

Deeside Naturalist Society Bird Report 2019



Photo Peter Haslem

Written April 2020 by Pete & Sue 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.deenats.org.uk

The total number of species seen on the reserve stands at 242 (including 16 escapes). No new species to the reserve list this year:

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.

149 species were recorded in 2019. From 7000 records.

Highlights for the year include:

Garganey.

Hooded crow was only the second reserve record.

Ring Ouzel a winter record.

Arctic Skua.

Great Skua.

Tree Pipit.

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 Includes Ash pool area and Oakenholt marsh

SJ 2672 Flint sands and the Dee up to the breakwater (revetment).

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

SJ2772 Including Breakwater and Burton Marsh in Wales.

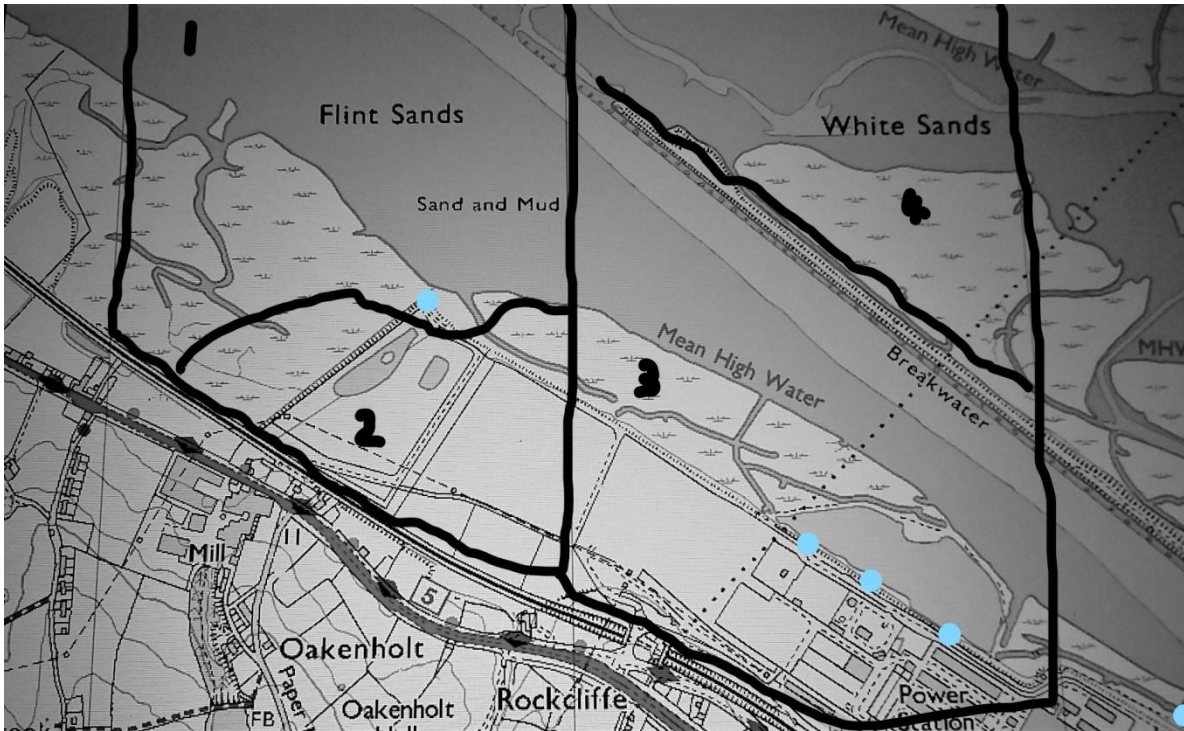
Observers record their sightings in the hide logs, summarised monthly and recorded on Bird track.

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

Many 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 images are phone scoped using Samsung A3 and Swarovski ATX 95 telescope. We feel their inclusion enhances the sightings reported.



Map of reserve: Hides are shown as dots.

1. SJ2672 CQNR Oakenholt Marsh and Flint Sands.
2. SJ2671 CQNR Ash Pool and Meadow Trail.
3. SJ2771 CQNR Bunded Pools and Garden Compound.
4. SJ2772 CQNR Whitesands.

THE SPECIES LIST FOR 2019.

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.

Bird records are taken from hide logs and WeBS counts.

Some 7000 individual records.

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*).

Eleven records from May probably released birds.

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*).

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

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) (B)

Mute swans are regular on the reserve. Our resident pair produced five cygnets. These were seen with both parents on 20th May and up until 25th June.

Mute Swan	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2	2	2	2	7	7	10	1	2	3	4	4



Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*).

One was on Oakenholt marsh on 2nd September and again on 26th September (SH). Feral.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*).

Nineteen Whooper swans were seen on the river Dee in front of the West hide on the 21st January. Winter visitor.

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*).

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	2600	4000	4000					100		20	200

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*).

A feral population usually with Canada geese. 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 five hybrid goslings on the Ash pool island. All fledged successfully into Canada look alike.

Canada goose (*Branta Canadensis*). (B)

We see Canada geese all year round up to several thousand in number.

Canada Goose	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2900	1400	210	13	273	175	630	1500	160		1200	3000

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*).

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
	12	14	3	3	2	5	4	5	5	2	10	1



Brent Goose (*Branta Bernicia*) winter.

Some two hundred pale bellied Brent geese over winter around Hilbre Island. Our records probably come from this population. Two dark bellied Brent geese were seen on Oakenholt marsh 21/03 (SH). The larger group of 22 PBB were observed on the river Dee at high tide 10/02 (SH).

Brent Goose	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		22	2									

Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*)

White morph seen with Canada geese on Oakenholt marsh 02/06 (DW). Stayed for three days. Unknown origin.



Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*).

Feral population spreading north now breeds locally and are regularly seen on or around the reserve. One to three adult birds were regularly observed from May to September.



Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*).

One sighting of a single bird on 24th August (SH).

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*).

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

Shelduck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	50	53	27	87	140	500	1010	1200	1000	90	60	100



Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*).

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. One injured female remained on the Ash pool for most of the summer 2019.

Wigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ash pool	100			1	1	1	1				10	70
Oak/Flint	230	500	450	120				17	700	300	2000	4000
Bund pool	520	325	255						10	135	350	250



Gadwall (*Anas strepera*).

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

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

Teal (*Anas crecca*).

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. Recorded each month suggests small resident population.

Teal	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ash pool	12			4		10	15	30	15	220	90	35
Oak/Flint	500	120	240	60	2			300	650	600	2000	1000
Bund pool	40	38	62	30					20	230	85	70

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

Seen throughout the year.

Mallard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	136	80	28	19	337	300	280	240	140	100	80	89



Pintail (*Anas acuta*).

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

Pintail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		120	60	60				16	61	20	2	6

Garganey (*Anas querquedula*).

Very scarce summer migrant. Only the sixth record for the reserve with the last record being 2013. Male in eclipse with Teal 14/10 (DW).



Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*).

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

Shoveler	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	15	6	2	3	1			1	8	7	2	5

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

A regular feature on the Ash pool. 26 observed in August included 20 tufted ducklings (SH). Resident.

Tufted Duck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	6	5	10	10	8	12	19	26	7	2	2	1

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*).

Annual sighting of one or two winter birds passing through. A drake was present on the Ash pool from 7/11 to 11/11 and joined by a female on 11/11 (SH).

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

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*).

Five on 19/05 (PSH).

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*).

Red headed birds seen mainly. One record of two drakes on 3/2 (SH).

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



Swift (*Apus apus*).

Common summer visitor. First record of three 07/05 (PSH). Last one recorded 01/09 (SH).

Swift	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					32	80	6	17	1			

Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*).

One juvenile perched on the West car park fence and circled briefly. Seen by three birders 28/6 (PH).

Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*).

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

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*).

Common resident and winter visitor.

Stock Dove	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	60	140	7	3	11	3	6	10	22	6	1	5

Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*).

Resident throughout and numbers enhanced by hundreds of winter influx.

Woodpigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	300			4	12	8	20	4		2		70

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

Regularly seen by entrance road and along the railway.

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

Resident on the Ash pool. Chicks present during July and August.

Moorhen	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	16	11	10	6	4	4	5	4	6	3	12	

Coot (*Fulica atra*) (B).

Resident with larger numbers over wintering. Eight chicks during May.

Coot	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	32	35	29	21	25	22	27	30	4	7	18	6

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) (B).

Two pairs successfully bred on the Ash pool each being seen with three young during July and August. Resident.

Little Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ash Pool	5	2	2	4	3	5	5	4	5	1		2
Bunded Pools	5	3	3	1	1		1	3	6	16	12	5

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*).

Seen on the river on a rising tide.

Great Crested Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1			4	7	11	7	16	7	6	5	5



Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*).

Present all year round and large influx outside of breeding season of several thousand birds. One pair sat on Ashpool Island nest for 8 weeks without any evidence of breeding success.

Oystercatcher	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	50	90	370	46	65	40	250	1200	2000	2500	380	500

Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*).

Breeds at Burton Mere Wetlands. First one was recorded 24/2 (SH). Passage birds pre and post breeding.

Avocet	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1		2		2	12	7	5	4	2	2

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*).

Three returned on 25/3 (SH). Breeding behaviour observed. Summer visitor,

Little Ringed Plover	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			3	2	1							



Ringed Plover (*Charadus hiaticula*).

Passage birds seen along the edge of the tide feeding,

Ringed Plover	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1			4			3	45	30	1		

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*).

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

Golden Plover	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1								1	17	

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis sqatarola*).

Occasional single bird among the waders. The September bird was a male in breeding plumage 02/09 (SH & DW).

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

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*).

Large numbers group together over the winter on the silt in front of the West hide, sheep fields and bunded area.

Lapwing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	500	540	1			8	70	51	120	300	700	1000



Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*).

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

Whimbrel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				7	8		2	9	1			

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*).

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
Ash Pool	3			12							70	90
Sheep fields	81	6	2				20	25	2	2	75	200
Oakenholt	110	110	66	25	35	20	76	75	60	38		100

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*).

200 to 500 roosted on the Ash pool island during August and September.
Common winter visitor and migrant. Summer non breeder.

Black-tailed Godwit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ash pool							3	200	500			
Oak/Flint	250	90	50	200	67	35	320	400	2000	3800	2000	2000
Bund pool						20	130	205	1000	400		



Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*).

Winter visitor and migrant. Scarce on the reserve.

Bar-tailed Godwit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	14	1	3	14	9	4	1	2	6	5	12	11

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).

Rare migrant for reserve.

Turnstone	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1					2	5	7	2			

Knot (*Calidris canutus*).

50 roosted on Ash Pool Island 01/09 (SH). Winter visitor.

Knot	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			1		3		3	12	50	2000	600	500

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*).

Sixteen in breeding plumage 26/05 (SH).

Sanderling	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				1	16		1	1	1			

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*).

Eagerly anticipated in early autumn. Often with Dunlin, for comparison, feeding along the tide. Sometimes on Middle over a high tide. Three records in July and thirteen of two birds in September.

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

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*).

Flying in their thousands, around Flint sands, as tide ebbs and flows, dropping in to feed on the wet mud. Winter visitor and migrant.

Dunlin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2000	2000	40	40	63	5	400	181	250	200	450	300

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*).

One on Ash pool 21/09 (SS). Another with Dunlin in front of West hide 26/09 (PSH).

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*).

Might be lucky to see one or two roosting among redshank on Middle Bunded pool. Scarce migrant.

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

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*).

A winter visitor. Probably hiding in the salt marsh waiting to be flushed by a high tide. One remained in freshly cut reeds on Ash pool until 08/02.

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

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*).

Winter visitor roosting on marshy area in front of Middle hide. 83 recorded 27/11 (DW).

Snipe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	30	26	24	2					6	28	83	29



Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*).

Migrant and winter resident.

Common Sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				6	2	1	2	5	2		1	



Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*).

One briefly 28/08 (DW) and two 02/10 (SS).

Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*).

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
Ash pool											40	
Oak/Flint	200	120	400	1200	12		600	1000	2000	1000	299	200
Bund pool	30	40	102	88	2	50	1600	2270	5000	2500	80	52

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*).

Regular sights from Middle hide during winter.

Greenshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	8	9	13	6	3	2	14	17	26	20	10	8

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*).

Expect them back late summer in breeding plumage (black) and winter resident in non-breeding plumage (silver). Middle hide bunded area is favoured.

Spotted Redshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	13	2		1		3	10	15	24	14	7	5



Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*).

Pick your way through the late summer gulls and your reward may be one of these handsome birds.

Mediterranean Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	4	2				1	1		1			

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*).

Lucky over last two years to see a single Little Gull among the Black-Headed gulls 9/2 (SH).

Black-Headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*). (B).

This handsome gull is year round, increasing in winter to several thousand. 16759 were counted streaming down river from Flint bridge direction 01/01 (DW) possibly because the tips were closed. One chick was successfully hatched and reared on Ash Pool Island 08/08 (SH).

Black headed gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	16759	15000	550	150	103	300	1300	1100	500	200	800	120

Common Gull (*Larus canus*).

Good numbers among the gulls especially late winter.

Common Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3662	1650	70	3	7			1	1	8	50	10

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

Common migrant and winter visitor.

Lesser Black-backed Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	519	200	42	62	20	150	35	45	100	45	45	1

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*).

Two lingered on Flint sands July to September.

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

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).

Very common and widespread migrant and winter visitor.

Herring Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2459	475		1	30	30	20	12	20	85	10	

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

Uncommon winter migrant and resident.

Great Black-backed Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	54	12	5	4	2	3	4	4	6	4	6	8

Sandwich Tern (*Sterna sandvicensis*).

Uncommon summer non breeding visitor.

Sandwich Tern	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					8	3	1					

Common Tern (*Sternus hirundo*).

Annual breeding colony at Shotton Steel lagoons mean that Common Terns are a regular sight fishing and flying up and down the river. Two were recorded on 18/04 (SH) and last one on 03/09 (SH).

Common Tern	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				8	76	70	130	25	2			

Arctic Tern (*Sternus paradise*).

Scarce passage bird. One sighting 03/05 (SH) resting with Sandwich terns.

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

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons*).

Uncommon coastal migrant. Single bird stayed for two days feeding in front of West hide 02/07 (DW).

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*).

Very scarce migrant. Three 10/05 (DW) on passage.

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).

Dark morph scared all waders into flight on bunded pools 17/08 (PSH). Two on Oakenholt 25/08 (SS).

Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*).

One over revetment 25/8 (SS).

Guillemot (*Uria aalge*).

One on 14/9 floating upstream on the river Dee (SH).

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).

Always present roosting on the marsh edge on Oakenholt at high tide.

Cormorant	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	34	25	49	6	5	70	20	26	30	28	40	35

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*).

Large numbers follow post breeding at Burton Mere Waters.

Little Egret	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	4	10	8	3	42	40	101	25	20	4	1



Great Egret (*Ardea Alba*).

Now a regular feature on the reserve. Often seen fishing for fish and shrimp in the shallow water on the Bunded pools. Nine were recorded 29/7 (AS) and fifteen 30/8 (SH).

Great Egret	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2	1	3		5	4	9	15	6	2	1	

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*).

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
	6	5	2	1	2	7	7	10	9	10	11	8



Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*).

One adult in breeding plumage 25/4 (DW) and two 28/9 (GR).

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*).

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	4	2	3		1	2	1	4	3	2	1	5

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

Winters on the Dee marshes. Sometimes hunt on the reserve.

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

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*).

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	1	5	3	3		1		4	2	3	7	6



Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*).

Resident all year on or around the sheep fields.

Buzzard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	7	4	3	8	5	3	3	5	4	7	6	7

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*).

Seen hovering over the salt marsh. Resident.

Kestrel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	4		2	3	3	4	8	15	7	9	5	1

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*).

A winter visitor on the Dee marshes.

Merlin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	4		3					1	1	6	1	6



Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*).

A summer migrant.

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

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*).

Seen on or around the reserve most months.

Peregrine	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	4	3	3	2	3	1	7	10	4	12	5	6

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*).

One was photographed on the window ledge of the Dee hide with a dead vole 18/03 (PH). Later seen hunting around the Bunded pools early afternoon.



Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*).

Seen hunting around Decca pools (with a telescope). Two records 02/01 & 12/03 (PSH).

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*).

One or two spend each winter on the reserve.

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



Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*).

One record 27/11 (SH).

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*).

Five records April to July and two birds observed on road by middle hide (JR).

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*).

Sightings near reserve entrance.

Magpie (*Pica pica*).

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

Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*).

Large numbers can frequent marsh and grassland. Opportunist. Feeder. Large number in May feeding on emerging Garden Chafers. Takes advantage of winter food put out for sheep.

Jackdaw	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			60	34	78	35	2		20	50	45	250

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*).

Infrequent visitor to reserve although locally common.

Rook	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	1	1		12	80	40		5			5

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*).

Large numbers can frequent marsh and grassland.

Carrion Crow	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	4	12		10	20	45	12	12	34	10	10	55

Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*)

One from West hide. 07/06 (DW). Only second record for the reserve,



Raven (*Corvus corax*).

Scarce resident.

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

Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*). (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
	5	4	4	6	12	12	1			12	5	3

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

Common resident. Main user of reserve nesting boxes.

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

Common resident. Major beneficiary of provided nest boxes.

Coal Tit (*Periparus ater*).

Rarely heard and seen in Yew and conifers around garden compound. One record 17/10 (DW).

Sky Lark (*Alauda arvensis*).

Seen flying over revetment and salt marsh. Brought closer by highest tides as the marsh becomes flooded.

Skylark	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	20	10	1	2		1			2	28	8	45

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*).

Common summer visitor. Seen hawking for insects over the Ash pool. First record 04/04 (SH). Last record fifty over on 09/08 (SH).

Sand Martin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				6	30	4	35	50				

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*).

Common summer visitor. First record 04/04 (SH). Last record 03/09 (SH).

Swallow	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				19	22	20	25	100	75			



House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*).

Seen hawking for insects over the Ash pool. First sighting 04/04 (SH). Last 03/09.

House Martin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				6	50	20	18	50	10			

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus scoenobaenus*).

Summer visitor. Singing male heard and seen along meadow trail 30/04 (DW) to 9/05. No evidence of any subsequent breeding activity.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*). (B).

Summer visitor. Male 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	1	3	3	2				

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*).

Common summer visitor. Seen and heard along Meadow trail and Garden compound. First record 30/03 (SH).

Blackcap	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			1	4	6	2	2	2	1	2		

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*).

One record on meadow trail 03/07 (DW).

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*). (B).

Possibly three males singing on territory. One by the garden compound 22/04 (JR), two seen on meadow trail 29/04 (DW) and another by the Dee hide 30/04 (SH). An adult was seen feeding young out of the nest 10/06 (DW).

Lesser Whitethroat	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				2	1	3	2					

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*).(B).

Summer visitor. Several around reserve showing breeding behaviour. First three were seen 21/04 (SH).

common whitethroat	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				4	3		2	2				

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*).

Two singing males 30/03 (SH).

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

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).

Spring passage birds seen and heard. First 06/04 (SH).

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

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*).

Heard and seen in Yew and conifers around garden compound. Three records.

Treecreeper (*Certhia familiaris*).

One record by Field study centre 25/12 (AW).

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).(B).

Resident. Seen across the reserve holding territory. Fledgling birds suggest breeding success.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Abundant winter visitor. Uses reed bed on Ash pool as winter roost.

Murmuration of 1000 plus birds were seen before going into the reeds 11/02 (DW) and 5000 28/12 (DW).

Starling	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	30	1000			120	190	50	12	40	150	50	5000



Blackbird (*Turdus merula*).

Resident and winter influx.

Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*).

A good winter passage record for the reserve. A male near the Field study centre with large fall of Blackbirds 16/12 (DW).



Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*).

Common winter visitor and migrant. Hedgerow along entrance road and south pasture provides food and refuge.

Fieldfare	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
											18	1

Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelus*).(B).

Dotted around site. Males heard on territory and seen taking food to nest.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*).

Winter visitor and migrant. Hedgerow along entrance road and south pasture.

Redwing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1									90	12



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

Seen feeding young on southern pastures.

Mistle Thrush	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				1	5	1				1		

Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*). (B).

Year round with winter influx. Male birds holding territory and seen feeding female.

Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*).

Passage in spring and late summer. A juvenile was feeding on meadow trail 1st to 5th July. Adult male 09/08 (SH).

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*).

One or two passage birds in spring and late summer. Three records One 03/05, 18/07 and 30/08 (SH).



Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*).

Scarce resident and migrant.

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

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).

Good numbers pass through both on spring and autumn migration. Earliest four on 24/03 (SH).

Wheatear	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			4	13	9			1	2			



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

Small breeding population around entrance, Meadow trail and railway.

House Sparrow	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
					15	4	3	6				

Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*).(B).

Resident. Recorded in all parts of the reserve. Breeding behaviours observed.

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*).

Just passing through in spring. Five records in April and two in August.

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

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*).

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						2		2		

Pied/White Wagtail (*Motacilla yarrelli*).

White wagtails (*M Alba*) are seen on spring passage twelve 17/04 (SH). Pied wagtail resident with large feeding flocks in winter.

Pied Wagtail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	20	95	1	52	15	6	10	16	7	4	22	106

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*).

Common on Dee marsh area. Good numbers on reserve during migration periods. Large movement during April.

Meadow Pipit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	16	4	202	4		3	15	38	20	12	20

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*).

30/04 (DW) One heard flying over.

Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*).

Two are often seen around West hide at high water. Their unique call is often the first sign of their presence.

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

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*).

A spring tide can drive these rare birds over to the reserve, especially if the river bund is breached. One 09/12 (PSH)

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

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*).

Resident and abundant winter visitor.

Chaffinch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	185	80			4					18	60	370

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*).

Scarce winter visitor often with Chaffinch.

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

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*).

Resident. Small numbers seen each month.

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*).

Small wintering population around triangle and garden compound. Use feeders by Dee hide in winter.

Greenfinch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	8	7	2	3	8	5	8	3		15		5

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).

Common around feeders.

Goldfinch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	30	6	10	4	10	2	8	40	50	30	45	10

Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*). (B)

Large winter feeding group on salt marsh.

Linnet	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	30	7		4	4	6	64	12	15	43	125	120

Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*).

Winter migration of birds onto Flint marsh. Ringing program takes place January to April when seed is put down to attract the birds. 28/10 sixteen returning Twite (PSH).

Twite	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	55	63	46	12						16	4	1



Siskin (*Carduelis spinus*).

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

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*).

Resident.



Contributors to the 2019 Bird Report. 7000 records.

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A Wallbank	AW	M Williams	MW
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C Williams	CW	N Hall	NH
D Chandler	DC	N Mcmorran	NMc
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The Birds of Connah's Quay Nature Reserve and Oakenholt Marsh 2018 edition by Glenn Morris (order from glennmanc@hotmail.com)

A 70-page paperback guide to all 242 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.