



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Potteric Carr Highlights

November 2019



The main event of the month has really centred on the extensive flooding the area has seen from mid-month onwards. At one point, approximately 70% of the reserve was in accessible, with Huxter Well Marsh remaining partly flooded by the month's end. It will be interesting to see how this affects the marginal vegetation and wildlife next year.

The main highlight of the month was an adult red crested pochard (see below) found on the 7th with the bird departing the day after. Other wildfowl highlights included a goosander (several dates), drake pintail (12th), goldeneye (1st) and a count of 184 teal on the 10th.

We received a report from Doncaster Ringing Group of a long eared owl on Carr Lodge on the 9th bringing the year's total number of species seen to 166.

**Great spotted woodpecker ©
Darren Ward**



Sparrowhawk © Rob Burns

The starling roost continued to put on some fantastic displays across Huxter Well Marsh, the murmuration being visible from the hides along Hawthorn Bank which thankfully remained accessible throughout the month. Approximately 100,000 birds were involved often attracting a variety of predators to the spectacle, including marsh harrier, sparrowhawk and peregrine.



On the 30th, the following numbers of gulls were noted roosting on Huxter Well Marsh: 720 black headed gull, 400 herring gull, 112 great black-backed gull, 9 common gull, 9 lesser black-backed gull and 1 yellow legged gull.

Red crested pochard ©Richard Scott

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