



Milford Conservation Volunteers



www.milfordconservation.org

February 2023 Observatory Report.

Blackbird: Present every day.

Black Tailed Godwit: Has been recorded on 16 occasions during February. 72 were seen feeding on the Avon Water side on the 24th February.

Blue Tit: Recorded every day. One has been seen checking out the nest boxes.



Blue Tit.

Brent Goose: Recorded on the Pans on 6 occasions during the month but have been seen flying over the Pans 14 times with numbers of over 400 flying over on the 12th.

Carrion Crow: Recorded every day.



Carrion Crow.

Coot: Present every day during February. 65 recorded on the 9th.

Curlew: Recorded every day. 14 present on the 27th and 28th February.

Dunnock: Present every day.



Dunnock.

Gadwall: Present every day during February with 63 seen on the 28th.

Great Tit: Recorded on 14 days during the month.



A Great Tit checking out one of the nest boxes at the Pans.

Grey Heron: Recorded on 7 occasions during the month.

Grey Wagtail: Put in an appearance for about 5 minutes on the 20th February. Photo below.



Herring Gull: Seen flying over on 16 days during the month.

House Sparrow: Recorded every day of the month.



Male House Sparrow.



Female House Sparrow.

Kingfisher: Two Kingfisher have been seen this month, an adult female and an adult male, neither have been ringed.

Lapwing: Recorded nearly every day. Over 399 were seen on the 4th February.

Little Egret and Little Grebe: Both present every day during February, with 7 being the highest number of Little Egrets on three occasions and 19 the highest number of Little Grebes on two occasions.

Long Tailed Tit: Recorded on 11 days during February with 8 being the highest number on the 10th.



Long Tailed Tit.

Mallard: Recorded every day.

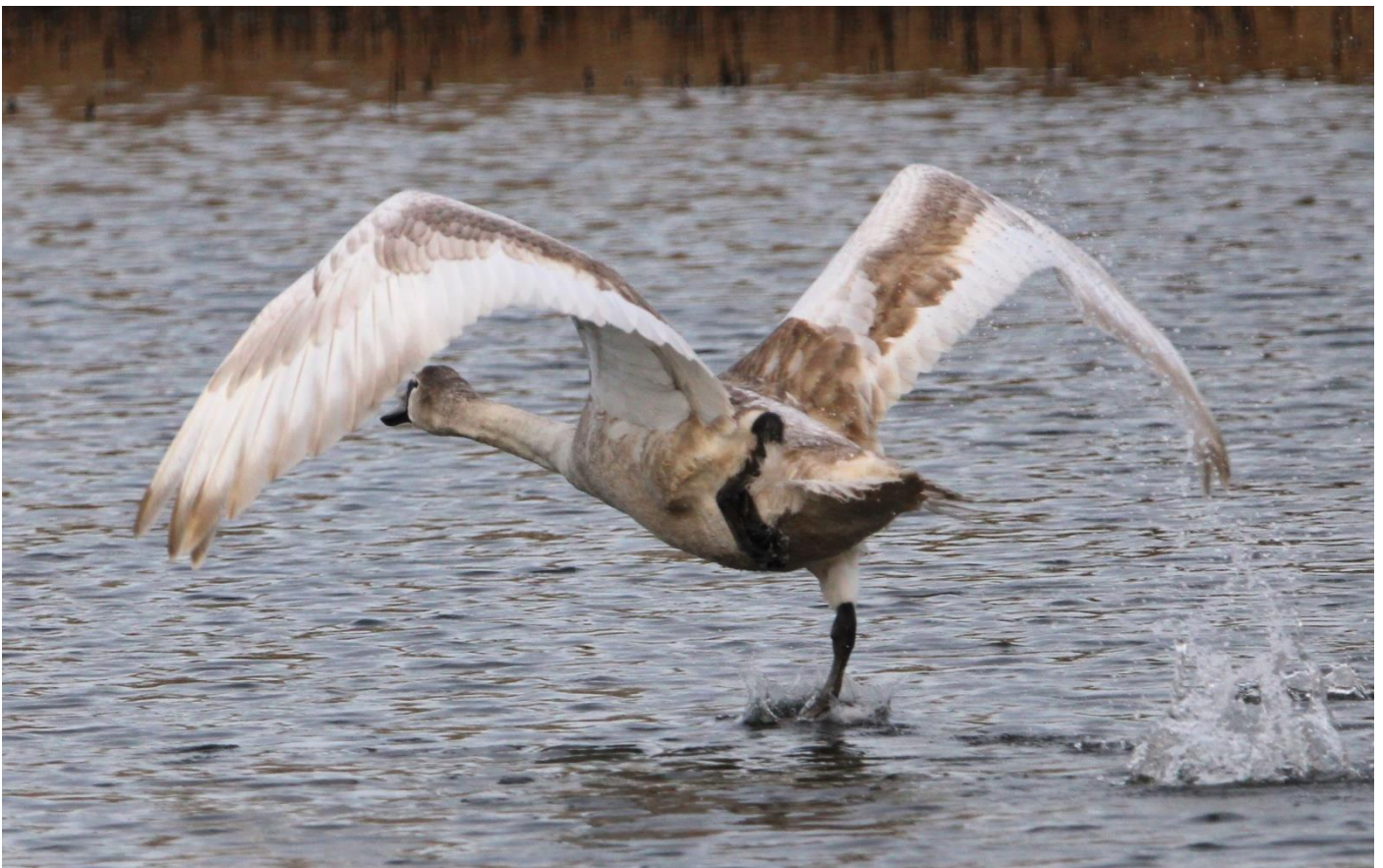
Marsh Harrier: Seen on 18 days during the month.



This adult female Marsh Harrier caught a Lapwing and carried it over to the Avon Water reed bed on the 18th.

Moorhen: Between two and four birds were seen every day.

Mute Swan: 2 birds recorded nearly every day during February.



This sub adult Mute Swan made a hasty retreat when the resident pair appeared.

Pheasant: These are either seen or heard every day of the month. 15 was the highest number recorded on the 15th February.

Pintail: 25 birds were seen on two occasions during the month.



An adult male Pintail near the Observatory.

Redshank: Recorded nearly every day. A Redshank that had been ringed in the Lower Avon Valley in 2021 was photographed on Avon Water on the 24th February. This was the fourth recording of this Redshank at the site.



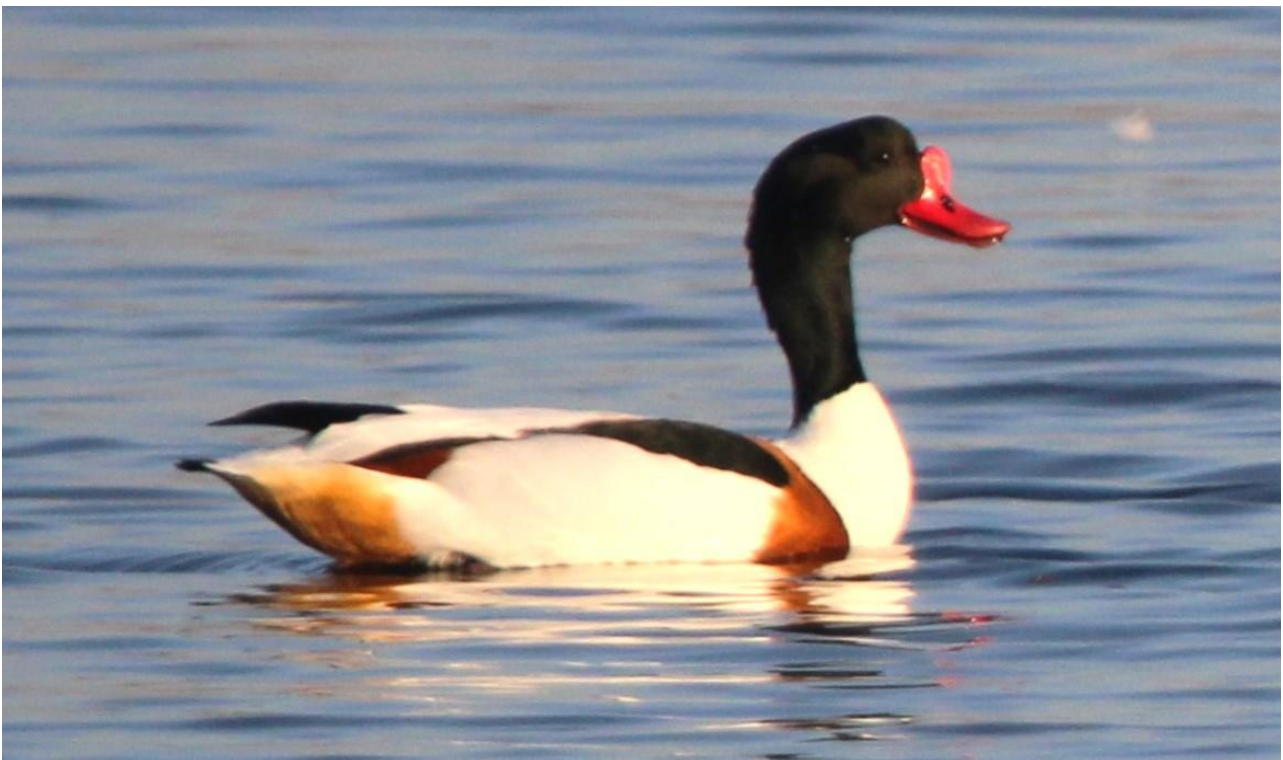
Ringed Redshank.

Robin: Present virtually every day of the month. Two were seen on the 6th February.



Robin.

Shelduck: Regularly seen. 4 have been present on four occasions.



Male Shelduck.

Snipe: Seen on 20 occasions, with 27 being the highest number recorded on the 15thFebruary.



Snipe on the edge of the Kingfisher Pool.

Teal: Seen every day. The highest number recorded was 90 on the 28thFebruary.

Tufted Duck: Seen on 21 days during the month with 5 being the highest number recorded on the 10thFebruary.



Tufted Duck



Bad hair day for this Tufted Duck.

Water Rail: Only seen once during February.



Water Rail on the 8th February making a dash on the edge of the Kingfisher Pool.

Wigeon: Recorded most days after February the 7th.

Woodpigeon: Present every day.

Birds recorded but not mentioned in this report.

Buzzard, Canada Goose, Cetti's, Chaffinch, Collared Dove, Cormorant, Egyptian Gull, Great Black Backed Gull, Goldfinch, Golden Plover, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Greenshank, Grey Heron, Jackdaw, Jay, Magpie, Mediterranean Gull, Peregrine, Pied Wagtail, Ruff, Shoveler, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove and Wren.

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

Birding for Beginners.

This took place on Saturday 4th February. We had several visitors including three children. Some of the birds seen were: Coot, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Redshank, Pintail, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Kingfisher, Little Egret and a Marsh Harrier. Some membership forms were handed out.

Trail Cameras.

Birds recorded: Blackbird, Coot, Grey Heron, Kingfisher, Little Egret, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Pheasant and Woodpigeon.



Grey Heron.

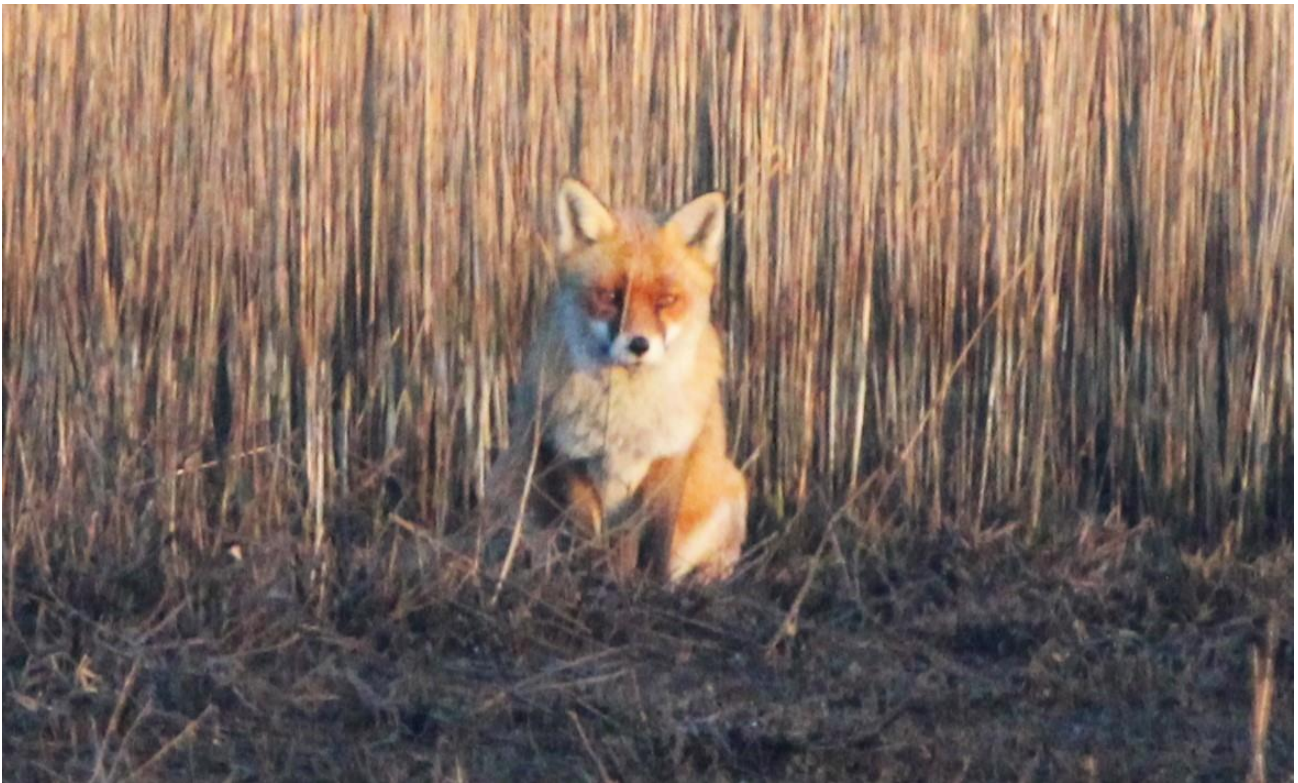
Animals Recorded: Badger, Fox and Otter.

The photo below, (sorry it's not the best) shows 2 Otters by the Kingfisher Pool on February 19th at 20:27.



And finally.

With the drop in water levels here are two photos of a Fox on what was recently flooded land.



Chris Barrass. 28/2/2023