



# Milford Conservation Volunteers



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Committee Update of the Observatory since opening up the decking area.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Well, there was a good start as an Osprey and a Swallow were seen flying over the Pans, unfortunately for me that was just after I had left. They were recorded by Graham Giddens.

I recorded the usual birds for the Pans including hearing a Great spotted woodpecker and a Chiff Chaff.

30<sup>th</sup> March, A Black swan arrived on the Pans and was there for 3 days (alternating between the Pans and Avon Water) until it was attacked by one of the Mute Swans on Avon Water.

The highlight of the day was the appearance of two Avocets which were on the Pans for over an hour.



One of the two Avocet on the Pans on 30<sup>th</sup> March, neither of them were ringed.

There are good numbers of Black Tailed Godwits and depending on the tide they alternate between the Pans and Avon water.



Black Tailed Godwit



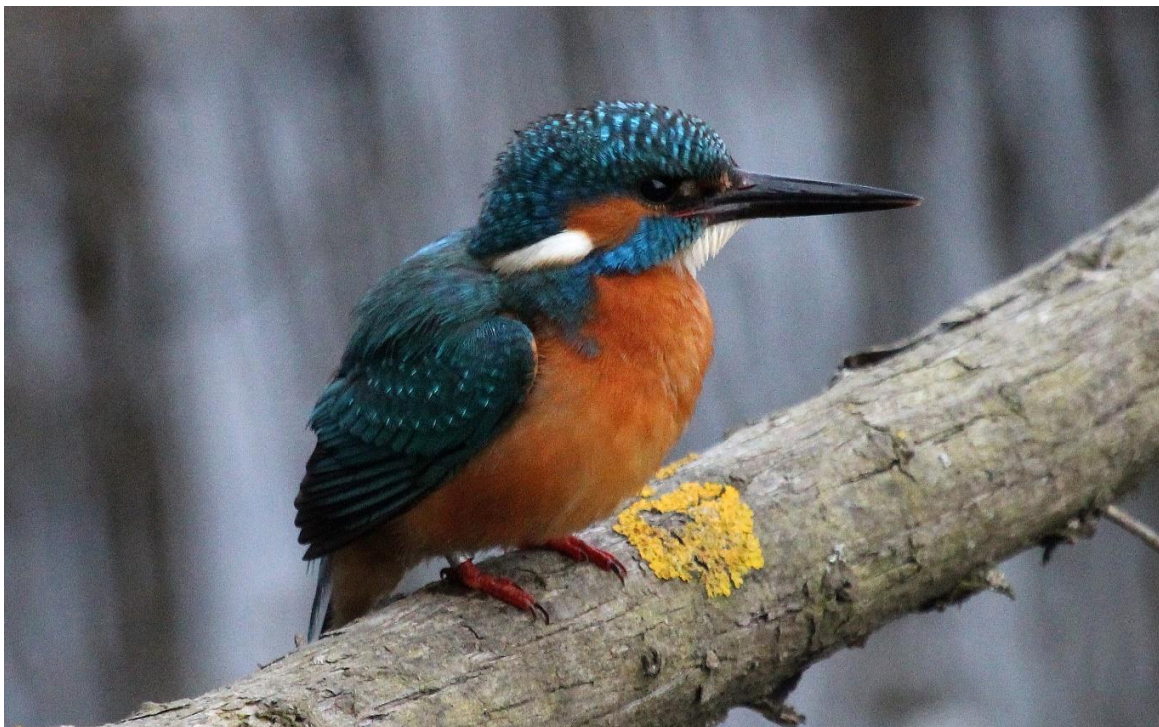
Redshank

Redshanks are seen every day and at least two are seen on the edge of the Kingfisher Pool where the reeds have been cut back.

Shelduck are seen most days along with Mallard and Teal.

Up to three Robins have been seen with only one of them having been ringed. Cetti's are heard every day but so far not seen.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April was another good day, an adult Kingfisher put in an appearance along with 4 Avocet and a Spoonbill.



Male Kingfisher(ringed)



4 Avocet (none of them ringed).



Spoonbill (juvenile).

Up to two Marsh Harriers have been seen on the odd occasion.

A Blue tit has been checking out one of the nest boxes.

One of Mute swans on Avon Water is sitting on their nest in the reed bed.

As I was looking out of the Observatory door window towards Avon water I noticed a Mute Swan fly towards the Observatory, it was quite low and it was obviously not going to make it and it just flew straight into the hedge, it sat there for a few minutes and slowly managed to climb out into Avon Water.

It seemed unhurt.

Up to 5 Snipe have been seen, some near the Kingfisher Pool and a Common Sandpiper was present on the Pans on 8<sup>th</sup> April.



Snipe



Common Sandpiper

A Cuckoo was heard at the far end of the Pans on 10<sup>th</sup> April.

House Sparrows, Dunnock, Chaffinch, Great Tit, and Wren are regularly seen.

Salinity check of the Kingfisher Pool @15.45 9/4/2021

Sample 1. Left hand side of the Kingfisher pool (above grid). 32%

Sample 2 Right hand side of the Kingfisher pool. 31%

Sea water. 34%

This shows that the water of the Pans is virtually seawater.

Trail Camera photos.



Roebuck



35F2C ● 04-04-2021 03:33:01

Badger



39F4C ● 04-05-2021 21:21:06

Fox



37F3C ● 04-05-2021 22:16:42

Otter

Since the partial opening of the Observatory an Otter has been photographed by the trail cams 4 times and I actually saw an Otter on Avon water at 07.38 on 5/4/2021 so it was probably the Otter in the photograph above.

Chris Barrass. 10/4/2021