

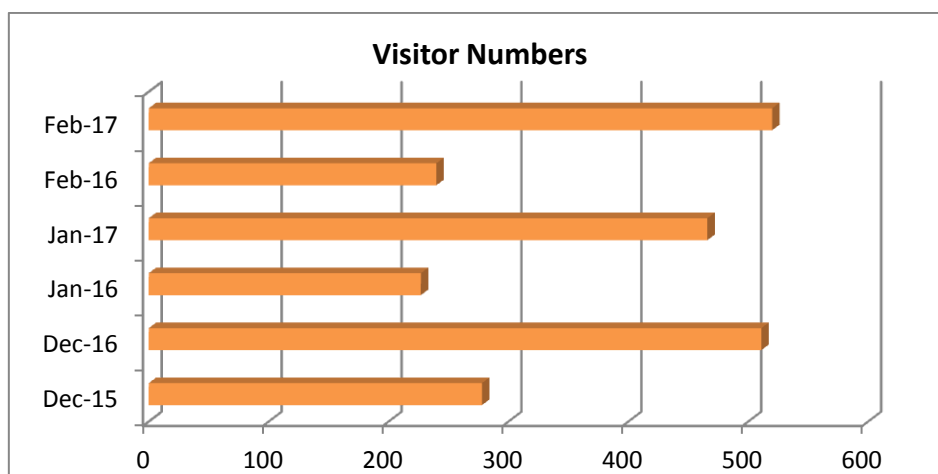
## Highlights from the RSPB

### Bearded tits and visitor numbers:

Bearded tits bred at Langford for the first time last year, this was also the first time they had ever been recorded breeding in Nottinghamshire.



- Bearded tits are reedbed specialists
- Only 772 pairs bred across the UK in 2014
- The Langford birds raised at least 2 broods of chicks
- Story was published by local media at the end of November 2016
- For the first time we have also had bearded tits on site all through the winter, (they eat reed seed during the winter and insects in the reedbed during the warmer part of the year)
- Media coverage has resulted in a doubling in visitor numbers, with February 2017 having the highest monthly recorded numbers since the reserve opened; 520



## Otters:

- An otter was spotted at Langford back in 2015 and since then spraints and footprints have been seen, however in December last year, a photo was finally taken of one by a visitor. The picture was taken from the boardwalk that cuts through the centre of the reserve.



- Throughout January a motion-activated camera has confirmed regular otter activity on the reserve.
- Fish stocks are still fairly low at langford (we have a fish biomass target of 10kg/ha and the current biomass is 4kg/ha), however fish numbers will increase as the habitat continues to develop, as we put more fish shelters into the reedbed and once the outfall sluice and fish pass are installed. More fish means more food for otters and for bitterns.

## The 'Big 3':

There are 3 key reedbed-specialist bird species we want to attract to Langford; bittern, marsh harrier and bearded tit. Before Christmas we launched a competition with our volunteers to see who could see all three species in a day at Langford, by the end of January three people had already seen the Big 3 in a single day. This is the first time all three species have been recorded on site at the same time. Excellent confirmation that the habitats are developing really well.

## Winter Wetland Bird Survey:

Wetland bird species are counted once a month, 2016/17 was a fairly average winter despite the generally milder weather.

	Winter 2016/17	Winter 2015/16	Winter 2014/15	Winter 2013/14
Wigeon	76	42	68	118
Gadwall	53	40	26	76
Teal	171	197	501	258
Shoveler	13	53	25	71
Pochard	23	7	26	40
Goldeneye	12	14	9	10
Tufted duck	152	153	185	203

## Habitat management:

- 12000 reed seedlings were planted out on the reserve last year by staff and volunteers. This included joint work parties with the Environment Agency and the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.
- We hit our scrub and woodland management targets for the winter. Scrub is managed to ensure we maintain a good 'age structure', so there is always a range of different height thorn bushes in the scrub blocks, this increases the range of birds and insects making use of them. Woodland management this year focused on opening up glades to let light down to the woodland floor and knocking back sycamores to try and reduce their dominance and to give the native oaks and elms more of an advantage. A number of 'dangerous' trees were also felled.
- Sections of reed were cut in the reedbed during the winter to stimulate extra growth this year and also to open up feeding areas for bearded tits.

## Winning photo from volunteer photo competition:



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