

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### Introduction

This document is based on sightings made during our visits to the NWT reserve and areas between E Bank and Iron Road during Spring and Summer 2006. It also includes sightings that have been passed to us by other local observers. We were away for the most 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

This first table lists birds which bred, or tried to, in our area this year with counts where known.

Species	Pairs breeding	Total young fledged	Earliest chicks seen	Notes
Little Grebe	2	3+	5 <sup>th</sup> July	
Grey Heron	1+	3+		In N Foreland Wood
Bittern	0			
Mute Swan	2	2	18 <sup>th</sup> June	
Greylag	100+	134+	18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	
Egyptian Goose	0			
Shelduck	8	50	7 <sup>th</sup> June	
Gadwall	11	28	26 <sup>th</sup> May	
Mallard	23	32	28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	
Pintail	1	?	27 <sup>th</sup> July	6+ young
Garganey	?			
Shoveler	7	17	27 <sup>th</sup> May	
Pochard	1	3	24 <sup>th</sup> May	7 ducklings seen
Tufted Duck	1	3?	17 <sup>th</sup> July	
Ruddy Duck	0			
Marsh Harrier	5	14	6 <sup>th</sup> July	
Sparrowhawk	1?	?		N Foreland Wood
Water Rail	1+	1+	29 <sup>th</sup> July	
Moorhen	8	10+	26 <sup>th</sup> May	
Coot	12	15+	26 <sup>th</sup> May	
Oystercatcher	10+	0	15 <sup>th</sup> June	4 chicks seen
Avocet	c.100	5	20 <sup>th</sup> May	
Lapwing	33	13	4 <sup>th</sup> May	
Ringed Plover	4	8	9 <sup>th</sup> June	
Redshank	25	24+	27 <sup>th</sup> May	
Black-headed Gull	144+	54??	28 <sup>th</sup> May	
Common Tern	2	4		
Sky Lark	?			
Swallow	?			
Pied Wagtail	?			A lot of young around
Meadow Pipit	?			
Cetti's Warbler	5?	?		
Sedge Warbler	29?	?		
Reed Warbler	7+?			
Bearded Tit	?			Many family parties seen in Autumn
Tree Sparrow	1	7+		3 broods on Hilltop
Reed Bunting	5?	4+		

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

The Avocets had another bad year with major predation by a Grey Heron and later by Kestrels and Black-backed Gulls resulting in only 5 young fledging. Coot and Moorhen numbers were down but this may have been lack of sightings due to greater reed cover in some drains.

Conversely, Redshanks had a very good year with at least 24 young being fledged and, following last years first breeding record, Common Pochard bred again this year raising 3 young. A brood of Pintail was also a nice surprise but we don't know whether the young survived. Another two species which did well were Common Terns with two pairs raising 2 young each on Arnold's Marsh and two pairs of Ringed Plovers which raised 4 young each on the Serpentine.

The following table shows comparisons with the previous years for all species.

Species	Pairs breeding			Young fledged		
	2006	2005	2004	2006	2005	2004
Little Grebe	2	3		3+	4-5	5
Grey Heron	1+	1		3+		
Bittern	0	0	0			
Mute Swan	2	1	0	2	2	
Greylag	100+	?	?	134+	134+	56
Egyptian Goose	0	1	0		3	
Shelduck	8	13	6	50	59	26
Gadwall	11	12	6	28	17	18-26
Mallard	23	22	17	32	52	55
Pintail	1	0	0	0-6		
Garganey	0?	1	0	0??	4	
Shoveler	7	10	7	17	26	20-25
Pochard	1	1	0	3	?	
Tufted Duck	1	2	10	3?	9	16
Ruddy Duck	0	2	2		4+	3
Marsh Harrier	5	4	4	14	10	10
Water Rail	1+	1?		1+	1+	
Moorhen	8	12	10	10+	15	5
Coot	12	30	7	15+	24	15
Oystercatcher	10?	4	8	0	3-4	2
Avocet	98?	86	102	5	18	40
Lapwing	33	26	11	13	4	3
Ringed Plover	4	0	1	8	0	2
Redshank	25	8	10?	24+	10	6+
Black-headed Gull	144+	Many		54?	16	
Common Tern	2	3	0	4	0	

## Species Details

### Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

*At least 2 pairs bred with 1 at least having 2 broods, 3+ fledged*

1. 1 small chick was seen in the Catchwater Drain nr the boardwalk on 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> July.
2. Adult (probably parent from above) sitting on nest in the Catchwater Drain nr the boardwalk from 6<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August at least. 1 small chick seen on nest on August 18<sup>th</sup> and 2 seen swimming with parent on 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>. The chicks were heard calling again in early September but haven't been seen since.
3. 1 large chick seen on Snipes Marsh on August 19<sup>th</sup> with 2 there on 25<sup>th</sup> and 3 on 27<sup>th</sup>. *3 fledged*

### Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

These breed in N Foreland Wood. We don't know how many nests there were but do know that the parents were feeding young (on Avocet chicks!) during May. An adult was seen with 3 young on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

### Great Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)

*No breeding this year.*

1 bird was seen occasionally until the end of June with 2 flying together on May 16<sup>th</sup>. One was heard booming early on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and was reported on a few occasions during June.

### Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)

*2 pairs nested but young only seen with 1 pair, only 2 cygnets present late autumn.*

2 nests were seen on the reserve by Bernard Bishop, 1 N of Simmond's & 1 nr track in by Bishop's hide. A pair and 5 small cygnets were seen crossing the boardwalk nr Watcher's Cottage on 18<sup>th</sup> June. Later a cygnet was seen in a hole near the boardwalk, Bernard was called & after taming the adult with a bit of carpet extracted 5 cygnets from the hole, then filled the hole in.

A pair (same?) were seen outside Daukes with only 4 cygnets on the 20<sup>th</sup> and then with only 3 there on July 6<sup>th</sup>. A pair with 3 small cygnets were in the Catchwater Drain nr Bishop's Hide on July 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Were these the same - they appeared to be smaller?

A pair and 2 small/medium cygnets were seen in the Catchwater Drain on July 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> (same again?).

During August a pair were seen on a few occasions with 2 medium sized and growing cygnets on the E and N sides of the reserve.

As only 1 brood has ever been seen at a time, it seems likely that all sightings refer to one brood of 5 young of which only 2 survived in late Autumn.

### Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

*Breeding, numbers unknown but >134 young fledged*

These were pairing up from early March when there were around 100 pairs in the area. The first nests were seen beside E Bank when the weather warmed up w/c 26 March. The first goslings were seen on April 18<sup>th</sup> with a brood of 5 on the Serpentine & 6 on Snipes. Gosling numbers soon increased with 80 present at the end of April. The final number of goslings is not known but 134 were counted on June 12<sup>th</sup> from Serpentine & meadows E of E Bank and there were probably more beside Beach Rd.

**Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiacus*)** None bred this year

### Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

*A total of 8 pairs raised 50 ducklings to fledging*

Scrapes: *4 pairs raised 32 ducklings to fledging*

- |   | fledged |
|---|---------|
| 1. A pair with 10 tiny ducklings were seen on Pat's on June 7 <sup>th</sup> . This had reduced to 9 by the 9 <sup>th</sup> . These were seen regularly until 2 <sup>nd</sup> July. Only 7 were with the parents on 4 <sup>th</sup> and these stayed with the parents on Pat's Pool until at least the end of July when the young had fledged.   | 7       |
| 2. A pair with 9 tiny ducklings were first seen on N scrape on June 9 <sup>th</sup> . Reduced to 8 on 13 <sup>th</sup> & 6 on 16 <sup>th</sup> (they weren't seen on 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> ). The parents and the 6 ducklings stayed on N Scrape until the 21 <sup>st</sup> and were then seen on Pat's Pool on 24 <sup>th</sup> when North had dried out, they then continued to be seen there as a family party until mid July when they had fledged. | 6       |

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### Common Shelduck continued

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 3. | Another pair with 9 small ducklings appeared on N Scrape on June 11 <sup>th</sup> . This brood increased to 10 on 13 <sup>th</sup> & 12 on 14 <sup>th</sup> . The family (now 12) stayed on North Scrape until 21 <sup>st</sup> . They were then seen on Pat's Pool on the 23 <sup>rd</sup> but now only 11 ducklings. The parents with the 11 ducklings were seen daily on Pat's until 19 <sup>th</sup> July when they had fledged. | 11 |
| 4. | A single large duckling was seen on Pat's Pool on several occasions from 7 <sup>th</sup> July, could this have been the duckling lost from pair 3 on their move to Pat's.  | 1  |
| 5. | Another brood of 7 medium/large ducklings appeared on Pat's Pool on July 14 <sup>th</sup> where they were seen regularly until the 22 <sup>nd</sup> .  | 7  |

Note: It appears that 3 ducklings from brood 2 joined brood 3 from 16<sup>th</sup> June then stayed with their new family until fledging. This looked more like 'adoption' than a 'crèche'.

### Arnold's/Serpentine: 4 pairs raised 18 ducklings to fledging

- |    |  |              |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1. | A pair with 5 small ducklings were seen in the Main Drain behind Arnold's on 19 <sup>th</sup> June. Only 3 were present on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> then these continued to be seen in the area until mid August.  | fledged<br>3 |
| 2. | Two broods of 8 & 7 small ducklings were seen on the drain that runs N/S to the east of Sea Pool on June 18 <sup>th</sup> . Two broods of 8 and 5 small ducklings (presumed same) were then on Sea Pool on June 24 <sup>th</sup> . By the 30 <sup>th</sup> these appeared to have formed a crèche with one pair of adults & 12 ducklings. A brood of up to 12 young seen regularly in the Main Drain between Arnold's and Sea Pool during July is also presumed to be these. | 12           |
| 3. | A pair with 4 small ducklings first seen on Arnold's on 9 <sup>th</sup> July and were then seen regularly until 25 <sup>th</sup> . After that a maximum of 3 were seen but 1 could have been missed as they were usually seen in grass at the back of Arnold's. 3 still present 18 <sup>th</sup> August.   | 3            |

### **Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)**

*At least 11 broods, 28 fledged*

- |    |   |              |
|----|---|--------------|
| 1. | A brood of 9 small ducklings were first seen on Simmond's on 26 <sup>th</sup> May, but not seen again.  | fledged<br>0 |
| 2. | 4 tiny ducklings were seen on Pat's Pool on 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> May with 3 there on the 31 <sup>st</sup> but not seen again.  | 0            |
| 3. | A brood of 4 small ducklings were seen on Pat's Pool on 21 <sup>st</sup> June. The brood reduced to 3 by the 25 <sup>th</sup> and these continued to be seen regularly until early August when full sized. <i>Broods of 8 or 9 on 17<sup>th</sup> June (SJMG photo) and 6 on Whitwell on 18<sup>th</sup> may have been these.</i> | 3            |
| 4. | A brood of 9 tiny ducklings were first seen on Pat's Pool on 25 <sup>th</sup> June. The brood reduced to 8 on the 5 <sup>th</sup> July and 6 on 13 <sup>th</sup> July. These 6 continued to be seen regularly until early August when full sized.   | 6            |
| 5. | Another brood of 9 tiny ducklings were first seen on Pat's Pool on 2 <sup>nd</sup> July. The brood reduced to 8 on the 5 <sup>th</sup> July. These 8 continued to be seen regularly until early August when full sized.   | 8            |
| 6. | Another brood of 9 small ducklings were first seen on Pat's Pool on 2 <sup>nd</sup> July. The brood reduced to 8 on the 11 <sup>th</sup> July. These 8 continued to be seen regularly until 20 <sup>th</sup> July when still dependant and not fully grown but were not seen again.   | 8            |
| 7. | A further brood of 3 medium sized ducklings were seen on & off in the Main Drain between E Bank and N Hide between 15 <sup>th</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> July   | 3            |

Single sightings: The following broods cannot be associated with any of the above but as the ducklings were mainly small and not seen again it is assumed they did not survive.

- 2 small in Catchwater Drain E of East Bank 25<sup>th</sup> June
- 2 med on Pat's on 6<sup>th</sup> July
- 4 med on Pat's on 8<sup>th</sup> July
- 5 small in Catchwater Drain E of East Bank 20<sup>th</sup> July

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### **Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)**

*A total of 23 pairs bred raising at least 32 young to fledging*

Main scrapes: *16 pairs bred, at least 27 young fledged*

- |  | fledged |
|--|---------|
| 1. A brood of 10 small ducklings were seen on 28 <sup>th</sup> April in front of Daukes hide.<br>1a) A brood of 9 medium ducklings seen on the central scrapes on 26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> May were possibly the same brood. The 9 reduced to 7 on June 1 <sup>st</sup> and were still present on 6 <sup>th</sup> . 6 medium/large seen on Whitwell on June 19 <sup>th</sup> and then regularly on the central scrapes until 15 <sup>th</sup> July were probably also this brood. | 6       |
| 2. A brood of 13 small were first seen on Pat's Pool on 28 <sup>th</sup> May and were still present on 31 <sup>st</sup> . The brood reduced to 12 on 1 <sup>st</sup> June then continued to be seen regularly until 21 <sup>st</sup> June when fully grown. 10 seen together on 25 <sup>th</sup> June were probably part of this brood as may have been 2 large ducklings alone on the 26 <sup>th</sup> June and 11 large with an adult on 22 <sup>nd</sup> July.                            | 12      |
| 3. A brood of 3 tiny ducklings first seen on Pat's Pool on June 1 <sup>st</sup> were probably the same as 3 medium seen from June 17 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> .  | unknown |
| 4. A brood of 7 tiny ducklings seen on North on June 1 <sup>st</sup> reduced to 6 on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 5 on the 5 <sup>th</sup> . These were then seen on North, Simmond's & Pat's on & off until July 4 <sup>th</sup> when there were only 4 these then continued to grow and were seen regularly until July 14 <sup>th</sup> .   | 4       |
| 5. A brood of 2 small ducklings were seen on Pat's Pool on June 3 <sup>rd</sup> . A single medium duckling seen in front of Daukes on June 14 <sup>th</sup> probably remained from this brood and was seen again regularly from June 26 <sup>th</sup> – July 7 <sup>th</sup> .   | 1       |
| 6. A brood of 4 small ducklings first seen on North on June 5 <sup>th</sup> continued to be seen on North and later Pat's until July 7 <sup>th</sup> .   | 4       |
| 7. A brood of 8 tiny ducklings were seen in the drain in front of Daukes hide on June 11 <sup>th</sup> and again on the 14 <sup>th</sup> . They were then seen on North on 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> but not again after that.   | unknown |
| 8. A brood of 2 small ducklings seen on Pat's on June 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> was also seen on 27 <sup>th</sup> but not again.   | unknown |
| 9. 9 tiny ducklings, egged on by the call of their mother, jumped/fell off the roof of Bishop's Hide early morning on June 30 <sup>th</sup> . All survived and soon bobbed off behind mother. They were all still present on Pat's on July 1 <sup>st</sup> till the 3 <sup>rd</sup> . On 4 <sup>th</sup> only 7 were present and only 6 on the 5 <sup>th</sup> . These were still present on the 7 <sup>th</sup> but weren't seen again.   | unknown |

Single sightings: The following which cannot currently be associated with any of the above, are assumed to be additional broods, but as only seen with small ducklings probably did not survive.

4 small on Simmond's on May 26<sup>th</sup>

7 small on Pat's on June 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>.

7 small on North on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

6 small on the pool on Cricket Marsh (behind Whitwell) on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

5 tiny in drain in front of Daukes hide on June 19<sup>th</sup>

3 tiny on Pat's on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

1 small in drain in front of Daukes on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

East of reserve: *At least 6 pairs bred, at least 5 fledged*

The network of drains between E Bank and Iron Rd are not easily visible and the fact that these areas were visited less means the following broods were not tracked.

1. A brood of 8 small were seen on the Serpentine on May 27<sup>th</sup> but not again.
2. A brood of 2 large ducklings were in the drains opposite Walsey Hills on June 6<sup>th</sup>. *Assume 2 fledged.*
3. A brood of 9 medium ducklings were in the Main Drain nr Iron Rd on June 7<sup>th</sup>.
4. A single duckling on the Serpentine on June 12<sup>th</sup>.
5. A brood of 2 medium ducklings were in the Main Drain between E Bank and North Hide on June 14<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, the E of E bank on the 24<sup>th</sup> and then on the Serpentine on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.
6. A brood of 13 small ducklings were in the Main Drain near Arnold's on June 14<sup>th</sup> but not seen again.
7. 3 large ducklings on the Pope's shooting pool behind Sea Pool on July 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> may have been from one of the above broods. *Assume 3 fledged*

### **Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)**

*1 pair bred hatching 6+ young, success to fledging unknown*

After the winter birds had left 1 or 2 pairs were seen regularly until mid April and a single male was present on May 1<sup>st</sup>. A female with 6 small ducklings was seen from Daukes Hide on the evening of July 27<sup>th</sup> but not again.

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### **Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)**

*No evidence of breeding*

A drake was seen regularly on the central scrapes from March 28<sup>th</sup> and a female was only seen twice on May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup>. On the evening of August 7<sup>th</sup> a party of 10 including 7 fledged juveniles was seen from Daukes Hide but there is no evidence to point to these having bred locally.

### **Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)**

*6 or 7 pairs bred raising 17 young to fledging*

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. A brood of 5 small ducklings were seen in the Catchwater Drain opposite Watcher's Cottage on May 27 <sup>th</sup> but not again.   | fledged<br>unknown |
| 2. A brood of 6 were first seen on Simmond's on May 28 <sup>th</sup> , then regularly on Simmond's & Pat's from June 14 <sup>th</sup> to July 22 <sup>nd</sup> when fully grown.  | 6                  |
| 3. A brood of 9 tiny ducklings were seen in the drain in front of Bishop's Hide on June 4 <sup>th</sup> .<br>2a. A brood of 8 small on Whitwell from June 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> may have been the same. This brood lost one on the 29 <sup>th</sup> but the 7 were seen daily until July 3 <sup>rd</sup> but not again. | unknown            |
| 4. A brood of 4 were seen at the back of North Scrape on June 4 <sup>th</sup> with 3 there on the 10 <sup>th</sup> , but not again.   | unknown            |
| 5. A brood of 2 small were in front of Daukes Hide on June 16 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> with 2 large on Pat's on July 8 <sup>th</sup> .  | 3                  |
| 6. A brood of 4 medium ducklings were on the Serpentine on June 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> .   | unknown            |
| 7. A group of 8 large ducklings on Pat's on July 20 <sup>th</sup> may not have been a single brood.   | 8                  |

### **Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)**

*1 pair bred, hatched 7+ ducklings of which 3 fledged.*

A pair were seen together on Snipe's Marsh on 2<sup>nd</sup> April then on Richardson's Scrape from the 8<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. After that the male only was seen. On May 24<sup>th</sup> the female was seen on Richardson's with 6 tiny ducklings and with 7 on the 25<sup>th</sup> and they were still present on the 27<sup>th</sup>. They were not seen again until June 3<sup>rd</sup> when 5+ were seen. There was no further sightings of them until June 25<sup>th</sup> when the female was seen with 3 large young in the Catchwater Drain beside E Bank (opposite Snipes) where they were seen again on the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. The 3 ducklings (now fully grown) were in that area again on July 6<sup>th</sup> but now without the parent.

### **Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)**

*1 pair bred, maximum of 3 ducklings fledged.*

A female with 4 small ducklings were seen in the parallel drains opposite Walsey Hills on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Only 3 remained there on the 18<sup>th</sup> but not seen there again. Presumably the same brood of 3 now medium/large were in the Main Drain west of E Bank on August 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)**

*No breeding.*

Up to 5 birds were seen regularly between early April and early June, with one or more pairs being seen on Snipes and Richardson's Scrape up till June 10<sup>th</sup>. A drake was seen on 3 later occasions in June but not after that and there were no further sightings of a female or any young.

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### **Eurasian Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)**

*Up to 4 pairs bred on the main reserve and 1 on Pope's. These raised a total of 14 young.*

The first male returned on March 24<sup>th</sup>. By mid April at least 6 males had been seen over the reserve.

Nests:

1. One in the reedbed between Pat's Pool and the Brackish Pools. This was the very bright male (Blondie) and the female with a lot of white and some secondaries missing in the left wing (Tatty-wing).
2. One between Bishop's Hide & E Bank. A less bright male and non-distinct female.
3. One on Keeper's or Cricket Marsh. A dull male with distinct white patch on upper-side of left wing (Wing-tag). Female non-distinct.
4. Another pair of 1<sup>st</sup> summer birds appeared to be attempting to nest but failed.
5. A further pair were nesting on Pope's Marsh.

The first youngster was seen flying on July 6<sup>th</sup>, with 5 in the air on the 14<sup>th</sup>. 10 were seen flying and perched in trees on the 20<sup>th</sup> and there were reports of a further 1. In addition 3 young were seen between E Bank and Salthouse on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

It is thought that 4 fledged from nest 1, 4 from nest 2, 3 from nest 3 and 3 from nest 5. Outside of our area at least one pair nested on Blakeney Freshmarsh but it's not known how many young fledged.

### **Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)**

*Possible breeding in N Foreland Wood.*

1 or 2 birds were seen throughout the year. Birds were seen hunting regularly in late July and taking prey into N Foreland Wood. A juvenile was on Pat's Pool on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)**

*Possible breeding*

At least 1 pair were seen regularly in early spring and a male was hunting regularly throughout July around Arnold's Marsh and the Serpentine (thought to be responsible for disappearing Avocet and Lapwing chicks). 3 birds (possible family party) were seen together behind Arnold's on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Also 2 young were calling and flying around Hilltop several times in August.

### **Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*)**

*Breeding but unknown numbers*

A fluffy youngster was seen and photographed on Carter Scrape late evening on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

A full-sized youngster flew in front of Daukes on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)**

*At least 8 pairs, 10+ young fledged*

- |    |   |              |
|----|---|--------------|
| 1. | 1 tiny chick was seen in drain in front of Daukes Hide on May 26 <sup>th</sup> and again in the area until June 14 <sup>th</sup> .  | fledged<br>1 |
| 2. | 3 small chicks were in front of Daukes on May 30 <sup>th</sup> . 2 medium sized on Whitwell on June 19 <sup>th</sup> were probably the same brood. 1 of these was still present on June 25 <sup>th</sup> .  | 1            |
| 3. | 1 small chick was in the Catchwater Drain opposite Watcher's Cottage on July 6 <sup>th</sup> and was seen again on the 12 <sup>th</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> .  | unknown      |
| 4. | 2 large chicks were in the Catchwater Drain between the Visitor Centre and Bishop's Hide on July 17 <sup>th</sup> . A pair and 3 large young were all feeding 4 tiny chicks in the Catchwater Drain just E of the Visitor Centre on August 30 <sup>th</sup> with 3 tiny chicks seen again on September 1 <sup>st</sup> . There were no later reports of the small chicks. | 3            |
| 5. | 3 young were on Snipe's Marsh on July 17 <sup>th</sup> .  | 3            |
| 6. | 2 medium chicks were on Carter Scrape on July 31 <sup>st</sup> .  | unknown      |
| 7. | 2 large young were in the Catchwater Drain E of E Bank on August 6 <sup>th</sup> .  | 2            |
| 8. | 1 small chick was first seen in front of Bishop's hide on August 15 <sup>th</sup> and was seen regularly until the 24 <sup>th</sup> but not seen again.   | Unknown      |

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### **Common Coot (*Fulica atra*)**

*At least 12 pairs, 15+ fledged*

- |  | fledged |
|--|---------|
| 1. 1 small chick was with parents in the drain in front of Daukes hide on May 26 <sup>th</sup> and then again on the 30 <sup>th</sup> . A medium/large youngster seen there on June 29 <sup>th</sup> and July 2 <sup>nd</sup> was probably the same bird.  | 1       |
| 2. 3 small young were first seen with parents in front of Bishop's Hide on May 29 <sup>th</sup> . There were only 2 on the 30 <sup>th</sup> . By June 4 <sup>th</sup> only 1 remained but this continued to be seen on Richardson's Scrape and Pat's Pool until late July when it was independent. | 1       |
| 3. 2 medium sized chicks were seen on Snipe's Marsh on May 31 <sup>st</sup> and they were still there on July 6 <sup>th</sup> .  | 2       |
| 4. 1 small chick was on Snipe's Marsh on May 31 <sup>st</sup> and was still there on June 28 <sup>th</sup> .   | 1       |
| 5. A brood of 2 small chicks were first seen on North Scrape on June 12 <sup>th</sup> . By June 18 <sup>th</sup> there was only 1 and continued to be seen on N until it dried out. It was then seen regularly on Pat's Pool until early July.   | 1       |
| 6. Another brood of 3 medium sized young were first seen on Simmond's on June 25 <sup>th</sup> then regularly on Simmond's and Pat's Pool until late July when independent.  | 3       |
| 7. 3 large young were seen on Richardson's Scrape on July 13 <sup>th</sup> . 1 was present on the 18 <sup>th</sup> and 2 on the 19 <sup>th</sup> .   | 3       |

Single sightings: The following which cannot currently be associated with any of the above, are assumed to be additional broods, their outcome is unknown but we assume the larger ones fledged.

1 small chick was in the parallel drains opposite Walsey Hills on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

2 medium sized young were in the Catchwater Drain near the Visitor Centre on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

3 medium young were in the Catchwater Drain E of E Bank on June 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>.

2 young were in meadows by the Coast Road between E Bank & Iron Rd on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Assume 2 fledged*

1 juvenile was in the Catchwater Drain between E Bank & Iron Rd on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Assume 1 fledged*

### **Eurasian Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*)**

*Probably 10+ pairs nested but very few young hatched, and none were raised to fledging.*

Nests:

Serpentine	May 9 <sup>th</sup> only.
Serpentine (possibly same pair as above)	May 27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> .
Shingle N of Arnold's	May 28 <sup>th</sup> – June 9 <sup>th</sup> .
Parallel Drains opposite Walsey	May 28 <sup>th</sup>
Brackish Pools	June 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>
Arnold's	June 4 <sup>th</sup>
Sea Pool	June 6 <sup>th</sup>
North Scrape	2 on June 9 <sup>th</sup>
By gate to North Hide	June 9 <sup>th</sup>
Cricket Marsh	2 on June 12 <sup>th</sup>
Arnold's close to E Bank	June 27 <sup>th</sup> to July 18 <sup>th</sup>
S end meadow beside E Bank	June 27 <sup>th</sup>
Beach N of Arnold's (3 eggs)	July 10 <sup>th</sup>
Sandy meadow between Arnold's & Sea Pool	2 on July 12 <sup>th</sup>

The only young seen were:

- 1 small chick on the shingle behind Eye Field on June 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> but not seen again.
- 2 tiny chicks were near the nest on the beach N of Arnold's on July 16<sup>th</sup> but were not there the next day.
- 1 tiny chick on Arnold's on July 21<sup>st</sup> was seen regularly until August 2<sup>nd</sup> but not again.



## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### **Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)**

*Up to 98 pairs nested in April/May then 40+ pairs in June/July but due to predation only 5 young fledged.*

After a late start in the cold weather the first birds were sitting on eggs in late April with 42 sitting by the end of the month. During May the number of pairs nesting increased to 98.

The first young were seen on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 11 small chicks were on Pat's Pool on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Grey Heron then started its carnage taking both small chicks and eggs, and by May 26<sup>th</sup> there were only 4 chicks left on the central scrapes, but there were still 50 birds sitting. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> there were only 2 birds sitting and no chicks.

Away from Pat's Pool there seemed to be more success but many of these were late breeders (nesting commencing from early June) and presumed to be pairs laying second broods due to lost eggs. (BWP states that Avocets only have 1 brood but will relay if the eggs are lost.) Around this time Avocets also appeared on the new 'scraped' area from the R Glaven improvements N of Blakeney GM and up to 7 nested but these were all gone by late June.

By site:

	Nests		Chicks hatched		Fledged
	early	late	early	late	
Pat's Pool	84	2	?	0	0
Simmond's Scrape	1	0	3	0	0
Whitwell	1	0	2	0	0
North Scrape	1	4	4	2	1
Brackish Pools	0	3	0	0	0
Eye Field Pool	1	0	3	0	0
E Bank/Serpentine	5	15	1	35	2
Arnold's Marsh	0	4	0	11	2
Sea Pool	0	12	0	4	0
Gullery btw Sea Pool & Iron Rd)	5	2	None seen	None seen	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>42</b>			<b>5</b>

The successes:

**North Scrape:** A brood of 2 small chicks were seen on June 13<sup>th</sup> and stayed on N scrape until the 22<sup>nd</sup> when only 1 was present. This then moved to Pat's Pool (N Scrape now being dry) and continued to be seen on Pat's, Simmond's and Whitwell until it fledged in mid July.

**Arnold's:** A brood of 4 small chicks were first seen on Arnold's near the sluice on July 10<sup>th</sup>. There were only 3 on the 12<sup>th</sup> and only 2 left on the 15<sup>th</sup>. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> they were on the Serpentine then on Arnold's on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and back on the Serpentine on the 24<sup>th</sup> where they stayed until fledging on August 16<sup>th</sup>

**Serpentine:** 2 tiny chicks were hatched on the pool between the Serpentine and Main Drain on July 6<sup>th</sup>. Only 1 remained on the 7<sup>th</sup> but this was seen daily here until August 6<sup>th</sup> when it moved to Arnold's and was seen there for 3 days when it had fledged.

**Serpentine:** 4 tiny chicks were newly hatched on the Serpentine on June 4<sup>th</sup> and were seen there regularly, reducing to 3 by the 11<sup>th</sup> and 1 by the 22<sup>nd</sup>. This 1 continued to be seen there until July 7<sup>th</sup> when fledged.

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

*At least 33 pairs nested, but due to predation and bad weather it is thought only about 13 young fledged.*

At least 15 birds were sitting on nests during April including 7 in meadows by Beach Rd and 4 off E Bank. However many of these were abandoned and if young were hatched these were soon lost.

The first chicks seen were 3 on the pool between the Serpentine and Main Drain on May 4<sup>th</sup> and the last chick to fledge was in the same place on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

The following table summarises the sightings. This probably gives an underestimate of the numbers of nests and chicks hatched but is fairly accurate on numbers of birds fledged.

	Nests	Chicks Hatched/seen	Fledged
Pat's Pool	3	?	2
Simmond's Scrape	2	4	1
Whitwell	1	?	1
Cricket Marsh (by boardwalk)	1		
North Scrape	4	6	2
Meadows by Beach Rd	7	0	0
E bank/Serpentine	13	21+	6+
Arnold's	?		1
Sea Pool	?	1	
Meadows btw E Bank & Iron Rd	2	?	?
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>

### Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

*4 pairs nested, 8 young fledged from 2 nests.*

A good year, 8 chicks were raised to fledging by 2 pairs, another pair hatched 3 chicks but these were lost and a further 1 or 2 pairs attempted to nest.

- |   | fledged |
|---|---------|
| 1. A pair were seen on a nest by the Serpentine on May 9 <sup>th</sup> but not seen again. These may have been one of the pairs in 3 or 4 below.  | 0       |
| 2. Another pair attempted to nest on Simmond's in early June but failed after 10 days.  | 0       |
| 3. A pair were seen possibly defending a nest on the Serpentine on June 9 <sup>th</sup> and then with 4 tiny chicks on July 1 <sup>st</sup> . All 4 survived and they continued to be seen regularly until they fledged around the end of July.                                 | 4       |
| 4. On July 2 <sup>nd</sup> a pair were seen with 3 small chicks on the sandy area to the west of Sea Pool. By the 5 <sup>th</sup> only 2 could be found and this reduced to 1 by the 7 <sup>th</sup> . That continued to be seen until the 12 <sup>th</sup> but not after that. | 0       |
| 5. A pair with another 4 tiny chicks were first seen at the S end of the Serpentine on July 23 <sup>rd</sup> . These continued to be seen on the Serpentine until they fledged on August 12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> .  | 4       |

### Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

*Possible breeding*

Birds were seen displaying and drumming on several occasions over Pat's Pool and Cricket Marsh from May 25<sup>th</sup> to June 13<sup>th</sup>, but there was no other evidence of successful breeding.

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

At least 25 pairs nested raising 24+ young to fledging

The first chicks were seen on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Scrapes:            *10 pairs bred, 13+ young fledged*

	fledged
1. An adult was seen with 2 chicks on Whitwell Scrape on May 28 <sup>th</sup> and June 2 <sup>nd</sup> . 1 large there on June 14 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> is presumed to be one of these. This was there again, now fledged, on 24 <sup>th</sup> .	1
2. A family of 3 small chicks were first seen on Simmond's on June 1 <sup>st</sup> and then again on the 5 <sup>th</sup> . They then moved to Whitwell where they were seen on the 18 <sup>th</sup> . They were on Simmond's again on 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> (now large) after which they presumably fledged.	3
3. Another family of 3 chicks were first seen on Simmond's on June 5 <sup>th</sup> but there were only 2 there on the 6 <sup>th</sup> . These 2 were regularly seen there until the 22 <sup>nd</sup> when they were quite large. After this Simmond's dried out and they weren't seen again there or anywhere else.	2
4. 2 small chicks were on Whitwell on June 10 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> . 1 medium chick here on the 19 <sup>th</sup> was probably one of these. It was then seen on Simmond's from 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> and may have been the large chick seen there on July 5 <sup>th</sup> .	1
5. 1 medium sized chick was present on N Scrape from June 11 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> when the scrape dried out but not seen again.	unknown
6. 2 medium chicks were first seen on N Scrape on June 12 <sup>th</sup> then regularly to the 21 <sup>st</sup> when fully grown and possibly fledged.	2
7. 1 large chick was on N Scrape from June 15 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> when it fledged.	1
8. 2 or 3 large chicks were on Pat's Pool from 18 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> June, these may have been fledged.	3
9. A fresh brood of 3 small chicks were first seen on Simmond's on June 18 <sup>th</sup> . On the 23 <sup>rd</sup> they moved to Pat's. Only 2 were seen there 24 <sup>th</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> . And they were not seen again.	unknown
10. A brood of 4 tiny chicks was first seen in the reeds at the S end of Simmond's on the evening of July 4 <sup>th</sup> and were seen again until the 7 <sup>th</sup> . On the 9 <sup>th</sup> only 1 could be seen but 2 were then seen on Whitwell on the 12 <sup>th</sup> after the maintenance work had commenced on Simmond's. They were not seen again but our visits to Daukes decreased because of the work.	unknown

E Bank and beyond            *6 pairs bred, 8+ fledged*

	fledged
1. 3 small/medium chicks were seen on the Serpentine on May 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> . 2 there from June 3 <sup>rd</sup> were presumed to be the same brood. By the 17 <sup>th</sup> these were fully grown. 1 probably fledged as only 1 remained on the 19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> .	2
2. A brood of 4 small chicks was first seen on the pool N of the Serpentine on June 6 <sup>th</sup> . They or part of the brood continued to be seen until the end of June when they fledged.	4
3. 1 small chick was on the Serpentine on June 10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> but not seen again.	0
4. A brood of 3 small was on the Serpentine on June 17 <sup>th</sup> . 2 medium chicks seen there on June 25 <sup>th</sup> and July 4 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> may have been this family, but they weren't seen again.	unknown
5. 2 tiny chicks were on the Serpentine on June 27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> . Only 1 was present on 29 <sup>th</sup> , which continued to be seen until July 3 <sup>rd</sup> but was not seen again.	0
6. A brood of 4 tiny chicks at the S end of the Serpentine on 30 <sup>th</sup> June reduced to 3 on July 2 <sup>nd</sup> . These continued to be seen until the 12 <sup>th</sup> after which only 2 were seen until the 22 <sup>nd</sup> . They were now a reasonable size and roaming wide so they may have been the 2 seen on Arnold's on the 21 <sup>st</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> and hopefully survived to fledging.	2

Single sightings: The following which cannot be associated with any of the above, are assumed to be additional broods, it is assumed that those only seen when small did not survive.

2 small chicks beside E Bank on 22<sup>nd</sup> May

A single chick on Simmond's on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

1 large chick seen on Serpentine on June 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.

*Assume 1 fledged*

2 large chicks seen on the Serpentine on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Assume 2 fledged*

A brood of 4 small chicks on Simmond's on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

2 small to medium chicks on N Scrape on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

1 small to medium chick on Sea Pool on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

1 by the Iron Rd on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

1 in meadows between E Bank and Iron Rd on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### **Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*)**

*At least 144 pairs nested, young fledged unknown.*

#### Central Scrapes 16 nests – no young survived

In late May there were 16 nests on Pat's and 1 on Simmond's. 5 chicks (broods of 2 & 3) were seen on Pat's on May 28<sup>th</sup> but only 1 remained by the 30<sup>th</sup>. A further 3 chicks were seen on June 6<sup>th</sup> but weren't seen again.

#### North Scrape 30+ nests – no young survived

At the end of March there were c.150 gulls congregating on the reedy island on North Scrape and mating was observed but no nests were seen. By the end of April there were 30+ nests. There were 4 chicks on May 28<sup>th</sup> but only 1 remained on the 29<sup>th</sup> and none on 31<sup>st</sup>. No other chicks were seen.

#### Brackish Pools 3-4 nests – no young

Also at this time there were 3-4 birds nesting on the hummocks in the Brackish Pool and 8 by the end of April. No chicks were seen.

#### E Bank unknown

A few gulls were sitting in the meadow beside E Bank at the end of April. The only young seen was 1 medium sized chick was on the Serpentine on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### Small pool just E of Sea Pool 87+ nests,

On May 15<sup>th</sup> there were 87 nests on the sandy bank in the small pool just E of Sea Pool and 47+ chicks were counted here on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

#### Arnold's Marsh 7 nests, 3 young fledged

In early June there were 5 nests on the small stony island and 1 or 2 on sandbanks. Young were seen from 3 nests on the island. 4 chicks hatched from one nest on July 10<sup>th</sup> but by the 17<sup>th</sup> only 1 remained, this grew and was large and almost fledged when the high tides caused the island to be swamped around August 10<sup>th</sup>. 1 small chick from another nest only survived for 1 day. 2 chicks hatched from the third nest and these survived and managed to swim to the shore when the island flooded. They were seen until August 15<sup>th</sup> at least.

51 fledged young were on the reserve in early July but whether these had all been raised on the reserve is unknown.

### **Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)**

*2 pairs bred on the small stony island on Arnold's Marsh, 4 young fledged*

- |    |   |              |
|----|---|--------------|
| 1. | First seen sitting on nest on June 7 <sup>th</sup> . 2 tiny chicks were seen on June 30 <sup>th</sup> with a third on July 1 <sup>st</sup> . On July 15 <sup>th</sup> one was seen dead near the nest. The other 2 survived with 1 fledging on July 22 <sup>nd</sup> and the other on the 26 <sup>th</sup> .  | fledged<br>2 |
| 2. | A little later, this pair started sitting June 18 <sup>th</sup> . The first chick was seen on July 11 <sup>th</sup> with a second on the 13 <sup>th</sup> . These 2 continued to grow on the island until August 4 <sup>th</sup> when they were moved (swam?) to the shore as the water levels increased on Arnold's. They had both fledged by August 7 <sup>th</sup> . | 2            |

### **Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)**

*No evidence of breeding on reserve.*

Seen regularly until April 1<sup>st</sup> then again from July 1<sup>st</sup> but not in between. 3 birds were seen together in flight near the sluice on Bank on 6<sup>th</sup> September and a young bird was also reported in this area so it is likely they bred nearby.

### **Sky Lark (*Alauda arvensis*)**

*Breeding, numbers unknown*

A few birds were singing in early Spring but no definite count. 13 birds were counted on the WeBS count on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 15 on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 17 on June 12<sup>th</sup>. An adult was seen feeding young beside E bank on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **European Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)**

*Breeding, numbers unknown*

At least three pairs bred successfully at the Coastguards, with at least one of them (in the pillbox) raising two broods.

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### **House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*)**

*Many pairs bred*

Many in houses along the Coast Rd

### **Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)**

*Breeding, numbers unknown*

A fledgling was seen on path near pillbox on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrellii*)**

*Breeding, numbers unknown .*

A male was defending territory (including its own image in car wing mirrors) near the shelter in Beach car-park and at least 1 pair is thought to have bred at Coastguards. There were many young on reserve in July but exactly where these came from is unknown.

### **Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*)**

*Breeding, at least 1 pair probably 5+*

No confirmed breeding but at least 5 birds were singing from early Spring until late June;

- 1 in bushes behind the central hides,
- 2 in the Walsey Hills/Snipes Marsh/ N Foreland area
- 2 singing birds ranging along the Coast Road from Sea Lawn to the Visitor Centre.

A pair were seen together in brambles just E of the bottom of Old Woman's Lane on April 20<sup>th</sup> and often again in the same area during May. A nest was reported to have been found E of here later but cannot be confirmed.

Around the end of August a young bird (still showing a gape) was seen on the boardwalk which must have bred locally.

### **Grasshopper Warbler (*Locustella naevia*)**

*Possible breeding*

1 singing by boardwalk to central hides on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and it or another by E Bank on 23<sup>rd</sup>. 1 was singing in the Visitor Centre car park from May 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. 1 was singing at the N end of E Bank on June 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> and again on July 28<sup>th</sup>. No other evidence of breeding.

### **Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)**

*Breeding, numbers unknown .*

We have no definite figure on breeding but 29 singing males were counted around the reserve between Beach Road and E Bank in early May. During late June and early July family parties were seen beside the Catchwater Drain opposite Watcher's Cottage, by the central hides, beside Bishop's Hide, on the path between Bishop's Hide and the Visitor Centre and along E Bank.

### **Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)**

*Breeding, numbers unknown .*

Again no definite numbers. 7+ singing males were counted on May 14<sup>th</sup>. 1 bird was singing and showing well for several days in late May/early June in the reeds in the 'roundabout' at the back of the central hides. In July family parties were seen from the boardwalk to the central hides, beside the path between Bishop's Hide and the Visitor Centre and along E Bank.

### **Bearded Tit (*Panurus biarmicus*)**

*Breeding, numbers unknown .*

A very difficult species to determine. Family parties were seen during July in front of Daukes and Bishop's hides and also a few alongside E Bank but this is probably only a few of those present.

### **Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*)**

*1 pair raised 7+ young*

1 pair bred in gardens on Hilltop. The first young, 2, were seen on June 12<sup>th</sup> with another 2 seen on the 13<sup>th</sup>. In July a second brood fledged with a total of 6+ young being seen from the 2 broods. A third brood of 1+ young hatched during August with 7+ young still around in September.

### **Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)**

*Breeding, numbers unknown .*

Again no definite numbers but at least 5 males were singing on a cold bright day in late March. A family party with 4+ young was seen regularly on the path on E Bank during August.

## Cley Breeding Records 2006

### Notes:

Once more we would like to thank Bernard Bishop and all local birders who told us of their sightings of nests and young birds around the reserve thus helping to complete the picture. There are still many species for which we do not have good data which we would like to improve in future. We hope to repeat this exercise again next year so any observations be gratefully received.

Maintenance work on the scrapes this year meant that Simmond's and North scrapes were drained with North completely dry from 23<sup>rd</sup> June. This meant all ducks and most waders moved to the other scrapes and into the drains. A digger was working on Simmond's Scrape July 17<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> and on North July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup> with some work on surrounding banks, drains and the back of Whitwell continuing to 25<sup>th</sup>. We don't think this affected the breeding but it may have moved birds into the drains and pools which are less visible and causing us to lose track of them.

The weather. The cold wet May & June and very hot dry July followed by a wet August may have affected the timing of some breeding. On a positive note, there was no flooding on Arnold's and the Serpentine this year which last year flooded out some nests and young.

There has been a lot of reed cover in the Catchwater Drain which is good for the birds but meant it was difficult to see birds, so some ducks, Coot and Moorhen broods may have gone unseen.

Pat & David Wileman

e-mail: [davidandpat@onetel.com](mailto:davidandpat@onetel.com)