

## **Day Trip Summary**

**Name of trip:** Vale of Mowbray (GBR271)

**Date of trip:** 7 October 2021

**Species highlights (5+):** Whooper Swan, Black-tailed Godwit, hundreds of Curlew, Lapwing and Golden Plover

**Summary of the day:** The group met at Nosterfield Local Nature Reserve at 9am. The weather was fine and dry with high cloud through which the sun shone for good periods during the day. For most of the day there was only a light breeze which made for a pleasant day. After introductions and a briefing we spent some time viewing the main lake where we enjoyed a selection of birds including several hundred Curlews, a close Black-tailed Godwit and three Little Egrets. Ducks included Wigeon, Mallard, Gadwall, Tufted Duck, Teal and Shoveler. We then set off to walk to North hide. We found a fresh Comma butterfly showing well in the sun before reaching the dragonfly pond. Whilst it was quiet at this point, there was more action on the way back as the day warmed. We watched birds in the tree-tops and first seen was a Great Spotted Woodpecker, and then good numbers of Goldfinch and Greenfinch. At North hide we were surprised how dry it was but whilst scanning we watched Mute Swans and three Grey Herons, together with more ducks and geese. As we passed the dragonfly pond on the return walk we added Common Darter and Southern Hawker dragonflies, and watched several Small Tortoiseshell butterflies on the last few flowers of a Buddleia bush.

From the car park we drove the short distance to Nosterfield Quarry. We started by looking over Lingham Lake from the viewing screen where we added Great Cormorant and Great Crested Grebe to our sightings. Whilst having an early lunch at the picnic tables a small flock of Fieldfare flew overhead. We then walked along the footpath to Flasks Lane to view the lake. There were several Mute Swans and as we scanned a swan in flight started to descend to the water. As we watched it we noticed that it had a big yellow bill like a ski slope – a Whooper Swan – excellent!

Next we crossed the causeway between Flasks and Kiln Lakes to visit the screen overlooking the reedbed. Enroute we added Lesser Black-backed Gull, Rook and Dunnock to our day list. From the viewing screen we watched a tight flock of about 500 Golden Plover reeling in the sky, spotted a Grey Squirrel and enjoyed trying to phonescope a Grey Heron as it showed well on a pole in front of us.

After a pleasant walk we arrived back at our cars and drove to Masham where we visited the Market Place for an afternoon tea stop. After making use of the public facilities we drove the short distance to Marfield Wetlands where we made a tour of the reserve passing the lakes, crossing the sheep fields and returning through woodland. We delighted as five Common Buzzards circled above in a blue sky, 'mewing' to each other. Some had quick in-flight views of Mistle Thrush and Green Woodpecker. At the woodland hide we enjoyed watching Great, Blue, Long-tailed and Marsh Tits and a Chiffchaff. Eventually we arrived back at the car park where we said our goodbyes and departed after an enjoyable day in the Vale of Mowbray.