



Milford Conservation Volunteers

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September 2023 Observatory Report.

Bearded Reedlings: On the 22nd September about 20 birds were seen on the Avon Water side, 2 birds were seen on the 23rd and again some were seen on the 30th September. Some birds were heard but not seen on the 26th.



Bearded Reedlings on the Avon water side on the 22nd September.

Blue Tit: Recorded on 8 days during the month.



A Blue Tit on the central hedge on the 23rd September.

Black Tailed Godwit: Have been present every day since the 14th September. Over 189 were seen on the 27th.

Canada Goose: Present everyday. Over 504 were present on the 7th.

Cetti's Warbler: Heard most days, has been seen on 5 days during the month. 2 were seen on the 10th September.



Cetti's Warbler on the left hand hedge.

Chiffchaff: Recorded on 6 occasions during the month, photo below.



Common Sandpiper: Seen on 5 occasions during the month. Two were present on the 4th September.



Common Sandpiper on the Avon Water side.

Coot: Present every day. 52 were recorded on the 26th.

Gadwall: Often seen, on the Pans side and on Avon Water. 19 were recorded on the 22nd September.

Great Black Backed Gull: Recorded on 8 days during the month. The photo below shows a Great Black Backed Gull behind an adult Lesser Black Backed Gull, showing the difference in size of the birds and the difference in the shape of the bill.



Great Tit: Recorded on 5 days during the month.



Great Tit on a Fir tree behind the Observatory.

Grey Heron: Recorded on 18 days during August. 3 were seen on the Pans on the 7th with 9 seen flying over the site.

House Sparrow: Recorded most days of the month.

Kingfisher: Seen most days of the month, 3 were recorded on the 3rd of September. The photo below shows a juvenile female Kingfisher.



Little Egret: Recorded most days of the month. 11 were seen on the 25th and 26th September.

Little Grebe: 41 were recorded on the 3rd, 7th and the 15th September.



Little Grebe on the edge of the Kingfisher Pool.

Mallard: Present everyday of the month in high numbers. Over 315 were present on the 27th.

Marsh Harrier: Seen on 11 days during the month, with 2 being present on 4 occasions.



Marsh Harrier.

Moorhen: Recorded on 19 days during the month. 2 adults with 2 juveniles were seen on 2 occasions.



Adult Moorhen.



Juvenile Moorhen.

Mute Swan: Two adult Mute Swans were recorded most days. 4 were seen on the 22nd September.

Pheasant: Often seen at the far end of the Pans.

Sand Martin: Over several hundred were seen over Avon water reed beds on three occasions.



Sand Martin flying over the Observatory.

Shelduck: Up to four juveniles were seen on four occasions at the beginning of the month. Three adults were seen on the third September with seven seen flying over the Pans on the same day.

Swallow: High numbers were recorded over the site on 16 days.



A Swallow flying over Avon Water on the 17th September.

Teal: Recorded on 22 days during the month. Over 97 were seen on the 16th September.



Teal near the Observatory.

Water Rail: Often heard until the 14th, when the first one was seen near the Observatory. Two were seen crossing what was the Kingfisher Pool on the 25th September.



Water Rail near the Observatory on the 25th September.

Birds Recorded but not mentioned in this report.

Blackbird, Black Headed Gull, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Collared Dove, Curlew, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Herring Gull, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Linnet, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Redshank, Reed Bunting, Reed Warbler, Robin, Rook, Sedge Warbler. Song Thrush. Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Tufted Duck, Whitethroat, Wigeon, Woodpigeon and Wren.

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

Open morning: This took place on Saturday 2nd September and was run by Chris Barrass and Keith Metcalf. There were 7 visitors to this session. Some of the birds sighted were 2 Kingfisher, Gadwall, Mallard, Teal, 3 juvenile Shelduck, Buzzard, Kestrel and a Whitethroat.

Trail Cameras.

Birds Recorded: Blackbird, Black Headed Gull, Coot, Cormorant, Grey heron, Herring Gull, Kingfisher, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Robin, Water rail and Woodpigeon.



Little Egret with a fish.



Coot, Mallard and Little Grebe.

Animals recorded.

Badger, Fox, Otter and Rat.



Badger 27thSeptember.



Fox 7thSeptember.



Otter 17thSeptember.

Before I sign off, I would like to say a huge thank you to Richard who left a tub of fat balls at the Observatory, but more importantly fixed the Observatory gate which is now fully functional.