

Bexley RSPB Group – Walk Lamorbey Park/The Glade. Thursday 26th October 2017

Gloomy visibility welcomed 15 members/friends for a return visit to this local park. With no wind the low cloud and mizzle hung around all morning. The roof of Marlow House wasn't even visible as we assembled in the Leisure Centre car park – 20 minutes later, having heard the call of peregrine we finally found one perched amongst the aerials, soon to fly off in pursuit of a second bird that had flown by.

Finding birds was difficult, very little was moving or vocalising – even the woodpigeons were sitting down on the Chis.& Sid. playing fields. Blackbird numbers were noticeably higher than our spring visit, redwing were heard flying over, a single mistle and two song thrushes flew past but it wasn't until almost the end of the morning that we had a very good telescope view of redwing, perched on the opposite side of the lake.



Goldcrests were heard and seen by one or two, green woodpecker heard and great spotted seen by some though only briefly. Local birdwatcher, Ian Stewart was cycling around and usually ahead of us so was able to helpfully point out a tree creeper - a bird not often seen though with plenty of suitable habitat present here and elsewhere in the Borough. It kept on the move so wasn't seen easily but some were rewarded. In the same location a tit flock passed through, mostly long-tailed tits (at least 10) with blue and great tits plus chaffinches amongst them. A nuthatch was also seen here – one of 3 seen/heard during the morning.

The playing fields (usually host to large numbers of gulls, crows and starlings) was mostly devoid of birds, just a few crows and a small flock of starling. The only gulls (black-headed) were either roosting on the astra-turf tennis court or flying over the lake – they were seen well enough to discern the adults and juveniles.

As time was moving on and with the general lack of bird activity we decided to forego the walk across to The Hollies. We did a complete circuit of the park and for some this was a new venue so relating the park to the school, golf club and Rose Bruford college added another aspect to the walk. Those who remained for the complete walk back to the lake were rewarded with close views of cormorant, tufted duck and little grebe. The Canada geese, feeding on the Rose Bruford lawns clearly thought food was about to be distributed and made their way across the lake towards us – they would have been disappointed.

The walk ended at 12 noon, 33 species seen/heard.

Species seen/heard: Mute Swan pair, Canada geese, Cormorant, Little Grebe, Grey Heron, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Sparrowhawk, Peregrine, Moorhen, Coot, Black-headed Gull, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Ring-necked Parakeet, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Wren, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Redwing, Mistle Thrush Goldcrest, Long-tailed tit, Blue tit, Great Tit, Tree creeper, Nuthatch, Jay, Magpie, Carrion crow, Chaffinch, (33)

Ralph and Brenda Todd

(all images Ralph and Brenda Todd)