

Bird Watching at Kempton Nature Reserve Tuesday 18th November 2025

We were greeted on this bright, but chilly, morning by Kristine Boudreau, the reserve manager. She told us that a very uncommon bird – the yellow-browed Warbler – had been seen recently so we kept our eyes peeled.



Sadly it was not to be seen. (RSPB photo)

We walked first to the west hide where there was a good view of the lake. In front of the hide was a bird feeder where Blue, Great and Long-tailed Tits were feeding. Lorna took some lovely photos of Ring-necked Parakeets who were seen and heard all over the reserve. A Robin was singing cheerfully at the top of a yew tree.

Red Necked Parakeets by Lorna Walding>





On the lake were several Gulls – predominantly black-headed - but also a few common and herring Gulls. There was a large flock of Shovelers who often took to flight over the lake. Pochards were foraging around at the edge of the lake and also swimming. The males were easily distinguished by their lovely bronze head. We also saw three cormorants standing on the edge of the lake, occasionally standing with their wings held out to dry. There were two great-crested Grebes seeming to follow each other and then dive, to be seen later further along the lake. A couple of Moorhens and some Coots added to our list.

Perching on top of the houses in at the back of the lake were carrion Crows, a Magpie and both Wood and Feral Pigeons.

We then walked round the lake to spend some time in the south hide where we had a different view of the birds seen previously. The highlight of the day was when Ron spotted a Water Rail having just caught and eaten a fish, moving across a gap in the reeds.

As we walked back to the car park a Chaffinch was spotted in the bushes and we had a brief glimpse of a Great Spotted and then a Green Woodpecker.

Barbara Howse