



Friends of Rising Sun Country Park




NEWSLETTER — JAN 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Well all my hope for a better 2022 have soon been dashed through January!! We seem to be in a world where virus rules!! Our lovely cygnets on Swallow Pond succumbed during the month leaving a single adult by the end of the month. Two adults were still present on Dukes Pond. What on earth will this year bring? Reports say that this has been the worst period ever for Avian Flu with massive numbers of wildfowl affected. We all still need to be vigilant and just a reminder that **if you do find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild**

Avian Influenza info




If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77 - please select option 7).

birds please report to Defra 03459 33 55 77. So as Avian Flu continues we then get hit by two massive storms; first came Storm Malik which devastated more trees around the Park. North Tyneside Council were just starting to clear some of the trees left after Arwen then, bang, more trees down all over the place.



Photo by Susan Walton

The next day we got Storm Corrie that thankfully only just touched the North East. Storm Malik brought down the big poplar tree at the entrance to the Countryside Centre and thankfully fell away from the house. With another tree at the entrance also looking unsafe, the decision was taken to close the Centre. Even now, areas of the Park are quite unsafe and we urge people to avoid areas where many trees have been affected. One of our photographers had a surprise whilst walking around to the screen bird hide where lots of trees have been brought down again. This area was badly affected with Arwen.



Photo by Ritchie Bonass



The Friends have been busy through the month starting to tidy up in readiness for Spring. With the RSPB Garden Watch in January a more organized bird feeding station has been created just outside the Countryside Centre. Work has also started in the Wildlife Garden to tidy up the willow arches. A lot of dead wood has been removed and it is intended to replant in the Spring. The arch near the fence looks on its last legs so we need to decide on its future.





OTHER BITS Before Nature Notes, the Friends would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who bought one of the Park calendars and those that took part in our online raffle. These were a great success and we hope to do similar things again this year. A massive **THANKS** also goes to the Bakery who supported the production and selling of the calendars.

NATURE NOTES

As mentioned on page 1, January has thrown all sorts at us. Mother Nature is very powerful and full of surprises, so, it won't be a surprise that January 2022 has been the driest on record in England—what is happening to our climate? The dry weather might be behind what has been a very quiet time around the Park. We have still had some great visitors but Swallow Pond has been very quiet.

On the sunny days the gorse is out and captured by one of our visitors. Did you know that gorse is like kissing and in season all year round!! Another real sign of Spring are the catkins all over. I am always confused by catkins and the different trees that have them. We get catkins on Hazel, Alder and Birch as well as one we often recognize;



Photo by Bernie Bosnyak

Hazel Catkins? (16th)

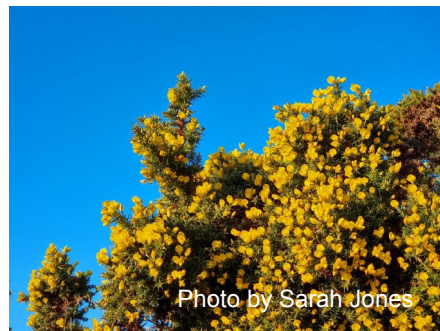


Photo by Sarah Jones

Gorse (4th)

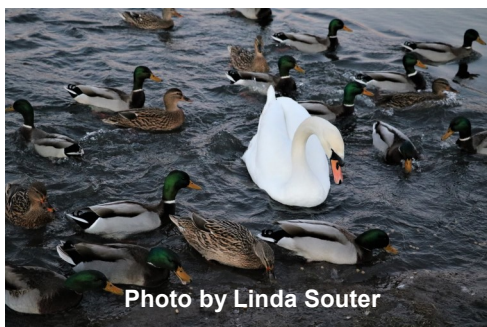


Photo by Linda Souter

Duck fest! (4th)

ize; Pussy Willow. Even some Oaks and Poplar. I think the ones pictured are on Hazel but I am happy to be corrected! One of the horse fields had a flock of Greylags for quite a long time and we have seen lots of Pink Footed geese flying over this year. Another lovely winter bird is the Siskin and one of our photographers

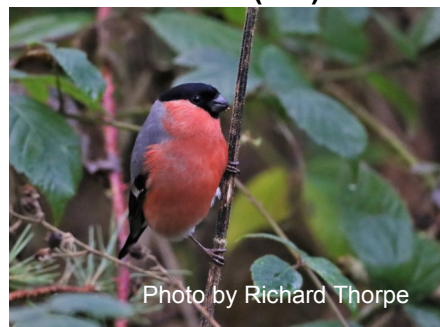


Photo by Richard Thorpe

Bullfinch (9th)



Photo by Vicki Sinclair

Heron (13th)

caught this classic shot. Stonechat have also been around, they are usually up near the entrance to the new extension. We really are lucky having such a great variety of birds and other wildlife. Our sneaky Kingfisher also paid a visit. Not seen it yet in our Park. So please keep the pictures coming, they provide a great record of the changing months.



Photo by Rodge Hartley

Kingfisher (5th)



Photo by Jo Richardson

Siskin (4th)

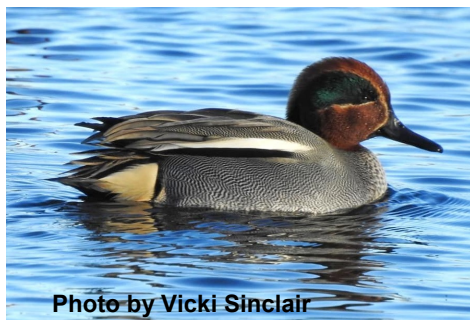


Photo by Vicki Sinclair

Handsome Teal (13th)



Photo by Michael Matthews

Peewit (5th)

We are currently meeting the second Friday of each month at 12 noon in the Rising Sun Centre but places are limited due to ongoing restrictions. In the meantime why not follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofrscp/>