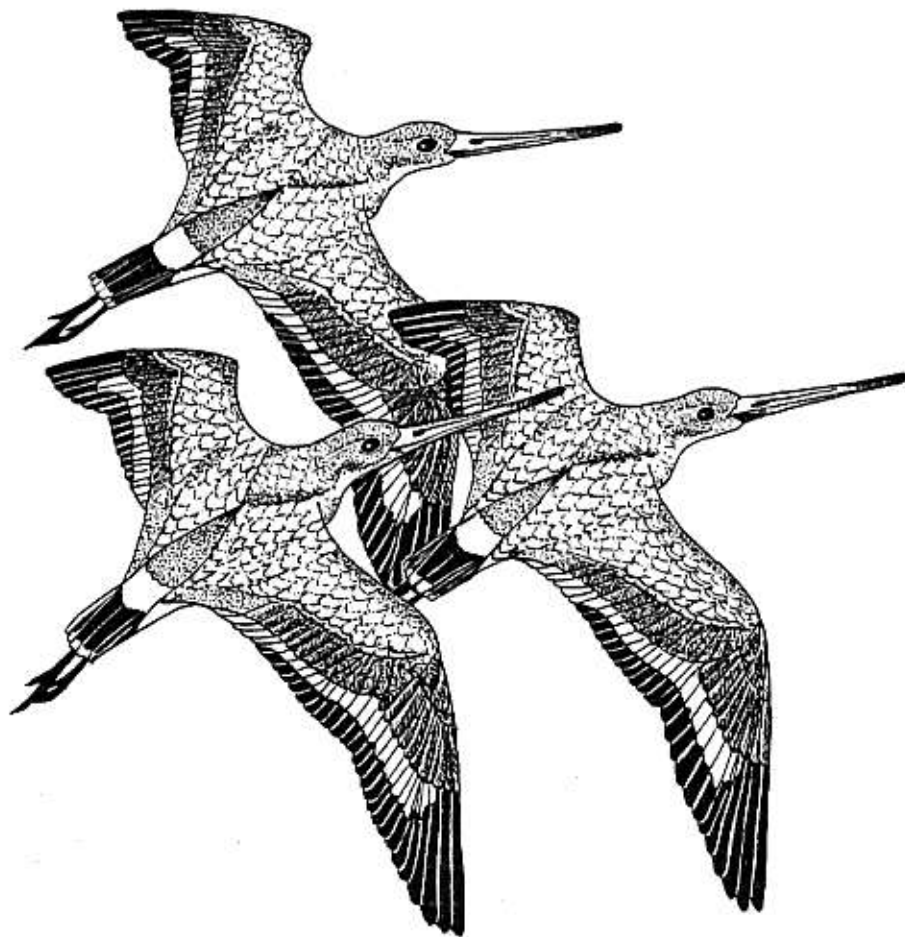

DEESIDE NATURALISTS

SOCIETY

Report on the CEGB Nature
Reserve at Connahs Quay

1977-1978



Deeside Naturalists Society

The Deeside Naturalists' Society is now in its seventh year. It was formed in May 1973, when it was felt that there was a need to stimulate interest and play a part in the conservation of flora and fauna on Deeside.

Since its formation, the membership of the Society has steadily increased, largely due to the success of the wide ranging programme of activities planned for members, which are outlined in a quarterly newsletter, and also because of the Society's close involvement with the development of the C.E.G.B. Nature Reserve at Connah's Quay.

During the winter months a series of lectures is arranged in the Connah's Quay High School, when specialists in various disciplines address members, usually illustrating their talks with colour slides or films.

Monthly field meetings throughout the year are also an important feature of the Society's activities; members meet together to visit places of special ecological importance, concentrating mainly on areas of interest within the locality.

Deeside Naturalists' Society members work closely with both local and national organisations. The Society is active in its membership of the Dee Estuary Conservation group and it has, for a number of years, been host to the R.S.P.B. for the successful showing of new release films in the Civic Hall, Connah's Quay.

Conservation work plays a part in the Society's affairs. During the winter months a number of conservation weekends are arranged during which members help with various management tasks about the C.E.G.B. Nature Reserve. Over the years many hundreds of trees have been planted which, gradually, will increase the wildlife potential of the area.

This second report on the C.E.G.B. Nature Reserve at Connah's Quay is based wholly on the observations and notes made by members of the Deeside Naturalists' Society when visiting the Reserve over a two year period from 1st January 1977 to 31st December 1978. Its compilation, illustration and design has been completed entirely from within our membership. The report is an indication of the success of the work undertaken in the past both by the membership and the Generating Board, and the Society expresses its thanks to the C.E.G.B., the Power Station Manager and Station personnel for their interest and involvement in the management of the Reserve.

Information on the Deeside Naturalists' Society, and its current programme, may be obtained from the Secretary, Mrs. E. F. Roberts, 38 Kelsterton Road, Connah's Quay, Deeside, Clwyd, CH5 4BJ. Telephone: Deeside 818339

CEGB Nature Reserve at Connahs Quay

The nature reserve, owned by the Central Electricity Generating Board, is situated on the Dee Estuary foreshore between Connah's Quay and Flint (SJ 275 715). The Reserve, of approximately 90 acres, includes a number of distinctive areas such as estuarine saltings and mudflats, a large bunded pool, created by compounding water behind mud banks, and a rough scrub area. A further variety of habitat occurs in the cattle grazed fields and the woodland in the Rockcliffe Hall area.

Since the establishment of the Reserve in 1973, a considerable amount of management work has been undertaken to improve and diversify the habitat. In recognition of this work, H.R.H. Prince Charles presented the C.E.G.B. and Deeside Naturalists' Society, jointly, with a Prince of Wales Award for conservation in 1978.

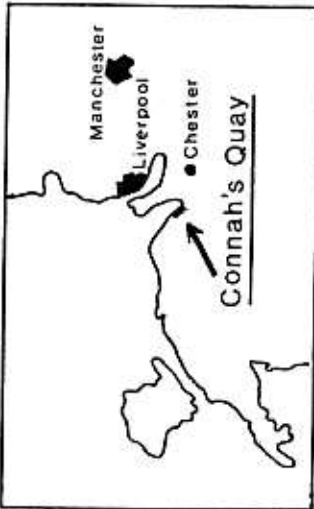
The West hide, which overlooks the Oakenholt marsh and the estuary towards Wirral and Hilbre Island, has been repositioned; it is from this hide that good views of Black-tailed Godwit and Spotted Redshank can be obtained. Management work in this area has been particularly rewarding with duck counts of Wigeon and Teal numbered in thousands.

The screening of the bunded pool has been improved, to reduce disturbance, by layering the existing tree line and by further tree planting. Another hide has been erected to afford a second vantage point, for the bunded pool is now proving to be attractive to Goldeneye and Red-breasted Merganser in addition to other fish eating birds such as Common Tern, Heron, Kingfisher and Cormorant. It has, however, not reached its potential in terms of waders and it is hoped, with further biological research, to discover the reason for the, as yet, limited invertebrate growth in the pool mud banks.

The scrub area has been allowed to develop naturally. The freshwater stream bed running through this area has been re-lined with a layer of impervious clay and water should begin to flow in 1979. A nature trail is at present under consideration for this area.

A Field Studies Centre, overlooking the river, commenced in 1978, under a Manpower Services Scheme, will be completed in late summer 1979. This building will incorporate an entrance foyer, a display room 26 feet square, kitchen and toilets. When complete, school and community groups will be encouraged to take advantage of the facilities that the reserve has to offer. At the present time, visitors to the reserve number approximately 1,000 each year.

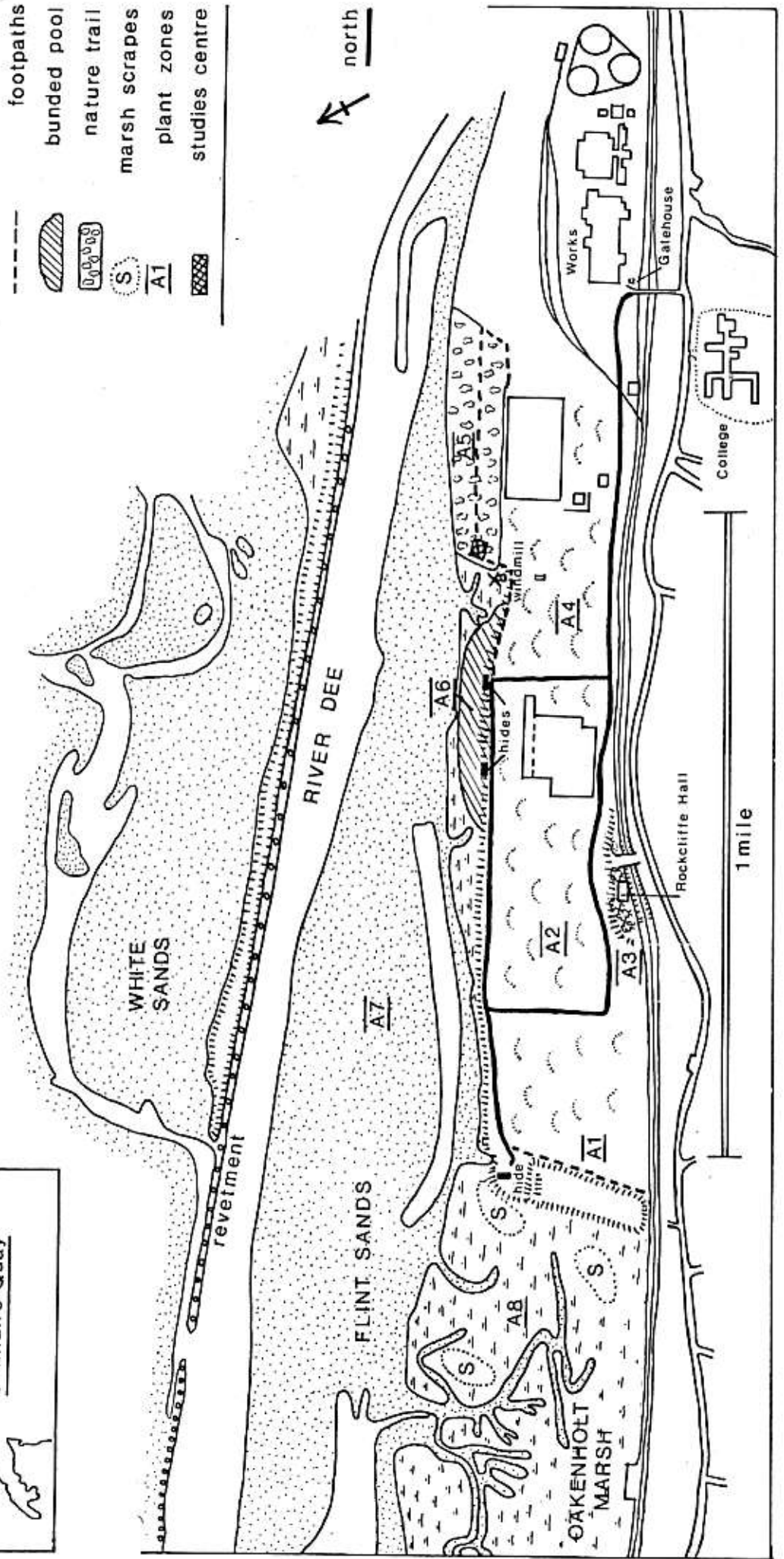
The variety of habitat and the rich wildlife already associated with this nature reserve is emphasised in the following sections which describe the flora and fauna of the Reserve. It is clear that the site is of considerable ecological interest and by continuing the sort of management techniques practised so far, it is hoped to increase the natural history interest of the C.E.G.B. Nature Reserve at Connah's Quay.



CEGB Nature Reserve

Connah's Quay

	access roads
	footpaths
	bunded pool
	nature trail
	marsh scrapes
	plant zones
	studies centre



Classified list of Birds

The classified list of birds of the Reserve results from two years of fieldwork by members of the Deeside Naturalists' Society.

Field notes have been abstracted from the logbook, species by species, for each of the two years. The species sheets detail the monthly pattern of sightings, the date and authorities for the less usual birds, and peak flock counts. From them, geographical distribution, fluctuations in numbers, and times of migration, become apparent, a factual aid to conservation and management. The species sheets for two years, 1977 and 1978, are available from the Society for reference.

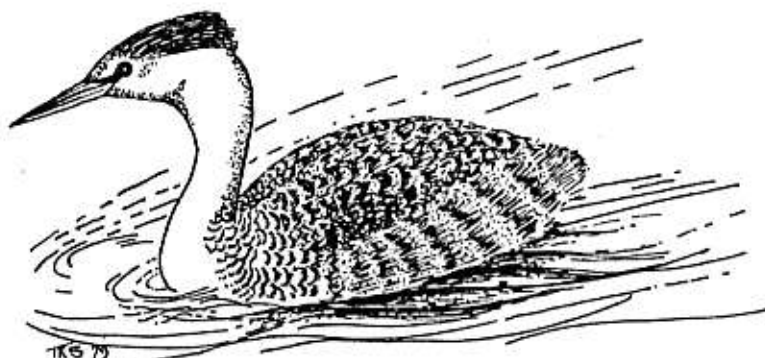
Thus the individual observations recorded in the Society's logbooks by those watching the reserve, collectively form a valuable reference work on a site of considerable ecological importance. It is this work which is briefly summarised here, so that every member to have logged his findings is a contributor to the report.

Key to the status of species on the reserve

B	breeds	PM	passage migrant
R	resident	V	vagrant
SV	summer visitor	S	sporadic visitor
WV	winter visitor		

CLASSIFIED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED IN 1977 AND 1978

GREAT CRESTED GREBE WV Recorded singly, or in pairs, from October to January, usually on the Dee at full tides. December 78 gave three sightings of a bird on the bunded pool.



LITTLE GREBE WV Parties appear regularly between September and March, fishing the bunded pool, though are never seen to fly in or leave. Peak counts of 7 in November both years, and of 13 on 31.Jan.78.

MANX SHEARWATER V One on 30.Sept.78, a day of strong westerly winds with a high tide.

STORM PETREL V Two individual records, from October and November 77, following N.W. gales.

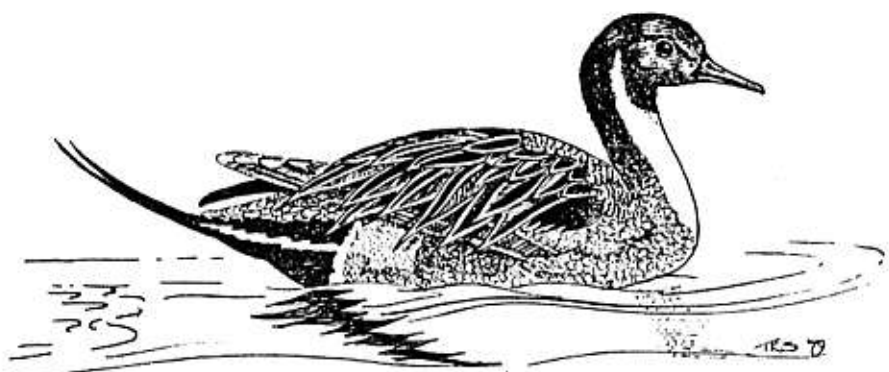
LEACH'S PETREL V A single bird over the Dee on 2.Oct.77; however the N.W. gales of September 78 gave three sightings totalling 25 birds.

GANNET V A bird seen from both hides on 17.Sept.78.

CORMORANT R Seen throughout the year, with an increase in both numbers and sightings in winter months. The roost on the mudflats off the revetment reached over 40 birds in February and March 78. On 26.March 78, 2 breeding adults, with grey-white heads, the continental form, were seen from the East hide.

GREY HERON R Seen at all times of year, though in fewer numbers than in 76, with maxima of 12 birds recorded in September 77 and July 78. From midsummer 78 onwards, more frequently recorded in ones and twos fishing the bunded pool, than on the marsh.

- MALLARD** R B Present all year. Duck with 2 young recorded in 77, and breeding confirmed by a nest with eggs in 78. Largest numbers recorded in autumn from West hide, with maximum of 400 in August 77, flushed from Burton Marsh on a high tide.
- TEAL** WV Infrequently recorded in 77. A great increase in both sightings and numbers from October 78, with up to 100 birds regularly using the scrape pools fronting the West hide, and 1300 present there on 9. December.
- WIGEON** WV Recorded only in winter. Numbers small in 77, but a peak count of 550 was made on 17. Feb. 78, and from October 78 up to 300 have grazed the flood fields in front of the West hide and flighted in to roost on the scrape pools.
- PINTAIL** WV Seen only during the winter, usually overflying the reserve, or in rafts on the Dee, though latterly using the marsh and pools fronting the West hide. The peak count of 1000 was from September 77.



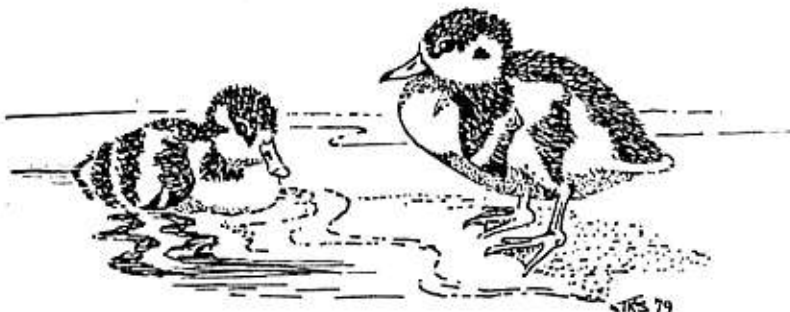
- SHOVELER** SV Isolated records from March and August 77. In Spring 78, 2 pairs frequented the area and were seen regularly throughout June, on and overflying the reserve.
- SCAUP** WV Two records of birds on the Dee: 2 ducks 30. Oct. 77 and a party of 17 on 12. Nov. 78.
- TUFTED DUCK** S Isolated reports from five separate months over the two years. Maximum number 4.
- POCHARD** V One female present 4. Dec. 77; 2 birds on 2. Nov. 78, on a 31 foot tide.
- GOLDENEYE** WV Seen from November to April. 25 records, all from the bunded pool in 77 and mainly of female or immature birds in parties of up to 17. Records doubled in 78 but numbers were fewer. Several adult males were recorded in that year, with the pools by the West hide also well frequented.

RED-BREASTED
MERGANSER

WV Few records, and a maximum count of 4 in 77, yet 78 had regular reports from all except four months, with up to 13 birds present, all of them 'redheads'. Adult males are rare.

SHELDUCK

R B Probably nested in bunded pool area of East hide in 78, since a pair with 3 chicks were there in June. Throughout August and September 78, only one bird was sighted, but the flock built up to a maximum of 350 by October.



PINK-FOOTED GOOSE

V Skein of 57 birds overflying reserve from the Burton area on 31.Dec.78.

CANADA GOOSE

V One bird out in estuary on two occasions in winter 78.

MUTE SWAN

S Infrequently seen and in small numbers. A pair remained on the bunded pool for a few days in March 78.

BEWICK'S SWAN

WV Not recorded in 77. 12 on the mudflats by the beacon on 26.Dec.78.

SPARROWHAWK

S A male recorded in October 77. Five records in 78.

HEN HARRIER

WV Eight records of single, ring tailed birds, between December 77 and April 78. A subadult male was hunting the reserve throughout December 78.

PEREGRINE

S Two records of a single bird hunting the marsh in August 77. On 23.July 78. a first year bird flew over, harried by a kestrel.

MERLIN

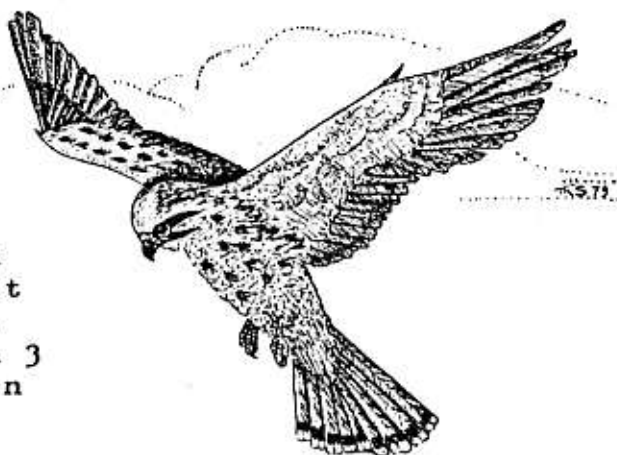
WV Occasional records, only from the winter months, until December 78, when a female regularly hunted the marsh and grazing fields by the West hide which had attracted large flocks of skylark. Male birds rarely recorded.

KESTREL

R B Small numbers seen throughout the year, singly or in pairs. A pair with 2 young just flying were recorded in August 77.

PARTRIDGE

R B Regularly seen, in groups of 2 to 8 birds, in the grazing fields or marsh between the East and West hides. Two adults with 3 young present in August 77.



PHEASANT

R? A single record in 78. from the Rockcliffe Hall area.

WATER RAIL

S One record only, on 17.Sept.77.

MOORHEN

R Possibly breeds in swampy wood just outside reserve area. One or two birds are seen on the reserve when areas adjacent to the roadside near Rockcliffe Hall become flooded.

OYSTERCATCHER

R B Winter records are from the West hide, of flocks and high tide roosts of up to 100 birds. In summer, the bunded pool is more frequented, though by smaller numbers. Territorial display is observed, and at least 2 pairs are known to have nested. Adults with chicks in evidence in both years.

LAPWING

R B WV With only few records until May, sightings increase throughout summer. Autumn flocks built to over 1000 birds in November 78, with a noticeable drop in numbers in December.

RINGED PLOVER

PM Present July to September 77 in West hide area mudflats, with peak of 250 on 5.Aug. In 78, records span April to December, mostly of small numbers on the mud of the bunded pool.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

PM One only, recorded on 30.July 77.

GREY PLOVER

PM WV Individual birds occur only in spring and winter. A summer plumaged bird was seen in May 78.

GOLDEN PLOVER

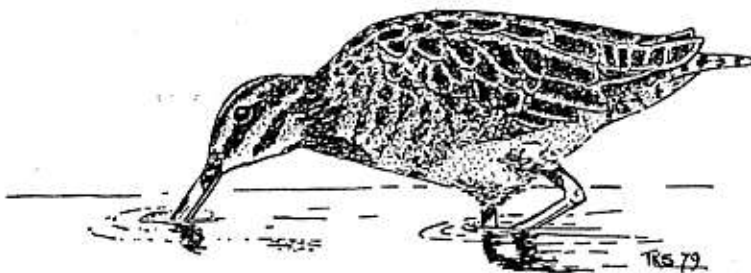
PM WV Favours the flood fields by the West hide in association with lapwing. 100 recorded in December, 78.

TURNSTONE

PM Found in twos on mud of banded pool in August 77 and again in April 78, when a pair were in summer plumage.

SNIPE

WV Small numbers usually flushed from the marsh between the hides. From only occasional records in Autumn 77, the winter numbers increased to 10 in 78 and there were also birds present in the summer of that year.



CURLEW

PM WV Found in all months, well distributed over the marsh. Numbers increase to peak of 30 in winter, on the estuary mudflats.

WHIMBREL

PM Occurs during spring and autumn migrations, usually singly, though four were present in April 78.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

PM Between July and October 77, 400 were regularly present on the mudflats or scrape. The flocks recorded in 78 were smaller, but included summer plumaged birds. The West hide affords spectacular views of flights to and from the marsh scrape.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT

PM Seen on two occasions at the banded pool in 77, but present in numbers on the mudflats in Spring 78 with peak count of 250 on the evening of 16 June.

GREEN SANDPIPER

PM Individuals noted during spring passage, but both years show most records in October, often of two together.

WOOD SANDPIPER

PM Two records of singles, June and September 78, one flying down river, one on the scrape.

COMMON SANDPIPER

SV Favours banded pool area: single birds from April to June build up to groups of from 2 to 12 during July, decreasing to singles by September.

REDSHANK

R WV Present all year, with winter peaks of 400 on tidal marsh. Breeding not proven, though a first year bird was noted on bunded pool in summer 78.

SPOTTED REDSHANK

PM The saltmarsh fronting the West hide is of major importance for this species, and in autumn the area records some of the largest numbers noted in Britain. A maximum of 180, with 60-100 regularly counted in August and September. In 78, individuals also seen on spring passage, and over the winter.

GREENSHANK

PM Though regularly found in both scrape and bunded pool areas in 77, the 78 records are few and involve only 1 to 3 birds at a time.

KNOT

PM WV Small numbers only feed on the mudflats in winter months. Exceptionally, 50 counted on 16.July 78.

LITTLE STINT

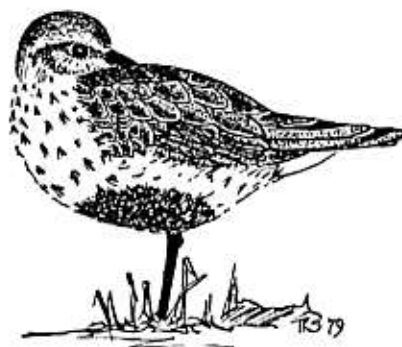
PM Four records from autumn of 77 only, birds roosting or feeding on the scrape.

TEMMINCK'S STINT

PM One recorded on 4.Sept.78.

DUNLIN

PM WV Winter flocks of over 200 birds on mudflats, and yet greater numbers, up to 2000, recorded from same area in July/August. Small groups of summer plumaged birds were attracted to mud of the bunded pool in 78, with birds of the different races distinguishable by size.



CURLEW SANDPIPER

PM Singles recorded twice in autumn 77, and once in spring 78, on bunded pool, with two summer plumaged birds on the scrape in May 78.

SANDERLING

PM Up to 20 on autumn passage during 77, though 78 has one record only, of 2 birds on bunded pool in May.

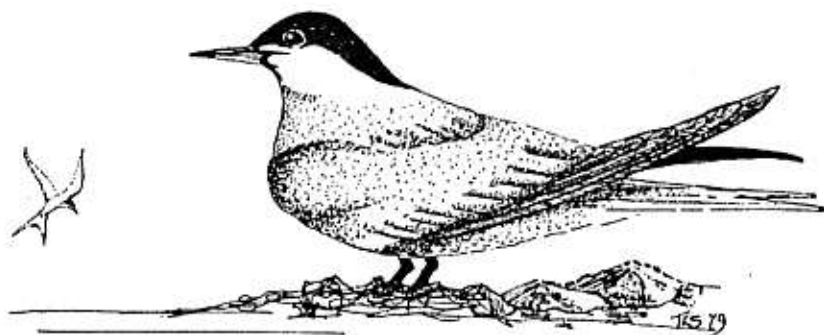
RUFF

PM Seen during autumn 77, usually singly from the West hide, though one bird was seen at the bunded pool. Not recorded in 78.

ARCTIC SKUA

PM The only records are three from July and August 77, of which two involved dark phase birds over the Dee.

- GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL R WV Found throughout the year in twos and threes with exceptional counts of 20 in November of both years.
- LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL PM SV Mainly individuals or pairs, with most records falling in July/August.
- HERRING GULL R Small numbers recorded, with an exceptional count of 100 in November 78, coinciding with the peak of Gt. Black-backed. In neither year is the herring gull recorded as present during May and June.
- COMMON GULL WV PM As with the previous species, no records fall in May and June; the most frequent sightings are in July and August. Immature birds frequent the bunded pool in autumn and winter.
- ICELAND GULL PM On 21.Aug.77, a second year bird was observed at the silt tank by the power station.
- BLACK-HEADED GULL R Common over all the reserve, taking advantage of waterlogged fields and the bunded pool. Immature and non-breeding birds are found in May and June after which the number of records increases, until by September flocks of up to 350 birds have built up.
- COMMON TERN SV Seen from April but most frequently between May and August, often fishing the bunded pool. A pair nested on the mud of the bunded pool in 77 but the one chick was raised only to about two weeks old. A pair defending territory on one of the islands in 78 but no breeding was recorded.



- ARCTIC TERN PM Seen over the Dee from the West hide on 3 occasions in summer 77, but once only in 78.
- LITTLE TERN SV The cluster of records from August/September 77 were probably of birds dispersing from the coastal colony. None was recorded in 78.
- SANDWICH TERN PM Again recorded in small parties on 3 occasions in the early autumn of 77 only.

- STOCK DOVE R Logbook entries are only from the late summer months, usually of small numbers.
- WOODPIGEON R B Present on the reserve throughout the two years and a breeding bird of the woodland near Rockcliffe Hall.
- COLLARED DOVE R Records are scattered thinly throughout the two years and involve only few birds at a time.
- CUCKOO SV The scarcity of records, only 2 from Spring 78, is surprising in view of the number of cuckoos favouring the steelworks area close by.
- BARN OWL S A single bird seen over the railway line on 5.March 77 is the only record.
- LITTLE OWL R? Single birds only seen, usually in the summer evenings.
- TAWNY OWL S The sole record is from February 77.
- Because of their nocturnal habits, the infrequency of records may not reflect the true status of these three owls on the reserve.
- SWIFT SV Seen in all parts of the reserve from May onwards. The swift appeared most frequently in the late summer of 77 but in the early summer of 78, the times and numbers being weather dependent.
- KINGFISHER WV Several records of a single bird from the winter of 77, with no sightings between December 77 and August 78. From then on, one bird has been regularly fishing the bunded pool, and 2 were together there in October.
- GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER S A male bird was seen in December 78, in the willows which border the bunded pool.
- SKYLARK R B WV The grazing fields afford breeding sites for the resident birds, and, along with the drier marsh, attract large flocks of up to 400 migrant and wintering birds. Autumn song is often heard well into the winter months.



- SWALLOW SV B Present from April. Recorded most frequently in August/September 77, though fewer were observed in these two wet months in 78, when early summer was the peak time. Spring 78 saw a pair collecting mud in the Rockcliffe Hall area.
- HOUSE MARTIN SV B Also recorded collecting mud in 77, but not seen in any numbers, and logged relatively infrequently probably because it occurs only on the inland side of the reserve near to habitation.
- SAND MARTIN SV Not recorded until May 78, when 4 were present. In late summer, 4 to 7 birds perched regularly among swallows on wire fencing near the west hide.
- CARRION CROW R Always to be seen in ones and twos on the reserve, with a noticeable movement towards the marsh in the winter months.
- ROOK S Not recorded regularly, and never in numbers, despite the proximity of rookeries on the Cheshire side of the Dee.
- JACKDAW S Infrequently recorded, and then usually in late summer groups.
- MAGPIE R B Frequents the wooded Rockcliffe Hall, and power station garden areas, but seen, usually in pairs, over all the reserve except the outer marshland. Small parties form in the later months of the year.
- GREAT TIT R Seen only occasionally, usually in winter, in the woodland area of Rockcliffe Hall.
- BLUE TIT R Although recorded only in the winter months of 77, it has been present from July 78 onwards in the willows and scrub at the east end of the reserve.
- COAL TIT S Only once observed on 6. June 77.
- LONG-TAILED TIT S One record of a single bird on 13. March 77 in the Rockcliffe Hall woodland.



NUTHATCH

S A single record only, and again from the woodland area of Rockcliffe Hall, the date being 6.May 77.

TREECREEPER

R One record, from each of the two years, both of individual birds seen in the leafless winter trees of the Rockcliffe Hall woodland.

WREN

R Although certainly present throughout the year, it is not evident during the midsummer. Especially favours the bramble and willow bordering the bunded pool.



MISTLE THRUSH

R B WV The grazing fields attract small flocks especially in autumn and winter, when groups of 8 to 14 have been seen at a time.

FIELDFARE

WV Scarce in 77, the status changed in 78 with flocks of 25 recorded in January and February; with a maximum count of 50 during December.

SONG THRUSH

R B Only occasionally seen in both years, and then usually in the winter in ones and twos, although 8 were recorded together in December 78.

REDWING

WV The pattern of observations closely follows that of the fieldfare: scarce in 77, with flocks in the first two months of 78, and 50 in December 78.

BLACKBIRD

R B A bird of the woodland areas of Rockcliffe Hall, and of the bramble and willow at the East hide which afford a roost. Individuals and pairs seen in summer, gather in small parties during the winter months, up to 6 birds being seen together.

WHEATEAR

SV PM March sees the first arrivals, but up to 20 were recorded by April 77, with 4 young in May. Not evident in June and July, but autumn passage brings individuals in August and September. In 78, numbers were few, not exceeding 2 together, and only one, a female, was recorded in autumn.

STONECHAT

R B Throughout 77, a pair were regularly together in the scrub near to the power station. A pair with 3 young were noted here in August, and a pair was still evident through the winter and into 78. However, from June 78 onwards, records are sparse.

WHINCHAT

SV
An individual in April and regular sightings of a pair from July through to September 77, suggest that breeding may have been attempted, following success in 76. Declined in 78 with only a single bird recorded once, in May.



REDSTART

S First recorded on the reserve in May 78, and again in June, both near the East hide.

BLACK REDSTART

WV An over-wintering bird, favouring the hedgerow by the cattleshed at the east of the reserve, was present during the first two months of both years, and again in December 78.

ROBIN

R B Most frequently to be seen between the East hides and the power station, singly or in pairs. Very evident in winter with 6 present in December 78.

BLACKCAP

S One record only from the two years, of a single bird on 8. June 77.

WHITETHROAT

SV Individuals regularly seen throughout July and August 77, with a passage of 5 during September. Much less frequently recorded in 78, with only six records spanning the four summer months.

LESSER WHITETHROAT

S A bird in the hedge by the East hide on 14. Aug. 77 is the sole record from the two years.

WILLOW WARBLER

SV Usually located by song in the Rockcliffe Hall area, from April.

CHIFFCHAFF

SV Again the song first advertises the bird's presence, in the same locality as the willow warbler. Heard from March in both years.

GOLDCREST

S One noted in January 78, and again in December, in the Rockcliffe Hall woodland.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

SV To be found in the Rockcliffe Hall area where up to 6 were present in Summer 78.

DUNNOCK

R B Only singles and pairs are found, usually in the bramble bordering the bunded pool. Very much more frequently seen in 78 than previously.

MEADOW PIPIT

R PM WV There is a noticeable passage in March, and again in October. In 77, numbers up to 60 were counted at these times.

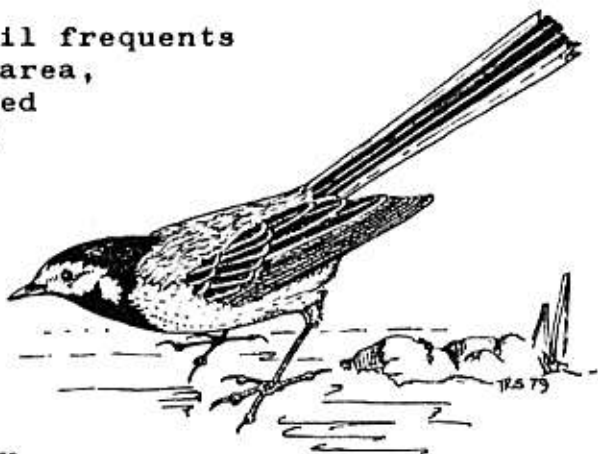
ROCK/WATER PIPIT

PM Two records of water pipit from November and December in each year, with a single rock pipit on 12.Nov.78.

PIED/WHITE WAGTAIL

R B?

The pied wagtail frequents the East hide area, and was recorded in every month of 78, though most in evidence between April and July. An adult with 4 juvenile birds feeding along the muddy edges of the bunded pool in July 78, may indicate a successful brood on the reserve.



The white wagtail, recorded once only in 77, was frequently observed on spring passage in 78, with 12 together on 7.May.

GREY WAGTAIL

WV The first record for the two years was not until January 78, but this was followed by regular sightings in the last two months of that year.

YELLOW WAGTAIL

SV B Present from April to August both years but more frequently recorded in 78, when pairs were seen throughout May and June, and parties of up to 12 on autumn passage.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE

S One record of a bird in poor plumage near the railway truck on 12.Jan.77.

STARLING

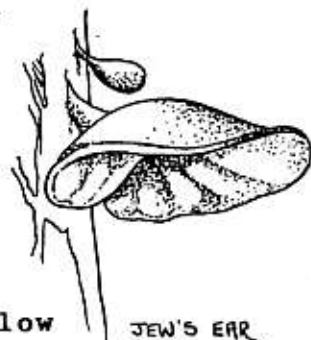
R B WV Flocks, at times in excess of 300 birds, build up in late summer to feed in the grazing fields or on the marsh. Records for spring or early summer are scattered and involve only small numbers.

- GREENFINCH R WV Regularly observed at all times of year, with flocks forming in winter.
- GOLDFINCH R B WV Recorded in most months except early spring. Single birds and pairs are regular in summer in the East hide area, with small groups gathering in winter and moving to the marsh edges.
- LINNET R B WV Well distributed over the reserve, and seen in all months. Winter flocking recorded in both years but exceptional numbers of 100 to 150 were counted on several days in October and November 78.
- TWITE PM A flock of 7 recorded in August 77 from the West hide.
- BULLFINCH R Records from December 77, and from four isolated months in 78. Two males together in December 78.
- CHAFFINCH R B WV Not frequently seen except in winter when the large flocks of finches feeding on the tidal marsh are predominantly of chaffinch.
- BRAMBLING WV Rare in the two winter periods under review, with only single birds noted.
- CORN BUNTING S Two records of small flocks: 6 in January 77, and 15 on 28.March 78.
- YELLOWHAMMER S Infrequently recorded in the two years up to December 78.
- REED BUNTING R B Usually to be found along the marsh edge, singly or in pairs. Regularly recorded from the October of 77 through to July 78, but not again until late winter.
- HOUSE SPARROW R B To be found on the inland urbanised strip of the reserve, but unusual in the hide areas.
- TREE SPARROW R B WV Winter flocks were recorded from September onwards in 77, but not in 78. Two birds were regularly seen in the vegetation of the banded pool islands during July 78.

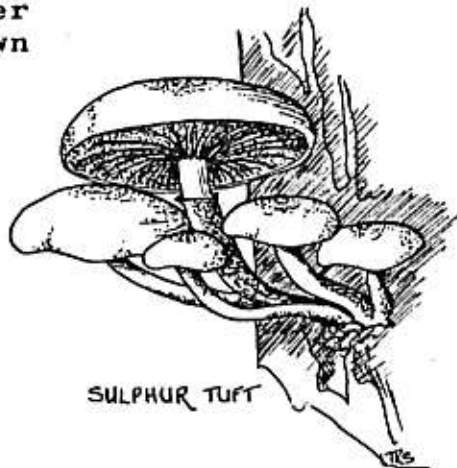


Fungi

- Nectria cinnabarina* (Coral spot)
small pink or red cushions showing
through bark of moist fallen wood
- Xylosphaera hypoxylon* (Candle snuff)
straight black stems, forking white at
the tips - on dead wood
- Hypholoma fasciculare* (Sulphur tuft)
in clumps on tree stumps; the cap is yellow
tinged brown in the centre
- Coprinus comatus* (Lawyer's wig)
white, scaly cap when young which later
dissolves in a black fluid. Also known
as shaggy ink cap
- Auricularia auricula* (Jew's ear)
dark, brownish pink lobes growing
especially on elder
- Lycoperdon depressum* (no common name)
one of the puff-balls, white when
young becoming yellowed
- Agaricus campestris* (Field mushroom)



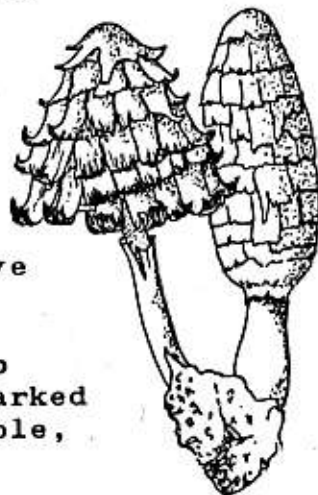
JEW'S EAR



SULPHUR TUFT

Lichens

- Lepraria incana*
light green, crusty lichen found in large
patches on the banks and muddy slopes by
Rockcliffe Hall
- Xanthoria parietina*
a common species, bright yellow-orange in
colour, with small leafy lobes at the margins.
Small patches occur on elder trees between
the hides, and it is found in circular
patches on cement and limestone blocks on
the river bank
- Physcia adscendens*
a small, leafy lichen, forming poorly
developed light grey rosettes on the
elders between the hides



LAWYER'S WIG

Although there will, undoubtedly, be a few other lichen species on the reserve, the above are the more obvious and most common.

The lichen flora is limited in variety due to the lack of suitable trees - mature, rough barked elm, oak or chestnut, and the absence of stable, well-established soil or rock habitats.

Classified list of Plants

Key to Reserve Area Map

- A2 A4 - the plant occurs in sections A2 and A4
 A2-A4 - the plant occurs in sections A2, A3 and A4
 A2/A4 - the plant occurs on the boundary of A2 and A4
 * - one plant only recorded

PTERIDOPHYTA - FILICALES

Male fern	
<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	A3
Wall-rue	
<i>Asplenium rutamuraria</i>	A3
Hart's tongue	
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	A3
Bracken *	
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	A5

SPERMATOPHYTA - ANGIOSPERMAE

Meadow buttercup	
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	A3 A5
Lesser celandine	
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	A3
Field poppy	
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	A1-A7
Greater celandine	
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	A3
Common fumitory	
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	A5 A6
Charlock	
<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	A1-A6
Shepherd's purse	
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	A1-A6
Common scurvy-grass	
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	A7
Garlic mustard	
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	A3
Hedge mustard	
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	A1-A7
Weld	
<i>Reseda luteola</i>	A1-A5 A7
Perforate St. John's wort	
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	A1 A3



Red campion <i>Silene dioica</i>	A2 A3 A5
White campion <i>Silene alba</i>	A2 A3 A5 A7
Red x white hybrid * <i>S.dioica</i> x <i>S.alba</i>	A5
Common mouse-ear chickweed <i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	A1-A6
Sticky mouse-ear chickweed <i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	A1-A3
Chickweed <i>Stellaria media</i>	A1-A6
Lesser sea-spurrey <i>Spergularia marina</i>	A7
Good King Henry <i>Chenopodium bonus-henricus</i>	A1-A6
Fat hen <i>Chenopodium album</i>	A1-A6
Common orache <i>Atriplex patula</i>	A1-A6
Annual sea blite <i>Suaeda maritima</i>	A7
Glasswort <i>Salicornia europaea</i>	A7
Common mallow <i>Malva sylvestris</i>	A2 A7
Round-leaved cranesbill <i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	A3-A6
Dove's-foot cranesbill <i>Geranium molle</i>	A3-A6
Herb robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i>	A1-A6
Gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i>	A5
Lucerne <i>Medicago sativa</i>	A2 A5 A7
Black medick <i>Medicago lupulina</i>	A2 A5 A7
Spotted medick <i>Medicago arabica</i>	A1-A6
Common melilot <i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	A2 A4 A5 A7
White melilot <i>Melilotus alba</i>	A2 A4 A5 A7
Hop trefoil <i>Trifolium campestre</i>	A2 A7
White clover <i>Trifolium repens</i>	A1-A7



HERB ROBERT

Hare's foot Trifolium arvense	A1-A7
Red clover Trifolium pratense	A1-A7
Large hop trefoil Trifolium aureum	A1-A6
Birdsfoot trefoil Lotus corniculatus	A1-A7
Hairy tare Vicia hirsuta	A4
Tufted vetch Vicia cracca	A1-A7
Bush vetch Vicia sepium	A2 A7
Common vetch Vicia sativa	A1-A6
Grass vetchling Lathyrus nissolia	A1-A6
Meadow vetchling Lathyrus pratensis	A1-A7
Bramble Rubus fruticosus	A1-A7
Silverweed Potentilla anserina	A1-A6
Creeping cinquefoil Potentilla reptans	A1-A6
Dog rose Rosa canina	A2 A3 A5 A6 A7
Great hairy willow-herb Epilobium hirsutum	A5
Small-flowered willow-herb Epilobium roseum	A2 A7
Rose-bay willow-herb Epilobium angustifolium	A1-A7
Ivy Hedera helix	A3 A5
Cow parsley Anthriscus sylvestris	A1-A6
Upright hedge parsley Torilis japonica	A1-A6
Hogweed Heracleum sphondylium	A1-A7
Wild carrot Daucus carota	A1-A7
White bryony Bryonia cretica	A3
Sun spurge * Euphorbia helioscopia	A6



COMMON VETCH



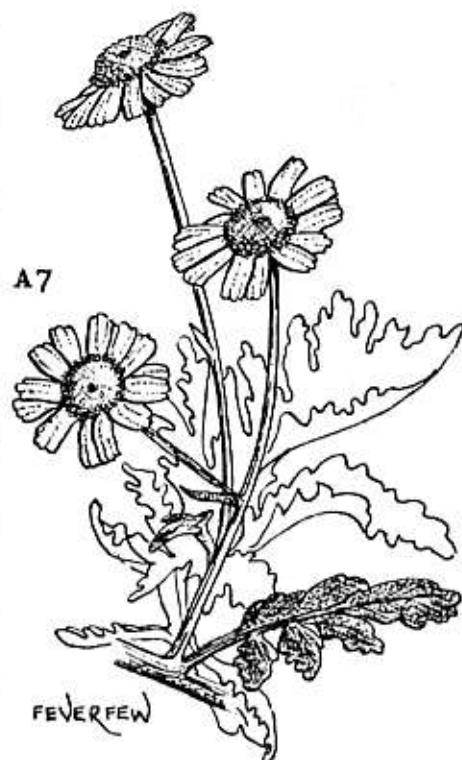
SILVERWEED

Knotgrass	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	A2 A5
Persicaria	<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	A2 A4-A7
Pale Persicaria	<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>	A2 A4-A7
Sheep's sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	A2 A7
Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	A2 A7
Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	A2 A5 A7
Stinging nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	A2 A5 A7
Common Centaury	<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	A4
Yellow-wort *	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	A4
Bittersweet (Woody nightshade)	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	A3
Mullein *	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	A2/A7
Common toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	A2-A4
Common field speedwell	<i>Veronica persica</i>	A1-A6
Yellow rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	A4 A5
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	A3
Hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	A3
Red dead-nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	A1-A6
White dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>	A1-A6
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>	A1-A6
Hoary plantain	<i>Plantago media</i>	A5
Sea plantain	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	A5-A7
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	A1-A6
Cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>	A1-A7

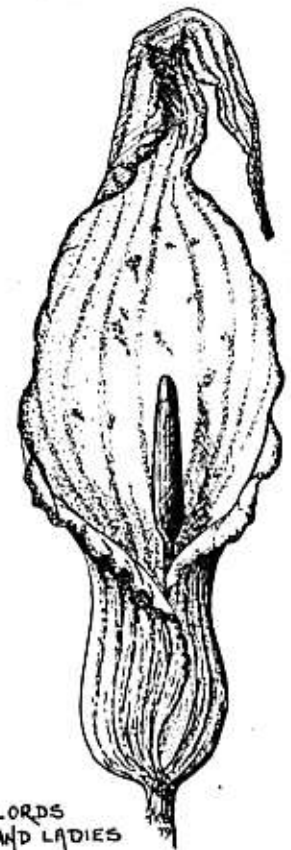


BITTERSWEET

Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	A2 A7
Ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	A1-A7
Oxford ragwort	<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	A1-A7
Groundsel	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	A1-A6
Groundsel var. radiatus	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> var. radiatus	A2 A3
Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	A2 A5 A7
Winter heliotrope	<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	A3
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	A1-A6
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	A1-A7
Scentless mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	A3-A7
Scented mayweed	<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	A3-A7
Rayless mayweed	<i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>	A3-A7
Feverfew	<i>Chrysanthemum parthenium</i>	A1-A7
Tansy	<i>Chrysanthemum vulgare</i>	A1-A7
Mugwort	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	A1-A7
Great burdock	<i>Arctium lappa</i>	A2 A3 A7
Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	A1-A7
Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	A2 A3 A5 A7
Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	A2 A7
Black knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	A2-A4
Nipplewort	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	A2-A6
Catsear	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	A1-A7
Goatsbeard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	A2-A6



Prickly lettuce Lactuca serriola	A2-A6
Perennial sow-thistle Sonchus arvensis	A2-A6
Smooth sow-thistle Sonchus oleraceus	A2-A7
Prickly sow-thistle Sonchus asper	A2-A6
Smooth hawksbeard Crepis capillaris	A1-A6
Common dandelion Taraxacum officinale	A1-A7
Black bryony Tamus communis	A3
Common spotted orchid Dactylorhiza fuchsii	A3 A4
Lords and ladies Arum maculatum	A3
Great water-grass Glyceria maxima	A2 A7



LORDS
AND LADIES

Trees

Common osier Salix viminalis
Goat willow Salix caprea
Silver birch Betula pendula
Hawthorn Crataegus monogyna
Crab apple Malus sylvestris
Maple Acer campestre
Ash Fraxinus excelsior
Elder Sambucus nigra



Lepidoptera

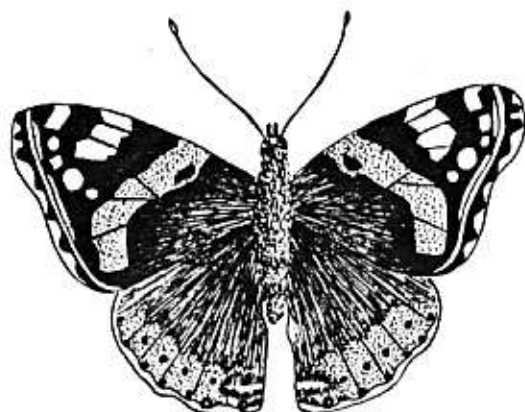
The following list is far from exhaustive, being comprised from a few records made by a small number of observers. The status data is tentative.

C - Common

F - Frequent

O - Occasional

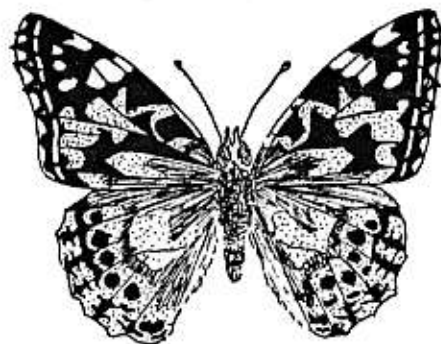
Large white <i>Pieris brassicae</i>	C
Small white <i>Pieris rapae</i>	C
Orange tip <i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	O
Peacock <i>Inachis io</i>	O
Red admiral <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	O
Painted lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	O
Small tortoiseshell <i>Aglais urticae</i>	C
Comma <i>Polytonia c-album</i>	O
Grayling <i>Hipparchia semele</i>	O
Meadow brown <i>Maniola jurtina</i>	C
Wall brown <i>Lasiommata megera</i>	O
Small copper <i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	O
Large skipper <i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	C
Common blue <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	O



RED ADMIRAL



PEACOCK



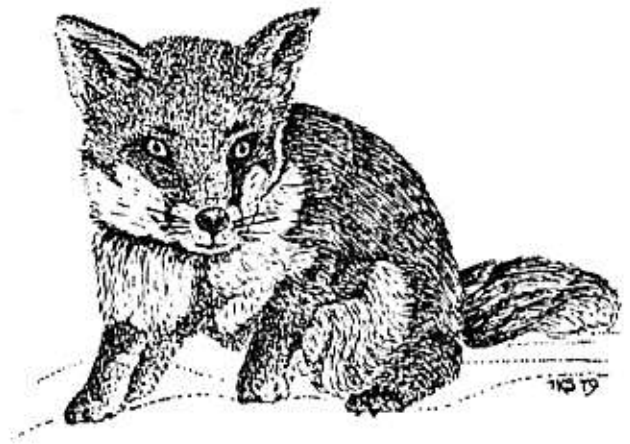
PAINTED LADY

Mammals

No systematic mammal surveys have been undertaken on the Reserve to date.

Such records that exist are as a result of chance observations by ornithologists and botanists.

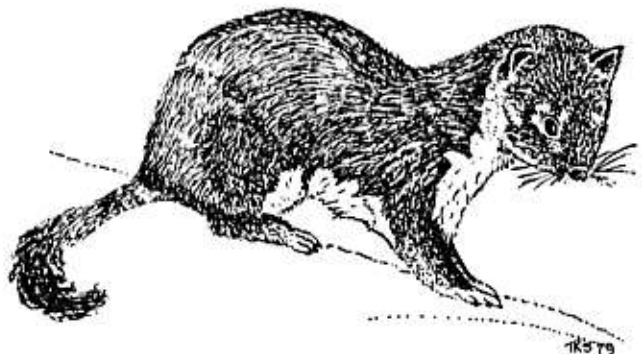
FOX A family of foxes was present on the reserve during both years. Fox cubs were regularly seen by the middle hide. Haphazard sightings of a single fox occurred throughout the years.



WEASEL Recorded regularly on the reserve.

STOAT Recorded on the reserve but not as frequently as the weasel.

RABBIT In 77, large numbers of rabbits were to be seen in many parts of the reserve, the nature trail and the pool screen proving to be the most popular areas. In 78, rabbits were seen to have myxomatosis and subsequent numbers have been drastically reduced.



HEDGEHOG In 78, a hedgehog was found on the roadside between the middle and west hides. No other records are to hand.

DOMESTIC MAMMALS These have a considerable effect on the landscape and its flora. The cattle, sheep and horses which graze the reserve are mentioned here since they also contribute to the diversity of the reserve.