

Keyhaven Coach Trip 28/9/19

32 people set out from our new Embankment coach stop for the 1st trip of the 2019-20 season. The Membership Secretary was kept busy on the journey dealing with 6 new or renewing members keen to take advantage of the £2 discount for MBS members.

Andrew wrote:

The first birds were a wheeling flock of Black-tailed Godwits seen from the carpark on arrival. On the roadside pools there were Little Egret, Dabchicks, Gadwall and Mallard, and some saw a Kingfisher flash by. A Chiffchaff called from the scrub, and we saw our first Rock Pipits on the narrow margins of a big high tide. There were numbers of flitting Meadow Pipits and Linnets, then a perched pair of Stonechats showed well.



At the lagoon there were 100+ roosting Curlew, with 2 Bar-tailed Godwits and 2 Knot amongst them.



Shelduck, Lapwing and Redshank were also present, then 15 Grey Plovers flew in. A restless Starling flock whirled over the rough pasture, with a Kestrel hovering nearby. Greater Black-backed Gulls and Cormorants sat on the remaining shingle islands in the sea. A Wheatear fed on the path, then we found 2 Yellow Wagtails amongst the Pied. The group enjoyed a further 6 Wheatears flitting behind a pool.

At the pier Turnstone roosted amongst the seaweed.

On the return leg a Greenshank flew over, then we cut inland, seeing several Swallows before joining a hedge fringed track. There was a Red Admiral and Migrant Hawker Dragonflies, and a Ruff flew over us. Next, numbers of Teal and a lone Black-tailed Godwit on a pool. We finished by finding Pintail on the roadside pools where we had started. The group saw a total of 60 species.

Another participant summed up the day:

We had a good social outing ending up in pub for an hour! Very windy, which kept passerines well hidden. But lots of wheatears and stonechats.

And Mary Holden, whose photos are included in this report, commented:

So beautiful here - and a lovely day although very windy.

