

Birds of Teddy Heights and Coldwell Parrock 2016

Introduction

The account is based on visits made to the reserve to check nest boxes from mid-April to mid-June. This year I again checked the boxes at Teddy Heights and Anne Beecham and Barbara Wilson checked Coldwell Parrock. I continued to visit both sites to ring some of the young in the nest boxes. Records were kept of birds seen or heard during this period and are the main source of the breeding records. Fifteen visits were also paid to ring birds at the feeding station along the meadow edge at Teddy Heights during January to March and September to December along with occasional other visits.

Birds pay no heed to human boundaries and the number of pairs referred to, in many cases part of their territories will be outside the reserve.

Species List

Shelduck Occasional spring records of pairs or small groups flying over or occasionally displaying in the meadow and on the open areas at Coldwell Parrock. They probably nest close by.

Mallard Occasional records of birds flying over. Probably breeds within the area.

Little Egret Birds from the Dallam heronery, where they are now breeding, were regularly seen flying over to feed on Silverdale Moss. Up to 24 were counted on the Moss in July with smaller numbers to the year end.

Grey Heron Occasional sightings of single birds in flight or in the field next to Teddy Heights

Sparrowhawk Single birds occasionally seen within or over the woodland, again probably nests close by..

Buzzard Pairs or single birds seen or heard at almost every visit and undoubtedly nests close by. Up to two over Teddy Heights early in the year and up to four together in the autumn.

Kestrel Fewer sightings this year of single birds over the woodland and occasionally hovering over the open areas of Coldwell Parrock. Nests close by.

Pheasant Regularly throughout the year with up to ten around the feeding station in winter. Very large numbers in the surrounding fields at Teddy Heights at the start of the shooting season. One to two pairs probably breed.

Woodpigeon Small numbers of up to 10 seen regularly but up to 35 in October and November at Teddy Heights. Several pairs breed.

Woodcock No late visits this year so no records of 'roding' birds and no birds flushed during the winter.

Barn Owl

Fewer sightings this year along the edge of Teddy Heights. Probably from the pair that bred on the edge of Silverdale Moss.

Tawny Owl Despite putting up a new nest box no birds nested this year. Occasional records of single birds.

Green Woodpecker Judging by the regularity of calling birds one pair at Teddy Heights and one at Coldwell Parrock, where occasionally seen on the ground in the meadow area presumably after ants. In winter heard regularly at Teddy Heights.

Great Spotted Woodpecker Probably two pairs at Teddy Heights and one drumming at Coldwell Parrock. One to two seen regularly throughout the year with much drumming late winter/ spring .

Swallow Did not breed this year. Birds seen regularly feeding around the area.

House Martin Occasional sightings over Coldwell Parrock in summer.

Wren Breeding population estimated at 8-9 pairs at Teddy Heights, and 3-4 at Coldwell Parrock. Regularly recorded in small numbers throughout the year.

Dunnock Breeding population 2-3 pairs at Teddy Heights and seen in small numbers throughout. At least two pairs at Coldwell Parrock. Twenty five handlings at the feeding station compared to 11 in 2015.

Robin Breeding population at Teddy Heights 7-8 pairs and resident in numbers throughout. Perhaps 3 pairs at Coldwell Parrock. Twenty handlings at the feeding station involving 11 birds..

Blackbird Breeding population estimated at 8 – 10 pairs. With perhaps 3-4 pairs at Coldwell Parrock. Two caught at the feeding station including a bird that was 5 years and 355 days after ringing.

Fieldfare Few sightings early in the year and early winter but good numbers late November and December

Redwing Very few sightings early in the year but large numbers late October to December.

Song Thrush At least 5 different males singing at Teddy Heights and 2-3 at Coldwell Parrock. Present in small numbers in winter.

Mistle Thrush Two pairs nested at Teddy Heights and regularly recorded at other times of the year. One bird singing at Coldwell Parrock.

Garden Warbler Two male singing in spring from the bramble area around the meadow at Teddy Heights and one from the bramble in the valley. Two males singing at Coldwell Parrock again very much associated with the bramble areas.

Blackcap Three males singing centred around the bramble areas within the wood and at the edge of the meadow at Teddy Heights. Perhaps 2-3 pairs at Coldwell Parrock again associated with the bramble areas.

Chiffchaff Up to six males singing at Teddy Heights and benefiting from increased bramble cover. One bird singing at Coldwell Parrock.

Willow Warbler Two pairs around the meadow at Teddy Heights. Three to four birds singing at Coldwell Parrock.

Goldcrest 1-2 pairs present at Teddy Heights, regular in small numbers in autumn/winter with 28 ringed at the feeding station, compared to only 6 in 2015.

Long tailed Tit Two pairs located within the woodland at Teddy Heights and regular in winter. One successful nest located at Coldwell Parrock. Fourteen handlings at the Feeding Station compared with 13 in 2015, 38 in 2014, 7 in 2013, 13 in 2012, 2 in 2011, 10 in 2010 and 12 in 2009. A bird ringed at Leighton Moss in November 2014 was caught in early March at the feeding station.

Marsh Tit Probably 4-6 pairs at Teddy Heights but with no birds using the nest boxes this year. Two to three seen at the feeding station on most winter visits with 14 handlings of 8 different birds in autumn/early winter compared to 6 in 2015, 13 in 2014, 12 in 2013, 16 in 2012, 44 in 2011 and 11 handlings in 2010. The oldest bird was 4 years and 358 days from ringing.

Coal Tit One – two pairs within the yew area at Teddy Heights . Again very abundant at the feeding station with 82 handlings in autumn and early winter compared with 62 in 2015, 87 in 2014, 78 in 2013, 131 in 2012, 122 in 2011, 108 in 2010, 92 in 2009, 100 in 2008, 74 in 2007 and only 36 in the same period in 2006. Numbers were good this year and it was the most abundant bird at the feeding station in the autumn/early winter. The oldest bird was seven years and 21 days after ringing.

Blue Tit Five pairs nested in the nest boxes at Teddy Heights one down on 2015. Four were successful fledging 23 young. Two pairs used the boxes at Coldwell Parrock, the same as 2015, one was successful rearing 8 young. There were 33 handlings at the feeding station in the period September to December compared to 41 in 2015, 108 in 2014, 92 in 2013, 107 in 2012, 113 in 2011, 164 in 2010, 133 in 2009, 63 in 2008, 75 in 2007 and 117 in 2006. It lost its place as the second commonest bird at the feeding station to the Great Tit. Productivity and survival of young was good judging by the percentage of young birds in the population of 87% compared to 44% in 2015, 66% in 2014, 84% in 2013, 59% in 2011, 83% in 2010, 78% in 2009 59 % in 2008, 61% in 2007 and 88% in 2006. The oldest bird was five years and 59 days after ringing.

Great Tit Eleven pairs used the nest boxes at Teddy Heights one down on 2015. Of these 11 were successful rearing 45 young. Two pairs nested at Coldwell Parrock, one down on 2015, both were successful rearing 14 young. The second commonest bird at the feeding station with 44 handlings during September to December compared with 40 in 2015, 65 in 2014, 38 in 2013, 43 in 2012, 105 in 2011, 100 in 2010, 50 in 2009 44 in 2008, 76 in 2007 and 36 in 2006 . The oldest bird was four years and 93 days after ringing.

Nuthatch Single pairs nested successfully at both sites each rearing seven young each. The females were caught at both sites. Only five handlings at the feeding station, but one was 4 years and 167 days after ringing.

Treecreeper Probably 1 -2 pairs bred at Teddy Heights but no nests located. Regular in small numbers throughout the year with only one bird caught at the feeding station.

Jay. Two pairs probably bred at Teddy Heights. Regular in small numbers throughout the year at both sites.

Magpie Regular in small numbers throughout the year. Breeds close by.

Jackdaw Flocks, probably from Sandside and Middlebarrow Quarries, regularly flight over and occasionally perch in the trees.

Carrion Crow Regular in small numbers and certainly breeds within the general area.

Raven A pair seen very regularly, probably from Sandside Quarry. From summer on up to 4-5 birds seen irregularly.

Starling Regular in small groups usually flying over but occasionally perching in the trees. Three pairs nested in old woodpecker holes in a telegraph pole near Hazelslack farm

Chaffinch Breeding population estimated at 9-10 pairs at Teddy Heights. Perhaps 4 pairs at Coldwell Parrock. Regular in small numbers throughout the rest of the year. Thirty seven handlings this year compared with 20 in 2015, 52 in 2014, 58 in 2013, 46 in 2012, 41 in 2011, 58 in 2010, 45 in 2009 and 25 in 2008.

Greenfinch Five birds were caught at the feeding station this year compared to 0 in 2015, 1 in 2014, 3 in 2013, 1 in 2012, 9 in 2011, 17 in 2010, 34 in 2009, 27 in 2008, 36 in 2007 and 7 in 2006.

Goldfinch An increasing species. Pairs probably bred at or close to both sites. Only ca 10 birds feeding on Knapweed at Teddy Heights in October but no birds ringed at the feeding station compared with 1 in 2015, 12 in 2014 1 in 2013, 2 in 2012, 0 in 2011, 2 in 2010 and 8 in 2012.

Bullfinch Probably 2- 3 pairs breeding in the wood and along the edge of the meadow, one to two pairs at Coldwell Parrock. Regular in small numbers throughout the year. At the feeding station there were only two handlings this year compared to 1 in 2015, 3 in 2014 3 in 2013, 13 in 2012, 12 in 2011, 6 in 2010, 13 in 2009, 12 in 2008 and 7 in 2007. The oldest bird was 4 years and 97 days

Ringling Report 2016

A total of 15 visits were made to ring birds at the feeding station, 1 in January, 4 in February, 1 in March, 2 in September, 2 in October, 3 in November and 2 in December. A total 391 birds were caught (201 new and 190 re-traps). This compares with 443 in 2015, 566 in 2014, 501 in 2014, 469 in 2012, 629 in 2011, 645 in 2010, 455 in 2009, 424 in 2008, 446 in 2007 and 309 in 2006. Details are given below along with the numbers and species of nestlings ringed.

Ringling Totals 2016

	Full grown	Pulli	Retraps/ Recoveries	Total
Woodpigeon	1	0	0	1
Wren	1	0	0	1
Dunnock	13	0	15	28
Robin	11	0	9	20
Blackbird	1	0	1	2
Goldcrest	26	0	2	28
Long-tailed Tit	7	0	7	14
Marsh Tit	5	0	9	14
Coal Tit	30	0	67	97
Blue Tit	33	0	32	65
Great Tit	25	10	38	73
Nuthatch	7	14	5	26
Chaffinch	34	0	3	37
Greenfinch	5	0	0	5
Bullfinch	2	0	1	3
Annual Total:	201	24	190	415