

Saturday, September 19th 2026 MBS Local Outing to Rainham Marshes RSPB

Group of 18 led by Andrew Peel. Anti-clockwise, visiting Ken Barrett and Shooting Butts Hide, exiting as instructed to return to Centre by sea wall.

Weather notes: Windy but warm. 11am – 2.15pm

Andrew Peel writes: 18 people (including 4 new members) met up on a mild autumn day. There were dabbling ducks: many 'in eclipse' (moulting): Shoveler, Teal, Mallard, Gadwall; Lapwing and Black-tailed Godwits, 2 Mute Swans and a Greylag x Canada cross, and 2 Swallows whizzed over. Long-tailed Tits and Chiffchaffs called from the hedgerows, and we heard Cetti's Warblers all day. Following the woodland there were numbers of Migrant Hawker dragonflies and a Darter species, and we admired a Whinchat on a wire fence. There were wildfowl in numbers on the pools including Coots and Moorhens; quartering male and female Marsh Harriers, Cormorants, 3 Great White Egrets, Grey Herons, a Snipe flushed, and a Ruddy Shelduck was on the water (the latter bound to be an escapee from a wildfowl collection).

At the lunch hide we admired 3 Yellow Wagtails and 4 Pied, a female Kestrel on the ground, jinking Meadow Pipits, and flocks of Starlings and Goldfinches. We saw a soaring Buzzard, a Clouded Yellow butterfly, and listened to Bearded Tits calling close in the reeds. On the river the tide was falling: numbers of Shelduck on the mud - adults and juveniles – also a Curlew, a Whimbrel, and a lone Bar-tailed Godwit. On the far bank there were 4 Harbour Seals, Black-headed and Herring Gulls, and c20 Greater-black backs.

We saw/heard a total of 47 species

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)
Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)
Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)
Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)
Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)
Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*)
Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*)
Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
Teal (*Anas crecca*)
Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)
Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*) 3 (1m, 2f)
Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*)
Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
Coot (*Fulica atra*)
Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) 1
Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)
Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)
Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) 1
Curlew (*Numenius arquata*) 1
Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) 1
Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)
Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)
Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)
Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)

Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
Great White Egret (*Ardea alba*) 3
Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)
Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)
Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)
Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
Magpie (*Pica pica*)
Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*)
Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)
Bearded Tit (*Panurus biarmicus*) Hd
Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*) Hd
Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)
Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*) Hd
Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)
Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*) 1
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava*)
Pied/White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)
Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)
Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) 30

Photo album on Facebook