



North Wales Coast and Foryd Bay, Sunday 15th January 2017

Ten members enjoyed the first trip of 2017 to North Wales. We all met at Llanfairfechan promenade and highlights here included Dipper, Grey Wagtail, both Black and Red Throated Divers, Common Scoter, Slavonian Grebe and Eider.

We then proceeded to Foryd Bay, a tidal bay southwest of Caernarfon. Skirting the minor road to the west of the castle at Caernarfon brought us to the Menai Straits and eventually the northern end of Foryd Bay. We made a few stops along the bay and highlights included a flock of Brent Geese (both Pale and Dark Bellied) that over-winter in the bay, Rock Pipit, Wigeon, Pintail, a wintering Greenshank and a Long-tailed Duck.

After a couple of hours we travelled back to the Spinnies nature reserve at Aberogwen where we had our lunch. Highlights here included sizeable numbers of Goldeneye, Peregrine, Raven and a big mixed flock of Curlew, Redshank with a few Black Tailed Godwit in the fields.

We then proceeded to the Westshore at Llandudno where a walk along the beach gave us another Peregrine, Rock Pipit and two Snow Bunting.

We then moved on to Rhos Point and saw Purple Sandpiper but there was no sign of the reported Black Redstart.

Our last port of call was the Kinmel area where we looked for the reported Waxwings but to no avail and a quick visit down to the beach gave us Sanderling as a new bird for the day. With the light fast diminishing we called it a day.

We managed a respectable 70 species on a cold January day.

Ray Evans