



Ainsdale Beach and RSPB Marshside, 18th Feb 2019

Fifteen members turned out on a dry and windy day at Ainsdale beach in front of Pontins. The tide was high but the waders were far off due to dog walkers and folk enjoying the beach. But we clocked lots of gulls and skylarks singing their heads off! Next time we need to walk further along the beach. We did try another spot nearer to Southport and the waders were there but needed a scope. We transferred to RSPB Marshside and had our picnic in the hide. Plenty of waterfowl: Gadwall, Pintail, Golden Plover, Shoveler, Teal, Black-tailed Godwit. We saw Barnacle Geese on the meadow far off and Pink Footed Geese. The RSPB volunteer gave us a tip that a Scaup was on the adjoining lake. This we found and was the bird of the day. We met Ray Evans on the marsh looking for raptors and spotted a Kestrel and a possible Merlin. I recorded 37 species.

Stephen Williams

RSPB Marshside, Southport and Ainsdale-on-Sea, 15 February 2022

Twenty members met at the beach for Ainsdale-on-Sea. The sand lizard artwork covering a whole building close by was amazing, reputed to be the largest artwork in the UK. Whilst it was dry, it was very windy so we didn't last long on the exposed beach which only had gulls and pippits to observe. We were lucky to miss the severe storm that was forecast for the next day. We drove on to RSPB Marshside, Southport where we were happy to shelter in the hides and bag lots of water birds including Ruff, Golden Plover, Black-tailed Godwit and Pintail. On our return, star birds of the day were close views of a small flock of Snow Bunting on the foreshore close to the pier and opposite KFC. This was a tip-off! Andrew A went on to Hesketh Bank and reported 1000s of birds and potholes! He had hoped for a reported Spotted Redshank but no luck. Total species 38.

Stephen Williams