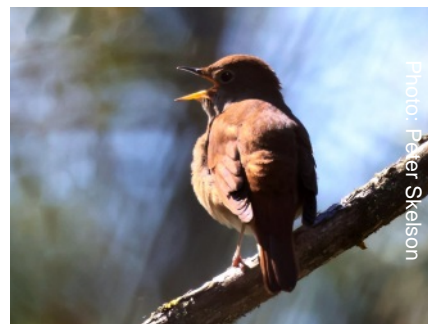


## Springtime in Sussex 19-22 April 2026

Thirty-one people set off from Lincoln at 8 am on a lovely sunny day. We arrived at Sevenoaks Nature Reserve at approximately 12.50 pm. This reserve comprises of deciduous woodland around a series of lakes fringed with reedbeds. We managed to visit all the hides and we saw a good variety of birds as follows:

Cormorant, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-headed Gull, Canada Geese, Egyptian Geese, Mute Swan, Grey Heron, Great White Egret, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Shoveler, Shelduck, Great Crested Grebe, Coot, Moorhen, Common Sandpiper, Little Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Kingfisher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Carrion Crow, Jackdaw, Jay, Magpie, Stock Dove, Pheasant, Common Buzzard, Pied Wagtail, Wren, Robin, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Swallow, Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Cetti's Warbler.

On the second day we went to Pulborough Brooks which is an RSPB Reserve. This reserve consists of Wildflower Meadows, Pools, Heathland and Woodlands and there are four hides. It is well known for Nightingales and this was one of the first birds we heard when we set off on the trail. We only walked a short distance before one was found singing in a leafless tree. We had superb views of the bird for several minutes and everyone on the trip saw it. Warblers were singing everywhere and we again saw similar wildfowl, waders, gulls and woodland birds as the previous day. However, we did see 23 different species of birds as follows:



Nightingale, Pulborough Brooks

Common Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Sedge Warbler, Reed Bunting, Avocet, Redshank, Ringed Plover, Greenshank, Dunlin, Little Egret, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Great Black-backed Gull, Sand Martin, House Martin, Treecreeper, Starling, Chaffinch, Rook, House Sparrow, Nightingale, Red Kite.

On the third day we visited Rye Harbour and it was a cold and windy day. The coach dropped us off in Rye and some people walked to the reserve along the river but the majority caught the local bus. There is an excellent Visitor Centre and café which overlooks the marsh. Most of the group walked around the marsh and they were rewarded with a good selection of birds which included 15 additional new species. They were:

Meadow Pipit, Linnet, Wheatear, Stonechat, Skylark, Yellow Wagtail, Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Turnstone, Golden Plover, Sandwich Tern, Little Tern, Common Tern, Mediterranean Gull, Collared Dove, Marsh Harrier.

On our final day we went to Woods Mill Nature Reserve which is the headquarters of the Sussex Wildlife Trust. It is a small reserve with ponds, ancient woodlands, streams, meadows and hedgerows. We heard a Cetti's Warbler, Whitethroats, Chiffchaffs and Reed Warblers but the only new species we saw were Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Nuthatch, Dunnock and Little Grebe. This brought our total species of birds seen to 83. During the three days Rabbits, Grey Squirrels, a Common Shrew, Bank Vole, Adder and Grass Snake were also spotted.

We had a very enjoyable four days and the only downside was the hotel running out of beer. Our thanks go to our trip leaders Geoff and Graham and to anyone else involved in organising the holiday.

*Ray Daniels*  
*RSPB Lincoln Local Group*