

Deeside Naturalists' Society Bird Report 2021



Avocet family. Peter Haslem.

Written May 2022 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 243 (including 16 escapes).

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.

144 species were recorded in 2021. From 4820 records.

2021 will be remembered for the Covid 19 restrictions which caused the reserve to be closed January to March.

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

SJ2672 Flint sands and the Dee up to the breakwater (revetment).

SJ2771 Grazing fields, the power station, garden compound and the Bunded pools.

SJ2772 Including Breakwater and Burton Marsh in Wales.

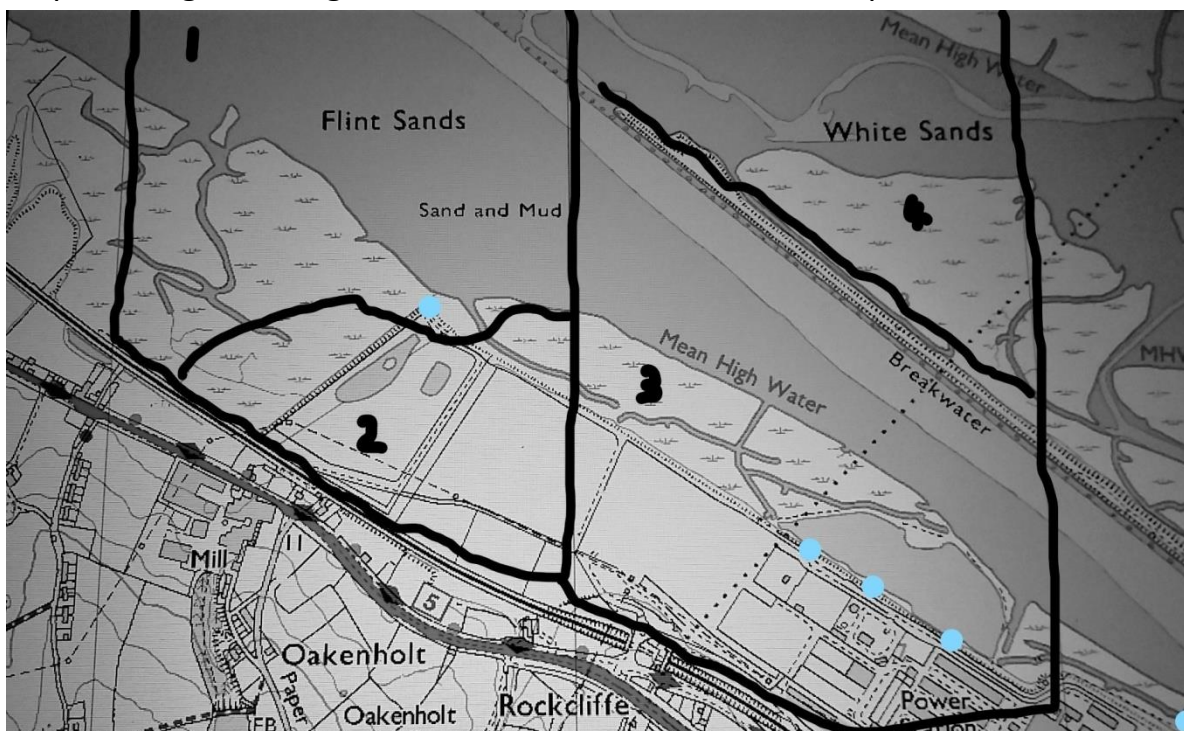
Observers record their sightings in the hide logs, summarised monthly and recorded on Bird track.

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 A21 and Swarovski ATX 95 telescope.



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 2021.

New for the reserve list 2021 is Cetti's warbler.

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 4820 individual records. 144 Species.



High tide from West hide.

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*).

Resident probably escapees. Up to seven seen on the reserve. Presumed released birds from local shoot.



Red-legged partridge.

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*).

Uncommon resident,

Pair often seen around the west hide. Resident since October 2020.

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*).

Common resident. Often seen around feeding station.

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

Fairly common and some resident.

Up to twenty over winter on the marsh and bunded pools. A pair hatched six cygnets on the Ash pool. Unfortunately none survived.



Mute Swan family.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*).

Winter visitor.

A group of seven was resident during November and December around the Field Study Centre.

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

Resident in winter in their thousands. Large numbers roost and feed on Oakenholt marsh.

Pink footed	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	3000	4200	1060	1000						150	3000	3500



Pink-footed geese.

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

Uncommon winter visitor and migrant. Two sightings of two birds on 21st and 23rd December among a large group of Pink-footed geese on Oakenholt (JR) (GR) (SH).

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*).

Frequent feral visitor.

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

Common and increasing feral resident. One pair successfully bred.

Canada G	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	900	1400	80		50	70	500	400	1300	200	1200	2500
Ash Pool	350	1000	6	12	25	30	45	60				
Bunded												

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*).

Uncommon feral visitor during the winter period.

Egyptian Goose (*Alpochen aegyptiaca*).

Scarce feral visitor.

One was seen throughout June. Known to breed at Burton mere wetlands.

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*).

One sighting 10/06 (SH).

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*).

Large numbers present on the Dee estuary for their summer moult before dispersing.

Shelduck	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	85		25	35	125	500	150	230	20	10	70	45
Ash pool.			12	70	50	10						
Bunded	7			27	10	16	10				20	19

Cape Shelduck.

Escapee on Oakenholt 24/08 until 28/09. (DJ and SH).

Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*).

Common winter visitor.

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	1000	600	60	30					1000	400	800	600
Ash pool.	200	500		2	1			20	20	12	130	200
Bunded.	500			25					19	29	550	150



Wigeon.

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
	11		4	8	2	2		3		4	8	6

Teal (*Anas crecca*).

Common winter visitor.

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	350	160	66	42			10	150	2500	200	600	250
Ash pool.	100	150	6	7		3	6	210	800	200	240	60
Bunded	20			10				16	25	50	90	30



Teal.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

Common resident and very common winter visitor.

Hundreds roost around Ash pool during moult.

Mallard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	12					150	300	600	300	50	100	35
Ash pool	8	40		32	70	708	400	660	100	10	12	35
Bunded	15		4	4	2	10	2		72	12	60	22

Pintail (*Anas acuta*).

Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

They are often seen in large flotillas on the rising tide often with Wigeon.

Pintail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	35	170		50	2		1	100	250	456	500	50

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*).

Fairly common winter visitor.

Shoveler can be seen feeding and displaying on the Ash pool.

Shoveler	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	6	15								11	13	42

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

Common winter visitor and frequent breeding resident.

A regular feature on the Ash pool with young seen in August.

Tufted	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2	1	10	12	9	8	6	20	6	1	6	8

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*).

Rare winter visitor.

One record of male on Ash pool (11/11). (JR and GR).

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*).

Uncommon visitor.

Goosander	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				1			14	2			3	3

Swift (*Apus apus*).

Common summer passage bird;

First record 9/5 and up until 07/08. 40 were seen on 19/06.

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.

Stock dove	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2	8	1	2	6	4	14	40	30	11	11	9



Stock dove.

Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*).

Common resident and winter visitor.

Woodpigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	7		15	4	2	6	6	40	6	6	40	30

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*).

Resident.

Regularly seen by entrance road and along the railway.

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

Very common resident on Ash pool. Regular breeder.

Moorhen	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	9	6	6	6	4	6	6	6	6	4	10	12

Coot (*Fulica atra*). (B).

Resident with larger numbers overwintering. Regular breeder.

Coot	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	35	30	15	15	10	9	50	44	28	20	10	10



Coot.

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

Resident. Annual breeding success.

Little Grebe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ash pool	1	1	1	3	3	4	8	6	3	3	6	4
Bunded	4			1			1	1	11	11	11	5



Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*).

Resident and common winter visitor.

Great cr. Grebe.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1		1	2	1		1	1	1	6	12	2

Oystercatcher (*Haematropus ostralegus*).

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

Oystercatcher	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	170	30	260	50	12	110	69	500	700	1000	120	800



Oystercatcher.

Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). (B).

Uncommon passage migrant. One pair resident.

A pair successfully raised three chicks on the reserve in May. A first for the reserve.

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



Avocet.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*).

A brief record at Middle hides (23/09). (GR).

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*).

Uncommon passage migrant.

Passage birds seen along the edge of the tide feeding,

Ringed Plover	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	5	1		1				14	8	1	13	8

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*). (B).

Uncommon summer resident and passage migrant.

Two adults seen around Ash pool during June and July. Known to breed on site.

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*).

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor.

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
	1								5	1		1

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*).

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Occasional birds among the waders at high tide.

Grey Plover	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	17	14	6	1						10	1	3



Grey plover.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*).

Common migrant and winter resident.

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

Lapwing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flint sands	2000	200		1			28	150	210	400	2000	1500
Ash pool												
Banded	260	4				13	70	150	50			

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*).

Regular passage migrant.

Spring passage is the best times to see our migrant Whimbrel.

Whimbrel	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				26	15		5	1				

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*).

Resident and winter visitor.

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	62	18	40	7	10	12	180	200	100	60	30	300
Ash Pool	35		25	20	1	2	20	2			60	60
East Grazing	80		2					2	2	6	1	48

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	740			900			1100	2800	2800	2500	2500	370
Ash pool							550	2000	89	50		
East				40			6	40	100	12	2	



Black-tailed godwit.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*).

Uncommon winter visitor.

Bar-tailed	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Godwit			1	2				8	20	10	7	15

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).

Uncommon passage migrant.

Small numbers of passage birds recorded between July and November.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*).

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Knot	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		100	1				4	3	2	2000	1000	200

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*).

Uncommon passage migrant. Three records in July.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*).

Uncommon passage migrant.

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

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*).

Rare passage migrant bird.

Five recorded (06/09). (SH and PH).

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*).

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

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

Dunlin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2000	3000	110	40			110	200	30	140	2000	2500

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*).

Scarce winter visitor.

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

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

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*).

Common winter visitor roosting on marshy area in front of Middle hide.

Snipe	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	84	1					1	1	24	19	4	25

Jack Snipe (*Lymnocyptes minimus*).

Rare winter visitor.

Two records (23/11 and 25/11). (SH and PH).

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*).

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Common sandpiper	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
							1	7	1			1

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*).

Uncommon visitor.

One by West hide along stream (03/08).



Green sandpiper.

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*).

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

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		700	100			3000	3000	4000	3000	600	120
Ash pool.												
Bunded	25	6	110	70		28	2000	2500	2800	1500	180	50

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*).

Passage migrant and resident. Regular sightings from Middle hide.

Greenshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	6	2	8	5	2		12	22	30	27	12	7



Greenshank.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*).

Passage migrant and winter visitor. Regular sighting from Middle hide.

Spotted Redshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	1						1	5	4	9	9	6
Bunded	7			4		2	10	14	19	15	12	

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*).

Uncommon visitor.

Eleven records of one or two birds between June and July.

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

Abundant passage migrant and resident.

Black-headed Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	160	30	65	100	120	1000	2000	1000	30	200	700	70

The island on the Ash pool attracted breeding Black-headed gulls. Fourteen nesting birds produced 35 chicks (probably more) during May and June.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*).

Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Common Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1	1	1				1000	6		25		50

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

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Lesser BB Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
			38	8	5	18	45	100	50	70	75	

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*).

Late summer visitor.

Long staying adult from July to September. Eight records.

Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucoides*).

Rare winter visitor.

One record (14/03). (PH).

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).

Common migrant and winter visitor.

Herring Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				6	4	4	8			7	5	11

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

Regular visitor over high tide.

Great BB Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		2		2	2		4	5	4	15	3	

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*).

Scarce passage bird.

One record on (24/04). (SH).

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 from April to September.

Common Tern	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				25	6	45	50	30	9			

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*).

Passage migrant.

Thirty were on Flint sands (24/04). (SH).

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*).

Rare passage migrant.

One on mudflat from West hide. (18/09). (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
	14		10	2	11	4	22	21	35	20	22	30

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*).

Increasingly common visitor. Large numbers post-breeding from Burton Mere wetlands.

Little Egret	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	7		1	3	4	25	70	80	80	45	30	9



Little egret.

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
					6	8	13	21	14	10	4	3

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
	8	6		2	3	6	11	9	14	14	10	10

Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*).

One was recorded throughout August.



Spoonbill.

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	2	1			1		2	5	7	1	2	3

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				1						1	4	1

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	2			3				2	5	3	3	4

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*).

Resident all year round.

Buzzard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	4			8	7	1	7	6	9	4	8	

Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*).

Winter resident on Burton marsh.

One was recorded (25/11). (PH).

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*).

Seen hovering over the salt marsh. Resident.

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

Two families hunting on the reserve (28/09).

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*).

A winter visitor on the Dee marshes.

Merlin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	3	2						1		2	2	2

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	1			1		3	2	7	6	9	7	7

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*).

Uncommon summer visitor.

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

Young Hobbies spent eight days hunting on revetment opposite Dee hide.

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*).

Winter resident.

One or two spend each winter on the reserve arriving at beginning of August and staying until beginning of January

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

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*).

One record (24/08). (SH).

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*).

Resident.

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

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*).

Resident.

Sightings near reserve entrance.

Magpie (*Pica pica*).

Very common resident.

Up to 30 Magpie roam the reserve.

Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*).

Very common resident.

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
	70			56	45	60	2	10	10	40	20	50

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*). (B).

Common resident.

A new rookery close to the paper mill has led to larger numbers feeding on the sheep pasture late summer.

Rook	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2					30	8	14	45	15	10	10

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*).

Abundant resident.

Large numbers frequent marsh and grassland.

Carrion Crow	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	50			8	10	35	1	16	20	120	70	60

Raven (*Corvus corax*).

Scarce visitor.

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

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.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*).

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

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*).

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. First record (01/04). Last record (28/09).

Swallow	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				10	9	10	8	80	50			

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*).

Common summer visitor and passing migrant,

First record (01/04) and Last record (14/09). Seen on Oakenholt marsh collecting mud for local nesting.

House Martin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				1	5	10	4	30	50			

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*).

Fairly common summer visitor and passing migrant.

First record (01/04). Last record (09/08).

Sand Martin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				40	10	40	7	2				

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*).

Common in Burton and Shotwick and a FIRST for the reserve. (SH).

Resident (09/09) until (31/10) around Ash Pool. (SH).

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

Common resident.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).

Summer visitor.

Heard singing throughout the reserve.

First record (24/04) and last record (19/08).

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*).

Summer visitor.

First record (28/03) and last record (09/10).

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

Uncommon summer visitor on the reserve.

A male was heard on Ash pool (02/05) and four were seen (01/07) suggesting breeding success.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*).

Uncommon summer visitor to reserve.

Male heard and seen on reed bed by Field Study Centre from (05/05) to (25/05).



Sedge warbler.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*).

Common summer resident. Also frequent winter visitor.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*).

Uncommon summer resident.

Two singing males on territory (05/05) to (30/05).

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*).

Fairly common summer resident.

First record (25/04) and last record (26/08).

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*).

Uncommon. Heard and seen in Yew and conifers around garden compound.

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).

Common resident.

Seen across the reserve holding territory.

Nuthatch (*Sitta europaea*).

Not been recorded on reserve since 2015.

Seen on bird feeders (14/10) and (30/10).

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

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

Starling	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	500					200	60	500	500	200	220	200

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*). (B).

Abundant resident. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*).

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. Hedgerow along entrance road and south pasture provides food and refuge. First sighting (02/11).

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

Resident and winter visitor. Adults observed feeding young.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*).

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

First record (30/10). Up to 30 birds present.

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

Resident. Adults seen feeding young.

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

Abundant resident and winter visitor.

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*).

Uncommon passage migrant.

One male recorded on meadow trail (18/04) and (24/04).

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*).

Uncommon but annual passage migrant. Two records (09/05) and (11/05). (SH).

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*).

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).

Regular passage migrant.

First spring record (24/04) and last record (25/05).

Late summer reverse migration (15/08) to (13/09).

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

Small breeding population around entrance, meadow trail and railway.

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

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

Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*).

Rare passage migrant.

One record (22/08) (SH).

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*).

Resident and winter visitor.

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

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrelli*).

Pied wagtail resident with large feeding flocks in winter on west grazing.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*).

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

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.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*).

Resident and abundant winter visitor.

Chaffinch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	29	6				5	3	2	4	4	50	20

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*).

Rare winter visitor.

Two records at the bird feeders (02/11) and (08/11) (SH).

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*). (B).

Resident. Small numbers seen each month.

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*).

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

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).

Common around feeders.

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

Resident and winter visitor.

Two pairs known to have bred on reserve. Large feeding flock in winter (60).

Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*).

Regular winter visitor.

Twite	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	37		27	10							22	



Twite.

Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*). (B).

Resident.

Contributors to the 2021 Bird Report records.

Smethurst A	AS
Andrews J	AJ
Beckett R	RB
Brenchley A	AB
Davies K	KD
Davies S	SD
Dickinson B	BD
Grub T	GT
Haslem P	PH
Haslem S	SH
Hiley D	DH
Holmes L	LH
Hotchkiss J	JH
Hughes Neil	NH
Hughes Noel	NoH
Jones D	DJ
Kent S	SK
Morris GE	GEM
Neild C	CN
Pepler G	GP
Perkin A	AP
Robinson G	RG
Rogers J	RJ
Skelton S	SS

Smith D	DS
Spence IM	IMS
Thomson N	NT
Wallbank A	AW
Wilkinson R	RW



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.