

## North Cave Wetlands, 14 September 2025

The group, consisting of 24 members and 5 students, left Lincoln at 9 am and arrived at the reserve around 10.30. Unfortunately, there were no Wildlife Trust personnel on site, and no provision had been made for our coach. This meant our driver had to leave the site and return at 3 pm to pick us up because the access road was narrow and had been partially blocked by parked cars. However, this was the only blip in a good day of birding.

North Cave Reserve is located west of Hull and north of the Humber. It is managed by Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. The site has been developed from worked-out sand and gravel workings and continues to expand as the gravel workings progress. The site is large, being some 56 hectares in area and there is an abundance of hides and viewing screens. A circular trail runs around the perimeter of the original section of the reserve on which there are four hides. The extension is accessed by stoned paths and there are two hides as well as plenty of additional viewpoints. The on-site facilities are limited, consisting simply of three toilet cabins. However, there is popular Butty Van on site until 2.30 pm and many members partook of the goodies in the van: bacon butties etc!

Opposite the Butty van is a covered seating area with extensive views over the first lake. The view was dominated by hundreds of Greylag Geese making it difficult to pick out other wildfowl and waders, but we still managed to identify most of them. It was also splendid to see the sky over all the lakes teeming with Hirundines, all three being present in considerable numbers: Swallows, Sand Martins and House Martins. Apart from a large flock of Lapwings it proved difficult to spot other waders, but we did eventually see a Greenshank, an Oystercatcher, a Green Sandpiper, a Common Sandpiper, 8 Curlew, 5 Snipe and, for most people the birds of the day, two Little Stints.



Mike Langman (rspb-images.com)

Little Stint

The weather forecast for the day was quite grim but it stayed fine until almost 3 o'clock. We were heading for the coach when a local birder stopped our party and kindly pointed out a Whinchat and Stonechat on a nearby fence. For some, it was the first Whinchat sighting of the year and but for him we would not have been aware of it.

The group's total sightings number for the day was 52, again a very good total for a day out. For those interested in the sightings, here is the bird list.

Greylag Goose, Lapwing, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Mallard, Cormorant, Shoveler, Egyptian Goose, Moorhen, Kestrel, Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon, Magpie, Carrion Crow, Teal, Starling, Sand Martin, Swallow, House Martin, Little Egret, Grey Heron, Snipe, Green Woodpecker, Mute Swan, Tufted Duck, Gadwall, Coot, Chiffchaff, Reed Bunting, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Black-headed Gull, Cetti's Warbler, Goldfinch, Green Sandpiper, Bittern, Pheasant, Oystercatcher, Red Kite, Buzzard, Water Rail, Common Sandpiper, Curlew, Lesser Black-Backed Gull, Shelduck, Greenshank, Linnet, Pochard, Little Stint, Robin, Whinchat, Stonechat, and Little Owl.

*Pete Dryburgh  
RSPB Lincoln Local Group*