

Birding update

Corrie, Mary, Ginnie and I sat in the sun in the window of Le Bouchon Bistro on Friday, 21st March, for our third Birding Banter.

Corrie and I reported on the Cley visit (see this website) and the excitement of about 1500 Brent Geese, spoonbill and avocets, and a brooding curlew.

I spoke about my recent visit to Sculthorpe and possible sighting of a rare Willow Tit.

Then I went through my latest handout on Swans and Geese – see my Handouts, downloadable from this website page. White, grey and so-called black birds. Many of them are Winter birds only, so we compared the Whooper and Bewick Swans to our familiar all-year-round Mute Swan (and why it's called mute, because, yes it does make noises – and the sound of the wings as they fly over are hauntingly beautiful. Many of the Geese are winter migrants, flying north for summer, so discussed them too, and compared them to our resident Greylags and Canada Geese.

I played them (and the other customers) the different honking calls the swans and geese make. In all we had a good morning. I finished with a large selection of my personal books and favourite Apps I use – another Handout! See Bibliography.

My main aim is to bring the fun of Birdwatching to people both with and without any experience at all, but with an interest to go 'out of the garden' and find out what else is out there. We certainly did that at Cley. So if that is you, come and join us! Slow leisurely walking – otherwise we miss the birds – so we will fit round your abilities. Please let me know beforehand if you are coming and need special accommodation for your 'problems'.

You will find more new handouts on our website: www.u3awroxham.co.uk They are HINTS of what to look for and don't replace Identification books. They also include strange facts and folklore on the birds I talk about, and their country names.

I will be posting the dates for APRIL And MAY SHORTLY. These are the prime nesting times, so wonderful for birdsong, and the males are so busy communicating to each other, that they are not nearly so shy of us. Woodland Walks.