



# Milford Conservation Volunteers

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



## January 2024 Observatory Report.

I was unwell for the first 10 days of 2024 but Keith Metcalf, David Horne and some members covered some of the days so there are only three days when no records were taken. Thank you for the cover.

**Blackbird:** Present most days of the month.



A male Blackbird on the Observatory fence.

**Black Headed Gull:** Recorded most days of January.

**Blue Tit:** Recorded most days with 6 being present on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> January.

**Brent Goose:** Large flocks of 400 to 500 birds were recorded flying over the site on two occasions. 8 were present on the site on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

**Chaffinch:** Seen on 5 days during the month.



A male Chaffinch on the central hedge.

**Coot:** Large numbers were seen nearly every day of the month, with 93 recorded on the 30<sup>th</sup>.



Water off a Coots back.

**Cormorant:** Seen on the Pans most days, with 8 recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Curlew:** Seen most days. 16 were recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup> January.

**Dunnock:** Recorded on most days. 4 were present on the 19<sup>th</sup> January.



One of the Dunnocks has been ringed. (photo above).

**Gadwall:** Seen on most days of the month. 121 were recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Great Tit:** Seen most days of the month.

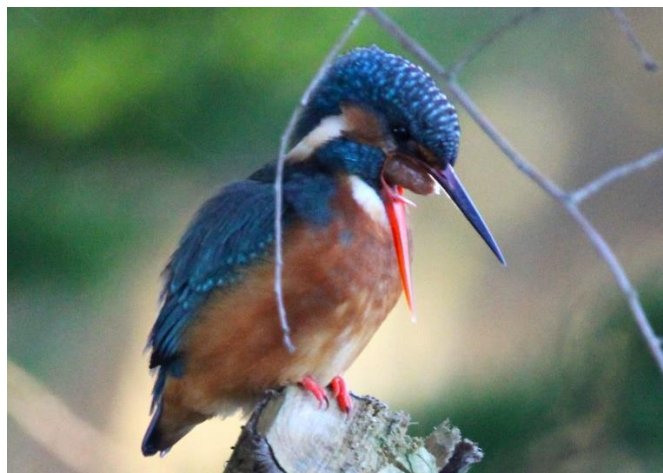
**Great White Egret:** A single bird was present on 14<sup>th</sup> January.



The Great White Egret at the far end of the Pans.

**House Sparrow:** Seen and heard most days of the month.

**Kingfisher:** Two female Kingfishers have been seen flying around the site this month.



The photos above show a female Kingfisher regurgitating a pellet. The pellet can consist of fish scales, bones, small shore crabs and shrimps all of which have been seen being eaten by a Kingfisher from the Observatory. Even though I have been going to the Observatory most days since November 2019 this was only the third time, I have seen a Kingfisher regurgitate a pellet and managed to photograph it.

**Lapwing:** Now that the water levels are slowly diminishing, birds such as Lapwing are starting to return. 100 has been the highest number recorded.



The photo above shows some of the Lapwings at the Pans.

**Little Egret:** Recorded nearly every day. The highest number has been 13 on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Grebe:** Another species that are seen nearly every day. This month the numbers have fluctuated from 9 up to 41.

**Magpie:** Common for the site. They are usually seen flying across the site. 15 were seen on the central hedge on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Mallard:** Present every day. Over 93 were recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup> January.

**Marsh Harrier:** Recorded most days. Three were recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

**Moorhen:** These have been seen most days on Avon Water and the Pans. Three have been seen on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January.



A pair can be seen most days.

**Mute Swan:** There is a resident pair which are seen most days. A single bird joined them on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and two birds visited them on the 27<sup>th</sup>. They were soon seen off by the resident pair. The photo below shows a Mute Swan in flight.



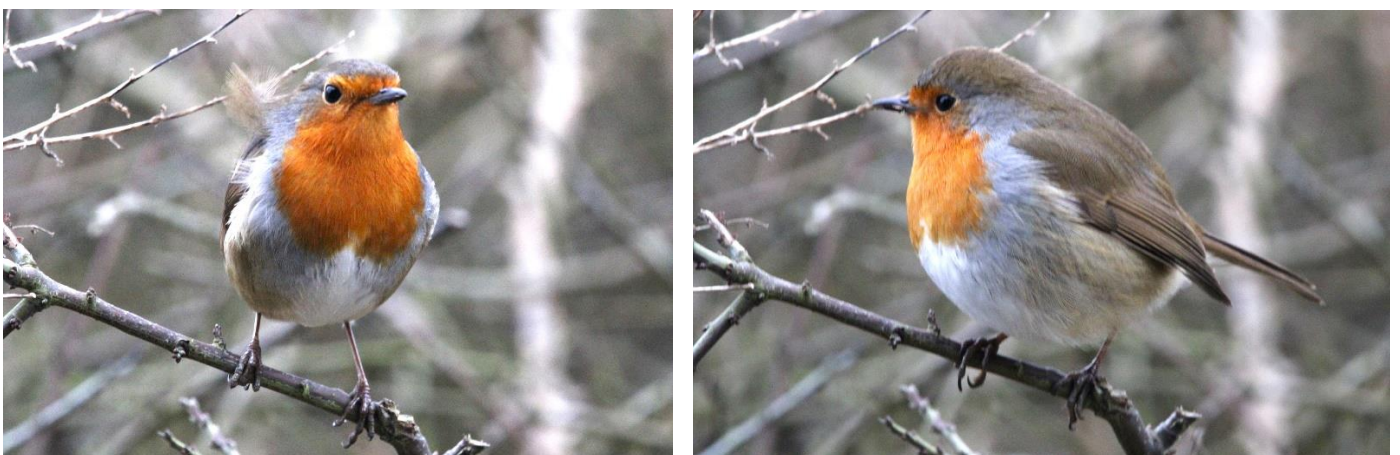
**Pintail:** Seen on 10 days during the month. 23 was the highest number on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Redshank:** Seen most days. 13 were recorded on the 12<sup>th</sup> January.



Redshank near the Observatory.

**Robin:** Recorded most days. 3 were seen on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January.



Robin on the left-hand hedge.

**Snipe:** Recorded on 11 days during the month. 9 seen on the 15<sup>th</sup>.



. Snipe near the Kingfisher Pool.

Snipe on the frozen Pans.

**Teal:** Recorded on 18 days during the month with 158 birds seen on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Tufted Duck:** 10 birds were present on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8 on the 7<sup>th</sup>. A single bird was recorded on 14 other days during the month.



Tufted Duck close to the Observatory on the 21<sup>st</sup> January.

**Water Rail:** Present on 16 days during the month.



Water Rail.

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

Bearded Reedling, Black Tailed Godwit, Buzzard, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Cetti's Warbler, Collared Dove, Dunlin, Feral Pigeon, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Golden Plover, Greenfinch, Greenshank, Grey Heron, Great Black Backed Gull, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Herring Gull, House Sparrow, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Long Tailed Tit, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pied Wagtail, Song Thrush, Starling, Sparrowhawk, Wigeon, Woodpigeon and Wren.

**Thanks to:** David Horne, Keith Metcalf, Dudley Powell and the other MCV members who added their bird sightings.

### **Open Morning.**

This occurred on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, the first Saturday of the month and was run by David Horne. A quiet morning with 28 species of birds recorded, which included Kingfisher, Greenshank, Tufted Duck, Water Rail, Lapwing and a Sparrowhawk.



## Trail Cameras.

**Birds Recorded:** Blackbird, Carrion Crow, Coot, Grey Heron, Herring Gull, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, Redshank, Robin, Pheasant, Water Rail and Woodpigeon.



A Pheasant near the Kingfisher Pool.



Grey Heron.

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



Badger.



Fox.



Otter.

**Low temperatures.**

On some days the temperature got down to  $-5.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  so parts of the site were frozen. The photos below show the frozen areas of Avon Water and the Pans.

A Black Headed Gull and a female Mallard on the frozen Pans.



This photo shows the Frozen edge of Avon Water.