

Middlebere Avocet Hide



2025 Sightings

By Garry Hayman (Purbeck Pilgrim)

Many thanks to the following contributors for photos

Mark Wright

Richard Stephenson

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	-



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).

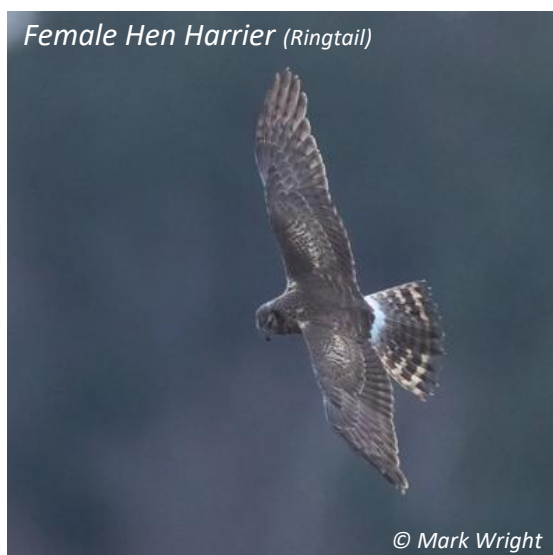
Goshawk

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.



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.



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).



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).



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

Avianic Peregrine falcon 2nd May

A Mallard Duck (drake) with a nasal saddle HTOHT 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

Mallard HTOHT



© Richard Stephenson

Yellow-legged Gull



© Garry Hayman

Snipe © Garry Hayman



Pintail © Mark Wright



Wigeon © Garry Hayman



Full list of species recorded in 2025

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

