

Bird Watching at Papercourt Sailing Lake 16th July 2024

There were just three of us this morning – Gaynor, Geoff and me. As there had been very heavy rain previously, we decided to avoid the mud and just walk round the lake. Geoff had arrived before us and noticed a couple of Terns and sure enough they were making a lovely display above the lake. There were also plenty of Black-head gulls.

On the lake were Great Crested Grebes. One was a juvenile with pale plumage. There were also Swans with their cygnets and the usual Mallards, Coots, and Canada Geese. On the far bank there were a couple of Egyptian Geese near some people.

As we walked around the lake we heard the call of a Green Woodpecker. As it was quite a warm morning there were a few butterflies on the brambles – possibly a Gatekeeper and a Meadow Brown but they did not settle for us to properly identify!

We heard the song of a Blackcap in the hedgerow and it later appeared and was identified as a female. A Magpie flew off chasing a Blackbird.

We moved round to the other side of the lake and heard the loud song of a Sedge Warbler in the reeds, but it did not come out of its hiding place. As we were standing there a Swan came up to us, whether to warn us off its young or looking for food.

We seemed to be chasing a Green Woodpecker along, first hearing its call and then showing in the top of the trees. Otherwise, it was quite quiet in the trees.

The edge of the lake was covered with some lovely wildflowers – burdock, cow parsley, fennel, ragwort, tufted vetch – to name just a few. I should think it will be a good place for blackberry gathering later in the year. At the end of our walk there were many ragwort. A few seemed to be home for just a single caterpillar of the cinnabar moth.



Sadly, we did not have our resident photographers Lorna and Ellis today, so I had to make do with Google this time!

Barbara