

Bird Watching at Staines Moor

15th September 2026

We welcomed two new members this morning – Kathy and Theresa. It was lovely to walk on the moor again without the need for wellies, although sad to see the shrivelled thistles.

At the start of our walk several noisy Parakeets flew above us. A Cormorant also flew across the moor. We watched the progress of a hovering Kestrel as it flew and settled in a bush. We were then able to have a wonderful view, through Ron's telescope, of its yellow feet and wonderful plumage.

There were two Moorhens, two Swans and a nearly fully grown cygnet swimming along the river. An Egret stood on the bank. We could hear the twittering sound of three Goldfinches as they flew over. At the side of the river, in what would have been a very boggy part, we heard a very strange noise! It turned out to be a marsh frog hiding in the undergrowth. Presumably, it had found enough moisture to survive.

All around there were various hirundines – Swallows, Sand Martins – swooping and diving and one having a drink. As we were watching these, we caught a fleeting glimpse of a Kingfisher darting along the river.

There were no Yellow Wagtails pecking around the herd of cows, however one Magpie was sitting on the back of one of them.

A foal seemed to take a great interest in what might have been food in Ron's trouser pocket!

Further along a Green Woodpecker was spotted on a bush and later seen pecking around on the ground looking for insects. There were flocks of Linnets, a Red Kite and several Starlings. Nothing out of the ordinary this morning but a lovely walk in the fresh air with the planes in one direction and the motorway in another, and we were in a lovely, peaceful place!