

LONGHAM LAKES

BIRD REPORT 2016

plus

DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES



Great White Egret

by
GEORGE GREEN

LONGHAM LAKES
incl Hampreston Meadows
SELECTED BIRD RECORDS - 2016

Mute Swan

Present throughout the year.

Greylag Goose

Early winter: present on 7 dates 3rd January-27th February max 6 on 27th February. Spring: present on 13 dates 10th March-16th May max 12 on 19th March. Late winter: present on 6 dates 14th November-29th December max 22 on 24th December. This species often favours Hampreston Meadows.

Canada Goose

Present throughout most of the year. Bred: broods present from 5th May. Autumn/late winter: high counts of 135+ on 24th September and 120+ on 24th December.

Egyptian Goose

Early winter: 1 on 18th February. Spring: 5 on 25th March and 2 on 10th & 11th May. Autumn: 2 on 15th, 25th & 28th October. Late winter: 2 on 30th November.

Shelduck

Spring/summer: a pair present 8th April-1st June with 3 on 12th April. Late winter: singles on 29th November and 5th December.

Mandarin

Spring: 2 briefly in flight on 25th March.

Wigeon

Early winter/spring: regularly present 2nd January-2nd April but again in low numbers max 22 on 28th January. Autumn/late winter: regularly present in low numbers 4th October-28th December max 24+ on 25th November.

Gadwall

Early winter: regularly present 2nd January-27th February max 43+ on 2nd January and 41 on 25th January. Spring/summer: regularly present 10th March-21st June with 1-2 pairs present during May & June but no evidence of breeding. Autumn/late winter: regularly present 13th August-29th December max 50+ on 16th December.

Teal

Early winter/spring: regularly present 2nd January-13th April generally in low numbers but isolated high counts of 40 on 2nd January, 70+ on 10th March and 37 on 29th March. Autumn/late winter: 4 on 3rd August, 2 on 18th August and 3 on 12th September then regularly present in low numbers 3rd October-28th December max 25 on 13th December.

Mallard

Present throughout the year. Bred: first broods noted on 8th April

Pintail

Early winter: a pair on 23rd January.

Shoveler

Early winter/spring: regularly present in low numbers 2nd January-12th April max 16 on 25th March. Autumn/late winter: 1 on 20th August and 2 on 5th September then regularly present in low numbers 3rd October-29th December with peak counts of 18+ on 15th October and 20+ on 5th & 16th December.

Pochard

Early winter/spring: regularly present 2nd January-8th April max 41 on 23rd January. Autumn: 1 on 20th August. Late winter: regularly present 3rd November-29th December max 26 on 16th December

Tufted Duck

Present throughout the year including counts in spring of 300+ on 8th May and 335+ on 10th May. Breeding was late as in previous years with the first brood seen on 9th July. Subsequent numbers of chicks hatched were well down compared to previous years.

Goosander

Early winter: two females/immatures flew over on 27th February.

Little Grebe

Early winter/spring: regularly present in low numbers 3rd January-3rd May. Summer: 1 on 2nd July. Autumn/winter: regularly present 4th August-29th December with a marked influx during August and September max 25+ on 12th September.

Great Crested Grebe

Present throughout the year but with no evidence of successful breeding.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE

Spring: 1 in full summer-plumage on 11th, 12th & 16th May.

Cormorant

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

Little Egret

Early winter/spring: regularly present in low numbers 2nd January-22nd May max 5 on 23rd January. Autumn/late winter: regularly present 4th August-24th December generally in low numbers but a modest influx in late November and early December max 15+ on 5th December.

GREAT WHITE EGRET

Late winter: 1 on 23rd November increased to 3 birds by 30th November which remained into 2017.

Grey Heron

Present throughout the year.

Sparrowhawk

Early winter: 1 on 15th January. Spring: singles on 10th March and 17th April. Autumn: singles on 30th August and 8th September. Late winter: singles on 14th November and 29th December.

OSPREY

Autumn: 1 on 22nd October.

Hobby

Spring: 1 on 30th April. Summer: 1 on 18th June. Autumn: 1 on 30th August.

Peregrine

Spring: 1 on 13th April. Autumn: singles on 13th August and 8th September. Late winter: 1 on 14th November.

Water Rail

Autumn: 1 on 20th October. Late winter: singles on 1st November and 5th, 16th & 20th December.

Moorhen

Present throughout the year.

Coot

Present throughout the year and bred.

Lapwing

Early winter: 8 on 3rd January and 1 on 27th February. Spring: 1 on 25th March and a pair present 30th April-8th May which was displaying on Hampreston Meadows on 8th May. Autumn: present on many dates 5th August-22nd October max 20+ on 3rd October. Late winter: present on 6 dates 25th November-28th December max 40+ on 13th December and 45+ on 28th December.

LITTLE STINT

Late winter: 1 on 29th & 30th November and 5th December.

Dunlin

Spring: 2 on 10th May with 1 still present on 11th May.

JACK SNIPE

Autumn: 1 on 15th October. Late winter: 4+ on 5th December.

Snipe

Early winter: singles on 11th & 28th January. Spring: 1 on 22nd March and 5 on 25th March. Autumn/late winter: many more records than usual 12th September-29th December with counts of 5+ to 7+ birds on 7 dates during this period. It seems very likely that many more remained hidden on the large island at the north end of the South Lake.

Black-tailed Godwit

Spring: 20+ on 19th March. Autumn: 1 on 2nd July. Late winter: 16+ on 25th November and 5+ on 30th November.

Whimbrel

Spring: 1 flew over on 3rd May.

Common Sandpiper

Spring: first 1 on 16th April with 4 on 17th April, 2 on 10th May and singles on 30th April and 5th, 7th & 11th May. Autumn: singles on 9 dates 6th July-30th September.

Green Sandpiper

Spring: 1 on Hampreston Meadows on 6 dates 22nd March-12th April.

GREENSHANK

Spring: 1 on 10th May.

Redshank

Late winter: 1 on 5th December.

LITTLE GULL

Autumn: juvenile on 11th September.

Mediterranean Gull

Early winter/spring: 4 on 23rd February and 3 on 27th February followed by increasing numbers 10th March-16th April max 88+ on 22nd March.

Numbers were much lower than last spring when 209+ was the peak count.

Autumn: singles on 24th September and 22nd & 29th October.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL

Late winter: 1 on 23rd November.

Sandwich Tern

Summer: 1 on 21st June.

Common Tern

Spring: 3 on 22nd May.

Cuckoo

Spring: singles calling on 16th, 19th May & 22nd May.

Swift

Spring: first on 30th April (30+). Autumn: last 1 on 3rd September.

Kingfisher

Early winter: singles on 2nd & 3rd January. Autumn/late winter: singles on 11 dates 9th July-28th December.

Sand Martin

Spring: first on 29th March (25+). Autumn: high counts of 100+ on 20th August and 250+ on 3rd September with last 2 on 28th September.

Swallow

Spring: first on 10th April. Autumn: last on 4th October.

House Martin

Spring: first on 10th April. Autumn: a high count of 100+ on 8th September.

Meadow Pipit

Early winter: 2 on 16th January and 23rd February. Autumn/late winter: small numbers present on many dates 3rd October-16th December max 15+ on 1st November.

ROCK PIPT

Autumn: 1 on 3rd October.

Grey Wagtail

Present throughout most of the year and probably bred locally.

Pied Wagtail

Spring: evidence of migrant birds in March and early April with 11+ on 19th March and 10+ on 11th April.

WHITE WAGTAIL

Spring: singles on 8th & 11th April.

BLACK REDSTART

Autumn: 1 on 28th October.

Stonechat

Early winter: singles on 2nd January. Spring: 1 on 25th March and a pair on 29th March. Autumn/late winter: 2+ on 18th August then 1-2 birds present on 11 dates 20th October-24th December.

Wheatear

Spring: 1 on 10th April. Late winter: a late bird on 8th & 14th November.

Fieldfare

Late winter: 20+ on 13th December was my only record this year!

Redwing

Early winter/spring: regularly present in low numbers 2nd January-25th March max 20+ on 4th February. Late winter: present in low numbers on 5 dates 5th-28th December max 20+ on 13th, 20th & 22nd.

Mistle Thrush

Early winter: singles on 2nd & 3rd January. Spring: 1 carrying food on 7th May. Autumn/late winter: singles on 28th October & 13th December and 2 on 22nd & 28th December

Cetti's Warbler

Spring/summer: at least 3 singing males holding territory 22nd March-9th July. Autumn/late winter: up to 3 singing males heard on 10 dates 8th September-25th November.

Sedge Warbler

Spring: singles on 16th & 30th April and 3rd, 7th & 10th May.

Reed Warbler

Spring: first on 16th April.

Blackcap

Spring: first on 8th April.

Garden Warbler

Spring: a singing male on 3rd May which subsequently held territory until at least 26th June.

Whitethroat

Spring: first on 16th April.

Chiffchaff

Early winter: present on 9 dates 11th January-23rd February usually 1-2 birds but 4 on 23rd February. Spring: first migrant on 10th March. Autumn: regularly present August-October max 20+ on 9th August. Late winter: 1-2 birds present on 6 dates 14th November-29th December.

Willow Warbler

Spring: 3 on 2nd April, singles on 10th, 13th & 16th April and 2+ on 17th April.

Goldcrest

Early winter/spring: singles on 16th, 18th & 23rd February and 10th March. Late winter: 1 on 1st November.

FIRECREST

Early winter: 1 on 16th February.

Spotted Flycatcher

Spring: 1 on 3rd May.

Nuthatch

Early winter: 1 on 11th January. Late winter: singles on 8th, 14th & 30th November and 28th December.

Raven

Spring: singles on 19th March and 17th April. Autumn: 1 on 13th August, 2 on 18th August and 1 on 28th October. Late winter: 1 on 24th December.

Linnet

Summer: pair on Hampreston Meadows on 9th June.

Lesser Redpoll

Early winter: a flock of 50+ on 23rd February and 5+ on 27th February.

Bullfinch

Early winter: 1 on 11th January. Autumn/late winter: singles on 20th & 25th October and 1 on 19th November.

Other birds recorded during the year:

Pheasant, Buzzard, Kestrel, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed 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 - 2016

Although a total 13 species were recorded during 2016 it is very likely that a few 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.

DAMSELS

Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)

A wanderer from the nearby River Stour.

Present 28th May-9th July.

Azure Blue Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*)

Breeds - almost certainly overlooked.

Present on 9th June.

Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma najas*)

Breeds.

Present 5th June-6th August.

SMALL RED-EYED DAMSELFLY (*Erythromma viridulum*)

Breeds. This is a recent colonist to Britain.

Present 6th July-26th August.

Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

A common breeder.

Present 5th June-24th September.

Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ishnura elegans*)

Breeds - almost certainly overlooked.

Present on 26th June.

DRAGONS

Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*)

A scarce wanderer.

At least 1 on 26th August.

Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*)

A fairly common breeder.

Present 6th August-12th September.

Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)

Breeds.

Present 15th August-30th September.

Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*)

A common breeder.

Present 21st June-26th August.

Scarce Chaser (*Libellula fulva*)

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

At least 5+ on 9th June and 1 on 18th June.

Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*)

A common breeder.

Present 5th June-26th August.

Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

A fairly common breeder.

Present 3rd-11th August.