

## The Hullbridge U3A Bird Watching Group Monthly Report by Roy Simmons



Our November meeting was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Blue House Farm EWT Reserve, North Fambridge. The weather was fair but chilly. The tide was fully out at this time, so the birds were out feeding on the mud flats. As a consequence there was not a lot to be seen on the scrapes, but there was a good selection of “grazers”. These were most of the Geese Species; Canada, Brent (Dark fronted), Barnacle, and Greylag, and ducks; Shelduck, Widgeon, and Mallard. We also saw Grey Heron, Little Egret, Sedge Warbler, Rook, Carrion Crow, Meadow Pipit, Mute Swan, and Skylark. We were also treated to several fly-by’s by a pair of Marsh Harriers, and a demonstration of speed of retreat by a pair of Brown Hares. This reserve is now fully open after it’s make-over, but there is still no visitor’s Centre nor amenities.

Our next meeting will be at EWT Reserve at Hanningfield. Weather permitting this will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> January, meeting in the Visitor Centre and moving off at 10:00 Hrs. Previously January weather has not been suited to bird watching so please look out for my e-mails. We have been to this venue several times before. The paths are good. Please dress appropriately for the conditions on the day.