



# Milford Conservation Volunteers

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



## August 2023 Observatory report.

**Blackbird:** One to two birds have been seen most days.



A Blackbird making the most of the Blackberries by the Observatory.

**Black Tailed Godwit:** Due to the high-water levels on the Pans, Godwits were present on only 6 occasions. 22 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 67 on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 12 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 57 on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The other two times only one and two birds were present.



Some of the Black Tailed Godwit on the flooded Pans on the 13<sup>th</sup> August.

**Blue Tit:** Present most days with 6 being the highest number recorded on the 4<sup>th</sup> August.

**Canada Goose:** Recorded nearly every day of the month. Large numbers were seen on the Pans and Avon Water as well as flying over the site.



Canada Goose flying over the Observatory.

**Carrion Crow:** Recorded most days. They have been seen flying over the farm fields in large flocks, along with Rooks and Jackdaws.

**Collared Dove:** Present on 14 days during the month.



Usually seen on the far side of the Pans in one of the trees. 13 has been the highest number recorded at one time this month.

**Coot:** Recorded everyday this month with 27 being the highest number on the 29<sup>th</sup> August.

**Cormorant:** Seen most days, with 7 being present on 29<sup>th</sup> August.



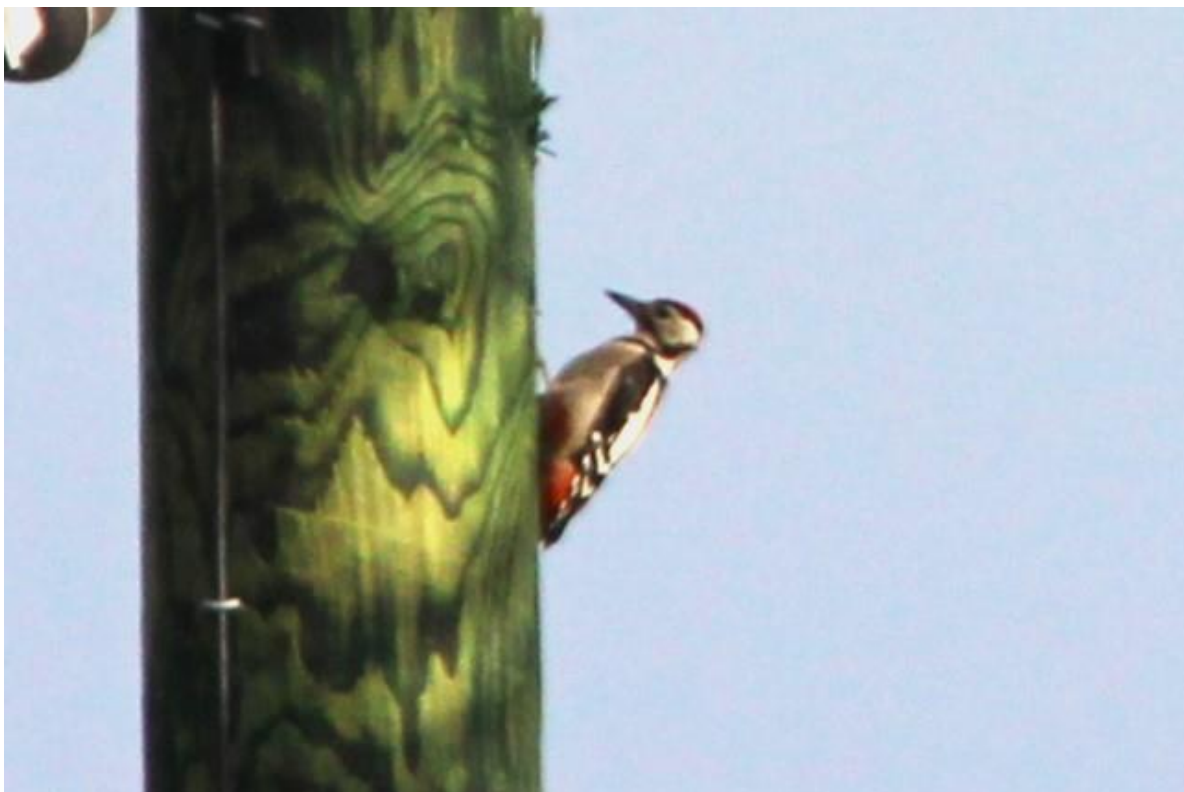
Three Cormorants and two Little Egrets fishing on the Pans.

**Gadwall:** First seen on the 21<sup>st</sup> August, when 2 birds were present on Avon water. Recorded on six days since then. (Photo below).



**Goldfinch:** Seen on 10 days during the month with 20 birds present on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker:** Recorded on 7 days during the month.



Great Spotted Woodpecker on a telegraph pole opposite the Observatory on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Grey Heron:** Recorded everyday during the month with 4 being present on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Herring Gull:** Seen on 21 occasions during the month.

**House Sparrow:** Present most days.



House Sparrow blackberry picking in the central hedge.

**Jackdaw:** Usually heard rather than being seen.

**Kingfisher:** At least three kingfishers have been seen on the Pans during August, a juvenile male, a juvenile female, neither of which have been ringed and an adult female that has been ringed.

**Lapwing:** One bird was present on the 1<sup>st</sup> August, 17 flying over on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18 flying over on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Lesser Black Backed Gull:** Has been recorded on 5 days during the month.

**Little Egret:** Present nearly every day with 12 on the 18<sup>th</sup> plus 11 flying over the Pans.

**Little Grebe:** Present every day, with 32 recorded on the 27<sup>th</sup> August.



A Little Grebe in the Kingfisher pool on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

**Magpie:** Have been recorded on 17 occasions.

**Mallard:** Present every day during the month. The highest number recorded was 155 on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Marsh Harrier:** Have only been recorded on 4 days during the month.

**Moorhen:** Recorded on 11 occasions during the month. One adult with two juveniles has been seen twice on Avon Water.

**Pheasant:** Recorded on 10 days during the month, usually seen at the far end near the barns.

**Raven:** Have been heard on 5 occasions and seen flying over the Pans on 6 occasions.

**Redshank:** Seen on 11 occasions during August, 21 recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Reed Warbler:** They have been regularly recorded during the month.



A juvenile Reed Warbler on the central hedge on the 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**Robin:** One or sometimes 2 birds have been seen on 18 days during August.



One of the two Robins in the Fir tree behind the Observatory.

**Sand Martin:** Flying over the Pans on 19 days up to the 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

**Spoonbill:** Have been seen flying over the Pans on two occasions during August. Two birds on the 26<sup>th</sup> and three on the 31<sup>st</sup>.



The two birds flying over the Pans on August 26<sup>th</sup>, slightly pink due to the sunrise.

**Swallow:** Recorded on 25 days during the month. On some days over 500 birds were seen with Sand Martin and House Martin.

**Swift:** Were recorded on six days during August.



Swift in silhouette as it flew over the Observatory.



**Water Rail:** Heard on 6 occasions on the Avon Water side. One was seen from the Observatory on the 29<sup>th</sup> as it flew over the Kingfisher Pool.



Water Rail flying over the Kingfisher Pool.

**Whitethroat:** Present on two occasions. Two seen on the 30<sup>th</sup>.



Whitethroat on the central hedge on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

**Wigeon:** A single bird was seen on the 29<sup>th</sup> August.

**Willow warbler:** Recorded on 4 days during the month.



Willow warbler on the central hedge on the 9<sup>th</sup> August.

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

Blackcap, Black Headed Gull, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Cetti's Warbler, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Common Sandpiper, Common Tern, Curlew, Feral Pigeon, Great Black Backed Gull, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Greenshank, Goldfinch, Green Woodpecker, Jay, Kestrel, Long Tailed Tit, Mute Swan, Oystercatcher, Peregrine, Pied Wagtail, Racing Pigeon, Reed Bunting, Rook, Sedge Warbler, Shelduck, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Tufted Duck and Yellow Legged Gull.

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

**Open Morning:** This took place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August and was run by Chris Barrass, David Horne and Keith Metcalf. Unfortunately, it was raining for the duration of the open morning so there were no visitors. Birds recorded included 2 Kingfisher, 2 adult Shelduck with 3 ducklings, a Raven and 3 Swifts. Before the open morning started, I was lucky enough to see an Otter swimming near the Observatory.

Before I get to the trail camera section, I would like to mention that Keith Metcalf, David Horne and I (but mainly Keith) cleared a lot of the branches and brush from the area to the left of the Kingfisher pool.



Clearing the brush and branches.



A much better view.



## Trail Cameras.

**Birds recorded:** Blackbird, Black Headed Gull, Canada Goose, Coot, Grey Heron, Kingfisher, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Mallard, Mute Swan, Stock Dove and Wood Pigeon.



Mute Swan and Mallard.



Mallard with her older Ducklings and a Grey Heron.

## Animals Recorded.

Badger, Brown Rat, Fox and Otter.



Badger 29<sup>th</sup> August.



Fox 22<sup>nd</sup> August.



Otter 14<sup>th</sup> August.



Otter 31<sup>st</sup> August.

The 19<sup>th</sup> August started as a peaceful morning, but things suddenly changed.



Everything took off.



A dog suddenly appeared and tried chasing the birds on the Pans. Sadly, this was not the first time this dog had done this.

And finally.



A Field Bumblebee at the Pans.

Chris Barrass 1/9/2023