

Wildlife Walk – December 2021

The final wildlife walk of 2021 took place this week on Wednesday 15th December. Weather was mild but dull as we met up and headed off along our normal route. It was very nice to see Redwings in the tree tops and flying overhead having made their journey here from Scandinavia. A couple of their cousins, the Fieldfare, were also seen. Small birds were very active with Goldfinch, Blue Tit, Long Tailed Tit and Robin all seen/heard in good numbers. The lake surprisingly was very quiet except for plenty of Moorhens. The Canada Goose flock has disappeared yet again and you perhaps wonder if the general level of disturbance at the lake has proven to be too much for them? At the lake however, a female Sparrowhawk was seen flying very low and disappearing into the hedges and reed-bed. Wood Pigeon was the most numerous bird we saw on the day and my guess was that we saw around 52 but this is very likely to be an undercount. Overall, a pleasant morning's walk with a few species seen but nothing spectacular or unusual for the Park. Thanks to Marie for providing the excellent spread afterwards, most enjoyable. Full sighting details are below:

Birds – 24 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Comments
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	15/12/2021	31	3 birds flying around the park, then I counted 28 flying over the top of the pavilion as we finished the walk.
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	15/12/2021	3	One in the fields and a couple overhead.
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	15/12/2021	9	A good number of Blackbirds in the park which is likely to include European visitors.
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	15/12/2021	8	A good number of Moorhen at the lake.
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	15/12/2021	52	A conservative estimate but difficult to count these as they were quite active.
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	15/12/2021	4	Seen by Paul along the entrance road to the park.
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	15/12/2021	10	Probably an undercount as there were plenty of Blue Tits in the hedgerows.
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	15/12/2021	3	2 from the car park and 1 heard calling near the first pill box.
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	15/12/2021	2	At the lake.
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	15/12/2021	5	Feeding in the grass and one or two in the hedges.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus	15/12/2021	1	Large female very low over the lake, only seen by me and Paul.
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	15/12/2021	27	A good day for Goldfinch. Several feeding on the alders and at least 10 near the teasel field.
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	15/12/2021	11	Lots of Robins singing and active in the park.
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	15/12/2021	2	One probable at the large mound and one definite seen near the pavilion by Barbara and Stuart.
Great Tit	Parus major	15/12/2021	2	One on the road to the car park and one near the picnic benches.
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	15/12/2021	2	At least 2, probably more, singing in the bushes behind the large mound.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Comments
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	15/12/2021	10	A few near the picnic benches and more in the scrub around the large mound.
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	15/12/2021	2	Just 2 at the lake.
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	15/12/2021	16	At least this number and probably more in various locations. Very pleasing they are back again.
Town Pigeon (Feral Rock Dove)	Columba livia 'feral'	15/12/2021	3	Seen with Wood Pigeons feeding in the grass near the lake.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the walks this year. It has been very enjoyable and I am sure that one day our records will prove very useful when we are looking to protect the wildlife of this area.

Looking forward to 2022, the **provisional dates** for the walks next year are:

January – 19th

February – 16th

March – 16th

April – 20th

May – 18th

June – 15th

July – 20th

August – 17th

September – 21st

October – 19th

November – 16th

December – 14th

Walks will start at the new time of 10.30am. Put these dates in your diaries and I will confirm each as we get nearer to the date. If you are interested in joining these walks, please contact Martin Singleton on b512rubble@btinternet.com

Have a great Christmas and I will see you all next year.

regards

Martin Singleton