



# Milford Conservation Volunteers

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



## October 2023 Observatory report.

*I was away on holiday for 9 days during October so not all the month was covered. Luckily some members put their sightings into the diary which means there are only 5 days with no records.*

**Bearded Reedling:** Recorded on 13 occasions during the month usually on the Pans side near the sluice gates.



A female Bearded Reedling.

**Blackbird:** Common for the site.

**Blue tit:** Recorded on 19 days during the month.

**Buzzard:** Have been recorded on only 3 days during the month with 3 being the highest number on two out of those 3 occasions.

**Cetti's Warbler:** Seen or heard on 19 days during October.

**Coot:** Recorded on most days with 70 being the highest number recorded on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Cormorant:** These have been seen on 23 days, with 6 being the highest number that were recorded on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Photo below.



**Dunnock:** Common for the site.



A Dunnock on the central hedge.

**Gadwall:** Recorded on 17 days during October.



Male Gadwall.

**Great White Egret:** Was recorded on two occasions during the month, once on Avon water and once near the Observatory.



A Great White Egret landing in front of the Observatory.

**Greenfinch:** Recorded on four occasions during the month.



A Greenfinch on the central hedge.

**Grey Heron:** Recorded on 19 days during October.

**House Sparrow:** Common for the site.

**Jackdaw:** Recorded on seven occasions, usually flying over the site.

**Kingfisher:** Seen nearly every day. Two different birds have been recorded. An adult female and an adult male, neither have been ringed.

**Lapwing:** Have been seen flying over the site on four occasions with 35 being the highest number recorded.

**Little Egret:** Recorded most days with 13 being the highest number on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Little Grebe:** Present every day. 52 has been the highest number recorded on the 29<sup>th</sup>October.

**Mallard:** Large numbers recorded most days with over 248 seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup>October.

**Marsh Harrier:** Recorded nearly every day with 3 being seen on the 7<sup>th</sup>October.



A Marsh Harrier flying through a flock of Black Tailed Godwit.

**Moorhen:** Recorded nearly every day. 4 has been the highest number seen. At the beginning of the month there were 2 adults with 2 juveniles now it's usually 3 adults.

**Mute Swan:** Two Mute Swans were seen most days but on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 7 were seen flying over the Pans. The photo below shows 6 of the 7.

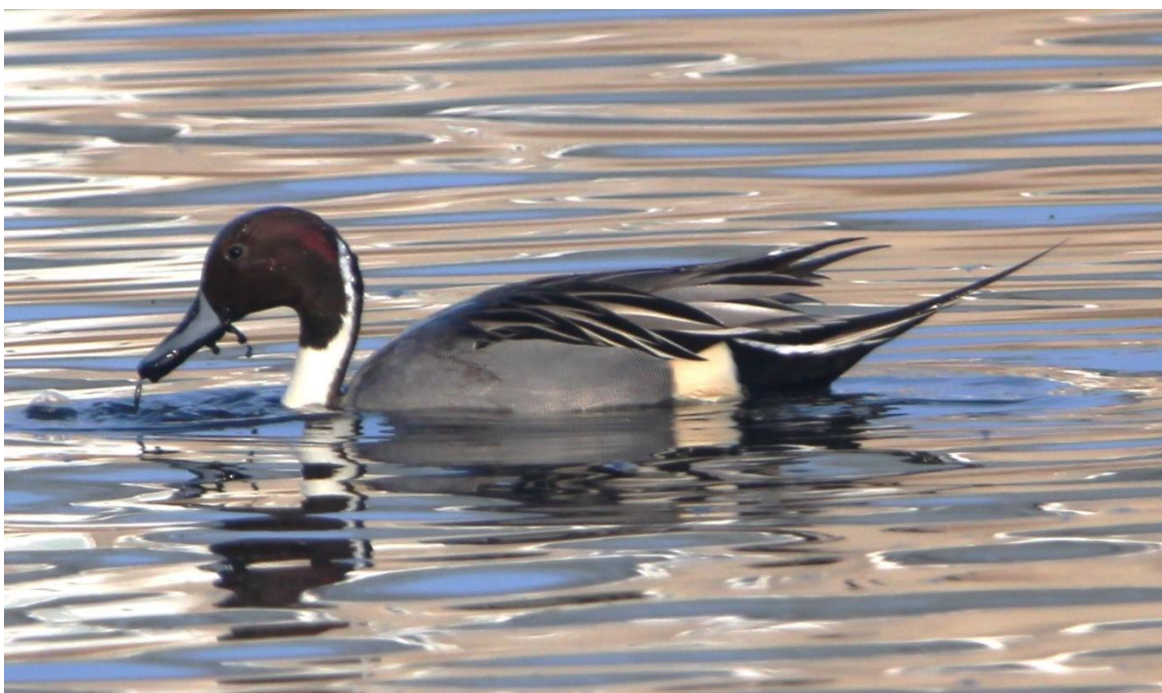


**Osprey:** A single bird was recorded on 4 occasions during the month. Just my luck, I was on holiday when the bird was recorded at the Pans.



The great photo above was taken by Tim Rosier who kindly allowed me to use one of his photos taken from the Observatory on 17<sup>th</sup>October.

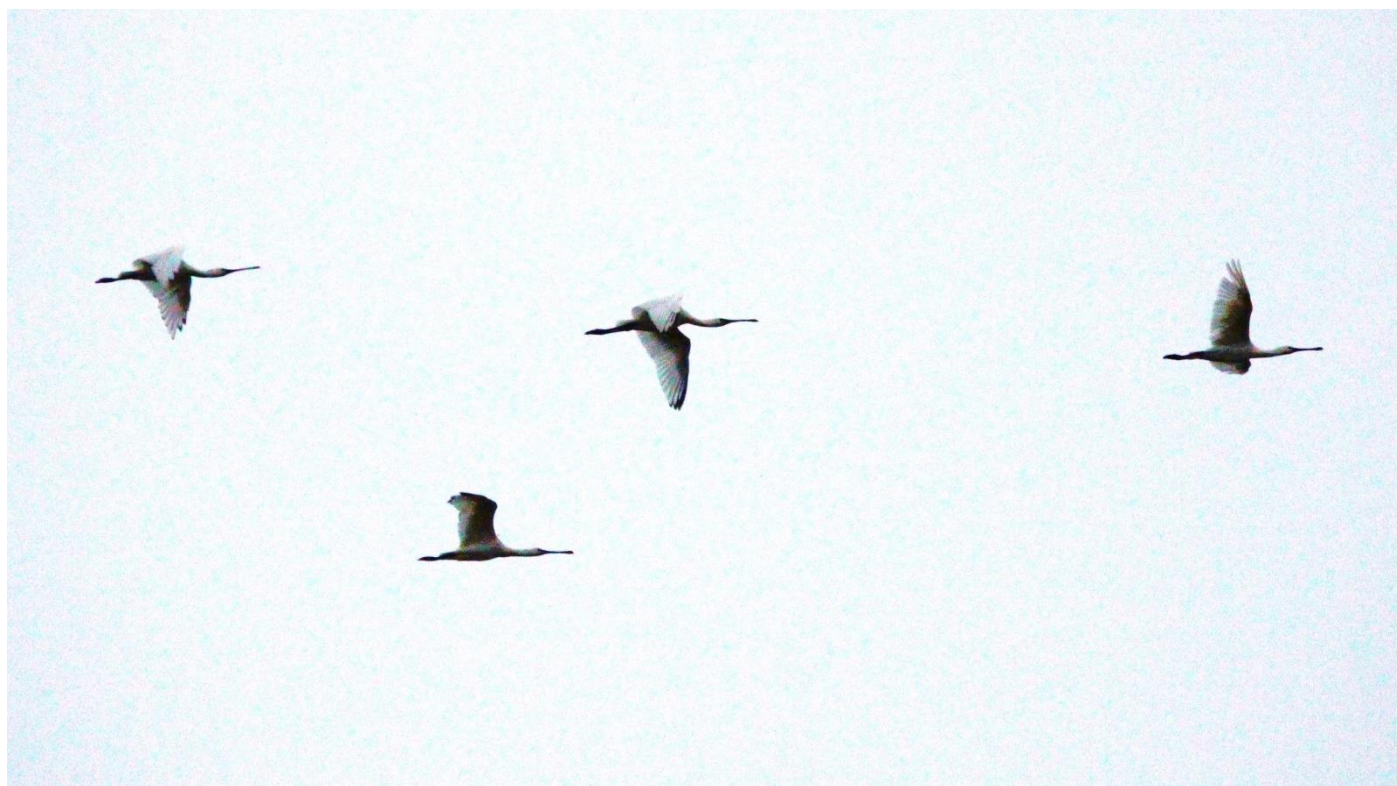
**Pintail:** Often recorded during the month with over 20 seen on the 10<sup>th</sup>October. The photo below shows an adult male Pintail.



**Robin:** Common for the site. Two have been seen on 2 occasions.

**Shelduck:** Eleven were seen on the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Spoonbill:** Four flew over on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.



**Swallow:** Seen daily until the 10<sup>th</sup> October with over 100 seen on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Two were seen flying over the Pans on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October which was the last record for this month.

**Teal:** Seen every day until the 12<sup>th</sup>. Over 230 were recorded on the 10<sup>th</sup> October. Since then, their numbers have dropped right down until 2 were recorded on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck:** One or two birds have been recorded during the month but on 30<sup>th</sup> there were 7 recorded which increased to 16 on the last day of the month.

**Water Rail:** Were recorded on at least 15 days during the month. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1 was seen by the Observatory and 2 heard on different parts of the Pans.

**Wigeon:** Recorded most days until the 10<sup>th</sup>. The highest number was over 60 birds on the 7<sup>th</sup> October. Since then only one was heard on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Wren:** One or two were seen on 9 occasions during the month.



Wren.

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

Brent Goose, Carrion Crow, Black Headed Gull, Canada Goose, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Collared Dove, Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Feral Pigeon, Goldcrest, Great Black Backed Gull, Great Crested Grebe, Great tit, Greenshank, Goldfinch, Herring Gull, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Long Tailed Tit, Oystercatcher, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Redshank, Robin, Rook, Sand Martin, Shelduck, Skylark, Starling, Stonechat, Sparrowhawk, Stock Dove, White Tailed Eagle, Willow Warbler and Wood Pigeon.

**Thanks to:** David Horne, Keith Betton, Rob Clements, Keith Metcalf, Eurs, Meran and Sam Orfis. (Sorry if I have miss spelt the names).

### **Open Morning.**

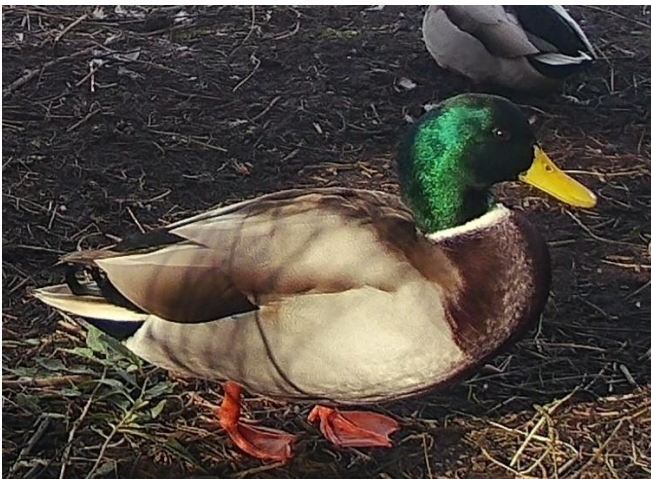
This was run by Chris Barrass, David Horne and Keith Metcalf and took place on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October between 10.00 and 12.00.



We were visited by an RSPB group and some of the birds seen were: Black Tailed Godwit, Mallard, Teal, Pintail, Wigeon, Bearded Reedling, Chiffchaff, Sparrowhawk and Swallow.

### **Trail Cameras.**

**Birds Recorded:** Blackbird, Black Headed Gull, Cormorant, Coot, Grey Heron, Herring Gull, Kingfisher, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute swan, Pheasant, Water Rail and Woodpigeon.



Mallard (male).



Mallard (female).



Coot.



Water Rail.

The photos above were all taken before the water levels got so high that one of the cameras was underwater.

**Animals Recorded:** Fox, Otter and Rat.

The Fox was photographed on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October, the Otter was photographed on the 26<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of October.



Otter (26<sup>th</sup>).



Otter (29<sup>th</sup>).



A Rat checking out a Shore Crab.

## **The State of the Pans.**

### **Low tide.**



### **High Tide.**



A new tidal flap is being produced in Holland; it will be very interesting to see how and when the flap will be fitted.

Chris Barrass. 31/10/2023