

Birds of
Bogg Hall, Potter Brompton Carr
2010

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Introduction

This short report provides details of the birds observed at Potter Brompton Carr during 2010. As my visits to the area began in September 2009, some of the more significant observations in the period September-December 2009 are also included here. Visits were made in all months except February and March and there was a bias towards the late summer period when regular ringing sessions at the Duck Pond were undertaken. The number of visits in each month was as follows.

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0	0	1	1	2	3	5	3	2	2	3

The majority of the visits took place during the morning and lasted between 1 and 5 hours. Most visits in July and August were to the Duck Pond / Pheasant Cover area in order to undertake ringing activities. Since August visits have concentrated on the newly excavated scrapes and ditch systems. All dates refer to 2010 unless otherwise indicated.

Systematic List

1. **Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***
Four present on the New Irrigation Pond on 12th October with one-two present in November.
2. **Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***
A single on 23rd September 2009 and two on 25th August.
3. **Mute Swan *Cygnus olor***
Regular sightings of up to five.
4. **Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus***
A flock of 11 were feeding in Field 1215 on 12th January. 65 were with Greylag Geese feeding in the wild bird crop at Bogg Hall Barns on 15th December.
5. **Greylag Goose *Anser anser***
A resident regularly seen on the site. The highest counts involved 180 on 12th January and 140 on 15th December. Two pairs bred at the New Irrigation Pond.
6. **Canada Goose *Branta canadensis***
A resident present in small numbers. The highest count is of 35 on 4th November 2009.
7. **Wigeon *Anas penelope***
One on 30th September. Four on 25th November.
8. **Teal *Anas crecca***
Three present on 28th August. 60 on 21st October were on the Old Irrigation Pond, but were using the new scrapes when disturbed from here. At least 240 were present on the Old Irrigation Pond on 25th November. The previous highest count was a total of 41 split between the Irrigation Pond and the Old Irrigation Pond on 4th November 2009.
9. **Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos***
Small numbers regularly seen with the largest counts being 35 on 25th November and 36 on 15th December.
10. **Pintail *Anas acuta***
Two present on the Old Irrigation Pond on 21st October.

11. **Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula***
Eight on the Irrigation Pond on 12th October, with five there on 21st and six present on 9th November.
12. **Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus***
Regular sightings of what was presumed to be the same female between 23rd May and 28th August.
13. **Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo***
Resident in the woodlands around the site, with breeding taking place in Pheasant Cover.
14. **Kestrel *Falco tinnuculus***
Regular sightings of one-two birds throughout the year, but no evidence of breeding recorded.
15. **Hobby *Falco subbuteo***
A single flew west on the morning of 3rd August.
16. **Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa***
Two pairs present during the breeding bird survey.
17. **Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix***
A pair was seen near the Duck Pond on 26th April.
18. **Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus***
No attempt was made to count this species.
19. **Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***
A pair was present at the Irrigation Pond during the breeding season, with success confirmed by juveniles seen in July.
20. **Coot *Fulica atra***
Four on the Irrigation Pond on 21st October.
21. **Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus***
A pair possibly attempted to breed (Field 9573), but this was not confirmed.
22. **Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria***
At least 40 were in the flooded fields on 25th November. 17 flew high SW on 23rd September 2009.
23. **Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus***
At least 22 pairs were recorded holding territory during the breeding season. 180 were seen on 12th October, and a notable concentration of ca. 300 was present on 25th November.
24. **Dunlin *Calidris alpina***
Two seen on 25th November were feeding on the new scrapes.
25. **Snipe *Gallinago gallinago***
At least 25 present on 25th November.
26. **Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola***
One was seen on 12th January. Six were flushed in Pheasant Cover on 4th November 2009.
27. **Curlew *Numenius arquata***
One pair bred and raised at least one young (favouring field 2557).

28. **Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***
Four were present on 25th November. A scarce bird in the Scarborough area.
29. **Redshank *Tringa tetanus***
Two were present on the new scrapes on 25th November.
30. **Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***
A single juvenile on the Irrigation Pond on 31st August.
31. **Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus***
One at the Irrigation Pond on 28th August. One along the ditch on the southern edge of field 1215 on 21st October. Two on one of the scrapes in field 2383 on 9th November.
32. **Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus***
Small numbers were using the flooded areas in late November, but no count was made.
33. **Common Gull *Larus canus***
The newly flooded scrapes proved attractive to this species. At least 200 were present on the 25th November with at least 300 on 15th December.
34. **Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***
Most sightings refer to small numbers seen flying over during July and August.
35. **Herring Gull *Larus argentatus***
Regular sightings of birds flying over throughout the year. One-three using the flooded fields in November.
36. **Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus***
Regular sightings of birds flying over throughout the year.
37. **Stock Dove *Columba oenas***
No more than eight recorded.
38. **Wood Pigeon *Columba palustris***
No accurate counts made, but commonly recorded throughout the year and breeding certainly took place.
39. **Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***
14 at Bogg Hall Barns on 21st October. At least one pair recorded during the Breeding Bird Survey.
40. **Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***
One was seen on 19th August 2010. One was present on the relatively late date of 23rd September 2009.
41. **Barn Owl *Tyto alba***
The old farm building south of Pheasant Cover was occupied by this species, and singles were seen hunting in the Duck Pond area on several occasions.
42. **Swift *Apus apus***
Small numbers recorded flying over during July and August. No significant counts made.
43. **Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***
One was at the duck pond on 3rd August.

44. **Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major***
Resident, with at least one pair present in Pheasant Cover.
45. **Jay *Garrulus glandarius***
Regular sightings in Pheasant Cover throughout.
46. **Magpie *Pica pica***
Small numbers resident.
47. **Jackdaw *Corvus monedula***
Fairly common resident.
48. **Rook *Corvus frugilegus***
Common resident. 130 counted on 28th August.
49. **Carrion Crow *Corvus corone***
Commonly recorded, but no significant counts made.
50. **Goldcrest *Regulus regulus***
Resident, breeding in the mature pines of Pheasant Cover.
51. **Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus***
Resident, breeding in Pheasant Cover. No significant counts.
52. **Great Tit *Parus major***
Resident, breeding in Pheasant Cover. No significant counts.
53. **Coal Tit *Periparus ater***
Resident, breeding in Pheasant Cover. No significant counts.
54. **Willow Tit *Poecile Montana***
Recorded on five dates throughout the period. One pair attempted to breed in Pheasant Cover, but the outcome is unknown.
55. **Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris***
One or two pairs resident.
56. **Skylark *Alauda arvensis***
At least eight pairs recorded during the breeding bird survey, otherwise the largest counts was of 34 on 23rd September.
57. **Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***
Two recorded on 31st August is the only sighting thus far.
58. **Swallow *Hirundo rustica***
Small numbers throughout the summer.
59. **House Martin *Delichon urbicum***
Small numbers throughout the summer.
60. **Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus***
Resident in Pheasant Cover.

61. **Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita***
Seven pairs held territory in 2010. 11 on 23rd September was the best count in 2010. This compares with a high count of 22 on the same date in 2009.
62. **Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus***
14 pairs held territory in 2010. Last recorded on 23rd September, when one was still present.
63. **Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla***
Six pairs held territory in Pheasant Cover in 2010. Three were seen on 23rd September.
64. **Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin***
Six pairs held territory in Pheasant Cover during the breeding season.
65. **Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca***
One was seen on 25th August.
66. **Whitethroat *Sylvia communis***
10 pairs held territory in 2010. 3 present on 28th August. Two present on the relatively late date of 30th September.
67. **Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***
The drainage ditches hosted nine singing birds, with four territories along the main east-west running ditch by the track and the others scattered elsewhere.
68. **Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus***
The total of eight singing birds frequented the small patches of reeds in the survey area. Specifically there were three at the Duck Pond, two at the Old Irrigation Pond and three at the Irrigation Pond. A localised species in the Scarborough area where the stronghold for the species is the nearby Wykeham Lakes, where up to 41 singing birds were recorded in 2006 (Appleby).
69. **Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris***
Two territories in the mature pines in Pheasant Cover.
70. **Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes***
Resident breeder. No significant counts.
71. **Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***
Before December, 63 on 4th November 2009 was the largest count so far. However, at least 800 were feeding around the new scrapes during a slight thaw on 15th December. Breeding was recorded in 2010, but no estimate of population was made.
72. **Blackbird *Turdus merula***
Resident breeder. No significant counts.
73. **Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris***
A number of flocks totalling 146 flew west along the railway on 21st October.
74. **Redwing *Turdus iliacus***
Two on the 21st October is rather surprisingly the only sighting thus far.
75. **Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos***
Three pairs held territory, with fledged young observed on 3rd June.

76. **Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus***
One pair held territory during the breeding season.
77. **Robin *Erithacus rubecula***
Resident breeder. No significant counts.
78. **Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***
A young male was trapped and ringed on 10th August.
79. **Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***
Two present in the maize field (Field 9573) on 25th August.
80. **Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***
Six on 26th April. One on 28th August and two on 23rd September.
81. **Dunnock *Prunella modularis***
Resident breeder. No significant counts.
82. **House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***
Recorded near Bogg Hall Barns.
83. **Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus***
Good numbers present around Bogg Hall Barns in the autumn. 70 counted on 28th August, with 80 in the same area on 30th November. At least three pairs recorded breeding at Bogg Hall Barns.
84. **Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***
One-two seen flying west on several dates in August. One near the Irrigation Pond on 28th August. Recorded in June by Helen & Tim.
85. **Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***
Two on 23rd September 2009. Singles on 4th November and 29th December 2009. Somewhat surprisingly no sightings in 2010.
86. **Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba***
Regularly recorded, but no counts in excess of five.
87. **Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis***
One-two on several visits prior to September. Nine were seen on 23rd September, with 20 present on 30th September. The largest count so far recorded is 24 on 23rd September 2009. All the highest counts have been in September, coinciding with this species peak migration period. Thus far there has been no evidence of breeding taking place on site.
88. **Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***
A common breeding species in Pheasant Cover. The largest count is 23 on 4th November 2009.
89. **Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***
Two on 12th January 2010. Two were present on the comparatively early date of 30th September. Four in the wild bird crop at Bogg Hall on 30th November.
90. **Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris***
Occasional sightings of two or three birds otherwise seven on 4th November 2009 is the largest count.

91. **Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis***

Two pairs recorded holding territory. A flock of 90 present on 28th August (Fields 8952/8383).

92. **Siskin *Carduelis spinus***

One on 12th January and two on 25th November were the only records in 2010. Seven on 4th November 2009.

93. **Linnet *Carduelis cannabina***

At least six territories located, with three of these in the gorse / scrub by the Irrigation Pond. A total of 36 recorded on 23rd September.

94. **Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret***

Two pairs bred in Pheasant Cover. 25 were present on 21st October. The largest count involves 46 on 4th November 2009.

95. **Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***

One or two pairs bred in Pheasant Cover.

96. **Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella***

Two pairs held territory in 2010. An excellent count of 98 in the wild bird crop by Bogg Hall on 30th November was a good demonstration of the value of this conservation measure.

97. **Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus***

Seven pairs held territory in 2010. 19 on the 23rd September were mainly in the ditch system and scrub near the Old Irrigation Pond. 22 in the wild bird crop by Bogg Hall on 30th November.

98. **Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra***

Apparently recorded in the fields near Bogg Hall Barns (but so far not by me!).

Ringling Report

Ringling took place on seven occasions (1 visit in June, 3 visits in July and 3 visits in August), with between three and five nets operated in scrub and the reeds at the Duck Pond. All visits commenced at dawn or within one hour of sunrise, with ringling continuing until mid or late morning. The focus of the ringling activities was to trap migrant warblers, in particular the good populations of Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Whitethroat and Reed Warbler present here. A total of 139 birds of 21 species were trapped and ringed. There was a single control of a bird ringed elsewhere.

Among the more interesting catches was a juvenile male Redstart trapped on the 10th August. This species does not breed on the site, so most likely involves a bird dispersing from breeding sites elsewhere in Yorkshire, but maybe came from further afield.

A Spanish-ringed Reed Warbler was controlled on what turned out to be the final ringling session of the season, on 19th August. This bird had put on significant fat reserves and was most likely about to depart on its autumn migration. At the time of writing details of where in Spain it was ringed have yet to be forthcoming. The Spanish ringling scheme can be painfully slow to respond...

	Full grown	Pulli	Retraps/ Recoveries	Total
Wren	2	0	0	2
Dunnock	2	0	0	2
Robin	3	0	0	3
Redstart	1	0	0	1
Blackbird	3	0	0	3
Song Thrush	2	0	0	2
Reed Warbler	19	0	4	23
Whitethroat	7	0	0	7
Garden Warbler	5	0	0	5
Blackcap	6	0	0	6
Chiffchaff	23	0	2	25
Willow Warbler	16	0	0	16
Long-tailed Tit	5	0	0	5
Marsh Tit	1	0	0	1
Coal Tit	4	0	0	4
Blue Tit	12	0	0	12
Great Tit	5	0	0	5
Goldfinch	8	0	0	8
Bullfinch	11	0	0	11
Yellowhammer	2	0	0	2
Reed Bunting	2	0	0	2
Annual Total:	139	0	6	145