

Minsmere Trip Report 29/2/20

Andrew reported:

40 of us braved the windy and rainy prospects. We split the day into 2 walks, as a section of the path was impassable without wellies. First through the woods, where we had a couple of glimpses of a Peregrine cruising low over the trees. From the Bittern Hide, views of 5 Marsh Harriers (3 males, 2 females/youngsters) cruising above the reeds and sitting in bushes, and some distant deer. A flock of 50 Siskins flew past the hide window, we then glimpsed some chattering in a stand of alders. At Whin Hill we saw a Green Woodpecker and heard a Chiffchaff. From Island Mere we heard Water Rail and a Cetti's warbler. The quartering Harriers kept putting up flocks of Black-tailed Godwits and Lapwing, and there was a Great Crested Grebe. 2 lucky people saw an Otter first catch a fish, then eat it under their noses.

Following lunch we had superb views of 4 Whooper swans from a hide, also a 'redhead' Smew - in and out of the water - a roosting Red-crested Pochard, together with Teal, Wigeon, Shelduck, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Avocets and Linnets plus Pintail and Greylag Geese. We then went out into the open of the North Wall and the reedbed expanse. At the dunes we watched a pair of Stonechats. The sea was quiet but there were Curlew, Turnstone and Dunlin, together with a variety of wildfowl. On the return walk we enjoyed watching a male Adder basking in the sun at the base of some brambles, a great end to the day.

Mary Holden and Sharyn Wallace created photo albums for MBS 2020 Vision on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MBS2020/>. Mary's photos show they did have some sunshine on this trip and focussed on the Whooper Swan which was a lifer for her.



Sharyn wrote a lovely report of the day:

1st class outing yesterday to Minsmere RSPB with the MBS. Weather was atrocious first thing but a pale looking sun eventually broke through and the sun worked its magic. It was enough to bring out some very handsome male adders in spite of 5-6c temperatures. The North Hide was ideal for watching 1 Lapwing who came within



the boundary. When the sun shone on him/her the plumage glimmered like the crown jewels. I made friends with a Muntjack deer who let me stroke its fur, because of that I was the last one boarding the coach. On the way home we were rewarded with a dazzling sunset.



Thank you MBS for such an awe inspiring day.



MINSMERE 29.2.20

Avocet	Great Tit	Pied Wagtail (yarrellii)
Bearded Tit	Green Woodpecker	Pintail
Bittern	Greenfinch	Red-crested Pochard
Black-headed Gull	Greylag Goose	Reed Bunting
Black-tailed Godwit	Herring Gull	Robin
Blackbird	Jackdaw	Shelduck
Blue Tit	Jay	Shoveler
Buzzard	Kestrel	Siskin
Canada Goose	Lapwing	Skylark
Carrion Crow	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Smew
Cetti's Warbler	Linnet	Snipe
Chaffinch	Little Egret	Song Thrush
Coal Tit	Little Grebe	Sparrowhawk
Collared Dove	Long-tailed Tit	Starling
Coot	Magpie	Stonechat
Cormorant	Mallard	Teal
Curlew	Marsh Harrier	Tufted Duck
Dartford Warbler	Marsh Tit	Turnstone
Dunlin	Meadow Pipit	Water Rail
Duncock	Mistle Thrush	Whooper Swan
Gadwall	Moorhen	Wigeon
Goldfinch	Mute Swan	Woodpigeon
Great Black-backed Gull	Oystercatcher	Wren
Great Crested Grebe	Peregrine	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Pheasant	

73 bird species