

Beverley U3A Wild Things – North Cave Wetlands February 2022

Members: Helen, Paul, Mervin , Angela Leaning, Kath Forrest, Nicola Batty, Penny Howes, Babe and Phil McMullen, John Coish, Marilyn Mooney, Sarah Morton, Bev Toon

What a start to the afternoon events as we gathered on the veranda to see the mating pair of Great Crested Grebes performing their mating dance.

Sorry, I didn't think it appropriate to take a photo. Just over the fence within touching distance was a beautiful red Pheasant.

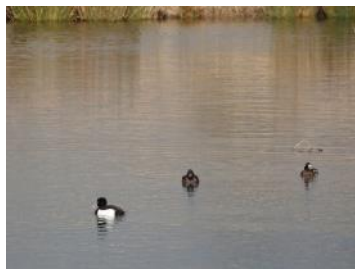
The excitement continued with the rumour of several Brambling sitings at the Island Lake feeding station. So, the decision was taken to go in an anti-clockwise direction.

Arriving at the East Hide we find another party who had just been watching a Green Woodpecker fly back and forth in front of the hide. With there being no room for us we continued onto the feeding station where we saw Goldfinch and Reed Bunting feeding, unfortunately we had missed the Bramblings by 20 minutes.



The next stop was the Turret hide where we saw Swans, Gadwalls, Shovelers, Mallards and Lapwings. Then due to the bad weather and the mud we decide to double back to the start and go onto the South hide overlooking the Main Lake where we saw another Grebe and a Goldeneye amongst the population of water fowl.

Moving on to the Crossland hide at the end of the road, this was quite a disappointment from previous visits. The water level had been raised to quite a high level such that the birds were in the distance and even binoculars didn't really help.



We decided to risk a trip down 'Rat Alley' on the Far Lake to see if our luck was in there and it was, because we watched a Robin singing a joyful tune and a mating pair of Goldcrest jumping through the branches looking for something to eat. Unfortunately, that's as far as our luck stretched because the owl wasn't playing ball today.

We continued around the perimeter to see if we could spot life in the Dragonfly ponds, unfortunately not. But hey that's how it goes, we had had a couple of hours in the sun with a nice bunch of people and some good conversation.



Looking forward to the next one in April at Jillywood.

Scarlet Elf Cup fungus



Shovelers