



Nottinghamshire
Wildlife Trust

Lound Bird Club 

Idle Valley Nature Sightings

May 2026



Nottinghamshire
Wildlife Trust

What's On - Events at Idle Valley Nature Reserve

Every Tuesday of each month – Wellbeing Walk (Bellmoor Lake area) starting from the **Idle Valley Visitor Centre Cafe at 10:30am till 12:00pm**. Take in the views, chat with someone new and enjoy the benefits of walking in nature. Volunteer led walk sponsored by Co-op Lincolnshire.

Every Wednesday of each month – Wellbeing Walk (Bellmoor Lake area) starting from the **Idle Valley Visitor Centre Cafe at 1:00pm till 2:30pm**. Take in the views, chat with someone new and enjoy the benefits of walking in nature. Volunteer led walk sponsored by Co-op Lincolnshire.

Thursday 4th June – Photography and Wildlife Walk (Longer Walk) starting from the **Idle Valley Visitor Centre Cafe at 10:30am till 3:30pm**. If you are interested in a longer walk around our beautiful Idle Valley Nature Reserve, join us on the first Thursday of every month. Volunteer led walk.

Saturday 13th June – Weekend Wellbeing Walk (Bellmoor Lake area) from Idle Valley Visitor Centre Café at 10:30am till 12:00pm. Take in the views, chat with someone new and enjoy the benefits of walking in nature. Volunteer led walk.



wildlife
watch

Idle Valley Wildlife Watch Group from Ros Schwarz - Group Leader.

The theme for the 9th April's Wildlife Watch group meeting was "Birds on the Wing". We talked about bird migration, especially about the routes of summer migrant 'Hirundines,' which is the collective name for Swallows, Swifts, Sand Martins (Below right) and House Martins. The children were given pairs of binoculars and tick sheets of some birds which we may spot on our walk and our guest Gary Hobson, led us around Bellmoor Lake pointing out several singing birds, including Blackcap (Below left), ducks and geese on the lake, as well as pointing out lots of birds as they flew around us. Rick Berry spotted a Cuckoo as we had our picnic. A nice day in nature surrounded by lots of springtime birds and wildlife. Both Images ©G. Hobson.



Group Information & What's On

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.** Please contact Ros on **idlewatch@nottswt.co.uk** for more information. Our next group session is on **Saturday 13th June** and the theme will be '**Pollen Movers and Shakers**'.

Nottinghamshire Environmental Association

Brief History

The Association was first formed in Nottinghamshire schools in 1939 as part of the need for home produced food at the start of the Second World War. Four branches were established with the Retford Branch being the sole remaining branch of the four.

Current Situation

The NEA is now based in Retford but has members as far away as Nottingham, Lincoln and Newark. We are not a campaigning group, just an Association of people with an interest in a wide range of environmental topics.

Programme of Meetings

Our programme comprises indoor General Meetings which run from January to April, inclusive, and from September to December, inclusive. The subject of each meeting is different but predominantly follows an environmental theme.

Programme of Outdoor Visits – Summer 2026

Visits to **Belvoir Castle & Grounds** on Thursday 18th June and to **Sherwood Planetarium & Observatory plus Newstead Abbey** on Friday 10th July.

Please contact the Association for details on membership (£10 per year), our meetings programme and the costs of each of the above visits. Contact email/mobile: paul@paulwillcock.com 07581531595

Footsteps into Nature

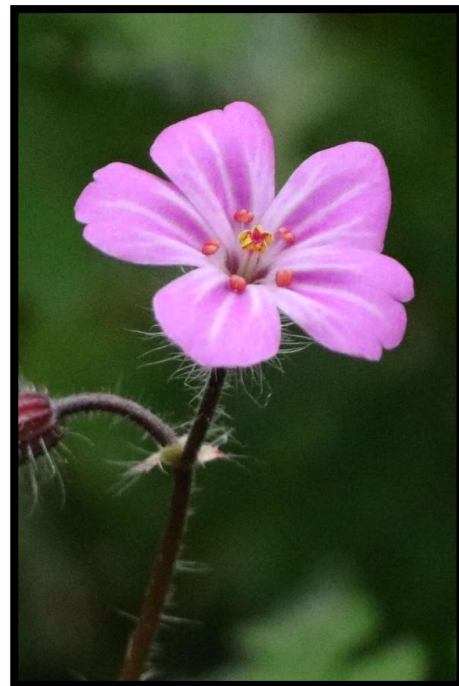


Local Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk Group

Review of the 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' walk from Wednesday 15th April 2026

We began today's walk at Chainbridge Bridge and having just seen a female **Sparrowhawk** near the bridge, anticipation of some better weather and more good birds was our hope. Just six of us set off heading north along the eastern bank of the River Idle. We soon heard different summer migrants, including Sedge Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler. Stopping at the Conservation Lake several Little Grebe were rattling away with a few Coot, Mallard and Gadwall and a pair of Mute Swan were nesting. Walking north we began to hear several singing Skylark, the odd Whitethroat and Sedge Warbler plus occasional singing Cettis's Warbler and Reed Bunting. Very little on Clayworth Common other than the small herd of immature Non-breeding Mute Swans. As we approached Neatholme footbridge more Whitethroat and Sedge Warbler were singing and crossing Neatholme footbridge we headed towards the screens along the lane, first overlooking Neatholme Scrape and the over to Neatholme Pit where a nice pristine pair of Goldeneye were seen and quite a few Sand Martin fed over the pit. We picked out a couple of House Martin but no Swallows. With Ros joining us we were beginning to amass quite a large list of plants spotted so far. Heading further up Neatholme Lane we heard more Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and a very vocal Song Thrush doing a full repertoire of mimic bird songs. Moving nearer to Neatholme Fen we found an Ashy Mining Bee and Speckled Wood. I then heard the distinctive rattle of **Lesser Redpoll**, and after a short while we saw them at the tops of a willow feeding on catkins. We decided to head to the new hide overlooking Neatholme Fen and here we saw a pair of Egyptian Geese with 4 recently hatched goslings, two female Goldeneye, four Teal, several Cormorants and a single Lapwing. A very showy Willow Warbler was also photographed on the wires behind the hide. We left here and headed back to Neatholme Lane but not before we found some pellets, presumably from a Kestrel. We soon got better views of the Redpoll and then started to see very small green caterpillars hanging from silk threads over the lane, which were likely Winter Moths according to Samantha, the moth expert amongst us. We met up with Tim then turned towards Neatholme Scrape viewpoint but not before hearing a calling Great Spotted Woodpecker. From the viewpoint we saw six Pochard, a pair

of Red-crested Pochard, a male Wigeon and more Sand Martin but again no Swallows. We watched a Carrion Crow busily picking discarded feathers for its nest lining and a few Sedge Warblers and Whitethroat sang near the screen. Tim had heard a Garden Warbler near the Water Ski Lake corner, but we did not manage to locate it. Time was running out on the three hour walk window, so we quickly headed for Chainbridge Scrape (West) but here we were lucky enough to see not one but two male **Marsh Harrier** moving south away from us over Chainbridge Meadows. We heard a Green Woodpecker calling and a distant Grey Heron, Buzzard and Kestrel were also noted from here, but we had missed a Spoonbill that was reported 10 minutes earlier flying south over Chainbridge Scrape. As the saying goes, "you can't win them all". Nothing much of note until we reached Alan's Meadow where we had seen previously both a pair of Little Ringed Plover and a pair of Shelduck were using the still fairly new pools. We had somehow lost Ros who had been lagging behind looking at flowers. As we moved on to overlook Chainbridge Pit Tim pointed out the small group of **Cattle Egret** he had watched flying into the edge of the Pit. The Egrets soon moved off south towards Tiln Wood but almost instantly a **Red Kite** was noted moving slowly overhead accompanied briefly by a Kestrel. What a morning it had been, and it certainly could not have ended better (Below left) ©G. Hobson.



We walked to Chainbridge Bridge and back to our cars but as suggested we did try the Emperor Moth lure and it worked, attracting a single male **Emperor Moth** to the gated area of Chainbridge Wood. We also saw a few Orange-tip and Green-veined White butterflies and I saw a Weasel cross the edge of the river bridge before others noted it heading through the Beaver fence. The walk had been amazing and some of us relocated to the Rural Learning Centre cafe for a drink and something to eat. We sat down at a table only to find more wildlife, another small green caterpillar, which according to the Obsidentify app was 100% Winter Moth. Thanks to everyone who came today and thanks for all sharing their knowledge with those present. Ros has already shared the list of plants/flowers which I have listed below: -

Thyme-leaved Speedwell *Veronica serpyllifolia* (Above centre) ©R. Schwarz, **Ivy-leaved Speedwell** *Veronica hederifolia*, **Common Whitlow-grass** *Erophila verna* agg, **Shining Cranes-bill** *Geranium lucidum*, **Grousel** *Senecio vulgaris*, **Shepherd's-purse** *Capsella bursa-pastoris*, **Garlic Mustard (Jack-by-the-hedge)** *Allianz petiolate*, **Bittercress**, either *Cardamine flexuosa* or *C. hirsute*, **Cuckooflower (Lady's-smock)** *Cardamon pratensis* (Below left) ©G. Hobson, **Thale Cress** *Arabidopdis thaliana*, **Medium-Flowered Winter-Cress** *Barbarea intermedia*, **White Deadnettle** *Lamium album*, **Red Deadnettle** *Lamium purpureum*, **Common Chickweed** *Stellaria media*, **Herb-Robert** *Geranium robertianum* (Above right) ©G. Hobson, **Common Stork's-bill** *Erodium cicutarium*, **Field Wood-rush** *Luzula campestris*, **Gorse** *Ulex europaeus*, **Ground-ivy** *Glechoma ederaacea*, **Spring Beauty (Miner's lettuce)** *Clayton perfoliate*, **Horsetail** *Equisetum arvense*, **Midland Hawthorn** *Crataegus laevigata*, **Primrose** *Primula vulgaris* **Cowslip** *Primula veris*, **Field Forget-me-not** *Myosotis arvensis*, **Common Mouse-ear** *Cerastium fontanum*, **Lesser Celandine** *Ranunculus ficaria*, **Colt's-foot** *Tussilago farfara*, **Common Field Speedwell** *Veronica persica* (Below centre) ©R. Schwarz, **Wild Strawberry** *Fragaria vesca* (Below right) © R. Schwarz, and of course, dandelions and daisies.



Group Information & What's On

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 walks will be on: -

Wednesday 17th June – 'Footsteps into Nature' – 'Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk' at Idle Valley NR. Meet along Walters Lane at the junction of Lound Low Road at 9:00am. Steady 3 hour circular around the large raised former Ash Lagoon walking past Sutton Trout Lake (Doughty's Pit), Bunker Wood returning back along the river, past Tiln Pool and the Lower Sheep Field. Looking for summer visitors, breeding birds and other wildlife. 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 

We did it again - 'Big Bird Day' - Saturday 9th May 2026

A planned full day dedicated to birdwatching across the whole Lound Bird Club recording area, including the entire Idle Valley Nature Reserve. Throughout the day participants could look for birds, collectively record every species to create a full day list and to record all the interesting bird sightings throughout the day. This event also coincided with the new 'Tri-County' Bird Race which was last run on New Years Day this year.

Traditionally, a few of us would start at midnight and this year both Stuart Davenport and I began with independent visits to a regular Barn Owl site on the northern boundary of our recording area at Eel Pool Road at Drakeholes. I saw a **Barn Owl** here at 00:12am on the roadside fencing, and Stuart saw it shortly after I had left to head to our meet point for the day in Lound Village. No birds were singing in the village, so we headed to nearby Sutton Trout Lake, where we had calling Canada Goose, Greylag Goose, Mallard, Coot, Little Grebe and distant Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Our next location was Bellmoor Lake where we saw a Badger running along the Idle Valley NR Car Park access road. At 01:00am we heard Tawny Owl and Carrion Crow at Bellmoor Pits, with calling Egyptian Goose and Woodpigeon by Bellmoor Lake. It was not very productive here, so we drove through Retford and headed down Tiln Lane to Broom Wood. Here we heard a couple of Tawny Owls but little else. Walking towards Bellmoor Weir we heard some more species, including singing Cetti's Warbler, Moorhen, Mute Swan and Black-headed Gull and using our loaned thermal imaging monocular, the "thermo," we had good views of many bats feeding over the river upstream from the weir. You could even see them catching moths and other insects on the wing, a brilliant experience. Walking back through Broom Wood we heard a calling **Woodcock** over the pines and just as we left the riverbank we heard singing Reed Warbler.

At 02:55am we heard the distinctive call of a **Whimbrel** flying in a northerly direction over the wood, a good bird to get on our day list. In Broom Wood we heard a couple more Tawny Owls and a scolding male Pheasant but best of all was the 'moonrise' that we witnessed, and an eery sight in what had been a generally dark night so far. We left Broom Wood and headed around through the villages of Claborough and Hayton and then across Clayworth Common towards the reserve. At 03:40am we stopped and listened and soon heard a Sedge Warbler, singing away in the darkness of Clayworth Common, and minutes later a Skylark was heard too. We arrived at the side of Tiln North and heard more new birds, calling Gadwall, a singing Wren, a calling Little Ringed Plover which flew over the river towards Chainbridge Pit. We then headed to Chainbridge Pit and began a short walk past the pit where we heard Lapwing, and Oystercatcher, and looking through the "thermo" we saw a Roe Deer and many more bats, maybe in excess of 60 individuals, feeding over Chainbridge Pit. At 04:12am we heard a Cuckoo calling from nearby Chainbridge Scrape and heard a Robin and Blackbird singing close by. We walked along the path towards Alan's Meadow then crossed back towards Chainbridge Scrape (East) where we heard the distinctive 'booming' sound of a calling **Bittern**, another nice addition to the day list. Here we heard Willow Warbler, Garden Warbler and three Cuckoo's, including two males and a 'bubbling' female. At Chainbridge Scrape (East) viewing screen we heard singing Reed Bunting and in the breaking daylight we could just about make out a couple of Tufted Duck. It was now 04:31am and better light produced a male Pochard and a male Shoveler on the water and we heard a singing Song Thrush and heard a distant hoot of yet another Tawny Owl. A short while later we saw a couple of Cormorant and a Blackcap was heard singing nearby. Heading back to the car at Chainbridge Bridge we heard Great Tit and another Pheasant calling by Chainbridge Pit. We then drove along the river towards Neatholme Bridge, and here we heard Whitethroat and saw a pair of **Grey Partridge** fly away from the riverbank onto Clayworth Common. Arriving at Neatholme Bridge, we parked and set off along Neatholme Lane, a Jackdaw flying over the bridge being another new bird for the day. Another Cuckoo could be heard calling nearby, probably one of the birds we had heard at Chainbridge Scrape earlier. It was now 05:00am, daylight was finally here and we were walking along Neatholme Lane picking up a few more species, including Chaffinch and Chiffchaff. Looking over Neatholme Scrape we picked up five Common Tern, our first Great Crested Grebe, another male Shoveler and an Egyptian Goose. We looked from Neatholme Pit screen where we picked up Rook, a pair of Red-crested Pochard and a Magpie. Fatigue from very little sleep was now setting in but we pushed on towards Neatholme Fen. Arriving at the Fen we saw Pied Wagtail, five **Teal**, four adult Egyptian Geese, with one of the breeding pair giving chase to another pair, protecting their two remaining, now medium sized goslings. Here we also heard a 'drumming' **Great Spotted Woodpecker** at Wildgoose Farm and another pair of Red-crested Pochard were noted. We also spotted the **Glossy Ibis**, which has been almost resident here for many months now, so yet another good species on the list (Below left) ©M. Vickers. It was now 05:49am and we left here to walk further along Neatholme Lane, towards Linghurst Wood, adding Dunnock and Long-tailed Tit to the list. A stop to look over Cross Lane Fishery produced a single Grey Heron. At this point we heard from Dave Richardson who had walked from Clayworth across Clayworth Common and had spotted several new birds along the way. He had seen House Sparrow, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Swallow, Linnet, Kestrel, Stock Dove, Yellow Wagtail and **Yellowhammer**, all new for the day list. Dave also saw **Grey Partridge**, maybe the same birds we had seen earlier on the riverbank? Me and Stuart then walked towards Linghurst Lakes where we also picked up Stock Dove and heard yet another calling Cuckoo. We walked towards Linghurst Pool but saw very little here so we headed into Linghurst Wood where we picked up Jays and a calling **Green Woodpecker** before heading past the entrance to Lound Sewage Works to look across to Lound village. Here we picked up several species including Collared Dove and Starling plus our own House Sparrow, Greenfinch, Goldfinch and Swallow before Stuart excitedly shouted out a pair of **Red-legged Partridge** which had broken cover in the Horse Paddock by the edge of the village. Both species of partridge was a bonus for the day! Dave Richardson had also picked up **Red-legged Partridge** near the Chesterfield Canal at Clayworth and also a Buzzard over Clayworth Common. Birds were still coming thick and fast as we headed towards Neatholme Lane. It was now 06:57am and we heard from young Nottinghamshire birder Alfie Seastron who had arrived and had just seen a **Lesser Whitethroat** singing at the start of Neatholme Lane by the village. We headed that way and met him before also seeing the Lesser Whitethroat for ourselves, and it was the first one I had seen so far this spring. Alfie, had also seen Swift, Linnet and Greenfinch over Neatholme Lane and had headed around Linghurst Lakes where he also saw a male Red-crested Pochard drop in. Dave Richardson was now at Clayworth Copse and had picked up new birds for his own list, Buzzard, Willow Warbler, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Grey Heron. We met up with Alfie Seastron again at the main Neatholme Fen viewing screen where we picked up **Ringed Plover** and **Dunlin** as new birds for the day. Alfie then shouted **Wood Sandpiper**, a single had just dropped in close to the screen, our wader species list was getting larger by the minute. Dave Richardson was now adding more birds to his own list, a female **Marsh Harrier** and a **Bittern** flying south over Neatholme Lane, Garden Warbler, Cuckoo, Reed Warbler and Cetti's Warbler. We met Dave at Neatholme Scrape viewpoint and chatted a short while then headed back to the car at Neatholme Bridge, but we had an additional pair of Red-crested Pochard and another Song Thrush at Neatholme Pit first. We saw a Kestrel over Clayworth Copse and a short time later saw **Black-necked Grebe** on a private site within the recording area. We then headed to Tiln North for the second time today, with up to 6 male Red-crested Pochard, a pair of Shoveler, two Great

Crested Grebe, two Yellow Wagtail and a single Common Tern noted here. It was 08:20am and we decided to head back for Stuarts' car in Lound village. As we set off from Tiln North we saw a group of four **Cattle Egret** flying into this area from the north, birds presumably coming from an overnight roost. My brother, Paul Hobson, was at Bellmoor Lake at this moment and had just recently reported a **Common Sandpiper** there, another wader species for the day list. Alfie Seastron saw his first Jay for the day and a short while later also heard a 'purring' **Turtle Dove**, another addition for the day list. We are still so blessed to have this species resident over the summer and breeding locally (Below right) ©R. Scott.



Dave Richardson was now at Neatholme Fen and had also seen some of our earlier sightings including the **Glossy Ibis**, **Ringed Plover** and **Dunlin** but had also now got Little Ringed Plover there and a **Coal Tit** along Neatholme Lane. We set up the club display boards which was then left in the capable hands of Ruth Edwards and Andy Merrick who would man the viewpoint and keep the list. Approaching the planned 09:00am 'Bird Walk' start time, leader Mike Vickers, Kerry Driver, Betty Merrick, Pete Kibble, Nigel Powell, Kingston Moss and returning again was Sara Favez and her enthusiastic young son, all arrived for the walk. Mike began his walk and Stuart broke off to join them, as I was shortly heading off to the Rural Learning Centre to help Ros Schwarz & Colin Watkin with other NWT volunteers with the monthly under 11's wildlife Watchgroup. Long time club member, Brian Hopkinson arrived and had a 'steady' walk to Neatholme reporting **Hobby** over Chainbridge Scrape (West) at about the same time we were watching a couple of **Hobby** distantly over Cross Lane. From Chainbridge Scrape (East) viewpoint we saw two Grey Heron, four Great Crested Grebe and now there were three male Pochard. Dave Richardson then reported a pair of Shelduck over Sandy Hills. Tim Carter reported Collared Dove and Jackdaw on Tiln Lane and Dave Richardson had Little Grebe at Linghurst Lakes. The time now was 09:30am and Paul Hobson reported a **Red Kite**, sat in a tree at Mattersey Priory fields, a very under watched part of the recording area. I left Chainbridge Scrape myself at around 09:45am and I soon spotted a couple of House Martin flying near the pub in Sutton-cum-Lound and Alfie Seastron had seen the **Cattle Egret** at Tiln North. Tim Carter had by now headed off to bird the norther edge of the reserve including Blaco Pits. I arrived at Bellmoor Lake to the sight of three **Little Egret** flying East towards Broom Wood, I also saw 6+ Sand Martin and 2 Swallow here. Dave Richardson reported **Great Spotted Woodpecker** at Linghurst Lakes and at the same moment Paul Hobson got a couple of **Herring Gull** at the Lower Sheep Fields. Tim Carter reported a 'booming' **Bittern** from the Linghurst Wood area and Pochard and **Hobby** was reported on Neatholme Scrape by Dave Richardson. Alfie Seastron had by now reached Bunker Wood and had just noted a singing **Goldcrest**, a familiar area for this species, and I had also just seen one singing by the river just upstream from Bellmoor weir. The **Goldcrest** had put us on our 93rd species, but we still had plenty to go at and the 100 bird species target was in our reach. Dave Richardson found another **Lesser Whitethroat** singing on Hawthorn Lane. The earlier bird walk that Mike Vickers had led, recorded lots of birds but nothing to add to the day list, despite them looking on Chainbridge Meadows where there had been a Whinchat a day or so earlier. Both Jenny Coe and Kevin Price had arrived and were birding Neatholme Lane and reported Garden Warbler at Linghurst Lakes. It was now 11.13am and Paul Hobson and a visiting photographer, Rob Smith, saw a 'ringtail' Harrier which was initially un-identified (but later identified as **Hen Harrier**) heading north over Chainbridge Wood, that was a brilliant sighting for May and ultimately one we had not expected, and it put us on our 94th species (Below) ©R. Smith.



Suzanne Atkinson reported two Shelduck at Tiln North alongside single **Common Sandpiper**, two **Cattle Egret** and a total of 7 Red-crested Pochard there now. Alfie Seastron then reported two **Common Sandpiper** at Bellmoor Lake and minutes later at 11.49am Paul Hobson reported a **Common Gull** on Chainbridge Scrape (East) to put us on our 95th species. We crossed into the afternoon still on 95 species and watchers at Chainbridge Scrape (East) were enjoying the **Hobby** that feed over here in good numbers with 6+ noted there at 12:25pm. At 12:45 Alfie Seastron saw a **Sparrowhawk** circling over the road at Bellmoor Farm which was our 96th species. We then had two further reports of **Sparrowhawk** over Chainbridge Lane near Poplar Walk from Dave Richardson and Vicky Bell saw one along Cross Lane. Alfie Seastron by now had walked back to Linghurst Wood and at 13:36pm witnessed a singing **Treecreeper**, and our 97th species. Suzanne Atkinson also back in the northern part of the reserve witnessed another **Bittern**, this time, in flight in an area very suited to this species. Another **Green Woodpecker** was heard calling at Neatholme Pit at 14:46pm and shortly after, Suzanne Atkinson reported a pair of Red-crested Pochard at Neatholme Fen. I had now finished with the Watchgroup and was having a well-deserved break and some lunch in the Rural Learning Centre café with Stuart and we were joined by Tim Carter. We were now on a very respectful 97 species but there were more birds to go looking for so we drove out towards Clayworth village to check the farmland. A single **Yellowhammer**, plenty of crows and a couple of Buzzard were all we could find. It was now 15.50pm and as we drove across Clayworth Common, we saw a female **Marsh Harrier** flying north. We noted that the day was starting to turn much cooler with the wind speed also increasing. Many Swift were noted in these conditions and an estimated 150-200+ were noted over Tiln North and Chainbridge Lane areas. We learned that up to 13 **Hobby** had been seen over Chainbridge Scrape earlier this afternoon and we decided to go to see Ruth Edwards who had been manning the viewpoint throughout the day, and what a star she has been. We packed up our club stuff and Mike Vickers came back to give Ruth a lift home. Me, Stuart and Tim then headed to the Lower Sheep Fields, then on to Sutton Trout Lake and eventually we stopped and looked over the fields between Mattersey Road and Lound Low Road where Daz Housman had recently seen Corn Bunting. It was now 17:05pm and we all scanned the area, picking up a pair of **Grey Partridge** in a nearby field. I soon picked up a distant but very identifiable **Corn Bunting** on wires, but it soon dropped below the horizon into the field below. We drove around to Lound Low Road and entered the public footpath there, which was next to a beautiful Clover and Flax field. Here we could hear **Corn Bunting** singing, but we could not locate it, presumably singing from the flax. This was our 98th species for the day and alongside a single **Yellowhammer**, two Yellow Wagtail and five Greenfinch, another boost for the day, and for our tired bodies and waning enthusiasm. Tim and I decided to call time on our days birding, and we left to head home. I was shattered having worked an afternoon shift, then had no sleep overnight. Stuart decided to hang around, and thankfully he did find another species, a **Mistle Thrush** by Doughty's Farm in a horse field, this made our combined list on 99 species. Could we pull off the big 100? Others had also given up with personal day lists including Suzanne Atkinson on 67 species, Dave Richardson on 77 species and Alfie Seastron on an impressive 80 species, having covered 17 miles by himself on foot. At 19:37pm Paul Hobson returned to Bellmoor Lake and saw a single **Ringed Plover** and two Little Ringed Plover on the gull island. At 19:55 he struck gold with a first-summer **Yellow-legged Gull** on the island, and out 100th species. Once again, we had collectively recorded 100 bird species and once again proving that the Idle Valley NR and the surrounding recording area was a great place for bird species diversity. Paul followed up with a second 2nd/3rdCY **Yellow-legged Gull** but that was it. We had all done very well.

The final day tally for the whole county of Nottinghamshire collectively was 136 species, and the best bird of the day went to us with our **Hen Harrier** sighting. Nottinghamshire came second in the 'Tri-county' bird race to Leicestershire & Rutland with their 137 species and Derbyshire came in third place with 134 species.

Can we thank the following for their contribution to the days' events: - Stuart Davenport, Tim Carter, Dave Richardson, Alfie Seastron, Paul Hobson, Ruth Edwards, Andy Merrick, Betty Merrick, Mike Vickers, Suzanne Atkinson, Brian Hopkinson, Vicky Bell, Kerry Driver, Nigel Powell, Pete Kibble, Kingston Moss, Sara Favez & son, Ros Schwarz, Colin Watkin, Richard Scott, Kevin Price, Jenny Coe, Daz Housman and to Max Barry via e-bird.

The only bird we could not count was the 'escaped' Orinoco Goose that was again seen on Chainbridge Pit by Mel, during her daily animal checks for NWT. Great work everyone, and a resounding success.

Gary Hobson.

Club Information & What's On

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.

Sunday 14th June 2026 – LBC Car trip to RSPB Langford Lowfield, near Newark.

A visit to RSPB Langford Lowfields, an excellent reserve with many species found across the mosaic of habitats found there with Bittern and Bearded Tit just two exciting species that could be seen. Please be aware that there are no facilities, and that the day will include some long walks, depending on route taken. Meet at Langford Car Park at 9:00am. What3Words ///dorm.chained.economics There is a £3.00 charge for car parking for those who are not RSPB members. All are welcome to join us for this amazing days birdwatching. Leader is Gary Hobson. Contact email/mobile number: ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk 07464964879

Sunday 19th July 2026 – LBC Bird Walk around Bellmoor Pits & Bunker Wood.

A walk from the Idle Valley Nature Reserve Car Park to Bellmoor Pits and Bunker Wood. Meet outside the Rural Learning Centre at 9:00am walking till no later than midday. Looking for resident summer birds and other wildlife. Leader is Stuart Davenport. Contact email/mobile number: stuart.daven@btinternet.com 07763895265

Bird Sightings for April 2026 compiled by Gary Hobson.

Four reports of **Pink-footed Goose**, including singles at Tiln North on the 7th and at Clayworth Common on the 10th, three were noted at Bellmoor Lake on the 13th and finally a single was at Neatholme Scrape on the 28th. Four notable counts of **Mute Swan**, including 24 on Clayworth Common on the 11th, a full WeBS Count total of 76 on the 19th, with two counts from Neatholme Scrape of 54 on the 26th and 41 there on the 28th. Just two reports of **Whooper Swan**, including a pair on Neatholme Scrape on the 7th and a single adult bird which initially flew over Tiln North, before settling on Clayworth Common then a short time later it flew to Hayton Common. (Below) ©A. Pykett.



Many reports of **Egyptian Goose** were received. A population of at least 17 adult birds was shown to be present with one pair noted with goslings. The following table shows the number, dates and locations of all records: -

Location/Date	2 nd	5 th	8 th	9 th	12 th	14 th	18 th	19 th	25 th	28 th
Water Ski Pit	2									
Alan's Meadow	2									
Neatholme Fen		2+4juv							2+3juv	2+3juv
Tiln North			3		3	2				
Lower Sheep Fields				14	12	14	13			3
Bellmoor Lake					2					1
Chainbridge Pit										2
Walters Farm (Dump)										9
WeBS Count								15		
Totals	4	2	3	14	17	16	13	15	2	17

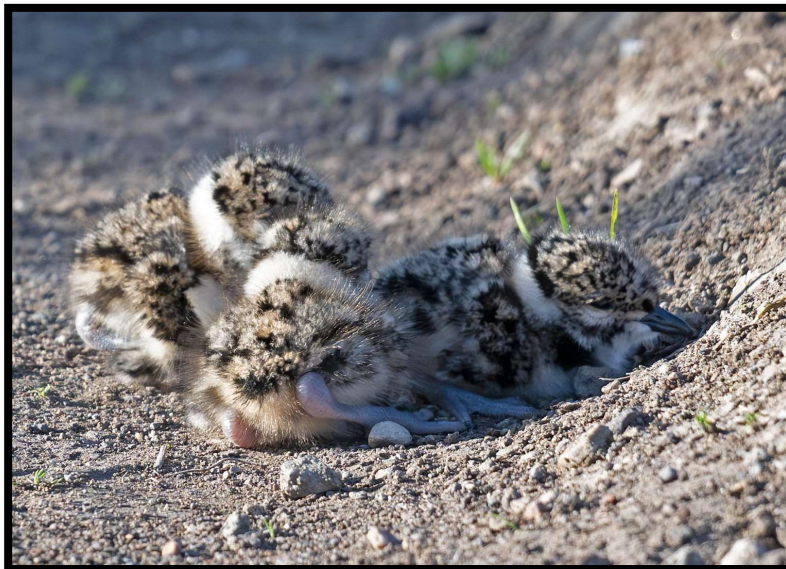
Up to 4 **Shelduck** were noted at the Lower Sheep Fields from the 8th until the 18th including a colour-ringed adult photographed there on the 8th by Adrian Pykett and again on the 9th by Gary Hobson (Below) ©G. Hobson. Ring details were: - Black lettered **S** on a Yellow ring over a metal BTO ring on its left leg & White lettered **P** on a Red ring on its right leg. This individual was traced back to it being ringed by ringer Craig Ralston at Bank Island in the Lower Derwent Valley on 28th January 2022. Other sightings of 1-2 birds at Alan's Meadow on the 14th-15th and at Neatholme Fen on the 26th.



A single RBA report of a **Garganey** at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 8th, with no further sightings. Just a single notable count of **Shoveler**, with 50 at Neatholme Fen on the 2nd. Three further reports of 6 on the WeBS Count on the 19th and single ♂'s at Tiln North on the 26th and at Chainbridge Pit on the 28th. A single ♂ **Wigeon** was noted at Neatholme Scrape on the 15th and again on the WeBS Count on the 19th. Small numbers of **Teal** were present with four at Neatholme Fen on the 15th, a WeBS Count total of 7 on the 19th, three were at Neatholme Fen again on the 26th with five pairs then noted across Neatholme Fen (three pair), Neatholme Scrape (pair) and Chainbridge Pit (pair) on the 28th. Several reports of **Red-crested Pochard**, including a single ♂ at Neatholme Scrape on the 5th, 11th and 28th with a pair there on the 15th, a pair were on the Conservation Lake on the 10th with a ♀ there on the 12th, 7 birds were noted during the WeBS Count on the 19th, three were at Tiln North on the 26th with 11 birds there on the 29th. Six reports of **Pochard**, including 8 birds from Neatholme Scrape & Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 5th, a single ♂ on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 9th & 28th, six birds at Neatholme Scrape on the 15th and finally 10 birds noted during the WeBS count on the 19th. Just a single report of 216 Tufted Duck noted during the WeBS Count on the 19th. Lingering **Goldeneye** were noted, including 9 birds from three water bodies off Neatholme Lane on the 5th, just six birds from Neatholme Scrape/Pit on the 11th, with just four from Neatholme Pit/Fen on the 15th and finally a single was noted during the WeBS Count on the 19th. Pairs of **Grey Partridge** were noted on Clayworth Common on the 11th and on a recently sown potato fields near Neatholme Bridge on the 24th. The first report of a **Swift** were two over Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 22nd, followed by 3+ over the Water Ski Lake on the 25th, four over Neatholme Scrape on the 26th, with 21+ over Bellmoor Lake and Chainbridge Pit on the 28th with three individuals returning to nest sites in Clayworth Village also on the 28th and finally, 30+ were over the Chainbridge Scrape area on the 29th. The first report of a **Cuckoo** was a single early morning at Chainbridge Pit/riverbank on the 12th. Further reports of calling males from across the recording area were a single on the 16th, two on the 17th, a single on the 18th, two on the 19th, a single on the 22nd and 24th, two on the 25th and singles on the 26th and 28th. The first **Turtle Dove** arrived on the 26th with a 'purring' bird picked up on the 'Merlin app' at Tiln Pool. This was followed by further 'purring' birds noted in the centre of the reserve on the 27th and 29th and a single 'purring' near the Water Ski Pit on the 28th. Five reports of **Little Grebe**, including single at Neatholme Pit on the 5th, up to five on the Conservation Lake on the 14th, a WeBS count total of 7 birds noted on the 19th and a total of five birds were at Doughty's Pit (Sutton Trout Lake) on the 25th. A single notable WeBS Count total of 10 **Great Crested Grebe** across the recording area on the 19th. Displaying breeding pairs were

setting up territory in several areas of the reserve from mid-month; the high water levels may help with breeding success this year. **Black-necked Grebe** were present at a private sight within the recording area from the 7th and throughout the remainder of the month. Detail will remain vague within this bulletin for the safety of this rare county and nationally sensitive breeding species. A highly mobile wader species, the **Oystercatcher** can often be difficult to count. Pairs were noted regularly from Neatholme Fen on 5th, 15th & 28th, from Chainbridge Pit on the 9th, 12th, 14th and 28th, from Conservation Lake on the 9th, and from Neatholme Scrape on the 28th. Singles were recorded at Bellmoor Lake on the 16th and Lower Sheep Fields on the 18th. Up to four pairs potentially breeding this year. Neatholme Fen held a single **Avocet** on the 16th and two were present on the 29th.

An extremely bad start to the year for local **Lapwing** breeding success with just a single pair were on Tilm North on the 11th and a further pair with three chicks were noted on Clayworth Common on the 12th. But worse still, a total of 9 pairs nesting on set-aside on the 19th had their nest and eggs destroyed by cultivation of this land by the farmer.



Three single reports of **Ringed Plover**, including at Bellmoor Lake on the 4th, presumably the same bird at Neatholme Fen on the 5th and another single there on the 28th. The first **Little Ringed Plover** were a pair on Neatholme Fen on the 5th followed by a single at Tilm North on the 7th. Three birds were on the Neatholme Fen on the 10th and a pair was moving between Tilm North and the Pool on Alan's Meadow from the 14th-28th. Three were seen on the Lower Sheep Field pool on the 18th and 3 were at Neatholme Fen again on the 26th, peaking at four birds there on the 28th. Two reports of **Whimbrel**, including two calling birds moving over Neatholme Bridge in darkness on the 24th and a single reported early morning on the 25th on Neatholme Fen, though this was replaced by a ♂ Curlew later that morning. Just a single report of a single ♂ **Curlew** at Neatholme Fen on the morning of the 25th. A single report of a single **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Neatholme Fen at 14:20pm on the 30th. A one-time regular wintering species on the reserve, the **Ruff** has gone back to being a migrant species, with just three reports from Chainbridge Pit, including five present on the 5th rising to six birds on the 7th then only three on the 8th. Single **Dunlin** were on Neatholme Fen on the 19th, 20th and 30th. Two reports of single **Snipe**, including a single calling in darkness at Chainbridge Pit on the 10th and a single noted during the WeBS Count on the 19th. Up to four **Green Sandpiper** were noted on multiple dates across the recording area throughout, with Chainbridge Pit, both Chainbridge Scrape (West) and (East), both the Lower and Higher Sheep Fields and Tilm north recording singles. However, four birds were reported on the 23rd and two birds were noted together on Neatholme Scrape on the 24th. Three reports of single **Common Sandpiper** at Bellmoor Lake on the 12th and 19th with a bird at Neatholme Fen on the 17th. Just two reports of **Redshank**, including a pair on Chainbridge Pit on the 5th with possibly a third individual also seen at Neatholme Fen the same day. A single **Greenshank** was noted at Neatholme Fen on the 23rd. A single report of 9 **Herring Gull** at Bellmoor Lake on the 12th. The first **Common Tern** noted was a single moving N on the 13th, followed by a single at Bellmoor Lake on the 17th, then two birds were at Neatholme Fen on the 23rd, with 3-5 birds between Neatholme Fen and Bellmoor Lake on the 25th, 1-3 birds between Tilm Fishery and Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 26th, then numbers ran to a maximum of 10 birds commuting between Chainbridge Scrape (East) and Neatholme Fen on the 28th, with just 7 on Neatholme Fen on the 29th. Two reports of **Arctic Tern**, including two birds moving N at Bellmoor Lake at 10:46am and possibly another pair noted in the SE corner there at 13:30pm on the 28th. A single BirdGuides report of 12 **Black Tern** at Chainbridge Pit on the evening of the 23rd. The single **Glossy Ibis** remained being seen on Neatholme Fen on the 3rd, 5th and 28th with two sightings from Neatholme Scrape on the 18th & 28th. A single adult **Spoonbill** flew south over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 15th. Five reports of single **Bittern** noted in the recording area throughout the month. Detail will remain vague within this bulletin for the safety of this rare county and nationally rare and sensitive breeding species. Five reports of **Cattle Egret**, including three on the Small Willow Field by Tilm Wood on the 13th, a single at Chainbridge Pit on the 14th, five were on Chainbridge Pit on the 15th with two at the Small Willow Field and a further two at Neatholme Scrape on the 16th. Between 1-3 **Grey Heron** were noted on five dates throughout, with three birds together at Neatholme Fen on

the 5th. Just a single **Great White Egret** was noted on the 12th with a bird flying over Clayworth Common. The majority of local birds have moved into the lower Idle Valley at the River Idle Washlands SSSI near Misson. Just four reports of **Little Egret**, including singles at Neatholme Scrape on the 2nd & 5th, three birds noted during the WeBS Count on the 19th and two were at Neatholme Fen on the 25th. Single ♀ **Sparrowhawk** at Tiln North on the 15th was followed by three single ♂ birds at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 19th, at Bunker Wood on the 26th and at Neatholme Fen on the 28th. Seven reports of up to three different individual **Marsh Harrier** reported, including a single at Neatholme Fen on the 10th, a ♂ south over Clayworth Common on the 14th, two ♂ birds (adult and 1st-summer) over Chainbridge Lane/Alan's Meadow on the 15th, a ♀ over Tiln North on the 22nd, a single reported on the 23rd, the 1st-summer ♂ again over Neatholme Fen on the 28th and a single over there again on the 29th. Three reports of single **Red Kite**, including over Alan's Meadow on the 15th, over Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 26th and over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 29th. Just two reports of **Barn Owl**, including singles calling at Bunker Wood in darkness on the 1st and calling at Bellmoor Lake on the 16th. The pole nesting box in Muddy Fork is apparently home to Barn Owls once again. Just three reports of **Tawny Owl**, including two birds calling at Bellmoor Pits on the 1st, then singles on the 23rd and at Neatholme Bridge on the 24th. Just two reports of **Kingfisher**, including singles at Bellmoor Weir on the 1st and a calling bird at Neatholme Fen on the 26th. Two reports of **Green Woodpecker**, including singles at Wildgoose Farm on the 5th and along Tiln Lane at Bolham on the 21st. Just two single **Kestrel** were noted, including a bird at Chainbridge Pit on the 15th and a ♂ at Tiln North on the 17th (Below left) ©M. Vickers.

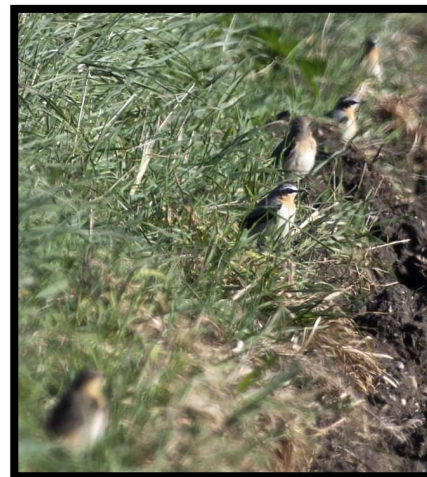


The first **Hobby** arrived from the 21st with a single reported in the recording area and was followed by a minimum of 7 birds over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 26th, two there on the 27th, 8 there again, plus further singles over Bellmoor Lake and Neatholme Fen on the 28th and finally two were over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 29th (Above right) ©G. Hobson. A single sub-adult ♂ **Peregrine** was noted over the riverside edge of Clayworth Common carrying a Stock Dove prey and calling constantly on the 9th. This behaviour suggests it has already got a mate or looking for one. Single **Jay** were reported at Neatholme Lane on the 11th and at Bunker Wood on the 26th. Just a single **Raven** over Bellmoor Lake on the 13th. The numbers of **Sand Martin** were reasonable despite no suitable breeding locations in the recording area. A count of 36 at Tiln Pits on the 4th was followed with 40 at Neatholme Fen on the 5th, 45+ in the Chainbridge area on the 9th, then rising to 150+ at Chainbridge Pit on the 10th, then peaking at around 200+ birds over two areas on the 12th before numbers typically fell off as birds left for more suitable breeding locations. Just 15 were noted at Bellmoor Lake on the 28th. Relatively low numbers of **Swallow**, with 6 at Tiln Pits on the 6th, 5+ at Neatholme Pit on the 11th, peaking at 15+ on site on the 12th with just 10+ over Bellmoor Lake on the 28th. Local breeding pairs had returned to their nesting sites at Lound Horse Paddocks on the 7th and the NWT Livestock Barn at Bellmoor on the 9th. The first **House Martin** noted were a pair at Tiln Pits on the 4th, a single at Neatholme Fen on the 5th and a pair at Bellmoor Lake on the 28th. The first **Willow Warbler** arrived on the 5th with two singing birds at Hawthorn Lane. Singles were then noted at Neatholme Lane on the 6th, at Bunker Wood on the 8th, with a single by the Lower Sheep Field and 3+ around Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 9th. The final report was of 4+ around Tiln North on the 12th. Just a single report of 10+ **Chiffchaff** singing in The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 14th. The first **Sedge Warbler** arrived with a single along the riverbank by Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 8th, followed by a single at Chainbridge Pit on the 9th, several were reported along the riverbank on the 10th, a single at Tiln North on the 12th and 6 were at Doughty's Pit on the 25th. The first **Reed Warbler** arrived on the 8th with singles at Neatholme Scrape and Tiln Pools, followed shortly by a single along the riverbank on the 10th and a single at Bellmoor Pits on the 12th. Two were at Bellmoor weir on the 16th and 2 were singing at Doughty's Pit on the 25th. Typically, the number of **Blackcap** was good with much higher concentrations along Neatholme Lane and Bunker Wood. The first **Garden Warbler** arrived on the 6th with a single noted on Neatholme Lane. This was followed by singles at Neatholme Pit on the 11th, at Tiln village on

the 18th, at Bellmoor Lake on the 19th, and two single birds at Linghurst Lakes and Neatholme Fen on the 21st. Numbers then began to increase with whole site counts of up to 7 on the 23rd and 6+ on the 29th. The first **Lesser Whitethroat** arrived on the 22nd with a single singing along Chainbridge Lane and this was followed by another single at Chainbridge Meadows on the 29th. The first **Whitethroat** arrived at The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 8th, with a single then noted at the Higher Sheep Field on the 9th, several were noted along the riverbank between the bridges on the 10th, 8+ were then noted in The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 14th and finally a single was at Neatholme Scrape on the 16th. No more counts were received after this date. A pair of **Song Thrush** were noted by the Lower Sheep Field near Walters Lane, once again highlighting how common this species appears to have become across the recording area in recent years. A scarce bird locally these days, a pair of **Mistle Thrush** were on Clayworth Common on the 28th. A single **Common Nightingale** was observed briefly and heard singing from a private location away from the Idle Valley NR, on the early morning of the 14th. The bird was not present a short time after the initial sightings and was presumably just a grounded migrant moving through the area. A late single **Stonechat** was at the Conservation Lake on the 13th. Many reports of **Wheatear** were received between the 7th and 20th, with Tiln North & Clayworth Common being the only sites where birds were present. The following table shows the number, dates and locations of all records: -

Location/Date	7th	8th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	16th	18th	19th	20th
Tiln North	1	2	2	1		1	3		1	4	1
C. Common (South End)	2			5	3	4	2				
C. Common (Nr Willows)								2			
Totals	3	2	2	6	3	5	5	2	1	4	1

Two images of Wheatear including the Tiln North single male from the 7th (Below left) ©G. Hobson, and the line of five males from the southern end of Clayworth Common from the 11th (Below right) ©M. Vickers.



The first **Yellow Wagtail** reports were of two over Neatholme Bridge on the 6th, followed by a 2-5 birds at Tiln North on the 7th, 1-5 were there on the 8th, rising to 9 on the 11th, to 20+ on the 12th, 19 on the 18th then peaking at 42 there on the 19th. Neatholme Fen recorded singles on the 10th and 26th, with up to 8 there on the 28th. Two reports of single **Grey Wagtail** at Bellmoor Lake on the 12th and at Neatholme Fen on the 29th. A single report of five **Pied Wagtail** at Neatholme Fen on the 26th. A single report of two **White Wagtail** at Tiln North on the 12th. A single report of two **Meadow Pipit** on Tiln North on the 14th. Just a single report of a pair of **Bullfinch** near Chainbridge Scrape (West) viewpoint on the 22nd. A single **Greenfinch** was noted at Linghurst Lakes on the 21st. Two reports of **Lesser Redpoll**, including 8+ feeding on Willow catkin on the 15th and a single was noted at Neatholme Fen on the 22nd. Two reports of **Yellowhammer**, including a pair on Clayworth Common on the 11th and a single over Chainbridge Pit on the 12th.

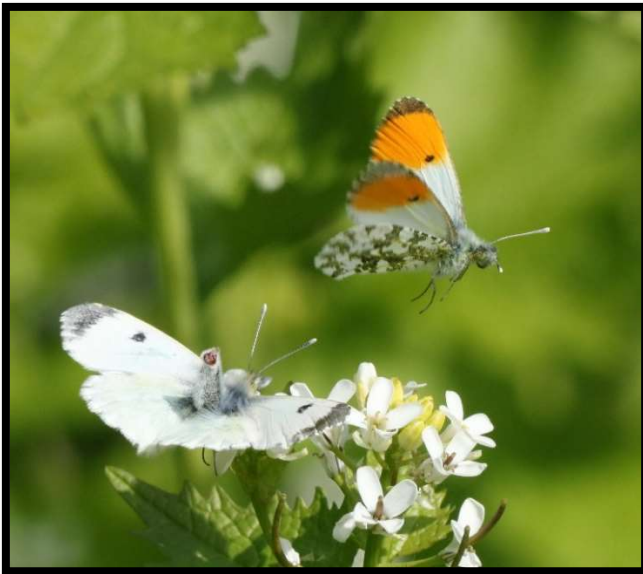
Feral/Escapes

A single 'feral' **Swan Goose** was still present at Tiln Fishery throughout.

J. Dennison, J. Burdall, A. Kiemel, M. Wilkinson, D. Deal, R. Schwarz, B. Foster, A. Pykett, A. Griffin, S & G Batty, L. Dunford, D. Anderson, M. Goodman, P. Cox, K. Roberts, M. Wallhead, A. Seastron, J. Bradley, P. Burrell, A. Champion, I. Cowgill, M. McCallum, J. Coe, K. Price, K. Driver, A. Pickles, D. Richardson, P. Cooper, P. Cottam, K. Fisher, P. J. Freeman, A & B. Merrick, V. Bell, T. Carter, G. Hobson, D. Housman, M. B. Vickers, S. Davenport, V. Giles, P. Cadman, P & E Hobson, I. Hunt, Greg, Mel, RBA, BirdGuides, Lound Bird Club (Website), Footsteps into Nature (What's App), 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). Please submit bird sightings to the above groups/pages or email them to ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk

Nature Sightings for April 2026 compiled by Gary Hobson.

Butterflies – Numbers of **Orange-tip** across the reserve rose steadily throughout the month from 4 on the 7th, 6 on the 10th, 9 on the 20th, 13 on the 24th peaking at 18 individuals from seven locations on the 27th (Below left) ©G. Hobson. Numbers of **Brimstone** across the reserve remained steady with maximum counts of 5 on the 7th, 4 on the 24th and peaking at 6 from four areas on the 27th (Below right) ©G. Hobson. A single **Red Admiral** was noted at Neatholme Scrape on the 26th. A good scattering of **Peacock** reports across the reserve with counts of 6 on the 7th peaking at 20 on the 10th, 5 on the 13th, 20th and 27th with a count on 7 on the 24th. A single report of a single Small Tortoiseshell at Tilm North on the 20th. Unusually, there were just two reports of single **Comma** at the Water Ski Pit on the 10th and 24th. Just six single **Holly Blue** were noted, including in a Lound garden on the 6th, at Bellmoor Lake on the 23rd, at Chainbridge Meadows on the 24th and 27th, at Neatholme Pit on the 24th and at Neatholme Fen on the 27th.



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. Moth trapping sessions across the recording area were as follows: - Bellmoor Lake & Bunker Wood on the 1st, at Chainbridge Meadows on the 8th, at Chainbridge Pit on the 10th, at Bellmoor Lake on the 16th and 18th, at Neatholme Pit on the 24th, at the Water Ski Pit on the 25th and finally at Neatholme Fen on the 26th.

This **70.248 *Lycia hirtaria* Brindled Beauty** (Below left) ©G. Hobson, this **73.241 *Panolis flammea* Pine Beauty** (Below centre) ©G. Hobson, and this **73.246 *Orthosia populeti* Lead-coloured Drab** (Below right) ©P. Hobson, were all noted at Bellmoor Lake on the 1st.



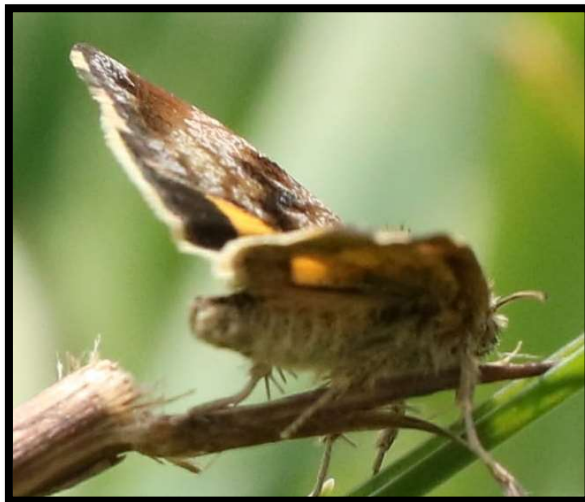
This **71.011 *Drymonia ruficornis* Lunar Marbled Brown** (Below left) ©G. Hobson, was at Chainbridge Pit on the 10th. This **70.239 *Selenia tetralunaria* Purple Thorn** (Below centre) ©G. Hobson, and this **71.007 *Furcula bifida* Poplar Kitten** (Below right) ©T. Carter, were all noted at Bellmoor Lake on the 16th. The Poplar Kitten being the first record of this species in the recording area.



This **15.054 *Phyllonorycter viminella* Willow Leaf-miner** (Below left) ©G. Hobson, was at Bellmoor Lake on the 18th. This **70.061 *Epirrhoe alternata* Common Carpet** (Below centre) ©G. Hobson, was by Tilm Wood on the 19th. This **70.257 *Menophra abruptaria* Waved Umber** (Below right) ©G. Hobson, was at Neatholme Pit on the 24th.



This **73.048 *Panameria tenebrata* Small Yellow Underwing** (Below left) ©G. Hobson, was photographed at Tilm Meadow on the 26th. This **49.374 *Pammene trauniana* Maple Piercer** (Below right) ©P. Hobson, was at was a first record for the recording area but only the 2nd record for Nottinghamshire.



Dragonflies & Damselflies – Three **Large Red Damselfly** were noted, including the first at Bellmoor Lake on the 23rd, with two singles at Neatholme Fen and Neatholme Pit on the 24th. Two single **Common Blue Damselfly** were noted including the first at Neatholme Pit on the 24th and at the Water Ski Pit on the 27th. A single **Hairy Dragonfly** was noted at Neatholme Fen on the 24th.

Mammals – A pair of **Badgers** were out wandering along Hawthorn Lane in daylight on the 23rd. Single **Grass Snake** were noted at Linghurst Lakes on the 21st and noted again in the recording area on the 29th.

Insects – Single **Pea-leaf Weevil** were photographed at Bunker Wood on the 8th (Below left) ©T. Carter and at Bellmoor Lake on the 19th (Below right) ©G. Hobson.



Ladybirds were also appearing in small numbers throughout the month with two of the 'none-red' species being photographed. (Below left) *Calvia quatuordecimguttata* Cream-spot Ladybird at Bellmoor Lake on the 8th and (Below right) *Propylea quatuordecimpunctata* Fourteen-spot Ladybird at Bellmoor Pits on the 19th. (All images) ©G. Hobson.



Hoverflies were in abundance during the month with the following images depicting just three of the species that were photographed. (Below left) *Leucozona lucorum* (Blotch-winged Whitebelt), (Below centre) *Eupodes luniger* (Lanuled Aphideater) and (Below right) *Sphaerophoria scripta* (Common Globetail) (All images) ©G. Hobson.



Fungi – Examples of **Hoof Fungus** at Bellmoor Pits on the 12th (Below left) ©T. Carter, and **Turkey Tail Fungus** at Bellmoor Lake on the 16th (Below right) ©T. Carter.



S & G. Batty, A. Griffin, L. Dunford, R. Schwarz, P.J. Freeman, K. Ward, K. Beaumont, M. Goodman, A. Champion, N. Powell, P. Kibble, C. Watkin, C & C. Parker, K. Driver, M. Vickers, T. Carter, V. Bell, P. Cadman, I. Hunt, M. N, G. Hobson, P & E. Hobson, S. Davenport and the 'Footsteps into Nature' (What's App).

Next month's - June 2026 issue

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust - What's On & Reserve News + Footsteps into Nature - What's On & Walk Review + Lound Bird Club - What's On & Bird News for May 2026 + Additional Nature Sightings for May 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**