

# RSPB Langford Lowfields – February 2020

## Important Information

The bridge between the Cottage Lane car park and the reserve entrance needs some repairs and this means that from 1-15 June 2020 the bridge will be closed. At this stage it is unlikely that there will be any access to the reserve for either dog walkers or those visiting the RSPB reserve. Please check our website for further information if you plan to visit at the start of June to avoid disappointment.

We have had sightings of a bittern and two marsh harriers in the last month, the 2 smew on Phase 3 have been here for a while now (view from the perimeter public footpath only) and two waxwings were reported on the 24th January. There are still very good numbers of wildfowl, favouring the main lake area and Phase 3 including 25 goldeneye and 26 shelducks, both site records.

Other sightings this month at Langford have included:

- Grey wagtail
- Little egret
- Green sandpiper
- Sparrowhawk
- Great spotted woodpecker
- Jay
- Bullfinch



Grey Wagtail (© Roger Bennett)

The volunteers have been busy thinning sycamores in the woodland, taking out most of the small saplings and felling some larger trees too – this is to create glades to let more light in to encourage growth of the shrub layer and ground flora. We are also trying to turn it back to a more native woodland, favouring oak as the main canopy species. We have planted some field maple, hazel and holly too, to add some diversity to the woodland.

## Events on the reserve

In the last newsletter we gave the date of Sat 4 July for the Butterfly and Wildflower Guided Walk. This date is liable to change as the wildflower expert is unavailable now on this date. We will publish the new date as soon as possible – watch this space!