

Idle Valley Nature Sightings

July 2026

Two-year Anniversary Issue!

Welcome to this 'Two-year Anniversary' issue of Idle Valley Nature Sightings which was first published in July 2024. The reasons why this bulletin was started were threefold. The previously long running Lound Bird Club news bulletin was now something of the past and a new monthly review of bird sightings was much needed. The second reason was that my own, and several other walking groups had nowhere, other than social media, to share their wildlife sightings and images from the reserve. The final reason was that Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, who own and manage the Idle Valley Nature Reserve, were only very occasionally covering the wildlife spotted on this reserve in their quarterly paper. Something had to be done to highlight this whole reserve and its abundance of wildlife. With me being a local birder for nearly 40 years, being a wildlife enthusiast myself and knowing that many others were also showing real interest in the reserve and its wildlife again, I took it on myself, with support from a few trust staff members, to produce a regular monthly wildlife bulletin that was specific to this nature reserve. So, two years on, with several thousand records of birds and other wildlife already included, a couple of hundred donated images also added to these sightings, several very well presented identification guides completed and a real team effort from all its many contributors we are still going strong. I hope that those reading this bulletin will get a better insight into the wildlife to be found on the reserve they know and regularly visit themselves. I must also thank Alex Morley for his regular insight into the day to day running of the reserve and we wish him well in his new ventures when he leaves NWT later this year. I am hopeful that the incoming reserve manager Chris Kennedy can find time to continue where Alex left off. Thanks also to all the trust staff including the conservation grazing team, the reserve rangers and their many volunteers, the Rural Learning Centre retail staff and to anyone else who volunteers their time to show others this fabulous nature reserve. These bulletins are shared through Lound Bird Club membership, are available to download from the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust website - Idle Valley page and are shared to other local groups linked to the reserve, including the NWT Local Group. Thank you all for your personal contribution to its content and for its wide ranging distribution. Long may this continue.

Gary Hobson (NWT – Volunteer/BulletinEditor)

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 8th August – 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 July, the Wildlife Watch group theme was "River and Sea." We looked forward to the summer holidays when rock pooling is a favourite activity. We went out to the river to observe the fish that can be seen from the bank and talked about bank erosion and the weir. There were plenty of cinnabar moth caterpillars on the ragwort by the river. It was still hot so, after our picnic, we returned to the centre and made egg box crabs.



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 8th August** and the theme will be '**Meadow Magic**'.

Footsteps into Nature



Local Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk Group

Review of the 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' walk from Friday 3rd July 2026

My June walk was cancelled and put back to Friday 3rd July. A great turnout despite the warm conditions but we started the walk at Walters Lane by walking towards Doughty's Pit (Sutton Fly Fishery) where we heard Chiffchaff singing in the small block of woodland by Lound Low Road. Arriving at the edge of the pit we soon heard both Reed and Sedge Warblers and saw Common Tern and a couple of Little Grebe. We then started to look at flowers with Ros, Sue and Jill starting to gather a long list from the walk (published at the foot of this report). A few insects including a single **Willow Emerald Damselfly**, a Shaded Broad-bar moth, a Red Admiral and a Ringlet butterfly amongst several Meadow Brown, Gatekeepers and various White's. We walked further alongside the pit and were now noting a few Small Skipper, a couple of very nice Painted Ladies but we then saw a couple of what we assumed initially were male Common Darters, a few images were taken and, although we had noted how bright they looked, we moved on passing them off as Common's. I will come back to this in a bit. We saw at least one Common Blue and a Peacock butterfly, a rather odd looking **Lattice Heath** moth, a Little Egret, a Great Crested Grebe and 8 Oystercatchers flew over. Gareth left having brought along his very young daughter, which was expected due to the very warm weather. We eventually reached the edge of the fishery boundary and walked along the overgrown path next to the old C5 ash lagoon eventually coming out near the broad path towards Bunker Wood. We saw a brief flypast from a single **Holly Blue**, a few Gatekeepers, and a couple of nice Hoverflies. Heading towards Bunker Wood we saw Peacock and Red Admiral again and a Speckled Wood plus a single larval case of the **Common Bagworm** moth attached to a leaf and a Robin's Pin Cushion Gall on a Dog Rose. Turning left we walked the path around Bunker Wood noting Chiffchaff and Reed Warblers singing, a pair of Large White copulating and more flowers were being added to the ever growing list that the ladies were totting up. Leaving the Bunker Wood section, we turned left and walked north along the riverside track. Soon, Vicky shouted that she was looking at an 'Hairstreak', and sure enough she had found a female **Purple Hairstreak**, with less purple on the upper wing than a male would show. A scarce butterfly at Idle Valley NR and a brilliant find (Below left) K. Driver. We spent a while watching and photographing the 'showy' hairstreak and a male **Black-tailed Skimmer** but eventually we moved on walking along the riverside again. A large group of Long-tailed Tit moved across us and several Chiffchaff

were noted too. Stuart then joined us arriving late and then proceeded in getting everyone talking about the blooming World Cup. We saw a few Banded Demoiselles along here and some **Yellow-barred Longhorn** beetles on the bramble and Dog Rose flowers. We skirted around Tiln Pool, and I spotted an eclipse male **Wigeon** feeding with a few Mallard on the pool. More and more plants were being recorded on the list, but our main interest was looking for insects and birds. Stuart noted a **Small Tortoiseshell** and a single resting moth, which turned out to be a **Rosy Tabby** moth, a new species for those who actually saw it (Below right) ©V. Bell. As we crossed towards the Lower Sheep Field Tim potted a small micro moth, which turned out to be a **Common Knapweed Tortrix** and another new moth for us.



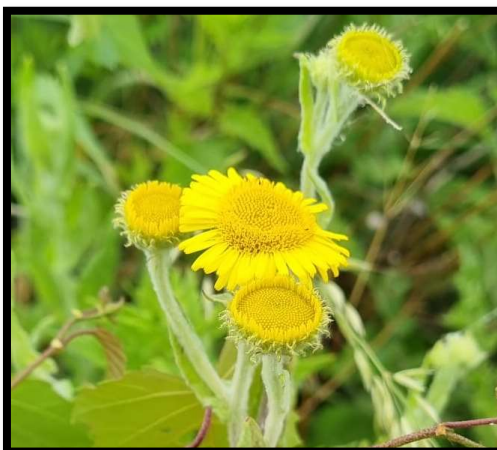
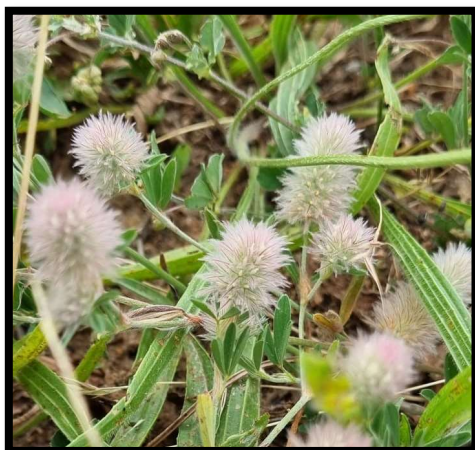
It was becoming very warm, enthusiasm for spotting stuff was waning and I think everyone by now had had enough of the heat, so we all chatted and walked back along Walters Lane towards our cars, ready for a well-deserved rest and a drink. Later that evening, Vicky, having checked her images of the male 'Darter,' became aware that we had actually photographed a rarity, in fact it was a migrant from southern Europe, a **Red-veined Darter**, and something rather unusual. After further investigations and an acceptance that this was indeed a Red-veined Darter, from the county Dragonfly recorder, we also found out that there were also other reports from nearby Rotherham with up to 20 individuals at a site and up to 8 individuals from another site in Derbyshire. After consulting our combined images, we also realised that we had photographed not one but two Red-veined Darter alongside Doughty's Pit today. A first for the recording area, and addition to the local Dragonfly & Damselfly list (Below) ©G. Hobson



A couple of days later, on the 5th July, we found up to four male and a female **Red-veined Darter** present at this location. An amazing record and something to be proud of. Recording what you see through photography eventually reaps rewards and its thanks to all who come on these walks for contributing to this important wildlife recording. The following is a list of flower species that Roz and Sue sent to me with three images below ©R. Schwarz.

Full list: - **Forget-me-not** *Myosotis sp.*, **Daisy** *Bellis perennis*, **Common Nettle** *Urtica dioica*, **White Campion** *Silene latifolia*, **Hemlock** *Conium maculatum*, **Ribwort Plantain** *Plantago lanceolata*, **Common Bird's-foot Trefoil (Eggs-and-bacon)** *Lotus corniculatus*, **Common Vetch** *Vicia sativa sp.*, **Dandelion** *Taraxacum agg.*, **Mouse-ear Hawkweed** *Pilosella officinarum*, **Common Poppy** *Papaver rhoeas*, **Yarrow** *Achillea millefolium*, **Goat's-beard** *Tragopogon pratensis*, **Red Clover** *Trifolium pratense*, **White Clover** *Trifolium repens*, **Hogweed** *Heracleum spondylium*, **Oxeye Daisy** *Leucanthemum vulgare*, **Pineappleweed** *Matricaria discoidea*, **Lesser Trefoil** *Trifolium dubium*, **Common Centaury** *Centaurium erythraea*, **Greater Plantain** *Plantago major*, **Hare's-foot Clover** *Trifolium arvense* (Below left), **Black Medick** *Medicago lupulina*, **Lady's Bedstraw** *Gallium verum*, **Musk-mallow** *Malva moschata*, **Scarlet Pimpernel** *Anagallis arvensis*, **Lesser Burdock** *Arctium minus*, **Upright Hedge-parsley** *Torilis japonica*, **Com-**

mon Ragwort *Jacobaea vulgaris*, **Narrow-leaved Ragwort** *Senecio inaequidens*, **Nipplewort** *Lapsana communis*, **Hawkbitt sp.** *Leontodon sp.*, **Creeping Thistle** *Cirsium arvense*, **Spear Thistle** *Cirsium vulgare*, **Great Willowherb** *Epilobium hirsutum*, **Rosebay Willowherb**, *Chamaenerion angustifolium*, **(Broad-leaved) Willowherb or similar** *Epilobium (montanum)*, **Common Sorrel** *Rumex acetosa*, **Dock (not id to sp)** *Rumex sp.*, **Water Figwort** *Scrophularia auriculata*, **Selfheal** *Prunella vulgaris*, **Common Fleabane** *Pulicaria dysenterica* (Below centre), **Southern Marsh Orchid** *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*, **Perforate St-John's-wort** *Hypericum perforatum*, **Teasel** *Dipsacus fullonum*, **Creeping Cinquefoil** *Potentilla reptans*, **Wood Sage** *Teucrium scorodonia*, **Field Horsetail** *Equisetum arvense*, **Black Bryony** *Tamus communis*, **Mugwort** *Artemisia vulgaris*, **Himalayan Balsam** *Impatiens glandulifera*, **Bindweed** *Calystegia sp.*, **Common Knapweed (Hardhead)** *Centaurea nigra*, **Lucerne (Alfalfa)** *Medicago sativa ssp salvi*, **Ribbed Melilot (Yellow Sweet Clover)** *Melilotus officinalis*, **Yellow-rattle (in seed)** *Rhinanthus minor*, **Kidney Vetch** *Anthyllis vulneria*, **Wild Marjoram** *Origanum vulgare*, **Weld** *Reseda luteola*, Fat-hen *Chenopodium album* (Below right)



My next walk will be on: -

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**

Lound Bird Club

Club Information

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 (September to April) 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.

What's On

Saturday 15th August 2026 – Car Trip to RSPB Frampton Marsh

Car trip to RSPB Frampton Marsh reserve, near Boston, Lincolnshire, PE20 1AY. Meet at Frampton Marsh car park at 9:30am. A really excellent reserve with chances of seeing many different bird species. Please be aware that the day

could include some long walks. They have a café and entry is £6 p/p including car parking or free to RSPB members. Please liaise with others to try to arrange car sharing. If you do need a lift contact Gary Hobson 07464964879

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

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-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 June 2026 compiled by Gary Hobson.

June is typically a quiet month for birdwatching on the reserve and indeed our wider recording area, but we do often get the odd rarity visit. We also witness the peak part of the summer breeding season. Lots of new life is seen again which is ultimately why any reserve is created. Sustainability is a word we hear a lot and habitats sustain the annual cycle of new life in nature. Sadly, no WeBS count was undertaken during the month. Once again, I have included e-bird reports within these sightings, with the downside being that e-bird does not allow for the poster to indicate birds at specific locations within a larger site.

Three notable counts of **Mute Swan**, including 26 on Neatholme Scrape on the 5th, 54 was counted on the 17th and 54 (plus a single small cygnet) were noted on Neatholme Scrape on the 28th. Three notable **Egyptian Goose** reports including, a pair with 7 goslings on Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 5th, 15 including 9 goslings on the 7th and a count of 15 again on the 13th. Just a single **Shelduck** was noted on the 7th. Two reports of **Garganey**, with a pair noted flying over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 1st and two birds were noted there again on the 15th. Three reports of **Teal**, including two ♂'s on Neatholme Fen on the 5th and counts of three on the 7th and two again on the 15th. Numbers of **Red-crested Pochard** peaked at 13 birds on the 19th with many birds now moving onto the deeper pits of Neatholme Scrape & Neatholme Pit to begin their moult. Three notable counts of **Pochard**, including 10 on the 16th, 12 on the 17th and 14 on the 19th. Two reports of single **Quail** noted singing from a Potato Field on Clayworth Common on the 15th and from Clayworth Common again on the 16th. Just two notable counts of **Swift**, including 120 over Neatholme Scrape on the 5th and a further count of 30+ on the 7th. Many reports of **Cuckoo** across the recording area, including peak counts of four on the 6th and three on the 9th, but no further reports after the 16th. Just 1-2 **Turtle Dove** were reported in the usual areas on the 7th, 13th and 22nd. Just a single report of a single **Water Rail** on the 19th. A single report of two **Avocet**, presumably again on Neatholme Fen, on the 7th. Just two counts of **Lapwing**, including 20 at Chainbridge Pit on the 16th and a count of 25 on the 19th. Just a single report of a single **Ringed Plover** on the 19th. Four reports of **Little Ringed Plover**, including three on the 1st, a single at Neatholme Fen on the 5th, three again on the 13th and finally a pair calling over Bellmoor Lake in darkness on the 26th. Just a single report of a single **Green Sandpiper** at Chainbridge Pit on the 30th. Still very scarce this year, just three reports of **Redshank**, including 2 on the 9th, a single on the 17th and a single at Chainbridge Pit on the 30th. A single report of a single **Greenshank** calling in darkness over Bellmoor Lake on the 26th. A pair of adult **Mediterranean Gull** were noted on Neatholme Fen on the 8th. Single report of a single **Yellow-legged Gull** on the 19th. A single notable count of 16 **Common Tern** at Neatholme Fen on the 5th. The lingering single **Glossy Ibis** was noted on Neatholme Scrape on the 6th then residing at Chainbridge Scrape (East) from the 7th, 10th and 16th (Below left) ©D. Whall & (Below right) ©S. Davenport.



Three reports of single **Bittern** on three dates (5th, 13th & 20th) during the month across the reserve. Detail will remain vague within this bulletin for the safety of this rare county and nationally rare and sensitive breeding species. Four reports of single **Great White Egret** on three dates from the 16th until the 19th, mainly in the Chainbridge Scrape/Pit areas. Up to three **Little Egret**, possibly more, were noted throughout with three reported on the 17th. Four sightings of single **Sparrowhawk** on the 1st, 5th, 7th and 15th. Several reports of 1-3 **Marsh Harrier** throughout, including three (♂♀♀) over Neatholme Scrape on the 5th, with further singles noted over the recording area on the 7th, 13th and 21st. Several reports of **Red Kite**, including two birds on the 1st and further singles on the 5th, 7th, 13th, 19th and 30th. This species is now almost becoming an expected daily occurrence within the recording area. Just a single report of a single **Kingfisher** on the 19th. Three reports of **Green Woodpecker**, including singles on the 1st, and at Chainbridge Pit on the 13th and finally 3 (presumably including juveniles) at Cross Lane/Neatholme Lane junction on the 30th. Just four reports of **Hobby**, including a single on the 1st, two over Neatholme Scrape on the 5th, and further singles noted on the 7th and 13th. Just a single report of a single **Peregrine** noted moving NW over Clayworth Common on the 5th. Several reports of mainly single **Jay** throughout, plus four birds noted by one observer on the 13th. (Below) ©R. Scott.



Just a single report of four **Raven** on the 19th. A single report of two **Goldcrest** on the 15th. A notable count of 30 **Wren** over the reserve on the 15th. Three reports of single **Treecreeper** on the 13th, 19th and at Cross Lane junction on the 30th. A single report of two **Spotted Flycatcher** noted from the riverside path at Tiln village on the 14th. Just a single report of two juvenile **Yellow Wagtail** noted on Clayworth Common on the 16th. Just two reports of single **Grey Wagtail** on the 13th and 19th. Just a single report of a single **Yellowhammer** on Clayworth Common on the 16th.

Feral/Escapes/Unconfirmed

An unconfirmed BirdGuides report of a single **Night Heron** that was reportedly present in wet woodland south of the Water Ski Pit (Al's Pit Private Fishing Lake?) on the evening of the 27th and again the following morning, the 28th. New broke onto BirdGuides and the bird was looked for in the afternoon/evening of the 28th and again on the 30th but no further sign. Speaking with the local bailiff there, he told us that a couple were telling him about an 'African' bird that they had seen. As BirdGuides reports are anonymous we do not know who the observers were or if this will be submitted to the county recorder?

A. Goodall, T. Williams, D. Whall, D. Evans, R. King, G. Patrick, H. Lloyd, D.A. Newall, B. Westley, K. Last, J. Furguson, C. Cheshire, D. Turner, R. Barnes, T. Towers, T. Rosas, R. Scott, A. Pickles, M. Wallhead, I. Cowgill, D. Richardson, P. Cottam, P. J. Freeman, A & B. Merrick, T. Carter, G. Hobson, D. Housman, M & L. Vickers, S. Davenport, V. Giles, P. Cadman, P & E. Hobson, I. Hunt, Mel, e-bird, 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. Header image ©Annie Verkade.

Moth trapping sessions across the recording area were as follows: - At Neatholme Scrape/Water Ski Pit on the 5th, at Bellmoor Lake/Ponds on the 11th, 19th and 26th, at the Water Ski Pit again on the 28th and at Linghurst Lakes on the 30th.

MACRO MOTH HIGHLIGHTS – June 2026

A trapping session at the Water Ski Pit on the 5th produced a single **73.155 *Apamea epomidian* Clouded Brindle** to the 30w LED Bin Trap (Below left) ©P. Hobson. A trapping session at Bellmoor Lake on the 11th produced **74.007 *Bena bicolorana* Scarce Silver-lines** to the 30w LED Bin Trap (Below right) ©P. Hobson.



A single **72.029 *Calimorpha dominula* Scarlet Tiger** was netted at Bellmoor Lake on the 14th and was only the second record for the recording area. (Below left) ©P. Hobson. A further record of two Scarlet Tiger mating at Bellmoor Fishing Ponds on the 19th, and the third record. A single **70.012 *Idea trigramma* Treble Brown Spot** was netted at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 19th, a new addition to the reserve (Below right) ©P. Cadman.



A trapping session at Bellmoor Lake on the 19th produced a single **70.119 *Philereme transversata* Dark Umber** to the 125w MV Trap and was a new species for a few of those trapping that evening (Below left) ©P. Hobson. The same trapping session produced single **73.017 *Autographa jota* Plain Golden-Y** (Below right) ©P. Hobson. and **72.053 *Hermania tarsipennalis* Fanfoot**, both to the 125w MV Trap. A scare moth at the Idle Valley NR.



A trapping session at the Water Ski Pit on the 26th produced a single **70.302 *Leucania obsoleta* Obscure Wainscot**, a new addition to the Idle Valley NR (Below left) ©G. Hobson and a single **73.213 *Ipimorpha subtusa* Olive**, a scare moth at Idle Valley NR, and both to the 30w LED Bin Trap (Below right) ©T. Carter.



MICRO MOTH HIGHLIGHTS – June 2026

A trapping session on the 5th at Neatholme Scrape produced a single **49.094 *Phtheochroa sodalian* Pied Buckthorn Beauty** in the 125w MV Trap, which was a new addition to the reserve (Below left) ©C. Watkin. A trapping session on the 11th at Bellmoor Lake produced a single **63.117 *Parapoinx stratiotata* Ringed China-mark** to the 30w LED Bin Trap and a new addition to the reserve (Below right) ©P. Hobson.



A single **15.0750 *Phyllonorycta ulmifoliella* Common Birch Leaf-miner** was netted at Bunker Wood on the 16th and was a new addition to the reserve (Below left) ©G. Hobson. A trapping session at Bellmoor Ponds on the 19th produced a single **49.234 *Epinotia abbreviana* Brown Elm Tortrix** to 30w LED Bin Trap and was a new addition to the reserve (Below right) ©P.Hobson.



Also, on the 19th a single **49.101 *Phalonidia manniana* Water Mint Straw** to 125w MV Trap, the second record for the reserve (Below left) ©Trevor & Dilys Pendleton. A single **29.280 *Gypsonoma oppressana* Mottled Grey Tortrix** was netted at Linghurst Lakes on the 30th, another addition to the reserve (Below right) ©P. Cadman.

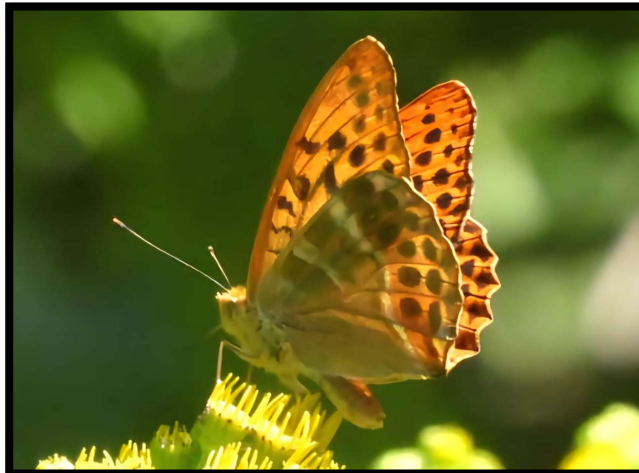


Other Nature Sightings for June 2026 compiled by Gary Hobson.

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	5th	7th	19th	22nd	25th	27th	28th	29th
Small Skipper				1				
Large Skipper	3		4	1				
Ringlet			2	17				84
Meadow Brown		1	6	7				35
Gatekeeper								2
Silver-washed Fritillary					1	1		
Red Admiral	3			1			1	
Painted Lady	8							
Comma								8
Purple Hairstreak				2				2
Holly Blue								1
Common Blue	1							

Noted highlights were as follows:- There were two records of single **Silver-washed Fritillary** at Linghurst Lakes/Neatholme Lane on both the 25th (Below right) taken by ©M. Morley, and again on the 27th. Two reports of two **Purple Hairstreak** at Chainbridge Meadows on the 22nd (Below left) taken by ©P. Cadman, and 2 at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 29th.



Dragonflies & Damselflies – Two **Emerald Damselfly** were noted at Linghurst Lakes on the 29th. Single **Brown Hawker Dragonfly** were noted at Chainbridge Meadows on the 22nd and again at Linghurst Lakes on the 29th. Single **Emperor Dragonfly** were noted at Neatholme Scrape on the 20th and at the Water Ski Pit on the 25th.



This ♂ **Broad-bodied Chaser** (Above) was at Bellmoor boardwalk on the 12th by ©G. Hobson. Sightings of **Common Darter** began this year with two at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 19th and a single at Chainbridge Meadows on the 22nd.

Insects – This **Hairy Sheildbug** (Below left) was photographed at Bellmoor on the 16th by ©K. Ward. This **Scabious Clubhorn Sawfly** *Abia nitens* (Below right) was photographed at Bellmoor on the 20th by ©T. Carter.



This **Green Colonel** (Below left) was photographed in the Elizabethan School complex on the edge of the recording area on the 24th by ©V. Bell. This ♂ **Hornet Plumehorn** *Volucella zonaria* (Below right) was at Bellmoor on the 28th by ©G. Hobson.



This **Large Marsh Horsefly** (Below) was photographed near the Bellmoor Boardwalk on the 28th by ©G. Hobson.



M. Morley, D. Housman, P.J. Freeman, C. Watkin, 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 - August 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 July 2026 + Lound Moth Group - Review for July 2026 + Other Nature Sightings for July 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