



# Milford Conservation Volunteers



[www.milfordconservation.org](http://www.milfordconservation.org)

**January 2022.**

**Observatory report.**

**Black swan:** The Black Swan was present on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January.



**Black Swan eating seaweed on the Pans.**

**Black Headed Gull:** Present every day, the highest number recorded was 48 on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

**Blue Tit:** Very common, the highest number recorded was 7 on the 4<sup>th</sup> January.

**Buzzard:** Present on 18 occasions, two present on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**Coot:** Present every day, the highest number recorded was 24 on the 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**Dunnoek:** Present every day, three being the highest number on several occasions.

**Gadwall:** Present every day. 56 was the highest number recorded on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January.



Male Gadwall near the Observatory.

**House Sparrow:** Present every day.

**Kingfisher:** Seen on 27 days during January. 3 seen on 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Lapwing:** Seen every day during January. 200 plus on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Little Egret:** Another bird that has been recorded every day. 10 present on the 27<sup>th</sup> January.

**Little Grebe:** 41 birds recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> January. Present every day.

**Mallard:** Common for the site, 48 present on the 7<sup>th</sup> January.

**Marsh Harrier:** Present on 20 occasions. 2 birds seen on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of January.

**Moorhen:** At least 2 birds are present all the time. 4 has been the highest number recorded on 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January.

**Mute Swan:** Recorded on 25 occasions. Mostly two birds but 3 birds were present on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January.



Two male Mute Swans having a tussle on Avon Water on the 25<sup>th</sup> January.

**Redshank:** Present on 28 days during January. A colour and number ringed bird was photographed near the Observatory on the 11<sup>th</sup> January. Photo below.



A colour and number ringed Redshank on the edge of the Kingfisher Pool.

This bird has been recorded at the Pans before and is from a project to provide an area for Redshank to breed in the Avon Valley.

**Robin:** A ringed Robin has been recorded everyday bar one. Also, a Robin that has not been ringed was present on 3 occasions but was chased off by the ringed Robin.



The numbered ring can be seen on the Robins right leg.

**Shoveler:** Present nearly every day. The various ducks that we get at the Pans (apart from Pintail) have started to feed much closer to the Observatory which makes it much easier to get a good view of the bird.



Shoveler (male).



Shoveler (female).

**Snipe:** Since the 13<sup>th</sup> of January Snipe have been seen around the site nearly every day. 23 were recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Teal:** Since the 12<sup>th</sup> January Teal have been recorded nearly every day. 14 being the highest number recorded on 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck:** Present on 23 days. The highest number recorded was 8 on the 1<sup>st</sup> January.

### **Birds recorded but not mentioned in this report.**

Blackbird, Black Tailed Godwit, Brent Goose, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Cetti's, Collared Dove, Great Black Backed Gull, Cormorant, Goldcrest, Golden Plover, Great Tit, Greenshank, Grey Heron, Herring Gull, House Sparrow, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Long Tailed Tit, Magpie, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Shelduck, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Water Rail, Woodpigeon and Wren.

### **Trail Cams**

**Badger:** One photographed on 6 occasions during January.

**Fox:** I thought there was only one Fox being photographed on the trail cams until the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> January when I saw three Foxes run past the Kingfisher Pool. A fourth Fox was seen calling on the far bank.



One of the three Foxes running past the Kingfisher Pool on 18<sup>th</sup> Jan.



Fox calling from the far bank, they were calling each other for about 45 minutes.  
In total a Fox was recorded on 24 separate days.

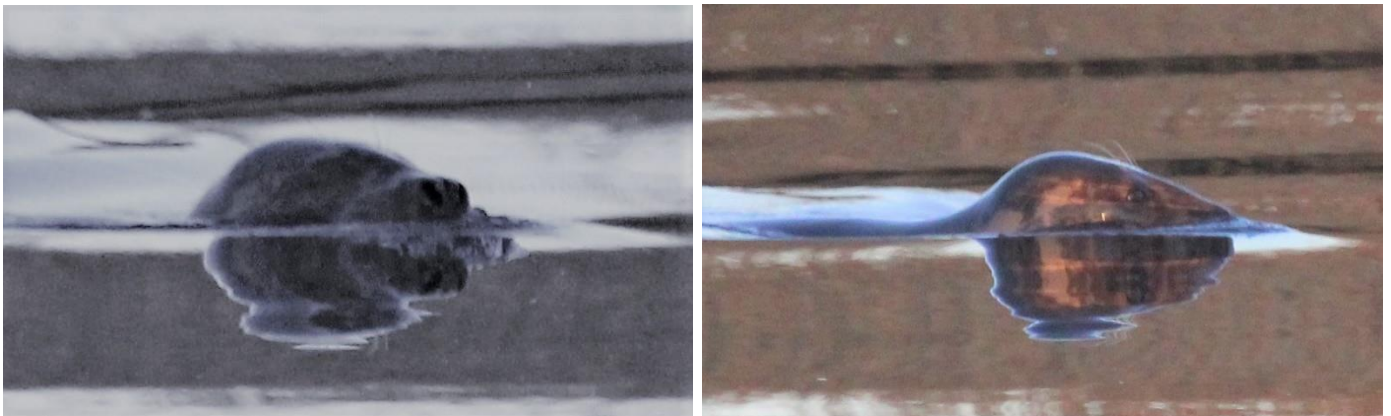
**Otter:** One photographed on the 11<sup>th</sup> January at 05.31.

#### **Birds recorded on the trail cams.**

Blackbird, Black Swan, Carrion Crow, Coot, Great Tit, House Sparrow, Kingfisher, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Pheasant and Woodpigeon.

#### **New species for the site:**

**Grey Seal:** Seen on Avon Water on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January.



A Grey Seal on Avon Water.

## Birding for Beginners.

We had our first session of 2022 on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January between 10 and 12.00. It was run by David Horne, Keith Metcalf and Chris Barrass. 40 species of birds were recorded including a Marsh Harrier, Sparrowhawk, Golden Plover (Flying only, 200 plus), Brent Goose (Flying only, 100 plus) and Lapwing (Flying only, 100 plus). A small number of people visited the Observatory during the session.

### Improvements to the Decking area.

As the decking area had become slippery it was decided by the committee that it should be treated with an oil-based decking paint then square wire mesh should be stapled onto the deck. This was done on the Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January by David Horne, Keith Metcalf and Chris Barrass.



Chris Barrass

31/1/2022