



Milford Conservation Volunteers



www.milfordconservation.org

September update

August 24th to September 26th 2021

Black Tailed Godwit: Present every day, highest number 116 plus on 16th September.

Canada Goose: High numbers most days. 230 plus on 15th September.

Chiffchaff: Now that a gap has been cut through the centre of the hedge to the right of the Observatory windows the smaller birds can be seen more often.



Chiffchaff

Cetti's: Heard every day

Cormorant: Present most days, 9 on 21st September.

Great White Egret: Present on 8 occasions. Usually, a Grey Heron will harass this bird causing it to fly off. It has been seen perched on the Pine tree behind the Observatory on two occasions.

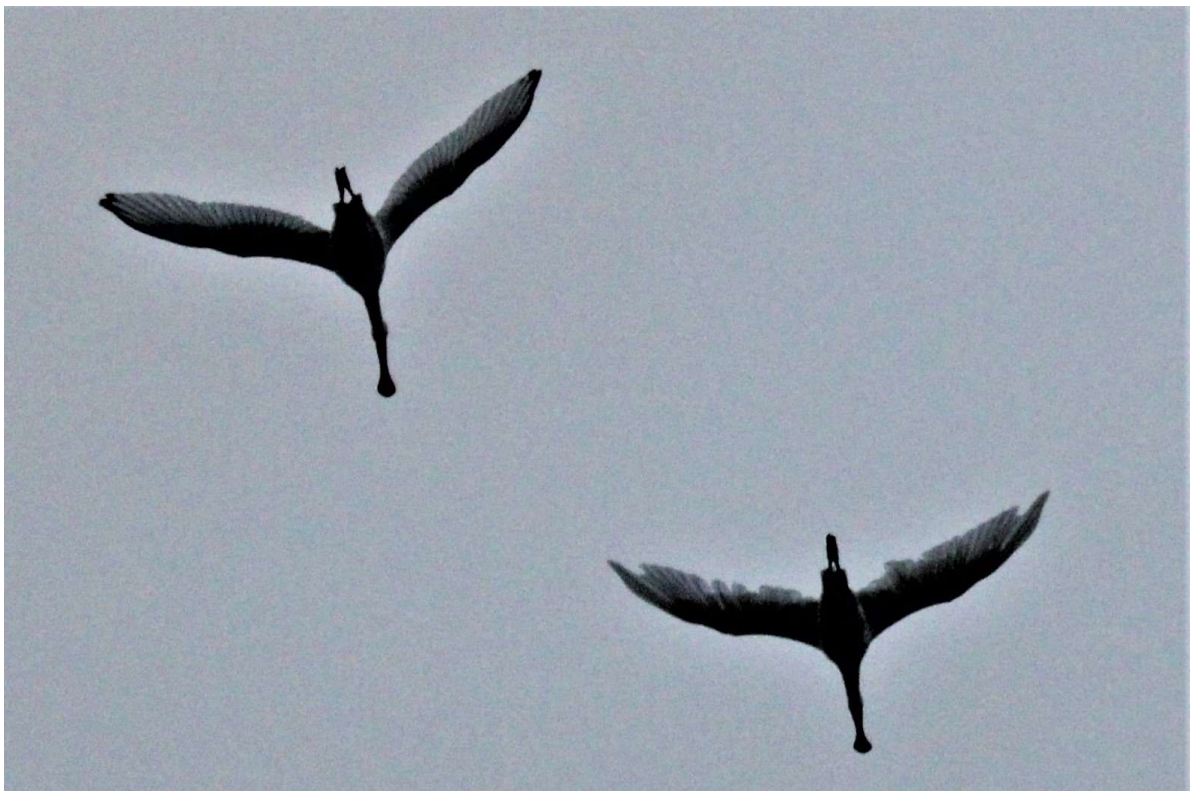


Grey Heron harassing the GWE.



GWE in the Pine tree

While trying to photograph the Egret in the tree on 11th September, two Spoonbills flew over. (Photo below).



Two Spoonbill flying West over the Observatory.

Grey Heron: 5 being the highest number on 29th August.

Grey Wagtail: Seen near the Kingfisher Pool on three occasions.

Herring Gull: A common visitor to the Pans Wetland area.

Jay: Between one to three birds seen flying over most days.

Kingfisher: At least three birds have been seen around the Kingfisher pool recently. A juvenile male, (un ringed) a juvenile female (un ringed) and a ringed bird.

Lapwing: Always around, 150 plus birds recorded on the 25th August.

Lesser Black Backed Gull: Seen most days, often catching Shore crabs.

Little Grebe: Present in high numbers. 34 birds recorded on 5th September



Little Grebe in the Kingfisher Pool.

Mallard: Present every day in large numbers, 246 recorded on 25th September.

Marsh Harrier: Seen only three times this month.

Moorhen: Two adults with two juveniles are seen most days, seen on either the Pans side or the Avon water side.

Pheasant: Not seen at the beginning of the month, now seen regularly, 5 on 23rd September.

Robin: One is seen every day.

Song Thrush: A ringed bird has been seen near the Observatory on three occasions.



Song Thrush (with ring on its right leg).

I was unable to get a photo of all the letters/numbers on the ring but the ones I did get allowed Graham Giddens to confirm it was one of three Song Thrushes ringed by him at the Pans between 2019 and early 2020 and that the bird is between 2-3 years old.

Stock Dove: Present every day. 31 recorded on 12th September.

Swallow: Numbers building on the Pans and Avon Water. Over 100 recorded on 25th September.

Water Rail: Regularly seen. Three on the 5th September. All three were photographed. Photos below.



First brood Water Rail. (above).



These photos show different second brood Water Rails.

A huge thank you to Graham Giddens for 'age-ing' all three Water Rails.

Having two different brood birds on the Pans indicates that Water Rail have bred on or very near to the Pans Wetland area.

Whitethroat: Recorded six times.



Whitethroat 24th September

Other birds recorded but not mentioned in this report.

Bearded Tit, Blackbird, Blackcap, Black Headed Gull, Blue Tit, Buzzard, Common Sandpiper, Collared Dove, Coot, Curlew, Dunlin, Egyptian Goose (6 on 23rd Sept), Gadwall, Goldfinch, Great Black Backed Gull, Great Tit, Greenshank, Green Woodpecker, Greylag Goose Hybrid, Hobby, Kestrel, Little Egret, Long Tailed Tit, Magpie, Pied Wagtail, Peregrine, Raven, Redshank, Reed Warbler, Sedge warbler, Snipe, Sparrowhawk, Teal, Wheatear, Wigeon and Wren.

We had a Birding for Beginners session on Saturday 4th September which, was quite busy with lots of visitors. 40 bird species recorded.

Trail Cameras:



Fox on the prowl



Pheasant



This is the first MCV trail cam record that there are two Badgers at the Pans. The photo was taken at 03.07 on Sunday 26th September 2021.



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Badger out during the afternoon

Keith Metcalf and I hosted a HOS visit to the Observatory with Keith Betton and some 'new' birders on Sunday 19th September. Lots of membership forms were handed out.

Chris Barrass. 27.9.2021