

Wildlife Walk – January 2022

The first wildlife walk of 2022 took place on Wednesday 26th January 2022. Overall, a fairly quiet day in the Park but a few of the resident birds were quite active, with plenty of Blue Tits and Robins in the hedgerows and a nice flock of Goldfinch feeding on the alders along the boardwalk. One of the highlights for me was seeing 3 Greenfinches along the road to the car park – we only saw 1 Greenfinch in the whole of 2021, so we are off to a good start this year. A good record for this time of year was a Blackcap, heard singing by Stuart, near the picnic tables. Bit early for attracting a female but practise never goes to waste. This bird is likely to be over-wintering in the UK and will not be an early migrant. There were good numbers of birds at the lake, including Black Headed Gull, Moorhen, Coot and Mallard but the Canada Geese were absent again. A nice spot at the end was a Jay that we nearly ignored as a Wood Pigeon; very nice as it sat in a tree posing for us.

Sighting details:

Birds – 21 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Comments
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	26/01/2022	30	20+ at the lake with others flying around the park.
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	26/01/2022	3	A few around the park.
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	26/01/2022	9	A good number active, which will include European migrants.
Common Gull	Larus canus	26/01/2022	1	Just one with the Black Headed Gull flock at the lake.
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	26/01/2022	8	Good numbers at the lake.
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	26/01/2022	8	A few flying around.
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	26/01/2022	24	A best guess of numbers in the park.
Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	26/01/2022	1	Heard by Stuart near the picnic benches.
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	26/01/2022	13	Quite active all around the hedgerows.
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	26/01/2022	2	Seen and heard along the boardwalk area.
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	26/01/2022	5	At the lake.
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	26/01/2022	1	Perched nicely near the pavilion.
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	26/01/2022	6	Mainly feeding in the grassy areas.
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	26/01/2022	10	A nice flock feeding on the alders along the boardwalk. A few others flying around.
European Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	26/01/2022	1	Just one heard as we walked from the bridge to the lake.
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	26/01/2022	3	Nice to see 3 birds along the car park road plus at least male heard singing.
European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	26/01/2022	3	Flying overhead near the lake.
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	26/01/2022	7	In the hedgerows – probably an undercount.
Great Tit	Parus major	26/01/2022	3	Nice to see a few of these around the park
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	26/01/2022	5	4 males and 1 female at the lake.

Just a reminder of the remaining dates for the walks this year:

February – 16th

March – 16th

April – 20th

May – 18th

June – 15th

July – 20th

August – 17th

September – 21st

October – 19th

November – 16th

December – 14th

All starting at 10.30am from the Pavilion car park. Please note these dates in your diaries but as usual I will confirm by email / WhatsApp whether the walks will go ahead depending on weather etc.

Finally, dates have been agreed for other wildlife events e.g. Moth Night but a separate email will be issued confirming these.

The dates are also available on the [Friends of the Wick Country Park Website](#).

Martin Singleton