

Visit To RSPB Old Moor Reserve – Sunday 22nd January 2017

Due to holidays and other commitments only 3 members braved the **minus 3°C** on a dry but frosty Sunday morning to visit Old Moor.

Linda & Mick Fairest and Brian Smithson.

We arrived at Old Moor just before opening time and from the car park noted several Magpie and Woodpigeon. We enquired at reception as to any “special” sightings and were informed that a Black-throated Thrush had been seen over several days from 17th-21st at Adwick Washlands several miles along the Dearne Valley. From past experience of walking there and back last time we visited Old Moor we decided to give it a miss!!

First off we checked out the Tree Sparrow Farm and had excellent views of male and female Bullfinch, flocks of Greenfinch and Goldfinch and single Lesser Redpoll and a female Reed Bunting. We made our way to Reedbed Hide and as we entered a Little Egret flew over. Parts of the water channels were frozen over but the larger expanses of water were free from ice. There were signs of much trimming of foliage and shrubs in this area which had opened up better viewing prospects.

The weather stayed calm with light cloud but it was very cold all day never getting above 2°C. Consequently we kept moving and didn't linger too long in the hides. Despite the weather the site was very busy with people today including a coach party from Ashbourne in Derbyshire.

Before eventually reaching Wath Ings hide we noticed the “old” bridge across the stream to the right, which had been damaged by floods several years ago, had been repaired enabling access to the newly erected Field Pool East Hide from two sides. Also a new viewing screen has been erected giving views behind the shrubs along a grassy pathway which is good for the many small birds in the area. From Wath Ings Hide we had good views of a beautifully marked Snipe in tip top plumage. We agreed we'd never seen one with such bright striped markings! There were many Gadwall, Wigeon, Shoveler and Teal on the reserve today. Over on the grassy bank to the left of the hide we had good views of a pair of Song Thrush and then we were lucky enough to see a male Brambling. After our packed lunch we continued back towards the Visitor Centre calling at the remaining hides along the way and recording a single Goosander and Shelduck as well as many Lapwing, Coot, Wigeon (both grazing and on the water), Teal, Cormorant and 4 species of Gull – Black-headed, Herring, Lesser Black-backed and Common.

We checked the Tree Sparrow Farm again on the way back and were rewarded with a sighting of a YES YOU'VE GUESSED IT A TREE SPARROW and a Stock Dove as well as Blackbird and Chaffinch in good numbers.

On returning to the car we decided to call at Broomhill Flash Nature Reserve (Garganey Trust) which is nearby. We entered the new double deck hide and although there were plenty of birds to be seen on the shallow lake the only species noted from the ones already recorded today was Greylag Goose. An excellent facility always worth checking out as over the years rarities such as Pectoral Sandpiper, Osprey and Whooper Swan and made an appearance.

Members 3 Birds 49 Flora 2 (Gorse & Hazel Catkins) Mammals 1 (Grey Squirrel)

Reporter: Linda Fairest

Birds

Blackbird
Black-headed Gull
Blue Tit
Brambling
Bullfinch
Canada Goose
Carrion Crow
Chaffinch
Common Gull
Coot
Cormorant
Duncock
Gadwall
Goldfinch
Goosander
Great Tit
Greenfinch
Grey Heron
Greylag Goose
Herring Gull
Lapwing
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Lesser Redpoll
Little Egret
Little Grebe
Long-tailed Tit
Magpie
Mallard
Mistle Thrush
Moorhen
Mute Swan
Pheasant
Pied Wagtail
Pochard
Reed Bunting
Robin
Shelduck
Shoveler
Snipe
Song Thrush
Starling
Stock Dove
Stonechat
Teal
Tree Sparrow
Tufted Duck
Wigeon
Woodpigeon
Wren



A good view of a Snipe at Old Moor