

THE BIRDS OF POLEMERE 1956-1992

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The systematic list follows the order and nomenclature of Dr K.H. Voous as in the *List of Recent Holarctic Bird Species* (1977).

The list is based on Shropshire Ornithological Society bird reports since 1956, Polemere Bird Log (1992) and personal observations.

The terms used for status are as follows; they do not form an absolute classification.

RESIDENT Present as a breeding species and recorded throughout the year, but not necessarily as the same individuals.

SUMMER VISITOR Species which arrive in spring, breed in the area and depart before winter.

WINTER VISITOR Species which visit the area during the winter and breed elsewhere.

PASSAGE MIGRANT Species which visit the area only when moving to some other area, normally on passage from winter quarters to breeding grounds or vice versa.

RARE VISITOR Species which visit the area rarely, less than 5 records in total.

SCARCE VISITOR Species which visit the area occasionally, usually less than once a year.

REGULAR VISITOR Species which visit the area on a regular basis, but are not resident and do not breed in the area.

The list embraces a total of 112 species recorded since 1956. One species is excluded, Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* (December 1992) as it is known to be an escape and has not been admitted to the official British list maintained by the British Ornithologists' Union.

1960 Shropshire Bird Report

".... this time on Polemere, a small sheet of water 6 miles SW of Shrewsbury, which seems to be attractive to both wildfowl and waders.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Scarce visitor.

5, March 26 1972

1, May 1 1988

3, April 7 1991

2, June 16 1991

2 ad 2 juv, July 1991

1 ad 3 juv, August 1991

1, March 23 1992

1, May 5 1992

1, February 5 1993

2, February 17 1993

2, February 23 1993

3, March 20 1993

6, March 21 1993

4, April 2 1993

6, April 12 1993

6, April 17 1993 including one pair on nest
4, April 26 1993
1 pair with two young, June 25 1993

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbor*

Rare visitor.
1, February 21 1988

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Rare visitor, vagrant.
1, October 6 1993 small white heron noted by Mr Bebb's son

HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Regular visitor. Probably breed at Wood Moor heronry, Chirbury.
7, September 3 1967
2, September 10 1988
1, March 31 1989
4, June 18 1989
1, August 12 1990
1, December 27 1991
7, September 13 1992
1, February 5 1993
2, February 17 1993
4, September 25 1993

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor*

Scarce visitor, breeds occasionally.
Bred 1978
Bred 1979
2, December 30 1989
2, February 15 1992
2, March 19 1992
2, April 10 1992 built nest, did not breed
5, January 17 1993
2, February 13 1993
2, April 11 1993 built nest
2 cygnets, June 2 1993

BEWICKS SWAN *Cygnus columbianus*

Rare visitor. Only one record.
3 juv, January 30 1966

WHOOPER SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Rare visitor.
6, December 23 & 24 1992

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Rare visitor.
1, January 15 & 26 1988
1, March 1 1988
1, April 4 1989
2, February 13 1993

WHITE FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons*

Rare visitor.
9, February 8 1959
3 ad 3 Imm, March 9-11 1962

1, March 5 1993

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser*

Regular winter visitor.

5, August-December 1972

13, March 28 1987

30, February 21 1988

14, March 1 1988

4-7, February-April 1989

5, 1991

137, December 23 1992

60, December 30 1992

60, January 21 1993

2, April 5 1993

2, June 2 1993

BAR-HEADED GOOSE

1, December 23 1992

1, December 24 1992

1, January 1 1993

1, January 7 1993

1, January 21 1993

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens*

Rare visitor, only one record, almost certainly from the British feral population.

1, December 23 1992

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis*

Common visitor during winter months, breeds occasionally. Peak counts are noted below.

Bred, 1985

70, January 24 1988

96, February 1989

100, January 1992

85, February 7 1992

30, June 13 1992

230, December 26 1992

189, January 5 1993

300, January 21 1993

17, May 9 1993

13, July 2 1993

16 and young, July 5 1993

26, July 17 1993

37, August 17 1993

50, August 19 1993

120, September 1 1993

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis*

Rare visitor. Almost certainly from the British feral population.

1, April 22 1984

1, December 27 1991

1, December 13 & 23 1992

1, January 7 1993

1, January 21 1993

1, February 17 1993

1, September 1 1993

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Rare visitor.

- 1, April 11 1966
- 1, December 17 1967
- 1, January 24 1970
- 1, February 24 1974
- 1 shot, January 1985
- 1, September 18 1992

MANDARIN *Aix galericulata*

Rare visitor. Only one record.

- Pair, December 9 1984

WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Regular visitor in winter months. Peak counts are noted below.

- 36, May 27 1958
- c100, February 5 1959
- 90, February 22 1960
- 36, March 11 1961
- 20, March 10 1963
- 30, January 11 1971
- 50, January/February 1972
- 40, November 2nd 1972
- few, winter 1973
- 2f, February 22 1991
- 1 pair, November 13 1991
- 6m 3f, December 3 1991
- 10, December 8 1991
- 5, January 4 1992
- 6, February 2 1992
- 4, March 8 1992
- 26, December 26 1992
- 4, January 1 1993
- 6m 6f, January 5 1993
- 16, January 7 1993
- 12, February 5 1993
- 19, February 17 1993
- 10, February 23 1993
- 11, March 5 1993
- 2m 1f, March 20 1993

GADWALL *Anas strepe*

Rare visitor.

- 1m, May 12 1970
- 2 pairs, December 29 1978
- 1, January 15 1989
- 1f, March 2 1992

TEAL *Anas crecca*

Winter visitor in varying numbers, one of the best sites in the county for this species. Has bred once, in 1975. Peak counts are noted.

- 2 pairs, April 13 1963
- 32, November 1 1969
- 29, February 1 1970
- 30, winter 1973
- Bred 1975
- 50, March 3 1979

100+, January 26 1980
150, December 7 1980
60, January 6 1981
130, January 21 1984
100, December 9 1984
154, 1985 Best site in county
70, December 18 1988
100, December 25 1989
110, January 1991
200, January 5 1992
7 pairs, April 18 1992
2, August 5 1992
500, December 23 1992
60, January 1 1993
250, January 17 1993
100, February 5 1993
250, February 17 1993
150, February 23 1993
30, March 23 1993
15, March 30 1993
4, April 11 1993
1 pair, April 29 1993
1 pair, May 6 1993
1, August 12 1993
15, August 19 1993

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*

Resident and breeds in small numbers. Peak counts are noted below.

c100, October 9 1966
122, December 19 1971
250, January 6 1981
218, January 1985
187, February 1985
305, December 1988
150, August 14 1988
250, August 22 1988
300, September 6 1988
100, July 28 1992
60, September 10 1992
60, October 9 1992
150, August 12 1993

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Scarce visitor.

1, April 11 1961
2, January 10 & 28 1962
1, March 15 1964
14, February 27 1966
4, February 25 1968
5m 3f, March 11 1972
2m, January 27 1973
2, January 27 1974
6, March 16-31 1974
1m, December 8 1991
1f, April 15 1992
2m, December 13 1992
2m, January 1 1993
1m 1f, January 10 1993
1m, February 5 1993
9m 2f, February 23 1993

3m 4f, February 25 1993
7m 2f, February 26 1993

9m 5f, February 28 1993
2m 2f, March 20 1993
1m 1f, April 2 1993

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Rare visitor.

Noted in 'A Handlist of the Birds of Shropshire' by Rutter, Gribble & Pemberton 1964 as being recorded in recent years.

1m 2f, April 15th 1960
1f, May 18 1992

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Regular visitor in recent years. Possibly poor documentation in earlier years.

Recorded 1972

Bred 1980

9, February 1985
1 pair, April 12 1987
4m 2f, April 10 1990
2m, April 7 1991
1m, December 1 1991
2m 2f, March 18 1992
2m 1f, March 27 1992
3m 1f, April 3 1992
2, September 10 1992
15, February 5 1993
27, February 13 1993
30, February 17 1993
19, February 23 1993
30, March 5 1993
5m 2f, March 20 1993
3m, April 12 1993
4, September 22 1993

POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

Scarce visitor.

18, February 22 1991
1m, December 13 1992
1m 1f, January 1 1993
2m 2f, January 10 1993
12, February 13 1993
12, February 17 1993
6, February 23 1993
9, March 5 1993
1f, March 21 1993
1f, May 6 1993
1f, May 30 1993
1, June 5 1993
1m 1f, June 6 1993
1, June 12 1993
1m 1f, June 6 1993

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Scarce visitor.

bred, 1985

6, February 21 1988
15, April 10 1990
11, February 24 1991

8, April 18 1992
6, February 5 1993
10, February 17 1993
6, February 23 1993
6, March 5 1993
4m 3f, March 21 1993
2m 2f, April 2 1993
4m 3f, April 12 1993
3m 3f, April 19 1993
5m 2f, April 29 1993
4, May 9 1993
2 pairs, 1 nest with four eggs, May 23 1993

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Rare visitor.

1, 1984
1 pair, April 5 1991
3f, January 10 1993

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Rare visitor.

3m 1f, April 22 1984
1m, May 3 1984
1m, April 23 1991
2m, July 26 1991
5m, July 28 1991
1m May 16 1993
1, May 27 1993
1m, May 30 1993

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Scarce visitor.

1, August 1 1992
1m, April 12 1993
1f, July 25 1993

BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Rare visitor.

2, March 22 1989

KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Regular visitor.

1 pair, April 21 1992 bred
1m, February 25 1993
1 pair at nest, April 17 1993

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

Rare visitor.

1, December 31 1988
1, February 5 1993
1m, April 20 1993

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Scarce visitor.

2, March 19 1988 ?
2, April 11 1992

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix coturnix*

Scarce visitor. Probably breeds in area.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*
Rare visitor, only one record.
1, July 15 1983

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*
Regular visitor and breeds in surrounding area.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*
Resident in stable numbers, breeds.
23, January 19 1974
20, March 19 1988

COOT *Fulica atra*
Resident and breeds.
10, December 10 1971
50, March 19 1988

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus*
Rare visitor, only one record.
1, April 3 1991

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula*
Rare visitor, only one record.
1, May 31 1970

LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*
Regular visitor in small numbers.
c200 July 7 1963
50, July 3 1988

SANDERLING *Calidris alba*
Rare visitor, only one record.
Two, 1 & 4 April 1958

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*
Rare passage migrant.
1964 HBS noted as recorded recently.
1, March 29 1958
3, October 5 1969
1, November 12 1969
4, May 11 1970
1, August 1 1974
1, April 18 1992

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*
Rare passage migrant.
recorded 1967
1, August 22 1971
1, August 27 1972
4, September 8 1974

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus*
Rare winter migrant.
1, October 1962.
1, October 14 1962
1, February 4 & 17 1973

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*
Regular winter visitor.
24, December 29 1972

30, April 1989
3, August 21 1988
13, March 22 1989
20, February 22 1991
2, March 18 1992
7, March 30 1992

BLACK TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Rare passage migrant.

1, August 27 1972
1, July 15 1992

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Rare passage migrant, only one record.

1, August 12 1990

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Regular visitor in small numbers. Often heard calling nearby in breeding season.

60, August 25 1989
15, September 22 1992

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

Rare passage migrant. Has bred once.

3, July 26 & 30 1970
8-10, November 22 1972
3, April 7 1973
1, 1975
breeding 1978
1, November 18 1984
1, April 3 1989
1, April 9 1992

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Rare passage migrant.

1, September 20 1969
2, July 30 1970
1, August 25 1979
3, August 14 1988
1, August 25 1989

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Regular passage migrant.

4, August 29 1967
2, August 2 1969
2, September 14 1969
1, August 1972
recorded 1973
recorded 1974
1, autumn 1988
1, July 8 1988
1, August 13 1989
1, August 1 1990
1, September 12 1991
2, July 28 1992
3, July 15 1992

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

Rare passage migrant.

1, August 2 1969
2, September 14 1969

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Scarce passage migrant.

2, July 3 & 8 1988

4, August 1 1988

1, August 25 1989

1, July 23 1991

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Regular visitor in winter months, breeds sporadically. In 1983 was one of only 3 breeding sites in Shropshire.

14 nests 1975

2 pairs 1979

5 pairs, May 25 1980

4/5 pairs, 1983.

14 nests, 1984

8 nests, 1985

30 pairs, 1986

110, March 19 1988

150, April 15 1989

2 nests, June 16 1991

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Rare visitor to pool, although often seen flying overhead.

1, March 22 1989

85, September 2 1990

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Rare visitor to pool, occasionally seen flying overhead.

1, March 22 1989

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Rare passage migrant.

1, May 22 1966

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Regular visitor to area.

80, January 28 1982

2, July 18 1992

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Common resident and breeds nearby.

200, February 11 1978

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Regular visitor and breeds nearby.

200, recorded 1972

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Scarce visitor, particularly in recent years.

12, August 17 1958

40+, June 7 1969

12, August 14 1971

26, August 27 1972

1, June 20 1991

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Regular summer visitor.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*
Rare visitor. Has bred (late 1980s).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*
Resident in area.
2, March 23 1991

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*
Resident in area.

SWIFT *Apus apus*
Regular summer visitor, breeds in area.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*
Regular visitor in small numbers.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*
Regular summer visitor, often feeding over pool on passage.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*
Common summer visitor and breeds at Polemere Farm.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*
A summer visitor in small numbers, breeds at Polemere Farm.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*
Rare visitor.
50, December 30 1989

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*
Scarce visitor, has bred in recent years.
2, June 1973
1, April 25 1991 ?
Bred, June 1991
1, April 25 1992
Bred, June 1992

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*
Resident and breeds around Polemere Farm.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Common resident and breeds nearby.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*
Resident in small numbers and breeds in area.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*
Resident and breeds in area.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*
Rare visitor, only one record of two birds.
2m, April 27 1992

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Rare visitor.
2, April 26 1959
4, April 17 1983
3m 1f, April 27 1992

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*
Common resident and breeds in area.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*
Regular winter visitor to nearby farmland.
200, April 7 1989
300, January 6 1991
100, April 7 1992

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*
Resident and breeds in area.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*
Regular winter visitor to nearby farmland, usually with Fieldfare but in smaller numbers.
50, January 6 1991

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*
Resident and breeds in area.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*
Rare summer visitor, only one record.
1 singing, June 20 1991

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*
Scarce summer visitor.
1 singing, May 18 1992

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*
Regular summer visitor and breeds locally.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*
Scarce summer visitor.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*
Regular summer visitor and breeds in small numbers.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*
Regular summer visitor to area and breeds locally.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Regular summer visitor to area and breeds.

LONG TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*
Regular visitor, particularly around pool.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*
Regular visitor and breeds.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*
Common resident and breeds.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*
Common resident and breeds.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*
Regular visitor and breeds locally.

TREE CREEPER *Certhia familiaris*
Regular visitor and breeds locally.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

Scarce visitor.

1, August 15 1988

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Regular visitor and breeds in surrounding farmland.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Regular visitor and breeds nearby.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Regular visitor and breeds nearby.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Regular visitor and breeds nearby.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Rare visitor.

1, July 24 1992

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common resident, breeds around Polemere Farm.

60, August 1 1988

200, January 6 1988

breeds around farm

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Common resident and breeds around farm buildings.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Regular visitor, probably breeds.

9, February 21 1988

4, March 19 1989

3, June 18 1989

6, April 10 1990

10, September 12 1991

2, May 13 1992

2, July 27 1992

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Common resident and breeds.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Regular visitor and breeds locally.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Regular visitor in small numbers.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Scarce visitor.

2, April 28 1992

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Scarce visitor.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

A resident in good numbers, breeds in hedges around pool.

15, February 21 1988

30, March 22 1989

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Rare visitor.

1 pair, April 21 1992

1m, April 29 1992

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

Formally regular visitor, now absent from area. In line with national trend of Corn Bunting decline.

1, July 26 1970

2, August 31 1971

7, October 24 1976