

LONGHAM LAKES

BIRD REPORT 2014
plus
DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES



by
GEORGE GREEN

LONGHAM LAKES
incl Hampreston Meadows & High Mead Lane
SELECTED BIRD RECORDS - 2014

Mute Swan

Present throughout the year. Bred - a pair with a brood in June.

Greylag Goose

Early winter: 1 on 20th January and 2 on 10th & 11th February. Spring: present on most visits 26th March-12th May max 20 on 12th May. Late winter: present on most visits 9th November-24th December max 16 on 24th December. This species favoured Hampreston Meadows.

Canada Goose

Present throughout most of the year. Bred - a pair with a brood present in June and July.

Egyptian Goose

Early winter: a pair on 11th & 25th January. Autumn: 3 on 21st July and 1 on 24th July. Late winter: 4 on 1st December.

Shelduck

Early winter/spring: up to 4 birds (presumably 2 pairs) present on most visits 11th January-3rd May. This species favoured Hampreston Meadows.

Mandarin Duck

Spring: a male seen briefly in flight over the South Lake on 21st April.

Eurasian Wigeon

Early winter: regularly present 2nd January-2nd March with high counts in January including 235+ on 7th, 275+ on 9th and 305+ on 11th. Autumn/late winter: small numbers regularly present 12th September-30th December.

Gadwall

Early winter/spring: regularly present 2nd January-3rd May with high counts in January including 100+ on 2nd and 50-100 on 7th. Spring/summer: isolated records of 1 on 16th May and 4 on 6th June. Autumn/late winter: regularly present 8th August-30th December max 47 on 20th November.

Common Teal

Early winter/spring: regularly present 2nd January-17th March max 50+ on 2nd January. Autumn: isolated records of 6 on 12th July and 2 on 28th July. Autumn/late winter: intermittent records 6th September-7th October then regularly present 25th October-30th December max 60+ on 16th November.

Mallard

Present throughout the year. Bred - a pair with a brood on 2nd April.

Pintail

Early winter: single males on 17th January and 16th February. Late winter: a male on 8th December.

GARGANEY

Spring: presumably the same pair on 18th, 19th, 21st & 24th April with possibly a different pair on 3rd May. Autumn: a female/immature on 26th July.

Shoveler

Early winter: present on most visits in January max 32+ on 9th. Spring: 1-2 birds on 6 visits 24th March-22nd April. Autumn: 3 on 21st July.
Autumn/late winter: regularly present 6th September-30th December max 28 on 8th December.

Pochard

Early winter: regularly present 2nd January-2nd March including 20 on 9th January. Spring: 2 on 24th March. Autumn: 2 on 26th July. Late winter: regularly present 2nd November-30th December max 34 on 8th December.

Tufted Duck

Present throughout the year. Breeding was late as in previous years with the first broods seen on 21st July when c140 recently hatched chicks were counted with a creche max of 42. On 24th July c136 recently hatched chicks were counted with a creche max 53.

SCAUP

Early winter: 1st-winter male on 19th February - probably the Poole Park bird.

SMEW

Early winter: single redhead on 1st February.

Goosander

Early winter: single redhead on River Stour on 11th January.

Little Grebe

Regularly present 2nd January-8th April and 21st June-30th December. Although this species was seemingly absent for much of the spring and early summer, it reappeared in mid June and subsequently bred with a pair and 3 young chicks on 8th August and a pair and a single young chick on 9th September. High numbers were present in early September with 38+ on 9th September and 33+ on 12th September.

Great Crested Grebe

Although present throughout the year, there was no evidence of breeding.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE

Early winter: a single bird regularly present 7th January-19th February.

Autumn: a single bird 6th-15th September.

Cormorant

Although present throughout much of the year, records were less frequent from early April to mid July.

Little Egret

Present on most visits 2nd January-12th March. Much scarcer with occasional records 17th March-17th October. Regularly present 23rd October-30th December with an isolated high count of 20+ on 3rd December.

Grey Heron

Present throughout the year.

Sparrowhawk

Early winter: 1 on 25th January. Autumn/late winter: probably the same bird on 4 dates 16th August-6th September with further singles on 23rd October and 2nd November.

Hobby

Spring/summer: 1 on 12th May, 2 on 19th May and 1+ on 6th June.

Peregrine

Early winter: 1 on 25th January. Late winter: possibly the same bird on 1st, 9th & 29th November.

Water Rail

Early winter: 1-2 birds on 6 visits 7th January-18th February.

Moorhen

Present throughout the year. Bred - young present on 7th July.

Coot

Present throughout the year and bred.

Little Ringed Plover

Autumn: 3 on 12th July.

Northern Lapwing

Early winter: 1 on 20th January and 11 on 11th February. Summer/autumn: present on most visits 21st June-1st November max 21+ on 8th August.

Dunlin

Early winter: 1 on 18th February.

Common Snipe

Early winter: present on 4 visits in February with 3 on 7th, 2 on 16th, 7 on 18th and 3 on 22nd. Spring: 2 on 17th March. Autumn: singles on 31st July, 15th September and 17th October. Late winter: singles on 1st & 24th December.

Black-tailed Godwit

Late winter: 4 on 20th November, 13 on 29th November and 3 on 24th December - all on Hampreston Meadows.

Common Sandpiper

Spring: singles on 12th April and 3rd & 6th May with 2+ on 18th April.
Autumn: 1-2 birds on 7 visits 7th July-12th August.

Green Sandpiper

Autumn: 1 on 21st August.

Redshank

Summer: 1 on 23rd June.

TURNSTONE

Summer: a summer-plumaged bird on 23rd June.

LITTLE GULL

Spring: a 1st-summer bird on 12th May.

Mediterranean Gull

Early winter: 1 on 2nd January, 4 on 7th January, 1+ on 25th January and 2+ on 4th February. Early winter/spring: present on most visits 18th February-28th April with isolated high counts of 54+ on 22nd February and 85+ on 2nd April. Autumn: 10+ on 12th July and 1 on 25th October.

AZOREAN YELLOW-LEGGED GULL

Early winter: an adult present for c10 minutes on 10th February.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

1-2 birds present on 16 visits during the year.

Sandwich Tern

Spring: 1 on 12th May. Summer/autumn: 1 on 23rd June and 4th & 7th July.

Common Tern

Spring: 1 on 21st April and a pair on 16th & 19th May. Autumn: 1-2 birds regularly present 4th-28th July.

Cuckoo

Spring: 1st on 22nd April with singles on 6th, 12th & 16th May.

Common Swift

Spring: 1st on 22nd April (10+). Autumn: last 2 on 21st August.

Kingfisher

Early winter: singles on 2nd & 23rd January. Autumn: 1 on 11th October.

Late winter: singles on 2nd & 20th November.

Sand Martin

Spring: 1st on 8th April (20+).

Swallow

Spring: 1st on 12th April.

House Martin

Spring: 1st on 19th April.

Meadow Pipit

Early winter: a few birds on 19th & 20th January with singles on 7th & 10th

February. Spring: 4 on 12th March. Autumn/late winter: 15+ on 17th

October with 1-5 birds on 10 visits 23rd October-30th December.

Grey Wagtail

Early winter: singles on 17th & 25th January and 11th February.

Summer/autumn: singles on 7 visits 6th June-17th October. Late winter: 1-2 birds on 4 visits 3rd-30th December.

Pied Wagtail

Spring: an influx of 34+ on 17th March.

White Wagtail

Spring: 1 on 24th March.

European Stonechat

Spring: 1 on 12th March. Autumn: 1 on 17th October. Late winter: a pair on

1st November with singles on 2nd & 9th November and 27th & 30th

December.

Northern Wheatear

Spring: 6 on 22nd April and 1 on 24th April.

Fieldfare

Early winter: 10+ on 20th January, a few birds on 4th February and 5+ on 19th & 22nd February.

Redwing

Early winter: 10+ on 20th January and 2+ on 19th & 22nd February. Autumn: 1 on 17th October. Late winter: present on 5 visits 16th November-30th December max 12+ on 18th December.

Mistle Thrush

Early winter: singles on 19th & 20th January. Spring: singles on 19th April and 3rd May. Late winter: singles on 29th November and 27th December with 2 on 30th December.

Cetti's Warbler

Early winter: a singing male heard on 25th January. Spring/summer: 1-2 singing males heard on 12th March and regularly 8th April-23rd June. Late winter: singing males heard on 1st, 2nd, 16th & 20th November.

Sedge Warbler

Spring: singles on 15th April and 6th May. Autumn: 1 on 31st July.

Reed Warbler

Spring: 1st on 12th April.

Blackcap

Spring: 1st on 26th March

Common Whitethroat

Spring: 1st on 15th April.

Common Chiffchaff

Early winter: 1-2 birds on 5 visits 25th January-19th February. Spring: 1st on 12th March. Late winter: singles on 16th & 29th November and 24th & 27th December.

Willow Warbler

Autumn: 1 on 8th August - my only record!

Goldcrest

Early winter: singles on 1st & 11th February. Late winter: 1 on 16th November.

Nuthatch

Early winter: singles on 20th & 25th January. Spring: singles on 15th, 19th, 22nd & 28th April.

Raven

Autumn: singles on 16th & 27th August.

Linnet

Spring: 5 on 24th March, 1 on 8th April and 2+ on 12th April. Autumn: 3 on 24th July and a flock of 100+ moving south on 17th October.

Bullfinch

Spring: 1 on 12th March. Autumn: 1 on 12th August. Late winter: 1 on 16th November.

Other birds recorded during the year:

Pheasant, Common Buzzard, Kestrel, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Feral/Rock Dove, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Jay, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Starling, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Reed Bunting.

DAMSELFLY & DRAGONFLY REPORT - 2014

Although a total 11 species were recorded during 2014 it is very likely that a number of additional species were overlooked. The 2 pools just to the south of the South Lake were excellent sites for damselflies and dragonflies and were particularly favoured by the Red-eyed and Small Red-eyed Damselflies and the Four-spotted Chasers. The Scarce Chasers were seen along the causeway between the two main lakes.

DAMSELS

Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)

A wanderer from nearby River Stour.

One on 7th July.

Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma najas*)

Scarce breeder.

Small numbers recorded from 6th June-6th September.

SMALL RED-EYED DAMSELFLY (*Erythromma viridulum*)

This is a recent colonist to Britain.

Small numbers recorded on 8th August.

Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

Common breeder.

Recorded from 19th May-6th September.

DRAGONS

Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*)

Fairly common breeder.

Recorded from 21st July-6th September.

Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)

Scarce breeder.

Recorded from 12th August-15th September.

Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*)

Common breeder.

Recorded from 19th May-12th August.

Scarce Chaser (*Libellula fulva*)

A presumed wanderer from the nearby River Stour which is a favoured river for this nationally rare species.

Territorial males were recorded as follows: 1+ on 23rd June & 2+ on 4th July.

Four-spotted Chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*)

A scarce breeder.

Recorded on 19th May and 25th June.

Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*)

Fairly common breeder.

Recorded from 10th June-12th August.

Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

Fairly common breeder.

Recorded from 30th August-25th October.