

Belvide Reservoir 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017

25<sup>th</sup> October appeared to be a lovely Autumn day as 8 of us collected outside 3 Park House Drive, our leader being away watching Sea Eagles and the like in Scotland.

Luckily for us Andrew still hadn't been able to move himself and his belongs to York so he was able to come with us. As we waited for people to gather a flock of at least 200 birds flew past. Our first thought was Wood Pigeons but with no white flashes and a definite golden colour catching the sun a tentative identification of migrating Golden Plover was suggested by Andrew. We couldn't be certain so they weren't included on the trip list but I was convinced!

A relatively easy drive to Junction 12 on the M6 allowed us to meet up with our remaining 4 birders in the Belvide car park. From there an eagle eyed David was convinced he saw Hawfinches fly from the upper branches of a nearby tree accompanied by some Redwings. Unfortunately this was the only sighting but local birders had reported 5 Hawfinches from the same area.

The feeding station yielded a good variety of birds, including great Spotted Woodpecker, both Marsh and Willow Tit (much debate on this!) and the tiny Wren

The Scott Hide revealed Pochard, Tufted Duck and great Crested Grebe. Tantalising views of the further shores drove us on to the next hide and then onto lunch at the Gazebo Hide. Here the feeding stations allowed us views of a very active flock of tree Sparrows and Dunnocks frolicking in a Hawthorne bush. A whistling Widgeon was found among Coots, Morehens and Gadwall. Intense scrutiny through the scopes lead to us finding Greylag and Canada Geese, Mute Swans and ringed Plover on the far shore

After lunch the main party headed for the furthest and newest hides which gave excellent views of a Bar headed Goose and a male Scaup among the tufted Ducks.

As we headed homewards we all agreed that Belvide had been a great success, an interesting and varied site, well worth a visit and provided us with a great 47 species

From the feeding station

Hawfinch

Redwing

Wood Pidgeon

Magpie

Blackbird

Pheasant

Blue Tit

Great tit

Nuthatch

Marsh tit (no white flash)

Chaffinch

Coaltit

G S woodpecker

Robin

Long tailed Tit

Willow tit

Wren

Round the Reservoir

Pochard

Cormorant

Coot

Mute Swan#

Tufted Duck

GC Grebe

Mallard

Shoveller

Canada Gees

Heron

GreyLag Geese

LBB Gull

B H Gull

Lapwing

Little grebe

Gadwall

Widgeon

Tree spar

Duncock

Golden Eye

Moorhen

Ring plover

Scaup

Bar Headed Goose

Pied Wagtail

Kingfisher

Dunlin

Teal

Carrion Crow

Linnet

Buzzard