

Observatory Update 17/11/2020 – 4/1/2021.

The water levels over this time, have been very high with much of the Pans flooded also the temperature was down to -3 degrees C on 1st January with the Kingfisher Pool being the only area of water not frozen.



The frozen Pans

The usual birds have been recorded at the Pans over this period, however there was one new species, a **Rock Pipit**, this was first recorded on 27/11/2020 and again on the 4th December.



Rock Pipit (id. Keith Betton)

Bearded Tit: These have only been recorded 3 times during this period. 6 were present on 22/11/2020, one was seen on 23rd November and one on the 2nd December. All the initial sightings were on the Avon Water side of the central

hedge but the 6 split up and two came over to the Pans side and headed to the reed bed on the far side, to the left of the houses.



Bearded Tit

the bird on the left has a ring on its right leg which showed that it had been ringed by Daisy Scott at this site.

Brent Geese These have flown over the site on several occasions but have only landed 4 times, the highest number recorded was 9 on 30/12/2020.

Black Tailed Godwit: These were seen several times, the highest number was 58 on 29th November.

Buzzard: Seen most days.

Chaffinch: there have been upto 4 at any one time (3 females and a male) but usually there is only 1 female on the feeder by the decking.

Curlew: These were either heard or seen on or over the Pans most days. There were 10 on 24th November.



Curlew

Duck: Several species were recorded over this time period.

Highest number and date

Gadwall: 38 on 27th December

Mallard: 44 (2 Avon Water and 42 The Pans) 3rd December.

Pintail: 2 on 31st December. (male and female).

Shoveler: 4 on 12th December. (2 males and 2 females).

Teal: 17 on 18th November.

Wigeon: 6 on 19th November.

Egyptian Goose: These have flown over on a couple of occasions, 5 being the highest number on 18th November.

Greenshank: Has been seen only 3 times.

Grey Heron: Seen most days.

Kingfisher: Upto three have been seen flying around the whole site but only one, (Juvenile female which has been ringed). is seen on the Kingfisher Pool at any one time. This may mean that all the Kingfishers at the moment are juvenile ringed females.

Little Egret: Present on 35 days. The highest number was 12 on 28th December.

Little grebe: Present most days, the highest number recorded was 39 on 28th November.

Long Tailed tit: Often seen along the hedges around the Pans and Avon Water. The highest number seen was 10, on 25th and 26th November.

Marsh Harrier: Regularly seen, highest number 3.



Marsh Harrier watching a Cormorant on Avon Water.

Marsh Tit: One seen on the feeder on 30th November.

Redshank: A common visitor, the highest count was 12 on 3rd December

Robin: Seen daily, sometimes there are two, one has been ringed and the other hasn't.

Snipe: These have been seen on several occasions, the highest count was 6 on 29th November.



Snipe

Song Thrush: 1 has been seen regularly, mainly on the central hedge, 2 were seen on 14th December.

Sparrowhawk: Regularly seen.

Swallow: One was seen over the Pans on 23rd November.

Water Rail: Present on at least 33 days.

Other sightings: A Pipistrelle bat was seen flying over the Pans on Sunday 22nd November.

On 23rd December there was a break in at the Observatory, no real damage was done just a few fittings displaced. After discussions with Keith, we removed the wooden bridge from below the Observatory windows and Keith put something in place to ensure that the windows could not be pushed in from the outside. We think that whoever it was had used one of the logs (which are stacked at the back of the Observatory) to gain the height to allow them to climb into the Observatory.

Night vision camera

We had the usual Fox on several nights then on the 11th January 2021 we had an Otter. Photo below.



Chris Barrass. 15/01/2021