

Report of Birdwatching Group 2
Martin Mere, January 10th 2018

There were only two of us setting out for a run up the M6 which was closed Northbound so we diverted around Warrington and St Helens. In the end we were probably only 20 mins late arriving.

We had a relaxed walk around on a fine day and if we exclude Pink Flamingos and Red Crowned Cranes, we saw 40 species. This fell well short of a decent day at Martin Mere according to the chap in Focus Optics, so Group 1 should do better!

It's the sheer number of wildfowl in the mere that is impressive with huge numbers of Whooper Swans and Greylag geese among which there were lots of Pintail, Wigeon, Shelduck and Pochard.

There was plenty of Marsh Harrier activity, at one point there were 4 perched in view of the scope at one time. A Sparrowhawk and a Kestrel passed by and there was a Merlin (distant) on a post.

The full list:

Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus
Jackdaw	Corvus monedula
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone
Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus
Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus
Merlin	Falco columbarius
Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus
Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo
Eurasian Teal	Anas crecca
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos
Greylag Goose	Anser anser
Pink-footed Goose	Anser brachyrhynchus
Whooper Swan	Cygnus cygnus
Eurasian Wigeon	Anas penelope
Common Pochard	Aythya ferina
Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula
Northern Pintail	Anas acuta
Coot	Fulica atra
Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus
Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus
Common Eider	Somateria mollissima
Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo
Ruff	Philomachus pugnax
Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa
Common Redshank	Tringa totanus
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea
Gadwall	Anas strepera
Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna

Black-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Woodpigeon

Columba palumbus

Stock Dove

Columba oenas

Great Tit

Parus major

Blue Tit

Cyanistes caeruleus

Coal Tit

Pariparus ater

Robin

Erithacus rubecula

Blackbird

Turdus merula

Chaffinch

Fringilla coelebs

Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis

Wren

Troglodytes troglodytes

Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus