



EAST LANCASHIRE ORNITHOLOGIST CLUB

Field Trip Report

Date: 21st February 2026

Attendees: 12

Sunrise: 06:48

Hightide: na

Weather: 08:00 – Overcast, Temperature 8°C. Wind 9 mph SW

12:00 – Overcast then Sunny intervals, Temperature 10°C. Wind 12 mph WSW

Species Count: 59

Wombwell Ings and Broomhill Flash

The group met at the RSPB Dearne Valley site of Wombwell Ings and were greeted by the loud sound of a Greater Spotted Woodpecker drumming on the metal plate of a nearby pylon. In the bushes in the area, we saw common species such Reed Bunting, Greenfinch and Linnet. With Skylark singing overhead we walked to the hide overlooking the wetland and chatted to the local RSPB volunteer who was there doing a morning count. There were views of Lapwing, Gadwall, Wigeon, Tufted Duck, Shoveler and Pochard, but not the hoped for Water Pipit which can occur at this site. Walking back we saw a Fieldfare and at the cars were greeted by the GSW, which was still drumming on its metal plate. We then had a short drive to Broomhill Flash.

At the impressive two tier hide at Broomhill we had excellent views over the flash, but the only additional species we saw was Goldeneye and a Marsh Harrier which flew across the back of the flash.

Next we drove round to the main RSPB site of Old Moor, which opens at 9:30am.

RSPB Old Moor

The morning was spent in the area of the reedbeds where Bittern are known to breed, but despite much effort the elusive Bittern remained unseen and unheard. We did see a pair of Kestrel displaying, Marsh Harrier were present and Cetti's Warbler was heard. After a couple of hours scanning the reedbeds we returned to the reception area garden for lunch, where there were good views of Long-tailed Tit, Dunnock, Greenfinch and Siskin.

After lunch we walked a circuit around the rest of the reserve. Additional species seen included Sonechat, Pied Wagtail, Great Crested and Little Grebe, Goosander, Grey Heron, Sparrowhawk and a Peregrine sat on the ground. The group also had a close encounter with a Weasel.

It was then time for the drive home. Although we didn't see some of the hoped for 'specialities', we did have interesting views of birds (and a Weasel), and it was an enjoyable trip in good company.

Thank you to Nigel and Glenn for the work they do in planning the trips and to all that attended.

Species List

Canada Goose

Greylag Goose

Mute Swan

Shoveler

Gadwall

Wigeon

Mallard

Teal

Pochard

Tufted duck

Goldeneye

Goosander

Pheasant

Feral Pigeon

Stock Dove

Wood Pigeon

Moorhen

Coot

Little Grebe

Great Crested Grebe

Oystercatcher

Lapwing

Black-headed Gull

Common Gull

Herring Gull

Lesser Back-backed Gull

Cormorant

Great Spotted Woodpecker

Grey Heron

Sparrowhawk

Marsh Harrier

Buzzard

Kestrel

Peregrine

Jay

Magpie

Jackdaw

Carrion Crow

Blue Tit

Great Tit

Skylark

Cetti's Warbler

Long-tailed Tit

Wren

Starling

Song Thrush

Blackbird

Fieldfare

Robin

Stonechat

Dunnock

Pied Wagtail

Meadow Pipit

Chaffinch

Greenfinch

Linnet

Goldfinch

Siskin

Reed Bunting