

Observatory update.

From 1st November 2020

Since the Osprey, Red Kite and the Polecat photo at the Observatory (all firsts for the site) things have slowed down slightly in that we have only had two new bird species recorded at the Pans since then.

A Yellow-Legged Gull (Present 6th – 9th November) and a Fieldfare which unfortunately I was not quick enough to photograph as it flew over the Kingfisher Pool round the Observatory and into the hedge by the road.



Yellow-Legged Gull, Juvenile, (Third or fourth year bird) id by Graham Giddens.

Three Kingfishers have been seen flying around the site, but only a juvenile female has been recorded, actually on the Kingfisher Pool.

Large numbers of Canada Geese have been flying over the Pans / Avon Water but only on a few occasions have they landed. On one of those occasions this leucistic Canada goose was with the flock.



Leucistic Canada Goose

Jays are seen daily, the highest count being 4 (at the same time), as they continually fly around carrying acorns.



Now that the bird feeders have been filled, the usual birds are seen on them eg Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal tit, Robin, House Sparrow, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Magpie, and on a few occasions Goldfinches.



Coal tit



Great tit



Blue tit



House Sparrow

The new perches have been well used.



Grey Wagtail



Great Spotted Woodpecker

Grey Wagtail have been seen on several occasions and this Great Spotted Woodpecker was recorded on the 8th November.

Water Rail are seen daily as well as Little Egret, Little Grebe (highest count 28. On 10th November), Cormorant, Grey Heron and Moorhen but Coot are hardly seen now.

Cetti's Warblers are heard daily. (one seen 16/11/2020).

Black Tailed Godwit and Redshank are regular visitors, Curlew have started to appear (4 on 11th) and on a few occasions Greenshank and Ruff have been at the Pans.

There are daily sightings of Mallard and on several occasions Teal and Pintail. 2 male and 1 female Pintail present on 9th November.

A Marsh Harrier (adult female) Sparrowhawk and Buzzard are regularly seen, although there were 3 Marsh Harriers on 5th November.

Lapwing, Great Black Backed Gull, Raven, Wren, Long Tailed tit, Reed Bunting, Collared dove, Pied Wagtail, Stock Dove and Chaffinch have also put in one or two appearances.

One Swallow was recorded flying over the Pans on 7th November.

The photo below shows the high-water level at the Pans on 15th



Night vision camera report

As the water level has been quite high at times it has mainly been birds that have been photographed, usually Moorhen, Woodpigeon and Little Egret.

A Fox has been the only animal to have been photographed within the time frame.



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Salinity of the Kingfisher Pool.

A temporary fix was carried out on the water flap on 13/10/2020.



As can be seen, the large hole has been covered over with a sheet of wood. Unfortunately, whilst stopping quite a lot of sea water ingress into the Kingfisher pool, there is still a gap, (where the gate is fixed to the wall) which is still allowing seawater through. Shown in the following photo.



I took a water sample from the Kingfisher Pool just before the temporary fix was done and waited a month before taking a second sample from the Kingfisher Pool to see if there was any change.

Date	Position where sample taken	Result %	Previous Result
13/10/2020	Above grid by edge of K.P.	27	34
13/11/2020	As above	30	34
13/11/2020	To the RHS of the K. Pool	30	-

Chris Barrass. 16/11/2020