

# Deeside Naturalist Society

## Bird Report 2018



Compiled March 2019 by Sue and Pete Haslem.

Deeside Naturalist Society (DNS) reserve is managed by the committee of trustees together with the support of Uniper. The reserve is strictly accessed by members only. For further information on joining please visit our website. [www.deesidenaturalists.org.uk](http://www.deesidenaturalists.org.uk)

The total number of species seen on the reserve has increased to 243 (including 16 escapes). Four new species to the reserve list this year:

1. Pied Flycatcher seen near the rail path by Julie Rogers.
2. Yellow Browed Warbler recorded by the garden compound by David Winnard.
3. Common Crossbill on visible migration by David Winnard.
4. Ring Necked Parakeet heard and seen by David Winnard.

The DNS reserve is observed from two main view points.

1. Firstly from the West hide this provides panoramic views across Oakenholt RSPB marsh, Flint sands and with a telescope Burton and Neston marshes. The West hide also provides a clear view of the fresh water pools (Ash pool and meadow pool) and associated grassland.

Tides and weather influence the movement of waders, wildfowl and seabirds on the Dee estuary.

2. Secondly from the Bunded hides (Dee, Middle and East) where brackish pools are fed with tidal water providing a refuge for waders and ducks. The surrounding hedges, trees and grazing land attract year round and migration passage species.

153 species were recorded in 2018. From 5700 Records.

Highlights for the year include first yellowhammer since 2010, Egyptian Goose and Ruddy Shelduck on Ash pool, Glaucous Gull, Tree sparrows, Treecreeper, nearly 20,000 Starlings roosting in reed bed and Leach's Petrel for a second year.

Starting in 2012, we have been entering all DNS records into BTO's Bird Track. This system is based on 1x1km squares and the reserve is described by quadrants:

SJ2671 Flint Oakenholt. Includes Ash pool area and Oakenholt marsh

SJ 2672 Connah's Quay NR. Flint sands and the Dee up to the breakwater (revetment).

SJ 2771 CQNR Central. Grazing fields, the power station, garden compound and the Bunded pools.

SJ2772 Dee estuary Whitesands. Including Breakwater and Burton Marsh in Wales.

Observers record their sightings in the hide logs, summarised monthly and recorded on Bird track.

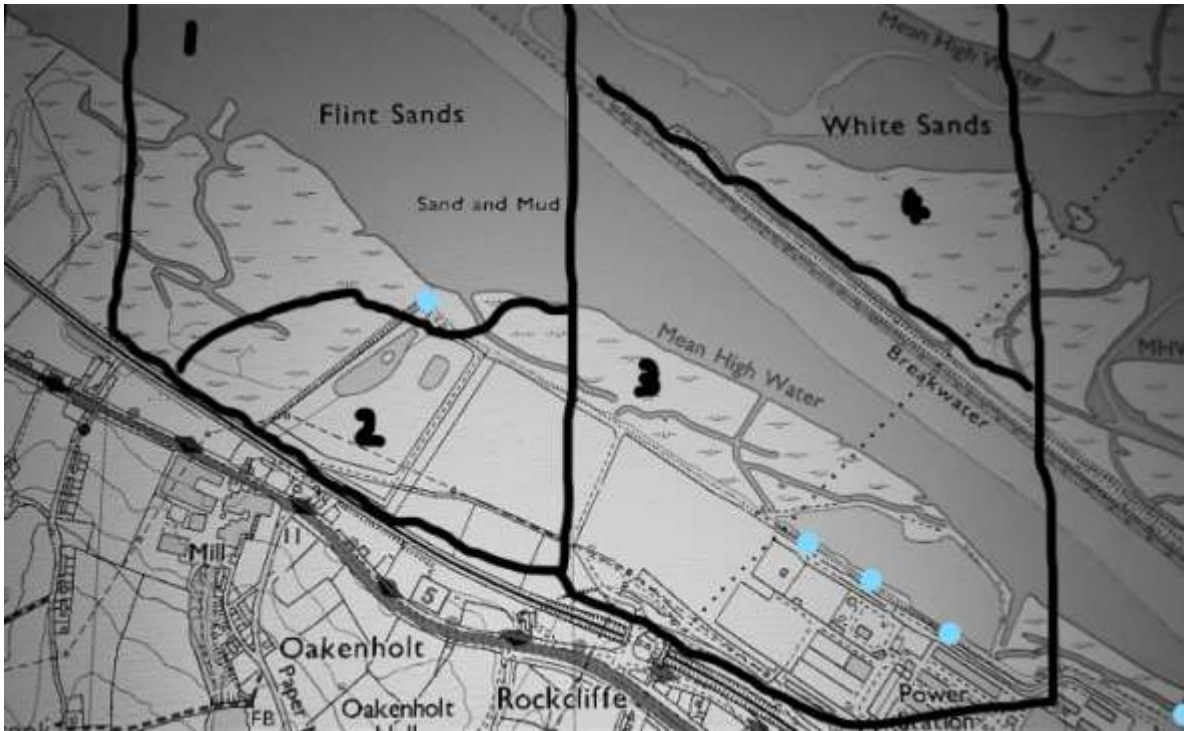
For the purpose of this report totals are added together for each species.

Nearly all records are supported by photographic and/or video evidence.

Use of a mobile phone attachment on a telescope provides a quick easy record shot.

Photos included in the report were taken this year and on the reserve. Quality varies as distance and environmental conditions dictate. All my images are phone scoped using Samsung A3 and Swarovski ATX 95 telescope. We feel their inclusion enhances the sightings reported. All images digiscoped by Peter Haslem except for:

Hen Harrier image by Hazel Rothwell. Leach's Petrel by Allan Smethurst. Reeves Pheasant by David Winnard.



Map of reserve: Hides are shown as dots.

1. SJ2672 CONNAHS QUAY NR
2. SJ2671 FLINT OAKENHOLT
3. SJ2771 CQNR CENTRAL
4. SJ2772 DEE ESTUARY WHITESANDS

## THE SPECIES LIST FOR 2018.

**Format: Common Name (Latin Name) National Rarity Level.**

Birds seen in less than 5 previous years on the Reserve are shown in **bold** face. Birds that nested this year as shown as **(B)**.

The tables show the **maximum count** for each month, except for raptors where the **total sightings** per month is shown. **Month most likely to see migrant birds are highlighted.** Bird records are taken from hide logs and WeBS counts.

Some 5700 individual records. 80 Contributors.

## Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) Common. (B)

Mute Swans successfully bred on the Ash pool again in 2018 producing three cygnets. They disappeared from the Ash pool on 10<sup>th</sup> July when coincidentally 3 cygnets were recorded on Oakenholt. A large group over winters on Burton marsh and can be observed on Shotwick fields.

Mute Swan	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	9	4	5	3	5	5	5	1	1	3	2	4



Mute Swans on Ash pool.

## Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) Feral.

Two Black Swans of unknown origin spend the winter on Shotwick fields and were occasionally seen on Oakenholt RSPB and behind the revetment on Burton marsh. DS.

## Whooper Swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*) Scarce, winter.

Whooper Swans over winter on the Dee estuary and can be regularly seen at Shotwick. Six records of Whooper Swans on the reserve. Twelve were seen swimming on the river on 20/1 (DW). First winter returners were recorded seen flying towards Burton 14/10 (PSH).

Whooper Swan	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12		2							3	25	

## Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) Rare winter.

Bewick's are becoming rarer each year and tend to arrive much later than the Whooper. Six adults and one juvenile were seen during January (DW) (PSH).

Bewick's Swan	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	7											

## Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) Common winter.

Pink-footed geese are now annual on the Dee estuary and can be seen in their thousands on or flying over Burton marsh. Large groups are seen on Oakenholt and on the river in front of the West hide. The huge numbers are generally recorded on Dee estuary Whitesands and 10,000 were recorded all along the river side of Burton marsh, possibly ready to migrate North (PSH) 7/4.

Pink footed	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
goose	3000	4500	2000	10000	1	4	3	1	100	1050	3000	2000

## Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*) Widespread.

A feral population, usually with Canada geese, are noted. Truly wild birds are hard to distinguish from the domestic feral population and rare. Domestic geese and hybrid birds are common among the mixed Canada and Greylags. A female Canada goose mated with a domestic white goose to produce two hybrid goslings on the Ash pool island. Only one survived fledging into a Canada look alike.

## Canada Goose (*Branta Canadensis*) Common. (B)

We see Canada geese all year round up to several thousand in number. They are feral in origin.

Canada Goose	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3200	1000	290	12	200	1000	720	2000	1500	1200	2500	2000

## Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*) Rare.

Two or three are regularly seen with Canada geese and are probably part of the feral group associated with the Dee estuary. Rarely a dozen or more may associate with Pink-footed geese leading to speculation of wild birds.

Barnacle Goose	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2	2	2			3		2		2	10	2

## Brent Goose (*Branta Bernicla*) Scarce winter.

Some two hundred pale bellied Brents over winter around Hilbre Island. Our records probably come from this population. One dark bellied variant was recorded 9/2 (PDS).

Brent Goose	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	1	2									



## **Snow Goose (*Anser (Chen) caerulescens*).Rare.**

One white form was with pink-footed geese on Burton marsh and could be seen from the West hide. Was originally seen from Denhall Quay in Cheshire and picked up from CQNR west hide flying with a group of pink-footed geese, certainly would have been in Welsh airspace before returning towards Denhall Quay. 23/4 (DW). 24/4 (PSH).

## **Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) Feral. Rare.**

One adult spent several days on the Ash pool during June 17/6 (SH). In previous years they have been recorded on the marsh just beyond the revetment.



Egyptian Goose.



## Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) Rare.

An individual was spotted by (SS) on Flint sands 4/2. Also 20/8 (GR) (PSH) on the Ash pool.

Ruddy Shelduck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	1						1				



Ruddy Shelduck.

## Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*) Common.

Shelduck numbers increase to a thousand for their summer moult before dispersing.

Shelduck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	70	100	26	400	300	1000		100	100	600	56	158

## Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*) Common winter.

Wigeon winter in their thousands on the Dee estuary. Huge flotillas of ducks can be seen on the river, especially on a rising tide. Hundreds take refuge on the Ash pool and Bunded pools where they are seen grazing.

Wigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
West	2000	156	1300	0	0	0	0	4	110	5000	4000	4000
Bunded	250	385	450	9	0	0	0	1	9	250	320	100

## Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) Scarce.

A pair overwinters on the Ash pool but no evidence of breeding.

Gadwall	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2	3	3	2	4	1			1	5		2

## Teal (*Anas crecca*) Common winter.

Small numbers of early returners arrive in August many in eclipse plumage. Numbers build up rapidly as they are joined by thousands on the river feeding on the edge of the rising tide.

Teal	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
West	800	100	50	20		4	8	110	300	6000	3500	2000
Bunded	20	59	40	12				6	13	110	60	24



Teal.

## Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) Common.

Seen throughout the year and supplemented by hundreds of overwintering birds. They often feed and roost in the salt marsh by the side of the road.

Mallard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	41	10	10	6	96	370	270	400	20	90	170	100

## Pintail (*Anas acuta*) Scarce winter.

Northern pintail over-winter on the Dee in thousands. They are seen in huge flotillas on the rising tide often with Wigeon.

Pintail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	200	120	2000	40	40			5	12	5000	1000	600

## Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*) Widespread. Winter.

Shoveler can be seen feeding and displaying on the Ash pool. Numbers are usually single to low teens.

Shoveler	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	15	15	4	1		2		9	15	10	2	5



## Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) Widespread. (B)

A regular feature on the Ash pool. Eight young Tufted were recorded in 12/07 (PSH) together with two adult females swimming on the Ash pool.

Tufted Duck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3	6	12	11	10	3	10		1	6	1	2

## Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*) Widespread winter.

Common Scoter are usually seen in large numbers flying distantly north of the West hide by Hilbre. Occasionally, however, one is seen swimming on the river. This often happens after a spell of strong westerlies. One 8/12 (PSH).

## Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) Widespread winter.

Annual sighting of one or two birds on the river, passing through. 26/11 (GR) (DW). 17/12 (DW) (PSH).

Goldeneye	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
											1	1

## Goosander (*Mergus merganser*) Scarce.

Red headed birds seen occasionally in groups of three or four on the river. Seven on Ash pool (DJ) and ten were recorded on 7/10 (PSH). Males are seen rarely and a single bird recorded on the river 17/12 (DW).

Goosander	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				1	7				6	10		

## Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) Common.

Seen often around the feeding stations. Both adult and juvenile birds are probably released from a nearby shoot.

## Reeves Pheasant. Release.

Found by DW by the Middle hide feeding station. It was seen for several days before disappearing (possibly predated). Likely a released bird.



Reeves Pheasant, Davis Winnard.

## Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) Common.

Usually two pairs breed on the Ash pool. This year two nests were built and both failed, probably because the water levels were so low.

However we had up to eleven on the Bunded pools from August, where food seemed to be abundant.

Little Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3	2	5	7	6	4	5	7	11	14	14	5

## Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) Common.

Seen on the river and Flint sands on a rising tide.

Great Crested Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			1	7	10	13		1	3	4	1	2



## Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*) Rare.

Seen for the last two years following a sustained north westerly gale over a high tide. A large gull took a great interest but the Leach's managed to escape. 21/9 (SH) and 26/10 (DW).

Leach's Petrel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
									1	2		



Leachs Petrel Alan Smethurst.

## Gannet (*Morus bassanus*) Widespread coastal.

**Rare** sighting on the reserve usually following a period of rough weather. This year one was flying and swimming upstream as far as Middle. 23/9 (PSH).

## Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) Common.

Always present roosting on the marsh edge on Oakenholt. Two hundred recorded on 27/12 by (DW).

Cormorant	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	50	58	12	13	1	2	1	12	24	25	30	200

## Shag (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) Scarce coastal.

Just one record 6/1 (DW).

## Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) Common.

Large numbers follow post breeding at Burton Mere Waters.

Little Egret	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3	4		4	4	2	32	50	23	8	6	2



## Great Egret (*Ardea Alba*) Rare.

Now a regular feature on the reserve. Often seen fishing for fish and shrimp in the shallow water on the Bunded pools. One hundred records during 2018.

Great White Egret	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3	1			2	2	3	4	2	3		



Great Egret

## Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) Widespread.

Common across the reserve. Larger numbers following successful breeding in the colony at Burton.

Grey Heron	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	5	5	2	1			2	6	2	2	3	8

## Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) Rare.

Three seen from West hide on the mudflats on Flint sands. 4/10 (PSH) (DW).

## Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*) UK Rare.

Healthy population on the Dee marshes leads to the occasional sortie onto the reserve.

Marsh Harrier	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	8	4	1	1	2		1	6	5	4	6	5



Marsh Harrier.



## Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) Scarce.

This year we have several, sometimes daily, records of male and female hen harriers quartering the pools and marsh. Causing alarm among the roosting waders.

Hen Harrier	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
sightings	2	3	2					1		10	13	5



Hen Harrier. Hazel Rothwell.

## Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) Widespread.

One or two birds hold hunting territories across the reserve and can be seen skimming the hedges along the road in search of prey.

Sparrowhawk	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
sightings	8	3		2			2	5		3	4	4

## Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) Common.

Resident all year on or around the sheep fields.

Buzzard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
sightings	17	5	5	4	2	4	2	3	4	7	5	6

## Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) Widespread.

Seen hovering over the salt marsh.

Kestrel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
sightings	5		2	3	1	1	3	20	2	4	11	10

## Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) Scarce.

A winter visitor on the reserve. Seen flying low and fast in pursuit of its bird quarry.

Merlin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	5	3	3	3				2	3	3	3	2

## Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) Rare.

A summer visitor. 20/5 (SS). 22/8, 27/8 & 6/9 (PSH).

Hobby	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
sightings					1			2	1			

## Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) Scarce.

One or two birds seen high on the pylons or targeting redshank, teal and wigeon. Put on an aerobatic performance with great skill and determination.

Peregrine	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
sightings	10	3		2		2	4	12	8	14	8	12



Peregrine.

## Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*) Scarce.

One or two sightings a year is usual. Otherwise rarely seen or heard.

Two records on the Ash pool 5/3 (JR), 6/3 (PSH) and one on the Field centre pool 18/11 (CW).



## Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) Common. (B).

Resident on the Ash pool. Two chicks seen on 29/6 (PSH).

Moorhen	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	10	6	6	6	2	4	12	8	6	8	4	10

## Coot (*Filica atra*) Common. (B).

Resident with larger numbers over wintering.

Eight adults and twenty chicks were seen on the Ash pool 27/5 (PSH).

Coot	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	26	34	14	14	27	28	20	55	52	64	25	26

## Oystercatcher (*Haematropus ostralegus*) Common.

Present all year round and large influx over the winter of several thousand birds. Usually two birds successfully breed but not this year. Roost on Oakenholt marsh over high tide.

Oystercatcher	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	100	300	50	102	152	2	100	1500	4	1000	300	700



## Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) Rare.

Seen on passage spring and autumn. Breed at Burton Mere Wetlands.

Early record on 10/1 of two birds (GP). Six seen on 5/3 (DW).

Avocet	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2		5	2	1	2			1			



Avocet.

## Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) Scarce summer. (B).

Two pairs usually resident for the summer. First seen 5/4 (KLJ) and up until 16/7 (TL).

Little Ringed Plover	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				2	2	2	2					



Little Ringed Plover.

## Ringed Plover (*Charadus hiaticula*) Widespread.

Passage birds seen along the edge of the tide feeding,

Ringed Plover	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			2	2	45		10	12	12			

## Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) Scarce.

Small groups sometimes seen among the Lapwings roosting on Oakenholt marsh.

Golden Plover	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	40	100	26	200				1	1	40		29

## Grey Plover (*Pluvialis sqatarola*) Scarce.

Occasional single bird among the waders. This year small group of 13 passage birds in various plumages pre-breeding 28/5 (PSH).

Grey Plover	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	5	2	1	13							



Grey Plover.

## Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) Widespread.

Large numbers group together over the winter.

Lapwing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
West	3000	3000				35	130	100	6	600	3000	4000
Bunded	52	360	17		12	17	90	200	100	130	4000	70



Lapwing.

## Knot (*Calidris canutus*) Scarce winter.

We only get small numbers, often with Dunlin, around the tidal edges feeding. Common elsewhere on the estuary. Highest count was 110 seen on rising tide 25/2 (PSH).

Knot	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		110	1					2	21	6	2	

## Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) Scarce.

Rare sighting, usually single figures. Twenty seven seen on 27/5 (PSH) and four on 23/10 (PSH).

## Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*) Scarce autumn.

Eagerly anticipated in early autumn. Often with Dunlin, for comparison, feeding along the tide. Sometimes on Middle over a high tide. First sighting 30/7 (PSH) and last record 5/11 (DW).

Curlew Sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
							2	3	1	3	2	

## Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) Widespread.

Flying in their thousands, around Flint sands, as tide ebbs and flows dropping in to feed on the wet mud. Highest count was 5000 on 18/2 by (SS).

Dunlin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3500	5000	3000	30	80		12	80	50	500	2000	2000

## Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) Scarce.

Might be lucky to see one or two roosting among redshank on Middle Bunded pool. Four records. 2/1 (PDS) 31/1 (PSH) 26/9 (DW) 4/12 (DW) (PSH)

Ruff	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2								4			2



## Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*) Scarce winter.

A winter visitor. Probably hiding in the salt marsh waiting to be flushed by a high tide. This year we were lucky as three chose to hide in the newly cut reeds on the east bank of the Ash pool. Even then not easy to see! 21/11 (SH).

Five flushed as Bund was breached on a high tide 4/1 (PDS).

Jack Snipe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	5		3								3	3

## Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) Widespread.

Winter numbers can reach one hundred in the grass refuge on Middle Bunded. Excellent camouflage makes counting tricky. Eighty Three were seen by (PSH) on 2/12.

Snipe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	71	25	25				1	1	5	28	57	83



Snipe.



## Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*) Widespread. Winter.

Numbers can vary from hundreds to thousands usually around Flint point and then pushed by the rising tide to Oakenholt. Two thousand counted by DW from West hide on 25/9.

Black-tailed Godwit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	500	200	400	300	12		14	47	2000	2000	500	1



Black-tailed Godwit with Spotted Redshank.

## Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) Scarce.

Present in ones and twos only. More Common on Wirral side.

Bar-tailed Godwit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	1	4	1				1	1	2		2

## Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) Scarce coastal passage.

Spring passage is the best time to see our Whimbrel. Often picked up by sound before visual record.

Whimbrel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				3	30		1	4	1	1		



Whimbrel.

## Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) Widespread.

In winter our sheep fields and Ash pool pasture support around 100 feeding Curlew. They fly back and forth to the salt marsh if disturbed by cars or walkers. Some forty birds roost on Flint sands throughout the winter.

Curlew	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	100	110	60	20	20	15	180	200	80	85	95	80

## Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) Widespread.

Several thousand redshank roost on late summer/ autumn passage around the Bunded pools. Smaller numbers stay all winter.

Redshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	500	800	40	400	2	3	130	6000	100	1000	220	200
Bunded	200	50	100	80	150	130	1200	3200	2000	1400	20	40



Redshank.

## Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) Scarce.

Regular sights from Middle hide during winter.

Greenshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	20	7	7	3	1	1	12	19	27	23	11	13



Greenshank.

## Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) Passage.

Expect them back late summer in breeding plumage (black) and winter resident in none-breeding plumage (silver). Often on Middle Bunded. Twenty four were regularly recorded September to October (PSH).

Spotted Redshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	5	6	1		2	3	10	16	24	24	14	11



Spotted Redshank.



## Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) Widespread, rare in winter.

One has over wintered for last three years on Bunded pools. Good numbers on passage. Five were recorded by (DY) 14/9.

Common Sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	1	1	3	2	1	4	2	5	1	1	1



Common Sandpiper.

## Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) Widespread coastal.

Rare late summer passage bird, often retaining breeding plumage. Eight were seen on 20/7 (PSH).

Turnstone	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
						1	8					

## Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*) Scarce.

Pick your way through the late summer gulls and your reward may be one of these. (PSH) (DW) (GR).

Mediterranean Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2	1	1				1		2		1	1

## Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) Scarce.

Been lucky over last two years to see a single Little Gull among the Black-Headed gulls. One 2/8 (SH)

## Black-Headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) Common.

This handsome gull is year round, increasing in winter to several thousand.

Black headed gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	5500	250	300	200	120	100	260	1200	250	300	4000	100



## Common Gull (*Larus canus*) Widespread.

Good numbers among the gulls especially late winter.

Common Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1200	350	95	40	1	1	1	1		4	40	124



Common Gull.

## Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*) Common.

The most common large gull on the reserve.

Lesser Black-backed Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	60	3	2	20	50	100	1	300	70	130	50	30



Lesser Black-backed Gull.

## Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*) Rare.

One or two sightings each year. 9/3 (DW) 28/7 29/7 (PSH).

Yellow-legged Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
sightings			1				2					

## Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*) Common.

Lower numbers recorded on site than LBBG.

Herring Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	500			50				50	40	20	120	50

## Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*) Rare.

First spotted by DW. Stuck around a few days allowing others to record this monster gull. (DW) (SH). One was also recorded on 28/4 (DJ).

Glaucous Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1			1								
Glaucous Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
sightings	9			1								



Glaucous Gull.

## Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*) Widespread.

This massive gull is a regular often in double figures. 22/11 eighty recorded (DW).

Great Black-backed Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	32	14	2	3	2		4	10	5		80	12

## Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*) Scarce coastal.

One seen in flight over river by DW. 19<sup>th</sup> January.

## Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*) widespread coastal summer.

Occasionally drops in along the tide edge among the Black-headed gulls. 13/5 (PSH) (DW), 21/9 (PSH)

Sandwich Tern	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					30				6			

## Common Tern (*Sternus hirundo*) Widespread coastal summer.

Annual breeding colony at Shotton Steel lagoons mean that Common Terns are a regular sight fishing and flying up and down the river. First seen on 25/4 (PSH). Until 8/9.

Common Tern	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				15	100	70	80	30	1			

## Arctic Tern (*Sternus paradisaea*) widespread coastal summer.

Rare passage bird sometimes rests on mud flats. Seven on 13/5 (PSH).

Arctic Tern	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				1	7							

## Guillemot (*Uria aalge*) widespread coastal summer.

Rare sight on water usually following a battering north westerly.

27/08/2018	guillemot	1				P&S Haslem
21/09/2018	guillemot	1				p & s Haslem
23/09/2018	guillemot	1				p & s Haslem
24/09/2018	guillemot	1				j Darcy
27/09/2018	guillemot	1				p & s Haslem

## Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*) Common.

One or two racing pigeons end up on the reserve each year taking advantage of our full feeders.

## Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*) Scarce.

Good numbers feeding on the salt marsh and pasture during winter. Sixty-two on 7/12 (DW).

Stock Dove	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2	7	5	4	4	4	6	24	4		11	62

## Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) Common.

Resident throughout and numbers enhanced by hundreds of winter influx. Two hundred and seventy four 2/12 (PSH).

Woodpigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2		52					22			120	274

## Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) Common (B).

Regularly seen by entrance road and along the railway.

## Ring-necked Parakeet (*Psittacula krameri*) Scarce.

Heard from West hide and then seen sitting at the top of a tree towards the Paper mill 13/11 (DW).

## Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) Scarce.

Seen hunting around Burton marsh (with a telescope) during daylight hours in winter. 7/2 (PSH) .

## Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) Scarce.

Seen hunting around Decca pools (with a telescope). 13/2 (PSH)

## Swift (*Apus apus*) widespread summer.

First record of two on 20/4 (PSH).

Swift	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				2	26	70	8	1				

## Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) Scarce.

One or two spend each winter on the reserve.

Kingfisher	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
								1	2	2	2	1



Kingfisher.

## Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*) Widespread.

Seen most months. Family group took advantage of Peanuts and fatty balls on offer at our feeding station.



## Sky Lark (*Alauda arvensis*) Widespread.

Seen flying over revetment and salt marsh. Brought closer by high tides. 40 On 1/2 as bunds flooded (PSH). 312 in small flocks flying from English side of estuary across in small flocks on the hour before 9.93m high tide in strong westerly winds 3/1 (DW).

Skylark	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	312	40		1						19	12	6

## Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*) widespread summer.

Seen hawking for insects over the Ash pool. Twelve 7/4 (PSH).

Sand Martin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				60	50		20	30				

## Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) Common summer.

Reliable sighting in summer with large gatherings late summer. Four on 6/4 (DW).

Swallow	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				60	20	45	50	40	20	5		

## House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) Common summer.

Seen hawking for insects over the Ash pool. One 6/4 (DW).

House Martin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				70	30	30	16	50	45			

## Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*) Common.

Common on Dee marsh area. Good numbers on reserve during migration periods. A fall on 14/10 produced a count of one hundred around the Ash pool and car park. (PSH).

Meadow Pipit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	5		25	60			1	6	20	100	20	1

## Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*) Scarce coastal.

Two often seen around West hide at high water. Their unique call is often the first sign of their presence. Four on 11/10 was the highest count (PSH).

Rock Pipit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3	8	2							4	1	1

## Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) Rare.

A spring tide can drive these rare birds over to the reserve, especially if the river bund is breached.

04/01/2018	Water Pipit	1	high tide breaches bund									PSH
04/01/2018	Water Pipit	1	1 at high tide on bunded ridge (only bit left not flooded on 9.95m high tide).									DW
01/02/2018	Water Pipit	1	as water flooded over bund									PSH
03/03/2018	Water Pipit	1										PSH
06/03/2018	Water Pipit	2										PSH

Water Pipit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	1	2									

## Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*) Scarce summer.

*Just passing through* lucky sighting in spring. Sightings around Ash pool feeding. Three (including two males) on Ash pool field 18/4 (PSH).

Yellow wagtail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				3			2					

## Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*) Scarce.

Sometime visitor to Paper mill stream and edge of Ash pool.

Grey Wagtail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	1	1				1		1		1	

## Pied/White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrelli*) Common. (B).

Pied wagtails breed on the reserve and large numbers feed here in winter.

White wagtails (*M Alba*) are seen on spring passage.

Pied Wagtail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	19	6	3	19		19		6		40	3	40

## Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) Common).

Resident. Seen across the reserve.

## Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) Common.

Resident. Recorded in all parts of the reserve.

## Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) Common.

Year round with winter influx.

## Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) Rare.

Sightings suggest a local resident. (DW) (PSH).

Black Redstart	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1						1				

## Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) Scarce summer.

Passage in spring and late summer. Records for a single bird April (DW) and July, August (PSH).

## Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) Scarce summer.

One or two passage birds in spring and late summer. Three records 28/4 (DW) 3/5 (PSH) and 17/8 (LH/CN).

## Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*) Widespread.

Passage birds in spring. First record 3/1 (PDS). Seven on 10/3 (PSH).

## Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) Widespread summer.

Good numbers pass through both on spring and autumn migration. Earliest 8/4 (PSH).

Wheatear	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				4	8			1	1	1		



Wheatear.

## Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) Common.

Resident and winter influx.

## Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) Widespread winter.

Hedgerow along entrance road and south pasture.

Fieldfare	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12	10	12	2						5	1	1

## Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelus*) Common.

Dotted around site.

## Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*) Widespread winter.

Hedgerow along entrance road and south pasture.

Redwing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	65	9	20	2						3	16	4

## Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*) Common.(B)

Seen feeding young on southern pastures.

Mistle Thrush	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12	3		2	6	3				6	5	

## Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus scoenobaenus*)

Widespread summer.

Male sang and displayed for several days in reeds on Ash pool before moving on (PSH).

## Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) Widespread (B) summer.

Two birds heard and observed in reeds on Ash pool. Later seen with fledglings.

Reed Warbler	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					1	2	3					

## Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) Widespread.

Seen and heard along Meadow trail and Garden compound. Four seen along meadow trail 1/5 (PSH).

## Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*) Widespread summer.

Heard by entrance road and seen in trees by Meadow hide. Two records 13/5 and 25/8 on the meadow trail (PSH).

## Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) Widespread summer.

Seen and heard along meadow trail for several days in spring and August around *meadow trail feeding station* with Redstart, Whitethroat and Garden warbler.

Lesser Whitethroat	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				2	1			1				



## Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*) Widespread summer.

Several around reserve.

common whitethroat	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					2	6		1				

## Yellow-browed warbler (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

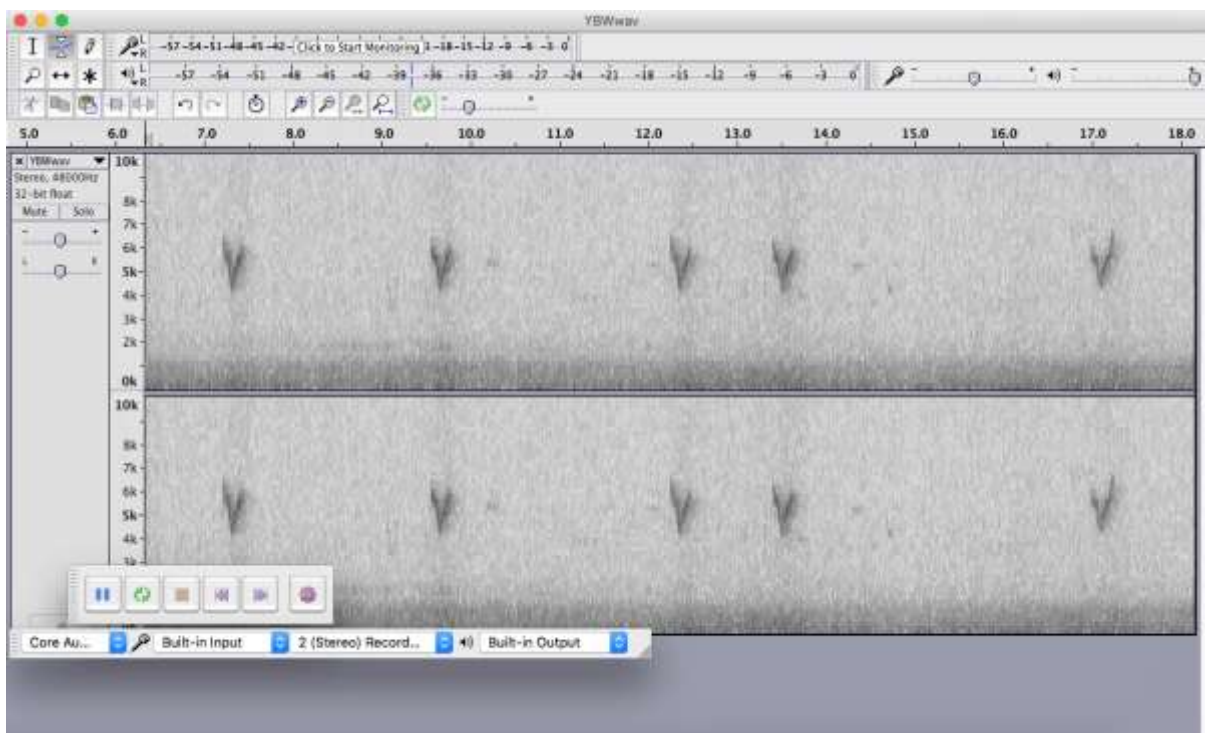
Rare.

Heard then seen by DW in willow along entrance road 29/10. He reported:

Picked up on call from the barrier whilst vismiggling. Recorded call on phone and then saw the bird well in a small willow. During the day bird called sporadically and was very elusive and roaming.

Bird from 29/10 still present early in morning (from first light) near entrance, calling and seen well in flight and landed in small willow. Bird not heard or seen after 08:30. Last heard nearer towards the railway line.

A sonogram of YBW recorded by Dave Winnard on his phone .



## Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) Common summer.

Male birds heard calling locations across reserve.

Chiffchaff	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1	1	6	3			1	2		1	

## Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) Common summer.

Spring passage birds seen and heard.

Willow Warbler	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				5	1			1				

## Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*) Widespread.

Heard and seen in Yew and conifers around garden compound. Three were seen on 15/2 (PDS).

## Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) Scarce.

Found by Julie Rogers with Geoff Robinson, on spring passage, in trees along railway track on 19<sup>th</sup> April and also recorded by DW. **Rare** bird for reserve.

## Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*) Widespread. (B)

Resident. Population swells in winter when a large feeding group can be seen foraging along the hedge rows.

Long-tailed Tit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	9	6	4	2	2					30	32	25

## Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) Common. (B)

Resident. Main user of reserve nesting boxes.

## Great Tit (*Parus major*) Common. (B)

Resident. Major beneficiary of nest boxes.

## Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*) Widespread.

Rarely heard and seen in Yew and conifers around garden compound. Winter visitor seen in October and November (PSH) (DW).

## Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*) Widespread.

Feeding with Tit flock. Four sightings around the reserve entrance and hedgerow (DW) (PSH).

## Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) Widespread.

Sightings near reserve entrance.

26/01/2018	jay	1	garden compound		pd Shenton
12/07/2018	jay	1			P & S Haslem
22/09/2018	jay	2	ash pool fence		p & s Haslem
15/10/2018	jay	2			p&s Haslem

## Magpie (*Pica pica*) Common.

Common resident in double figures attracted by the chance of feeding opportunities. Appear to roost near reserve entrance (DW).

Magpie	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	64	17	4	13	2			2		30	32	25

## Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*) Common.

Large numbers can frequent marsh and grassland. Opportunist. Large number in May feeding on emerging Garden Chafers.

Jackdaw	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12				200	25			90	200		

## Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*) Widespread.

Infrequent visitor to reserve although locally common.

Rook	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1				30	50	18		3			

## Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*) Common.

Large numbers can frequent marsh and grassland. Opportunist.

Carrion Crow	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	5	8			20			20	30	95		6

## Raven (*Corvus corax*) Widespread.

Always present. Takes advantage of dead sheep carcasses.

## Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) Common

Large roosting population in Ash pool reeds during October (DW). Disperses locally. 19,321 Starlings were seen to roost in reeds on Ash pool one evening in November (DW).

Starling	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	300	50		100		6	50	150	200	2560	19321	50

## House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Common. (B)

Small breeding population around entrance and houses. Successfully breeding down Meadow trail and railway.

House Sparrow	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				4	4	2	15	4	12			

## Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*). Rare,

No reserve record since 2000. Two calling flying south east together during observation of visible migration by (DW) 6/11.

## Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) Common.

Large winter flock of 200plus birds around salt marsh and entrance road to Helipad.

Chaffinch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	19	10	8	6	3		1			12	110	178
vis mig										427	909	



## Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*) Scarce winter.

Birds on Dee hide feeders and one or two with chaffinch flock. A large number on visible migration was observed in October (DW).

Brambling	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	3	3							44	102	1



Visible migration counts carried out by Dave Winnard as follows:

Connah's Quay NR (Vis Mig)	29/10/2018	Brambling	44			Largest flocks heading SE of 15, 12 and 9.
Connah's Quay NR (Vis Mig)	30/10/2018	Brambling	6			
Connah's Quay NR (Vis Mig)	05/11/2018	Brambling	31			Largest single flock 23, plus singles and 2's.
Connah's Quay NR (Vis Mig)	06/11/2018	Brambling	102			Largest single flock 26, plus ones of 16, 13, 7
Connah's Quay NR (Vis Mig)	09/11/2018	Brambling	8			flocks 3, 3, 2

## Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*) Common.

Small wintering population around triangle and garden compound.

Greenfinch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	21	21	12	2			10	8	10	20	12	12

## Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) Common.

Common around feeders.

Goldfinch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	20	2	6	2		1	30	40	12	80	95	30

## Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*) Widespread.

Rare on site. Seven records. 21 on visible migration 6/11 (DW).

25/01/2018	Siskin	2	garden compound		p & s Haslem
10/03/2018	Siskin	1	male on feeder		s Davies
15/03/2018	Siskin	1	male on feeder		p & s Haslem
29/10/2018	Siskin	2			d Winnard
30/10/2018	Siskin	2			d Winnard
05/11/2018	Siskin	1			d Winnard
06/11/2018	Siskin	21	flocks of 8, 6, 7		d Winnard

## Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*) Common. (B)

Large winter feeding group on salt marsh.

Linnet	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	40	12	4	7	8	9	50	50	40	80	20	110

## Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*) Scarce.

Winter migration of birds onto Flint marsh. Ringing program takes place January to April when seed is put down to attract the birds.

Twite	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	38	98	53	65							18	20



Twite.

## **Lesser Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*) Scarce.**

Sightings of small number of birds annually. One sighting of two birds on visible migration 9/11 (DW).

## **Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) Scarce.**

Flyover of three on visible migration by entrance gate. DW. 6/11

## **Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) Widespread.**

Small population around Garden compound, meadow trail and road to visitors centre.

## **Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citronella*) Scarce.**

One sighting with Reed buntings in bush by Helipad 14/12 (SH). Recorded every winter until 1987. Single record 2010.

## **Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) Widespread.**

Small number seen regularly.

# Thankyou.

This is our first year writing the Bird Report as **Glenn Morris** has been collating the report since 2012. We would like to thank Glenn for his dedication as we now realise the long and detailed work involved. We referred to his book **The Birds of Connah's Quay and Oakenholt Marsh** to check historical sightings.



**The Birds of Connah's Quay Nature Reserve and Oakenholt Marsh** by Glenn Morris (order for £5 Inc P&P from [glennmanc@hotmail.com](mailto:glennmanc@hotmail.com))

A new 70-page paperback guide to all 233 species of bird seen on the Reserve over the past 40 years (9x6 inch with full colour cover photos). Reserve Map, a brief history of the Reserve and list of mammals.

# Butterfly Report 2018

Taken from December Newsletter 2018 written by David Winnard.

Butterflies had a year of mixed fortunes; there were some standout winners and losers during this long hot summer.

**Small Copper** seemed to have a very good year with records right through the summer and well into late autumn. **Meadow Browns** peaked at 86 along the meadow trail in June and **Gatekeeper** at 63, **Comma** was another species to have a good summer with up to 5 together along the meadow trail during July. 2 **Wall Browns** were near the West hide on numerous days in July. **Small, Large** and **Green veined Whites** were out in force throughout the year but **Peacock**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Red Admiral** were very thin on the ground. **Painted Lady**, **Orange-tip**, **Common Blue**, **Holly Blue**, **Brimstone** and **Speckled Wood** were also recorded.

Species	29/04/2018	05/05/2018	13/05/2018	27/05/2018	25/06/2018	10/07/2018	25/07/2018	09/08/2018	22/08/2018	05/09/2018
Holly Blue			3							
Common Blue				3	2	2		12	7	
Orange tip	2	4	6	6						
Red Admiral		1			1	2		1		
Lesser Tortoiseshell	1	1			2	1				
Peacock	1	2				1				
Speckled Wood		1				5		4	1	
Large White						16		6		
Small White		4	9	5	6	7		9	5	
Green veined White	1									
Large Skipper										
Small Skipper				1	3					
Comma		1	1			2				
Brimstone		1								
Wall Brown				1					2	
Meadow brown					40	63		15	4	
Cinnabar moth					1	1				
Gatekeeper						38				
Painted Lady							1			
Small Copper										1

## Mammals.

The reserve is home to Rabbit, Voles, Brown Rat, Grey Squirrel, Mice, Badger, Stoat, Weasel, Fox and Polecat. Grey Seal, Porpoise and Dolphins were recorded as seen from West Hide.

