

Stanford Ringing Group



Stanford Reservoir. Leicestershire/ Northamptonshire. (Grid Ref: SP 6080)

Birds - Species List with comments on Status from 1930 - 2010

Full List of Birds recorded at the Reservoir following its construction in 1928 and up to the end of December 2010, including in the case of the rarer species, the number of times recorded and any comments thought appropriate. Species in {Curly Brackets} are likely to be feral birds. Species in (plain brackets) are those that have been caught locally and released at the Reservoir. Updates and additions of F P Littlemore's original data from documents consulted by J G Cranfield include The Birds of Northamptonshire, Northamptonshire Bird Report, LROS Reports, Mirecki & Leslie, Bird Reports by the Stanford Ringing Group.

Species.	Comments.
Red-throated Diver	A few records in the 1930's, one in the 1940's and one in the 1950's. All November to mid April. One 27th March to 1st April 1965. Since 1965 there have been five further sightings. Last recorded 21st November 1985.
Great Northern Diver	A Juv. on 11th March 1978. (Believed to be one of up to 4 birds that wintered at Draycote Res.) Another Juv from 29th Dec 2004 to 3rd Feb 2005
Little Grebe	Normally seen only as singles or pairs. Not thought to have bred since the late 1970's. In the winters of 1976 & 1977 up to 15 were present but this was exceptional. Since then the Max. recorded have been 4 on 16th October 1983, 4 on 14th September 1995, 5 on 21st September 1997 increasing to 9 on 27th September. Two September 2002.
Great Crested Grebe	Resident. Breeding success recently has been low. Max. counts have occurred in October with 147 on 22nd October 1983 and 150 in late October 1985. 55 on 23/9/2002
Red-necked Grebe	One in 1935, One in mid May 1944 and again in early February 1948. No recent records which is surprising as it has occurred at all of the adjacent nearby waters in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire!
Slavonian Grebe	Ten records all of single birds; one from 25th September to 10th October 1967; one January 19th 1968 and from 5th April to 15th April 1968; one on 28th & 29th March 1988 then not again until 18th Jan 2003.
Black-necked Grebe	No more than 27 records, nearly all of which were of singles or pairs, but 3 present on 17th October 1976. On 3rd June 2001 two summer plumaged birds remained until 9th June. Singles 12th Oct - 10th Nov 2002 and 11th - 18th Sept 2004
(Manx Shearwater)	A bird found elsewhere in Leicestershire was released at the Reservoir on 30th September 1981 and later found dead.
Leach's Storm Petrel	Three records only. One in late October 1952, one on 20th September 1978, when birds were also seen at two adjacent waters before early October & one on an unspecified date in 1980.
Northern Gannet	Three in early July 1935, one of which stayed for two days. (Recorded in the 1950's.) then 9 adults & 2 immatures on 11th September 1970 when 6 were seen to fly off (one adult & one immature remained on 12th when one dead adult was found, another dead adult was found on 20th) and another record of one on September 20th 2001 and a juvenile over the res on 25th September 2010
Cormorant	Only one record in the 1930's! Up to 4 seen in March 1968. Now present throughout the year in varying numbers. Max. counts of 25 on two occasions. [See also Sub-species]
Shag	Three records only. One on 22nd August 1962, One on 22nd August 1982 and one on 27th April 1983.
Bittern	Six records. Singles on 17th February 1954, in 1956, in November 1957, on 2nd March 1995, on 9th September 1999 and 18th Jan 2003.
Little Egret	A single bird from 9th to 19th July 2003 was the first record, a single bird from 18th Jan 2004 was joined by another on 1st Feb and they remained until 8th Feb
Great White Egret	Two records. A single bird stayed from 5th July until 21st July 1992 and one reported by fisherman December 2009
Grey Heron	Seen regularly. Double figure counts on 8 occasions. Max. 32 on 3rd September 1968.
White Stork	Two records of a bird flying over in 2000 and on 22nd April 2006
Eurasian Spoonbill	Three records. One on 17th July 1977, another on 15th June 1989 and one over on 13th July 2010 (MJT).
Mute Swan	Resident breeder. Max. count 104 birds on 28th April 1998.
Bewick's Swan	One record in the 1950's. Since then almost annual with several sightings regularly during the winter months and when the birds are on passage. 11 on 20/12/1968; 18 on 26/3/1969; ten 24/12/1970; 33 + 2 juv. on 17/2/1985. 24 on 19th November 1991 are the most that have been recorded. Single on 27th Feb 2003
Whooper Swan	No positive records until 23rd March 1964 when one was present. Twelve more recent records, one of 9 birds on 30th January 1995, 2 on 6th Nov 2003 and one 30th Nov 2003
{Bean Goose Sp.}	One seen on the 5th April 1987 was not specifically identified.
Pink-footed Goose	Eight records. 6 from 24th until 26th January 1987; one on 25th September 1991; 4 on 26th & 27th January 1996; one on 27th November 1999, one on 22nd October 2000, one 25th Jan 2004, two 25th Mar 2004 and one 5th Nov 2004.
White-fronted Goose	There was one record of 25 birds in January 1945 and one of 3 birds in February 1959. Since 1960 there have been 20 more records. Six 4th January 1970. Double figure counts occurred on 14th December 1969 (20), 27th December 1976 through to 3rd January 1977 (43 - 46). A single bird on 27th & 28th December 1999 and another on 24th Jan 2004 [See also Greenland White-fronted Goose on page 9]
{Greylag Goose}	First recorded in late January 1959 when 2 were present. In November 1963, 19 were reported. Following this multiple record numbers being seen remained low until the early 1990's. Since then increasing numbers have been reported with up to 110 present on 21st August 2000; 38 on 15/7/2002
Canada Goose	No records until the late 1950's. Since then numbers have increased to a max. of 850 in October 1998. Now breeds regularly at the water with two to three broods being raised each year.

{Barnacle Goose}	First record was of 2 birds on 22nd July 1971. Since then 15 more records all of single birds except one of 3, which were present from 4th until 28th December 1999.
Brent Goose	First record was a bird of the 'dark breasted' form that stayed from 27th Nov to 21st Dec.1969. On 20th Feb 1982, 17 were recorded flying over in a NE direction. One (dark-breasted) 9th Nov 2003
Common Shelduck	A few were recorded in the 1930's & 1940's and several in the 1950's & 1960's generally of up to 4 birds, but parties of 5, 7, & 8 have occurred. Single birds on several dates in March, September & October 1968 and 1969. A total of 16 were recorded on 9th September 1990 and on 12th July 1999 10 juveniles were at the East end.
Mandarin Duck	One male in eclipse plumage was present from 22nd July until 13th August 1990. A female 17th Jan 2004
Wigeon	Recorded between September and April in all years. Max. count circa.2000 both on 12th January 1992 and 25th November 1997. Outside this period there have been 7 records in the Summer months with 2 present in May 1974, May 1975 & August 1978.
Gadwall	A rare bird at this water until the 1970's with only two sightings recorded. From then on recorded more frequently. Six on 12/10/1968. Max. count 256 on 17th November 1996. 71 during September 2002
Common Teal	Up to the 1960's recorded in all months of the year and it is thought that in the late 1930's & early 1950's one or two may have attempted to breed. Changes in the amount of vegetation and water levels have meant that occurrence has been more sporadic. 40 on 16/9/1967. Max. counts, 1661 on 18th November 1990 when the water level was the lowest recorded and 1600 on 12th November 1995.
Green-winged Teal	Three records. One female on 31st March 1990, another on 2/11/95 and in December 1995
Mallard	Present all months since records began. Information on the nesting population and success is totally inadequate but numbers of young ducklings and juveniles are seen every year. A count of 1,500 on 1/11/1969 was a record up to that date. Max. count 1800 on 25th September 1977. In recent years numbers have been generally lower than in the 1960's, 1970's & 1980's.
Pintail	Several records in each decade from 1930 to 1960 between October & March generally of up to 3 or 4 birds but up 9 have been recorded. Accurate counts since then show a similar pattern (9 on 28/10/1967; 20 on 21/12/1968; 3 on 25/10/1969.) but in the 1990's the number recorded rose with a max. of 67 been seen in September/October 1995 & a max. of 50 on 15th November 1996.
Garganey	An irregular passage visitor between March & September. One in the 1930's & one in the 1940's. None in the 1950's. 3 were recorded on 21st April 1961 & on 18th March 1962, 7 were present, (4 males & 3 females). Since then there have been 18 further sightings, mostly singles but with a max. of 2 on 21st March 1964; 9th September 1996 & 17th September 1998. Last recorded on the 28th March 2002 when two were again present.
Shoveler	Frequent visitor. 140 on 2/10/1966; 82 on 29/10/1967. A nest found with 11 eggs on 16/5/1968 was presumed destroyed a week later. Max. counts of 500 on 25th September 1978 and 12th November 1995.
Red-crested Pochard	Eight records up to 1992. The first in 1943 involved three males which stayed for several weeks. Only one further multiple record of two males on 15th March 1958. A single bird on 16th January 1992. A female from 17th Jan to 28th Feb 2004, a male from 11th to 18th Sept 2004, Five birds (3 female, 2 males) on 27th Oct 2004, two 28th Oct and 9th Nov 2004. One female 14th -19th Oct 2005. A male throughout September 2009
Common Pochard	Max. count 876 on 27th February 1977.
Ring-necked Duck	One record in January/February 1978.
Ferruginous Duck	A very rare visitor. Four records, two in March 1950; one in 1951; one male between 7th Oct. & 12th December 1972 and one male on 27th October 1997. The last mentioned bird had been seen at Ravensthorpe Reservoir from 5th October 1997.
Tufted Duck	At least three pairs bred in 1966 & 1967; at least one pair bred successfully and two others may well have done so also in 1970. Max. count 1100 on 5th November 1978. Frequently the counts at Stanford are the highest for any of the waters in Leicestershire - 111 on 15th July 2002
Scaup	Nine records, the last being of a single bird on 12th September 1987. On 14th January 1973, 2 Males & 9 Females were present.
Long-tailed Duck	Two, one of which was thought to be a female present from early December 1951 until late January 1952. One from 17th to 31st May 2004
Common Scoter	Uncommon visitor. Two and four on 8th July and 2nd October 1967 respectively. 13 on 26/10/1968; 3 males 12/7/1969. Maximum number recorded at one visit was 15 on 15th May 1994. Male & 3 females 11/8/2002 and on 28th Mar 2004
Velvet Scoter.	A very rare visitor. 3 records, one between 16th & 24th November 1968; one on 1st February 1976 and a female or immature on 18th December 1995.
Goldeneye	A regular winter visitor normally present from October to March. Singles on 26th April & 24th August 1970. Max. count 47 on 11th March 1989.
Smew	Uncommon winter visitor. Up to 4 present from 8th January to 26th February 1966; a female 19/12/1970; pairs on 23/12/1967 and on 1st December 1996; a female 28th Mar 2002 and two females 16th to 23rd Dec 2002.
Red-breasted Merganser	Few records. A pair in mid December 1938 and three in early March 1950. A pair on 30/5/1968. One in 2002 and one on 6th Feb 2004
Goosander	Regular winter visitor in small numbers from October to April. 21 during March 1964. 19 during February 1965; 27 on 19th February 1966; 19 on 24/12/1967. Present from January to 25th March 1968 (maximum was 41 on 7/1/1968); yearly maximum of 30 in March 1969; Max. count of 53 on 15th March 1970 with 52 on 18th February 1998.
Ruddy Duck	First recorded on 29 July 1962 when five were present. A pair on 16/8/1968. First attempted breeding in 1977 and bred successfully in 1985 when 5 ducklings were seen. Peak winter numbers normally between 140 and 220 but as recently as 17th December 2001, 274 were present. 10 birds were culled initially during the period of January - March 1994 but many more shot in subsequent years by the WWT as part of the Government's multi million pound programme to try to reduce numbers! 129 present 23rd September 2002.
Honey-Buzzard	Two records - a first summer on 3rd July 1993 and one believed to be a juvenile on 9th September 2000 at the time when there was a national influx.
Red Kite	Several records - all of single birds - on 18th & 19th August 1984, on 16th March 1985, on 17th October 1999, on 18th Oct 2003, on 29th Jan 2005 and on 17th June 2005. Two records in 2007 with a tagged bird on 11th March (from Chilterns 2004) and an untagged bird going over on 7th April. One flew towards over the Res South Kilworth 19th July 2008. With the release of birds and successful breeding in recent years in Northants, we can expect more sightings in future as birds spread out from their natal area. Single bird over 5/6/2010
Marsh Harrier	An occasional passage migrant. All but one records have been of single birds in the period of April to early June. Latest records are on 10th May 2001, 11th Aug 2004 and 11th Aug 2007.

Hen Harrier	Two records. One on 25th & 26th April 1971 & 1 'Ringtail' on 28th December 1982.
Goshawk	One record of a juvenile female 7th September 2008 by Gary Pullan
Sparrowhawk	Disappeared from the Reservoir during the latter half of 1960's as a nationally declining species due to pesticide poisoning. Following the banning of pesticides in 1974/76 was not seen until July 1977 when one was again recorded. Now resident and breeding most years in adjacent woodland.
Common Buzzard	First record 1st January 1970 and now being seen with increasing regularity from the late 1990's. Breeding locally by 2007
Rough-legged Buzzard	First recorded on 23rd and again on 29th January 2004
Osprey	Infrequent passage migrant. One in mid Sept 1944 must have been of Scandinavian origin. Sightings on three different dates in 1966, 2 in 1976, 2 in 1993 and again in 2000. With the completion of the re-habilitation scheme and successful breeding at Rutland Water in 2001, no doubt more frequent records will occur in future. Recorded annually from 2000. One 1/9/2002; one 22nd May 2004, two on 2nd Oct 2004 and one on 11th & 14th June 2005. Singles 21/6/08 & 20/9/08. One seen catching a fish 14/6/08 and one carrying fish from Res towards Northants 21/6/08
Kestrel	Seen regularly and breeds locally. Five reported on 1st & 14th September 2002. Bred at the Reservoir when pulli ringed in 2004 & 2005. Remains of ringed adult female found in Tawny Owl nest winter 2007.
Merlin	Not recorded until November 1977, an occasional winter visitor since then. Almost annual since 2000. All occurrences have been of single birds.
Hobby	First recorded in 1966. Now a regular but secretive summer visitor and is being seen more often, particularly in the Autumn when up to 4 birds have been recorded. From 1973 there has been a sixfold increase nationally. A bird seen on 15th March 1987 was particularly early. Has bred locally in recent years
Peregrine Falcon	One record in mid November 1934 and one in early December 1955. Following these early occurrences none recorded until 1974. Since then at least seventeen records. Now being seen with increasing regularity which is no doubt due to its breeding success in Leicestershire. One adult & one juvenile present from 21st until 27th September 1997. One on 28th Mar 2002, one 8th & 22nd Feb 2003 and one on 29th Oct 2005
Red-legged Partridge	Recorded from the 1940's breeding in adjacent hedgerows. One or two pairs in Spring with up to 11 in Autumn/Winter. Few records until the mid 1970's. Seen fairly regularly since then. Large numbers artificially reared and released for the gun in fields adjacent to railtrack 2007, 2008
Grey Partridge	Recorded regularly until 1983 when coveys of up to 28 were seen. Since then there has been a rapid decline in numbers but a pair with 14 chicks were recorded on 29th June 2000. Two 3/3/2008
Common Quail	An irregular visitor to surrounding farmland. Six records of calling birds. Early August 1961; May 5th and August 27 1984, one 7th to 12th July 1992 and then on 23rd August 1997. A record of two on 18th June 2005
Common Pheasant	Resident and artificially reared in surrounding Woodland. Max. number recorded, 10 on 12th November 1995. Large numbers artificially reared and released for the gun in fields adjacent to railtrack 2007, 2008
Water Rail	Possible resident but rarely recorded. Most records during the winter months during heavy frosts. Three on 31st March 1968; four present on November 21st 1993.
Spotted Crake	Very rare visitor. Four records. First recorded on February 5th 1961, and then one on November 23rd 1971, one along the bye-pass on 2nd May 1986 and one stayed from September 3rd to 8th 1995
Moorhen	Low numbers in recent years thought to be due to predation by Mink. Nine double figure counts, Max. 20 on 16th February 1986; 8 September 2002
Coot	Formerly only recorded in double figures but up to 100 in the autumn of 1968. Since the 1970's increasing numbers have been recorded, particularly in the winter months and in recent years Stanford has become a nationally important water for the number of wintering birds. There have been at least 19 counts in excess of 1000, and the Max. stands at a massive 2115 on 15th October 1989. More recently numbers have been slightly lower but frequently the Coot counts at Stanford are the highest reported from any reservoir in Leicestershire - for example 355 in July 2002 and 750 in September 2002. 20+ breeding pairs in recent decades.
Oystercatcher	Occasional visitor nearly always singly but 5 present on 9th September 1978 and 6 present on 21st February 1988. Recent records are of one on 29th Mar & 12th April 2004 and one 20th Aug 2005
Avocet	Three records. Two on 5th April 1984 and an amazing 12 on 1st May of the same year and then one on 15th April 2003
Little Ringed Plover	Not recorded in Leicestershire until 1948. First recorded at Reservoir in 1962. Seen fairly regularly from 1963 to 1980 as passage migrant, intermittently since then. Breeding attempts in 1965 & 1974 were unsuccessful but bred successfully in 1975 and 1992. Pair present during the breeding season 1967 but no evidence of breeding obtained.
Ringed Plover	Most records are of single birds in Spring and Autumn. In September 1992 up to 50+ were present. Prior to this the Max. counts were of six birds in October 1959, four August/September 1967; four birds 24th October 1976 and six on 16th September 1990.
Golden Plover	Fairly regular passage migrant. Up to a 2000 have occurred such as on 12th December 1992.
Grey Plover	All records between September & January. First recorded in 1967, since then 24 further sightings. A multiple record of 24 on 23rd September 1990 during a period when birds were present from 20th September until 28th October 1990 was exceptional for this normally solitary species. Recent records are of singles on 8th Nov 2003 and 10th Jan 2004 and two on 2nd Oct 2004.
Lapwing	A declining species. Up to circa. 6000 have been recorded in winter months such as on 13th September 1992. Used to breed regularly on adjacent fields but now only very occasionally. Flock of 400 September 2002. One of two Pullus ringed 20/6/2007
Knot	Rare visitor. All but two have been of single birds: Three on 22nd August 1963 and two from 22nd September until 1st October 1972.
Sanderling	Uncommon visitor. 14 records mostly of single birds evenly split in Spring or Autumn. One 10/5/1970 but two birds on 23rd May 1971. One on 9th January 1992.
Little Stint	Occasionally seen when water levels have been low in one's & two's. Up to six birds present in September 1990 and up to nine in September 1996.
Temminck's Stint	Rare vagrant. Five records, all of single birds. One present from 30th May to 1st June 1966; one 16/8/1969. All others have occurred in September/October.
Curlew Sandpiper	Several records when the water levels have been low. 11 on 1st October 1978 was exceptional. Last recorded on 22nd & 23rd August 1992 when one adult was present.
Purple Sandpiper	One on 9/11/1971 and [one on the exceptional date of 1st August 1981 which was included in the Northants Report for that year. It is included here on the assumption that the record was vetted by their Rarities Committee and accepted by them. It seems a most unlikely occurrence at an inland water or even on the coast at this time!.]

Dunlin	Seen only when the water levels have been low. A max. count of circa. 100 on 19th October 1975. The next highest count was of 48 present on 14th October 1990 which fell to 32 on 11th November of the same year. A flock of 100 on adjacent field during March 2008.
Ruff	Several records of one or two birds when the water levels have been low. One 26/8/1970 but 24 between 27th & 31st August 1992 which dropped to 17 on 1st September 1992 was exceptional.
Jack Snipe	An occasional winter visitor. Single birds on three dates in 1968. 5 present on 15th November 1992. Records in September 1976, April & September 1979, in April 1991, 1993 & 1996 were likely to have been birds on passage. Fewer recent records due to the high water levels!
Common Snipe	Used to breed on one adjacent field but not since 1977, when last heard 'drumming'. An unprecedented circa. 225 were present in January & February 1973. Since then the max. counts have been 52 on 27th October 1978; 76 on 13th November 1983 and 35+ on 20th September 1992. In recent years numbers have been much lower.
Woodcock	Formerly a rare passage visitor. Six records only up to 2000, 2 in January 1948; one on 18th December 1976, one on 11th February 1979; 4 on 28th November 1993 and one on 8th February 1996. Used to be seen regularly in Winter in the woodland in the adjacent Stanford Park. Seen annually from 2003 on the "Reserve" in BL Bay and in wood adjacent to Railtrack. One or two individuals trapped & ringed each year from 2004.
Black-tailed Godwit	Formerly a rare passage visitor. One stayed for 14 days in 1934 and one in early June 1959. Two on 5th July 1974 then no positive sightings until July 1990. Since then there have been nine recordings of birds, some of which stayed for several days. On 10th July 1992, 25 flew over but did not land: similarly, on 21st August 1993, two parties of circa. 30 & 5 flew over. The increase in records in the 1990's may reflect breeding success on the Ouse Washes.
Bar-tailed Godwit	A rare passage visitor. One in 1935 then none recorded until 2nd September 1971 when 51 flew over. Since that time, 10 further records with a max. of 4 between 10th & 26th September 1972. Two on 21st April 2003
Whimbrel	Over 20 records of birds on passage, mostly of parties of under 5 birds in April/May or July/ August/ September. Max. counts have occurred in Spring with 20 being seen on 3rd May 1983 and 8 on 28th April 1984. 3 birds on 6th May 1999. One 28th Aug 2004
Curlew	Few records recently but bred locally in cereal fields in a number of years up to 1980. 20 seen on 25th August 1969; 14 on 22nd April 1977; 11 on 22nd July 1978; 11 on 11th August 1979 and 15 on 15th August 1980. Since then, a very irregular visitor and only recorded singly in the 1990's. One 20th July 2002; two 31st May 2005
Spotted Redshank	First recorded in 1968. Thirteen sightings since then, mostly singles. Six on 3rd May 1980 was unusual. 2 juv. On 19th & 20th August 1992 and 3 on 1st September 1992. A single bird on the unseasonable date of 7th January 1993.
Redshank	Up to 3 pairs nested in an adjacent field in most years in the 1930's and then spasmodically in the 1940's & 1950's. One pair bred in 1961 & 1962 but not since then. Up to 3 passage birds have been recorded when the water levels have been suitable.
Greenshank	A fairly regular passage migrant in Spring & Autumn. Up to six July-August 1968. Up to six have been recorded in the Autumn when the water level has been low but 15 on 16th September 1990 was unprecedented. One 28th Aug 2004
Lesser Yellowlegs	Two records. One present from October 17th to 23rd 1964 was the first Leicestershire record (see annual report for brief description). One from September 25th to 27th 1995. both accepted by the BBRC.
Green Sandpiper	Regular passage migrant. Up to four July-September 1967 and again July-October 1968. Seven on 27th October 1995.
Wood Sandpiper	Irregular passage migrant, usually single birds but two on 8th October 1961 and 4 birds on 11th August 1963. One 17/7/1970; one 21/9/1997 and two on 16th May 2004.
Common Sandpiper	Regular passage migrant. Up to four March-October 1968. Max. count 12 on 22nd July 1978. 2 on 4/7/2002 & 21/9/2002
Turnstone	Uncommon passage migrant. Most records are of single birds except two on various dates in September 1971. One on 1st May 2004
Wilson's Phalarope	One record. A single bird stayed from September 29th until October 3rd 1991.
Red-necked Phalarope	Two records only. One on September 24th 1968 and one on October 4th 1970
Grey Phalarope	Recorded in the 1950's but only two records since then. A single bird on October 20th 1987 and one present from 26th Oct to 5th Nov 2003.
Arctic Skua	Four records. One on 24/12/1962. A 'light phase' bird on the unlikely date of June 11th 1969; one, a 'dark phase' bird stayed from August 9th until 12th 1980 and one 30th Oct 2002.
Great Skua	Four records. One seen coming out of the Gull roost in the early morning of August 8th 1982, one seen on 23rd August 1987, one 10/9/1989 and one present from 0855h. until 1140h on October 22nd 2000
Mediterranean Gull	First record was on April 4th 1986. Since then there were a further 11 sightings up to 28th February 1998, all of which were adult birds. Unprecedented records in 2002 were of single birds on 8th Feb (1st winter), 11th Oct, 3rd & 4th Nov (1st winter), 7th Nov (adult), 10th Nov (1st winter), 16th Dec (adult) and two adults 23rd Dec. 2003: one adult on 10th and 2 adults on 16th March and a 1st winter on 4th & 7th October. 2004: one adult on 17th Jan and two adults on 20th Nov. A second winter bird on 12th Feb 2005
Franklin's Gull	First record 4th November 2002
Little Gull	A fairly regular annual passage migrant in Spring & Autumn, mostly of single birds. Two 6/8/1968
Black-headed Gull	The Reservoir is used regularly as a winter roost; 5,000 estimated 16/1/1967 and up to an estimated 10,000 birds have been recorded on a number of dates.
Yellow-legged Gull	First recorded in 1988 when still regarded as a sub-species, with a further four records up to 1999. Now recorded in most years
Ring-billed Gull	A first-winter bird was recorded in the Gull roost on November 28th 1991.
Common Gull	On five dates in December 1993, 3000+ were recorded in the Gull roost.
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Like the Black-headed Gull this species is seen regularly in the winter roost with up to 2000 being recorded. Both species leave the water to forage mainly at the nearby Shawell Tip.
Herring Gull	Regularly recorded in the winter months but only in small numbers. The max. count being circa.100 in February 1968. [See also Sub-species]
Caspian Gull	First recorded in 2006
Iceland Gull	An immature bird on December 9th 1978 and one 24/1/1995
Glaucous Gull	Three records. One on November 9th 1975, two on November 17th 1976 and one on September 25th 1979
Great Black-backed Gull	An uncommon visitor. Max. count ?

Kittiwake	An unusual visitor which has occurred on four occasions.
Caspian Tern	A single record. One was observed for over half an hour on June 3rd 1968, accepted by BBRC. It had been seen earlier on that day in Derbyshire!
Sandwich Tern	Occasional on passage. 13 on 20/9/1964; 7 on 13/9/1967; one 24/7/2002
Roseate Tern	Two records. One on May 1st 1981 and a bird found dead on the dam 23rd May 2004 had been ringed as a nestling at Rockabill, Co. Dublin on 16th July 1980 - a UK longevity record
Common Tern	Regular passage migrant. Following the introduction of floating rafts, started breeding. Max. number 16 prs. June 1998. 14 young were ringed in 1998. Failure to maintain rafts led to decline in numbers.
Arctic Tern	The description of one seen on 11th June 1969 was submitted to British Birds and accepted. Also recorded in 1962, 1973 and 1980
Little Tern	Uncommon visitor. One 22nd May 1966
Whiskered Tern	One record which was accepted by the BBRC. A first-winter bird was seen on October 22nd 1991. This was the first recorded sighting of this species in Leicestershire, the second in Northamptonshire and was only the second ever recorded in Britain in October.
Black Tern	A regular passage migrant in Spring and Autumn. Varying numbers in May 1966 up to a maximum of 67. Regularly recorded in 1968 with up to 13 on 13/6/1968. 24 present on 4th May 1990. Fewer records and in smaller numbers from the mid 1990's onwards,
White-winged Black Tern	Three records. One on 14th May 1976 accepted by BBRC (4th Northants record), September 12th 1978, 27th August 2005.
Common Guillemot	One was found in a field on the Leic./Northants boundary near Welford on February 20th 1996. It was taken into care and later released two weeks later on the North Wales coast
Little Auk	One record. A bird was first seen swimming along the Northants. bank at 1230h on December 9th 1987. It was later watched down to 40m and seen diving. The bird was seen to fly away at 1300h but was later found again near the draw-off tower. It soon departed, however, and was seen to fly off strongly in a south-easterly direction.
Stock Dove	c.80 present on 2nd and 10th January 1999.
Woodpigeon	Breeds within reservoir perimeter and winter flocks often exceed several hundred
Collared Dove	Max. count 30 on 7th October 1990. Single bird at edge of Railtrack 27th Feb 2010
Turtle Dove	Used to occur regularly in double figures. A declining summer visitor. Now only single pairs seen or heard although three pairs were present in 1999. Pullus ringed in 1981, 1982 and 2005 (2 on each occasion)
Cuckoo	Up to two pairs present most summers. Host species mainly Reed Warbler - 2 nests hosted in 1966
Barn Owl	Few records: One on July 21st 1971, one on November 20th 1976 and one on December 9th 1995 until 2004 when frequently recorded - two breeding attempts, with a total of 8 eggs laid, failed. However successfully bred in 2007 when 3 young ringed & fledged from a clutch of 5 eggs. One chick fledged from a brood of 3 in 2008
Little Owl	Breeds in adjacent parkland and singles seen most years near Manager's Cottage
Tawny Owl	Regularly breeds in adjacent woodland and occasionally within reservoir perimeter
Long-eared Owl	First record was of a single bird on May 5th which stayed until 28th May 1976. Has been recorded on a number of occasions since then with 3 birds present from February 24th until 28th 1982, one of which was ringed. One on 24th April 1991.
Short-eared Owl	In the early 1960's occurred most winters when on one October afternoon, up to 12 were present. This was exceptional. Single birds on 23rd October & 13th November 1966. Up to five from 27th November 1969 to 1st April 1970. Since this time there have been only one occasion when more than one has been recorded - three on January 17th 1971. Few records in recent years.
Nightjar	Two records. A passage bird was watched flying alongside the bye-pass on July 26th 1981. One flushed by the ringing group 0530hrs August 14th 2009 in Blowers Lodge Bay
Alpine Swift	One record 25th May 1986 accepted by BBRC
Common Swift	Up to a 1000 hawking insects over the water on June 19th 1977.
Common Kingfisher	Occasionally seen. Has bred along the River Avon below the dam.
Hoopoe	One record. During the period of 28th to 30th April 1984 one was seen by many observers along the adjacent disused railway track. It was caught and ringed on the 28th and observed again within the Reservoir perimeter again on 6th May.
Wryneck	A single record. One was caught and photographed on September 20th 1969 and later released. It remained at the Reservoir until October 1st.
Green Woodpecker	Seen regularly. Breeds in the adjacent Stanford Park.
Greater Spotted Woodpecker	Seen very regularly at the feeding station. Breeds in the adjacent Stanford Park.
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	A rare visitor but recorded in most years prior to 2000. Has bred in the Game Reserve adjacent to the railtrack and in the adjacent Stanford Park. Only two ever ringed with one ringed on 4/5/1986 and another on 22/7/2000. One 15th July 2002; a female seen near the dam 10/11/2007
Wood Lark	One record only. Three birds seen on December 13th 1987. Recorded at another Leicestershire site on the same day?
Sky Lark	Still breeds in small numbers on adjacent fields but far fewer than in earlier years.
Sand Martin	A common summer visitor. Bred in the then adjacent gravel pits on the North side in the 1960's when in 1966 there were 100 pairs, but this ceased in 1968 when the pits were reclaimed.
Swallow	Passage migrant. Most years one or two pairs breed. 250+ September 2002
House Martin	Passage migrant. 250+ September 2002
Tree Pipit	A rare passage visitor.
Meadow Pipit	Small numbers seen regularly on Spring & Autumn passage. Max. count 300+ on 9th April 1978.
Water Pipit	Four records all of single birds. March 27th - April 10th 1971; March 6th 1976 & March 29th - 31st 1993 & from 8th until 20th of November 1995.
Rock Pipit	One in mid and late March 1962 and Five in mid March 1967; Two on April 4th 1971; One from October 5th to the 8th 1971; One to three from October 8th until 24th 1972 ; Two on March 20th 1976 & Three on October 9th 1977. One recorded 6th October 2007 (Brad Fallon)

Yellow Wagtail	Summer visitor in declining numbers but still breeds in adjacent fields. [See also Sub-species] Earliest arrival date 31/3/1938
Grey Wagtail	Has bred along the River Avon below the Reservoir. Seen fairly regularly. 2 adults & 4 juveniles on 15/7/2002
Pied [White] Wagtail	Resident and breeds most years. [See also Sub-species]
Waxwing	Twenty on 2nd January 1966. One or possible two recorded in December 1995.
Dipper	A single record. One in November 1958. A second un-substantiated report concerned a sighting of a bird flying up the River Avon and into the large pool below the dam on 24th February 1993 but this could not be confirmed!
Wren	Resident.
Dunnock	Resident in small numbers.
Robin	Resident.
Nightingale	A singing male on May 10th 1969. A single bird was present on May 5th 1980 and another on the early date of 9th April 1990.
Black Redstart	Two records. A female on May 2nd 1976 and a female trapped & ringed 29th June 2002
Common Redstart	Seen occasionally. Has bred regularly in the adjacent Stanford Park - current status unknown. 13 ringed at the Res from 1976 to 2008
Whinchat	Has bred but only occasionally. Recorded annually from 1970 to 1985 -less frequently since then.
Stonechat	A rare winter visitor. Single bird on 17/3/1968. Two on 27/3/1969. Present from 3rd October to 13th December 1970 in varying numbers up to a maximum of 7 (4 of which were males). Four pairs present on 16th January 1977 was unusual.
Northern Wheatear	A fairly regular passage migrant in Spring & Autumn. [See also Sub-species]
Ring Ouzel	Four records, the first on March 30th 1980 followed by another on May 5th the same year, then two on April 23rd 1981 and finally one on May 5th 1993.
Blackbird	Resident.
Fieldfare	A Winter visitor in varying numbers. Circa. 1900 present on 7th November 1998.
Song Thrush	Perhaps one or two pairs still resident but numbers much lower than previously.
Redwing	A Winter visitor in varying numbers.
Mistle Thrush	Bred at the Reservoir in 1976 & 1977. Up to 30 have been recorded as on 15th September 1978 but this was exceptional. Resident in the adjacent Stanford Park.
Cetti's Warbler	A record of one heard on 5th June 2001 was left on the record sheets but no further details were given. This species breeds both at Brandon Marsh in Warwickshire and Storeton GP in Northamptonshire and there is ringing evidence that birds have moved between both sites. It is not inconceivable that it could well have occurred on other occasions at Stanford but, due to its secretiveness, it may have been overlooked. One heard and seen 3rd March 2005 - Jonathan Bowley. A female ringed 29th October 2005 was retrapped 3rd & 22nd Dec 2005 and another female ringed 28th October 2006, retrapped 4/11/2006, and yet another female ringed 13/10/2007. A male ringed 28/9/09 and a female 25/10/2009 and a bird controlled 31/10/2009
Grasshopper Warbler	Bred most years in the 70's and 80's but seen far less frequently from 2000. 10 ringed 2009
Sedge Warbler	Regular Summer visitor which breeds. 6 singing males 1966
Marsh Warbler	One on 16th May 1989 and two records of individuals caught in mist nets and ringed - One on May 17th 1984 (1st Northants) the other on June 6th 2000.
Reed Warbler	Breeding, from two or three pairs in the early 1960's, (6 singing males noted in 1966 and 1969), in increasing numbers as the size of the Phragmites beds grow. Believed by the year 2000 to be the largest breeding colony in Leicestershire. 50 breeding pairs estimated in July 2002
Great Reed Warbler	One record for the Northants side: A single bird on September 5th 1976 was accepted by the BBRC and is the 2nd county record.
Icterine Warbler	A singing male trapped and ringed in Blowers Lodge Bay on 14th June 2008 which then flew across to the north bank was the 1st Leicestershire record and the 2nd for Northants.
Lesser Whitethroat	Three pairs bred in 1995.
Whitethroat	Summer resident breeding in increasing numbers following habitat management (especially in Blowers Lodge Bay. Since 2000 the annual totals of birds ringed has increased dramatically to over 100 each year with astonishingly 220 ringed in 2002; 313 in 2004 and 217 in 2006.
Garden Warbler	Perhaps two or three pairs present most years which no doubt breed.
Blackcap	Summer resident breeder in small numbers.
Yellow-browed Warbler	One trapped and ringed 7th October 2010 in "The Gully" net ride. On release was observed feeding along the disused railtrack for over an hour. The 6th Northants record.
Wood Warbler	Only three records.
Chiffchaff	Summer resident breeder in small numbers. An individual of the race <i>tristis</i> trapped and ringed 6th December 2008
Willow Warbler	Summer resident breeder. An individual of the race <i>acredula</i> ringed 23rd August 2008
Goldcrest	An occasional breeder with 10+ recorded on 28th September 1997.
Firecrest	Two records. A bird was caught and ringed on 16th December 1984 and one was seen with Goldcrests on 3rd November 2001. This was probably the bird ringed on 15/12/2001 and retrapped 5/1/2002
Spotted Flycatcher	Has bred around the Reservoir Manager's Cottage.
Pied Flycatcher	Two records only. Two stayed from August 22nd until September 9th 1972 and One male on April 14th 1979.
Bearded Tit	Has turned up during winter month eruptions on a number of occasions. Eight records with two on 16/10/1965 and the most significant being one of a party of eleven on November 7th 1980
Long-tailed Tit	Resident. Breeds annually with up to three nests being found. Flocks of up to 50+ have been recorded following the breeding season and in the winter months but these are obviously parties from farther afield.
Marsh Tit	Occasional visitor which may have bred on a number of times.
Willow Tit	Previously a rare visitor but now resident.

Coal Tit	Rarely recorded.
Blue Tit	Resident.
Great Tit	Resident.
Nuthatch	Breeds regularly in Stanford Park. Reservoir has four records:- A single bird seen on March 26th 1977, another on 11th September 1993, one seen calling 26/7/08 and another seen calling 8/8/09.
Treecreeper	One or two pairs normally present which breed most years.
Golden Oriole	One present from June 1st until 8th 1980; One male seen on May 4th and again on the 6th 1984 and one female seen regularly the following week. One seen on June 4th 1999 and again on June 22nd 1999. One unconfirmed report of a female/juvenile seen in flight 22nd September 2002
Red-backed Shrike	A single record of two male birds, one of which was trapped & ringed on May 9th 1984.
Lesser Grey Shrike	A single ? record. One on June 3rd 1972 (ex Mirecki & Leslie) is quoted by The Birds of Northamptonshire as 14th June 1972 near Stanford Reservoir
Great Grey Shrike	Used to occur fairly regularly in winter months. Now a very rare visitor. One 14/11/1965 was present until 17/3/1966. Single birds 1979 and 1983. One on Railtrack 19th October 2010
Jay	Breeds in adjacent woodland
Magpie	Resident in small numbers.
Jackdaw	Resident - has bred within reservoir perimeter
Rook	Breeds in adjacent South Kilworth spinney.
Carrion Crow	Resident breeder. [See also Sub-species]
Raven	Seen & heard 26th January 2006 - Andy Warren, JGC, one 21/2/07 and another 17 August 2007 - MJT and 29 Sept 2007 SRG. Two 17/2/08 and two 1st October 2009 with a number in 2010
Common Starling	Used formerly to be present in large numbers. Now only rarely recorded.
House Sparrow	A declining species. No recent records.
Tree Sparrow	Formerly seen in large flocks, e.g. 100+ in 1964; 250+ in January 1988 but then rarely recorded, however, circa.80 were present in 21st January 1999 with fluctuating numbers from then
Chaffinch	Several pairs breed with large numbers visiting in the autumn and winter months
Brambling	Occurs in winters of good 'Beech Mast' being seen mainly at the main entrance to the Reservoir. 60 on 12/2/1967
Greenfinch	A few pairs breed, winter numbers vary considerably
Goldfinch	Used to be a regular breeder beneath the dam until the habitat was removed. Seen in small numbers from time to time, occasional breeder
Siskin	Occasional winter visitor with 20 recorded on 12th December 1996 in the Alders along the by-pass.
Linnet	Has bred within the Reservoir perimeter (e.g. 1968) but less frequently now. Occurred on a number of occasions in large number such as 1000+ on 30th September 1979 but this was exceptional. Now only rarely recorded in small numbers. Flock of 150 on 17/9/2002 was unusual.
Twite	Three 29/12/1962. Was seen in most hard winters in the 1970's. Only one record in the Spring, the last, was of a single bird on May 15th 1980.
Mealy (Common) Redpoll	Two trapped & ringed 14th December 1995
Lesser Redpoll	Occasional winter visitor. Flock of 30+ birds in the winter of 1962. Good number trapped and ringed in 2007
Crossbill	One record. A single bird on August 9th 1966.
Bullfinch	Resident in small numbers.
Hawfinch	Three seen feeding on the heads of seeding Delphiniums in the Manager's garden on August 17th 1972 is the maximum number recorded
Snow Bunting	Three records, the first was an adult male on October 29th 1961, the second on November 1976 and finally a first winter male on October 12 1980.
Yellowhammer	An exceptional 80 on 17th January 1988. Normally only recorded in single figures.
Reed Bunting	Fewer numbers than in the past. Max. counts of 150 on 14th October 1978 and a staggering circa. 400 between 27th September and 4th October 1980. Numbers of breeding pairs follows national trends
Corn Bunting	Used to be seen and heard regularly and almost certainly bred. Flock of six on 30/3/1969. Max. count of 18 on 26th October 1976. No recent records. One juvenile ringed 23rd August 1980
Total Number of full species recorded = 238	
Recognisable Sub-species.	
Continental [Great] Cormorant	Two records. One from 16th January until 1st February 1998 and two on 21st February 1999.
Greenland White-fronted Goose	Two records. One on 8th February 1981 and one present on 10th October 1998.
Green-winged Teal	Three records. One female on 31st March 1990, another on 2/11/95 and in December 1995
Yellow-legged Gull	First recorded on 19th October 1995 when two were present. Since then further records of singles in 1996, 1997, 21st Jan 2002 - all but one being of adult birds. Up to three birds were present from 3rd Nov to 10th Nov 2002 with two on 16th Dec and one 23rd Dec 2002
Blue-headed Yellow Wagtail	Nine annual records from 1980 to 1994
White Wagtail	Has been recorded at least 16 times, all in April & May since the first on April 3rd 1966.
Greenland Northern Wheatear	Three records. One on 5th May 1977, two from May 17th until 21st 1978 and one in April 1982.

Hooded Crow	Three records, all of single birds - on November 15th 1970; October 12th 1975 and March 20th 1976, the last two could possibly have been the same bird that over-wintered with local Carrion Crows.
Total Number of sub-species recorded = 8	
Total Number of full species and sub-species recorded = 246	
Hybrid Species.	
Canada Goose/Greylag Goose	One bird showing the characters of this combination on 8th & 10th April 1990.
Wigeon sp.	A bird present from 24th December 1995 to 1st January 1996 was thought to be an American /Chiloe Wigeon hybrid.
Tufted Duck/Scaup Sp.	One resembling a Tufted Duck/Lesser Scaup present from 4th October until 16th October 1992.
Ruddy Duck/Argentine Blue Bill	A male on 6th April 1998. This bird had been seen at Welney and Boddington Reservoir earlier in the year.
Total Number of Hybrid Species = 4	
Exotica.	
Flamingo sp.	One on October 13th 1968 was presumed to be an escape.
Chilean Flamingo.	One adult present on 7th June, from 22nd June until 12th July and again from 19th July until 20th September 1992.
Black Swan	One in January 1992 and one from 18th June until December 1994, 2 Oct 2005, 2 on 8th May 2008
Chinese or Swan Goose.	Four present from 12th August until 14th September 1975.
Bar-headed Goose	Few records. The first on 18th December 1977; a single bird present from 4th - 6th September and again on 14th November 1982. One on 13th February 1983 and one on October 14th 1984. Two on 14th September 1986 and one on 27th of the same month. Two on 13th September 1987, one on 20th January 1991, two 13th August 2004 and one 14th October 2005.
Snow Goose	Nine records, the first a 'blue phase' bird on 23rd September 1978. One from 20th Aug to 28th Nov 2005
Egyptian Goose	One 17th Nov 2007 was only the second record, the previous being in 1972 (FPL)
Ruddy Shelduck	Two adults flew over in a South-westerly direction on 10th May 1990. One adult present on 7th November 1992. Three present 10th August 2005
South African Shelduck	One female flew over in a south-westerly direction on 19th November 1977. One present on 20th September 1992.
Chiloe Wigeon	Two adults on 27th June 1994.
Muscovy Duck	
Aylesbury Duck	One on 27th June and 21st Aug 2004
Wood Duck	Two records. One female in eclipse plumage on October 14th 1984 & one male on 7th November 1992.
White-headed Duck	A female present from 5th Aug until 17th Sept 1978 was thought to have been one that had escaped from Slimbridge. It was later seen at Eye Brook Reservoir where it stayed until at least Dec 1978. A male 10th Sept to 12th Oct 2002
Red-collared Wydah	One present from 30th August until 2nd September 1983.
White-headed Mannikin	(Lonchura maja) One trapped and returned to captivity 1980
Additional Species Reported but not accepted.	
Red-footed Falcon	One reported as being seen on 13th May 1992 was not accepted by the BBRC.
Baird's Sandpiper	A bird thought to be this species was recorded on 15th September 1968. Not accepted by the BBRC.
Spotted Sandpiper	One reported as being seen on 12th October 2002 was not substantiated.
Richard's Pipit	One reported as being seen on 10th & 26th October 1968 was not substantiated.
Red-throated Pipit	A bird reported on 25th April 1968 was undoubtedly this species but was not accepted by the BBRC.
Little Bunting	One bird seen briefly and believed to be this species on 27th December 1995 was not substantiated. [Information from Birding World.]
List originally prepared by Fredk. P. Littlemore with updates and corrections by Stanford Ringing Group.	