

WILDFOWL AND WADER COUNTS
in the
MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY
2016-17

Report prepared for the Milford Haven Waterway Environmental Surveillance Group

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Executive Summary

The Wetland Bird Survey was carried out on the Cleddau Estuary system between September 2016 and March 2017 with additional counts for June and July 2016 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 34654 birds between November and February confirms that the estuary system is still of international importance for its waterbird populations. This peak count was the highest since 2005-06, and was due to an influx of teal, lapwing and golden plover.

The levels of “National Importance” for many water birds have been revised in 2011, and only four species now qualify (based on a five-year mean): wigeon (max. 6948 in October), teal (max 3813 in January), greenshank (max 18 in January), and curlew (1311 in July).

Dunlin (4378 in December) and Little Egret (59 in September) reached the qualifying level in 2016-17 but were short based on the 5-year average. Shelduck (476 in February) is still well below the qualifying level,

Wigeon numbers seem to have recovered from the low counts in 2013-15, reaching their highest count since 2011-12. Many birds arrived earlier, so the peak count was in October, with numbers remaining higher than recent averages through the winter. The reason for these changes is not yet known, however the Milford Haven Waterway is not the only site to have experienced temporary reductions in numbers in recent years.

The total number of birds recorded each month was similar to the average of the past twenty years, except in December when the influx of teal, lapwing, golden plover and dunlin boosted the total. However, there were considerable differences from month to month, and from species to species.

Comparison of counts with the national report for 2015-16 (the most recent that is available) show that for most species, the local population trends are similar to those experienced nationally.

CYFRIFON ADAR DŴR AC ADAR HIRGOES AR DDYFRFFORDD ABERDAUGLEDDAU 2016 – 17

Crynodeb Gweithredol

Gwnaethpwyd Arolwg Adar y Gwlyptir ar system aber y Cleddau rhwng Medi 2016 a Mawrth 2017. Gwnaeth Jane Hodges gyfrifon ychwanegol ar gyfer mis Mehefin a mis Gorffennaf 2016 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 34,654 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. Y cyfrif uchaf yma oedd yr uchaf un ers 2005-06 a'r rheswm dros y cyfrif uchaf gorau erioed oedd y dylifiad o gorhwyaid, cornchwiglod a chornicyllod aur.

Yn achos nifer o adar dŵr mae lefelau'r 'Pwysigrwydd Cenedlaethol' wedi cael eu hadolygu yn 2011 a dim ond pedwar rhywogaeth sydd bellach yn gymwys (yn seiliedig ar gymedr pum mlynedd): chwiwell (uchafswm o 6948 ym mis Hydref), corhwyad (uchafswm o 3813 ym mis Ionawr), pibydd coeswyrdd (uchafswm o 18 ym mis Ionawr), a'r gylfinir (1311 ym mis Gorffennaf).

Cyrhaeddodd pibydd y mawn (4378 ym mis Rhagfyr) a rhostog gynffonddu (59 ym mis Medi) y lefel cymhwyso yn 2016 – 17 ond roeddent yn fyr o'r cyfartaledd 5 mlynedd. Mae hwyaden yr eithin (476 ym mis Chwefror) yn dal ymhell islaw'r lefel gymhwyso.

Mae'n ymddangos fod niferoedd y chwiwell wedi gwella ar ôl cyfrifon isel 2013-15 gan gyrraedd eu cyfrif uchaf ers 2011-12. Cyrhaeddodd nifer o adar yn gynharach, felly roedd y cyfrif uchaf ym mis Hydref gyda'r niferoedd yn aros yn uwch na'r cyfartaleddau diweddar drwy gydol y gaeaf. Ni wyddir hyd yma beth yw'r rheswm dros y newidiadau hyn ond nid dyfrffordd Aberdaugleddau yw'r unig safle yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf i brofi lleihad dros dro mewn niferoedd

Roedd cyfanswm yr adar a gofnodwyd bob mis yn debyg i'r cyfartaledd a gofnodwyd dros yr ugain mlynedd ddiwethaf, ac eithrio mis Rhagfyr pan wnaeth dylifiad o gorhwyaid, cornchwiglod, cornicyllod aur a phibyddion y mawn chwyddo'r cyfanswm ond roedd yn is na'r rhai a gofnodwyd yn ystod blynyddoedd y 2000. Roedd cyryn wahaniaethau, fodd bynnag, o fis i fis a rhwng rhywogaethau a'i gilydd.

Trwy gymharu'r cyfrifon gydag adroddiad cenedlaethol 2015-16 (yr adroddiad 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.