



Potteric Carr Bird Highlights September– October 2018

- September birds-of-prey included **Hobbies** on a number of dates, max 5 on 11th and 18th (with 2 late birds on 10th October). 3 **Marsh harrier** was the best day count in both September and October. A ringtail **Hen harrier** photographed during its visits to Huxter Well Marsh from 22nd–24th October was the first twitchable one at Potteric Carr for over forty years. A **Peregrine** caused several hundred waders to take flight on the latter date.
- Visible migration seen from Tofield Hide on the morning of 16th October included a purposeful SW movement of around 1000 winter thrushes (695 **Redwing** and 290 **Fieldfare**), 50+ **Starling**, 1 **Curlew**, a flock of 25 **Chaffinch**, 25 **Skylark** and 5 late **Swallow**, with a **Bearded tit** new-in that day.



Bearded tit © Mark Revitt and *Hen harrier* © Adrian Andruchiw

- There were some interesting wader sightings, usually on West Scrape but also on cell 3b where low water levels were also attractive, with max counts in September as follows: single **Sanderling** on 1st, 7 **Green sandpiper** on 3rd, a **Greenshank** on 3rd/9th, 9 **Dunlin** on 16th and 2 **Ringed plover** on 19th. There were 2 **Spotted redshank** on 13th, **Knot** and **Little ringed plover** on 16th, 30 **Black-tailed godwit** on 20th and 2 **Curlew sandpiper** on 17th–21st. October wader peaks saw **Green sandpiper**, 54 **Snipe** (17th), 3 **Ruff**, 500 **Lapwing** (4th), 14 **Black-tailed godwit**, and 162 **Golden plover** (25th).



Little stint at the iPort Lakes on 3rd September © Bob Usher, *Curlew sandpiper* on West Scrape in September © Richard Collis, and *Dunlin* in October © Richard Scott

- Amongst the wildfowl, a **Red-crested pochard** on 29th September and up to 5 **Pintail** in October were of interest. Other wildfowl numbers of note included 4 **Whooper swan** and a **Pink-footed goose** (settled) on 23rd October and 100 of the latter flew NW on 28th. **Shelduck** numbered 8 on 30th and **Wigeon** 91 on 31st.
- Up to 7 **Little egret** and one to three **Bittern** were seen on Huxter Well Marsh during September–October. There were 5 **Common tern** on 1st September. **Water rail** was seen and heard in both months.
- Passerines of note included a **Lesser whitethroat** on 4th September. Up to 3 **Green woodpecker** were present. A late **Swift** on 8th September was followed by a **Redstart** on 13th, with **Whinchat** and 2 **Stonechat** on 22nd. **Willow tit** and **Marsh tit** put in quite a few appearances, but only involved one or two of each species.



Willow tit on 3rd September © Rob Ellett and Marsh tit on 30th October © Amy Thompson

October saw 6 **Redwing** on 2nd and the first **Fieldfare** of winter on 4th, when two small skeins of **Pink-footed geese** flew over. **Kingfisher** continued to be seen through October; the 8th saw a **Blackcap**, and 2 **Stonechat** were near Tofield Hide on 9th, with 7+ **Cetti's warbler** heard next day. 2 **Siskin** flew over on 13th and c.10 **Goldcrest** on 19th were in Black Carr Wood/Field. A **Lesser spotted woodpecker** was near the Education Centre on 18th October, and 2–4 **Bearded tit** were in the reedbeds 19th–29th.. A **Barn owl** was seen at Willow Marsh on 22nd, **Chiffchaff** on 25th, 2 **Raven** flew over on 28th and **Lesser redpoll** numbered 30 on 30th October.



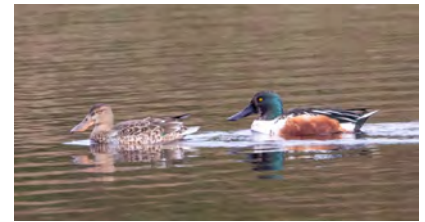
Red-crested pochard on 29th September © Keith Horton, sunshine on one of the Rock pipits at Doncaster iPort Lakes in October © Chris Robinson, and Green woodpecker © Phil Goacher

- 3 **Rock pipit** were at the iPort Lakes on 11th October and the month ended with 2 **Jack snipe** there on 31st.

Other News

Some willow scrub is being cut on the reserve by Yorkshire Wildlife Park staff and taken to feed giraffes at the park. A wide range of garden bird feeders and bird food is on sale in the visitor centre shop.

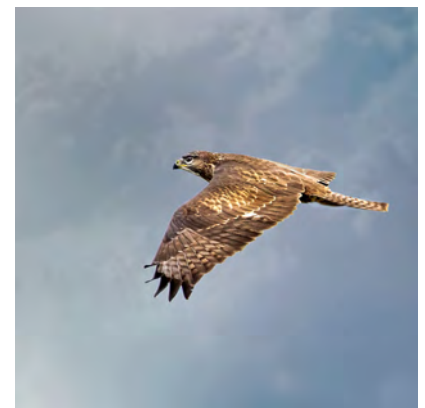
LIST OF BIRDS	RECORDED IN 2018											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mute Swan												
Bewick's Swan												
Whooper Swan												
Pink-footed Goose												
White-fronted Goose												
Greylag Goose												
Canada Goose												
Barnacle Goose				IP			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



Shoveler © Vernon Barker



Bittern © Allen Holmes



Buzzard © Kieron Wobscall



Hen harrier among wader flock © Paul Paddock



Black-tailed godwit © Steve Ditch



Golden plover © Adrian Andruchiw

LIST OF BIRDS	RECORDED IN 2018											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Great Black-backed Gull								IP		IP		
Feral Dove / Rock Pigeon												
Stock Dove												
Woodpigeon												
Collared Dove												
Turtle Dove												
Ring-necked Parakeet												
Cuckoo												
Barn Owl												
Tawny Owl												
Long-eared Owl									IP			
Short-eared Owl												
Swift												
Kingfisher												
Green Woodpecker												
Great Spotted Woodpecker												
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker												
Magpie												
Jay												
Jackdaw												
Rook								IP				
Carrion Crow												
Raven					IP							
Goldcrest												
Firecrest												
Blue Tit												
Great Tit												
Coal Tit												
Willow Tit												
Marsh Tit												
Bearded Tit												
Skylark								IP	IP			
Sand Martin			14th									
Swallow												
House Martin										IP		
Cetti's Warbler												
Long-tailed Tit												
Yellow-browed Warbler												
Wood Warbler												
Chiffchaff			11th									
Willow Warbler												
Blackcap												
Garden Warbler												
Lesser Whitethroat												
Whitethroat												
Grasshopper Warbler				16th								
Sedge Warbler								IP				
Reed Warbler												
Waxwing												
Nuthatch												
Treecreeper												
Wren												
Starling												
Ring Ouzel				IP								
Blackbird												
Fieldfare												
Song Thrush												
Redwing												
Mistle Thrush							IP			IP		
Spotted Flycatcher												
Robin												
Pied Flycatcher												
Black Redstart												
Redstart												
Whinchat				IP								
Stonechat												
Wheatear								IP				
Duncock												
House Sparrow												
Tree Sparrow												
Yellow Wagtail				IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP			
Grey Wagtail												
Pied Wagtail												
Meadow Pipit								IP	IP			
Rock Pipit										IP		
Chaffinch												
Brambling												
Greenfinch												
Goldfinch												
Siskin												
Snow Bunting		IP										
Linnet		IP				IP		IP	IP	IP		
Lesser Redpoll												
Common/Mealy Redpoll												
Common Crossbill												
Bullfinch												
Hawfinch												
Yellowhammer				IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP		
Reed Bunting												

total species recorded												
each month 2018	84	93	98	112	109	95	93	104	110	100		
year to date 2018	84	98	111	134	144	145	148	153	157	159		
year to date for 2017	90	96	108	141	151	153	156	156	160	163	164	166



Sparrowhawk © Adrian Andruchiw



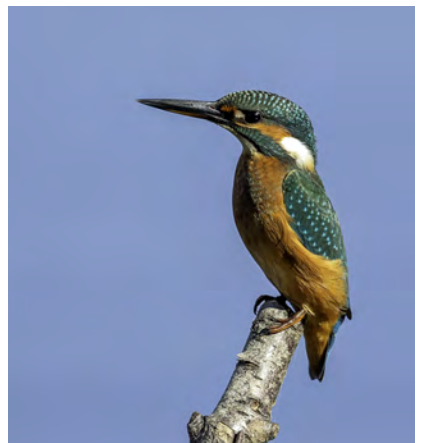
Ruff © Adrian Andruchiw



Lesser Black-backed gull © Steve Martin



Stock dove © Allen Holmes



Kingfisher © Barry Wardley