

## Cley Marshes NWT – 16 March 2025

Our day trip in March was to Cley Marsh in Norfolk and 31 people were on the coach. The reserve is owned by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and is comprised of extensive reedbeds, pools, scrapes and grazing meadows. It also has an excellent Visitor Centre and café which overlook the reserve.

Firstly we went to the observation balcony at the centre where we were able to view part of the reserve. In the car park there were Goldfinches, Blackbirds, a Dunnock, Robin, and Woodpigeon. From the balcony we saw a Marsh Harrier quartering the reedbed and on and around the pools we spotted Shelducks, Shovelers, Wigeons, Gadwalls, Teals and Lapwings. Some White-fronted Geese were also spotted on the far side of the reeds so we made our way to the three hides in the reedbeds to get a better view. They were soon found with the telescopes and were identified as Lesser White-fronted Geese which was a first for many of the group. We also saw a Grey Heron, Ruff, Turnstone, Little Egret, Common Snipe, Pied Wagtail, Common Gull, Starlings, Mute Swans and Mallards.

We then went to the East Bank and on the way a Spoonbill dropped into one of the pools. Several Curlews and Brent Geese were flying over the marsh and a Moorhen and Little Grebe were seen in one of the drains. A Common

Buzzard was spotted above the distant woodlands and some of us managed to get a glimpse of a very well hidden Jack Snipe in the reeds. Other birds added to the list were Pintails, Pochards, Cormorants, Black-headed Gulls, Carrion Crows, an Egyptian Goose, Barnacle Goose, Crane and Skylark. Some Brown Hares and a Common Lizard were also seen by a few of the group. The total number of bird species seen by the group was 46.



Spoonbill taken at Cley Marsh

*Ray Daniels  
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