



Field Trip Report

Barrowford, Slipper Hill and Foulridge Lower Reservoirs

Date: 22nd August 2026

Attendees: 13

Sunrise: 06:00

Weather: 07:00 – Overcast, Temperature 9°C. Wind 2 mph W

12:30 – Sunny intervals, Temperature 17°C. Wind 6 mph W

Species Count: 49

We met at the Barrowford Reservoir carpark, where three of the participants had already checked the reservoir, which had Mallard and small numbers of Pied Wagtail. Over the adjacent canal there was a good passage movement of Sand and House Martins.

We then followed the canal towards Slipper Hill Reservoir, on the way we all had good views of a Kingfisher that was using the metalwork used for canal boat moorings as a perch.

On arrival at Slipper Hill Reservoir there were a good number of waterbird species, including numbers of Mallard, Tufted and Mandarin Ducks. Both common Grebes were present; two Little Grebes were visible whilst Great Crested Grebe had breed on the reservoir this year. Again, numbers of Pied Wagtail appeared to be moving through, and they were accompanied by small numbers of Grey Wagtail.

The highlight here was probably a fox in plain view which the trip leader hoped would have dinned on one of the feral ducks.

The day before the trip 22 Little Egrets and a single Great White Egret had been reported at Foulridge Lower Reservoir, these birds could be seen distantly from the Yacht Club, we walked around the reservoir on the Foulridge side to get better views on the assembly of Egrets. On the way Chiffchaff could be heard and the Greenshank that had been present for a few days flew past. We watch the egrets from both sides of the inlet, there were probably a couple more Little Egrets than the previous day and they were joined by 12 Grey Herons, four Common Sandpipers, three Green Sandpipers and three Snipe. Small numbers of Lapwing were also present. Pied Wagtail was seen at various locations, but the hoped-for Yellow Wagtail was absent.

We then started to return to Barrowford Reservoir via the old railway, whilst still on the Lower Reservoir, the highlight of the morning was an Osprey, seen overhead and then appeared to make its way towards Whitemoor Reservoir.

On the canal on the return the Kingfisher was in the same location as earlier and the House and Sand Martins had all moved on, but numbers of Swallows were starting to build up on the wires.

Thank you to Nigel and Glenn for planning the trip and Nigel for leading on the day and for the good company of all that attended.

Species List

Mute Swan	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	Sand Martin
Canada Goose	Cormorant	Swallow
Mandarin Duck	Little Egret	House Martin
Tufted Duck	Great White Egret	Long-tailed Tit
Mallard	Grey Heron	Willow Warbler
Teal	Swift	Chiffchaff
Little Grebe	Osprey	Nuthatch
Great Crested Grebe	Sparrowhawk	Wren
Woodpigeon	Kingfisher	Blackbird
Moorhen	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Spotted Flycatcher
Coot	Kestrel	Robin
Lapwing	Magpie	Grey Wagtail
Snipe	Jackdaw	Pied Wagtail
Common Sandpiper	Carrion Crow	Bullfinch
Green Sandpiper	Blue Tit	Goldfinch
Greenshank	Great Tit	
Black-headed Gull	Coal Tit	