

WILDFOWL AND WADER COUNTS
in the
MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY
2010-11

Report prepared for the Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group

by Annie Haycock

Pembrokeshire WeBS coordinator

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Contact with the Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group can be made through:

Captain M Andrews
Harbour Master
Milford Haven Port Authority
Gorsewood Drive
Hakin
Milford Haven
Pembrokeshire SA73 3ER
Telephone (general enquiries) 01646 696100

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Executive Summary

The Wetland Bird Survey was carried out on the Cleddau estuary system between September 2010 and March 2011, with additional counts for June and July 2010 made by Jane Hodges during the annual survey of summer shelduck populations .

The methodology used followed that set out in the BTO WeBS Counters Handbook.

A total peak count of 26145 birds between November and February confirms that the estuary system is still of international importance for its waterfowl populations. That peak count was similar to the average during the previous decade.

The levels of “National Importance” for many water birds have been revised, and six species now qualify (based on a five-year mean): little egret (61 in October), shelduck (max 765 in January), wigeon (max. 7850 in November), greenshank (max 49 in October), dunlin (max 4709 in February), and curlew (2017 in July). Teal reached the required level (max. 2246 in December), but three of the four previous counts were below this level.

This winter saw the coldest December for 100 years, with temperatures 5C below the long-term average. This undoubtedly affected bird distribution and movements across the country.

The total number of birds recorded each month was similar to the average recorded during the past decade, however there were more wildfowl around, particularly in December, wader numbers built up slowly to a February peak, and gulls were relatively scarce.

Comparison of counts with the national report for 2009-10 (the most recent that is available) show that for most species, the local trends in populations are similar to those experienced nationally.

CYFRIFON ADAR DŴR AC ADAR HIRGOES AR DDYFRFFORDD HWLFFORDD 2010 – 11

Crynodeb Gweithredol

Gwnaethpwyd Arolwg Adar y Gwlyptir ar system aber y Cleddau rhwng Medi 2010 a Mawrth 2011. Gwnaeth Jane Hodges gyfrifon ychwanegol ar gyfer mis Mehefin a mis Gorffennaf 2010 yn ystod yr arolwg blynyddol o boblogaethau haf hwyaden yr eithin.

Defnyddiwyd yr un fethodoleg â'r un a amlinellir yn Llawlyfr Cyfrifwyr AAyG y BTO.

Mae cyfanswm cyfrif uchaf o 26145 o adar rhwng mis Tachwedd a mis Chwefror yn cadarnhau bod system yr aber yn parhau i fod o bwysigrwydd rhyngwladol yn achos ei phoblogaethau o adar dŵr. Roedd y cyfrif uchaf hwnnw yn debyg i'r cyfartaledd yn ystod y ddegawd flaenorol.

Yn achos nifer o adar dŵr mae lefelau'r 'Pwysigrwydd Cenedlaethol' wedi cael ei adolygu ac mae chwe rhywogaeth bellach yn gymwys (yn seiliedig ar gymedr pum mlynedd): creÿr bach (61 ym mis Hydref), hwyaden yr eithin (uchafswm o 765 ym mis Ionawr), chwiwell (uchafswm o 7850 ym mis Tachwedd), pibydd coeswyrdd (uchafswm o 49 ym mis Hydref), pibydd y mawn (uchafswm o 4709 ym mis Chwefror), a'r gylfinir (2017 ym mis Gorffennaf). Cyrhaeddodd y gorhwyaden y lefel angenrheidiol (uchafswm o 2246 ym mis Rhagfyr), ond roedd tri o'r pedwar cyfrif blaenorol islaw'r lefel yma.

Mis Rhagfyr y gaeaf yma oedd yr oeraf ers 100 mlynedd gyda'r tymheredd 5C islaw y cyfartaledd tymor hir. Fe wnaeth hyn yn sicr effeithio ar ddsbarthiad a symudiadau adar ledled y wlad.

Roedd cyfanswm yr adar a gofnodwyd bob mis yn debyg i'r cyfartaledd a gofnodwyd yn ystod y ddegawd ddiwethaf. Roedd mwy o adar dŵr i'w gweld, fodd bynnag, yn enwedig ym mis Rhagfyr. Cynyddodd cyfrif yr adar hirgoes yn raddol nes cyrraedd uchafbwynt ym mis Chwefror, ac roedd gwylanod yn gymharol brin.

Trwy gymharu'r cyfrifon gydag adroddiad cenedlaethol 2009-10 (yr adroddiad mwyaf diweddar sydd ar gael) gwelir fod y tueddiadau lleol o safbwynt poblogaethau yn debyg i'r rhai a geir yn genedlaethol yn achos y rhan fwyaf o rywogethau.