

Idle Valley Nature Sightings

June 2026



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 6th August – Photography and Wildlife Walk (Longer Walk) starting from the **Idle Valley Visitor Centre Cafe at 10:00am till 3:00pm**. 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 11th July – 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.

In June, the Wildlife Watch group talked about pollinators, bees, wasps, moths and the wind. We went out to the Education meadow by the river and, despite the weather being cool, we caught some lovely damselflies in our sweep nets, including a Banded Demoiselle (Below left). We took them back to the centre to look at in detail and Colin brought in some beautiful moths. The star was a Privet Hawkmoth (Below right). Then we let everything go back into the reserve.



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 11th July** and the theme will be '**River & Sea**'.

Footsteps into Nature

Local Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk Group



Review of the 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' walk from Friday 15th May 2026

Today's walk began at Chainbridge Lane, and we set off along Hawthorn Lane to do the Neatholme Loop. As usual plenty to observe, both in the air, on the ground and in the Bramble and trees. Thankfully, we had Ros and her husband David here, to be our flower experts, who quickly began listing the species we saw. We soon arrived at Chainbridge Scrape West and were immediately in awe of all the hirundines, mainly Swifts, several Sand Martin and a few House Martin. Hardly any birds so we started to look at insects. Several beetles, butterflies, caterpillars and damselflies were seen here with Common Blue Damselfly in the vegetation by the screen and a **Common Quaker** caterpillar halfway down the ramp (Below left) ©K. Driver. We walked on to Neatholme Scrape, stopping often to see more interesting insects and flowers and near to Neatholme Scrape southern viewpoint we came across an obvious badger run, a couple of **Roesel's Bush Crickets**, a single Green-veined White, a single Azure Damselfly, a few **Red and Black Frog hopper** (Below centre) ©K. Driver, and a single **Drinker** moth caterpillar on Bramble. From the screen we had more hirundines and again mainly Swifts, a distant pair of Red-crested Pochard and close by, a male Reed Bunting from its song perch. A few Linnets and Whitethroat were heard plus lots of other warblers including Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler. We then walked to the main Neatholme Scrape viewpoint stopping again to record, plants and insects including a **Willow Ermine** larval web by the track. At the viewpoint we had a probable Gorse Moth, a Grousewing caddis fly and lots more. From the screen we had a single **Hobby** feeding over the water, the pair of Red-crested Pochard again, lots more Swifts, a close Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Song Thrush. The Hobby came very close at one point but then disappeared again. We saw a few insects on the ramp including Hairy Sheildbug then off we went to Neatholme Pit where we saw very little other than a bright blue and black spotted Song Thrush egg which may have been discarded from a nearby nest. Along Neatholme Lane we saw more damselflies, a couple of moth species and a few species of Soldier Beetles. At Neatholme Fen we saw two Little Ringed Plover, sitting Oystercatcher, two Yellow Wagtail, a pair Pied Wagtail, several Common Tern, a male Shoveler, a male Pochard, a pair of Teal, two Grey Heron, a Jay, Egyptian Goose pair with two young still, and we finally heard a **cuckoo**. Back along Neatholme Lane we heard Garden Warbler, Song Thrush and many other common birds. Moths noted were Cinnabar Moth and a couple of **Dark Strawberry Tortrix** (Below right) ©V. Bell. Ros continued identifying the flowers and we then looked over Neatholme Fens central viewing screen where a nesting pair of Great Crested Grebes and a single Jay was seen. We continued and viewed over Cross Lane Fishery (Al's Pit) where a single **Roe Deer** was trying to hide in the vegetation, and another Grey Heron was seen briefly. We walked back past the Water Ski Pit, then back along Hawthorn Lane stopping again briefly at Chainbridge Scrape West viewing screen where amongst the hundreds of Swifts and other hirundines a distant light aircraft was towing a large red-lettered banner which carried a request of love. A great walk, plenty of birds and beasties and a very much enjoyed banter and laughs at both mine and Tim's expense. All good natured, and I hope everyone enjoyed the walk. We did not manage Turtle Dove, Glossy Ibis or any Avocet but it was still a very nice walk. Thanks everyone.



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 29th July – 'Footsteps into Nature' – 'Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk at Idle Valley NR.

Meet along Chainbridge Lane by Hawthorn Lane gate at 9:00am. A steady 2-3 hour circular walk via Hawthorn Lane to Neatholme Fen returning back via Neatholme Scrape and Chainbridge Scrape (West). Looking for summer visitors and migrants and other wildlife. Leader is Gary Hobson.

Wednesday 19th August – 'Footsteps into Nature' – 'Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk at Idle Valley NR.

Meet along Chainbridge Lane by Hawthorn Lane gate at 9:00am. This will be a steady shorter distance walk and one for those who do not like or would struggle with my longer walks. Taking in Alan's Meadow, Chainbridge Pit and returning via Chainbridge Scrape (East) where we will spend some time observing 360° from this vantage point. Looking for summer visitors and early autumn migrants 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** or **07464964879**



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 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

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) – Remaining 2026 'Core Count' Dates

19th July	16th August	13th September
11th October	22nd November	13th December

A one Sunday per month survey of wetland birds recorded on the 'Sutton & Lound Gravel Pit' count site and completed in collaboration with the BTO Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). The combined data of several hundred WeBS Core Count sites across the UK is used to produce an annual summery review titled the 'Waterbirds in the UK,' which can be downloaded from the BTO here: - [bto-rspb-jncc-naturescot-waterbirds-in-the-uk-webs-gsmp-report-2024-25.pdf](https://www.bto.org.uk/sites/default/files/2024-09/bto-rspb-jncc-naturescot-waterbirds-in-the-uk-webs-gsmp-report-2024-25.pdf)

If you can help with the monthly WeBS count, please contact Gary Hobson who can assist with adding you to the volunteer counter WhatsApp group.

Bird Sightings for May 2026 compiled by Gary Hobson.

We had our annual Lound Bird Club '**Big Bird Day**' event on Saturday 9th which produced a list of 100 bird species over the recording area, and this day was extensively covered by a dedicated article in the last bulletin. We held a '**Dawn Chorus**' event on Saturday 16th which saw a small group of us enjoy the birdlife that was seen as dawn broke over Chainbridge Meadows and Chainbridge Lane area (Below) ©K. Driver. The monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) was also completed again on Sunday 17th.



A single **Pink-footed Goose** was noted grazing with local Greylag Geese at Tiln North on the 5th. Two notable counts of **Mute Swan**, including 42 birds on Neatholme Scrape on the 6th and a WeBS Count total of 84 across the recording area including the Commons on the 17th. Two pairs of **Egyptian Goose** have bred locally. The pair with two, now large goslings, continued to be seen at Neatholme Fen on the 1st & 9th, and a further pair with 5 small goslings were at Chainbridge Pit on the 14th. The WeBS count total for the 17th saw 26 birds noted across the recording area. Low numbers of **Shelduck**, with just three birds at Neatholme Fen on the 7th, then just reports of 2-4 (2 pairs) noted across the rest of the reserve on several dates up to the 17th. A single ♂ **Garganey** was noted briefly at Chainbridge Pit on the 13th, but there were no other reports submitted. Low numbers of **Shoveler** present in the recording area, with at least 2 ♂ & a ♀ present from the 5th until the 9th, 2 ♂ then until the 16th and a final WeBS count total of 5 birds present on the 17th. Just two counts of **Gadwall**, including 39 at Neatholme Fen on the 16th and a WeBS Count total of 98 on the 17th. Just four reports of **Wigeon**, including a single ♂ at Neatholme Scrape on the 1st, 5th and 7th, with a further WeBS Count total of two birds noted on the 17th. Two reports of **Mallard** including a WeBS Count Total of 177 on the 17th and a female with 3 small ducklings at Bellmoor Lake on the 7th. A small number of **Teal** hung on into May with Neatholme Fen & Neatholme Scrape being the favoured location. Six birds were noted on the 1st rising to a maximum of 8 on the 7th, just 5 were noted on the 9th and 3 were noted the WeBS count on the 17th. Good numbers of **Red-crested Pochard** were noted throughout, including up to 10 (9♂'s) at Tiln North on the 15th, up to 6 (4♂'s) at Neatholme Scrape on the 14th, with just 2♂'s at Neatholme Fen on the 14th, and a single ♂ at Chainbridge Pit on the 29th. Reports suggest a maximum of 15 birds were present across the recording area on the 14th with just 7 birds counted during the WeBS Count on the 17th. No reports of any breeding activity other than a very small number of ♀'s present. A small number of **Pochard** remained, though the majority were ♂ birds. A maximum of 8 on the 5th in the Chainbridge Lane area with a further WeBS Count total of 13 on the 17th. No breeding activity was reported. A single WeBS Count total of 113 **Tufted Duck** noted on the 17th. Three pairs of **Grey Partridge** were recorded from three locations across the recording area on the 9th. Two reports of **Red-legged Partridge** from the 9th, including a pair at Lound village Horse Paddocks and a single on Clayworth Common. Just two reports of good numbers of **Swift**, including c200 in the Chainbridge Lane area on the 9th and c200 in the same area on the 15th. Up to four **Cuckoo** were noted across the recording areas from the 1st until the 17th, with at least one bird being a female, which was heard 'bubbling' in the Chainbridge/Cross Lane areas on the 8th, 9th, 11th, 14th & 16th. Single **Turtle Dove** were reported in the usual areas around the Water Ski Pit on the 1st, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 16th and 17th. These reports may involve a minimum of a pair but heavy farm traffic along Walters Lane has resulted in no reports from here so far this spring. Two WeBS count totals of 274 **Coot** and just 16 **Moorhen** from the 17th. Just a single WeBS Count total of 26 **Little Grebe** from the 17th, indicating a healthy population, and mirroring the Great Crested Grebes success. **Black-necked Grebe** were present at a private sight within the recording area throughout the month. Detail will remain vague within this bulletin for the safety of this rare county and nationally sensitive breeding species. Several pairs of **Great Crested Grebe** were reported, including three pairs at Chainbridge Pit on the 5th, two pairs at Bellmoor Lake on the 7th, a pair at Tiln Pools on the 9th, a pair at Neatholme Fen on the 16th and a pair at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 29th. The WeBS Count total from the 17th was 16 birds, which ties in well with the above reports. Breeding pairs of **Oystercatcher** were noted at Bellmoor Lake, Neatholme Fen and Chainbridge Pit throughout. A single individual from the pair nesting at Neatholme Fen bore a ring but could not be read in the field. The WeBS Count on the 17th recorded 8 birds present. A pair of **Avocet** were present at Neatholme Fen on the 1st, 11th, 12th, 16th and 17th, but failed to nest successfully. Drastically low numbers of **Lapwing** with five birds from the WeBS Count on the 17th and 6+ around Chainbridge Pit on the 29th. Two **Ringed Plover** were present at Neatholme Fen on the 1st, with singles then noted here on the 7th, 9th, 10th and

13th. A report of a single at Bellmoor Lake on the 9th, may have been the same bird reported from Neatholme Fen the same day. A maximum of 1-3 pairs of **Little Ringed Plover** present across the recording area, with peak counts of 4 (2 pairs) on Neatholme Fen on the 11th & 16th. A pair was at Bellmoor Lake on the 3rd, 9th & 15th. Sadly, the small wet pools created in both the 'Alan's Meadow' and 'Small Willow' sheep fields have now dried up and were not suitable as breeding sites. Two nocturnal reports of single **Whimbrel**, including a bird moving NE over Neatholme Pit at 11:00pm on the night of the 1st and a single moving N over Broom Wood at 02:55am on the 9th. Two **Dunlin** were present at Neatholme Fen on the 4th and 5th with a single noted there on the 9th and 10th. A single was also at Bellmoor Lake on the 20th. A single report of a single **Little Stint** at Neatholme Fen from 10:00am until 18:30pm on the 27th. Just a single **Woodcock** report with a single 'roding' bird over Broom Wood on the 9th. Several reports of **Common Sandpiper**, including a single at Neatholme Fen on the 4th, two at Bellmoor Pit and a further single at Tiln North on the 9th, singles at Chainbridge Pit at Bellmoor Lake on the 14th, two at Chainbridge Pit on the 15th and finally a single at Tiln North on the 17th. Just a single report of a single **Redshank** heard calling over Chainbridge Meadows in darkness on the 22nd. Two reports of single **Wood Sandpiper** from Neatholme Fen on the 1st and 9th. Just a single report of a single **Greenshank** at Al's Pit (Cross Lane Fishery) on the 4th. A single **Common Gull** was noted on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 9th. Up to 20 **Herring Gull** were noted at Bellmoor Lake on the 3rd. Just two reports of **Yellow-legged Gull**, including a first-summer (2CY) bird at Bellmoor Lake on the 3rd and two, a first-summer (2CY) and a second-summer (3CY) birds, again at Bellmoor Lake on the 9th. The local **Lesser Black-backed Gull** colony is obviously doing well again and interestingly there was an estimated dusk gathering of c400 birds around Chainbridge Pit on the 30th. A single 'possible' **Roseate Tern** was noted briefly at Tiln North on the morning of the 5th, but subsequent search of the immediate area found no bird present. Numbers of **Common Tern** rose throughout the month across the recording area with 8 on the 1st, 19 on the 7th, 26 on the 11th to peak at 40 feeding on Neatholme Scrape on the 14th. Breeding pairs were noted on Neatholme Fen, Tiln North, Chainbridge Pit and Bellmoor Lake. As expected though, they will all struggle to breed successfully with the usual predation risk from local Carrion Crow, Grey Heron and Lesser Black-backed Gulls. We really do need a couple of good Tern platforms. A single report of two **Arctic Tern** noted with Common Tern at Neatholme Scrape on the 6th. A single **Black Tern** was noted at Neatholme Fen on the 4th. A single **Glossy Ibis** remained throughout the month and frequenting Neatholme Fen, Neatholme Scrape, Chainbridge Scrape (East) and Cross Lane Marsh. Two reports of single **Spoonbill**, including a bird feeding on Neatholme Fen between 11:45am and 13:15pm on the 1st, with another noted flying North over Neatholme Fen on the 14th. Six reports of single **Bittern** noted in the recording area throughout the month with four sightings recorded during the 'Big Bird Day' event from the 9th. Detail will remain vague within this bulletin for the safety of this rare county and nationally rare and sensitive breeding species. Two reports of **Cattle Egret**, including a single at Chainbridge Pit on the 5th and four birds that flew into Tiln North on the 9th. Just a single **Great White Egret** report on a bird in breeding plumage at Neatholme Scrape on the 14th. Four reports of **Little Egret**, including a single at Tiln North on the 1st, single on Neatholme Scrape on the 5th, 7th and 12th and a group of three flew East over Bellmoor Lake on the 9th. At least one pair of **Sparrowhawk** are present in the recording area with sightings from the 7th, 9th and 10th. The sighting on the 10th from Bellmoor Pits involved a bird that caught and killed a Great Spotted Woodpecker. At least three **Marsh Harrier** were present, including an adult female in the northern half of the reserve on the 1st, 5th, 9th, 11th and 16th, a 'cream-crowned' immature birds flew west on the 11th, and an adult male was noted flying NW on the 11th and again at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 17th. A single female **HEN HARRIER** was photographed moving north over Chainbridge Wood at 11:13am on the 9th, during the 'Big Bird Day' event. A rare bird in Nottinghamshire at any time of the year but also an extremely late individual for a normally wintering species. Five reports of **Red Kite**, including singles over Neatholme Fen and Chainbridge Lane on the 8th, a single at Mattersey Priory on the 9th, two high over Neatholme/Blaco on the 17th and a single over Chainbridge Meadows on the 29th. Just a single report of **Barn Owl**, with a bird noted sat on a fenceline at Eel Pool Road, near Drakeholes at 00:12am on the 9th. Several calling **Tawny Owl** were recorded across the recording area throughout the 'Big Bird Day' event on the 9th. Just two reports of single **Kingfisher** at Cross Lane Fishery on the 5th and along the River Idle at Tiln on the 17th. Five reports of single **Great Spotted Woodpecker** from the Neatholme Fen/Wildgoose Farm/Linghurst Wood areas on the 1st, 7th, 11th & 9th. Five reports of single **Green Woodpecker**, including from Neatholme Fen on the 7th, from Linghurst Wood & Neatholme Pit on the 9th, from Wildgoose Farm on the 14th and from Hawthorn Lanre on the 16th. Just a single report of a single **Kestrel** noted at Clayworth Common on the 9th. Numbers of **Hobby** remained fairly static with counts of 10 on the 5th, 13 on the 9th and a maximum of 14+ on the 14th. Chainbridge Scrape (East) viewpoint remains the favoured location for watching these birds feeding. Pairs of **Jay** were reported from Linghurst Lakes and Neatholme Fen areas on the 9th and 15th and at Chainbridge Lane on the 29th. Four reports of **Raven**, including singles over Clayworth Village on the 6th, at Bellmoor Lake on the 10th, at Alan's Meadow on the 17th and a family over Clayworth village on the 18th. Just a single report of a single **Coal Tit** along Neatholme Lane on the 9th. Pairs of **Blue Tits** were nesting again in the timbers of Chainbridge Scrape (East) viewpoint but had fledged by the 9th, and a pair was active in a metal gate post by the Lower Sheep Fields on the 10th. A single report of c120 **Swallow** over Bellmoor Lake on the 3rd. Two reports from the 5th of fledged **Long-tailed Tit**, with 6 at Bellmoor Lake and several seen on Neatholme Lane. The **Sedge Warbler** is a fairly common summer visitor breeding in scrub around all parts of the recording area, but an unusual record involved a single bird with a deformed beak photographed on the 11th (Below) ©R. Scott.



It seems to be a better year for **Lesser Whitethroat** with a good spread of birds in more suitable hawthorn hedgerow habitat. A single in The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 1st, 1-2 birds reported in the Chainbridge Meadows area on the 5th, 6th and 8th, a single at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 5th, at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 6th, 7th and 9th, with singles noted at Neatholme Lane on the 7th and 9th, and finally a single was on Chainbridge Lane by Poplar Walk gate on the 11th. Two single **Goldcrest** were noted at Bunker Wood and Broom Wood on the 9th. A single report of a singing **Treecreeper** at Linghurst Wood on the 9th. Just a single report of what is now becoming a very scarce local species, a single **Mistle Thrush** was found in a Horse Paddock along Doughty's Lane footpath on the 9th. A single ♂ **Whinchat** was noted at Chainbridge Meadows on the 8th (Below) ©M. B. Vickers.



A single **Dunnock** was noted with a large facial growth at Bellmoor Lake southern viewpoint on the 7th. Pairs of **Yellow Wagtail** were noted at Clayworth Common on the 1st, at Tiln North on the 2nd, at Chainbridge Pit on the 15th and regular sightings from Neatholme Fen from the 7th until the 16th. A single juvenile **Grey Wagtail** was noted at the edge of Chainbridge Pit on the 17th, presumably one of the juveniles from a successful nest along the River Idle in Retford. Another notable record from Retford is that of a pair of Grey Wagtail which were noted regularly feeding (and may have bred) around the brick buildings of Icon Aerospace, off London Road, behind the Lidl store. A single juvenile **Pied Wagtail** was noted at Neatholme Fen on the 14th. Three reports of **Bullfinch**, including a pair along Neatholme Lane and a further single along Hawthorn Lane on the 7th, plus 2-3 birds noted at Chainbridge Meadows on the 16th. Three reports of **Greenfinch**, including a single and a family of 5 in Lound village on the 9th, and a single calling at Cross Lane on the 16th. A single report of 1-2 singing **Corn Bunting** in or near a clover field along Lound Low Road on the 9th. Three reports of **Yellowhammer**, including a single on Clayworth Common on the 1st, 1-2 on Clayworth Common and a further singing bird off Lound Low Road on the 9th.

Feral/ Escapes

A single 'feral' **Swan Goose** was still present at Tiln Fishery throughout. A single ♂ **Lady Amhurst's Pheasant** was noted again on the verge of Lound Low Road on the 6th, before it hot footed itself into Wetland's Lakes, and probably its home, having roamed the local area for a year. A single **Bar-headed Goose** was on Bellmoor Lake on the 23rd. A rather unusual and unexpected sighting of a ♂ **Orinoco Goose** (a type of goose but is a closer relative to Shelducks) at Chainbridge Pit on the 5th, with further sightings there on the 9th and 14th.

T. Hibbert, R. Edwards, B. Hopkinson, G. Widdison, R. Scott, W. Fiuk, S. Fayez, C. Watkin, D. Parmenter, K. Smith, J. Dennison, N. Powell, P. Kibble, A. Pickles, A. McCallum, K. Moss, J. Burdall, A. Kiemel, R & D. Schwarz, B. Foster, A. Pykett, A. Griffin, S & G Batty, L. Dunford, D. Anderson, M. Goodman, M. Wallhead, A. Seastron, J. Bradley, I. Cowgill,

J. Coe, K. Price, K. Driver, D. Richardson, P. Cooper, P. Cottam, K. Fisher, P. J. Freeman, A & B. Merrick, V. Bell, T. Carter, G. Hobson, D. Housman, M & L. Vickers, S. Davenport, V. Giles, P. Cadman, P & E. Hobson, I. Hunt, Greg, Mel, Lincoln RSPB Group, 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

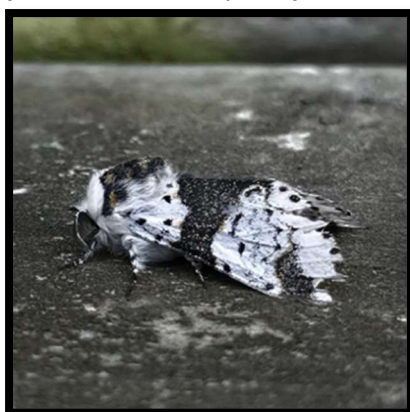
Lound Moth Group



The following are just a small selection of moth species that were significant during the month. This list and images are compiled by Paul Hobson from Lound Moth Group data held by our 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: - Neatholme Pit on the 1st, at Bellmoor Lake on the 9th, at Chainbridge Meadows on the 12th and 22nd, at the Idle Valley Visitor Centre on the 24th and finally at Car Hill School on the 30th. Header image ©Annie Verkade. Photo images ©

MACRO MOTH HIGHLIGHTS – May 2026

A trapping session at Neatholme Lane/Neatholme Scrape on the 1st produced a single **70.279 *Lomographa bimaculata* White Pinion-spotted** (see photo below left). Also, a single **70.239 *Selenia tetralunaria* Purple Thorn**. Both attracted to 125w MV. A session at Chainbridge Meadows on the 22nd produced a single male **3.005 *Hepialus humuli* Ghost Moth** to 125w MV. This trap also attracted a single **73.040 *Acronista leporina* Miller** and a single **71.006 *Fircula bicuspis* Alder Kitten** (see below middle photo). This latter moth was a new Reserve addition.



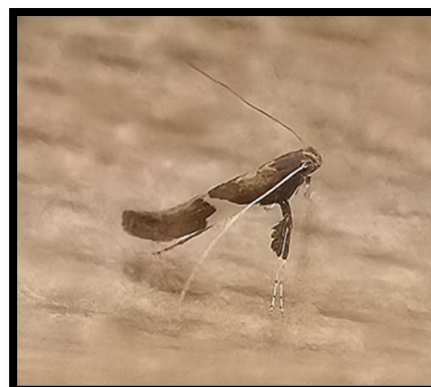
Also, on the 22nd at Chainbridge Meadows a **73.036 *Acronicta alni* Alder Moth** was attracted to the 6w Actinic heath trap and is a very scarce moth for IVNR (see right hand photo above). Another attracted to the same trap was a **70.094 *Ecliptopera silaceata* Small Phoenix**. The trapping event on the 24th at the IVNR visitor centre access road saw two **65.010 *Tethea ocularis* Figure of Eighty** trapped in both the 6w Actinic Heath trap & the 30w LED bin trap (see left hand photo below). The 6w Actinic also produced the scarce **70.112 *Euchoeca intricata* Dingy Shell**.



The 30th saw us visit Carr Hill School on Tiln Lane. Here we had 5 Hawk Moth species. These included **69.001 *Mimas tiliae* Lime Hawk Moth** attracted to the 30w LED Bin trap (see middle photo above). Also here attracted to the 125w MV Trap were a single **69.017 *Deilephila porcellus* Small Elephant Hawk Moth** (see right hand photo above). Other moths at Carr Hill School included two **73.157 *Apomea anceps* Large Nutmeg** to both 125w MV & 30w LED, and a small number of **73.159 *Apamea unanimis* Small Clouded Brindle**. Both traps also produced three migrant **73.159 *Spodoptera exigua* Small Mottled Willow**. Finally, the 30w LED attracted a **73.022 *Plusia festucae* Gold Spot**.

MICRO MOTH HIGHLIGHTS – May 2026

The 1st saw a **12.033 *Tinea trinotella* Triple-spotted Nest Moth** go to the 125w MV trap. The 9th produced a single **49.292 *Notocelia cynosbatella* Black Cloak** to the 125w MV trap at Bellmoor Lake (see photo below left).



The 22nd saw us visit Chainbridge Meadows. Here we trapped a single **18.001 *Plutella xylostella* Diamond-back Moth** to the 125w MV trap. Also, on the 22nd a single **10.003 *Coptotriche marhinea* Bramble Blotch-miner** came to the 6w Actinic Heath trap (see middle photo above). A **15.009 *Caloptilia robustella* Shaded Oak Stilt** was a 2nd reserve record (see photo above right). The 24th produced a **49.269 *Eucosma campoliliana* Pied Tortrix** to the 30w LED trap at IVNR centre access track. A trapping session at Chainbridge Meadows on the 29th produced a single **35.056 *Metzenaria lispella* Burdock Seedhead Moth** to the 6w Actinic Heath trap. This was a 2nd reserve record (see left hand photo below) Also here a single **38.004 *Elachista argentella* Silver Grass-miner** was caught.



Netting around the reserve on the 29th produced a few scarce micro moths. Firstly, a single **49.344 *Cydia inquinatana* Scarce Maple-piercer** was seen in-situ at Linghurst Lakes and was a new reserve addition (see middle photo above). The 2nd & 3rd records of **49.022 *Ptycholoma lecheana* Brindled Tortrix** were seen in-situ at Linghurst Lakes on the 29th, and to the 30w LED Bin trap at Carr Hill School on the 30th. Also, on the 29th a **20.018 *Argyresthia spinosella* Blackthorn Tip Moth** was seen in situ at the IVNR woodland by the visitor centre (see photo above right), this was a new reserve addition. Finally, the trapping session at Carr Hill School on the 30th produced a single **8.003 *Incurvaria oehlmanniella* Purple-tinged Cutter** to the 30w LED trap.

Other Nature Sightings for May 2026 compiled by Gary Hobson.

Butterflies – The following table gives the daily totals of butterflies noted across the reserve/recording area throughout the month with peak numbers highlighted in bold: -

Species/Date	1 st	3 rd	5 th	6 th	8 th	9 th	11 th	15 th	17 th	18 th	22 nd	25 th	29 th	30 th
Orange-tip	6			1	8		1	4		4	1	1	2	
Brimstone	5									1			1	
Red Admiral				1	1		1	1				1	6	1
Painted Lady			3			4	1					3	20	4
Peacock	4				2				1			1		
Small Tortoiseshell					1									
Small Copper		1					1	2	1			2		
Holly Blue	2					1						6		
Brown Argus								1		1	1			
Common Blue									1	2	2	3	5	1

This male **Common Blue** was nicely posed by Chainbridge Pit along the riverbank on the 19th (Below) ©G. Hobson.

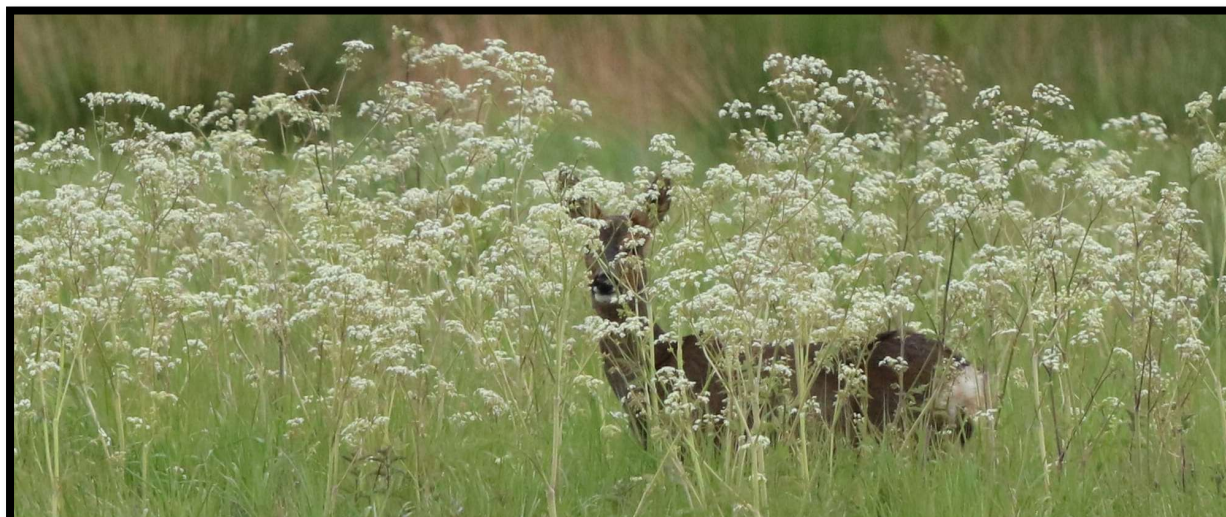


Dragonflies & Damselflies – Just a single **Large Red Damselfly** was noted at Neatholme Fen on the 1st. Single **Red-eyed Damselfly** were noted at Neatholme Fen on the 8th (Below) ©V. Bell, and at Linghurst Lakes on the 29th. Just a single **Emperor Dragonfly** was noted at Linghurst Lakes on the 29th. Four reports of **Hairy Dragonfly**, including two at Bellmoor Lake on the 9th, then singles at Neatholme Fen on the 17th, at the Idle Valley Visitor Centre on the 23rd and finally at Chainbridge Pit on the 29th. Five reports of **Four-spotted Chaser**, including singles at the Idle Valley Visitor Centre on the 23rd, at Tiln Meadow on the 25th, at Tiln Pasture on the 25th, six at Linghurst Lakes on the 29th and finally a single at Chainbridge Meadows on the 29th. Just a single **Black-tailed Skimmer** reported from Linghurst Lakes in the 29h.



Mammals – A single **Otter** was seen crossing Chainbridge Lane near Lound village on the 17th. A single **Beaver** was noted again at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 17th. Several **Roe Deer** were scattered across the recording area including this one seen at Cross Lane Fishery on the 15th (Below) ©G. Hobson. A single **Muntjac Deer** at Neatholme Pit plus a further three individuals were on the east side of the River at Bellmoor Pits on the 31st. Four reports of single

Fox were noted at Bellmoor Lake in front of the Rural Learning Centre on the 4th, at Walters Lane carrying a **Rat** on the 4th, one seen sunbathing at Neatholme Fen on the 16th and one at Broom Wood on the 31st.



Insects – This single **Orange-horned Nomad Bee** *Nomada fulvicornis* was spotted on the 7th (Below left) ©T. Carter. A single rather colourful beetle in the form of a **Rufous-shouldered Longhorn Beetle** *Anaglyptus mysticus* was photographed at Neatholme Lane on the 8th (Below right) ©V. Bell.



D. Parmenter, K. Moss, A. McCallum, A. Griffin, L. Dunford, R & D. Schwarz, P.J. Freeman, N. Powell, P. Kibble, C. Watkin, C & C. Parker, K. Driver, M & L. Vickers, T. Carter, V. Bell, P. Cadman, I. Hunt, M. N, G. Hobson, P & E. Hobson, S. Davenport, Lound Moth Group and both the 'Footsteps into Nature' and 'Kingfisher' (What's App) Groups.

Next month's - July 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 June 2026 + Lound Moth Group – Review for June 2026 + Other

Nature Sightings for June 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