



As members may have noticed, preliminary work has begun on the high voltage overhead lines that run across the pasture fields and parallel to the railway line in preparation for the replacement of those lines sometime in the autumn. When the replacement of the overhead power lines takes place, there will unfortunately be no access to the Reserve. When we have an idea of more definite dates we will inform members via the Newsletter/Facebook and website. Some preliminary drilling work is also being carried out in compartment 1 on the meadows relating to the proposed Carbon Capture plant. None of these current works should impact on our enjoyment of the site.

The Field Centre toilets will shortly be getting refurbished by Uniper which unfortunately means the facility will not be available for approximately three weeks. The start date for the work is scheduled for 31st March and is estimated to take three weeks. Members are advised to check for updates on the website and Facebook pages.

The Committee has decided to 'mothball' the meadow hide for the time being as we are not sure of its future status following work on the Carbon Capture plant should it go ahead, plus the fact that it is seldom used, if at all, due to there being little to observe from there.

We will be instigating a new feeding regime on the Dee hide feeders in an attempt to reduce the risk of finch trichomonosis. The feeders will in future only be replenished between 1st November and 31st March. This will of course be a disappointment to many who enjoy sitting watching the birds on the feeders, however the welfare of the birds is our paramount concern.

The Committee has identified a fair number of maintenance issues on site that need addressing which we feel we can go ahead with now that we have a new lease with the landlords. A number of these jobs we can do inhouse, however the more major issues will involve outside contractors. Hopefully all the work can be completed over the spring/summer months.

If any members would be interested in helping out with the servicing of the nest boxes at the back end of the year, please get in touch with myself (07896758222) or Betty Lee (01244 550993)

Alan Smethurst

Benmaddarch Bay 15th December 2024

As we came off the A55 at the Valley junction there was a red kite overhead, a great start to the day and the first of this year's field meetings.

On arriving at the approach road to the car park, we were met by Steve Palin and Malcolm Down who informed us that it wasn't possible to enter the car park as it was closed due to the council doing work in the woodland area to repair damage done during storm Darragh the previous week.

After a quick look over the bay we found black guillemot, great crested grebe, wigeon, slavian grebe and turnstone. From this point we moved to the east end of the causeway where we saw a shag and cormorant close together and it provided a good opportunity to compare both bird species.

We then made our way to the Inland Sea on which were golden eye, red breasted merganser, wigeon another Slavonian grebe, great northern diver, red shank, grey plover, curlew, black-tailed godwit, great black-backed, herring and common gulls. In one of the gardens, we had a good showing of a flock of fifteen goldfinches.



Brent Geese - Bill Dickinson



Meadow Pipit - Bill Dickinson

Because we had seen black guillemot in the Bay, we decided not to go to the fish dock and instead head for the Alaw Estuary, stopping at the flooded field in Valley, which had good numbers of teal, shoveler, oystercatcher, wigeon, greylag geese and a couple of rooks.

We had lunch at the eastern side of the Bay looking out over the exposed sand and rocks, the tide was dropping, we saw ringed plover, curlew, shelduck, dunlin, bar-tailed godwit and greenshank, suddenly all were airborne courtesy of, looking skywards, a peregrine, it was just doing a flypast before heading out to the estuary.

Following lunch, we went to the far side of the historical landmark Pem-Morfa. The estuary was full of brent geese, circa two hundred, together with black-tail godwit, dunlin, redshank, shoveler, shelduck and pintail. On the way back to the cars we saw buzzard and bullfinch.



Sunset, Cors Ddyga - Bill Dickinson

Just before we left Anglesey we stopped at Cors Ddyga, the water level was as high as I have seen it in the past. One of the first birds we saw was another red kite or was it the same one as earlier? It was a peaceful scene, on the water were shoveler, shelduck, mallard, teal, wigeon, pintail and gadwall, around the edges the wader's included oystercatcher, lapwing, golden plover, bar-tailed godwit, ringed plover and ruff.

Forty-eight species in total. A big thank you to those members who turned out for the day.

Bill Dickinson

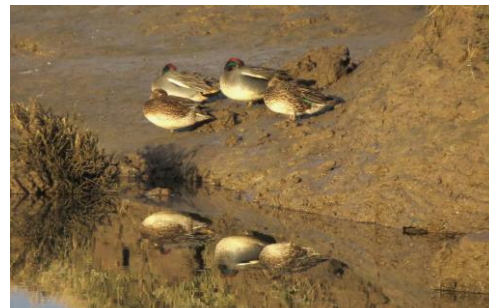
Llanfairfechan & spinnies 11th Jan

On arriving at the promenade at Llanfairfechan, our first port of call, we had good views of Puffin Island and Penmon Point, beyond a calm sea. 250 hectares of sand and mud habitats can be seen, which are important feeding grounds for a number of native and migratory bird species, such as shelducks, waders, oyster catchers, curlews, lapwing and large flocks of wigeon.



We assembled by the Pavillion Café on the promenade viewing over the sea, a sight that we weren't expecting to see was three ladies cold water swimming, the temperature was -2 degrees centigrade. On the tide line there were flocks of oystercatchers, curlews; herring, great black backed and black headed gulls. On the sea there were several common scoters and great crested grebes. A dipper was seen briefly before flying up stream on the Afon Llanfairfechan.

The promenade was followed by a walk to Morfa Madryn local nature reserve, the reserve is an important nesting site for lapwing and attracts a good variety of birds all year round. We walked to the railway level crossing and over to the sewage works and were rewarded with another brief glimpse of a dipper, long tailed tits, a buzzard and grey wagtails. Walking through the Nature Reserve we had good sightings of bullfinch, meadow pipits, skylark, lapwing, heron, stonechat, linnet, teal, redshanks, greenshank, goosander, a brief view of a kingfisher as it flew across the ponds and little egrets.



The group then made their way to the Spinnies nature reserve, Aberogwen, a mix of wetland and woodland adjacent to the Ogwen Estuary and Traeth Lavan on the coastal plain of North Gwynedd.

On the estuary there were shelduck, pintail, wigeon, great crested grebe and golden eye on the incoming tide. On the shore were little egret, curlew, dunlin, oystercatchers and turnstone. Within the reserve there were tits, coal, great and blue, chaffinch, great spotted woodpecker, bullfinch, greenfinch, siskin and a nuthatch around the numerous feeders. The pool provided us with views of redshank, little grebe and teal.

Thanks to those members who joined me for the day. We enjoyed seeing a good variety of over fifty species of birds.

Bill Dickinson

Birding in Costa Rica with wild insights Feb 2024 (Part 1)

Day 1: We were met at Gatwick by the tour organisers and our guides Linda and Keith Offord. The trip began with a flight from Gatwick to San Jose, the capitol of Costa Rica. On decanting the airport and whilst being bussed to our hotel darkness had fallen so the adventure of birding was going to have to wait until we had had a good night's sleep.

Like most of the forthcoming days the birding started at dawn and we were in the hotel's gardens before breakfast. Where do you start there were birds that I had never seen before, Canivet's Emerald hummingbird, Blue-grey Tanager, Palm Tanager, Tropical Kingbird, Crimson-fronted parakeets and all before breakfast. The main part of the trip involved four three-night stays at hotels to maximise the number of species seen.

Day 2: Our destination today was the Savegre Mountain Hotel only ninety kilometres from San Jose but it would mean crossing the Talamanca mountain range and going towards the country's tallest volcano, Irazu. The refreshment breaks were very refreshing, they had balcony's that faced feeding stations. Our first stop was at Paraiso de Quetzales and true to form a resplendent Quetzal flew over the road and was only seen by two or three in the group, we left the bus to go in search, but it was not to be. However, from the viewing deck we were able to see Green Violet-ears, white Throated Mountain Gems, Talamanca hummingbirds and Volcano hummingbirds. All these birds attracted by a sugar solution and fruit. Other birds in the gardens were Long-tailed Silky-flycatchers, Mountain Thrush, Golden-brown Chlorophonia, large footed finch and a black and Yellow silky-flycatcher.

One more stop before we reached our hotel produced Spot crowned woodpecker, large footed finches, Yellow thighed finches, Hairy woodpecker, Flame throated Warbler and Emerald Toucanets. Shortly after we were at our hotel, large spacious cabins, and heading for the restaurant.



EMERALD TANAGER



BALTIMORE ORIEL

Day 3: Our day started with a pre-breakfast walk, the noted birds were Wilson's, Tennessee and Black-throated green warblers and a Mountain Elenia. We would spend the rest of the day locally doing short walks, starting with one alongside the river to the waterfall which produced an American Dipper, Belted Kingfisher and a Torrent Tyrannulet. The river led us into a wooded area with various vireos, Philadelphia, Yellow-winged and Brown capped along with Black and White, Black throated, Green and Golden winged warblers. After lunch we visited a nearby feeding station, which was teeming with birds, Talamanca Hummingbirds, Green violet ears, white throated mountain gems and green crowned brilliants. Rufous collared sparrows, Baltimore Orioles, Flame coloured Tanagers, white-naped Bush Finch and Rose-breasted Grosbeak were feed at the station.



Day 4: We were in luck, after coffee at dawn, the sort after Resplendent Quetzal was seen both male and female perching in an Avocado tree. We had a jeep ride after breakfast to the top of the forest slope for Ruddy Pigeon, Black-faced Solitaire, a Pygmy Owl, Green-fronted Lancebill and a Bare-shanked Screech Owl. Later in the afternoon down by the river we saw a pair of Neotropical River Otters together with Louisiana Waterthrush, Collared Redstarts, Common Chlorospingus and a Gray-breasted Wood Wren.

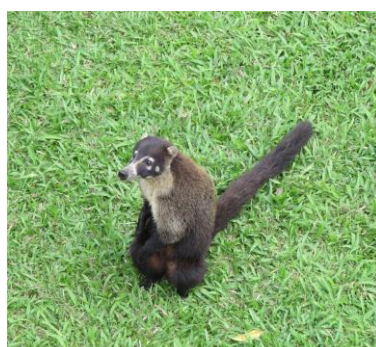
Day 5: We set off along the Pan American highway heading to the western Pacific coast. Again stops enroute were filled with birds Green Hermit, Scarlet-rumped Tanagers, Rufus-tailed hummingbirds, Bananaquits Snowy-bellied hummingbird, Buff-throated Saltators, Gray-headed Chachalacas and Golden-hooded Tanagers.

Day 6: From the hotel Villa Lapas we visited the Caraca National Park, walking the trails we encountered Tent-making bats, rufous-tailed Jacamar, Russet Antshrike, Dot-winged Antwrens, White-whiskered Puffbird and a Cocoa Woodpecker. The day finished with watching the waves roll in from the Pacific Ocean along with views of Willets, Laughing Gulls, Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans.

Day 7: Before breakfast we explored the north side of the Tarcoles River here we found Black-crowned and Masked Tityras, Pacific Screech Owl, yellow-throated vireo, Mangrove and Squirrel Cuckoo, Streaked-backed Oriole, Brown-crested Flycatcher and Turquoise-browed Motmot. Back in the hotel grounds we spent the morning looking for more amazing birds, Black-throated Trogon Gray-capped Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Orange-billed sparrow, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Lineated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Antbird and Sulpher-rumped Flycatcher.



COLLARED TROGON



WHITE NOSED COATI



COLLARED ARACARI

The afternoon saw a return to the river this time for a boat trip that had herons lining the banks, Little Blue, Great Blue, Tri-coloured and yellow-crowned. Double-striped thick-knees were on the shoreline together with Least Sandpipers and Collared Plovers. Around the mangrove forest there were Beper, Black-crown Pelicans, Boat-billed Herons, Roseate Spoonbill, and smaller birds a Mangrove Warbler, Rufous-browed Peppershrike and Prothonotary Warbler. At the mouth of the river were Laughing and Franklin's Gulls, Sandwich, Royal and Elegant Terns, Black Skimmers, Amazon and Green Kingfishers, Whimbrel and Willets

Day 8: Pre.-breakfast and a pair of Bare-throated Tiger-herons were on the side of the river along with a pair of Buff-rumped Warblers. In the grounds of the hotel we saw Common Pauraque, Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Dusky Antbird, Northern Bentbill, Tawny-crowned Greenlet and Slaty AntWren.

After breakfast it was time to make our way from the coast of the Pacific over to the slopes of the Caribbean and again stopping for lunch we were treat to another feeding station with Silver-throated, Palm, Bay-headed, Scarlet-rumped, Emerald and Blue-and-gold Tanagers, a male Green Honeycreeper, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Green-crowned Brilliant, Coppery-headed Emerald and Crown Woodnymphs. Perched on a distant tree was White Hawk. Our destination was Arenal Observatory Lodge, close to the now dormant Arenal volcano. Going through a small village our local guide asked the driver to pull over, we then disembark to see a Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth sleeping in a nearby tree.



BROWN PELICAN



GREEN IBIS

I would like to say a big thank you to our tour organisers and guides Linda and Keith Offord, of Wild Insights, and to Esteban for all his local knowledge in giving everyone on the tour such a fabulous time.....To be continued in August Newsletter.

Bill Dickinson

The Llyn Brenig Osprey project

2024 season report

In March, the osprey season at Llyn Brenig started off fairly routine. Our male (LJ2) returned to his nest and promptly began work getting the nest ready for his female. Little did we know the drama that would unfold in those first few weeks. The female osprey (LM6) who had occupied the nest for the last 3 years sadly did not arrive back from migration and another female took an interest in the Llyn Brenig nest.

On the 1 April, 372 made her first visit to our nest. 372 has an interesting history; born in Scotland in 2021, 372 was part of the Poole Harbour translocation project. The problem was LJ2 was waiting for his female, LM6, to return from migration and promptly chased off 372. 372 had obviously taken a liking to the Brenig nest and was persistent. She visited the Brenig nest each day and as LJ2 began to accept the fact that LM6 may not return, he then turned his attentions to 372.

Finally, LJ2 and 372 settled into the rhythm of the breeding season doing the normal things an osprey couple do, fishing, nest building, mating. This was 372's first breeding season, being a three- year-old there were so many unknowns. Would she mate successfully? Would she lay any eggs? Would she know what to do with the eggs? Was she going to become a good mum? We were all watching in anticipation. We were very happy to see three eggs in the nest by the end of April. This was the first breeding season for 372 so the laying of three eggs was amazing. But the drama was not over!

On 9th May, while 372 was incubating her eggs, a new intruder osprey paid a visit to the nest. A 3-year-old female, ringed 432 from Kielder Forest. An epic 4 hour battle ensued for the Llyn Brenig nest between the two very large and feisty females. We had no idea who would win the battle for the nest. At 10:30pm 372 landed back on her nest the victor; we were all very relieved and 372 had undoubtedly claimed the Llyn Brenig nest as hers.



Again, peace descended on the Llyn Brenig nest. 372 however liked to do things a little differently. The osprey books state that once a female osprey had laid eggs she would stay on the nest to incubate the eggs and the male would provide fish for the female. Well, 372 had not read the manuals and often would call to LJ2. He would come to the nest and take over incubation of the eggs and 372 would go fishing. She would return with a fish, eat half on a tree stump, leave the remaining half on the stump, fly back to the nest, take over incubation of the eggs after having a good feed and LJ2 would go the stump and finish off the remaining half of the fish. 372 and LJ2 sharing the fishing and incubation responsibilities, a very modern couple indeed!

In early June, two of the eggs hatched, and 372 and LJ2 returned to a more traditional osprey family dynamic of LJ2 fishing and 372 staying on the nest with the chicks. Both parents devoting their time to the raising and protection of their two chicks. Throughout June and July, the osprey family fell into a natural rhythm: fishing, feeding, growing, resting and protecting. One of the chicks in particular was showing a feistiness inherited from mum, pecking the smaller chick's head and neck, developing the "pecking order". Sometimes particularly brutal pecking that made for uncomfortable watching, but all perfectly normal osprey chick behaviour. As the chicks grew, tug of wars started to develop between the chicks when a fish was brought to the nest - the larger chick usually winning but the smaller chick becoming more and more confident and standing up to the larger chick.



The chicks were ringed on 8 July and we found we had a male and female chick. The male was ringed 8B8 and the female 8B9. Unsurprisingly 8B9 was the larger chick and 8B8 the smaller chick. Names were chosen for them through the Brenig Osprey Project Facebook poll, names from Ac Yna Clywodd Sŵn Y Môr by Alun Jones, 8B8 became Emrys and 8B9 Bethan.

Mid-July saw both Bethan and Emrys getting ready to take flight, they had grown so much and were almost fully grown. They had begun practising their take-off and landing by helicoptering above the nest. We watched on, anxiously hoping a rogue gust of wind didn't cause early fledging. On 27th July Bethan fledged and, on the 28th of July Emrys fledged, both safely returning to the nest after their maiden flight.

The Brenig nest had a number of 2-year-old visitors during 2024, including our own 2022 Brenig chick, KA9 Gelert; fantastic to see a Llyn Brenig chick survive migration and return to Llyn Brenig. The only other Llyn Brenig chick to return previously was Roli KA5, born 2019.

The next few weeks were spent feeding up and getting stronger for the ospreys' migration. The whole family stayed around the Brenig nest site for the next five weeks. Until the urge to migrate separates the family and takes each osprey on a 3,000-mile journey to the west coast of Africa. 372 and Emrys 8B8 were last seen around the osprey peninsula on 4 September. LJ2 and Bethan 8B9 were last seen on the 6 September. The Brenig Osprey Project will not know if the chicks survive this gruelling migration until they return to Wales in two years' time or if the adults survive until their return next year.

Sarah Callon (Brenig Osprey Project officer)

North Wales Coast 22nd Feb

With no plan other than see what we can find along the coast today we met at the entrance to DNS before setting off to Llandullas beach. On the sea there were some three hundred common scoter and thirty great crested grebes, cormorants, oystercatchers, gulls included herring, great black backed and black headed.

A report came through on the Scarce & Rare North Wales Birds What's App that the black redstart had been seen at the copper mine on the Great Orme. We spent a considerable amount of time scanning the rocks, the car park and the buildings that form the Great Orme Mine visitor attraction only for one of our number to shout out, "its behind us", and it was. It was spending it's time flying into various bushes, on the ground and flying on to the top of a marker post, giving excellent views.



We went a little further down the Great Orme overlooking the sea and had views of guillemots, fulmar, cormorants, great crested grebes and four seals.

From the Great Orme we moved to RSPB Conwy, the reserve had a good number of teal, shoveller, shelducks, gadwall and wigeon on the scrapes but very few waders. A pair of goldcrests were seen by the Carneddeau hide. On the incoming tide in the estuary there were curlew and redshanks.

The last stop of the day was going to be Rhuddlan Nature Reserve where the glossy ibis had been seen that morning. We walked the length of the reserve scanning the ponds, fields and wetland areas but nothing was seen. We were at the south end of the reserve when it was briefly seen to fly into the north end landing, out of sight, around the ponds. Some members went down to see if it could be seen but after a while came back, it wasn't to be found.

Feeling a bit miffed as only one member had seen it, we decided to hang around a little longer. The light was beginning to fade when, yes, it flew out of it's previous landing place, began to fly to the right then changed course and flew right over our heads landing twenty yards away.



We all went away very happy for one member he had two lifers in one day. Thanks to all those that came out for a very memorable day.

Bill Dickinson

Bird report Oct 2024 – Jan 2025

Many birds winter on the Dee estuary away from their Northern breeding grounds. The reserve at Connah's Quay provides safe roosting for a good variety of waders and water fowl. These can be seen on the tidal pools and on the estuary.

October. 37 Greenshank, 23 Spotted redshank, 3200 Black-tailed godwit, 1800 Knot, 3 Whimbrel, Ringed plover, Rock pipit, 2 Common sandpiper, Stonechat, 50 Goldfinch, 45 Linnet, 20 Blackbirds, 400 Teal, 3 Marsh harriers, 4 Avocet, 1000 Pink-footed geese, Water rail, Grey wagtail, 10 Bar-tailed godwit, Wheatear, 15 Snipe, 4 Bullfinch, Kingfisher, Pintail, 400 Wigeon, 2 Goosander, Merlin, 17 Collared doves.

November. Green sandpiper, Merlin, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, 15 Whooper swans, 3000 Black-tailed godwits, 1400 Knot, 13 Gadwall, 35 Little egret, 12 Great crested grebes, Greenshank, Avocet, Redwing, Hooded crow (A Lovatt), 2000 Lapwing, Shoveler, 7 Fieldfare, 2 Curlew sandpiper, 20 Rooks, 50 Stock doves, Grey plover, 20 Skylark, 10 Reed bunting, 75 Chaffinch, 4 Stonechat, 20 Curlew, 200 Wood pigeon

December. Brambling, 2000 Dunlin 50 Curlew, 300 Wood pigeon, 100 Stock dove, 7 Little grebe, 2 Sparrowhawk, 12 Redwing, 3 Goosander, Black swan, 8 Tufted duck, Bar-tailed godwit, 5 Stonechat, 15 Snipe, 4 Spotted redshank, 7 Greenshank, Peregrine, Kestrel.

January. 6 Shoveler, Golden Plover, Ringed plover, Black swan, Turnstone, 28 Snipe, Common sandpiper, 100 Dunlin, 850 Lapwing, 45 Curlew, 400 Wood pigeon, 120 Stock dove, 18 Pied wagtail, 16 House sparrow, Goldcrest, 4 Marsh harrier, 20 Redwing, Peregrine, 30 Fieldfare, 40 Rook, Brambling, Grey wagtail, Red breasted merganser, 26 Whooper swans.



Peter & Sue Haslem (Recorders)

Leighton Moss 22nd Mar

Leighton Moss boasts the largest reed bed in north-west England and is home to a wide range of spectacular wildlife including otters, bearded tits, marsh harriers, egrets and red deer.

On arriving at the car park for the Morecambe and Allen hides we heard our first sound of a booming bittern, together with the sound of blackbird, chiffchaff, wren and dunnock and the ever present, often heard, seldom seen, cetti's warbler.

We were informed by a local birder that there was a pair of garganey from the Allen hide. We located the birds, partially hidden by some reeds, on one of the islands and they stayed in that position for the duration of our viewing.

The two main bodies of water held good numbers of teal, wigeon, avocets, together with shelduck, shoveler and pochard. Waders included curlew, oystercatchers, little egrets, redshank and black tailed godwits.



We moved to the main reserve and visitor centre and around the Lilian, and Grisedale hides we saw a range of ducks; gadwall, shoveler, shelduck and tufted duck. We were treated to numerous sightings of marsh harriers, more males than females. Bitterns were present we could hear their "booming" calls from around the reserve.

From the Tim Jackson hide we saw a jack snipe, when I say we 'saw' we had glimpses of the bobbing jack. It took a lot of patience to get onto the jack snipe, as it too was behind reeds. It was accompanied by two common snipes.

Back to the centre for lunch, where at the picnic spot we enjoyed watching the feeders, a pair of bullfinches, marsh tit, nuthatch and the call of a green woodpecker.

Walking to the causeway we again heard chiffchaff, cetti's and the bitterns but no bearded tits. The huge expanse of water from the Causeway hide had goldeneye, great crested grebes, gadwall, tufted ducks.

Unfortunately, the lower hide was closed so we wandered a little further down the track hoping to see a bittern or bearded tit, but it wasn't to be. We did, however, hear the squeaking sound of a water rail deep in the reed bed.

We decided to call it a day, the bitterns weren't coming out to play. Well over sixty species seen. Booming bitterns, garganey and jack snipe, great.

Thanks to all who joined me for a wonderful day.

Bill Dickinson.

Field Events 2025

April Sat 12th LLYN COED Y DINAS AND DOLYDD HAFREN NATURE RESERVE. These two reserves provide a variety of habitats from a disused quarry to a flood plain with a wealth of wildlife. Meet at GR SJ 223052, post code SY21 8RP, at the end of the Welshpool by-pass on the road to Powys castle at 10.00am. Contact Keith Davis on 01978 760353 for more details

May Sat 24th WOOLSTON EYES, The principal UK breeding site for Black necked Grebes. Meet at the eastern end of Thelwall lane. Post code WA4 1PD at 9.00am. Contact Bill Dickinson 07968438121 for more details.

June Thurs 19th LLANDEGLA FOREST. Meet at 8.00pm for 8.30pm start in the car park at One Planet Adventure. Llandegla visitor centre. Grid ref: SJ 219519, post code: LL11 3AA. It is a fairly demanding walk which takes about 40 minutes. Contact Barry Lynes 07923128124 for more details.

July Thurs 3rd RSPB SOUTH STACK AND CEMLYN BAY. Spectacular nesting seabirds extravaganza. Bring RSPB membership card. Meet in the café car park at 9.30am. Contact Bill Dickinson 07968438121 for more details.

September Sun 14th CONNAH'S QUAY RESERVE. Members day, high tide watch for returning waders as they migrate south. Meet Field Study Centre at 9.00am. Contact Bill Dickinson 07968438121 for more details.

October Thurs 2nd. CONWY RSPB AND ESTUARY. Bring RSPB membership card. Meet at Conwy reserve car park at 9.30am. Contact Bill Dickinson 07968438121 for more details. (please note date change)

November Thurs 20th. DENHALL LANE , NESS AND RSPB BURTON MERE WETLANDS. Marshland birds and more. Meet at Denhall Lane, Burton, Cheshire Grid ref: SJ303749 at 9.30. Bring RSPB membership card.. Contact Bill Dickinson 07968438121 for more details

December Thur 11th. MARBURY COUNTRY PARK. Woodpeckers and woodland birds, wintering Bittern and other waders. Meet at the car park (pay and display) (SJ652764 at 9.00am. Contact Bill Dickinson 07968438121 for more details.

Please carshare whenever possible. Notices will be put on DNS Facebook page and the DNS website prior to the meetings.

Bill Dickinson

Nest Boxes 2024

The status of the Nest boxes on the reserve and surrounding farmland in 2024 was as follows:

	BOXES	USED	PERCENTAGE
Deenats Reserve	37	28	76%
Papermill pool	6	6	100%
Cheshire farm	16	15	94%
Oakenholt farm	13	11	85%
Top – y – fron	13	11	85%
Kelsterton farm	5	4	80%
Ysgol Owen Jones	5	4	80%
	95	79	83%

The majority of the occupied boxes had been vacated when they were serviced, there were a however a number of casualties: **24 unhatched eggs; 19 dead chicks; 1 dead adult** Almost all of the dead chicks were on the Top-y-Fron site. More than likely due to the adult birds being predated.

Two boxes had wood mouse families resident, so left undisturbed and a further box had been occupied by a colony of honey bees, the box filled with comb

DNS Art Group

We are a small group of members who enjoy painting together each month. We paint in various mediums and gain stimulation and encouragement from each other.

If you would like to join us, you would be most welcome. Our meetings are on the second Thursday of the month in the Field Study Centre from 1-30 until 3-30 pm.
Contact Kay Mattocks on 01244 821810

Digital Media

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Facebook: MEMBERS OF DEESIDE NATURALIST SOCIETY