



RSPB Bempton & Wykeham, 12th June 2016

Thirteen members enjoyed the trip to the East Coast. We arrived at RSPB Bempton Cliffs to be greeted by drizzly rain and foggy conditions. The rain soon stopped but the fog persisted all morning. Luckily the birds are so close on the cliffs that we were able to record Gannet, Kittiwake, Razorbill, Guillemot and Puffin in quite large numbers. Other highlights included lots of Tree Sparrows, Skylark, Whitethroat and Reed Bunting.

It was impossible to see any birds out to sea, and after lunch we decided to move inland with the hope of getting away from the fog. We travelled to Wykeham Raptor Viewpoint in Wykeham Forest off the A170 between Scarborough and Pickering.

The viewpoint lived up to its name and after less than an hour a distant Honey Buzzard was seen but a little while later a second bird was seen well displaying and wing-clapping along the valley. Other raptors seen were Common Buzzard, Peregrine and Goshawk and other highlights included flyover Crossbill, Willow Warbler and Goldcrest.

We then walked down from the car park towards Wykeham Nurseries to look for Turtle Dove. Unfortunately, we didn't find any but highlights there included Bullfinch, Red-legged Partridge, Sparrowhawk and Mistle Thrush.

The rain started falling again and we left for home, and to cap the day our car had a day flying Barn Owl just south of Thornton-Le-Dale.

We managed 39 species on a day of very mixed weather.

Ray Evans

Bempton Cliffs RSPB, 8 June 2019

Eight MCOS members met at Bempton Cliffs.

Along the path towards the viewpoints many Tree Sparrows were seen feeding in the wildflower meadows. From the viewpoints very large numbers of nesting seabirds were seen. Species included: Kittiwake, Guillemot, Razorbill, Puffin, Fulmar and Gannet. Many chicks were present and a Peregrine Falcon was patrolling along the cliffs on the lookout for lunch!

In the fields adjacent to the paths Corn Bunting, Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Whitethroat and Linnet were seen.

The group moved off to Flamborough where a Black Headed Bunting had been reported. On arrival the group joined many birders looking for the bird. It was seen but not by all members. While at Flamborough a Subalpine Warbler was reported and although elusive, it was seen but again not by all members.

By this time the weather had turned windy and wet and the group dispersed to head for home.

Total number of species seen was 34.

Graham Haspey.