



# Idle Valley Nature Sightings

March 2026

## What's On – April 2026

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Nottinghamshire Environmental Association – Indoor Meeting.** An illustrated talk titled '**Nottinghamshire Dormouse Project**' by Lorna Griffiths. 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

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Lound Bird Club – Bird Walk at Idle Valley NR.** The meeting point is the reserve car park at Bellmoor Lake from 9:00am till 12:00 noon. Walk along the riverside track looking for Spring migrants. Contact email/mobile number: stuart.daven@btinternet.com 07763895265

**W/C Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April – Idle Valley Wildlife Watchgroup: 'Visit to the Lambing'.** If you wish to attend the group and this event, please contact Ros at the e-mail below. 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

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April – NWT North Notts Local Group – Indoor Meeting.** An illustrated talk titled '**The meandering Trent from Dunham to Stockwith**' by local historian Adrian Gray & a short AGM. Meeting starts at 7:15pm at the **Rural Learning Centre, Bellmoor.** Entry is £3 per person. Group main contact email: janwilliamson133@gmail.com

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April – 'Footsteps into Nature' – 'Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk' at Idle Valley NR.** Meet at Chainbridge Bridge at 8:30am till Midday. A circular walk north along the riverside track to Neatholme Bridge and returning back passing Neatholme Scrape and via Hawthorn Lane looking at both Chainbridge Scrapes to the cars. Looking for Spring migrants, early butterflies, flowers, and other wildlife. Leader is Gary Hobson. email/mobile number: gh1bc@hotmail.co.uk 07464964879

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April – 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 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Lound Bird Club – Indoor Meeting.** An illustrated talk titled '**The Isles of Scilly: Tales of a Scilly Birder**' - a presentation by club chairman, **Stuart Davenport.** 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.

Additional **Thursday - Ramble Walks** (once a month) and new **Saturday - Wellbeing Walks** are planned – See NWT Website/Socials.



care for all require some level of intervention. As birds begin to establish nesting territories, March marks the end of most of our vegetation management. Over the coming weeks, the freshly coppiced coupes in Treswell and Gamston & Eaton Woods will be temporarily fenced for three years to prevent deer browsing, which can severely hamper regrowth and impact dormouse habitat. After an intense period of winter work, the next few weeks offer a brief window of respite as we prepare for estate maintenance tasks such as fencing repairs.

At the Idle Valley, volunteers have seeded the new Barn Field water vole ditches. With a few small adjustments, these features are now better able to drain the nearby path after the recent spells of heavy rainfall. Barn Field is known to be a sun trap in summer, so over the winter we installed a number of cattle enclosures and planted a variety of trees within them to improve habitat diversity and provide shade in the decades to come. Among these trees are cricket bat willows, which will be sustainably managed and harvested in at least twenty years to generate income that supports our conservation work.

Using materials harvested from the reserve, volunteers have built the newly installed bird-viewing screen and seating in the children's play area. They have also created a unique carved fingerpost at the main junction of our Woodland Explorer and Lakeside walks. Looking ahead, there is potential for more seating and signage made from on-site timber, as a small number of oaks will be selectively thinned from Bunker Wood over the next four years.



### **Introducing the Idle Valley Reserve Management Advisory Committee** from Roz Schwarz – IVRMAC Committee member.

The Idle Valley Reserve Management Advisory Committee (IV RMAC) is a regular forum at which stakeholders discuss the nature reserve's present and help shape its future. In partnership with Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT), representatives from Lound Bird Club, Idle Valley WATCH children's group, conservation and warden volunteers from the reserve, the North Notts Local Group, and other community voices discuss the nature reserve's place in the area's landscape and community. The committee is updated by the reserve management on habitat work done by staff and volunteers and on the work planned for the next quarter. We discuss current projects, projects under consideration by the Trust and any issues arising on the reserve.

Bullet points from 26<sup>th</sup> March meeting: -

- Water voles have been seen on the Idle outside the beaver enclosure where they were released.
  - Swift boxes will be placed on the centre and the barn, thanks to Local Group funding.
  - The new ditches and banks in the Barn Field have been seeded. The ditches will be fenced to prevent any calves falling in.
  - Beavers have cleared much of the scrub in front of the Chainbridge Lane viewing screen.
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# wildlife watch

## **Idle Valley Watch Group** from Ros Schwarz - Group Organiser.

The theme for March's Wildlife Watch group meeting was "Life Underground". We looked under some molehills where the children found plenty of tunnels. Then everyone enjoyed themselves getting very muddy digging for worms in Muddy Fork's soil heap and we gave some of them a new home in a wormery. Next month, if you are 7 to 12 years old, join us for some "Froggy Fun" at the Idle Valley centre on 11th April between 10.30 and 12.30. Please contact Ros on [idlewatch@nottswt.co.uk](mailto:idlewatch@nottswt.co.uk) for more information.

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## **Footsteps into Nature**

**Local Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk Group**

### **Review of the 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' walk from the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026** from Gary Hobson - Walk Leader

"Despite the expected rain, which we seem to have had constantly for almost all of this year, it was a great turnout for the walk this afternoon. Fourteen including two newly introduced friends set off from the car park at Bellmoor at just after 3.00pm and we headed over the boardwalk where we heard Oystercatcher calling over Bellmoor Lake. In the woodland belt we saw a few Long-tailed Tits, a couple of Goldcrest and heard Robin and both Blue and Great Tit. We then stopped to overlook the lake, where we saw two Oystercatcher, two Shelduck, many Shoveler and up to 7 Goosander. The recent removal of the island vegetation now helps us to view birds across the back of the island. We walked on along the path between the lake and the stream and within a few yards a Kingfisher appeared to fly off a bush by the stream and fly away from us a short distance then it turned and flew towards Bellmoor Pits. The iridescent blue obvious to those who saw this fleeting glimpse. Within a few minutes the group spied a lovely close Red Kite flying alongside the lake, and we had great views as it passed by. Arriving at the river weir we saw three Oystercatcher noisily calling overhead and had a better view of the Goosander. A big gathering of gulls, mainly Lesser Black-backed and a couple of Herring Gulls was seen over the far side of the lake. I noticed several Dunnock hanging around the scrub here and birds were moving to the brambles across the river. We then walked downstream where more Long-tailed Tits, Blue Tits, Blackbird, and a single Kestrel was noted across the Broom Wood side of the river. As we approached the Bailey Bridge we heard, Wren and the first of many Siskins. As we came to the pine belt, we got onto a few Long-tailed Tits, a couple of Goldcrest and singing Coal Tits. Walking towards Bunker Wood we heard a few more Goldcrest and Blackbirds with Long-tailed Tits showing well by the kissing gate. At the Bunker Wood plantation we saw a single Chiffchaff with a few Chaffinch and overhead we saw several small groups of Siskin, Greenfinch and Linnet. Vicky saw a pale bird crossing the river just downstream which eventually revealed itself to be a female Sparrowhawk which we watched flying over the fields towards Broom Wood. The same field produced a fine adult Grey Heron with a very bright yellow bill, and no doubt, a local breeding bird. Turning through the second kissing gate, we had several Chaffinch, a couple of Goldcrest again, Long-tailed Tits, Blue Tit and Great Tit. Further on we saw Blackbirds, Great Tit and as we went through the next metal gate heading around the back of the Bunker Wood I heard a Bullfinch, more Siskins were noted, a large flock of about 30 Linnet and a smaller group of about 20 Redpoll. Lots to see everywhere you looked. We then turned back into the Bunker Wood meadows area and headed to the recently cut Poplar clear fell. Expectations were high in our hope to show the group a Woodcock, which with a little effort we put one up amongst the felled area. Everyone had brief flight views, and it was great to see. Here we also saw a small group of around half a dozen Fieldfare heading towards Doughty's Pit and one or two calling Bullfinch. Moving back through Bunker Wood towards the river we heard a calling Little Grebe on the small pool and saw more Linnets and a Reed Bunting. By the riverbank, a large distant rainbow was seen rising up over Broom Wood. Alongside the river I heard another calling female Chiffchaff and nearing the Bailey Bridge again, several Coal Tit and Goldcrest were seen in the pines. We hooked right and walked into the Bellmoor Pits area and as we walked past the reedbed by the stand of Poplars I saw a Grey Wagtail flitting around the base of a Willow which darted into the reeds and appeared to be roosting there which seemed to be an unusual roost site. Here we heard another calling Bullfinch, and a single Treecreeper gave itself up by its call a little further on but was seen very briefly in flight. It was by now slowly getting dark and the light for observing any birds was fading quickly. We all chatted and headed back to Bellmoor Pits where a couple of Goosander were noted, and briefly stopping at Bellmoor Lake, we saw two Oystercatcher but now there were three Shelduck present. We walked again back through the woodland belt, over the boardwalk to the car park. A great afternoons' birding and also a few bits of notable wildlife, including some fungi, lots of Alder catkins, flowering Broom, and Gorse, one or two Squirrels and so many trees now in their early bud bearing stages. It will not be long until these buds literally spring into leaves and a new season of wildlife observations begins again. Thanks to all who came along today, a special thanks to Stuart Davenport who shares his

enthusiastic local knowledge. We both enjoy leading these walks and it is so nice to see everyone again. Remember to keep an eye on the dates for my walks and for the Lound Bird Club upcoming walks and indoor meetings. Everyone is welcome to join in."

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: -

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April – 'Footsteps into Nature' – 'Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk' at Idle Valley NR.** Meet at Chainbridge Bridge at 8:30am till Middy. A circular walk north along the riverside track to Neatholme Bridge and returning back passing Neatholme Scrape and via Hawthorn Lane looking at both Chainbridge Scrapes to the cars. Looking for Spring migrants, early butterflies, flowers, and other wildlife. Leader is Gary Hobson. email/mobile number: ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk 07464964879

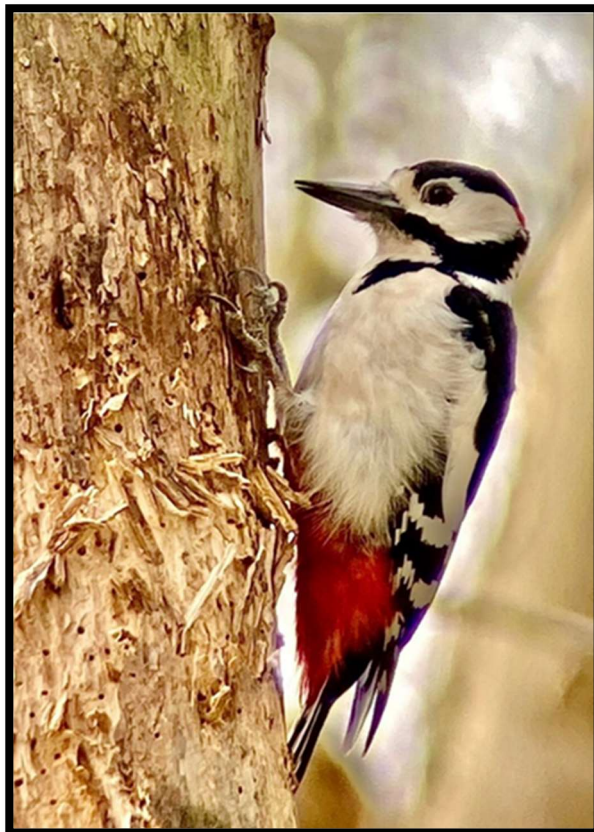
If you would like more information about the group and be added to the group WhatsApp page, please contact Gary Hobson (Walk Leader) via email/mobile: **ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk 07464964879**

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## Lound Bird Club

### **Notes** from Stuart Davenport - LBC Chairman.

Wow, this year is flying by! By the time you receive this newsletter, it will already be April, and the breeding season has already started. Many of our early spring migrants have already started to arrive with Sand Martin and Swallow having been reported and Chiffchaff and Blackcap have been heard in full song. Long-tailed Tits have been busy making their beautiful intricate nests, while Great Spotted Woodpeckers have excavating nest holes. It will not be long until the first Cuckoo of the year will be heard.



It has been a busy time for the bird club, with us recently holding our AGM. At this point, I would first like to thank Paul Hobson for his hard work in various committee roles over the years, as he steps down from the committee. We also want to welcome Lorraine Dunford, who has offered to join us on the committee.

April sees the last of indoor meetings until September. I am sure you will agree, there has been some excellent talks during the winter program. We are already planning the next season of illustrated talks, and we hope you will be able to attend and enjoy those too. We will of course continue to hold regular walks at the reserve throughout the year, they will be advertised in this newsletter and across the socials.

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](mailto: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 February 2026** compiled by Gary Hobson.

Two reports of 125 **Canada Geese** at the Lower Sheep Field on the 15<sup>th</sup> and a WeBS count total of 196 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two counts of **Greylag Goose**, including 75 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a WeBS count total of 283 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Four reports of **Pink-footed Goose**, including 100+ over Clayworth Common on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 100 moving W over Mattersey on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 37 were on Clayworth Common on the 8<sup>th</sup> and a flock of 152 (photo count) moving W over Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two reports of **White-fronted Goose**, including 3 with Pink-footed Geese on Clayworth Common on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6 birds there again on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The only notable **Mute Swan** count was a WeBS count total of 55 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, which included 48 birds on Clayworth Common and 7 more in the Neatholme/Chainbridge area. Three reports of **Whooper Swan**, including a single on Clayworth Common on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 6 birds moved north over Retford on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 21+ were on Clayworth Common on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Three reports of **Egyptian Goose**, including 5 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, a pair at the Lower Sheep Fields on the 15<sup>th</sup> and a WeBS count total of 12 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Up to 6 **Shelduck** were noted at Bellmoor Lake on the 12<sup>th</sup>, with just 1-2 birds noted at Clayworth Common, Neatholme Fen, Lower Sheep Fields and Linghurst Pool on various dates throughout. Massive numbers of **Shoveler** were noted, including up to 100+ at Bellmoor Lake on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 190 were at Neatholme Fen on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 107 were noted on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a probable record-breaking WeBS count total of 445 birds on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A WeBS count total of 102 **Gadwall** was made on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A couple of good counts of **Wigeon**, including 204 on Linghurst Pool on the 1<sup>st</sup> and a WeBS count total of 386 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Evidence of a single dead ♂ Wigeon (many feathers were found) by the track alongside Chainbridge Pit, also on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A WeBS count total of 138 **Mallard** was made on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Only reported from Neatholme Fen, the numbers of **Pintail** there rose from just 5 birds on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, to 12 on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 15 on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and peaking at 22 on the 14<sup>th</sup>, then with just 9 on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 15 on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A WeBS count total of 166 **Teal** was made on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Six **Red-crested Pochard** were at Linghurst Lakes on the 9<sup>th</sup>, a pair was on the Water Ski Pit on the 21<sup>st</sup> with 4 there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and finally a pair was again at Linghurst Lakes on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Two reports of **Pochard**, including 26 from the Neatholme pits area on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a WeBS count total of 38 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A WeBS count total of 220 **Tufted Duck** was made on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A BirdGuides report of a female **Greater Scaup** on Chainbridge Pit on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>. Just two counts of **Goldeneye**, including 8 on Neatholme Fen on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a WeBS count total of 32 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (Below images) ©G Hobson.



The same 'redhead' ♀ **Smew** remained at Neatholme Fen from the 2<sup>nd</sup> until at least the 21<sup>st</sup>, being reported on at least seven dates. Seen regularly across the recording area, numbers of **Goosander** peaked at 55 roosting birds at the Water Ski Pit on the 11<sup>th</sup>, with a WeBS count total of just 12 birds on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Three reports of **Grey Partridge**, including a

pair on Clayworth Common on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 4 at The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 7 birds again on Clayworth Common on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Just a single report of a single **Water Rail** at the new Neatholme Fen viewing screen on the 4<sup>th</sup>. There were WeBS count totals of 19 **Moorhen** and 429 **Coot** made on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two reports of **Little Grebe**, including 5 on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 12 on the WeBS count on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Just two reports of **Great Crested Grebe**, including a single at Neatholme Fen on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a WeBS count total of 4 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many reports of **Oystercatcher**, including between 1-4 at Bellmoor Lake throughout, pairs noted at Neatholme Scrape and Neatholme Pit, but the WeBS count total recorded 9 birds on the recording area on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Some good numbers of **Lapwing** noted, including 100 on Clayworth Common on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 60 at Bellmoor Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 500 were at Neatholme Fen on the 12<sup>th</sup>, up to 300 there on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a WeBS count total of 210 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Just a single report of 50 **Golden Plover** noted in a stubble field behind The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 4<sup>th</sup>. A single **Curlew** was noted on the Lower Sheep Fields on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Three reports of 1-2 **Woodcock** noted from Bunker Wood and Bellmoor Pits area on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. A single **Snipe** was noted at Tilm North on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Just two reports of single **Green Sandpiper** from Al's Pit Fishery off Cross Lane on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. A single report of 150 **Black-headed Gull** at Neatholme Pit included the regular partial 'leucistic' bird on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A single second-winter (3CY) '**Russian**' **Common Gull** was noted at Neatholme Scrape on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Two reports of **Herring Gull** from Bellmoor Lake with 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and a single on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Three different single **Caspian Gull** were noted at Bellmoor Lake throughout, including a first-winter (2CY) on the 1<sup>st</sup>, a second-winter (3CY) on the 11<sup>th</sup> and an adult bird on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A good number of **Yellow-legged Gull** were noted, including 2 at Bellmoor Lake and a further 2 were at Neatholme Scrape on the 11<sup>th</sup>, a second-winter (3CY) at Bellmoor Lake on the 14<sup>th</sup> then 2 were at Bellmoor Lake and a further 'sub-adult' was at Neatholme Scrape on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A single count of 340 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Neatholme Scrape on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Three counts of **Cormorant**, including 33 on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 52 on the 17<sup>th</sup> and a WeBS count total of 16 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A single **Bittern** was reported on the WeBS count on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, but the location is unknown. Just 3 **Cattle Egret** were noted on the Lower Sheep Fields on the 18<sup>th</sup> and noted again during the WeBS count on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Just a single report of 3 **Grey Heron** on the WeBS count on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. One or two **Great White Egret** were noted in the northern half of the reserve from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> with singles present from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>. Single **Little Egret** were noted at Neatholme Scrape on the 11<sup>th</sup> and on the WeBS count on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Four reports of single **Sparrowhawk**, over Neatholme Lane on the 14<sup>th</sup> and ♀'s at Bellmoor/Bunker Wood areas on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> (Below) © G. Hobson.



Four reports of single **Marsh Harrier**, including over Neatholme Pit on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, over Clayworth Copse on the 10<sup>th</sup>, a 'cream-crowned' bird over Neatholme Pit on the 12<sup>th</sup> and finally over Neatholme Fen on the 14<sup>th</sup>. It is important to age/sex this species so that we can monitor actual numbers of birds present, especially in the run up to the coming breeding season. Four reports of **Red Kite**, including singles at The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 16<sup>th</sup>, at Bellmoor Lake on the 20<sup>th</sup>, at Bunker Wood on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and three birds together moving W over Doughty's Pit (Sutton Trout Fishery) on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Recorded on the very edge of the recording area, a single **Barn Owl** was noted along Eel Pool Road at Drakeholes on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Tawny Owl** were noted from three locations over four dates throughout, including a pair noted roosting at one location on Linghurst Lakes on both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Two single **Kingfisher** were noted from the River Idle at Chainbridge Bridge on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and one flew from the dyke alongside Bellmoor Lake on the 20<sup>th</sup>. A single record of a ♀ **Great Spotted Woodpecker** in Linghurst Wood on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Three single **Green Woodpecker** were noted from The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 10<sup>th</sup>, then at Neatholme Fen on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Two single **Kestrel** were noted from Bellmoor Lake on the 20<sup>th</sup> and in The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A single report of a ♂ **Merlin** over Neatholme Scrape on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. A single report of a **Peregrine** over Chainbridge Lane on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Three reports of **Jay**, including a pair at Linghurst Wood on the 1<sup>st</sup>, with a single at Bittern Pools and a pair at Bunker

Wood, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A single **Raven** was noted over Clayworth Common on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Just a single count of 3 **Coal Tit** at Bunker Wood on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Just a single report of 20+ **Skylark** on Clayworth Common on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Just two reports of **Chiffchaff**, including up to 4 around Lound Sewage Works on the 1<sup>st</sup> and a single singing by Bellmoor Lake on the 8<sup>th</sup>. A single **Blackcap** was reported at Wiseton on the edge of the recording area on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A single **Nuthatch** was calling in Linghurst Wood on the 1<sup>st</sup>. A single **Treecreeper** was noted in Linghurst Wood on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Pairs of **Goldcrest** were noted at Bellmoor Pits on the 4<sup>th</sup> and in The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Just a single report of a pair of **Song Thrush** in Linghurst Wood on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Just two reports of **Redwing**, including 6 over the reserve car park at Bellmoor Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 4 were noted at Bunker Wood on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two reports of **Fieldfare**, including 6+ over Bunker Wood on the 20<sup>th</sup> and c50 in The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. A notable count of 19 **Robin** from one observer over all areas north of Chainbridge Lane on the 14<sup>th</sup>. A single ♂ **Stonechat** was at Tilm North on the 12<sup>th</sup> with a pair at the nearby Conservation Lake on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Three reports of single **Grey Wagtail**, including at Bellmoor Lake on the 1<sup>st</sup>, along Hawthorn Lane on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and at Bellmoor Boardwalk on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Just a single report of a single **Meadow Pipit** over Bellmoor Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup>. A single report of 20 Chaffinch on Clayworth Common on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Two reports of **Linnet** from Clayworth Common, including 75 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and c200 there on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Just a single notable count of 20 **Lesser Redpoll** was noted on the 14<sup>th</sup>. A single ♀ **Common Crossbill** was reported near the Bailey Bridge at Bellmoor on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Just a single notable count of 30 **Goldfinch** at Bellmoor Lake on the 4<sup>th</sup>. A single notable count of 50+ **Siskin** flying over Neatholme Scrape on the 17<sup>th</sup>. A single count of 5 **Yellowhammer** on Clayworth Common on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

P. Kibble P. Ramsey, W. Hill, P. Burril, D. Walstow, N. Powell, M. Beck, S. Hughes, A. Champion, G. Shepherd, I. Cowgill, M. McCallum, J. Coe, K. Price, D. Anderson, K. Driver, K. Bowler, W. Fiuk, A. Pickles, D. Richardson, P. Cooper, P. Cottam, K. Fisher, P. J. Freeman, 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](mailto:ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk)

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## **Nature Sightings for February 2026** compiled by Gary Hobson.

**Butterflies** – Two early **Brimstone** were noted at Alan's Meadow and near to the Bailey Bridge, plus a single **Peacock** was seen at Chainbridge Meadows, all noted in the sunshine on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

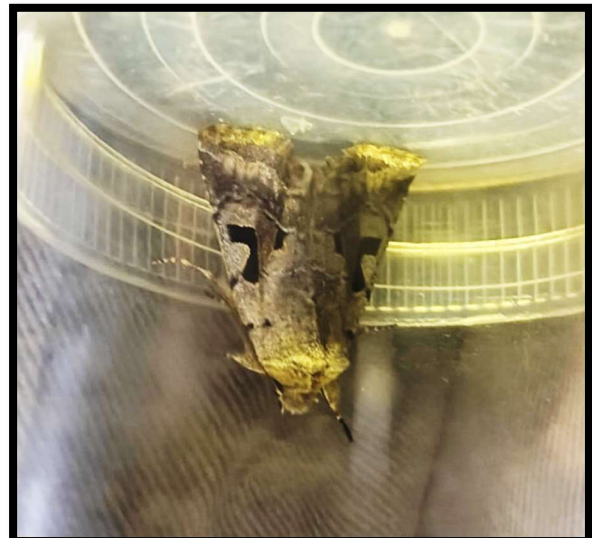
**Moths** - The following are just a small selection of moth species that were significant during the month. List compiled from data held by resident moth expert Philip Cadman, who is also the local 'Entomology Recorder' for the Idle Valley NR & Lound Bird Club recording area.

A moth trapping session was held at Chainbridge Meadows on the evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The moths that were recorded were as follows: - a single 'dark-form' ♂ **70.2470 *Phigalia pilosaria* Pale-brindled Beauty** (Below right)©G. Hobson, a single ♂ **70.252 *Biston strataria* Oak Beauty** (Below left)©G. Hobson, a single **65.016 *Achlya flavicornis* Yellow Horned** (Middle left)©G. Hobson, 27 **73.244 *Orthosia cerasi* Common Quaker** (Middle right)©G. Hobson, a single **73.242 *Orthosia incerta* Clouded Drab** (Bottom left)©G. Hobson, 2 **73.194 *Conistra vaccinii* The Chestnut**, a single ♂ **70.245 *Alsophila aescularia* March Moth** (Bottom right)©G. Hobson, and up to 5 **32.018 *Agonopterix heracliiana* Common Brindled Brown** Agg.





A second trapping session at Bellmoor Lake on the 25<sup>th</sup> produced a single **70.066 *Earophila badiata* Shoulder Stripe** (Below left) ©G. Hobson, single **73.249 *Orthosia gothica* Hebrew Character** (Below right) ©P Hobson, and a single **49.044 *Tortricodes alternella* Spring Harbinger**.



S. Hughes, N. Powell, P. Kibble, C. Watkin, C & C. Parker, W. Hill, D. Walstow, M. Haxby, G. Shepherd, K. Driver, P. Ramsey, 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.

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## **Next month's - April 2026 issue**

**What's On - May 2026 Events + Reserve News + Bird News for March 2026 + Additional Nature Sightings for March 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**