

Trip report England/Wales
30 december 2004 - 3 janary 2005



Nature reserve, Conway, Wales.

General

The family visited our friends, Ira and Ken Burnip with children Alexander and Anna in Hoylake, Liverpool. Their house is situated very close to the Dee estuary with amazing numbers of wintering waders. We also made a day-visit to Conway in Wales. We flew from Sturup airport to Stansted, London where we rented a car and drove to Liverpool. The trip took 6 hours. The weather was very mild with temperatures around 10 degrees C and quite windy.

Itinerary

Friday 31st December

Dee estuary 10:30-11:00

Eurasian Oystercatcher	thousands
Dunlin	thousands
Grey Plover	several hundreds
Ruddy Turnstone	2
Eurasian Curlew	several hundreds
Merlin	1
Dunnock	5
Carrion Crow	2
Great Tit	4
Blue Tit	4
European Goldfinch	2
European Greenfinch	5
Redwing	2
Common Woodpigeon	5
Collared Dove	4
Common Blackbird	10
Great Cormorant	5
Herring Gull	40
Black-headed Gull	20

Saturday 1st January

Dee estuary, Hoylake 9:00-11:00

Red Knot	1500
Eurasian Oystercatcher	150
Common Shelduck	50
Ruddy Turnstone	5
Eurasian Curlew	25
Great Black-backed Gull	2
Herring Gull	10
Black-headed Gull	25
Common Starling	30
House Sparrow	10
Pied Wagtail	1
Carrion Crow	5

Redshank	15
Collared Dove	2
Feral Pigeon	10

Half Inn, Little Neston 13-14

Little Egret	2
Whimbrel	1
Eurasian Curlew	5
Eurasian Oystercatcher	1
Carrion Crow	4

Chester 14:30-15:30

Long-tailed Tit	10 near the cathedral
Goldcrest	1
Grey Squirrel	3

Sunday 2nd January

Nature reserve, Conway 12:00-12:50

European Goldfinch	15
Common Teal	10
Eurasian Wigeon	20
Eurasian Coot	15
Northern Lapwing	50
Carrion Crow	1
Little Greebe	8
Grey Heron	1
Herring Gull	10
Black-headed Gull	10
Eurasian Curlew	1
Common Snipe	2
Mallard	15
Tufted Duck	10

Conway 13:10-15:10

European Shag	1
Black-legged Kittiwake	2

Species list

Birds

1. **Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*
50 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st.
2. **Eurasian Wigeon** *Anas penelope*
20 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
3. **Common Teal** *Anas crecca*
10 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
4. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*
15 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
5. **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*
10 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
6. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
8 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
7. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*
5 Dee estuary 31st.
8. **European Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*
1 Conway 2nd.
9. **Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*
2 Half Inn, Little Neston 1st.
10. **Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*
1 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
11. **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*
1 Dee estuary 31st.
12. **Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra*
15 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
13. **Eurasian Oystercatcher** *Haematops ostralegus*
Thousands Dee estuary 31st, 150 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st and 1 Half Inn, Little Neston 1st.
14. **Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*
50 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
15. **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*
Several hundreds Dee estuary 31st.
16. **Red Knot** *Calidris canutus*
1500 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st.
17. **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

Thousands Dee estuary 31st.

18. **Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago*
2 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
19. **Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata*
Several hundreds Dee estuary 31st, 5 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st, 5 Half Inn, Little Neston 1st and 1 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
20. **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*
1 Half Inn, Little Neston 1st.
21. **Redshank** *Tringa totanus*
15 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st.
22. **Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*
2 Dee estuary 31st and 5 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st.
23. **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*
20 Dee estuary 31st, 25 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st and 10 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
24. **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*
40 Dee estuary 31st, 10 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st and 10 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
25. **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*
2 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st.
26. **Black-legged Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*
2 Conway 2nd.
27. **Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia domesticus*
10 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st.
28. **Common Woodpigeon** *Columba palumbus*
5 Dee estuary 31 st.
29. **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*
4 Dee estuary 31st and 2 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st.
30. **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba yarelli*
1 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st.
31. **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis*
5 Dee estuary 31st, several singing.
32. **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*
2 Dee estuary 31st.
33. **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*
1 near the cathedral, Chester 1st.
34. **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus rosaceus*
10 at the cathedral, Chester 1st.

35. **Great Tit** *Parus major*
4 Dee estuaru 31st.
36. **Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*
4 Dee estuaru 31st.
37. **Carrion Crow** *Corvus corone corone*
2 Dee estuary 31st, 5 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st, 4 Half Inn, Little Neston 1st and 1nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
38. **Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*
30 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st, but seen in most places, often singing.
39. **European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*
2 Dee estuary 31st and 15 nature reserve, Conway 2nd.
40. **European Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*
5 Dee estuary 31st.
41. **Common Blackbird** *Turdus merula*
10 Dee estuary 31st.
42. **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*
10 Dee estuary, Hoylake 1st.

Mammals

Grey squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*
3 at the cathedral, Chester 1st.