



Milford Conservation Volunteers



www.milfordconservation.org

December 2024 Observatory Report.

Avocet: 5 were seen at the far end of the Pans on the 16th, 29th and 8 were seen on 30th December.



An Avocet photographed at the Pans on the 30th December.

One of the Avocets had a numbered ring and coloured rings on its legs. I sent some photos to Graham Giddens to see if he could help. The bird was ringed as a chick in Bretagne, Northwest France. In recent years it has nested several times on the Lymington Marshes. Unfortunately, the French ringers have stopped replying to emails, so it is not possible to complete its life history.

Blackbird: Common for the site. Usually, 3 or 4 are seen by the feeders near Observatory.

Black Headed Gull: Present every day.

Black Tailed Godwit: Recorded on 15 days during the month.
Over 63 were seen on the 28thDecember.



The photo above shows one near the Observatory on the 4thDecember.

Blue Tit: Recorded every day, up to 5 seen feeding by the Observatory.



Bullfinch: A pair were seen at the Pans on the 14thDecember, this was the first sighting for a few years.

Brent Goose: Recorded most days with over 400 seen flying over the Pans on 25thDecember.



The Brent Goose travel from Russia at this time of the year. They travel in family groups but this year their numbers are greatly reduced due to bird flu.

Canada goose: Recorded every day. Over 1000 were seen flying over the Pans on the 15thDecember.

Coal Tit: Seen on the Observatory feeder on 16 days during the month.



Coal Tit photographed at the Observatory.

Coot: Only one or two seen on 9 occasions during December.

Curlew: Recorded on 9 days during the month. 3 were present on the 24th and the 31st.



2 of the 3 Curlew present on the 31st December.

Dunnock: One or two recorded every day. 1 of them has been ringed.

Egyptian Goose: Have been seen at the pans on 19 days during December. The highest number was 34 on the 30th December. Photo below.



Goldfinch: Seen on 15 days during the month.



Great Tit: One or two birds recorded nearly every day.



A Great Tit checking out the bird seed on the fence post.

Greylag Goose: Recorded on 13 days during December.

Jackdaw: Recorded on 16 days during the month.

Kingfisher: 2 have been seen during the month, an adult female and an adult male, neither have been ringed.

Lapwing: Present every day. The highest number recorded was 282 on the 19th.



Little Grebe: Recorded nearly every day. The highest number observed was 8 on the 6th December.

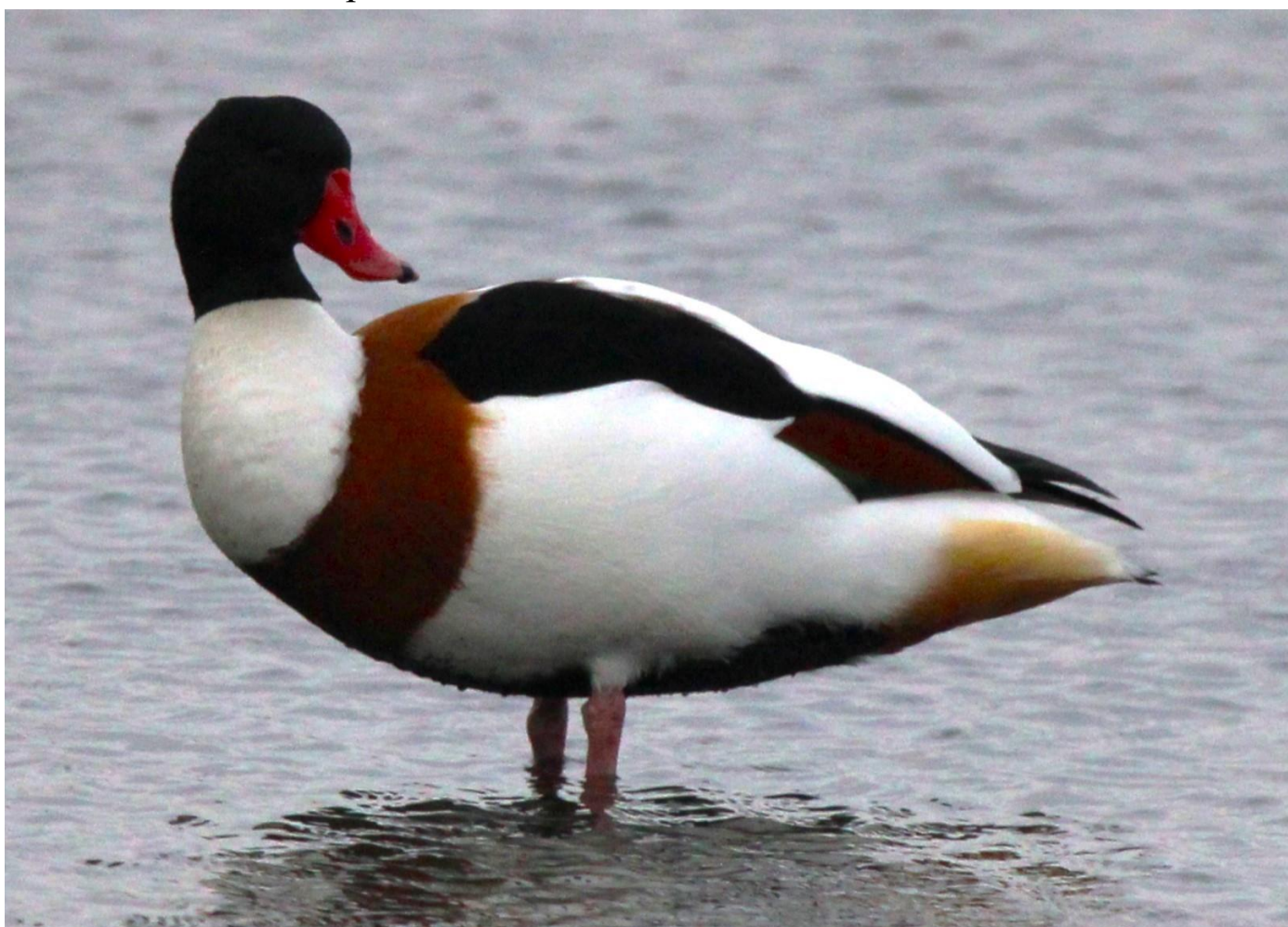
Marsh Harrier: Seen flying over the site every day. 4 has been the highest number seen.

Redshank: Recorded every day.



A pair of Redshank.

Shelduck: A pair have been seen on 8 occasions.



The photo above shows a female Shelduck.

Shoveler: Was seen on 3 days during the month. 3 were recorded on the 23rd.



A male Shoveler.

Teal: Present every day. Over 49 were recorded on the 1st December.

Tufted Duck: Recorded on 11 occasions. Photo below.



Water Pipit: A new species for the site.

The bird was spotted and photographed by Janet Beck on the 21st December.



Water Rail: Recorded on 18 days during the month.



Birds recorded but not mentioned in this report.

Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Cetti's, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Collared Dove, Common Sandpiper, Cormorant, Firecrest, Goldcrest, Greenfinch, Greenshank, Grey Heron, Herring Gull, Gadwall, House Sparrow, Jay, Linnet, Little Egret, Long Tailed Tit, Magpie, Mallard, Moorhen, Oystercatcher, Pheasant, Pintail, Raven, Robin, Rook, Song Thrush, Starling, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon and Wren.

Thanks to: David Horne, Janice Beck, Keith Betton and Keith Metcalf for their additions to the bird records.

Open Morning. Saturday 7th December.

This did not happen as Storm Darragh hit the South Coast.

Trail cameras.

Birds Recorded: Little Egret, Mallard, Moorhen, Pheasant and Wood Pigeon.

Animals Recorded: Badger 25/12/2024.



A Badger on Christmas day.

Fox A Fox was photographed on 5 occasions during December.

Otter 2 Otters photographed on 17/12/2024



The last photos of the Otters in 2024.

During the day one of the Foxes enjoyed itself, running round and round the seed pile several times. It wasn't chasing the pheasants it seemed to be enjoying itself.



All the best.

Chris Barrass. 5/1/2025