

Pannel Valley 14-06-08

It was touch and go as to whether this trip would go ahead or not, the weather reports had been fairly awful, but as it turned out we shouldn't have worried!

Meeting at Toot Rock, Pett, at 9.30am seven members turned up. With only a couple of cars we decided to move round to Pannel farm and walk into the nature reserve from there. This is a much easier way of just accessing the hides without the long walk of the military canal.

After parking by Pannel farm/bridge the first birds seen were **Common Buzzard** and **Reed Bunting**. It was suggested that it might be worth walking up the road and looking around a small bit of open mixed woodland. A few species were spotted including **Blackbird**, **Robin**, **Song Thrush**, **Whitethroat**, **Chiffchaff**, **Wren** and **Bullfinch**.

Walking onto the main reserve it was very quiet. Along the main path we saw two **Marsh Harriers**, **Cettis Warbler**, **Sedge Warbler**, **Mute Swan**, **Grey Heron**, **Reed Warbler** (heard singing) and **Kestrel**.

The first hide was not usable as foliage had grown up in front of the windows, but from the other hides there were **Black Headed Gulls** with chicks all over the place. There was **Avocet**, **Tufted Duck**, **Mallard** and possibly **Shelduck** young wandering around, but not that many adults.

Other birds present included 4 **Mediterranean Gull**, **Herring Gull**, **Lesser Black Backed Gull**, **Common Tern**, **Shoveler Duck**, **Greylag Goose**, **Oystercatcher** and **Dunnock**. **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Goldfinch**, **Linnet**, **Chaffinch** and **Greenfinch** also passed by over head.

We then walked back to the cars. We then moved back to Toot Rock and some of us did a little sea watching. Unfortunately by this point in the day the wind had really got up and it was very uncomfortable. We added **Curlew**, **Cormorant**, **Great Black Backed Gull** and **Fulmar**.

A brief stop at Pett Pools produced **Teal**, **Little Egret**, **Coot** and **Moorhen**.

Unfortunately at this time of the year can be tricky for seeing the birds as nesting goes on, especially with the small birds.