

## Visit to Alkborough Flats – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Only 2 members – Charles Seymour and Brian Smithson set off on a dull damp and foggy day to visit Alkborough, which stands on a ridge overlooking the point where the River Trent joins the River Ouse to form the River Humber. It was bright and sunny as we left the car and walked down to the reed beds and open water of the reserve. Dandelion, Common Ragwort and Smooth Sow Thistle were noted and also in other areas of the reserve. Robin, Blackbird, Woodpigeon and Carrion Crows flew between hedgerows and Jackdaws flew overhead.

A footpath towards Whitton led us to the Tower Hide, a wooden hide reached by 3 flights of stairs which gave good views over water hidden amongst the reeds. From here we noted Jackdaw, Lapwing, Redshank, Curlew, a single Dunlin, Shelduck, Mallard, Oystercatcher, Black-tailed Godwit, Mute Swan, Grey Heron, Great White Egret and Teal. Two Marsh Harriers flew over.

We then walked through the reeds to Prospect Hide with about 200 Lapwings resting in the shallow water and occasionally lifting up to fly around before setting back on the water. Also seen from this hide were Shoveler, Shelduck, Mallard, Teal, Black-headed Gull, Redshank, Curlew, Little Egret, 6 Black-tailed Godwit, 2 or 3 Avocet, C150 Pink-footed Geese flying over, a Sparrowhawk and as we left the hide a Reed Bunting landed on the top of the reeds.

We explored the rest of the reserve and added to the list a flock of about 25 Fieldfare, a Kestrel, Lesser Black-backed Gulls and C250 Greylag Geese. C40 Golden Plover were resting on a sand bank.

A good day with a total of 30 birds and 3 flowers.

Reporter: B.S.Smithson



AVOCET

REDSHANK



SHELDUCK



LESSER BLACK - BACKED GULL

