

# Deeside Naturalists' Society Bird Report 2020



Twite. Peter Haslem

Written April 2021 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](http://www.deenats.org.uk)

The total number of species seen on the reserve stands at 243 (including 16 escapes).

One new species for the reserve was Cetti's warbler heard near the Ashpool 24/09 by SH.

A pair of Grey Partridge has taken up residence on the reserve since November (GEM).

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.

122 species were recorded in 2020. From 4019 records.

*2020 will be remembered for the Covid 19 restrictions which caused the reserve to be closed April to July. Consequently no recording was carried out and the yearly record reflects this (months shaded). For birds usually observed on passage during spring there are no recorded sightings.*

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.

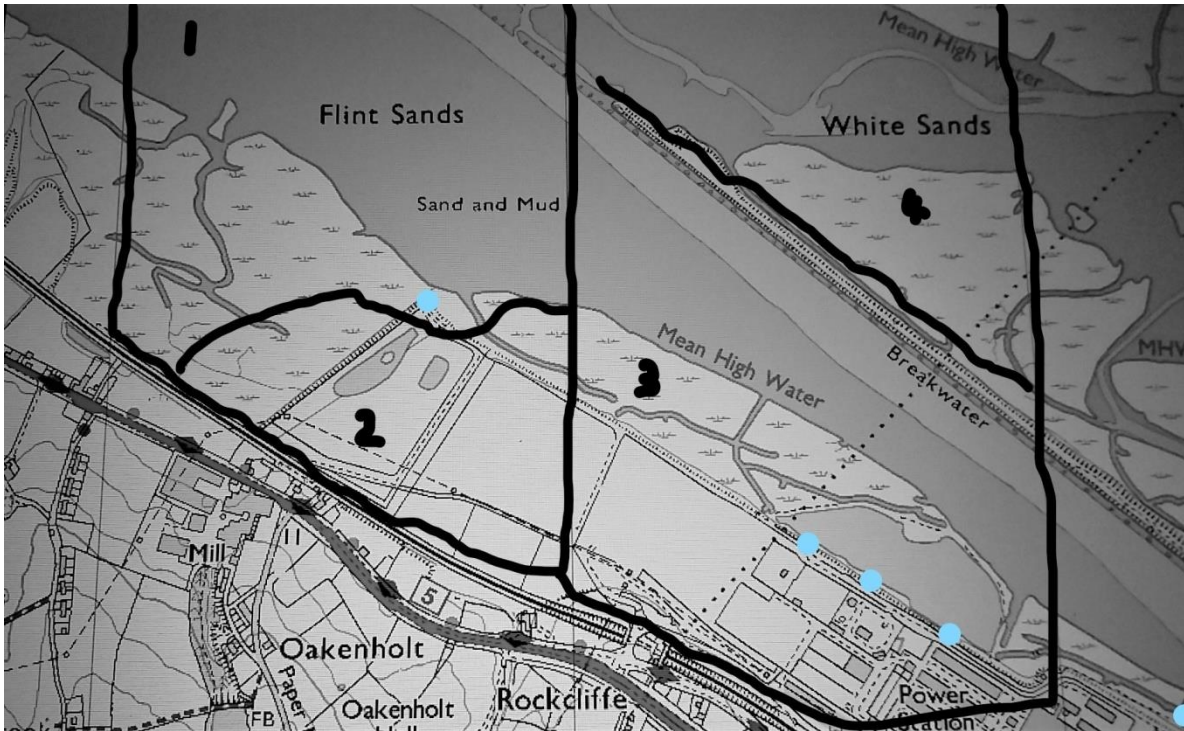
Observers record their sightings in the hide logs, summarised monthly and recorded on Bird track.

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 but one image are phone scoped using Samsung A21 and Swarovski ATX 95 telescope. The photo of the Grey Partridges was taken by Glen Morris.



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 2020.

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 4019 individual records.

## Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*).

Up to four recorded during February and March. Probably released birds from local shoot.

## Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*).

A pair was first recorded 16/11 (GEM & GP). A rare sighting on the reserve since the 1990s.



Grey Partridge. Glen Morris.

## 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*)

All year.

Mute Swan	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2	2	23	x	X	x	X		4		2	11

## Whooper Swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*).

Winter visitor.

Whooper Swan	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		9	24	x	x	x	x					

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

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.

Pink footed	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12	25	400	X	x	x	x		1100	2000	1600	120



Pink-footed geese. Peter Haslem.

## White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). Winter.

One recorded sighting 07/03 (SH).

## 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.

## Canada goose (*Branta Canadensis*).

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

Canada G	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	1800	1500	200	X	x	x	x	300	2000	900	3000	2000
Ash Pool	450	500	70	X	x	x	x	60	440	30	250	1
Comp 2				X	x	x	x					

## 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.

Barnacle	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Goose	1	2	5	x	x	x	x				1	1

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

Some two hundred pale bellied Brent geese over winter around Hilbre Island. Our records probably come from this population. Six on Oakenholt 10/3 (SH).

Brent Goose	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		1	6	x	x	x	x					

## Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*).

Eleven records.

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

## Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*).

All year.

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
Oakenholt	100	150	150	x	x	x	x	50	85	70	96	80
Ash pool.		8	50	X	x	x	x		25			
Bunded	13	15	12	x	x	x	x	40	8		12	12

## Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*).

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
Oakenholt	800	400	300	x	x	x	x		1	6	820	3000
Ash pool.	60	60	90	x	x	x	x				33	20
Bunded.	210	400	195						20	121	400	400



## Gadwall (*Anas strepera*).

Winter.

A small number overwinter on the Ash pool.

Gadwall	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	5	8	2	x	x	x	x		4	5	7	7

## Teal (*Anas crecca*).

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
Oakenholt	300	250	120	x	x	x	x	50	1000	1500	1000	600
Ash pool.	12	80	26	x	x	x	x	50	900	190	110	40
Bunded	250	200	90	x	x	x	x	45	75	70	500	150

## Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

Seen throughout the year.

Mallard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	55			x	x	x	x	200	26	25	40	32
Ash pool	30	20	6	x	x	x	x	400	50	12	12	6
Bunded	100	95	4	x	x	x	x	30	110	51	122	40

## Pintail (*Anas acuta*).

winter

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
	75	62	15	x	x	x	x		8	2	5	2

## Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*).

winter

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
	7	11	2	x	x	x	x		4	7	6	4

## Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*).

All year.

A regular feature on the Ash pool.

Tufted	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	4	8	10	x	x	x	x	2	1	1	1	2

## Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*). Winter.

One record for December (SH).

## Goosander (*Mergus merganser*). Winter.

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

## Swift (*Apus apus*).

Common summer visitor. First record 1/8 (SH).

## Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*).

Juvenile 17/8 briefly (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
	40	110	30	x	x	x	x	12	32	3		1

## Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*).

Resident throughout and numbers enhanced by winter influx.

Woodpigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	80	40	30	x	x	x	x	4	3	1	6	15

## Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Regularly seen by entrance road and along the railway.

## Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*).

Resident on the Ash pool.

Moorhen	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	19	12	13	x	x	x	x	8	10	6	11	14

## Coot (*Fulica atra*).

Resident with larger numbers over wintering.

Coot	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12	14	9	x	x	x	x	40	44	55	60	30

## Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

resident

Little Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ash pool	3	2	5	x	x	x	x	3	1	1		1
Bunded	6	5	2	x	x	x	x	2	8	10	6	8

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

Seen on the river on a rising tide.

Great cr. Grebe.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3		2	x	x	x	x		7	3	6	1

## Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*).

Present all year round and large influx outside of breeding season of several thousand birds.

Oystercatcher	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	400	400	70	x	x	x	x	2000	5300	1200	2200	400

## Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*).

Breeds at Burton Mere Wetlands. First one was recorded 1/1 (SH). Passage birds pre and post breeding.

Avocet	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1		2	x	x	x	x		6			

## Ringed Plover (*Charadrius 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		x	x	x	x	40	40		1	5

## Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*).

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

Golden Pl	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	5	1		x	x	x	x	1			3	

## Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*).

Occasional birds among the waders at high tide.

Grey Plover	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2			x	x	x	x			9	3	6

## Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*).

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

Lapwing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flint sands	1000	800		x	x	x	x	60			1000	700
Ash pool	700	800		x	x	x	x	60	120			
Bunded	30	8		x	x	x	x	100	190	52	200	500

## Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*).

Spring and autumn passage are the best times to see our migrant Whimbrel. Often picked up by call.

Whimbrel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				x	x	x	x	10	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.

Curlew	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dee sands	100	100	54	x	x	x	x	95	140	100	70	70
Ash Pool	100	100	22	x	x	x	x		60	55	80	30
Bunded	30	25	2	x	x	x	x	36	6	3	95	92



Curlew. Peter Haslem.

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

Common winter visitor and migrant.

Black-t godwit	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dee sands	2000	500	6	x	x	x	x	2800	2500	2600	2500	300
Ash pool	850	20		x	x	x	x	1000	2000	2		
East				x	x	x	x	130	150	30	34	65



Black-tailed godwit. Peter Haslem.

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

Winter visitor and migrant.

Bar-tailed	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Godwit	8	4	4	x	x	x	x	2	4	1	3	9

## Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).

Singles on passage during August.



## Knot (*Calidris canutus*). Winter.

Knot	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	200	200	2	x	x	x	x	50	259	80	3000	400

## Sanderling (*Calidris alba*).

Six on Flint sands 17/8 (SH).

## Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*).

30/8 (RW). Five record at Middle hide.

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



Curlew sandpiper. Peter Haslem.

## Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*).

Flying in their thousands, around Dee 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
	400	2000	20	x	x	x	x	35	100	1000	1300	2500

## 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
				x	x	x	x	1				1

## Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*).

Winter visitor roosting on marshy area in front of Middle hide.

Snipe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	43	45	26	x	x	x	x		3	34	37	72



Common Snipe. Peter Haslem.

## Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Dead woodcock found on road 29/11 (PH).

## Common Sandpiper (*Actitus hypoleucus*).

Com sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1		1	x	x	x	x	9	2			

## Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*).

One found on pool at Field Study Centre 16/08 (SS). On East hide pool in November 16 to 19 (SH). From West Hide 16/11 (KD).

Green sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				x	x	x	x	1			1	

## 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
Oakenholt	200	500	330	x	x	x	x	800	4600	2000	200	180
Ash pool.	250			x	x	x	x	200				
Bunded	64	240	140	x	x	x	x	2000	3000	630	2000	70



Redshank. Peter Haslem.

## Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*).

Regular sights from Middle hide during winter.

Greenshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	7	7	8	x	x	x	x	16	22	18	10	7



Greenshank. Peter Haslem.

## Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*).

Spotted Redshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	5	5	1	x	x	x	x		2	2	9	8
Bunded	6	1	1	x	x	x	x	12	20	15	13	13



Spotted redshank. Peter Haslem.

## 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
			1	x	x	x	x					

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

Black-headed Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	200	800	80	x	x	x	x	650	200	60	400	300

## Common Gull (*Larus canus*).

Common Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	5	8	30	x	x	x	x				12	15

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

Common migrant and winter visitor.

Lesser BB Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	15	20	20	x	x	x	x	38	150	100	90	38

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

One 18/08 (SH).

## 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
				x	x	x	x	3	1	10	10	9

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

Great BB Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	4	4	4	x	x	x	x	8	2	4	12	11

## 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.

Common Tern	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				x	x	x	x	20				

## Guillemot (*Uria aalge*).

One 09/09 (PSH) on river flowing upstream.

## 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
	40	30	40	x	x	x	x	12	34	9	15	20



## 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
	3	1	12	x	x	x	x	30	30	18	7	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.

Great Egret	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				x	x	x	x	9	5	1	2	



Great egret, Peter Haslem.

## 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
	10	8	4	x	x	x	x	7	4	3	6	9



Grey heron. Peter Haslem.

## 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	9	5		x	x	x	x	12	7		3	4

## 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	1		x	x	x	x				2	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	12	7		x	x	x	x	6	4	1	9	2

## 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	5	6	x	x	x	x	11	11	4	7	6

## Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*).

Seen hovering over the salt marsh. Resident.

Kestrel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	1		2	x	x	x	x	3	3	1	2	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	2	3	1	x	x	x	x	2	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	5	2	2	x	x	x	x	8	4	3	6	

## 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	2		x	x	x	X	1	1	1	1	1

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

Great Spotted Woodpecker	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				x	x	x	x	1	1	2	2	1

## Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*).

Sightings near reserve entrance. 24/09 and 15/12.

## Magpie (*Pica pica*).

Common resident in double figures attracted by the chance of feeding opportunities.

## Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*).

Large numbers can frequent marsh and grassland. Opportunist. Feeder. Takes advantage of winter food put out for sheep.

Jackdaw	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	450	400	10	x	x	x	x	50	50		200	10

## Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*).

Infrequent visitor to reserve although locally common.

Rook	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2			x	x	x	x	1	8		6	15

## 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
	75	30		x	x	x	x	35	25	24	12	130

## Raven (*Corvus corax*).

Scarce resident.

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

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

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
	12	2	2	x	x	x	x	3		8	11	12

## 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*).

Three records of a single bird. 01/01, 01/10 and 06/12.

## 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
	2	30	11	x	x	x	x			2	6	

## 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
			1	x	x	x	x	20	8			

## House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*).

Seen hawking for insects over the Ash pool. Eleven sightings in August.

House Martin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				x	x	x	x	30				

## Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*).

One heard on Ash pool 24/09 (SH). A first for the reserve though common at Shotwick and Burton.

## Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*).

Summer visitor. Four seen around Ash pool and one at Field study centre.

Reed Warbler	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				x	x	x	x	5				

## Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*).

Common summer visitor. Seen and heard along Meadow trail and Garden compound.

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

## Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*).

Single bird 23/08 (SH) and 26/08 (DH).

## Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*).

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

## Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*).

Summer visitor.

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



## Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*).

Chiffchaff	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			3	x	x	x	x	8	4			

## Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).

Spring passage would have occurred during lockdown.

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

## Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*).

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

## Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).

Resident. Seen across the reserve holding territory.

## Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

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

Starling	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	90		40	x	x	x	x	60	50	20	100	125

## Blackbird (*Turdus merula*).

Resident and winter influx.

Blackbird	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	20	11	16	x	x	x	x	6	3	15	22	64

## 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
	1	2		x	x	x	x			2	1	

## Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelus*).

Dotted around site. Males heard on territory.

## 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
	50	6	60	x	x	x	x			4	10	6

## Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*).

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

## Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*).

Robin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	8	3	8	x	x	x	x	2	2	4	14	8

## Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*).

One record in August.

## Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*).

Two records 23/08 (DS) and 28/08 (SH).

## Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*).

Scarce resident and migrant.

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

## Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).

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



Wheatear. Peter Haslem.

## House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

Small breeding population around entrance, meadow trail and railway.

House Sparrow	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				x	x	x	x			12		

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

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

## 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
				x	x	x	x				1	1

## Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla yarrelli*).

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

Pied Wagtail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	150	2	100	x	x	x	x	10		2	1	30

## 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
	20	12	44	x	x	x	x	21	15	12	4	4

## 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
		2	2	x	x	x	x			5	1	1

## Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*).

Resident and abundant winter visitor.

Chaffinch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	130	6		x	x	x	x				25	25

## Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*).

Scarce winter visitor often with Chaffinch. One record 03/01 (SH).

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

## 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
	3	3	4	x	x	x	x	10	20	20	30	50

## Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).

Common around feeders.

Goldfinch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	6	6	6	x	x	x	x	44	100	200	20	10

## Linnet (*Carduelis cannabina*).

Large winter feeding group on salt marsh.

Linnet	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	10	11		x	x	x	x	30	30	60	30	19

## 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.

Twite	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	30	25	26	c	x	x	x			5	35	18

## Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*).

Resident.

Reed bunting	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3	1	1	x	x	x	x	7	4	12	2	10

## Contributors to the 2020 Bird Report records.

Andrews J	JA	Lee B	BL
Beckett R	RB	McLaughlin A	AMc
Benbow P	PB	Mcmorran N	NMc
Bench J	JB	Morris GE	GEM
Brenchley A	AB	Neild C	CN
Britton T	TB	Offord K	KO
Davies K	KD	Parkin A	AP
Davies S	SD	Pepler G	GP
Dickinson B	BD	Plummer R	RP
Edwards G	GE	Roberts I	IR
Edwards M	ME	Robinson G	GR
Evans G	Gev	Rogers J	RJ
Hallard J	JH	Rowbottom T	TR
Haslem P	PH	Rowey N	NR
Haslem S	SH	Saunders A	AS
Hayes M	MH	Searle J	JS
Hiley D	DH	Skelton S	SS
Holmes L	LH	Smethurst A	Asm
Hotchkiss J	JH	Smith D	DS
Hughes Neil	NeH	Spence IM	IMS
Hughes Noel	NoH	Taylor C	CT
Jones A	AJ	Wainwright J	JW
Jones D	DJ	Wallbank A	AW
Jones DO	DOJ	Wilkinson R	RW
Jones J	JJ	Yates T	TY



Kitchen J JK



**The Birds of Connah's Quay Nature Reserve and Oakenholt Marsh** 2018 edition by Glenn Morris (order from [glennmanc@hotmail.com](mailto: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.