 19.07. were from RW, EBR, LFP, FHP, MThorpe, Mounts Lodge and QF with a maximum of three at FHP on 16.12. |
| **Common Sandpiper** | Two birds at EBR on 28.04. were the first arrivals. One or two were at RWEg between 02.05. and 27.05. An early autumn bird was at EBR on 30.06. RW birds were noted between 14.07. and 09.10. with a maximum of five on 21.07. Single birds were at EBR on 19. and 27.08. with two on 08.09. |
| **Green Sandpiper** | A passage visitor, often away from the reservoirs, which may over-winter in mild weather. One was at FHP on 03.01. with two at EBR on 07.01. One or two were at RW from 23.01. to 22.03. with a late bird on 02.04. Autumn birds were at EBR from 18.06. to 29.10. with a maximum of three on 02.07. RW also had records from 02.07. with birds noted to 16.11. with 13 on 16.08. Away from the reservoirs there were up to three at FHP from 22.09. to 26.11., one near MThorpe on 03.08. and one at LFP on 21.08. |
| **Redshank** | A passage and winter visitor and scarce breeder, which seems to be declining, with few records away from the monthly counts. No records were received from EBR or from RW in June but 20 were present at RW on 09.07. One was at the Dam on 10.12. |
| **Wood Sandpiper** | There were single spring birds at RWEg4 on 23. and 28.04. and 09.05. One at EBR on 18.06. was the first autumn bird, whilst RWEg had two on 30. and 31.07. Single birds were recorded on six dates between 16.08. and 23.09. A late juvenile was at EBR from 13. to 29.10. |
| **Spotted Redshank** | One was at RWEg4 on 14.03. A good autumn passage brought birds to RWEg between 14.08. and 15.10. with a peak of four on 06.09. and 15.09. Single birds were at EBR on 05.09. and 14.09. |
| **Greenshank** | The only spring records were of five at RWEg on 12.04. and one flying north at EBR on 04.05. Autumn birds at RW, between 14.07. and a late 16.11., peaked at eight on 11.09. EBR had birds from 29.07. and 10.09. with a maximmum of four on 16.08. |
| **Kittiwake** | One was at RW Dam on 20.02. |
| **Black-headed Gull** | Present throughout the year, breeding at RWEg, with large numbers of continental birds present in winter. Between 40,000 and 50,000 were estimated to be roosting at RW on 10.01. Other counts from RW were: 700 on 19.04., 746 (with at least 282 nests) on 17.04., 367 on 19.07., 460 on 16.08., 1705 on 11.09. and 268 on 09.10. |
| **Little Gull** | One was at EBR on 28.03. An excellent spring passage at RWEg, from 11.04. to 14.05., saw birds on 12 dates with a maximum of 15 (14 stunning adults and a first winter) on 24.04. Two were at EBR on 11.04. with one on 28.04. and four on 30.04. Autumn birds were a juvenile at RWEg on 14. and 16.08., three at EBR on 15.08. and one at RW on16.08. |
| **Mediterranean Gull** | An occasional visitor to the reservoirs, often found in the evening roosts. Single birds were at RW on13.01. and 23. to 25.03. with two on 29.03. An adult and immature were on RWEg4 in April with mating seen on 01.05., and five were present between 20. and 25.05. A juvenile was in RWNA on 21.07. Two were at RW Dam on 03.11. with one at Norm on 19.11. |
| **Common Gull** | A winter and passage visitor, often numerous on spring migration. At RW between 12,500 and 20,000 were estimated to be roosting on 10.01. Other RW counts, from the Eg lagoons, were 1,100 on 15.03., 320 on 29.04., ten on 05.08. and two on 08.09. Some EBR counts were 334 on 01.01., 200 on 12.02., 250 on 01.11. and 157 on 25.11. Approximately 1,500 were on fields near PC on 28.03. |
| **Great Black-backed Gull** | Present at RW all year with mainly immature birds in summer. At RW 118 roosted on 10.01., with other counts as follows: eight on 22.03., three on 19.04., 14 on 10.05., 40 on 26.08., eight on 11.09., and 25 on 04.10. |
| **Herring Gull** | A winter and passage visitor, most numerous in winter. At RW 98 roosted on 10.01. and ten were noted on 16.08. These were the only records. |
| **Caspian Gull** | A scarce visitor at the reservoirs on passage and in winter. One was regular at RWNA/Eg from 18.01. to 22.02. with up to four different birds noted on six March dates. Single birds were also at RW on 19.07., 16. to 23.08. and 17.09. EBR had singles on 05.05. and 01.09. |
| **Yellow-legged Gull** | A passage visitor, most regular in summer and autumn. One was at RW Dam on 13.02. and one was on Eg4 on 27.05. Numbers increased with 13 on 19.07. and 16 on 04.08. declining to two on 09.10. through to 16.11. At EBR there was one on 01.01. and 04.08. and two throughout September. |
| **Lesser Black-backed Gull** | A regular passage visitor at the reservoirs. The only records received were 55 at RW on 10.01. and 11 there on 17.05. |
| **Sandwich Tern** | Two were at RW Burley Fishponds on 12.04. and one was at Eg4 on 02.05. |
| **Little Tern** | It was a good year for this species. There were three at EBR on 17.04., one at RWEg3/4 on 04. and 05.5. and five in RWSA3 on 25.08. |
| **Common Tern** | A passage visitor, breeding at the reservoirs. The first birds were at EBR on 11.04. and RWEg4 next day. Bred on the RWEg lagoons but the number of pairs was not reported. RW counts were 12 on 19.04., 80 on 19.07., 72 on 16.08., 14 at Norm on 07.09. and seven on 11.09. Two at RW Dam on 13.09. were the last birds of the year. Four were at EBR on 26.04. with three at the nesting raft on 19.06. but the number of breeding pairs was not noted. |
| **Arctic Tern** | Regular on passage at both reservoirs. Two at RWEg on 14.04. were the early arrivals with 15 on 19.04. and one or two to 02.05.; then 11 on 03.05. and the last on 14.05. Four were at EBR on 26.04. with single birds on 28.04. and 04.05. Our only autumn birds were singles at RW on 16.08. and at EBR on 25.09. |
| **Black Tern** | A passage visitor, now in much reduced numbers. A very light spring migration brought single birds to RWEg on 11. and 12.04 and between 02. and 19.05. with one at EBR on 01.05. Autumn passage was between 22.07. and 10.09. with four at RW on the first date and one or two on eight dates. Three were at EBR on 30.08. |
| **Great Skua** | One flew over RW Burley Fishponds on 18.08. |
| **Arctic Skua** | A dark-phase bird was over Burley Fishponds on 02.10. |
| **Feral Pigeon** | Local populations were noted in Oak, Stam, Upp, Emp and Castle Cement at Kett. Well established in suburban areas, roosting beneath unprotected solar panels. Stam birds fed on stubble by QF with c.150 in Oct. |
| **Stock Dove** | A well distributed resident of woodland and farmland. Noted at QF, FHP and Ext Park and Wg in small numbers. Bred in Barn Owl nest boxes at Geest, Ext Park and RW and in farm buildings at BCF. Six were in a Barrow garden on 28.05. |
| **Woodpigeon** | A common species on farmland and in suburban areas where mature trees provide nest sites. A marked autumn passage occurred with birds noted flying south at GG Meadow as follows: 650 on 19.10., 590 on 02.11. and 800 on 04.11. |
| **Turtle Dove** | One was photographed at Man on 29.07. |
| **Collared Dove** | Mainly a suburban species, exploiting garden feeding stations. There were 67 at RWEg on 13.09. |
| **Cuckoo** | A declining summer visitor. The first was heard at CPW on 18.04. and there were reports from 14 sites (12 last year, especially at RW, PGW, Leigh and QF. Song was heard to 05.07. (RWEg). A late juvenile was at Burley Fishponds from 09. to 20.08. |
| **Barn Owl** | An uncommon resident whose numbers fluctuate, with declines following harsh winters. There were reports from 15 sites (18 last year), mainly in the west of the county. Most records were of single birds but two were seen regularly near Lynd Top. Two Exton nest boxes were occupied with two young ringed at one on 15.06. Bred at Pres, fledging two young and five boxes were occupied at RW. |
| **Tawny Owl** | A well distributed resident in woods and parkland. Records came from 18 sites (15 last year), mainly of calling birds in woodland: BW, PGW, TunnW, QF, GG and PC. Birds were photographed in Oak and Lang gardens in May. Bred at BCF, fledging two young. Three were calling near MThorpe on 20.12. |
| **Little Owl** | This introduced species was noted throughout the year at 13 sites (14 last year) mostly in the west of Rutland. Many records were of calling birds but pairs were noted at EW and Pilt and breeding was confirmed at Bden and Norm, where four young were ringed at a nest box in May. |
| **Short-eared Owl** | Single birds were at RWNA/Eg on 28. and 31.10. |
| **Swift** | A decreasing summer migrant, the first was at RWEg2 on 27.04. with May records from Oak, Cott, Wg and Stam. Screaming parties of up ten were noted at Emp, Upp and Oak in July. A much under-recorded species. Around 20 were over EBR on 06.08. with three there the last on 27.08. |
| **Kingfisher** | A scarce resident on rivers, which is frequent at the reservoirs. Records came from RWEg, LFP, RWMan Bay, Man Junction, Ext Park, BGP, Ryhall and Braun. Most were of single birds but two were noted at Man Junction on 05.04. and at RWEg in November. |
| **Great Spotted Woodpecker** | A well distributed resident, often at garden feeding stations. Records came from 12 sites (11 last year) but the species is surely overlooked and under-recorded. Drumming was noted at PGW, QF, BCF, Norm, Ext Park, and WardW. Two juveniles were at KQ on 27.06. and feeding stations were visited at Barrow, Oak and TunnW. |
| **Green Woodpecker** | Widespread across the county but under-recorded with records from only nine sites, one more than last year. Well reported from QF, where it bred, RWEg and FHP. |
| **Kestrel** | Thinly distributed across the county with records from 14 sites, the same as last year, mostly of hunting birds hovering over roadside verges. Regular at FHP and QF. Activity was noted at two Ext Park nest boxes but breeding not confirmed at either. |
| **Merlin** | Single birds were seen in flight at Luff Airfield on 05.01. and QF on 17.02. |
| **Hobby** | A scarce summer visitor with the first at RWLynd on 28.04. and records from 11 sites (12 last year). Four were at RWEg on 20.05. and five over RWNA on 10.09. Bred at a new site, fledging at least one young. The final records were of one at QF on 21.09. with two at RWEg1 the next day. |
| **Peregrine** | A rare breeder, present throughout the year. Noted at 14 sites with regular records from RW and MThorpe. One took a Coot at RW on 02.03. Present at a regular breeding site all year and bred at a new site in the north-east of the county, fledging at least two young. The Stam pair, at All Saints church, fledged three young which were colour ringed on 27.06. One was chasing Lapwings near GG Meadow on 03.11. |
| **Ring-necked Parakeet** | One was at BCF on 05.12. |
| **Red-backed Shrike** | A first-winter bird was at RWEg1 between 11. and 16.09., the first record since one at MM on 17.06. in 2014. |
| **Jay**. | Well distributed in woodland across the county with records from BW, Ext Park, FHP, RWEg and PGW. Three frequented a Barrow garden from January to 18.04. |
| **Magpie** | A widespread and common bird where there are overgrown hedgerows and scrub with birds frequent in suburban gardens. Regular at QF where counts of up to 12 were made in September. |
| **Jackdaw** | Common at quarries, woodland and hedgerows with mature trees, with birds nesting in urban areas. Many forage among livestock on pasture.Ten pairs bred in buildings and nest boxes at BCF. |
| **Rook** | Rooks remain widespread, especially where pasture and arable land provide feeding opportunities. The QF rookery had 15 nests, a reduction of five from last year. No other rookery counts were received. |
| **Carrion Crow** | A widespread and common species from open country to woodland and suburban areas with numbers controlled on shooting estates. No records were received. |
| **Raven** | An uncommon but increasing resident with reports from nine sites (eight last year). Present at six breeding sites with broods of two and three confirmed at two of these. |
| **Coal Tit** | Well distributed in coniferous and mixed woodland and regular at some winter feeding stations, with birds noted at Stam, Oak, BCF and TunnW, where up to five fed at any one time. |
| **Marsh Tit** | A local resident, mostly at woodlands with records from eight scattered sites, mostly in ones or twos. Regular at TunnW, LFP and Wg Hill with others at MThorpe, BCF and GG Meadow. Visited feeders at TunnW, Wg, and Wg Hill. |
| **Willow Tit** | Now a very scarce species with records from Leigh and Man Junction in January and February, and at LFP in July and December. Single birds were at RW in April and September. |
| **Blue Tit** | A common and widespread species in woodland and gardens. Numbers at BCF were stable with 14 territories (13 last year). At FHP the winter feeding station attracted up to 15 birds at any one time. |
| **Great Tit** | A well distributed species in woodland and gardens but less common than the Blue Tit. Belling was heard at PGW on 03.01. and up to ten visited the TunnW feeding station. There were seven territories at BCF, one more than last year. |
| **Bearded Tit** | Up to seven were noted at RWEg3 and Burley Fishponds between 18. and 26.10. |
| **Woodlark** | One passed over Wg on 23.09. |
| **Skylark** | A breeding bird on farmland and waste ground with a marked autumn passage. Thirty two were on cereals in Ext Park on 09.01. There were seven territories at BCF (four last year) and at least ten held territory at QF. Thirty eight flew over Rid on 21.09. There were 30 in Ext Park on 02.10. and 40 on 17.12. |
| **Sand Martin** | A regular passage migrant at the reservoirs and a local breeder. First seen at RWEg on 10.03. with four back at the stone wall breeding site at Norm on 24.03. There were 24 at RWEg1 on 09.04. Not seen at FHP until 13.05. There were no data from the RWEg artificial breeding sites. Our last record was of two at RWEg on 23.09. |
| **Swallow** | A well distributed summer and passage visitor, the first was at EBR on 26.03. with the next over Man on 01.04. Noted at Barrow, RWEg and FHP by 23.04. and 40 were at RW Norm on 28.04. Pre-migration flocks were at LFP in July with 75 on 10., 130 on 16. and 100 on 29. Eight were at Pres on 30.09. and there were October birds over Eg village on 08. and at Man on 22. A late bird was near Whit on 22.11. |
| **House Martin** | A well distributed summer and passage visitor. Despite frequenting buildings in the breeding season, there were no nest counts. The first was at RWEg on 25.03. and there were six at EBR on 10.04. Our final birds were12 at FHP on 02.10. |
| **Cetti’s Warbler** | Present at RW throughout the year, one sang at Lynd on 22.02. but most records were from RWEg with up to six singing in May. One sang at LFP on 18.11. and 20. to 22.12. |
| **Long-tailed Tit** | A widespread resident of scrubby areas, visiting garden feeding station in winter. Up to four frequented an Oak garden between 05.01. and 16.04. with up to six in August and up to five in December. One or two were regular at TunnW feeding station in December. |
| **Yellow-browed Warbler** | One was ringed at Luff Airfield on 01.10. and one was heard near RWDam on 03.11. |
| **Willow Warbler** | The first was at RWeg on 19.03. First heard at QF on 05.04. but spring passage was poorly reported with subsequent records only from TunnW, FHP, Hebes Wood, Braun (four on 09.06.), RWEg and Lynd. One at RWEg on 11.09. was the last record. |
| **Chiffchaff** | Noted at Man Junction on 03.01., MThorpe on 12.01. and RWNA on 05.02. Song was first heard at GG Meadow on 07.03. (13 singing on 14.03.) with other March records from BW, Lang, Ext Park and QF, where four held territory. Numbers at BCF increased to nine territories from three last year and four sang in CPW on 23.05. with eight singing at Hebes Wood, Braunston on 09.06. A passage bird was in an Oak garden on 16.06. October birds were at RWEg and song was heard at GG Meadow to 13.11., our final record. |
| **Sedge Warbler** | One calling at RWEg on 29.03. was an early bird. Well distributed at Eg and Lynd by mid-April. Other breeding season records were from Geest on 06.05. and QF on 16.05. A migrant was at LFP on 29.07. Single birds were at GG Meadow on 20. to 22.08 and the last was at LFP on 11.09. |
| **Reed Warbler** | Our first record was on the late date of 24.04. at RWEg. Well distributed at both RW reserves throughout the summer; singing birds were also heard at LFP, Geest and QF in May and June. A migrant sang at FHP on 03.09. and the last was one ringed at RW on 08.10. |
| **Grasshopper Warbler** | A passage bird sang at Bel on 15.04. One or two sang at RWEg and GG Meadow from 27.04. At Luff Airfield 47 were ringed between 04. and 25.08. with the last there on 03.09. |
| **Blackcap** | A common summer visitor in woodlands with regular winter records from gardens. In the first winter period single birds visited gardens at BCF, Oak (three), Rid and Man, with the last in Oak on 18.04. Singing birds were first noted at RW Berrybut on 23.03. with birds widespread from 25.03. and records from Pilt, Wg, QF (three on 11.04.), CPW (six on 23.05.) and Braun (nine on 09.06.). Noted at RW throughout September and Oak with a female taking sloes on 27.9. The first winter bird was at Man on 20.11. December birds were in two Oak gardens and one in Stam, from 13. to 31.12. |
| **Garden Warbler** | A summer visitor to woodlands and spinneys. One at GG on 16.04. was the first with other records from RWEg, TunnW, WestW, QF and CPW, where three sang on 23.05. There was no significant last date. |
| **Lesser Whitethroat** | The first report was from GG Meadow on 17.04. Four sang at Leigh between 29.04. and 05.05. Also reported from RWEg, QF, Braun (five on 09.06.) and BCF. A migrant sang at FHP on 12.08. and the last was at Man Pastures on 26.09. |
| **Whitethroat** | Single birds singing at Ryhall and MThorpe on 14.04. were the first recorded. From late April birds were widespread with reports from RWEg, FHP/Ext Park, BCF (nine territories), QF (six territories), Braunston (two territories), KQ (three territories), Ryhall and Ryhall Heath. The last were four at QF on the early date of 05.09. |
| **Goldcrest** | A resident of conifer and mixed woodland and an autumn migrant. Noted in Ext Park woods, at BCF, BW and EBR Plantation. One was at QF on 07.12. |
| **Wren** | A woodland and hedgerow resident. Numbers at BCF increased from 16 territories last year to 20. |
| **Nuthatch** | A woodland species reported from Ext Park woods, BW and CPW. Regular at the TunnW feeding station in both winter periods. |
| **Treecreeper** | An overlooked woodland species noted in Ext Park woods and BW. |
| **Starling** | A resident, passage and winter visitor. The only record was of c.680 flying west over MThorpe on 26.10. |
| **Ring Ouzel** | Two males were at Luff Airfield on 29.04. |
| **Blackbird.** | A common resident and a passage and winter visitor. A total of 32 birds were at QF on 24.01. Numbers.at BCF remained stable with 15 territories. |
| **Fieldfare** | A common and widespread passage and winter visitor. Reports in the first winter period came from Lang, Ash, Bel, LFP and Bis. The largest flocks recorded were approximaely 300 near QF on 09.02. and 330 at Bis on 03.04. The last were 26 at Bel on 08.04. It was a late and light autumn arrival with two over Pilt on 14.10. the earliest, with the only other reports of 20 on Ryhall Heath on 26.11. and 30 in Ext Park on 03.12. |
| **Redwing.** | A common passage and winter visitor. A group of 110 at RW Whit on 24.01. was by far the largest flock in the first winter period. Other single figure counts were from FHP, Ext Park, Bel and LFP, the last there on 29.04. One over Rid on 21.09. was the first autumn bird with 60 over MThorpe on 25.09. Flocks of up 15 were at FHP, Ext Park and QF from 11.10. to the end of December. |
| **Song Thrush** | A widespread but rather sparsely distributed resident and passage species. Singing birds were noted at 15 sites, with four around Leigh on 29.04. |
| **Mistle Thrush** | Our scarcest resident thrush, reported from five scattered sites. Thirteen were at LFP on 30.09. |
| **Spotted Flycatcher** | Two in Ext Park on 14.05. were the first, with the next at Rid and Pres on 17.05. Noted at nine sites in the breeding season with nesting in an artificial House Martin nest at Wg and on a house at Teigh. Passage birds, from 12.08, were at seven sites with six at GG Meadows on 19.08. and the last at Wg Hill on 10.09. |
| **Robin** | A common and popular species but rarely reported. A pair bred in an Oak garden, incubating from 16.03. A big increase to 29 territories at BCF (ten last year). |
| **Nightingale** | Song was first heard at RWEg on 14.04. One sang in PGW on 22.04. with possibly two there on 07.05. and two were in song at RWEg on 14.05. Song was heard at Hebes Wood, Braun on 09.06., a new site. One was re-trapped at RW on 05.08. and one was ringed at Luff Airfield on 07.08. |
| **Pied Flycatcher** | One was at EBR on 17.08. |
| **Black Redstart** | Single birds were at Belton-in-Rutland on 12.03. and Luff Airfield on 26.08. |
| **Redstart.** | Scarce passage migrant and former breeder. A male sang at TunnW from 16.04. to 14.05. Autumn passage began on 19.07. with a juvenile ringed at Luff Airfield. There were also records of one or two from GG Meadows, Leigh on 11 dates to 23.09. when the last was at EBR. |
| **Whinchat.** | A scarce passage migrant. One at EBR on 28.04. was the only spring record. Regular at EBR from 04.08. to 15.09. with a maximum of seven on 06.09. Also noted at Luff Airfield on 22.08., Ext Park on 16. and 22.09. and RWEg1 on 23.09., which was the last bird. |
| **Stonechat** | A passage and winter visitor which has bred. Present in the first winter period from 02.01. to 14.03. with records from RWEg/Lynd (six on 26.01.) EBR and Ext Park (three on 26.02.). A migrant was at EBR on 28.04. The first autumn birds were singles at GG Meadows on 20.08. and EBR on 27.08. Other records to the end of December, came from RWEg/Lynd, Ext Park (four on 23.09.) and BGP (one on 10.10.). |
| **Wheatear** | Single birds at Luff Airfield on 12.03. and EBR on 17.03. were the first recorded. Single birds were at RW Dam on four dates between 08.04. and 20.05. Two were at EBR on 18.04. Autumn records were: Luff Airfield from 24.07. (six there on 22.08.) to 01.10. with two at EBR on 04.09. and one at Pres on 21.09. |
| **House Sparrow** | Common in villages and suburbs where local populations are maintained by regular feeding. The only record was of a colony of approximately 24 at Barrow in September. |
| **Tree Sparrow** | A scarce resident. Reports were of single birds at EBR on 07.01. and ten there on 06.08., single birds at Pilt on 13.10., and GG Meadows on 16.10. and five on sunflower near Eg on 12.11. |
| **Dunnock** | An unobtrusive species along hedgerows, in woodland and gardens. Numbers at BCF remained stable. |
| **Yellow Wagtail** | A passage migrant and local breeder. Two at RWEg on 05.04. were the first on a very poor spring passage. Four were at EBR on 10.04. and one or two at RW Dam to 03.05. One sang near RWNorm no 20.05. Singles birds were noted in May and June at Rid, Pres, Wg Hill and Leigh, which may indicate local breeding. None were noted in Ext Park for the first time. The only autumn records were two at RW Dam on 31.08. and singles over GG Meadows on 14.9. and Man Junction on 16.09. |
| **Grey Wagtail** | A passage and winter visitor and scarce breeder. Single birds were at FHP, Geest STW and RWNorm between 03.01. and 05.02. Singles were at FHP on 02.04. and 22.05. Three, including a juvenile, by Rygate Lake on 13.05. and 26.06. may indicate local breeding. The first autumn bird was at RW Burley Fishponds on 27.08. One or two were regular at FHP from 16.09. to 20.11. with single bird at Rygate Lake on 07.10. and RW Man Bay on 16.11. and 13.12. There were garden records from Braun on 14. and 23.10. and Oak 0n 02. and 03.12. |
| **Pied Wagtail** | A common resident and passage species. Regular along the RW Dam. Two pairs held territory at BCF. |
| **White Wagtail** | A regular passage migrant in spring. Single birds were at RW Dam on 26.03.and RWEg4 on 14.05. |
| **Meadow Pipit** | A scarce breeder and common passage visitor with small numbers in winter. Twelve were at QF on 10.01. but it was a poor spring passage, with single birds on only two March/April dates. Display was noted in May at Cott and Luff Airfields. Autumn passage was reported at QF from 13.09. to 31.10. whilst at Rid 43 flew south-east on 21.09. and 93 flew south at Pres on 09.10. |
| **Tree Pipit** | One flew over Leigh on 07.08. and single birds were ringed at Luff airfield on 15. and 18.08. |
| **Rock Pipit** | A regular autumn migrant, but scarce in spring. One was by RWSA3 on 22.02. Single birds were at RW on four dates between 08.10. and 19.11. One was over MThorpe on 11.10. |
| **Chaffinch** | A common resident species, declining, and a passage migrant and winter visitor. Wild bird cover near Lynd supported up to 150 between 27.01.and 12.02. There was just one territory at BCF. Autumn passage saw birds moving west in October, with 77 on 16.,160 on 17. and 60 on 31. Approximately 175 were near Lynd on 27.12. |
| **Brambling** | A passage and winter visitor. Records came from 13 well scattered sites, mostly of ones or twos. Two were at a feeding station at Norm on 18.01. Larger numbers were 20 near Lynd on 02.01. Sixteen were at QF on 16.02. and 20 were ringed at Luff Airfield on 15.03. Eight were at RW Lynd on 02.04. and the last was over GG on 15.04. Two over Luff Airfield on 01.10. were the first autumn birds with one ringed there on 09.10. Further reports came from Wg Hill, GG Meadows, Leigh, MThorpe and WFL of up to four passing over between 02.10. and 26.12. Thirteen at MThorpe on 02.12. Thirteen was the peak count. |
| **Hawfinch** | One passed over GG Meadows on 18.10. |
| **Bullfinch** | A widespread species in scrubby areas and overgrown hedgerows. Records were from RWEg, TunnW, BCF and QF. Greatly under-recorded. |
| **Greenfinch** | A widespread species, much reduced in number. Garden peaks were 16 in Oak on 27.01. and ten in a Stam garden on 28.12. There was one territory at BCF CBC plot. |
| **Linnet** | A common species of arable farmland and scrubby areas. Most records were of winter flocks on wild bird cover as follows: 300 at QF on 10.01., 120 at Lynd on 30.01. with c.250 on 12.02., 95 at MThorpe on 25.09. and 175 at Lynd on 27.12. |
| **Lesser Redpoll** | One was in an Oak garden on 01.01. Between 10. and 18.04. single birds flew over RW. Approximately 12 were at RWEg on 06.11. and up to 25 frequented Man between 28.11. and 01.12. Two were back in the Oak garden on 16.12. |
| **Goldfinch** | A common species on waste ground and regular at garden feeders. Eleven were in an Oak garden in September. Around150 were on arable crops near Pres on 29.09. with roughly140 flying south there on 09.10. |
| **Siskin** | A regular passage and winter visitor. Circa 20 were in alders at Geest on 05.01. and 12 were at RWEg2 on 21.01. Fifteen were at RW Lynd on 11.02. and a large flock of around 130 was near Man Bay on 13.02. One was in an Oak garden on 27.02. with two there between 01. and 18.03. Single birds were over Leigh on 29.04. and 28.06., and Wg Hill on 06.07. Seven were back at RW Lynd in mid-November and one was on an Oak garden feeder on 30.12. |
| **Yellowhammer** | Widespread but declining on arable farmland and areas of scrub. Few records were received. The number at BCF increased to 11 territories. There were no records of winter flocks. |
| **Reed Bunting** | A resident of arable farmland and wetland sites. Up to 25 were on wild bird cover at BGP in January. Two were in an Oak garden on 27.02. Breeding noted at QF, Ext Park and FHP, Mounts Lodge and Belmesthorpe. Well distributed at RWEg in the breeding season. |

Terry Mitcham



**Photo: Reed Bunting and Yellowhammer © Peter Scott**

**BEAUMONT CHASE FARM, UPPINGHAM, RUTLAND**

**FARMLAND COMMON BIRD CENSUS PLOT (1450) – 2022 Recorder: Terry Mitcham**

Grid ref: SP845995: Plot Size: 65.4ha

Visit Dates (all mornings): A – 6th March 3hrs. 20mins. F – 26th April 2hrs. 53mins.

B – 15th March 3hrs. 10mins. G – 8th May 3hrs. 02mins.

C – 26th March 3hrs. 12mins. H – 21st May 3hrs. 00mins.

D – 10th April 3hrs. 00mins. J – 7th June 3hrs. 12mins.

E – 17th April 3hrs. 00mins. K - 19th June 3hrs. 03mins.

**Total Survey Time**: 30hrs. 52mins.

**Species Recorded** (figures in brackets refer to 2021)

Red-legged Partridge 4 (2) Raven P (-) Blackbird 15 (16)

Pheasant 3 (5) Coal Tit P (P) Fieldfare P (-)

Sparrowhawk P (-) Marsh Tit P (-) Song Thrush 1 (1)

Red Kite 2 (1) Blue Tit 14 (13) Mistle Thrush P (P)

Buzzard P (1) Great Tit 7 (6) Spotted Flycatcher 1 (1)

Stock Dove 8 N/T (9 N/T) Skylark 7 (4) Robin 29 (10)

Woodpigeon 44 N/T (36 N/T) Swallow P (P) House Sparrow 9 N/T (11 N/T)

Tawny Owl 1 (P) Long-tailed Tit 1 (1) Dunnock 6 (7)

Great Spotted Woodpecker 1 (1) Willow Warbler P (-) Pied Wagtail 2 (1)

Green Woodpecker P (P) Chiffchaff 9 (3) Meadow Pipit P (-)

Kestrel P (-) Blackcap 13 (11) Chaffinch 1 (4)

Jay P (P) Lesser Whitethroat 2 (2) Bullfinch P (1)

Magpie 1 (1) Whitethroat 9 (11) Greenfinch 1 (1)

Jackdaw 10 N (12 N) Goldcrest P (-) Linnet 2 (3)

Rook P (9 N) Wren 20 (16) Goldfinch 3 (3)

Carrion Crow 1 N (1 N) Nuthatch P (P) Yellowhammer 11 (8)

**Number of species holding territory in 2022**: 30 (35) **Key** - (-) Not Recorded

**Total number of nests/territories in 2022**: 224 (214) P – Present

11 – No. of territories

N - Number of nests

Terry Mitcham (01780-751268)

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**Wildfowl and Wader Counts 2022**

**Rutland Water**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 23.1. | 22.2. | 20.3. | 19.4. | 17.5. | 21.6. | 19.7. | 16.8. | 11.9. | 9.10. | 16.11. | 13.12. |
| Canada Goose | 490 | 215 | 122 | 69 | 93 | 448 | 1303 | 1130 | 788 | 813 | 508 | 476 |
| Greylag Goose | 245 | 427 | 219 | 194 | 300 | 866 | 1182 | 1005 | 1000 | 305 | 451 | 116 |
| Pink-footed Goose |  | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White-fronted Goose |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mute Swan | 300 | 212 | 146 | 184 | 215 | 272 | 396 | 354 | 424 | 524 | 480 | 381 |
| Whooper Swan |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |
| Egyptian Goose | 25 | 8 | 23 | 16 | 19 | 25 | 81 | 90 | 72 | 96 | 17 | 8 |
| Shelduck | 19 | 22 | 21 | 15 | 18 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| Mandarin Duck |  | 2 | 2 |  | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 9 |  | 2 | 2 |
| Garganey |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shoveler | 153 | 134 | 53 | 16 | 8 | 24 | 12 | 72 | 366 | 724 | 145 | 175 |
| Gadwall | 419 | 255 | 125 | 159 | 207 | 1077 | 1920 | 1505 | 1740 | 1478 | 1016 | 512 |
| Wigeon | 3197 | 1312 | 699 | 8 | 2 |  | 3 | 9 | 1199 | 3873 | 3354 | 3611 |
| Mallard | 551 | 330 | 252 | 279 | 322 | 317 | 861 | 1538 | 1762 | 1610 | 1002 | 506 |
| Pintail | 120 | 29 | 12 |  | 3 |  |  | 12 | 148 | 202 | 233 | 129 |
| Teal | 1469 | 636 | 236 | 120 |  | 6 | 59 | 241 | 1053 | 1995 | 2686 | 1483 |
| Red-crested Pochard |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 3 | 9 | 47 | 2 |
| Pochard | 66 | 55 | 30 | 23 | 30 | 13 | 19 | 20 | 14 | 4 | 29 | 21 |
| Tufted Duck | 795 | 809 | 1151 | 789 | 187 | 419 | 2075 | 2483 | 4094 | 1135 | 945 | 723 |
| Scaup | 4 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 |
| Common Scoter |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3 |  |  |  |
| Goldeneye | 322 | 223 | 208 |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 | 85 | 77 |
| Smew | 6 | 10 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Goosander | 8 | 5 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 14 | 32 |
| Great Northern Diver | 2 | 3 |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Little Grebe | 104 | 44 | 4 | 4 |  | 8 | 36 | 100 | 155 | 171 | 154 | 90 |
| Great Crested Grebe | 214 | 83 | 136 | 170 | 134 | 161 | 334 | 495 | 760 | 667 | 361 | 81 |
| Slavonian Grebe |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| Black-necked Grebe |  |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |
| Cattle Egret |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| Grey Heron | 13 | 5 | 11 | 16 | 1 | 10 | 18 | 38 | 42 | 41 | 15 | 6 |
| Great White Egret | 6 | 6 | 1 |  |  |  | 13 | 28 | 40 | 49 | 10 | 8 |
| Little Egret | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 45 | 120 | 140 | 128 | 70 | 4 | 3 |
| Cormorant | 251 | 150 | 206 | 160 | 195 | 47 | 382 | 692 | 689 | 649 | 359 | 125 |
| Water Rail | 4 | 1 | 18 |  | 14 | 14 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 1 |  |
| Moorhen | 119 | 33 | 22 | 18 | 21 | 20 | 54 | 137 | 93 | 103 | 37 | 34 |
| Coot | 2607 | 671 | 261 | 161 | 134 | 414 | 511 | 1039 | 1708 | 2254 | 1145 | 240 |
| Kingfisher |  | 2 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 1 |  |
| TOTAL | 11517 | 5697 | 5165 | 2408 | 1918 | 4195 | 9404 | 1143 | 16295 | 16786 | 13113 | 8844 |

**Eyebrook Reservoir**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 23.01. | 20.03. | 17.04. | 11.09. | 09.10 |
| Canada Goose | 4 | 7 | 9 | 204 | 10 |
| Greylag Goose | 31 | 16 | 9 | 449 | 121 |
| Mute Swan | 108 | 44 | 52 | 161 | 131 |
| Whooper Swan |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| Egyptian Goose |  |  |  |  | 1 |
| Shelduck |  |  | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| Shoveler |  | 2 |  | 7 | 2 |
| Gadwall | 25 | 22 | 35 | 69 | 13 |
| Wigeon | 870 | 191 |  | 20 | 142 |
| Mallard | 158 | 47 | 59 | 442 | 280 |
| Pintail | 13 |  |  | 13 | 6 |
| Teal | 260 | Present | 60 | 168 | 384 |
| Red-crested Pochard |  |  | 1 |  |  |
| Pochard | 11 |  |  | 32 | 5 |
| Tufted Duck | 589 | 21 | 9 | 2 | 199 |
| Scaup | 2 | 1 |  |  |  |
| Goldeneye | 82 | 11 | 2 |  |  |
| Smew | 15 |  |  |  |  |
| Little Grebe | 2 |  |  | 1 |  |
| Great Crested Grebe | 63 | 49 | 28 | 136 | 118 |
| Slavonian Grebe |  |  | 1 |  |  |
| Grey Heron | 5 | 1 |  | 4 | 4 |
| Great White Egret | 1 |  |  | 4 |  |
| Little Egret | 1 | 2 |  | 3 | 7 |
| Moorhen | 3 |  |  | 5 | 2 |
| Coot |  |  |  | 509 | 242 |
| Cormorant |  | 26 | 5 | 24 |  |
| TOTAL | 2282 | 440 | 271 | 2258 | 1672 |

**Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Jan.  25. | Feb.  23. | Mar.  18. | Apr.  16. | May  13. | June  18. | July  18. | Aug.  12. | Sept.  10. | Oct.  7. | Nov.  19. | Dec.  16th. |
| Canada Goose | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Greylag Goose | 269 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 13 | 10 | 10 |  |  | 185 |  | 2 |
| Pink-footed Goose | 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mute Swan | 5 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 25 | 25 | 24 | 13 | 15 |
| Egyptian Goose |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shelduck |  | 1 |  | 2 | 2 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mandarin Duck |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  | 6 |  |  |
| Garganey |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shoveler | 2 |  | 8 | 8 | 3 |  | 2 | 3 | 18 | 43 | 36 | 55 |
| Gadwall | 68 | 41 | 32 | 29 | 27 | 40 | 17 | 13 | 27 | 37 | 59 | 24 |
| Wigeon | 122 | 137 | 131 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 6 | 95 |
| Mallard | 150 | 111 | 64 | 71 | 52 | 82 | 121 | 62 | 87 | 112 | 176 | 103 |
| Pintail | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Teal | 67 | 11 | 9 | 3 |  | 2 | 1 | 2 | 46 | 79 | 51 | 52 |
| Tufted Duck | 65 | 61 | 36 | 36 | 20 | 18 | 6 | 7 |  | 2 | 38 | 22 |
| Goldeneye |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| Little Grebe | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 |  |  | 3 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| Great Crested Grebe |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grey Heron | 2 |  | 1 |  |  | 2 | 2 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |
| Little Egret |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |
| Cormorant | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Water Rail |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |
| Moorhen | 20 | 14 | 6 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 32 | 45 | 68 | 31 | 15 |
| Coot | 9 | 31 | 26 | 24 | 23 | 26 | 21 | 44 | 51 | 49 | 63 | 63 |
| TOTAL | 793 | 420 | 325 | 203 | 157 | 198 | 199 | 192 | 300 | 613 | 485 | 455 |

**Banthorpe Gravel Pit**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 20.1 | 16.2. | 17.3. | 15.4. | 12.5. | 16.6. | 20.7. | 10.8. | 8.9. | 10.10. | 11.11. | 8.12. |
| Canada Goose |  |  | 2 | 1 | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Barnacle Goose |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  | 2 |  |  |  | 2 |
| Greylag Goose | 52 | 244 | 52 | 44 | 55 |  | 33 | 28 | 1 |  |  | 130 |
| Mute Swan | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Mandarin Duck |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gadwall |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |
| Mallard | 80 | 48 | 18 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 28 | 70 | 17 | 7 |
| Teal | 36 | 43 | 7 |  |  |  |  |  | 14 | 26 | 30 | 18 |
| Tufted Duck | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Little Grebe |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |
| Grey Heron | 2 |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Great White Egret | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Little Egret |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Cormorant |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 2 |  | 2 |
| Moorhen | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 |  |  |  | 3 |
| Coot |  |  | 1 | 1 |  | 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kingfisher |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 177 | 342 | 87 | 58 | 68 | 11 | 40 | 38 | 47 | 104 | 52 | 168 |

**Greetham Golf Course**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 20.02. | 19.04. | 15.05. | 24.07. | 14.08. | 11.09. | 09.10. | 13.11. | 06.12. |
| Mute Swan |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |  | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Egyptian Goose |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mallard | 28 | 18 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 39 | 58 | 66 | 34 |
| GreyHero |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Cormorant |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| Moorhen | 37 | 20 | 24 | 12 | 26 | 21 | 26 | 21 | 28 |
| Coot |  | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 |  |  |  |
| TOTAL | 65 | 44 | 53 | 39 | 57 | 63 | 88 | 91 | 64 |

**Holywell Lake**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 23.01. | 17.02. | 17.03. | 02.09. | 09.10. | 10.11. | 10.12. |
| Canada Goose | 41 | 39 | 16 | 92 | 103 | 41 |  |
| Greylag Goose | 7 | 25 | 13 | 177 | 78 | 32 | 10 |
| Mute Swan | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Mandarin Duck | 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shoveler | 1 | 2 | 1 |  |  | 5 | 6 |
| Gadwall | 18 | 28 | 24 | 4 |  | 7 | 20 |
| Wigeon | 82 | 66 | 14 |  | 1 | 18 | 52 |
| Mallard | 116 | 42 | 22 | 68 | 34 | 75 | 92 |
| Teal | 2 | 8 |  |  | 11 | 6 | 3 |
| Tufted Duck | 26 | 24 | 22 | 2 | 7 |  | 18 |
| Little Grebe | 16 | 10 | 11 | 15 | 20 | 8 | 24 |
| Grey Heron | 2 | 1 |  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Little Egret | 1 | 3 |  | 2 | 4 | 2 |  |
| Cormorant |  |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |
| Moorhen | 25 | 25 | 19 | 11 | 23 | 11 | 18 |
| Coot |  | 1 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Kingfisher | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 344 | 281 | 148 | 382 | 292 | 212 | 251 |

**Rutland Water Wader Counts**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 23.1 | 22.2 | 20.3 | 19.4 | 17.5 | 21.6 | 19.7 | 16.8 | 11.9 | 9.10 | 16.11 | 13.12. |
| Oystercatcher | 2 | 30 | 27 | 19 | 17 | 17 |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| Avocet |  |  | 8 | 13 | 23 | 23 | 5 | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| Lapwing | 2897 | 609 | 49 | 33 | 37 | 66 | 376 | 430 | 192 | 670 | 1842 | 599 |
| Golden Plover | 531 | 170 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 90 | 783 |  |
| Ringed Plover |  |  |  |  | 32 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 |  |  |  |
| Little Ringed Plover |  |  | 1 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 8 |  |  |  |
| Curlew | 9 | 10 | 4 |  |  |  | 5 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 4 |  |
| Black-tailed Godwit | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 6 | 14 | 3 |  | 8 |  |
| Turnstone | 1 | 1 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Ruff |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 1 | 3 |  |  |
| Sanderling |  |  |  |  | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dunlin | 20 | 23 | 3 | 1 | 32 |  | 3 | 1 |  | 31 | 60 | 11 |
| Little Stint |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| Snipe | 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 |  |  |  | 14 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Common Sandpiper |  |  |  |  | 2 |  | 10 | 22 | 3 | 1 |  |  |
| Green Sandpiper | 2 |  | 2 |  |  | 1 | 15 | 13 | 6 | 3 | 2 |  |
| Redshank | 10 | 13 | 18 | 4 | 5 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 7 | 11 | 8 |
| Wood Sandpiper |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| Greenshank |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 |  |
| TOTAL | 3480 | 862 | 115 | 76 | 162 | 116 | 432 | 509 | 245 | 820 | 2713 | 620 |