

Dear permit holders and residents,

Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year for 2024!

Winter is upon us and now is a good time to reflect on the season we've had on the reserve. As you know, from previous newsletters, we had a great nesting season, for many of our nesting birds it was the best for many years. This was an accumulation of lots of hard work from staff, volunteers, and of course everybody who is involved on the site adhering to signage and respecting the wildlife.

Going forward in 2024, many great projects are on the cards for the site, there have been several monetary grants awarded because of its important location and the assemblages of breeding birds which are all in decline regionally and nationally. These grants are to aid Ringed Plover, Oystercatcher and terns of various species. These grants will help pay for new shingle areas within the reserve, mainly islands within waterbodies, but also some large scale new shingle rafts which will be put on De L'Orne Lagoon, Black Water and Great Marsh.

As part of these projects we need to remove some areas of scrub and trees to make these new breeding sites viable. Trees and scrub are equally important habitat in their own right but the coverage of scrub has got to a level where it is having a negative effect on the nesting waders and seabirds. Some has to be removed to address the balance for the reserve. We have identified the prime areas where we know breeding birds such as Dartford Warbler, Stonechat, Linnet and various other warblers nest so that we do not disrupt these important breeding birds.

Come and meet us at Needs Ore!

In March 2024 we are holding some information days at Needs Ore Point. There will be displays and talks from staff and volunteers on some of the nesting birds we have on site. I hope that these days will be a great to help inform and raise awareness of many of the rare birds breeding on the reserve. The dates for these displays and talks will be announced soon.

Important info - from the beginning of March (and often earlier) through to August many species will start to seek out territories and nesting sites, and might even try to nest multiple times.

During this time, we, as reserve staff and others involved in the management of the reserve try to minimise disturbance to our nesting birds, and we kindly ask you to do the same. The species we have here at Needs Ore are particularly susceptible to disturbance and when repeated this can have detrimental impacts on the success of individuals, colonies and the site as a whole.

It might be worth noting that disturbance to some of our resident nesting species can be an offence under law. It is not permitted to walk any dogs onto the reserve, the only areas where dogs can be exercised is along Warren Lane, and we would ask that upmost care is taken around Needs Ore point and the Boat Club as some of our rarer species nest on the ground throughout this area. Dogs must be on leads in this location.

In the past all parties involved in this area of the reserve agreed to share a common goal of privacy, security and protection of the existing nature and animal/bird life of the site. We ask that as we do, all residents continue to comply with these agreements and that you inform all of your visitors and/

The following are the outline agreements that still remain in place on the reserve to achieve these goals:

- Natural England/Beaulieu Estate shall issue annual, and day permits to visitors to Needs Ore, explaining site rules and providing a map of access routes. A dated and/or numbered permit should be on display in any vehicle using the site, which should only park at the 'shore hide' or adjacent to the boat club house.
- The cars of sailing club members should display a similar permit.
- All residents and staff to speak to drivers or report to site/estate staff any vehicle (other than those belonging to residents and/or guests) that do not display an appropriate permit.
- Needs Ore bird watching and sailing club permits should state that such visitors should respect the privacy of the residents and that no foot traffic is allowed to the seaside in front of the cottages at any time, and speed limits to be adhered to along Warren Lane to Needs Ore point.
- If there is any specific activity of special interest to Natural England in these specified areas and outside of the nesting season, Natural England have only to inform the residents who will be more than happy to respond accordingly.

We restrict access to Warren Shore to allow the birds along the shingle and saltmarsh to have sanctuary from disturbance. The mouth of the Beaulieu River, also known as Gull Island, is included in this restriction, however remains a sanctuary all year round. If you do see anyone entering these areas particularly during the nesting season (1st April – 31st August), we would urge you to contact the reserve and estate staff.

We will be carrying out a variety of surveys and monitoring work through the spring/summer, and you may see us or our volunteers out and about. An important survey that is carried out around the reserve is the 'Wetlands Bird Survey' (WeBS). The survey is carried out on one Sunday each month, coinciding with the highest tide (to make counting more accurate). Please see the next page for information and dates of the counts for near future.

I hope that these points and bits of information may help us all to have a positive spring and summer. We hope to get more information out to all involved and around the National Nature Reserve about goings on and good news, sightings and other interest points. If you would be interested in hearing bits of information from us, then please let me know. If you do ever see or hear anything on or around the reserve that you think may be of interest to us, then again, please get in touch.

Kind regards

Adam Wells
Natural England
North Solent NNR Reserve Manager
01590 616236

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The principal aim of WeBS is to identify population sizes, determine trends in numbers and distribution, and identify important sites for waterbirds.

We would appreciate if at all possible that users (including residents) of the site try to keep disturbance during a 'WeBS Sunday' to a minimum, to ensure we have an accurate count across the site. We will also be putting up a notice to all residents and visitors closer to each WeBS count to remind all around the site that it will be taking place.

The survey tries to take in as much of the reserve around Warren and Park Farm as feasible, including the fields, sea walls, pools, saltmarsh and estuary/river. If the birds here are disturbed, as I'm sure you will have seen at times, there is the chance that they leave the site completely. Although this may be temporary it will have huge impacts on the results of the survey as they will not be counted at all. We base a lot of the conservation decisions on data collected through this survey, and so we hope you can understand how important it is that we manage to carry out as complete and undisturbed a survey as possible.

For more information on the Wetland Bird Survey – please go to www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs. Dates for Needs Ore, Warren Farm & Park Shore in 2023 and 2024 (all dates are Sundays) are below:

Time slots to avoid if possible:

- 17th December 2023 - 12pm to 3pm
- 14th January 2024 - 11am to 2pm
- 11th February 2024 - 10am to 1pm

Wader ringing update November 2023

So far this year Elli Rivers and I have ringed over 100 waders on the reserve.

The majority were Ringed Plovers, (67 ringed during the summer), but recently we have also been ringing wintering species such as Curlew, Grey Plover and Dunlin.

The totals shown in the table below reflect the wealth of habitat available on the reserve for both breeding and wintering waders. 50 fully grown birds were ringed and 58 chicks.



Oystercatcher caught and ringed photo by Graham Giddens

SPECIES	FULLY GROWN	CHICKS	TOTAL
Oystercatcher	3	2	5
Ringed Plover	27	41	68
Grey Plover	1		1
Lapwing		12	12
Turnstone	2		2
Dunlin	7		7
Redshank	5	3	8
Curlew	1		1
Snipe	4		4
TOTAL	50	58	108

During the autumn many of the Ringed Plovers we had colour-ringed in the summer were spotted all over the Solent, with 22 out of the 41 birds re-sighted. They have been seen as far east as Farlington Marshes, as far west as Hurst Castle and also to the south at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. We are learning a great deal about where our plovers spend the winter and their daily movements between low tide feeding sites and high tide roosts.

This month we colour-ringed our first wintering Ringed Plover. It will be interesting to discover if it reappears on the reserve in the summer, or if it turns up in Iceland or Scandinavia.

Graham Giddens

Bird Sightings - Autumn 2023

Written by Natural England voluntary warden Chris Button. All photos are taken on the reserve by Chris unless otherwise stated.

September 2023 Round Up

Migrant waders continued to be seen throughout September with numbers slightly lower than in August. The peak counts of each species are shown in brackets - Black-tailed Godwit (only 9) Common Sandpiper (3), Greenshank (14), Green Sandpiper (3), Spotted Redshank (2) and Whimbrel (5). More unusually, a Wood Sandpiper was seen on at least four dates from 10th to the 17th favouring the new pool near Mary Monts. A Little Ringed Plover was also heard calling over the Flooded Fields on the 13th and five distant Golden Plover flew up the river on 23rd.



Wood Sandpiper De L'Orne Flood

Two returning Firecrests were seen on 6th. Migrant Grey Wagtails were calling overhead during the month, September is their peak. Other migrant passerines included Whinchats which were seen on four occasions including four in the De L'Orne area on the 9th. There were only three Tree Pipit records, all fly-overs including two over the Flooded Fields on 3rd and singles on the 15th and 17th.

Slightly scarcer migrant passerines included a Garden Warbler seen along Guides Camp Hedge on 1st with the same or another then seen near Pullen Hide on the same day. Only two Redstarts were seen in the month, one along Warren Lane Beach Scrub on the 1st and then another along Guides Camp Hedge on the 15th. Spotted Flycatchers were seen on only two occasions including one along the Main Hedge on 10th and three around Gravelly House on 11th.

September is the peak month for Hobbies, there were four records during the month. An Osprey was seen on the river on eight occasions throughout the month and then there were two together on the 30th. The first returning Merlin was seen at Wheatear Corner on 17th with another seen on the 30th.



Merlin Wheatear Corner

The first returning Rock Pipit was at the Sailing Club on the 21st.



Rock Pipit Sailing Club

Wheatears were seen regularly throughout the month with the peak count being seven on both 13th and 21st. A juvenile Grasshopper Warbler was flushed from the ground at close range in the ditch that runs alongside Wryneck Bushes on 13th. Young Dartford Warblers were seen on three occasions during the month.

Yellow Wagtails were seen or heard on only five occasions during September with the peak being the 30 seen with cattle on Lovell's East Field on 13th.

One of the highlights of the month was the sight of 25 Cattle Egrets heading east mid-Solent on 1st. Up to three others were seen on several dates later in the month. The large group is likely to be part of the 34 Cattle Egrets that were seen over Titchfield Haven on 10th August.

The peak Spoonbill count during the month was only three on 20th. The adults are yet to return from their breeding territories.



Spoonbill Great Marsh

The WeBS count on the 17th recorded 185 returning Teal but it's still early for returning winterers with only 2 Brent Geese, 42 Dunlin and 25 Wigeon.



Sanderling Warren Shoreline



Kingfisher De L'Orne Lagoon

Seabirds included a Gannet on 20th, a Guillemot heading west on 23rd, a Shag feeding close inshore on 23rd, two Common Scoter heading east on 25th and the earliest ever Red-throated Diver here was seen on 27th.

With only eight previous records at Needs Ore there was an unexpected flurry of Woodlark records in September. Two were feeding in the Flooded Fields on 19th, another flew over Wedge Field on 21st September and one was on the rough ground at Wheatear Corner on 30th September.

A shearwater was watched from Wheatear Corner flying east mid-channel on 23rd although the observer only had binoculars and so was reluctant to assign to species although it may well have been a Balearic Shearwater as one was seen from the Portsmouth to Fishbourne Ferry later the same morning.



Guillemot The Solent



Chiffchaff Wryneck Bushes



Pied Wagtail Warren Shoreline



Stock Dove Venner Island

Finch records included a Brambling calling amongst Siskin on 15th making it the earliest ever recorded in Hampshire! 140 Linnet and 70 Siskin were also heading east on 13th.

The last Whitethroat and Sedge Warblers were seen on 23rd and the last Reed Warbler was on 28th.

September is the peak month for hirundine movements. 200+ Swallows moved south-east on 1st, the 28th saw 500+ Swallows and House Martins and there were 500 Swallows over Black Water on 30th.

October 2023 Round Up

The Woodlark sightings continued with two flying east over the point on the 8th and a calling bird flying over the Reedy Ditch on the 26th. Other moving passerines included 15 Siskin on the 22nd and then 10 Lesser Redpolls heading east on the 8th and 15 heading east on the 26th. There were three Dartford Warblers on the 26th which is a typical number for wintering birds here.



juvenile Dartford Warbler at Warren Lane Beach Scrub

A Yellowhammer, scarce here, flew over the oaks 100 yards west of the Coastguard Cottages on 26th. It was calling and continued west along Warren Lane. This sighting coincided with a dispersal from the east with four birds seen at Lepe the same morning. Lepe is closer to their nearest breeding site at Cadland but even at Lepe it is a rare bird with no records there from 2005 and 2019.

Two Ospreys were still present on 1st October with singles then seen on four dates through to the last on 8th. There were two Cattle Egrets on Venner on 2nd with one remaining around Park Farm until at least the 29th. A Great White Egret was seen on 2nd and 7th. With adults now returning the number of Spoonbills increased to a peak of 20 on 29th. Young Stonechats disperse to the coast in the winter, seven were seen on 7th. Great Crested Grebes are returning with the peak count of six on 22nd.

The number of wintering visitors climbed quickly during the month so that by WeBS day on the 26th there were 820 Brent Geese, 633 Wigeon, 794 Teal, 138 Lapwing and 73 Pintail, all good totals this early in the winter. The 494 Dunlin that were seen is probably half the total number we can expect to see later in the winter. The Teal were nearly all on Black Water and they included a late female Garganey.



Teal Black Water



Garganey Black Water



Pintail Black Water photo by Terry Jenvey



Dunlin, female of the *alpina* race De L'Orne Scrape

A very long-billed Dunlin had observers wondering about Curlew Sandpiper or even the American race of Dunlin. The bill was probably not evenly curved enough and the legs, particularly the tibia, weren't long enough for either of these and when it moved it also appeared hunch-necked. This was no doubt a Dunlin, the *alpina* race of Dunlin winters here and they are the longest billed of the races and this bird was probably also a female, which have longer bills than the males.



Grey Heron photo by David Cuddon



Snipe photo by Terry Jenvey

The 23 Black-tailed Godwit on the 29th was a surprisingly low peak autumn count. Avocet numbers increased slightly to 10 on 26th. Greenshank remained on the reserve late into the autumn with six seen on 26th, one or two may remain to winter. On the sea an adult Arctic Tern was watched heading west on 23rd.

One of the highlights of the month was a Ring Ouzel which flew into the Main Hedge on the 17th. This area seems to be a favoured stopping off point for them each October. As usual Wheatears were seen throughout October with the last seen on the 26th.

A Shore-eared Owl was hunting over Inchmery early on the 26th, it was harassed relentlessly by one of our Peregrines before it headed off east towards Lepe. As usual Goldcrest numbers peaked later in the month with 25 seen or heard around the reserve on 22nd and Chiffchaff numbers peaked at a minimum of 35 on the 14th October. There were still more than 100 Swallows moving on the 14th, the last of the autumn was a group of four on the 29th.

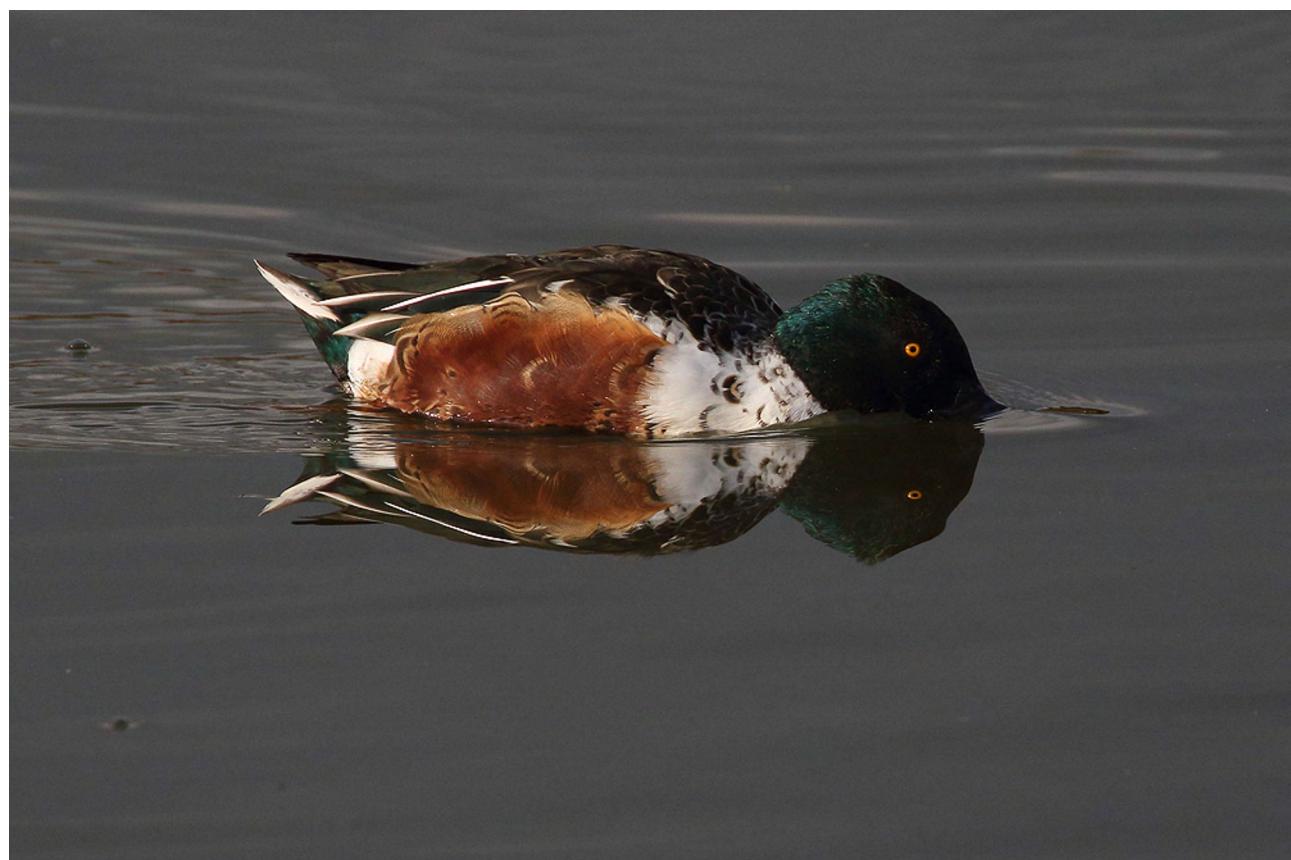
The pair of adult White-tailed Eagles were seen regularly throughout the month often on one of the bare trees on Inchmery.



adult White-tailed Eagle De L'Orne Scrape



Meadow Pipit Wryneck Bushes



Shoveler Black Water photo by David Cuddon

A colour-ringed Ringed Plover was seen on De L'Orne Scrape on 26th. It wasn't one of ours which have a green ring on their right leg. Ringing data confirmed that it was a juvenile which had been ringed in northern Germany in June. Furthermore, this bird had been hand-reared after a clutch of Ringed Plover eggs had been rescued from an active coastal building site. A heart-warming story.

If anyone sees any colour-ringed waders including Ringed Plover then please can they report them to me (chris@needsore.com). I will then report them to Graham Giddens and let you have a summary of other sightings for the bird in question.

November 2023 Round Up

An incredible 1000+ Teal and 700+ Wigeon were in the Black Water area on the 1st November with lots of the fields flooded. Lapwing numbers had increased to 229 by the 22nd. This total should rise further, in recent years the peak winter count has been 700-1,000 birds. It is 16 years (2007) since a count exceeded 2,000 birds and four years (2019) since a count exceeded 1,000 birds.

Chiffchaff were recorded on several occasions during the first half of the month including two which were flycatching on the south side of the Black Water tree-line on the 15th.

A Slavonian Grebe was seen on 6th and then there were three together on 21st. A Red-throated Diver was close in off shore on three dates in the first half of the month and the winter's first Great Northern Diver was seen from the Sailing Club on the 30th.



Red-throated Diver Warren Shore



Great Northern Diver Sailing Club photo by Clay Jones

Although Common Scoter is considered a spring passage bird the peak month at Needs Ore is actually November perhaps where birds are now wintering further north and so do not venture down to Spain in such large numbers. They were recorded on four dates including three together on 21st and two on the sea on 26th.

A wing-tagged 'female-type' (orange Z9) Marsh Harrier was seen hunting over the Gins on 3rd November 2023, it proved to be a 1st year male which had been tagged in the nest on 6th July 2023 at Berney Marshes, Norfolk (200 miles). It was seen on at least six other occasions through to 30th November at least.



Marsh Harrier 'Z9' Pullen



Barnacle Geese Flooded Fields



Peregrine Beaulieu River

A clear passage of Common Gull was watched on the 5th with at least 50 heading west during two hours, they included several birds with extensive dark hoods. A Gannet was also seen in the Solent the same day and a Shag was watched swimming fairly close in shore.



Common Gull The Solent

Wintering Sandwich Terns are a regular feature here with birds seen on seven occasions through to the 30th including three together on 5th and the 15th.



1st winter Sandwich Tern Beaulieu River



Cattle Egret Great Marsh

The wintering Cattle Egret moved between Park Farm and Great Marsh throughout the month.



Cape Shelduck Mary Monts

The Cape Shelduck, first seen in the spring, was seen again in flight over Mary Monts on the 26th and the 28th.

Firecrests were recorded as often as Goldcrests with two together at the Reedy Ditch on the 3rd and another two on the 15th. A Marsh Tit was heard 'sneezing' at the Reedy Ditch Bushes on 3rd, this is a good place to see either of these species.

A ringtail Hen Harrier was watched distantly flying across the Solent towards the Isle of Wight on 5th.

Finch passage continued during November but in much reduced numbers with 10 Lesser Redpoll on the 5th being the highlight. Red Kites were seen on at least two occasions. A Golden Plover was heard calling overhead on the 5th.

Rock Pipit numbers peaked at five on 26th and Pochard numbers increased during the month to an impressive 19 on the 22nd. Avocet numbers remained close to double figures during the month, they were either on De L'Orne Scrape or on the river just over the bank from the scrape.

The adult pair of White-tailed Eagles remained in the area throughout the month. It seems likely that they may try to breed on the Isle of Wight or even this side of the river during 2024.

During the autumn winter thrushes were almost totally absent with only one Fieldfare seen on the 26th and no Redwing recorded. There were also no autumn records of Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper or Black Redstart.



Fieldfare Coastguard Cottages

Wildlife Sightings - Autumn 2023

Written by Natural England voluntary warden Chris Button. All photos are taken on the reserve by Chris unless otherwise stated.

As usual Dragonflies were seen late into the autumn primarily Migrant Hawkers including 15+ on 6th September and also Common Darters were regularly seen to the 5th November at least including in copulation throughout October. Other dragonfly records included two Golden-ringed Dragonflies on 8th September, two Ruddy Darter on 8th September and four Emperors on 8th September.



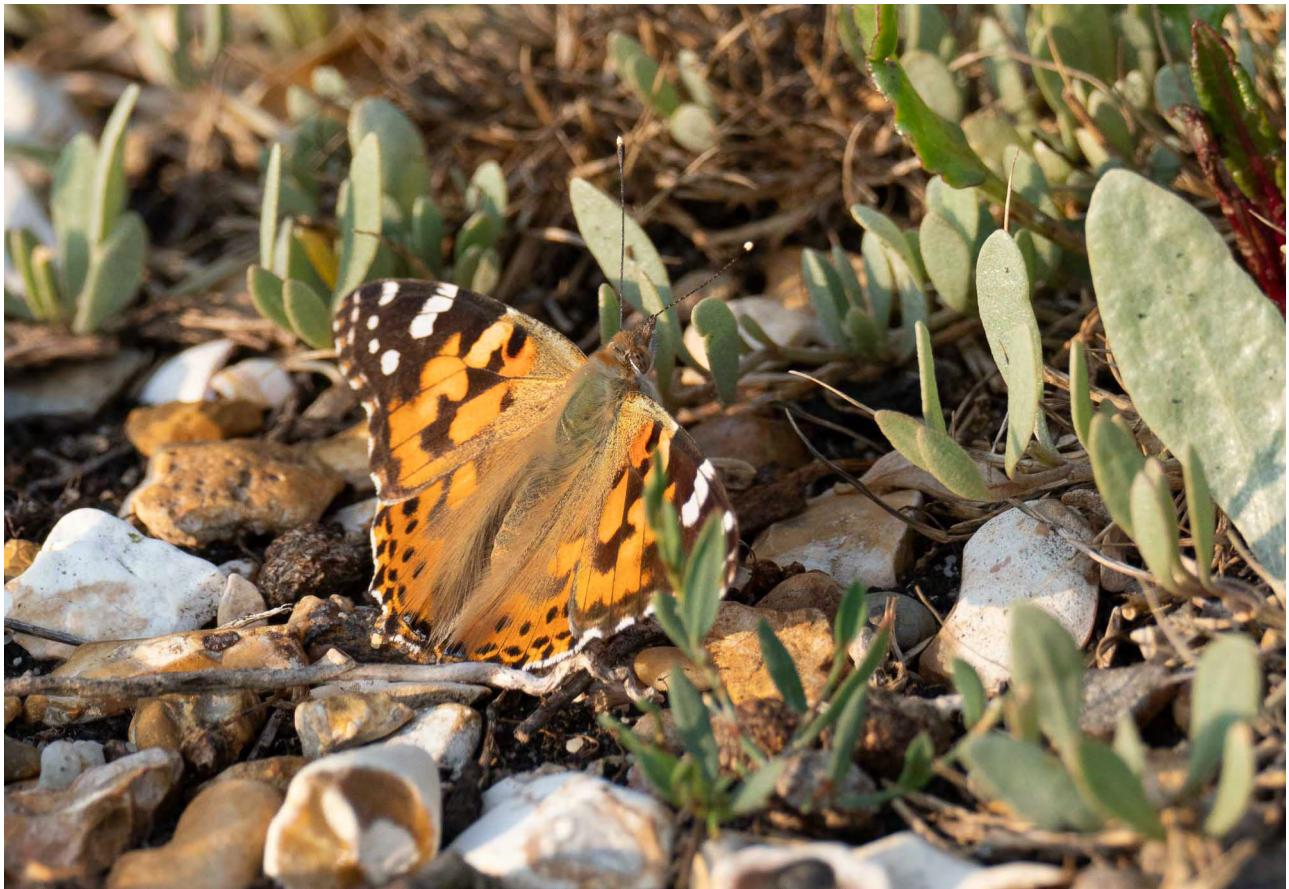
Migrant Hawker photo by Ian Williamson

As in previous years the Sea Aster between Thrift Coner and the Coastguard Cottage attracted plenty of autumn butterflies. It was a great season for Red Admirals including more than 100 seen around the Coastguard Cottages Gardens on 30th September. They continued to be seen in good numbers when the weather was favourable right up until the end of November. Painted Ladies were also seen in good numbers from 15th September to 26th October including four together on the 7th October. The autumn highlight of Clouded Yellows was rather subdued with only three records from 16th September to 8th October including two individuals on the 5th October.

Peacocks were seen on three dates from 5th October to 17th November and single Small Coppers were seen on four occasions from 8th September to 15th October. Other butterfly records included a Holly Blue on 5th October and Common Blues on 11th September and 7th October.

Interesting mammals included an Otter on Venner on 28th September and a Stoat on 31st October. Grey Seals were seen through the period occasionally hauled out on one of the platforms.

A Vestal Moth was seen on 30th September.



Painted Lady



Grey Seal

Scarce birds worth looking out for over the winter period

This is an extract from the forthcoming book 'The Birds of Needs Ore' due to be published in 2024.

A Pale-bellied Brent Goose, a Black Brant or even a Red-breasted Goose are possible within the 1,200 strong Dark-bellied Brent Geese flock. White-fronted Geese are almost annual especially if the weather turns cold and although rarer other grey geese like Pinkfeet or Tundra Bean Geese are also possible.

There are only single figure records each year of Goosander. They can be seen in any month but peak sightings here are often triggered by cold winter weather and they usually prefer the sheltered conditions around Black Water or in the river estuary.

Scaup are recorded usually every other year often after cold spells with December being the peak month. In recent years they have stayed for long periods. Goldeneye and Smew have become very scarce, particularly Smew, they might possibly be seen on the sheltered water bodies around Black Water in the winter. Only around 20 Velvet Scoter have been seen here with nearly all records from November to January.



Scaup photo by Ken Button

Needs Ore is a key site for Slavonian Grebes with between four and eight birds often seen fairly close inshore in the sheltered bays along Warren Shore although this winter looks like numbers may be down. Black-necked Grebes previously wintered here in very small numbers. In the past typically four to seven birds might be seen here from November to March. Compared to Slavonian Grebes they prefer more sheltered conditions and they could be seen on the river often fairly close to the Sailing Club, however, from 2006, there has been a rapid decline in the number of Black-necked Grebes that visit here, in the last four winters only one individual has been recorded.

Red-necked Grebes have also become very scarce with only seven records this century, December and January offer the best chance to see one but there has been only one since 2008.



Great Northern Diver

The commonest of our divers, the Great Northern Diver, is seen each winter with occasionally up to three birds but they rarely appear before late November. Great Northern Divers are flightless in mid-winter and so they can stay off-shore for long periods. Most records are of single birds on the sea but they are the most likely diver to be seen in the river estuary.

Compared to other divers Red-throated Divers are more likely to be seen flying through the Solent in groups rather than sat on the sea and are less likely to hang around for extended periods. The peak numbers are in December and January with only a very modest spring passage. Black-throated Divers are the rarest of our divers and less than annual. Most records are in November and December.

Jack Snipe winter at Needs Ore but there have been less than two records per annum. The ditches around Pullen are probably the most reliable areas. If a Jack Snipe is flushed they don't fly far and a thermal camera will help significantly with trying to relocate it. Although Woodcock breed on the wider Beaulieu Estuary there are very few Woodcock records from Needs Ore. The best chance of seeing one is in the winter when birds feed at dawn, a thermal camera will help. The large grassy field at Long Pits has been reliable recently.

Guillemot and Razorbills are uncommon and usually seen after stormy weather in the Solent. There have been around 2.5 records per annum of Guillemot and only one record per annum of Razorbills. They are usually seen distantly in flight although occasionally closer in on the sea although a proportion of these 'grounded' birds may be sick or weakened.

In the last two winters, and again this year, a Purple Sandpiper has wintered along Warren Shore.



Purple Sandpiper

In nine out of the last 11 winters Sandwich Terns have been recorded here often fishing in the river opposite the Sailing Club, there are often two together and there were three in 2020.

Hen Harriers are recorded annually but in most years there are only isolated records suggesting that we host wandering birds or passage migrants and not winterers. Merlins winter here every year but they are usually solitary on their winter quarters and it is rare for two to be seen. Most Short-eared Owl winter records are of transient birds wandering through although very occasionally they are seen each week suggesting that these birds remained close to the site throughout the whole winter period.

Since 2017 Hampshire has hosted a substantial flock of wintering Spoonbill between Lepe and Keyhaven. The bulk of these birds favour Needs Ore, particularly the river estuary, Venner and De L'Orne Scrape. Numbers have grown significantly in the last 10 years with the 27 in January 2023 being the current Hampshire record count.

One of the few warblers to remain for the winter Dartford Warbler winter counts have been fairly consistent with an average of five birds until the population was completely wiped out by the severe winter of 2017/2018. Dartford Warblers were seen again in October 2020 and wintering numbers have subsequently recovered to normal levels of three to four birds.



Fieldfare

Grounded Redwing and Fieldfare are not usually seen until later in the winter with the larger gatherings not until late December and January. There are few December Black Redstarts which suggests that autumn birds do not linger although three individuals seen in January and February may well have wintered on the reserve or close by. The late winter period is the best chance of seeing a Water Pipit although the number of records is declining. 70% of our records are in January to March.

Hawfinches are very scarce with only around 10 records with a clear peak over the winter. Yellowhammer is also a very scarce winter visitor with only 12 records in the last 30 years.

Winter can turn up some rare visitors. The reserves only Iceland Gull, Black Guillemot and Siberian Chiffchaff were in the winter. There have been four winter records of Tundra Bean Goose and Twite, three winter records of Red-breasted Goose and two winter records of Great Grey Shrike and Bittern. Also single winter records of Corncrake, Hooded Crow and Yellow-browed Warbler.

Historic Winter Rarities

1st December 1987 Corncrake, one was found dead in good condition at Gins Farm.

4th December 2018 Yellow-browed Warbler, one was seen associating with Goldcrests, Blue, Coal and Great Tits high in the pine trees and scrub at the Coastguard Cottages.

12th December 2004 Tundra Bean Goose in 2004, fifteen birds remained until 12th December.

30th December 1990 Iceland Gull, a 1st winter was seen on the Beaulieu Estuary.

1st January 1961 Great Grey Shrike, one was seen on the Gins.

5th January 2014 Red-breasted Goose, it remained until 6th March.

8th January 2018 Black Guillemot, it was watched from Inchmery as it drifted east towards the river mouth.

10th January 1997 Tundra Bean Goose, one to three birds were present until 18th March.

10th January 2022 Siberian Chiffchaff, one at Errish House, Park Lane was associating with two other wintering Chiffchaff and remained until 23rd January.

16th January 2005 Tundra Bean Goose, the flock of 15 birds from December were relocated and some remained until 2nd April.

16th January 1960 Twite.

27th January 1960 Twite, 23 together.

31st January 2007 Red-breasted Goose, it remained until 13th February.

4th February 1968 Great Grey Shrike, one spent seven weeks in the hedge along Warren Lane, it was last seen on 17th March.

5th February 1967 Hooded Crow.

16th February 1970 Twite, two at Black Water.

21st February 2002 Bittern, one flew across Black Water and landed in the reeds showing briefly.

24th February 1998 Tundra Bean Goose, remaining until 13th April.

24th February 2001 Twite, a first winter by the Coastguard Cottages.

27th February 2012 Red Breasted Goose, it remained until 24th March.

28th February 1965 Bittern, one in reeds at Black Water.