

## Wildlife Walk – March 2022

The monthly wildlife walk was held this Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March. We were a little bit unlucky with the weather, being a dull and cloudy morning during a week of sunshine but thankfully we avoided the rain which came much later in the day, along with all the orange Sahara dust! We were lucky with the wildlife though. The birds were very active in the park, and as the trees and hedges are still mainly without leaves, they were very visible too. We got off to a good start with a nice little Wren, unusually perched at the top of a small tree, singing away as we entered the park, followed by four Greenfinch in the hedges. >From the pavilion car park, a Jay was seen, and a Robin sat in a tree singing – it was still in the same tree singing the same song when we returned 90 minutes later. Then from the boardwalk, the highlight of the day – Siskins feeding on the alders – a very good sighting for the park. There was one male and two females, feeding up on their migration route north to their breeding sites, mainly in Scotland and Wales. This shows that the park is not only important for resident birds and summer breeding birds but also birds on their migration routes as a place to stop over and feed before heading onto their breeding grounds. And to show that March is a changeover month from winter to spring, we also saw from the boardwalk, a winter visiting Redwing, probably heading much further north than the Siskins. Our resident birds were very active with Robins, Blackbirds, Blue Tits, Great Tits and Long Tailed Tits all feeding and singing from various parts of the park. Then at the lake we heard our first summer migrant of the year – a Chiffchaff. This was the first of several we saw and heard during the walk and its great that they are back. More good news in that we saw and heard at least 3 Song Thrush – a much declined bird but seems to be doing OK here. A Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen flying over the boardwalk but only by me, who was trying for a second look at the Siskins (they had gone!) Our final sighting was a large flock of Crows – at least 30 – flying over the car park road, possibly disturbed by a bird of prey that we failed to see. Sadly, and due to the weather, we did not keep up our record of seeing butterflies every month this year but I am sure we will make up for this next month. Full sighting details are below:

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

April – 20<sup>th</sup>

May – 18<sup>th</sup>

June – 15<sup>th</sup>

July – 20<sup>th</sup>

August – 17<sup>th</sup>

September – 21<sup>st</sup>

October – 19<sup>th</sup>

November – 16<sup>th</sup>

December – 14<sup>th</sup>

**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.

Plenty more summer migrants will be here by April 20<sup>th</sup> and along with butterflies we may have some early dragon or damsel flies.

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

**Martin Singleton**

**Birds: 29 species**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Total Count</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	16/03/2022	4	One at the lake, a few others in flight
Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	16/03/2022	11	Four at the lake, seven in flight over the park
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	16/03/2022	36	A few birds in the park but large flock of 30ish birds over the car park road when leaving
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	16/03/2022	7	Several seen and heard around the park - all males!
Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	16/03/2022	1	One seen at the back of the lake
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	16/03/2022	6	Our first summer migrant - several seen and heard around the park
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	16/03/2022	3	All at the lake
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	16/03/2022	15	Flock of 10 near the lake, others in flight.
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	16/03/2022	17	Usual birds around the park
Duncock	Prunella modularis	16/03/2022	4	One seen well near the large mound, another at the bridge and two more singing in the hedges
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	16/03/2022	14	Very active today - many seen often in pairs.
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	16/03/2022	4	Three flying near the pavilion and one singing as we left the car park
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	16/03/2022	5	At the lake
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	16/03/2022	1	Seen from the pavilion car park
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	16/03/2022	4	A few seen around the park
Eurasian Siskin	Spinus spinus	16/03/2022	3	One male and two females feeding on the alders along the boardwalk. A very good sighting!
Eurasian Wren (British)	Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus	16/03/2022	5	A nice bird greeted us as we entered the park - several more singing in the hedges
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	16/03/2022	3	A couple near the large mound and one along the car park road
European Greenfinch	Chloris chloris	16/03/2022	7	Four along the car park road, one at the boardwalk, two more singing near the lake
European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	16/03/2022	4	Adult and juvenile over the park, two more with the large Crow flock over the car park road
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	16/03/2022	15	Lots singing and displaying everywhere - you can't miss them at the moment
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major	16/03/2022	1	One calling then flying over the boardwalk area as I made a second attempt to see the Siskins
Great Tit	Parus major	16/03/2022	6	A good number seen and heard today in the hedges
Greylag Goose	Anser anser	16/03/2022	3	Two at the lake and one flying overhead and away
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Larus fuscus	16/03/2022	1	One over the park
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	16/03/2022	8	Several seen - very active today
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	16/03/2022	11	Four males and one female at the lake plus 6 flying over and away from the park
Redwing	Turdus iliacus	16/03/2022	1	One seen from the boardwalk - a late sighting for this winter visitor
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	16/03/2022	3	Two seen in the small copse near the bridge and one singing at the back of the lake. Good news!