

Middlebere Avocet Hide



2025 Sightings

By Garry Hayman (Purbeck Pilgrim)

Many thanks to the following contributors for photos

Mark Wright

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Welcome to the National Trust Middlebere Avocet Hide.

Each year I place a diary in the hide for visitors to record their sightings. At the turn of the year, I collect the old diary, have a look through all of the entries / records and collate the more significant information.

It would be much appreciated if you would enter your sightings into the diary & a count of the species seen.

2025 Sightings

In 2025, there were 135 species recorded in the diary, compared to 122 last year, 127 in 2024, 121 in 2022 and 105 in 2021.

Osprey

The first entry of an Osprey sighting was on 22nd March, when local breeding male 022 was seen. In 2024, the first osprey sighting was on 29th March, (7 days later) and on 1st April in 2022 and 2021 (10 days later).

The last Osprey sighting was on 16th September. There were very few autumn Osprey sighting in Poole Harbour compared to last year, when Scottish ringed 511 hung around until 11th November. But the 16th September is still much earlier than previous years too, when the last sighting in was 16th October 2023 & 26th September in 2022.

The highest record of different Ospreys seen at once was only 3, which was on the 13th & 22nd August. This was down in comparison to 2024, when 5 individuals were seen all at once on the 17th August and 4 in the previous 2 years on the 4th September in 2023 & respectively on 26th August in 2022.

The total number of days that an Osprey was seen in 2025 was 69, which is down on 2024 (90 days) but up on the 61 days in 2023, 45 days in 2022 & 41 days in 2021. This was very much down to zero sightings of an Osprey in October or November. What is pleasing though is the continued success of local breeding pair female CJ7 and male 022 raising another 4 young, which all successfully fledged.

March - 4 days (3 in 2024 & 0 in 2023 & 2022)
April - 15 days (10 in 2024 & 5 in 2023 & 19 in 2022)
May - 0 days (1 in 2024, 5 in 2023 & 2 in 2022)
June - 7 days (2 days in 2024, 1 day in 2023 & 0 in 2022)
July - 10 days (9 days in 2024, 2 days in 2023 & 1 in 2022)
August - 26 days (29 days in 2024, 24 days in 2023 & 20 in 2022)
Sept - 7 days (18 days in 2024, 16 days in 2023 & 10 in 2022)
Oct - 0 days (8 in 2024 and 2023 & 1 in 2022)
Nov - 0 days (10 days in 2024, 0 in 2023 and 2022)

In addition to the above, there were sightings of multiple Osprey at the same time:

April - 4 days (2 in 2024, 0 in 2023)
July - 1 days (3 in 2024, 0 in 2023)
August - 7 days (11 in 2024, 7 in 2023)
Sept - 1 day (1 in 2024, 13 in 2023)

	2 Osprey	3 Osprey
April	4 days	-
July	1 days	-
August	5 days	2 days
Sept	4 days	-
Oct	1 day	-



Osprey © Mark Wright



Osprey © Mark Wright

White-tailed Eagle

There were a staggering 59 days on which 1 or more White-tailed Eagles were seen, compared to 14 days last year, 27 days in 2023 and 10 days in 2022. There were 9 days on which 2 WTEs were seen, which is an increase from 2024 when there were only 2 days on which 2 different WTEs were seen and 1 day (15th March) when 3 different WTEs were seen.



Merlin

There were 27 days on which a Merlin was seen, compared to 15 days last year, 19 days in 2023 & 24 days in 2022. The first returning Merlin of the autumn was very early on the 15th August compared to last year when the first record was not until the 12th October (13th October in 2023 & 15th Oct in 2022).

Goshawk

There were only 23 days on which 1 or more Goshawks were seen, compared to 43 days in 2024, 32 days in 2023 and 14 days in 2022. There were just 2 days when 2 different Goshawks were seen, which is down on last year (10 days in 2024, 2 days in 2023).

Hen Harrier

There were 50 days on which a Hen Harrier was seen, compared to 53 days last year, 54 days in 2023 and 59 days in 2022. In 2025 the seasonal split was 41 days at the start of the year (33 days in 2024, 23 days in 2023 & 27 days in 2022) and 9 days at the end of the year (20 days in 2024, 31 in 2023 & 32 in 2022).

On 12 days there were 2 different Hen Harriers seen (10 in 2024, 13 in 2023 and no days in which 3 different Hen Harriers were seen (0 day in 2024, 2 days in 2023).

The first Hen Harrier of the autumn / winter was recorded on the 5th August and clearly only a migrant, as the first wintering Hen Harrier was not seen until 27th October (20th November in 2024, 14th October in 2023 & 6th Oct in 2022). The winter of 2025 (Oct - Dec) got off to a very slow start with only 6 days on which a Hen Harrier was seen and also corresponds with data from volunteers who monitor a local winter roost and have had the worst record of winter roosting Hen Harriers since 2009.



Male Hen Harrier © Mark Wright

Female Hen Harrier (Ringtail)



© Mark Wright

Marsh Harrier

There were 106 days on which one or more Marsh Harriers were seen, compared to 80 days last year, 111 days in 2023 and 84 days in 2022. On 18 of those 106 days there were 2 Marsh Harriers seen, which is an increase from 2023 when there were 7 days with 2 different Marsh Harriers.

Marsh Harrier



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Red Kite

There were 15 days on which a Red Kite was seen, compared to 6 days in 2024, 9 days in 2023 & 3 days in 2022. There were 2 days (8th March & 24th May) on which 2 different Red Kites were seen (1 day in 2024 & 2023). There was also 1 day (21st April) when 3 different Red Kites were seen. Considering that Red Kites were almost extinct in the UK and thanks to reintroduction programmes starting in 1989, they have made a remarkable recovery. The increase in sightings at Middlebere demonstrates what a major conservation success story this has been.

Peregrine

There were 26 days on which a Peregrine was seen (30 days in 2024 & 23).



Juvenile Peregrine Falcon © Mark Wright

Hobby

There were 16 days on which a Hobby was seen (8 days in 2024), with the first sighting of the year on 6th May (8th May in 2024).



Sparrowhawk © Mark Wright



Kestrel © Mark Wright

Other significant entries / records & high counts (Please note, these are not necessarily confirmed sightings):

Important: Please give full details of records & sightings

A Mallard Duck (drake) with a nasal saddle HT0HT was seen on 28th, 29th & 31st January, 1st & 2nd Feb, 1st April and 4th May. It was tagged as a juv on 01/08/2020 at São Jocinto Dune nature reserve, Portugal.



Mandarin Duck - 1 on 16th February

Swallow - 22nd March (first of the year)

Black Redstart - 23rd March and 12th October

Whimbrel - 3 on 19th April (first of the year) and the highest count was 20 on 26th April

Great White Egret - 6 on 8th May (highest count)

Yellow Wagtail - 22nd April (first of the year)

Cuckoo - 1st May (first of the year)

Willow warbler - 14th May (first of the year)

Swift - 24th May (first of the year)

Nightjar - 30th May (first of the year)

Brent Goose - 1st June

Yellow-legged Gull - 15th June

Common Sandpiper - 10th July (1st autumn migrant)

Spotted Redshank - 23rd July - (1st autumn migrant)

Honey Buzzard - 23rd July

Cattle Egret - 8 on 3rd August (highest count)

Guillemot - 1 on 7th August

Wryneck - 1 on 18th August

Spoonbill - 20 on 20th September (highest count)

Glossy Ibis - 6 on 21st September

Curlew Sandpiper - 6 on 26th September (first migrants), 8 on 3rd & 5th October (highest count)

Ring Ouzel - 28th September

Knot - 12 on 5th & 31st October (highest count)

Golden Plover - 1 on 14th November

Barnacle Goose - 60 on the 29th November

Jack Snipe - 2 on 12th December

Tundra Bean Goose - 6 on 24th December

Yellow-legged Gull



Full list of species recorded in 2025

1. Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	69. Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
2. Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	70. Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
3. Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	71. Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>
4. Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	72. White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>
5. Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	73. Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
6. Tundra Bean Goose	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>	74. Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
7. Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	75. Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
8. Egyptian Goose	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	76. Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
9. Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	77. Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
10. Mandarin Duck	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	78. Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
11. Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	79. Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>
12. Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	80. Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
13. Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	81. Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
14. Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	82. Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
15. Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	83. Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
16. Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	84. Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
17. Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	85. Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
18. Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	86. Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
19. Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	87. Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
20. Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	88. Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
21. Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	89. Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
22. Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	90. Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
23. Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	91. Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
24. Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	92. Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
25. Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	93. Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
26. Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	94. House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
27. Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	95. Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>
28. Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	96. Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
29. Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	97. Yellow-browed Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus inornatus</i>
30. Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	98. Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
31. Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	99. Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
32. Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	100. Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
33. Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	101. Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
34. Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	102. Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
35. Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	103. Dartford Warbler	<i>Currucà undata</i>
36. Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	104. Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>
37. Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	105. Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
38. Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	106. Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
39. Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	107. Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
40. Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	108. Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
41. Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	109. Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>
42. Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocryptes minimus</i>	110. Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
43. Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	111. Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
44. Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	112. Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
45. Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	113. Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
46. Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	114. Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
47. Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	115. Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
48. Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	116. Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
49. Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	117. Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
50. Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	118. Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
51. Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	119. Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
52. Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	120. Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
53. Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	121. House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
54. Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	122. Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
55. Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	123. Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
56. Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	124. Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
57. Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	125. Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
58. Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	126. Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
59. Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	127. Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
60. Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	128. Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
61. Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	129. Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
62. Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	130. Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>
63. Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	131. Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis cabaret</i>
64. Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	132. Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
65. Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	133. Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
66. Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	134. Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>
67. Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	135. Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza Schoen</i>
68. Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		

