



# Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

## Potteric Carr Highlights

September 2019

September continued to see a steady build up in bird numbers as the month progressed. As usual this included a mix of summer visitors and birds seen across autumn and winter.

Ten species of wader were recorded, which was a bit disappointing given the time of year. This included 15 golden plover seen on the 21<sup>st</sup>-the first returning birds of the autumn. Eighteen snipe were counted on the 24<sup>th</sup> reflecting arrivals across the country.



Golden plover © Richard Scott

Wildfowl numbers also increased, with a build-up of wigeon (26 on the 24<sup>th</sup>), teal (144 on the 12<sup>th</sup>) and gadwall (180 on the 17<sup>th</sup>). Garganey was recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The 15<sup>th</sup> saw the first returning pink-footed geese. A single barnacle goose was also seen.



Barnacle goose © Allen Holmes

The last recorded common tern was a lone individual seen on the 28<sup>th</sup>. There was a big build-up of gulls as the month progressed, with over 1200 black-headed gull recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup>, The same day also produced 2 Mediterranean gulls and 2 yellow-legged gulls. The first returning common gull came on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Up to three fantastic hobby could be seen performing over Huxter Well Marsh throughout the month, often seen at close range hunting mainly dragonflies in front of the hides along Hawthorn Bank. Two ospreys were seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, with the first merlin sighting of the autumn coming from

the 14<sup>th</sup>. Peregrine, marsh harrier, sparrowhawk, kestrel and common buzzard were also seen regularly.



Great egret © Richard Scott.

The last swift sightings came on the 14<sup>th</sup> – when 6 flew south.

An impressive count of 12 ring-necked parakeets were seen together on the 21<sup>st</sup>-a welcome or unwelcome increase in numbers?

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of the month, a site record count of c.600 meadow pipits were recorded moving across the reserve-part of a big movement recorded locally that day. Both rook and raven were seen this month-both

relatively scarce birds at Potteric.

Other passerines recorded during the month included: tree sparrow, wheatear, grey wagtail, nuthatch and marsh tit.



Nuthatch © Darren Ward. Chiffchaff © Allen Holmes.



