

Potteric Carr Highlights

December 2019



Marsh Harrier © Barry Wardley.

Starlings © Allen Holmes



Water rail ©Michael Short. Goldcrest ©Keith Horton 

The staring murmuration continued to put on an n impressive display, slowly moving nearer to Hawthorn Bank as the month progressed. A minimum of 100,000 birds were involved at its peak during mid-month.

The gull roost continued to build also during December almost going unnoticed by those admiring the starlings, although several hundred herring. black headed and great black backed gulls arrived most evenings.

Chiffchaff was recorded again during the month completing a full twelve months of records on site. As expected lesser spotted woodpecker was also seen on a few occasions- the next three months being the best time of year to catch up with Potteric’ s most elusive resident bird. Winter visitors were represented this month with an increase in recorded woodcock, golden plover (55 were seen on the 1st) fieldfare and redwing.

The year ended with a very respectful list of 166 species seen within the recording area. This was up on 2018’s total of 163 but 2 species short of the all-time record of 168. Of the total seen, 157 species were solely recorded on Potteric Carr itself.

Sixty-three species bred this year, with bearded tit undoubtable being the highlight. This represents the last target species to bread on Huxter Well Marsh since its creation back in the early 2000’s, complementing the breeding bittern and marsh harrier the reserve holds.



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| **LIST OF BIRDS** |  |  | **RECORDED IN 2019** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Jan** | **Feb** | **Mar** | **Apr** | **May** | **Jun** | **Jul** | **Aug** | **Sep** | **Oct** | **Nov** | **Dec** |
| **Mute Swan** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Whooper Swan** |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  | IP |  |  |  |
| **Pink-footed Goose** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Greylag Goose** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Canada Goose** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Barnacle Goose** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Egyptian Goose** | **IP** | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | IP |  | **IP** |
| **Shelduck** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Mandarin Duck** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Wigeon** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gadwall** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Teal** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Mallard** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Pintail** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Garganey** |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Shoveler** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Red-crested Pochard** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Pochard** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Tufted Duck** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Goldeneye** |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Goosander** | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Red-legged Partridge** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grey Partridge** |  |  | IP |  | IP | IP |  | IP |  |  |  |  |
| **Pheasant** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Gannet** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cormorant** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Bittern** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Little Egret** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Great White Egret** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grey Heron** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Spoonbill** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Little Grebe** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Great Crested Grebe** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Slavonian Grebe** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Black-necked Grebe** |  |  |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Red Kite** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Marsh Harrier** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Hen Harrier** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sparrowhawk** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Buzzard** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Osprey** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Kestrel** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Merlin** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | IP |  |  |
| **Hobby** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Peregrine** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Water Rail** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Spotted Crake** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Moorhen** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Coot** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Crane** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Avocet** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Oystercatcher** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Golden Plover** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grey Plover** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lapwing** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Little Ringed Plover** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Ringed Plover** |  | **IP** | **IP** |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Whimbrel** |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Curlew** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Black-tailed Godwit** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Bar-tailed Godwit** |  |  |  | IP |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Turnstone** |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |
| **Knot** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Ruff** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sanderling** |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Dunlin** |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Common Sandpiper** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |
| **Green Sandpiper** | **IP** | **IP** | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Spotted Redshank** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Greenshank** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Wood Sandpiper** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Redshank** | **IP** | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Jack Snipe** | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **IP** |
| **Woodcock** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Snipe** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Black Tern** |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |
| **Common Tern** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Arctic Tern** |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Kittiwake** |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Black-headed Gull** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Little Gull** |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Mediterranean Gull** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Common Gull** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lesser Black-backed Gull** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Herring Gull** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Yellow-legged Gull** |  |  |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Caspian Gull** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Iceland Gull** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Glaucous Gull** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Great Black-backed Gull** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Stock Dove** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Woodpigeon** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Collared Dove** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Turtle Dove** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Ring-necked Parakeet** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cuckoo** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Barn Owl** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Tawny Owl** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Long-eared Owl** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Swift** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Kingfisher** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Green Woodpecker** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Great Spotted Woodpecker** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Magpie** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Jay** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Jackdaw** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Rook** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Carrion Crow** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Raven** |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  | IP |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Goldcrest** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Firecrest** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Blue Tit** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Great Tit** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Coal Tit** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Willow Tit** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Marsh Tit** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Bearded Tit** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Skylark** | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  | **IP** | **IP** |  |  |  |  |
| **Sand Martin** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Swallow** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **House Martin** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Cetti’s Warbler** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Long-tailed Tit** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Chiffchaff** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Willow Warbler** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Blackcap** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Garden Warbler** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lesser Whitethroat** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Whitethroat** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grasshopper Warbler** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Sedge Warbler** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Reed Warbler** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Nuthatch** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Treecreeper** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Wren** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Starling** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Ring Ouzel** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Blackbird** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Fieldfare** |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Song Thrush** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Redwing** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Mistle Thrush** |  |  |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Spotted Flycatcher** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Robin** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Pied Flycatcher** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Redstart** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Whinchat** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | IP |  |  |  |  |
| **Stonechat** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Wheatear** |  |  | IP |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Dunnock** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **House Sparrow** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Tree Sparrow** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Yellow Wagtail** |  |  |  |  |  | **IP** | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grey Wagtail** |  | IP |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Pied Wagtail** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Meadow Pipit** |  |  |  |  | IP | IP |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Rock Pipit** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |
| **Water Pipit** |  | **IP** | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | IP |
| **Chaffinch** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Brambling** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Greenfinch** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Goldfinch** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Siskin** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Linnet** | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **IP** | **IP** |  |
| **Twite** |  |  |  | **IP** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Lesser Redpoll** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Common/Mealy Redpoll** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Bullfinch** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Yellowhammer** |  | **IP** | IP |  | **IP** | **IP** | **IP** | **IP** |  |  | **IP** |  |
| **Reed Bunting** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total species recorded** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Month** | **95** | **102** | **108** | **128** | **120** | **94** | **106** | **110** | **110** | **92** | **89** | **82** |
| **year to date 2019** | **95** | **104** | **120** | **146** | **154** | **154** | **156** | **160** | **162** | **164** | **166** | **166** |
| **year to date for 2018** | **84** | **98** | **111** | **134** | **144** | **145** | **148** | **153** | **157** | **159** | **162** | **163** |