

REPORT ON THE CREEKS & SALTMARSH TRIP (50)

Saturday 3rd February 2024

Trip organiser Keith Metcalf (KM) welcomed everyone and thanked Isaac Hobby for skipping the boat. He introduced trip members including; Chairman of the Hampshire Ornithological Society Keith Betton (KB) who provided commentary on what birds we were seeing, how many breed in Hampshire and advised on their summering breeding grounds.

Keith (B) was joined by local expert and worldwide birder Richard Coomber whose keen eyes spotted several birds we might otherwise have missed e.g. *Long-tailed Duck* in flight. Well spotted Richard and thank you for the use of several of your photographs.

Keith (M) mentioned that on his way to the ferry pontoon he had seen about **200 Golden Plover** on farmland east of New Lane. *(Unfortunately, if anyone went to see them at the end of the boat trip, they would have been disappointed as they had moved away by then)!*



Flock of Golden Plover over New Lane farmland – (KM)

Wind – light SW and brisk when travelling into the wind **Sea State** – calm in sheltered waters with small waves as we went into the open Solent waters to get to Stivers Lake.

Weather – cloudy, with no sunny periods but dry. Temp. 8 degrees C

Visibility – a little hazy mist in distance

General Observation – plenty of exposed mud for waders to feed. The large *Dunlin* flocks

were unsettled and flighty, giving us good close views as small flocks of them flew across our bow.



(L) *Dunlin in flight* courtesy of John Anderson © (R) *small group near old anchor* (KM)

Brent Goose – 300

Wigeon – 30 (in two flights)

Long-tailed Duck – briefly flying

Great Crested Grebe – 2

Curlew – 8

Dunlin – 300

Black-headed Gull – 10

Rock Pipit – 2 (on Castle)

Wigeon – 30

Ringed Plover – 1

Meadow Pipit - 3

Mute Swan – 2

Teal – 2

Red-breasted Merganser – 8

Oystercatcher – 20

Turnstone – 7

Herring Gull – 2

Great Black-backed Gull – 5

Lapwing – 150

Mallard – 2

Marsh Harrier - 1

Skylark - 1

Shelduck – 14

Cormorant – 3

Little Egret - 3

Grey Plover – 15

Redshank – 6

Peregrine – (F+M)

Oystercatcher - 10

Knot – 8

Spoonbill - 1

Kingfisher – 1

Carrion Crow - 3

Number of species – 33

Bird of the Day: *Peregrine x 2 (F + M)*



Great Crested Grebe by Richard Coomber ©



Brent Goose by Richard Coomber ©



*Oystercatcher coming into breeding plumage – i.e. no white neck marking
Photo by Richard Coomber ©*



Red Knot by Richard Coomber ©



Bad hair day for a pair of Red-breasted Merganser by Richard Coomber ©

All photographs have copyright © We thank our photographers; Richard Coomber, John Anderson and Keith Metcalf for providing their superb photographs