

Ken Moore has asked me to read his report on the highlights of the last 12 months

Starting in December 2009 – the 17th - brought the first report of BITTERN returning to Dinton Pastures. The BITTERNS were available until March, with up to 3 being present , with at least 3 others in the County too.

A juvenile GREAT NORTHERN DIVER was at Brimpton Lakes , whilst a lucky Charvil resident unwittingly photographed a GREAT WHITE EGRET on the 3rd and 4th December.

A total of 12 BEWICK SWANS during the month was certainly a very good Berkshire.

A handsome drake FERRUGINOUS DUCK only stayed for a day at D.P. , as did the drake RED BREASTED MERGANSER at Woolhampton.

January began with a ring-tailed HEN HARRIER in the Bury Down area , staying into February.

The MEALY REDPOLL in a Caversham back garden was a new Garden Bird for the observer.

Three WHITE FRONTED GEESE enlivened the Charvil area for the last two weeks of February.

In March ; another juvenile GREAT NORTHERN DIVER ,this time at QMR , but this one was more of a Crossbilled GREAT NORTHERN DIVER with its bill deformity.

The first Osprey of the year flew over Moor Green Lakes on the 18th March , whilst on the 20th , an ALPINE SWIFT was located in the Borough Marsh/Wargrave area. The Swift was very mobile, and only two observers were fortunate to connect.

April-a month of avian 'brief visits' included our only PIED FLYCATCHER of the year at Padworth.

A drake SMEW at Moatlands on the 21st May surprised us all .HOBBIES were back in near-normal numbers , but also noticeable were good numbers ,despite the very harsh winter , of KINGFISHERS ,DARTFORD and CETTI

WARBLERS . Breeding records for these species will make interesting reading.

Berkshires first , and second breeding records of OYSTERCATCHER occurred at Theale Main and Twyford
Both TEMMINCK STINT and KITTIWAKE at Hosehill on the afternoon of the 28 th May were one day birds.

June and July are normally light months for birds , then four different RUFF were certainly Augusts highlight.

September highlights were 2 reports of GANNET ,both on the 26th, and at least , 4 OSPREY moving through.

October ,with another GANNET, and a 5 day AVOCET were both eclipsed by the first BITTERN of this winter being seen at Dinton on the 20 th.

November the 1st , a brief visit by a male BLACK REDSTART to Hungerford , and finally on the 6 th, the much expected first WAXWING arrival of the autumn, at Worlds End ,in the Bracknell area.