



Marshside RSPB & Hesketh Bank, Sunday, 16th October 2016

Only five members turned up for this outdoor meeting. It doesn't appear a popular choice with people at the moment.

On arrival we were met by skeins of Pink-footed Geese in formation coming to feed on the marsh. We managed to reach the first hide before it started to rain. Highlights included the Cattle Egrets amongst the cows and a Kingfisher plus a large flock of Black-tailed Godwit. Pink-feet, Canada and Greylag Geese were feeding on the RSPB reserve along with a dubious Ross's Goose.

Once the rain had stopped we went to view the marsh between the road and the sea where we were treated to views of Marsh Harrier and many wader species the highlight being a huge murmuration of Knot. Dunlin, Ringed Plover and Golden Plover were seen in flight and a Great White Egret in the distance. Little Egrets were everywhere. Back to the car for lunch then off down the road looking for Yellow-browed Warbler which didn't show. Because of the rain and the time we went to Hesketh Bank where we added Whooper Swan, Stonechat and Greenshank to the list.

Raptor wise, apart from Marsh Harrier, Peregrine and Sparrowhawk plus Kestrel were seen.

In all a total of 55 species were seen.

Paul Kenyon

RSPB Hesketh Out Marsh/Marshside, 14 November 2021

Twelve members turned up on a warm sunny day in November to witness some exceptional birdwatching. On arrival at Marshside 2 Hen Harriers (ringtails) were seen. During the course of the next couple of hours several Merlins, Peregrines, Marsh Harriers, Kestrels, Sparrowhawks, Buzzards were observed in good numbers. A fantastic murmuration of Knots was also taking place along the shoreline at the same time. All the time Pink-footed Geese and Greylags were flying overhead. The hide across the road was almost empty of people so we fitted in ok. Cetti's Warbler was heard and seen by the hide entrance. We then walked to the platform at the very end of the reserve to observe a Glossy Ibis.

The afternoon was spent at Hesketh out marsh where we were treated to a fantastic Barn Owl display which posed for photo opportunities. Also, here 6 Grey Partridges and a Tree Sparrow. Overall, an excellent day with 70 species seen.

Paul Kenyon