

Fairfield Breeding Bird Survey Report 2022

Dan Haywood

As ever, three morning visits were made covering all areas of the site. You'll find below a short summary of my findings along with a table of results 2020-2022 and six field maps.

This is the first year that neither Shelduck, Oystercatcher or Lapwing have not attempted to breed on site. This arguably implies that the site's linkage to the Morecambe Bay SPA / Lune Estuary SSSI is lessening.

The increase of open water on site in recent years is likely to be the explanation for the increase in pairs of Mallard (2) and Moorhen (4) nesting on site but it should be noted that breeding success for both waterfowl species continues to be quite limited indicating that predation of juveniles is a problem.

It was an interesting season for wetland-associated warblers with one each of singing Reed Warbler and Grasshopper Warbler noted during the June visit. Both species are new for the site and though their late season arrival would suggest that neither found a mate it is a testament to the mix of habitats on site (in this case the reeds and rushes that drew them in).

Other (regular) warbler species remained stable and Common Whitethroat did well with a record three pairs.

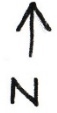
Reed Bunting also increased to a record three pairs and it is tempting to think that this territory uptake is a response to the impressive double figure counts attracted to the Lancaster & District Birdwatching Society feeding station in late winter.

As ever the most numerous nesters are species of woodland and particularly hedgerow so to echo my comments from the 2021 breeding bird report I would strongly recommend substantial thickening of all site hedgerows given this habitat type's benefit to breeding and wintering birds and other wildlife as well as impressive carbon sequestration.

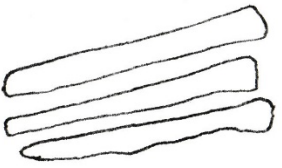
Species	Latin name	Details including no. of pairs			Conservation Status 2022	Map Code
		2022	2021	2020		
Blackbird	Turdus merula	11	14	12	Green	B.
Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	6	6	5	Green	BC
Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	7-8	10	8	Green	BT
Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	1	2	1	Amber	BF
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	1	1	1	Green	C.
Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	3	4	3-4	Green	CH
Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	3	2	2-3	Green	CC
Coal Tit	Peripatus ater	1	1	1	Green	CT
Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	2	1	3	Green	CD
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	10	10	7-8	Amber	D.
Goldcrest	Regulus regulus	2 with young seen in June	1	1	Green	GC
Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	7	8	6	Green	GO
Grasshopper Warbler	Locustella naevia	one singing by School Pond in June- first record for site?			Red	GH
Great-spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopus major	1	0-1	1	Green	GS
Great Tit	Parus major	5	4	4-5	Green	GT
Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	3	5-6	4-5	Red	GR

House Martin	Delichon urbicum	as would be expected, no on-site breeding. No aerial feeding noted during visits this year	no on-site breeding up to 5 (June visit) feeding over site probably refer to birds nesting locally.	.....	Amber	HM
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	As usual no on-site nesting. Two nests noted in adjacent houses and family parties seen on-site during May and June visits.	no on-site nesting as usual. 3 nests noted in adjacent houses and family parties seen on-site visits 2 and 3.	.....	Red	HS
Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	1	1 plus feeding flocks (incl juvs) in June visit	1	Green	JD
Jay	Garrulus glandarius	0	0	1	Green	J.
Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca	1 possibly 2. Recently-fledged juveniles seen	1	1	Green	LW
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	1	2	0-1	Green	LT
Magpie	Pica pica	1	1-2	1	Green	MG
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	2	1-2 but no sign of any young	0-1	Amber	MA
Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus	1	1	0	Red	M.
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	4	2 (one of which producing young)	1	Green	MH
Nuthatch	Sitta europaea	1	0-1 (male singing Pony Wood May visit only)	1	Green	NH
Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	1- two young seen in June	0	1	no status	PH
Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus	3	2	1	Amber	RB
Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	male singing in phragmites June visit- first record for site?	-----	-----	Green	RW
Robin	Erithacus rubecula	7	7	7-8	Green	R.

Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna	no records this year	0-1 male investigating shed in adjacent garden (April visit) also pair feeding School Pond on same visit but no evidence of nesting.	0-1	Amber	SU
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	3	2	3	Amber	ST
Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	1 nesting in Pony Wood. A decent breeding season locally evidenced by 37 out of 45 birds on June visit being juvs.	0. Again, no nestbox / tree nesters noted this year but foraging adults and 'creche flocks' on site as usual	0	Red	SG
Stock Dove	Columba oenas	2	1	1-2	Amber	SD
Swallow	Hirundo rustica	As ever, no breeders on-site but two registrations of local breeders feeding over site- maximum count 3	As ever, no breeders on-site but several registrations of local breeders feeding over site- maximum count 5	.....	Amber	SL
Swift	Apus apus	Two registrations over site (highest count 6) most likely referring to local (off-site) breeders. Nesting noted W end of Cromwell Rd.	Two registrations over site (max count 3) most likely referring to local (off-site) breeders	.....	Red	SI
Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris	1	1	0-1	Green	TC
Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	0	one seen investigating a nest box occupied by Blue Tits-- chased away.	----	Red	TS
Woodpigeon	Columba palumbus	8	9	8-9	Green	WP
Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	3	2	1	Amber	WH
Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus	one singing April visit but no subsequent evidence	Three singing males present during April visit- no records subsequently	1	Amber	WW
Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	11	14	13	Green	WR



APRIL 2022





2022 BBS
JUNE VISIT (5)



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JUNE VISIT

