

Beautiful Birds

We really could not have asked for a more wonderful morning for the Coastwise Bird Trip to the RSPB Reserve at Isley Marsh on 1st November.



Twenty five Coastwise members turned up and we got off to a cracking start with a flock of Lapwing flying in the sunshine, which had been disturbed by a passing Peregrine. Nine Spoonbills were resting on the reserve occasionally bringing their spatulate bills out to preen. In the background we could hear the sound of Skylark.

Six telescopes and many pairs of binoculars provided close up views of several species in perfect light reflected from the birds' magnificent plumage.

Just before moving on to continue our search for additional species we were fortunate to be visited by a Kingfisher which for several seconds hovered above the water and then flew down to take a small fish.

John Broomhead found a distant Great Crested Grebe in the Taw Estuary and Vicky Hassell a few Snipe in the saltmarsh, a difficult spot. As we walked towards the high tide roost between the two jetties a flock of Linnets flew around and landed on the ground to feed on the seeds.

John Turner spotted a Bar tailed Godwit through his telescope with the bill showing well and then found another eight amongst Grey Plover. Wigeon, Teal, Redshank & Lapwing were looking absolutely splendid with the sun reflecting off their fine plumage.

Walking back along the trail I could hear Bullfinch and Goldcrest calling from the willow scrub. This was one of those mornings when everyone returned feeling inspired and grateful to nature for lifting the spirits. Natural History is a powerful therapy.

Rob Jutsum

Isley Marsh 1 Nov. 2011

Mute Swan	Greenfinch
Wigeon	Bullfinch
Teal	Goldcrest
Little Grebe	Water Rail
Great Crested Grebe	Magpie
Cormorant	Blue Tit
Little Egret	Pied Wagtail
Grey Heron	Mallard
Spoonbill	Pintail
Peregrine Falcon	
Oystercatcher	
Grey Plover	
Lapwing	
Turnstone	
Dunlin	
Redshank	
Bar-Tailed Godwit	
Curlew	
Whimbrel	
Black-Headed Gull	
Great Black-Backed Gull	
Wood Pigeon	
Kingfisher	
Skylark	
Meadow Pipit	
Robin	
Coal Tit	
Blue Tit	
Magpie	
Carrion Crow	
Starling	
Chaffinch	
Linnet	
Goldfinch	
Sparrowhawk	
Robin	
Duncock	

Long tailed Tit

Snipe

Greenshank

Grey Heron

Shelduck

Moorhen