

Rye Harbour coach trip 13/10/18

Andrew reported:

31 people enjoyed a hot and humid day in Sussex. Walking towards the Rother river mouth there were Linnets and Meadow Pipits flying around us. The group enjoyed good views of a Skylark on the ground (Gill took photos of one in flight), and numbers of Wigeon, with Teal, Shelduck, and Pintail on the pools, and Curlew, Redshank, Dunlin and Oystercatcher.



In the seaward corner of the marsh there were 3 Wheatears, a flock of around 80 Linnet, and numbers of Pipits. On the Rother shingle there were 3 Turnstone, and 2 people saw a Red-Throated Diver flying.



From the lunchtime hides there were at least 20 Little Grebes, a Little Egret, 2 Grey Plover, and numbers of Cormorants and Coots. Another view of the Ternery Pool yielded a Greenshank amongst roosting Oystercatchers. On the scrapes island we were excited to see a Spoonbill, a lone Brent Goose, and a Mute Swan.

Cutting inland from the beach we found 20 young Swallows readying up for migration. On the Long Pit there were numbers of Great Crested Grebes, Tufted Duck, a few Pochard, and several Little Egrets. On the path back we saw a perched Kestrel, 2 Stonechats, and heard Reed Bunting and Cetti's Warblers.

After a loo and drink break we ended the day at the platform overlooking Castle Water. There were 2 Kestrels, a squealing Water Rail and a calling Chiffchaff. 2 Great White Egrets flapped into view, one landing in sight at the back of the pool. A Kingfisher was briefly viewed flying off calling, and a Bearded Tit called. We ended watching a pair of Marsh Harriers hunting, on occasion arguing with a Buzzard. The group saw 70 species in total.

xxxxx

Marion and several others, struck by colds etc, were unable to join the coach trip. Reports soon came in of the wonderful day they'd missed.

- Overall it was a lovely day with slight warm breeze.
- We had a lovely day in sunshine with gentle, warm breeze.
- You missed a good trip to Rye Harbour on Saturday .. coach total was 70 species including Great White Egrets, Wheatears, and about 80 Ringed Plovers on the beach.
- My daughter and I had a lovely day yesterday.
- Lovely day and many birds doing strange things.
- Further "lovely day" reports were shared on the Tuesday Heath walk – 3 of those who'd not gone round with Andrew had enjoyed a long leisurely cuppa and cake break at the Avocet Gallery reminiscing over MBS trips of the past.



Photos kindly sent in by Sharyn Wallace and Gill Havard.

More photos in the Flickr album

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/mbsbirds/albums/72157675054940348>

We've also got a video of the outing thanks to Toni Menezes. This has already had quite a few "likes" on Facebook but can also be viewed on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADzwDkx7bKU&t=7s>