



# Milford Conservation Volunteers

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



## November 2023 Observatory report.

**Blue Tit:** Recorded most days.



**Brent Goose:** Several groups have been seen flying over the Pans since the 8<sup>th</sup> November, but so far none have landed on the site. Over 193 were seen flying over on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. The photo below shows 4 flying over the Pans.





**Buzzard:** Have been recorded on 10 days during the month.



A Buzzard in one of the trees opposite the Observatory on the 25<sup>th</sup> November.

**Canada Goose:** Large numbers on the Pans and flying over the site with over 500 recorded on the 16<sup>th</sup> November.



A Canada Goose flying over the Pans.

**Common Scoter:** A single juvenile was seen on the Pans on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November. Photo below. *This was a new species for the site.*



**Coot:** Recorded nearly every day of the month, with 75 being the highest number on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

**Gadwall:** Present on 22 days during the month, 68 were present on the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

**Goldcrest:** Has been recorded on 5 occasions during the month.



A Goldcrest on the left-hand hedge on the 4<sup>th</sup> November.



**Great Black Backed Gull:** Recorded at the Pans on 14 days during the month.

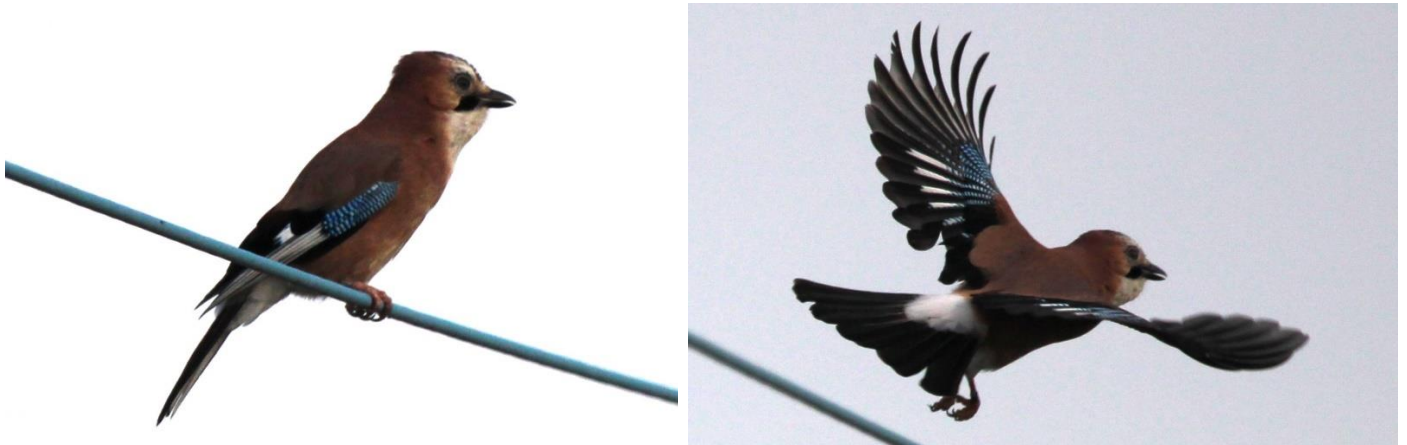


A Great Black Backed Gull with a Shore Crab.

**Grey Heron:** A single Heron has been recorded on 15 days during November.

**Jackdaw:** Recorded on 5 days during the month.

**Jay:** These have been seen flying over the Pans on 16 occasions.



As can be seen, the Jay above has a full crop.

**Kingfisher:** Regularly seen, usually only a single bird, but on three occasions two birds have been seen. Two photos below from November.



**Long Tailed Tit:** Have been seen on only three occasions during the month.

**Magpie:** Seen most days, with 5 being the highest number recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> November.



A Magpie in flight on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Mallard:** Present every day. Over 87 were recorded on the 17<sup>th</sup> November.



**Marsh Harrier:** Seen most days, with 4 being seen on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Mistle Thrush:** Seen on three occasions during the month. First sighted on the 1<sup>st</sup>. *This is a new species for the site.*



Mistle Thrush on the wire.

**Moorhen:** Regularly seen.



Adult Moorhen.



**Mute swan:** Two birds are regulars to the site. On the 13<sup>th</sup> four birds were present but the two intruders were soon seen off by the resident birds.



One of the regular Mute Swans landing on the Pans.

**Pheasant:** Recorded on 21 days during the month.



Male.



Female.

A pair of Pheasants between the two hedges to the right of the Observatory.



**Robin:** One or two birds have been seen most days during the month.



One of the two Robins.

**Water Rail:** They have been heard most days of the month. Two were seen from the Observatory on the 26<sup>th</sup> November. Both were seen below the Observatory window.



The two Water rails seen on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Due to the flooding of the road to Keyhaven on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November no records could be taken at the Observatory.



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

Bearded Reedling, Blackbird, Black Headed Gull, Blackcap, Black Tailed Godwit, Carrion Crow, Cetti's Warbler. Chaffinch, Collared Dove, Dunnock, Gold Finch, Great Tit, Greenfinch, Herring Gull, House Sparrow, Kestrel, Lapwing, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Long Tailed Tit, Pied Wagtail, Pintail, Raven, Redshank, Red Kite, Rook, Shelduck, Snipe, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Stonechat, Teal, Tufted Duck, Woodpigeon, Wigeon and Wren,

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

## **Open Morning.**

This was run by Chris Barrass, David Horne and Keith Metcalf and took place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November. A quiet morning with no visitors. The highlight of the morning was a Red Throated Diver in the harbour, close to the carpark opposite the Observatory gate. Photos were taken and the bird was later identified by Keith Betton.



Red Throated Diver in the harbour.



## Trail Cameras.

**Birds Recorded:** Carrion Crow, Coot, Cormorant, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Magpie, Mallard, Moorhen, Pheasant, Tufted Duck, Water Rail and Wood Pigeon.



Cormorant.

With the very high-water levels, the Cormorants are able to fish very close to the Trail cameras.



Carrion Crow.



Tufted Duck.



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

A Fox was recorded on 5 occasions.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> November an adult female Otter was photographed on the trail camera with two pups. This was the first record of an adult Otter with two young.



The female Otter can have up to four pups but usually they only have two. The female can breed in their third year whilst males can breed at a younger age. The adult female looks after the pups for about a year when they will have to start looking for their own territory.



I think the Otter in the photo above is a male and so could be the father of the two pups.

Chris Barrass. 30/11/2023