



# Milford Conservation Volunteers



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## May 2022 Observatory Report.

### From the 1<sup>st</sup>May to 31<sup>st</sup>May.

**Avocet:** Present 20 days during May. Highest number recorded was 6 on the 7<sup>th</sup>May.

**Bar Tailed Godwit:** A new species for the site. Spotted by Keith Metcalfe on the 12<sup>th</sup>May.

**Blackbird:** Present every day. One female has been seen collecting nesting material around the Kingfisher Pool.

**Blue Tit:** Recorded nearly every day. 2 birds fledged on the 20<sup>th</sup> and a third on the 21<sup>st</sup>May.



Photo above shows the first Blue Tit to fledge.

**Black Tailed Godwit:** Present every day. 82 was the highest number recorded, on the 12<sup>th</sup>May.

**Cetti's Warbler:** Heard every day but only seen on two occasions, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Coot:** Seen most days, 4 has been the highest number recorded on only two occasions, the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 12<sup>th</sup> May. The picture below shows the Coot with its black head, white bill and white frontal plate.



Coot on the edge of the Kingfisher pool.

**Common Tern:** Often seen on or around the Tern raft. 3 present on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May.

**Cormorant:** Recorded on 25 occasions but only in ones or twos.

**Cuckoo:** Heard on 11 occasions but so far not seen.

**Dunlin:** 6 present on the 15<sup>th</sup> May and 3 on the 25<sup>th</sup> May.

**Gadwall:** A pair have been seen on Avon Water on 14 occasions. The pair were seen with two chicks on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

**Great Black Backed Gull:** One or two birds seen on 18 occasions during May. Often seen on the Tern Raft.

**Great Tit:** Present 23 days during May. 1 of the birds seen had been ringed.



**Greenfinch:** Recorded on 23 occasions. The highest number seen was 4 on the 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Grey Heron:** Seen nearly every day. The highest number recorded was 5 on the 27<sup>th</sup> May.



Grey Heron taking off.

**Herring Gull:** Recorded on 28 days. A sub-adult has been seen mating with a Lesser Black Backed Gull on several occasions. This is rather strange because being a sub-adult it is unable to breed.



Herring Gull (on right) and a Lesser Black Backed Gull. The Herring Gull mating with the Lesser BB Gull.

**Jay:** Seen on 27 occasions, usually flying across the Pans. Three seen flying over together on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Kingfisher:** Seen only 5 times during May. One was an adult male, (not ringed) and the other was an adult female that had been ringed.



**Lapwing:** Recorded on 24 occasions, 6 was the highest number seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**Lesser Black Backed Gull:** Recorded on 24 occasions. As already mentioned, a LBB Gull and a Herring Gull have been seen mating on the Pans.

**Little Egret:** Present nearly every day. 11 has been the highest number recorded, on May 25<sup>th</sup>.



Little Egret doing a spot of preening.

**Little Grebe:** Has only been recorded on 14 days during May but in small numbers (one or two birds).

**Little Tern:** Since the 10<sup>th</sup> May has been seen on 15 occasions, 3 being the highest number on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May.

**Mallard:** Present every day. Two females have been seen with ducklings. One originally had 11 ducklings but now they are down to 7. The second female has only one duckling remaining.

**Marsh Harrier:** Recorded on 23 days during May, usually a single male. Two birds have been seen on three occasions.

**Mediterranean Gull:** Have been seen flying over the Pans on 11 occasions with 4 being the highest number seen.

**Moorhen:** Present nearly every day. Between 2 or 3 birds seen.

**Mute Swan:** Recorded every day. On the 21<sup>st</sup> May the Mute Swans left their nest with 5 cygnets but sadly by 22<sup>nd</sup> there were only 4 remaining.



The five cygnets on 21<sup>st</sup> May.



Four by the 22<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Oystercatcher:** Present on 26 occasions during the month. 7 being the highest number seen.

**Pheasant:** Heard most days but have only been seen on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**Pied Wagtail:** Present most days, 3 on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May.



Pied Wagtail in flight catching flies.

**Reed Warbler:** Heard most days. Three seen on four occasions.



**Ringed Plover:** Has been seen on 7 occasions during May.

**Sand Martin:** Recorded on 8 occasions.



Sand Martin.



Swallow.

**Swallow:** Present every day.

**Swift:** Recorded on 8 occasions. 6 seen flying over on the 29<sup>th</sup>May.

**Tufted Duck:** Present nearly every day. 11 recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup>May.

**Wood Pigeon:** Recorded every day.

**Wren:** Recorded on 18 days during the month. The Wren recorded on the 29<sup>th</sup>May was seen to be ringed. Two wrens were present on the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup>May.

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

Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Collared Dove, Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Grasshopper Warbler, Greenshank, Grey Plover, Jackdaw, Kestrel, Long Tailed tit, Magpie, Redshank, Reed Bunting, Robin, Sandwich Tern, Song Thrush, Sandwich Tern, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Stonechat, Teal, Whimbrel and Wigeon.

### **Thanks to.**

Peter Barnes, David Horne and Keith Metcalfe for their contribution to the bird records.

### **Birding for Beginners.**

This was run on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>May between 10.00 and 12.00 and was run by Chris Barrass. The Observatory was visited by 10 people during the two hours. 44 bird species were recorded. Highlights were Avocet, Black Tailed Godwit, Tufted Duck, Marsh Harrier, Sparrowhawk and a Kestrel.

## MCVs 2<sup>nd</sup> Guided Nature walk.

Members attending this walk met at the Observatory at 10 am on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May. David Horne and Julie Hallows were leading the walk.

### Trail Cameras.

**Birds photographed:** Blackbird, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Mallard, Pheasant, Shelduck and Wood Pigeon.



Little Egret.



Mallard.

**Mammals photographed:** Badger, Brown Rat, Roe deer and Fox.



Fox.



**Roe Deer.** (*Capreolus capreolus*).

Just a quick mention about the Roe deer seen around the site. Two are seen regularly from the Observatory, sometimes walking through the water or walking around the site. Two Roe buck and two does have been seen. One of the does seen was pregnant. If she is still on the site we may get to see two or three kids (fawns) that are born in May or June.



A Roebuck and doe in the reeds near the Observatory.

Chris Barrass. 31/5/2022