

Staines Reservoir can be a windy place but we had chosen a mild day for our October visit.

Sparrows had already been spotted in the hedges on the estate.

Our first sighting on the reservoir was a large amount of Tufted ducks and an even larger amount of Coots on the left hand side of the reservoir. Amongst these was a Great Crested Grebe and a Cormorant. One female Tufted Duck had a white band around her beak. Ron said that different beak markings are not unusual for this species but they can sometimes be mistaken for a Scaup.

Looking above we saw the now common Red Kite.

Concentrating back on the water Gadwall, Pochard and Mallard ducks were spotted on the left and on the right we saw Swans and used the telescope to see Common and Black-headed Gull.

Our target species was then spotted- 2 Black-necked Grebes. They looked beautiful when viewed through the telescope.

Throughout the walk a mixed flock of Pied Wagtail, Meadow Pipit and Linnet were seen ahead of us on the fences and in the grass.

A Little Grebe was spotted by the far tower as we turned to return to the car park.

On the way back Shovelers were seen in the water and a small murmuration of Starlings swirled ahead.

As we returned to the road a kestrel posed on the fence and then flew past.

Gaynor Friston





Photos of Black-necked Grebe, Tufted Duck and Gadwall courtesy of Lorna.