

At last our new season began with a run out to the RSPB reserve at Conwy. Well it would have been a run out apart from the logjam on the M6, which put some of the cars into the car park at Conwy a little late. A dozen members made it, and we began our list with a Curlew flying over the car park en route to join his mates on the deep lagoon islands. Several of the commoner species were then seen, with only House Sparrows on the Visitor Centre/Cafe feeders.

But from the cafe a Water Rail was spotted darting around the reed fringes – on this occasion the group leader was just too slow to see it! We walked around to the Tal-y-fan hide, picking up Goldfinch among the reed heads, Gadwall and Black-tailed Godwit from the hide. In the feeders behind this hide we added Greenfinch and Chaffinch to our finches, and were fortunate to get a glimpse of a Chiffchaff among the feeding group.

Redshank, Little Egret & Grey Heron made it onto the list, while a couple of sawtooth ducks gave us pause for thought. From the Carneddau hide, as the wader flocks flushed, they dragged with them a female Yellow Wagtail which disappeared to the Northwest. From here and from the screens & Benarth hide, we were able to identify Redshank, Black-tailed Godwits, many more Curlew, Lapwing and Oystercatcher all in good numbers in the high tide roost. From the Benarth hide we were able to pin down the redhead sawtooths' identity – Red-breasted Mergansers. Little Grebe, Shoveler & Wigeon increased our tally, and while walking along the edge of the Conwy estuary, we encountered a female Northern Wheatear, bouncing along the rocks.

A stop on the way home at Llandulas brought in several rafts of Common Scoter, lifting our total for the day to 42. A good start to the season – Marshside on the 31<sup>st</sup> October next.

Richard Howells

#### Conwy Bird List 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Mute Swan	Shallow & deep lagoons
Wigeon	Deep lagoon.
Gadwall	Good numbers
Teal	Seen from Tal-y-fan hide.
Mallard	Ubiquitous.
Shoveler	One from Carneddau hide.
Tufted Duck	Several in the deep lagoon
Common Scoter	Off Llandulas.
Red-breasted Merganser	2 on shallow lagoon
Little Grebe	From Benarth hide.
Cormorant	Flew over eastern end of the reserve
Little Egret	4 feeding in front of Benarth hide
Grey Heron	One on Deep lagoon, on the islands
Buzzard	One high to the northwest.
Water Rail	Seen from visitor centre.
Moorhen	Shallow lagoon
Common Coot	Deep lagoon
Oystercatcher	Deep lagoon islands.
Lapwing	Deep lagoon islands.

Black-tailed Godwit	Deep lagoon islands.
Curlew	Deep lagoon islands.
Redshank	Deep lagoon islands.
Black-headed Gull	Deep lagoon.
Common Gull	2-3 sandbars in deep lagoon.
Herring Gull	Good numbers deep lagoon
Great Black-backed Gull	2-3.
Wood-Pigeon	2-3 overflow.
Yellow Wagtail	One flushed to NW from Carneddau hide.
Pied Wagtail	In front of VC & Benarth hide.
Duncock	Feeding area behind Tal-y-fan hide
Robin	Feeding area behind Tal-y-fan hide
Northern Wheatear	Female on rocky shore of Conwy estuary.
Blackbird	Feeding area behind Tal-y-fan hide
Chiffchaff	Feeding area behind Tal-y-fan hide
Blue Tit	Feeding area behind Tal-y-fan hide
Black-billed Magpie	Seen on causeway between lagoons.
Carrion Crow	Several on both lagoons.
Starling	Deep lagoon islands.
House Sparrow	Feeders by VC
Chaffinch	Feeding area behind Tal-y-fan hide
Greenfinch	Feeding area behind Tal-y-fan hide
Goldfinch	Feeding area behind Tal-y-fan hide