

## Bexley RSPB Group – Walk Lamorbey Park Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020

After consecutive weeks of storms Ciara and Dennis it's time for birdwatch RSPB Bexley and much to our delight and surprise, 16 members/friends turned up at the Leisure centre car park to participate in a walk around Lamorbey park, just over a year since our previous visit here – the sun shone, a slight chilly breeze and a nuthatch calling very loudly from the nearest tree. The hoped for peregrines were not at home on Marlow House so off we wandered into the Glade with a second nuthatch calling – we were to enjoy fantastic views of this pair with another possibly calling nearby. A great spotted woodpecker also called from some way off.



Nuthatch- Nicky Wilson



Looking for nuthatch - Brenda Todd

Robins and blue tits were the other vocal birds as we began our walk. The playing field yielded two mistle thrushes with ever present magpie and crows. Coming out into the open grassland, a group of woodpigeons were feeding and in amongst them were three blackbirds. Then, from the adjacent bushes, five redwings dropped in to enjoy whatever good food was present there. There was a nice backdrop of yellow and purple crocuses.

On the lake we were greeted by the usual reception team of mallards, Egyptian geese (two), a lone mute swan (perhaps one from Foots Cray Meadows), Canada geese, coots and moorhen. Daniel, a junior member with excellent eyes, saw a flash of turquoise which eluded all of us for the rest of the morning. A pair of tufted duck and a single little grebe completed the waterfowl list. Wandering round to the school playing fields the decimation of the scrub was very noticeable. Why this has to be grubbed out by the Council is a mystery. One group of gulls were resting on the playing fields, c30 black-headed with one common gull amongst them.



Tufted Duck - Daniel Nikolov



Watching tufted duck – Brenda Todd

At the end of the lake we were able to look into the lower lake of the golf course - more of the same gulls, ducks but no little egret despite best attempts to misidentify skulking gulls.

Taking the path between Rose Bruford Collage and the golf course didn't produce the hoped for goldcrests or coal tits but two or three long-tailed tits did make an appearance. Nothing was seen on the deserted golf course - often the site for green woodpeckers or thrushes, especially when no golfers are present. A rare

sighting of a rabbit was noted, so rare it became a pheasant then finally, as Nicky had said all along, it was a wood pigeon! As we arrived at Burnt Oak Lane we finally heard the call of goldcrest but no one could see it. We are often asked by passers-by what we are looking at/for but today we were elevated to the title of Thespians by a local walker, thinking we'd just left the Rose Bruford College – how many thespians he had encountered wearing binoculars and rucksacks before we just couldn't comprehend.



Long-tailed Tit – Daniel Nikolov



Bee on Gorse Nicky Wilson



Peregrine – Ralph Todd

With an hour still to go before the walk would finish we decided to head over to The Hollies: at least to make every one aware of where and what it was – we were greeted by singing wren and robin and drumming great-spotted woodpecker. We were more exposed to the chilly wind here so were about to conclude the short introduction when the woodpecker flew over our heads into a nearby tree. Then a couple of nuthatches started calling and feeding on an even closer tree. Turning back towards Lamorbey Gary spotted the peregrine floating overhead – brilliant. We even found one lesser celandine in flower. We stopped outside a house on Burnt Oak Lane to get the telescope onto Marlow House where both peregrines were now seated – one in the box and one on a ledge – mating took place (the peregrines that is) then the birds disappeared.

Walking back into the park, a grey heron flew over, a couple of 3<sup>rd</sup> year herring gulls were seen well, the redwings were still feeding in the same place, a chaffinch with them this time and for those last one or two people in the car park after the main group had dispersed, the two peregrines flew really low over our heads – quite an end to a most enjoyable three hour walk.

Thanks to all those who attended and to Nicky and Daniel for use of their images

**Birds Seen/Heard:** Canada goose, mute swan, Egyptian goose, mallard, tufted duck, stock dove, woodpigeon, moorhen, coot, little grebe, black-headed gull, common gull, herring gull, grey heron, great spotted woodpecker, peregrine falcon, ring-necked parakeet, magpie, carrion crow, blue tit, great tit, long-tailed tit, goldcrest, wren, nuthatch, starling, blackbird, redwing, mistle thrush, robin, dunnock, chaffinch, goldfinch. (33 species).

Ralph and Brenda Todd  
18<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**Next local walks:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February – East Wickham Open Space – leader Stuart Banks 9.30-11.30  
Meet Camdale Road outside Woolwich Cemetery

Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> – Foots Cray Meadows, North Cray Woods and Five Arches – leaders Ralph and Brenda Todd – 9.30-12.30 – meet Rectory Lane Car Park.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Shrewsbury Park – leader Stuart Banks 9am -11am meet Garland Road SE18