



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **Birds at Keyhaven Walk**

Date: 8th April 2025  
 Weather: Sunny and warm  
 Walk Leaders: Mike and Liz Read  
 Attendees: 16

Lymington and Keyhaven Marshes lie between Hurst Spit and the mouth of the Lymington River on the Hampshire coast. The area was bought by Hampshire County Council in 1984 and is managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, who lease the offshore coastal marsh and mudflats in order to help protect this unique and historical coastal habitat. Although there is no access into the coastal marshes themselves, gravel paths maintained by Hampshire County Council allow visitors to walk along the sea wall and admire the stunning vistas across the Solent to Hurst Castle and the Isle of Wight, ponies and cattle roam these paths.. Today the area covering nearly 740 hectares incorporates mudflats, salt marshes, shingle banks, coastal grazing marshes, and saline lagoons which supports important populations of birds and rare and specialist plants and invertebrates. The internationally important coastal marshes and mudflats are teeming with fish and, as a result, thousands of sea birds and waders flock here.

We started from Keyhaven car park and followed the coastal path passing by Keyhaven Harbour wall and Avon Water, then through a gate to take the Solent Way footpath walking along the sea wall, with views towards the saltmarsh, Hurst Spit, Castle and Lighthouse. We continued passing Keyhaven Marshes and Fishtail Lagoon to reach the Jetty and pipeline where we turned left taking the wide gravel path inland to reach Lower Pennington Lane. We turned left again to follow the lane back to Keyhaven village.

| <b>Birds</b>        | <b>Birds cont.</b>   | <b>Flowering Plants</b> | <b>Butterflies</b> |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Swallow             | Canada Geese         | Daisy                   | Peacock            |
| Mute Swan           | Herring Gull         | Alexanders              | Comma              |
| Robin               | Spoonbill            | Red Dead-nettle         | Speckled Wood      |
| Marsh Harrier       | Linnet               | Shepherd's Purse        |                    |
| Cormorant           | Avocet (48 seen)     | Dandelion               | <b>Mammals</b>     |
| Shelduck            | Shoveller            | Groundsel               | Two Foxes          |
| Black-headed Gull   | Greylag Goose        | Blackthorn              | Roe Dear           |
| Teal                | Coot                 | Spotted Medick          |                    |
| Black-tailed Godwit | Mediterranean Gull   | Wavy Bittercress        |                    |
| Mallard             | Reed Bunting         | Danish Scurvygrass      |                    |
| Stock Dove          | Widgeon              | Spanish Bluebells       |                    |
| Wood Pigeon         | Grey Heron           | Lesser Celandine        |                    |
| House Sparrow       | Ringed Plover        | Great Horsetail         |                    |
| Blackbird           | Little Ringed Plover | Ground Ivy              |                    |
| Gadwall             | Great Crested Grebe  | Common Dog Violet       |                    |
| Cetti's Warbler     | Tufted Duck          | Honesty                 |                    |
| Chiffchaff          | Turnstone            |                         |                    |
| Common Tern         | Greenfinch           |                         |                    |

|               |           |  |  |
|---------------|-----------|--|--|
| Pied Wagtail  | Wren      |  |  |
| Carrion Crow  | Duncock   |  |  |
| Curlew        | Stonechat |  |  |
| Oystercatcher | Magpie    |  |  |
| Redshank      | Lapwing   |  |  |
| Brent Geese   | Red Kite  |  |  |
| Meadow Pipit  | Skylark   |  |  |
| Sparrowhawk   | Blackcap  |  |  |
| Little Egret  | Chaffinch |  |  |



*Avocet by Gerry Traves*



*Spoonbill by Lyn Traves*