

Bird watching walk in Bushy Park Tuesday 21st May 2024

We were a small group this morning for this walk. We were rather surprised that it was so chilly and windy, given that we had beautiful, sunny weather the day before. There were several Egyptian Geese grazing near the car park and Jackdaws were hopping around. One had unusual white plumage.



At the first pond we saw a Grey Heron, standing very still scrutinising the water for its prey. His patience was rewarded when we saw him gulping down a fish with such a swift movement. Another one then flew off and spent a long time sitting at the top of a willow tree.



There were several Coot nests in the middle of the lakes. We wondered whether platforms had been deliberately built by rangers for the Coots to decorate by adding twigs and reeds, or had they made them entirely on their own. On one nest we could see a broken egg shell and just about see a young chick peeping out from under its mother. Later one we were better able to see a young chick.



The chicks are rather scruffy with red heads, but it looks like the mother bird is very caring!

We moved along to the next lake and then saw this lovely group of several fluffy Egyptian Geese goslings. It is difficult to count how many as they were closely huddled together. How many can you count?



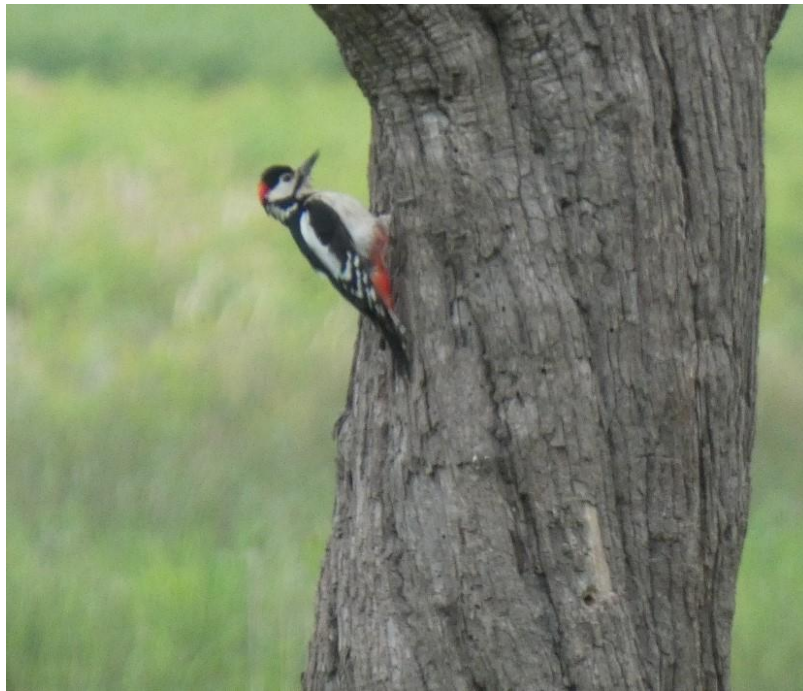
Lined along the edge of the Heron Pond were several Egyptian Geese all standing on one leg. It seems they do this as keeping one leg tucked up prevents heat loss. Sitting amongst this group was another one of the “dodgy” Mallards.



Moving across the lake, giving us a wonderful display, was a Mute Swan.



There was a lot going on in the holes of a dead tree. After a while we decided it was a Great Tits' nest with young fledglings which was being attacked by a Greater-Spotted Woodpecker.



We then walked round the other side of the lake where there were several grazing Canada Geese – one pair with two, and another with three , goslings.

A lone Tufted Duck was swimming on the lake.



The next moment of excitement occurred when Lorna spotted a Reed Bunting gathering bits of grass to make a nest. On one side of the lake was what appeared to be a dead willow tree, but it was in fact still growing. It made some wonderful hiding places for all sorts of creatures.



There were some deer in the distance but we kept well clear, as they are very protective of their young at the moment.

The chattering noises in the tops of the willow trees alerted us to lots of Goldfinches flitting around.

As it was quite chilly, we ended our walk with a cup of coffee at The Pheasantry café!

Lovely photos courtesy of Lorna