



EAST LANCASHIRE ORNITHOLOGIST CLUB

Field Trip Report Parkgate and Burton Marsh RSPB

Date: 21st Feb 2026

Attendees: 15

Sunrise: 06:09

Hightide: 12:20

Weather: 08:00 – Broken clouds, Temperature 6.5°C. Wind 1 mph NW

13:00 – Hazy sunshine few clouds, Temperature 15°C. Wind 2 mph N

Species Count: 69

Participants: 15

Burton Marsh

It was a beautiful spring morning when the group met at Burton Marsh.

A distant Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard drumming as the group walked along the bridleway to the old quay at Denhall, scanning the marsh as we went along.

An early surprise was a flock of Redwing. There were the expected Pink-footed geese, and ducks such as Shelduck, Gadwall, Wigeon and Teal. Waders were represented by Curlew, Black-tailed Godwit, Redshank, Greenshank and Ruff. Marsh Harrier was seen several times over the saltmarsh. It was pleasant walk with early season Chiffchaff calling and Skylark and Meadow Pipit displaying.

Returning to the cars we departed to Parkgate in time for high tide and hoping for hunting raptors over the saltmarsh.

Parkgate

We parked at the Old Baths carpark just as the crowds were gathering. Whilst waiting for the incoming tide we had lunch and scanned the saltmarsh, but the only thing of note was a flock of Avocet.

There were more views of a Marsh Harrier, but the incoming tide (9.8 metre) was only marked by an increase in gull activity in the distance. It was decided to leave Parkgate and make our way to RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands.

RSPB Burton Mere Wetlands

In the wooded area at the reception centre, we saw Nuthatch and other species such as Blue and Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Chaffinch and Goldfinch on the feeders.

Walking around the reserve, Cetti's Warbler were heard and gave very brief views. Little and Great Egret were present. Raven flew overhead calling, and more Chiffchaff were heard.

On the Bridge Pool there were two Spoonbill, and new wildfowl for the day were Pintail and Tufted Duck.

Reaching the Border Hide we could view the Centenary Pool where there were hundreds of roosting Knot, along with Black-tailed Godwit and a single Bar-tailed Godwit. Four Snipe were seen on the far bank and Redshank, Ruff, Dunlin and Lapwing were all present.

Unfortunately, the reported Spotted Redshank had departed for the Dee estuary before we arrived. Walking back to the visitor centre some people had a view of a Mediterranean Gull in flight.

It was now time to leave for home. It had been a pleasant day's birding in the spring sunshine, in the company of a friendly and knowledgeable club members.

As always, the success of these outings is down to the planning of Nigel and Glenn. Thank you to you both.

Species List

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Canada Goose | Black-headed Gull | Robin |
| Greylag Goose | <i>Mediterranean Gull</i> | Stonechat |
| Pink Footed Goose | Herring Gull | House Sparrow |
| Mute Swan | Lesser Back-backed Gull | Dunnock |
| Shelduck | Cormorant | Meadow Pipit |
| Shoveler | Spoonbill | Chaffinch |
| Gadwall | Little Egret | Greenfinch |
| Wigeon | Great White Egret | Goldfinch |
| Mallard | Grey Heron | Reed Bunting |
| Pintail | Marsh Harrier | |
| Teal | Buzzard | |
| Tufted duck | Great Spotted Woodpecker | |
| Pheasant | Kestrel | |
| Rock Dove (Pigeon) | Magpie | |
| Wood Pigeon | Jackdaw | |
| Moorhen | Rook | |
| Coot | Carrion Crow | |
| Oystercatcher | Raven | |
| Avocet | Blue Tit | |
| Lapwing | Great Tit | |
| Curlew | Skylark | |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | Cetti's Warbler | |
| Black-tailed Godwit | Long-tailed Tit | |
| Snipe | Chiffchaff | |
| Redshank | Goldcrest | |
| Greenshank | Wren | |
| Knot | Starling | |
| Ruff | Nuthatch | |
| Dunlin | Song Thrush | |
| | Redwing | |
| | Blackbird | |