



### **Thurstaston and Parkgate, Tuesday 17 March 2015**

Sixteen members met at the Wirral Country Park Centre on a cold gloomy day. A brief visit to the public hide gave us a 'woodland bird start', including a pair of Bullfinches.

Down on the beach in poor visibility, we had excellent views of 2 large flocks of Knot and a small flock of Dunlin being pursued by a Peregrine.

We returned along the Wirral Way with no sign of early migrants.

On to Parkgate with good views of 2 ring-tailed Hen Harriers over the misty marsh and a Peregrine and Merlin way out in the mist.

Despite the poor tide and bad visibility we still logged 40 species.

Harold Fielding

### **RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands and Parkgate, 17th Jan 2020**

Twenty-two members turned out for a cloudy but dry day at the RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands reserve. This is always a good reserve with a comfortable and warm visitor centre where those who don't want to walk round the reserve can stay and still get good birds. We immediately got a Great White Egret paddling close by with a Little Egret adjacent to see the differences. Lots of usual waterfowl and a Marsh Harrier hunting on the Marsh. Other members got a Hen Harrier. On the way to the first hide we were lucky to get a fleeting glimpse of a Water Rail before it vanished into the reeds. After our sandwiches, half the party drove to Parkgate baths for views over the Dee estuary. Ian Bunker found a Merlin at distance. Later we saw a Hen Harrier being attacked by a Merlin which drove it off, brave bird! Lots of Pink-footed Geese resting on the grass. We walked further on towards the golf course, before turning back and getting some close Redwing on the deck. Paul and Joe stayed on and bagged four Short-eared Owls with close views making them birders of the day! Total species count was 44.

Stephen Williams

### **Burton Mere and Parkgate, 12 December 2021**

Eight members met up at BMW RSPB with the sun starting to come out. Discussion centred around the drive through Puddington and a certain field containing 50 Little Egret, 5 Great Egrets and a single Cattle Egret. Plenty of Ravens, Jackdaws, Redwings and a couple of Mistle Thrushes on the nearby fields. We set off and headed towards the feeders. Three Great Spotted Woodpeckers were active on or near the feeders with an unexpected Corn Bunting on the overhead wires. Being such a sunny morning, it was singing part of its song which clinched identification. We examined the pools opposite the main hide where we saw our first Marsh Harrier. Plenty of the usual ducks and waders. Onwards to Denhall Lane where we had lunch. More Marsh Harriers, Merlin, Peregrine and a glance to Denhall Quay provided a good view of a Short-eared Owl. Next, to Burton Cliffs where a Little Owl was located.

Over to Parkgate for the final 2 hours where a Barn Owl was seen and an amazing grey male Hen Harrier came in to roost. Seven species of raptor and three species of owls seen.

A total of 73 species seen.

Paul Kenyon