

Wirral Coast

22nd November 2017

Despite the dire weather warnings 13 of us set out to visit the Wirral coast.

Thurstaston Visitor centre proved to be a good starting point. The views over the estuary were spectacular. The wind was quite difficult however and underfoot was slippery enough to cause John to topple over with a consequence lack of dignity. He managed to soldier on however with some bruises and a sore ankle.

The café on the corner offered some respite while the rest of us picked out Oyster Catchers, in solid rows looking like groynes, Shelduck in large numbers, Pintails on the water and Curlews emitting their evocative calls.

The feeders in the BirdHide provided some more woodland species like a Bullfinch and Great Tit and Blue Tit for the first group but mostly a determined squirrel and some Chaffinches for the late arrivals. We decided to move on and arrived at Park Gate to witness some great flying skills from 4 Marsh Harriers. Several flocks of waders and Pinkfoot Geese flew overhead away from the encroaching waters of the estuary. Little Egrets, Herons and Lapwing added to the display and then we were privileged to get close up views of a Stone Chat on the nearby rushes.

By this time the need for coffee and lunch drew us away to the warmth and comparative luxury of RSPB Burton Mere.

A newly installed overhanging roof has helped to keep the windows cleaner than I remembered from our last visit and we were able to add Golden Plover, Knot, Bar-tailed Godwits and Ruff to our list.

A large flock of Pinkfoot Geese passed by but didn't stop. Some eagled eyed person found Snipe lurking in the reeds and Pheasants in the fields beyond which helped us to a total of 44 species for the day

Crow
Starling
Robin
Oyster catcher
Shelduck
Curlew
Redshank
Pintails
Jay
Coot
Moorhen
Chaffinch
Bullfinch
Goldfinch
Blue Tit
Great OTit
Duncock
Heron
Marsh Harriers
Little Egret
Pink Feet
Mallard
Lapwing
Wren
Blackbird
B H Gull
LBB Gull

Cormorant
Stonechat
Swan sp (Whooper)
Teal
*Bar tailed Godwit
*Black tailed Godwit
Shoveller
Snipe
Golden Plover
Knot
Kestrel
Wigeon
Dunlin
Canada Goose
Pheasant
Magpie
Wood Pigeon
Ruff

*we weren't sure about these but
birds close to hide had upward
curve to bill. (bar tailed). Birds
flying over gave long legged
Black tailed impression as did
more distant birds with straight
bills..