

Idle Valley Nature Sightings

September 2026



Recent scrub removal at Chainbridge Scrape (West)

NWT staff and volunteers along with some help from a few Lound Bird Club volunteers have now cleared the vegetation, bramble scrub and sapling willow & birch trees from a large area along the western shoreline in front of the screen. There has now been two sessions, the first one took most of the saplings and scrub down and many brush piles were left, with the second one concentrating mainly on removing scrub around the viewpoint mound and just the saplings to leave some low level scrub as cover for the beavers. We must thank Dennis and his team of volunteers for their great work to give us back the view, so that we can now monitor birds more closely and unobstructed, especially the all-important WeBS count. You will notice that the teasels have been left in front of the screen for finches to feed on over winter. **(Below image) ©NWT**



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.

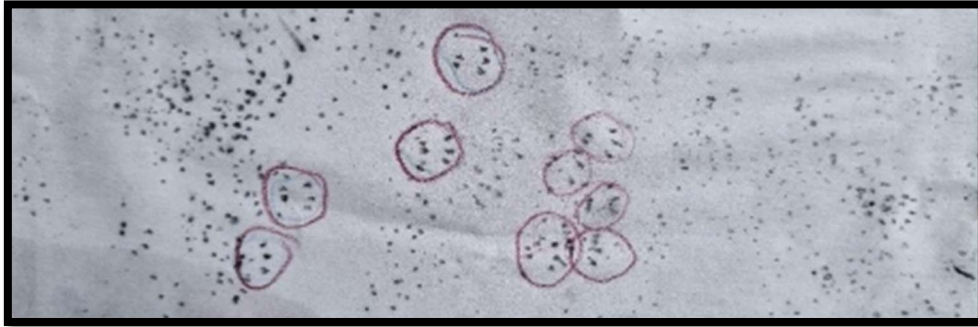
Thursday 5th November – Photography and Wildlife Walk (Longer Walk) starting from the **Idle Valley Visitor Centre Cafe at 10:00am till 3:00pm**. If you are interested in a longer walk around our beautiful Idle Valley Nature Reserve, join us on the first Thursday of every month. Volunteer led walk.



**wildlife
watch**

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

In September, the Wildlife Watch group theme was "Mouse Tales." Ros and Colin put out six home-made footprint tunnels around Bellmoor Lake to see if we could detect some small mammals (mice or voles) by their footprints. (Below Image) ©R. Schwarz. The tunnels had a smear of oil and charcoal dust to mark their feet and were baited with kitten biscuits. Success!



General 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 12th October** and the theme will be '**Bugs and Bark**' and will be held at **Danehill Lakes Nature Reserve.**

Footsteps into Nature



Local Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk Group

Review of the 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' walk from Wednesday 19th August 2026

My walk began at the 'Beaver Tour' car park, off Chainbridge Lane, where we walked east past Chainbridge Meadows where we heard a couple of Chiffchaff, one male bird still singing. We walked alongside Alan's Meadow with very little noted other than a couple of Common Darter and a single Latticed Heath moth. Arriving at the NW corner of Chainbridge Pit we saw a single **Clouded Yellow** butterfly, not unexpected for the number reported recently in Nottinghamshire. We managed a couple of images but by entering the pit edge we became aware that there was a second **Clouded Yellow** nearby (**Below left**) ©G. Hobson. A great start to the day and a first sighting for some of my walkers. On the pit itself we saw a single Little Egret, 3 **Common Sandpipers**, a pair of Shoveler, a couple of Common Tern and several Egyptian Geese, amongst the many Greylags loafing here. Heading further and over the River Idle we headed to view Tiln North where another single Little Egret was noted alongside at least eight Little Grebes and a couple of Teal.





Here we saw a **Silver-Y moth** feeding on Hogweed (**Above right**) ©V. Bell. We then returned walking back to Chainbridge Scrape (East) where we saw up to four Little Egret, another **Common Sandpiper**, a juvenile **Greenshank**, a single ♂ **Wigeon**, six Shoveler, a Grey Heron and a Moorhen with 2 juveniles. Still time to see Hobby here but sadly none were showing, and just a couple of distant Buzzard were noted over Lound village. Walking down the ramp from the screen we saw a single **Willow Emerald Damselfly**. Arriving back at the car parking area we said our goodbyes until the next walk, but some of us decided to meet at the Rural Learning Centre for a cuppa. Here we saw a pair of Egyptian Geese with up to 7 goslings walk out of sight behind the island. Not a very extensive list but a nice short walk and highlights being the Clouded Yellow butterflies and the Greenshank. (**Above image**) ©K. Driver.

Gary Hobson (Walk Leader)

My next walks will be on: -

Wednesday 21st October – 'Footsteps into Nature' – 'Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk at Idle Valley NR.

Meet at Chainbridge Lane at the 'Beaver Tour' parking area at 9:00am until midday. We will do a steady loop to all the Neatholme viewing screens returning back via Cross Lane. Looking for autumn migrants, early winter visiting birds and other wildlife. Leader is Gary Hobson.

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

Lound Bird Club

General 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 a Night!

We held our first indoor meeting of this season on Wednesday 23rd September, having invited renowned local photographer, **Royston Packer** to give us his '**A Wildlife Journey**' talk. We all enjoyed the spellbinding bird and wildlife imagery and the often hard hitting reality of how fragile our wildlife is. Added to this, his brilliant use of audio recordings certainly worked well alongside each section of his presentation. Thanking Royston afterwards, I described it as a "sensory overload" and in my opinion, it could well be the best LBC presentation I have ever seen. Many thanks to all who attended and to Royston for making it a great night. (**Below image**) ©K. Driver



What's On

Sunday 25th October - Bird Walk at Idle Valley NR. Meeting along Chainbridge Lane at the 'Kissing Gate' by the Horse Paddock at 09:00am until 12:00pm. Walking a loop to Neatholme Pits then returning via Hawthorn Lane & Chainbridge Lane. Looking for autumn migrants and hopefully some early wintering birds.

Wednesday 28th October 2026 - Peter Garrity presenting a talk titled 'Barn Owls - The Inside Story'.

Tonight, Peter will dig deep into the history of one of the UK's most popular and yet mysterious birds. He will share his own two year intimate story spent monitoring and filming these enigmatic creatures. "In the summer of 2023, I thought to myself - why not put an owl box up? I might get a Tawny Owl or Kestrel nesting in the following breeding season and that would be interesting!" I set about designing and constructing a box and eventually put it up in a large Oak tree at the end of my garden. I also installed cameras inside and out to record any activity - and then I waited. I never realised what incredible events would occur over the next two years. There were depressing lows but also euphoric highs along the way - every emotion-packed moment recorded on camera with some never witnessed before footage. This is a story of natural selection and survival. Was all of the effort, stress and time worth it? I will let you decide!



Peter Garrity has been an ornithologist for over 50 years. He is a long standing member, trustee and newsletter editor of the Sheffield Bird Study Group. He is also an amateur wildlife photographer and videographer. A number of his photographs have appeared in national and local publications, and his videos have featured in various TV productions in the UK and North America.

Lound Bird Club Mugs for Sale

We have produced a batch of Lound Bird Club mugs featuring the club logo on both sides of the cup. If you would like one or two, they are just £3.50 each. Cups will once again be available at the next indoor meeting (details above) or let one of the committee know and we can arrange to get one too you. **(Below image) ©S. Davenport.**



Obituary - Dr. Derick Scott

Renowned ornithologist Dr. Derick Scott has passed away peacefully surrounded by his family. A keen naturalist and photographer, Derick was the UK's (if not the world's) leading authority on the Long-Eared Owl, spending over 4 decades studying the species for his definitive text, *The Long-Eared Owl*. Derick's devotion to ornithology took him around the globe and he conducted valuable research into repairing injured birds of prey at the University of Minnesota as well as studying the owl species of Sweden. Closer to home, for many years Derick was writer of *The Telegraph's* a Country Diary and the Chair of NWT's Retford Group. Often found surveying and photographing at local reserves, Derick also worked as an adviser to EDF Energy and led educational visits at the Cottam Power Station nature reserve. I am sure many members of Lound Bird Club will have fond memories of Derick, who loved to tell a tale and could captivate any audience with his knowledge, enthusiasm and wit. Derick Scott, ornithologist, writer, photographer and genuinely bloody great chap, rest easy my friend.

Ann Marie Edwards

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) – 2026/27 'Core Count' Dates

11th October	22nd November	13th December	17th January	21st February
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A one Sunday per month survey of wetland birds recorded on the 'Sutton & Lound Gravel Pit' (Idle Valley NR) 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](#) 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 August 2026 compiled by Gary Hobson.

August, unlike the normally quiet month of July, is traditionally the start of autumn, and the beginning of the annual immigration of continental ducks. Many long distance migrant waders also begin to drop-in or move through in favourable weather conditions. Many of our resident summer visiting birds begin to leave us for their southern wintering grounds and several scarce passerines can be spotted resting on their own journey south. It can be a time of great birdwatching delights. A huge number of reports are included here, being sourced mainly from the bird club WhatsApp and Facebook pages, Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers web sightings and once again from the e-bird recording app.

There was a Lound Bird Club trip on the 16th to RSPB Frampton Marsh on the Lincolnshire Coast which turned out to be a very good days birding despite water levels there being critically low. A WeBS Count was completed on the 16th with a record number of Gadwall present across the recording area.

A single WeBS Count total of 234 **Canada Goose** on the 16th. Two notable reports of **Greylag Goose** included 819 recorded on WeBS Count the 16th and 380 noted on the reserve on the 29th. A good count of 81 **Mute Swan** were recorded on WeBS Count the 16th. A few counts of **Egyptian Goose** were notable, including 43 on the WeBS Count on the 16th, 14 on the 28th and 20 on the 29th. A late breeding pair at Bellmoor Lake had seven small goslings on the main island on the 19th with just three remaining on the 29th. Maybe this pair had timed their brood to evade the Lesser Black-backed Gulls that were now at the very end of their own breeding season? A single report of two **Shelduck** on the 29th. This single ♀/immature **Garganey** was noted at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 26th, 28th and 31st (**Below images**) ©P. Hobson.



A single WeBS Count total of 43 **Shoveler** present on the 16th. A record breaking WeBS Count total of 732 **Gadwall** across the recording area on the 16th. Four reports of **Wigeon**, including 3 on the WeBS Count on the 16th, two at Neatholme Fen on the 18th and three birds at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 23rd & 29th. A single WeBS Count total of 416 **Mallard** present on the 16th. Two reports of **Pintail**, including 2 ♀'s on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 27th and three birds on Neatholme Pit on the 30th. A single WeBS Count total of 45 **Teal** present on the 16th. Four notable counts of **Red-crested Pochard**, including 25 in the Neatholme area on the 10th, 17 on the WeBS Count on the 16th, 21 on the reserve on the 22nd and finally 12 were on Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 23rd. A single WeBS Count total of 125 **Pochard** present on the 16th. A single WeBS Count total of 260 **Tufted Duck** present on the 16th. A single **Goldeneye** was noted at Neatholme Scrape on the 22nd. Two reports of **Grey Partridge**, including 8 birds at The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 18th and two reported on the 29th. Four reports of **Swift**, including 100+ along the River Idle on the 18th, two over Neatholme Bridge on the 21st, 8 over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 27th and finally a single bird was noted on the 29th. Another single juvenile **Cuckoo** was reported on the reserve on the 23rd. Just a single report of a single **Turtle Dove** singing along Neatholme Lane on the 11th. A bird that is generally under recorded because of its generally shy nature during the breeding season. Hopefully, the few pairs that return to the reserve each spring continue to do well here. Three reports of single calling **Water Rail** at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 27th, 28th and 30th. Two WeBS Count totals of 51 **Moorhen** and 593 **Coot** present on the 16th. WeBS count totals of 51 **Little Grebe** and 21 **Great Crested Grebe** present on the 16th. Seven reports of **Black-necked Grebe**, presumably all from Neatholme Scrape, including a single reported on the 10th, five (including 2 juveniles) on the 11th, a single on the 16th, two on the 17th, a single on the 22nd, three on the 24th, four on the 26th and finally two on the 31st. Previous reports of up to six birds on a private area off the Idle Valley NR ended in failure to successfully breed, likely the result of constant human disturbance. A single report of a single **Oystercatcher** on the reserve on the 29th. Just three notable reports of **Lapwing**, including 187 during the WeBS Count on the 16th, 105 on the 29th and 173 at Neatholme Fen on the 31st. A single report of a single **Golden Plover** resting on floating weed at Bellmoor Lake on the 1st. Several reports of **Ringed Plover**, including a single at Neatholme Fen on the 11th, a single was noted during the WeBS Count on the 16th, with four at Neatholme Fen on the 18th and two were reported on the 30th. Elsewhere, Chainbridge Scrape (East) held one or two from the 28th until the 30th. Several reports of **Little Ringed Plover** over the month, including singles at Neatholme Fen on the 10th & 30th, a single was noted during the WeBS Count on the 16th, two were reported on the reserve on the 26th, four were at Tilm North and a further three were on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 26th, four

were on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 27th with single juveniles noted here again on the 30th & 31st. A single report of a single **Curlew** on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 25th. Three reports of **Black-tailed Godwit**, including this flock of 37 which flew into Chainbridge Pit to roost at 18:00pm on the 1st **(Below image)** ©S. Wilson, two were on Neatholme Fen on the 10th and a single was noted at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 28th.



Several **Ruff** were reported with three on the WeBS Count on the 16th, two at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 18th, with three there on the 28th, two there on the 30th and a single remaining on the 31st. A further single was also noted at Tiln North on the 27th. Six reports of single **Dunlin**, including a bird at Tiln North on the 9th, moving to Neatholme Fen and noted there from the 10th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 29th and 30th. Four reports of **Little Stint**, including a single at Tiln North on the 27th, three were then noted at Neatholme Fen on the 28th, with a single there again on the 29th and two birds noted there on the 31st. Several reports of **Snipe** across the reserve throughout the month, including peak counts of 9 on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 13th, 15 on the WeBS Count on the 16th, 9 on Neatholme Fen on the 17th with 8 birds also reported on the reserve on the 16th & 29th. Many reports of **Common Sandpiper** across the recording area throughout. Here are all the reports based on dates, locations and numbers reported: -

Location/Date	14th	15th	16th	18th	19th	21st	23rd	24th	26th	28th	30th	31st
Chainbridge NR (E)				1	1			1	2	1	1	1
Tiln North											1	
Chainbridge Pit	2	2			3	1	1				2	
Location Not Given			4									
Totals	2	2	4	1	4	1	1	1	2	1	4	1

Many reports of **Green Sandpiper** across the recording area throughout. Here are all the reports based on dates, locations and numbers reported: -

Location/Date	10th	11th	13th	15th	16th	18th	23rd	26th	27th	28th	31st
Neatholme Fen	7	3				2		2			
Chainbridge NR (E)		1	1			1	1		2	2	1
Tiln North			1				1	2	5	2	
Chainbridge Pit				2			1	2		2	1
Location Not Given					5						
Totals	7	4	2	2	5	3	3	6	7	6	2

Many reports of **Greenshank** across the recording area throughout. Here are all the reports based on dates, locations and numbers reported: -

Location/Date	15th	16th	17th	19th	21st	22nd	23rd	26th	27th	28th	30th	31st
Neatholme Scrape						1						
Chainbridge NR (E)				1			2	1				
Tiln North			2				2	3	2	2	1	
Chainbridge Pit	1				1					2	1	2
Location Not Given		4										
Totals	1	4	2	1	1	1	4	4	2	4	2	2

Two single **Wood Sandpiper** were noted, including a bird on Tiln North from the 9th-13th, then moving to Chainbridge Pit from the 14th-15th and a final report of a single at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 25th. A single **Spotted Redshank** was noted at Chainbridge Pit throughout the day on the 31st. A couple of notable counts of **Common Gull**, including 51 at Bellmoor Lake on the 1st and 256 at Bellmoor Lake on the 6th. One count of five **Herring Gull** at Bellmoor Lake on the 6th. A single report of a 3rd/4th-summer (4-5CY) **Caspian Gull** on Bellmoor Lake at 9:00pm on the 6th. Three reports of single **Yellow-legged Gull**, including an adult at Bellmoor Lake on the 6th, a single there again on the 9th and an adult again on Chainbridge Pit on the 14th. After a seemingly successful breeding season, good numbers of **Common Tern** remained, with peak counts of 8 on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 13th, 20 on the reserve on the 22nd, 12 on Neatholme Scrape on the 24th and 10 at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 27th. Six reports of single **Glossy Ibis**, including at Tiln North on the 18th then noted commuting between Chainbridge Pit and Chainbridge Scrape (East) from the 21st until the 31st. Two reports of single **Bittern** at both Chainbridge Scrapes on the 23rd and another flying over Neatholme Pit on the 29th. Three reports of **Cattle Egret**, including singles during the WeBS Count on the 16th, at Neatholme Scrape and Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 24th with two together at Tiln North on the 27th. A single notable count of 11 **Grey Heron** during the WeBS Count on the 16th. Many reports of one or two (possibly up to three) **Great White Egret** noted on eight dates throughout. (Below image) ©G. Hobson.



Plenty of **Little Egret** were reported across the recording area with peak counts of 3 on the 13th, 11 during the WeBS Count on the 16th, 6 on the 18th, 7 on the 23rd, 5 on both the 28th & 30th with 6 again on the 31st. A single report of a single **Sparrowhawk** over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 23rd. A minimum of four different **Marsh Harrier** were present throughout, including an adult ♀ along the River Idle on the 18th, a 'cream-crowned' immature/♀ at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 26th & 31st, an immature ♂ reported on the reserve on the 23rd and an adult ♂ at Clayworth Common & Tiln North on the 23rd, 26th & 27th. Reports of unspecified birds were three at Tiln North on the 28th, 2 reported on the reserve on the 29th and finally 2 were at Neatholme Fen on the 31st. A single report of a single **Red Kite** over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 28th. Four reports of single **Kingfisher**, including reports on the 16th and 19th, at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 23rd and at Neatholme Pit on the 31st. Several reports of one or two **Green Woodpecker** on seven dates throughout with birds generally noted along Neatholme Lane and on both of the Chainbridge Scrapes. Two **Kestrel** were noted at Tiln North on the 23rd. Several single **Hobby** were reported throughout the month, including a report on the reserve on the 1st, over Neatholme area on the 11th, at Clayworth Common and Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 13th & 18th, a bird was photographed at Bellmoor Lake taking a House Martin on the wing on the 22nd and at Linghurst Wood on the 31st. The only multiple bird sighting was three over Neatholme Fen on the 30th. A single report of a single **Peregrine** over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 26th. Four reports of **Raven**, including a single calling over Lound village on the 6th, a single reported on the 16th, a single high heading NW over Tiln North on the 23rd and finally two over Linghurst Wood on the 31st. A notable count of 22 **House Martin** over Neatholme Bridge and The Willows (Clayworth Copse) on the 21st. A couple of notable reports of **Chiffchaff** from The Willows (Clayworth Copse) were 9 & 21 birds were ringed on the 18th & 21st respectively. A couple of notable reports of **Reed Warbler** from The Willows (Clayworth Copse) were 2 & 4 birds were ringed on the 18th & 21st respectively. A couple of notable reports of **Blackcap** from The Willows (Clayworth Copse) were 4 & 12 birds were ringed on the 18th & 21st respectively. A couple of notable reports of **Garden Warbler** from The Willows (Clayworth Copse) were 1 & 2 birds were ringed on the 18th & 21st respectively. A couple of notable reports of **Whitethroat** from The Willows (Clayworth Copse) were 28 & 6 birds were ringed on the 18th & 21st respectively. The total number of birds ringed by North Notts Ringing Group at this site was 64 & 60 on the 18th & 21st respectively. A single report of three **Stonechat** (a pair plus a single juvenile) at the Conservation Lake on the 11th, possibly a local pair that may have bred undetected this summer?

A single report of a single **Wheatear** just outside the recording area at Babworth on the 16th. Four reports of **Yellow Wagtail**, including two on Clayworth Common and a further 9 birds at Tilm North on the 13th, 7 on the 16th and a single on the 29th. A single report of a single **Grey Wagtail** on the reserve on the 29th. Up to 8 **Pied Wagtail** were feeding in grassland at Bluebell Fishery on the 23rd. Two reports of **Bullfinch**, including a pair along Cross Lane on the 18th and a single was reported on the 29th. Two reports of **Yellowhammer** including a pair with a single juvenile on Clayworth Common on the 10th with a male noted again on Clayworth Common on the 18th.

Feral/Escapes/Unconfirmed

A single report of a ♀/immature **Lesser Scaup** at Neatholme Scrape on the 22nd and noted again there on the 24th. If accepted by Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers Rarity Committee this would become the third record for the recording area.

B. Hedley, J. Hedley, L. Shield, M. Lambert, B. Wigglesworth, M. Wigglesworth, P. Burrill, T. Hibbert, P. Harrison, K. Roberts, P. Cox, S. Wilson, A. Blackburn, S. Came, B. Foster, K. Fisher, D. Anderson, C. Collins, J Woods, C. McKee, T. Furguson, I. Cowgill, D. Richardson, 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, Andy, Greg, 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 the 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. The header image is an Oak Beauty moth painted by ©Annie Verkade.

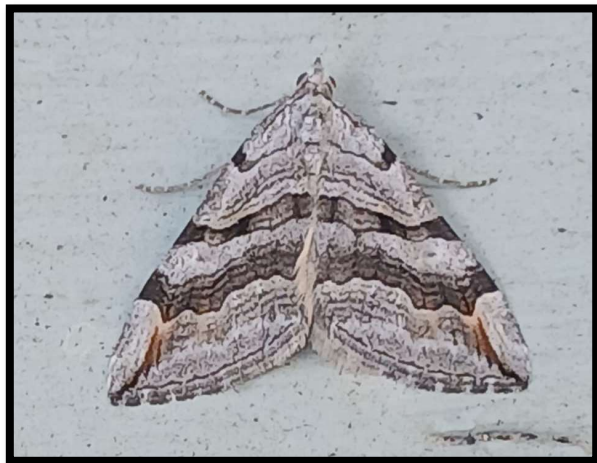
Moth trapping sessions across the recording area were as follows: - Bellmoor Lake on the 1st & 28th. Chainbridge Meadows on the 8th and Neatholme Scrape on the 21st & 28th.

MACRO MOTH HIGHLIGHTS – August 2026

This **69.007 Pine Hawkmoth *Sphinx pinastri*** was trapped using 125w MV at Bellmoor Lake on the 1st (**Below left**) ©G. Hobson. A trapping session at Chainbridge Meadows on the 8th recorded a single **72.078 Red Underwing *Catocala nupta*** (**Below centre**) ©P. Hobson, a single **72.049 Orange Footman *Eilema sororcula*** (**Below right**) ©P. Hobson, and a single **70.192 Treble-bar *Aplocera plagiata***, (**Bottom left**) ©P. Hobson, all three to 30w LED.



A single **70.069 Dark Spinach *Pelurga comitata***, was also recorded at Chainbridge Meadows on the 8th, this time attracted to 125w MV (**Bottom right**) ©P. Hobson.



A trapping session at Neatholme Scrape on the 21st produced three **73.294 Southern Wainscot *Mythimna straminea***, to both 125w MV (1) and 30w LED (2) **(Below left) ©P. Hobson**. A trapping session at Bellmoor Lake on the 28th produced three **73.151 Webb's Wainscot *Globia sparganii***, to both 125w MV (2) and 30w LED (1) **(Below right) ©P. Hobson**. Finally, a single **72.076 Cliften Nonpareil *Catocala fraxini*** was netted and a **70.038 The Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria*** to 30w LED at Bellmoor Barn Field on the 28th.



MICRO MOTH HIGHLIGHTS – August 2026

A trapping session at Bellmoor on the 1st produced single **45.02 Beautiful Plume *Amblyptilia acanthadactyla*** to 30w LED **(Below left) ©G. Hobson**. The same session on the 1st, also saw two moths netted and potted for identification, including a **63.06 Chequered Pearl *Evergestis pallidata***, **(Below centre) ©P. Hobson**, and a single **17.006 Dark-tufted Scallop *Ypsolopha horridella***, which is a new addition to the reserve list **(Below right) ©G. Hobson**.



A trapping session at Chainbridge Meadows on the 8th produced single **49.291 Great Root-borer *Epiblema grandaevana*** to 125w MV **(Below left) ©C. Watkin**, and a single **45.04 Mugwort Plume *Hellinsia lienigianus***

was netted and potted for identification and confirmed by Martin Gray (the county micro moth recorder) and is a new addition for the reserve list and only the 2nd Nottinghamshire record (**Below right**) ©G. Hobson.



A trapping session at Bellmoor Lake on the 28th saw a single 'mompha' species, thought to be **46.006 Obscure Mompha *Mompha durassicella*** to 30w LED. It is very similar to two other species and can only be added to the reserve list as a aggregate (agg) (**Below left**) ©P. Hobson. Another important find during the session on the 28th was a single **62.053 Saltmarsh Knot-horn *Ancylosis oblitella***, netted and potted for identification and was a new addition to the reserve list (**Below right**) ©P. Hobson.



Other Nature Sightings for August 2026 compiled by Gary Hobson.

Butterflies – The following table gives the daily totals of the scarcer 'none-white' butterflies species noted across the reserve/recording area throughout the month with peak numbers highlighted in bold: -

Species/Date	2nd	3rd	7th	9th	10th	14th	17th	19th	23rd	24th	28th	30th	31st
Clouded Yellow				1				2	25	6	3	11	10
Meadow Brown		5		2	4	1	1						
Gatekeeper		8		4	8								
Red Admiral		2	10			1							1
Painted Lady			3	1	1							1	
Peacock	1									1		1	
Comma						1							
Smal Copper				6	5								
Holly Blue			1		1								
Brown Argus						1			1			1	
Common Blue		1		7		2			8	2		3	1

Noted highlights were as follows: - A single **Clouded Yellow** was at Broom Wood on the 9th, with large numbers then being noted from the 19th onwards, with two at Chainbridge Pit, with 25 then split between Tiln North (20), Chainbridge Pit (3), Conservation Lake/Clayworth Common (1) and Wetlands Lakes (1) on the 23rd. Smaller numbers were then noted, mainly from Chainbridge Pit or Tiln North but odd singles were also noted at Tiln Wood and Tiln Pool (**Below**) ©G. Hobson. A few scattered sightings of **Painted Lady's** throughout and a single **Comma** at Sandy Hills on the 14th were also notable.



Dragonflies & Damselflies – The following table gives the daily totals of the scarcer Damselfly and Dragonfly species noted across the reserve/recording area throughout the month with peak numbers highlighted in bold: -

Species/Date	3rd	7th	9th	10th	14th	17th	24th	25th	31st
Willow Emerald Damselfly		2			1				2
Migrant Hawker	2	2		3		8	7		8
Southern Hawker		2							
Brown Hawker		1	2		1			1	1
Emperor Dragonfly						1			
Ruddy Darter	1		7						
Red-veined Darter							1		

Noted highlights were as follows: - Five different **Willow Emerald Damselfly** were recorded from four locations across the reserve/recording area on three dates throughout (**Below left**) ©V. Bell. A maximum total of 30 individual **Migrant Hawker**, recorded from eleven locations across the reserve/recording area on six dates throughout. Eight different **Ruddy Darter** were recorded from two locations across the reserve/recording area on two dates throughout. Another migrant **Red-veined Darter** was recorded at Chainbridge Pit on the 24th and was confirmed by the county recorder. The following **Brown Hawker** posed well near Tiln Pool on the 25th (**Below right**) ©G. Hobson.



Mammals – A single **Common Mole** was noted along the path around Bellmoor Lake on the 23rd.

J. Brown, M. Vickers, 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 - October 2026 issue

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust - What's On & Reserve News + Wildlife Watch Group - What's On & Session Review + Footsteps into Nature - What's On & Walk Review + Lound Bird Club - What's On & Bird News for September 2026 + Lound Moth Group - Review for September 2026 + Other Nature Sightings for September 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**