

Deeside Naturalists' Society Bird Report

2023



Redshanks and Black-tailed godwits on rising tide. Peter Haslem.

Written June 2024 by Pete & Sue Haslem.

Deeside Naturalist Society (DNS) reserve is managed by the committee of trustees together with the support of Uniper. The reserve is strictly accessed by members only. For further information on joining please visit our website. www.deenats.org.uk

New species to the reserve bird list include two escapees: Golden Pheasant and Emperor Goose.

The total number of species seen on the reserve stands at 247 (including 18 escapes).

Notable records include White-fronted goose, Golden pheasant, Lesser white-fronted goose, Eider duck, Green sandpiper, Long-billed dowitcher, Black tern, Arctic tern, Spoonbill, Little stint, Water rail, Emperor goose, Hobby, Long-tailed duck and Waxwing.

The DNS reserve is observed from two main viewpoints.

1. Firstly, from the West hide this provides panoramic views across Oakenholt RSPB marsh, Flint sands and with a telescope Burton and Neston marshes. The West hide also provides a clear view of the freshwater pools (Ash pool and meadow pool) and associated grassland.

Tides and weather influence the movement of waders, wildfowl and seabirds on the Dee estuary.

2. Secondly from the Bunded hides (Dee, Middle and East) where brackish pools are fed with tidal water providing a refuge for waders and ducks. The surrounding hedges, trees and grazing land attract year-round and migration passage species.

136 species were recorded in 2023 from 4238 records.

Starting in 2012, we have been entering all DNS records into BTO's Bird Track. This system is based on 1x1km squares and the reserve is described by quadrants:

SJ2671 Includes Ash pool area and Oakenholt marsh.

2SJ2672 Flint sands and the Dee up to the breakwater (revetment).

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

SJ2772 Including Breakwater and Burton Marsh in Wales.

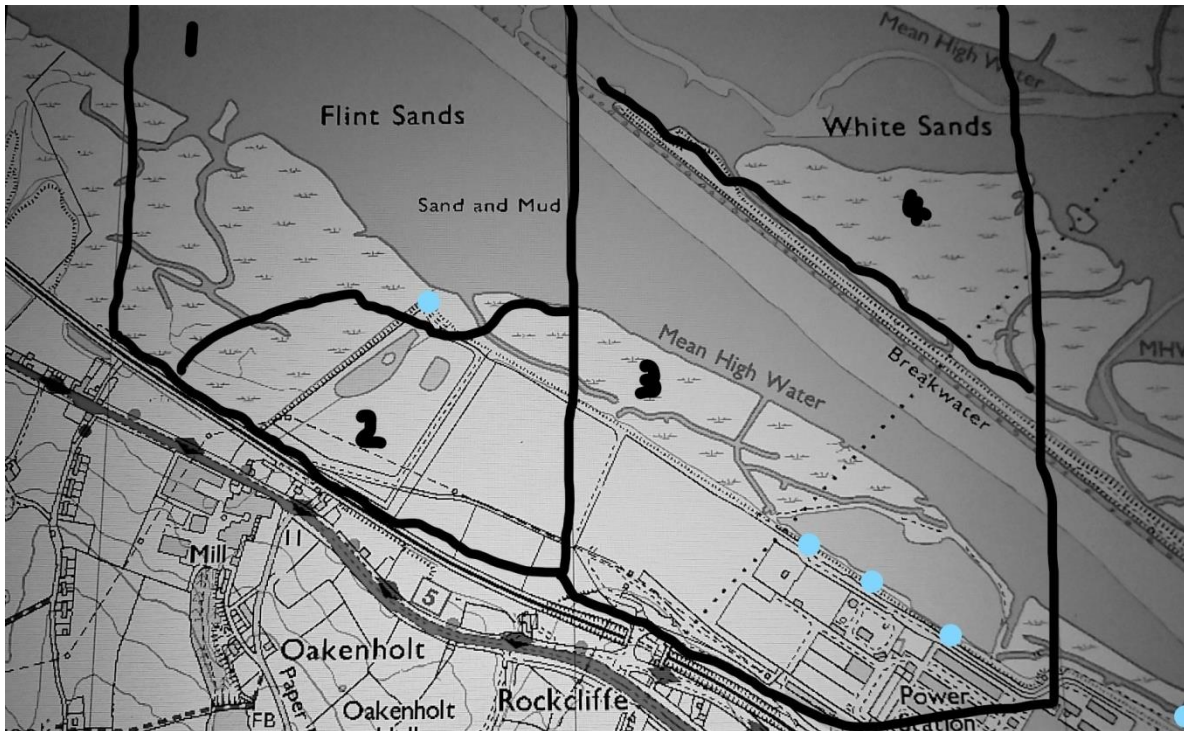
Observers record their sightings in the hide logs, summarised monthly and recorded on Bird track.

Many records are supported by photographic and/or video evidence.

Use of a mobile phone attachment on a telescope provides a quick easy *record shot*.

Photos included in the report were taken this year and on the reserve. All images are phone scoped using Samsung A21 and Swarovski ATX95

telescope.



Map of reserve: Hides are shown as dots.

1. 2SJ2672 CQNR Oakenholt Marsh and Flint Sands.
2. SJ2671 CQNR Ash Pool and Meadow Trail.
3. SJ2771 CQNR Bunded Pools and Garden Compound.
4. SJ2772 CQNR Whitesands.

THE SPECIES LIST FOR 2023.

New for the reserve list 2023 are Golden pheasant and Emperor goose (escapes).

Birds seen in less than 5 previous years on the Reserve are shown in **bold** face. Birds that nested this year as shown as **(B)**.

The tables show the **maximum count** for each month, except for raptors where the **total sightings** per month is shown. The tables clearly show seasonal distribution of passage birds and the best months to observe them.

Bird records are taken from hide logs and WeBS counts.

Red-legged Partridge (*Alectoris rufa*).

Released birds.

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

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*).

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

Golden Pheasant (*Chrysolophus pictus*).

Local released bird. A single female joined the Pheasants feeding around the bird feeders,



Golden pheasant. Peter Haslem.

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*).

Common resident population of up to 30.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus Cygnus*).

Winter visitor. Highest count of seven 01/01 (SH).

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

Resident in winter in their thousands. Large numbers roost and feed on Oakenholt marsh. 6000 recorded on 19/02.

| Pink footed | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| | 800 | 6000 | 4000 | 400 | | | | | 200 | | 1000 | 1100 |



Pink-footed geese. Peter Haslem.

White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*).

Uncommon winter visitor and migrant.

European wfg 05/01 to 28/01 (SH) with Pink-footed geese.



White-fronted goose with Pink-footed geese. Peter Haslem.

Lesser white-fronted goose. (*Anser erythropus*).

Feral from unknown origin. 18/02 (SH).

Emperor goose (*Anser canagica*).

Escape. 28/02 (SH).

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*).

Frequent feral visitor.

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

Common feral resident.

| Canada G | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Oakenholt | 1100 | 1500 | 1000 | 90 | 70 | 40 | 850 | 226 | 300 | 250 | 180 | 1200 |
| Ash Pool | 350 | 900 | 245 | 30 | 15 | | | | 280 | 10 | | 20 |
| Bunded | 30 | | 28 | 1 | 2 | | | 10 | 10 | 11 | 150 | 100 |

A pair nested on the Ash pool island producing two goslings on 23/05.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*).

Uncommon feral visitor during the winter period.

Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*).

Common all year round. Large numbers present on the Dee estuary for their summer moult before dispersing.

| Shelduck | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Oakenholt | 43 | 44 | 20 | 52 | 171 | 800 | 150 | 80 | 145 | 125 | 56 | 42 |
| Ash pool. | | | 15 | 14 | 10 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 60 | 4 | |
| 2Bunded | 5 | 5 | | 13 | 18 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 55 | 60 | 60 | 7 |

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*).

Uncommon visitor from feral population.

Five recorded 02/02 (SH).

Wigeon (*Anas Penelope*).

Common winter visitor.

| Wigeon | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Oakenholt | 500 | 280 | 200 | 30 | | | | | | 450 | 550 | 800 |
| Ash pool. | 190 | 350 | 130 | 38 | | 2 | 2 | 4 | | 50 | 74 | 200 |
| Bunded. | 90 | 160 | 60 | 9 | | | | | 5 | 50 | 200 | 330 |

Gadwall (*Anas strepera*).

Winter.

A small number overwinter on the Ash pool.

| Gadwall | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 6 | 9 | 6 | 11 | 10 | 4 | | | 2 | 2 | 9 | 9 |



Gadwall. Perer Haslem.

Teal (*Anas crecca*).

Common winter visitor.

1600 were recorded 28/10 (GEM).

| Teal | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|
| Oakenholt | 389 | 110 | 210 | 95 | | | | | 2000 | 1100 | 1000 | 900 |
| Ash pool. | 150 | 70 | 50 | 50 | | 15 | 60 | 400 | 500 | 200 | 68 | 200 |
| Bunded | 90 | 22 | 40 | 20 | | | | | 120 | 1600 | 650 | 30 |

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*).

Common resident and common winter visitor. Female was seen with 7 ducklings 29/04 (SH).

| Mallard | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Oakenholt | 27 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 80 | 410 | 140 | 15 | 24 | 30 | 40 |
| Ash pool | 48 | 18 | 10 | 20 | 350 | 510 | 380 | 200 | 90 | 42 | 30 | |
| 2Bunded | 20 | 5 | | 7 | | | | 21 | 30 | 30 | 20 | 50 |



Mallard family. Peter Haslem.

Pintail (*Anas acuta*).

Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

| Pintail | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Oakenholt | 2 | 336 | 95 | 71 | | | | | 21 | 60 | | 12 |
| Ashpool | | | | 2 | | | | | | 2 | | |

Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*).

Common winter visitor.

Good numbers spend the winter on the Ash pool.

| Shoveler | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 35 | 14 | 40 | 42 | | | | | 10 | | 20 | 40 |

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

Common winter visitor and frequent breeding resident.

A regular feature on the Ash pool. 8 ducklings 08/07 (SH).

| Tufted | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 15 | 10 | 11 | 25 | 12 | 6 | 16 | 16 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 6 |

Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*).

Rare winter visitor. Three sightings all females. 05/03 on river, 05/11 and 22/11 on Ash pool (SH).

Eider (*Somateria mollissima*).

Rare visitor. One record of three males and single female on river 23/04 (PH).

Long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*).

Rare winter visitor. Male and female flying upriver 16/11 (JG).

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*).

Winter. Less than annual. Three records. Female 04/01, Male 07/01 and two Females 04/02 (SH).

Goosander (*Mergus merganser*).

Uncommon visitor.

| Goosander | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 4 | 2 | 1 | | 8 | | | | | | 4 | 7 |

Swift (*Apus apus*).

Summer visitor. First record of 6 birds 13/05 (SH). Highest count 44 28/06 (SH).

Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*).

One or two racing pigeons end up on the reserve each year taking advantage of our full feeders.

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*).

Common resident. Commonly seen on grazing land.

| Stock dove | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 60 | 7 | 12 | 2 | | | | | 35 | | | 85 |

Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*).

Common resident and winter visitor.

| Woodpigeon | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 15 | 45 | | 4 | | | | | | | 32 | 44 |

Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*).

Resident.

Regularly seen by entrance road and along the railway.

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

Very common resident on Ash pool. Regular breeder.

| Moorhen | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 9 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 4 | | 6 | | 5 | | 8 | 6 |

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

Resident with larger numbers overwintering. Regular breeder. Three families including 9 chicks recorded 13/05 (SH).

| Coot | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 14 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 12 | | 14 | | 12 | 11 | 9 | 10 |

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus*).

Rare winter visitor. One was resident on Ash pool from 01/10 to 26/12 (SH).

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

Resident.

Annual breeding success.

| Little Grebe | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Ash pool | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 3 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| Bunded | 6 | 2 | | | | | | | 4 | 8 | 6 | |

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*).

Resident and common winter visitor.

Seen most months on the river.

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*). (B).

Present all year round and large influx outside of breeding season. Two adults seen with three young on Middle pool 14/06 (SH).

| Oystercatcher | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|
| | 60 | 100 | 110 | 70 | 80 | 4 | 23 | 810 | 400 | 1500 | 600 | 120 |



Oystercatcher. Peter Haslem.

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

Uncommon passage migrant and summer resident. Breeding success since 2021. First pair seen sitting on nest 01/06 (SH). First hatching of 3 chicks 04/07 (SH). Four pairs produced 3.1.1.2 (total s chicks).

One adult seen with 3 fully grown young 05/08 (GEM).

A flagged Avocet was recorded on Middle pool from 14th August, Blue C2 was ringed as a chick at Condor Green Lancashire this summer (2023).

| Avocet | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 12 | 19 | 35 | 14 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 |



Avocet family. Peter Haslem.



Tagged Avocet C2. Peter Haslem.

Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*).

Uncommon passage migrant.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*).

Uncommon summer resident and passage migrant.

Three records. 08/04 (SH). 01/07 and 22/07 (SH).

Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*).

Uncommon migrant and winter visitor.

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*).

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor.

Occasional birds among the waders at high tide.

Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*).

Common migrant and winter resident.

| Lapwing | Jan | 2Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Flint sands | 2000 | 1000 | 180 | | | 10 | 50 | 110 | 56 | 150 | 700 | 1000 |
| Ash pool | 2 | | | | | 15 | | 60 | 6 | 10 | | |
| Bunded | 110 | | | | | 26 | 50 | 110 | 60 | 4 | 250 | |

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*).

Regular passage migrant.

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

| Whimbrel | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | 9 | 25 | | 5 | 20 | | | | |

Curlew (*Numenius arquata*).

Resident and winter visitor. Large numbers feed on grazing land over the winter months. Move between fields and muddy edges of river,

| Curlew | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Dee sands | 30 | 70 | 30 | 30 | 12 | 9 | 50 | 96 | 58 | 32 | 60 | 120 |
| Ash Pool | 50 | 71 | 40 | 9 | | | | 20 | 2 | 20 | 25 | 40 |
| East Grazing | 65 | 28 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 80 |

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*).

Common winter visitor and migrant. Large non-breeding population uses east edge of Ash pool during summer months.

| Black-t godwit | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Ju | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | De |
|----------------|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| Dee sands | 600 | 1500 | 1100 | 1500 | 130 | 24 | 50 | 4200 | 2800 | 3000 | 1000 | 400 |
| Ash pool | 1 | | 500 | 6 | 1100 | 600 | 1000 | 2800 | 3200 | | | |
| East | 10 | | 55 | 14 | | 160 | | 400 | 16 | 20 | 30 | |

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*).

Uncommon winter visitor.

| Bar-tailed | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Godwit | 3 | | 3 | 21 | 5 | | 2 | | 22 | 8 | 8 | 7 |

Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*).

Uncommon passage migrant. Four spring records and twelve late summer records of up to four birds.

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Knot (*Calidris canutus*).

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor. A large group of between 95 and 600 Knot spent the summer from May to October resting on the Ash pool with Black-tailed godwits,

| Knot | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|
| Flint sands | 30 | 150 | 260 | 60 | | | | 120 | 190 | 6200 | 2000 | 900 |
| Ash pool | | | | | 95 | 95 | 235 | 429 | 600 | 110 | | |

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*).

Uncommon passage migrant. Three records all August of up to six birds.

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*).

Uncommon passage migrant. Late summer passage of juvenile birds.

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

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*).

Rare passage migrant bird. One sighting from middle hide 24/08 (SH).

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*).

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

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

| Dunlin | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| | 2500 | 2000 | 1299 | 400 | 200 | | 20 | 230 | 50 | 600 | 4000 | 8000 |

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*).

Scarce winter visitor. Four records 30/03 (SH), 20/04 (RSp), 01/09 (GEM), 12/09 (SH) and two birds 27/10 (MP).

Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*).

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

| Snipe | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 31 | 26 | 19 | 1 | | | | | 3 | 20 | 12 | 6 |

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*).

Common passage migrant and winter resident.

One or two are resident during the winter.

| Common sandpiper | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | 2 | | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 1 |

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*).

Two birds. One from 23/03 to 13/04 and a second 14/09 to 21/09.

Redshank (*Tringa totanus*).

Common passage migrant and winter visitor.

Several thousand redshank roost on late summer/ autumn passage around the Bunded pools. Smaller numbers stay all winter.

| Redshank | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| Oakenholt | 280 | 100 | 450 | 800 | 2 | | | 4000 | 2500 | 3500 | 300 | 300 |
| Ash pool. | 2 | | 350 | 40 | 2 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 300 | | | 1 |
| Bunded | 80 | 57 | 210 | 140 | | 15 | 530 | 3400 | 4000 | 2500 | 104 | 20 |



Redshank. Peter Haslem.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*).

Passage migrant and resident.

Regular sightings from Middle hide.

| Greenshank | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 4 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 27 | 38 | 36 | 31 | 18 | 8 |



Greenshank. John Gilbody.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*).

Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Regular sighting from Middle hide late summer / autumn.

| Spotted Redshank | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Oakenholt | 3 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 3 | 8 |
| Bunded | | | | | | 1 | 12 | 12 | 22 | 30 | 16 | |

Long-billed dowitcher (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*).

Two records of single bird with Black-tailed godwits. 26/02 (SS) and 26/04 (SH).

Mediterranean Gull (*Larus melanocephalus*).

Uncommon visitor.

Seen most years. Six reports of up to two birds.

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

Abundant passage migrant and resident.

A breeding colony is established on the island of the Fly ash lagoon. This year eighteen nests were counted. Evidence of bird flu seen among the resident birds.

BTO carried out an evening count in September of gulls coming into roost. 4200 BHG were counted.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*).

Common winter visitor and passage migrant. 175 were counted on the September evening BTO 'Wings' count.

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

Very common passage migrant and winter visitor. Present most months. A pair raised three chicks on a roof in the power station.

120 LBBGs were recorded on an evening survey in September.

Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*).

Common migrant and winter visitor. 192 were recorded during an evening count in September.

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

All year round. Best observed over high tide. Seen most months with 19 recorded on evening count in September.

Common Tern (*Sternus hirundo*).

Summer resident.

Annual breeding colony at Shotton Steel lagoons mean that Common Terns are a regular sight fishing and flying up and down the river from April to September. Colony was affected by Bird flu during 2023 breeding season. First record 17/04 (SH) and last record 20/08.

| Common Tern | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | 5 | 20 | 24 | 25 | 30 | | | | |

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*).

Two records 01/06 and 05/07 (SH).

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*).

Passage migrant. Passage birds recorded between 01/05 and 08/05.

150 were counted 07/05 (JR and GR).

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*).

Two seen feeding over the river 01/06 (SH).

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).

Always present roosting on the marsh edge on Oakenholt at high tide.

| Cormorant | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 24 | 22 | 21 | | 2 | 6 | 7 | 18 | 50 | 22 | 16 | 12 |

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*).

Common visitor.

Large numbers post-breeding from Burton Mere wetlands. 160 counted 12/09 (SH).

| Little Egret | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 60 | 50 | 160 | 42 | 30 | 23 |

Great Egret (*Ardea Alba*).

Now a regular feature on the reserve. Often seen fishing for fish and shrimp in the shallow water on the Bunded pools.

| Great Egret | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | 3 | 5 | 16 | 6 | 2 | 1 |



Great egret. John Gilbody.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*).

Common across the reserve. Larger numbers following successful breeding in the colony at Burton.

| Grey Heron | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 11 | 4 | | 3 | | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 |



Grey heron. Peter Haslem.

Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*).

Scarce summer visitor. One was present between 12 /09 and 18 /09 (SH).

Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*).

Healthy population on the Dee marshes leads to the occasional sortie onto the reserve.

| Marsh Harrier | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sightings | 8 | 1 | 3 | | | | | 1 | 5 | | | 13 |

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*).

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

| Hen Harrier | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sightings | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |

Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*).

| Sparrowhawk | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sightings | 4 | 4 | 1 | | | 1 | | | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*).

Resident all year round. Eleven were seen 'kettling' over the reserve 13/08 (SH).

| Buzzard | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sightings | | 4 | 9 | | | | 1 | 1 | 17 | 1 | 1 | 5 |

Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*).

| Kestrel | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sightings | 1 | | | | | | | 2 | 4 | 4 | | 2 |

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*).

A winter visitor on the Dee marshes.

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

Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*).

Seen on or around the reserve most months.

| Peregrine | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sightings | 1 | 2 | 4 | | 2 | | | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 |

Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*).

Uncommon summer visitor. One sighting 08/07 (SH).

Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*).

Winter resident.

One or two spend each winter on the reserve between August and March.



Kingfisher. Peter Haslem.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopus major*).

Resident.

A frequent visitor to the peanut feeder.

Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*).

Resident.

Sightings near reserve entrance.

Magpie (*Pica pica*).

Very common resident.

Jackdaw (*Corvus monedula*).

Very common resident.

Large numbers can frequent marsh and grassland. Opportunist feeder.

Takes advantage of winter food put out for sheep.

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

Common resident.

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

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*).

Abundant resident.

Large numbers frequent marsh and grassland.

Raven (*Corvus corax*).

Regular visitor.

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

Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*). (B)

Common resident. Main user of reserve nesting boxes.

Great Tit (*Parus major*). (B)

Common resident. Major beneficiary of provided nest boxes.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*).

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

Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*).

Common summer visitor and passage migrant. First record 30/03 and last record 28/06.

House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*).

Common summer visitor and passing migrant. First record 21/04 and last record 03/09.

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*).

Common summer visitor and passing migrant. First record 16/03 and last record 08/05.

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*).

Male was heard calling around Ash pool between 09/09 and 28/09.

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

Common resident. Numbers increase in winter when they can be seen and heard feeding in large groups of up to 20 birds.

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).

Summer visitor.

Heard singing throughout the reserve from 08/04 to 28/06.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*). (B).

Summer visitor. From 18/03 to 24/09. Twenty-two singing males were recorded on 25/03.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*).

Uncommon summer visitor on the reserve. One record of a singing male in reeds surrounding Ash pool 13/05 (SH).

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*). (B).

Uncommon summer visitor to reserve. Male was heard singing in reeds on Ash pool from 29/04 to 12/06. An adult and two young were seen 20/06.

Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*).

Common summer resident. Male birds were recorded singing around the reserve from 08/04 to 12/07. A male was seen 29/11.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*).

Uncommon summer resident. Two males were heard consistently and seen occasionally on different territories from 01/05.

Whitethroat (*Sylvia communis*).(B).

Fairly common summer resident. Up to four males on territory from 22/04 to 28/06.

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*).

Uncommon. Heard and seen in Yew and conifers around garden compound. Eight records 04/02 to 15/12.

Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).(B).

Common resident.

Seen across the reserve holding territory.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

Abundant visitor.

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

Waxwing (*Bombycilla garrulus*).

Eight birds were in a tree close to Middle hide 26/12 (SH).

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

Abundant resident. Passage migrant and winter visitor.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*).

Common winter visitor and passage migrant from November to March.

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

Resident and winter visitor.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*).

Winter visitor and migrant from November to March.

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

Resident.

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

Abundant resident and winter visitor.

Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata*).

Resident and passage visitor.

Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).

Regular passage spring 23/03 to 01/05 and late summer 04/08 to 28/09.

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

Small breeding population around entrance, meadow trail and railway.

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

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

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*).

Resident and winter visitor.

Sometime visitor to Paper mill streams and edge of Ash pool. Two records 16/09 and 01/10.

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba yarrelli*).

Up to 100 feeds on the grazing fields in January.

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*). (B).

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

Rock Pipit (*Anthus petrosus*).

Winter. Four records of up to two birds January to March.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*).

Resident and abundant winter visitor. A large flock of up to 300 birds spend the winter feeding on the marsh areas.

| Chaffinch | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 200 | 8 | 200 | | | | | | | | 300 | 92 |

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*).

Rare winter visitor. Up to five were reliably recorded throughout March.

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*).

Resident. Small numbers seen each month.

Greenfinch (*Carduelis chloris*).(B).

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

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).

Common around feeders.

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

Resident and winter visitor.

Two pairs known to have bred on reserve.

Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*).

Regular winter visitor.

| Twite | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | 40 | 19 | 27 | | | | | | | | | |

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

Resident.

Contributors to the 2023 Bird Report records.

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