

Chiswick Gardens – February 1, 2018 – Chiswick, England

By Tom Allin

After a late evening and several days of museum touring we decided to take a day off. Naturally by early afternoon I was itching to go exploring. I decided to walk the mile and a half to Chiswick House and Gardens and take a look.

I arrived (so easy to find any place in the world with Google maps except when you are in India) and it didn't take me long to determine the house wasn't open. Oh well, time to go to Plan B – walk the estate.



After a little tea to warm me up I headed toward Bollo Brook. An easy decision, I saw ducks and birds. The brook is a half-mile or longer in length with a good gravel path on both sides to walk.

After seeing the normal birds: coots, moorhens, mew gulls, and several others a duck I didn't recognize paddled by. It was a Tufted Duck and a new bird for me. Of course, I didn't think to take a photograph of the duck.

I did think of a photograph when this Gray Heron let me walk up within ten or twelve steps of it.



Not 20 feet away from the Gray Heron was an Egyptian Goose.



Several other ducks, swans and more tufted ducks were all around the brook. These were two Great Cormorants.



Mew gulls in the background.

In total I saw 15 bird species. Although the next photograph is from Turnham Green Park I also saw at least a half dozens of these birds on today's walk.



Ah yes, nothing like spotting a Rose-ringed Parakeet on the outskirts of London on a cold wintry day.

As I crossed back across the estate I stopped to take a photograph of the Conservatory.



Ah yes, the butler did it with the candlestick in the conservatory. (For those too young to understand my funny, Google "Clue board game".)

Even though it hasn't hit 50 degrees since we arrived in London, some plants are blooming.



The good thing about England being so *civilized* is there is always a pub on your way home to stop and soak up a little heat and maybe a pint.



I was early. By the time I left the tables and bar stools in the photograph were all occupied.

May your winter be warm or short or both.