

June 2023 Observatory Report.

Avocet: Three birds present on the 15th and two on the 16th June.



One of the days during June when the water level allowed birds to feed in the mud.

Bearded Tit: Four birds were present on the 29th June, The first sighting of 2023. They were in the reeds by the old Mute Swan nest on Avon Water.



The 4 birds were all juveniles.

Blackbird: Recorded every day, 5 were seen on the 23rd June.

Black Headed Gull: Recorded every day.



A Black Headed Gull calling as it flies near the Observatory.

Brent Goose: One bird was present on Avon water on the 29th and 30th June. The photo below was taken on the 29th.



The Brent Goose on Avon Water.

Cetti's Warbler: Heard nearly every day.

Common Sandpiper: Three birds were present on 24th June sitting on one of the branches near the telegraph Poles. The highest number of these birds recorded at the Pans.

Common Tern: Regularly seen fishing over the Pans and Avon Water. 8 were recorded on the 22nd June.



Two of the 8 Common Tern on the 22nd June.

Coot: Between one and three birds were recorded most days.

Great Crested Grebe: **A new species for the site.**

A juvenile was photographed on Avon water on 27th June. Photos below.



The juvenile bird was tucked into the left-hand corner of Avon Water for the first photo (hence the reflection of the reeds), then out in the middle for the right-hand photo. It may have been seen several days before but the sighting was not good enough for it to be recorded in the diary.

Greenfinch: Recorded nearly every day with 5 being the highest number.

Jackdaw: Heard or seen on 9 occasions during the month with three being the highest number.



A Jackdaw making the most of the feeder at the Observatory.

Jay: Seen flying over the site most days. One on the central hedge below.

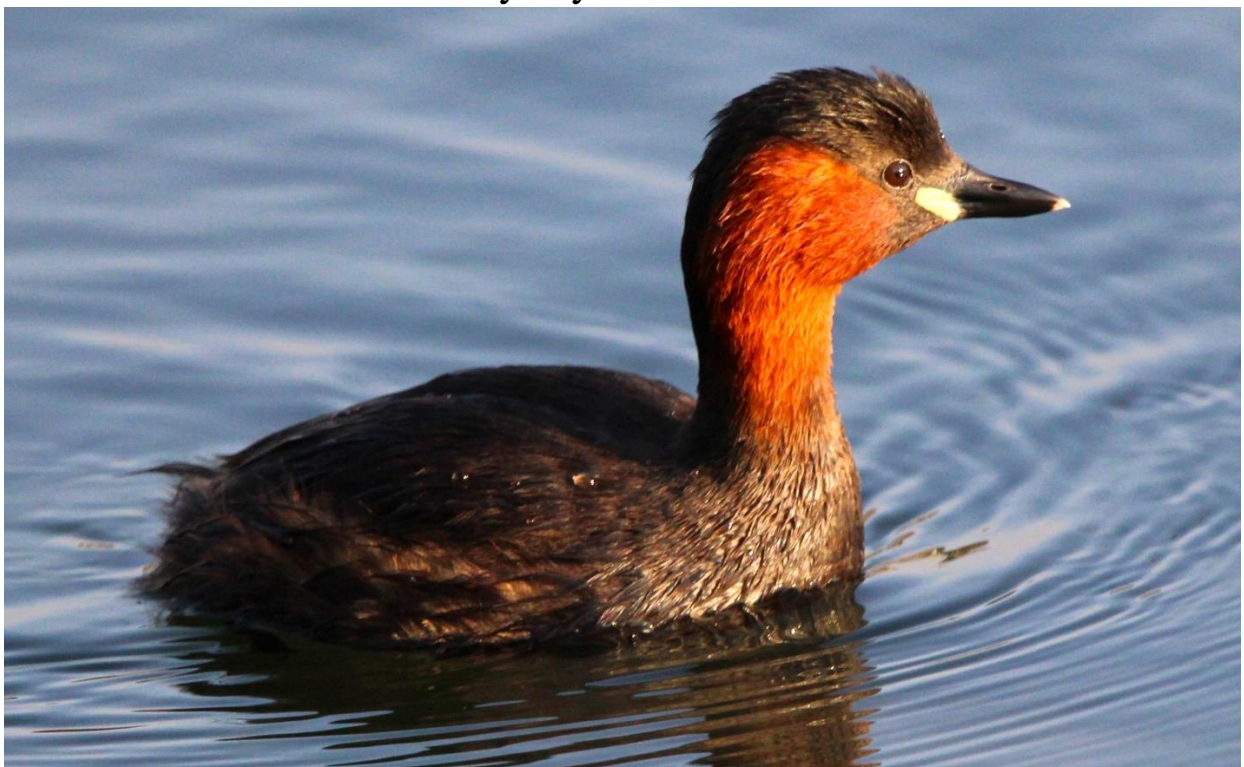


Kingfisher: Three different birds have been seen during the month, an adult male (not ringed) a juvenile female (not ringed) and a juvenile male (not ringed).



A Juvenile female Kingfisher (grey legs and an orange lower bill).

Little Grebe: Seen every day since the 15th.



A Little Grebe in the Kingfisher Pool.

Little Tern: Have been seen fishing on the Pans from the 8th until 26th.



Little Tern with a small fish.

Mallard: Recorded every day, with 73 being the highest number on the 19th June.

Marsh Harrier: Has only been recorded on 5 occasions during the month, luckily on one of those it flew close to the Observatory.



Marsh Harrier flying over the Pans on 16th June.

Mute Swan: At the start of the month the Avon Water pair of Mute Swans had 5 cygnets but sadly by the 20th one of the cygnets had been lost.



The cygnets on the 23rd May.



The cygnets on the 26th June.

As you can see, they have grown quite a bit over the last month. The adults have also taken the cygnets out into the harbour.

Redshank: Recorded on 19 occasions during the month. As the water levels were so high most of the time the Redshank were usually seen at the far end of the Pans on the edge of the grass and reedbeds.

Reed Bunting: Has only been seen on 6 occasions during the month.

Reed Warbler: Heard every day, mainly from the Avon Water side but have only been seen on 4 occasions.

Sandwich Tern: Only seen flying over Avon Water on three occasions.



The call of the Sandwich Tern (photo above) usually alerted me to its presence.

Shelduck: Seen most days during the month with 6 being the highest number recorded. On the 27th a pair were seen with 8 ducklings, as they are so small, they must have bred at the Pans.



8 Shelduck chicks with their mum on the 27th June.

Starling: Fairly low numbers until the 18th when their numbers increased dramatically. Photo below shows a small flock of Starlings on the telephone wires.



Swallow: Seen flying over the Pans on 18 occasions.



Two Swallows by the telephone wire near the Observatory.

Birds recorded but not mentioned in this report.

Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Canada Goose, Chaffinch, Collared Dove, Cormorant, Curlew, Cuckoo, Dunnock, Egyptian Goose, Feral Pigeon, Great Black Backed Gull, Goldfinch, Great Tit, Green Woodpecker, Grey Heron, Herring Gull, House Sparrow, House Martin, Kestrel, Lapwing, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Little Egret, Long Tailed Tit, Magpie, Mediterranean Gull, Moorhen, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pied wagtail, Skylark, Sparrowhawk, Stock Dove, Swift, Tufted Duck and Wren.

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

Birding for beginners.

This took place on Saturday the 3rd June. Several species of birds of prey were seen, Buzzard, Kestrel, Marsh Harrier and a Sparrowhawk. Other birds seen were the two adult Mute Swans with their 5 cygnets, 1 Kingfisher, 2 Jays and 2 Stock Doves.

Milford-on-Sea Primary School visits the Observatory on the 8th and 15th June.

The children, led by their Headteacher walked down to the Observatory for their second and third visits. The children were split into groups with some doing birdwatching and others watercolour painting. The groups were swapped around so they all got their time birdwatching.



Two of the pupils birdwatching and another group watercolour painting. David Horne assisted on the 8th and Keith Metcalf assisted on the 15th.

HOS new members visit the Observatory.

Four groups of new members of Hampshire Ornithological Society visited the Observatory on Sunday 25th June. They were split into four groups, and they all had a chance in the Observatory, either on the decking or inside the hide. Keith Metcalf and Chris Barrass hosted the groups at the Observatory.

Trail Cameras.

Birds Recorded: Blackbird, Black Headed Gull, Carrion Crow, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Mallard, Moorhen, Mute Swan and Wood Pigeon.



A Grey Heron posing for the camera.



Carrion Crow.



Wood Pigeon.

Animals Recorded.

Badger, Fox, Otter and Rat.



Badger.



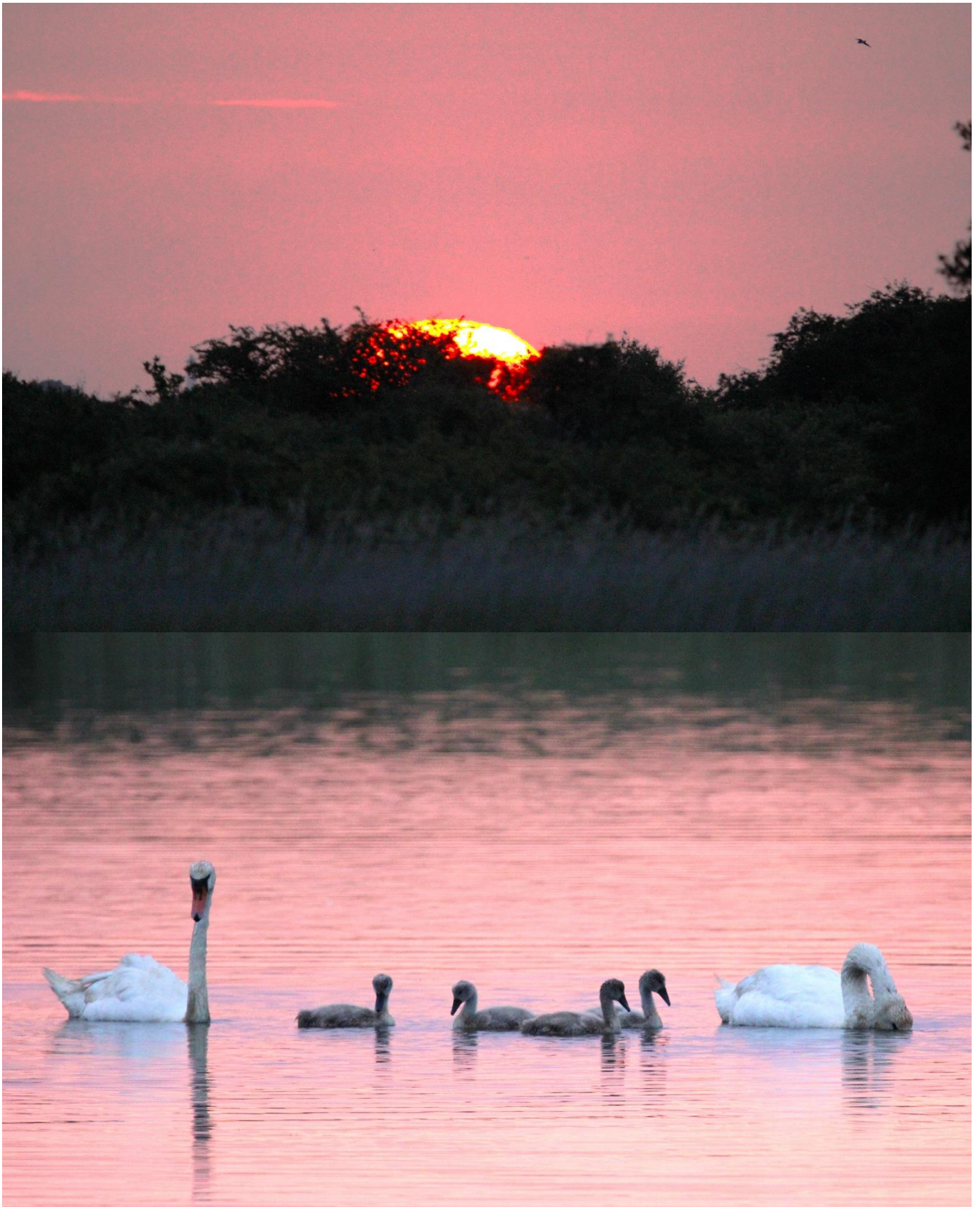
Fox.



Otter.



A Brown Rat checking out a Shore Crab.



Mute Swan and cygnets at sunrise.

Chris Barrass 30.6.2023