

Sandbach Flashes Report 19th Dec 2018

A leisurely start at the viewpoint did not restrict the flow of species whose names went into the notebook at our pre-Christmas meeting. While getting out of the car, eyes were drawn to a Goosander overhead, commuting between flashes. Wigeon were whistling in the field next to where cars were parked, and Curlew were feeding there.

From the viewpoint the Salt Pan had good numbers of birds in sight, although Great White Egret was an early but unfortunately brief observation. Other commoner species were quickly identified - a Heron wading, some Fieldfare in the bushes, a Great Spotted Woodpecker on the feeders. Redshank and Snipe lived up to their wader status, probing the margins for invertebrates.

Great & Blue Tits, Nuthatch and Tree Sparrows also fed from the feeders kept filled by volunteers. An attempt was made to get down the lane to view Elton Hall Flash, but after the first fledgling lake was crossed, the next was too deep for walking boots.

We moved on to Pumphouse Flash, adding Long-tailed Tit and Redwing to our list. A pair of Greylag were seen, and a Peregrine picked out, perched on one of the electricity pylons. Back at the viewpoint Great Crested Grebe was a new addition with Coal Tit on the feeders.

Forty-four species were seen inside 3 hours on our morning walk before we repaired to the Limes in Sandbach, where 20 of us tucked into Christmas lunch with the traditional reading of cracker jokes.

Richard Howells Sandbach