

Wildlife Walk, Wick Country Park, November 18th 2020

Hello everyone

As you all know during lockdown, we were unable to hold our normal monthly wildlife walk but Marie and I had a wander over to the park to carry out the November count.

It was a very windy day and quite difficult to make out many of the bird calls but there were a few birds about including lots of Blue Tits, which look to have had a good breeding season, and a few Long Tailed Tits. We also saw a couple of Chaffinches which are nice to see as they have declined massively over recent years. The usual Goldfinches, Robins, and Starlings were seen but not a single Blackbird! At the lake the Canada Goose flock is now 13 and lots of Black Headed Gulls look to be over wintering there. We also saw Moorhens and Coots but no Mallards this month. Our final sighting of the day was a Green Woodpecker flying and calling overhead. Not a great count for late Autumn but the weather did not help.

Birds – 17 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	18/11/2020	26
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	18/11/2020	13
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	18/11/2020	4
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	18/11/2020	2
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	18/11/2020	3
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	18/11/2020	15
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	18/11/2020	4
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	18/11/2020	17
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	18/11/2020	1
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	18/11/2020	4
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	18/11/2020	6
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	18/11/2020	5
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	18/11/2020	1
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	18/11/2020	1
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	18/11/2020	6
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	18/11/2020	1
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	18/11/2020	6

Stuart Fleming visited the park on the 1st December and saw the following birds:

On the lake:

35 Black Headed Gull

8 Canada Geese

3 Herring Gull

3 Coot

2 Lesser Black Backed Gull

2 Moorhen

4 Mallard

Rest of the park:

13 Magpie

10 Wood Pigeon

1 Pied Wagtail

10 Starling

15 Carrion Crow

4 Dunnock

7 Blue Tit

4 Goldfinch

4 Robin

1 Chaffinch

1 Redwing

Good to see Redwing at last – I saw hundreds in Norfolk in October but they have taken their time to get to this part of Essex.

Now we are out of lockdown and in Tier 2 we can meet up again outside and our next Wildlife Walk is planned for Wednesday 16th December 2020 – I'll get out an email a few days before when we know the weather forecast. Hope to see you all then.

Regards

Martin