

## **Wildlife Walk – December 2022**

Our final wildlife walk of 2022 took place on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Despite the cold, it was nice and sunny and quite pleasant being out and about - if you were well wrapped up of course! The year of surprises continued, with yet another new bird for the list – Common Snipe! This was spotted from the bridge by Richard, who saw it feeding in the long grass around a planted tree. We wandered across the field to confirm the ID and saw it fly off towards the large mound where it disappeared into the long grass. An unusual sighting for the Park and for Wickford too. In addition to this, we added another wader to the park list – Northern Lapwing - with at least four birds seen flying overhead, two of which were seen really well in the sun. To compliment the waders, the park is currently home to lots of Redwings feeding on the berries and we saw at least 30 feeding and flying around, again giving great close views at times. Also, very active were Robins and Goldfinches, with many of each seen well. Robins are very confiding in this cold weather, virtually landing around our feet at times. The lake is completely iced over at the moment, with many of the birds such as the geese having gone off to find ice free water, but we saw a nice flock of Black-headed Gulls there, and a couple of Moorhens landing on the ice and skidding all over the place, very comical and entertaining. A very good ending to the year and who knows what we will see next year – as they say, anything can turn up anywhere!

Please scroll down to see the details of the day's sightings

Here is a link to the pictures I took on the day, apologies for the Robin overload – they were just too inviting to ignore!

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AhWEUz33xHiNhfkXhPcvt1glh-rWjg?e=zLIsX4>

Dates for 2023 will be published shortly, and they will also be available on the [Friends of the Wick Country Park Website](#).

**Martin Singleton**

**Birds – 21 Species**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Total Count</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	14/12/2022	21	A few flying around the park with a larger flock on the ice at the lake
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	14/12/2022	4	A couple around the pavilion car park and two more on the grass
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	14/12/2022	6	A few around the park feeding on berries
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	14/12/2022	4	Two at the side of the lake joined by two more comically landing on the ice
Common Snipe	Gallinago gallinago	14/12/2022	1	A great spot by Richard. Seen feeding in long grass then flying off to the large mound. A real surprise.
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	14/12/2022	11	Usual birds around the park
Duncock	Prunella modularis	14/12/2022	1	In the pavilion car park
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	14/12/2022	4	Just a few seen or heard today
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	14/12/2022	1	In the pavilion car park
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	14/12/2022	2	Near the picnic table area
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	14/12/2022	9	Several around the park today
Eurasian Wren (British)	Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus	14/12/2022	3	All heard briefly singing
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	14/12/2022	14	Probably an undercount, several seen in the hedges and overhead. Very active.
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	14/12/2022	1	One spotted by Lorraine behind the pavilion
European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	14/12/2022	2	At least two overhead
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	14/12/2022	10	Lots of friendly birds today out searching for food
Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris	14/12/2022	1	Only one in the small copse near the bridge
Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	14/12/2022	6	Overhead - probably searching for ice free lakes
Great Tit	Parus major	14/12/2022	3	One near the main gates and two in the pavilion car park
Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus	14/12/2022	4	Another surprise with two singles overhead and then two more seen well near the large mound
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	14/12/2022	30	Lots of birds in the park feeding on berries and flying around. At least 30 seen but probably more in the park.