

Report of Birdwatching Group 2  
Wirral Coast 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017

A reduced group of three met in the car park on a glorious cold November morning. Our first destination was RSPB Parkgate where the conditions on a rising tide were near perfect. The marsh which seemed quiet at first glance was regularly brought to life by the passage of the raptors to show huge mixed flocks of Starlings and Linnets and various flocks of wildfowl. There were Merlins moving in the flocks and a Peregrine seen perched in the far distance. There were at one time three Marsh Harriers together over the marsh and then a Hen Harrier, distinctive with its white rump.

We moved on from there to RSPB Burton Mere and at the middle hide had another highlight of the day with a close view of a Kingfisher which posed on a reed for several minutes before catching, and eating a fish in front of us.

In the end we saw 47 species on the day:

|                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Canada Goose             | <i>Branta canadensis</i>          |
| Pink-footed Goose        | <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>       |
| Greylag Goose            | <i>Anser anser</i>                |
| Merlin                   | <i>Falco columbarius</i>          |
| Marsh Harrier            | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>         |
| Hen Harrier              | <i>Circus cyaneus</i>             |
| Peregrine Falcon         | <i>Falco peregrinus</i>           |
| Common Buzzard           | <i>Buteo buteo</i>                |
| Gadwall                  | <i>Anas strepera</i>              |
| Eurasian Teal            | <i>Anas crecca</i>                |
| Little Egret             | <i>Egretta garzetta</i>           |
| Great Egret              | <i>Ardea alba</i>                 |
| Mallard                  | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>         |
| Northern Shoveler        | <i>Anas clypeata</i>              |
| Little Grebe             | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>     |
| Grey Heron               | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>              |
| Cormorant                | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>        |
| Moorhen                  | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>        |
| Coot                     | <i>Fulica atra</i>                |
| Northern Lapwing         | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>          |
| Black-tailed Godwit      | <i>Limosa limosa</i>              |
| Dunlin                   | <i>Calidris alpina</i>            |
| Ruff                     | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>         |
| Common Redshank          | <i>Tringa totanus</i>             |
| Avocet                   | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>     |
| Oystercatcher            | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>      |
| Common Snipe             | <i>Gallinago gallinago</i>        |
| Black-headed Gull        | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus</i>               |
| Great Black-backed Gull  | <i>Larus marinus</i>              |
| Woodpigeon               | <i>Columba palumbus</i>           |
| Magpie                   | <i>Pica pica</i>                  |
| Carrion Crow             | <i>Corvus corone</i>              |

Great Tit  
Blue Tit  
Coal Tit  
Kingfisher  
Long-tailed Tit  
European Stonechat  
Linnet  
Nuthatch  
Starling  
Robin  
Dunnock  
Blackbird  
Chaffinch  
Goldfinch

*Parus major*  
*Cyanistes caeruleus*  
*Parus ater*  
*Alcedo atthis*  
*Aegithalos caudatus*  
*Saxicola rubicola*  
*Linaria cannabina*  
*Sitta europaea*  
*Sturnus vulgaris*  
*Erithacus rubecula*  
*Prunella modularis*  
*Turdus merula*  
*Fringilla coelebs*  
*Carduelis carduelis*