



Migration Madness

25th –27th September 2009

Staying at [Premier Inn, Stockton on Tees](#)

Discover some birding gems on this two-night weekend break. The holiday will focus on enjoying waders, wildfowl and seabirds during this peak migration period. The highlight will be a preview visit to RSPB's new Saltholme Reserve, 410 hectares of grazing marsh, open water and reedbed close to the mouth of the Tees Estuary. The Tees Estuary is internationally important for birds and is gaining a well-deserved reputation as a must-see migration hotspot.

The 2008 holiday had great weather and stunning birds – click [here](#) to link to the 2008 trip report. Over 80 species were seen during the weekend, including yellow-browed warbler, common scoter, osprey, bar-headed geese and hobby.

Friday night

Guest reception and briefing at 6pm with dinner at 7pm.

Saturday 9am

We will spend the day at and around RSPB's Saltholme Reserve. Four hides and viewing areas overlook open water, reedbeds and freshwater grazing marsh. Over 270 species of bird have been recorded in this area and the reserve will be busy with migrant waders and wildfowl during our visit. It will be a great chance to see a major new reserve and spend time getting to grips with identifying waders and other birds on their autumn migration.

A late afternoon visit to Seal Sands National Nature Reserve, a favourite haunt of grey seals and feeding waders, might end the day

Birds of the day may include Spotted Redshank, Little Stint, Black-tailed Godwit, Greenshank, Osprey, Pink-footed geese, Barnacle Geese.

Sunday 9am

Our destinations will depend the scale of migrant bird passage but may include some seawatching at Hartlepool Headland and short walks at other coastal sites around the Tees Estuary. Last year's passage at this time included good numbers of osprey, honey buzzard, yellow-browed warbler and wryneck.

The holiday will end at 5pm on Sunday.

Leader

Nick Mason, proprietor of Realbirder Tours, lives and works in County Durham. Nick worked for the RSPB for a decade, mainly in northern England and still works locally in wildlife conservation in addition to running Realbirder Tours.

Price

£245 per person, includes en-suite accommodation (no single supplement), all food, transport and bird guiding during the holiday. Beverages are not included