



Milford Conservation Volunteers



www.milfordconservation.org

January 2025 Observatory Report.

Avocet: 13 were present on the 5th. This was the only sighting during the month.

Blackbird: Recorded most days, with 4 birds seen on 3 occasions by the feeders.

Black Tailed Godwit: The birds have been seen at the Pans on seven days during the month and flying over the site on 3 occasions.



A small flock of B T Godwits flying over the Pans.

Blue Tit: 6 birds have been recorded by the feeders on 4 days during the month.

Brent Geese: Have been seen flying over the Pans in large numbers on several occasions during the month.

Buzzard: One or two have been recorded flying over the site on 17 days. The tall fir trees at the far end of the Pans seem to be one of their favourite places to rest.

Chaffinch: Can be seen around the Feeders nearly every day. Present on 21 days.



The photo above shows a male Chaffinch on the walkway to the Observatory.

Coot: Recorded on 9 days during the month, 5 was the highest number seen.



A Coot near the Observatory.

Herring Gull: Herring Gull were recorded every day of the month.



A Herring Gull on the frozen Pans at the beginning of the month.

Kingfisher: Recorded on most days of the month.

Kestrel: Seen on 4 days during the month.



A Kestrel flying near the Observatory.

Little Grebe: Recorded every day of the month but in low numbers with 4 being the highest number.



A Little Grebe on the ice of the Kingfisher pool at the beginning of the month.

Little Gull: A single bird was seen on the last two days of the month.



The photo above shows the Little Gull.

Long Tailed Tit: Recorded on 13 days during the month with 13 birds being the highest number seen on the 23rd.

Mallard: Recorded every day with over 189 present on the 8th.

Marsh Harrier: Present every day of the month.



A Marsh Harrier flying over the Avon Water reed bed.

Moorhen: Seen every day.

Mute Swan: Only recorded once during the month with 5 seen on the 29th.

Reed Bunting: One male was recorded on the 2nd of January.



Robin: Recorded every day. 2 birds were recorded on 10 occasions.



Spoonbill: A single bird was recorded on the 22nd January. Photo below.



Teal: Recorded every day. Over 88 were present on the 7th.

Tufted Duck: Seen on 16 days during the month.



A Tufted duck near the Observatory.

Water Rail: One is seen every day below the feeder. Photo below.



White Tailed Eagle: On Friday the 3rd January I was looking out of the door window in the Observatory when I saw a **White-Tailed Eagle** flying over Avon Water. As I watched, it flew west and disappeared out of sight. *Wow what a great way to start the day.* I contacted the MCV committee, Keith Betton and Keith Metcalf. I next saw two W T Eagles in the Big Fir Tree at the far end of the site, then a third arrived so there were three Eagles sitting in the tree. Some photos below. There were 2 other sightings in January, on the 8th and 28th.



The Photo above was taken by Keith Metcalf and shows an Eagle landing on a post at the far end of the site.

Birds recorded but not mentioned in this report.

Blackbird, Black Tailed Godwit, Carrion Crow, Cetti's, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Collared Dove, Dunlin, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Greenshank, Green Woodpecker, Greylag Geese, Grey Heron, House Sparrow, Jay, Lapwing, Little Egret, Linnet, Magpie, Pheasant, Pintail, Redshank, Rook, Pied Wagtail, Shoveler, Snipe, Song Thrush, Sparrowhawk, Stock Dove, Starling, Water Pipit, Wigeon and Wood pigeon.

NEW SPECIES for the site: David Horne recorded a **Short-Eared Owl** flying over the Pans on Thursday 9th January.

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

Trail Cameras.

Birds Recorded: Coot, Little Egret, Mallard, Moorhen, Pheasant and Snipe.



A trail cam photo of a Little Egret.

Animals Recorded: Fox, Otter and Rat.

Otters were recorded on 5 separate nights, and it looks as though in one of the photos there may be 4 Otters. The photo is below.



There have been some very strong winds during January and the photo below shows a branch that fell foul to one them.



Chris Barrass. 3/2/2025