

January News

Any periods of mild weather can cause some unusual sightings such as a Peacock Butterfly seen flying in the sunshine, but this is very rare

However, there can be quite a lot of fungi showing. One to look out for is the Scarlet Elf Cup in the woods along the path to the Tower. Although they are small, they are brightly coloured and you can usually see several once you have got 'your eye in'.



Colder weather (especially if it snows), which makes natural food harder to get at and hence the birds will have greater dependence on the supplied food. You can see up to 18 species in half an hour, so it shows that there can be plenty to see if you choose the right day. The most common species are listed below. You could easily see most, if not all, of these.

Blue Tit	Great Tit	Willow Tit	Coal Tit	Long-tailed Tit	Blackbird
Robin	Wren	Dunnock	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Nuthatch	Tree Creeper
Chaffinch	Bullfinch	Siskin	Wood Pigeon	Magpie	Jay

You could even beat the hide record count for example by seeing Goldfinch in the trees or a Sparrowhawk flying flew through. You don't tend to get a good view of Sparrowhawk as usually some small birds see it coming and fill the woodland with alarm calls to warn the others. All you will see will be the small birds scattering as a larger bird flies through rapidly, disappearing as quickly as it appeared. It does however occasionally stop on a post (probably cursing its luck at missing out again) and is a stunning sight if it does. This is the male.



Because birds get used to the food put out by Rangers and to the number of visitors, the birds are not usually disturbed people being in the Hide if you are quiet. This makes them comparatively easy to photograph, and a great place to practice taking wildlife photographs if you have been lucky enough to receive a camera for Christmas. All of the food at the Woodland Hide is sponsored by RIMAG at a cost of around £500 each year; there is a donation box in the Visitor Centre if you have enjoyed your visit and would like to make a contribution towards it.