

## **Visit to Blacktoft Sands RSPB Reserve – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

In the middle of a mini-heatwave for February 6 members – Linda & Mick Fairest, Graham Gill, Charles Seymour, Brian Smithson and Malcolm Swift, set off for Blacktoft Sands. The weather was misty and became foggy as we progressed towards our destination. The fog did not lift until lunchtime but this did not take away from our bird count! We parked the cars and walked to the Visitor Centre noting many Tree Sparrows at the bird table along with Great Tit, Blue Tit, Greenfinch, Chaffinch and female Pheasants.

The area behind the screen, next to the Ousefleet Hide, has been opened up creating more open water instead of the previous channel. 3 Snipes were noted along with Tufted Duck, Teal, Mallard and Wigeon. From the hide we recorded more Snipe, Shelduck, Shoveler, Redshank, Curlew, Lapwing, Oystercatcher and Grey Heron. Our list reaching 33 species in no time at all! The gloom was lifting slightly as we moved on and through the mist we could see the resident Konik ponies grazing in the distance. The sound of Skylarks filled the air and several were seen tumbling from the sky.

At Marshland hide a Little Egret landed at the water's edge and a Common Buzzard flew over. As it was quiet and we had the hide to ourselves we ate our picnic lunch before continuing on to Xerox Hide.

From Xerox Hide we were treated to a pair of displaying Marsh Harriers who even momentarily clasped their talons together as they tumbled in the sky.

By now it was warm bright sunshine as we continued across the reserve and eventually reaching Singleton Hide with the promise of seeing a Barn Owl. According to the book it had been seen several times over the last few days any time after 3.30pm but alas not today!!

We returned to the cars and agreed it had proved a good day despite the foggy start.

Birds 41    Flora 7    Insects 2    Mammals 3

Reporter: Linda Fairest

**Birds**

Black Headed Gull  
Blackbird  
Blue Tit  
Carrion Crow  
Cetti's Warbler  
Chaffinch  
Common Buzzard  
Coot  
Curlew  
Dunnock  
Gadwall  
Great Tit  
Greenfinch  
Grey Heron  
Greylag Goose  
Lapwing  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Little Egret  
Little Grebe  
Long-tailed Tit  
Magpie  
Mallard  
Marsh Harrier  
Moorhen  
Oystercatcher  
Pheasant  
Redshank  
Reed Bunting  
Robin  
Rook  
Shelduck  
Shoveler  
Skylark  
Snipe  
Stock Dove  
Teal  
Tree Sparrow  
Tufted Duck  
Wigeon  
Woodpigeon  
Wren

**Flora**

Daisy  
Pussy Willow  
Snowdrop  
Alder Catkins  
Elderflower  
Coltsfoot  
Groundsel

**Insects**

Green Lace Wing  
7 Spot Ladybird

**Mammals**

Badger latrine  
Mole Hills  
Konik ponies

# A MISTY ROOK



**A HAZY SUN**



WIGEON





**ROBIN**

**CHAFFINCH**





**LITTLE EGRET**



**MAGPIE**



**GREYLAG GEESE**





WREN



We hope you  
enjoyed your visit

