

Waterbirds Survey 2004 - 2008

Introduction

Please see 3 accompanying Spreadsheets: **2004 - 2005** begins 4.1.04, ends 25.12.05.
2006 - 2007 begins 1.1.06, ends 29.12.07.
2008 begins 5.1.08, ends 14.6.08. The survey is ongoing.

These 3 spreadsheets contain a **weekly count** of waterbirds in the Lake environs at Boggart Hole Clough. Every Saturday (Sundays before 2006) starting 10 a.m. surveyors walk around the Fish Pond and the Lake counting numbers of the various bird species. The count usually takes 25 minutes.

Species are introduced into the spreadsheets when first seen, after which they remain in the spreadsheet even if they are rarely seen subsequently. Two exceptions to this rule are the inclusion of Black-headed Gulls and Feral Pigeons from 5.1.08. Both these species were seen before this date but were not included in the survey. Pigeons are included because sometimes regarded as problem species so monitoring numbers is useful.

Also included are Herons (the Island is a Heronry) and Pied Wagtails (sometimes known as Water Wagtails). Survey therefore not limited exclusively to 'waterfowl' species. Nevertheless, with the exception of Pigeons, emphasis is upon wetland birds so various species seen in the Lake environs have been excluded including e.g. Crows and Magpies.

To date the survey includes 18 bird species: Great Crested Grebe, Grey Heron, Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Greylag Goose, White Goose, Hybrid Goose (Canada/White), Barnacle Goose, Mallard, Hybrid Mallard, Khaki Campbell, Tufted Duck, Goosander, Moorhen, Coot, Pied Wagtail, Black-headed Gull, Feral Pigeon.

To make the spreadsheets clearer, less cluttered, blank spaces are used in preference to zeros to indicate when no birds of species seen during the count.

The 3 spreadsheets show survey results as raw data. Analysis of data will be carried out in due course.

This basic Waterbirds Survey began because need for accurate figures regarding Canada Geese problem. Hopefully it lays foundation for a more comprehensive ecological survey of the Lake environs.

Thanks to the following for help carrying out this survey during the past several years:

2004: Geoff Shaw, Georgie Murgatroyd, Jamie Rutledge, Katie Rutledge, Leonard Brookes, Mathew Brookes.

2005: Amy Dowd, Erin Dowd, Frank Dowd, Jo Dowd, Leanne Mason, Maureen Gibson, Rose Mason, Sean Dowd.

2006: Anthony Trebilcock, Chris Shaw, Harvey Keeley, Neil Ashton, Sean Keeley, Sue Dippnall, Tristan Jones.

2007: Frankie Mananasy, Michael Riley, Noah Mananasy, Paul McCrystal, Steve Hamilton, Sylvie Mananasy.

2008: Dan Early, Frankie Mananasy, Noah Mananasy, Paul McCrystal, Steve Hamilton, Sylvie Mananasy.

Thanks to Paul for assistance compiling data into spreadsheets.