

Dear residents and permit holders of Needs Ore,

I do hope you are all enjoying the start of summer as this newsletter gets to you.

### **Breeding Season**

The bird breeding season is now in full swing with a good selection of wading species and seabirds nesting again. This is a very important site for Lapwing, Redshank, Oystercatcher, Avocet and Ringed Plover, many of these species are red listed as nationally in decline and some of them are schedule 1 protected species.

This year again we have had the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) on site putting cameras and protective cages on many of the wader nests to collect more detailed evidence on breeding success, the findings will help us develop strategies to protect more breeding birds next season. A brief summary of the first half outcome for these key breeding species is included in this newsletter.

### **Gravelly Shores**

The new shingle habitat at Gravelly Shores has been receiving its first nesting birds, the flood in early April is a reminder of how important this habitat is with many similar areas being lost to rising sea levels. A pair of Ringed Plover successfully hatched four chicks from here on 23rd May and a pair of Oystercatcher are currently incubating within the new habitat. Several pairs of Lapwing are also nesting just outside the fenced area.

### **Gull Island and Warren Shore**

The monitoring of Gull Island and Warren Shore every weekend and Bank Holiday from 1st April to 31st July is another success, this has helped to deter illegal landings or disturbance to the breeding birds. If you feel you would like to help or volunteer for a time slot, please feel free to contact me and your help would be greatly appreciated not just by myself, but by the birds that nest in our special area.

### **Common Terns**

Exciting news developed right at the end of May with a Common Tern taking up a position within the Black-headed Gulls on the newly installed gravel raft at Great Marsh. The first Common Tern egg was laid on 3rd June, this is the first time they have bred at Great Marsh.

### **Thank you**

As always, a massive thank you to all my volunteers, the reserve would not be the place it is without you all, and as always if anybody wishes to be involved in volunteering, please do get in touch with me. Volunteers on site make a huge difference to the reserve outcomes, volunteers doing various forms of work, from wardening presence on site, interacting with visitors, practical work parties, butterfly transects, breeding bird transects, WeBS surveys, avian influenza surveys, the list goes on.

### A few important things

From 1st March we restrict access to Warren Shore to allow the birds along the shingle and salt-marsh to have sanctuary from disturbance. The mouth of the Beaulieu River, also known as Gull Island, is included in this restriction and 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, we will let you know in advance if we are in these areas.

Temporary fencing and signage maybe erected in areas to protect breeding birds including an electric fence around several nests at the Sailing Club, please adhere to the signage.

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/or guests of these to ensure the continued good relationship with site staff and permit holders.

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.

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.

For the rest of the newsletter, I will hand over to volunteer warden Chris Button.

Kind regards

Adam Wells and Heidi Staines  
Joint Site Managers  
Natural England  
North Solent NNR Reserve Manager

### The Birds of Needs Ore - update

The book text is complete and with the designer Dan Powell who is pulling it together. An autumn publishing date is expected.



It is a print to order project and so I'm asking for people who are interested in reserving a copy to provide a firm commitment. I can then decide on the print run size and the price which I will cap at a maximum of £25. Please can you register your interest by contacting me at:

e-mail: chris@needsore.com  
Text or phone: 07425 162539



Turnstone Sailing Club Richard Jacobs

### 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](http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs). Dates for Needs Ore, Warren Farm & Park Shore in 2024 are below:

Time slots to avoid visiting the reserve if possible:

Sunday 9th June 2024 - 12pm to 3pm  
Sunday 21st July 2024 - 11am to 1pm  
Sunday 25th August 2024 - 2pm to 5pm

## The Flood

On the night of the 8th April a combination of a 3.9 metre tide, a 45 mph wind from the south west coupled with low pressure of less than 1,000 mb and the Beaulieu River at Needs Ore cascaded over the bank causing serious flooding across the reserve right up to and beyond Park Farm. There was some damage to property, parts of Warren Lane were washed out, the garages at Needs Ore along with a barn conversion at Gins were flooded and there was also some damage to The Royal Southampton Yacht Club. The ground from Gins up to St Leonards Bridge and beyond is still flooding on the high tide and receding when it flows out. This is due to the tidal flap at The Royal Southampton being lost in the storm, it is hoped that it will be replaced soon - comments by Pete Stagg.



This is a shot taken looking south from Gins Lane on 10th April 2024.

Gins Lane runs along the northern edge of the reserve. This shows the devastating flood which occurred on the night of 8th/9th April 2024, the worst ever on the reserve. The sea came over the sea wall to the left and into Black Water. The large area of the Gins is shown in the centre with Wigeon Fields to the right. In this area 10-15 Lapwing nests were lost and with Redshank about to lay. The Peregrines had probably laid and were also washed out. If the storm had coincided with the May spring high tide then many more nests would have been lost including key species Ringed Plover and Oystercatcher.

A walk around the reserve on the 10th April revealed huge numbers of dead worms and large feeding flocks of opportunistic Black-headed Gulls. Many small mammals will have drowned although paradoxically this may mean that Foxes and Badgers may have less reason to venture out onto the Gins and Wigeon Fields which would be good news for the Redshank and Lapwing. It does seem, however, that Hedgehogs may have been displaced onto Warren Shore and cameras confirm that at least six Oystercatchers nests have been predated by them.

### Wader Breeding Update

The following is a brief summary of the breeding season to date (as at 4th June) for the key species on the reserve.

**Redshank** – There are 20-25 pairs on the reserve making Needs Ore one of the key sites in the county. After assessing where the bulk of the territories were this year we concentrated on the Gins and Wigeon Fields area and found an impressive nine Redshank nests and we placed eight electric fences around them. Six nests hatched successfully between 23rd and 27th May and a seventh is due to hatch any day. Two nests were predated, by Jackdaw and Hedgehog. At least 30 chicks are known to have hatched but given their elusive nature it is likely to be many more. Eleven chicks were seen in three of the nest cups and seven chicks have been ringed. The other three hatched empty nests showed the tell-tale tiny fragments of buried shell confirming that they had been successful. 2024 has been a great success so far.



Redshank chicks the Gins photo by Graham Giddens

**Avocet** - the flood in early April covered the nesting islands and all of our Avocets left, most heading to the Lymington area although in the last two months many have returned. We have 18 pairs this year (6 De L'Orne and 12 Great Marsh) which is down from 30 pairs last year (when only two chicks got to the flying stage). At the time of writing (4th June) the De L'Orne colony has suffered the predation which has become a regular feature for that colony, this year probably by Great Black-backed Gulls. Only two chicks survive from the four nests that have hatched with two pairs still sitting. At Great Marsh, of the 12 Avocet nests, nine have hatched with at least 18 chicks active and if they can avoid predation then this could still be a good year.

**Lapwing** – Lapwing are the earliest wader to nest, it is estimated that 10-15 nests were lost in the flood of 8th/9th April. This led to a hard reset for this species with a 10-day pause for the birds to get back into condition. Many have relayed but it seems that numbers on the reserve post flood are lower (25 pairs down to 15 pairs) although productivity may still be ok. Of the 18 nests found post flood (perhaps from 14 pairs) eight nests hatched successfully producing 25 chicks, several of these nests contained unhatched eggs, likely a result of reduced 2nd attempt fertility. Six nests were predated, the list of probable culprits is unfortunately very long - Jackdaw, Hedgehog, Carrion Crow, Rook, Stoat, Fox and Badger. Four nests are still active and another two new/late nests were found on 2nd June, probably birds that have had earlier nests predated. Even if just half of the chicks we know have hatched get to the flying stage then this will be a very good year and even more so considering the flood event.

**Ringed Plover** - the peak count on 23rd May was 26 pairs and 87 eggs, very similar to last year at this stage. 23 of these pairs are at Needs Ore/Park Shore with almost all of these along the seafront shingle. Nearly all nests have a black wire cage and a trail camera. At the time of writing (4th June) five nests have hatched producing at least 14 chicks with another 5-6 nests due to hatch this week. Five nests have been predated - of these predations two were from caged nests (Carrion Crow and Hedgehog) and three from uncaged nests (Lesser Black-backed Gull and two unknown predators as they were predated before the camera was installed). Another four nests have been abandoned including the Sailing Club pair where the female was predated just outside the cage by a Stoat and the male (see photo 'YRY') subsequently abandoned the nest. The male has now paired up with his partner from last year and they are currently incubating another nest at the Sailing Club. Overall the Ringed Plover breeding season so far looks very similar to last year when an amazing 95 chicks hatched, we're just entering a busy hatching period.



Ringed Plover YRY Sailing Club

And leaving the worst news until the end, Oystercatcher.

**Oystercatcher** - they have been particularly badly hit by predation. The number of active nests peaked at around 25 (30 last year) in mid-May but heavy predation in the 2nd half of May has seen the number of active nests fall to 18 containing 46 eggs on 29th May. This is significantly lower than the 30 nests and 81 eggs at this time last year. Some pairs are laying for the third time and there are very few if any Oystercatcher nests (anywhere on the reserve) due to hatch in the normal peak of June week 1. At the time of writing (4th June) an eye-watering 27 Oystercatcher nests have been predated. They will attempt to nest again but often with reducing clutch sizes and fertility and with an increased chance of abandoning. As part of this year's study half of all Oystercatcher nests are left uncaged, this will enable us to make a firm scientific assessment about how effective the cages are. The 50% caging strategy has no doubt lead to more predations but even caged nests are suffering this year. 53% of all nesting attempts so far have been predated, a minimum of 39% of caged nests have been predated and a minimum of 67% of uncaged nests have been predated. Where we know the predator from trail camera footage 56% were Foxes (10) and 33% (six) were Hedgehogs. Nine of the 27 predations were from within a cage with the main 'cage culprit' being Hedgehog. 18 were predations on uncaged nests with Foxes accounting for most of these. Compared to previous years Hedgehogs have perhaps been displaced on to the shingle spit due to the lack of earthworms on the fields post flood. A cage still offers good protection for Oystercatchers but Hedgehogs are now on the spit and can easily enter.

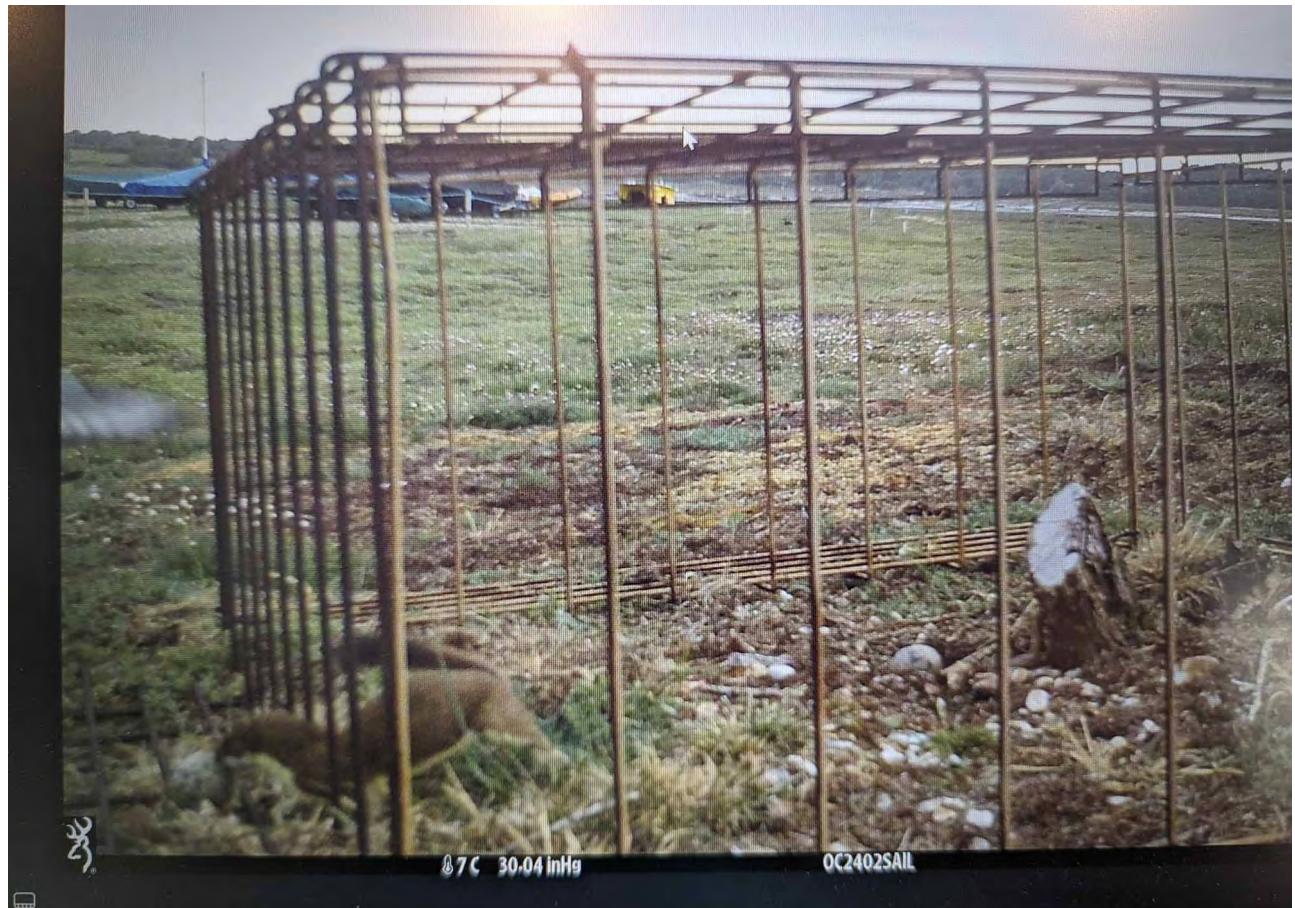


Oystercatcher Sailing Club

## **Predation Photos from May 2024**



Fox thwarted by an Oystercatcher cage at the Sailing Club photo by Mike Short



Stoat stealing eggs from the same Oystercatcher nest photo by Mike Short



Hedgehog preying on an Oystercatcher nest photo by Mike Short



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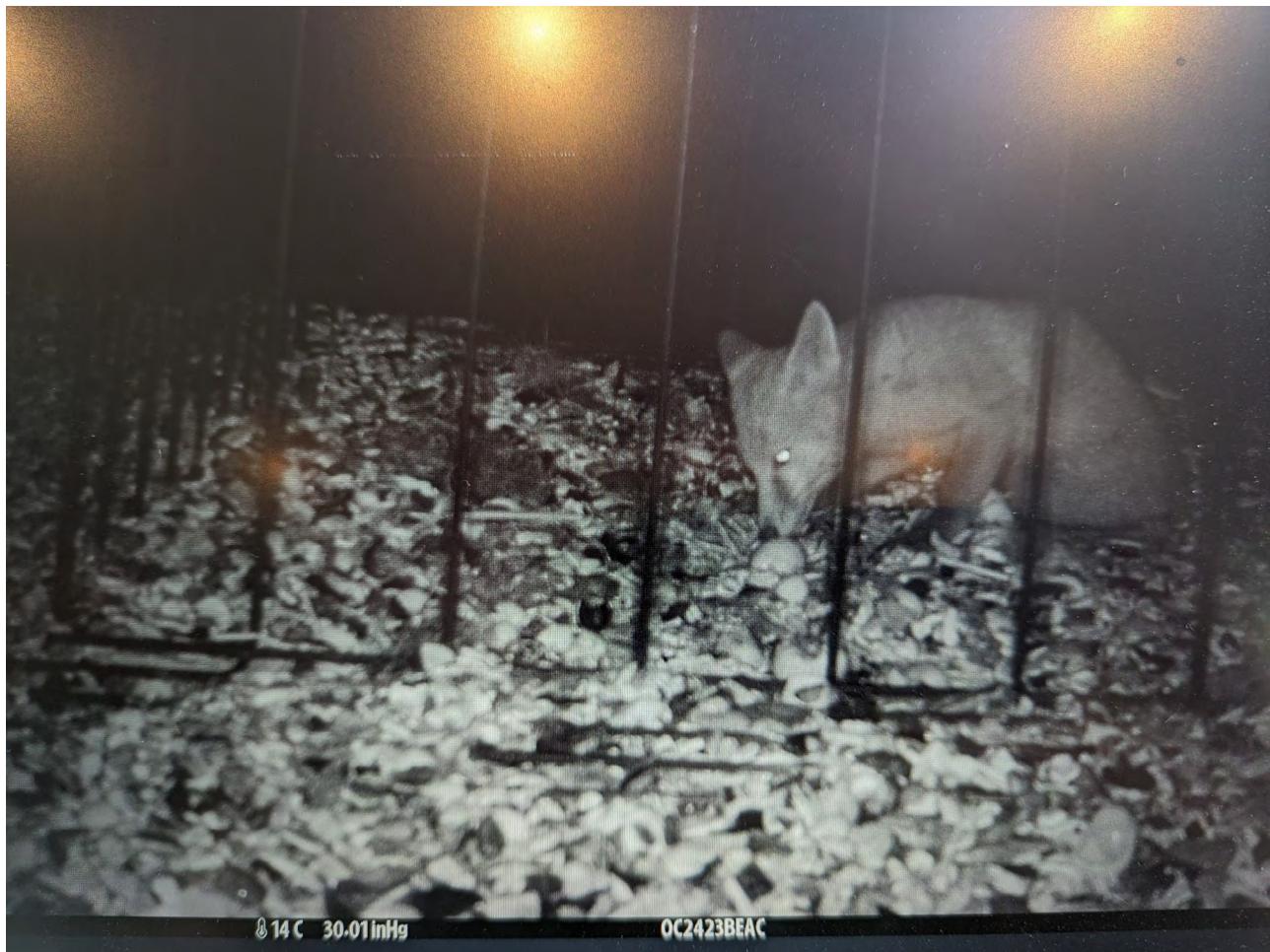
Jackdaw preying on a Lapwing nest



Fox predating an Oystercatcher nest photo by Mike Short



Hedgehog predating a Ringed Plover nest (inside cage) photo by Mike Short



Fox cub predating a caged Oystercatcher nest photo by Mike Short

# **Bird Sightings - Spring 2024**

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

## **March 2024 Round Up**

The highlight of the month was a Red-necked Grebe which was found off Mary Monts on 3rd (see page 29). It remained in the area being seen again on 9th and 10th March before relocating to the Lymington area. The pair of Slavonian Grebes were last seen off shore on 10th March. There was a Great Northern Diver in the river on 10th March and another on the sea on 23rd.

Red-breasted Mergansers were again very scarce with the only March sightings being pairs on 3rd and 7th. Above average March numbers of Avocets were seen with numbers growing to a peak of 37 on 20th March, the split that day was 14 on De L'Orne and 23 on Great Marsh.



Ruff Gins East

The two White Wagtails seen with 20 Pied Wagtails on Middle Field were the earliest ever recorded here, there were other singles on 10th March and 23rd March but otherwise it was a very poor spring for these migrants which are heading up to Iceland to breed.

March is the peak month for Eider, 15 were watched heading east on 9th and then 27 west the next day. A Pale-bellied Brent Goose was seen with 375 Dark-bellied Brents on the river estuary on 10th March. This is the first record here for two years. A different individual was seen with 400 Dark-bellied Brents on De L'Orne Scrape on 17th. These were birds that hadn't spent the winter here but were moving through, perhaps from wintering areas further west, on their way back to their breeding grounds.



Pale-bellied Brent Goose (2nd from the right) De L'Orne Scrape

Oystercatcher and Ringed Plover were displaying along the shingle spit and Redshank and Lapwing were displaying on the 'inland' wet grassland - Wigeon Fields and the Gins.



Oystercatcher Sailing Club photo by Dimitri Moore

The first Chiffchaff was heard singing on 13th March, the first Sand Martin was on the 17th, the first Swallow on 20th and the first House Martin on the 26th.

The first male Wheatear was seen on Gins North on 20th with an immature female Goshawk seen there the same day. A Siskin flew over the Cottages calling on the same morning.



Wheatear Gins West

The first Little Ringed Plover dropped onto to Gins West on 20th March but surprisingly it proved to be the only record of the spring.



Little Ringed Plover Gins West

The young male Marsh Harrier 'Z9' which spent the winter with us was last seen on 20th March. The two Willow Warblers which were heard singing early on the 23rd March were the earliest ever recorded here. By the month end male Linnets were escorting the females who do all of the nest building.



Linnet Point Gorse

The female Merlin was still around on 23rd March, perched on Droveway Brambles.

A well-watched Short-eared Owl was seen at the Sailing Club on 23rd and then spent most of the 24th roosting on the swatchway at the start of Gull Island.

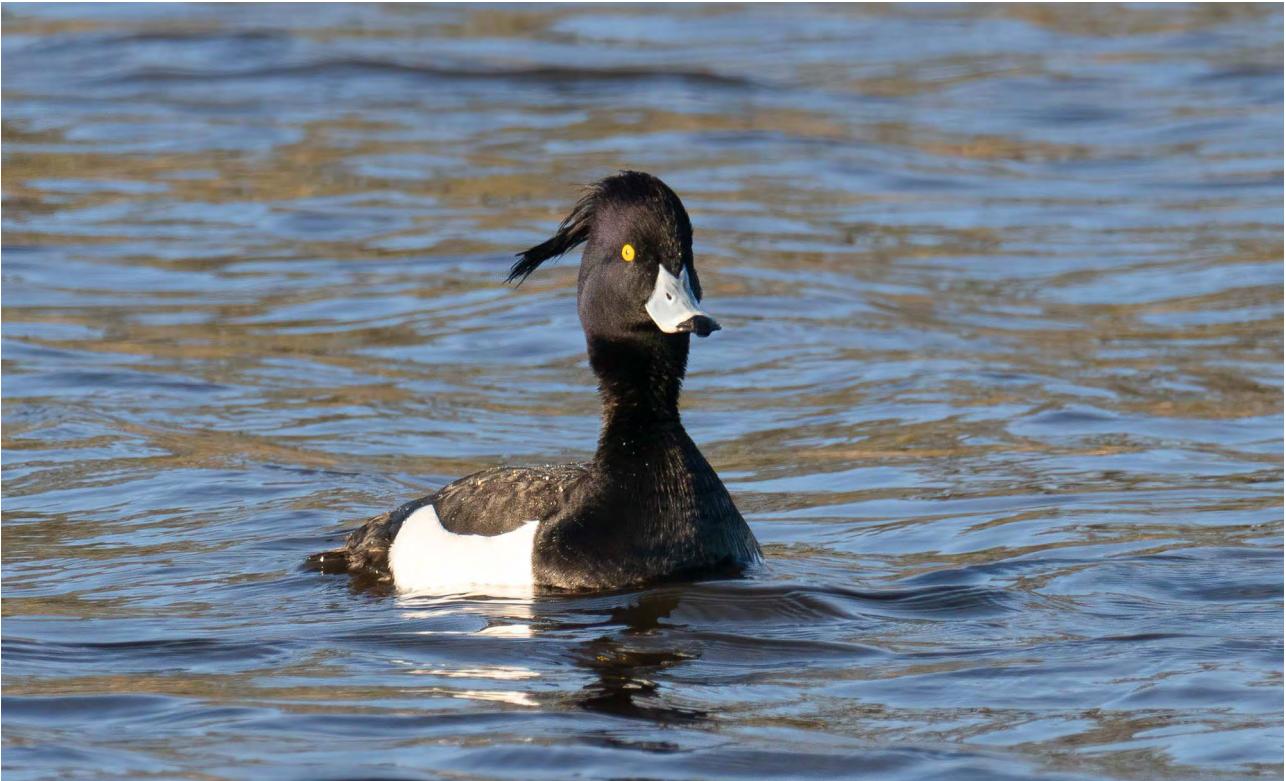
A Little Gull was seen on De L'Orne on 29th March and the next day there was an unprecedented count of 538 Black-headed Gulls on Black Water.

The first Ospreys were seen at the month end, one flew through north on 30th and the next day a second bird was watched catching a fish before landing and consuming it on Gull Island.



Osprey Beaulieu River

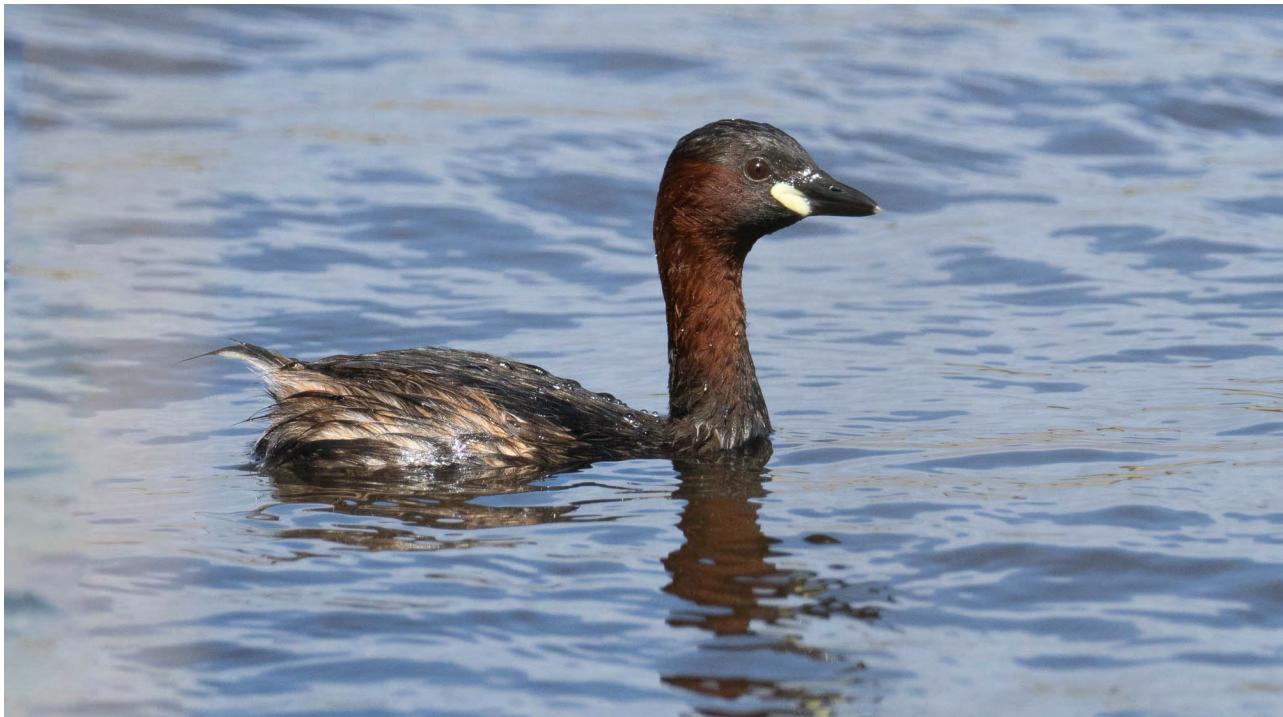
A Great White Egret was seen on 30th March. An early breeder, Mallard ducklings were seen at the end of the month. There were 12 on De L'Orne on 29th and eight at the Reedy Ditch on 31st. Several pairs of Tufted Duck appeared to be getting ready to breed again.



Tufted Duck Venner

### April 2024 Round Up

The numbers of several breeding species appear to be lower this year, probably due to the flood and the changed conditions around Black Water, particularly affected are Cetti's Warbler and Little Grebe.



Little Grebe Black Water

Adult male and female Marsh Harriers were seen displaying and carrying nesting material in the Great Marsh area in early April but after the flood all activity stopped. It seems that this pair is now breeding close by to the east but not on the reserve.

The Peregrine pair was very active throughout March and early April and it is thought they were on eggs on the swatchway section of Gull Island prior to the flood, they did not try again but have remained in the area.



Guillemot The Solent

A Guillemot was seen on the sea and then flying east on 2nd and the same or another was flying east on the 7th. Two Gannets also moved through the Solent on the 2nd and a Great Northern Diver on the same date was a fairly late record.

Eider groups of five and eight were seen on 6th and 25th April. The last Red-breasted Merganser was a single on 7th April.

The first Common Tern was on 7th April with a feeding flock of at least 40 birds seen off Mary Monts on 25th. More northerly-bound spring Ospreys were seen in April with singles on 6th, 7th and 14th.

Spring migrants continued to arrive from early April – Reed Warbler, Whitethroat and Hobby on 7th and Blackcap on 8th.

The first Great Skua for four years was watched drifting east on the morning of the 7th April. The same day a close-range 2nd year Little Gull was watched with 187 Black-headed Gulls on Black Water.



Little Gull Black Water

A very impressive movement of at least 500 Mediterranean Gulls moved west on the 7th April. Slightly odd as the main breeding colony is to the east at Langstone Harbour.

Three Great Crested Grebes on 21st April were starting to get quite late. They move away to breed on inland freshwater water bodies. Ringed Plover were starting to lay by the end of April.



Ringed Plover Sailing Club photo by Richard Jacobs

Single Golden Plover were heard calling over Shore Hide and Three Fields South on 8th and 21st April.

A migrant Short-eared Owl was flushed from just west of Shore Hide on 21st April.

After a gap in log book entries, due to the flood closing the reserve, more first spring arrival dates were recorded for Lesser Whitethroat, Swift, Sedge Warbler and rarer still a Yellow Wagtail over the Gins – all were on the 21st April. A group of four mobile Cattle Egrets were watched on 21st April - past the Southampton Yacht Club, then over Venner before finally settling at Park Farm.



Cattle Egrets Gins East

Sanderling often leave their push to the high Arctic quite late, the first record this year was 25th April.

Whimbrel and Bar-tailed Godwit passage seemed lighter than in previous years although less time was spent sea-watching. Peak counts included 40 Whimbrel mainly in fields on 21st April.



Whimbrel Warren Shore photo by Dimitri Moore

The last Dark-bellied Brent Geese were two east on 26th April. Young wildfowl included 12 Mallard ducklings on 21st and seven Greylag goslings on 25th. A group of three Common Sandpipers were on Mary Monts Pools on 25th. A Barn Owl was also seen the same day.



Common Sandpipers Mary Monts Pools



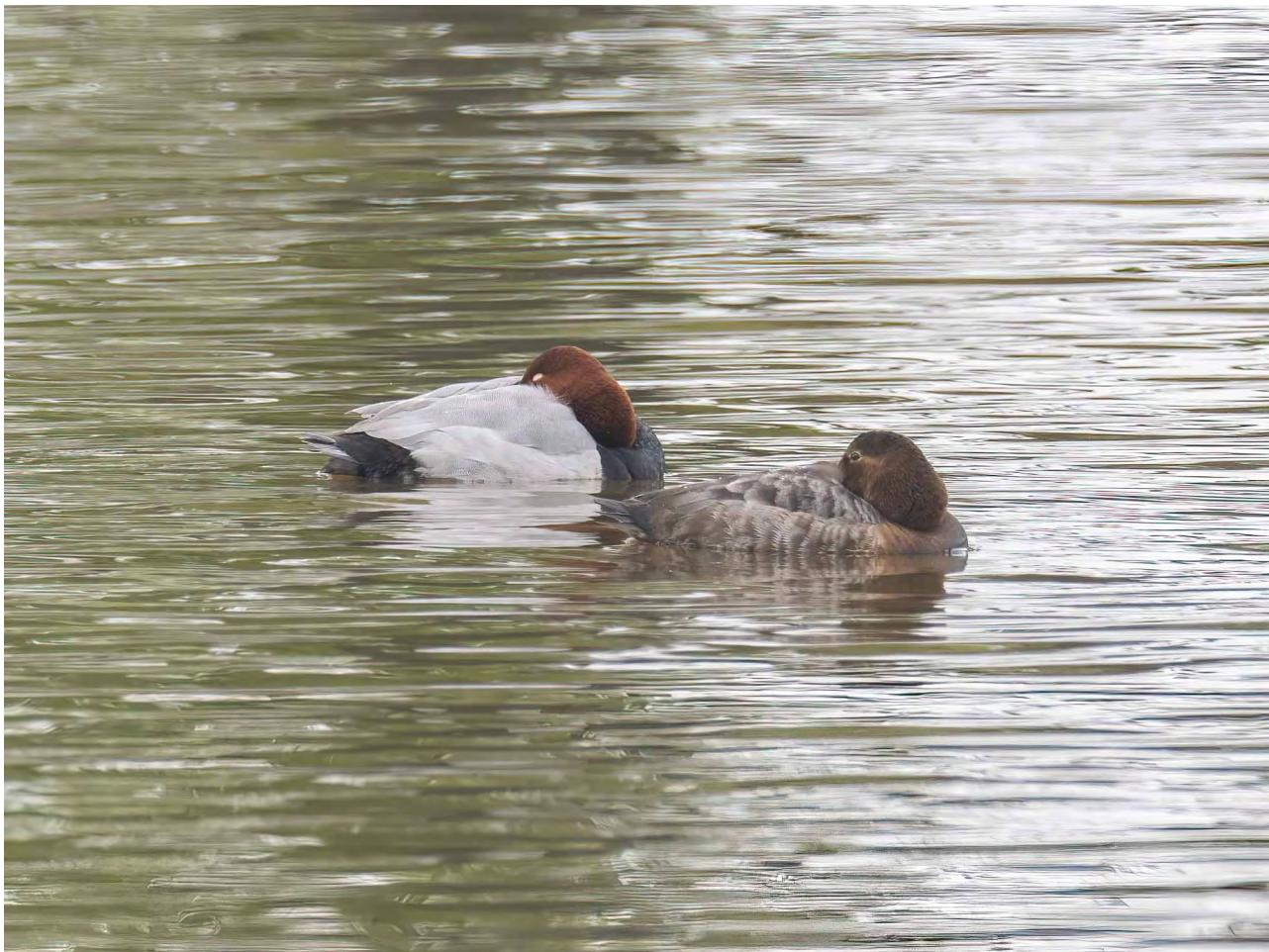
Red Kite Gins East

A good passage of Red Kites was recorded throughout April.

### May 2024 Round Up

Wood Sandpiper was a fairly unusual spring record on Gins East on 1st.

Shoveler are a scarce breeder here and although a pair was present in early May they did not stay. Pochard is another scarce breeder and Needs Ore is one of the most reliable sites in the county, by the month end three pairs remained around Venner, this could be a good year for them. Tufted Duck is a more common breeding duck in Hampshire and there were also three pairs at the month end in the Venner area.



Pochard Venner

Whimbrel passage was lighter in the second half of the month, the peak count was 30 on 5th May.

A Gannet was watched in the Solent on 7th May and the only Tree Pipit of the spring was seen the next day. A calling Yellow Wagtail was another scarce spring migrant on the 8th. The last of the Wheatears had moved through by 9th May.

A hepatic morph female Cuckoo was seen on 9th May, this unusual form accounts for only around 10% of females.



hepatic Cuckoo Black Water photo by Dimitri Moore

One or more Greenshank were seen on five dates up to 31st May. It is thought that birds that remain this late into the breeding season are headed for Scotland.

Other migrant waders heading north and east included Sanderling, May is their peak month and more than 100 were seen along Warren Shore on 25th. They were often associating with the schinzii race of Dunlin which are headed for Iceland and Greenland. Turnstone peaked at 50+ on 25th May with some looking stunning in rich black and chestnut.



copulating Redshank De L'Orne Lagoon

Small numbers of Grey Plover are also moving through and there were several stunning black, white and silver individuals. A summer plumaged Knot also moved through on the 19th. Redshank stay here to breed and the first nests were hatching from 23rd May.



White-tailed Eagle Sailing Club photo by Dimitri Moore

The two adult White-tailed Eagles were seen on several dates throughout the month.

Wildfowl young included six Mallard ducklings, five Greylag goslings and five Canada goslings, all on 8th May.

A group of 85 or more Rooks were regularly seen in Wedge Field and may have predated the Lapwing nest in that field. Carrion Crows are usually more of a threat but Rooks are unlikely to turn down eggs if they stumble upon them. Red Kite passage continued throughout May with sightings most days, occasionally up to three birds together. It is suspected that they may have predated the first Ringed Plover chicks of the season in late May.

Unseasonal wildfowl included a drake Wigeon which was seen on three dates in May and then a drake Teal seen on Venner on 31st May.



Wigeon Reedy Ditch

In recent years the western half of the reserve has hosted a single Dartford Warbler pair. It was the same in 2024, this year the male was watched feeding a newly fledged juvenile on 19th May and then all three juveniles were seen the next day. This season is more advanced than last year, the 2023 nest with four very recently hatched chicks wasn't found until 21st May.

Our resident Kestrels raised five young, they fledged on 2nd June. This continues a long run of successful breeding seasons. It was feared that with the loss of so many small mammals in the flood that they might struggle but, thankfully, that wasn't the case.



Kestrels photo by Graham Giddens

A group of four juvenile Grey Herons flew over Venner on 19th, they are probably from the herony at Sowley Pond.

A female Ruff was seen briefly on Great Marsh on the 19th. The same day a Nightjar was heard churring briefly at 10am on Gravelly Gorse. We have two pairs again although the nests haven't been located yet, at least one pair has been predated, probably by Badgers, in each of the last two years.



Lapwing Mary Monts Pools photo by Dimitri Moore

The first Lapwing and Avocet eggs hatched on 19th and the first Redshank and Ringed Plover eggs hatched on 23rd. The first Oystercatchers are still to hatch as at the month end, they have suffered heavily from predation this year.

The highlight of the year so far was a male Golden Oriole which was heard singing for 25 minutes early on the 23rd May (see page 29). A Hobby powered over the Gins on 27th and a family group of six Ravens flew over Great Marsh on the same day, a worrying sight given that there were 13 Avocet chicks just below them.

A large group of 30 Swifts were feeding around Black Water House on the last day of the month.

Also at the month end a pair of Common Terns were seen on the shingle raft on Great Marsh. They were clearly sitting on 2nd June and a single egg was seen the next day. This is the first ever breeding success on Great Marsh and the first on the resreve since a pair on De L'Orne Lagoon in 2019.



Common Terns on Great Marsh shingle raft

## Rarity Highlights

### Golden Oriole

While checking a Lapwing nest in Wedge Field on Thursday 23rd May I heard an unfamiliar harsh call from the hedgeline along the southern edge of the field which runs along Warren Lane. A few seconds later I heard it again and decided to investigate. As I approached I heard several short fluty warbling phrases which I immediately felt sure was Golden Oriole. I'm aware of the possible confusion with Blackbird and Mistle Thrush and so waited for more song before I could confirm the ID. Although I hadn't registered it at the time the first harsh call was also the Golden Oriole.

I heard the first call and song at 5:40am. The bird flew unseen from its initial position to be more or less directly opposite Shore Hide. It continued to sing but once again didn't show itself. It flew again eastwards along the back of the hedgeline halfway to the Coastguard Cottages and continued singing. It was 6:05am and I didn't hear it again. This is the first Needs Ore record since once found by John Taverner on 9th June 1979.

### Red-necked Grebe

The highlight of the early Spring was a Red-necked Grebe which was found by Alan Lewis off Mary Monts on 3rd March. It spent the morning drifting east on the rising tide and was then lost to view off Gull Island in the early afternoon. Thankfully it remained in the area being seen again on 9th and 10th March before relocating to the Lymington area. This is the first record for nine years, following another long staying March bird in 2015.



Red-necked Grebe Warren Shore