



Milford Conservation Volunteers



www.milfordconservation.org

January 2023 Observatory Report.

Please note that the water levels have been really high during most of January, they only starting to go down in the last week. Also, the temperature has been down to - 4 degrees C and nearly all the Pans being frozen apart from the Kingfisher Pool.

Blackbird: Present every day.

Black Headed Gull. Present every day. The photo below shows some of them on the frozen Pans (22nd January).



Black Tailed Godwit: Due to the very high water levels these were only seen flying over the Pans on the 7th and 25th January. The water levels have just started to go down and one was seen feeding on the 30th January.

Blue Tit: Recorded most days.

Brent Geese: At times there were huge numbers on or flying over the Pans. The photo below shows about half the flock of Brent Geese on the 19th January.



There are some Coot, Mallard and Gadwall amongst the Brent Geese in the photo above.

Keith Metcalf did a photo count of a flock flying over the Pans on the 4th January and he recorded 950 Brent Geese, highlighting how important this area is for the Brents.

Coot: A record count of 134 Coot was recorded by Peter Barnes on the 13th January.



A Coot in flight

Curlew: Since the water levels have started to go down, Curlew as well as Redshank and Greenshank have returned to the Pans. 8 Curlew were present on the 29th January.



4 of the 8 Curlew present on the 29th January.

Dunnock: Seen most days. 2 were recorded on the 20th and both had been ringed.

Gadwall: Recorded every day. 102 has been the highest number.



Gadwall landing on the melting ice.

Great White Egret: One seen at the far end of the Pans on the 29th and 30th January.



Great White Egret on the 29th January.

Grey Phalarope: A first for the site. One was present on the 8th January and it wasn't there for long.



The Grey Phalarope as it swam past the Observatory.

Luckily, I wasn't the only one to see it as Marcus Ward, some of his family and friends also saw it. **Thank you, Marcus, for the information about the Phalarope.**

Herring Gull: Usually seen flying over the Pans.

Kingfisher: Only one bird has been seen around the Kingfisher Pool this month and that is an adult male. Seen on 21 occasions.



Kingfisher in the Fir tree by the Observatory.

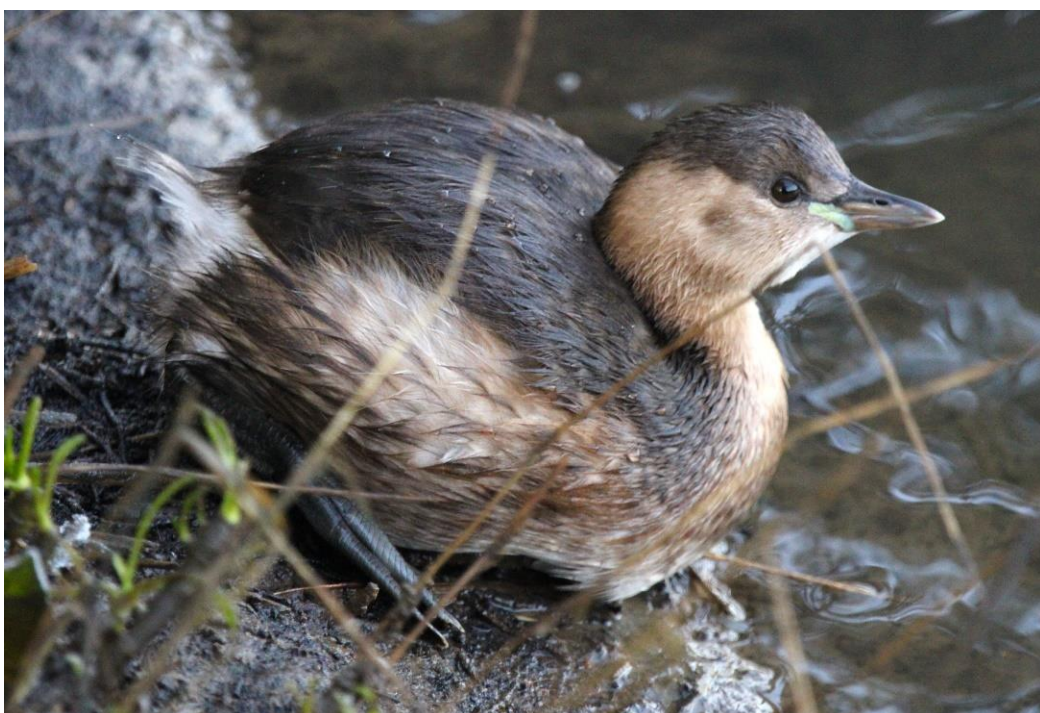
Lesser Black Backed Gull: Before the 17th January, it was only seen 4 times. Since then, one has been present every day.



Lesser Black Backed Gull on the ice.

Little Egret: Seen most days, 5 has been the highest number seen this month.

Little Grebe: Recorded every day during January. The highest number recorded was 17 on the 31st January.



Little Grebe on the bank of the Kingfisher Pool. 23rd January.

Mallard: Present every day.

Marsh Harrier: One or two birds seen most days.



Marsh Harrier over Avon Water.

Moorhen: Recorded on only 13 days this month. 3 were seen on the 18th and the 29th.



Moorhen on the frozen Pans.

Mute Swan: A pair seen every day.

Pintail: Recorded on 13 days during January.

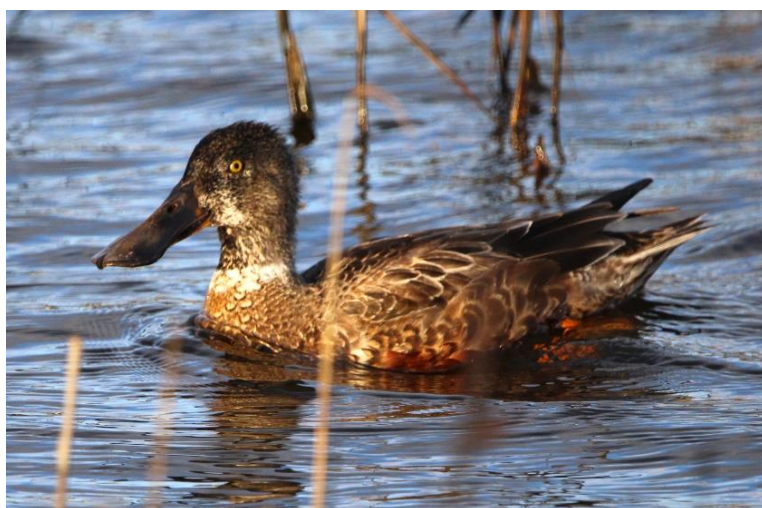
Redshank: Before the 24th January only recorded twice. Since then, present every day. 8 were present on the 31st January.



Redshank by the Kingfisher pool on the 30th January.

Robin: One bird present nearly every day.

Shoveler: Only recorded four times this month but one was seen hiding under the Pine tree to the left of the Kingfisher Pool on two occasions.



Shoveler heading to the Pine tree.

Teal: Present on the first 2 days of January then not seen until the 18th when they have been on the Pans every day since, with 66 being the highest number recorded on the 30th January.

Water Rail: Heard or seen on 15 occasions during January.

Wren: Regularly seen.



A Wren posing nicely on the hedge to the right of the Observatory.

Birds recorded but not mentioned in this report.

Buzzard, Canada Goose, Cetti's, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Cormorant, Fieldfare, Great Black Backed Gull, Great Tit, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Greenshank, Green Woodpecker, Grey Heron, Grey wagtail, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Golden Plover, Grey Wagtail, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Long Tailed Tit, Magpie, Peregrine, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Snipe, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove and Tufted Duck.

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

HOS visit to the Observatory.

A group of HOS members visited the Observatory on Sunday 15th January 2023. David Horne, Keith Metcalf and Chris Barrass hosted the visit.

Birding for Beginners.

This took place on Saturday 7th January 2023 and was the first one of the year. It was hosted by Chris Barrass, David Horne and Keith Metcalf. There were very strong winds on that day and there was only one visitor. Some of the birds recorded were: Kingfisher, Gadwall, Tufted duck, Brent Goose, Little Grebe, Marsh harrier and a Raven flying over the Pans.

Trail Cameras.

Birds Recorded: Blackbird, Coot, Kingfisher, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan. Pheasant, Water Rail and Woodpigeon.



Little Egret.



Pheasant.

Animals Recorded: Badger, Fox, Otter and Rat.



Chris Barrass 31st January 2023.