

VISIT TO NORTH CAVE YWT RESERVE ON SUNDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2017

Three members, Charles Seymour, Malcolm Swift and Brian Smithson set off from Greendale just after 08.30 hours and after the one hour journey arrived at the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Reserve at North Cave and parked on Dryham Lane.

We set off in bright sunshine with Swallows flying overhead to walk round the reserve in a clockwise direction. Along Dryham Lane a Chiffchaff gave us good views as it worked it's way along the hedgerow, and a Red Admiral settled with it's wings spread on the ground cover.

The first of the five hides on the reserve is South Hide, overlooking the Main Lake. Here, there were hundreds of Greylag Geese on the water and on the surrounding banks and this was the same throughout the reserve. Other birds seen here and from all the other hides were Coot, Mallard, Lapwing, Teal, Gadwall, Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Black Headed Gull, Little Egret, Common Crow and Tufted Duck. At South Hide we also had Canada Geese and Grey Heron – and a Kingfisher flew close to the water in front of us.

As we made our way up Dryham Lane to Crossland Hide we noted Stock Dove and Common Sandpiper on Dryham Ings. As the sky clouded over we found a few plants still in flower – Bird's Foot Trefoil, Yarrow, Hogweed, Creeping Thistle, Black Knapweed and White Campion. Crossland Hide gave us views of Shoveler, a good flock of Goldfinch, and hiding in the long grass, a young Green Woodpecker.

We continued our walk round the reserve on a track beneath tall trees which gave us some shelter from the rain showers which had now started. A Wren was singing and Long Tailed Tits Flitted across the path from hedgerows and into the trees. We continued on to St. Helens Farm Viewpoint where we stopped for lunch. A lone Curlew and sizeable flocks of Starlings were seen here, and more Swallows swooped after insects.

Continuing on the grassy path, Water Mint and Purple Loosestrife were flowering in the Dragonfly Ponds and we counted around 40 Goldfinch on the path in front of us, with some of them bathing in the newly formed puddles.

A Sparrowhawk was seen overhead on a couple of occasions, trying without any luck to catch Swallows and Starlings.

The trek to the Turret Hide was lined with Rose Bay Willowherb and Perennial Sowthistle, with Molehills in the shorter grass. A couple of Bistort flowers were identified along here, as were small plants of Black Nightshade. From the Turret Hide we watched a Snipe as it flew over Island Lake.

Our last of the day was at East Hide overlooking Village Lake where a Dunlin was added to the bird list. Another Green Woodpecker rose up from the long grass and bounded along the lake edge towards Turret Hide. Over to our right a loud and persistent racket drew our attention as 800+ Greylag Geese all rose into the air together and eventually settled on the lakes and grassy banks, still making loud and harsh calls. No sightings though, of what put them up.

Back to the car with Swallows still overhead and now joined by House Martins, before we set off back for home at 16.30 hrs.

Report by Brian S Smithson

SPECIES LIST FOR NORTH CAVE – SEPTEMBER 17th 2017

BIRDS

Swallow, Common Crow, Wood Pigeon, Blackbird, Blue Tit, Chiffchaff, Robin, Grey Heron, Coot, Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Little Egret, Cormorant, Pochard, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Black Headed Gull, Kingfisher, Little Grebe, Lapwing, Gadwall, Magpie, Stock Dove, Starling, Feral Rock Dove, Teal, Common Sandpiper, Pied Wagtail, Shoveler, Goldfinch, Green Woodpecker, Wren, Long Tailed Tit, Curlew, Sparrowhawk, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Snipe, Dunlin, House Martin.

Total 42

FLOWERS

White Deadnettle, Yarrow, Common Ragwort, Birds-foot Trefoil, Hogweed, Bramble, Dandelion, Ribwort Plantain, Creeping Thistle, Moonpenny, Black Knapweed, White Campion, Daisy, White Clover, Hedge Bindweed, Wild Carrot, Evening Primrose, Creeping Buttercup, Water Mint, Purple Loosestrife, Black Medic, Rosebay Willowherb, Perennial Sowthistle, Field Speedwell, Bistort, Field Bindweed, Black Nightshade.

Total 27

MAMMALS

Rabbit, Mole Hills

INSECTS

Red Admiral

BLACK HEADED GULL



RED ADMIRAL



PIED WAGTAIL





WATER MINT