



MILFORD CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS



www.milfordconservation.org

February 2026 Observatory Report.

Blackbird: Recorded everyday with 4 being the highest number seen on the 9th and the 20th.

Blackcap: One male was seen on the 27th.



Black Headed Gull: Present every day. 146 birds were recorded on the 18th.

Black Tailed Godwit: 8 were seen flying over the pans on the 21st and 11 on the 26th. A single bird was seen on the grassy area of the pans on the 25th.

Blue Tit: Seen every day. 8 was the highest number seen on the 3rd. One Blue Tit was seen checking out the nestboxes.

Brent Goose: Recorded on 14 days in high numbers. After the 9th they were only seen on the Pans once with 18 birds present.

Canada Goose: Seen nearly every day. 126 was the the highest number recorded on the 2nd.

Coot: Recorded most days. 10 was the highest number seen.



A Coot near the Observatory.

Curlew: Recorded on 16 days during the month. The photo below shows a Curlew flying over the site.



Dunnock: Recorded on most days with 4 seen on the 10th.

Gadwall: Seen on most days with 51 recorded on February 15th.

Great Crested Grebe: A single bird was seen near the Observatory on the 20th



Greenshank: First recorded on the 25th with 4 birds present. Since then the number has dropped to 3 then 2 for the last two days of the month.



Greylag Goose: Seen on 22 days during February with 18 being the highest number recorded.



Grey Heron: Single birds seen on 8 days during February. Two were seen on the final day of the month.

Herring Gull: Recorded on 25 days during the month. 14 was the highest number on the 6th.

Kingfisher: Recorded on 10 days during the month usually just flying over from the Avon Water side into the harbour.

Lapwing: Seen on 12 days of the month with 137 recorded on the 11th.

Mallard: Seen on most days of the month. Over 66 were recorded on the 14th.

Marsh Harrier: Recorded on 21 days during the month.



The photos above show a Marsh Harrier hunting. On this occasion it was after a Coot and it was unsuccessful.

Mute Swan: One or two birds were recorded on 18 days of the month.



The photo above shows a Mute Swan flying over Avon Water into the harbour.

Pied Wagtail: Not seen until the 24th when 2 were seen, since then the numbers have gone up to 18 on the 26th.

Redshank: Seen on 12 days during the month with relatively low numbers.



A Redshank near the Observatory.

Shelduck: Seen on 14 days. The highest number recorded so far was 9 on the 28th.



A female Shelduck.

Teal: Seen every day of the month with 92 recorded on the 21st.



Wren: Seen on 18 days during the month. 2 were seen on the 23rd and 25th.



One of the 2 Wrens on the left-hand side hedge.

Birds Recorded but not mentioned in this Report.

Bearded Reedling, Buzzard, Coal Tit, Collard Dove, Cormorant, Egyptian Goose, Goldcrest, Goldfinch, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Black Backed Gull, Great White Egret, House Sparrow, Hybrid Duck, Jackdaw, Jay, Kestrel, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Long Tailed Tit, Meadow Pipit, Mediterranean Gull, Merlin, Oystercatcher, Pintail, Raven, Robin, Shoveller, Sparrowhawk, Starling, Stock Dove, Snipe, Song Thrush, Tufted Duck, Water Rail, White Tailed Eagle, Wigeon and Woodpigeon.

Thanks to: Simon Bosswell, Richard Coomber, Mike Henning, David Horne and Douglas Marcuse for their additions to the bird Records.

Other Wildlife at the Pans: Brown Rat, Fox, Otter and Roe Deer.

On the 24th February three Roe Deer, one Buck and two Does were seen walking on the far side of the Pans. A photo of the Roebuck can be seen on the following page.



A Roebuck with its prickets 'in velvet'

Chris Barrass 1/3/2026