



# Milford Conservation Volunteers



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

## March 2022 Observatory Report.

From Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Avocet:** Two were present on the 28<sup>th</sup> March. The first record of them at the Pans in 2022. Two have been recorded every day since.



The two Avocet alongside some Black Tailed Godwit.

**Black Headed Gull:** Present every day. The highest number recorded was 181 on the 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Black Swan:** One flew onto Avon Water at 08.25 on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March. It didn't stay long.

**Black Tailed Godwit:** Present in high numbers nearly every day. Over 224 were present on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**Chiff Chaff:** One seen on the 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**Coot:** Seen nearly every day. Highest number recorded was 9 on the 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Duncock:** Present every day.

**Gadwall:** Have been recorded every day. Highest count was 59 on the 5<sup>th</sup> March

**Grey Heron:** Present on 15 days. Two on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**House Sparrow:** Since the 7<sup>th</sup> March has been seen every day.

**Jay:** Has been recorded on 18 days during the month. 4 being the highest number on the 13<sup>th</sup> March.

**Kingfisher:** Up until the 21<sup>st</sup> March had been seen every day, but since then only once on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Two have been seen on seven occasions and three seen on 13<sup>th</sup> March.



Male Kingfisher



Female Kingfisher (note ring on right leg).

**Little Egret:** Have been present every day. 22 were seen on March 27<sup>th</sup>.



10 Little Egrets.

**Little Grebe:** Sightings have decreased from the 13 seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> March down to ones and twos.

**Long Tailed Tit:** Recorded on 23 days. The highest number recorded was 5 on the 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**Marsh Harrier:** Regularly seen, the highest number was three on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March.



Marsh Harrier.

**Mediterranean Gull:** Recorded on 8 occasions. Eight seen flying over on 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Moorhen:** Present most days. 5 recorded on the 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**Mute Swan:** A pair have been seen most days.

**Pheasant:** Seen or heard most days.

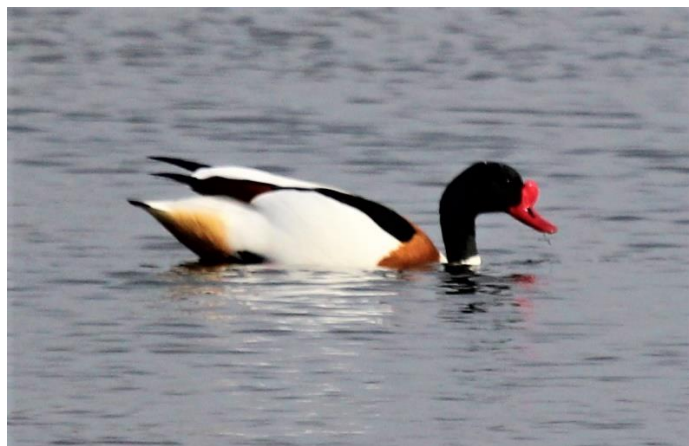
**Pintail:** Regularly seen. Eight has been the highest number recorded on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March.

**Redshank:** Present every day. 14 was the highest number on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**Shelduck:** Has been present on 25 days during the month. 7 present on the 12<sup>th</sup> March.



Shelduck (female).



Shelduck (male).

**Shoveler:** Has been present every day. 22 recorded on the 9<sup>th</sup> March.



A male Shoveler in flight.

**Sparrowhawk:** Seen flying over on 13 occasions.

**Teal:** Present every day. 27 recorded on the 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**Water Rail:** Has only been seen six times during March.

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

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Brent Goose, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Cetti's Chaffinch, Collared Dove, Cormorant, Curlew, Goldfinch, Great Black Backed Gull, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Greenshank, Herring Gull, Kestrel, Lapwing, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Magpie, Mallard, Robin, Snipe, Starling, Stock Dove, Tufted Duck, Wood Pigeon and Wren.

**Red Kite:** A new species for the site.



**Red Kite:** Present on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Photo by Peter Barnes.

## **HOS visit to the Observatory.**

Two groups of new members to HOS visited the Observatory on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March. They were met by Keith Metcalf and Chris Barrass. Each group spent some time at the Observatory. 44 species of birds were recorded that morning. Pintail, Shoveler and Gadwall were close to the Observatory so there were some good views of them. One of the groups was lucky enough to see a Red Kite.

**Roe deer:** Roe deer have been seen at the far end of the Pans on two occasions.

## **Trail Cams.**

### **Birds photographed.**

Blackbird, Carrion Crow, Dunnock, Little Egret, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Pheasant and Wood Pigeon.

### **The following animals have also been photographed.**

**Brown Rat:** Most nights.

**Badger:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Fox:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

As can be seen above, Fox activity has been high during the month, not only have they been photographed on the trail cameras but have also been seen from the Observatory during the day on several occasions.

**Otter:** 7<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

Chris Barrass

31/3/2022.