

Idle Valley Nature Sightings

September 2025

What's On – October 2025

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 2nd October – Nottinghamshire Environmental Association – Indoor Meeting. Illustrated talk on 'Nuclear Fusion electricity production' given by members of **United Kingdom Atomic Energy**. Talk starts at 7:30pm at Hallcroft Community Centre, Randall Way, Retford - opposite Retford's Business Centre. Entry is £3.50 per person which includes refreshments. Contact email: paulwillcock@googlemail.com

Friday 3rd October – Gary's 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' Walk at Idle Valley NR. 2:30pm until 5:30pm. Meet along Chainbridge Lane on left by kissing gate near the horse paddocks just East of Lound Village. Short loop to Parish Park/Linghurst Wood and back. Looking for autumn migrant birds and other wildlife. Contact email/mobile number: ghIBC@hotmail.co.uk 07464964879

Thursday 9th October – NWT North Notts Local Group – Indoor Meeting. An illustrated talk titled 'Creswell Craggs' by David Fox. The talk covers its formation through glacial action, pre-history when Neanderthals lived there and also Hyenas, Woolly Rhinos, Bears and Lions. Caves with witches right through to modern times with a good selection of wildlife, covering wildflowers, birds, mammals, butterflies and moths. Meeting starts at 7:00pm at the **Rural Learning Centre, Bellmoor**. Parking available at the main reserve car park. Entry is £3.00 per person which includes refreshments. Contact email: janwilliamson133@gmail.com

Saturday 11th October – Idle Valley Wildlife Watch: Fungi Fun. 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 12th October – 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

Wednesday 23rd October – Lound Bird Club – Indoor Meeting. An illustrated talk titled 'The Birds of Kruger National Park (Northern Section)' by Andrew Pickles. Meeting starts at 7:00pm at **Sutton-cum-Lound Village Hall**. Entry fee is £3.00 per person. Parking is available around the hall. Contact email/mobile number: stuart.daven@btinternet.com 0776389562

Saturday 25th October 2025 – Annual Bird Ringing Demonstration at Daneshill Lakes. Between 9:00am to 12:00 noon. Organised by **North Notts Bird Ringing Group**, led by Adrian Blackburn. No booking required, free family event. A wonderful opportunity to see bird ringing in action, why and how. Plus, a chance to see the beauty and detail of "little" birds close up. Daneshill Lakes is situated on Daneshill Road, Torworth, north of Retford (DN22 8RB) Follow Brown signs off the A638. Car parking, refreshments available in the car park.

Reserve News

Alex Morley – Reserves Manager North.

Our ranger & volunteer teams have spent the last few weeks working on managing predominantly annual vegetation along path sides. It's that time of year when older stems of nettles & umbellifers begin to sag and rains will flatten them down, interfering with access. As part of this vegetation management cycle, the teams tackle the small ungrazed meadows at this and our other northern reserves. Unlike our larger fields, which were cut for hay early this year due to the dry summer, the smaller areas and path edges predominantly function for nature conservation. We are particularly

cautious about disturbing woody plants before the end of September; however, work has started on removing trees up to around 2m from the boardwalk wetland. Without intervention, the boardwalk wetland would develop as a woodland consisting of suckering aspen, alder, and willows, so we would lose the variety of habitats present - low scrub, wet grassland & marsh, and open water.

We have responded to several incidents over the summer of trees either collapsing from the root plate or shedding limbs onto paths. These have not always been associated with periods of high winds and have consisted around 50/50 of either hybrid poplar or crack willow. Most have occurred on the riverside walk. If visitors do come across blocked paths, a detailed description of the location, with either a What3Words or OS grid reference is useful.

In the next few months as part of efforts to enhance the Bunker Wood wood-pasture system, we shall continue on a programme of removing trees. A dense hybrid poplar plantation will be clear felled, with the option of replanting or encouraging the development of young oaks in its stead. A heavily shaded area of hawthorn will be thinned to encourage ground flora and create some growing space for selected individuals of oak and remnant fruit trees. Finally, a small area of oaks will be thinned of poorly growing trees to allow the development of rounder formed individuals. A small amount of decent timber will be produced from this final operation which will be put to use on the northern reserves.

Following an incident of criminal damage to a boundary fence, allowing motorbikes onto site, our teams continue to shore up such breaches when they occur. If you witness motorbikes, quads, or electric bikes which do not conform with EAPC regulations on Trust property, please contact the Police on 101 giving as much detail as possible. If the perpetrators present a risk to public safety, you should call 999. The Trust collaborates closely with local Police to tackle illegal and anti-social behaviour across all our properties, and you are welcome to pass incident & crime numbers to us.



(Above left) - Clearing the cafe view & (Above right) - Path side, linear grassland, mowing. ©Bill Grayson

Bird News for August 2025

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

The WeBS count on the 10th produced a total of 78 **Mute Swan** across the recording area. The WeBS count on the 10th produced a total of 891 **Greylag Goose** across the recording area. The WeBS count on the 10th produced a total of 396 **Canada Goose** across the recording area. Four reports of **Egyptian Goose**, including 10 on Chainbridge Pit on the 8th, 10 during the WeBS count on the 10th, a pair at Bellmoor Lake on the 17th and 8 on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 22nd. A single juvenile **Shelduck** was noted on Neatholme Fen on the 27th. A pair of **Mandarin Duck** in eclipse plumage were noted on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 18th and 20th. The WeBS count on the 10th produced the excellent total of 379 **Gadwall** across the recording area. The WeBS count on the 10th produced a total of 178 **Mallard** across the recording area. Low numbers of **Shoveler** were present with just a single WeBS count on the 10th of just 39 birds. Low numbers of Teal were also present with just a single WeBS count on the 10th of just 28 birds. Plenty of **Red-crested Pochard** were noted with 12 on Neatholme Pit on the 8th, 10 during the WeBS count on the 10th, a total of 26 across three of the northern pits on the 16th and 25 at Neatholme Pit on the 28th. Three reports of **Pochard** with 75 noted during the WeBS count on the 10th, 8 at Neatholme Fen on the 24th and just 6 there on the 28th. The WeBS count

on the 10th produced a total of 348 **Tufted Duck** across the recording area. Just two reports of **Swift** with 20 over Chainbridge Scrape on the 5th and 2 there on the 8th. With sightings of **Turtle Dove** noted on six dates and proven breeding it seems this species is hanging on here at Idle Valley NR. A pair were at Walters Lane on the 8th, singles were then seen at Neatholme Lane on the 12th, near the Water Ski Pit on the 16th and flying onto Clayworth Common from the reserve on the 20th. Three birds (including a juvenile) were feeding at Walters Farm on the 22nd and finally a single was noted flying south over Bellmoor Lake on the 31st. Just a single **Water Rail** was noted at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 1st and 13th. The WeBS count on the 10th produced count totals of 28 **Moorhen** and 844 **Coot** across the recording area. Four reports of **Little Grebe**, including 8 at Tiln North on the 3rd, a WeBS count total across the site of 59 on the 10th, 4 at Neatholme Fen on the 24th and 6 at both Linghurst Lakes and Neatholme Fen on the 27th. The WeBS count on the 10th produced a total of 25 **Great Crested Grebe** across the recording area. A very positive record for this summer was of a pair of **Black-necked Grebe** which have bred locally, at an undisclosed location, but not on the Idle Valley Nature Reserve. The pair began nesting in mid-July and produced three chicks initially. They were seen feeding them regularly going into August but had lost one, as only two chicks were present on 3rd August. By the end of August (25th) both adult birds had now left the now large chicks to fend for themselves, being reported at two other different locations away from the nesting site. Hopefully, this will be a start of further breeding attempts in the future (Below) ©S.Davenport.



Waders once again, dominated most of the interest on the three scrapes of Neatholme Fen, Chainbridge Scrape (East) and Tiln North. Just three reports of **Oystercatcher**, including a single during the WeBS count on the 10th, 2 at Bellmoor Lake on the 17th and a single at Chainbridge Pit on the 20th. A single **Avocet** was noted at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 7th. Three notable counts of **Lapwing**, including 300 during the WeBS count on the 10th, 130 at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 18th and 30 at Neatholme Fen on the 24th. Single **Ringed Plover** were at Chainbridge Scrape (East) from the 8th until the 12th, 5 (including 3 juveniles) at Neatholme Fen on the 16th, then 1-3 birds at Chainbridge Scrape (East) from the 18th until 22nd, 3 at Neatholme Fen on the 24th and a pair were at Chainbridge Scrape (East) again on the 28th. Several reports of **Little Ringed Plover** from just Chainbridge Scrape (East). A pair seen on the 7th, had hatched three chicks on the 8th, but had lost one with just two chicks present on the 12th. 1-4 birds were then noted here until the 28th. A pair of **Black-tailed Godwit** were present on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 4th-5th. Two reports of **Ruff**, including 3 at Chainbridge Pit and singles at Tiln North and Neatholme Fen on the 20th and 2 again at Neatholme Fen on the 28th. Two reports of **Dunlin**, including 2 at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 8th and a single was noted during the WeBS count on the 10th. Chainbridge Scrape (East) held 1-2 **Snipe** on the 1st, 22nd and 28th, 4 were at Neatholme Fen on the 8th and 2 were at Tiln North on the 18th. Two reports of **Common Sandpiper** from Chainbridge Pit, including a single there on the 8th and 3 there on the 22nd. Good numbers of **Green Sandpiper** remained throughout on suitable pits/scrapes. The following table provides detail on number, location and dates: -

Site/Dates	1st	4th	5th	7th	8th	10th	11th	12th	13th	16th	18th	20th	22nd	24th	27th	28th
Chainbridge Scrape (E)	3	1		2	1		1	1	3				1			
Chainbridge Pit			1		2								1			1
Tiln North								2			1	1	3			
Neatholme Scrape										1						2
Neatholme Fen				2	1			2		5		2	2	3	5	2
Linghurst Lakes															2	
WeBS Count						6										
Totals	3	1	1	4	4	6	1	5	3	6	1	3	7	3	7	5

Two reports of **Redshank**, including 3 at Chainbridge Scape (East) on the 5th and a single on Chainbridge Pit on the 20th. A long staying single **Wood Sandpiper** remained on Chainbridge Scape (East) from the 1st until the 12th. Good numbers of **Greenshank** were noted, including a single during the WeBS count on the 10th, a single at Tiln North on the 12th, 4 were then seen to fly south over Chainbridge Scape (East) on the 13th and finally a single at Tiln North plus 4 more were at Neatholme Fen on the 20th. A single report of 3 **Common Gull**, including 1 juvenile at Bellmoor Lake on the 17th. A single 2nd-summer (3CY) **Yellow-legged Gull** was noted at Bellmoor Lake on the 17th. It has been a reasonably good year for breeding **Common Tern** with Neatholme Fen and Chainbridge Scape (East) being the favoured nesting sites due to the exposed islands. A maximum of 12 at Chainbridge Scape (East) on the 4th fell to just 5 there by the 18th. A maximum of 20 at Neatholme Fen on the 20th, again fell to just 5 there on the 27th. Other sites, like Bellmoor Lake, held 4 on the 24th and Doughty's Pit held 2 on the 28th. Two reports of **Bittern**, including a single reported on the 5th and a single which showed very well in the reedbed at Neatholme Fen on the 27th (Below) ©V.Bell.



A single report of two **Cattle Egret** flying from Alan's Meadow onto Chainbridge Pit at 7:00pm on the 19th. Most reports of **Grey Heron** came from Neatholme Fen with 8 there on the 20th and 5 there on the 22nd, 24th and 27th. The WeBS count on the 10th produced 10 birds and 2 were noted at Bellmoor Lake on the 31st. Small numbers of **Great White Egret** were reported, including 1-3 at Chainbridge Scape (East/West) from the 1st until the 16th, singles were at Chainbridge Pit on the 22nd and 28th, but peak gatherings were a Neatholme Fen with 5 on the 20th and 6 there on the 22nd. Very good numbers of **Little Egret** were noted across the site and I'm sure it will not be long before this species tries to breed here. The following table provides detail on number, location and dates: -

Site/Dates	1st	3rd	4th	5th	8th	10th	16th	20th	22nd	24th	27th	28th	31st
Chainbridge Scape (E)	1		1		1								
Neatholme Fen							2	18	8	3	5	2	
Neatholme Scape									1				
Bluebell Fishery					1								
Chainbridge Pit				1				2	2			1	
Bellmoor Lake										2			2
Linghurst Lakes										3			
Tiln North		1											
WeBS Count						13							
Totals	1	1	1	1	2	13	2	20	11	8	5	3	2

A single report of a single **Osprey** which flew south over Chainbridge Scape (East) on the morning of the 31st. Three reports of single **Sparrowhawk** over Chainbridge Scape (East) and the Conservation Lake on the 4th, 8th and 22nd. Just two reports of **Marsh Harrier**, including two 'cream-crowned' birds at Cross Lane and Chainbridge Scape on the 8th, one bird having a very striking diamond shaped tail, and an adult female at Tiln North on the 28th. A single **Tawny Owl** was heard calling in daylight at Bellmoor Pits on the 23rd. Single **Kingfisher** were noted at Neatholme Fen on the 16th, at Neatholme Bridge and Bunker Wood on the 21st and at Doughty's Pit on the 28th. A juvenile **Green Woodpecker** at Chainbridge Scape on the 1st confirmed local breeding. A single was at Chainbridge Pit on the 20th and there was 1-2 birds regularly seen in the Neatholme Lane area on the 27th, and Neatholme Fen and Wildgoose Farm areas on the 24th. Three reports of **Hobby**, including singles at Chainbridge Scape (East) and Clayworth Common on the 5th and a single was seen over Linghurst Wood on the 27th. A pair of **Jay** were seen at Chainbridge Scape (East) on the 1st, and a single was at Bellmoor Pit on the 23rd. Between 1-5 **Raven** were noted on 5 dates throughout, peaking at 4 on the 13th and 5 birds together over Chainbridge Scape (East) on the 22nd (Below left) ©G.Hobson. The only notable **Sand Martin** count was 40 at Neatholme Scape on the 22nd. The only notable **Swallow** count was 15 at Bellmoor Lake on the 17th. The only notable **House Martin** count was 25 at Bellmoor Lake on the 17th. A count of 20+ **Willow Warbler** in Chainbridge Wood on the 28th was notable so late in the summer. **Chiffchaff** were still present in good number

across the recording area throughout, including this confiding female below, in the hedgerow opposite Wetlands Reserve (Below right) ©G.Hobson.



Single **Garden Warbler** were noted along Neatholme Lane on the 16th and 24th. A single **Treecreeper** report was a single along Neatholme Lane on the 24th. A single **Mistle Thrush** was noted briefly at Linghurst Lakes on the 27th. A single **Spotted Flycatcher** was noted along the eastern side of Chainbridge Wood on the 28th. Pairs of **Yellow Wagtail** were noted over the Rural Learning Centre at Bellmoor Lake on the 24th and at Neatholme Fen on the 28th. Single **Grey Wagtail** were noted at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 1st, and at Bellmoor Lake on the 17th and 31st. Three counts of **Pied Wagtail**, including 16 at Bellmoor Lake on the 17th, 8 at Neatholme Fen on the 24th plus 5 there again on the 27th. A single report of **Goldfinch** with 40 at Bellmoor Lake on the 17th.

K.Smith, T.Crook, M.Goodman, D.Anderson, S.Came, G.Edwards, S.Horne, J & J Shepherd, R.White, P.Ramsey. C & C Parker, S.Hughes, D.Walstow, N.Powell, R.Schwarz, K.Fisher, A.Merrick, V.Bell, I.Cowgill, G.Widdison, T.Carter, G.Hobson, D.Housman, M.B.Vickers, S.Davenport, V.Giles, P.Cadman, P & E Hobson, I.Hunt, 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 August 2025

Butterflies

A single **Clouded Yellow** was noted in a flower meadow at Broom Wood on the 25th. Just three reports of single **Brimstone** at Bellmoor Ponds on the 3rd, at Linghurst Lakes on the 8th and at Neatholme Fen on the 11th. Just one notable count of **Meadow Brown** with 35 noted at Linghurst Lakes on the 8th. Just 12 **Red Admiral** were noted from five locations on seven dates throughout. The **Small Copper** butterfly was generally noted as singles at Neatholme Fen on the 24th, at Neatholme Scrape and Neatholme Pit on the 28th and at Tiln Pools on the 29th. However, a count at Broom Wood on the 25th saw a total of 9 individuals, which is an excellent record in a great year for Butterflies already. Just 15 **Brown Argus** were noted from eight locations on five dates throughout, with peak counts of 5 at Doughty's Pit & Bunker Wood on the 8th and 3 at both the Lower Sheep Fields and Broom Wood on the 25th. An incredible 44 **Common Blue** were noted from nine locations on ten dates throughout.

(Below left) – **Red Admiral** at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 8th ©C.Booth. (Below right) – **Brown Argus** at Doughty's Pit on the 8th ©G.Hobson.



Moths

The following are just a small selection of moth species that were significant for reasons explained. List compiled by local birder and resident moth expert, Philip Cadman, who is also the local 'Entomology Recorder' for the Idle Valley NR & Lound Bird Club recording area.

There has been a total of 728 different (adult moth) species recorded in the Lound Bird Club recording area since 1995, with another 5 species identified only by their larvae, but where the adult moth hasn't been recorded. They are **2.0080 *Eriocrania sangii* (Purple Spring Jewel)**, **4.0150 *Stigmella anomalella* (Rose Dot)**, **37.0150 *Coleophora serratella* (Common Case-bearer)**, **66.0030 *Malacosoma neustria* (The Lackey)** and **73.0380 *Acronicta psi* (Grey Dagger)**. This year, so far, a total of 264 species of moth have been recorded, including 12 new species.

A single **45.0100 *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla* (Beautiful Plume)**, was attracted to the light on a 'Moth Trapping Session' in the garden of Mike Vickers (LBC Committee Member) August 2nd and was only the third record in the Lound Bird Club Recording Area. (Below left) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)

A single **63.0540 *Cydalima perspectalis* (Box-tree Moth)**, was attracted to the light on a 'Moth Trapping Session' in the garden of Mike Vickers (LBC Committee Member) August 2nd and was an addition to the Lound Bird Club Recording Area. (Below right) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)



A single **70.0510 *Xanthorhoe spadicearia* (Red Twin-spot Carpet)**, was attracted to the light on a 'Moth Trapping Session' in the garden of Mike Vickers (LBC Committee Member) August 2nd and was an addition to the Lound Bird Club Recording Area. (Below left) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)

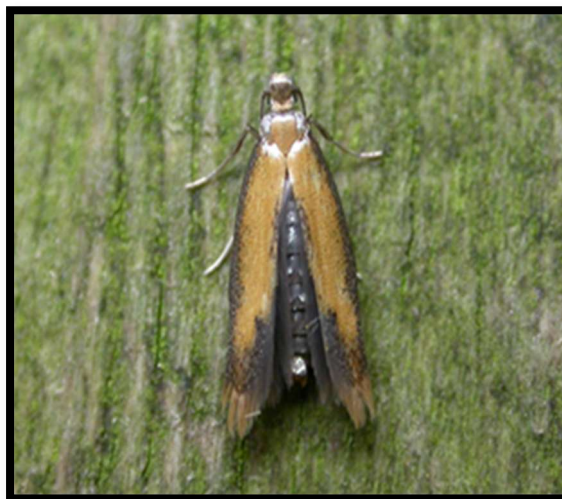
A single **70.2140 *Macaria liturata* (Tawny-barred Angle)**, was attracted to the light on a 'Moth Trapping Session' in the garden of Mike Vickers (LBC Committee Member) August 2nd and was only the second record, the first was recorded on August 9th, 2017. (Below right) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)



A single **73.2970 *Mythimna albipuncta* (White-point)**, was attracted to the light on a 'Moth Trapping Session' in the garden of Mike Vickers (LBC Committee Member) August 2nd and was an addition to the Lound Bird Club Recording

Area. Unfortunately, this species is not considered to be reliably identified from the **73.2980 *Mythimna ferrago* (The Clay)**, by the Nottinghamshire Macro Moth County Recorder, although according to many other recorders, it can easily be identified. (Below left) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)

A single **10.0030 *Coptotriche marginea* (Bramble Blotch-miner)**, was netted, potted and identified at Bellmoor Ponds on August 3rd and was only the third record for the area. There have been many Leaf mines discovered of this species on Bramble. (Below right) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)



A Moth Trapping session held on the evening of Friday August 8th around Bellmoor Lake turned up yet another new Moth for the reserve. It was a **35.1180 *Scrobipalpa ocellatella* (Beet Moth)**. (Below left) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)

A single **12.0370 *Monopis weaverella* (Carrion Moth)** that was attracted to Light on Friday August 8th around Bellmoor Lake and was only the second record for the reserve, following one recorded around the IVNR Visitors Centre on August 3rd, 2018. (Below right) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)



A single **17.0120 *Ypsolopha sequella* (Pied Rabbit Moth)**, that was attracted to Light on Friday August 8th around Bellmoor Lake and was only the third record for the reserve following the first one recorded around Bellmoor Lake on September 4th, 2018, and the second which was also recorded around 'Bellmoor Lake' on the July 14th, 2020. (Below left) ©G.Hobson

There were two **63.0520 *Nomophila noctuella* (Rush Veneer)**, that were attracted to light on Friday August 8th around Bellmoor Lake, following one recorded on September 14th, 2022. It is a migrant species. (Below right) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)



A single **70.2680 *Hypomecis punctinalis* (Pale Oak Beauty)**, that was attracted to light on Friday August 8th around Bellmoor Lake, was only the third record, following the first on May 23rd, 2014, with the second on the June 3rd, 2018. (Below left) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)

A single **73.1050 *Dypterygia scabriuscula* (Bird's Wing)**, that was attracted to light on Friday August 8th around Bellmoor Lake, was only the second record following the first recorded on Friday July 6th, 2018. (Below right) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)



There were two **73.1510 *Globia sparganii* (Webb's Wainscot)**, that were attracted to light on Friday August 8th around Bellmoor Lake, following the first recorded on August 26th, 2024. ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com)



Dragonfly & Damselflies

A single **Emerald Damselfly** was noted at Neatholme Fen on the 11th, and still a rare damselfly species here at Idle Valley NR. Many **Willow Emerald Damselfly** were recorded across the reserve including 6 around Bellmoor Lake on the 3rd, singles at Doughty's Pit and Tiln Pool on the 8th, 15 around Linghurst Lakes on the 10th, 5 at Neatholme Fen on

the 11th, 4 at Neatholme Scrape on the 28th and a Single at Neatholme Fen and 6 at Bellmoor Lake on the 31st. Two counts of **Red-eyed Damselfly** were made at Linghurst Lakes with 35 noted on the 8th and 15 were noted on the 10th. Fairly low numbers of **Common Blue Damselfly** were noted across the reserve except for a count of 50 at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 15th. Lower numbers of **Blue-tailed Damselfly** were noted, though there was a 'purple form' female at Neatholme Fen on the 24th. 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	3rd	6th	8th	10th	11th	15th	28th	29th
Migrant Hawker	2	5	1	3	1	4	10	1
Southern Hawker								1
Brown Hawker	8	1	2	1				
Emperor Dragonfly	1		2	2				
Four-spot Chaser								
Broad-bodied Chaser								
Black-tailed Skimmer		1						
Common Darter	1	1	2			7	10	2
Ruddy Darter	2							

Hoverflies & Bees

Hoverflies were still abundant across the reserve throughout August with several opportunities for some photo's. Below left image is another ***Myathropa florea*** 'Batman' Hoverfly at Bellmoor Ponds on 31st August ©G.Hobson. Bees were also seen regularly, but not in the huge numbers seen in early summer. Below right this **Common Carder Bee** was at Linghurst Lakes on the 31st August ©K.Driver.



Beetles, Weevils & Bugs

The **Dock Bug** *Coreus marginatus* is a common 'Leatherbug' species here at Idle Valley NR. As the name suggests, it is found on Dock and other related plants. (Below left to right) Nymph, 8th August ©V.Bell and adult, 31st August ©K.Driver



Flowers

On Friday 8th Sue Hughes and a few other observers recorded a large number of flower species during the 'Bird & Wildlife' walk around the Doughty's Pit, Bunker Wood, the River Idle banks, Tiln Pool and Lower Sheep Fields. Here is a list of the flowers recorded, and a selection of images taken by Sue. **Hawkbit, Sow Thistle, Great Willowherb, Centaury, Daisy, St. John's Wort, Tansy, Persicaria (Lesser Knotweed), White Campion, Artemisia (Mugwort), Giant Hogweed (Seed heads), Vetch, Red Bartsia, Sweet Clover, Mallow, Alfalfa, Caraway or Common Bedstraw, Lambs Quarters, Oxeye Daisy and Hedge Woundwort.** (Below Left) **Sow Thistle** and (Below Right) **Centaury** ©S.Hughes. (Bottom Left) **Daisy** and (Bottom Right) **Tansy** ©S.Hughes.



Another 'Bird & Wildlife' walk on the 27th to Neatholme Lane and back via Linghurst Lakes recorded a few more species, including, **Devil's Bit Scabious**, both White & Pink **Musk Mallow**, **Common Yarrow**, **Common Knapweed**, **Rosebay Willowherb** and **Evening Primrose.** (Below Left) **Common Yarrow** and (Below Right) Red **Bartsia** ©S.Hughes.



G.Edwards, J & J.Shepherd, P.Ramsey, C & C.Parker, D.Walstow, N.Powell, R.Schwarz, K.Moss, V.Giles, T.Carter, C.Marsh, S.Horne, V.Bell, S.Huges, G.Widdison, V.Bell, P.Cadman, I.Hunt, M.N, R & P.White, G.Hobson, P & E.Hobson, S.Davenport, M.B.Vickers, Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com), Gary's Birdwatching & Wildlife Walks (What's App), plus the various Idle Valley NR - Wellness Walks (What's App).

Owls at Idle Valley Nature Reserve – Part 2.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

This species of owl was introduced into the UK at the end of the 19th century. It is a nationally declining species and locally scarce but can be found, more often than not, on or close to the boundary edges of the Idle Valley Nature Reserve. They are typically found on or near farmland with mature hedgerows, woodland fringes, grassland and paddocks. There has been several known breeding sites across the wider bird recording area, and they have bred locally again in 2025. A species more often than not seen hunting around dusk and dawn but they can often be seen day roosting outside of their natural nesting holes or artificial nesting box, especially during nesting season.

Their food intake is varied and although they can take small mammals and small birds, their diet usually consists of worms and various types insects, including butterflies, moths, spiders and beetles, with pellets often containing many undigested beetle wing casings. They can also be seen in daylight hours when busy feeding young over the summer. Easily spooked but with patience and by being quiet you can get great views if you are near their nest.



They are, as the name suggests, a small compact and short tailed owl. They are 23-27cm in length, have a wingspan of 50-57cm and a weight of up to 220g. The overall colour is brown with lots of fine white speckles on their head, and larger white spotting on the upper body, wings and tail feathers. The belly and flanks are a mix of creamy buff feather with darker brown streaking, and the face is plain buff. The eyes (just like Short-eared Owl) are yellow, an indicator that they have also adapted to hunting in daylight. Their calls are a fast 'chi-chi-chi-chi' alarm, their song is a low-pitched 'hoot' and a repeated mewing call, similar to Tawny Owl.

They normally nest from May through to July in either a natural nest hole in a tree, in a hole in a building or can readily use an artificial nesting box. They are monogamous, often staying with the same partner for life. Typically, two to five eggs are laid, and the female will incubate while the male holds territory and feeds both himself and his partner. When the chicks hatch brooding continues and when the chicks are larger both parents will begin feeding until they are near to fledging. The young owl will leave their nest and, in most cases, then be driven away by the parents from the nest site.

This species is typically found mainly across the whole of England (except for Cornwall) and is not present in most of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The whole UK population is said to have originated from introductions on large estates in Kent and Northamptonshire.

This summer, a local pair nested and produced 2 fledged young, with one infertile egg remaining in the nest. The images below show the owlets being ringed by North Notts Ringing Group who specialise in owl and raptor ringing and provide artificial boxes for many species across North Nottinghamshire.



Photo credits to (Large image above) ©M.B.Vickers and (Owlet photo's) ©S.Davenport.

Next month's - October 2025 issue

What's On - November 2025 Events + Reserve News + Bird News for September 2025 + Additional Nature Sightings for September 2025 + Owls at Idle Valley NR (Part 3).

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