



# Milford Conservation Volunteers



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

## September 2024 Observatory Report.

**Avocet:** A good start to the month with 7 seen on the Pans.



Photo taken on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September showing six of the seven Avocets.

**Black Tailed Godwit:** Present every day of the month with over 178 recorded on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Photo below.





**Blue Tit:** Recorded on most days of the month.



Blue Tit on the central hedge.

**Cetti's Warbler:** Heard and seen on most days of the month.



Cettis Warbler.



**Chiffchaff:** Recorded on 14 days during the month. Over 4 were seen on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Photo below.



**Collared Dove:** Seen on most days. 20 were recorded on the 7<sup>th</sup>.





**Coot:** Now that the water levels are very high again the Coot are seen near the Observatory. 30 were recorded on the 17<sup>th</sup>.



Coot near the Observatory

**Cormorant:** Seen nearly every day with 13 present on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Greenshank:** Seen on 20 days during the month.



A Greenshank in a reflective mood.



**Grey Heron:** Seen every day of September, either 2 or 3 birds.

**Grey Wagtail:** Recorded on 6 days during the month. Photo below.



**Kingfisher:** Seen most days of the month. 3 were seen on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Little Egret:** Recorded most days, 14 were seen on the 26<sup>th</sup> September.



**Little Grebe:** Seen most days with 31 recorded on the 6<sup>th</sup> September.



**Mallard:** Huge numbers of Mallard have been present during the month. The numbers slowly increased from the start of the month up to the 9<sup>th</sup> when 48 were recorded. Once the water levels increased to higher levels their numbers ‘took off ‘ Pun intended. It is thought that over 600 Mallard have been present on the Pans on some days. It is impossible to get accurate numbers as the birds are all over the site.

**Marsh Harrier:** They have been recorded on 12 days during September.

**Moorhen:** Recorded on 25 days during the month. They cross over to and from Avon Water and the Pans. 5 were recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup>. There can be up to 3 juveniles.



The photo above shows 3 of the 5 Moorhens.

**Pheasant:** Seen on 10 days during the month.



Tricky to spot on the dried Pans.



**Redshank:** Recorded every day. 135 were seen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September.



A Redshank swimming in the Pans.

**Robin:** Recorded every day during the month. Usually, a single bird is seen but, on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> 2 birds were seen.



A Robin often sits on the rail opposite the Observatory door.

**Shelduck:** Seen on the Pans on 12 occasions. There were up to 6 birds recorded with 2 or 3 adults.

**Shoveler:** Were seen on 7 days during the month with 7 being the highest number recorded on the 20<sup>th</sup>.



**Sparrowhawk:** Recorded on 7 occasions during the month.



The female Sparrowhawk posing nicely.

**Spoonbill:** A single bird visited the site on 4 occasions.



Luckily it came to the Observatory end of the site.

**Starling:** Seen on 21 days. Over 100 birds were recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

**Teal:** Recorded most days. Over 95 were seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.



**Tufted Duck:** A single bird was seen on the last two days of the month.



Due to the high-water levels, it was able to swim close to the Observatory.

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

Blackbird, Blackcap, Black Headed Gull, Brent Goose, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Dunlin, Dunnock, Egyptian Goose, Feral Pigeon, Gadwall, Great Tit, Great White Egret, Greylag Goose, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker, Herring Gull, House Martin, House Sparrow, Jackdaw, Knot, Lapwing, Magpie, Mute Swan, Oystercatcher, Peregrine, Pied Wagtail, Pintail, Raven, Ringed Plover, Rook, Sand Martin, Skylark, Stock Dove, Stonechat, Water rail, Wigeon, Wren and Woodpigeon.

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



## **Trail Cameras.**

**Birds Recorded:** Carrion Crow, Coot, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen and Woodpigeon.

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

Rats were photographed most nights.

A Fox was recorded on 4 nights during the month.

Otter were recorded on 12 nights during the month.

The photo below shows 2 Otters, 1 checking out the measuring stick.



Apologies for the state of the last report and a huge thank you to Julie Hallows for all the technical help she gave me.

Chris Barrass.

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.