

# Gedling Country Park Dawn Chorus Walk

6.00 am Saturday 4th May 2019



Blackcap



Linnet



Green Woodpecker

Despite the early hour, there were a dozen or so people keen enough to join us at the Visitor Centre, hearing even more bird-song than last year. Before leaving the car park, we could hear chiff-chaff, blackbird, goldfinch and wren, followed by the loud call of a pheasant. Blackcap, great tit and dunnock called, then three mallard ducks flew over. Approaching the children's play area, we heard garden warbler, wood pigeon, jackdaw, crow and skylark above, with a willow warbler and whitethroat by the Friends' container. A kestrel glided over as we turned right, down through the silver birch copse. Through here we heard or saw a rook, goldfinch, three starlings, a pied wagtail, robin, wren and chiff-chaff, followed by whitethroat, song thrush, linnet and coot at the reed lagoon.



Kestrel



Goldfinch



Willow warbler



Reed Bunting

By the pit memorial and small reed pond, we heard a sedge warbler and moorhen.

Down the steep path towards the Alkane plant, a great tit, two wrens, several willow warblers and greylag geese passing over. Another robin, then blackcap, blackbird, goldfinch again, goldcrest and another willow warbler. At the bottom corner, near the Alkane plant, two green woodpeckers, a great tit, blackcap again, chiff-chaff.

Along the straight western path, another robin, two magpies, blue tit, stonechat, song thrush, chiff-chaff, robin and blackbird again, followed by two reed buntings, a green woodpecker and two whitethroats near the shallow pond at the path inter-section.



Stonechat



Chiff-chaff



Greenfinch

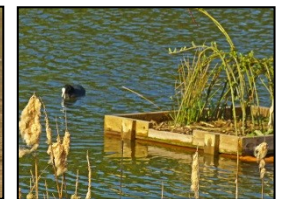
From here we took the rising path towards the new housing estate, passing a nest of blue tits on a garage, a dunnock, robin and 3 blackbirds. Making a right turn down at the next junction we met a flock of about a dozen busy jackdaws, two stock doves and another green woodpecker.



Jackdaw



Little Grebe



Coot & nest island

Left along the straight path to the pit memorial, a great tit, then two blackcaps and a willow warbler going down towards the bottom ponds. Here our first bullfinch, followed by the usual coot, little grebe and moorhen on the shallow pond. Best of all, two mallard families with eight chicks ferreting around on the far bank. A greenfinch, goldfinch and long-tailed tit were also heard here. On the other

deeper pond, two swans, a little grebe, a coot (by the nest island), two geese and two moorhens. Two blue tits along the rising path east were followed by a pied wagtail, two pairs of skylarks, four linnets, a kestrel, magpie and (near the solar panels) song thrush, meadow pipit, white throat and willow warbler. As we returned to the car park, three feral pigeons and a mallard completed our score for the day—total of forty one species.



Two mallard families



Meadow pipit



**Brian Cluff**