

RSPB Conwy bird review of 2013

January

The **Water Rails** were showing well on 5th and a **Eurasian Bittern** was present 8-12th. Two **Whooper Swans** arrived on 13th and a **Woodcock** was seen on 25th. Two **Little Grebes** remained throughout the month.

February

A **Kestrel** was seen on 6th and there were 72 **Shelducks** on 22nd. There was a flock of 11 **Goldeneye** on 17th along with 10 **Pochard**. Two **Choughs** flew over on 5th, a **Stonechat** visited over 20th-27th and the first **Lesser Black-Backed Gull** of the 'summer' was noted on 22nd.

March

In a very cold month, there were 10 **Ringed Plover** and 22 **Common Snipe** on 30th.

April

There were two **Pintails** on 5th-12th and two **Little Ringed Plovers** arrived on 15th with displaying seen on 22nd. There was a high count of 139 **Dunlin** on 4th and 10 **Knots** on 5th. The first **Swallow** was noted on 11th and there were 5 **Common Sandpipers** on 15th along with the first **Whimbrel** and **House Martin**. These were followed by the first **Sandwich Tern** on 16th and **Common Redstart** on 16th, **Sedge Warbler** on 20th along with two **Arctic Terns** and a **Common Tern** which was part of a UK-wide influx of terns, with many noted inland. More firsts of the year followed, with **Yellow Wagtail** on 20th-21st, **Common Swift**, **Reed Warbler** and **Common Whitethroat** on 22nd and **Lesser Whitethroat** on 23rd.

May

The **Great Crested Grebes** were on their nest on 5th onwards and subsequently reared two noisy chicks. There were 14 **Whimbrels** on 5th and a **Garden Warbler** was seen on 6th. A group of fledged **Long-tailed Tits** were seen on 26th.

June

By mid June, some birds are already heading south: a flock of seven **Black Tailed Godwits** returned on 15th and a drake **Common Scoter** arrived on 24th. A **Snow Goose** of unknown origin arrived on 29th and another **Redstart** was seen.

July

The first **Wigeons** of 'winter' returned on 7th and there were 60 **Little Egrets** on 13th. There were 360 **Curlews** on the estuary and a **Barnacle Goose** on the lagoons on 18th. Two **Green Sandpipers** were seen over 13th-19th and the last **Common Swift** was seen.

August

The **Wigeon** count increased to five and remained throughout, joined by four **Shovelers** on 17th. There were 20 **Moorhens** on 25th and two **Curlew Sandpipers** on 30th. A **Ruff** was seen over 13th-24th. Two broods of **Reed Buntings** were seen through the month, along with a **Grey Wagtail** and two **Common Redstarts**, and a **Nuthatch** on 26th. A **Stock Dove** was a good record on 18th and a **Wood Sandpiper** remained over 18th-19th along with a **Green Sandpiper**. There were 1500 **Swallows** and **House**



Citrine wagtail (photo by Neil Alderson)

Martins roosting on 20th and a 1st winter **CITRINE WAGTAIL** was found on 22nd remaining for just that day.

September

There were eight **Gadwalls** throughout and a **Bar-tailed Godwit** arrived on 3rd remaining for the rest of the month. There were 62 **Dunlins** and four **Curlew Sandpipers** on 3rd and 6 **Little Grebes** on 9th. A **Little Stint** arrived on 10th and then remained until 3rd Oct. The 11th saw a **Marsh Harrier**, a good site record, and **Kingfisher** was seen on 17th. The last **Swallow** was seen on 22nd and a **Jack Snipe** was seen over 28th-29th.

October

There were seven **Red Breasted Mergansers** on 10th and 21 **Shovelers** on 14th. The **Grey Wagtails** were seen throughout the month.

November

There were two **Twites** on 8th frequenting the estuary track. Three **Scaup** were seen on 17th and remained throughout the winter. There were 13 **Ringed Plovers** on 29th.

December

There were two **Little Grebes** throughout and 30 **Common Snipe** on 17th.

Please submit your sightings via [BirdTrack](#), or report them to the Visitor Centre.

Migrant arrival dates

Species	Arrival 2009	Arrival 2010	Arrival 2011	Arrival 2012	Arrival 2013
Sand Martin	12.03	19.03	13.03	12.03	08.04
Barn Swallow	20.03	06.04	28.03	20.03	11.04
House Martin	05.04	19.04	30.03	02.04	15.04
Common Swift	24.04	26.04	Not noted	28.04	22.04
Northern Wheatear	17.03	06.03	13.03	18.03	27.03
Chiffchaff	16.03	24.03	13.03	15.03	30.03
Willow Warbler	01.04	01.04	25.03	04.04	15.04
Common Whitethroat	Not noted	19.04	20.04	Not noted	22.04
Lesser Whitethroat	15.04	17.04	24.04	Not noted	23.04
White Wagtail	14.03	06.04	19.03	14.04	12.04
Yellow Wagtail	20.04	22.04	01.05	27.04	14.04
Sedge Warbler	11.05	12.04	05.04	17.04	20.04
Reed Warbler	11.05	22.04	07.04	Not noted	22.04
Garden Warbler	23.04	Not noted	13.04	Not noted	Not noted
Osprey	20.03	11.04	28.03	30.03	28.03
Whimbrel	04.04	19.03	15.04	18.03	08.03
Whinchat	24.04	no spring records	02.05	05.05	20.04

148 species were seen on or from the reserve in 2013, a typical number, but for the first time in many years (and perhaps ever?), no new species were added to the reserve's bird list.

Additions to the reserve's bird list

Recent additions to the reserve list		
Year	Species	Reserve total
2013	n/a	239
2012	Ring Ouzel (15/04) Pied Flycatcher (26.07) Red-rumped Swallow (03/09)	239
2011	Yellow-browed Warbler (28.11) Buff-breasted Sandpiper (16.09) Great White Egret (15.10) Hooded Crow (15.05, not inc) Snow Goose (13.05, not inc)	236
2010	Woodlark (04.01). Black Duck (07.04), Bearded Tit (26.04 and bred).	233
2009	Common Guillemot Red-crested Pochard Red-backed Shrike Cetti's Warbler	230
2008	Citrine Wagtail Whiskered Tern	226