

Wildlife Walk – October 2021

The monthly wildlife walk for October took place on Wednesday 13th and it turned out to be a very interesting wander around the park. We all very much appreciated the great weather, warm and sunny, even hot for mid-October, fabulous. For various reasons, we decided to walk in the opposite direction from usual and while this obviously made no difference to the wildlife, I'm used to my notes being in the same order each month ! The big difference with the wildlife was the noticeable increased bird activity from the summer. Plenty of Robins and other small birds singing and feeding in the hedgerows and lots of life on the lake. Remember Sunday with an empty lake.....the geese are now back with a bang, and we counted over 50 of them – very noisy too. There was also a Little Egret at the lake – a new sighting for our walk list. We also heard and saw, not one but two Cetti's Warblers and a Blackcap! A few insects were still active with a Common Darter seen together with Comma and Speckled Wood butterflies. Sadly, 2 small orange-coloured butterflies we saw, would just not land and therefore could not be identified. Probably Skippers but which species will remain a mystery. As we were leaving the park, we finished off with both Green Woodpecker and Jay feeding along the roadside towards Fanton Hall – a nice ending to a very good day. Sightings details are below.

The date of the next walk is not yet decided, but it is likely to be on Wednesday 10th November. Pencil this in your diaries and I will confirm in a couple of weeks.

Martin Singleton

14/10/2021

Birds – 21 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	13/10/2021	3	Just a few flying around the park.
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	13/10/2021	52	After a few weeks away they are back in big numbers. We saw one waddling along the path but were all surprised by the big flock on the lake.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	13/10/2021	4	3 overhead and 1 feeding in the grass.
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	13/10/2021	2	1 heard at the lake and seen briefly scurrying around. Another seen feeding on berries in the hedges then heard singing. Good records for the park.
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	13/10/2021	6	At least 6 at the lake.
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	13/10/2021	22	Odd birds around the park but joined up into a larger flock later – at least 22 birds in total.
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	13/10/2021	21	Usual numbers around the park but a large number feeding on the road towards Fanton Hall as we left the park.
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	13/10/2021	1	Just one male feeding on the berries together with the Cetti's Warbler.
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	13/10/2021	9	Quite a few seen and heard around the park. All quite active feeding up for winter.
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	13/10/2021	2	Just 2 at the lake.
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	13/10/2021	1	1 seen well on the roadside to Fanton Hall.
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	13/10/2021	9	Plenty of noisy birds in the park.
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	13/10/2021	2	2 birds heard singing in the hedgerows.
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	13/10/2021	18	Lots in the park – singing and very active. A nice flock feeding on thistle seeds along the road to the car park.
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	13/10/2021	2	1 heard from the back of the lake and 1 seen really well on the roadside towards Fanton Hall.
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	13/10/2021	19	Lots of Robins singing in the park today but I don't recall seeing a single bird. Marking out their winter territories it seems.
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	13/10/2021	2	2 with the Canada Goose flock – probably the same 2 we had last winter.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	13/10/2021	3	2 singing along the car park road and 1 with Goldfinches near the pillbox.
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	13/10/2021	1	A fine specimen next to the lake – let's hope this becomes a regular sighting.
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	13/10/2021	1	Just one sleeping on the island.
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	13/10/2021	2	2 nice birds flying across the main field and landing....out of sight as always.

Butterflies – 2 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	13/10/2021	3	At least 3 really nice specimens feeding on the bramble berries near the large bridge.
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	13/10/2021	1	A very nice individual behind the lake in the usual spot.

Dragonflies – 1 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	13/10/2021	1	Just 1 seen at the dipping pond resting on the boardwalk.

Mammals – 1 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Eastern Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	13/10/2021	2	1 seen in the hedge towards the lake and 1 in the large oak near the small bridge.