

RSPB Old Moor – 13 April 2025

In April 36 members of our group went to the RSPB Reserve of Old Moor which is located in the Dearne Valley near Doncaster. It consists of lakes, damp grassland, copses and reedbeds and there are excellent visitor-friendly facilities. Unfortunately, we arrived later than planned but the weather was dry with sunny periods and we had a very enjoyable day.

After visiting the café and facilities we went on the Green Lane Loop where there are five hides overlooking the Mere and pools. In the trees and bushes alongside the footpath Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs, Robins and Wrens were singing and the unmistakable sound of a Cetti's Warbler was heard. From the various hides we saw Black-headed Gulls, Pochards, Mallards, Tufted Ducks, Shovelers, Teals, Gadwalls, Goosanders, Shelducks, Greylag Geese, Canada Geese and Mute Swans. The waders spotted were Redshanks, Oystercatchers, Lapwings and a close view of a Common Snipe. Other water birds seen were Coots, Moorhens, a pair of Great Crested Grebes and a Little Grebe. There was also the possible sighting of a Black-necked Grebe but it was too far away to make a positive identification.



Redshank

Photo: Peter Skelton

We also saw a Kestrel, Marsh Harrier, Cormorant, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Grey Heron, Pied Wagtail, Pheasant and Starlings. We then made our way to the Discovery Trail and stopped at the Feeding Station on the way. Here we found Great Tits, Blue Tits, Greenfinches, Goldfinches, Chaffinches, a Dunnock, Robin, male Bullfinch and male Reed Bunting. We then went to the Bittern Hide which overlooks the reedbeds and a Marsh Harrier was quartering the reeds. Sand Martins were also flying over the water and a Little Egret was spotted among the reeds. A few House Martins were seen and a Common Buzzard was flying above the trees.

Other birds seen throughout the day were Jackdaws, Woodpigeons, Carrion Crows, Magpies, Rooks, a Stock Dove, Grey Wagtail, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Willow Warbler. A Bittern was booming and one person caught a glimpse of it flying. This brought our total species seen to 54.

*Ray Daniels
RSPB Lincoln Local Group*