



Rutland Water Bird List 2025

Below is the full list of birds recorded at Rutland Water between 1st January and 31st December 2025

1	Mute Swan	Common resident
2	Whooper Swan	Rare winter migrant
3	Pink-footed Goose	Occasional flocks fly over during winter
4	White-fronted Goose	Rare winter visitor. Exceptional influx during December
5	Greylag Goose	Common resident
6	Canada Goose	Common resident
7	Barnacle Goose	Small feral population resident most of the year
8	Brent Goose	Rare winter visitor. 1 Record in October
9	Egyptian Goose	Common resident
10	Shelduck	Fairly common most of the year in small groups
11	Wigeon	Common winter visitor
12	Gadwall	Abundant winter visitor and common breeder; Rutland Water is one of the UK's most important inland sites for the species.
13	Teal	Fairly common all year round. Most abundant in winter
14	Mallard	Common resident
15	Pintail	Regular winter visitor in small numbers
16	Garganey	Scarce but regular passage migrant.
17	Shoveler	Common winter visitor and occasional breeder
18	Red-crested Pochard	Scarce winter visitor
19	Pochard	Small numbers all year round.
20	Tufted Duck	Common resident
21	Scaup	Scarce but regular winter visitor
22	Common Scoter	Scarce autumn/winter visitor, usually in small groups. A few records annually.
23	Goldeneye	Fairly common winter visitor
24	Smew	Now a rare and declining winter visitor. A handful of records per year.
25	Red-breasted Merganser	Scarce passage migrant. One or two records a year.



26	Goosander	A declining winter visitor.
27	Mandarin Duck	Uncommon breeding resident
28	Red-legged Partridge	Fairly common resident on adjacent farmland
29	Pheasant	Common resident
30	Great Northern Diver	Scarce but regular winter visitor, mainly at the dam.
31	Fulmar	Rare inland bird. One record on 15 th May.
32	Gannet	Rare inland bird. Two records in September and October
33	Cormorant	Common resident
34	Shag	Scarce winter visitor usually involving single birds
35	Bittern	At least one bird thought to have been present on Lagoon 3 all year. Not yet breeding.
36	Cattle Egret	Rare but increasing visitor.
37	Little Egret	Common resident. Can be scarce in winter
38	Great White Egret	Fairly common resident except in spring when they apparently breed elsewhere.
39	Grey Heron	Common resident
40	Spoonbill	Rare passage bird. One or two records a year.
41	Little Grebe	Fairly common resident
42	Great Crested Grebe	Common resident
43	Slavonian Grebe	Scarce but regular winter visitor
44	Black-necked Grebe	Scarce but regular winter visitor
45	Red Kite	Common resident
46	White-tailed Eagle	Rare flyovers. One bird spent the day terrorising the waterfowl around Manton Bay in early March.
47	Marsh Harrier	Scarce but increasing visitor at all times of year
48	Sparrowhawk	Common resident
49	Buzzard	Common resident
50	Osprey	Common from March to September
51	Kestrel	Common resident
52	Merlin	Rare winter visitor. Very few records most years.
53	Hobby	Very common in May. Breeding occurred in at least 2 locations this year.
54	Peregrine	Scarce visitor, mainly in winter



55	Water Rail	Fairly common but secretive bird of wetland edges.
56	Moorhen	Common resident
57	Coot	Common resident
58	Common Crane	Rare but increasingly common flyover in Spring.
59	Avocet	Passage bird and regular breeder in small numbers.
60	Oystercatcher	Common spring & summer visitor
61	Golden Plover	Common winter visitor
62	Grey Plover	Scarce passage migrant
63	Lapwing	Common resident. Numbers increase in winter
64	Little Ringed Plover	Regular breeder
65	Ringed Plover	Common passage migrant
66	Whimbrel	Regular passage migrant
67	Curlew	Fairly common and mostly resident all year
68	Black-tailed Godwit	Regular passage migrant
69	Bar-tailed Godwit	Scarce passage migrant
70	Turnstone	Scarce but regular passage migrant
71	Knot	Rare passage migrant. One or two records annually
72	Ruff	Regular passage migrant
73	Curlew Sandpiper	Rare passage migrant, usually in autumn. Small group appeared in September this year.
74	Temminck's Stint	Rare passage migrant. One seen briefly in autumn.
75	Sanderling	Regular passage migrant in May.
76	Dunlin	Common passage migrant with occasional wintering birds.
77	Purple Sandpiper	Rare visitor. One in north arm on 8 th November. First record since 2018.
78	Little Stint	Rare passage migrant
79	Common Sandpiper	Common passage migrant
80	Green Sandpiper	Common passage migrant, especially in autumn
81	Spotted Redshank	Rare passage migrant. One or two records annually.
82	Greenshank	Regular passage migrant
83	Wood Sandpiper	Scarce annual passage migrant
84	Redshank	Common passage migrant and winter visitor
85	Jack Snipe	Scarce but elusive bird. Good run of sightings in autumn on L3.



86	Woodcock	Uncommon winter visitor to the woodlands
87	Snipe	Common winter visitor
88	Grey Phalarope	Rare visitor, usually after severe gales. One spent time at the dam in September.
89	Baird's Sandpiper	A first record for the site. Showed very well at the dam and Whitwell.
90	Pomarine Skua	First record since 1981. Adult bird (with full spoon tail feathers) flew over lagoon 4 on 25 th October.
91	Little Tern	Scarce passage migrant, seen most years
92	Sandwich Tern	Rare passage migrant. 2 records this year
93	Common Tern	Common summer breeder
94	Arctic Tern	Uncommon passage migrant, mostly in Spring
95	Black Tern	Annual passage migrant. Rutland Water remains one of the most reliable places to see these birds in April/May each year.
96	Caspian Tern	Rare visitor on the evening of 31 st July.
97	Kittiwake	Uncommon visitor in small numbers.
98	Black-headed Gull	Common resident
99	Little Gull	Uncommon spring passage migrant
100	Mediterranean Gull	Scarce visitor
101	Common Gull	Common winter visitor
102	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Common visitor, mostly in summer.
103	Herring Gull	Small numbers present most of the year
104	Yellow-legged Gull	Regular and increasing summer visitor
105	Caspian Gull	Scarce but increasing visitor
106	Great Black-backed Gull	Fairly common visitor
107	Feral Pigeon	Common resident
108	Stock Dove	Common resident
109	Woodpigeon	Common resident
110	Collared Dove	Common resident
111	Cuckoo	Regular but declining summer visitor. Usually 3-5 singing males.



112	Barn Owl	Uncommon resident. Very poor breeding year with only 2 small broods recorded.
113	Tawny Owl	Common resident
114	Swift	Common summer visitor
115	Kingfisher	Fairly common resident. Most often seen in late summer.
116	Green Woodpecker	Common resident
117	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Common resident
118	Magpie	Common resident
119	Jay	Common resident
120	Jackdaw	Common resident
121	Rook	Common resident
122	Carrion Crow	Common resident
123	Raven	Fairly common resident
124	Goldcrest	Common resident
125	Blue Tit	Common resident
126	Great Tit	Common resident
127	Coal Tit	Uncommon resident mostly in woodlands
128	Marsh Tit	Increasingly scarce resident. Most often encountered in woodland around the site.
129	Skylark	Common resident in fields surrounding the reserve.
130	Sand Martin	Common summer migrant breeding in 2 artificial nesting banks.
131	Swallow	Common but declining summer visitor.
132	House Martin	Common but declining summer visitor.
133	Cetti's Warbler	Uncommon but increasing breeding resident
134	Long-tailed Tit	Common resident
135	Chiffchaff	Common summer visitor. Small numbers overwinter.
136	Willow Warbler	Scarce summer visitor
137	Blackcap	Common summer visitor. Very small numbers may overwinter.
138	Garden Warbler	Common summer visitor
139	Lesser Whitethroat	Uncommon summer visitor
140	Whitethroat	Uncommon summer visitor



141	Grasshopper Warbler	Scarce summer visitor
142	Sedge Warbler	Common summer visitor
143	Reed Warbler	Common summer visitor
144	Nuthatch	Scarce resident in woodland areas
145	Treecreeper	Common resident
146	Wren	Common resident
147	Starling	Common resident
148	Blackbird	Common resident
149	Fieldfare	Common winter visitor
150	Song Thrush	Common resident
151	Redwing	Common winter visitor
152	Mistle Thrush	Uncommon resident, mostly around the north arm of the reservoir
153	Spotted Flycatcher	Scarce summer migrant. Breeds annually in very small numbers. Pair successfully raised chicks in an artificial house martin nest on the side of the busy watersports centre!
154	Robin	Common resident
155	Nightingale	Rare summer visitor
156	Redstart	Rare passage migrant. One or two records per year.
157	Whinchat	Rare passage migrant. One or two records per year.
158	Stonechat	Fairly common winter visitor to lagoons 1 and 2.
159	Wheatear	Uncommon passage migrant.
160	Dunnock	Common resident
161	House Sparrow	Common resident
162	Yellow Wagtail	Uncommon passage migrant
163	Grey Wagtail	Uncommon resident, found more often in winter
164	Pied/White Wagtail	Common resident
165	Meadow Pipit	Common passage migrant and winter visitor
166	Rock Pipit	Scarce passage migrant, often seen on the dam wall
167	Brambling	Scarce winter visitor, usually flyovers.
168	Chaffinch	Common resident
169	Bullfinch	Uncommon resident
170	Hawfinch	Rare visitor. One record on 3 rd December during UK wide influx.
171	Greenfinch	Common but declining resident



172	Linnet	Common resident
173	Lesser Redpoll	Uncommon winter visitor found mostly among birch trees.
174	Common Crossbill	Rare flyover presumably from a small nearby breeding location.
175	Goldfinch	Common resident
176	Siskin	Common winter visitor
177	Snow Bunting	Rare winter visitor. One in late October on an exposed island in the south arm of the reservoir was the first since 2019.
178	Yellowhammer	Uncommon resident in surrounding agricultural fields
179	Reed Bunting	Common resident
180	Corn Bunting	Rare visitor. Present on the end of Hambleton peninsular in the early part of the year.