

**WILDFOWL AND WADER COUNTS**  
**in the**  
**MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY**  
**2009-10**

Report prepared for the Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group

by Annie Haycock

Pembrokeshire WeBS coordinator

## **COPYRIGHT**

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, unless the permission of the Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group has been given beforehand.

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

Use of this document to inform environmental decision- making in the Milford Haven Waterway is welcomed by the MHWESG; however all use should be appropriately acknowledged and referenced.

Recommended citation:

Haycock A (2010). Wildfowl and wader counts on the Milford Haven Waterway, 2009-10. A report to the Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group.

## **WILDFOWL AND WADER COUNTS on the MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY 2009-10**

### **Executive Summary**

The Wetland Bird Survey was carried out on the Cleddau estuary system between September 2009 and March 2010, with additional counts for June and July 2009 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.

Three species reached levels of National Importance: wigeon (max. 8227 in November), greenshank (max 40 in October), curlew (1674 in July). Teal fell below the required level (max. 1343 in January), while shelduck numbers (655 in December) were disappointingly low.

A total peak count of 22803 birds between November and February confirms that the estuary system is still of international importance for its waterfowl populations, even though the peak counts were lower for several species than they have been in recent years.

The cold weather in December, January and February probably had an effect on the numbers of birds visiting the estuary, particularly wigeon whose numbers increased by about 3000 in January.

Comparison of counts with the national report for 2008-09 (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 2009 – 2010**

### **Crynodeb Gweithredol**

Gwnaethpwyd Arolwg Adar y Gwlyptir ar system aber y Cleddau rhwng Medi 2009 a Mawrth 2010. Gwnaeth Jane Hodges gyfrifon ychwanegol ar gyfer mis Mehefin a mis Gorffennaf 2009 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.

Cyrhaeddodd tri rhywogaeth lefelau o Bwysigrwydd Rhyngwladol: chwiwell (uchafbwynt 8227 ym mis Tachwedd), coeswerdd (uchafbwynt 40 ym mis Hydref), y gylfinir (1674 ym mis Gorffennaf). Roedd y corhwyad wedi disgyn islaw'r lefel ofynnol (uchafswm 1343 yn ystod mis Ionawr), tra oedd niferoedd hwyaden yr eithin (655 ym mis Rhagfyr) yn siomedig o isel.

Mae cyfanswm cyfrif uchaf o 22803 o adar rhwng mis Tachwedd a mis Chwefror yn cadarnhau fod system yr aber yn parhau o bwysigrwydd rhyngwladol yn achos ei phoblogaethau o adar dŵr, er bod y cyfrifon uchaf yn is yn achos nifer o rywogaethau nag a fuont yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

Mae'n debyg fod y tywydd oer yn ystod mis Rhagfyr, Ionawr a Chwefror wedi cael effaith ar niferoedd yr adar oedd yn ymweld â'r aber, yn arbennig y chwiwell y mae ei niferoedd wedi cynyddu o rhyw 3000 fis Ionawr.

Trwy gymharu'r cyfrifon gydag adroddiad cenedlaethol 2008 – 09

(yr adroddiad mwyaf diweddar a geir) gwelir fod y tueddiadau lleol o safbwynt poblogaethau yn debyg i'r rhai a geir yn genedlaethol yn achos y rhan fwyaf o'r rhywogaethau.