



Potteric Carr Bird Highlights

- Summer visitors are of course migrating back to natal breeding grounds in the UK. **Chiffchaff** (2 on 11th and 7 on 25th) and **Sand martin** (1 on 14th and 6 on 26th) gives an example of early passage migration through Potteric Carr of these harbingers of spring.
- A **Black-necked grebe** appeared on Huxter Well Marsh on 16th and remained to the month end.
- **Pintail** were recorded on a number of dates, with max 4 on 5th and there were 2 **Egyptian geese** on 6th/13th/27th. WeBS counts on 18th revealed 108 **Wigeon**, 128 **Teal**, 110 **Gadwall** and 71 **Shoveler** (90 on 2nd) among other wildfowl. 10 **Shelduck** was the max, on 8th and 2 **Goosander** visited on 30th.



Black-necked grebe on 28th © Dave Round and Pintails on Huxter Well ice on 5th © Steve Furber

- Some winter birds remained with 50 **Siskin** on 6th/20th, the wintering **Stonechat** (2) to 7th, 45 **Redwing** on 18th feeding in leaf litter, and the long-staying **Whooper swan** still present on 29th.
- **Bearded tit** on 9th meant that this species has been recorded at Potteric Carr for the sixth consecutive month, but will birds remain into the breeding season? Look out and listen for them.
- Waders of interest including **Woodcock** (max 2 on 9th); **Black-tailed godwit** on 11th and a good count of 43 **Snipe** on 18th. **Curlew** flew over on 22nd. There were 2 **Redshank** on 11th, 5 **Avocet** on 25th and 4 **Oystercatcher** on 27th.
- **Lesser spotted woodpecker** on 5th, 8th and 9th was tantalizing, but the species remains elusive. There were 2 **Nuthatch** on 5th and 23rd, and 10 **Meadow pipit** on 18th.
- Again, at least one **Willow tit** and **Marsh tit** were recorded, including the former holding a territory.
- March 7th brought a **Red kite** and a **Peregrine** (also on 21st) to the Reserve. Other birds of prey included up to 6+ soaring **Buzzards**, **Barn owl** and **Tawny owl**.

- **Water rail** and **Kingfisher** were seen on several dates. 450 pre-nesting **Black-headed gulls** had returned to Huxter Well Marsh by the 8th; increasing thereafter despite last year's colony being heavily predated.
- **Marsh harrier** and **Bittern** (up to 6, 11th) were, as ever, popular with visitors, with Beeston Hide proving to be the best place to watch up to 4 Bitterns all at the same time. 6+ singing **Cetti's warbler** were located, and 6 **Little egret** fed in St Catherine's Field on 13th.



Bittern at Willow Marsh on 26th March © Maggie Hudson



*Chiffchaff on 25th March © Paul Taylor, a new **Stock dove** box put up in March, snail shells at a **Song thrush** anvil © Jim Horsfall and **Little egret** © Steve Martin*

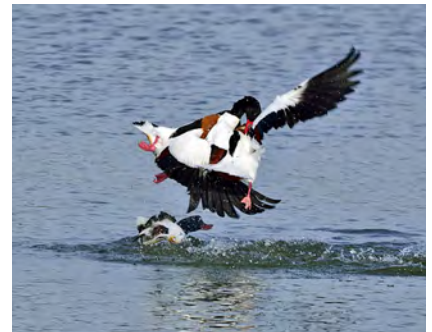
RELATED NEWS

- 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.
- 5 **Dunlin** were at the iPort lakes on 3rd and a **Little ringed plover** on 27th. Some local **Reed buntings** were still feeding in suburban Bessacarr gardens during the mid-month cold spell, but others sang in territory on the Reserve.
- Please report anyone seen with a dog on Huxter Well Marsh to Reserve staff. Recent disturbance to reedbed nesting birds by a dog has been witnessed and is an offence.

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												
Goldeneye												
Smew												
Goosander												
Red-legged Partridge			IP	IP								
Grey Partridge			IP									
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												
Avocet												
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		IP										
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												



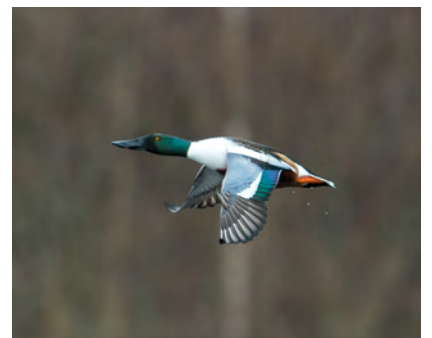
Egyptian geese © Dave Round
Photo taken in 2011



Squabbling Shelducks © Amy Thompson



Gadwall © Vernon Barker



Shoveler © Vernon Barker

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												14th
Swallow												
House Martin												
Cetti's Warbler												
Long-tailed Tit												
Yellow-browed Warbler												
Wood Warbler												
Chiffchaff												11th
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												
Linnet												
Lesser Redpoll												
Common/Mealy Redpoll												
Common Crossbill												
Bullfinch												
Hawfinch												
Yellowhammer												
Reed Bunting												

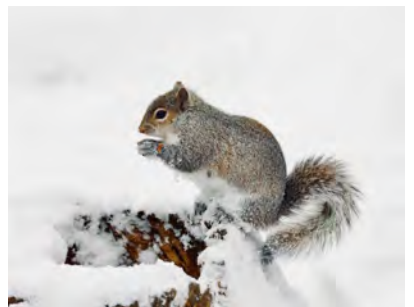
total species recorded	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
each month 2018	84	93	98									
year to date 2018	84	98	111									
year to date for 2017	90	96	108	141	151	153	156	156	160	163	164	166



Marsh harrier © Martin Roper



Dunnock © Bogusława Piątkowska



Grey squirrel © Ronald Parke



Grass snake out of hibernation © Paul Paddock