

MEDINA VALLEY Wildlife – 2002 Report

Welcome to the Report for the year 2002, which we hope you will find interesting and informative.

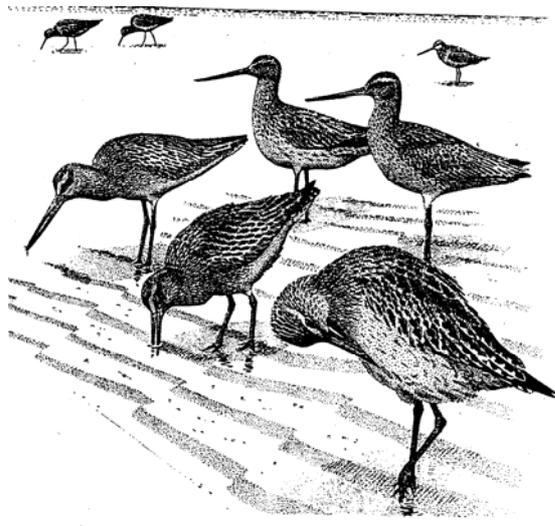
This issue contains the 17th consecutive Bird Report for the Medina Estuary put together by Keith Marston. Keith does the monthly counts for the estuary as part of the national wetland birds survey WeBS. Other records are submitted by local birdwatchers.

In November, final confirmation was received from English Nature that the Medina Estuary has been designated as part of the *Solent Maritime Special Area of Conservation (SAC)* under the European Habitats Directive. New developments in the lower estuary, associated with Project Cowes or the proposed Medina Village that will accommodate the GBR America's Cup Challenge, will have to work within this framework.

Using money from a *Biffaward*, the Medina Valley Centre was able to purchase a small 340W wind generator and some solar (PV) panels to provide lighting for our boathouse and games room. Solar water heating has been installed in two of our classrooms. This small demonstration project has been the focus of several guided walks and talks in the Valley this year, including the IOW Walking Festival. The Centre also successfully passed, for a second time, its assessment for the *EcoCentres* award and has been allowed to fly the coveted green flag for another three years. We were also pleased to be a finalist in the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) Sustainable Business Awards for efforts to implement new technologies and processes and encourage environmental sustainability through our educational programmes. Hopefully, the publicity surrounding these award schemes will encourage people to consider their own personal response to environmental issues.

Dr Roger Herbert

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