

## Bird Watching at Thorpe Park Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Our first outing of the year on a reasonably dry day, but the lake was extremely high, given the amount of rain we have had recently.

We had our first look at the lake off the path and saw three Egyptian Geese. There were possibly Wigeon in the distance, but this had to be verified later on in our walk. As we began our walk around the lake a Grey Heron standing in the reeds flew off and landed at the top of one of the trees. A Lapwing flew over.

There were several Tufted Ducks and Coots on the lake. With the aid of the telescopes, it was possible to see many more water birds that were difficult to see with only binoculars such as a Shoveler.

In the trees and shrubbery at the edge of the lake Redwings were seen flying around, as well as Blue Tits, Long Tailed Tits and Great Tits as well as Chaffinches. A Great Tit was singing loudly with its “teacher teacher” song. We also saw a grey squirrel scurrying along the bank.

Further along the bank we were able to see several Cormorant standing on the edge of the lake. A white blob on the shore proved to be an Egret. There were flocks of Black-headed Gulls on the lake as well as more Tufted Ducks with Gadwall, Pochards Teal. A Great-crested Grebe was diving in and out of the water. It was also lovely to see several Lapwing flying overhead.

In the distance high above the trees was a Kestrel, again spotted with the telescopes, as well as two Buzzards.