

Bird Watching at Moor Green Lakes 17/3/26

In the hopeful anticipation of finding a Tawny Owl and a Lesser-spotted Woodpecker we went to Moor Green Lakes. The rain had finally stopped so the walk was only muddy in some places.

As we were waiting in the car park a Red Kite flew overhead, and several Redwings along with a Wood Pigeon were seen in the field foraging in the grass. We heard the call of a Nuthatch and were then fortunate to see it exploring the bird house and flitting around the tree.

We continued along the path and stood for several minutes scanning one of the islands in the middle of the lake. With the benefit of Geoff and Ron's telescopes we were able to see so much more and in great detail. So, on the island were several Cormorant, a female Goosander with its less colourful plumage than the male, one lone Lapwing – a lovely surprise – and another surprise – two Oystercatchers, as well as Canada Geese. Two pairs of these geese were performing their very noisy mating ritual with lots of neck dipping and loud honking! One of the Cormorants was displaying its breeding plumage of a white crest on its head. The white blob on the far bank proved to be an Egret. There were also Mallards and Tufted Ducks on the lake, as well as Black-headed and Lesser black-backed Gulls.

We turned left and then followed the path beside the river. In the wooded areas we could hear and see Blue and Great Tits. A Chiff-chaff was heard and was eventually seen in the branches of the trees. A Robin followed us along the path singing loudly. We spoke to some local walkers who gave us the sad news that the Tawny Owl had left the week before!

From the different view of the lake, we were able to see a pair of Goosander resting on another island. We saw a pair of Pochard and a Swan, as well as two Greylag Geese and a Great-crested Grebe.

In the trees at the side of the river were some Tree Creepers who appeared to have some nesting material in their beaks. We then heard the loud breeding call of a Wren which then displayed itself at the top of some foliage. Another Nuthatch was calling all along the banks of the river. A Goldcrest in the trees was another lovely sighting.

As we walked back a Red Kite flew overhead and then nearing the end of our walk a Kestrel. All in all, a lovely morning with a wide variety of birds and no rain! Sadly, no Lesser-spotted Woodpecker, however.