



## Milford Conservation Volunteers



[www.milfordconserveation.org](http://www.milfordconserveation.org)

### May 2023 Observatory Report.

**Avocet:** Has been heard on two occasions and seen once during the month before one landed on the Pans on the 28<sup>th</sup>.



. Avocet arriving on the 28th.

A few minutes feeding before leaving.

**Blackbird:** Seen every day during May, with 7 being the highest number recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue Tit:** 5 fledged on May the 28<sup>th</sup>.



Left hand side photo shows one of the young Blue Tits about to fledge and the right-hand side photo shows a newly fledged Blue Tit.

**Buzzard:** One or two birds have been seen or heard most days, usually being harassed by Carrion Crows.

**Carrion Crow:** Recorded every day.



The bird above spent a lot of time removing the bark from the tree across the Kingfisher Pool.

**Cetti's Warbler:** Has been heard nearly every day this month but only seen once. The dead bird that was found on the decking last month was a juvenile male and had been ringed at Iley Point on the 1<sup>st</sup> July last year.

**Common Tern:** Recorded over the Pans and Avon Water on 9 occasions but not seen since the 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Coot:** Recorded every day. One pair made a nest opposite the Observatory but have since abandoned it.

**Cuckoo:** Has only been heard twice during May.

**Dunnock:** Has been seen most days, one has been ringed.

**Gadwall:** Has been recorded most days with 4 being the highest number recorded. Since the 22<sup>nd</sup> a single male has been seen on Avon water.

**Great Tit:** A pair were present until the 20<sup>th</sup> May but have not been recorded since.

**Greenfinch:** Recorded every day. 6 were seen on the 26<sup>th</sup>May.

**Grey Heron:** Present nearly every day. 5 were seen on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>May.



Grey Heron near the Kingfisher Pool.

**Herring Gull:** Regularly seen flying over the site as well as on the roof of a house in Harewood Green.

**House Sparrow:** Recorded every day.

**Jay:** Often seen flying over the Pans and Avon Water.

**Kingfisher:** Have only been seen flying over on 9 occasions during May.

**Little Egret:** Seen every day. 14 has been the highest number recorded.

**Mallard:** Recorded every day.



Male.



Female



One pair had 10 ducklings but are now down to nine.

**Moorhen:** Seen every day during May, sometimes two birds but normally just one.



Moorhen crossing the Kingfisher Pool.

**Mute Swan:** The Pair of Mute Swans on Avon Water had 5 cygnets, they were first seen on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May.



The two adult Mute Swans with the 5 cygnets.

**Oystercatcher:** Regularly seen with 3 being the highest number recorded.



Oystercatcher at the Pans on the 30<sup>th</sup>May.

**Pheasant:** Heard nearly every day.

**Redshank:** Have been seen on 16 occasions, mainly a single bird but two present on two occasions.

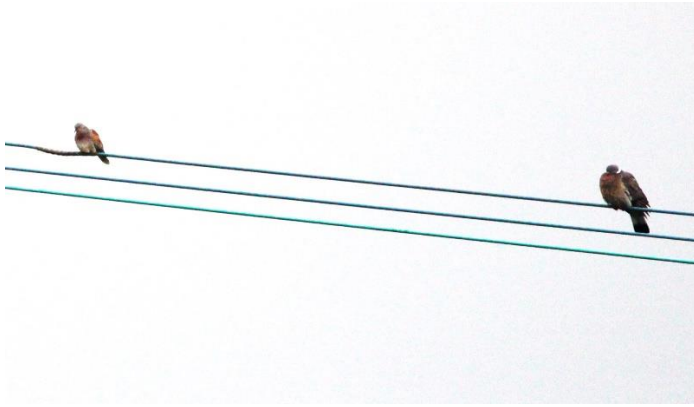
**Reed Warbler:** Heard every day but have only been seen on seven occasions during the month.

**Starling:** Frequently seen around the site. Once the chicks had hatched, they were often seen around the Observatory looking for food.



Starling chicks being fed by their adults.

**Turtle Dove:** **A new species for the site.** Was present on the 8<sup>th</sup> May.



Two photos of the Turtle Dove in the rain at the Pans on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The Turtle Dove is on the Left-hand side of the first photo. The bird on the right of that photo is a Woodpigeon for a size comparison.

**Wood Pigeon:** Recorded most days during May.



Woodpigeon taking off.

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

Black Headed Gull, Black Tailed Godwit, Canada Goose, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Collared Dove, Common Sandpiper, Goldfinch, Great Black Backed Gull, Greenshank, Green Woodpecker, Greylag Goose, House Martin, Lapwing, Linnet, Little Grebe, Little Tern, Long Tailed Tit, Magpie, Marsh Harrier,

Mediterranean Gull, Peregrine Falcon, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Robin, Sand Martin, Shelduck, Skylark, Stock Dove, Swallow, Swift, Tufted Duck and Wren.

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

## **Birding for Beginners.**

This took place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May and was run by Chris Barrass and David Horne. A quiet morning with intermittent rain. A large number of Swallow, Sand Martin and House Martin were seen flying over the Pans. Other birds seen were Coot, Moorhen, Lapwing, Mallard, and one male Gadwall.

### **Trail Cameras.**

**Birds recorded:** Blackbird, Black Headed Gull, Carrion Crow, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Mallard and Mute Swan.



A pair of Mute Swans by the Kingfisher Pool.



Moorhen.



Little Egret.



Carrion Crow.

**Animals recorded:** Badger, Brown Rat, Fox and Otter.



Fox.



Otter.

The Otter was recorded on three nights during May.

### **Milford Primary School visits the Observatory.**

After discussions with Kate Crawford, the Head teacher of Milford on Sea Primary School, and showing her the Observatory, she decided to take groups down to the Observatory for some bird watching and water colour painting sessions. The children had to walk from the school to the Observatory. The first group came down on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> May and were met by MCV Chairman David Horne and Committee member Chris Barrass (ex-pupil and ex caretaker of the school). Five cygnets had hatched the day before so some of the children got to see them on Avon Water. The adult Blue Tits were very busy feeding the chicks in one of the nest boxes and there were several Grey Herons and Little Egrets to be seen. There are two more visits planned.

### **American visitors at the Pans.**

Keith Betton contacted Keith Metcalf and myself to ask if MCV could host Therese Catanach and Domonic Garcia-Hall, two American birders staying in Keyhaven. They had a long list of birds they were hoping to see in the area. I arranged their visit to the Observatory for the 18<sup>th</sup> May. Keith Metcalf and I met them there. It was relatively quiet at the Pans so Keith took them around Keyhaven, taking in Mount Lake and Hurst Spit where they saw several Sandwich Terns which were on their list. We also gave them pointers as to where they could see the other birds on their list.