



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Potteric Carr Highlights

March 2019

- March once again proved to be a month full of interest with the transition from winter into spring. The first returning sand martin was seen on the 3rd-beating the previous earliest record by some four days. Chiffchaff numbers increased as the month progressed, the first singing blackcap was heard on the 23rd-with up to 10 singing on the 29th. Both a single swallow and house martin were seen on the 30th.
- Other returning birds included black-necked grebe which was first seen on the 10th, it was pretty elusive after then until the end of the month.
- The highest gull numbers were recorded on the 2nd March with 40 lesser black backed gull, 360 herring gull, and 35 great black backed gull –all recorded.
- A good variety of waders were seen, including: curlew, little ringed plover, oystercatcher, ruff, 5 together on the 28th; 27 snipe on the 16th, dunlin, redshank, woodcock and avocet-10 being seen together on the 10th. The iPort also attracted green sandpiper and ringed plover on several days.
- Winter visitors were still in the area, with 100 fieldfare over the iPort on the 17th, redwings seen throughout the month and a single brambling on the 31st. Lesser redpoll and siskin appeared to reduce in numbers through the month, a single common redpoll record being received.



Goldcrest © Carol Hall and Great White Egret © Richard Scott

- Whooper swans passed through the area with 21 together on the 9th and 60 flying north on the 31st.
- Marsh harrier was seen throughout the month with an adult male returning towards the end of the month. At least 2 immature birds are also present A site record 4 peregrines were seen over Huxter Well Marsh on the 10th.
- Finally 5 willow tits were identified early in the month as part of a survey into this much declined species, hopefully an encouraging sign for this year's breeding season.
- Wildfowl number maxima were as follows: 75 gadwall on 5th, 78 wigeon -19th, 45 pochard, 59 teal and 64 tufted duck-24th, 122 shoveler on the 26th. The 19th provided the winters sole pintail record.



Snipe © Adrian Andruchiw

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Dunnock												
House Sparrow												
Tree Sparrow												
Yellow Wagtail												
Grey Wagtail		IP										
Pied Wagtail												
Tree Pipit												
Meadow Pipit												
Rock Pipit												
Water Pipit		IP	IP									
Chaffinch												
Brambling												
Greenfinch												
Goldfinch												
Siskin												
Linnet	IP											
Lesser Redpoll												
Common Redpoll												
Bullfinch												
Yellowhammer		IP	IP									
Reed Bunting												
Each month 2019	95	102	108									
Year to date 2019	95	104	120									
Year to date for 2018	84	98	111	134	144	145	148	153	157	159	162	164