

Cormorants

As discussed at the last meeting P&DAA feel there has been less cormorant activity on our waters probably due to the following factors:

- A lower number of birds roosting at Overton Lake in Ferry Meadows. Some limited habitat adjustments have been made by Nene Park. Max of approx. 30+ birds vs 50+ in the previous winter.
- The flooding over the autumn and winter have made the river and lakes very turbid and the suspicion is the birds will have looked for clearer water to hunt in e.g. gravel pits.
- It has also been previously noted that actual counting activity was at a low level and that Kelvin suggested there may in fact be further, more comprehensive data available from the other sources (? British Trust for Ornithology).
- We do have an additional predator present in the river locally in the form of a seal. In past years seals have made visits from the sea but generally they return in early spring but this year this one has remained. Possibly due to the lock leading to the tidal river being closed. We have contacted RSPCA and Seal Rescue but unless the animal is injured or in obvious distress then they are unable to act. Jake Devoile is currently aware and investigating what options there may be. The Association has taken the step of cancelling our round of the Riverfest as the seal activity has obviously moved the fish from the venue.
- While discussing the above with Jake Devoile he informed me he now has access to a thermal imaging device which makes it possible to quickly assess numbers of birds in a roost and has offered to visit the Nene Valley roosting sites at an appropriate time

P&DAA News

Like most organisations we have had to adapt to the pandemic control measures and once angling was re-opened introduced an online system of temporary membership up to June 15th. From then on, all memberships and day tickets went online through an appointed agent with eTickets issued.

As of today, we have as many members as we ended last season on.

All matches have been cancelled on Ferry Meadows and the use of keepnets banned as a fish welfare measure which has proved very successful and well accepted by pleasure anglers. Catches have greatly improved and it would be interesting to know if this is because the fish enjoyed a break or are more catchable having not been kept in nets. The bream appear to have spawned early in the warm spell.