

MCV Creeks & Saltmarsh Trip (47)

Monday 20 November 2023, 9-11am

Report for Trip (47) prepared by Peter Hobby and Keith Metcalf.

Thanks Nigel Matthews and Peter for leading this trip. Peter stepped in at very short notice to help Nigel lead this mini-birding-cruise. We are also grateful to Steve Laycock who has once again provided magnificent photos of some of the spectacular birds seen on this trip.

We also thank Jason Crane for skippering this trip. He is always full of knowledge about Hurst and its Castle.

Keyhaven Marshes – exploring the creeks in a flat-bottomed dory

Wind – SW veering NW 2-3

Sea State – calm with small wavelets at times when in more exposed water

Weather – cloudy, some sunny periods, dry. Temp. 11 degrees C

Visibility - good

Observation – neap tide with plenty of exposed mud for waders to feed. The weather allowed good visibility. The Dunlin flocks were unsettled and flighty maybe spooked by the Marsh Harrier and aware of the Peregrine.

Leaders & Observers:

Nigel Mathews (Leader), Pete Hobby (Leader), Jason Crane (Skipper), Steve Laycock (Photographer), Becky, Wendy and Chris Thomas, Pip Kidgell, Julia Kitely and Tracey Barnett,

Species:

Brent Goose – c 250-300 spread

Mute Swan – 4

Shelduck – 14

Wigeon – c 80

Pintail – 3 (1m, 2f)

Teal – c 50

Eider

Little Grebe

Cormorant – 9

1m Common Scoter – 1female near river mouth. Excellent views and took flight

Long-tailed Duck – 1female in Mount Lake. Excellent views, diving close to boat

Red-breasted Merganser – 1imm m, 1f

Great Crested Grebe – 5 spread

Spoonbill – up to 4, some views in air.

Little Egret – 5 spread

Marsh Harrier – 1f hunting over marsh.

Oystercatcher – c 20 spread

Golden Plover – flock c 12 flying over

Grey Plover – c 30 spread

Ringed Plover – c 20 spread

Curlew – 12 spread

Bar-tailed Godwit – 7 (group of 3, another of 4)

Turnstone – 3

Dunlin – c 1000 (flighty - in flocks, sometimes

separate, sometimes together)

Redshank – c 25

Black-headed Gull – c 20 spread

Great Black-backed Gull – 8

Herring Gull – 10

Kingfisher – 1 Keyhaven Harbour

Kestrel – 2
Carrion Crow – several
Rock Pipit – 1 ad Keyhaven Harbour wall

Peregrine – 1 ad on post, east of Hawkers
Pied Wagtail – 1 m feeding along creek edge

Number of species – 34

Bird of the Day: Long-tailed Duck



Male Eider



Long-tailed Duck



Female Common Scoter





Juvenile Spoonbill (note pinkish bill)



Great Crested Grebe



Red-breasted Merganser



Bar-tailed Godwit – slightly upturned long bill



Dunlin and Grey Plover



Female Kingfisher in Keyhaven Harbour (note orange marking on lower mandible)