



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### **Birds at Keyhaven Walk**

Date: 23rd February 2022  
 Weather: Overcast and a cool breeze, 10 degrees  
 Walk Leaders: Lyn and Gerry Traves  
 Attendees: 15

Keyhaven Marshes lies between Hurst Spit and Lymington on the Hampshire coast. The area was bought by Hampshire County Council in 1984 and is managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. Although there is no access into the coastal marshes themselves, gravel paths maintained by Hampshire County Council allow visitors to walk along the sea wall and admire the stunning vistas across the Solent to Hurst Castle and the Isle of Wight.

Today the area incorporates mudflats, salt marshes, shingle banks, coastal grazing marshes, and saline lagoons. The reserve supports important populations of birds and rare and specialist plants and invertebrates.

Upon leaving the public car park at Keyhaven, we followed the Solent Way walking route passing by the mouth of Avon Water and viewing the birds on it, then walking alongside the harbour wall to a gate and turning right through it to walk along the sea wall track admiring the views along the way. Reaching Fishtail Lagoon there were a huge variety of birds to be seen both on the lagoon and on the mudflats reaching out towards the Solent. After passing the lagoon we left the sea wall track by turning left walking along a path to reach a car parking area at the bottom of Lower Pennington Lane. We returned back along an ancient highway with the marshes to our left and the reclaimed land of Efford landfill site on our right, now landscaped with a lake with mainly various Gulls, Oystercatchers and Canada Geese in residence.

<b>Birds</b>	<b>Birds cont.</b>	<b>Birds Cont.</b>	<b>Flowering Plants</b>
Blackbird	Buzzard	Cormorant	Daisy
Coot	Marsh Harrier	Grey Plover	Groundsil
Shoveller	Pheasant	Turnstone	White Clover
Little Egret	Reed Bunting	Oystercatcher	Lesser Celandine
Great Crested Grebe	Peregrine	Pied Wagtail	Red Dead-nettle
Jay	Curlew	Magpie	Common Field Speedwell
Wood Pigeon	Teal	Tufted Duck	Shepherd's Purse
Black-headed Gull	Wigeon	Robin	Common Chickweed
Mallard	Shelduck	Herring Gull	Gorse
Mute Swan	Canada Geese	Great Black-backed Gull	Daffodil
Gadwall	Black-tailed Godwit	Kestrel	
Brent Geese	Ringed Plover	Blue Tit	
Redshank	Pintail	Carrion Crow	
Lapwing	Dunlin	Starling	



*Brent Goose at Keyhaven by Lyn Traves*