

FAUNA BREEDING BIRD SURVEY 2013

Two two-hour visits were made to the site in suitable weather; the first on April 30th, and the second on June 7th.

Work commitments made a third visit impossible, which may have lowered the accuracy of the survey. The number of pairs in the spreadsheet are, necessarily, estimates-- but as a whole I feel this data is a good guide to how bird-life used the site in this season. Please cross-reference this overview with the species maps and also with the 2012 findings.

Over the two survey visits, twenty-eight bird species were encountered while on site. Unlike the 2012 visits, passage migration was not a feature on the fieldwork dates.

21 of those 28 species were breeding on the site itself (mainly tree and hedge--nesting common woodland / garden species) and figures for numbers of pairs are tabulated.

As with the 2012 Common Bird Census visits, other species observed collecting food on (and over) the site including numbers of House Sparrows, Jackdaws, Swifts and House Martins were casually observed to be nesting in the houses immediately adjacent to the site, particularly along Aldcliffe Road. In this respect FAUNA continues to be of benefit to the wider bird community in Spring and Summer.

One species of note which falls into this category is the Shelduck, an amber-listed species of farmland fringing coasts and estuaries. One to two pairs were seen feeding on FAUNA's wetter open areas on the first visit, and a pair noted on the second. While nesting attempts cannot be entirely ruled out in a site that contains broadly suitable habitat, I feel these records are more likely to relate to the feeding or bathing activities of a pair or pairs, perhaps from Aldcliffe, Heaton or Stodday, of what is a quite peripatetic species even within the breeding season.

Although the 2013 species list, counts and estimates aren't significantly different from the 2012 data the absence of Reed Buntings was disappointing in what is a traditional breeding site for this Lancashire 'Biodiversity Action Plan' species.

Dan Haywood.

Species	Latin name	Detail	Conservation Status
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	8 pairs	Green
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	3-4 pairs	Green
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	4 pairs	Green
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	0-1 pairs.	Amber
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	1 pair	Green
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	2 pairs	Green
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1-2 pairs	Green
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2 pairs	Green
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	5-6 pairs	Amber
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	0-1 pair	Green
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	4-5 pairs	Green
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2 pairs	Green

Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2 pairs	Green
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	5 birds feeding over pools on 2nd visit. Likely to be local breeders.	Amber
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Max count 30 birds. Birds seen carrying food and nest materials out of site. Species nests in adjacent houses.	Red
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Up to 15 feeding in open areas. Likely to breed in adjacent housing.	Green
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	1 pair	Green
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	1 pair	Green
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1-2 pairs	Amber
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	1-2 pairs	Green
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	3-4 pairs	Green
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	0-1 pairs.	Amber
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2-3 pairs.	Red. Lancashire BAP species
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Max count 14 foraging birds. Likely to relate to breeders from nearby residential areas.	Red
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	A bird perched on suitable nest site adjacent to site. 2 feeding over site first visit.	Amber
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	5 feeding over site on 2 nd visit likely to local breeders from nearby estates.	Amber
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	4-5 pairs.	Green
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	4-6 pairs.	Green