

Wildlife Report – February 2021

Marie and I carried out February's wildlife walk on Friday 19th Feb.

As we entered the park, the usual Starling flock in the bushes to the right were particularly noisy – proving difficult to count, so we made an educated guess at around 15. We were quickly distracted from these by a couple of Redwings flying over the road. The huge flocks of these we saw in the cold weather have now moved on but there are still a few around in the park. The small birds were very active in the hedgerows, possibly checking out nest sites with spring around the corner. Plenty of Blue Tits were seen along with our old favourite the Robin. Along the boardwalk, these birds were active there too along with a couple of singing Wrens. Moving to the bridge, we saw a couple of Blackbirds and across the field, Carrion Crows, Magpies and Woodpigeons, together with a couple of Stock Doves. These are really nice birds and probably misidentified much of the time as “Town Pigeons.” At the lake, the Canada Goose flock is down to 7 after the disgraceful incident recently, and we also saw Coots, Moorhen and Mallards. The Black Headed Gull flock was estimated at 120 but there were so many birds flying around it was hard to get an exact number. There were at least 2 Common Gulls in there and a couple of Lesser Black-backed Gulls flying over. I still haven't found my Mediterranean Gull yet but it will be there somewhere..... I hope! We continued to walk the usual path but did not add any new birds to the list except for a few Great Tits. Overall, encouraging numbers of some common birds but no finches this time – perhaps the park does not have the right foods for these seed eaters at this time of year as there are lots of finches in the general area?

Birds – 19 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	19/02/2021	120
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	19/02/2021	7
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	19/02/2021	5
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	19/02/2021	3
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	19/02/2021	2
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	19/02/2021	5
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	19/02/2021	32
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	19/02/2021	17
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	19/02/2021	16
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	19/02/2021	5
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	19/02/2021	9
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	19/02/2021	2
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	19/02/2021	16
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	19/02/2021	3
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	19/02/2021	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	19/02/2021	2
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	19/02/2021	3
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	19/02/2021	6
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	19/02/2021	2

Our next walk will be in March but sadly, it looks like we will still be unable to meet up then and it will be April before we can get out again – fingers crossed!

Martin