



Potteric Carr Golden Jubilee 2018

May 2018

Potteric Carr Bird Highlights



Hobbies on 11th May © Nidge Nilsen and on the 4th © Allen Holmes

• Two **Hobby** appeared regularly all month from 4th, with 3 on 31st and 5 on 10th. An **Osprey** flew over on 5th and up to 3 **Marsh harrier** (1m and 2f) frequented the site in May. A **Wood sandpiper** on 8th was the scarcest wader to appear on West Scrape during the month, with a drake **Garganey** there on 9th and 13th. **Bearded tit** was in the Huxter Well Marsh reedbeds on 29th.





Black-necked grebe © Martin Roper and **Bittern** © Allen Holmes

- Other waders at Huxter Well Marsh included **Redshank** (2), **Snipe**, **Avocet** (max 8), **Common sandpiper**, **Dunlin** (max 7), **Ringed plover**, **Little ringed plover**, **Oystercatcher** (3 on 20th), a **Ruff** on 28th, 3 **Black-tailed godwit** from 29th–31st and a **Grey plover** on 30th.
- 3 **Bittern** (including a booming male), up to 10 singing **Cetti's warbler** and 2–5 **Black-necked grebe** were present all month. 3 **Egyptian geese** flew over on 8th, with a single **Goosander** next day.

- A Kingfisher was seen on 5th, however, no nesting has taken place on the reserve this year. Mute swan, Canada and Greylag goose, Mallard, Coot, Moorhen young were out in good numbers. Skylark sang over Grassy Knoll and a pair of Linnet bred near Tofield Hide. Lapwing chicks (3) were good to see at West Scrape. Great and Blue tit nestboxes contained young. Water rail was heard calling in Willow Marsh and Loversall Pool, where territories were suspected. While singing Reed warbler numbers were in double figures, only 2 Sedge warbler territories were located.
- Wheatear was present on 6th, Cuckoo 1–2 on six dates and a Common tern on 20th, with 6 on 28th. 1–7 Little egret frequented the site in May.





Large family of **Blue tit** young in nestbox © Ken Burden and **Lapwing** chick © Allen Holmes

• With only 13 nests of **Black-headed gull** remaining at Potteric Carr, the colony is close to complete desertion. Hundreds of pairs of these noisy gulls are usually nesting here at this time of year.

iPORT Lakes

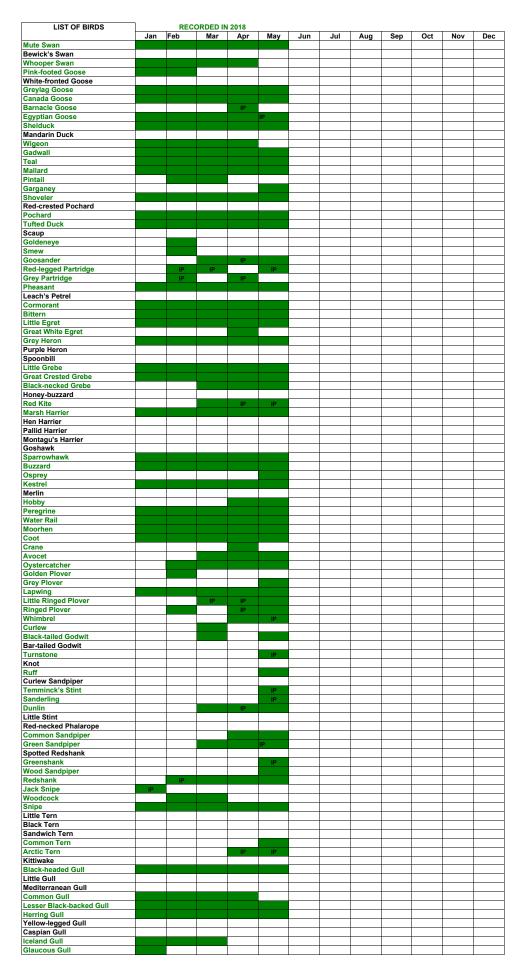
This ecological buffer area produced at least 11 young **Avocet**, 3 young **Oystercatcher** and 9 young **Shelduck**, with **Ringed** and **Little ringed plover** also present. 2 **Raven** and a **Red kite** flew over on 10th. There were 1–2 summer plumaged **Sanderling** on 9th–11th, a **Turnstone** on 10th-11th, with 2 **Temminck's stint** on 23rd and 1 on 25th–27th. More records here: http://www.doncasterbirding.co.uk/wordpress/

RELATED NEWS

- A colour-ringed **Common sandpiper** identified at Potteric Carr in June 2017 had been ringed 52 days earlier near Sedburgh in Cumbria, a movement of 127 km.
- The **Potteric Big 50 Weekend** Golden Jubilee event will take place on the weekend of 21st–22nd July and you are invited to attend with **FREE ENTRY** for all visitors. See YWT website for more details
- **STOP PRESS** It was announced from Buckingham Palace on 2nd June that Potteric Carr Nature Reserve Volunteers had won the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for volunteer groups. See YWT website for *The Story of Potteric Carr Nature Reserve 1968–2018* due soon.

www.ywt.org.uk

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Mute swan © Paul Langley



Garganey © Richard Scott



Lapwing © Steve Martin



Sanderling © Chris Robinson



Redshank © Allen Holmes





Mute swan and Roe deer © Kieron Wobschall



Marsh harrier © Vernon Barker



Hobby © Allen Holmes



Reed warbler © Allen Holmes