

## **Rye Harbour / Castle Water & Pett Pools 15-04-08**

A few managed to get down Rye for a mid-week jaunt. The aim was to see what (if any) migrants had arrived around Castle Water, and then possibly walk the main reserve in the afternoon.

Sadly this didn't quite work out as planned! We had a late start, arriving at Oyster Creek around 11am, and set off to the observation point. En route we saw **Jay, Rook, Swallow, Mistle Thrush, Kestrel** and an assortment of pigeons (**Wood Pigeon, Stock Dove, Collared Dove** and **Feral Pigeon**). At the observation point we had very close views of a **Cetti's Warbler** and **Marsh Harrier**, also present were **Sedge Warbler, Tufted Duck, Shelduck, Coot, Moorhen, Mute Swan, Greylag Goose** and **Cormorant**.

Walking on round to the hide we had **Pied Wagtail, Mediterranean Gull, Meadow Pipit, Reed Bunting, Linnet, Skylark** and a rabbit hole!!

From the hide we had distant views of **Whimbrel, Ruff, Oystercatcher** and **Lapwing**. Also present were yet more Cetti's Warblers, **Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Gadwall, Mallard, Shoveller Duck, Teal, Grey Heron, Common Gull, Black-Headed Gull, LBB Gull, GBB Gull** and **Herring Gull**. Another birder we had bumped into previously had also seen Snipe, but we were not so lucky.

Walking on from the hide, round and through the wood, we were surprised at the lack of birds, especially Hirundines. There were few birds in the gorse bushes or out on the fields, only Linnet, **Crow, Jackdaw, Magpie** and **Starling**. We did see some **Curlew** in one of the sheep fields, and a party of **Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long-Tailed Tit** and **Chaffinch** passed by. We also heard **Great Spotted Woodpecker** and **Green Woodpecker**. Oh and more Cetti's Warblers.

The pools were also devoid of life, mainly Tufted Duck and Coot, and just the odd **Great Crested Grebe**. Walking back along the track to Castle Farm we saw **Robin, Wren, Dunnock, House Sparrow** and **Pheasant**. At the farm we heard but didn't see **Sandwich Tern**. One member of the party did see a single displaying **Redshank**. And yet more Cetti's Warblers!

Back closer to the car, and a full 3½ hours later, we had **Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Blackbird** and **Song Thrush**. Once we got back to the car and moved around to the main car park for lunch we decided not to walk the main reserve, but have a leisurely stop at Pett Pools.

At Pett Pools we had **Avocet, Dunlin, Redshank, Shelduck, Little Egret** and **Yellow Wagtail** (2 males). Out on the sea one member saw a **Velvet Scoter** fly past and also there were a couple of rafts of **Common Scoter**. As the tide was out we found **Turnstone** picking about on the rocky pools.

By this time it was coming up to 5pm so we decided to call it a day.

In total we had 71 species. It could have been so much better, the weather was good and the wind direction was equally good for migration but somehow we missed out. Never mind, there's always next time!

**PRESENT:** Sue Phillips, Peter Johnson, Alan Nottage.