



## Potteric Carr Bird Highlights

- A redhead **Smew** visited the wader scrapes on 2nd and 4th February; the first record for four years.
- The **Iceland gull** (2nd CY in age) was again in the Huxter Well Marsh gull roost to 9th (and seen at the iPort lakes to 19th). The lone wintering **Whooper swan** remained all month.



*Smew on 2nd © Steve Furber and Sparrowhawk on 14th © Paul Paddock*

- A single sighting of **Bearded tit** involved one on 2nd. A **Lesser spotted woodpecker** showed on 1st, 18th and 26th, with **Nuthatch** reported on four dates in February; 2 in Beeston Plantation on 23rd.
- **Raven** flying E on 16th, 100 **Carrion crow** on 14th and 13 **Jackdaw** at the VC feeders on 26th were the corvid highlights. A **Peregrine** visited on 16th, 18th and 28th. The **Starling** murmuration fluctuated in size and location during the month with this winter's peak around the 18th.
- Up to 3 **Marsh harrier** and at least 3 **Bittern** were seen on site, with a max of 6 **Little egret**, on 26th.
- 100 **Siskin** on 17th and 50 **Redwing** on 24th were peak counts for those winter visitors in February, while the wintering **Stonechats** numbered up to 4. One **Marsh tit** and 2 **Willow tit** were logged.
- Notable wader records were 6 **Oystercatcher** on 20th, single **Woodcock** seen on five dates, with 2 on 28th, and 12 **Snipe** on 28th. The peak **Lapwing** count was 250 on 20th.
- There was a **Goldeneye** on 3rd/26th and 12 **Pintail** on 25th, with 2 on 27th. 150 **Pink-footed geese** flew NW on 28th. High wildfowl counts involved 103 **Wigeon** on 6th, 80 **Tufted duck** on 20th, 50 **Pochard** on 6th, 130 **Gadwall** on 6th/20th, 180 **Teal** on 6th and 150 **Shoveler** on 28th.
- Single **Kingfisher** was only reported on six dates. Up to 3 **Cetti's warbler** were heard in a day.
- Early signs of spring came with an increase in bird song, **Bittern** booming and **Great spotted woodpecker** drumming in Black Carr Wood and Beeston Plantation before snow arrived at the month end.

## RELATED NEWS

- Potteric Carr is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and there will be a number of related events taking place on the nature reserve during 2018.
- Seven new Willow tit nestboxes have been put up as part of the species' recovery management in the region. Observers are asked to report all sightings of Willow tits at Potteric Carr this spring. A breeding territory survey is once again being carried out in February-March by the bird recording team.
- As well as **Iceland gull** visiting the iPort lakes, a **Snow bunting** was also there on 18th–19th. This area of land is an environmental buffer zone for Potteric Carr, but ecological management will not be handed over to YWT until the development works have finished. There is currently a problem with car parking near to the Amazon warehouses and rail hub, but visitors can view the lakes on foot from the Loversall–Bessacarr bridleway.

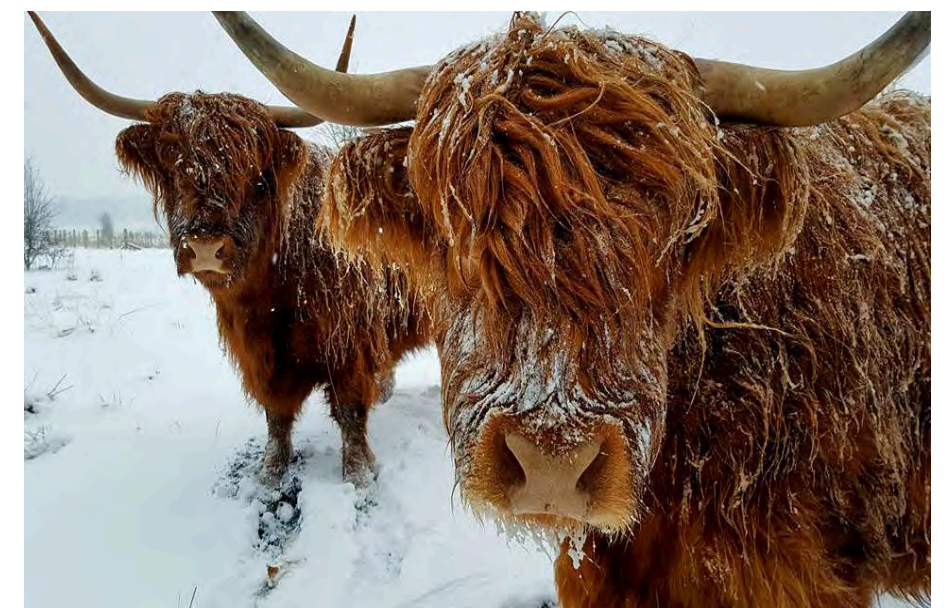


*Iceland gull at the iPort lakes on 19th © Steve Furber and Snow bunting also at the iPort lakes on 18th © Chris Robinson*



*The Sand martin wall at Decoy Lake had its sand renewed in February © Dave Carroll and hybrid Mallard x Gadwall with female Gadwall on the Lagoon on 14th © Steve Furber*

LIST OF BIRDS	RECORDED IN 2018											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mute Swan												
Bewick's Swan												
Whooper Swan												
Pink-footed Goose												
White-fronted Goose												
Greylag Goose												
Canada Goose												
Barnacle Goose												
Egyptian Goose												
Shelduck												
Mandarin Duck												
Wigeon												
Gadwall												
Teal												
Mallard												
Pintail												
Garganey												
Shoveler												
Red-crested Pochard												
Pochard												
Tufted Duck												
Scaup												
Common Scoter												
Goldeneye												
Smew												
Goosander												
Red-legged Partridge												
Grey Partridge												
Pheasant												
Leach's Petrel												
Cormorant												
Bittern												
Little Egret												
Great White Egret												
Grey Heron												
Purple Heron												
Spoonbill												
Little Grebe												
Great Crested Grebe												
Black-necked Grebe												
Honey-buzzard												
Red Kite												
Marsh Harrier												
Hen Harrier												
Pallid Harrier												
Montagu's Harrier												
Goshawk												
Sparrowhawk												
Buzzard												
Osprey												
Kestrel												
Merlin												
Hobby												
Peregrine												
Water Rail												
Moorhen												
Coot												
Oystercatcher												
Golden Plover												
Grey Plover												
Lapwing												
Little Ringed Plover												
Ringed Plover												
Whimbrel												
Curlew												
Black-tailed Godwit												
Bar-tailed Godwit												
Turnstone												
Knot												
Ruff												
Curlew Sandpiper												
Temminck's Stint												
Sanderling												
Dunlin												
Little Stint												
Red-necked Phalarope												
Common Sandpiper												
Green Sandpiper												
Spotted Redshank												
Greenshank												
Wood Sandpiper												
Redshank												
Jack Snipe												
Woodcock												
Snipe												
Little Tern												
Black Tern												
Sandwich Tern												
Common Tern												
Arctic Tern												
Kittiwake												
Black-headed Gull												
Little Gull												
Mediterranean Gull												
Common Gull												
Lesser Black-backed Gull												
Herring Gull												
Yellow-legged Gull												
Caspian Gull												
Iceland Gull												
Glaucous Gull												
Great Black-backed Gull												



Highland cattle enjoying the snow on Carr Lodge at the end of February © YWT



Bittern over Huxter Well Marsh with M18 traffic in the background © Paul Paddock



Grey heron © Amy Thomson



The Sand martin wall has vacancies

LIST OF BIRDS	RECORDED IN 2018											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Feral Dove / Rock Pigeon												
Stock Dove												
Woodpigeon												
Collared Dove												
Turtle Dove												
Ring-necked Parakeet												
Cuckoo												
Barn Owl												
Tawny Owl												
Short-eared Owl												
Swift												
Kingfisher												
Green Woodpecker												
Great Spotted Woodpecker												
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker												
Magpie												
Jay												
Jackdaw												
Rook												
Carrion Crow												
Raven												
Goldcrest												
Firecrest												
Blue Tit												
Great Tit												
Coal Tit												
Willow Tit												
Marsh Tit												
Bearded Tit												
Skylark												
Sand Martin												
Swallow												
House Martin												
Cetti's Warbler												
Long-tailed Tit												
Yellow-browed Warbler												
Wood Warbler												
Chiffchaff												
Willow Warbler												
Blackcap												
Garden Warbler												
Lesser Whitethroat												
Whitethroat												
Grasshopper Warbler												
Sedge Warbler												
Reed Warbler												
Waxwing												
Nuthatch												
Treecreeper												
Wren												
Starling												
Ring Ouzel												
Blackbird												
Fieldfare												
Song Thrush												
Redwing												
Mistle Thrush												
Spotted Flycatcher												
Robin												
Pied Flycatcher												
Black Redstart												
Redstart												
Whinchat												
Stonechat												
Wheatear												
Dunnock												
House Sparrow												
Tree Sparrow												
Yellow Wagtail												
Grey Wagtail												
Pied Wagtail												
Meadow Pipit												
Chaffinch												
Brambling												
Greenfinch												
Goldfinch												
Siskin												
Snow Bunting											IP	
Linnet											IP	
Lesser Redpoll												
Common/Mealy Redpoll												
Common Crossbill												
Bullfinch												
Hawfinch												
Yellowhammer												
Reed Bunting												

total species recorded												
each month 2018	84	92										
year to date 2018	84	97										
year to date for 2017	90	96	108	141	151	153	156	156	160	163	164	166



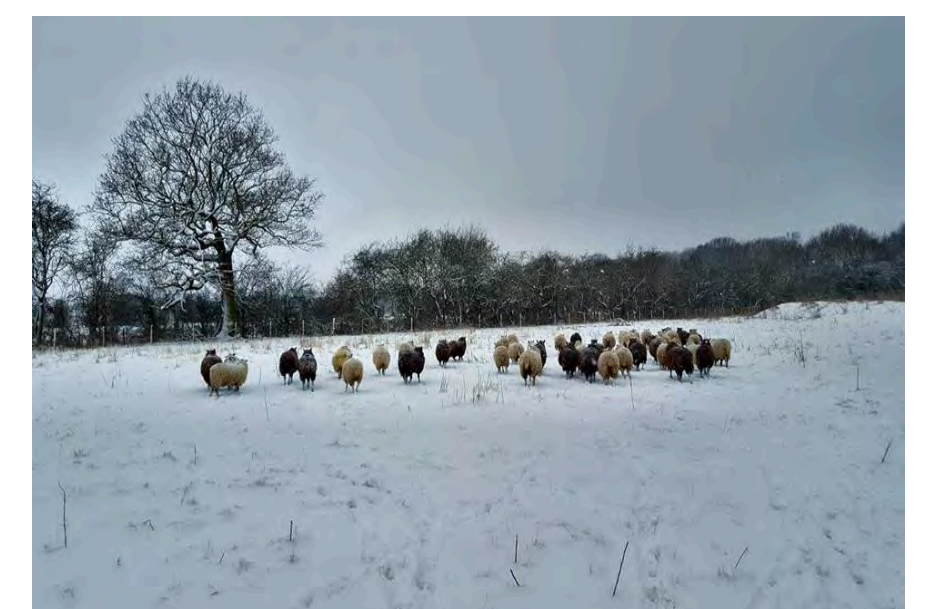
Fox in the snow on 28th February © Ronald Parke



Skilled practical volunteers repairing the steps at Beeston Hide © YWT



Robin © Julie Cavell



YWT conservation grazing flock of Hebridean sheep at Carr Lodge © YWT