

Bird watching on Staines Moor 21/04/26

A bright but chilly day with, once again, a small but select group, including the RSPB members with their impressive ornithological knowledge.

A robin sitting on the signpost at the beginning of the walk made a good start to our number count.

As we walked along the path to the moor itself, we could hear a Wren, a Blackcap, a Whitethroat and a Green Finch hidden in the undergrowth. A Red Kite was seen flying overhead as we entered the moor itself. Looking to the sky again we saw two Swifts and three Mallards.

The bramble bushes proved to be a haven for Linnets, Sedge Warblers and Reed Buntings flitting around, mostly identified by their loud singing, but they would sometimes give us a fleeting opportunity to see them as well. A Skylark was singing far up high in the sky.

Along the side of the river were Canada Geese and Coots with a Cormorant flying overhead. With the benefit of Ron's telescope, I had a wonderful view of a Meadow Pipit sitting on an ant hill mound. (From Colne Valley website – "The moor has remained relatively undisturbed for centuries, allowing the oldest anthills – the yellow meadow ant – known in the UK to remain for nearly 200 years.")

Two Moorhens scurried along the banks and one pipit like bird was identified as a Water Pipit. Further along were several Carrion Crows pecking away in the grass, another Skylark was heard and a Song Thrush.

A herd of cows appeared along the river and enjoyed a drink. They were followed by seven Yellow Wagtails who were foraging for insects disturbed by the cows' feet. A Green Woodpecker was also seen probably taking advantage of the same insects. It was at this moment we heard the call of a Cuckoo – the first I have heard this year!

Another Cormorant flew over as well as a Magpie. Three Red Kites were seen together, as well as a Kestrel further along our walk. Two Stock Doves were spotted in the distance across the tops of the trees. Two Stonechats were

seen in the bramble bushes and a Grey Wagtail along the edge of the river. Then we saw Sand Martins and Swallows, and in the other direction a Buzzard flying with Red Kites.

Walking back along the path we heard a Chiff Chaff and also saw an Orange Tip butterfly.

Thanks everyone for a lovely walk with lots of different birds. Sadly, no Whinchat!