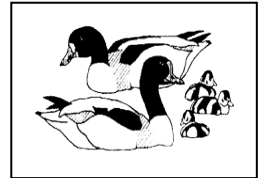


Newsletter



Issue 150

August 2019

Registered Charity No. 510146

Welcome to the August edition of the Newsletter.

There have been occasional issues of unauthorised persons accessing the Reserve. It is particularly disruptive to roosting birds if anybody approaches the Reserve across the RSPB marsh from the direction of Flint. We would ask that members refrain from confronting any trespassers, but to contact Uniper security on: 01244 894065 . (This number is printed on the back of your membership card).

There have also been instances of 'random gardening' on site. I would remind members that we are not at liberty to interfere with any vegetation on site as Uniper have an extensive Management Plan operating in this regard. Thank you.

Members will have noticed that the willow planted at the West hide is doing well with only a 10%-15% failure rate. Cuttings will be taken to plant on the river facing side of the path this coming autumn which will give us a good return for no further monetary outlay. Wild flower seeding in the West hide car park has shown some success which will improve year on year as we now intend removing grass cuttings rather than let them rot down.

Following a suggestion by one of our members that we leave an unmown border around the meadows: we have looked into this and learnt from expert opinion that on grass meadows the grass would totally dominate and suppress wild flowers.

Sadly, once again we have had an instance of petty pilfering from the Dee hide. Whoever it may be – you know who you are, and we have a good idea of who you are from the signing in sheets and CCTV footage, maybe you should discreetly return the item and put an end to the matter.

Now two appeals: We are trying to locate a gentleman member who attended our Nightjar evening in 2018 who mentioned that he had extensive data records of bird arrivals and departures. If this is you, and you are happy to share your information we would be most grateful if you could contact one of the committee members. Thank you.

Secondly, We are always looking for articles to go into the Newsletter, so, if you have been on a memorable trip, or have a special interest in any aspect of nature, would you like to share it with the membership?

Please note: there is a mistake on the 2019 programme card the Open Day should read **SATURDAY 28th** not Sunday

Volunteers are welcome to come down to the Reserve on the Saturday prior to Open Day (21st September) from 10am to 12noon to help spruce up the site for the following weekend.

Nightjars – Llandegla 13th June

After two days of constant rain the weather finally improved. Thanks to this better weather and wet forest the midges came out in force, but our group of Nightjar hunters carried on.

As we walked up the forest track, we watched and listened. Willow Warblers could be heard but rarely seen and they were present throughout the walk. Goldcrests and Chiffchaffs could also be heard but again the conditions and lush growth made viewing difficult.

The heavy rain of the past two days had closed the track around the reservoir, so we walked on to the RSPB hide to look at different habitat. Here Redpoll was first heard and then seen, and a number of Song Thrushes were also heard and seen all evening.

Walking towards the new forest area a male Nightjar was seen briefly flying between the young trees. We walked a little further along the track and stood in a line watching and waiting. There was no sign of the distinctive churring sound, but two male Nightjars flew towards the group and over our heads with good views for all. There was then the sound of distant churring and two nightjars flying this time more distant. Norma, Corrine, and a few others in the group who had taken up position a little further down the forest track were also being treated to a fly past.

The cold wind began to get through the layers, and we began our return to the centre. Sitting in our conservatory later the familiar sound of rain on the roof returned, fortunately we missed it! Norma, our evening species recorder, reported that 25 bird species had been seen or heard during the visit. There were at least 4 Nightjars present.

Many thanks to Jim, Ian and Harriet at the One Planet Adventure Visitor Centre in Llandegla Forest for their help and to our guides, all DNS members, Julie, Norma, Corinne and Ros

Bob Lane

OPEN DAY 2019

Saturday September 28th, 10am to 3pm

High tide at 11.40, 9.7 mtrs

The Reserve is open to the public. Volunteers are always needed to help. Contact:

secretary@deenats.org.uk

RSPB Leighton Moss 27th April

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.

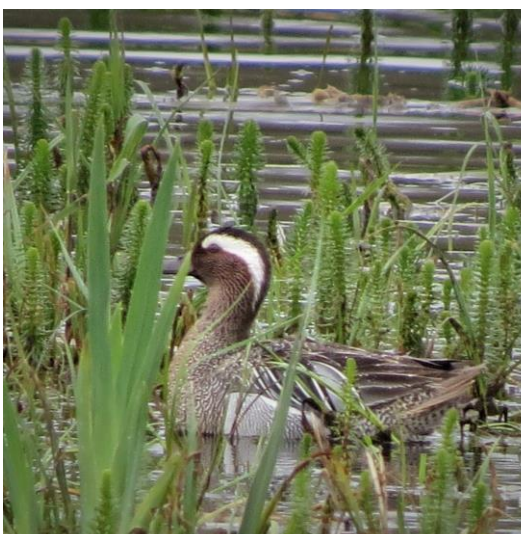
On leaving the rain drenched, wind battered Deeside area that Saturday morning there was no way I could have imagined what an unbelievable day was ahead at this super reserve. On arriving at the car park for the Morecambe and Allen hides it was a joy to step out of the car to the sound of Blackbird, Sedge warbler, Willow warbler, Wren and Dunnock and the ever present, at this site, Black Headed gulls, plus no wind or rain.

Before reaching the hides we had picked up Reed bunting, Swallow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Pied Wagtail and Goldfinch. From the hides the two main bodies of water held good numbers of breeding Avocets, Shelduck, Lapwing, Oystercatcher and Redshank together with six hundred, remaining, Black tailed Godwits.

We moved to the main reserve and visitor centre where we were informed that two male and one female Garganey had been seen from the lower hide. Walking to the causeway we again heard Sedge and Willow warbler, before entering the public hide we heard the squealing of Water rails at two different locations. The huge expanse of water from this hide had only a few ducks; Pochard, Gadwall and Teal but we were entertained by a Little Grebe immediately in front of the hide diving for food and if that wasn't enough a striking male Marsh Harrier flew from the far reed bed across the water to the right of the hide. Hundreds of Sand Martins, together with a few House Martins were hawking over the water and the reed beds.



We were caught out by a shower on leaving the hide to make our way down to the lower hide. Walking along the path by the stream we had Blue, Great and Long Tailed tits; Blackcap, Cetti's warbler and Greenfinch.



On reaching the lower hide we were hoping to see the Garganey, which we did, but also Bittern flying and three Otters in the lake in front of us. Wow, it doesn't get much better!

Back to the centre for lunch, where at the picnic spot we enjoyed watching the feeders, Coal and Willow tit, male and female Bullfinch, Nuthatch and Song thrush in the top of the trees.

Around the rest of the hides we saw a range of ducks; Gadwall, Pochard, Shoveler, Shelduck and Tufted duck. The Greylag geese were on the water minding their young families. Again we were treated to numerous sightings of Marsh harriers, more males than females. All the while we had been hoping for Bearded tits but neither heard nor saw any.

Before totally leaving Leighton Moss we took one last look from the Allen hide, the Black tailed Godwits which in the morning were at the far left of the site were now in front of the hide. That is where they were before a Peregrine swooped and sent them airborne.

What an end to an unbelievable day, over sixty species seen.

Bill Dickinson

Ynys Hir & Cors Dyfi 11th May

Whilst driving down the A494 via Corwen and Bala to Ynys-Hir we noticed along the grass verges large swathes of bluebells, Spanish we assumed.

With the mountains of southern Snowdonia to the north and the Cambrian hills to the south, the Ynys-Hir reserve is stunning whichever way you look. Ynys-Hir itself is a mixture of a Welsh oak woodland with wet grassland and estuarine salt marshes.

Within a short time of arriving, ie. opening the car door we were treated to a Pied flycatcher calling in the car park. What a good start to the day. We began by walking the woodland trail, the ground was carpeted in bluebells. We hadn't gone far before we could hear the long quivering trill of a Wood warbler, from high in the canopy, at first not easy to spot, hidden amongst the oak leaves and then we heard a second and a third but still no easier to spot. Other woodland birds seen and heard included Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Willow warbler, Coal tit, Mistle thrush, Robin, Chaffinch and Great tit.

Coming out of the woods we were on the boardwalk heading towards the Ynys Fuerig hide, overlooking the Afon Dyfi. The surrounds were totally different now, peat bog, scrub and silver birch, as were the birds, Reed bunting, common Whitethroat, Raven, Sedge warbler and Buzzard. From the hide looking over the salt marsh to the water's edge, there were cormorants, Little egrets, Shelduck, Mallards, Pied wagtails and Lapwings.

After lunch we headed for the Salt Marsh trail, which began with walking down to the railway bridge, through woodland until the trail brought us out into the open, adjacent to the vast expanse of saltmarsh, sightings in this area were of Great Black Backed gulls, Little Egret, Great White Egret, Oystercatcher and Curlew. It was then back to the car and moving on to Cors Dyfi.

“Piediwch a chyffwrdd neu fwydo'r ychen dwr”,
“Please do not touch or feed the buffalo”, I've been to a few nature reserves in my time but have never seen this notice. Welcome to Cors Dyfi. The water buffalo graze the reserve during the summer months, they help retain the peat bog habitat, stopping it from drying out and becoming a willow/birch scrub.



The Dyfi Osprey Project at Cors Dyfi Reserve has been running for ten years. In that time, starting from humble beginnings, the Dyfi Osprey Project has grown from a bit of a curiosity to a leading osprey conservation, engagement and research project.



On the feeding station there were good numbers of Redpoll, Goldfinch and Siskin. But the star of the show at this small reserve were the Ospreys, which were back again this year. From a stunning 360 degrees observation tower we were able to watch as the female came onto the nest and evicted the male, they were sitting on three eggs which we were informed should be hatching around the last week of May.

On walking back to the car park over the hills to the east we were treated to good views of a Red Kite soaring over the tops of the hillside. What a good finish to a wonderful days birding, over fifty birds and a pair of buffaloes!

Bill Dickinson

Reserve Report Apr - Jun

Birds' behaviour is driven by finding food and / or reproduction. This period is largely about reproduction. Waders and wildfowl fly north to their traditional nesting ground to rear this year's young and thereby preserve their gene pool. On the reserve our summer visitors arrive with the same purpose.

First indicators were a singing Chiffchaff and Sand Martins skimming the Ash pool soon to be joined by Swallow and House Martin 04/04. We had to wait until 07/05 for Swifts.

The Steel Works provides rafts for a colony of some 300 Common Terns we see flying up and down the river and regularly fishing in front of the West hide.

Passage birds included Stonechat, Wheatear, and Whinchat, Common Redstart, Willow warblers 07/04 and Blackcap. Many of these can be picked up from the males singing on territory trying to attract a female, the familiar sounds of Willow warbler and Blackcaps providing a musical score along with our resident Blackbirds, Robins and Song Thrush.

On the Ash pool breeding success was provided by our pair of Mute Swans, Canada Geese and Coots. Followed later by Little grebes 17/06, Moorhen and Tufted ducks. The mute swans produced five cygnets 20/05 which became a regular feature on the pool until somehow the family managed to escape to Oakenholt marsh 25/06 where five soon become three.

An interesting family was provided, for the second year, by a male domestic and a female Canada goose. Five goslings were the result and all five were successfully reared to moult into Canada look-alikes.

At least two male Lesser Whitethroats were heard singing on territory and fledglings were seen later to provide evidence of breeding success.

A male Sedge warbler was heard calling for several days before moving on without success. Reed warblers were, however, heard and seen with at least two young in the reeds around the Ash pool.



Sightings:

April- Spoonbill 24/04 (DW), 3 Siskin 4/04, 2 Yellow Wagtails 17/04, 5 Whimbrel 18/04, Common Whitethroat 20/04, Lesser Whitethroat 22/04 (JR & GR), 3 Egyptian Geese 30/04.

May- Whinchat 03/05, 46 Sandwich Tern 03/05, 10 Wheatear 03/05, Hobby 08/05, 4 Grey Plover 09/05, 3 Black Tern (DW), Reed warbler 22/05, 16 Sanderling 26/05.

June- Hooded Crow 07/06 (DW), 4 Great Egret 09/06, Juvenile Cuckoo 29/06.

July and August should witness Redshank, Greenshank and Spotted Redshank returning to the Bunded pools, Look carefully through migrating Dunlin for Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint or for that rare or mega.

Susan and Peter Haslem.

Reserve Wildlife Report 2019

It has been an interesting season since our last wildlife report, the weather has done pretty much everything, but the end of May and June have been wetter and colder than normal. This has been reflected in the times I have been down to the DNS Reserve with moth traps, far, far fewer than I would have liked. Then the heatwave in July balanced things out. There have been some great sightings from all corners of the natural history world and here are some of the more 'interesting' ones.

MOTHS

Blackneck (*Lygephila pastinum*) - a moth species which appears to be spreading and increasing, though it remains rather localized in North Wales. 2 on the 26th July was a nice addition to the reserve list and to the 10km square the reserve sits in too.

Six-belted Clearwing (*Bembecia ichneumoniformis*) - a nationally scarce B moth (only recorded in 31-100 10km squares in the UK). This day flying small moth can be attracted to a pheromone lure to make recording easier. On the 25th July one was attracted to a lure placed down on the reserve. Lures were tried on other days with no results.

Shark (*Cucullia umbratica*) - a widespread species in North Wales, it was a welcome addition to the reserve list on the 22nd July.

Small Elephant Hawk-moth (*Deilephila porcellus*) - the most uncommon of the 'common' hawk-moths, a single individual on the 22nd July is not only a first for the reserve but a first for the 10km square too.

Lime Hawk-moth (*Mimas tiliae*) - two records this year for this stunning moth, one alive and well on the 25th May, one dead in East Hide on 28th June.

Poplar Hawk-moth (*Laothoe populi*) - a common moth and one we have recorded on a number of occasions on the reserve, but one on the 20th April may be the earliest record in North Wales.

Chocolate-tip (*Clostera curtula*) - a rather attractive species, it is very local in North Wales and is only really found in the east and south-east of North Wales. One was in the moth trap on the 12th May, new to the reserve and the 10km square. Its host plants are Aspen, Poplar and Willow, something we are not short of on the reserve!

Pine Beauty (*Panolis flammea*) - although this species can be very common in Pine plantations and areas where there are pine trees, there are only two or three pines on the reserve right at the entrance. So a moth trap was placed there to see if the species was present, it is, one was caught on the 20th April. A truly beautiful species.

Small Yellow Underwing (*Panemeria tenebrata*) - Alan Smethurst discovered a colony of this delightful little day flying moth along the meadow trail. It is scarce in North Wales so this is a great find. The moths were seen on a number of days in May with a highest count of 3.

BUTTERFLIES -

Dingy Skipper (*Erynnis tages*) - a species that appears to be doing well in North-east Wales, two were seen in May and early June around the car park area at West Hide, lets hope they continue to do well on the reserve.

Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*) - the first brood of these butterflies were noted in early May, three were seen together on the 22nd May. No sightings for most of June and July with the second brood emerging on the 30th July.

Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) - it has certainly been a great year for this butterfly, many were observed coming up on the southerly winds we had in June and on the 27th June over 20 were seen together on the road near West Hide, with more flying past. It will be interesting to see if we get good numbers later in the year from those that may have bred here. 86 were seen on the 1st August!

Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta*) - again in June and July there seem to have been quite a few migrants coming in with the Painted Lady's, 6 were together on the 11th July.

David Winnard



Nest box report 2019

In early 2019 I was talking to Alan Smethurst and he said he had been round the nest boxes on the Reserve and others that he had put up on nearby farmland, to take out the old nesting material and get them ready for the coming breeding season. I then asked him what had been breeding in the boxes and the simple answer was, we didn't know, apart from probably tits. The boxes were only emptied in the winter and to see which had been occupied; this sparked my curiosity.

Every year I like to do my bit for the BTO's (British Trust for Ornithology) Nest Record Scheme, the finding and recording of birds nest to monitor when eggs are being laid, how many, survival rate of chicks or if the nest was predated (and if so by what). Now when you mention finding nests in 2019 some people have an old fashioned view that we should not be looking, (people think you might steal the eggs!) instead leave the birds to it, but we can discover so much valuable information each year from recording these nests and the BTO say *'their data is used to assess the impacts that changes in the environment, such as habitat loss and global warming, have on the number of fledglings that birds can rear.'*

So I wanted to monitor these nest boxes over the breeding season and Alan was kind enough to help (in fact he was a great asset with the locating of the boxes and the going up and down the ladder!). At all times we obeyed the BTO Nest Record Scheme guides which, *'as with all BTO surveys, the welfare of birds comes first and all nest recorders follow the NRS Code of Conduct, a protocol designed to ensure that monitoring a nest does not influence its outcome.'*

So what did we discover in 2019? In total 56 out of 65 nest boxes were occupied, an 86% occupancy rate (not bad at all). Of these 56. 17 were on the nature reserve the rest were in the nearby woods or farmland.

On the Reserve

It was almost a 50/50 split of Blue Tits and Great Tits, a total of 9 pair of Blue Tits used the boxes laying a total of 71 eggs and an astonishing 65 fledged (91.5%). The highest clutch size was 11 eggs, the smallest 8 and the highest number of fledglings from a single nest was 11. Eight pair of Great Tits bred on the Reserve laying a total of 65 eggs and fledging 46 (70.7%). The highest clutch size was 9 and the smallest 6 and the highest number of fledglings from a single nest was 8.



On the nearby Farmland

It was far more dominated by Blue Tits (90% were occupied by Blue Tits). In total 35 pairs of Blue Tit nested laying a total of 290 eggs, of which 252 fledged (86.8%). The highest clutch size was 13 eggs and the smallest 6, the highest number of fledglings from a single nest was 11. Only 4 pairs of Great Tits used nest boxes laying a total of 40 eggs and fledging 22 (73.3%). The highest single clutch of eggs was 9, the smallest 7 and the highest number of fledglings from a single nest was 7.

It is clear from the data it has been a fantastic breeding season for Blue Tits where these nest boxes are and Great Tits have done OK too. We learnt a great deal, but also where to re-site some of the unused boxes for 2020 and also where some different style boxes could go to encourage species like Redstart and Pied Flycatcher. Hopefully this survey will now form the basis of an annual study of the nest boxes the DNS have put up.

If you would like to find out more about the Nest Record Scheme there is information at <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/nrs>

David Winnard

Skomer, Pembrokeshire.

Skomer is located less than a mile off the beautiful Pembrokeshire coast and is a wonderful place to visit for the day or stay overnight.

It is well known for its Puffins, yet there is so much more to this bird paradise including Manx Shearwaters, Dolphins, Harbour Porpoises, Atlantic Grey Seal, Razorbills, Gannets, Fulmars and the unique Skomer Vole. The island is surrounded by some of the richest waters for wildlife off the British Isles from delightfully coloured sea slugs to magnificent cetaceans.

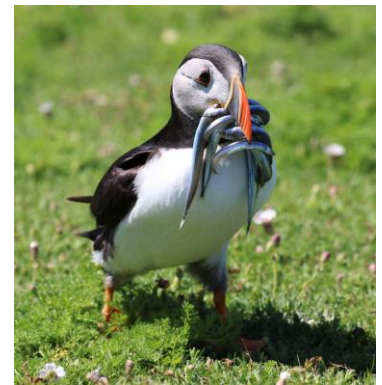
During spring the island is covered in a display of beautiful bluebells so vast that the whole island appears blue! The old fields, the valleys, and the cliff tops. No part of the island is spared from this bluebell explosion.. A shade of pink is added to the island's colour during the summer as swathes of Campion cloak the landscape

Boats depart for Skomer: Tuesday to Sunday at 10am, 11am and 12 noon. Return trips run from 3pm and are allocated according to your outward journey. Boat times are subject to change and additional crossings may be scheduled during peak periods. No sailings on a Monday except Whitsun Bank Holiday Monday.



The numbers of visitors to the island is carefully managed to prevent erosion and to control the impact of people on the wildlife. Landing tickets are strictly limited to a maximum of 250 per day.

Pre-booking of tickets is not permitted so to avoid disappointment it is recommended you arrive as early as you can to queue for tickets. Tickets are offered on a first come first served basis, and during peak times can sell out within the first hour/hours of Lockley Lodge opening.



You can also stay overnight on the island. Prices range from £30 to £65 per person/per night depending on the time of the year. Numbers staying on the island is limited to 16 at any time, so once the day visitors have left in the afternoon you have the whole island to yourself ! Another bonus to staying over is the opportunity to witness the thousands of Manx Shearwater coming ashore to find their burrows after dark.



Alan Smethurst



South Stack & Cemlyn Bay 30th Jun

While the rest of the country basked in their promised weekend heatwave, Anglesey was being buffeted with high winds and undergoing a very chilly start to the day's birding itinerary. Seven other members joined me at South Stack RSPB, itself a somewhat disappointing building site while the visitors' centre is rebuilt – timed, bemusingly, during the birds' breeding season and its peak visitor numbers!

Undaunted by these circumstances, the group instead celebrated their numerous Chough sightings alongside the usual impressive spectacle of nesting Guillemots, Razorbills, Fulmar, Herring Gull and the few Kittiwakes visible. Corrine's sharp ears heard a high falcon calling above the wind, and everyone was treated to the site of three Peregrines flying together overhead, an adult female with either her mate and a youngster, or two of the latter. Then braving even stronger winds, the steps down to the lighthouse were negotiated with the reward of just a single Puffin in and out of its nearby burrow among the Auks. A Gannet or two out at sea contributed to the final South Stack tally of Fulmar, Gannet, Cormorant, Kittiwake, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Guillemot, Razorbill, Puffin, Rock Dove, Peregrine, Chough, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, House Sparrow, Pied Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Linnet.

As the car parks filled up with weekend visitors, the group made the journey to Holyhead Fish Dock, where two of the locally breeding Black Guillemots were soon in evidence, affording excellent views of this handsome bird in its black and white summer finery. Other birds seen here were Cormorant, Oystercatcher, Herring Gull, Sandwich and Common Tern. Then off to Penrhos Country Park where we expected to not only have access to car parking and toilet facilities, but sightings of some estuary birds and possible Red Squirrel in the woodland.



However, the Sunday lunchtime crowds had swamped the place first, the toilets were surprisingly locked, so we motored on to Cemlyn where we ate our packed lunches before setting off to see the Tern colonies. These obliged nicely; it has been a really successful year here with over 1,000 pairs of Sandwich Terns representing a full comeback following the desertion of the colony two years ago through otter predation. About 20 pairs of Arctic and a smaller number of Common Terns made up the numbers amidst the throng of Black-headed Gulls, all with fledging young being fed by adults throughout the afternoon. Though Mediterranean Gulls were known to be present, they couldn't be spotted despite searching in the teeth of the wind.



33 Grey Seals were offshore on the headland rocks and a couple of distant Manx Shearwaters and Gannets were seen. There were also a number of Painted Lady butterflies about and a Cinnabar Moth had been squashed on the path. The reported Ringed Plover family with chicks couldn't be located on the shingle and efforts to see any of the two Little Owl pairs in the area towards the end of the afternoon were unfortunately unsuccessful too. However, despite these "dips", Cemlyn being Cemlyn still meant that we had thirty species at this site: Mallard, Manx Shearwater, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Gannet, Cormorant, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Curlew, Black-headed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Guillemot, Woodpigeon, Magpie, Rook, Carrion Crow, Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat, Blackbird, House Sparrow, Meadow Pipit, Chaffinch, Linnet and Goldfinch

There were perhaps a few disappointments on this trip, not least that the weather wasn't kinder, but some great birds were enjoyed amongst the overall total 42 seen and everyone seemed to have a good time. Thanks to everyone who came along, and to Trevor Taylor for keeping the species list!



Steve Palin

Group Activities

DNS PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The group continues to attract around twenty members to meetings, which take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Field Study Centre. Typically we look at different aspects of photography and weather permitting we have photography forays around the Reserve. For information on the group please contact Phil Hotchkiss on 07773 333 346

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

WEDNESDAY GROUP

This group meets at the Field Study Centre on the first and the third Wednesday of the month between 1.00 – 3.00 pm. It is an informal gathering of members who usually have lunch and then go for a short 'walk and talk' on the reserve, before returning for a final cup of tea. Topics of discussion range from the flora and fauna found on the reserve to local, national and international issues.

Field Meetings 2019

Sunday 15th SEPTEMBER, **CONNAH'S QUAY RESERVE**, high tide watch, Members day, Meet Field Study Centre at 9.00am. Contact Bill Dickinson 07968438121 for more details.

Sunday 24th NOVEMBER, **GREENFIELD PARK AND DOCK**. Woodland and estuary birds. Meet at Greenfield Park car park, off Greenfield Rd at 9.00am. Contact Alan Smethurst 07896758222 for more details.

Sunday 8th DECEMBER, **DEE MARSHES**, a walk out onto the marsh, birds and beer. Meet Quayside, Little Neston, just after the Harp public house, at 9.00am. Bring wellingtons. Contact Bill Dickinson 07968438121 for more details.

Please consider car sharing where possible

Indoor Meetings 2019

Friday September 20th: *Kelvin Jones, 'Hawfinches'*

Friday October 18th: *Kevin Briggs, 'Confessions of a lunatic'*

Friday November 15th: *A.G.M.*

Corinne Williams

Digital Media

The password for the members area is applicable for until 2019

User Name	dnsuser
Password	rtnb5834

Web site: www.deenats.org.uk

Email address: webeditor@deenats.org.uk

Facebook page: The Members of Deeside naturalists Society

A new edition of “The Birds of Connah’s Quay Nature Reserve and Oakenholt Marsh” by Glenn Morris updated to the end of 2018 is now available. For members who bought the earlier edition, here are the additional records in the new edition, so you don’t have to buy the new one.

IMPORTANT BIRD RECORDS FROM THE PAST:

- 1) **Baird's Sandpiper** (*Calidris bairdii*) on Aug 7th 1979 by RW Evans and M. Williams (accepted by BBRC).
- 2) **Collared Pratincole** (*Glareola pratincola*) ca. Jun 2nd, 1988 by Tim Lloyd (same bird at Inner Marsh Farm accepted by BBRC).

NEW SPECIES ADDED since Feb 2016.

- White-winged Black Tern** (*C. leucopterus*) on June 16th, 2016.
Green-winged Teal (*A. carolinensis*) on Feb 6th, 2016.
Hooded Crow (*C. cornix*) on April 28th, 2017.
Pallid Harrier (*C. macrourus*) on Sep 30th, 2017 (a female originally discovered on Burton Marsh)
Pied Flycatcher (*F. hypoleuca*) on April 19th, 2018.
Yellow-browed Warbler (*P. inornatus*) on Oct 29th, 2018
Crossbill (*L. curvirostra*) on Nov 6th, 2018
Ring-necked Parakeet (*P. krameri*) on Nov 13th, 2018

NEW MAMMAL:

- Daubenton's Bat** (5) feeding on the banded pools on Mar 21st, 2018.

RECENT HIGH COUNTS

- Wigeon: the record count of 5250 was in October, 2018 (after 4000+ in 2016 and 2017)
Pintail: numbers were up in 2017 (2,000 in Feb/Mar) and 2018 (5,000 in Oct)
Common Scoter: 100 in NW gales on Oct 5th, 2017 was a record number.
Scaup: records of 1-3 in 2016 and 2017 after a 6-year absence.
Cattle Egret: a 2nd record on Aug 13th, 2017
Great White Egret: now quite a common sight in most months of the year.
Shag: singles in both 2017 and 2018
Hen Harrier: increased sightings with 16 in 2016, 15 in 2017 and a record 36 in 2018, a remarkable recovery if the trend continues.
Marsh Harrier: a clear increase in sightings with 58 in 2016, 27 in 2017 and 43 in 2018.
Merlin: the improved 12 records in 2015 were maintained with 24 in 2016, 14 in 2017 and 25 in 2018
Golden Plover: the count of 200 in April 2018 was a new Reserve record.
Snipe: record counts (partly due to careful searching) of 75 on Dec 11th, 2017 and 83 on Dec 2nd, 2018.
Pomarine Skua: 2 on Oct 22nd, 2017, were the first recorded since 1989.
Arctic Skua: one on Oct 3rd, 2017 was the first since 1994.
Glaucous Gull: one in Jan, 2018, was the first since 1988.
Skylark: winter flock of 312 on Jan 3rd, 2018 was a return to past high counts.
Reed Warbler: breeding was confirmed for the 1st time in 2018
Starling: the count of 19,321 in Nov 2018 was the highest since 1984.

Glenn Morris