

Idle Valley Nature Sightings

July 2025

What's On – August 2025

All the events below are free (unless stated) and are all planned to give participants a better understanding of the Idle Valley Nature Reserve, its array of wildlife, and its growing community of volunteers and friends. You can learn about Birds and Wildlife by attending on of **Gary's Birdwatching & Wildlife** or **Lound Bird Club's** monthly walks. Inspire your children into nature by letting them attend the **NWT Idle Valley 'Wildlife Watch Group'** monthly Saturday morning sessions where they will learn about identifying nature and how to protect our wildlife. Why not become a regular participant of one of three local **Wellbeing & Adventure** walking groups. There is something for everyone, please join in and please share this bulletin with all your friends and family.

Every Tuesday each month – Wellbeing Walk (Bellmoor Lake area) from the Idle Valley Visitor Centre Cafe at 10:30am. Volunteer led walk sponsored by Co-op Lincolnshire.

Every Wednesday each month – Wellbeing Walk (Bellmoor Lake) from the Idle Valley Visitor Centre Cafe at the new time of 1:00pm. Volunteer led walk sponsored by Co-op Lincolnshire.

Thursday 7th August (First Thursday in each month) – Idle Adventure Walk (min 8 miles) from the Idle Valley Visitor Centre Cafe at 10:30am until 3:30pm. Volunteer led walk.

Friday 8th August – Gary's 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' Walk at Idle Valley NR. 2:30pm until 5:30pm. Meeting at Lound Low Road end of Walters Lane. Loop walk around the large old lagoons, via Doughty's Pit (Fishing Lake), Bunker Wood and back along the river, Tiln Pits and Walters Lane to cars. Looking for local resident and summering birds and other wildlife. Contact email/mobile number: ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk 07464964879.

Saturday 9th August – Idle Valley Wildlife Watch: In the Sun. Seasonal wildlife activities for 7 to 12 year olds, with a walk in the reserve. Meeting Point is the Idle Valley Visitor Centre at 10:30am until 12:30pm. **£2.00 per child.** Leader is Ros Schwarz. Contact email: idlewatch@nottswt.co.uk

Sunday 10th August – Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Organised by Lound Bird Club in conjunction with the BTO Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). If you can help, please contact Phil Cadman on email: philip.cadman@sky.com

Saturday 16th August – Bird Walk at Idle Valley NR. This is a open to all **Lound Bird Club** event led by club Chairman, Stuart Davenport. 9:00am until midday. Meet along Chainbridge Lane on left by kissing gate near the horse paddocks just east of Lound Village. Loop walk to Neatholme Lane, birding from viewing screens and back via Hawthorn Lane and Chainbridge Lane. Contact email/mobile number: stuart.daven@btinternet.com 0776389562

Wednesday 27th August – Gary's 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' Walk at Idle Valley NR. 9:00am until midday. Meet along Chainbridge Lane on left by kissing gate near the horse paddocks just east of Lound Village. Loop walk to Neatholme Lane, birding from viewing screens and back via Hawthorn Lane and Chainbridge Lane. Looking for early autumn migrants, resident birds and other wildlife. Contact email/mobile number: ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk 07464964879.

Sunday 31st August – Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust - 'Action at Idle' Event. A restorative and inspiring day dedicated to reconnecting with nature and community. Details of all events throughout the day below:-

Action at Idle: Bird Walks starting at 10:00am & 1:00pm (for 1-2 hours) led by Lound Bird Club members. Step into nature and discover the sights and sounds of the wild on our Bird and Wildlife Walk

Action at Idle: Noticing Nature - Phone Photography from 1:00-2:00pm. Discover the beauty of our natural world through the lens of your phone.

Action at Idle: Poetry Workshop from 12:00-1:00pm. Slow down and tune in to the natural world through the art of poetry.

Bird News for June 2025

Please remember to not post rare or sensitive breeding birds on any public groups between the 1st March and 31st August.

June is traditionally a much quieter month for local birding, so far less to write up here this time around. Even so, there were quite a few waders noted throughout, especially as the water level on Chainbridge Scrape (East) is now dropping to expose the many islands, normally seen during the summer. It was also nice to report on a successful pair of local breeding Little Owls.

The three **Egyptian Geese**, including a single juvenile, remained on Neatholme Fen throughout. A few **Teal** were present on Chainbridge Scrape (East), including a pair on the 22nd and 3 on the 23rd. The female **Red-crested Pochard** was still shadowing 9 ducklings at Linghurst Lakes throughout but only 8 ducklings were present on the 27th (Below)
©G.Hobson.



A single record of **Grey Partridge** at Tiln North on the 23rd. An unusual but notable report of a single **Quail** noted calling over Retford's, Spittal Hill area at 00:05am on the 17th. Four reports of **Cuckoo**, including 3 in the Neatholme area on the 6th, a female calling at Chainbridge Pit on the 12th and singles at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 22nd and 23rd. Two reports of **Turtle Dove**, including a pair at Walters Lane and a single at Neatholme Scrape, both on the 10th. Three **Avocet** were noted at Neatholme Fen on the 21st. Two reports of **Ringed Plover**, including 3 at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 5th and 2 present there again on the 8th. One of the Ringed Plover present on the 5th was smaller and darker than the other two present and believed to be a 'tundra' form *Charadrius hiaticula tundrae* bird which does fit this observation. Despite very few early spring records of **Little Ringed Plover** because of high water levels, June saw a good run of records, including a single at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 5th, a single at Tiln North on the 12th then Chainbridge Scrape (East) saw 5 on the 22nd, up to 8 birds present on the 23rd and to just 4 on the 27th. Two reports of **Black-tailed Godwit** from Chainbridge Scrape (East), including 4 present on the 22nd and a single there on the 30th. It was great to see **Green Sandpiper** throughout the month, including 2 at Neatholme Fen and a single at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 22nd and 23rd, up to 3 at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 27th and finally a single at Neatholme Fen on the 30th. Two reports of **Wood Sandpiper**, including a single at Neatholme Fen on the 12th and a single at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 29th-30th. A single report of **Greenshank** heard calling over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 22nd. A single report of an adult **Mediterranean Gull** flying over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 8th. A single report of a 2nd-summer (3CY) **Yellow-legged Gull** present at Bellmoor Lake on the 29th (Below)
©P.Hobson. Two reports of **Common Tern** at Chainbridge Scrape (East), including 2 on the 22nd and 4 there on the 30th.



A single report of a single **Bittern** on the reserve on the 6th. A single report of up to 4 **Grey Heron** noted on the reserve on the 30th. Two reports of **Great White Egret** was nice to see, having been absent throughout May, a single at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 23rd and two present there on the 30th. Three single reports of **Little Egret** at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 14th, 22nd and 23rd. A single report of a 'cream-crowned' female **Marsh Harrier** over Tiln North on the 12th. A single report of a **Red Kite** over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 8th. A single record of a **Tawny Owl** present in the Neatholme/Parish Park area on the 6th. A local pair of **Little Owl** have produced two young (one infertile eggs remained in the nest) and these two juveniles were ringed on the 11th (Below left) ©M.Vickers. A single report of a **Kingfisher** at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 27th. Single **Green Woodpecker** were noted around the Parish Park area on the 6th and 10th. Four reports of **Hobby**, including singles at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 5th and 8th, 2 were at Neatholme Lane area on the 6th and a single was being chased by a Lapwing at Tiln North on the 25th. Two reports of **Peregrine**, including 1-2 distant birds south of Tiln North on the 12th and a single flying over Chainbridge Bridge area on the 23rd. A pair of **Willow Warbler** were busy feeding young at Chainbridge Meadows on the 6th (Below right) ©G.Hobson.



At least 4 **Chiffchaff** were noted singing at Bellmoor Pits on the 18th. Several **Yellow Wagtail** continued to frequent the Barley fields east of Tiln North throughout. A single report of a pair of **Grey Wagtail** flying over the Griffin Freight yard at Bellmoor on the 18th. As we saw in May, the numbers of **Yellowhammer** on Clayworth Common has significantly increased and a count of 18 birds were present here on the 27th. Something seems to be going right for this species which is great to see.

Escapees – A single 'domestic' form of **Chinese Goose (Swan Goose)** appeared on Bellmoor Lake on the 18th and remained throughout.

A.Goodhall, A.Blackburn, K & J.Ward, M.Wallhead, B.Merrick, M.Goodman, I.Cowgill, K.Moss, S.Hughes, T.Carter, W.Hill, A.Griffin, R & P.White, C.Parker, J & J.Shephard, G.Hobson, D.Housman, M.B.Vickers, A.Pykett, S.Davenport, V.Giles, T.Tomlinson, P.Cadman, P.Hobson, I.Hunt, T.Crook, M.Lambert, BirdGuides, Lound Bird Club (Website), Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers (Website), Idle Valley Bird Sightings (Facebook), Lound & Idle Valley Bird News (What's App), Notts Bird News (What's App), Notts Rare & Scarce (What's App) plus the various Idle Valley Walks (What's App). Please submit bird sightings to the above groups/pages or email them to ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk

Additional Nature Sightings for June 2025

Butterflies

The number of butterfly of all common species is very much higher than the previous two summers and this is the case across the rest of Nottinghamshire and UK wide. Two **Essex Skipper** were reported, including a ♂ in the field by the IVNR Cattle Barn on the 22nd (Below left) ©G.Hobson, and a single at the Lower Sheep Fields on the 25th. Several **Small Skipper** were reported, including the first, 3 at the Lower Sheep Fields and a single at Linghurst Lakes on the 15th, 8 were in the field by the IVNR Cattle Barn on the 22nd, 2 at the Lower Sheep Field on the 25th, 5 were at Chainbridge Scrape (West) and an estimated 30 were at Linghurst Lakes on the 27th, 6 were around the Rural Learning Centre on the 29th and 3 were at Linghurst Lakes and a single at Sandy Hills on the 30th. A few reports of **Brimstone**, including singles at Chainbridge Pit on the 12th & 23rd, 2 ♂ at Neatholme Scrape and a single ♂ at the Water Ski Pit on the 16th and finally a single ♂ at Linghurst Lakes on the 30th. The first **Ringlet** noted this year was a single at Chainbridge Pit on the 14th, an estimated 20 were at Bellmoor Lake and Rural Learning Centre on the 22nd and finally, a count of 94 from three areas north of Chainbridge Lane on the 27th. The first **Gatekeeper** were 2 at Chainbridge Pit on the 23rd and soon became fairly common across the reserve.



Two reports of **Painted Lady** with the first being a single at Tiln Pool on the 14th (Above right) ©V.Bell, and a single in the set-aside field by the IVNR Cattle Barn on the 22nd. Just four reports of single **Peacock**, at Chainbridge Meadows on the 6th, at Chainbridge Pit on the 25th, at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 27th and at Linghurst Lakes on the 30th. A few reports of **Small Copper**, including singles at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 22nd, at Chainbridge Pit on the 25th and in the small meadow at the Rural Learning Centre on the 29th. A single report of two **Purple Hairstreak** at Chainbridge Meadows on the 25th. A single report of a **Holly Blue** in dense woodland at Bellmoor Pits on the 26th. Single **Common Blue** were noted at Chainbridge Wood on the 2nd, at Linghurst Lakes on the 6th and 15th with an estimated 50 around Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 13th.

Moths

The following records are a small selection species of moth that are significant for reasons explained and was compiled and by local birder and resident moth expert, Philip Cadman, who is also our local Entomology Recorder for the Idle Valley NR.

40.0110 *Mompha langiella* (White-spot Mompha), only the second and third reserve records, at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on 2nd June and Bellmoor Lake on 9th June. The first was 15th May 2018. (Below left) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com).

70.1180 *Philereme vetulata* (Brown Scallop), two were netted and potted for identification purposes on June 16th, within ten metres of each other, on the Western side of the Water Ski Pit. Then a single was netted and potted on the Western edge of Chainbridge Pit on 23rd June. These were the 2nd, 3rd and 4th reserve records. The first was recorded on Alan's Meadow on 26th June 2018. (Below right) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com).



70.2270 *Epione repandaria* (Bordered Beauty), a near annual moth recorded in small numbers, and one of the most striking moth species to be found on the reserve, with four recorded in June (Below left) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com).

49.2750 *Eucosma conterminana* (Lettuce Tortrix), was netted and potted for identification purposes on the Western edge of the Chainbridge Scrape (West) (Beaver Enclosure) on the 27th June. The identification was confirmed

by Trevor Pendleton (Local Entomology Expert). It was an addition to the Reserve Moth List (Below right) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com).



63.0990 *Catoptria pinella* (Pearl Grass-veneer), one of the more uncommon 'Grass Moth' specie, but easily the brightest. Two were noted on the Western edge of the Chainbridge Scrape (West) (Beaver Enclosure) on 27th June (Below left) ©G.Hobson.

69.0100 *Macroglossum stellatarum* (Hummingbird Hawk-moth), an uncommon moth with only 32 records, one was recorded in flight at Chainbridge Meadows on Friday 27th June (Below right) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com).



28.0140 *Crassa unitella* (Brown Bark Moth), recorded at Bellmoor on a Moth Trapping evening by Gary Hobson, on the 28th June, it was only the third record for the reserve (Below left) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com).

28.0150 *Batia lunaris* (Lesser Tawny Crescent), trapped by Gary Hobson, Stuart Davenport and Tim Carter on a Moth Trapping evening around Bellmoor Ponds on the 28th June. This was only the third reserve record, the others were recorded on the 16th and 21st July 2020 (Below right) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com).



72.0370 *Thumatha senex* (Round-winged Muslin), trapped at Bellmoor Ponds by Gary Hobson, Stuart Davenport and Tim Carter on the 28th June and was only the fourth record of this Specie, following one around Bellmoor Lake on 16th July 2016, the second on the 29th June 2018 and the third was on the 16th July 2019 (Below left) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com).

66.0100 *Euthrix potatoria* (The Drinker), this specie was trapped easily (all ♂'s) on both trapping sessions on the 24th & 28th June. The name The Drinker is linked to the caterpillar tending to drink from droplets of dew (Below right) ©S.Davenport.



(Below) Stuart Davenport setting up for our first moth trapping session for many years on 24th June ©G.Hobson.



Dragonfly & Damselflies

A single report of two **Emerald Damselfly** at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 27th. Three reports of single **Large Red Damselfly** all from the small flower meadow by the Rural Learning Centre on the 4th, 13th and 19th. Reports of **Red-eyed Damselfly** came from two areas, at Linghurst Lakes with 2 on the 6th, 4 on the 10th and an estimated 30 there on the 27th and a single was noted at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 27th (Bottom right) ©G.Hobson. A single ♀ **Blue-tailed Damselfly** of the purple form *violacea* was at Linghurst Lakes on the 1st (Bottom left) ©G.Hobson. A single ♀ **Southern Hawker** was seen at Bellmoor Ponds on the 26th (Below left) ©G.Hobson. A ♂ **Emperor Dragonfly** posed nicely at Chainbridge on the 14th (Below right) ©V.Bell.



The following table gives the daily maximum sightings of the more common species of Dragonfly and Darter across the recording area throughout the month: -

Species	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	10th	12th	13th	16th	19th	22nd	26th	27th	29th	30th
Brown Hawker									1		2	1		1		2
Emperor Dragonfly	1	1				2			4	1	3		2		1	2
Hairy Dragonfly					2		1		1							
Four-spot Chaser	1	3			6	2	3		6					3		
Broad-bodied Chaser		2	1	2	7	6	1		6		5	5			2	
Black-tailed Skimmer	2			1	3		4	1	3					2	1	1
Common Darter														3		3

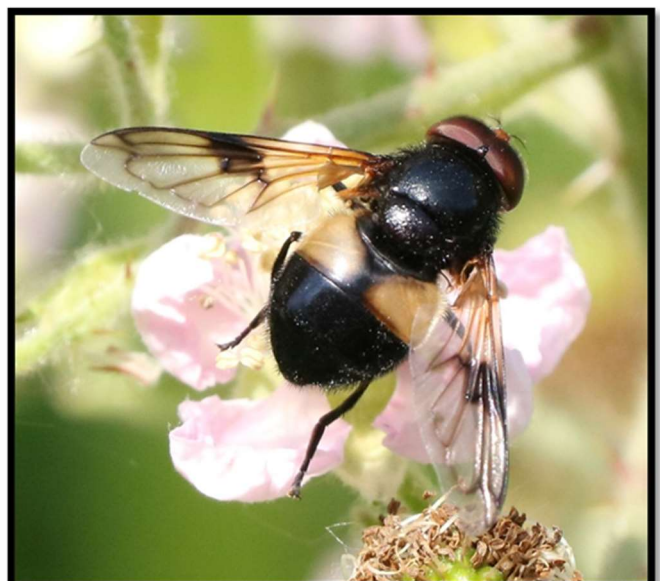
Bees & Wasps

Two very lovely looking wasp species were noted including this **Blue Cuckoo Wasp** *Trichrysis cyanea* at Chainbridge Scrape (West) viewpoint screen on the 13th (Below left) ©V.Bell, and this **Ruby-tailed Wasp (Linnaeus's Cuckoo Wasp?)** *Chrysis ignita* agg, on the Rural Learning Centre building on the 20th, which is one of many species that are difficult to identify without professional knowledge and microscopic examination (Below right) ©G.Hobson.



Hoverflies

Four species of Hoverfly were encountered during the month, from top left clockwise, **Hook-banded Meadow fly** *Chrysotoxum festivum* at Bellmoor Lake on the 5th, the very common **Marmalade Hoverfly** *Evisyrphus balteatus* at Chainbridge Meadows on the 6th, **Pellucid Hoverfly** *Volucella pellucens* at Chainbridge Meadows on the 18th and **Furry Dronefly** *Eristalis intricarius* at the Boardwalk Meadow on the 26th (Below top left clockwise) ©G.Hobson.



Beetles, Weevils & Bugs

This **Green Tiger Beetle** *Cicindela campestris* (Below left) was found on the reserve by Stuart Davenport on the 15th June ©S.Davenport. This **Red-legged Shieldbug** *Pentatoma rufipes*, was at Bellmoor Pits, and entertained walkers for a few minutes on a bird & wildlife walk on the 18th June ©K.Ward.



Insects

Four interesting and rather colourful insects from top left clockwise: - Two sawfly Sp, a **Common Rhogogaster** *Rhogogaster viridens* at Parish Park on the 1st, a **Black-backed Sawfly** *Tenthredo mesomela* at Linghurst Wood on the 2nd, a ♀ **Downlooker Snipefly** *Rhagio scalopaceus* at the Bellmoor Lake/Boardwalk on the 4th and **Gall Fly** Sp? *Terellia tussilaginis* at Bellmoor Pits on the 18th. (Top left clockwise) ©G.Hobson, ©G.Hobson, ©G.Hobson and ©S.Davenport.



K & J.Ward, T.Carter, B.Merrick, V.Bell, W.Hill, P.Cadman, R & P.White, I.Hunt, M.N, G.Hobson, K.Beaumont, C.Booth, I Baxter, P.Hobson, S.Davenport, M.B.Vickers, S.Hughes, Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com), C & C.Parker, J.Mannifield, K.Moss, Gary's Birdwatching & Wildlife Walks (What's App) plus the various Idle Valley NR - Wellness Walks (What's App).

Warbler Identification – Part 3

The third of three short articles, with written detail and related images to aid in the basic identification of the common species of warbler found here on the Idle Valley Nature Reserve. The first part covered mainly woodland dwelling species, the second included mainly species found in scrubland including Bramble, Blackthorn and Hawthorn and this one includes the two regular marshland and reed dwelling species, the Sedge Warbler and Reed Warbler. We do hope you find this series of identification guides was useful and more will be produced in future editions.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The Sedge Warbler is a fairly common species at Idle Valley NR, and is generally found in Reeds, Sedges and often in Bramble scrub, mainly bordering ponds, pools, rivers and ditches. It is easy to identify with its bright 'creamy-white' supercilium strip above their eye. Their breast is buff, and their head, wings and tail are much darker in tone to the remainder of the steaky brown mantle and cinnamon coloured rump. The legs are a dull brown, the bill is horn coloured, and they have a yellow gape. They measure up to 13 cm in length and weighing 10-13 grams. Their song consists of lots of mimicry, with several random phrases added into its repertoire and are said to never sing the same song twice. A true summer visitor arriving in mid-April and usually leaving post breeding by late August to early September. They nest in low vegetation often in Reed and Sedges or low down in Bramble but can be very vocal near their nest often singing from a regular spot and doing repeated 'song flights' in their territory. The song will always give away their location and a bit of patience you can sometimes get good views of them as they clamber up to sing high. This summer a pair has been present on the boardwalk marshland throughout often giving excellent views (Below left) ©G.Hobson & (Below right) ©S.Davenport.



Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The Reed Warbler is an increasingly common species at Idle Valley NR and is generally found in Phragmites Reedbeds and riverside Reed fringes. It has a rather plain olive and buff-brown upper body, a cream white throat and a buff coloured belly and undertail. The rump and upper tail are warm brown in tone. They have a short, thin cream white supercilium which ends just behind the eye and the rather long bill is again straw and horn-coloured. The legs are a dull green. They measure up to 13 cm in length and weighing 10-15 grams. Their song consists of some mimicry but is mainly a rhythmic chattering song of repeated notes and phrases and unlike the Sedge Warbler they will often happily sing hidden in the reed stems. A true summer visitor arriving in mid-April and usually leaving post breeding by early September. They nest over water and there can be several territories in a small bed of reeds. The Reed Warbler is a popular target of brood-parasitism by the Cuckoo with many nests targeted by the female Cuckoo in spring and early summer (Below left & right) ©M.Vickers.



We hope everyone enjoys these identification articles. If you have a suggestion for a subject for any future identification articles, please let us know via email to ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk

Next month's August 2025 issue

What's On - September 2025 Events + Reserve News + Bird News for July 2025 + Additional Nature Sightings for July 2025 + Owls at Idle Valley Nature Reserve.

Submissions for inclusion in this publication can be sent to **Gary Hobson** via ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk Please state (species/observer/location/date) for all images.

In the case of regular **bird and wildlife sightings**, please submit sightings via the relevant **Wellness, Birdwatching or Photography 'WhatsApp' & 'Facebook' groups** linked to Idle Valley NR.

Submit all **Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) plus any Dragonfly & Damselfly** sightings to our recorder, **Philip Cadman**, via philip.cadman@sky.com