



EAST LANCASHIRE ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB

Evening Walk Report Walshaw Dean

Date: 2nd June 2026, 19:00 to 21:30

Attendees: 15

Species Count: 37 (+1)

This was the annual spring midweek evening walk replacing the normal indoor meeting. We met at Lower Gorple carpark at 7:00pm under a cloudy sky that looked like it may produce rain showers, but we were lucky and the walk was basically dry, but breezy.

We followed the tarmac path from the carpark towards Walshaw Dean Lower Reservoir, adult Lapwing with young were on both sides of the road and a young Snipe chick was seen. The wood on the left held singing Willow Warbler and Chaffinch. As we walked past the end of the wood the views of the lower reservoir and the moorland beyond opened up.

As we walked along the road a number of the party discussed the impact that the proposed huge windfarm will have on the area, whilst hearing Curlew and seeing their young in the same fields as the Lapwing chicks.

For many of the attendees there then followed the probable highlights of the walk. First a Short-eared Owl was seen near the reservoir then a single Marsh Harrier was observed hunting on the far side. Despite being a large bird, she was hard to see all the time even though she was constantly hunting, we were all surprised when a second female Marsh Harrier was observed.

The walk continued towards the dam wall between the Lower and Middle reservoirs and Redshank, Stonechat and Raven were noted along with Skylark and Meadow Pipit.

As the light started to fail, we returned down the road towards the carpark. Two Spotted Flycatchers were observed beside the road near the wood.

Two of the party decided to brave the midges and were rewarded with views of Woodcock.

Thanks to Nigel and Glenn for organising and leading the walk.

Species List

Canada Goose	Kestrel
Greylag Goose	Jackdaw
Mallard	Raven
Red Grouse	Carrion Crow
Pheasant	Willow Warbler
Woodpigeon	Blue Tit
Stock Dove	Skylark
Oystercatcher	Wren
Lapwing	Starling
Curlew	Mistle Thrush
Snipe	Song Thrush
Common Sandpiper	Blackbird
Redshank	Spotted Flycatcher
Black-headed Gull	Robin
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Stonechat
Grey Heron	Pied Wagtail
Short-eared Owl	Meadow Pipit
Marsh Harrier	Chaffinch
Buzzard	

Plus: Woodcock for the late stayers.