

Dunnington Conservation Group

Newsletter 2022

Last year when I collated our 2021 newsletter I never thought that we would still be affected by Covid restrictions, another year without any children visiting the reserve, cancelling our Children's Activity Day for the second year running, and postponing the York Ornithological Clubs visit. However in September we managed to have an open air get together at the field centre, it was great to see so many of you turn up despite the early rain which didn't dampen our spirits, for me it is reassuring to know we still have a willing group of volunteers.

Our year constituted of having work parties on a Wednesday morning and one on the third Sunday of the month, this may seem a lot of time spent at the reserve yet we needed it to keep up with the many jobs mother nature throws at us; nettles and thistles growing where we don't need them, yellow flag iris becoming rampant, blanket weed on the ponds and kids throwing branches into the main pond. The Parish Council arranged for a tree surgeon to inspect the reserve to see if we meet safety standards, this resulted in some trees/branches being ear marked for removal, after the visit three trees took the matter into their own hands and gave up, falling down and blocking the footpaths.

Wildlife had a mixed breeding season due to the cold dry spell in the spring followed by wet weather, blue tits and great tits were particularly badly effected with few raising young, tree sparrows did not raise as many young as in previous years, on the other hand robins and song thrushes had an excellent year, our tawny owls raised two young, Two oystercatchers a wading bird reared two young just over our boundary on the Industrial Estate. Frogs had one of their best years with good numbers producing lots of spawn, which resulted in numerous young frogs being seen in the meadows; this made me realise how important leaving some long grass is for the survival of the species. Dragonflies also had a mixed year we recorded good numbers of emperor dragonfly and broad bodied chasers, four spotted chaser numbers were down as was azure damselflies, a surprise on a sunny August day were a pair of black darters. Hoverflies had an excellent year and could be found on any plant in flower especially water mint at the edge of the main pond, some have strange names such as tiger, batman and humming syrphus. We had quite a few sightings of marbled white butterflies; this species is a speciality of chalk landscape of the wolds and the rare brown argus. Orchids had their best year with twenty three spikes of common spotted, five bee orchids, one pyramidal and a southern marsh orchid found at the side of Simpson's pond new for the reserve.

Common Frog



Marsh Orchid/Carder Bee



Black Darter



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Outings-We managed two outings during the past year both to North Cave Wetlands a relative new wildlife refuge on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds, the reserve is managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and is beginning to attract large numbers of wildfowl and waders. Our first visit was on the 20th September when just three of us-Colin Rafton, Mike Clarke and I went on a wet day, when we arrived in heavy rain we decided to start the day with one of the best bacon butties we have ever had. With heavy downpours and short dry spells we made the most of the hides watching the wildlife when it was raining and making a quick dash to the next viewing point when it eased. Forty three species were recorded; highlights were 10 little grebes, 3 whooper swans, 450 greylag geese, 130 teal, 2 common buzzards, 1 marsh harrier, 150 lapwings, 1 black tailed godwit, 39 snipe and 100s of black headed gulls.

Our next outing was on Sunday 14th November, again just three participants Steve, Valerie and myself, this time we were blessed with a beautiful sunny day and we soon got down to some serious birding. We managed forty four species during the day. Highlights were; great crested grebe, 400 lapwings, 1 ruff, 1 black tailed godwit, 9 snipe and an impressive 50 curlews resting in the shallow water. The last bird to be seen was a green woodpecker; a surprise was seeing a late yellow brimstone butterfly and common darter.

Work Parties

Our work parties may seem a bit mundane at times yet our repeated efforts make the reserve what it is today, a brilliant place for wildlife and education, sometimes we are tested especially when bored youths throw branches onto the ice of the main pond and we have to retrieve them the best way we can; we now remove any branches into the enclosure. The beginning of 2022 will see us removing low over hanging branches and taking ivy off a few trees which is stopping them from fruiting-as lovely as ivy is it's becoming problematic and needs some careful management. Rabbits are causing us some problems around the reserve especially in the enclosure leaving scattings everywhere and eating some of our rarer plants. Having said that the meadow near the cottage was full of wild flowers this year and hosted bumble bees, butterflies, hoverflies and many other insects as well as offering cover for frogs and toads; this area has improved immensely since we planted the new hedgerow. Thanks to all whom helped mow and rake off the hay, the meadows should be good for wild flowers in 2022.

Village Green/Green initiatives

Away from the reserve Steve has been active in promoting green initiatives, planting and caring for a new hedgerow at the cemetery, liaising with the Parish Council on offering residents small trees for their gardens. He and Liz Turnbull have been successful in establishing pollinator strips on the green and plan to improve the area around the millennium garden for pollinating insects, invertebrates and small mammals.

Wishing you all a happy and prosperous new year.-Terry -voluntary warden.



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DCG 2022 Programme

Date	Day	Event	Time	Place
Jan	Wednesday	Work Parties only	10.00 am	HNR
Feb-20th	Sunday	Work Party	10.00 am	HNR
March-20th	Sunday	Work Party	10.00 am	HNR
March TBC	Wednesday	Indoor Meeting?	7.30 pm	Reading Room Small Room
April- 17th	Sunday	Work Party	10.00am	HNR
May-15th	Sunday	Work Party	10.00 am	HNR
June-19th	Sunday	Work Party	10.00 am	HNR
July-17th	Sunday	Work Party	10.00 am	HNR
August-4th	Thursday	Open/Children's Activity Day	10.00.am12.pm 2.00pm4.00pm	HNR
August-21st	Sunday	Work Party	10.00 am	HNR
September- 18th	Sunday	Work Party	10.00 am	HNR
October-16th	Sunday	Work Party	10.00 am	HNR
November- TBC		Outing North Cave	9.30 am	Reading Room
December- TBC		Christmas Lunch		
Jan-10 th -2023	Tuesday	AGM	7.30 pm	Reading Room

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Hassacarr Local Nature Reserve-Wildlife Records-2021

January-6th The ponds were frozen over and wildlife was hard to find, highlights were; 7 blackbirds, 2 robins, 6 yellowhammers, 3 dunnocks, 1 stock dove, 12 house sparrows, 4 great tits, 7 blue tits, 1 coal tit, 6 long tailed tits, 5 chaffinches and 23 tree sparrows. On the 8th best of the birds were; 7 blackbirds, 3 robins, 3 dunnocks, 15 tree sparrows, 8 house sparrows, 1 stock dove, 2 long tailed tits, 5 blue tits, 1 great tit, 1 moorhen, 7 chaffinches and 4 yellowhammers. Birds recorded on the 22nd included 2 mallards, 25 black headed gulls, 1 magpie, 11 blackbirds, 9 chaffinches, 7 great tits, 6 blue tits, 1 pied wagtail, 4 robins, 3 dunnocks, 37 tree sparrows, 18 house sparrows, 5 yellowhammers, 1 goldfinch, 2 siskins and 2 greenfinches. Highlights on the 27th were; 17 black headed gulls, 7 jackdaws, 3 carrion crows, 2 stock doves, 1 kestrel, 11 blackbirds, 9 chaffinches, 9 greenfinches, 3 goldfinches, 5 robins, 2 dunnocks, 7 yellowhammers, 12 house sparrows, 25 tree sparrows, 5 robins, 6 blue tits, 5 great tits, 1 pied wagtail, 2 long tailed tits, 1 wren, 1 coal tit and 2 bullfinches. A bank vole, 2 grey squirrels and 2 rabbits were also seen.

February-3rd A foggy day highlights were; 18 rooks, 3 carrion crows, 2 mallards, 3 stock doves, 30 tree sparrows, 20 house sparrows, 6 great tits, 7 blue tits, 5 yellowhammers, 5 chaffinches, 2 greenfinches and 2 long tailed tits. The 10th was a snowy frosty day, best of the wildlife was; 1 little egret, 1 grey wagtail, 1 bullfinch, 15 yellowhammers, 8 blackbirds, 3 robins, 3 dunnocks, 31 tree sparrows, 2 house sparrows, 4 blue tits, 2 long tailed tits, 4 stock doves, 5 chaffinches and 1 greenfinch. Birds recorded on the 18th were; 2 buzzards, 1 kestrel, 2 crows, 12 rooks, 25 black headed gulls, 23 house sparrows, 32 tree sparrows, 4 stock doves, 9 chaffinches, 3 greenfinches, 9 yellowhammers and 2 bullfinches, the snowdrops were magnificent. Fifteen pink footed geese were seen on the 24th together with 2 mistle thrushes, 26 tree sparrows, 10 yellowhammers, 2 bullfinches, 7 blackbirds, 1 kestrel and 2 redwings. Highlights on the 26th were; 18 yellowhammers, 1 wren, 4 robins, 28 tree sparrows, 2 dunnocks, 7 chaffinches, 18 house sparrows, 1 long tailed tit, 2 tree creepers, 1 siskin, 3 redpolls, 1 brambling and 5 buzzards. A woodcock in the enclosure on the 27th was a surprise.

March-3rd Birds in and around the reserve were; 8 common gulls, 42 black headed gulls, 1 buzzard, 1 mistle thrush, 1 redwing, 43 rooks, 5 bullfinches, 9 chaffinches, 5 goldfinches, 1 pied wagtail, 1 grey wagtail, 4 wrens, 1 goldcrest, 11 house sparrows, 27 tree sparrows, 7 great tits, 8 blue tits, 2 long tailed tits, 4 robins, 3 greenfinches and 5 stock doves, a small frog was at the edge of the main pond, snowdrops were still showing well. Bird records on the 10th; 1 song thrush, 6 blackbirds, 23 black headed gulls, 32 tree sparrows, 11 chaffinches, 7 great tits, 8 blue tits, 2 long tailed tits, 7 yellowhammers, 15 house sparrows, 1 bullfinch, 2 buzzards, 1 sparrowhawk and 1 tawny owl. Twenty seven frogs were spawning in the main pond on the 15th. Highlights on the 17th were; 2 siskins, 11 blackbirds, 17 yellowhammers, 27 tree sparrows, 9 chaffinches, 3 goldfinches, 2 redpolls, 8 blue tits, 2 long tailed tits and 2 early bumblebees. 24th Two tortoiseshell were on the wing as were early bumblebees, flowers starting to flower included sweet violets, cowslips, and lesser celandine, 25 tree sparrows, 15 yellowhammers, 5 goldfinches, 2 coal tits, 1 sparrowhawk and a male blackcap. Wildlife recorded on the 31st included two male and 1 female blackcaps, 2 chichaffs, 1 buzzard, 7 mallards, 2 moorhens, 3 stock doves, 4 dunnocks, 15 yellowhammers, 15 tree sparrows, 7 blue tits, 6 great tits, 2 long tailed tits, 1 song thrush, and 1 wren, pond skaters and whirligig beetles were noted on the ponds while yellow brimstone, tortoiseshell and peacocks were on the wing. Blackthorn and lesser celandines were flowering in profusion.

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April-2nd Highlights were; 3 redpolls, 2 linnets, 1 siskin, 2 goldfinches, 7 chaffinches, 1 tree creeper, 3 blackcaps, 2 chiffchaffs, 17 tree sparrows, 14 yellowhammers, 1 song thrush, 1 pied wagtail and 6 great tits, a bee fly, 2 tortoiseshell and a peacock. **7th** 6 stock doves, 8 blackbirds, 1 kestrel, 15 yellowhammers, 25 tree sparrows, 12 house sparrows, 2 dunnocks, 4 robins, 4 goldfinches, 2 greenfinches, 1 bullfinch, 1 pied wagtail, 1 song thrush, 1 grey heron, 2 oyster catches, 1 chiffchaff and 4 blackcaps. **14th** 1 grey heron, 1 sparrowhawk, 2 pheasants, 15 yellowhammers, 3 robins, 2 blackcaps, 2 linnets, 1 wren and 2 tree creepers. **17th** 1 little egret, 4 mallards, 1 song thrush, 2 bullfinches, 1 male and 1 female siskin, **25th** Butterflies on the wing were; 1 comma, 2 orange tips, 1 green veined white, tortoiseshell, 2 holly blues, 1 speckled wood, peacock and yellow brimstone. **28th** 1 sparrowhawk, 5 herring gulls, 1 greater black backed gull, 2 greylag geese, 2 song thrushes, 10 blackbirds, 5 robins, 2 wrens, 2 blackcaps and 1 chiffchaff, a female great crested newt and 2 smooth newts were also observed-water crowfoot, marsh marigolds, bluebells, cowslips, lesser celandines, forget me not and crab apple blossom was in flower.

May-1st A blackcap, willow warbler, song thrush, wren, tawny owl, 2 male 2 young robins and 2 young grey squirrels were recorded. **5th** Wildlife recorded was; 1 kestrel, 10 blackbirds, 3 blackcaps, 1 chiffchaff, 20 tree sparrows, 1 collared dove, 3 swallows, 1 roe deer and a comma butterfly. **12th** 1 large red damselfly, 6 red masonry bees, 10 whirligig beetles, 4 orange tip, 1 brimstone, 1 comma and 1 peacock. Milk maids, water crowfoot and greater stitchwort were all in flower. Highlights on the **19th** were; 2 swifts, 3 starlings, 2 young tawny owls, 2 song thrushes, 2 blackcaps, 1 chiffchaff, 1 tree creeper, 4 stock doves, 6 yellowhammers, 2 blackcaps, 1 chiffchaff, 2 cinnabar moths and a red admiral. On the **26th** a southern marsh orchid was discovered, a first for the reserve, also common spotted orchids were beginning to show. Summer migrants were; 2 swifts, 2 swallows, 1 whitethroat and 3 blackcaps, other birds of note were 3 stock doves, 1 yellowhammer, 2 jackdaws, 5 carrion crows, 2 tree sparrows, 5 chaffinches, 2 moorhens sitting on six eggs, 2 oystercatchers, 1 song thrush, 3 robins and 2 wrens. Holly blues, orange tip, brimstone and green veined white butterflies were on the wing.

June-2nd Plants in flower included southern marsh and common spotted orchids, bulbous, creeping and meadow buttercups, red campion, ragged robin, water crowfoot, yellow flag iris and woodruff. Insects on the wing were; large red, blue tailed and azure damselflies, tortoiseshell, brimstone, green veined white and speckled wood butterflies. Birds around the reserve included buzzard, jackdaw, moorhen, mallard, blackbird, magpie, stock dove, swifts, blackcap, chiffchaff, wren, dunnock, robin, chaffinch, blue tit and great tit. Birds on the **15th** were; 2 stock doves, 2 buzzards, 1 adult and 3 young moorhens, 2 blackcaps, 1 chiffchaff, 2 magpies, 2 robins, 2 wrens, 6 blackbirds, 2 goldfinches, 2 tree sparrows, 2 collared doves, 3 dunnocks, 5 swifts and 1 curlew. Dragonflies on the wing were; 4 broad bodied chasers, 3 four spotted chasers, 1 emperor, 30 azures, 5 large reds, 4 blue tailed and one banded demoiselle. Twenty common spotted orchids were in flower. **19th** Highlights were; 1 lesser black backed gull, 2 buzzards, 6 blackbirds, 2 goldfinches, 12 tree sparrows, 1 yellowhammer, 1 tree creeper, 6 swifts, 1 song thrush and 5 long tailed tits. Dames violet, corn cockle, yellow flag iris, ragged robin, red campion, yellow rattle and bird's foot trefoil were all in flower. Orchids observed on the **23rd** were; 23 common spotted, 1 southern marsh, 4 bee and 1 pyramidal.

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July-1st A pair of oystercatchers and 2 fully fledged young were close to the reserve in the industrial estate, butterflies on the wing were; 2 meadow browns, 1 red admiral, 1 tortoiseshell, 5 speckled woods and 14 ringlets, some of the plants in flower included common centaury, musk mallow, greater knapweed, betony, yellow rattle, meadow cranesbill, pyramidal orchid, birds foot trefoil, marsh and ladies bedstraw and tubular water dropwort. **4th** 2 song thrushes, 8 blackbirds, 6 oystercatchers including 2 young, 1 kestrel, 5 chiffchaffs and 1 song thrush. **7th** 3 oystercatchers, 1 curlew, 1 chiffchaff, 1 blackcap, 6 blue tits, 2 adult 2 juvenile robins, 1 sparrowhawk, 5 swifts and 1 song thrush. Butterflies on the wing were; gatekeeper, meadow brown, ringlet, tortoiseshell, large white, green veined white, comma and red admiral. **14th** Highlights were; 1 sparrowhawk, 1 kestrel, 1 collared dove, 8 blackbirds, 3 swifts, 1 house martin, 3 robins, 1 blackcap, 1 chiffchaff and 1 grey wagtail, insects included 1 emperor dragonfly, 1 brown hawk, 2 broad bodied chasers, 7 blue tailed and 27 azure damselflies, butterflies were; 2 commas, 12 tortoiseshells, 3 green veined whites, 1 large skipper, 1 gatekeeper, 9 ringlets and 10 meadow browns. Marsh bedstraw, tubular water dropwort and slender spiked rush were in flower at the edges of the ponds. Eleven species of butterfly were recorded on the **21st**; small skipper, large skipper, gatekeeper, tortoiseshell, marbled white, large white, small white, green veined white, speckled wood, ringlet and meadow brown. Two elephant hawk moth caterpillars were found on the **28th** as was 2 leaf cutter bees and 1 common blue damselfly.

August-Highlights on the **4th** were; 2 Kestrels, 6 swifts, 7 blackbirds, 2 song thrushes, 1 magpie, 1 robin, 1 dunnock and 1 wren-insects on the wing included 1 brown hawk, 1 common hawk, 3 ruddy darter and 1 common blue damselfly, 11 gatekeepers, 5 meadow browns, 4 ringlets, 3 holly blues, 20 green veined whites, 9 large whites, 1 speckled wood, 3 commas, and 1 brown argus. The **25th** was a humid day insects on the wing were; 4 holly blues, 2 speckled woods, 3 green veined whites, 1 common hawk, 1 migrant hawk, 4 common darters, 6 belted and 40 marmalade hoverflies, 200 honey bees and 1 tree bee. Other wildlife included 7 frogs, 30 backswimmers, 35 water beetles, 4 dragonfly larvae, pond snails, pond skaters and 1 bank vole. Birds seen were; 1 kestrel, 2 moorhens with 2 young, 10 blackbirds, 3 tree creepers, 1 stock dove, 1 blue tit, 1 magpie, 2 robins, 1 wren and a herring gull flying overhead.

September-On the **8th** 9 swallows were recorded together with 2 chiffchaffs, 3 chaffinches, 4 greenfinches, 3 goldfinches, 3 robins, 2 stock doves, 5 blackbirds, 1 rook, 2 great tits and 1 collared dove. Insects were; 2 black darters, 5 common and 1 ruddy darter, several tiger and marmalade flies together with good numbers of tachinina parasitic flies, 3 tortoiseshells, 11 speckled woods and 1 peacock. **15th** Best of the birds were; 1 buzzard, 1 sparrowhawk, 2 moorhens, 3 blackbirds, 3 robins, 2 blue tits, 1 great tit, 1 bullfinch, 2 stock doves, 1 magpie, 1 black headed gull and 15 common gulls. Dragonflies on the wing were 2 migrant hawkers, 1 southern hawk and 2 common darters. Highlights on the **25th** were; 3 swallows, 2 chiffchaffs, 14 goldfinches, 3 robins, 2 greenfinches, 3 dunnocks, 4 blue tits, 1 wren, 1 collared dove, 1 grey heron, 7 blackbirds, 2 kestrels, 1 buzzard and 1 chaffinch, 2 ruddy darters, 1 migrant hawk, 4 bank voles and 1 common shrew. **29th** 1 buzzard, 1 sparrowhawk, 2 kestrels, 2 grey herons, 4 mallards, 3 moorhens, 7 goldfinches, 6 blackbirds, 1 magpie, 2 carrion crows, 1 stock dove, 2 red admirals, 2 speckled woods, 1 comma, 4 common darters and 2 grey squirrels.

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October-Highlights on the 6th were; 1 buzzard, 1 kestrel, 3 rooks, 4 carrion crows, 7 jackdaws, 3 jays, 2 magpies, 2 stock doves, 3 collared doves, 15 blackbirds, 2 song thrushes, 2 redwings, 5 mallards, 3 moorhens, 2 common gulls, 1 herring gull, 1 black headed gull, 1 tawny owl, 2 bullfinches, 3 chaffinches, 2 greenfinches, 14 goldfinches, 3 robins, 2 dunnocks, 1 wren, 8 great tits, 8 blue tits, 11 long tailed tits, 6 chiffchaffs and 2 great spotted woodpeckers-insects 2 southern and 1 migrant hawk, 4 common darter, 1 red admiral and 30 common wasps feeding on ivy. One hundred and fifty redwings were seen on the 13th together with 2 song thrushes, 14 blackbirds, 3 robins, 1 wren, 17 goldfinches, 8 greenfinches, 2 bullfinches, 2 chiffchaffs, 1 buzzard, 1 sparrowhawk, 8 starlings, 1 jay and 5 stock doves. 21st 4 mallards, 2 moorhens, 2 magpies, 23 blackbirds, 11 long tailed tits, 3 great tits, 2 blue tits, 12 goldfinches, 1 song thrush and 1 kestrel. 27th 10 mallards, 3 moorhens, 10 goldfinches, 12 blackbirds, 2 jays, 1 bullfinch, 2 robins, 1 magpie and 1 coal tit.

November-3rd A rare woodcock was observed flying out of the old wood, other highlights were; 1 little egret, 1 jay, 1 sparrowhawk, 1 kestrel, 3 carrion crows, 12 blackbirds, 1 song thrush, 9 blue tits, 21 long tailed tits, 18 goldfinches, 4 robins, 4 jackdaws, 36 starlings, 1 bullfinch and 1 wren. 6th 3 siskins, 17 goldfinches, 3 bullfinches, 1 greenfinch, 2 chaffinches, 9 tree sparrows, 5 house sparrows, 11 blackbirds, 2 buzzards, 4 long tailed, 9 blue and 3 great tits. Highlights on the 7th were; 4 robins, 3 dunnocks, 21 blackbirds, 2 greenfinches, 9 goldfinches, 10 blue and 3 great tits, 1 kingfisher, 1 kestrel, 1 bullfinch, 1 little egret, 3 siskins and 1 long tailed tit. 20th Ten long tailed tits, 7 blue tits, 15 tree sparrows, 10 goldfinches, 15 blackbirds, 1 pheasant and 1 coal tit were seen. 24th Best of the birds were; 9 mallards, 2 moorhens, 1 little egret, 17 starlings, 1 song thrush, 11 blackbirds, 4 dunnocks, 7 robins, 1 wren, 6 chaffinches, 1 magpie, 3 stock doves, 2 coal tits, 8 blue tits, 9 tree sparrows, 8 house sparrows, 4 yellowhammers, 5 greenfinches, 1 kingfisher, 18 rooks 1 jackdaw, 7 black headed gulls overhead and 1 kestrel.

December-Highlights on the 1st were; 7 mallards, 1 moorhen, 3 carrion crows, 20 rooks, 1 jay, 2 magpies, 7 blackbirds, 12 blue tits, 3 great tits, 1 marsh tit, 5 robins, 2 dunnocks, 8 tree sparrows, 2 house sparrows, 9 chaffinches, 1 bullfinch, 16 goldfinches, 1 coal tit, 5 greenfinches, 2 yellowhammers, 1 wren and 1 sparrowhawk. 8th 1 buzzard, 1 sparrowhawk, 6 mallards, 4 blackbirds, 15 chaffinches, 10 blue tits, 3 great tits, 3 robins, 1 kingfisher, 8 yellowhammers, 2 dunnocks, 2 stock doves, 2 greenfinches, 1 tree creeper, 9 siskins and 2 goldcrests. 15th 1 sparrowhawk, 1 kestrel, 2 buzzards, 1 grey heron, 1 kingfisher, 7 mallards, 6 carrion crows, 4 stock doves, 10 blackbirds, 9 house sparrows, 12 tree sparrows, 7 yellowhammers, 1 wren, 2 dunnocks, 5 robins, 10 chaffinches, 7 great and 7 blue tits, 1 long tailed tit, 4 greenfinches, 27 siskins, 9 goldfinches, 1 great spotted woodpecker, 2 rabbits and 6 grey squirrels. Highlights on the 31st were; 1 tree creeper, 36 siskins, 30 goldfinches, 1 bullfinch, 12 chaffinches, 1 linnets, 1 kingfisher, 1 grey heron, 1 great spotted woodpecker, 14 long tailed tits, 10 blue tits, 4 great tits, 1 coal tit, 1 dunnock, 9 mallards, 2 moorhens, 6 stock doves, 23 rooks, 5 black headed gulls, 1 pheasant, 2 magpies, 23 rooks, 4 stock doves, 2 collared doves, 1 kestrel, 12 yellowhammers, 14 tree sparrows, 7 house sparrows, 11 blackbirds, 1 song thrush, 2 wrens and 3 robins. A stoat was observed for one and a half hours chasing and dispatching a rabbit.

Terry-voluntary warden

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Bird ringing at Hassacar Nature Reserve – Winter 2020-21 report

Bird ringing was carried out at Hassacar Nature reserve over the winter of 2020-21 by 4 University of York graduate students and staff. Ringing took place within the fenced off section of the reserve, with four mist nets set up. Birds were mist-netted (over 22 sessions) or caught in the duck trap. Ringing data contribute to the British Trust for Ornithology's national ringing scheme, but also served to assist the UoY Estates Operations Team with their conservation work, and to demonstrate bird ringing for undergraduate biology students. For the first time in 2020 ringing on Heslington East formed one of the activities for third year biology students involved in a field course. It was an enjoyable experience for all, providing convenient practice and training for 11 ringers throughout the year.



Selected highlights of ringing at Hassacar in 2020-21. Tree Sparrow, Yellowhammer and Sparrowhawk

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, 167 birds of 22 species were ringed during mist-netting in 2020-21 (Table 1), and a total of 230 unique captures were recorded. Blue Tit, Great Tit and Yellowhammer were the most frequently ringed species, with Yellowhammer a key target for the BTO winter ringing pilot. Just one recovery of a bird ringed elsewhere was recorded, of a Greenfinch ringed in Cheshire in September (see map).



Map: Ringing locations of one Greenfinch recaptured at Hassacar Nature Reserve.

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Table 1: Birds ringed on Hassacar during winter 2020-21

Species	First year	Adult	Unknown age	Total new birds	Retraps	Total
Sparrowhawk	0	1	0	1	0	1
Coal Tit	4	0	0	4	1	5
Great Tit	10	5	0	15	13	28
Blue Tit	12	14	0	26	20	46
Long-tailed Tit	0	2	0	2	0	2
Chiffchaff	0	1	0	1	0	1
Blackcap	2	0	0	2	0	2
Wren	2	1	0	3	1	4
Treecreeper	1	1	0	2	0	2
Blackbird	7	13	0	20	7	27
Song Thrush	0	1	0	1	0	1
Robin	8	6	0	14	9	23
House Sparrow	0	0	2	2	0	2
Tree Sparrow	0	0	11	11	0	11
Dunnock	7	4	0	11	9	20
Chaffinch	5	6	0	11	1	12
Greenfinch	11	3	0	14	1	15
Siskin	1	0	0	1	0	1
Goldfinch	2	3	0	5	0	5
Lesser Redpoll	1	0	0	1	0	1
Bullfinch	2	0	0	2	0	2
Yellowhammer	5	13	0	18	1	19

A tree sparrow found dead at the reserve in November had been rung at Flamborough Head 407 days earlier and travelled a distance of 60 km.