



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Potteric Carr Highlights

January 2019

Welcome to the monthly bird summary for 2019.

- There was a good movement of Pink-footed Geese throughout the region on the 18th when over 400 birds were recorded flying over the area.
- An exceptional record of 34 Whooper Swans were seen on the 20th including 21 together arriving mid-morning.



[Whooper swans © Richard Scott](#)

- Some notable gull sightings included Mediterranean Gull in the roost on several days with one also reported on Decoy Lake. Caspian gull was picked up on four occasions but no sightings so far of white winged gulls. Highest counts were 650 Herring Gull, 570 Great Black backed gull and over 1000 Black headed Gull.
- Wildfowl numbers built up as the month went on. Maximum numbers recorded were as follows: Mallard 58(30th), Pochard 107(20th), Tufted Duck 75, Shoveler 66 (both 15th), Teal 370 (27th), Gadwall 200(29th), Wigeon 49 (20th), Shelduck 10 (18th). Potteric recorded just a single Goldeneye, with one Goosander also being reported on iPort Lakes.
- As in previous years, the starling murmuration moved location over the New Year. Throughout January we have been treated to some spectacular views

and displays, the birds roosting in a variety of locations including Low Ellers, Decoy Marsh and in front of the VC on decoy marsh. The highest estimate of the number of birds involved reached a peak of 100-120,000 birds. A variety of raptors were attracted and Sparrowhawk, Peregrine, Marsh harrier and Merlin were all seen engaging with the flock.

- Reserve staff undertook a survey of the Barn owl boxes on site and a pleasing number of birds were seen. Two out of three boxes held birds and interestingly, one box (located on Huxter Well Marsh) had plenty of evidence of Starling predation contained within it.
- All three woodpeckers were seen during the month. Some early drumming was also heard on several dates in Black Carr Wood and Beeston Plantation. Lesser Spotted woodpecker was recorded on 8 days, usually in with a mixed flock of tits and other passerines.
- Other notable sightings included a record of 60 Greenfinch roosting near Short Land Fields, 4 Yellowhammer flying over the Access Track-a relatively rare bird these days actually on Potteric. Bearded tit was present but elusive and 2 Common Redpoll were reported amongst a mixed flock of Lesser Redpoll and Siskin.



Siskin © Allen Holmes and Marsh Harriers ©Mick Woodward.

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