

## Introduction

This document is based on sightings we made during our visits to the NWT reserve and areas between E Bank and Iron Road during Spring and Summer 2005. It also includes sightings that have been passed to us by other local observers. We were away for the last 3 weeks of May so we lost touch with some of the earlier broods during this period but hopefully we have not missed too much.

It was not a scientific survey, we did not visit all areas regularly, but merely took records of nesting birds and youngsters seen, and tried to follow the progress of each family. The following species notes give our interpretation of these sightings together with our best guesses of the total numbers breeding and young that fledged.

## Summary

The following table lists birds which bred, or tried to, in our area this year with counts where known. Last years figures are shown in brackets for comparison.

Species	Pairs breeding	Total young fledged	Earliest chicks seen	Notes
Little Grebe	3	4-5 (5)	12 <sup>th</sup> June (25 <sup>th</sup> May)	
Grey Heron	1			In N Foreland Wood
Bittern	0 (0)			
Mute Swan	1 (0)	2	11 <sup>th</sup> June	
Greylag	?	134+ (56)	10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	
Egyptian Goose	1 (0)	3	12 <sup>th</sup> June	
Shelduck	13 (6)	59 (26)	14 <sup>th</sup> June (26 <sup>th</sup> May)	
Gadwall	12 (6)	17+ (18-26)	1 <sup>st</sup> June (28 <sup>th</sup> May)	
Mallard	22 (17)	52 (55)	21 <sup>st</sup> Apr (19 <sup>th</sup> Apr)	
Garganey	1? (0)	4		
Shoveler	10 (7)	26 (20-25)	1 <sup>st</sup> June (13 <sup>th</sup> June)	
Pochard	1 (0)	?	15 <sup>th</sup> May	
Tufted Duck	2 (10)	9 (16)	10 <sup>th</sup> July (20 <sup>th</sup> June)	
Ruddy Duck	2 (2)	4+ (3)	3 <sup>rd</sup> July (11 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	
Marsh Harrier	4 (4)	10 (10)	22 <sup>nd</sup> June (1 <sup>st</sup> July)	
Water Rail	?	1+		
Moorhen	12 (10)	15 (5)	28 <sup>th</sup> May (10 <sup>th</sup> May)	
Coot	30 (7)	24+ (15)	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr (6 <sup>th</sup> May)	
Ringed Plover	0 (1)			
Oystercatcher	4 (8)	3-4 (2)	14 <sup>th</sup> June (30 <sup>th</sup> May)	
Avocet	86 (102)	18 (40)	29 <sup>th</sup> Apr (14 <sup>th</sup> May)	
Lapwing	26 (11)	4 (3)	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr (2 <sup>nd</sup> May)	
Redshank	8	10	22 <sup>nd</sup> May	
Black-headed Gull	Many	16	14 <sup>th</sup> June	
Common Tern	3 (0)	0		
Sky Lark	?			
Swallow	4			
Pied Wagtail	0			A lot of young around
Meadow Pipit	11+?			
Cetti's Warbler	1	1		
Sedge Warbler	?			
Reed Warbler	?			
Bearded Tit	?			Many family parties seen in Autumn
Reed Bunting	4+			
Jay	1	2		In N Foreland Wood

## Details

### Little Grebe

#### 3+ pairs raised 4-5 young

1. Nest in Catchwater Drain opposite Visitor Centre on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. Adult with 1 chick in Catchwater Drain nr bridge to Bishop's on 12 & 14<sup>th</sup> June but not seen again.
3. Pair with 2 small chicks on Snipe's Marsh on 10<sup>th</sup> July, were still present late August.
4. Pair with 3 tiny chicks in drain in front of Daukes Hide from 25<sup>th</sup> July to 5<sup>th</sup> August, after that 2 were seen on 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> and only 1 with no parent after that.

### Grey Heron

#### One definite nest in Foreland Wood

4 juvs on Pat's Pool 27<sup>th</sup> June

### Bittern

#### No signs of breeding again this year.

One male booming from mid April. A female was found dead on 13<sup>th</sup> April. Two males were seen together on 30<sup>th</sup> May and again in early June. A male with a different boom was calling in mid June. A juvenile seen on the reserve in early September was thought to have bred nearby.

### Mute Swan

#### Only 1 brood on the reserve, raised 2 young.

This pair with 2 white and 1 grey tiny cygnets were first seen on 11<sup>th</sup> June in drain outside Daukes Hide. They wandered widely in the drains around the reserve. The grey cygnet was last seen on its own with one parent on June 28<sup>th</sup>. After that the 2 white ones were seen regularly with both parents. Apparently white cygnets is a morph often found in domesticated or semi-domesticated swans and is known as 'Polish Swan'.

### Greylag Goose

#### At least 134 young were raised

The first young were seen on April 10<sup>th</sup>, a pair with 5 small goslings, on the Serpentine. During April & early May up to 116 goslings roamed between the Serpentine and meadows E to the Iron Rd, with a few on Snipes Marsh and the fields beside Beach Rd. No full counts were made after that.

### Egyptian Goose

#### 1 brood with 3 young

Only 1 brood was seen on the reserve, a pair with 3 tiny goslings were first seen off E Bank on the 12<sup>th</sup> June. Nest site not known. They kept close watch over their youngsters as they grew and were seen regularly until 22<sup>nd</sup> August when, almost fully grown, they moved further E, being seen by the Catchwater Drain or stubble field S of coast road, E of Walsey Hills.

### Common Shelduck

#### 13 pairs raised 59 young

#### Arnold's/Serpentine

1. Brood of 3 first seen on 14<sup>th</sup> June on Arnold's were present until 17<sup>th</sup> July. 2 large ducklings were still present on 29<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August.
2. A brood of 8 tiny ducklings first seen in the Main drain S of Arnold's on 16<sup>th</sup> June were present in that area until they fledged in early August
3. A brood of 6 medium sized ducklings were first seen on Arnold's on 20<sup>th</sup> June. At least 5 were still present and fledged in early August.
4. A pair with 5 tiny ducklings in the Main Drain S of Arnold's on 25<sup>th</sup> June must have been inexperienced parents as they only had 1 left by the 3<sup>rd</sup> July though this survived at least until late July. On 26<sup>th</sup> June one parent from brood 2 above was seen attacking 2 ducklings from this brood and almost drowning them – the parents didn't take much notice.
5. Another almost fully grown brood of 5+ was seen from 26<sup>th</sup> July on Pope's Marsh.

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## Central & North Scrapes

6. A brood of 3 small ducklings first seen on Pat's Pool on 15<sup>th</sup> June were present until fledged in early August.
7. A brood of 3 medium ducklings was first seen on North Scrape on June 19<sup>th</sup>, two of which were still present on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and may have been the two large ones seen on Pat's Pool on July 25<sup>th</sup>.
8. A brood of 9 small ducklings first seen on North Scrape on June 19<sup>th</sup> were present until July 20<sup>th</sup> when quite large.
9. An amazing brood of 27 small ducklings were first seen with two adults on North Scrape on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The ducklings were "newly arrived" onto the reserve and were all identical in size (very small) and can only have been four to five days old, way too young to be part of a crèche. The adult birds were very defensive towards any other species that came near them, and the female somehow managed to brood almost every single one of the ducklings – an incredible sight, seeing the fluffy black and white ducklings emerging from beneath her on a horrid, thundery day. 26 were still present on June 27<sup>th</sup> and again on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. As they grew they roamed further from the parents but a group of 11 stayed together until the end of July. Apparently this size of brood can occur but only from a nest where more than 1 female has laid eggs.
10. A brood of 6 tiny ducklings was seen on North Scrape from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup> but not after this.
11. Another brood of 5 tiny ducklings was also seen on North Scrape on June 30<sup>th</sup> but not again, though a group of 3 large ducklings on July 25<sup>th</sup> may have been them.
12. A brood of 8 medium ducklings was first seen on N Scrape on June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup> then in the Main Drain nr N Hide on July 7<sup>th</sup>. A group of 7 on North Scrape on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 6 on 28<sup>th</sup> were probably part of this brood.
13. A brood of 3 medium ducklings on N Scrape on July 3<sup>rd</sup> was still there on the 7<sup>th</sup> and was possibly the group of 3 large ones seen there on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Gadwall

### 12 pairs raised at least 17 young

These proved very elusive this year with no broods being followed from hatching to fledging. From sightings made we can assume at least 12 pairs bred. Only 17 large ducklings were seen but hopefully more were raised successfully out of view.

## Central Scrapes

1. Brood of 3 on Pat's on 1<sup>st</sup> June and 2 small, probably the same brood, on Simmond's on 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. Brood of 11 tiny ducklings by Daukes on June 10<sup>th</sup> with 8 present on Pat's on June 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> and 7 still small there from 28<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. A brood of 6 tiny by Daukes on June 10<sup>th</sup>
4. 3 large ducklings by Daukes on June 12<sup>th</sup>
5. 2 small ducklings in the Main Drain W of E Bank on June 17<sup>th</sup>
6. Brood of 4 tiny ducklings on Pat's on June 28<sup>th</sup> reduced to 3 on 29<sup>th</sup>, still present on July 4<sup>th</sup> but not seen again.
7. 7 large ducklings on Pat's on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
8. 7 small ducklings on North on June 30<sup>th</sup>

## E of E Bank

9. Brood of 7 small in Main Drain E of E Bank on 1<sup>st</sup> June, with 7 large seen there on 28<sup>th</sup>.
10. Brood of 12 seen in Catchwater drain nr Iron Rd on June 2<sup>nd</sup> but not seen again.
11. Brood of 8 tiny ducklings in Catchwater Drain opposite Snipe's Marsh on June 12<sup>th</sup>
12. Brood of 8 small ducklings in Catchwater Drain nr Iron Rd on July 6<sup>th</sup>

## Mallard

### At least 22 broods with at least 52 young fledging

## Central & North Scrapes

1. Female with 9 tiny ducklings in grass on Cricket Marsh nr boardwalk on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Seen again with 8 ducklings in drain N of Daukes on 25<sup>th</sup>.
2. Female with 10 tiny ducklings in front of Daukes on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. These had hatched from nest behind Daukes hide on Apr 29<sup>th</sup>. Still with 10 on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Only 9 on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Possibly same 9 seen on Pat's on May 8<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.
3. Female with 4 tiny ducklings at back of Whitwell on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

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4. A brood of 11 small ducklings were seen on Pat's Pool on May 16<sup>th</sup> with 10 there on 17<sup>th</sup>.
5. 10 tiny ducklings were seen on Keeper's Marsh nr the Catchwater Drain on May 20<sup>th</sup>.
6. Brood of 6 small (3 pale, 3 dark) on Simmond's on June 1<sup>st</sup>. One dark one went missing on 6<sup>th</sup> but remaining 5 seen regularly until 20<sup>th</sup>.
7. A brood of 2 tiny on Pat's on June 6<sup>th</sup> reducing to 1 on 16<sup>th</sup> which was present until July 6<sup>th</sup>.
8. A brood of 4 tiny on Pat's on June 6<sup>th</sup> seen until July 5<sup>th</sup>.
9. A brood of 9 large ducklings were in the Catchwater Drain nr Bishop's Hide between June 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> with 7 there on the 21<sup>st</sup>.
10. A brood of 9 small were seen on Pat's on June 8<sup>th</sup> and subsequently on all scrapes until July 8<sup>th</sup> when only 6 remained may have been these.
11. Brood of 8 medium outside Daukes on June 8<sup>th</sup> continued to be seen here until 29<sup>th</sup>.
12. A brood of 6 medium ducklings first seen in front of Daukes on June 10<sup>th</sup> were seen on and off until July 23<sup>rd</sup>.
13. A brood of 7 medium ducklings were first seen on Simmond's on 11<sup>th</sup> June, last seen when large on July 4<sup>th</sup>.
14. A brood of 8 small ducklings on Whitwell from June 11<sup>th</sup> moving to Pat's and reducing to 7 on July 2<sup>nd</sup> but not seen again.
15. 4 small ducklings in the Main Drain between E Bank and North Hide on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 3 there on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
16. A brood of 5 tiny ducklings were on Pat's on June 26<sup>th</sup>
17. A brood of 7 small ducklings on Simmond's on July 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>.
18. Other single sightings which may be parts of broods above:
  - Brood of 5 large outside Daukes on June 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 7 large outside Daukes on June 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - 6 med Pat's June 10<sup>th</sup>
  - 8 large Pool in reeds W of E Bank June 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - 9 large outside Daukes on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

### E of E Bank

19. A female with 13 tiny ducklings was on the Serpentine on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
20. 9 ducklings were seen on the meadow by Walsey Hills on May 9<sup>th</sup> and again on the Serpentine near the road on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
21. A brood of 9 tiny ducklings on Serpentine on May 20<sup>th</sup> was probably the 7 small ones on the Serpentine on June 12<sup>th</sup> and the 6 seen there on 26<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
22. 4 tiny ducklings on Arnold's on May 22<sup>nd</sup> were not seen again
23. 2 small ducklings in the Main Drain near E Bank, first seen on June 6<sup>th</sup> were still present on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.
24. Other single sightings which may be parts of broods above:
  - 4 in the Main Drain E of E Bank on June 14<sup>th</sup>
  - 2 large in the Main Drain E of E Bank on June 17<sup>th</sup>
  - 2 medium on the Serpentine on June 17<sup>th</sup>
  - 2 medium on the Serpentine on July 1<sup>st</sup>

### Garganey

A pair plus a single drake were seen regularly and 4 fully grown young have been seen on the reserve.

### Northern Shoveler

#### 10 pairs bred raising at least 26 young

1. Brood of 7 tiny on Simmond's on June 1<sup>st</sup> not seen again.
2. A brood of 11 on Pat's on June 1<sup>st</sup> reduced to 10 on 14<sup>th</sup>. These were then present until 28<sup>th</sup> after which they dispersed with 6 seen together after that
3. A brood of 4 tiny on Pat's on June 6<sup>th</sup> were present until July 3<sup>rd</sup>
4. A brood of 4 small/medium ducklings was outside Daukes from 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June, then again in front of Bishop's Hide on June 30<sup>th</sup>
5. A brood of 6 tiny ducklings was outside Daukes on June 11<sup>th</sup>
6. 6 tiny ducklings were in the Catchwater Drain opposite Watcher's Cottage on June 12<sup>th</sup>
7. 8 large ducklings were outside Daukes on June 20<sup>th</sup>
8. 2 small ducklings were on Pat's on June 26<sup>th</sup>
9. A brood of 5 tiny ducklings was on Pat's on June 27<sup>th</sup> with 4 still on June 29<sup>th</sup> & July 2<sup>nd</sup>
10. 4 small ducklings were in drain beside E Bank on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## Pochard

A female and 7 small ducklings was seen in the drain in front of Daukes Hide on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> May but not seen again. This appears to be the first breeding record for reserve.

## Tufted Duck

### 2 Pairs raised 9 young

1. A female with 3 small ducklings was in the Catchwater Drain between Bishop's Hide and the Visitor Centre from 10<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> July then probably seen again on August 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. A female successfully raised 6 young, being first seen in the Catchwater Drain nr Bishop's on 18<sup>th</sup> July and was still present with them until at least the end of August.

## Ruddy Duck

### 2 pairs raised 4+ young

1. A single large duckling was seen in the Catchwater Drain opposite Snipe's Marsh on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> July
2. A female with a brood of 6 tiny ducklings was in the drain in front of Daukes Hide on July 17<sup>th</sup>. The brood had reduced to 5 by 22<sup>nd</sup> and 4 by the 31<sup>st</sup>. She was still there with the 4 ducklings until 7<sup>th</sup> August but after that only 1 to 3 ducklings were seen without a parent.

## Marsh Harrier

### 4 pairs, 10 young

1. Nest in reeds between Keeper's & Cricket Marsh. This was a greyish female and bright male. From late June this female could be identified by a large gap in wing and tail (tatty-wing). 2 or 3 young seen on 10<sup>th</sup> July. 1 juvenile was being fed on 1st August. 4 juveniles flying from this nest and being fed by 'Tatty-wing' and a male throughout August.
2. Nest in reeds between Pat's & Simmond's Scrapes. Female has bright white head & shoulders. Bright male with 1 missing tail feather. 3 young seen flying from 22 June. Probably 4 young fledged – not seen after 23 July.
3. A pair were nest building in reeds S of Bittern Pool. Dull (young?) male. No young seen.
4. Pair between Pope's Meadow and Iron Rd. Dull (young?) male. 1 juvenile seen from July 2<sup>nd</sup>, with 2 flying by 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Kestrel

Although 1 or 2 pairs were seen regularly around the reserve, they did not breed there.

## Grey Partridge

A pair were seen regularly April to July in Eye Field but no proof of breeding.

## Water Rail

1. Bird was heard calling off E Bank many times during the breeding season and an adult bird was seen sat up in reeds beside E bank on 22<sup>nd</sup> June behaving as if it had young.
2. Fully grown juveniles were seen on N Scrape on 30<sup>th</sup> July

## Common Moorhen

### At least 12 pairs raised 15 young

#### Central & North Scrapes

1. Pair first seen with 4 tiny chicks in front of Bishop's Hide on May 28<sup>th</sup>. One was lost by June 6<sup>th</sup> but the remaining 3 were looked after well and fledged in mid July. The same pair hatched a second brood of 3 on 15<sup>th</sup> August but lost one by the 22<sup>nd</sup> – these tiny chicks were still present at the end of August, but only 1 remained on 1<sup>st</sup> September and this was still growing well at the end of September.
2. Another large chick was present on Pat's from early July.
3. A pair with 2 small chicks were seen in front of Daukes Hide from July 22<sup>nd</sup> until August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Same 2 now large seen there on 5<sup>th</sup>.
4. An adult with 1 tiny chick was first seen in the Catchwater Drain near Bishop's Hide on July 29<sup>th</sup> and was still present at the end of August.

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5. 1 tiny chick in the Main Drain W of E Bank on June 22<sup>nd</sup> was probably the large chick on North Scrape from July 22<sup>nd</sup>, still present at the end of August.
6. 2 small chicks were seen on N Scrape from July 23<sup>rd</sup> with 1 still present on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

## E of E Bank

7. A single medium sized chick was on the pond at the N end of the Serpentine from 29<sup>th</sup> June till at least 7<sup>th</sup> July.
8. 2 large chicks were seen on the N Serpentine from 2<sup>nd</sup> July until they fledged in early August.
9. 2 medium chicks on N Serpentine on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> July.
10. 4 tiny chicks in Catchwater Drain near Iron Rd on July 10<sup>th</sup> were not seen again.

## Beach Rd

11. An adult with 1 medium chick on Keeper's Marsh on June 27<sup>th</sup> was not seen again but not looked for.
12. Another pair were seen on the fields off Beach Rd which raised 2 young.

## Coot

### At least 30 pairs raised 24+ young

## Scrapes

1. A bird was sitting on nest beside drain between Pat's & Simmond's on Apr 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. It was not present 28<sup>th</sup>, but probably the same pair were nest building in reeds between Daukes & Teal Hides on May 1, then sitting on nest on May 10. These were probably the pair seen with 1 chick outside Daukes on June 12<sup>th</sup> which continued to be seen there and on Whitwell until mid-July.
2. Adult with 2 juveniles outside Bishop's Hide on 1<sup>st</sup> June, reduced to 1 on June 19<sup>th</sup> which continued to be seen until fledging at the end of July.
3. Adult with 3 juveniles outside Bishop's Hide on 1<sup>st</sup> June, reduced to 2 on June 19<sup>th</sup> which continued to be seen until fledging at the end of July.
4. A brood of 3 first seen on Simmond's on June 2<sup>nd</sup> then again on 6<sup>th</sup> with 2 there from 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.
5. A single tiny chick seen on Richardson's scrape on June 7<sup>th</sup> was seen again on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.
6. 1 large juvenile was present at the N side of Pat's Pool from June 8<sup>th</sup> till at least the end of July, when fledged.
7. A brood of 3 large juveniles were on Pat's pool from June 25<sup>th</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup>.
8. A single large juvenile was also on Pat's regularly from June 27<sup>th</sup> till the end of July.
9. Another single large juvenile was also on Pat's regularly from June 30<sup>th</sup> till the end of July.
10. Pair with nest at back of bay at NE side of N scrape on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
11. A single small chick seen on North Scrape on June 8<sup>th</sup> remained there until at least the beginning of August, when fully grown.
12. 2 small chicks also first seen on North Scrape on June 8<sup>th</sup> remained there until fully grown at the end of July.

## E Bank & Main Drain

13. Bird sitting on nest W of E Bank midway between car park & bridge to Bittern Hide on Apr 24, still May 3. Couldn't see it after this as reeds had grown up.
14. An adult with 1 small chick was on the pool to the W of E Bank just S of the Main Drain from June 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. After that it was seen in the Main Drain and on the Brackish Pools until mid-July.
15. 2 large juveniles were with parents on the pool to the W of E Bank just S of the Main Drain from June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup>, with a single seen on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
16. A brood of 3 were in the Main Drain W of E Bank on June 17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> with 2 there on 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.

## Snipe's Marsh

17. Pair with nest on Snipe's on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Seen with 2 tiny chicks on 28<sup>th</sup> April still May 9<sup>th</sup>. 2 large were seen here on June 2<sup>nd</sup> but only 1 could be found on the 6<sup>th</sup>, this remained until at least the end of July.
18. Another pair raised 1 chick on Snipe's Marsh, being seen in early July.
19. Another tiny chick was seen on Snipe's Marsh on July 1<sup>st</sup> but not seen again.
20. An adult was seen with 2 tiny chicks on Snipe's Marsh on July 19<sup>th</sup> but not again.

## Catchwater Drain

21. Pair with 4 tiny juveniles in Catchwater Drain E of bridge to Bishop's Hide on May 9<sup>th</sup> were seen in the area until June 22<sup>nd</sup>. 3 large juveniles seen there on July 6<sup>th</sup> were probably part of this brood.

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22. 1 medium/large chick was in the Catchwater Drain between Bishop's Hide and E Bank from June 6<sup>th</sup> until late July.
23. 1 small chick first seen in the Catchwater Drain between Bishop's Hide and the Visitor Centre on June 8<sup>th</sup> was present until mid July.
24. 3 large juveniles were in the Catchwater Drain W of E Bank on June 8<sup>th</sup>, but not seen again.
25. A brood of 2 was seen in the Catchwater Drain from June 14<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
26. 2 medium chicks first seen in the Catchwater Drain W of E Bank on June 20<sup>th</sup> then again July 2<sup>nd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, with a single on the 16<sup>th</sup>.
27. A single tiny chick was being fed in the Catchwater Drain nr Bishop's Hide on July 19<sup>th</sup> and was still present in late August.
28. A brood of 2 seen in the Catchwater Drain nr the bridge opposite Watcher's Cottage was first seen on June 12<sup>th</sup> with 1 or 2 being seen until the 25<sup>th</sup>. After this the growth of the reeds meant they would easily be hidden.

### Beach Rd

29. 2 pairs were seen in fields off Beach Rd but only 1 youngster.

**Note:** A Heron was seen eating a Coot chick in the field north of the Catchwater drain, opposite the Visitor Centre on May 10<sup>th</sup>

## Oystercatcher

### 4 pairs nested, 2 pairs raised 3-4 young

1. 29 Apr – A bird was sitting at back of Serpentine from April 29<sup>th</sup> till at least May 9<sup>th</sup>. No young seen.
2. A bird was sitting on Bulls Marsh off Beach Rd on April 29<sup>th</sup>. It was still there on May 4<sup>th</sup> but no young were raised.
3. Bird was seen sitting by Sea Pool. Pair seen with 3 young there on 14 June and still present July 6<sup>th</sup>. 2 fledged birds seen there with parents from August 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. Another pair with 2 young were seen at E end of Arnold's on 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> July with 1 there on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Up to 3 fledged birds seen during August.

## Avocet

### A minimum of 86 pairs raised 18 young.

### Early breeders

During April and early May there were up to 75 birds sitting on Pat's Pool, 5 on Simmond's Scrape and 6 on the Serpentine. There were none on North Scrape. The following were the earliest:

1. Bird was seen sitting on 3 eggs at W end of island (1) nearest to Bishop's hide on 17<sup>th</sup> April. She hatched 4 chicks on Apr 29<sup>th</sup> and moved them to SW corner of Pat's Pool by May 1<sup>st</sup>. All 4 were still present there on May 5<sup>th</sup>, but only 1 on 6<sup>th</sup> and none after that. We only ever saw 1 parent with the chicks.
2. 18 Apr – bird sitting on S end of west-most island (2) on Pat's, 2 eggs seen, possibly more. Still sitting May 8<sup>th</sup>. 3 chicks on May 12<sup>th</sup> were possibly from this nest.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of May most chicks that hatched were predated by a Grey Heron and only 7 chicks remained on the central scrapes when we returned from holiday at the beginning of June, but these all survived to fledging.

During early June there were at least 5 birds sitting on the Serpentine and 5 on Pat's Pool. It is presumed these were birds relaying having lost their first clutch.

From these late breeders 6 chicks (from 3 pairs) progressed to fledging on the Serpentine and 4 fledged from 5 broods of 10 chicks on the central scrapes. Additionally a small chick first seen on N Scrape on July 29<sup>th</sup> fledged at the end of August.

More fledged juveniles were seen on the reserve in late June /early July but this coincided with a large increase in the number of adult Avocets so it is assumed these were raised elsewhere.

## Lapwing

**26 nests in the area hatching many young but only 4 chicks were seen to progress to fledging either because of predation or due to their parents taking them to cover.**

### Serpentine

1. Bird sitting on fields off E Bank just N of 1st small channel on 29<sup>th</sup> March was still sitting April 26<sup>th</sup>. With 1 tiny chick on 28<sup>th</sup>, 2 on 29<sup>th</sup>, then 1 or 2 until May 8<sup>th</sup> and 1 on 9<sup>th</sup>.
2. A 2<sup>nd</sup> bird was sitting on fields off E Bank on April 10<sup>th</sup> until 25<sup>th</sup>. Had 4 tiny chicks on 26<sup>th</sup>, 3 on 27<sup>th</sup> until May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2 on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Not seen since.
3. Another bird sitting on fields off E Bank on 13<sup>th</sup> April was still sitting on April 30<sup>th</sup>. With 4 chicks on May 1<sup>st</sup> until 3<sup>rd</sup>, but only 3 seen on 4<sup>th</sup> in bad weather. None seen on 5<sup>th</sup> but 3 on 6<sup>th</sup> may have been these. None seen since.
4. A bird sitting on southern area of cut reeds W of E Bank on April 15<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. Not seen since.
5. A bird was sitting in the loop of the Serpentine from April 22<sup>nd</sup> until May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Probably seen with 3 small chicks on 25<sup>th</sup>.
6. A brood of 3 were seen on Serpentine near cattle feeding frame on May 1<sup>st</sup> with 4 seen there on 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were still 3 there on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2 on 4<sup>th</sup> in bad weather and 2 on 5<sup>th</sup>. Not seen since.
7. A bird sitting between Serpentine & Popes Meadow on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> was then seen with 3 small chicks on 20<sup>th</sup>.
8. 2 small chicks at back of Serpentine were seen on & off from May 6<sup>th</sup> until June 1<sup>st</sup>
9. 2 medium chicks, first seen on N Serpentine pool on June 18<sup>th</sup>, were there until 29<sup>th</sup> when fully grown, with 1 again on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, but not seen again.
10. Another tiny chick was on N Serpentine nr Main Drain on June 18<sup>th</sup> and was still there on July 4<sup>th</sup> but not seen again.
11. 1 small chick was seen at the S end of Pope's Meadow (nr road) from July 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, but not seen again.

### Fields beside Beach Rd

7 birds were seen sitting on several dates in April/early May. There was a maximum of 4 displaying suggesting that some males had more than one female (which is normal). The following are details of 5 of these.

12. A bird sitting on Cricket Marsh off Beach Rd in middle of field, viewed from gate on Beach Rd. from April 14<sup>th</sup>. 2 tiny chicks were there from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 4<sup>th</sup>. 1 was seen on 8<sup>th</sup> in strong wind.
13. A bird was sitting at N end of Bull Marsh, in field behind small pool, viewed from Beach Rd. from April 14<sup>th</sup>. 4 tiny chicks were there on April 29<sup>th</sup> but not seen on May 4<sup>th</sup> in bad weather. 3 at back of Bull Marsh on 8<sup>th</sup> in strong wind could have been these.
14. Another brood of 4 tiny chicks were on Bull Marsh on April 29<sup>th</sup>. They were not seen on May 4<sup>th</sup> in bad weather but 1 was seen on 8<sup>th</sup> in strong wind.
15. Another single chick was seen on S end of Bull Marsh on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
16. A bird was sitting on Cricket Marsh nr boardwalk from Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> until at least May 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Central Scrapes

17. A bird sitting in cut reeds in front of Daukes Hide on May 2<sup>nd</sup> had apparently been there for a while. Still sitting on May 17<sup>th</sup>. 3 chicks seen on Simmond's Scrape on June 1<sup>st</sup> were probably from this nest as were the 1-2 large juveniles seen between 13<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June.
18. A bird was sitting on a nest on the bank between central hides and Pat's Pool on 17<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May.
19. 2 medium chicks were first seen on Simmond's on May 17<sup>th</sup>. 1 large juvenile was seen there regularly between June 14<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

### E Meadows (Salhouse, between Pope's Meadow and Iron Rd.)

20. A brood of 4 in field W of Iron Rd. on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, with 3 on 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>.
21. A brood of 2 was seen in field opposite Walsey Hills on May 6<sup>th</sup>. 1 still there on 10<sup>th</sup>.
22. Another brood of 2 were in field opposite Walsey Hills on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
23. A bird was sitting in the field opposite Walsey Hills on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
24. 1 tiny chick was seen in field beside Iron Rd from July 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.

## Common Ringed Plover

Pairs were defending territory on Pat's Pool and Arnold's during April but no nest or eggs.



## Common Redshank

**At least 8 pairs bred raising 10 young.**

Although, according to BWP, Redshank stay with their parents until after they've fledged they tend to roam widely and it is very difficult to assign them to families. No nests or sitting birds were seen. The first chicks seen were 2 broods on the Serpentine on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Central Scrapes

- At least 4 families were seen but none at the very small chick stage. A maximum of 9 chicks were seen of which at least 4 fledged.

### Serpentine

- Two broods of 4 and 2 chicks were first seen on the Serpentine on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 2 continued to be seen there until they fledged in late June.
- A brood of 4 tiny chicks, first seen on June 26<sup>th</sup>, reduced to 3 on July 1<sup>st</sup> which were still present on 17<sup>th</sup>. Only a single bird, which fledged in late July, was seen after this but the others may have dispersed.
- A single tiny chick, first seen on June 26<sup>th</sup> was joined by another on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This reduced to 1 again by July 7<sup>th</sup> and this one remained to fledge in late July.

### Other

- 4 juveniles on Sea Pool on June 26<sup>th</sup> and 5 on Arnold's on July 2<sup>nd</sup> may have been fledged birds from elsewhere.

## Snipe

Drumming display was seen over Cricket Marsh 7.30pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> May and also on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Black-headed Gull

**Many pairs breeding but only 16 young fledged.**

- Many birds were sitting on nests on Serpentine and Pope's Meadow area during May. Up to 4 recently fledged birds seen on Arnold's in early July may have been from these.
- There were at least 4 nests on the Brackish Pools during May, but no young seen.
- 4 pairs with nests on the stony island on Arnold's hatched at least 9 chicks, the earliest being seen on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Most only lasted a day or so and the final 2 were probably lost when the water level rose following heavy rain and high tides in early July and submerged the island. One of these was seen swimming to safety but wasn't seen again..
- At least 4 nests on the reedy islands of N Scrape raised at least 9 young to fledging.
- 3 large/fledged juveniles were on Sea Pool in late June
- 1 bird was sitting on Pat's Pool on June 1<sup>st</sup> but no young seen.

## Common Tern

**3 pairs, no young**

- A pair appeared to build a nest and defend territory on Pat's Pool in early June, but they did not sit and it didn't come to anything
- Nesting attempts on the island in Arnold's were washed away in the high water of early July. 3 nests present on June 27<sup>th</sup> were washed away on July 5<sup>th</sup>, and another nest later in the month was lost when the island was submerged again on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Sky Lark

1 pair were on Serpentine, but it's not known if they bred.  
Several pairs were seen near the Iron Road and by Beach Rd.

## Swallow

4 pairs probably bred in the buildings around Beach Car Park, most having 3 broods.

## Pied Wagtail

There is no definite evidence of breeding on the reserve but there were a large number of young around in late summer. We must assume these bred nearby but don't know where.

# Cley Breeding 2005

by Pat & David Wileman

## Meadow Pipit

A maximum of 6 pairs bred in the fields off Beach Rd (including Eye Field) and probably a further 5 pairs between E Bank and Iron Rd.

## Cetti's Warbler

A pair bred between Snipe's Marsh and Walsey Hills, 1 juvenile was seen.

## Sedge Warbler

Many were singing on the reserve in April and early May with up to 7 in vegetation each side of Beach Rd. Young were seen from late June near the boardwalk, around Daukes Hide and along E Bank.

## Reed Warbler

Up to 8 birds were singing regularly in reeds either side of Beach Rd and 5 were heard along the boardwalk to the central hides, a further 4 or 5 were singing beside E Bank. Young were seen near Daukes Hide and 4 juveniles were seen beside Snipe's Marsh.

## Bearded Tit

Our coverage of the reedbed was limited but the following were noted:

1. 1-2 pairs were present along West Bank/Beach Rd in April/early May, but no young were seen.
2. A family party of 5 were in front of Daukes on 18<sup>th</sup> June.
3. A family party of 6 were beside E Bank on 18<sup>th</sup> June.
4. Another family party of 4 were also by E bank on 18<sup>th</sup> June.
5. A family party was outside Daukes on 27<sup>th</sup> July.
6. A family party of 6+ was in reeds beside N Scrape on 27<sup>th</sup> July.

## Reed Bunting

At least 1 pair on E Bank with 3 or 4 young.  
Possibly 3 pairs along Beach Rd.

## Jay

1 pair bred in N Foreland Wood raising 2 young.

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