



**Yorkshire**  
Wildlife Trust



Potteric Carr  
Golden  
Jubilee  
2018

## Potteric Carr Bird Highlights November– December 2018

- One of the region's great bird spectacles, the evening murmuration of 100,000 **Starlings** at Potteric Carr, was on display at Huxter Well Marsh throughout November and December, also attracting hunting **Sparrowhawk**, **Marsh harrier** and, on 22nd and 28th December, a **Merlin**. **Peregrine** showed on 11th November, 2nd, 20th, 22nd and 26th December. 3 **Marsh harrier** were present on 4th November, 22nd and 28th December, with 1–2 on many other dates. A **Barn owl** was seen on several dates in both months.
- One, occasionally 2, and on one date, 3 **Jack snipe** frequented the marshy area in front of Decoy Marsh Hide from 12th November to 4th December, before the water level rose. 4 **Woodcock** on 4th November was a good record, and there was a single on 27th. The 4th also recorded 1 **Dunlin** and 11 **Black-tailed godwit** (14 on 14th–15th), with 50 **Golden plover** on 6th. There were 5 **Ruff** on 14th November. 4 **Redshank** on 16th, 240 **Lapwing** on 20th and 30+ **Snipe** on 28th December added to the wader interest.



*Jack snipe at Decoy Marsh in November © Ron Parke and female Goldeneye © Adrian Andruchiw*

- A flock of over 30 **Siskin** fed in the birch and alder canopy and up to 50 **Lesser redpoll** were present in December. **Cetti's warbler** were evident, with up to 12 birds heard around the reserve this winter. **Marsh tit**, including 3 on 6th November, was logged more often than **Willow tit** (up to 2) in an apparent twist of local status for these two red-listed species. There was a count of 5 **Coal tit** on 8th December. Single **Chiffchaff** on 7th and 24th November and 2nd December must have enjoyed the unseasonably mild weather. A **Nuthatch** was found on 16th November and 26th December, and a **Grey wagtail** on 18th November and 26th December. There were 2 **Bearded tit** on 21st November and 9th December, with 3 the next day and one on 28th. An increase in **Bullfinch** in November– December resulted in a peak count of 28. An elusive **Lesser spotted woodpecker** occurred on 5th November, 7th, 18th and 26th December, and up to 4 **Great spotted** and 2 **Green woodpecker** were recorded.
- An evening corvid roost held around 100 **Jackdaw** in November, and there was a notable 14 **Stock dove** at Carr Lodge on 4th, with 3 **Ring-necked parakeet** flying over Short Lane Fields on 28th. There were 5 **Little egret** on 1st November, with 1–4 later in the year. **Bittern** was sporadically seen at Huxter Well Marsh and **Water rail** was often heard and occasionally photographed. 15 **Cormorant** was the peak count, on 15th December.

- November wildfowl included 5 **Bewick's swan** (2 ad and 3 yg) on 20th, 5 **Whooper swan** on 24th and **Pintail** from 3rd–11th. The WeBS count on 11th revealed 11 **Shelduck**, 76 **Gadwall** and 43 **Shoveler**. A pair of **Goldeneye** were on cell 1b on 24th (whilst the iPort held up to 9) and 30 **Pink-footed geese** flew over on 25th November. In December, c.240 **Greylag geese** were on Huxter Well Marsh on 16th, when there were also 4 **Egyptian geese** early morning. The WeBS count on 9th December included 147 **Coot**, 44 **Pochard** and 33 **Tufted duck**. Notable maxima were 50 **Mute swan** on 13th, 245 **Teal** on 15th, 3 **Goldeneye** on 26th and c.70 **Wigeon** on 27th December. The last day of 2018 provided 5 Whooper Swan and 130 **Pink-footed geese** flew NW.



*Bewick's swan* © Keith Rainford, *Marsh tit* and *Water rail* © Rob Burns

- Gulls included 1st-W **Yellow-legged** on 15th December and **Caspian gull** on 15th and 21st–22nd December, with 470 **Herring gull** and 340 **Great Black-backed gull**, at dusk, on the latter date.



*Little egret* © Vernon Barker and the murmuration of *Starlings* © Allen Holmes

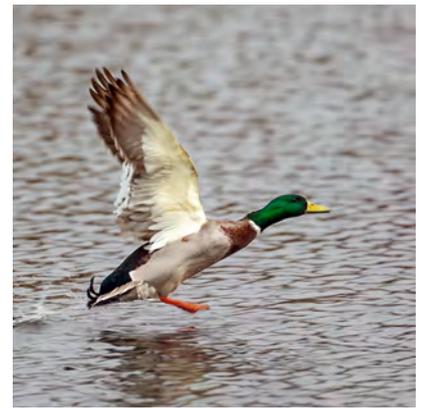
### Other News

A colour-ringed, radio-tagged **Black-tailed godwit** *Limosa limosa islandica* seen at Potteric Carr on 4th–5th July 2018 had originated from breeding grounds at Kaldaðarnes in Iceland where it was tagged on 18th June 2015. This individual has spent most of its time outside of the breeding season wintering in Norfolk, Essex and Kent. The occurrence at Potteric Carr demonstrates a post-breeding stopover during its 2018 migration to winter in the UK.

A survey of Potteric Carr's five Paridae tit species will take place in 2019 and all your records of **Coal**, **Marsh** and **Willow tit** are especially requested.

This is the final monthly bird highlights poster in the present series. With the planned publication of the *Birds of Potteric Carr* by Mark Roberts, due in 2019, species status and summaries from 1968 to 2018 will be found there. Updated bird news will continue on the YWT website (Potteric Carr sightings blog) in taxonomic order, compiled by bird recording team volunteer Richard Scott: <https://www.ywt.org.uk/potteric-carr-wildlife-sightings>

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		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											IP	
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						IP	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												



Mallard © Vernon Barker



Teal © Vernon Barker



Marsh harrier © Vernon Barker



Buzzard © Vernon Barker

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											IP	
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		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												IP
Song Thrush											IP	
Redwing												
Mistle Thrush							IP			IP		
Spotted Flycatcher												
Robin												
Pied Flycatcher												
Black Redstart												
Redstart												
Whinchat				IP								
Stonechat											IP	IP
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		
Water Pipit											IP	
Chaffinch												
Brambling												
Greenfinch												
Goldfinch												
Siskin												
Snow Bunting		IP										
Linnet		IP				IP		IP	IP	IP	IP	IP
Lesser Redpoll												
Common/Mealy Redpoll												
Common Crossbill												
Bullfinch												
Hawfinch												
Yellowhammer				IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP
Reed Bunting												

total species recorded	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
each month 2018	84	93	98	112	109	95	93	104	110	100	99	92
year to date 2018	84	98	111	134	144	145	148	153	157	159	162	164
year to date for 2017	90	96	108	141	151	153	156	156	160	163	164	166



Pheasant © Allen Holmes



Jay © Amy Thompson



Goldcrest © Allen Holmes



Siskin © Robin Mokryj