

MBS Coach Trip to RSPB Pulborough Brooks, 13 January 2018

Andrew reports:

34 people arrived at Pulborough just before 10am on an overcast but still day. Outside the visitor centre a Goldcrest fed under our noses in the hedge. There were Linnets on the fence, and Pintail, Teal, Shelduck, Lapwing and a pair of exotics - Ruddy Shelduck - on the pools and wet meadow of the valley bottom. We went into the courtyard in the vain hope of seeing Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, then onwards anti-clockwise towards the hides.



Redwing foraged in a field amongst longhorn cattle. From Jupp's View we saw plenty of wildfowl including Wigeon and Greylag Geese, around 50 roosting Black Tailed Godwits and a lone Avocet. From the lunchtime hide, we watched a number of Moorhens run around, and a Buzzard being mobbed by 4-5 Crows. At regular intervals most of the wildfowl and Lapwing were spooked into flying around by real or imagined predators.

From the next viewpoint we (unsuccessfully*) played find-the-stint - a Temminck's - that was associating with some distant Dunlin. We had great views of Peregrine(s): hunting, and with catch. At the next hide we saw 2 perched Peregrines, and a further pair of exotics - Swan Geese. From the path, a distant Red Kite, and 5 or 6 Meadow Pipits feeding on the ground.

A quick nervous glance from the last hide: the plan was to try for Hawfinch. Our walk to the churchyard yielded Treecreeper and Nuthatch and the best mud of the day. After a break for coffees and teas, a group ventured out for one last try, looking toward the churchyard treeline from the zigzag path. After Green, Gold and Chaffinches, and several nearby Bullfinches, a lone Hawfinch finally appeared on a treetop, and stayed long enough for everyone to scope it.

Marion adds:

As I was standing at the back of Netley's Hide when Andrew suggested at 11.30am that this would be the lunchtime hide, I walked on and, at Little Hanger viewpoint, joined Jan and Chairman Steve in their successful* Temminck's Stint hunt. Personally, I couldn't have identified the Dunlin let alone the smaller dot I could see among them. As Steve wrote: "Some of us had the Temminck shown to us by RSPB guys. Incredibly distant, incredibly small. Like watching Prince at Wembley Stadium."

Although I'd seen Andrew's group walk past the Courtyard on the Public Footpath, and a couple of people may have crossed the "no man's land" which the RSPB notice said only wildlife should do, I didn't realise they were on a Hawfinch hunt. While for many on the Pulborough coach trip the highlight was undoubtedly that Hawfinch, I had to wait til my 3rd visit to Ruislip Woods to see any. My highlights also came post-coffee break: I was thrilled to see a Bullfinch near the car park at Pulborough Brooks but the most delightful bird for me was the Goldcrest with a brilliant crown - mohican haircut as a young girl described it - entertaining folk right outside the centre. Close views but taking a photo was a different matter.



Toni created a video of our visit which you can view on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/birdsmbs/videos/1244554025688359/>

and now on our new BirdsMBS YouTube Channel <https://youtu.be/G2oyZL6BFx0>

9 years earlier, in April 2009, Debbie created a video of an MBS coach outing to Pulborough Brooks.

This can still be viewed on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r946FcGzZhY&t=12s>

Pulborough Brooks 13 January 2018 Ticklist

Avocet	Grey Heron	Pintail
Black-headed Gull	Greylag Goose	Red Kite
Black-tailed Godwit	Hawfinch	Redshank
Blackbird	Herring Gull	Redwing
Blue Tit	House Sparrow	Robin
Bullfinch	Jackdaw	Rook
Buzzard	Jay	Ruddy Shelduck
Canada Goose	Kestrel	Ruff
Carrion Crow	Kingfisher	Shelduck
Chaffinch	Lapwing	Shoveler
Coal Tit	Linnet	Snipe
Collared Dove	Little Egret	Song Thrush
Common Gull	Long-tailed Tit	Sparrowhawk
Coot	Magpie	Starling
Cormorant	Mallard	Stock Dove
Dunlin	Marsh Harrier	Stonechat
Dunnock	Meadow Pipit	Swan Goose
Egyptian Goose	Merlin	Teal
Goldcrest	Mistle Thrush	Temminck's Stint
Golden Plover	Moorhen	Treecreeper
Goldfinch	Mute Swan	Tufted Duck
Great Tit	Nuthatch	Wigeon
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Peregrine	Wren
Green Woodpecker	Pheasant	Woodpigeon
Greenfinch	Pied Wagtail (yarrellii)	

Total number of species 73

Highlights: Peregrine, Hawfinch, Pintail, Bullfinch, Avocet, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Black Tailed Godwit, Red Kite and close view of Goldcrest.