

Abberton Reservoir and Fingringhoe Wick 21/4/18

Andrew reported:

35 people set out on a warm and sunny spring day. On the Abberton causeway we heard Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Nightingale, and Lesser Whitethroat. A Buzzard soared and, on the water, there were Great Crested and Little Grebes. In island trees there were nesting Grey Heron and Little Egret. On the banks were Greylag, Canada and Egyptian geese. At the far end, a Sedge Warbler performed its song flight from a bush, and we saw Common Whitethroat, Reed Bunting, and a roving Linnet flock. 2 Red-Legged Partridges were in a field.

Onto Fingringhoe Wick reserve and truckloads of Nightingales (20 males, wonderful songs but generally heard not seen). By the visitor centre there was a Dabchick with chicks. We headed for the estuary and the new hide, finding numbers of Black-Tailed Godwits, Curlew, Redshank, Oystercatcher and small numbers of Brent Geese. We enjoyed close views of a Skylark ascending and heard Blackcap. Later a male Marsh Harrier quartered the far bank of the Colne, common terns hunted, and a distant Cuckoo called. Swallows flew chattering overhead, a Great Spotted Woodpecker appeared, and group patience finally yielded good - though brief - views of a hedge-bound Lesser Whitethroat which Gehan managed to photograph.



A total of 67 species were seen.

A number of butterflies were also noted including Peacock, Brimstone, Orange Tip and Comma.

Marion tweeted on behalf of the MBS:

Nightingales more heard than seen on the @BirdsMBS coach trip to @EWTfingringhoe yesterday - but a delight to hear! + Warblers, Skylarks. Some heard Cuckoo...

Gehan de Silva Wijeyeratne, Chair of the London Bird Club, had joined us on this trip. He took some lovely photos like the elusive Lesser Whitethroat and this splendid Swallow as well as flowers and general views.



More photos will be posted on our Flickr page.