

# Deeside Naturalists' Society

## Species Report 2009



## Introduction

The aim of this report is to produce an over all record of the birds seen on the Deeside Naturalists' Reserve at Connah's Quay Power Station, and the adjacent RSPB reserve of Oakenhalt Marsh. For the purpose of the report, Oakenhalt Marsh and the adjoining salt-marsh are included, as hides on the reserve over look this area and many records are submitted for these area.

This report is not a complete journal of every sighting, but has been written as a guide to the sightings of 2009 and where the best place to see each species may be on the reserve. The 'Where to see on the reserve' section has been compiled from 2009 and where necessary previous years records as well as the experience of the author over the last 5 years. This is by no means an accurate location guide, and will hopefully improve in future reports.

The following is a list of statistics for 2009

3188 Bird records

136 Bird Species

70 Mammal records

8 Mammal Species

16 Insect records

11 Insect Species

Over 140 observers

# Mammals

## Eurasian Badger

*Meles meles*

Number of records 5  
Peak Count 3

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

There were 5 sightings of Badger on the reserve during 2009, with a maximum of 3 seen at the same time (JH).

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## Grey Squirrel

*Sciurus carolinensis*

Number of records 1  
Peak Count 1

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

A Grey squirrel was seen by the bird feeders on 18/08 (KLJ)

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## European polecat

*Mustela putorius*

Number of records 1  
Peak Count 1

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

A Polecat was seen on 3 occasions from the West hide on 25/08 (JMc & DMc).

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## Brown rat

*Rattus norvegicus*

Number of records 2  
Peak Count 2

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

Brown rat were seen on 2 occasions, with 2 seen on 01/10 (UO).

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### Red fox

*Vulpes vulpes*

Number of records            55  
Peak Count                      8

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	4	9	17	11	5	6	2	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	1	1	1	8	2	2	6	1	0	0	0

At least 1 Vixen raised a litter of cubs on or near to the reserve during 2009, with 8 foxes being seen on 25/02 (JMc & DMc).

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### Stoat

*Mustela erminea*

Number of records            4  
Peak Count                      2

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0

There were 4 recorded sightings of Stoat during 2009 with 2 being seen on 28/06 on the Ash pool compartment (SS).



Stoat - Andrew Wallbank

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### European hare

*Lepus europaeus*

Number of records 1  
Peak Count 1

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A Hare was seen in the field to the right of the Helipad on 04/04 (AW).

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### Notes

A Vole of unknown species was observed running across the road on 27/08 (EGJ & PJ)

# Insects

The following butterflies were recorded on the reserve.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Abundance</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Location</b>
Comma	25/10/2009	1	PDS	East Hide
Gatekeeper	08/08/2008	Many	EGJ & PJ	Unknown
Gatekeeper	02/08/2009	20	UO	New Hide
Green Veined White	20/04/2009	1	EJ & LJ	Middle Hide
Lesser White	09/05/2008	1	UO	Nature Trail
Meadow Brown	03/07/2008	1	EGJ & PJ	Ash Pool
Meadow Brown	08/08/2008	1+	EGJ & PJ	Unknown
Meadow Brown	27/08/2008	1	EGJ & PJ	Unknown
Painted Lady	26/05/2009	1	EN	Middle Hide
Painted Lady	02/06/2009	1	UO	Ash Pool
Peacock	20/04/2009	1	EJ & LJ	Middle Hide
Red Admiral	09/05/2008	1	UO	Nature Trail
Red Admiral	15/10/2008	1	JH	Unknown
Tortoiseshell	20/04/2009	1	EJ & LJ	Middle Hide
Wall Brown	08/08/2008	1+	EGJ & PJ	Unknown

The following Dragonflies were recorded on the reserve.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Abundance</b>	<b>Observer</b>	<b>Location</b>
Common Hawker	24/09/2009	1	AK	East Hide



**Birds**

## Barn owl

Tyto alba

Number of records 1  
Peak Count 1  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A single bird was found dead by the Helipad on 11/05 (EN).

### Where to see on the reserve

Barn Owl is an usual species to see on the reserve, this is the only known record in the last 5 years.

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## Barn swallow

Hirundo rustica

Number of records 27  
Peak Count 2000  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	1	3	7	4	3	4	2	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	1	4	20	2	200	2000	20	0	0	0

First bird of the year was seen on 30/03 (KLJ & BH) with a single bird seen over the Ash Pool field. Last record was on 08/09 (DN) with 20 birds seen over Oakenhalt Marsh. A count of 200 birds was recorded on 31/07 (JH) over the Ash Pool. A count of 2000 birds in August was made by an unknown observer.

There were 27 records with most records being from the Ash Pool compartment. This species often uses the fencing on the reserve when small groups are forming in late summer/early Autumn before their migration south.

### Where to see on the reserve

Ash Pool compartment and the Bunded pools. Larger numbers are recorded late summer.

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## Barnacle goose

Branta leucopsis

Number of records 2  
Peak Count 11  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0

Eleven birds were seen on Oakenholt Marsh 18/09 (JBi & AW)

### Where to see on the reserve

Only recorded sporadically and generally from the Oakenholt Marsh area.

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### Bar-tailed godwit

*Limosa lapponica*

Number of records           3  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS       Yes  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

Three records were received all of single birds and from Oakenholt Marsh on 07/08 (GR), 20/12 (AW) and 21/12 (KLJ).

### Where to see on the reserve

This is a species that is generally seen from the West hide on the mud flats at low tide and Oakenholt Marsh salt marsh at high tide. It is possible this species could also be seen from the hides over looking the Bunded pools.

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### Black swan

*Cygnus atratus*

Number of records           1  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS       No  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

A single bird was recorded on the Ash Pool on 28/12 by an unknown observer.

### Where to see on the reserve

Black Swan has been seen on at least 2 occasions over the last 3 years from the Ash Pool and River Dee.

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### Black-headed gull

*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Number of records           120  
Peak Count                   800  
Recorded during WEBS       Yes  
survey

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	9	8	20	14	9	13	8	13	13	10	3
Peak Count	0	22	120	23	30	200	800	10	80	160	28	1

This species was recorded in every month of 2009 apart from January. The peak count of 800 was during a WEBS high tide survey with the birds roosting on Oakenholt Marsh (AW). Other high counts were 200 seen on 07/06 (AW), 200 on 30/07 (UO), 160 seen on 17/10 (GEM) and 108 on 07/06 (AW).

### Where to see on the reserve

This species can be seen almost anywhere on the reserve. At low tide birds can be seen feeding or loafing on the exposed sand banks of the River Dee. During the summer months Black-headed gulls can be seen hawking for flying insects over the river and Ash Pool, and feeding on the Bunded Pools.

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## Black-tailed godwit

*Limosa limosa*

Number of records	124
Peak Count	5000
Recorded during WEBS survey	Yes

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	1	2	4	11	16	5	7	17	31	24	3	3
Peak Count	30	300	300	1270	1000	500	710	2000	4500	5000	300	150

Black-tailed Godwit can be seen from the reserve hides all year round but the larger flocks are seen during Spring and Autumn Migration. There is a sizeable summer flock consisting of what are probably non-breeding birds that appears to alternate between the River Dee mudflats and RSPB Inner Marsh farm. Three counts of 5000 birds were made, all in October, on 10/10 (GR & SG), 19/10 (UO) and 21/10 (RE). The largest count of birds in the spring was of 1270 birds seen on 14/04 (PDS).

There were a total of 21 counts of 1000+ birds in 2009 with 17 of these made between August and November, the remaining four were of flocks seen in April and May. The largest flock to be seen on the reserve pools consisted of 1000 birds seen on the Ash Pool Island on 02/05 (ES).

Smaller numbers of birds were recorded on the Bunded pools with a high count of 300 on 09/09 (DN) seen from the Middle hide and 200 on 15/11 (DN) seen from the East Hide. All records from the Bunded pools were from August to November, the first records being 2 birds seen by an Unknown Observer on 18/08.

### Where to see on the reserve

This species can be seen from most of the hides on the reserve and the access road running parallel to the river. At low tide Black-tailed godwit can be seen feeding on the mud flats in large flocks, or roosting at the waters edge in a more compact group. As the tide moves in birds can often be seen feeding on the retreating mudflats until the water is right up to their belly. High tides in Autumn and early winter can see substantial flocks roosting on Oakenholt Marsh, best viewed from the West Hide. This species also roosts on the Ash pool Island and can be seen feeding in the fields either side of the helipad and the scrapes in the

Ash Pool field. Although not as common on the Bunded pools, large flocks can often be seen in the Autumn as they are forced off the River Dee mudflats by the rising tide.



Black-tailed godwit - Cliff Aincham



Black-tailed godwit - Cliff Aincham

### Blue tit

*Cyanistes caeruleus*

Number of records            17  
 Peak Count                      9  
 Recorded during WEBS      No  
 survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	2	1	0	1	5	3	2	1	1	0
Peak Count	0	1	4	1	0	1	4	5	2	9	4	0

It appears this species is significantly under recorded. Although nest box records cannot confirm breeding on the reserve, the number of nest boxes used indicates it was possible breeding occurred during 2009.

All but two of the records from 2009 were from the 'New Hide' over looking the feeding station. However the highest count of 9 birds was recorded on a walk from the West Hide to the Nature Trail (GEM).

**Where to see on the reserve**

Blue tits can be seen from most places on the reserve where there are sufficient trees and hedgerows. A number of nest boxes are placed around the reserve which provide possible nesting opportunities. However, the best place to see this species is the feeding station located near to the 'New' hide over looking the Bunded pools.



Blue tit - Andrew Wallbank

**Brent goose**

*Branta bernicla*

Number of records            3  
 Peak Count                    1  
 Recorded during WEBS survey    No

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

All sightings were of single birds seen on Oakenhalt Marsh on 09/05 and 06/12 (both PDS) rather unusually a bird seen from the Middle Hide over looking the Bunded pools on 24/05 (TL & SL).

The bird seen on Oakenhalt Marsh on 09/05 was a Light-bellied Brent Goose.

**Where to see on the reserve**

There is a wintering population of approximately 150 at Hilbre Island and these birds occasionally wander further into the estuary. Brent Geese are usually seen on the River or Oakenhalt Marsh.

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**Canada goose**  
*Branta canadensis*

Number of records            70  
Peak Count                    4500  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                         Yes

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	4	1	14	15	13	4	7	6	6	0	0
Peak Count	0	30	43	43	40	150	200	500	4500	2000	0	0

Successfully hatched at least 4 Goslings, but only 1 was seen in June. There is no evidence to suggest this bird did not fledge successfully. Most summer records are from the Wetland meadow and Ash pool, when larger flocks gather these tend to be on the Oakenhalt Marsh and River Dee sandbanks at low tide.

There were large flocks recorded in Autumn, with 1000 seen on 08/09 (DN), 4500 on 22/09 (PDS) and 2000 seen on 05/10 (UO).

Unusually there were no sightings during the winter months.

**Where to see on the reserve**

Large flocks gather to roost and graze on Oakenhalt Marsh during Autumn, during the summer the best place to see Canada Goose is the Ash Pool field and pool.

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**Carrion crow**  
*Corvus corone*

Number of records            34  
Peak Count                    36  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                         Yes

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	4	0	7	6	0	1	2	3	7	3	1
Peak Count	0	4	0	9	4	0	2	3	5	36	2	1

Almost certainly under recorded, Carrion crow can be seen on most visits either feeding around the sheep fields or flying around other parts of the reserve. Thirty six birds were seen on 17/10 (GEM) but this is by far the norm. This species is usually only seen in 1's or 2's although there were other high counts of 9 on 12/04 (AW) and 11 on 18/10 (AW).

**Where to see on the reserve**

Carrion crow can be seen almost anywhere on the reserve, although the Sheep fields either side of the Helipad are usually the best place.

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**Chaffinch**  
*Fringilla coelebs*

Number of records 24  
 Peak Count 20  
 Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	2	7	2	1	1	3	1	2	2	3	0
Peak Count	0	5	20	2	1	1	4	3	2	12	15	0

All but two of the records were from the area surrounding the bird feeding station located by the new hide. Twenty birds were recorded on 15/03 (AW) and 15 on 22/11 (AW) all from the feeding station. Records away from this area were a single bird by the Middle hide on 22/03 (AW) and 04/05 (GEM) and 12 birds recorded on a walk of the reserve from West Hide to Nature trail on 17/10 (GEM). Most records are of small groups (between 4 and 6 birds) around the feeding station. The low number of records suggests this species is under recorded. No evidence of breeding was recorded although there is suitable habit available.

### Where to see on the reserve

Chaffinch are mainly seen around the feeding station feeding on food dropped from the hanging feeders. They can also be seen in any area where there are sufficient trees and hedgerows to provide food and roosting. Male's can be seen singing during the spring from the trees along the Bunded pools.



Chaffinch - Andrew Wallbank

### Common blackbird

*Turdus merula*

Number of records 7  
 Peak Count 9  
 Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Peak Count	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	5	0



Only seven records suggests this species is under recorded. The high count of 9 birds was on 17/10 (GEM). There were five records of single birds and a record of 5 birds seen on 22/1 (AW).

### Where to see on the reserve

Almost any hedgerow on the reserve, usually singularly but sometimes in pairs of small groups. Birds can often be seen foraging for food around the feeding station.

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### Common buzzard

*Buteo buteo*

Number of records           44  
Peak Count                   4  
Recorded during WEBS survey   Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	5	4	3	3	4	3	7	5	5	1	0
Peak Count	0	4	4	1	2	2	1	3	2	2	1	0

Probably the easiest raptor to see on the reserve, Buzzards can be seen perching on fence posts surrounding the reserve or soaring over the Sheep fields and Oakenhalt Marsh. Most commonly recorded in singles but it is not unusual to see 2 or 3 birds soaring together. Counts of 2 birds were recorded on seven occasions, 3 birds recorded on two occasions and 4 birds were seen on 08/02 (JB & TB).

### Where to see on the reserve

Usually seen perched on the fence posts that surround the Sheep fields either side of the helipad and the Ash Pool or soaring above the reserve and Oakenhalt Marsh.

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### Common chiffchaff

*Phylloscopus collybita*

Number of records           4  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS survey   No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Only four sightings recorded with two records in Spring and two records in late Summer, all records were of single birds.

The first bird of the year was seen on 15/03 (SS) by the Middle hide with another in the same area recorded on 21/03 (AN).

There were two records a month apart from the area around the New hide with birds seen on the 09/08 (GEM) and 09/09 (DN).

### Where to see on the reserve

Common Chiffchaff can be seen in any area of the reserve where there is hedgerow or trees. In Spring birds can be heard singing along the Nature Trail and the area of scrub at the southern end of the Ash Pool.

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### Common coot

*Fulica atra*

Number of records            49  
 Peak Count                    50  
 Recorded during WEBS survey    Yes

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	7	2	12	8	3	2	3	3	2	4	3
Peak Count	0	40	30	24	21	12	40	30	50	20	24	26

Common coot successfully bred on the reserve in 2009, with young seen on the Ash Pool on 25/04 (JH), 28/04 (JH), 06/05 (GP), 10/05 (KG), 18/05 (JH), and 12/08 (UO). Chicks seen in August suggest a second brood. Numbers of Coot are highest in the Winter months when the Ash pool can see counts regularly reach 40 or 50 birds. There were 3 counts of 40 birds on 08/02 (GEM), 26/07 (AW) and 30/07 (UO), and a single count of 50 birds on 11/09 (UO).

All records were from the Ash Pool compartment, with the Ash Pool being the main area used by this species. At least one pair can usually be seen on the North Scrape either from the West Hide or the Wetland meadow hide.

#### Where to see on the reserve

This species is almost exclusively seen in the Ash Pool compartment.

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### Common goldeneye

*Bucephala clangula*

Number of records            1  
 Peak Count                    1  
 Recorded during WEBS survey    Yes

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Only one record for 2009 with a Female seen on the Ash Pool field on 22/11 during a Webs high tide count (AW).

#### Where to see on the reserve

Numbers of Goldeneye seen on the reserve are low, with very few records over the last few years. Goldeneye have been seen on the Bunded Pools and the Ash pool in recent years.

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### Common greenshank

*Tringa nebularia*

Number of records 112  
 Peak Count 27  
 Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	2	7	8	9	1	0	12	10	29	21	4	8
Peak Count	1	2	3	9	3	0	12	16	27	14	9	5

Common Greenshank is a species that appears to be attracted to the DNS reserve over other suitable habitats in the area, a high count of 27 is down on previous years but appears to be higher than other sites on the Dee Estuary and in North Wales.

Greenshank were seen in every month of the year except June suggesting birds seen in May are late birds on migration north and sightings in July are of early breeders returning south. Peak numbers are seen in late summer, with 10 or more birds seen on 14 occasions in August and September. The high count of 27 birds was recorded on 17/09 with 5 birds seen from the East hide and 22 birds seen from the middle hide (KLJ & BH).

The first record of the year was a single bird on the Bunded Pools, seen from the new hide on 21/01 (CH & RH) and the last record was on 31/12 with 2 birds seen from the middle hide (JH).

Five records were from Oakenhalt Marsh with single birds seen on 26/03 (PDS), 08/08 (UO), 04/12 (UO), 2 birds seen on 11/09 (UO) and of 3 birds on 09/09 (DN). Two records were received from the Ash pool complex with single birds seen on 28/07 (PDS) and 04/08 (UO), all other records were of birds seen on the Bunded Pools.

### Where to see on the reserve

The primary area for sightings is the Bunded pool complex where birds can be seen roosting at 'Greenshank Corner' from the middle hide and feeding from any of the hides over looking the pools. Sightings of Greenshank from the West Hide are usually of birds feeding in the channels at Low Tide.



Greenshank - Julie Chicken

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### Common house martin

## Delichon urbicum

Number of records 11  
Peak Count 30  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	2	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	16	6	30	6	0	0	0	0	0

A total of eleven records were received for 2009, with a high count of 30 birds recorded. All records were from the Ash Pool compartment. The first record of the year was for 16 birds seen on 25/04 (JH), with the last being a single bird seen on 30/07 (UO).

### Where to see on the reserve

Most Hirundine sightings on the reserve are of birds over the Ash Pool complex, feeding over the Ash Pool itself. It is possible to see House Martin's collecting mud from the exposed low tide mud banks, this is best seen from the West Hide in April/May.

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## Common kestrel

### Falco tinnunculus

Number of records 36  
Peak Count 2  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	6	7	13	5	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	0

Unusually there were no sightings from January to April, with the first record a single bird seen on 07/05 (DC & SC). There were records of 2 birds on five occasions. Only three records were from Oakenhalt Marsh.

### Where to see on the reserve

Common Kestrel can be seen hunting the marsh adjacent to the access road between the West hide and the New Hide/Feeding station, often using trees and fence posts. Less regularly they can be seen over the Bunded Pool and Ash Pool complexes. Sightings of birds over Oakenhalt Marsh are usually of birds at the West end of the marsh.



Common Kestrel - Andrew Wallbank

## Common kingfisher

*Alcedo atthis*

Number of records            53  
 Peak Count                    2  
 Recorded during WEBS  
 survey                         Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	9	15	14	8	4
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	1	1

An unusual trend over the last few years is the lack of sightings of Common Kingfisher in the first half of the year. Birds are seen fairly regularly from late summer onwards, but records stop abruptly at the end of December. Is this under recording, or do the birds go elsewhere?

First record from 2009 was a single bird seen at the Ash Pool compartment on 30/06 (NH). There were twenty one further records of single birds until 2 birds were seen on 20/09 (UO & BD), in total there were three records of 2 birds. All ten records from Oakenhalt Marsh were probably of birds using the Paper mill channel for feeding.

### Where to see on the reserve

Kingfisher can be seen sitting on the sluice gates at either end of the Bunded Pools, using the water level markers for perches or flying up and down the 'Paper mill' channel outside the West Hide. Occasionally birds can be seen on the Ash Pool using the reeds as a perch. The pool in front of the Visitor Centre is also a popular place for a fishing Kingfisher, where they use the outlet pipe, rocks and fallen branches to perch.

## Common linnet

*Carduelis cannabina*

Number of records            14

Peak Count 50  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	6	1	2	0	1
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	4	3	3	50	2	1	0	5

A species that is generally seen in small flocks during the winter period, most records for 2009 were of birds between May and September. Although there is no evidence of breeding taking place on the reserve, 6 Juvenile birds were seen on 19/08 (JH) which may indicate breeding near-by.

The largest flock was a single record of 50 birds seen on 02/08 (GEM) seen in the Ash Pool complex.

The first record of the year was a single bird seen by the middle hide on the 04/05 (GEM) and the last was 5 birds on Oakenhalt Marsh on 04/14 (UO).

### Where to see on the reserve

Generally seen in flocks, Linnet can be seen feeding on the salt marsh vegetation at low tide or can often be seen perching on the reserve fences running along the access roads.

## Goosander (Common Merganser)

*Mergus merganser*

Number of records 3  
Peak Count 3  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Peak Count	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Goosander is a fairly irregular visitor to the reserve with the 3 records for 2009 being confined to the winter months. Three birds were seen on Oakenhalt Marsh on 09/02 (KLJ & BH) with the other two records being single birds, also on Oakenhalt Marsh on 17/10 and 04/12 (both OU).

### Where to see on the reserve

Goosander breed on the River Dee (a long way up stream) but are rarely seen on or around the reserve. Sightings in recent years have been of birds on Oakenhalt Marsh or roosting on the Bunded Pools, usually in the Winter months when frozen rivers force the birds down stream.

## Common moorhen

*Gallinula chloropus*

Number of records 30  
Peak Count 20  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	3	2	6	4	3	1	8	2	2	3	2
Peak Count	0	8	20	5	2	8	2	3	1	7	2	2

Not as numerous as Common coot, Common moorhen are however a regular breeder on the Ash Pool with at least one brood of chicks hatching and first seen on 06/06 (JH).

Records were received from all months of the year apart from January, but this probably relates to under recording rather than a complete move away from the site. The highest count was of 20 birds seen on 10/03 (UO). All records were from the Ash Pool complex area, although birds can often be seen in the 'Paper mill' channel running alongside Oakenhalt Marsh.

### Where to see on the reserve

This species is almost exclusively seen on the Ash Pool complex, where breeding is recorded annually. Birds can be seen on the 'Paper mill' channel that runs between the Ash Pool complex and Oakenhalt Marsh.

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## Common pochard

*Aythya ferina*

Number of records           7  
Peak Count                   4  
Recorded during WEBS survey   Yes

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1
Peak Count	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	1

There were seven records of Common pochard during 2009 all from the Ash Pool.

Two spring records were received, with a single bird seen on 14/03 (AW) and 2 birds seen on 26/05 (FW & MW). Four records were received from October with a high count of 4 birds seen on the Ash pool on 15/10, there was also a single bird seen on 21/12 (KLJ).

### Where to see on the reserve

Common pochard are almost exclusively seen on the Ash Pool.

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## Common redshank

*Tringa totanus*

Number of records           183  
Peak Count                   2000  
Recorded during WEBS survey   Yes

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	17	8	8	0	1	16	23	39	44	14	13
Peak Count	0	20	400	243	0	2	700	2000	2000	1000	350	300

Common redshank is one of the commonest and most easily identifiable species seen on or from the reserve. It's bright orange legs and bill can easily be picked out as birds feed along the waters edge, in channels in the salt marsh or roost in groups of 100 or so at high tide. The Dee Estuary is an internationally important site for this species.

Records were received from every month other than January and May. The lack of records for January is probably under-recording, but the lack of records from May is likely to be down to birds moving away from coastal areas to breed.

The highest counts for each month can be seen in the table above. Counts of over 1000 birds were recoded on nine occasions between 07/08 (JH) and 10/10 (GR). There were 22 counts of 300 - 800 birds with 21 of these occurring during late Summer and Autumn migration, the single spring record was of 400 birds seen on 26/03 (PDS).

### Where to see on the reserve

Common redshank can be seen feeding on the exposed mud flats of the River Dee and the Salt Marsh at low tide from the access road. The channel running past the West Hide can hold good numbers of roosting birds at Low tide and during a rising tide. Birds can also be seen feeding in the channels of Oakenhalt Marsh and along the edge of the Bunded pools. During August large flocks can gather on the Bunded Pool islands as birds are pushed off the River Dee sand banks during high tide.

### Common reed bunting

*Emberiza schoeniclus*

Number of records           6  
 Peak Count                   3  
 Recorded during WEBS survey   No

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0

Three of the six records were from the Ash Pool with single birds seen on 12/04 and 19/09 with 3 separate birds also seen on 19/09 (all JH). The single bird seen on 19/09 was a Juvenile in a flock of Goldfinch.

The other records were also of single birds, seen by the new hide on 14/03 (BL), the west hide on 18/10 (AW) and at the East hide on 31/10 (GEM)

### Where to see on the reserve

A difficult bird to see on the reserve, it is possible that Reed bunting breed on the reserve in the Reeds by the Visitor centre and the Ash pool. Reed bunting can be seen throughout the year, although are probably most regularly recorded in the winter when they often join up with finch flocks to feed.

### Ringed plover

*Charadrius hiaticula*

Number of records           14  
 Peak Count                   100



Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	2	2	0	0
Peak Count	1	0	0	0	0	0	45	100	12	1	0	0

A significant increase in records of birds from 2008 also saw a huge jump in the peak count, with 100 birds seen on 21/08 (JH). This record was not a one off high count with flocks of 45 or more birds seen on five occasions between 31/07 (GEM) and 23/08 (AW). Counts of 100 on 21/08 and 90 on 23/08 show the birds were present for a few days at least and suggest a build up of post breeding birds from July into August. All records of large flocks were from the Oakenhalt Marsh area. The 90 birds recorded on 23/08 were recorded roosting with Dunlin towards the railway line during high tide.

Away from Oakenhalt Marsh, two records of single birds were received of birds seen on the Bunded pools on 13/07 (SD) and 17/10 (GEM).

### Where to see on the reserve

Ringed Plover are usually encountered in small numbers on the sandbanks of the River Dee at low tide. Occasionally birds are seen on the Bunded pools, or roosting on Oakenhalt Marsh at high tide. 2009 proved to be a good year for this species.

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### Common sandpiper

*Actitis hypoleucos*

Number of records 15  
Peak Count 4  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	2	0	2	7	2	2	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	1	1	0	0	0

First record of the year was a single bird seen by the West Hide on 18/04 (SS) and the last record was again of a single bird seen on 01/09 from the middle hide on the Bunded pools (UO). There were eight records received of single birds, 2 birds seen on four occasions 28/06 (SS), 08/07 (JH), 25/07 (PDS) and 28/07 (PDS). Three birds were seen on 26/07 (SS & PDS) and 4 were seen on 27/07 (SD).

Eleven records were received from the area around the West hide and 4 from the Bunded pools.

### Where to see on the reserve

The best place to find Common sandpiper is the 'Paper mill' channel running between Oakenhalt Marsh and the Ash Pool complex. Birds can often be seen feeding just in front of the West hide. The Bunded pools and inlets further towards the Flintshire bridge are also good places to see this species.

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### Common shelduck

## Tadorna tadorna

Number of records 110  
Peak Count 500  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	8	11	29	21	10	4	8	6	7	2	4
Peak Count	0	15	32	70	385	500	100	150	250	105	200	174

More records were received in 2009 than 2008 and the peak count also increased, although this may be down to an increase in recording rather than an increase in bird numbers.

Records were received from every month apart from January, but this more likely to be under recording than no birds being present.

Records were distributed evenly between the Bunded Pools and the Oakenhalt Marsh areas with 55 records for each area, however the highest counts were from the Oakenhalt Marsh area, with 500 birds seen on 10/06 (DP & MS). The highest count from the Bunded pools was 150 birds seen on 23/08 (GEM).

### Where to see on the reserve

Shelduck are most commonly seen feeding on the sandbanks of the River Dee at low tide or roosting in small numbers on Oakenhalt Marsh at high tide. Small numbers of birds also gather on the Bunded Pools during early summer, with larger flocks gathering in late summer.

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## Common snipe

Gallinago gallinago

Number of records 9  
Peak Count 8  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	3
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	3	6

Although there is suitable habitat around the Bunded pools and Ash pool records can be few and far between, probably down to the skulking habits and cryptic camouflage of this species. All records for 2009 were received in the last third of the year and were of birds from the Ash Pool complex. The first record was for 2 birds seen on 08/09 (DN) and the last was 6 birds seen on 29/12 (TGP). The highest count of 8 birds was on 17/10 (GEM).

### Where to see on the reserve

Along the edge of Ash Pool where the reed beds end. Sometimes birds can be seen roosting on the Ash pool island.

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## Common starling

Sturnus vulgaris

Number of records 28  
 Peak Count 300  
 Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	2	3	2	6	5	7	1	2
Peak Count	0	0	0	12	200	200	14	200	300	100	300	50

Most regularly seen in flocks, Starling can be seen almost anywhere on the reserve, although favour the fields and Marsh areas. Flocks of 100 birds or more were recorded on 11 occasions, with the largest flocks of 300 birds occurring on three occasions 09/09 (DN), 11/09 (UO) and 22/11 (AW), each from a different area of the reserve Ash Pool 09/09, Bunded Pools 11/09 and Oakenhalt Marsh 22/11.

Juvenile birds were recorded in August with 12 seen on 12/08 (UO) and 40 on 15/08 (JH). There is no evidence of breeding on the reserve so these records probably relate to a build up of birds in last summer when flocks form to roost in the reed bed of the Ash Pool.

### Where to see on the reserve

Starling can often be seen roosting in mixed flocks with Northern lapwing on the Ash Pool field and Oakenhalt Marsh in Winter. Flocks form on the fencing along the access road to the West hide in late summer. Throughout the rest of the year birds can be seen almost anywhere on the reserve but tend to favour the fields and salt-marsh.



Common starling - Andrew Wallbank

### Common swift

*Apus apus*

Number of records 7  
 Peak Count 30  
 Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Records were only received for May with a total of seven. The first bird was seen on 06/05 (GP) with a single over the Ash pool. The last record was of a single bird, again over the Ash pool on 26/05 (FW & MW).

The lack of records from June to August is probably down to observers recording the first birds of the year and not subsequent sightings.

### Where to see on the reserve

Swift can be seen feeding over the Ash pool and screaming low over the reserve when they are forced down from their regular feeding height by bad weather.

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## Common tern

*Sterna hirunda*

Number of records            13  
Peak Count                    350  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                         No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	100	350	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The first birds of the year we seen on 28/04 (PDS) when 100 birds were recorded. The last record of the year was of 100 birds on 18/05 (JH), this is extremely early, and almost certainly relates to the apparent collapse of the breeding colony at Shotton Steelworks during 2009. All birds had left the site by mid May.

The high count of 250 birds was recorded on 17/05 (PDS) with the birds seen along the river towards the West hide.

### Where to see on the reserve

Most birds are seen flying up and down the river from the breeding colony at Shotton Steelworks to feeding grounds further out in the Estuary. Common tern often use the Bunded pools for fishing and can be seen in large numbers picking stranded fish from the mud flats in the river channel as high tides start to expose the mud.

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## Common whitethroat

*Sylvia communis*

Number of records            2  
Peak Count                    3  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                         No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Only two records were received for 2009. Three birds were seen on 28/04 (UO) and 2 birds were around the middle hide on 04/05 (GEM). Records may have been affected by the restricted access to the Nature trail during the summer months.

### Where to see on the reserve

Whitethroat can be seen in the quieter parts of the reserve, along the railway line and the nature trail.

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### Common wood pigeon

*Columba palumbus*

Number of records            11  
Peak Count                    70  
Recorded during WEBS        Yes  
survey

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	2
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	8	22	70

Eleven records were received for 2009. Seventy birds were seen in a single flock on the salt-marsh adjacent to the Helipad on 20/12 (AW), 22 birds were recorded on 22/11 (AW) and 40 on 31/12 (JH)

### Where to see on the reserve

Large flocks form in the winter months, with birds seen around the fields and salt marsh adjacent to the access road. Single birds are often seen throughout the year roosting in the trees around the reserve.

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### Curlew sandpiper

*Calidris ferruginea*

Number of records            1  
Peak Count                    1  
Recorded during WEBS        No  
survey

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

A single bird was seen from the New hide on the Bunded pools on 09/09 (DN).

### Where to see on the reserve

A scarce visitor to the reserve, Curlew sandpiper are usually seen singularly or in pairs on the Bunded pools or the channel running past the West hide.

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### Dunlin

*Calidris alpina*

Number of records            29  
Peak Count                    2500  
Recorded during WEBS        Yes  
survey

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	7	3	8	1	3
Peak Count	400	0	0	6	1	0	20	200	150	1000	350	2500

The Dee Estuary is a site of International importance due to its large wintering flocks. It is however possible to see Dunlin on the estuary throughout the year as indicated by records from 9 months of 2009, no records in February may even be down to under recording.

High counts were 2500 birds seen on 21/12 (KLJ), 1000 on 10/10 (GR) and 800 on 17/10 (GEM) all from the Oakenhalt Marsh area.

Records from the Bunded pools were generally of singles, although 20 were seen from the Middle hide on 24/07 (UO).

### Where to see on the reserve

Dunlin can be seen feeding on the exposed sandbanks at low tide or roosting on Oakenhalt Marsh at high tide. Dunlin will flock together in flight and can be seen twisting and turning as they are moved off by the incoming tide or a passing raptor.

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## Dunnock

*Prunella modularis*

Number of records            17  
Peak Count                     6  
Recorded during WEBS survey    Yes

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	5	3	1	1	3	0	1	2	0	0
Peak Count	0	1	6	2	1	1	1	0	2	3	0	0

All records of Dunnock were from the area of scrub and trees that border the Bunded pools. Nine records of single birds were received, with 2 birds seen on five occasions, and single records of 3 birds on 17/10 (GEM), 5 birds on 08/03 (PR) and 6 birds on 21/03 (AN).

### Where to see on the reserve

Hedgerows and areas of scrub.



Dunnock - Andrew Wallbank

### **Egyptian Goose**

*Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Number of records           2  
 Peak Count                   1  
 Recorded during WEBS      No  
 survey

#### **Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Two records were received, both of single birds seen on the Bunded pools.

First record was from the new hide on 15/04 (SD) and the second record from the middle hide on 21/05 (DN).

#### **Where to see on the reserve**

A rare visitor to the reserve, all known records have been from the Bunded pools.

### **Eurasian blackcap**

*Sylvia atricapilla*

Number of records           1  
 Peak Count                   1  
 Recorded during WEBS      No  
 survey

#### **Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

A single record was received from the new hide on the Bunded pools where a single bird was recorded on 09/08 (GEM).

#### **Where to see on the reserve**

Areas of scrub along the Bunded pools, Nature trail and by the entrance gate.

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### **Eurasian bullfinch**

*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Number of records            2  
Peak Count                    1  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                        Yes

#### **Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Two records were received for 2009, with single birds seen by the middle hide on 17/10 (GEM) and 20/12 (AW).

#### **Where to see on the reserve**

Bullfinch tend to favour the berry laden bushes between the middle and new hides.

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### **Eurasian curlew**

*Numenius arquata*

Number of records            125  
Peak Count                    90  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                        Yes

#### **Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	16	8	11	2	2	5	12	19	28	15	7
Peak Count	0	65	7	7	50	50	50	80	50	90	68	22

Eurasian Curlew are usually recorded in small numbers from the Bunded pools and larger numbers from the Ash Pool and Oakenhalt Marsh areas where groups of birds can often be seen feeding.

The largest counts were of 90 birds on 21/10 (RE), 80 birds on 30/08 (DJ) and 68 birds on 14/11 (PD) all from the Ash Pool field.

The largest counts for Oakenhalt Marsh were 50 birds seen on 27/05 (PDS), 30/07 (UO) and 19/09 (JH).

There were 57 birds recorded on 17/10 (GEM) between the West hide and the Middle hide. The largest count from the Bunded pools was 21 birds seen on 11/02 (UO) from the New hide.

#### **Where to see on the reserve**

Curlew can be seen feeding on the Ash pool field, fields either side of the helipad and Oakenhalt Marsh at High tide. At low tide birds can be seen feeding on the exposed mud banks of the River Dee.

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### **Eurasian jay**

*Garrulus glandarius*



Number of records 2  
 Peak Count 1  
 Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0

Two records were received for 2009 with single birds seen on 16/08 and 10/10 (both GEM).

### Where to see on the reserve

An unusual bird to see on the reserve, most sightings are from the area by the entrance barrier.

## Eurasian magpie

*Pica pica*

Number of records 18  
 Peak Count 5  
 Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	2	3	1	2	2	1	2	3	2	0
Peak Count	0	0	1	1	1	2	4	4	5	5	2	0

Eighteen records of Magpie were received in 2009 with a maximum count of 5 birds seen on two occasions at the Middle hide on 17/10 (GEM) and the Ash pool on 08/09 (DN). There were also two records of 4 birds seen on the Ash pool field on 30/07 (UO) and 17/08 (JH).

### Where to see on the reserve

Magpie can be seen almost anywhere on the reserve, although they favour the fields either side of the helipad and the Ash Pool compartment.

## Eurasian oystercatcher

*Haematopus ostralegus*

Number of records 83  
 Peak Count 3500  
 Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	2	7	28	14	8	6	2	5	7	1	3
Peak Count	0	2	220	150	8	8	550	450	3500	3000	3	1700

The largest counts of Oystercatcher were from Oakenhalt Marsh with nine records of 1000 or more birds recorded during the year. There were five counts of 3000 or more birds on 19/09 (JH), 18/10 (AW), 19/10 (UO), 21/10 (RE) and 22/09 (PDS) when 3500 birds were seen.

Counts from the Bunded pools are usually of less than 10 birds although 20 birds were seen on 15/04 (JH) from the Middle hide.

### Where to see on the reserve

Oakenhalt Marsh at high tide and the exposed sandbanks of the River Dee at low tide. Smaller numbers can be seen on the Bunded pools and Ash Pool compartment.

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### Eurasian reed warbler

*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Number of records           1  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS       No  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

A single record was received, of a single bird seen at the Ash pool on 09/09 (DN)

### Where to see on the reserve

A scarce visitor to the reserve, Reed Warblers are birds of reed beds so are most likely to be seen in the reed bed of the Ash pool compartment and the pool by the visitor centre.

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### Eurasian rock pipit

*Anthus petrosus*

Number of records           1  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS       No  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

A single bird was seen by the West hide on 21/10 (RE).

### Where to see on the reserve

A scarce visitor to the reserve, Rock Pipit are usually seen on the rocks running alongside the access road to the West hide.

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### Eurasian siskin

*Carduelis spinus*

Number of records           2  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS       No  
survey

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Two records were received for 2009. A single bird was seen on two occasions at the feeding station by the New hide on 09/03 (KLJ & BH) and 14/06 (JP).

### Where to see on the reserve

A scarce visitor to the reserve, Siskin are usually recorded on the bird feeders at the feeding station by the New hide.

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## Eurasian sparrowhawk

*Accipiter nisus*

Number of records           8  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS survey   Yes

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0
Peak Count	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0

Eight records were received, all of single birds, and all from the Bunded pool compartment. A bird was seen to attack a Kingfisher on 01/09 (UO).

### Where to see on the reserve

Sparrowhawk are usually seen hunting the area around the Bunded pools although they are occasionally recorded from the West hide.

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## Eurasian stonechat

*Saxicola torquatus*

Number of records           6  
Peak Count                   2  
Recorded during WEBS survey   No

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

All records were of birds seen in the first half of the year with single birds seen on five occasions and 2 birds seen on 01/05 (RR).

### Where to see on the reserve

Stonechat can usually be encountered on the bushes that run alongside the access road either side of the Helipad.

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## Eurasian spoonbill

### Latin Name

Number of records	6
Peak Count	1
Recorded during WEBS survey	No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0

Six records were received all of single birds.

Three records were from the Bunded pool with birds seen from the middle hide on 25/04 (MM) and 30/10 (DB) and the new hide on 17/05 (HS). There were also three records from Oakenhalt Marsh with a single bird seen twice on 11/07 (JMc & SS) and a single on 14/07 (JMc & DMc).

### Where to see on the reserve

Spoonbill is a scarce visitor to the reserve, although records over the last few years have increased. Most records are from the West hide overlooking Oakenhalt Marsh and the river channel.

## Eurasian teal

### Anas crecca

Number of records	82
Peak Count	850
Recorded during WEBS survey	Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	20	8	8	0	1	1	1	6	14	13	10
Peak Count	0	120	40	12	0	2	2	3	850	600	400	350

Teal were recorded in every month apart from January and May. Records from the summer months are low with only single records of 2 or 3 birds. The high count of 850 birds was recorded on 22/09 from Oakenhalt Marsh (PDS). The high count for within the reserve boundary was of 400 birds seen on the Ash Pool on 20/11 (AW).

Eighteen records were from the Oakenhalt Marsh area with an average count of 200 birds and 64 records from the Bunded Pool and Ash pool compartments with an average count of 26 birds.

### Where to see on the reserve

Teal can be seen on the Ash pool and Bunded pool as well as the gutters and channels of the salt marsh. At high tide in winter, large flocks can be seen on the Oakenhalt Marsh as the water pushes the birds out of the gutters and channels.

## Eurasian wigeon

### Anas penelope

Number of records 52  
 Peak Count 620  
 Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	12	2	8	1	5	1	2	2	3	9	7
Peak Count	0	200	50	10	1	4	1	1	1	15	27	620

Only six records were from Oakenhalt Marsh, however these records did include the highest count of 620 birds on 04/12 (UO). Other high counts include 200 birds seen on 29/12 from the middle hide (TGP) 200 on the River Dee on 01/02 (AW) and 150 on the Ash pool on 01/02 (AW).

The last few summers has seen a male bird appear to stay on the Ash pool over the summer months, this probably accounts for the records from May to September, although 4 birds were seen on 10/06 on the Ash pool (JH).

### Where to see on the reserve

Oakenhalt marsh and the Ash pool complex are the most popular areas for records, although good numbers of birds can also be seen on the Bunded pools where they feed on the grassy areas at low tide.

### European golden plover

*Pluvialis apricaria*

Number of records 1  
 Peak Count 1  
 Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A single bird was seen on Oakenhalt marsh on 11/01 (PDS)

### Where to see on the reserve

Golden plover are irregular visitors to the reserve and are usually seen on Oakenhalt Marsh.

### European goldfinch

*Carduelis carduelis*

Number of records 48  
 Peak Count 80  
 Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	4	11	5	1	2	7	6	6	1	5	0
Peak Count	0	14	7	5	1	4	8	50	80	5	10	0

Regular feeding at the feeding station by the new hide has led to an increase in records of Goldfinch, meaning they are seen on almost every visit, however this does not seem to be reflected in the number of records. Birds were seen in every month but January and December.

The largest flocks were 80 on 19/09, 50 on 14/08 and 30 on 17/08 all in the Ash pool compartment (all JH). The largest count at the feeding station was of 14 birds seen on 28/02 (WG).

Most records were of multiple birds, with only nine records of single birds. Thirty six records were of birds seen at the feeding station.

### Where to see on the reserve

Goldfinch can be seen feeding on the Niger seed at the Feeding station. Larger flocks of birds can also be seen gathered on the fencing around the Ash pool compartment.

## European greenfinch

*Carduelis chloris*

Number of records            31  
 Peak Count                    40  
 Recorded during WEBS      Yes  
 survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	6	4	0	1	5	6	2	3	3	1
Peak Count	0	0	4	4	0	1	16	15	10	10	8	1

All records were from the feeding station. The high count of 40 birds was on 11/08 (JMc). There were only four records of single birds, all other records were of between 2 and 16 birds. Birds were seen in all months apart from January, February and May.

### Where to see on the reserve

The feeding station by the new hide.

## European robin

*Erithacus rubecula*

Number of records            17  
 Peak Count                    5  
 Recorded during WEBS      Yes  
 survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	4	2	1	0	2	1	2	2	2	0
Peak Count	0	1	3	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0

There were only seventeen records of Robin for 2009, and all records were from the scrub area screening the Bunded pool from the access road. A singing bird was seen on 28/10 (RE). The highest count was of 5 birds seen on 17/10 (GEM).

### Where to see on the reserve

Almost anywhere there is scrub or hedgerow, although most records are from the Bunded pool area.

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### Fieldfare

#### Turdus pilaris

Number of records           1  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS survey   Yes

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6

Only one record for 2009, of 6 birds seen on 20/12 (AW) in the trees running down from to the helipad from the entrance gate.

### Where to see on the reserve

Fieldfare are sporadic winter visitors to the reserve and are seen in the berry laden bushes along the fields, Bunded pools and nature trail.

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### Feral goose

Number of records           1  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS survey   No

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0

Three feral geese were recorded on 15/10 in a flock of Canada Geese on Oakenhalt Marsh (KLJ & BH).

---

### Gadwall

#### Anas strepera

Number of records           18  
Peak Count                   7  
Recorded during WEBS survey   Yes

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	4	2	7	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	4	7	6	2	0	3	1	1	0	0	0

All records of Gadwall were from the Ash Pool. The highest count was of 7 birds seen on 03/03 (PR). There were no records for the winter period. Most records were received in the

Spring months, suggesting the Ash pool is used by birds moving through to breeding grounds.

### Where to see on the reserve

Gadwall can be seen on the Ash pool.

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### Goldcrest

*Regulus regulus*

Number of records           1  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS      No  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

A single bird was seen on 17/10 by the Middle hide (GEM).

### Where to see on the reserve

Goldcrest are recorded annually but in low numbers. Any area of scrub or hedgerow.

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### Great black-backed gull

*Larus marinus*

Number of records           5  
Peak Count                   35  
Recorded during WEBS      Yes  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	35	0

Three of the five records were of single birds, seen on 02/04 (AK), 08/09 and 09/09 (both DN). Four birds seen on 17/10 (GEM) and 35 birds were roosting on Oakenhalt Marsh at high tide on 22/11 (AW).

### Where to see on the reserve

Oakenhalt marsh, where birds roost at high tide. Birds can also be seen flying up and down the River Dee.

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### Great cormorant

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Number of records           49  
Peak Count                   50  
Recorded during WEBS      Yes  
survey



## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	10	15	5	2
Peak Count	0	28	30	1	1	4	3	3	50	40	33	27

Thirty records were of birds seen from the Bunded pools, with counts between 1 bird and 28 birds. Seventeen records were from Oakenhalt marsh with high counts of 50 birds seen on 19/09 (JH) and 29/09 (MG). Two records of birds roosting on the jetty just off the nature trail were received, with counts of 10 and 22 birds.

### Where to see on the reserve

Birds roost on Oakenhalt marsh at high tide and can be seen fishing in the river on a rising tide. Birds also roost on the exposed sandbanks at low tide.

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## Great crested grebe

### Podiceps cristatus

Number of records            11  
Peak Count                     6  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                            Yes

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	0	1	2	1	1
Peak Count	0	0	1	5	2	2	0	0	2	6	3	1

Two birds were seen on the Bunded pools with singles on 23/09 (UO) and 17/10 (GEM). A high count of six birds were seen on 10/10 from the West hide (GR).

### Where to see on the reserve

West hide with birds being most often seen at high tide. Occasional sightings are made from the Bunded pool hides.

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## Great spotted woodpecker

### Dendrocopos major

Number of records            16  
Peak Count                     2  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                            Yes

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	1	1	7	4	0	1	1	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	0

A single bird was seen in the Ash pool complex on the 20/5 (JJ), all other records were for the Bunded pool area. Two birds were seen on 09/08 (CA), all other records were of single birds.

### Where to see on the reserve

An irregular visitor to the reserve. The feeding station by the new hide is the best place to see Great spotted woodpecker.

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**Great tit**  
*Parus major*

Number of records            16  
Peak Count                    5  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                        Yes

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	5	0	1	0	2	3	1	1	2	0
Peak Count	0	1	3	0	1	0	5	3	1	2	2	0

There were surprisingly few records of Great tit for 2009. All records were from the Bunded pool area, with a maximum count of 5 birds seen on 27/07 (SD). There is no specific evidence of breeding but nest box records indicate that breeding may have taken place on the reserve.

**Where to see on the reserve**

Great tit can be seen on the nut feeders at the feeding station and in the surrounding bushes and trees.

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**Greater scaup**  
*Aythya marila*

Number of records            1  
Peak Count                    1  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                        No

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

A female was seen on the Ash pool on 27/09 (GEM)

**Where to see on the reserve**

A scarce but almost annual visitor, Scaup can be seen on the Ash pool or Bunded pool.

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**Grey heron**  
*Ardea cinerea*

Number of records            151  
Peak Count                    12  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                        Yes

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	12	1	8	14	17	13	11	19	32	15	9
Peak Count	0	3	1	2	2	12	3	12	3	5	5	4

Almost half of the records were of single birds, recorded mainly on the Bunded pools. There were 63 records of between 2 and 5 birds, a single record of 7 birds seen on the 17/10 (GEM), 9 birds seen on 20/06 (DN) and two records of 12 birds from the Middle hide on 12/06 (AD) and Oakenhalt Marsh on 12/08 (JH). Records in the last 6 months of the year would suggest a build up of young birds after the breeding season that decreases over the winter period. Breeding birds appear to disperse to there breeding grounds in February with fewer records in March and April.

### Where to see on the reserve

Oakenhalt Marsh and the Bunded pools are the best place to see Heron. In late summer when the water level can be low on the Bunded pools groups of birds can be seen feeding in the small pools of water.

### Grey Plover

*Pluvialis squatarola*

Number of records            2  
 Peak Count                    1  
 Recorded during WEBS survey    Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Two sightings of Grey plover were recorded in 2009, both of single birds on Oakenhalt Marsh on 09/02 (KLJ& BH) and during a WEBS high tide count on 12/04 (AW).

### Where to see on the reserve

Grey plover are usually seen at low tide on the exposed mud banks of the River Dee, but can also be seen roosting on the salt marsh at high tide.

### Grey wagtail

*Motacilla cinerea*

Number of records            1  
 Peak Count                    1  
 Recorded during WEBS survey    No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A single bird was recorded on 03/04 (UO) by the Ash pool.

### Where to see on the reserve

An unusual visitor to the reserve although probably occurs annually, records are usually from the area immediately around the West hide.

## Greylag goose

Anser anser

Number of records 6  
Peak Count 50  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	50	0	1	0	1	5	30	0	1	0	0

Only six records for 2009 were received for Greylag goose, and only single records for each of the months they were recorded. Three records were from Oakenhalt marsh, two from the Ash pool and a single record from the Bunded pools where a lone bird was seen on 02/04 (AK).

The high counts were 50 birds seen on 22/02 (HJ) and 30 seen with Canada Goose on 20/08 (TGP) both flocks were on Oakenhalt marsh.

### Where to see on the reserve

Oakenhalt marsh and Ash pool fields. Occasionally birds are seen on the Bunded pools.

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## Hen harrier

Circus cyaneus

Number of records 2  
Peak Count 1  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

A female was recorded over the Bunded pools on 30/11 (EN) and a ringtail was seen hunting the salt marsh adjacent to the Helipad on 20/12 (AW) during a WEBS high tide count, before flying over to Burton Marsh.

### Where to see on the reserve

Hen Harrier can often be seen hunting Burton marsh from the West Hide (these sightings are not included in this report) but occasionally birds wander over to the Welsh side of the estuary.

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## Herring gull

Larus argentatus

Number of records 7  
Peak Count 6  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	1	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	1	6	4	0

Seven records were received between June and November. The highest count was 6 birds seen on 17/10 (GEM) between the West hide and the Bunded pools. Five birds were seen on Oakenhalt marsh on 07/06 (AW) and 4 birds were seen on two occasions, both groups on Oakenhalt marsh, on 26/07 and 22/11 (AW).

### Where to see on the reserve

Herring gull can be seen in the Gull high tide roost on Oakenhalt marsh and flying up and down river. Birds can also be seen on the Bunded pools.

### Jack snipe

*Lymnocyptes minimus*

Number of records           1  
Peak Count                    1  
Recorded during WEBS survey   No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

A single record was received for a bird seen on the Ash pool on 29/11 (BL)

### Where to see on the reserve

A winter visitor, Jack snipe are a rarely recorded bird on the reserve, this could be down to their skulking habits. Suitable habitat exists around the Bunded pools.

### Lesser black-backed gull

*Larus fuscus*

Number of records           24  
Peak Count                    22  
Recorded during WEBS survey   Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	6	11	1	0
Peak Count	0	1	0	0	0	3	22	20	1	14	21	0

The most commonly recorded large gull on the reserve, there were 24 records of Lesser blacked-backed gull for 2009. Most records were of single birds seen on the Bunded pools, but groups of 20 birds or more were seen on Oakenhalt marsh on 3 occasions, with 20 on 30/07 (UO), 21 on 22/11 (AW) and 22 on 26/07 (AW).

### Where to see on the reserve

Lesser black-backed gull can be seen in the Gull high tide roost on Oakenhalt marsh and in lesser numbers on the Bunded pools. Lesser black-backed gull also seem to favour the gully between the Helipad and the New hide roosting on the exposed mud banks at low tide.

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**Little egret**  
*Egretta garzetta*

Number of records           186  
 Peak Count                   18  
 Recorded during WEBS survey   Yes

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	2	7	17	20	19	11	21	34	33	17	5
Peak Count	0	1	5	9	5	14	10	18	9	8	6	3

Little egret have increased in numbers significantly over the last 20 years, and the number of records from the reserve certainly match this. There were more records in 2009 of Little Egret than Grey Heron.

The largest counts were of 13 birds on 07/08 (GR), 14 on 20/06 (UO) and 18 on 09/08 (BP & GP). The majority of records were from the Bunded pools, with 145 out of the 186 records for 2009, however the two highest counts were of birds on Oakenhalt marsh.

**Where to see on the reserve**

The Bunded pools is the best place to see Little Egret where birds can be seen fishing in the pools or roosting on the waters edge. Birds can also be seen on the salt-marsh.

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**Little grebe**  
*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Number of records           93  
 Peak Count                   4  
 Recorded during WEBS survey   Yes

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	10	9	10	7	4	4	3	16	18	12	0
Peak Count	0	2	4	3	2	4	4	2	3	3	3	0

Sightings of Little grebe were from the Ash pool and Bunded pool compartments. Records from the winter periods are almost exclusively of birds on the Bunded pools, whilst records from the summer months are of birds on the Ash pool.

Four birds were recorded on three occasions, with birds seen on the Ash pool on 15/03 (AW), 12/06 (UO) and 27/07 (JMc & DMc). Three birds were seen on 14 occasions and 2

birds were noted on 35 occasions. Although no evidence of breeding was recorded Little Grebe are likely to have bred on the Ash pool in 2009.

### Where to see on the reserve

Little grebe are likely to be found on the Ash pool during the summer months, and can be seen on the Bunded pools during the winter months.

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### Little ringed plover

*Charadrius dubius*

Number of records           3  
Peak Count                   3  
Recorded during WEBS survey   No

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0

Little ringed plover is now an annual visitor to the reserve, with breeding taking place elsewhere on the Estuary. The first bird of the year was seen on 12/04 from the middle hide (SM). Another record of a single bird was received for 13/07 again from the middle hide (KLJ & BH). The last record of the year was of 3 birds on Oakenhalt marsh on 19/08 (JH).

### Where to see on the reserve

Little ringed plover can usually be seen on the Bunded pools in mid to late April. Records later in the year are probably birds moving through the area after breeding.

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### Long-billed dowitcher

*Limnodromus scolopaceus*

Number of records           10  
Peak Count                   2  
Recorded during WEBS survey   No

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

A pair of Long-billed dowitcher were present on the Dee Estuary during October and were seen on the reserve for a week from 19/10 to 26/10 although not always together. The first record was of 2 birds on the Bunded pools, seen from the middle hide (KLJ & BH), the last records was a single bird seen from the West hide on 26/10 (KLJ & BH).

### Where to see on the reserve

An extremely rare visitor suitable habit exists on the Bunded pools and the area around the West hide at low tide.

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## Long-tailed tit

### *Aegithalos caudatus*

Number of records           5  
Peak Count                   14  
Recorded during WEBS      Yes  
survey

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Peak Count	0	0	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	14	9	0

Although no breeding evidence was recorded in 2009, suitable breeding habit exists and Long-tailed tit have bred in previous years. All sightings were around the Bunded pools and consisted of small groups from 2 to 14 birds. The party of 14 was seen on 17/10 (GEM).

#### Where to see on the reserve

Hedgerow and scrub surrounding Bunded pool and Ash pool compartments. Long-tailed tit may be seen at the feeding station.

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## Mallard

### *Anas platyrhynchos*

Number of records           138  
Peak Count                   212  
Recorded during WEBS      Yes  
survey

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	20	10	22	23	5	5	6	12	18	9	8
Peak Count	0	50	40	12	23	212	156	60	19	80	79	55

Probably the commonest duck seen on the reserve, there were 138 records for 2009. Birds were seen in 11 out of 12 months, although the lack of records for January is probably down to under recording. The high counts for the year were 212 birds on Oakenhalt Marsh and 160 birds on the Ash pool during a WEBS high tide count on 07/06 (AW). On 26/07 the Ash pool held 156 birds (AW). There were 29 records of 20 or more birds, whilst single birds were recorded on only 13 occasions.

No evidence of breeding was recorded, but the peak counts in summer may relate to a build up of birds for a post breeding moult.

#### Where to see on the reserve

Mallard can be seen anywhere on the reserve where there is water. The largest flocks are seen on the Ash pool and the Bunded pools.

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## Meadow pipit



## Anthus pratensis

Number of records 14  
Peak Count 12  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	3	4	1	0	2	1	2	2	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	12	11	1	0	2	2	5	2	0	0

All meadow pipit records for the year were from the Ash pool and Bunded pool compartments. Birds using the salt marsh and fields either side of the helipad are probably under recorded or recorded in the hide books.

There were two counts of more than ten birds, with 11 seen on 09/04 (KLJ & BH) and 12 birds seen on 20/03 (DN). No evidence of breeding was recorded although may have taken place.

### Where to see on the reserve

Meadow pipit can be seen in the fields either side of the helipad and the salt marsh running adjacent to the access road. The ash pool and Bunded pool compartments can also be a good place to see this species.

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## Mediterranean gull

Larus melanocephalus

Number of records 1  
Peak Count 1  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A single record was received of a bird on 22/02 (NJ).

### Where to see on the reserve

Mediterranean gull have continued to expand their range northwards and although a rare visitor to the reserve are seen annually in small numbers. Records have been received from the Bunded pools and the West hide in recent years.

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## Merlin

Falco columbarius

Number of records 18  
Peak Count 1

Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	5	1	4	0	0	1	1	0	4	2	0
Peak Count	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0

All eighteen records of Merlin were of single birds, seen in seven out of twelve months. Female birds were identified on 5 occasions, no definitive records of male birds were received.

The first record was on 08/02 (UO) with the last of the 2008/09 winter period on 11/04 (JH). The first record for the second winter period was on 03/10 (JH). The two records from July and August may have been early or non-breeding birds returning from their breeding grounds. Last record of the year was a bird seen on 05/11 (DB).

### Where to see on the reserve

Merlin can be seen hunting Oakenhalt marsh at high tide, where they often rest on the Ash pool compartment fence. They can also be seen roosting in the trees around the Bunded pools.

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### Common gull

*Larus canus*

Number of records 5  
Peak Count 100  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

Two records were from February with 100 birds seen on the Ash pool on 01/02 (AW) and 4 birds seen at the same location on 14/02 (PD). Single birds were seen on Oakenhalt marsh on 08/09, 09/09 (DN) and 03/10 (UO).

### Where to see on the reserve

Common gull can be seen in the high tide gull roost on Oakenhalt marsh and the Ash pool.

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### Mistle thrush

*Turdus viscivorus*

Number of records 1  
Peak Count 1  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Only a single records was received, with 4 birds being seen on the Ash pool complex on 01/02 (SS).

### Where to see on the reserve

An unusual bird for the reserve, Mistle thrush is usually seen around the Ash pool complex although can be seen along the Nature trail.

### Mute swan

*Cygnus olor*

Number of records            81  
Peak Count                        12  
Recorded during WEBS survey    Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	3	13	30	13	5	7	5	1	1	3
Peak Count	0	0	11	12	12	6	5	5	4	8	1	8

At least one pair nested successfully on the Ash pool, and raised at least 1 cygnet until it was last seen on 11/09 (JH). The first cygnets were recorded on 11/08 although the counts of 4+ birds from May onwards probably relate to 2 Adults with Cygnets.

Records were from the Ash pool and Bunded pools with two high counts of 12 birds on 02/04 (AK) and 25/02 (JH).

### Where to see on the reserve

Mute swan nest on the Ash pool and can be regularly seen on the River, Oakenhalt marsh and the Bunded pools

### Northern lapwing

*Vanellus vanellus*

Number of records            148  
Peak Count                        2000  
Recorded during WEBS survey    Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records												
Peak Count												

Large flocks of Lapwing were recorded in the second winter period with 2000 birds on 20/11 (AW, 1200 on 22/11 (AW) and 1250 on 04/12 (UO) all on Oakenhalt Marsh. There were two

largish flocks in the first winter period seen on the Ash pool compartment with 400 on 01/02 (AW) and 300 on 08/02 (AW).

Birds seen on the Bunded pools are generally in single figures although small flocks of up to 30 birds were recorded on 26 occasions. Flocks of over 100 birds were recorded on 6 occasions between August and October.

Lapwing can often be seen feeding in the fields either side of the helipad with 78 on 20/12 (AW) and 52 on 22/11 (AW).

### Where to see on the reserve

Large flocks can be seen roosting on Oakenhalt marsh at high tide during the winter months. Smaller flocks can also be seen on the Ash pool compartment/Wetland meadow. Smaller flocks of birds can often be seen feeding in the fields either side of the helipad.

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## Northern pintail

*Anas acuta*

Number of records           6  
Peak Count                   800  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                       No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	800	0	0

All records for Pintail were between 27/09 and 21/10. The first record was a female seen on the Ash pool (GEM) with the last record a flock of 300 birds seen on the river. A single bird was recorded on the Bunded pools on 03/10 (UO) and the highest count of the 6 records was a flock of 600 birds seen on the river on 19/10 (UO).

### Where to see on the reserve

Pintail are usually recorded on the River Dee, seen from either the West hide or the access roads between the hides. Occasionally birds find their way onto the reserve pools.

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## Northern raven

*Corvus corax*

Number of records           11  
Peak Count                   3  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                       Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	2	0	3	0	0
Peak Count	0	2	2	0	0	1	3	1	0	2	0	0

A high count of 3 birds was recorded on 24/07 (JMc & DMc) with the birds seen on Oakenhalt marsh. Two birds were seen on four occasions and single birds seen on 6 occasions.

### Where to see on the reserve

Birds can be seen on Oakenhalt marsh and the Bunded pools as well as along the nature trail.

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### Northern shoveler

*Anas clypeata*

Number of records            11  
Peak Count                    6  
Recorded during WEBS survey    Yes

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3
Peak Count	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6

All records apart from one were from the Ash pool field. The Record away from the Ash pool was of 3 birds seen from the middle hide on 04/12 (JR). A male was seen on 13/11 (BH), 14/11 (PD) and 15/11 (DN) and 4 males and a female were seen on 21/12 (KLJ). The first record of the year was 4 birds seen on 01/02 (GEM).

### Where to see on the reserve

Shoveler are generally seen on the Ash pool although birds occasionally find their way to the Bunded pools.

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### Northern wheatear

*Oenanthe oenanthe*

Number of records            25  
Peak Count                    5  
Recorded during WEBS survey    No

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	3	7	11	0	0	2	2	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	1	2	5	0	0	1	1	0	0	0

The first bird of the year was a female seen on 19/03 along the nature trail (KLJ & BH), there were twenty further records until the end of May, with 4 birds seen on 06/05 (JH) and 5 birds on 09/05 (PDS) and 10/05 (SS). There were no records for June and July, presumably because all birds had moved to their breeding areas.

The first 'Autumn' record was of a single bird seen on 17/08 by the West hide. There were three further records until 16/09 including a bird of the Greenland race *leucorhoa* seen by the west hide on 31/08 (SS).

**Where to see on the reserve**

The first birds of the year are often seen on the Salt marsh alongside the nature trail. The fields and salt marsh leading up to the West hide often hold 1 or 2 birds throughout May. The Bunded pools can also be a place to see Wheatear early in the year.

**Osprey**

*Panidion haliaetus*

Number of records            1  
 Peak Count                    1  
 Recorded during WEBS survey    No

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

An Osprey was seen on 02/04 sitting on the far bank of the river then seen to fly away from the area (AK)

**Where to see on the reserve**

A rare sighting on the reserve, Osprey are recorded in the area annually on their Migration north.

**Peregrine falcon**

*Falco peregrinus*

Number of records            36  
 Peak Count                    3  
 Recorded during WEBS survey    Yes

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	5	1	1	3	1	3	9	2	7	2	1
Peak Count	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	2	2

Peregrine falcon can be a common sight in the winter months hunting Oakenhalt marsh and the Bunded pools. A pair were seen on 01/02 (AW) by the new hide. There were sightings in every month of the year with 2 or 3 birds recorded on ten occasions. A bird with prey was seen on 20/08 over Oakenhalt marsh (TGP) and a pair were observed hunting and successfully catching a Redshank on 04/12 over Oakenhalt marsh (UO).

**Where to see on the reserve**

Peregrine can be seen hunting Oakenhalt marsh and the Bunded pools during the winter months and also using the electricity pylons as perches.

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## **Pied avocet**

### **Recurvirostra avosetta**

Number of records           1  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS       No  
survey

#### **Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A sighting of 2 birds was made on the 25/04 from the middle hide overlooking the Bunded pools.

#### **Where to see on the reserve**

Scarce but annual, Avocet breed within the Estuary and sightings are becoming more frequent. Most sightings are of birds on the exposed mud banks at low tide, but occasionally birds are seen on the Bunded pools.

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## **Pink-footed goose**

### **Anser brachyrhynchus**

Number of records           1  
Peak Count                   49  
Recorded during WEBS       No  
survey

#### **Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0	0

A flock of 49 Pink-footed geese were observed flying over the far side of the river on 25/10 (UO).

#### **Where to see on the reserve**

A scarce visitor, most records are from Oakenhalt marsh or of birds on Burton Marsh seen from the West hide.

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## **Red knot**

### **Calidris canutus**

Number of records           29  
Peak Count                   2000  
Recorded during WEBS       Yes  
survey

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	1	1	1	4	5	1	1	1	4	7	1	2
Peak Count	250	3	4	300	200	2	1	15	1200	2000	500	15

Unusually for a wading birds sightings were made in every month of the year. Birds seen during the summer months were presumably non-breeding birds.

High counts were as follows, 500 birds on 17/10 (GEM) and 22/11 (AW), 1200 birds on 22/09 (PDS), 1500 birds on 19/10 (UO) and 2000 birds seen on 10/10 (GR). All but 3 records were from Oakenhalt marsh. The largest count away from Oakenhalt marsh was of 500 birds observed on 17/10 between the West hide and the Bunded pools.

### Where to see on the reserve

Oakenhalt marsh and the exposed mud banks of the River Dee at Low tide. Smaller numbers can be seen on the Bunded pools.

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## Red-legged partridge

*Alectoris rufa*

Number of records           5  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS      No  
survey

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

All five records were from a 3 day period at the end of October. A single bird was seen on 3 separate days, the 20/10 (UO), 22/10 (MM) and 3 times on the 23/10 (AN, GEM & LJ).

### Where to see on the reserve

A single Red-legged partridge has been seen on the reserve for the last few years, it is usually seen between the helipad and the East hide.

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## Redwing

*Turdus iliacus*

Number of records           6  
Peak Count                   15  
Recorded during WEBS      Yes  
survey

## Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	15	0



There were six sightings of Redwing in 2009, 4 from the Bunded pools, 1 from the Ash pool area when 15 birds were seen on 13/11 (BH) and a single record from Oakenhalt marsh where a male and 2 female were seen on 26/10 (AP & PB).

### Where to see on the reserve

Redwing are usually seen feeding on the bushes bordering the Bunded pool and on the access road leading down to the Helipad. Numbers can vary greatly from year to year.

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## Ross's goose

Latin Name

Number of records 1  
Peak Count 1  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

An accurate description was recorded of a Ross's goose on Oakenhalt marsh seen well but distantly from the west hide on 15/10 (KLJ & BH). This bird was seen to fly off with Greylag goose.

### Where to see on the reserve

The first known record for the reserve was received in 2009.

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## Ruddy duck

*Oxyura jamaicensis*

Number of records 14  
Peak Count 2  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	3	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sixteen records were received over a seven week period between mid April and early June. Sightings were of between 1 and 2 birds all from the Ash pool. The first sighting was of a single bird on 12/04 (JH) with the last being 2 birds seen on 03/06 (UO).

### Where to see on the reserve

Sightings of Ruddy duck are almost exclusively from the Ash pool.

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**Ruddy shelduck**  
*Tadorna ferruginea*

Number of records 10  
Peak Count 2  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	3	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	0

Sightings of single birds were made on 9 occasions, although two of these sightings were reported as possible hybridised birds with Common shelduck. Two birds were seen on 11/07 on Oakenhalt marsh (MM).

**Where to see on the reserve**

Sightings are usually from Oakenhalt marsh or the river at low tide. Care should be taken with identification as a hybrid birds have been observed and photographed in the area over the last 3 or 4 years.

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**Ruddy turnstone**  
*Arenaria interpres*

Number of records 1  
Peak Count 1  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

An unusual sighting for the reserve was a single Turnstone seen on Oakenhalt marsh on 16/08 (JMc)

**Where to see on the reserve**

A scarce visitor as there is very little suitable habitat. Recent sightings have been on Oakenhalt marsh and the Bunded pools.

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**Ruff**  
*Philomachus pugnax*

Number of records 1  
Peak Count 1  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

A female was seen from the Middle hide on 16/08 (GEM).

### Where to see on the reserve

A rare visitor, records are usually from the Bunded pools, but birds can also be seen on the Ash pool compartment/Wetland meadow and Oakenhalt marsh.

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### Sand martin

*Riparia riparia*

Number of records            13  
Peak Count                    50  
Recorded during WEBS       Yes  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	2	6	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	2	15	40	20	50	0	0	0	0

Usually the first of the Hirundines to arrive from Africa during the spring, the first record was received for 2 birds seen on 27/04 (UO) after both Barn swallow and House martin. The last record was of 50 birds seen on 17/08 over the Ash pool (JH) this sighting also accounted for the highest count for 2009. All sightings were of birds over the ash pool.

### Where to see on the reserve

Sand martin can usually be seen hawking for insects over the Ash pool.

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### Sanderling

*Calidris alba*

Number of records            1  
Peak Count                    1  
Recorded during WEBS       No  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

A single bird was observed on Oakenhalt marsh on 11/10 (MJ).

### Where to see on the reserve

An unusual visitor to the reserve, Sanderling are usually found further out towards the mouth of the Estuary.

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### Sky lark

*Alauda arvensis*

Number of records 16  
 Peak Count 10  
 Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	2	5	3	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	10	6	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0

First record of the year was a single bird on 01/02 (GEM). High counts were 10 birds on 08/02 seen on the Ash pool compartment (GEM), 6 birds on 12/03 (CA) on the Bunded pools and 5 birds seen on 21/03 also on the Bunded pools (AN). The last record was a single bird seen on the 17/10 (GEM). Sky lark are present throughout the year although harsh weather may push them further away looking for food. The lack of records for the late summer months and winter may be down to under recording.

### Where to see on the reserve

Sky lark can be seen singing high above the salt marsh and fields on sunny Spring and Summer days. Small flocks are often pushed up from the salt-marsh at high tide.

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### Snow goose *Anser caerulescens*

Number of records 1  
 Peak Count 3  
 Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0

Three birds were reported on Oakenhalt marsh on 08/09 (DN)

### Where to see on the reserve

The first known record of Snow goose was received during 2009.

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### Song thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Number of records 2  
 Peak Count 2  
 Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

Only two records were received for 2009, 2 birds were seen on 08/02 in the Ash pool compartment and a single bird was seen on 17/10 (GEM).

### Where to see on the reserve

Hedgerow surrounding Ash pool and Bunded pools and along the Nature trail.

## Spotted redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Number of records            50  
Peak Count                      12  
Recorded during WEBS        Yes  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	1	3	1	1	0	0	6	2	20	14	1	1
Peak Count	1	4	6	1	0	0	1	1	12	11	1	5

The Bunded pools is one of the best areas to see Spotted redshank in the region, and the number of records and high counts for 2009 show why, forty four records were received for the reserve between July and December with thirty eight of these from the Bunded pools with 8 or more birds seen on six occasions. Eight birds were seen on 04/09 (GEM), 18/09 (PDS & AW) and 01/10 (UO), there were 12 on 25/09 (SS) and 11 birds on 10/10 (SS).

Away from the Bunded pools, 6 birds were seen on Oakenhalt marsh on 26/03 (PDS), 11 birds on 19/10 (UO) and 5 on 04/12 (PDS).

### Where to see on the reserve

Spotted redshank can be seen from the Bunded pools where they like to roost in the furthest right hand corner of the middle pool as viewed from the middle hide. They can also be seen feeding in the channel that runs in front of the West hide at low tide.

## Stock dove *Columba oenas*

Number of records            3  
Peak Count                      2  
Recorded during WEBS        No  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0

Stock dove were seen on 3 occasions over 2 days in August. A single bird was seen on 02/08 from the middle hide overlooking the Bunded pools (GEM). A single was also seen on Oakenhalt marsh (GEM) and 2 birds again from the middle hide on 16/08 (SS).

#### **Where to see on the reserve**

Not enough information is available to identify the best place to see this species, although records have been received for the Bunded pools and Oakenhalt marsh.

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#### **Tufted duck *Aythya fuligula***

Number of records            51  
Peak Count                    21  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                         Yes

#### **Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	9	4	13	10	5	0	1	1	3	3	2
Peak Count	0	21	20	15	12	14	0	3	5	5	3	4

Recorded in all months but July, the highest count was 21 birds seen on the Ash pool on 28/02 (KLJ & BH). There was no evidence of breeding, although suitable habitat exists on the Ash pool, and records of pairs throughout spring suggest breeding may have taken place. Away from the Ash pool birds were seen on the Bunded pools, with all records from the middle hide.

#### **Where to see on the reserve**

Ash pool and Bunded pools.

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#### **Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbianus***

Number of records            2  
Peak Count                    13  
Recorded during WEBS  
survey                         No

#### **Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Peak Count	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13

There were two sightings of Bewick's swan during 2009, 10 birds were seen from the middle hide on 15/02 (DJ) and 13 birds were on the Ash pool on 28/12 (UO).

### Where to see on the reserve

Bewick's swan can be seen feeding on Shotwick fields during the winter months, and birds often venture farther a field including the River Dee, where they can be seen from the Reserve. Occasionally birds find there way onto the reserves pools or Oakenhalt marsh. Although distant, Bewick's swan can also be seen on Burton marsh, although identification is often difficult.

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### Twite

#### **Carduelis flavostris**

Number of records            1  
Peak Count                    1  
Recorded during WEBS      No  
survey

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

A single bird was seen from the middle hide over looking the Bunded pools on 20/10 (RP).

### Where to see on the reserve

A small flock is often recorded over-wintering on Oakenhalt marsh, these birds often find there way onto the reserve, usually around the West hide, although they can be seen on the salt-marsh and around the Bunded pools.

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### Eurasian jackdaw

#### **Corvus monedula**

Number of records            2  
Peak Count                    6  
Recorded during WEBS      Yes  
survey

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0

Only two sightings of Jackdaw were reported in 2009. A single bird was seen on the Bunded pools on 06/03 (AWi) and 6 birds were seen in the field to the left of the helipad on 18/10 (AW).

### Where to see on the reserve

Fields either side of the helipad and Ash pool field, Bunded pool and nature trail.

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**Western marsh harrier**  
**Circus aeruginosus**

Number of records           3  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS      No  
survey

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0

Marsh harrier was recorded on 3 occasions. On 09/08 1 bird was seen from the new hide over looking the Bunded pools (GEM), 1 bird was over the Ash pool on 20/08 (UO) and a single bird was seen from the East hide on 25/10 (PDS).

**Where to see on the reserve**

Marsh harrier sightings appear to be increasing, and birds that spend time on Burton marsh during migration can occasionally be seen hunting over the salt-marsh and pools of the reserve.

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**Whimbrel**  
**Numenius phaeopus**

Number of records           6  
Peak Count                   5  
Recorded during WEBS      No  
survey

**Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Not as common as it's relative the Curlew, Whimbrel were only seen during Spring migration in 2009. The first bird was seen on Oakenhalt marsh on 20/04 (HS). The last bird was seen on the Bunded pools on 10/05 (SS), also on the Bunded pools the high count of 5 birds were seen on 20/04 (KLJ & BH).

**Where to see on the reserve**

Oakenhalt marsh and mud banks at low tide. Occasionally birds are seen on the Bunded pools.

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## Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Number of records 1  
Peak Count 1  
Recorded during WEBS survey No

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A male bird was seen on the Ash pool complex on 06/05 (JH)

### Where to see on the reserve

Whinchat is an unusual species to see on the reserve, and any sightings are almost certainly of birds passing through during migration.

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## Pied wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Number of records 40  
Peak Count 50  
Recorded during WEBS survey Yes

### Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	4	6	9	2	2	5	3	3	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	23	20	8	3	50	10	10	5	0	0

### White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba alba*)

#### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0

There were a total of 50 records for Pied Wagtail including 6 of the subspecies *Motacilla alba alba* or *White wagtail*. The first sighting of the year was a group of 5 birds, consisting of 4 White wagtail and a single Pied Wagtail on 07/03(SS). The largest flock was of 50 birds on 26/07 (AW). The last White wagtail of the year was recorded on 22/09 (PDS) on Oakenhalt marsh. The last Pied Wagtail record was on 26/10 (AP & PB) when 5 birds were seen on Oakenhalt marsh.

### Where to see on the reserve

Pied wagtail are usually seen around the West hide and Ash pool compartment, although birds are occasionally found on the Bunded pools.

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### **Whooper swan Cygnus cygnus**

Number of records           3  
Peak Count                   10  
Recorded during WEBS      No  
survey

#### **Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Peak Count	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

There were three records of Whooper swan during 2009, 10 birds were seen from the New hide on 11/02 (UO), 2 birds we on the Ash pool on 28/12 (UO) and a single bird was seen on 29/12 (TGP).

#### **Where to see on the reserve**

Like Bewick's swan, Whooper swan can be seen on the nearby Shotwick fields over winter. Occasionally birds wander further a field and can be seen on the River Dee, Oakenhalt marsh and reserve pools.

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### **Willow warbler Phylloscopus trochilus**

Number of records           1  
Peak Count                   1  
Recorded during WEBS      No  
survey

#### **Monthly Records**

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A single bird was seen on 04/09 by the Middle hide (GEM).

#### **Where to see on the reserve**

Not as common on the reserve as Chiff Chaff, Willow Warbler are more likely to be seen passing through the reserve on migration.

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## Winter wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Number of records            2  
Peak Count                    2  
Recorded during WEBS       No  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

Almost certainly under recorded, there were only two records of Wren for 2009. A single bird was seen on 22/03 (KG & ECG) and 2 birds were seen on 17/10 (GEM).

### Where to see on the reserve

Winter wren can be seen in most places there is hedgerow and scrub, especially the edge of the Bunded pools and Ash pool, and the Nature trail.

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## Yellow wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Number of records            7  
Peak Count                    3  
Recorded during WEBS       No  
survey

### Monthly Records

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Records	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0
Peak Count	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	0

A good year for Yellow wagtail records, with seven received for 2009, all records were from the area around the West hide with five records from the Ash pool compartment. The first record of the year was a single bird seen with Pied wagtails on 09/04 from the West hide. The last record was of a single bird on the Ash pool compartment/Wetland meadow on 08/09 (DN). Three birds were seen from the West hide on 27/07 (SD).

### Where to see on the reserve

Yellow wagtail is scarcely recorded on the reserve, all records for 2009 were from the area around the West hide, the Wetland meadow perhaps providing the best habitat for this species.

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List of Observers and Initials used in report

Cliff Aincham	CA	
Jean Barber	JB	
Terry Barber	TB	
David Bavister	DB	
J Birch	JB <i>i</i>	
P Brown	PB	
D Chandler	DC	
S Chandler	SC	
B Davidson	BD	
A Dowling	AD	
RW Evans	RE	
Keith Lloyd-Jones	KLJ	
K Gilchrist	KG	
EC Gilchrist	ECG	
Sarah Greenwood	SG	
Keith Griffith	KG	
M Griffiths	MG	
Norman Hallas		NH
Christine Hamer	CH	
Roy Hamer	RH	
Bob Hayes	BH	
Joan Hotchkiss		JH
M Jackson	MJ	
N Jackson	NJ	
David Jones	DJ	
EG Jones	EGJ	
Linda Jones	LJ	
J Jones		JJ
P Jones		PJ
Arthur Kemp	AK	
Bob Lee		BL
T Lloyd		TL
S Lloyd		SL
Sue Masterman		SM
Daphne McWha	DM <i>c</i>	
John McWha	JM <i>c</i>	
GE Morris	GEM	
Mark Murphy	MM	
Alan Nevitt	AN	
E Nixon		EN
Denzil Nicklin	DN	
B Parry		BP
G Parry		GP
TG Parry	TGP	
D Pearson	DP	
Ron Plummer	RP	
A Preston	AP	
John Price	JP	
P Rathbone	PR	
Raymond Roberts	RR	
Geoff Robinson		GR
Julie Rogers	JR	
PD Shenton	PDS	

Stan Skelton	SS
E Stewardson	ES
M Sykes	MS
Andrew Wallbank	AW
A Williams	AWi
Fred Wright	FW
Mary Wright	MW
Unknown Observer	UO