

What a wonderful place to be a local

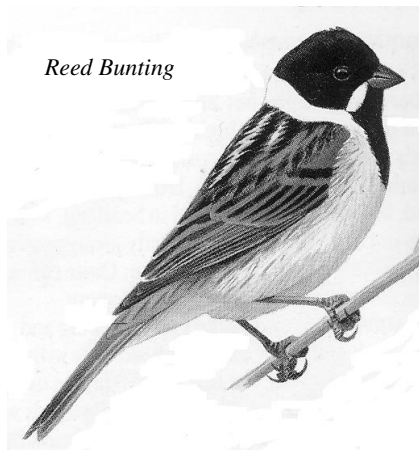
This was the response from the National Trust attendant at Marloes Sands car park when I introduced myself. I mentioned that he would probably get to see my little yellow car quite frequently as I was “a local” – he responded with the classic line which forms the title of this article.

And it made me ponder. I think I have become a bit blasé having lived here for nearly 8 years, so I reminded myself my home is where other people come for their holidays! How lucky we are to live here.

And if you are interested in wildlife, then my favourite walk, which is the short stroll along past the YHA, past Marloes Mere, then on to the hill fort on the cliffs, round the fort and back again is always full of interest. On the day in question, there were still some interesting ducks on the Mere – Shoveler, Teal, and Gadwall. In the fields there were 6 Ringed Plovers (I wonder if they thought it was a sandy beach), a few Wheatears perched on lumps of soil and little flocks of migrating White Wagtails. Four male Reed Buntings were looking very spruce and smart, holding territories along by the path, though somewhat let down by their pathetic little songs which are just a sequence of a few widely spaced notes. Newly arrived Willow Warblers were hopping through the sallows feeding enthusiastically while a very loud wren was singing his heart out on the top of a bright yellow gorse bush just in front of the hide. An then, out on the cliffs, a few Choughs were probing around and feeding and Skylarks and Meadow Pipits were singing. Not a bad tally at all!

And the fascinating thing about this walk is that there is often something really special to see. Perhaps it will be a Hen Harrier, or a Merlin flashing through, but this time it was the three Glossy Ibises, which, at the time of writing this, are still here and spending most of their time in the Mere. They are often quite close to the path and giving wonderful views but they are equally frequently right on the far side and hard to see!

Reed Bunting



Rosemary Royle