



Milford Conservation Volunteers



www.milfordconservation.org

October 2022 Observatory Report.

Bearded Tit: Recorded on 8 occasions. A flock of 30+ birds seen near the sluice gates on the 11th October.

Black Headed Gull: Present every day. Over 144 on the 31st October.



Black Headed Gull near the Observatory on 22nd October.

Black Tailed Godwit: Over 206 birds were present on the 7th October. Since the 10th October the water levels have been too high for the waders, so they have been on the far bank by the piles of grain.

Brent Goose: First sighting in the harbour on the 16th October when 19 were present. Over 100 were seen in the harbour on the 30th and 31st October.

Canada Goose: Recorded every day. Over 151 present on the 2nd October.

Cetti's: Heard every day but only seen on 5 occasions.

Chaffinch: Recorded on 21 days during the month.

Collared Dove: Present nearly every day. 20 recorded on the 7thOctober.

Coot: Common for the site. 41 present on the 31stOctober.

Cormorant: Recorded every day. 18 has been the highest number seen.



Cormorant.

Dunnock: Recorded on 11 occasions.

Fieldfare: Five recorded on the 20thOctober and one on the 25th.

Gadwall: Present on 21 days during the month. 6 has been the highest number recorded. They have been seen on the Pans and on Avon Water.

Great Tit: Recorded on 18 days during the month.

Greenfinch: Often seen in the trees opposite the Observatory to the right of the houses in Harwood green. 7 has been the highest number recorded this month.

Grey Heron: Present every day. 3 on the 6th of October.

Herring Gull: Seen nearly every day. 16 on the 24th.

Jay: Seen flying over on 11 days during the month.

Kingfisher: Present every day. Two seen on 9 occasions.



A juvenile (grey feet) female (orange on lower bill) Kingfisher.

Lapwing: 135 present on the 8th October but once the water levels rose the Lapwing were only seen flying over the Pans.

Lesser Black Backed Gull: A single bird is present most days

Little Egret: Present every day. 7 on the 17th and 21st October.

Little Grebe: The highest number recorded was 22 on the 21st October.

Magpie: Seen most days.

Mallard: Present in large numbers most days. Over 174 recorded on the 4th October. The vast majority of the birds are seen at the far end of the Pans in front of the farm buildings.

Marsh Harrier: Seen on 23 occasions during the month, usually two birds are seen.



Marsh Harrier.

Mute Swan: Two seen every day. On the 6th October 5 flew over.

Pheasant: Seen or heard every day. 8 recorded on the 12th.



A male Pheasant in flight.

Pintail: Seen nearly every day. 29 on the 7thOctober.



Male Pintail.

Redshank: Seen until the 11thOctober (43 on the 5th and 6th)
Then once the water levels became too high they were only seen flying over.

Robin: Recorded on 23 occasions. Two present on the 14th.



A Robin 'taking off'

Shoveler: Present until the 15th October. 4 present on 4 occasions.

Starling: Seen every day. Over 300 birds present on 2 occasions.

Swallow: Seen flying over the Pans on 15 occasions. The last sighting of Swallows before they headed off to Africa was of 2 Swallows flying over at 09.39 on the 26th October.

Teal: Seen most days. Over 247 birds recorded on the 8th October.

Water Rail: Present on 24 days during the month. Two seen on the 11th, 13th, 20th, 25th and 27th of October.



Water Rail

Birds recorded but not mentioned in this report.

Blackbird, Blue Tit, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Coot, Dunlin, Dunnock, Egyptian Goose, Goldfinch, Great Black Backed Gull, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Greenshank, Green Woodpecker, Grey Wagtail, House Martin, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Kestrel, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Long Tailed Tit, Mediterranean Gull, Moorhen, Peregrine, Pied wagtail, Raven, Sparrowhawk, Stock Dove, Stonechat, Turnstone, Wigeon, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon and Wren.

Thanks to: Peter Barnes, David Horne and Keith Metcalf for their additions to the bird records.

Birding for Beginners.

This took place on Saturday 1stOctober and was run by David Horne and Chris Barrass. Fairly quiet with 9 visitors, all adults. Kingfisher, Marsh Harrier, Shoveler, Teal and Wigeon were some of the birds seen.

Trail Cameras.

Birds recorded: Blackbird, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Little Grebe, Little Egret, Mallard, Moorhen, Pheasant and Woodpigeon.

Animals recorded: Brown Rat, Fox and Otter.

The Otter was photographed on the 22ndOctober at 19.13 and on the 24th October at 00.35



22ndOctober



24thOctober

It is probably wishful thinking, but the photo taken on the 24thOctober looks like a young Otter.



Photo taken on the 5thOctober at 14.23

Chris Barrass. 31/10/2022