

Portbury Wharf bird list



The list details species recorded on the reserve since 1 January 2005 after the major groundworks had been completed, the diggers had left site and the pools filled with water.

It should also be noted that some sightings include the Foreshore area and Saltmarsh, which is outside the Nature Reserve and highly sensitive area for visitors, especially during breeding and migration seasons.

Species	Frequency	* breeds or has bred on the reserve	Comments
Mute swan <i>Cygnus olor</i>	common	*	usually 1 or 2 pairs
Greylag goose <i>Anser anser</i>	rare		only a couple of records to date
Canada goose <i>Branta canadensis</i>	common	*	has bred on the main pool island every year since 2005
Barnacle goose <i>Branta leucopsis</i>	rare		1 record 2010
Shelduck <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	common	*	Odd birds drop in from the estuary. Has bred in bat box city
Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i>	common		winter visitor mainly to the estuary around Chapel Pill. A few visit the pools
Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i>	common	*	1 or 2 pairs normally breed each year. More numerous in winter
Teal <i>Anas crecca</i>	common		winter visitor mainly to the estuary around Chapel Pill. A few visit the pools
Mallard <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	common	*	4 or 5 pairs normally breed
Garganey <i>Anas querquedula</i>	very uncommon		recorded spring 2009 and 2010
Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>	common		mainly in the winter period
Pochard <i>Aythya ferina</i>	common		mainly in the winter period
Ring-necked Duck <i>Aythya collaris</i>	rare		1 long-stayer 2006-2008
Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i>	common	*	a few pairs breed, more numerous in winter
Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	rare		1 record in 2009

Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i>	rare		1 long-stayer with the RN Duck
Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i>	rare		1 record in 2005 just after the pools were finished
Ruddy Duck <i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	rare		1 record in 2008
Pheasant <i>Phasianus colchinus</i>	common	*	assumed to breed in Vole City, birds often flushed in the saltmarsh
Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus rufficollis</i>	common	*	a few pairs normally breed each year on the pools
Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	uncommon		odd birds drop in in spring/autumn, shows no sign of staying to breed yet
Cormorant <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	common		regular over-flights to and from estuary and occasionally fishes in the pools
Little egret <i>Egretta garzeta</i>	uncommon		visiting birds can stay a while then disappear
Grey heron <i>Ardea cinerea</i>	common		always 1 or 2 birds somewhere on the pools
Red kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	rare		some odd spring records of passage birds
Marsh harrier <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	rare		odd birds on spring passage
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	fairly common		usually seen hunting for small birds around the hedgrows and occasionally quartering the saltmarsh to flush out Pipits and Skylarks
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	fairly common		most birds are visitors wandering down from the Failand ridge where they breed in good numbers
Kestrel <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	common		hovering birds are a regular sight.
Merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>	rare		Winter visitor but rare here
Hobby <i>Falco subbuteo</i>	uncommon		summer visitor April-September but never frequent
Peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	uncommon		breeds in nearby dock. More numerous in winter to hunt the wader flocks.
Water rail <i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	uncommon		mostly around the north pools, seawall ditch and saltmarsh in winter
Moorhen <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	common	*	breeding resident around the pools and ditches
Coot <i>Fulica atra</i>	common	*	breeding resident around the pools and ditches
Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	common	*	a pair has bred on the main pool island 2009 and 2010
Little ringed plover <i>Charadrius dubius</i>	rare	*	Bred in 2005 before pools became overgrown with vegetation
Lapwing <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	common		absent during breeding season but always a few overflying to/from the estuary at other times
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	rare		a couple of autumn records on the pools
Jack snipe <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	uncommon		only 1 record for the reserve but small numbers occur on the saltmarsh in winter

Snipe <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	uncommon		but probably overlooked as the pool margins are not 'walked'. Good numbers occur on the saltmarsh in winter
Woodcock <i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	rare		odd sightings around the hedgerows in winter period
Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa</i>	uncommon		occasional around the pools, mainly in autumn
Whimbrel <i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	uncommon		mainly a spring passage migrant. Most occur on the saltmarsh but a few turn up in the fields
Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>	common		chiefly a winter visitor at the estuary with a few non-breeders remaining during summer. Uncommon on the reserve but a few birds sometimes feed in the fields in wet weather
Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>	common		regular visitor from the estuary to the main pool. 1 or 2 pairs are seen on the saltmarsh throughout summer but breeding never proven
Greenshank <i>Tringa nebularia</i>	fairly uncommon		mainly seen in autumn
Green sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	uncommon		more numerous at Chapel Pill rather than the pools
Common sandpiper <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	common		occurs mainly as an autumn passage migrant in very small numbers around the pools. More numerous at Chapel Pill
Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	fairly uncommon		1 or 2 sometimes turn up in the Black-headed Gull flocks
Little gull <i>Larus minutus</i>	rare		1 record 2007
Black-headed gull <i>Larus ridibundus</i>	common		regular visitor to the pools but almost entirely absent in high summer. The first returning birds usually re-appear in July
Ring-billed gull <i>Larus delawarensis</i>	rare		1 record on north pools 2008
Common gull <i>Larus canus</i>	fairly uncommon		odd records on the pools, more often in winter when other Gull flocks form
Lesser black-backed gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>	common		regular visitor to the pools
Yellow-legged gull <i>Larus michahellis</i>	rare		1 record in 2006
Herring gull <i>Larus argentatus</i>	common		regular visitor to the pools
Great black-backed gull <i>Larus marinus</i>	uncommon		Odd birds drop in on the pools to wash
Little tern <i>Sternula albifrons</i>	rare		1 record 2008
Feral pigeon <i>Columba livia</i>	common		
Stock dove <i>Columba oenas</i>	common	*	often uses the Barn Owl boxes
Wood pigeon <i>Columba palumbus</i>	common		ubiquitous, needs little comment
Collared dove <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	common		but never numerous
Cuckoo <i>Cuculus canorus</i>	increasingly uncommon		No records in 2010!

Barn owl <i>Tyto alba</i>	(un)common	*	More dawn/dusk visits would produce more records. Breeds in the Owl boxes
Little owl <i>Athene noctua</i>	uncommon	*	has bred around Wharf lane barns and elsewhere
Short-eared owl <i>Asio flammeus</i>	rare		A rare bird here despite good habitat at Vole City
Swift <i>Apus apus</i>	common summer visitor		Often seen over the pools in bad weather
Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i>	uncommon		mainly seen on autumn passage with the dispersal of breeding birds from elsewhere
Green woodpecker <i>Picus viridis</i>	common		always odd birds seen or heard yaffling
Great spotted woodpecker <i>Dendrocopus major</i>	uncommon		occasional records, mostly from the areas with taller trees
Woodlark <i>Lullula arborea</i>	rare		1 record 2009
Skylark <i>Alauda arvensis</i>	(un)common		Plenty on the saltmarsh at all times but less numerous on the reserve
Sand martin <i>Riparia riparia</i>	uncommon summer visitor		Often seen over the pools in bad weather
Swallow <i>Hirundo rustica</i>	common summer visitor		Often seen over the pools in bad weather
House martin <i>Delichon urbica</i>	common summer visitor		Often seen over the pools in bad weather
Meadow pipit <i>Anthus pratensis</i>	common		mainly a winter visitor, small numbers around the pools and scrub but larger flock on the saltmarsh
Rock pipit <i>Anthus petrosus</i>	common		Always odd birds present and good numbers on the saltmarsh in winter, especially after high tides
Water pipit <i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	uncommon		mainly seen in winter or spring
Yellow wagtail <i>Motacilla flava</i>	uncommon summer visitor		mainly seen in small numbers in the horsefields
Grey wagtail <i>Motacilla cinera</i>	uncommon		Odd birds turn up from time to time but no flowing water to interest them
Pied wagtail <i>Motacilla alba yarelli</i>	common		especially around the horse fields
White wagtail <i>Motacilla alba alba</i>	uncommon summer visitor		odd birds seen in amongst the spring Pied Wagtail passage. Autumn birds are probably overlooked
Wren <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	common	*	can be encountered anywhere around the bushes, needs little comment
Dunnock <i>Prunella modularis</i>	common	*	can be encountered anywhere around the bushes, needs little comment
Robin <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	common	*	can be encountered anywhere around the bushes, needs little comment
Nightingale <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	rare		1 spring record from the otter holt area in 2006.
Redstart <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	uncommon passage migrant		1 or 2 birds usually seen somewhere around the hedgerows on spring passage
Whinchat <i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	uncommon passage migrant		1 or 2 birds usually seen somewhere around the open fields on spring passage

Stonechat <i>Saxicola torquata</i>	uncommon		occasional records around the fields, better numbers on the saltmarsh in winter
Wheatear <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	uncommon passage migrant		1 or 2 birds most years bet never numerous
Ring ouzel <i>Turdus torquatus</i>	rare		1 record 2010 in the sheepfields
Blackbird <i>Turdus merula</i>	common	*	can be encountered anywhere around the bushes, needs little comment
Fieldfare <i>Turdus pilaris</i>	common winter visitor		numbers and presence heavily dependant on berry crop
Song thrush <i>Turdus philomelos</i>	uncommon	*	usually single birds, rarely groups
Redwing <i>Turdus iliacus</i>	common winter visitor		numbers and presence heavily dependant on berry crop
Mistle thrush <i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	uncommon		usually single birds, some small post breeding flocks in late summer
Cetti's warbler <i>Cettia cetti</i>	common		always a few to be heard near the pools, presumably breeds but never proven
Grasshopper warbler <i>Locustella naevia</i>	uncommon		occasional spring records of reeling birds
Sedge warbler <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	common	*	summer visitor from Africa April-September, breeds around the pools and ditches
Reed warbler <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	common	*	summer visitor from Africa April-September, breeds around the pools and ditches
Blackcap <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	(un)common	*	common in spring, uncommon in winter
Garden warbler <i>Sylvia borin</i>	uncommon		mainly seen in spring
Lesser whitethroat <i>Sylvia corruca</i>	common	*	summer visitor from Africa April-September, breeds around the bushes and hedgerows
Whitethroat <i>Sylvia communis</i>	common	*	summer visitor from Africa April-September, breeds around the bushes and hedgerows
Dartford warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i>	rare		mainly autumn/winter period
Yellow-browed warbler <i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>	rare		1 record 2008 near the sewage farm
Wood warbler <i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	rare		noted only on spring passage
Chiffchaff <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	(un)common	*	common in spring, uncommon in winter
Willow warbler <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	common		summer visitor from Africa April-September. Breeding status uncertain.
Goldcrest <i>Regulus regulus</i>	uncommon		mainly seen in winter period in very small numbers
Firecrest <i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	rare		very occasional records
Spotted flycatcher <i>Muscicapa striata</i>	increasingly uncommon		spring/summer visitor and appears to be decreasing
Pied flycatcher <i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	rare		Seen only on spring passage
Long-tailed tit <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	common	*	can be encountered anywhere around the bushes, needs little comment
Blue tit <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	common	*	can be encountered anywhere around the bushes, needs little comment
Great tit <i>Parus major</i>	common	*	can be encountered anywhere around the bushes, needs little comment
Treecreeper <i>Certia familiaris</i>	rare		a local rarity!
Red-backed shrike <i>Lanius collurio</i>	rare		1 record 2008

Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	uncommon		mainly seen in autumn/winter
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	common	*	can be encountered anywhere around the bushes, needs little comment
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	common		needs little comment
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	uncommon		No rookery anywhere near.
Carrion crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	common		needs little comment
Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	uncommon		overflying birds, often from the docks area
Starling <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	common		needs little comment
House sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	common		Only near the farmhouses at Wharf lane
Chaffinch <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	common	*	can be encountered anywhere around the bushes, needs little comment
Brambling <i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	rare		very occasional winter records
Greenfinch <i>Carduelis chloris</i>	common	*	breeding resident around the bushes and hedgerows
Goldfinch <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	common	*	can be encountered anywhere around the bushes, needs little comment
Siskin <i>Carduelis spinus</i>	fairly common		but never in large numbers, mainly seen in the autumn/winter period
Linnet <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	common	*	Breeds in small numbers along the seawall. More numerous in winter with flocks c.80 birds on the saltmarsh.
Twite <i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	rare		1 record 2007
Lesser redpoll <i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	uncommon		mainly seen in the autumn/winter period. All our Redpolls are presumed to be lessers though the possibility of Common Redpoll cannot be ruled out
Bullfinch <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	common	*	can be encountered anywhere around the bushes, needs little comment. Wharf lane bushes a favoured place
Yellowhammer <i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	rare		coastal records are rare all along the estuary
Reed bunting <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	common	*	breeding resident around the bushes and hedgerows
Bittern <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	rare		1 bird 1st Feb 2011
Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina</i>	rare		(likely to become a regular with newly flattened Island available) recorded 30/1/11 (birds roosting on newly flattened island).
Tawny Owl <i>Strix Aluco</i>	rare		1st record July 2010
Waxwing <i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	rare		first recorded December 2010 during an invasion year of this species in the UK