

## Lakeside Discoveries

It was nice to see such a crowd for our first birdwalk of the year. Twenty people means twenty pairs of eyes, which probably explains why we saw so many birds of so many kinds.

Lakeside is always teeming with waterfowl of course. Many of them are very tame, but during the winter months there is always a handful of genuinely wild ducks. The main two are tufted duck and pochard, and there were several of both of these diving ducks.

As we strolled towards the saltmarsh we were treated to distant murmurations of waders – knots and dunlins, we assumed. Shortly afterwards sharper eyes than mine spotted a flock of snow buntings and a passing merlin, which must have given them a fright!

Amongst other species seen were bullfinch, shelduck and several curlews, not to mention gulls which were, as ever, too numerous to be worthy of mention.

Several loose flocks of golden plover passed purposefully overhead as we headed back to the Discovery Centre. On the lake, the early morning sunshine highlighted the handsome drakes of the pochards and tufted ducks, bringing an eventful walk to a suitably satisfying conclusion.

Ray Hume  
7th Jan 2018

