



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Lymington and Normandy Marsh Walk

Date: 3rd January 2019
 Weather: Light Cloud, 5 degrees
 Walk Leaders: Lyn & Gerry Traves
 Attendees: 14

Normandy Marsh is part of the Lymington and Keyhaven Marshes Local Nature Reserve, owned by Hampshire County Council and managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Coastal marshes, lagoons and former salt marshes are particularly important for wintering birds. Large numbers of Brent geese, Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover and birds of prey all seek refuge here in the winter. The coastal lagoons are bodies of salt or brackish water that are partially connected to the sea by sluices and through narrow openings or permeable barriers which lie just inside the seawall. Salt water also percolates through the sands along with freshwater as run off from adjacent land and from nearby streams, diluting the sea water reducing the salinity. Lagoons show a great fluctuation in salinity and temperature, hot weather makes them a hostile environment for most marine species. Species including little egret, teal and little tern feed in the lagoons. Waders such as curlew, sandpiper, dunlin and little stint stop off on their long migratory journeys. Our walk started at Bath Road car park, walking past the outdoor swimming pool and the yacht haven leading onto Normandy Marsh, walking around the sea wall with stunning views over the marshes and the sea towards the Isle of Wight, then round Eight Acre Pond, returning back along Normandy Lane and Kings Saltern Road.

| Birds | Birds | Flowering Plants |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Herring Gull | Mallard | Petty Spurge |
| Black-headed Gull | Red-breasted Merganser | Common Ragwort |
| Robin | Dunlin | Rough Hawkbit |
| Great Black-backed Gull | Pintail | Yarrow |
| House Sparrow | Magpie | Dandelion |
| Collard Dove | Pheasant | Smooth Sow-thistle |
| Wood Pigeon | Lapwing | Gorse |
| Black-tailed Godwit | Grey Heron | Groundsel |
| Canada Goose | Stonechat | Hedge Mustard |
| Brent Goose | Avocet | Scentless Mayweed |
| Carrion Crow | Greenshank | Sea Carrot |
| Cormorant | Turnstone | Red Dead-nettle |
| Common Gull | Goldeneye | Hogweed |
| Oystercatcher | Peregrine | Winter Heliotrope |
| Shelduck | Sky Lark | Daisy |
| Redshank | Starling | Shepherd's Purse |
| Little Grebe | Linnet | |
| Goldfinch | Reed Bunting | Others |
| Blue Tit | Great Crested Grebe | Roe Deer |
| Blackbird | Water Rail | Sulphur Tuft |
| Dunnock | Tufted Duck | |
| Grey Plover | Spotted Redshank | |
| Mute Swan | Knot | |
| Curlew | Great Tit | |
| Little Egret | Moorhen | |
| Wigeon and Teal | Pied Wagtail | |



Roe Deer at Normandy Lane by Gerry Traves