



Maun Conservation Group

Oakham & Quarry Lane Nature Reserves

Avian Report for the period Oct. 20 – Dec. 20

In line with other Nottingham bird records the annual report will now cover the period Jan-Dec. Similarly the species order will follow that adopted by Notts Birders i.e. the latest taxonomy according to the British Trust for Ornithology. This interim report thus covers the period which otherwise would be lacking in the 2021 annual report.

Survey day will continue to be the second Wednesday in the month, commencing at 0930 (weather permitting) from the entrance to Oakham off Bleak Hills lane. The route follows the perimeter of Oakham Meadow and continues towards Hamilton path via the zig zags. Crossing the road to Hamilton area will now be considered for 2021. Returning to the Oakham exit and crossing Sheepbridge Lane to, Quarry Lane reserve is entered. Continue on the path under the viaduct and cross Sarah's bridge to finish at Field Mill Pond. Time taken is approximately 2.5 hours.

A big thank you to you all for the WhatsApp reports that are being posted. Records from WhatsApp will be incorporated into the annual report, with an acknowledgement of the recorder. Any photographs taken can be submitted for inclusion into the annual report. Additional comments on activity such as mating, nest building, carrying food and feeding young are very helpful in identifying breeding activity. Survey days give only a snapshot of the avian activity. It is these reports that give a fuller picture and enhance the understanding of the comings and goings of the study area.

Mute Swan

The returning pair at Field Mill Pond remained faithful to the site and were present at the end of the year

Little Grebe

A winter visitor to the reserves. A pair took up residence at Reed's Mill in December

Mallard

Numbers at Quarry Lane built up to an impressive 48 in December.

Tufted Duck

Absent from site until 4 occupied Reed's Mill in December

Goosander

A male Goosander was first seen on Field Mill Pond on Nov 11th, staying until the first week of December, much to the delight of many members





Male Goosander-Field Mill Pond-15 Nov

Kestrel

Present all winter, seen regularly in the area of the viaduct.

Cormorant

A bird flying over Field Mill Pond during the Dec survey was the first for the reserve.

Moorhen

Present all period at Quarry Lane with only one sighting at Oakham. A maximum of 7 at Quarry Lane in December.

Coot

Much lower numbers compared to last year. Single birds only at Oakham in Dec and Quarry Lane in Oct.

Black Headed Gull

A winter visitor to Field Mill pond with occasional sightings at Reed's mill.

Tree Creeper

Not seen during the surveys but a pair were observed on Hamilton Path, Oakham in December.

Wren

A resident in both reserves. Maximum of 4 in December.

Dunnock

A scarce resident seen mostly as singles on both reserves.

Blue Tit

Present all period in relatively low numbers never reaching double figures. Known nest box users on both sites

Great Tit

Resident, less numerous than Blue Tit

Long Tailed Tit

No large winter flocks. Seems to favour Oakham, only being seen on Quarry Lane in December.

Magpie

A resident in both reserves with total number of up to 6 birds roaming over the study area.

Jackdaw

Irregular flyovers during the winter period over Oakham Meadows

Carrion Crow

Small numbers observed as irregular flyovers over both reserves.

Chaffinch

Present in ones and twos throughout the study area.

Greenfinch

A group of 5 birds were present on Quarry Lane in December.

Goldfinch

Most often seen on Oakham. Lower numbers than last year with up to 8 on Oakham Meadow in December. A charm up to 26 was seen roving around Oakham meadow in December.

Bullfinch

Absent from site until December when a single male was present at Oakham. This is a worrying trend. Have they just moved locally?

Tony Wardell

With special thanks to Steve Cross and Sarah Spurry.

Note: Please see Maun Conservations Group website for the monthly survey results, updated during the year.

www.maunconservationgroup.co.uk

Want to get involved? Just ask, maunconservation@googlemail.com