

Travelling Naturalist Trip List New Forest

December 5th 2009

Weather: a fine morning followed by rain in the afternoon.

Brockenhurst, 1000

Leaving the hotel (where Tawny Owls had been heard overnight) we drove a short distance to Rhinefield Arboretum where we parked for the morning. Walking into Poundhill Enclosure we had excellent views of a number of Nuthatches foraging on the ground. Our search for Red Deer took us across some very wet patches of forest (some of which we examined very closely indeed!) with some good populations of the rare New Forest Crowfoot. The only deer we saw however were brief glimpses of single Roe and Fallow bucks.

Walking out onto Ober Heath a Dartford Warbler gave us a brief view, the first time I have seen one at this site. Our route then took us along the Black Water river, following it upstream towards Queens Meadow. In this area there were plenty of mature Oaks, with an abundant epiphytic flora of many fern and fungi species. Good views were had here of Treecreeper, Marsh, Coal, Blue and Great Tits.

The ornithological highlight of the day was when a flock of Crossbills flew over calling loudly. The Crossbills weren't the highlight – but the Goshawk that disturbed them was!

Keyhaven, 1400

At high tide and in a blustery wind we had a very pleasant walk along the sea wall before we could shelter and examine the roosting waders. 5 species of wader were seen: Curlew, Redshank, Lapwing, Oystercatcher and Black-tailed Godwit. Little Egrets were much in evidence with one particular bird feeding right in front of us. We started walking back as the rain set in but we didn't stop birding and added Sparrowhawk to the list closely followed by a huge flock of several hundred Brent Geese. Hearing the sound of the geese cackling as they flew over our heads was certainly worth getting wet!

Bob Ford, December 5th 2009



Birds (58 species)

Little Grebe
Cormorant
Little Egret
Grey Heron
Mute Swan
Brent Goose
Shelduck
Shoveler
Mallard
Wigeon
Teal
Sparrowhawk
Goshawk
Moorhen
Coot
Oystercatcher
Lapwing
Black-tailed Godwit
Curlew
Redshank
Black-headed Gull
Herring Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
Wood Pigeon
Green Woodpecker
Great Spotted Woodpecker
Tawny Owl
Skylark
Meadow Pipit
Rock Pipit
Grey Wagtail
Pied Wagtail
Wren
Robin
Blackbird
Song Thrush
Redwing
Mistle Thrush
Dartford Warbler
Goldcrest
Marsh Tit
Coal Tit
Blue Tit
Great Tit
Nuthatch

Treecreeper
Magpie
Jackdaw
Rook
Carrion Crow
Starling
House Sparrow
Chaffinch
Greenfinch
Siskin
Crossbill
Reed Bunting

Mammals:

Roe Deer
Fallow Deer

Notable Plants:

Alder
Beech
Bracken
Butcher's-broom
Common Heather
Common Mallow
Corsican Pine
Floating Sweet-grass
Grey Willow
New Forest Crowfoot
Polypody
Scots Pine
Sessile Oak
Silver Birch
Violet

Fungi:

Artist's Fungus
Birch Bracket