



Milford Conservation Volunteers



www.milfordconservation.org

March 2023 Observatory Report.

Blackbird: Seen every day. 4 were recorded on the 15th and 21st March.



Blackbird collecting nesting material on the 14th March.

Black Tailed Godwit: 184 were present on the 6th March but since the 8th March the water levels have been too high for them, but they sometimes fly in to check for somewhere to land. The photos below were taken on the 28th March.



Blue Tit: Recorded every day.

Brent Goose: Recorded on the Pans until the 6th March with over 300 being present. Since then, they have mainly been seen flying over. The last record of the birds on the Pans was of 8 on the 31st March.

Buzzard: Recorded on 16 occasions with 3 seen on the 14th March.

Canada Goose: Seen or heard every day with 38 present on the 10th March.

Carrion Crow: Recorded every day.

Cetti's Warbler: Have been seen or heard on 20 occasions.



Cetti's warbler on the 22nd March.

Chaffinch: Seen on 11 days during March.

Coot: Recorded every day. 48 were present on the 18th March.

Curlew: Present every day until the 7th March. The highest number was 18 on the 3rd March. Since the 7th they have only been heard or seen flying over.

Dunnock: Up to 3 have been present every day and at least one has been ringed.

Egyptian Goose: Two present on the 29th March.



One of the two birds arriving on the 29th.

Gadwall: Present most days. 75 was the highest number recorded on the 4th March. Since the 14th the numbers have slowly decreased with only 5 recorded on the 31st.

Goldcrest: Only seen twice during March, on the 22nd and 24th.



Goldcrest.

Great Spotted Woodpecker: Heard on 4 occasions and seen on 3.

Greenfinch: Recorded on 12 occasions. 15 were seen flying over on the 13th.

Greenshank: Seen on only 6 occasions.

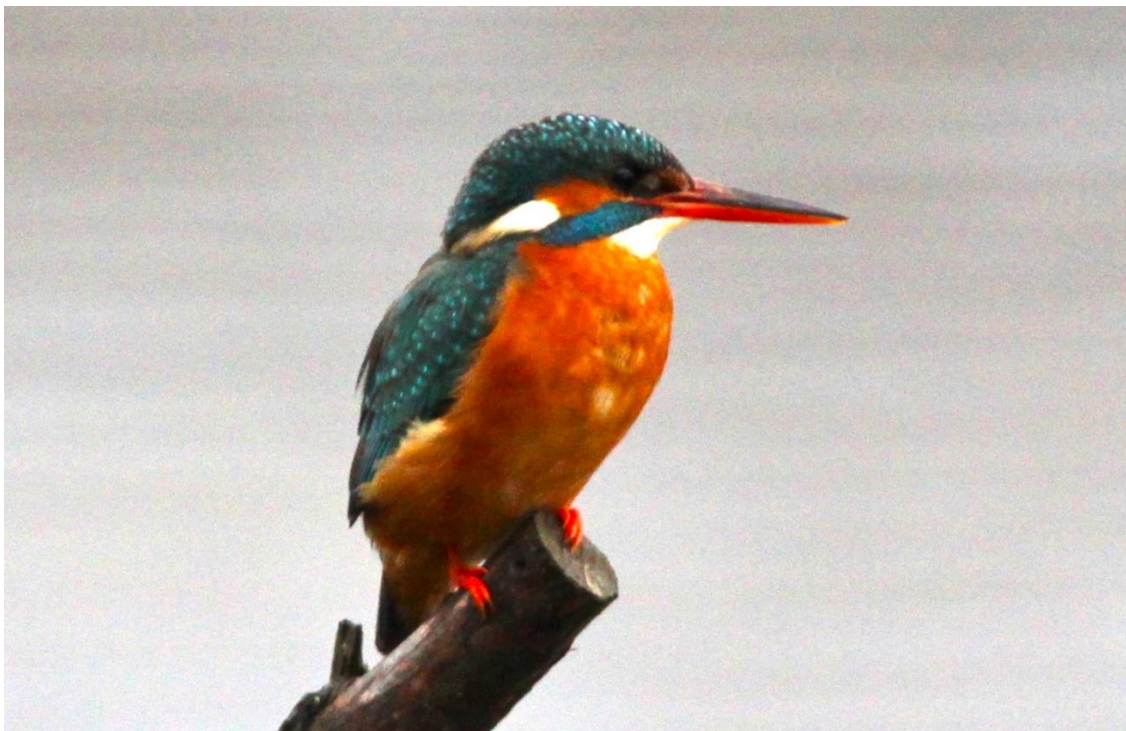


Greenshank in the Kingfisher pool on the 2nd March.

Herring Gull: Recorded on 20 days during March.

Jay: Seen flying over on 5 days during March.

Kingfisher: An adult female was recorded on 11 occasions during the month.



Adult female Kingfisher on the 30th of March.

Lesser Black Backed Gull: Present most days.



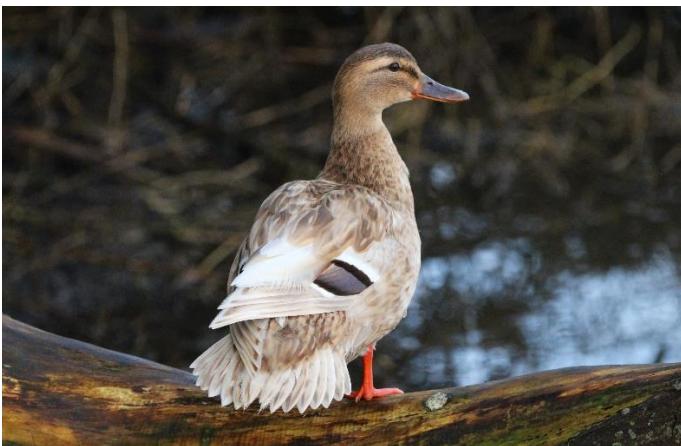
Lesser Black Backed Gull with a Shore Crab.

Little Egret: Present most days with 13 being the highest number recorded on the 5th March.

Little Grebe: Present until the 28th March. Highest number recorded was 15 on the 2nd March.

Long Tailed Tit: A pair have been seen on most days.

Mallard: Present every day. 90 were recorded on the 7th March.



A (pale) Female.



Male.

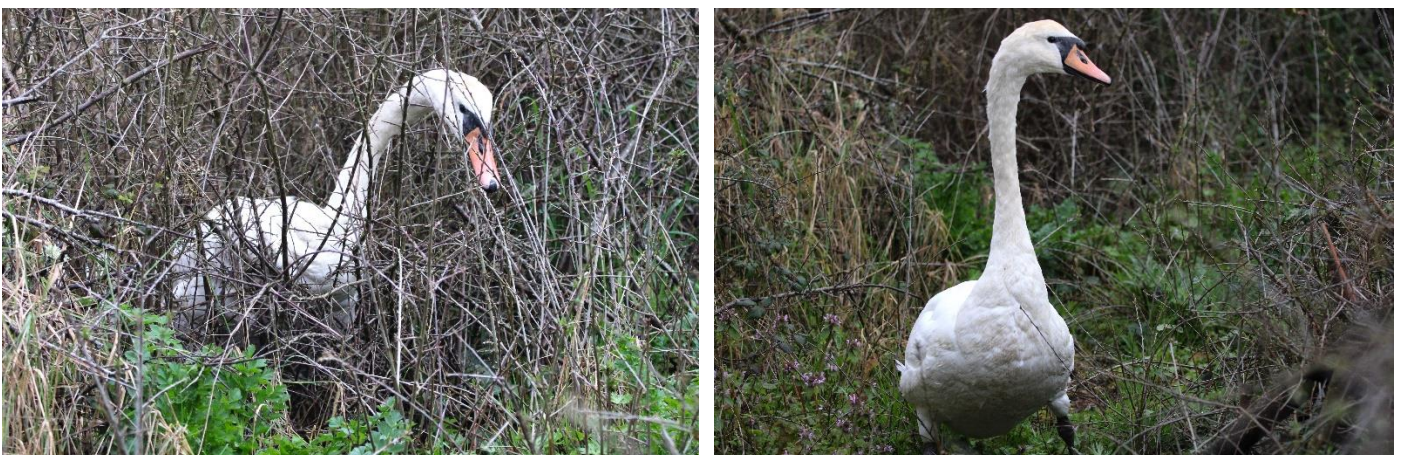
Marsh Harrier: Recorded most days, usually flying around at the far end of the Pans. 2 birds have been seen on four occasions.

Moorhen: A pair are seen most days.



One of the Moorhen preening its mate.

Mute Swan: A pair have been recorded every day. On the 30th, another pair decided to check out the Pans, it didn't take long for one of the resident pair to attack one of the intruders, which had to force its way through the hedge to escape.



One of the intruding Mute Swans escapes through the hedge.

Pintail: A regular for the site until the 23rd, only seen once since then when one male was present on the 31st March.

Redshank: Regularly seen flying around the site. 12 were recorded on the 2nd.

Reed Bunting: One was present on the 12th March.



Reed Bunting.

Robin: One was present until 13th, none recorded since then.

Shelduck: Seen most days. 3 birds recorded on the 19th with 5 flying over.

Spoonbill: One bird present on the 7th and one on the 29th March.



Spoonbill



Little Egret and Spoonbill.

Swallow: 6 were seen flying over the Pans on the 30th March.
(First Swallow sighting for the Pans in 2023).

Teal: Recorded most days. Over 83 were present on the 5th March.

Tufted Duck: Present most days. On the 17th March 14 were recorded.

Wigeon: Recorded on 11 days in March. Over 20 were present on the 11th.

Wood Pigeon: Present every day.

Birds recorded but not mentioned in this report.

Chiffchaff, Cormorant, Great Black Backed Gull, Black Headed Gull, Dunlin, Feral Pigeon, Goldfinch, Green Woodpecker, Jackdaw, Kestrel, Lapwing, Magpie, Med Gull, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Snipe, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Water Rail and Wren.

Thanks To: Richard Coomber, David Horne and Keith Metcalf for their additions to the bird records.

Birding for Beginners.

This took place on Saturday 4th March and was hosted by David Horne and Chris Barrass. We had several visitors to the Observatory. Some of the birds seen were Gadwall, Pintail, Shoveler, Teal, Wigeon, Kingfisher, Green Woodpecker and a Marsh Harrier.

HOS visit the Observatory on Sunday 5th March.

Three groups of new members to HOS visited the Observatory on Sunday the 5th. Keith Metcalf and Chris Barrass hosted visit. The Observatory is the starting point for their walk along the sea wall or the Ancient Highway. While at the Observatory some of the birds seen were, Brent Goose, Black Tailed Godwit, Redshank, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Gadwall, Pintail and Snipe.

Trail Cameras.

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



Coot by the Kingfisher Pool.



Little Egret.

Animals Recorded: Badger, Brown Rat, Fox and Otter.



Badger



Brown Rat tree climbing



Fox by the Kingfisher Pool.

Otter.



The Otter was present on two occasions, the 5th and the 16th March.

Chris Barrass. 31/3/2023