

BIRD WATCHING 2015

JANUARY 2015: COLWICK PARK

Once again, it was a lovely January morning and ten members, plus one visitor turned up for the meet at the Colwick Country Park. There were several sightings, some being 'firsts' for some members. Along with the more regular birds, we saw Tree Creeper, Goldcrest, Greater Spotted Woodpecker (heard them drumming too), Jays, Long Tailed Tit & Shoveller.

We stopped off for coffee at the Colwick Hall Hotel, where we were made most welcome, despite the muddy footwear, some of us then continued around the lake where we saw Goldeneye Pochard & Crested Grebe.

FEBRUARY 2015 ATTENBOROUGH

On a cold damp February morning nine members turned up for the visit to the Attenborough Nature Reserve. The hides were more than welcome and as well as the more common birds we saw the following; Water Rail. (Well spotted Elaine, and a first for some of us) Goldeneye, Goosander, Red Crested Pochard, Little Egret, Teal, Heron, Gadwall. Some of us were amused to see a man feeding a friendly Robin, by hand, he was really tame. We then visited the Visitor Centre for a welcome hot drink and checked the feeders at the back of the building.



MARCH 2015: BESTWOOD COUNTRY PARK

On a dull chilly morning, 10 enthusiastic members turned up at the Bestwood Country Park. We were barely out of the car park when we sighted Mistle Thrush and Redwing, closely followed by Greater Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Treecreeper, Nuthatch, Goldcrest, Greenfinch, Kestrel, (Rob providing a closer look through his scope), Chiff Chaff, Meadow Pipit, Wren, Reed Bunting, and Long Tailed Tit. We were also treated at one stage, to 4 Buzzards circling overhead.

It was a great bird spotting day, Bestwood Country Park is a beautiful place and all members contributed to the many sightings we made, this augurs well for the future when we hope to go further afield the more the members become interested and experienced.

There have been many offers of contributions for April's 'Interest Table' at the General Meeting, we also need the members to be available before, and at the break, to discuss the group to potential interested members.

APRIL 2015: GEDLING COUNTRY PARK

On a beautiful sunny morning 16 members turned up at the newly opened Gedling Country Park for the April meet. The park looked beautiful and there was plenty of activity, particularly on the top slopes, these included the Meadow Pipit and the Skylark in abundance. We also spotted several Reed Bunting, Little Grebe, Chiffchaff, and Willow Warblers. The Country Park was enjoyed by all, especially the two cyclists who joined us and it promises to be a favourite venue for all to enjoy in the future years.



MAY 2015: NETHERFIELD LAGOONS

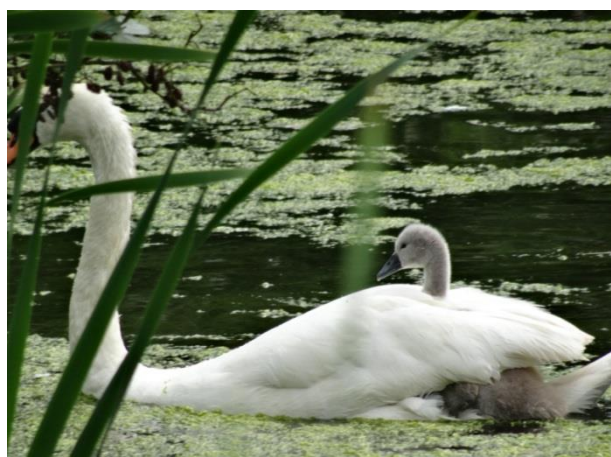
For our meeting at the Netherfield Lagoons, ten people turned up on a dull but pleasant morning. The site was relatively quiet considering it was the onset of the breeding season, but despite this, we spotted all the birds, mainly warblers, we were hoping to see. As well as the usual birds we spotted Sedge Warbler, Cetti's Warbler, Reed Warbler, Black Cap, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Reed Bunting, Swallow and Sand Martin.

The lagoons attract lots of seasonal birds and this month we were not disappointed. The group bird list is growing steadily as the seasons change that's why it is so interesting.

JUNE 2015: RUFFORD COUNTRY PARK

On Friday 12th June the Bird Watching group visited Rufford County Park. The day was perfect, not too hot and thankfully not wet either. 9 members came and we were very lucky to have been allowed access to the Nature Reserve which is not open to the general public. There were many birds busy feeding their young and a beautiful swan with 7 cygnets also Mallards and Moorhens with chicks.

Many birds could be heard in the trees, but as the leaf cover is so dense it is not easy to spot them at this time of year. This is our furthest venture for the group and it was enjoyed by all. The birds spotted included Jackdaws (nesting), Swallows (feeding young in the nest, also a nest in the archway in full view of all the visitors), nests of Sparrows, Blue Tits feeding fledglings, Buzzard, Tree creeper, Chaffinch male & female, Pied Wagtail.



SEPTEMBER 2015: BLACKTOFT SANDS

On a beautiful sunny morning, 12 members, plus 1 visitor set off for our first organized trip away to Blacktoft Sands, East Yorkshire. We were warmly welcomed by the nature reserve warden and given information of what we could expect to see. We then proceeded to the six hides, each giving spectacular views over the water, scrapes and reed beds. Once again, Rob set up his scope giving us all access to a close up view of the rarer birds.

We were rewarded with sightings of, Snipe, Blacktailed Godwit, Widgeon, Pintail, Gadwall, Kestrel, Yellow Wagtail, Lapwing, Teal, Redshank, Little Grebe, Little Egret, Shoveller, Ruff, Water Rail, Marsh Harrier, Heron, plus many of the more common species.

Everyone agreed that it was a very successful trip and we hope to venture further afield again in the near future. Blacktoft is a great place to visit all year round and all the hides are all within a short walking distance. Once again, we would like to thank Melvyn, our driver, it is very much appreciated and ensures we have a successful trip, thank you.



OCTOBER 2015; RSPB LANGFORD LOWFIELDS

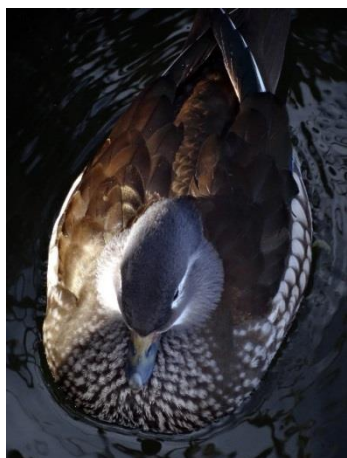
On a beautiful sunny Friday morning, 10 members, plus 1 visitor made their way to R.S.P.B Langford Lowfields near Newark. There is a wooded walk leading to the site which consists of water, scrapes and reed beds. The site was abundant with wildlife and, besides the usual we saw Curlew, Heron, Little Egret, Linnet, Greenfinch, Long Tailed Tit, Goldfinch, Great Crested Grebe, Kestrel, Buzzard, and a Great Black Backed Gull.

We spotted three Roe Deer, plus many dragonflies, butterflies and moths, also there were some wild flowers and fungi about, and the hedgerows were abounding with berries. It would be nice in the future to try and increase our knowledge to cover butterflies, moths and flowers etc. I have a small amount of money in hand, (visitors etc.) and I will buy some small reference books for taking on our visits.

Langford is still a working quarry but well worth a visit as the site has been developed with nature trails, viewing platforms and seats. Please note that dogs are not allowed on the actual nature reserve.

NOVEMBER 2015: ATTENBOROUGH

Our November meeting was a welcome return to the Attenborough Nature Reserve. The morning started with heavy rain and high winds but seven members braved the elements and were rewarded with sightings of Goosander, Gadwall, Shoveller, Little Egret, Little Grebe, Redwing, Fieldfare, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Lesser Black Backed Gull, Pochard, and a female Mandarin. Paul took some very interesting photos despite the awful weather conditions.



DECEMBER 2015: RSPB OLD MOOR

The weather was fine and dry when nine members, plus Melv our driver, made our way to Old Moor nature reserve, near Rotherham. We were warmly welcomed, and within a few minutes of entering the site were rewarded by many sightings. There were lots of hides, all easily accessible, overlooking lagoons and feeding stations. We were fortunate to see, Siskin, Songthrush, Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Linnet, Tree Sparrow, Reed Bunting, Yellowhammer, Lesser Redpoll, Goldcrest, Long Tailed Tit, Ruff, Snipe, Common Gull, Herring Gull, Goldeneye, Goosander, Gadwall, Little Grebe, Shoveller, Lapwing, Collared Dove, Grey Pheasant, plus all the usual sightings.

Just when we thought we couldn't possibly see anything else of note, Rob spotted a Waxwing as we made our way to the car park. It was a wonderful sight and a first for a lot of people at the reserve. The U3A got a mention, and Rob's photo was published on the RSPB's own website. It is a beautiful reserve, which has a great visitor centre, and a cafe/restaurant which serves beautiful home cooked meals, we certainly hope to return in the not too distant future.

