

Visit to Old Moor RSPB Reserve – 28th January 2018

This outing had been re-arranged from last Sunday due to snow! 5 members set off on a mild and fair Sunday morning to visit Old Moor.

Linda & Mick Fairest, Graham Gill, Charles Seymour and Malcolm Swift.

As we approached Old Moor Malcolm suggested we might like to do a detour to Broomhill Flash as a **Hawfinch** had been reported there. We parked by the side of the Garganey Hide and were immediately informed by another birdwatcher that the best time to see the elusive bird was 8 am! Oh dear it was now 9.15am however we entered the hide to see what birds were out on the water and quickly compiled a list of 20 plus birds including Gadwall, Wigeon, Shoveler and a large flock of Stock Doves on the far grassed area. Over to the left a Buzzard sat on top of a fence post above a nest box. A couple of other birdwatchers came into the hide and enquired whether we had seen the **Hawfinch**. A friend had shown them pictures he had managed to get on a previous occasion. At this point Linda followed the couple back out into the car park and the 3 of them searched the surrounding trees and shrubs. The couple were about to give up when Linda, on checking out several Blue Tits and Great Tits settled on the **Hawfinch** staring straight at her! She beckoned to the couple then dashed back into the hide to get the rest of the group. No rush as the Very Co-operative bird carried on feeding for the next 45 minutes enabling everyone to get good photographs. We were soon joined by others until quite a crowd had assembled. Brilliant as not seen a **Hawfinch** for many years and for Charles it was a first. Just as we were about to return to the car a large flock of noisy Canada Geese flew over.

We learned later that this winter has been a bumper year for Hawfinch in the UK because due to a poor nut and seed crop on the continent or possibly autumn storms which may have blown the birds in Britain's direction!

We eventually proceeded on to Old Moor and in the visitor centre garden we recorded Chaffinch, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Goldfinch and 2 very active Grey Squirrels chasing one another – spring is in the air!

From the Tree Sparrow Farm screens we saw Tree Sparrow, Bullfinch, Reed Bunting and good numbers of Greenfinch. A Kestrel came and perched just beyond the screens for several minutes giving everyone the opportunity for photos.

We made our way to the Reedbed Hide. Apart from Coot, Gadwall, Teal and Wigeon we also had good views of a Marsh Harrier being mobbed by a Carrion Crow.

At Bittern Hide we noted many Cormorants resting on a spit in the distance and then Malcolm saw a Goldeneye diving just in front of them. After much searching we all managed to see it in the end.

From the Family Hide we recorded Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull and Common Gull before continuing on to Wath Ings Hide. A Snipe was pointed out to us hiding in the tufted grass and eventually it was decided there were in fact two Snipe there. A small flock of Linnet fed on the mud at the water's edge in front of the many Wigeon.

At Wader Scrape Hide a Little Egret flew past and 3 Green Sandpipers landed in front of us. Out on the water we counted 18 Goosander bringing a total of birds for the day to 53.

As we arrived back at the car a small murmuration of Starlings was starting to gather above the car park.

Birds 53 Flora 6 Mammals 1 Fungi 1

Reporter: Linda Fairest

Birds

Blackbird
Black-headed Gull
Blue Tit
Bullfinch
Buzzard
Canada Geese
Carrion Crow
Chaffinch
Collared Dove
Common Gull
Coot
Cormorant
Dunlin
Dunnock
Gadwall
Goldeneye
Goldfinch
Goosander (18)
Great Black-backed Gull
Great Tit
Greenfinch
Green Sandpiper
Greylag Goose
HAWFINCH
Herring Gull
Kestrel
Lapwing
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Linnet
Little Egret
Little Grebe
Long-tailed Tit
Magpie
Mallard
Marsh Harrier
Moorhen
Mute Swan
Pheasant
Pied Wagtail
Pochard
Reed Bunting
Robin
Rook
Shoveler
Snipe
Starling
Stock Dove
Teal
Tree Sparrow
Tufted Duck
Wigeon
Woodpigeon
Wren

Flowers

Hazel Catkins
Alder Catkins
Dandelion
Gorse
Daisy
Pussy Willow

Mammals

Grey Squirrel

Fungi

Blushing Bracket

HAWFINCH





HAWFINCH



GADWALL



BLACKBIRD

KESTREL





SHOVELER