

Peter Hoy

Subject: FW: Misson Carr Bird Surveys

From: Michael Walker [<mailto:MWalker@nottswt.co.uk>]

Sent: 04 April 2016 09:01

To: Oliver G. Jackson

Subject: RE: Misson Carr Bird Surveys

Hello Oliver

Please see below some information from Derick Scott about breeding birds at Misson which I hope is helpful

Regards

Michael

Hello Michael,

Good Friday was brilliant. Weather perfect; quite warm under the sun. I spent daybreak until early evening at Misson, checking big boxes for occupants, tawnies in two, but Barn Owls not disturbed inside their box. LEO's hunting in morning, and one male calling just before I left. Lots of bird song, mostly Song Thrush, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Robin, Dunnock, Wren and Great Tit. No migrants in, certainly not heard. Chiffchaff and Blackcap singing on 31st March. No Willow Warblers. Not Yet. Details for you.

Both Red-legged and Grey Partridge breed, greys scarce. Pheasant numerous. Marsh Harrier, regular visitor---breeds nearby (North Lincs and Notts). Common Buzzard: 2 pairs now breed. Sparrowhawk and Kestrel. Red Kites have been recorded occasionally. A pair of Barn Owls have nested in the box near the car park for several years. Tawny Owl, breeds areas S/E, centre of south ride and N/W area. Long-eared Owl: areas hawthorns west of main ride, N/W, sometimes N/E corner and a stand of trees on S/E meadows. Short-eared Owl last bred in 1999.

At least 2 pairs of LEO's bred in 2015, both successfully. Very sensitive birds.

Green and GS breed, but numbers not known. A pair of LS Woods probably bred in 2015 in the corner of N/W. A few pairs of Jays are resident, the same applies to Magpie and Crow.

Great Tit and Blue Tit very common. Coal Tit, a few pairs. Marsh Tit present, Willow Tit still resident but now scarce.

Misson Carr was once the 'Hot Spot' for Willow Tit in Notts. LT Tit quite common.

Robin, Wren and Dunnock everywhere on reserve. Likewise Blackbird. Up to 6 pairs of Song Thrush. Willow Warbler. Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Common Whitethroat very common, Lesser W not so common. same for Sedge W. Grasshoipper W not recorded since 2010.. Wheatear bred on S/E area in 2005. A pair of Corn Buntings reared a brood on S/E area in 2015. This is my only record this century, but a second pair fledged young along Levels lane. They nested among field beans.

Finches: Chaffinch numerous, Goldfinch, a few, Linnet scarce, Bullfinch, a few pairs. No Greenfinches recorded for many years.

Skylark and Meadow Pipit found on S/E grassland, but no evidence of Tree Pipits breeding since 2002.

Woodpigeon everywhere, Stock Dove, good numbers. Turtle Dove: Once a 'Hot Spot.' 5 or 6 birds singing last year, but no idea of successes. Purring came from several places throughout the reserve. I am very concerned about the future of this beautiful bird. Likewise the Woodcock. Once everywhere. Last year I recorded one roding bird.

I haven't included any breeding records of duck, mainly teal, Shoveler and Garganey. Available if you want them. When I was field working with Long-eared Owls here, long before it became a reserve, a few pairs of Tree Sparrows nested in boxes I put up in the N/E corner. A few pairs open-nested among hawthorns along the western side. They have long gone, and I haven't had them at my feeders in the car park for many years. yet they are found at Sutherton's farm at the top of the lane.

Let me know if you require any other information.