

Visit to Old Moor RSPB Reserve – 26th November 2017

6 members braved a cold Sunday morning – 2°C with rain – to visit Old Moor.

Linda & Mick Fairest, Eileen & Graham Gill, Brian Smithson and Malcolm Swift.

By the time we reached Old Moor the rain had stopped and the temperature had reached 4°C however we donned several layers of clothing before leaving the cars and entering the visitor centre. From the car park our first bird of the day was a Redwing.

In the visitor centre garden we recorded male and female Bullfinch, Chaffinch, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Collared Dove and 2 very active Grey Squirrels chasing one another probably to keep warm!

From the Tree Sparrow Farm screens we saw Stock Dove, Goldfinch on Teasel, Reed Bunting, Pheasant and Tree Sparrow. The plumage of all the birds we saw was in tip top condition.

As a Bittern had been seen recently over Reedbed Hide we made our way in that direction and stopped off in Bittern Hide. After a few minutes a Peregrine landed momentarily on a branch over the water just in front of us. A great sighting albeit not for long! On the water were good numbers of Gadwall, Teal and Wigeon with the odd Little Grebe and a solitary young Mute Swan. Amongst the gulls in the distance we picked up Black-headed Gull, Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Many Cormorants stood drying their wings on one of the islands.

We headed back towards the visitor centre and took the path to the Wath Ings hide at the far end of the reserve with the intention of eating our packed lunch there it being the hide with the most room. Shoveler, Little Egret, Lapwing and Pied Wagtail were added to our list. An explosion of sound revealed 2 Wrens amongst the reeds below the hide windows.

On our way back towards the visitor centre we called at Wader Scrape Hide where we witnessed the flypast of a female Kestrel. She glided in front of the hide and perched on a post almost within touching distance. She was completely unfazed by our presence and posed for many photographs.

At Field Pool West Hide we identified a small flock of Linnets feeding in the water's edge and a Goldcrest flew into a bush adjacent to the hide. In front of the Family Hide we noticed several Rabbits coming into view as the afternoon light began to fade.

On reaching the cars we decided to call at Broomhill Flash (a mile or so away) on our way home. From the Garganey Trust hide we noted amongst others already recorded Great Black-backed Gull, Dunlin and Starling bringing our overall total of birds for the day to 50.

Birds 50 Flowers 10 Mammals 2

Reporter: Linda Fairest

Birds**Flowers****Mammals**

Blackbird
Black-headed Gull
Blue Tit
Bullfinch
Canada Geese
Carrion Crow
Chaffinch
Collared Dove
Common Gull
Coot
Cormorant
Dunlin
Dunnock
Gadwall
Goldcrest
Goldfinch
Great Black-backed Gull
Great Crested Grebe
Great Tit
Greenfinch
Grey Heron
Herring Gull
Kestrel
Lapwing
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Linnet
Little Egret
Little Grebe
Long-tailed Tit
Magpie
Mallard
Moorhen
Mute Swan
Peregrine Falcon
Pheasant
Pied Wagtail
Pochard
Redwing
Reed Bunting
Robin
Rook
Shoveler
Starling
Stock Dove
Teal
Tree Sparrow
Tufted Duck
Wigeon
Woodpigeon
Wren

Winter-flowering Cherry
Feverfew
Hogweed
Daisy
Yarrow
Red Clover
Black Knapweed
Dandelion
Gorse
Moonpenny

Grey Squirrel
Rabbit



GREAT TIT

REED BUNTING



STOCK DOVE





BULLFINCH



LITTLE GREBE



KESTREL



MALE SHOVELERS

ROBIN

