



# Milford Conservation Volunteers

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



## May 2024 Observatory Report.

**Avocet:** Recorded most days. The highest number was 46 on May 20<sup>th</sup>.



16 Avocet, some of the birds recorded on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Black Tailed Godwit:** Seen most days, with 81 present on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue Tit:** The adults were very busy feeding the young until the chicks fledged (roughly at 08.37) on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.



An adult Blue Tit taking food to the chicks waiting in the nest box.





. One of the Blue Tit chicks about to fledge.

A newly fledged Blue Tit.

**Canada Goose:** Regularly seen or heard most days.

**Carrion Crow:** Recorded every day.



A Carrion Crow with an Eel.

**Cetti's:** Seen or heard every day of the month.

**Chaffinch:** One bird was seen on thirteen days during the month.

**Chiffchaff:** Recorded on 8 days during the month.



**Collared Dove:** Seen on 19 days during the month with 7 recorded on the 17<sup>th</sup>.



A Collared Dove on one of the wires.

**Common sandpiper:** Recorded on 7 days during the month.



Common Sandpiper.

**Common Tern:** Seen trying to catch fish at the far end of the Pans on 12 days during May.

**Gadwall:** Recorded every day of the month.



male Gadwall.

**Garganey:** Recorded on 6 days during the month.



Distant photos of the Garganey.



**Goldcrest:** Seen on 11 days during the month.



**Great Tit:** Recorded most days during May.

**Great White Egret:** Recorded every day. Some photos below.





**Grey Heron:** Recorded most days. photo below.



**Greylag Goose:** Recorded on 23 days.



The photo above was taken on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.



**House Sparrow:** Recorded every day.



House Sparrow with a feather.

**Little Egret:** Seen every day, the highest number recorded was 22 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.



The Little Egret have been fishing in the Kingfisher Pool. On some days small shrimps can be seen on the rusty grid and surrounding muddy edge. As well as Little Egret the adult Mallards and duckling have also been seen eating the shrimps.



**Little Ringed Plover:** Recorded on 2 days during May. 1 bird on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 2 birds on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The photo below shows the single bird on the 25<sup>th</sup>.



**Mallard:** There have been four families of Mallards on the Pans.

1 pair with 10 ducklings, a 2<sup>nd</sup> pair (white mum) with 10 ducklings, (now down to 7 ducklings) 1 pair with 3 ducklings and the fourth pair had 7 ducklings.



The white mum with her remaining 7 ducklings.



**Marsh Harrier:** One bird seen most days.



A Marsh Harrier flying over the Pans.

**Mute Swan:** There have been a pair on Avon water and a pair on the Pans. The pair on Avon Water have 5 cygnets which were first sighted on 16<sup>th</sup> May. The photo below was taken on the 19<sup>th</sup> May.





**Oystercatcher:** Seen nearly every day of the month. The highest number recorded was 3 on the first and seventh of May.



Oystercatcher near the Observatory on the 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**Red Kite:** One flew over the Observatory on the 7<sup>th</sup>.



A record shot of a Red Kite flying over the Observatory.



**Ringed Plover:** Recorded on 6 days during the month.

**Whitethroat:** One was seen on the 11<sup>th</sup> May.



A Whitethroat on the left-hand hedge.

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

Bearded Reedling, Blackbird, Black Headed Gull, Buzzard, Coot, Cormorant, Curlew, Dunlin, Egyptian Goose, Goldfinch, Great Black Backed Gull, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Greenshank, Greenfinch, Herring Gull, Hobby, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Little Grebe, Little Tern, Long Tailed Tit, Magpie, Merlin, Moorhen, Pheasant, Raven, Redshank, Reed Bunting, Reed Warbler, Robin, Sand Martin, Sedge Warbler, Shelduck, Shoveler, Skylark, Sparrowhawk, Spoonbill, Starling, Stock Dove, Swallow, Tawny Owl, Tufted Duck, Water Rail, Whimbrel, Willow Warbler and Woodpigeon.

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

Also, to **Simon Boswel** for letting me know that I had misnamed a Grey Wagtail as a Yellow Wagtail in the April monthly report.



## Trail Cameras.

**Birds recorded:** Blackbird, Black Headed Gull, Carrion Crow, Little Egret, Collared dove, Mallard, adults and ducklings, Moorhen plus 2 chicks, Pheasant, Shelduck and Woodpigeon.



Mallard taking off.



Adult Moorhen with 2 chicks.

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



A Badger was photographed on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.



A Fox was photographed on 10 occasions during the month.



An Otter was recorded on 8 occasions during the month. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> of May.

The Otter photo to the left was taken on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May.



Some final photos. Two photos of a Roebuck walking around the Pans.



And



Sunset at the Pans.

Chris Barrass.

1<sup>st</sup> June 2024.