



# Milford Conservation Volunteers

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



## March 2025 Observatory Report.

**Avocet:** Recorded on 17 days during the month with 38 present on the 14<sup>th</sup> March.



The photo above shows an Avocet feeding near the Observatory on the 19<sup>th</sup> March

**Barn Owl:** A single bird was seen flying at the far end of the site on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Photos below.



**Black Headed Gull:** Seen every day.



A Black Headed Gull about to land on the flooded Pans.

**Chaffinch:** A pair was recorded on every day during the month.



**Collared Dove:** Recorded on 20 days during March.



A pair of Collared Dove at the Pans.

**Coot:** One or two were recorded every day during the Month. Photo below.

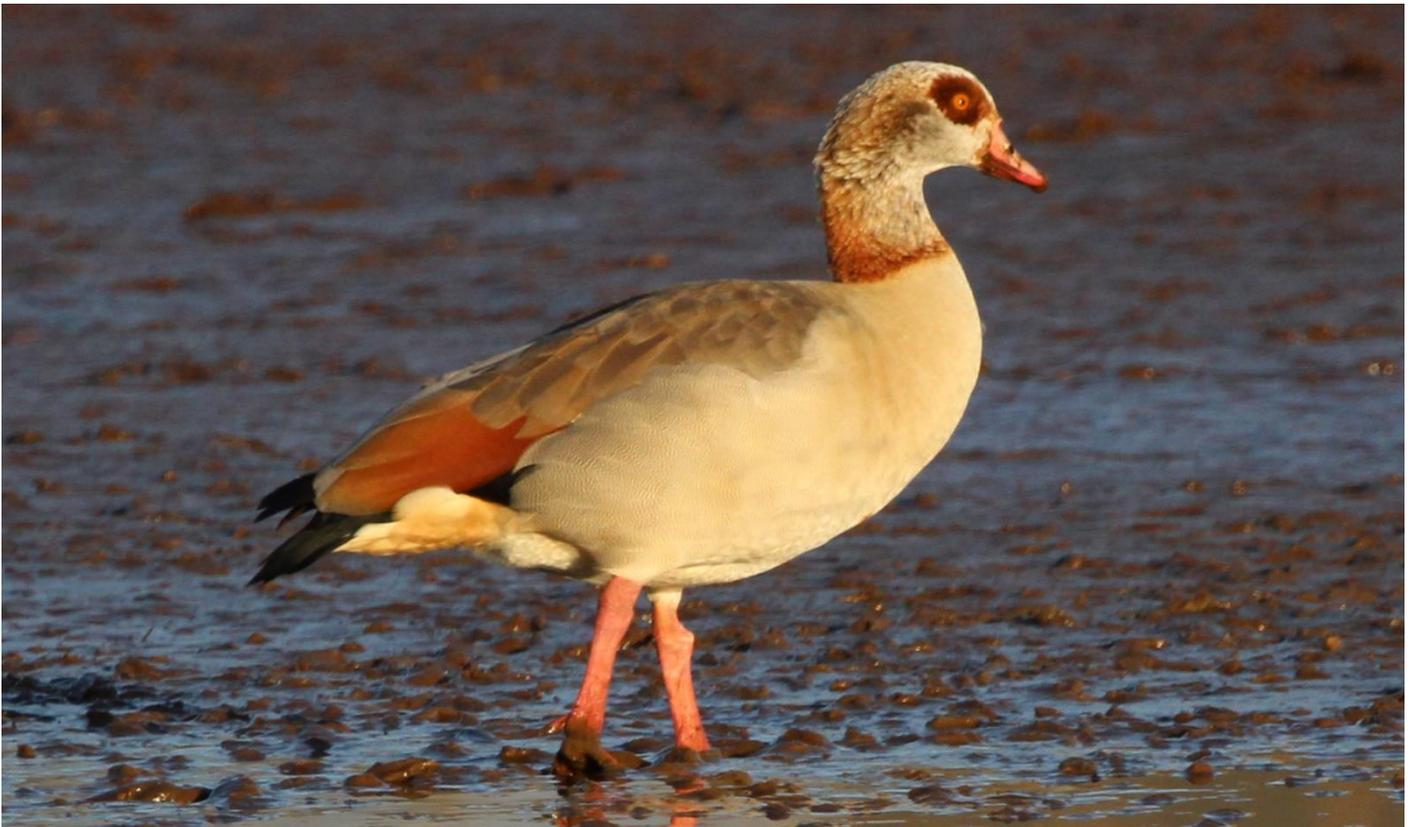


**Dunnock:** 2 or 3 were recorded every day.



A male Dunnock on the central hedge.

**Egyptian Goose:** Recorded on 10 days during the month. The highest number seen was 5 on the 11<sup>th</sup>.



Egyptian Goose near the Observatory.

**Goldcrest:** Seen or heard in the Pine trees behind the Observatory on 12 days during the month.



Goldcrest in the fir tree behind the Observatory.

**Great Tit:** Up to three seen near the bird feeder most days.

**Greenfinch:** Recorded on 23 days during March.



A Greenfinch on the feeder.

**Greenshank:** Recorded every day of the month. One or two were seen throughout the site, including Avon water when the water levels were low enough.

**Grey Heron:** A Heron was seen on 11 occasions during the month. On the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2 were present and on the 31<sup>st</sup> 3 were observed.

**House Sparrow:** Recorded every day of the month. Sometimes up to about 50 birds were seen.



An adult male House Sparrow.

**Jay:** Seen flying over the site on 5 occasions. Photo below.



**Kingfisher:** Recorded on 15 days during March usually seen flying around Avon Water.

**Little Egret:** Seen on most days during the month.



A little Egret on one of the trees to the left of the Observatory.

**Little Ringed Plover:** One bird was recorded on the 27<sup>th</sup>.



A Little Ringed Plover near the Observatory.

**Magpie:** Recorded every day with 5 being the highest number.

**Marsh Harrier:** Seen on 23 days during the month with 4 being recorded on one occasion.

**Mediterranean Gull:** Seen flying over the Pans on 11 days throughout the month.

**Mute swan:** At least 2 were seen most days. When there are 4 Swans, two are on the Pans side and the other two are on the Avon Water side. There is no sign of them building nests.



A low flying Mute Swan just missing the telephone wires.

**Oystercatcher:** Usually heard before seeing them. They visited the Pans on 11 occasions during the month. Unfortunately they flew to the far end of the Pans.

**Redshank:** Present every day but numbers were below 10 birds.

**Robin:** One or two were present throughout the month

**Shelduck:** Present every day with 16 being the highest number seen.

**Snipe:** Seen on 24 days during the month with 12 being recorded on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Swallow:** A single bird was seen flying over the Pans at 09.07 on the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Water Rail:** Recorded on 17 days during the month. The photo below was sent in by Keith Partridge. Group leader of RSPB New Forest. **An excellent photo of a Water Rail.**



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

Blackbird, Black Tailed Godwit, Blue Tit, Brent Goose, Buzzard, Coal Tit, Chiffchaff, Cetti's Warbler, Common Sandpiper, Cormorant, Curlew, Gadwall, Goldfinch, Great Black Backed Gull, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker, Jackdaw, Kestrel, Lapwing, Linnet, Little Grebe, Long Tailed Tit, Moorhen, Pheasant, Raven, Skylark, Song Thrush, Stock Dove, Swallow, Teal, Tufted Duck, Wren and Woodpigeon.

**Thanks to:** Richard Coomber, Andy Hallows, David Horne, Douglas Marcuse and Keith Metcalf.

## Trail Cameras.

**Birds Recorded:** Blackbird, Carrion Crow, Coot, House Sparrow, Little Egret, Mallard, Moorhen, Pheasant, Tawny Owl and Woodpigeon.



Three Moorhens.

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

A Fox was recorded on 7 occasions.

Otter were recorded on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March. 2 Otters were present on the 20<sup>th</sup>



An Otter on the 6<sup>th</sup> March.