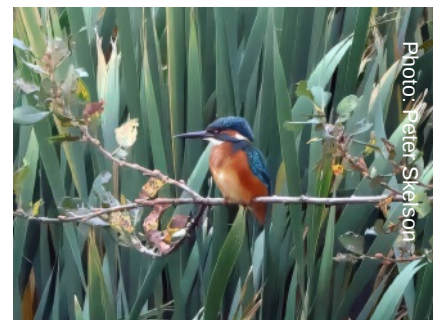


Rye Meads and Walthamstow Wetlands – October 2025

Our field trip in October was a two-day event with an overnight stop at Harlow in Essex. This enabled us to travel further afield and visit two reserves. There were 29 people on board and we left Lincoln at approximately 8.20 am and arrived at Walthamstow Wetlands in East London at 12.10 pm. The reserve is adjacent to the River Lee and covers 211 hectares. It is part of the Lee Valley and is a vital habitat for birds, bats and reptiles.

The first bird we saw was a Ring-necked Parakeet in the trees near the car park. They were quite common on this reserve and could be heard calling throughout the day. We visited two of the reservoirs and explored a small area of woodland and open water where a Kingfisher was seen flying across the lake. On the water there were Tufted Ducks, Mallards, Pochards, Gadwalls, Wigeons, Canada Geese, Greylag Geese, Mute Swans and an Egyptian Goose. Also on the open water we saw Cormorants, Coots, Moorhens, Great Crested Grebes, Little Grebes, Black-headed Gulls, Lesser Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls. Other birds spotted were Magpies, Carrion Crows, Starlings, Chiffchaffs, Chaffinches, two Little Egrets, a Pied Wagtail, Robin and Great Spotted Woodpecker.

On the second day we went to Rye Meads near Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire which is jointly managed by the RSPB and Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. The reserve is 58.5 hectares and is a Biological Site of Special Scientific Interest. It includes reedbeds, open water, wet meadows, carr woodlands and a scrape. We visited all the hides and we saw the same bird species as the day before. However there were 19 new ones as follows:



Kingfisher taken at Rye Meads

We had distant views of two Red Kites, a Kestrel, Common Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon and a Sparrowhawk. Other birds seen were Goldfinches, Grey Herons, Lapwings, Common Snipe, Stock Doves, Woodpigeons, Redwings, Teals, Blue Tits, Great Tits, Two Green Sandpipers, a Grey Wagtail, Jay and Water Rail. This brought our total species seen by the group to 48. We also saw a Fox skulking in the reeds which eventually came out in the open.

This was a very enjoyable trip. We had excellent weather and a good hotel and our thanks go to Geoff and Jane for organising it and looking after us. Thanks also to our driver Jonathan for the safe and pleasant journeys.

*Ray Daniels
RSPB Lincoln Local Group*