

***Risley Moss  
Local Nature Reserve***

***Bird Report  
2002***



**Garganey**

***Compiled by Rob Smith***

## Risley Moss Bird Records 2002

The status of individual in relation to Risley Moss is shown in brackets. Several rarities recorded during the year is proving interesting and indicative of the reserve's location in the Mersey valley. The years records include:

**LITTLE GREBE** [casual] 1pr bred, 3yg present from 26/7. First bird noted on mossland pools on 11/2; last bird seen diving repeatedly between a group of Mallard on the OT pool on 7/10.

**GT CRESTED GREBE** [rare] 1 circled mossland on 7/1, flew NE on 20/1.

**CORMORANT** [regular] Diurnal N-S-N movement noted all year round now. Peaks of note include: 39 flying S late am, 20/1 - 13 in July - 10 flew S, 27/8 - 29 SE in 3 flocks, 29/10 - 25 SE, 23/11 & 28/11 - 26 on 21/12. Unusually 2 birds present on mossland pool for 10' on 16/5.

**LITTLE EGRET** [rare] 1 flew S over moss, 28/11.

**HERON** [regular] Noted in 1s/2s throughout year but peaks include: 4 on 20/1, 30/3 - 4 flying S o/h, 2/6 - 3 o/h, 12/8 - 6 riding thermals high overhead, 19/8 - 8 nr S boundary.

**MUTE SWAN** [casual] 3ads flew along southern boundary on 8/5 - 1 juvenile landed on OT scrape, 22/5 - on pools, 11/6 - 2 over S 19/10.

**BEWICK SWAN** [rare] 2 flew W, 15/2.

**WHOOPEE SWAN** [rare] 1 flew NE, 9/2.

**PINK FOOTED GOOSE** [winter visitor] Peaks inc: 130 SE on 21/1 - 30 flew W on 12/2 - 170 flew high to NW, 1/3 - 68 in 2 skeins flew SE, 28/9 - 34 flew SE, 14/10 - 87 flew SE, 17/11 - 120 in 2 skeins flew E, 1/12.

**WHITE FRONTED GOOSE** [rare] 1 flew around mossland, 8/4.

**GREYLAG GOOSE** [casual] Singles/pairs noted on site or overhead most months outside breeding season. Peaks: 11 on mossland moved by Goshawk, 13/1 - 8 flew W, 1/3 - 11 flew low over moss, 15/8 - 9 flew o/h to SE, 17/11.

**CANADA GOOSE** [regular] Plenty of movement around area with birds moving onto mossland to breed and gather at post breeding roost which operates from August to October. Roost starts with small flocks in from different directions with roost peaking at c280, after dark on 27/8 thereafter dwindling to 190 on 16/9 and 4 by 30/10. Breeding attempted unsuccessfully by 2 pairs.

**BARNACLE GOOSE** [rare] A bird flying with Canada geese on 20/1 was first for the reserve. Single flew W on 4/3 and 1 on pool @ dusk on 28/11.

**BAR HEADED GOOSE** [scarce] 1 with Canadas on 3/7.

**SHELDUCK** [casual] Exceptionally; 1 up/off pool on 17/5 and 1 in moult present on 27/8. Otherwise 6 records of overflying birds with 4 flying SW on 3/2 - 1 SE, 22/2 - 2 o/h, 24/2 - 1 SE, 3/3 - 1pr W, 23/4 - 3 E on 13/7.

**WIGEON** [rare] Single male on pool 18/1, 26/1(with teal), 16/9 (in eclipse) with 1pr there on 16/9. Otherwise 3 flew W, 2/2.

## Risley Moss Bird Records 2002

**GADWALL** [casual] 4 on Flashes, 9/2 & 1/8 - 1pr, pools, 25/2, 5/3, 5/4, 15/5, 24/5, 26/5, 1/7 & 24/12. Others inc. 6 SW on 15/7.

**TEAL** [resident] 6 pairs bred (28yg noted). Peak Nos inc: Jan =150 - Feb = 65 - Mar = 34 - Apr = 22 - Sept = 80 in from N, 23/9 - Oct = 75 on 6/10 - Nov = 83 on 15/11 - Dec - 77, pools, 4/12.

**MALLARD** [resident] 4 pairs bred (22yg noted, 2-day old young noted on 5/8). Peak Nos: Jan= 4; Feb= 30 on 9/2; Mar= 11 on 26/3; July= 12 on 30/7; Aug= 85 on 2/8; Sept= 10 on 7/9; Oct= 5 on 7/10; Nov= 7 on 10/11; Dec= 22 on 26/12

**PINTAIL** [rare] 2 flew up off mossland on 31/1 - 1 female circling for 5' then flew SE on 7/10 - 3 flew SW on 8/10 - 2 flew S on 21/11

**GARGANEY** [rare] 1pr on mossland pools on 1/8.

**SHOVELER** [casual] Drake on pools on 21/2 - 1pr flew W o/h on 4/3 - 1 flew S on 10/5.

**POCHARD** [rare] 20 flew SW on 8/1 - unusually 1pair on pools on 21/6.

**TUFTED DUCK** [Casual] 2 pair bred. 3 pairs present on 4/2, 20/5 to 24/5; 4 pairs on 26/2. Other peaks inc; 10 [6m/4f] on 22/5; 9 [3prs+3m] on 2/6 - 50 flew SE on 10/11.

**GOOSANDER** [rare] 3 flew NE early pm on 2/1.

**RED KITE** [rare] A bird came in from W & flew slowly NNE, a possible 2nd year bird, 9/5 - adult bird from W, mobbed by crows on 1/6 - 1 overhead early pm, 13/9. Could these be of Lake District breeding stock origin?

**MARSH HARRIER** [casual] Male flew N, 2/5 - transitional male mobbed by 2 buzzards, landed on NE edge, 16/9 - male flew o/head on 21/9. Fem/imm noted on 9/5, 13/6, 3/7, 8/7, 3-5/8, 26/8 with a juvenile quartering moss 16/8 - fem/imm landed on mossland only to be moved on by buzzard & sparrowhawk on 2/9. Late bird flew S on 30/10.

**HEN HARRIER** [casual] A fem/immature being chased over moss by corvids flew off NW, 3/1 & along tree line of SWW on 16/3. Ad/m flew low along boundary to SW, 22/1. A ringtail (pale-2nd yr, male), clashed with kestrel, 26/4 - along S edge, 13/9, 20/9, across moss, 3/10, 24/12.

**GOSHAWK** [rare] Male over woods & moss before flying out SE, 13/1 - Male drifted low & W over moss & then into woods, 8/2 seen again on 9/2 (upset crows/ducks). Female noted on 23/2 - 1 probable female, tangling with buzzards over mossland, 16/8.

**SPARROWHAWK** [resident] 2 pairs bred. Seen most days with up to 5 birds on occasions and exceptionally 7 on 11/9

**COMMON BUZZARD** [resident] Now seen throughout the year on & around the reserve. Best summed up in terms of bird days (number of birds on one day/ or how often seen) as the following trend indicates: Jan=3bds; Feb=5bds - Mar=5bds; Apr=43bds (with 4 on 22nd, 6 on 15th); May=29bds; June=10bds; July=16bds; Aug=44bds (4 on 26th, 10 on 27th drifted over N); Sept=73bds (5 on 14th, 6 on 15th/20th/24th, 7 on 23rd, 8 on 21st, **11 on 1/9**), unprecedented; Oct=42bds (4 on 2nd, 6 on 17th & 19th); Nov=2bds; Dec= 10+ (4 on 4th & 17<sup>th</sup>).

## Risley Moss Bird Records 2002

**OSPREY** [rare] 1 circled briefly before flying NW on 3/4 - 1 flew high N/NW on 2/5 - 1 accompanied by c100 corvids, dropped low as it headed S on 4/10.

**KESTREL** [resident] Seen throughout the year, breeding territory overlaps reserve. Peak counts of 6 on 18/8 & 8 on 25/8

**MERLIN** [casual] Bird days inc: Jan= 3bds (with fem/imm on 2/1) - Feb=6bds (inc fem/imm x 2, male x1) - Mar=5bds (fem/imm x 3/ male x1) . First returning bird noted on 22/7 - Aug=2bds (fem/imm on 13/8, 16/8 - Sept = 2bds (ad/m chasing small bird, 14/9 + fem/imm over floods, 4/9) - Oct = 2bds (fem/imm up/off moss, 6/10 + fem/imm chasing snipe across moss, 11/10) - Nov = 4bds (inc fem/imm on 4/11, 9/11) - Dec = 3bds ( inc fem/imm perched on moss on 16/12).

**HOBBY** [casual summer] First returning bird noted on 24/4. Thereafter between 1 and 4 birds noted, bird days were: May=17bds [involving up to 8 adult birds & 2 sub adults) - June=6bds - July=53bds (inc 3 on 6 dates & 4 on 24 & 25<sup>th</sup>; behavior inc clashes with buzzards/sparrowhawk/peregrine & chasing dragonflies/hirundines) - ug=50bds (inc 3 birds on 7 occasions; behavior inc. talon locking/calling/taking swallow) - Sept=30bds (inc. 4 on 5/9 with behavior inc 2 on tree being harassed by jays/magpies who then became prey as hobbies gave serious chase, 4/9). Last bird seen on 23/9.

**SAKER FALCON** [Escapee] 1 over mossland for 15', bird wearing jesses, mobbed by crows which it saw off, gained height & moved away S, 14/2

**PEREGRINE FALCON** [Uncommon resident] Jan=9bds(inc male x 7 – imm/male on 14<sup>th</sup>) - Feb=13bds (male x12, female x1) - Mar=5bds[male x 4; fem x 1] - Apr=4bds (male) - June =2bds (male on 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>) - July=5bds (male) - Aug=9bds (male x4, fem x 3 with 1pr on 28<sup>th</sup>) - Sept=7bds (male x 1, fem x 5, imm x 1) - Oct= 3bds (male/fem x1 +) - Nov= 3bds (fem x 1, male x 2) - Dec= 2bds (male x 2).

**PARTRIDGE** [casual] Birds usually heard on the mossland calling at dusk during autumn & winter period.

**PHEASANT** [casual] Mostly males heard calling from around edge of mossland on occasions most months during year.

**WATER RAIL** [casual] Heard calling from mossland on 6 occasions (22/3, 29/3, 12/4, 9/8, 30/8 and 28/9).

**MOORHEN** [resident] 5 pairs bred.

**COOT** [scarce] 1 up/off pool on 16/3.

**OYSTERCATCHER** [casual] 2 on mossland scrape 10/5, 17/6 - 1 there on 25/4, 11/5, 2/6 5/6 - flying by on 3 other dates.

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** [casual] First on 16/3, last on 11/9. 2 pairs attempted to breed - 1 washed out & 1 successful with 4 young. Peak counts of 8 (4ads/4yg}

**RINGED PLOVER** [scarce] Bird on scrape 17/5, 7/6(juv), 8/10 with birds flying overhead on 6 other occasion between 4/3 & 22/10.

## Risley Moss Bird Records 2002

**GOLDEN PLOVER** [rare] 90 in two flocks flew SW, 2/1 - c50 flew W, 13/2 - 1 flew W, 14/3 - 2 flew E, 3/9 - 10 flew N, 27/9 - 1 flew N, 9/10.

**GREY PLOVER** [rare] 3 flew W in strong winds, 23/2 - 2 flew low NE o/h, calling, 29/10.

**LAPWING** [resident] 2 pair bred (3yg noted). Peaks of: 8 in May - 50 on 11/7. Peak overflying inc: 220 flew SW, 8/1 - 80 flew SW, 14/1 - 350+ moving S, 19/2 - 50 flew o/h, 29/8 & 27/9.

**LITTLE STINT** [rare] 1 flew down onto floods, 21/5 - 2 flew up/off moss & headed S, 12/9

**TEMMINCK'S STINT** [rare] came off mossland, 3/9 (description at end of notes).

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** [rare] 1 calling o/h, 9/8 - 1 flew down onto scrape, still showing red breeding plumage, 14/8 - 1 on 26/8.

**DUNLIN** [casual] 1 onto scrapes 19/2, 12/3, 12/4, 25/4, 16/8, 29/10, 30/10, 19/11. Flying overhead on 6/3, 19/8.

**RUFF** [rare] 1 driven onto mossland by gales, 22/2 - 1 flew N o/h, 24/7 - 2 flew low over moss & headed S, 6/9.

**JACK SNIBE** [casual/winter] Peak of 3 on 31/1, 15/3 - 2 there 8/2, 21/3, 21/9, 28/9 - singles on 15 other occasions. Last bird 23/4 first returning on 4/9

**COMMON SNIBE** [regular] Not present in breeding season otherwise resident. Peak Nos inc: 35 on 31/1 - 34 on 22/2 - 32 on 21/3 - 20 on 4/4 - 15 in flight on 9/8 - 16 off moss, 15/9 - 22 off on 7/10 - 34 on 16/11 - 20 there, 13/12.

**WOODCOCK** [resident] Singles noted in various parts of reserve throughout year with 2 flushed from mossland on 6/3.

**BLACK TAILED GODWIT** [scarce] 2 flew low over mossland, circled & then flew NE, 5/7 - 4 flew S, 17/8 - 1 flew o/h calling, 13/9.

**WHIMBREL** [rare] 1 flew N calling, 21/5 - 1 calling o/h, 26/8.

**CURLEW** [casual] Single birds on mossland, 16/5, 5/6, 13/6. 2 o/h, 24/5, 25/7 - 3 o/h, 21/3 - 5 flew N, 25/6 with singles on 12 other occasions.

**REDSHANK** [casual] 1 on scrapes 24/3, 21/6, 19/10 - 2 there on 12/4 - 1 o/h calling, 26/4.

**GREENSHANK** [casual] 1 on scrapes, 22/5, 13/7, 28/7, 1/8 - 1 flew SW, 14/10

**GREEN SANDPIPER** [passage] Singles on 24 dates between 7/6 & 22/12. 2 on 6 dates and 3 on 16th/18th/25th/27<sup>th</sup> July.

**WOOD SANDPIPER** [rare] 1 on scrape, 3/7 - 2 calling o/h, 9/8.

**COMMON SANDPIPER** [casual] 2 on mossland, 26/4 & 2/8 - 1 on moss, 6/6, 9/7.

**RED KNOT** [rare] 1 flew N over mossland, red plumage seen, 6/10.

**KITTIWAKE** [rare] 1 ad nr southern boundary after strong winds, 5/2

Risley Moss Bird Records 2002

**MEDITERRANEAN GULL** [rare] 1 with b-h gulls over pools, 16/3

**LITTLE GULL** [rare] 1 imm, hawking over pools before flying off N, 12/7.

**BLACK HEADED GULL** [casual] 25 prospecting over pools, 12/5 - 30 on pools, 1/6 - 22, pools, 18/7. Movements noted 60 flew SW, 5/3 - 80 flew NE, 12/4 - 45 flew W, 9/11.

**COMMON GULL** [casual] 1ad/2 imm flew SW, 20/1 - 2ads/1 imm flew N, 18/2 - 1ad flew NW, 5/3, 16/3, 19/10 - 2 o/h, 6/4 - 1 flew SW, 25/7.

**LESSER BLACK BACK GULL** [casual] 12 flew SW, 27/1 - c100 on 19/2 - 50 flew SW in 3 hours, 3/3 - 60 flew SW, 22/4 - 14 flew W, 11/5 - 52 on 28/7 - 60 circled o/h, 14/9 - 26 flew SW, 1/12.

**HERRING GULL** 26 flew NW, 25/7.

**BLACK TERN** [rare] 1 flew NE over moss, 20/8

**COMMON TERN** [scarce] 1 flew N, 15/6.

**STOCK PIGEON** [resident] Up to 5 on occasions.

**WOODPIGEON** [resident] Peaks 500+ 17/1, 14/12 - 200 moved by merlin, 2/2 - 400 moved by peregrine 19/2 - 200 moved by peregrine, 19/3, 2/4.

**COLLARED DOVE** [resident] 2 pairs on reserve fringe & flying over/around.

**TURTLE DOVE** [scarce] 2 into woods 23/5 & 25/6 & overhead on 27/6 & 3/7 otherwise singles o/h on 14/5, 22/5, 5/6, 21/6 & last on 2/8.

**CUCKOO** [casual] 1 pair around area. First heard 23/4 & last bird seen was a juvenile on 7/8. A newly fledged bird noted in woods on 8/7.

**BARN OWL** [casual] 1 flying along boundary 15/1, 10/2, 16/2, 21/9, 28/11 - hunting over mossland, 29/10.

**LITTLE OWL** [casual] 1 calling from boundary 19/9, 22/11, 28/11, 22/12.

**TAWNY OWL** [resident] 2 pair bred.

**LONG EARED OWL** [casual] 1 on 15/2 - 1 calling from rhodis before flying along tree tops attempting to flush birds after dusk, 22/11 - 1 on 13/12.

**SHORT EARED OWL** [casual] 1 on mossland 2/1, 14/1, 19/2, 26/3, 19/9, 5/12, 8/12 & 13/12 - 2 present on 4/12.

**SWIFT** [summer] First noted on 27/4 last on 4/9. Peaks of c100 hawking o/h, 22/5, 6/8 - c150 on 17/6.

**KINGFISHER** [casual] 1 flew along fire ditch, 5/8, 10/8, 20/9 & 28/9.

**GREEN WOODPECKER** [casual] 1 seen/heard on 8/1, 13/2, 19/4, 6/5, 16/5, 27/8, 28/7, 5/8, 23/8 & 28/11

Risley Moss Bird Records 2002

**GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** [resident] 3 pair bred.

**LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** [rare] Adult male on birch, 15/2 + single flying on 25/2 - in SW wood, 5/3 - calling on 14/3 - in dead trees on mossland, 5/8.

**WOODLARK** [rare] flew 50m between trees, called briefly & then headed south, 16/6 [see desc]

**SKYLARK** [casual] occasional bird flying over or singing briefly o/h. Passage movement of 55 in 3hrs(51n/4s), 4/11

**SAND MARTIN** [casual] first noted 5 o/h on 2/4, last seen 3 heading south on 5/9. Not seen in May but up to 4 on some days thereafter.

**SWALLOW** [summer] First birds noted on 7/4, last on 19/10. Annual roost of up to 24 sub adults noted between 15/8 & 27/8. Peaks: 25 o/h, 27/4 - 20 o/h, 27/5 - 30 on 27/7 - 50 o/h, 14/8, 27/8 - 100 flew S in 2hrs, 12/9 - 56 in 4 hrs, 1/10.

**HOUSE MARTIN** [summer] First noted on 17/4, last on 17/10. Peaks: 50+, o/h, 22/5 - 60+, 11/6 80 into tight flock with hobby around, 22/7 - c30 o/h, 30/8 - 120 feeding over moss, 15/9 - 173 in 5 hrs, 22/9.

**TREEPIBIT** [casual] 1 present 6/5, 14/5, 16/5 & 13/9.

**MEADOW PIPIT** [resident] 7 pairs bred. Peaks: 35 over moss, 19/9 - 150 moving SW, 4/10 - 50 over moss, 17/11 - 40 there, 13/12.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL** [casual] First noted 25/4, last when 2 flew south, 2/9 otherwise 1 flew NE, 8/5 - briefly on mossland, 14/8 - 1 flew S, 21/8.

**GREY WAGTAIL** [casual] Singles occasion most months except summer others 2 on 27/8, 12/9, 16/9 & 3 on 4/10. Of note 1 nr pond in wood, 22/10.

**PIED WAGTAIL** [casual] Immatures present on scrapes between from June onwards with 2 there 16/6 - 3 on 7/10 & 5 o/h, 4/10.

**WHITE WAGTAIL** [rare] 2 on mossland scrape, 16/3 - 1 there 7/9.

**WHEATEAR** 1 on burnt area of moss, 25/4.

**REDSTART** [scarce] female on bracken in front of Tower on 2/9 & 6/9.

**WHINCHAT** [casual] female on bracken, 11/9, 7/10 - 2 juveniles on 15/9 - male there on 9/10.

**STONECHAT** [casual] female on mossland, 5/3, 10/4 - male there 8/3, 28/10.

**BLACKBIRD** [resident] Peaks noted at the woodland hide inc: 17(15m/2f), 11/1 - 4(1f), 12/2 - 12 on 12/12.

**FIELDFARE** [winter] Last out 11/4, first return 11/10. Peaks inc: 100 on 2/3 - c200 on 4/11 - 70 o/h, 1/12

**SONG THRUSH** [resident] 7 pairs bred

## Risley Moss Bird Records 2002

- REDWING** [winter] Last out 1<sup>st</sup> April, first back, 51 in 3 flocks, 7/10. Peaks inc: 100 in 2 hours, 11/10 - 70 over moss, 1/12
- MISTLE THRUSH** [resident] 2 pair bred. Peaks of: 16 flew o/h, 29/7, 2/8 - 18 flew E, 3/8 - 10 flew E, 17/8 - 7 on 19/9. Bird singing on 17/12
- SEDGE WARBLER** [casual] 1 heard on mossland on 27/4, 16/5, 17/5, 11/7, 3/8.
- LESSER WHITETHROAT** [rare] 1 on tree near boundary 3/5.
- WHITETHROAT** [summer] 7 pair bred, mostly on edge of mossland. First in 23/4, last on 28/9.
- BLACKCAP** [summer] 15 pair bred. An overwintering male on 4/3 otherwise first in on 4/4 - last was a male feeding on blackberries, 23/9.
- WOOD WARBLER** [rare] 1 in wood, 27/4 to 3/5.
- CHIFFCHAFF** [summer] 9 pair bred. Over wintering bird on 17/1 & again 15/2. First in 22/3 - last noted on 15/10.
- WILLOW WARBLER** [summer] 30 pair bred. First in 4/4 - last 2/10.
- GOLDCREST** [winter] Singles noted most days in woodland outside April/September period.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** [casual] 1 on dead branch, 21/8 - 1 hawking nr Tower 27/8 - 29/8.
- PIED FLYCATCHER** [rare] male noted nr Tower, 22/9.
- LONG TAILED TIT** [resident] 2/3 pairs bred. Peaks inc: 12 on 10/1 - 17 nr Tower 27/8 - 21 in mixed flock, 19/9 - 28 on 4/10.
- MARSH TIT** [rare] 1 calling in 5/1 - 1 @ Woodland hide 12/1 - 1 in song atop trees in, 4/3.
- WILLOW TIT** [resident] 2/3 pairs bred. Birds seen/heard most days, of note 1pr+2yg on 12/7 - 3 at the woodland hide on 10/11 - 2 there, 28/11.
- COAL TIT** [resident] 2 pairs bred. Exceptionally 5 on 31/1 & up to 3 on occasions in winter
- NUTHATCH** [resident] 1 pair bred (only second occasion previously in 1989). Up to 2 birds seen @ woodland hide in winter
- TREECREEPER** [resident] 2 pair bred. Occasionally seen at woodland hide in winter.
- RED BACK SHRIKE** [rare] adult female perched on bush on mossland mid afternoon. Sighting followed 2 days of strong SE winds, 6/6.
- JAY** [resident] Peaks of note 6 together on 14/7, 30/8, 28/9, 22/12 - 10 on 4/12.
- MAGPIE** [resident] 50+ into roost, 17/1.
- JACKDAW** [overflying] 275 flew N in mixed flock, 5/1 - 50 flew N with rooks, 25/7 - 102 flew S, 26/11 - 101, S, 16/12.



## Risley Moss Bird Records 2002

**ROOK** [overflying] Peaks inc: 92 flew N on 5/1 - 57 flew S, 21/2 - 100+ in mixed flock flew N, 25/7, 5/12, 23/12.

**CARRION CROW** [resident] 7 in trees, 29/3 - 22 flew S, 1/7 - 22 on mossland, 22/9 - 34 there, 16/10 - 36 on 28/10 - 100 along S edge, 21/11.

**RAVEN** [casual] Singles noted on 12/1, 24/2 (alighted for awhile), 26/2, 2/3, 9/3, 8/3, 8/4, 6/6, 5/8 and 10/10.

**STARLING** [casual] 8 in trees nr VC 7/6 otherwise overflying peaks noted were: 100 on 26/2 - 40 flew low NE, 1/3 - 70 flew NNE, 5/7.

**HOUSE SPARROW** [scarce] 1 over Tower on 17/2 & 11/6 - 2 perched on mossland, 19/10.

**CHAFFINCH** [resident] 20 into woods, 13/9 - 50+ on 19/9. Otherwise @ woodland hide inc: 17 on 11/1 - 18 (12f/6m), 12/2 - 25 (20f/5m) on 8/12.

**BRAMBLING** [casual/winter] Better year with 1 to 4 at the woodland hide on many days with peaks of 15 [9m/6f], 4/4, 15/4 & 13 there on 14/4. Last 5 on 16/4.

**GREENFINCH** [resident] Up to 60 noted flying into roost nr Tower on most nights in winter.

**GOLDFINCH** [resident] 12 feeding on alders, 8/1 - otherwise up to 4 birds on 11 occasions throughout year.

**SISKIN** [regular/winter] Last date 6/4, first returning birds on 11/7 with up to 6 occasionally in winter. Exceptionally 12 o/h 27/9 & 20 on 16/11.

**LINNET** [resident] 1 pair bred. 30 flew over mossland on 18/1 - 12 on 11/10 & 14 on 17/10.

**REDPOLL** [resident] 1 pair bred. 6 on 17/1, 16/9 - 10 there, 19/9 - 12 over mossland, 3/10.

**MEALY REDPOLL** [rare] 1 perched on mossland on 7/5.

**COMMON CROSSBILL** [rare] 2 flew over wood to the N calling loudly, 23/8.

**BULLFINCH** [resident] 2 pair bred. 3prs on 3 dates in Jan otherwise up to 3 birds at the woodland hide in winter with 1- 2prs present throughout the year.

**YELLOWHAMMER** [casual] 1pr possibly bred on mossland. Otherwise 1pr on top of gorse at dusk, 17/1 with singles on 18/1 & 3/2, thereafter at least singing male present many days between 2/4 & 17/10.

**REED BUNTING** [resident] 20 pair bred. Up to 5 birds seen at woodland hide on many days in winter.

**ROSE RINGED PARAKEET** 1 flew S over mossland calling, returning a short while later & flew N over o/a wood, 21/9.

## Risley Moss Bird Records 2002

### **DESCRIPTIONS**

**WOODLARK** [16/6] – down the Centre Ridge of the mossland @ 8.30am on 16<sup>th</sup> June when a 'short tailed lark came off the side of a small silver birch tree c20m in front of me, it flew diagonally away from me for about 50m & alighted on another small birch. Desc: a dumpy looking brown bird with a short tail, white eye stripe clearly seen as it flew diagonally away from me, undulating butterfly like flight. Did not call. Conditions bright & warm, cloud at 70%. (R Smith)

**TEMMINCKS STINT** [3/9/02] - A tiny stint species spiraled up snipe fashion off the mossland peat floods where it could be compared with House Martin over the pools and seen to be of a similar size. Seen twice and looked grey with noticeable white outer tail feathers seen on second occasion and "turr" musical call heard. (Peter Hilton)

### **OBSERVERS:**

Rob Smith - Peter Hilton - Chas Purvis - John Moorcroft - Dave Stewart - Dave Beetham  
Phil Rees - Richard Would - John White