

MBS Saturday 20th September 2025 Rainham Marshes RSPB

Start: 10:30 End: 14:30

Leader Maria Kallionaki + 13

52 Species

Weather: overcast, breezy later in the day

14 MBS members gathered for this local outing to Rainham Marshes.

After stopping at the scrape viewpoint where we spotted our first ducks (Mallard, Gadwall) and waders (Lapwings, Black-tailed Godwits and a single Snipe) we took the woodland trail for an anti-clockwise walk. The woodland was busy with passerines, such as Blue, Great and Long-tailed Tits, Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps. A Great Spotted Woodpecker flew over us and landed on top of a tree only to move further to another tree.

While we were trying to spot the Barn Owl box, 2 Ravens flew over the marshes cronking and a Kestrel hovered briefly in the distance.

Checking the various pools from the Ken Barret hide and the other viewpoints we added Teal, Pochard, Shoveler and Little Grebe. With the Shooting Butts hide still being repaired we used the picnic tables for our lunch break.

As the tide reached the highest point 2 flocks of Avocet flew over us back into the marshes, while some lucky members had good views of a Kingfisher. At the Purfleet hide we noticed that more Black-tailed Godwits had joined the initial 3. Careful scanning revealed 2 Snipe and a Ruff feeding on the edge of the water.

We came back into the visitor centre in time to take part in the open consultation for the future of the visitor centre.

Unfortunately missed the opportunity to open an Album on FB. Joan Chatterley posted a few batches of photos including the left-hand pic with the comment:

Distant views of Lapwings and Black-tailed Godwits in the lagoon, a well-hidden Snipe and a Greater Spotted Woodpecker during the group walk round Rainham Marshes yesterday.

Unfortunately, it was a dull day weatherwise and the light was terrible for photos!

And an impressive number of Starlings on the pylon.



c20 Avocet
 Bearded Tit - Heard once approaching
 Shooting butts hide
 Black-headed Gull
 Black-tailed Godwit
 Blackcap
 Blue Tit
 1 Buzzard
 Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)
 Carrion Crow (*Corvus corone*)
 Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*)
 Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)
 Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*)
 Coot (*Fulica atra*)
 Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)
 Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)
 2 Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)
 Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia f. domestica*)
 Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*)
 Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)
 Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*)
 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)
 Great Tit (*Parus major*)
 Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*)
 Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)
 Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*)

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
 Jackdaw (*Coloeus monedula*)
 1 Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)
 1 Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
 Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)
 Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*)
 Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)
 Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)
 Long-tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caudatus*)
 Magpie (*Pica pica*)
 Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
 1 Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus*)
 Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)
 Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*)
 Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)
 Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)
 2 Raven (*Corvus corax*)
 Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)
 1 Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)
 Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*)
 Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)
 Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)
 6 Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*)
 Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
 Teal (*Anas crecca*)
 Woodpigeon (*Columba palumbus*)
 Wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)



Little Egret from Purfleet Hide. J.Chatterley



Group walking ahead. M.Hill