

The Preston Society : Walk Reports for August 2021

by Graham Thomas

for photos please see our facebook page

The Preston Society

Abbey Village. Rake Brook Reservoir. Withnell Moor. Millstone Edge. Doles Lane.

Monday 2nd Aug

Sunny Warm

19.00 to 21.20

2 miles

Parked on Doles Lane before 25 people set off along the main road to the right. The first bird seen was a male Greenfinch singing sat on a wire above the cars even before we set off.

Stopped to look at Rake Brook Reservoir. This Reservoir has never produced many birds.

Spotted several warblers flitting through the trees on the right and very close. Looked like a brood of Chiff Chaff or Willow Warbler. They were very grey with an eye stripe but were silent.

Walked up Roddlesworth Lane to get away from the main road. Someone spotted a bird of prey on the Moor but a little way off. Possible Peregrine or Hobby.

At a stile on the right, crossed a field to the main road. This was crossed then up onto Withnell Moor. It was a beautiful evening with views all around. Could see Ingleborough and Penyghent and over to the north. The Bowland Fells and Black Combe to the west.

Followed a path through rough moorland weaving our way through clumps of reeds. Found three Brown Hare and one Roe Deer in a field over to the left. We had seen Deer here before.

Came across the ruined farm of Grouse Cottage. Only the toilet house remained standing and many years ago I had accidentally disturbed two Little Owls from this building. They flew across to a wall with a deep undulating flight and stared at me. Their heads turning around through 180 degrees.

Had to cross 2 footbridges enroute then finally picked our way carefully through the boulders of Millstone Edge as the light was fading. Finally descended to the top of Doles Lane.

A Pipestrelle Bat was seen above a farm at the top of this lane.

It was a beautiful summer's evening and were very priveleged to be out.

Pheasant 2

Common Buzzard h

Peregrine/ Hobby

Lapwing 30+

Swallow 10+

House Martin h A

Wood Pigeon 10+
Carrion Crow 5+
Magpie 1
Blue Tit h
Willow Warbler/ Chiff Chaff juvs? 5+
Wren h
Robin?
Song Thrush 2?
Meadow Pipit
Pied Wagtail
Goldfinch 3
Greenfinch male
Brown Hare 3
Roe Deer
Pipestrelle Bat
A=Abbey Village
h=heard only

The Preston Society
Bretherton Eyes. Monday 9th Aug

19.00 to 21.00

Parked on Bretherton Eyes Lane then a party of 24 walked down Back Lane to the crossroads. Turned right down a track with a varied habitat of agricultural fields. Views all around of the River Yarrow further out.

Lots of Fragmites Reed on right of track. This was at least 8 foot tall. A throwback to when this area was a marsh.

A group of Swallows were seen hawking over the fields along with up to 6 Swifts.

Turned right down a track then right back onto Eyes Lane as the light was fading. Followed lane back to the cars.

Some of the party went for a well deserved drink to the Crown in Croston after a very successful walk.

Canada Goose 40+
Swallow 30+
Sand Martin h?
Swift 6
Black Headed Gull 5+
Lesser Black Backed Gull 5+

Wood Pigeon 20+
Carrion Crow 10+
Magpie 2
Jackdaw 30+
Robin h
Blackbird 1
Tree Sparrow 2
Linnet 3
Yellowhammer 5+
Brown Hare 1
h=heard only

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Tarleton Moss Monday 16th Aug

Cloudy Overcast Breezy

19.00 to 20.45

2.5 miles

Parked adjacent to Hunterpac.

Decided to walk the same route as last year but in reverse.

A party of 19 set off by walking past Hunterpac and along the old road. (Blackgate Lane) The first birds seen were 3 Mistle Thrushes. A good start.

Turned right up a track. This was the start of Hunters Lane. Crossed the bypass and continued to the left.

Could see across Tarleton Moss and searched for movent at any opportunity across the fields and down the ditches.

Turned right onto Legh Lane and followed to a crossroads. Could see Swallows frantically.

Flying around a farm tractor that was bailing as it disturbed flying insects.

Turned right down Green Lane and eventually to Blackgate Lane. (Across the bypass)

Recrossed the bypass and back to the cars.

Some of the party went for a well deserved drink to The Cock and Bottle in Tarleton after a lovely walk over the lanes of Tarleton Moss.

Canada Goose 4

Mallard 5

Red Legged Partridge 4

Cormorant 5

Grey Heron

Kestrel (female)
Lapwing 60+
Swallow 20+
House Martin 2
Black Headed Gull 5+
Lesser Black Backed Gull 10+
Wood Pigeon 10+
Stock Dove 1
Carrion Crow 10+
Magpie 3
Jackdaw h
Wren
Mistle Thrush 3
Pied Wagtail 2
Goldfinch 3
h=heard only

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Croston Moss Monday 23rd Aug

Parked at Isle of Man Bridge on Meadow Lane then over 20 people walked down the road and onto Croston Moss at Great Hanging Bridge.

Walked to a junction then south on Shepherd's Lane. Left turn onto High Lane. At the Railway left up Green Lane then left along Finney Lane completing a square. Retraced steps back to the cars at dusk.

Watched a display of at least 50 and maybe up to 100 Swallows hawking above us.

There was also a beautiful sunset. A fitting end to the last walk of the season.

Most of the group went to The Black Horse Croston for a celebrative drink.

This year has been very successful with a a lot of new members joining us realising that Monday's are very enjoyable evenings.

Pheasant (female) 3
Canada Goose 40+
Greylag Goose? 7
Common Buzzard 1
Kestrel 1

Moorhen 1
Swallow 50 to 100
Wood Pigeon 5+
Stock Dove 1
Carrion Crow 5+
Magpie 2
Jackdaw 5+
Wren h
Robin h
Mistle Thrush 1
Goldfinch 5+
Brown Hare 1
h=heard only