

Bexley RSPB Group – Walk Lamorbey Park/The Glade. Thursday 21st April 2016

After two sunny/hot days today was dull, grey and chilly when 18 members joined Brenda and I for the first walk around Lamorbey Park/The Glade since 2002. Those arriving at the Sidcup Leisure Centre car park early were lucky enough to see one of the local peregrines perched on a nearby building – by the time we were departed to begin the walk – so had the peregrine – no doubt off to plunder a parakeet or perch on a pylon. We didn't see another all morning.



Assembling in the park surrounded by ornamental trees it was the sound of the nearby primary school children exercising their legs and lungs that overwhelmed the high pitch calls of two or three goldcrests – none were seen. As we moved on into the small area of deciduous woodland adjacent to Chis. & Sid School we soon picked up the song/calls of wrens (galore), robins, a distant song thrush, a coal tit, blackcap and a nuthatch that was eventually located having been hassled by a lone starling. A sparrowhawk flapped and glided overhead. Another wren gave a good showing, feeding on a nearby fir tree. We walked back along the lake edge: at least nine tufted duck were present along with the expected coots, moorhen, mallard and Canada geese. By now we had heard at least 3 nuthatches, a chiffchaff and a couple of blackcap, one male blackcap eventually showing itself really well as we emerged from the lakeside onto the open grass. Stock dove also obliged us with close views – a most attractive and often overlooked member of the dove family.

From here we wandered around “the dell”, chaffinch, blue and great tits were noted, then we wandered down the lane behind Rose Bruford College, adjacent to Sidcup Golf Course but little around other than the usual common species. We arrived at the bridge between the lake and golf course to view the pair of mute swans nesting and also a couple of long-tailed tits. The return walk along the lake did eventually produce a great spotted woodpecker (having previously heard green woodpecker) and we concluded we must have seen/heard four, possibly five nuthatches.



Wren (Donna Zimmer)

The walk ended at 12 noon, 36 species seen/heard and we'd kept dry.

Species seen/heard: Mute Swan pair, Canada geese, Mallard, Tufted Duck (9+), Sparrowhawk, Peregrine, Moorhen, Coot, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Ring-necked Parakeet, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Swallow (1), Pied Wagtail, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Long-tailed tit, Blue tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Nuthatch, Jay, Magpie, Carrion crow, Starling, Chaffinch, Greenfinch. (36)

Ralph and Brenda Todd

(all images Brenda Todd unless otherwise stated)