



Milford Conservation Volunteers



www.milfordconservation.org

November 2024 Observatory Report.

Blackbird: Recorded every day of the month with 5 being seen on 2 occasions the 5th and 8th of November. They seem to roost on the right-hand side of the hedge by Avon Water.

Black Headed Gull: Present Every day.

Black Tailed Godwit: Present every day until the 23rd November. 198 was the highest number recorded. After the 23rd the water level was so high that there was no area available for them to land on and so they have only been seen flying over the site.

Blue Tit: Recorded every day, with 5 seen on the 18th. One was seen checking out the nest box closest to the Observatory.



The photo above shows a Blue Tit landing on the decking rail.

Canada Goose: Recorded most days. 26 was the highest number seen during the month.

Carrion crow: Seen every day.

Cetti's Warbler: Recorded on 9 days during November.



The photos above show a Cetti's Warbler on the left-hand side hedge.

Chaffinch: Seen on 22 days. The photo below shows a male on the central hedge. A pair have been seen on 5 occasions.



Chiffchaff: Recorded on 12 days.



The photo above shows a Chiffchaff on the central hedge.

Coot: Recorded on the first 15 days of November (highest number seen was 25) then not seen again until the 28th for the last days of the month with numbers below 7.

Curlew: Seen on 24 days during the month.



The two photos above were taken before the water levels rose.

Dunnock: Seen on 19 days of the month. 2 were observed on the 14th with one of them ringed.

Great Tit: Two birds have been seen every day of the month. On the 29th one was seen to be ringed, so at least 3 birds have been recorded.

Grey heron: Recorded on nearly every day during November. Usually, one is seen but on the 14th 2 were seen flying over the site.



A Grey Heron near the Observatory.

House Sparrow: Recorded every day. Some days over 50 birds seen.



Male.



Female.

Jay: One or two birds seen flying over the Pans most days.

Kingfisher: Up to three can be seen flying around the site.



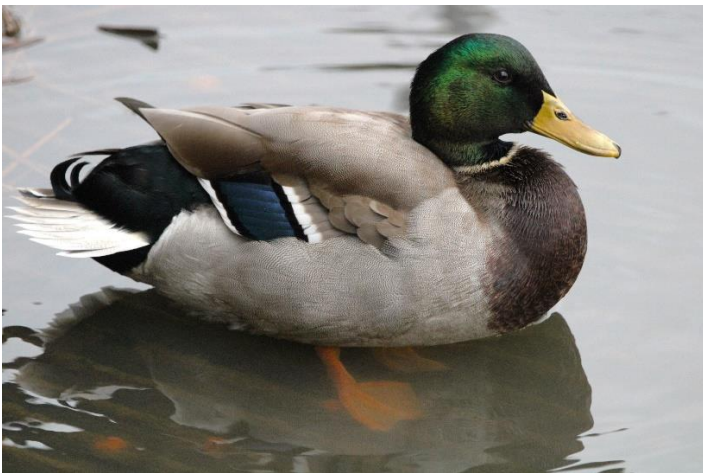
An adult male Kingfisher.

Little Grebe: 17 were recorded on the 14th. Photo below.



Long Tailed Tit: Recorded on 13 days during the month.

Mallard: Over 136 were recorded at the Pans on the 26th of November.



Male.



Female.

Marsh Harrier: Recorded most days. Up to 5 have been seen over the Avon Water reed bed. Photos below.



A Marsh Harrier flying over the Pans on the 30th November.

Moorhen: Present every day, 6 birds were recorded twice during the month.



Moorhen by the Kingfisher Pool.

Pheasant: Seen most days, over 21 were seen on the 7th.



A male Pheasant.

Redshank: Recorded most days during the month.

Snipe: Observed on 16 days. A photo below.



Song Thrush: Recorded on 3 days.



Song Thrush on the central hedge.

Spotted Redshank: Recorded on 10 days. The photo below shows one near the Observatory on the 1st November.

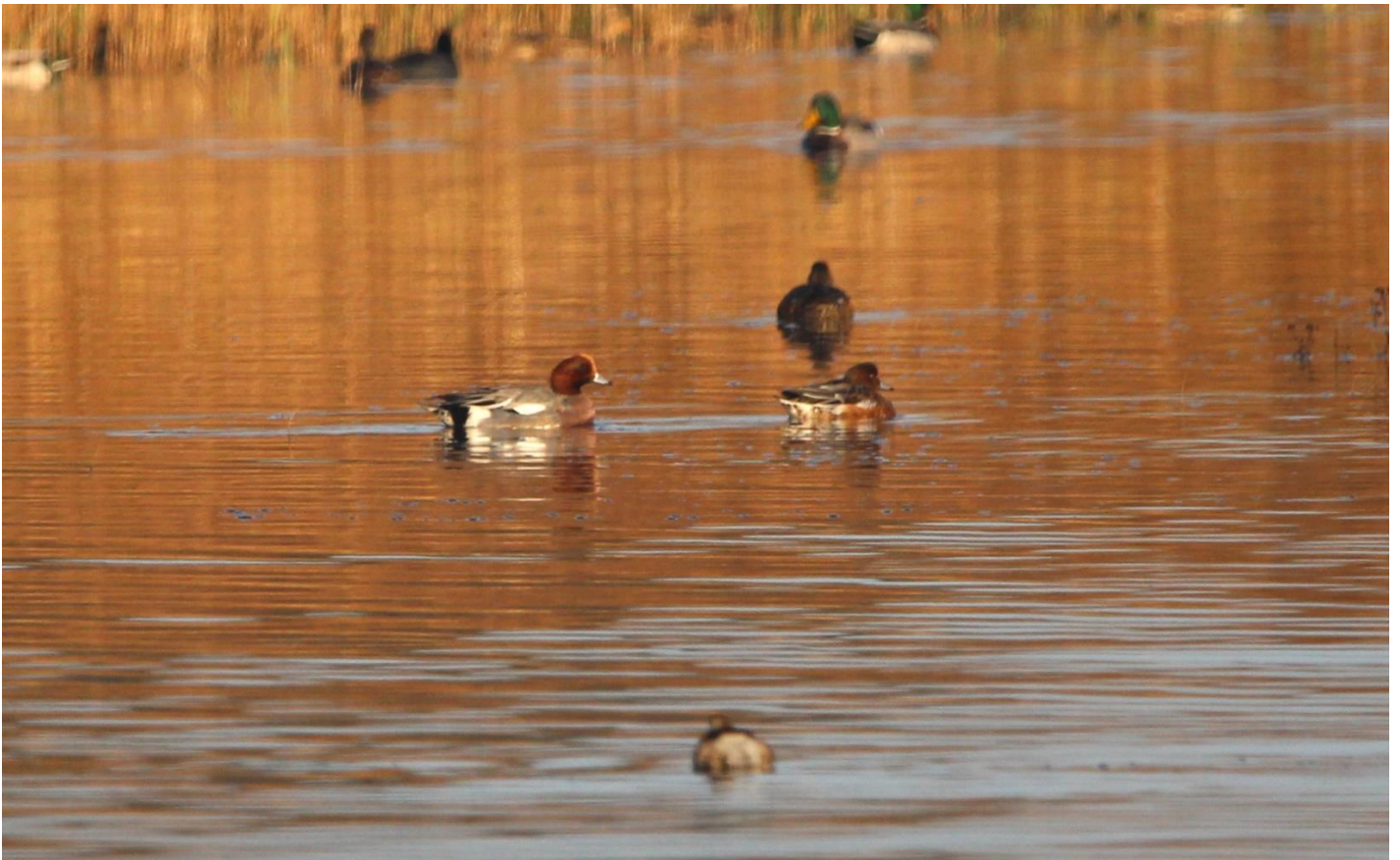


Teal: Present every day. Over 96 were seen on the 8th.

Water Rail: Recorded on 21 days during the month. A photo below.



Wigeon: Recorded on 3 occasions.



A pair of Wigeon at the Pans.

Birds Recorded but not mentioned in this report.

Buzzard, Brent Goose, Cormorant, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Egyptian Goose, Fieldfare, Firecrest, Great Black Backed Gull, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Green Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Herring Gull, Jackdaw, Kestrel, Lapwing, Little Egret, Linnet, Magpie, Meadow Pipit, Pintail, Pied Wagtail, Raven, Redwing, Rook, Robin, Shelduck. Shoveler, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Stonechat, Tufted Duck, Wood Pigeon and Wren.

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

Open Morning.

This took place on Saturday 2nd November. Some of the highlights included 2 Greenshank, 2 Kingfisher, 2 Spotted Redshank, 2 Marsh Harrier, Coal Tit and a Grey Wagtail sighting.

Trail Cameras.

Birds Recorded: Canada Goose, Coot, Grey Heron, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Mallard, Moorhen, Pheasant and Wood Pigeon.



Two Little Egrets by the Kingfisher pool.

Animals Recorded: A Fox was recorded on 7 occasions.



A fox by the measuring stick.

Otters were recorded on 10 occasions during the month. Two Otters were photographed together several times.



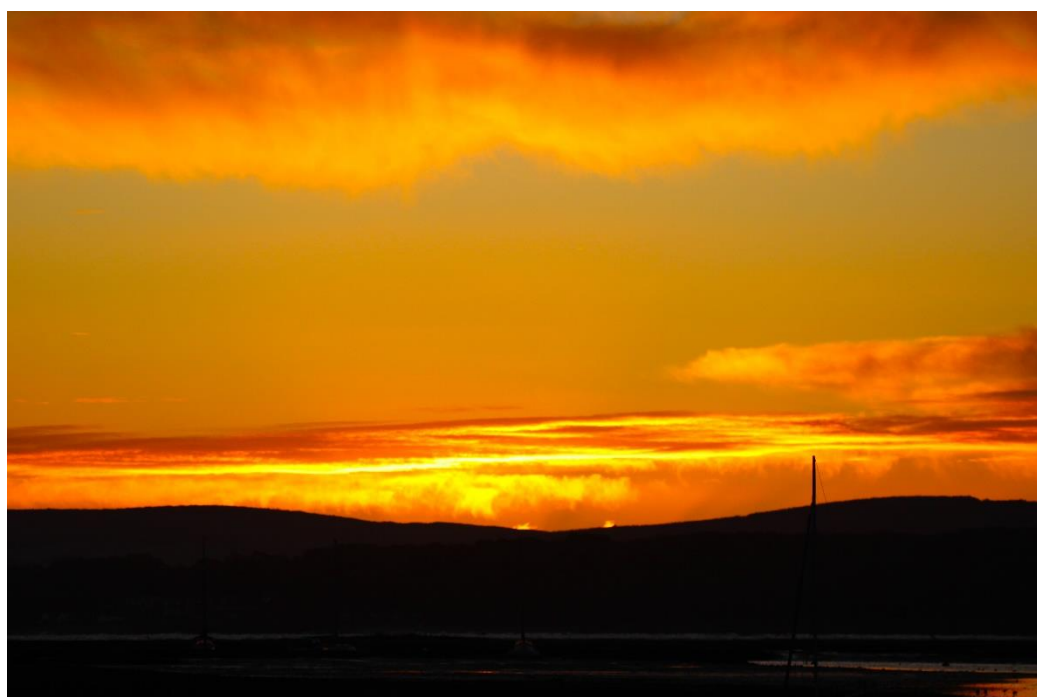
Top left photo shows two Otters, one trying to sneak in under the radar. Top right an Otter swimming towards the trail camera and the bottom left shows an Otter with a fish.

As most of you may know The Aubrey farm Estate which includes the Pans and Avon water is being turned into a nature reserve. Interestingly it is also part of the New Forest National Park and other very important areas along the South Coast.

BT have been checking the telegraph poles to the right of the Observatory. Work is needed as they are leaning and some of the connectors are broken. The photos below show a BT engineer checking out the Poles.



To brighten things up a bit here is a photo of a sunrise earlier in the month.



Chris Barrass. 1stDecember 2024.