

Deeside Naturalists' Society Bird Report 2022



Written May 2023 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

Two species, recorded for the first time are Puffin and Great Northern Diver.

The total number of species seen on the reserve stands at 245 (including 16 escapes). Other notable sightings Eider, Black Redstart, Leach's Petrel, Slavonian Grebe, Water Pipit, Cattle Egret and Osprey.

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.

154 species were recorded in 2022. From 5336 records.

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.

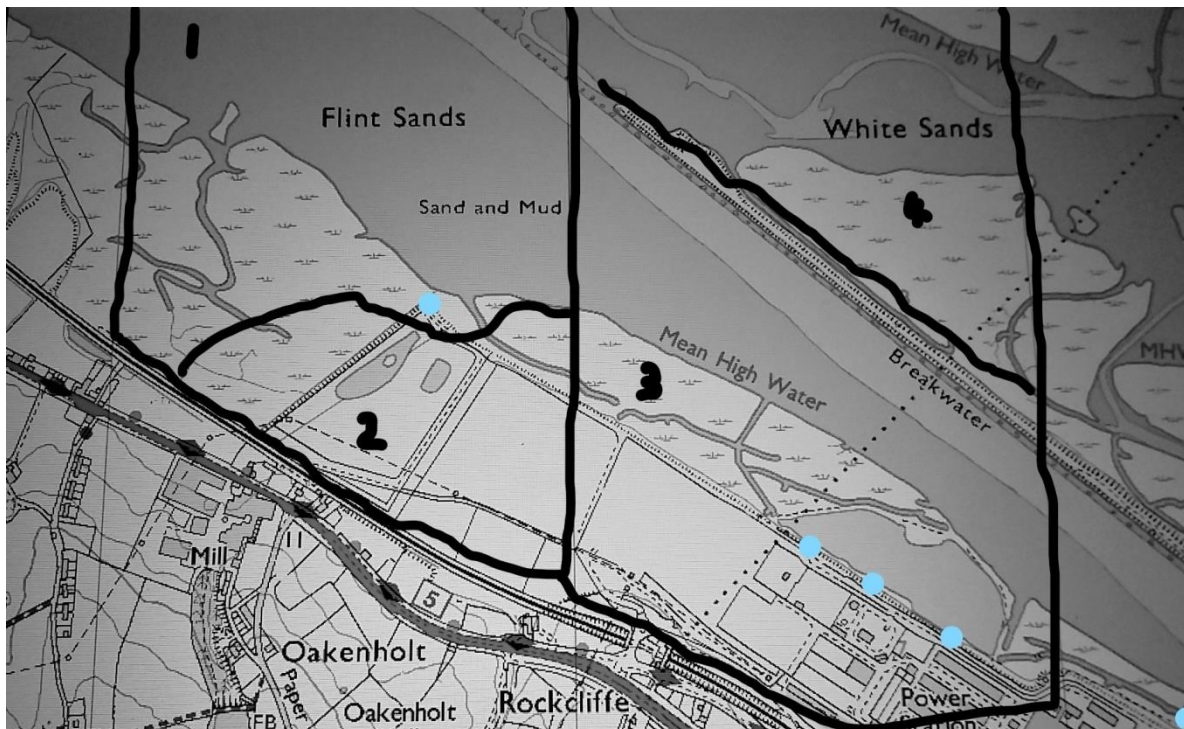
SJ2772 Including Breakwater and Burton Marsh in Wales.

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

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 2022.

New for the reserve list 2022 are Puffin and Great Northern Diver. Eider was a confirmed sighting.

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. The tables clearly show seasonal distribution of passage birds and the best months to observe them.

Bird records are taken from hide logs and WeBS counts.

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*).

Probably released birds.

Two are often seen running along the roadways and around the feeding station.

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*).

Uncommon resident.

Our resident pair was seen regularly around the western part of the reserve until May. They have not been seen since then.



Grey partridge.

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*).

Common resident. Thought to be released birds from local shoot.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*).

Fairly common and some resident.

Whooper Swan (Cygnus Cygnus).

Winter visitor.

Up to thirteen were seen around the bunded pools from 4th January until 12th March.



Whooper swans.

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	20	5500	500					400	900	600	4000



Pink-footed geese.

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

Uncommon winter visitor and migrant.

One present with Pink-footed geese on Oakenholt from 6th to 29th March.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*).

Frequent feral visitor.

Canada goose (*Branta Canadensis*).

Common and increasing feral resident.

Canada G	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	4000	500	3000	6	130	460	1000	800	1200	2700	1000	1600
Ash Pool			280	30	302	400	120	300	200	90		
Bunded			40		10	90	110	15				1

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*).

Uncommon feral visitor during the winter period.

Ten records of up to four birds.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose (*Branta bernicla*).

Winter visitor.

One record of four on Oakenholt 04/01 (SH).

Egyptian Goose (*Alpochen aegyptiaca*).

Scarce feral visitor.

One was seen regularly between 8th October and 11th December.

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*).

Scarce feral visitor.

Ten records. Six were seen often from 24th November until 11th December.

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	150	50	70	47	200	500	60	450	180	60	40	
Ash pool.				22	50	90	4					
Bunded	17	16	10	9	30	34						2

Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*).

Common winter visitor.

Wigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	1300	300	75	50				3	80	1000	700	500
Ash pool.	80	50	70		3				22	28	45	120
Bunded.	320	250	200	35					40	40	120	265

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	6	10	12	6	5		1			10	6

Teal (*Anas crecca*).

Common winter visitor.

Teal	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	820	100	50	36			20	500	2000	1100	1800	500
Ash pool.	30	30	60	6		1	9	320	350	420	220	65
Bunded	90	160	14	6					40	115	200	500



Teal.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

Common resident and common winter visitor.

Mallard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	25	12	6	8		200	200	30	90	50	50	15
Ash pool	18			45	231	520	670	500	300	12		8
Bunded	13	6	6	6	2			25	30	24	30	30

Pintail (*Anas acuta*).

Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Pintail	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	250	25	90	100	6			5	3000	20		
Ashpool			2	4		1		23	200	80		



Pintail.

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*).

Fairly common winter visitor.

Good numbers spend the winter on the Ash pool.

Shoveler	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	38	30	15	2		6		5	8	10	85	125

Pochard (*Aythya ferina*).

Winter.

Not recorded since 2015.

Female was seen on the river Dee from the West hide 16/07 (SH).

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

Common winter visitor and frequent breeding resident.

A regular feature on the Ash pool. Ducklings recorded July.

Tufted	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	10	22	10	9	8	6	12	3		1	17	6



Tufted ducks.

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*).

Rare winter visitor.

Drake flew up river 26/10 (SH). A drake was recorded on the Ash pool 4th and 5th December (SH).

Eider (*Somateria mollissima*).

A female bird was found at high tide on 15/06 (SS). First 'confirmed' record for the reserve.



Eider.

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*).

Rare winter record.

Three records on the Dee from the West hide 31/07 (SH), 27/09 (SS) and 28/09 (SH).

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*).

Winter. Less than annual.

A pair was seen on Oakenholt 02/02 (SH).

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*).

Uncommon visitor.

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

Swift (*Apus apus*).

Thirty were recorded over the Ash pool 10/05. Last record 08/08. Largest record was fifty 11/06.

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
	15	12	2	9	9	7	30	22			7	7

Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*).

Common resident and winter visitor.

Woodpigeon	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	40	35	14		8			12		6	10	

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.

Two chicks(28/05).

Moorhen	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	21	15	14	10	8	5	8	10	4	12	11	10

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

Resident with larger numbers overwintering. Regular breeder.

Coot	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	24	22	17	11	14	22	30	35	10	1	5	9

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*).

Two records for the Ash pool 16/07 (SH) and 26/07 (JR & GR).

Great Northern Diver (*Gavia immer*).

Winter.

First record for the reserve 08/11 (GR).

Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*).

Winter.

First record since 2015 25/10 (GR).

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	2	4	6	6	4	5	3	4	1	2	2	2
Bunded	5	5						5	7	10	10	6

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*).

Resident and common winter visitor.

Seen most months on the river.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus 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
	300	110	75	100	40	20	400	600	900	350	2000	50



Oystercatcher.

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

Uncommon passage migrant. One breeding pair resident since 2021.

A pair of Avocets produced three chicks (May). These were reduced to just one within two days. The remaining chick thrived and successfully fledged.

Avocet	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	1		2	4	4	16	1	2			1	3



Avocet and two chicks.

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*).

Uncommon passage migrant.

Twenty five on the mudflat from west hide 29/08.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*).

Uncommon summer resident and passage migrant.

Two adults recorded 06/04 (SH). Four records in April and two records in June.

Five sightings of two birds from 06/04 to 17/04 around Ash pool. Last record was 26/06.

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*).

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor.

Six records. Highest was ten (08/11).

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*).

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Occasional birds among the waders at high tide.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*).

Common migrant and winter resident.

Lapwing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Flint sands	3500	700				25	60	40		980	2300	1200
Ash pool					1	30	80	35	80			
Bunded						18	50	66	100	90		



Lapwing.

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
				8	8	1	1	4				



Whimbrel.

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*).

Resident and winter visitor.

Curlew	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dee sands	80	30	30	20		21	70	70	65	50	50	44
Ash Pool	40	79	20	6				13			1	6
East Grazing	70	40					20	2	1	51	30	1

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	1100	150	400	1000	80	550	1100	1200	1250	4300	4000	2000
Ash pool			12		180	220	1000	1400	750	8		
East							1		40	30	15	



Black-tailed godwits.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*).

Uncommon winter visitor.

Bar-tailed	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Godwit	3	3	3	9		5	10	2	7	2	1	2



Bar-tailed godwits.

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).

Uncommon passage migrant.

Three records of single birds. 04/01, 25/08 and 28/11.

Knot (*Calidris canutus*).

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor.

Knot	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	20	20	250	250	5	4	12	1	4	300	300	300

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*).

Uncommon passage migrant.

Thirty one was a good record 23/07.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*).

Uncommon passage migrant.

Late summer passage of juvenile birds.

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



Curlew sandpiper.

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*).

Rare passage migrant bird.

Single 31/08 (GR) (SH).

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
	1800	1000	300	50	10		120	120	1000	3200	4500	5000

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*).

Scarce winter visitor. Single birds 31/08, 08/09 and 11/09 (SH).

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
	18	1	1						1	2	17	15

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*).

Common passage migrant and winter resident.

One or two are resident during the winter.

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

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	220	100	200	200	3	3	2500	4000	3000	3800	400	220
Ash pool.	2					2	30	1	2	8		
Bunded	20	20	10	90	1	50	2000	880	5050	3000	50	11



Redshank roost with Spotted redshank.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*).

Passage migrant and resident.

Regular sightings from Middle hide. 42 were recorded during September on the Bunded pools.

Greenshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	22	5	4	3	2	1	11	32	42	23	16	7



Greenshank.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*).

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Regular sighting from Middle hide late summer / autumn.

Spotted Redshank	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Oakenholt	4	7	3					4	1	12	10	11
Bunded						1	9	16	21	23	4	1



Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).

One record 17/08. Juvenile chasing gulls was finally driven off by the gulls. (SH and PH).

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*).

Uncommon visitor.

Seen most years.



Mediterranean gull with Black-headed gulls.

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
	1500	220	450	350	265	312	1200	1150	973	320	300	340

A breeding colony is established on the island of the Fly ash lagoon. Breeding started in April and the first chicks were recorded on 23/05 and up to 02/07. The maximum count of young, on any one count, was 80.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*).

Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Common Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	30	6		6				2		8	40	2

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
	45	30		54	30	55	40	87	36	90	1050	140

A count of 1050 was recorded on WeBS count 13/11 (PH) over high tide.

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*).

Late summer visitor.

One record. 14/08 (PH).

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).

Common migrant and winter visitor.

Herring Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	12	22		40	30	38	20	80	8	12	40	12

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*).

Passage.

One juvenile long staying bird on Ash pool. First recorded 07/03 (SH) and until 03/05.

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

Best observed over high tide.

Great BB Gull	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	9	6		1		3	6	6	6	2	6	

Common Tern (*Sternus hirundo*).

Summer resident.

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. First record 28/04 and last 14/08.

Common Tern	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				28	170	90	200	40				



Common tern.

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*).

Passage migrant.

Twenty two were seen on the mudflat 28/04 (SH).



Sandwich tern.

Leach's Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*)

Autumn North West gales.

Up to three were recorded, following the strong NW gales, 26/09 (SH) (GEM), and 27/09 (SS).



Leach's petrel.

Gannet (*Morus bassanus*).

NW gales.

One record 28/05 (GJ).

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
	10	28	48	17		7	15	10	58	41	16	

Puffin (*Fratercula arctica*).

A first for the reserve. Seen briefly at high tide 15/05 (SH).



Puffin.

Guillemot (*Uria aalge*).

Two records, The first, a sick bird, 27/09 (SH). Second record was healthy 15/10 (SH).

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
	2	2	14	11	6	25	50	86	84	50	12	4

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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
	4	1			2	7	8	14	21	6	5	3

Cattle Egret (Bulbulcus ibis).

Rare visitor.

Two briefly on 07/12 (SH and PH) on supplementary feed put out for sheep.



Cattle egret.

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
	7	7	4	5	5	8	14	12	16	12	5	9



Grey heron.

Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*).

Scarce summer visitor.

One recorded 19/07 (SH). Four were regularly seen in front of the west hide, from 11/08 to 04/09.



Spoonbill.

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*).

Healthy population on the Dee marshes leads to the occasional sortie onto the reserve. Eleven seen from the west hide on Burton marsh.

Marsh Harrier	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	3	1	2	1			2	7	11	10		5

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

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

Male Hen harrier 07/01.

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

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*).

Resident all year round.

Buzzard	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	1		1				12	10	5	5	4	3

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).

One flew south over Ash pool 07/09 (SH).

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*).

Fly over 10/08 (SH).

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	4	6	2	2	

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*).

A winter visitor on the Dee marshes.

A male and female were seen, together, on Oakenholt on 03/11 (GR) (SH).

Merlin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Sightings	1						1		2	1	6	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	1	4		3	5	10	15	6	3	2

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*).

Uncommon summer visitor.

One record 02/10 (RSp).

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*).

Winter resident.

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	2	1	1



Kingfisher.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*).

Resident.

A frequent visitor to the peanut feeder.

Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*).

One record 29/03 (SH).

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
	150	180	110	40	6			6		10		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
	20	20	15	30	15	48	10	20	8	8	9	7

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
	90	42	40	20	10		20	15	95	60	20	35

Raven (*Corvus corax*).

Regular visitor.

A loud 'croncking' alerts to the presence of one or two in flight.

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 of 12 birds 06/04 . Last record 29/10.

Swallow	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				12	15	12	30	20	32	1		

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*).

Common summer visitor and passing migrant.

First record 06/04. Last 28/09.

House Martin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				2	8	8	30	30	25			

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*).

Fairly common summer visitor and passing migrant.

First record 23/04 and last 23/07.

Sand Martin	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
				18	40	25	12	4				

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*).

At least one male was calling, around the ash pool, from 06/04 until 11/12.

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

Common resident.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).

Summer visitor.

Heard singing throughout the reserve.

First record 06/04 and until 01/07.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*).

Summer visitor.

First record 12/03. Last record 22/08.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*).

Uncommon summer visitor on the reserve.

Five sightings of a single bird in the Ash pool reeds. 30/04 until 19/07.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*).

Uncommon summer visitor to reserve.

Two birds around the Ash pool 06/05 until 06/08.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*).

Common summer resident. Also frequent winter visitor.

Up to six singing males between 10/04 and 25/08.



Blackcap.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*).

Uncommon summer resident.

First calling male recorded 15/05. Further singles were recorded until 26/06.

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*).

Fairly common summer resident.

First record 16/04 and last record 09/08. Five male birds 'on territory'.



Whitethroat.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*).

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

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*).

Scarce passage bird.

One brief record 15/05 (PH).

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).

Common resident.

Seen across the reserve holding territory.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Abundant visitor.

Large noisy groups roam the reserve, in the winter, and roost in the reeds around the ash pool at dusk.

Starling	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	2000					60	110	100	300	900	400	2000

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

Abundant resident. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*).

Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

First record 01/12.

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

Resident and winter visitor.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*).

Winter visitor and migrant.

First record 03/11.

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

Resident.

Adults observed feeding young.

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

Abundant resident and winter visitor.

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*).

Uncommon passage migrant.

One fledgling was recorded. on the meadow trail, from 31/07 to 08/08 (SH),



Common redstart.

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*).

Uncommon but annual passage migrant.

Single birds were recorded 06/05, 27/08, and 03/09.

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*).

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

A pair were resident from 25/10 until 11/12.

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).

Regular passage migrant.

Three records of up to 3 birds in May.

Three records of single birds in August.

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.

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*).

Resident and winter visitor.

Sometime visitor to Paper mill stream and edge of Ash pool. Three sightings of a single bird in October.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrelli*).

Pied wagtail resident with large feeding flocks in winter on west grazing. Sixty were recorded in January.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*).

Common on Dee marsh area. Good numbers on reserve during migration periods. Highest count was sixty in October.

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*).

One record of a single bird 22/12 (GJ).

Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*).

Winter.

Just one record around west hide.



Rock pipit.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*).

Resident and abundant winter visitor.

Chaffinch	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	15	10	7							42	70	80

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*).

Rare winter visitor.

One male brambling 09/03 (SH).

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*).

Resident. Small numbers seen each month.

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*).

Resident and small wintering population of about 30 around triangle and garden compound. Use feeders by Dee hide in winter.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).

Common around feeders.



Goldfinch.

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

Resident and winter visitor.

Two pairs known to have bred on reserve. A feeding group of 100 birds was recorded from October to December.

Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*).

Regular winter visitor.

Twite	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	27	26	22	3							4	34

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

Resident.

Contributors to the 2022 Bird Report records.

Andrews J AJ
Beckett R RB
Brenchley A AB
Bond G GB
Davies K KD

Dickinson B BD
Farrow M MF
Fitzpatrick B BF

Haslem P	PH
Haslem S	SH
Hayes M	MH
Hiley D	DH
Holmes L	LH
Hotchkiss J	JH
Hughes Neil	NH
Hughes Noel	NoH
Innes / Nixon	I/N
Jones D	DJ
Jones DO	DOJ
Jones E	EJ
Jones G	GJ
Kent S	SK
Lee B	BL
Lloyd T	TL
Morris GE	GEM
Neild C	CN
Nevit A	AN
Pepler G	GP
Perkin A	AP
Robinson G	RG
Rogers J	RJ
Rowley / Searle	R/S
Rushton J&A	JAR
Skelton S	SS

Smethurst A	AS
Smith D	DS
Speechley R	RSp
Spence IM	IMS
Taylor T	TT
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.