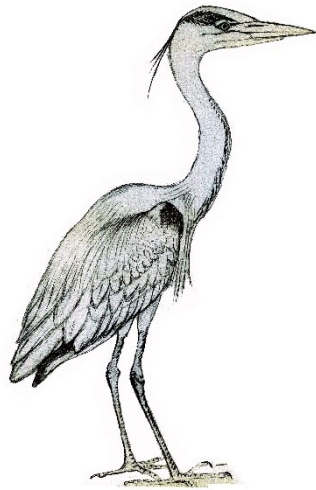


RISLEY MOSS BIRD REPORT

2003



Compiled by Rob Smith

LITTLE GREBE

Casual - 1 pair bred. Bird present several dates in January with 1 pair present between 21st March and 16th July.

GT CRESTED GREBE Rare - 1 flew overhead from SE on 18th January

GREAT CORMORANT

Regular N/S/N dusk & dawn movement. Notable overflying peaks inc: 26 flying S @ dusk, 15/1 - 21 on 21/3 - 12 flew S @ dusk, 7/10 - 33 flew SE, 17/10 - 18 on 20/11.

LITTLE EGRET 1 flew E, late pm, 30/8

GREY HERON Peaks inc: 4 on 2/1, 21/3, 9/9 - 5 on 6/8, 21/8 otherwise 1s & 2s frequently seen.

MUTE SWAN Scarce - 1 on mossland pool on 28/2 otherwise 1s/2s overfly occasionally.

WHOOPEE SWAN 1 flew NE, 1/1

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

Peaks: 150 flew E, 29/1 - 280 flew S, 3/10 - 28 flew S, 12/11 - 70 flew NW, 19/11 - 250 flew West on 2/12.
First returning birds noted 20 on 22/9.

GREYLAG GOOSE

Casual - 17 flew low N @ dusk, 16/9 - 15 flew NW, 4/10 - 19 flew NW, 7/10. Otherwise seen most months outside the breeding season.

CANADA GOOSE

Resident 1 pair bred 6 pairs present on occasions. Peak numbers in & roosting @ dusk inc: 15 on 22/1 - 20 on 13/2 - 26 flew S on 2/6 - 77 in from N @ dusk, 8/8 - 70 flew SE, 26/8 - 150 flew E, 7/9 - 23 in @ dusk, 16/9 - 36 into roost @ dusk, 12/11 - 62 in after dark on 26/12.

BAR HEADED GOOSE 1 flew S with canadas on 4/4 and again on 26/8.

SHELDUCK Scarce - unusually 2 on pools on 4/5 otherwise 2 flew SE, 6/3 - 2 flew low NE, 30/4 - 10 flew W, 26/5.

WIGEON Scarce - 12 overhead moved by peregrine, 18/1.

GADWALL Casual - 2 flew NE on 20/1 - 1pr present on 12/4, 16/4, 18/4, 4/5, 25/7, 30/8 and a single drake on 27/5.

TEAL

4 pairs bred (13 yg noted). Peak counts: 87 on 24/1 - 50 on 9/2 - 20 on 6/3 - 100 on 30/9 - 35 on moss, 7/10 - 12 on 21/11 - 17 on 26/12.

MALLARD

4 pairs bred. Peak counts: 15 on 22/1 - 10 on 2/2, 21/3 - 40 @ dusk, 21/8 - 29 @ dusk, 16/9 - 14 on 13/10 - 12 on 24/12.

SHOVELER

Casual - Female on moss, 2/5 - 1pr pools, 29/5 - male on 31/5 - 1pr, moss, 4/6 - 3 circled @ dusk flew out SW, 21/8.

POCHARD Scarce - 6 o/h moved on by peregrine, 18/1.

TUFTED DUCK

Casual - Birds present occasionally, January to September and also present during breeding season but did not breed.
Peaks inc: 8 o/h, 23/1, 2/2 - 18 present, 27/3 - 5prs on pools, 25/4, 2/5 - 7prs, 16/5 - 2 in from E, 25/6 - 6 on 29/9.

GOOSANDER rare 4 o/h from SE, 18/1.

HONEY BUZZARD

Bird approached from south being buzzed by swifts & bh gulls, headed N, 25/5 - dark phase bird flew S o/h on 4/9 - perched on post, some white in wing feathers then flew SE across mossland gained height & flew south on 14/9

BLACK KITE

Rare- Bird approached high from NE, circled moss for awhile & flew out WNW, 1pm, 23/6 - seen by 2 visitors @ 11am on 24/6

RED KITE Bird flew N over mossland chased away by crows, 22/1 - 1 flying SE, 29/3.

MARSH HARRIER

Fem/imm over mossland on 24/3, 13/5, 25/5, 9/7, 18/7, 2/8, 7/8, 23/8, 26/8, 27/8, 4/9, 6/9, 9/9, 26/9 ## female over mossland on 18/4, 20/4, 21/4, 16/8 ## ad/male over NE corner on 2/6 ## juvenile on 12/8, 13/8, 18/8, 20/8, 21/8{2}, 22/8.

HEN HARRIER Ringtail over moss, 13/3, 22/9, 8/11, 13/12.

GOSHAWK Juvenile female passed slowly over wood @ 1.10pm, 24/9 - male bird over mossland on 1/11.

SPARROWHAWK Resident 2 pairs bred. 5 on moss, 5/8{1pr/2juv fem/juv m)

COMMON BUZZARD

Resident - Breeds in area with up to 7 birds seen on/ over/ around the reserve on occasions. Peak counts inc: 3 in Jan; 4 in March, April, July and September; 6 in February and October; 7 in June.

OSPREY 1 flew NNE against headwind, 19/4 - 1 flew low SE on 9/9 - 1 flew over 1/10.

KESTREL Resident – 1 pair bred on site rearing 2 young. Family seen together regularly July to October.

MERLIN Casual - Noted most months except between May and September. Last noted 25/4, first return August. Birds recorded on 46 occasions - fem/imm x 31; ad/m x 11

HOBBY Casual - First of year on 24th April - last of year 29th September. Sightings include adults / sub adults / male & female / juveniles

Singles regularly - 2 present on 28/4, 10/5, 29/5, 17/6, 16/7, 16/8, 3/9 - 3 present on 4/5, 6/5, 7/7, 8/7, 14/7, 18/7, 22/7, 17/8, 4/9

PEREGRINE FALCON

Casual - Birds noted throughout year, mostly overflying / occasionally hunting over or perched on mossland.

R.L. PARTRIDGE 1 calling nr South edge on 22/1

GREY PARTRIDGE birds from mossland on 10/1, 13/2, 5/3, 16/4, 4/5, 18/7, 26/8, 27/9, 4/12, 22/12

QUAIL scarce - bird calling from NE corner on 22/5 - @ dusk on 8/8 - near South boundary on 26/8

PHEASANT casual - bird calling from mossland on 13/2, 27/2, 27/3, 3rd/4, 16/5, 27/9, 6/11, 4/12 - 2 calling on 11/10 - female in woods 17/10 and 17/11.

WATER RAIL casual - 1 pair bred. Birds noted on 3rd April, 13/4, 14/4, 17/4, 15/7 and adult and young noted on 16/8.

SPOTTED CRAKE scarce - calling briefly on 10/10 and 17/10

MOORHEN 7 pair bred.

COOT scarce - 2 on mossland, 7/8

COMMON CRANE

2 flew in low from NW, attempted to land circled drifted away returning minutes later before drifting away high W.

OYSTERCATCHER casual - 1s/2s present on occasions between March and July with 3 present on 8/5. 1 calling @ dusk, 24/12

L.R. PLOVER First noted on 27/3, last on 11/7. 2 pair bred Max inc: 6 over pools on 8/5 - 5 there, 25/4, 25/5.

RINGED PLOVER casual - 1 on mossland on 19/3, 12/5, 25/6 - 5 flew N on 6/5.

GOLDEN PLOVER overflying peaks inc: 50 flying N on 17/1 - 5 flew S, 3/10 - 22 flew SW, 12/10 - 16 flew N, 16/10 - 15 flew N, 1/11.

GREY PLOVER 1 flew W calling on 1/11, 13/11 - 1 calling o/h @ dusk, 5/12.

LAPWING

4 pairs on territory only 2 pair bred. Overflying peaks inc: 70 on 16/1 - 35 on 1st Feb - 100 on 26/7 - 60 circling on 23/8 - 50 o/h, 4/11.

LITTLE STINT scarce - 1 over moss, 23/9, 24/9 - 3 on 27/9

DUNLIN scarce - 8 on pools, 20/5 otherwise singles on 17/1, 6/3, 8/5, 10/5, 19/7, 4/8.

RUFF rare - 8 circled low over moss, 22/9.

JACK SNIBE

Regular - Last noted 4/4; first return 26/9. 2 present on 21/10, 12/11 otherwise singles throughout winter.

COMMON SNIBE

Peaks inc: 33 on mossland on 17/1 - 32 there 7/2 - 10 up off scrape, 10/4 - 25 alighted on moss, 29/7 - 12 on 21/9 22 up from moss at dusk, 11/10 - 53 off moss at dusk, 12/11 - 24 out after dark, 24/12.

WOODCOCK singles present during winter period.

BLK. T. GODWIT

Scarce - 2 alighted on moss then flew N, 29/3 - 1 in summer plumage on scrapes, flew off W, 1/7 - 1 flew W, 10/11.

WHIMBREL scarce - 1 flew N, 9/4 - 1 on moss, 10/5 - 1 on scrape calling, 15/5 - 1 flew over calling, 28/7.

CURLEW casual - 1s/2s noted overhead on 13 occasions between 5th March and 27th August

SPOTTED REDSHANK rare - 1 calling from mossland on 28/7

REDSHANK casual - Single on scrape 24/4, 18/7, 29/7 with 2 there on 23/12 otherwise 1s/2s passing over on occasions.

GREENSHANK casual - 1 present on 10/7 - 2 on 17/8

GREEN SANDPIPER

Casual - Of note bird calling after dark on 8/1, 9/1, 26/2, 23/3 and seen on 25/4. Autumn passage numbers down with single birds only noted on 22 occasions between 21/6 and 2/10

WOOD SANDPIPER rare - 1 up off mossland calling on 24/8

COMMON SANDPIPER scarce - 1 on scrape, 13/4, 1/6 and 24/6

ARCTIC SKUA juvenile flew over NW in mod NW winds, 27/9

MEDITERRANEAN GULL adult with black headed gulls on pool, 16/5

B.H. GULL 1 pair attempted to breed. Otherwise peaks hawking over pools / mossland inc 34 on 17/3 - 40 on 19/5 - 100 on 17/10

COMMON GULL 1 flew N, 17/3 - 1 flew W, 3/6 - 3 flew SW, 26/7 - 3 flew SE, 8/11

L.B.B. GULL

2 on pools on 13/5 - 3 immatures present on 19/5. Overflying peaks inc 20 flying S on 3/6 - 60 drifting SW on 6/10 - 125 flew NE, 19/10.

HERRING GULL 10 flew W, 2/1 - 4 flew SE, 17/10 - 12 flew SE, 8/11

G.B.B. GULL 26 flew S, 16/1

SANDWICH TERN 3 flew SW calling on 14/10

COMMON TERN 1 flew SW on 18/7

ARCTIC TERN 1 flew low SW over mossland on 19/5

STOCK PIGEON Upto 3 noted on occasions

WOODPIGEON Peaks inc: 500 into roost on 1st Feb - 600+ on 17/10, 20/11, 24/12.

COLLARED DOVE Breeds on edge of reserve. 7 flew NE over moss, 17/1

TURTLE DOVE
Scarce - First in single flying N on 2/5; Last on 1/9. Otherwise pair overflying reserve frequently and occasional perched on edge of woods

CUCKOO First heard on 19/4 with young bird heard calling from moss with reed bunting as host on 27/6

BARN OWL scarce - Single bird noted on 16 occasions throughout the year.

LITTLE OWL casual - Bird heard calling from edge of woodland during the year on 8 occasions outside breeding season.

TAWNY OWL resident 2 pairs bred.

L.E. OWL scarce - 1 pair bred Seen frequently throughout the year.

S.E. OWL casual - 1 over moss @ dusk on 10/1, 13/2, 14/2, 17/2 - 1 flew S mobbed by swallows, 27/9 - 1 flew down on 12/11

NIGHTJAR
Scarce - Male bird flushed by peregrine falcon from railway line flew onto mossland, left to NE shortly after on 20/5.

SWIFT First noted on 21/4, last 12/9. Peaks inc: 100 feeding over moss, 1/7, 14/7, 20/7.

KINGFISHER casual - Single noted on 9/2, 2/3, 9/2, 3/7, 17/7, 24/8, 22/12, 23/12. Two on 5/12.

GREEN WOODPECKER
Casual - Non breeders at the moment, but dramatic improvement in sightings outside breeding season compared with previous years.

G.S. WOODPECKER resident - 3 pair bred.

L.S. WOODPECKER scarce - 1 calling in tree tops with tits, 10/1, 19/2, 14/3, 5/11 with male noted on 14/2.

SKYLARK Overflying only, passage inc: 10 >SE, 17/10 - 25 o/h 11/10 - 28 >S, 30/10 - 20 flew SW, 12/11.

SAND MARTIN First arrival on 27/3; Last noted 11/10. Peaks: 30 on 16/4, 2/8.

SWALLOW
First arrival 21/3, Last noted 29/10. Peaks inc. 50 on 27/7 - 100 over moss, 3/8, 11/9 - 180 in 4hrs, 23/9 - 17 on 16/10.

HOUSE MARTIN
First arrival, 2 on 16/4, Last noted 29/10. Peaks inc: 50+ on 18/7 - c150 on 18/8 - 30 in mixed flock, 12/9.

TREEPIBIT casual - 1 on moss, 23/5 and 9/6.

MEADOW PIPIT 6 pairs bred. Peak roosts inc: 36 on 14/2 - 26 on 11/9 - 30 on 17/10 - 70 on 1/11 - 32 on 2/12.

YELLOW WAGTAIL casual - 1 on moss, 28/4, 13/5, 13/7 - 1 flew S, 3/8, 6/8.

GREY WAGTAIL casual - Singles present/overflying occasional days outside breeding season. 2 flew W, 5/9 - 2 flew NE, 11/10.

PIED WAGTAIL 1s/2s outside breeding season. 3 juv on scrape, 7/8 - 6 flew N, 19/8.

WHITE WAGTAIL 1 on mossland on 1st April.

WAXWING 3 flew low SW over mossland on 1/3 - 3 flew low SW over main gate, 24/10.

WREN 29 pairs bred.

DUNNOCK 28 pairs bred.

ROBIN 22 pairs bred.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE bird seen and heard at dusk in shrub area on edge of mossland on 6/6.

COMMON REDSTART 1 near Observation Tower on 19/8.

WHINCHAT scarce - fem/imm on mossland on 23/9 - male there, 24/9.

STONECHAT
Casual - 3(2m/1f) on moss, 3/3, 12/3, 13/3 - 1 pr present on 26/2, 2/10, 9/10 - 2 male on 5/3 - single male 7/9, 23/9, 24/10, 10/11

NORTHERN WHEATEAR 2 over mossland on 26/9.

RING OUZEL rare 1 flew over W on 22/9 - 1 on mossland, 13/10.

BLACKBIRD Winter roosts of 20+ birds most nights. Up to 17 birds at Woodland Hide feeders most days in winter.

FIELDFARE Last noted 11/4, First return 12/10. Peaks noted: 60 into roost @ dusk, 14/2 - 40 on 24/12. Passage inc: 313 in 2.5hrs passing thru on 5/11.

SONG THRUSH 3prs bred.

REDWING Last noted on 9/4, First returning on 6/10. Passage inc: 593 in 5hrs moving S/SW on 13/10.

MISTLE THRUSH Peaks inc: 7 on 2/1 - 42 flying N on 18/7.

GRASSH. WARBLER scarce - 1 pair bred. First noted 27/4, last 18/8.

SEDGE WARBLER scarce - 1 pair bred First noted 26/5, last 26/8

WHITETHROAT 8 pairs bred. First in, 20/4, last 27/9.

GARDEN WARBLER casual 1 singing on 28/5.

BLACKCAP 17 pairs bred First in 3rd April.

WOOD WARBLER scarce - 1 in woods on 22/5.

CHIFFCHAFF 7 pairs bred. First in 17/3, last 4/10.

WILLOW WARBLER 36 pairs bred. First in 31/3, last 7/9.

GOLDCREST Singles noted throughout winter. Last seen 7/4, first in 4/9.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER scarce - 1 edge of wood, 13/9 and 30/9.

LONG TAILED TIT 3 pair bred. Peaks inc: 12 on 12/6 and 7/8 - 15+ on 17/10.

MARSH TIT rare 1 calling in woods on 22/9 and 7/10.

WILLOW TIT 3 pair bred.

COAL TIT 3 pair bred. Up to 4 @ Woodland hide in winter.

NUTHATCH casual 1 pair bred

TREECREEPER 2 pair bred

GREAT GREY SHRIKE
1 flew along southern boundary, perched atop bush, mobbed by crows & kestrel before moving away over adjoining farmland, 22/2.

JAY Up to 8 noted together on occasions.

MAGPIE Winter roosts peaks of up to 65 birds noted most nights.

JACKDAW Overflying peaks: 154 on 2/1 - 48 on 4/2 - 86 on 17/10 - 85 on 1/11 - 62 flew S, 6/11 - 50 on 13/12.

ROOK overflying peaks: 114 on 14/1 - 200 on 25/3 - 60 on 25/6 - 82 flew N on , 1/7 - 230 on 1/11.

CARRION CROW 1 pair bred. Up to 12 on occasions around mossland. White winged bird on moss, 7/2.

HOODED CROW Possible hybrid on moss, chased off by crows, 20/1.

RAVEN Outside breeding season singles seen most months with 2 noted on 2/6, 1/8, 25/8.

STARLING Overflying peaks inc: 60 on 6/3 - 300 flew SW, 30/9 - 90 flew S, 28/10.

HOUSE SPARROW scarce - 1 in NE edge woodland on 27/1, 14/2.

TREE SPARROW 2 in front of South West Wood calling on 24/1 - 1 over mossland on 26/9.

CHAFFINCH
5 pair bred. Peaks noted: 50 into NE woods on 9/1 - 37+ moving S in 1hr on 17/10. Woodland Hide in winter: 13 on 1st Feb - 18 on 28/11 - 21 on 1/12 and 23/12.

BRAMBLING 1 flew SW, 17/10.

GREENFINCH Peaks noted inc: 54 on 15/1 - 37 on 22/8 - 80 on 21/9 - 50 on 26/10.

GOLDFINCH casual - Peaks inc: 7 flying S on 21/3 - 15 o/h on 1/9.

SISKIN Last noted on 27/4, first back in on 25/8. Peaks inc: 10 nr Lagoon pond, 19/2, 23/9.

LINNET 1 pair bred. Peaks noted: 25 on 22/1 - 14 over moss, 5/10.

REDPOLL 1 pair bred. Peaks inc: 18 o/h, 21/4 - 15 over moss, 23/9.

COMMON CROSSBILL 1pr perched in front of Tower on 23/3 - Female out from wood on 7/4 - Male in same area on 28/9 - 1pr flew out wood calling on 6/10.

BULLFINCH 2 pair bred. 5(3m/2f) @Woodland Hide on 3/3 - 5 over mossland on 23/9.

HAWFINCH 2 flew out of wood & headed S on 2/10.
YELLOWHAMMER casual - Singles noted on 6/3, 3rd/4, 11/4, 15/5, 16/5, 27/6, 9/7.
REED BUNTING 15 pair bred. Up to 3 noted @ Woodland Hide in winter.
AUSTRALIAN COCKATIEL 1 flew NW over Tower shrieking as it went, 25/4.
ROSE RINGED PARAKEET 1 in main woodland on 1/3.
BUDGIE 1 flew o/h, May.

Observers:

R A Smith - **P. Hilton** - **D. Beetham** - **C. Purvis**