

## November News

Although there are fewer birds around Risley Moss now than there were in summer, they are much easier to see now that the trees are losing their leaves and easy food supplies are becoming scarcer. As a result, on a typical day, you can easily see around 20 species either on or flying over the reserve as you walk around.

One spectacular sight to look out for is one of the large flocks of geese that fly over the Reserve at this time of year. If they are in flocks of up to 30, not very high up and 'honking' like farmyard geese, they will probably be Canada Geese. If they are in flocks of over 50 (sometimes there can be hundreds!), flying high up and 'gabbling', they will probably be Pink-footed Geese on their way to their over-wintering grounds in the Southern UK and northern Europe.

If you want to get a close-up view of birds (particularly to photograph them), then the Woodland Hide is well worth a visit. The Rangers have started to put out bird food onto the 'squirrel resistant' feeders but it will take some time for the birds to get fully used to it and while there is still 'natural' food around. The feeding station really becomes important to the birds when the weather becomes colder and natural food becomes scarcer.



Even early in the season, many small birds have started to take advantage of the 'easier' food, in particular members of the Tit family. One regular visitor is the increasingly rare Willow Tit.

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 would like to make a contribution towards it. You can also help birds by having a feeding station in your own garden.

There can be still quite a lot of fungi around the site both on trees and on the ground. One common species is the Jew's Ear fungus that grows specifically on dead Elderberry trees. There are some good examples on the right side of the slope on the path to the Tower.

