



Nottinghamshire
Wildlife Trust

Lound Bird Club 

Idle Valley Nature Sightings

February 2026

What's On – March 2026

Sunday 1st March – Lound Bird Club – Bird Walk at Idle Valley NR. The meeting point is on Chainbridge Lane at the Kissing Gate by Poplar Walk at 9:00am till 12:00 noon. Contact email/mobile number: stuart.daven@btinternet.com 07763895265

Thursday 5th March – Nottinghamshire Environmental Association – Indoor Meeting. An illustrated talk titled 'Butterflies & Beetles' by Phil Gilbert. Meeting starts at 7:30pm at Hallcroft Community Centre, Randall Way, Retford. Entry is £2 for members (membership is £10 per year) or £3.50 for non-member visitors. Contact email/mobile: paul@paulwillcock.com 07581531595

Thursday 12th March – NWT North Notts Local Group – Indoor Meeting. The subject is 'The story of an ancient woodland' – A presentation by **Michael Walker**. Ploughman Wood is an ancient woodland owned and managed by Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust on the edge of the Parish of Lowdham. Michael has been researching the woods history which dates to at least the 12th century using maps, written accounts and the physical evidence that can be seen on the ground. All woodlands can tell a story if you look deep enough and Michael will talk through the methods that he has used which can be applied to your local woodland. Meeting starts at 7:00pm at the **Rural Learning Centre, Bellmoor**. Entry is £3 per person. Group main contact email: janwilliamson133@gmail.com

Saturday 14th March – Idle Valley Wildlife Watchgroup: 'Life Underground'. 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: idlwatch@nottswt.co.uk

Friday 20th March – 'Footsteps into Nature' – 'Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk' at Idle Valley NR. Meet at Chainbridge Bridge at 2:00pm till 5:00pm. A circular walk south along the riverside track and back via Alan's Meadow and Chainbridge Pit. Looking for Spring migrants, early butterflies, flowers, and other wildlife. Leader is Gary Hobson. email/mobile number: ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk 07464964879

Sunday 22nd March – 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 25th March – Lound Bird Club – Indoor Meeting (including a short AGM). An illustrated talk titled 'The Wildlife Year' - a presentation by **Gary Hobson**. A look at some of the other wildlife that can be found across the Idle Valley Nature Reserve' Meeting starts at 7:00pm at **Sutton-cum-Lound Village Hall**. Entry fee is £3.00 per person includes refreshments. Parking is available around the hall. Contact email/mobile number: stuart.daven@btinternet.com 07763895265

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.



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Reserve News from Alex Morley - NWT Reserves Manager (North).

Visitors will note that Bellmoor Island has had its annual cut and is now exposed to prevent the establish of perching posts for opportunist birds looking to take any 2026 chicks or eggs. This is a two-boat operation so volunteers can

remove cut material to the lakeside. Some waste is bundled with green material and deposited in Bellmoor Lake itself to create mini reefs of use to invertebrates and fish fry, adding extra underwater habitat to the lake.



The play area bird viewing screen is now complete and awaiting information panels. The screens and benches were all created and constructed by volunteers using materials harvested or recycled from the nature reserve; all except four large posts, which we had to purchase. The information panels themselves will feature more common birds expected in the area and will use original artwork. There may be some people who recall a time before the Idle Valley nature reserve, when Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's ownership was limited solely to Chainbridge Wood, which is now just a corner of our Beaver Enclosure. Over the last 12 months, old boundary fencing from this area has been successfully removed and reused for projects at the reserve: the new bird screens, and the barn field cattle enclosures, into which we are planting trees, being the most obvious. Alongside beavers doing their thing in their enclosure, we also use livestock to add habitat diversity, and removing now no longer needed fencing allows both these habitat engineers better chances to roam at will.



On the subject of reusing materials, our volunteers have also been learning and honing new skills in wood carving as they make use of timber harvested from Bunker Wood for a special project (All images) ©A. Morley.



wildlife watch

Idle Valley Watch Group from Ros Schwarz - Group Organiser.

The theme for the February meeting of the Idle Valley Watch Group, our monthly club for nature-lovers from 7 to 12 years old, was "Wonderful Gamston Wood". We joined the Young Rangers and got stuck into coppicing to help maintain the habitat for species such as dormice. After a welcome break for hot chocolate and biscuits, some of us went down the wood and spotted deer and a fox. Others continued happily cutting hazel! To find out about the Young Rangers (13 to 18 years), contact Natilee Alderson on NAlderson@nottswt.co.uk

Next month, on Saturday 14th March, we will be back at the Idle Valley visitor centre for "Life Underground". The children have chosen swans as the "species of the month."

Please contact Ros on idlewatch@nottswt.co.uk for more information.



Footsteps into Nature

Local Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk Group

Review of the 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' walk from the 21st January 2026 from Gary Hobson - Walk Leader

"We met at the new early start time of 8.00am on what was an expected wet winter morning, but surprisingly, the sky over Idle Valley remained fairly clear for the first hour of our walk. The walk itself started with a look over the Lower Sheep Fields where a larger than normal group of Canada Geese was present, 263 in a quick count. The usual pair of Egyptian Geese were present, but far greater numbers of Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Herring, and Lesser Black-backed Gull were feeding and readying themselves for another day. It was cold with a fresh but light south-westerly wind. A good few Blue Tit were feeding in scrub around the edges of the old raised C5 lagoon, and we saw a few Redwing and Blackbirds as we walked towards Tiln Pools. Turning right in an anticlockwise route, we walked past the various pools, formerly part of the PFA Ash Lagoon complex run by the old CEGB, latterly known as Powergen, then EDF. A few small passerines were noted, and the first of several vocal Song Thrush was heard. A single immature Grey Heron was doing its best to hide in the reeds as we passed and onto the riverbank. Heading downstream towards Tiln Wood, we heard Great Tit, saw a few Long-tailed Tits, a Goosander, and another Song Thrush plus the odd Cormorant overhead. On reaching the edge of Tiln Fishery, we saw a total of 5 Great Crested Grebe amongst many Cormorant feeding and the adult feral Swan Goose, which had been at Bellmoor Lake some weeks previously. A pair of Shoveler, a couple of Tufted Duck on the river, a single Buzzard, and then a Green Woodpecker was heard calling from within Tiln Wood. We moved on and heard the Woodpecker again. Investigating the woodland, we saw the same Buzzard alighted in a tall Poplar with a couple of Stock Dove in a nearby tree. Further on more, Long-tailed Tits were seen, as well as Chaffinch, a couple of Redpoll and a singing Coal Tit, plus Redwing, Blackbird, and a single Jay. Passing out of Tiln Wood by the large former Willow field we stopped to look at a distant Raven loafing in a tree over the river, a couple of Great White Egret took off from Whittaker's Fishery and a couple of Goosander were noted along the river. Nearing the north side of Chainbridge Pit, a single Great Spotted Woodpecker was seen in the small triangular plantation, and we heard a couple of Skylarks singing overhead. Waking further and passing back by the side of Alan's Meadow we saw the same Canada Goose flock flying now away from Chainbridge Pit and at least half a dozen Redwing, a couple of Blackbird and another party of Long-tailed Tits. We briefly stopped to look over the Lower Sheep Fields again and saw a Pied Wagtail. Many gulls were still there, and there were lots of Carrion Crow, Rook, and Jackdaw. At least one or two Song Thrush were also noted as we walked back with the expected rain now beginning to fall. Very little was noted from here on in, but it had been a nice walk, tough under foot with the soggy and often very muddy ground, but still worth the effort. We ended the walk around 10.40am and then headed to the cafe at Bellmoor for a brew. Thanks to those who came along today."

All these Birdwatching & Wildlife walks are free, with no need to book, so just turn up to the designated start point and join in. There are usually between 10-20 people attending of all ages and interests and we can often all learn from each other about the wildlife we observe on the walks. It is always just a leisurely stroll stopping often to observe all wildlife on the way. The walks are 2-3 hours duration, but you can leave at will at any point. The walks generally cover circular loops around various parts of the reserve and can include other adjoining areas of interest.

My next planned walk dates are as follows: -

Friday 20th March - 'Footsteps into Nature' - 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' walk at Idle Valley NR. Meet at Chainbridge Bridge at 2:00pm. A circular walk south along the riverside track and back via Alan's Meadow and Chainbridge Pit. Looking for Spring migrants, early butterflies, flowers, and other wildlife. Walk Leader is Gary Hobson.

If you would like more information about the group and be added to the group WhatsApp page, please contact Gary Hobson (Walk Leader) via email/mobile: ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk **07464964879**

Lound Bird Club

Shared Memories from Stuart Davenport - LBC Chairman.

You may recall that in last month's edition of this newsletter, I spoke of my Auntie Jean, sparking my interest in birds by buying me a copy of 'The Observers Book of Birds.' In today's modern speak, she could be what they now call an "influencer." Not a term I am particularly fond of, I actually prefer the term "to inspire," something which we are all capable of. You could make reels to be seen on social media, have a YouTube channel, have your own website, or you can just talk to others about what you observe. The walks we do with the bird club and on Gary's own 'Footsteps into Nature' walks, are always interesting, educational, and inspiring. Not necessarily by the leaders, but also by the attendees. People are always happy to share their knowledge of a subject that I would sometimes know little about. We are blessed to have so many people attending and using the reserve that know so much about so many aspects of wildlife. So, if you are looking at a bird through your telescope and someone walks past and casually says "spotted anything interesting?" Take a minute to tell them, invite them to look through your scope, you will be surprised how surprised they may be at seeing even a common bird at close quarters, perhaps for the first time. I have seen people on their hands and knees looking into the grass and been shown a tiny flower I would never have seen without them pointing it out. I remember a chap on Scilly coming over to me and telling me that about 20 years previously I had pointed out to him and his dad a Dotterel on Gringley Carr and then saw me at Filey, where I had helped them see a Yellow-browed Warbler (both new birds for them). I had no recollection of this, but he had obviously remembered both me and the sightings. So, remember to influence or inspire, you do not need to be a David Attenborough or a Chris Packham, just share what you see and know. I mean, who does not like having a Kingfisher pointed out to them? You just might make their day.



If you would like to join the **Lound Bird Club**, please send your Name, e-mail address, and a contact number to Gary Hobson (Membership Secretary) to ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk Membership of the club is free. We have been an established local bird watching group since 1990, recording the birds and wildlife at the Idle Valley Nature Reserve (formerly known as Sutton & Lound Gravel Pits SSSI), and support the work of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. We offer a program of free walks throughout the year and a series of monthly indoor meetings with guest speakers giving talks on birds and occasional alternative wildlife subjects. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday each month from September through to April, at Sutton-cum-Lound Village Hall, with a £3 entry fee to cover refreshments and hire costs.

Bird Sightings for January 2026 compiled by Gary Hobson.

A New Year's Day combined day list taken from many local birders' sightings produced an excellent 88 species and was a great start to 2026. In addition to our list, across the county, multiple birders saw a total of 124 species, an amazing number considering the relatively poor weather over the new year. The weather early in the month turned to a brief period of prolonged freezing and most water bodies were frozen to 95% from the 5th-8th. Our first WeBS count for 2026 was undertaken on the 18th, if you can assist, please contact either Vic Giles or Paul Hobson. A great month of birding the Idle Valley Nature Reserve and this is reflected here in the species recorded and the number of observers, from both regulars and visitors. The 'Lound Bird Club' held a walk on the 11th and there was also a 'Footsteps into Nature' walk on the 21st. The main island at Bellmoor Lake was cleared of vegetation by NWT staff and volunteers on the 29th.

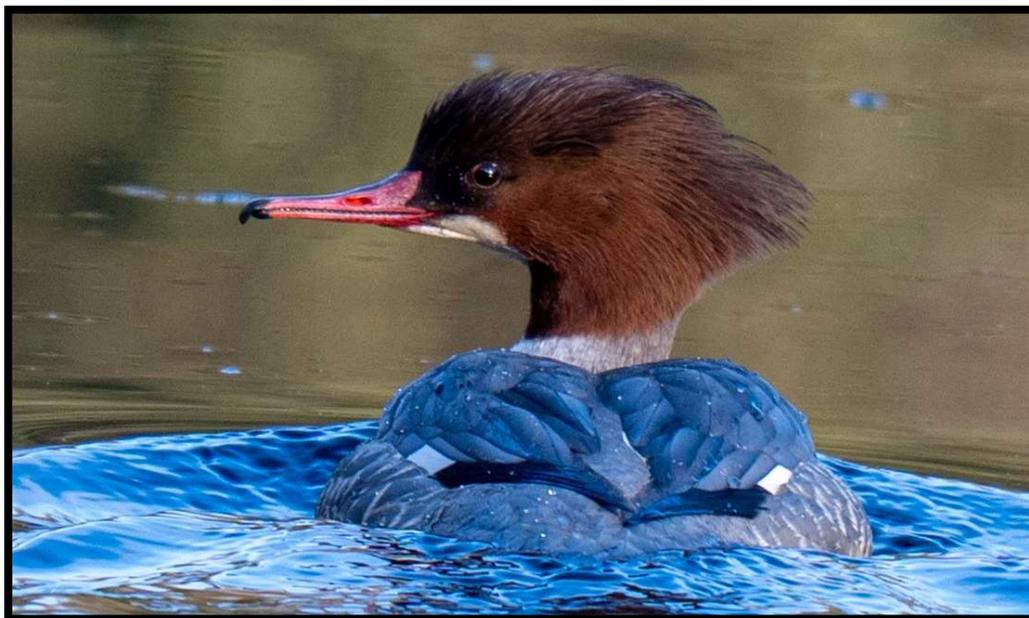
Two records of **Canada Goose**, including a WeBS count total of 251 on the 18th and 263 together on the Lower Sheep Fields on the 21st. Three reports of **Pink-footed Goose**, including a flock noted on Clayworth Common on the 23rd, 60+ moving NE over Neatholme Lane on the 24th and finally 90 moving E over Bellmoor Lake on the 31st. An initial group of just 3-5 **White-fronted Goose** were found feeding with other geese on the Lower Sheep Fields on the 1st, rising to 7 birds feeding on Alan's Meadow on the 2nd and 3rd, falling then to just 2 birds there on the 4th-5th, before 4 birds were noted again on the Lower Sheep Fields on the 6th. None were then noted until a single was noted in the Mattersey Common/Blaco Fields area on the 13th, and another gap until 3 were noted again on Alan's Meadow on the 29th (Below) ©M. Vickers.



A single WeBS count total of 23 **Mute Swan** over the recording area on the 18th was the only report of note. Just two records of **Whooper Swan**, including 3 birds moving over Chainbridge Scrape (east) on the 1st and 8 moving south over Neatholme Fen on the 24th. Several (possibly breeding?) pairs of **Egyptian Goose** were noted from five locations across the recording area throughout, with the largest group being just 3 birds at Chainbridge Pit on the 5th. Three records of **Shelduck**, including 3 at Neatholme Fen on the 1st, a single at Bellmoor Lake on the 3rd and just 2 birds again at Neatholme Fen on the 11th. Just two records of **Shoveler**, including a total of 140 from four locations on the 11th and a WeBS count total of 169 on the 18th. A single WeBS count total of 94 **Gadwall** over the recording area on the 18th, was the only report of note. The numbers of **Wigeon** remained high during the month with grazing birds noted at Chainbridge Pit, Tiln North and Bellmoor Lake. A count of 350 was reported on the 5th, Tiln North held 230+ on the 16th, a WeBS count total of 524 across the entire site on the 18th and 390 were recorded on the 25th, with 350+ birds noted at Tiln North. A single WeBS count total of 286 **Mallard** across the entire site on the 18th, was the only report of note. Just three records of **Pintail**, including a single ♂ at Neatholme Fen on the 1st, 2 were reported on the reserve on the 18th and finally 2 ♂'s were noted on the 31st. A single WeBS count total of 260 **Teal** across the entire site on the 18th, was the only report of note. Just a single record of a pair of **Red-crested Pochard** on the Water Ski Pit on the 1st. Relatively normal winter numbers of **Pochard** were recorded, with notable counts of 37 from three locations on the 11th and a WeBS count total of 64 birds on the 18th. A single WeBS count total of 166 **Tufted Duck** across the entire site on the 18th, was the only report of note. Just two notable counts of **Goldeneye** were recorded, including 21 from three locations on the 11th and a WeBS count total of 71 on the 18th. Always scarce away from the River Trent valley sites, a single 'redhead' **Smew** was found on Neatholme Fen on the 23rd, remaining there until at least the 30th (Below left) ©V. Bell & (Below right) ©S. Davenport.



Numbers of **Goosander** can be difficult to accurately record due to them covering all areas of the reserve and the River Idle. However, their regular roost site at the Water Ski Pit has seen pretty high and accurate counts of 44 on the 1st and 55 there on the 24th. Bellmoor Lake also recorded a maximum of 18 birds on the 3rd (Below) ©N. Wilson.



A pair of **Grey Partridge** were near The Willows on Clayworth Common on the 28th. A pair of **Collared Dove** were noted at Tiln hamlet on the 4th. Many reports of **Water Rail** across the reserve throughout with the Bellmoor Lake/Rural Learning Centre area holding 2 birds from the 6th until the 11th, with a further WeBS count total of 3 birds on the 18th. The WeBS count on the 18th recorded just 11 **Moorhen** and a very low number of just 560 **Coot** across the recording area. Just two reports of **Little Grebe**, including a single on the River Idle on the 1st and 9 were noted on the Conservation Lake on the 6th. Just two reports of **Great Crested Grebe**, including 3 on the Water Ski Pit on the 1st and 5 at Tiln Fishery on the 21st. Three single returning **Oystercatcher**, including a bird reported on the 24th and singles at Bellmoor Lake and Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 29th. Good numbers of **Lapwing** were recorded, including a WeBS count total of 979 across the recording area on the 18th and 285+ from the Lower Sheep Fields and Tiln North on the 25th. Despite high Lapwing numbers there was just one record of 25+ **Golden Plover** at Tiln North on the 25th. A single **Ruff** was noted on Neatholme Fen on the 1st. A single **Dunlin** was noted in the Golden Plover flock at Tiln North on the 25th. A number of reports of **Woodcock**, including 1-2 birds at Bunker Wood on the 1st and 3rd, a single was seen at Neatholme Scrape on the 5th, a single flew off Clayworth Common on the 10th, with a count of 5 birds over the reserve on the 21st and another single on the 29th. Just a single record of **Jack Snipe** where 5 birds were flushed from the edge of Neatholme Fen on the 1st. Low numbers of **Snipe**, with singles at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 1st and 18th, 1-2 at Chainbridge Pit on the 5th and 7th, 1-2 at Neatholme Fen on the 3rd and 11th and 2 birds at Bellmoor Lake on the 18th. One or two **Green Sandpiper** were noted throughout, including singles at Walters Farm Pool on the 4th, on Clayworth Common on the 6th, at Wildgoose Farm on the 10th, at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 16th and 2 birds during the WeBS count on the 18th. Three reports of **Redshank**, including singles at Tiln North on the 1st, on Chainbridge Pit on the 7th and a pair were on both Clayworth Common and Tiln North on the 10th. The returning 'leucistic' **Black-headed Gull** was in the Neatholme Scrape/Pit gull roost on the 1st. Another single **Mediterranean Gull**, this time a classic first-winter (2CY) bird was in the Neatholme Pit roost on the 1st. Often a scarce species locally,

an adult **Great Black-backed Gull** was noted at Bellmoor Lake on the 3rd, with 4 noted at Neatholme Scrape on the 24th. Several reports of **Caspian Gull**, including a sub-adult on the Lower Sheep Field and an adult on Neatholme Scrape on the 1st, two, an adult and 2nd-winter on Chainbridge Pit on the 10th, and 2nd-winter birds on Chainbridge Pit on the 14th and at Bellmoor Lake on the 18th. Two records of **Yellow-legged Gull**, including a 2nd-winter at Neatholme Scrape on the 1st and 4 birds at Bellmoor Lake on the 31st. A single 'hybrid' sub-adult, **Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gull** was noted on the 31st. A single WeBS count total of 39 **Cormorant** on the 18th. The two wintering **Glossy Ibis** were noted together on Alan's Meadow & Bluebell Fishery on the 1st, with singles then noted over the Water Ski Pit, Chainbridge Scrape (East) and Alan's Meadow on the 5th, near Clayworth Copse on the 10th, near the Cattle Coral at Neatholme Scrape on the 16th, at Neatholme Scrape on the 24th, over Cross Lane Marsh on the 25th, at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 26th, on Alan's Meadow on the 28th and at the Water Ski Pit on the 31st (Below) ©K. Rice.



A single report of a **Bittern** on the reserve on the 18th. Up to four **Cattle Egret** were present at Tilm North & Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 1st and at Walters Farm Pond on the 4th, dropping to sightings of just three birds at Tilm North/Conservation Lake on the 18th and just a single reported on the 29th (Below) ©G. Hobson.

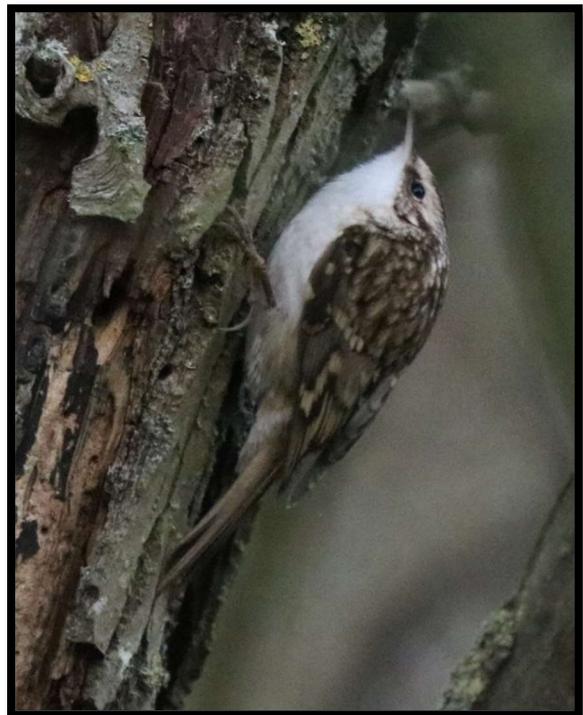


A minimum of two **Grey Heron** was noted throughout across the recording area with two birds recorded on the 3rd, 18th and 25th. Up to three **Great White Egret** were noted throughout across the recording area with three birds recorded on the 1st and 10th. Just three reports of single **Little Egret**, including from Bellmoor Lake on the 1st, noted during the WeBS count on the 18th and a single was on Doughty's Pit (Sutton Trout Fishery) on the 24th. This later bird (Below) ©A. Pickles was colour-ringed with a Blue 'Darvic' ring with the code AI in white lettering on its left leg and also had a normal BTO ring on its right leg. Andrew Pickles submitted the details to Adrian Blackburn who later responded with information about this birds ringing. It was ringed originally as a nestling at Besthorpe Nature Reserve, Nottinghamshire on the 18th May 2014 making it 14 years and 8 months old, a good age for any bird, but even more

unusual, it has not been reported by anyone else in the time period from being ringed to the Andrews sighting at Doughty's Pit.



Five records of single male **Sparrowhawk** across the recording area on the 1st, 11th, 18th, 24th and 25th. The later bird spent a full 30 minutes sat on a low post at Tiln North. Just three reports of single (un-aged/sexed) **Marsh Harrier**, at Clayworth Common on the 13th and 23rd and over Neatholme Fen on the 29th. Four records of single **Red Kite**, including at Tiln North on the 2nd, one bird carrying the remnants of a bird lower body and feet photographed over Bunker Wood on the 3rd (Below left) ©G. Hobson, over Clayworth Common on the 6th and a bird moving from Tiln over Whittaker's Fishery and Hayton Common on the 25th.



Up to four **Buzzard** were noted across the recording area throughout, with four being counted separately on the 11th. Just a single record of **Tawny Owl** from Cross Lane on the 1st. Just two records of single **Kingfisher**, at Neatholme Fen on the 5th at Bellmoor Lake on the 13th. A single **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was heard 'drumming' along Hawthorn Lane on the 29th but other birds were seen at Bellmoor Pits and Linghurst Wood throughout. Two single records of **Green Woodpecker** from the Tiln Wood area on the 4th and 21st. Four records of single **Kestrel**, at Chainbridge Scrape (East) and Chainbridge Pit on the 1st, at Bunker Wood on the 3rd and at Tiln North on the 25th. Good numbers of **Jay** were noted, including 6 in the Broom Wood area on the 4th, then singles at Chainbridge Wood on the 18th, Tiln Wood on the 21st and along Hawthorn Lane on the 29th. A species now becoming almost an expected daily visitor to the recording area, up to 9 **Raven** were noted on two dead sheep on the Lower Sheep Fields on the 1st, a

single was calling at Bunker Wood on the 3rd, a single was at Broom Wood on the 4th, a single over Whittaker's Fishery on the 21st and finally 2 were at Neatholme Fen on the 29th. The south end of the reserve/recording area seems to be the key site for sightings of **Coal Tit**, with pine trees being their favoured habitat, singles were at the Bailey Bridge, Bunker Wood and Tiln Wood throughout but a brilliant count of 20+ was made in Broom Wood, across the river, on the 4th. A single record of 15 **Long-tailed Tit** at Neatholme Lane on the 11th. Three records of wintering **Chiffchaff**, including singles at Neatholme Scrape viewpoint on the 1st, another single at Tiln hamlet on the 4th and up to 4 birds were feeding around Lound Sewage Works on the 16th. Three local records of wintering **Blackcap**, including different males at Tiln hamlet and in a Hallcroft estate garden on the 4th plus a female noted in a Mattersey village garden on the 23rd and 25th. A single **Treecreeper** was at Bunker Wood on the 3rd. A count of six **Goldcrest** at Broom Wood on the 4th was notable though others were seen across the recording area. Not unusual, **Starling** were noted in garden in Lound village on the 1st and only two other records were submitted, including 200+ in the Lower Sheep Fields and Bluebell Fishery areas on the 25th with a further 30+ at Tiln North the same day. Two single records of **Song Thrush** at Neatholme Lane on the 1st and at Broom Wood on the 4th. Just a single record of 100+ **Redwing** at Tiln Wood/Broom Wood area on the 4th, though these birds were also noted at Bunker Wood around this time including this bird feeding on riverside Hawthorn berry (Below) ©G. Hobson.



Just a single record of 10 **Fieldfare** at Tiln hamlet on the 4th. A pair of **Stonechat** remained at Tiln North being seen near the river bridge on the 1st, 2nd, and 5th. Three records of **Grey Wagtail**, including 2 birds at Hallcroft Sewage Works on the 1st, a single at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 1st and a single at Lound Sewage Works on the 16th. Three **Pied Wagtail** were at Neatholme Fen on the 11th. Two records of **Meadow Pipit**, including a single at Hallcroft Sewage Works on the 1st and 3 birds feeding on the island at Neatholme Fen on the 11th. Three records of single **Bullfinch** at the Bailey Bridge on the 1st, at Neatholme Lane on the 3rd and at Tiln hamlet on the 4th. Three records of Greenfinch, including singles at Broom Wood on the 1st and at Lound Sewage Works on the 16th and a good count of 18 birds noted in the recording area on the 29th. Substantial numbers of **Linnet** were noted, including 60+ at Tiln hamlet on the 4th, 20+ at Tiln again on the 10th, 30+ at The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 13th at in impressive 220+ on Sunflower set aside on Clayworth Common on the 26th. Three records of **Lesser Redpoll**, including 100+ at Neatholme Lane on the 3rd, 30 there again on the 23rd and 4 were at Bellmoor Lake on the 26th. A single record of 60+ **Siskin** at Bunker Wood on the 1st. A small number of **Yellowhammer** were noted at Blaco Pits on the 1st. A single record of 10+ **Reed Bunting** observed flying out of the little reedbed by the visitor centre on the morning of the 1st.

Feral/Escapes/Unconfirmed

A single **Barnacle Goose** was associating with other mixed geese on Alan's Meadow and the Lower Sheep Fields on the 3rd and 6th. An unconfirmed "possible" ♂ **Ring-necked Duck** was reported at Bellmoor Lake by two visitors on the 12th, though there was no sign of this bird throughout the rest of the month. A single **Swan Goose** was noted on Tiln Fishery on the 21st. An unconfirmed report of a **Greenshank** (not actually identified and is very rare in winter in the UK) was with a Redshank on Chainbridge Pit on the 7th.

R. Hilditch, S. Moakes, K. Snow, R. Simmons, N. Wilson, K. Rice, I. Cowgill, M. Goodman, K. Roberts, F. Eldridge, M. McCallum, J. Burdall, J. Coe, K. Price, J. Parker, D. Anderson, M. Hodgson, A. Seastron, K. Driver, G. Edwards, K. Bowler, B. Foster, W. Fiuk, A. Pickles, D. Richardson, P. Cooper, P. Cottam, K. Fisher, P. J. Freeman, S. Came, C & C Parker, B. Merrick, V. Bell, T. Carter, G. Hobson, D. Housman, M. B. Vickers, S. Davenport, V. Giles, P. Cadman, P & E Hobson, I. Hunt, RBA, 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

Nature Sightings for January 2026 compiled by Gary Hobson.

Butterflies – A single **Peacock** butterfly was seen on Neatholme Lane by Linghurst Lakes on the 28th. The first record of any species this year.

Moths - The following are just a small selection of moth species that were significant during the month. List compiled from data held by resident moth expert Philip Cadman, who is also the local 'Entomology Recorder' for the Idle Valley NR & Lound Bird Club recording area.

A single moth trapping session was held at Linghurst Lakes on the evening of the 16th. The moths that were recorded were as follows: - 10 ♂ **70.1060 *Operophtera brumata* Winter Moth**, a single ♂ **70.2470 *Phigalia pilosaria* Pale-brindled Beauty** (Below left) ©G. Hobson, a wingless ♀ **70.2820 *Theria primaria* Early Moth** (Below right) ©G. Hobson, and a single **73.2100 *Eupsilia transversa* The Satellite**.



The only other moth recorded was a single ♂ **49.039 *Epiphyas postvittana* Light Brown Apple Moth** which was in Mike Vickers, home Conservatory in Lound village on the 27th (Below) ©G. Hobson.



Mammals & Amphibians – This single **Field Vole** was photographed along the River Idle banks on the 28th (Below)
©N. Wilson. Three Roe Deer were noted in The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 28th.



N. Wilson, C. Watkin, K. Snow, S. Moakes, G. Edwards, M. Vickers, T. Carter, V. Bell, P. Cadman, I. Hunt, M. N, G. Hobson, P & E. Hobson, S. Davenport, Trevor & Dilys Pendleton (www.eakringbirds.com), Gary's Birdwatching & Wildlife Walks (What's App) Group, plus the various Idle Valley NR - Wellness Walks (What's App) Groups.

Next month's - March 2026 issue

What's On - April 2026 Events + Reserve News + Bird News for February 2026 + Additional Nature Sightings for February 2026

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