



Milford Conservation Volunteers

www.milfordconservation.org



April 2024 Observatory Report.

Avocet: Two birds were present on the 24th April. This was their first appearance at the Pans in 2024. Photo below. Four were present on the 26th and two on the 27th.



Two Avocet and a Black Headed Gull.

Black Tailed Godwit: Now that the water levels are down, The Black Tailed Godwits returned to the Pans on the 9th April. They have been present every day since then, with 73 being the highest number recorded on the 29th. On the 23rd April, one of the Black Tailed Godwits was seen to have coloured rings on its legs plus a numbered orange flag. Some photos were taken, unfortunately I was not able to get a photo of the number on the flag just the coloured rings. A photo was sent off to the group running the project. They were able to tell me that the bird had been ringed in France. Photos on the next page.



A Black Tailed Godwit.



The 'ringed' Black Tailed Godwit.

Blue Tit: A pair are using the nest box closest to the Observatory. The birds can be regularly seen taking food into the box and leaving with a faecal sac. This means that they have young in the nest box. We will only know the number of chicks when they fledge.



A Blue Tit leaving the nest box closest to the Observatory.

Buzzard: Recorded on 10 days during the month.

Cetti's Warbler: They have been heard or seen on most days.

Chaffinch: Seen on 12 days during the month, usually on the central hedge.

Common Tern: These have recently been seen at the far end of the Pans and over Avon water.

Coot: Resident to the site. Recorded every day. 7 was the highest number on any day.

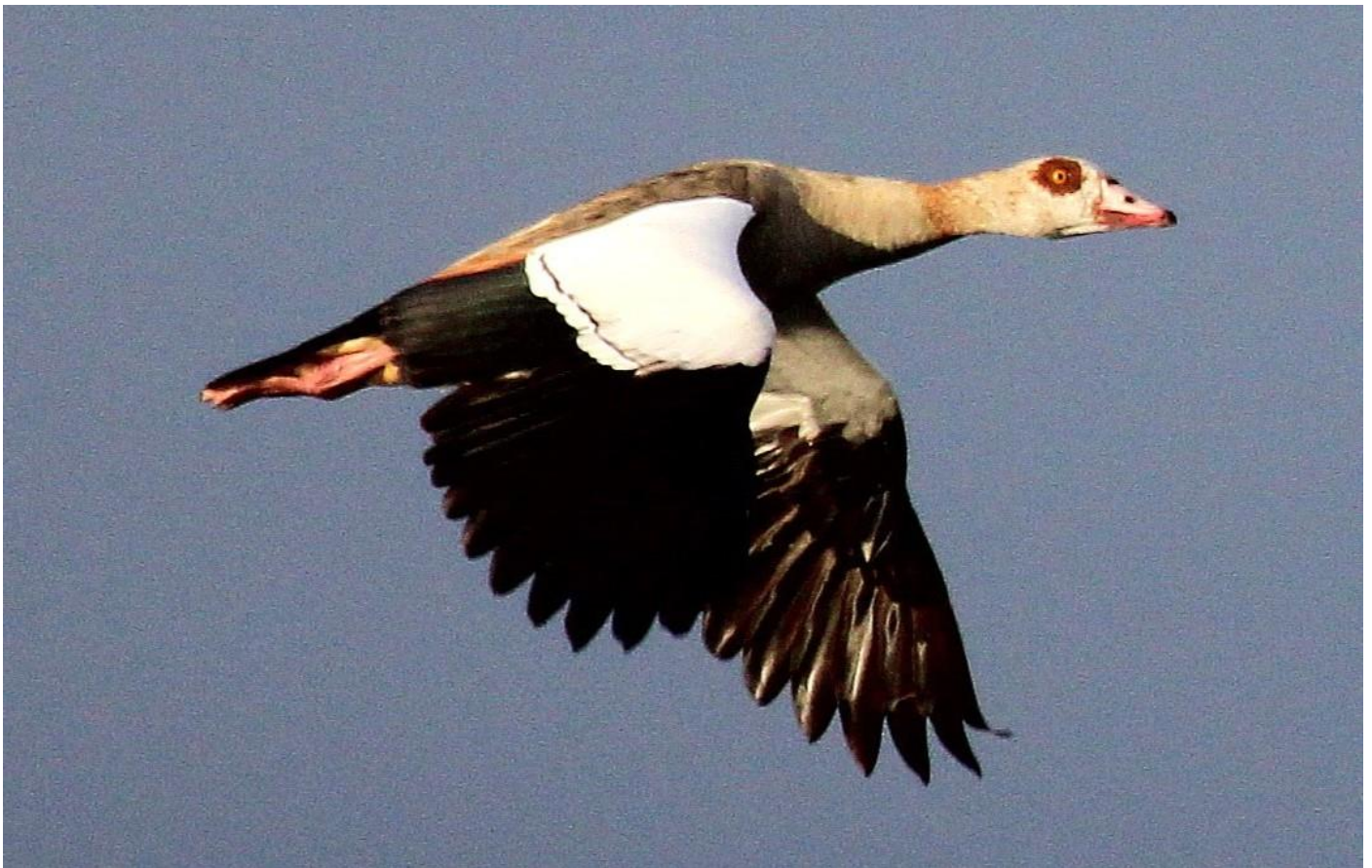
Cormorant: These have been recorded on nearly every day of the month. As the water level has dropped, they usually fish at the far end of the site where the water is deeper. 5 has been the highest number recorded.

Dunnock: Present on 21 days during the month.



Dunnock on the central hedge.

Egyptia Goose: Recorded on 8 days during the month. 4 were present on the 28th.



An Egyptian Goose flying towards the farm buildings.

Great Black Backed gull: Seen on 10 different days during the month.



Great White Egret: Seems to be resident for the site. It can be seen all over the site including the Avon Water reed beds.



A Great White Egret with a Shore Crab.

Greenfinch: Recorded on 23 days during the month. 5 were seen on the 3rd April. The photo below shows a Greenfinch on the Feeder.



Herring Gull: Recorded every day of the month.

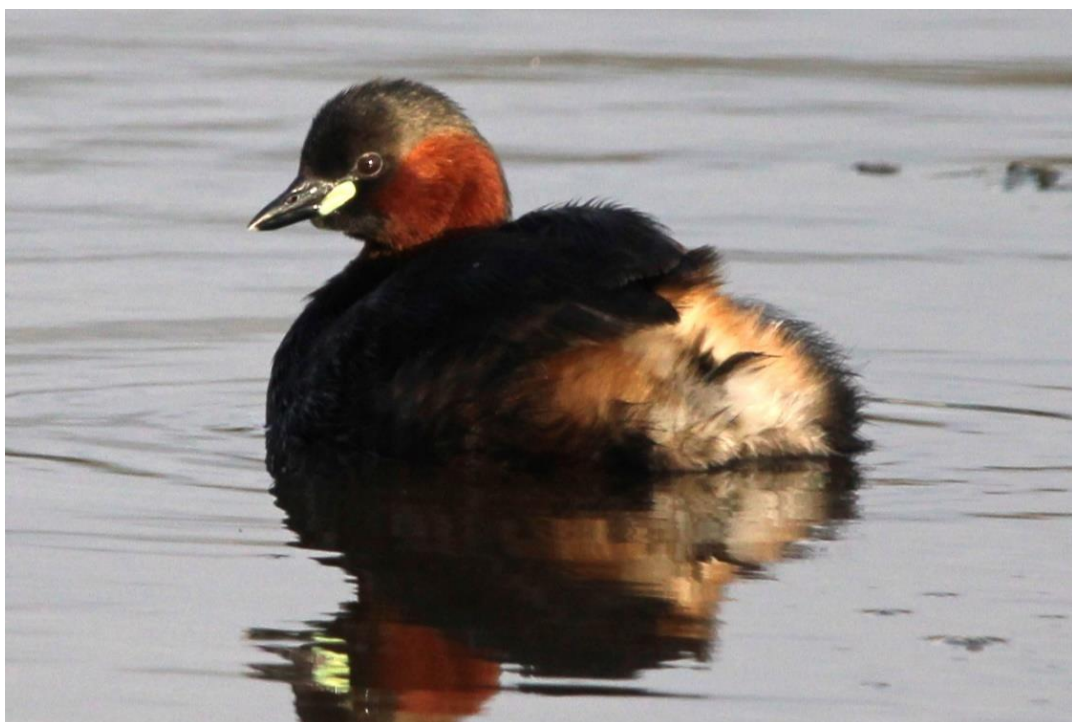


Herring Gull near the Observatory with the high-water level.

Lapwing: Seen on/or flying over the site on 23 days during the month.

Little Egret: Recorded every day of the month with 15 being present on the 14th April.

Little Grebe: One or two birds present on 15 days during the month.



A little Grebe near the Observatory

Little Ringed Plover: A new Species for the Site.

A single bird was present over four days, the 15th 16th 17th and 18th April. On the 28th, 18 LR Plovers were present at the Pans. The photo below was taken on the 16th April as the single bird was fairly close to the Observatory.



Little Ringed Plover.

Mallard: Present every day during April. There are two families with ducklings. One had 12 ducklings and another had 6. Those figures were from the 26th April.



One of the Mallard families near the Observatory.

Marsh Harrier: Recorded every day. Usually only a single bird was seen.

Mediterranean Gull: Seen or heard nearly every day.



Two Mediterranean Gulls on the Pans.

Mute Swan: One of the pair on the Avon Water side has been sitting on the nest most of the month. The Mute Swans on the Pans side seem to have given up with the nest since their nest was swamped with water when the levels were really high. The photo below shows the Great White Egret by the Mute Swans nest on the Avon Water side.



Oystercatcher: Present for 20 days during April.

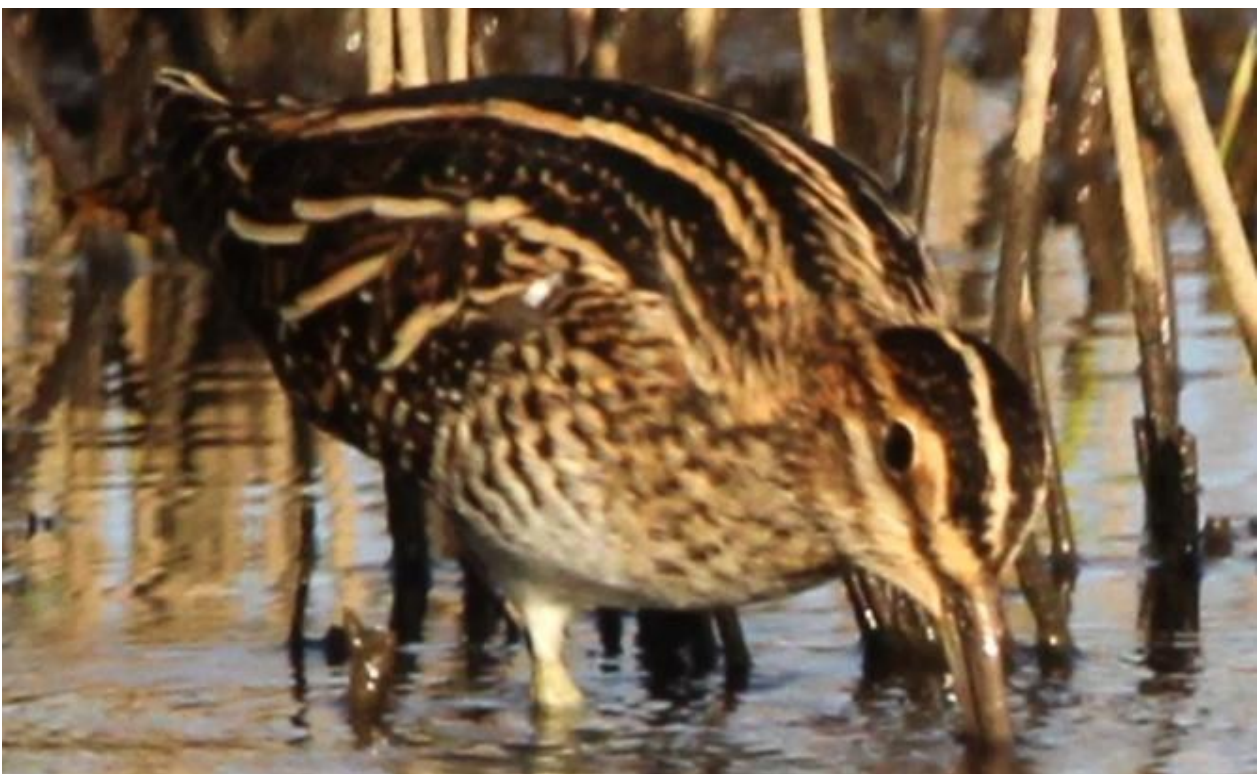
Pied Wagtail: Recorded on 13 days during April.



A Pied wagtail.

Redshank: Present most of the month. The highest number recorded was 14 on the 19th April.

Snipe: Were present for 7 days during the month. A photo below.



Teal: Only seen for 11 days during the month until the 14th.

Tufted duck: Only recorded on 10 days during April.

Whooper swan: **A New Species for the site.**

A single bird was present on the 10th April, luckily it was close to the Observatory.



Wren: Recorded on 19 days during the month.



A Wren with nesting material.

Yellow Wagtail: One bird was present on 30th April. Photo below.



Birds Recorded but not mentioned in this Report.

Blackbird, Black Headed gull, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Collared Dove, Common Sandpiper, Dunlin, Gadwall, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenshank, Greylag, Grey Heron, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Lesser Whitethroat, long tailed Tit, Magpie, Pheasant, Raven, Reed Bunting, Reed warbler, Robin, Sand Martin, Sedge Warbler, Shelduck, Shoveler, Stock Dove, Sparrowhawk, Spoonbill, Starling, Stock Dove, Swallow, Water rail, Wheatear, Whimbrel, Whitethroat, Woodpigeon,

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

Trail Cameras.

Birds recorded: Blackbird, Black Headed Gull, Coot, Carrion Crow, Gadwall, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Mallard + Ducklings, Moorhen, Mute swan, Pheasant, Tufted Duck, and Woodpigeon.



Trail camera photo showing a Mallard and a Pair of Tufted Duck.

Animals Recorded: Badger, Fox, Otter and Rat. The Otters were recorded on the 7th, 9th, 15th, 20th, 22nd and 28th. Two photos below.



An Otter on the 7th April.

One on the 15th April.

The Badger made three appearances, on the 11th, 17th and the 19th April. A Fox was only photographed on 3 occasions during April, the 12th, 26th and 28th April.

I was also lucky to see a Fox at 08.45 on the 21st April. Photo below.



Chris Barrass. 1st May 2024.