

## Country Park Birdwalk

Striding out in Cleethorpes Country Park at 8 o'clock on a February morning may not be everyone's idea of fun, but those of us who were there on this pleasantly calm day had little to complain about. The total tally of species came to 32 - not bad for this time of year; especially as it included such iconic favourites as great crested grebe, kingfisher, sparrowhawk and curlew.

Perhaps it's a bit early to talk of spring, but romantic thoughts were already awakening in the hearts of many a songbird. It's interesting to hear their vocal efforts in this early part of the year when their songs are a pale shadow of what they will become once they've put in enough practice to deliver a really impressive performance. Robin, song thrush, dunnoek, chaffinch and greenfinch were among the more notable songsters, and these were all heard or seen without our having to stray far from the path around the lake.

On the water itself there was the usual array of gulls, ducks and coot and around the margins we saw redshank and little egret as well as a single heron, which stood motionless for so long that I was in danger of being accused of having planted an artificial one! The kingfisher wasn't so easy to spot, though one of our number did manage to get a really good photo of it - go to the top of the class Duncan!

Donations amounted to £23 and the general feeling amongst our enthusiastic group was that a good time had been had by all. Come again everyone. (and next time why not bring some youngsters with you!).

Ray Hume  
18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018

