

BIRDWATCHING GROUP

Report on visit to Low Barnes January 15th 2024

Our first outing of the year saw 11 of the group at Low Barnes, one of Durham Wildlife Trust's main reserves and visitor centre near Witton-le-Wear.

It was a sunny, clear but freezing cold morning (-5C). The group saw 30 different species. Low Barnes is a wetland reserve, and although the surrounding trees held little, smaller birds attracted to the feeding station included Great, Blue, Coal and Long-tailed Tits. (+possibly Marsh or Willow Tits), Nuthatch, Dunnocks and Blackbirds.

The lakes and ponds meant water birds were abundant and included Grey Heron and Little Egrets, ducks such as Wigeon, Teal, Mallards, Coots and Moorhens. Diving ducks were well represented by Tufted Ducks and a fine drake Goldeneye and a pair of Goosanders.

Leaving the last hide Pauline spotted a male and female Reed Bunting. All in all a good start to our monthly field meetings.



Reed Bunting (male) – Photo Andrew Lapworth

Thanks to Linda Elliott for leading the trip and for her report.

Andrew Lapworth

ps I have set up a WhatsApp group for our group so members can share and alert others to interesting local bird sightings between our monthly meetings.