

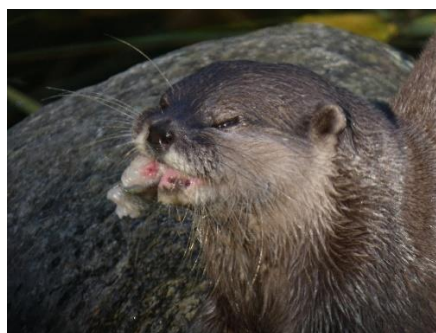
Visit to Barnes Wetlands Tuesday 26th November 2024

I'm afraid this will be a brief report as our house move, which we thought would be after Christmas, now transpires to be 10th December!

Our visit this month was a week later because of the dreadful weather the previous week. We were blessed with a lovely sunny morning for this visit. We were a small select group – Pat, Lorna and me and the two experts Geoff and Len.

The two chaps had already spotted several Ring-Necked Parakeets, a Shoveler and a hovering Kestrel. We had been delayed as we could not resist stopping at a shop which had a Christmas sale!

We were just in time to watch the feeding of the otters. These are Asian small-clawed otters, rather than British.



We moved on to the next hide and were blessed with a wonderful display of a host of Lapwings flying across and landing on the island where they seemed to disappear in amongst the gulls. As we were walking back towards the south side route there were two Wigeon in the reeds who quickly hid themselves. There was a Chiff Chaff in the trees nearby as well as Blue Tits. first stop was the Dulverton hide where we had a lovely clear view of the lakes and islands. It was here we might have seen a Bittern but apparently he had been there yesterday! Here we could see Tufted ducks, Teal, Shoveler, Moorhen, Cormorants, Egyptian Geese, Great-crested Grebes, Carrion Crows. A pair of Gadwall were swimming across in front of us, so we had a lovely view of their beautiful plumage.-head , Herring gulls and Lesser Black-backed gulls. A pair of Grey Lag Geese were also seen.



Egyptian Geese & Cormorants



Gadwall

We stopped at the bird feeding station and saw Gold Finches, Blue Tits, a Grey Squirrel and some rats! A very obliging Robin joined us and was rewarded with some of Pat's biscuit crumbs. A Cetti's Warbler was heard in the undergrowth.



Our friendly Robin

We stayed for several minutes at the Peacock Tower. There were several Coots either swimming or pecking along the grass edges. A male Stonechat was spotted at the top of some reeds. While we were walking towards the tower Pat had spotted a Green Woodpecker flying off and later there was one on the grass between the lakes so we wondered if this was the same one. Another surprise was seeing a fox skulking alone the field outside the electric fence. Walking back on the other side we spent some time looking at a Jay at the top of the trees.

A lovely morning and I apologise as I am sure I have missed out some of the birds. We had a quicker return home avoiding the shops!

Photographs courtesy of Lorna Walding