

Wildlife Report – May 2021

We carried out the monthly wildlife walk on Wednesday May 19th 2021, and my report is below. I am trying out a different method of reporting this time round!

Birds – 30 Species

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) – 7 adults seen at the lake with one pair having all of 11 goslings. Very cute.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) - 2 adults only at the lake.

Common Swift (*Apus apus*) – 5 seen flying over the fields and at the lake.*

Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) – 15 seen at various stages of the walk. Quite a few sitting in trees or hedges rather than flying around.

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) – just 1 single bird seen near the picnic area.

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) – 2 adults seen with 3 very cute chicks.

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) – 2 adults at the lake.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) – 1 solitary bird flying over lake. Remember the 100+ counts in winter!!

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – 1 at the lake, did some fishing too.

European Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*) – just 1 heard briefly at the back of the large mound.

Eurasian Jay (*Garrulus glandarius*) – 3 seen at the bottom corner of the field left of the bridge. Possibly 2 adults and a juvenile.

Eurasian Magpie (*Pica pica*) – 8 birds seen at various times.

Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*) – 5 seen.

Eurasian Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*) – 6 birds seen or heard with at least one pair nesting in the boxes in the trailer cabin.

Great Tit (*Parus major*) – only 1 bird seen/heard. Suspect they are busy feeding young as mine in garden are.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) – 4. At least 2 seen flying over the hedges in the field left of the bridge and a further 2 at the lake.*

Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum*) – at least 1 seen with the Swallows – could possibly have been more.*

Common Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) – only 2 heard singing today.*

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) – 1 heard singing in the hedgerow at the back of lake. A good record for the park.*

Eurasian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) – at least 5 singing in the reed bed. Nice to see them back in good numbers.*

Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*) – 6 heard singing in various areas of the park. Another warbler here in good numbers.*

Common Whitethroat (*Curruca communis*) – 2 birds, one seen and one heard.*

Eurasian Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) – 4 heard singing in the hedgerows.

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) – 11. Nice to see a few noisy Starlings in the park.

Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) – 7 birds seen/heard and I think all males. Are females nesting?

European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) – 22. Loads of Robins singing everywhere in the park. Must be our most common bird at the moment.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) – 6. Nice to see a few Sparrows.

Dunnock (*Prunella modularis*) – 5 birds seen or heard in the hedgerows.

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) – only 2 seen/heard. For one of Wickford's most common birds a surprisingly low count.

Common Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) – 1 singing in the reed-bed. Another good record for the park.

* Summer Migrants

Butterflies – 4 Species

Small White (*Artogeia rapae*) – 4 seen in the hedgerows.

Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*) – just 1 seen.

Peacock Butterfly (*Inachis io*) – 2 seen in quick succession.

Speckled Wood (*Pararge aegeria*) – 1 at the back of the lake which is always a good place to see this species.

Summary

All of the summer migrant birds are here now with 8 species seen on Wednesday. Its nice to think that these birds travel thousands of miles from as far away as South Africa to spend their summers in the park. Lots of resident birds are now breeding with chicks being most easily seen around the lake. Noticeable were the number of Robins in the park – we counted 22 but there must be more that we missed. The weather has not been good for butterflies but we did see a few on this months walk. Let's hope things improve for June and we see a few more and can also get some dragonflies on the list.

Next walk

Wednesday 23rd June – one week later than the normal pattern.

Martin Singleton
May 2021