

Visit to Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve - 25th March 2018

6 members met at Greendale for the trip to Blacktoft Sands on a cool but pleasant start to British Summertime.

Linda & Mick Fairest, Graham Gill, Charles Seymour, Brian Smithson and Malcolm Swift.

Part of the car park at Blacktoft has been resurfaced with tarmac in place of the previously often sticky substance which got everywhere! Tree Sparrows were in good numbers around the nest boxes in the car park. We checked the sightings board at the Visitor Centre and the warden mentioned that Avocets, Marsh Harriers and Whooper Swans were around. The sun shone brightly as we walked towards Ouse Fleet Hide. In front of the hide on the opposite edge were the resident 6 Konik ponies and on the water we noted Avocets, Shoveler, Lapwing and Gadwall. Two flocks of C30 plus Curlews flew in from the left and landed to the right of the hide. As we re-traced our steps from the hide we came across a "3 tiered Toad". A large Toad taking the weight of a medium sized Toad and on top of that a smaller Toad!

We proceeded to Marshland Hide and there noted Wigeon, Teal and Shelduck. There were very few birds in front of the Xerox Hide but we did note Coltsfoot, our first flower of the day, in abundance along the bank. We returned to the picnic tables in the car park to eat our packed lunch. A very vocal Robin begged for food and we duly obliged.

After lunch we carried on to Singleton Hide and there had great views of male and female Marsh Harriers gliding backwards and forwards over the reeds in front of the hide. Amongst the flock of Greylag Geese were two Leucistic Greylags (a very pale almost white version but with some neck and under belly markings). There were also several Buzzards in the area.

On returning to the cars we walked out onto the road to check the fields opposite and saw what we believed to be 5 Whooper Swans in the distance. As there were C30 in the area that had moved off the reserve into the fields we assumed these were part of that flock.

Birds 42 Flora 4 Amphibian 1 Insects 2

Reporter: Linda Fairest

Birds**Flora****Amphibian****Insects**

Avocet
Black-headed Gull
Blackbird
Blue Tit
Buzzard
Canada Goose
Carrion Crow
Cetti's Warbler
Chaffinch
Common Gull
Coot
Curlew
Dunnock
Feral Rock Dove
Gadwall
Great Tit
Greenfinch
Grey Heron
Greylag Goose
Lapwing
Little Grebe
Long-tailed Tit
Magpie
Mallard
Marsh Harrier
Moorhen
Pheasant
Pochard
Reed Bunting
Robin
Shelduck
Shoveler
Skylark
Starling
Stock Dove
Teal
Tree Sparrows
Tufted Duck
Whooper Swan
Wigeon
Woodpigeon
Wren

Coltsfoot
Alder Catkins
Pussy Willow
Daisy

Toad

White-tailed Bumble Bee
Red-tailed Bumble Bee

TREE SPARROW





BLUE TIT



PUSSY WILLOW



REED BUNTING



AVOCET

MARSH HARRIER





GREYLAG GOOSE



LEUCISTIC GREYLAG GOOSE

MAGPIE

