

Enniscorthy River Walk - December 2012

It was an early start for the group who joined Simon Collins at the Riverside Park Hotel on a bright, frosty December morning. The 8.30am start was arranged to give us a chance to get good views of waders on the mud at low tide but the prospects didn't look good when we saw the high water level in the River Slaney.



Siskin and feral geese were among the first birds spotted as we proceeded along the concrete path on the west side of the Slaney. It wasn't long before two otters were spotted in the water near the east bank of the river. Some of our group got good views but others were frustrated in their attempts to see these elusive animals.

We took a short detour along the Urrin River, in the hope of seeing a Kingfisher, before retracing our steps and crossing the footbridge at the point where the Urrin joins the Slaney. Here we began the "Country Walk". This walk was taken at a leisurely pace stopping intermittently to check what birds were in the water and fields as well as in the trees and shrub areas bordering the railway line.



The species list grew, with more birds, including Redwing and Snipe, being added on the way back to the car park. The disappointment felt at the beginning of the walk soon disappeared as we discovered that a total of 42 birds had been recorded.

Birds recorded: Mute Swan, Mallard, Teal, Pheasant, Little Grebe, Cormorant, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Moorhen, Lapwing, Snipe, Black-headed Gull, Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon, Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Dunnock, Robin, Song Thrush, Redwing, Blackbird, Goldcrest, Wren, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Treecreeper, Magpie, Jay, Jackdaw, Rook, Hooded Crow, Starling, Chaffinch, Redpoll, Goldfinch, Siskin, Bullfinch, Yellowhammer.

Report by Mary Foley & Brian O'Connor.
Photos by Marion Brady.