# Idle Valley Nature Sightings

## October 2026

### Shoreline habitat & public viewing improvements around the Reserve

In addition to the recent clearing work at Chainbridge Scrape (West) which was included in the September bulletin, further scrub clearing work has been done to improve both shoreline habitats and to improve public viewing in several areas over the reserve. A large area at Bellmoor Lake directly in front of the Rural Learning Centre building plus the annual clearing of vegetation on the main island there. Elsewhere, and midway across the reserve, at Tiln Pits (overlooking Tiln Pool), where the Willow and Bramble scrub has been cleared on the north side along the Tiln Wood Circular walking route. These improvements are very much welcomed as we can now view the pits easier and it makes monitoring bird numbers more accurate. A big thanks again to the NWT staff and volunteers who have been involved in this work. Gary Hobson.

### Bird Ringing Demonstration at Daneshill Lakes Nature Reserve - Saturday 7th November 2026

The Annual Bird Ringing Demonstration will (weather permitting) go ahead at Daneshill Lakes NR on Saturday 7th November beginning at 9:00am and finishing at 12:00pm. Once again, a team from the North Notts Ringing Group led by Adrian Blackburn will carry out the demonstration, not only showing their expertise and informing visitors of the importance of the data collected but also providing a wonderful opportunity for visitors to see birds up close. Last year, alongside many common birds, we witnessed a Treecreeper, Lesser Redpoll and even a very feisty Jay being ringed by the bird ringers. This demonstration is open to all visitors to Daneshill Lakes, situated on Daneshill Road, Torworth, DN22 8RB (Follow signs of the A638). Car parking is free and refreshments available.

### 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 3rd December – 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.

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

Our October meeting was at Daneshill Lakes "Bugs and Bark". We walked down to the main lake with swan and duck food which was also very popular with some Canada Geese. Then we went back along the track to the picnic area, looking for oak trees and spotting insects, spiders and woodlice under the bar and leaf litter. On the way back to the car park, we looked for fungi under the trees. We saw **Hoof Fungus**, **Birch Polypore (Below left)** and **Powdered**

**Ruffle lichen** on the trees **(Below centre)**. Under the trees, on dead wood, there was **Jelly Rot**, **Yellowing Curtain Crust**, **Birch Woodwart**, **Blushing Bracket (Below right)** , **Sheathed Woodtuft** and **Alder Scalycap**.





## 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 14th November** and the theme will be **'Owl Suppers'**.

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# Footsteps into Nature

**Local Birdwatching & Wildlife Walk Group**

**Review of the 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' walk from Friday 25th September 2026**

My walk began at the 'Beaver Tour' car park, off Chainbridge Lane, where we heard **Green Woodpecker** initially but before we set of a calling **Great Spotted Woodpecker** was also noted. We walked east past Chainbridge Meadows and crossed over Chainbridge Lane and walked along the hedge side track were just a single Chiffchaff was heard, and small number of Goldfinch were noted feeding on Teasel heads. We arrived at Chainbridge Scrape (East) viewpoints and where we immediately saw the recently reported **Glossy Ibis**, this bird having been present locally for a couple of months. We had great views of the ibis, and for some a new species. A few photographs were taken but the afternoon light was not great, so here is my effort of the Glossy Ibis **(Below) ©G. Hobson.**



Spending quite a long time here we also saw a few waders, including, a single **Dunlin**, a single Snipe and two **Ruff.** We saw a 'cream-crowned' immature female **Marsh Harrier** distantly then a few minutes later a second **Marsh Harrier**, this time an adult female which was quartering the Chainbridge Scrape (West) area. Single Great White Egret, Little Egret and Grey Heron were spotted, and a fairly distant **Hobby** was noted over the old Windsurf Pool. We then walked along Chainbridge Lane to the river bridge before back tracking to view Chainbridge Pit. Here we saw three Grey Heron, two Great White Egret and up to three Little Egret. Apart from a few Lapwing the only notable wader was a **Greenshank** that was initially heard calling before being spotted on the distant western shoreline. A single Reed Bunting flew out of Willows, I heard a couple of Linnet overhead and we saw a mobile flock of around 15 Goldfinch. There was a notable influx of waterfowl, with a sizable number of Shoveler present. We left here and began the long loop walk alongside the River Idle around Chainbridge Pit, heading towards Tiln Wood. A couple of **Jays** were noted, and a single **Kestrel** was also flushed from the riverside trees. We soon turned away from the river and headed towards the southern end of Alan's Meadow, but very little was noted other than a single Chiffchaff again and a calling Great Spotted Woodpecker. We snook a peek at the Lower Sheep Fields which were covered in sheep and geese, with what I assumed to be a record count of 54 **Egyptian Geese**. We heard a single **Raven** calling nearby but could not see it for the tall tree screens. A few very large **Puff Ball** fungus were noted in the Sheep Field and another sizeable flock of Goldfinch fed on distant Teasel heads again. This plant is a significant source of finch food from late autumn and throughout the winter so please remember to leave any Teasel alone after they have seeded. Just before we left here, we could hear a distant **Green Woodpecker** calling and a single Buzzard was noted at some distance behind the farm. We then took a steady walk back towards Chainbridge Meadows and noted the weedy crops in Alan's Meadow was now exposed to the feeding Longhorn cattle. We got back to the car parking area and I thanked everyone, but as we all began to leave, I stupidly went and backed my car into the metal gate. The score was Gate 1, Car 0. Not what you need to happen on a Friday evening but thankfully a scrapyard in Nottingham graced me with a complete replacement tailgate on the following Monday morning. £140 out of pocket but fitting was free, doing it myself. I will not be doing that again!

Ros Schwarz adds: - Not much to report from Friday's walk in the way of botany, although the recent rain has led to a flush of growth. Lots of **Yarrow** in flower, some **Ragwort** and occasional **Red Campion** and **White Campion**. A common but often overlooked little plant, **Knotgrass** *Polygonum aviculare* caught my eyes as it was in flower along several paths.

My next walks will be on: -

**Sunday 15th November** – **'Footsteps into Nature' "A Big Thank You" - Celebration Day!**

This will be open to anyone who has attended any of my walks over the past three years.

I am planning to have a short walk around Bellmoor Lake/Pits in the morning, meeting in the reserve car park 10:00am until 11:30am, then have a leisurely lunch break, followed by another short walk in the northern part of the reserve in the afternoon, meeting at the Beaver Tour car parking area at 13:30pm until dusk.

Weather permitting, we will also do a short moth trapping session, to end the day. Please come along and join in as much as you can. I understand it may be difficult to attend the whole day. It will just be great to see everyone who has enjoyed my walks over these past few years. There will be a surprise free gift for everyone who joins me on the day.

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**

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# 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's On

**Sunday 22nd November - Bird Walk** at **Idle Washlands (09:00am until 12:00pm)**. We will meet at Slaynes Lane for a short walk around the Idle Washlands NR, hoping to see a good selection of returning winter wildfowl and if we are lucky some waders. ///provoking.spices.dolly

## Lound Bird Club - Merchandise

Various types of Lound Bird Club merchandise, featuring the club 'Little Gull' logo and name, are available direct from Iron Tree Designs Ltd, 110 Carolgate, Retford, DN22 6AS. Tel. (01777) 594101. https://www.irontreedesigns.co.uk/ Just go in, ask for the Lound Bird Club logo which they have on their system and choose your own clothing/size/colour. A wide selection of Coats, Hoodies, Jumpers, T-shirts, Polo shirts and Caps are available at fairly reasonable prices (two examples shown below). Buy as a gift for yourself or for a loved one. We have also recently 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 or let one of the committee know and we can arrange to get one too you**.**










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

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22nd November | 13th December | 17th January | 21st February | 21st March | 11th April |

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 September 2026 compiled by Gary Hobson.

Two reports of **Pink-footed Goose**, including c100 in four small skeins on the 22nd and c70 in two small flocks heading North over Retford on the 30th. The pair of **Egyptian Goose** that had bred late at Bellmoor Lake were still watching over four juveniles on the 13th and 18th. Good numbers were present elsewhere across the reserve and recording area with notable counts of 10 at both the Lower Sheep Fields and Chainbridge Pit on the 11th and 14th respectively. However, a huge gathering later in the month at the Lower Sheep Fields of 54 birds was possibly a local record count, certainly the highest group noted in 2026. Just two reports of **Shelduck**, including three juveniles at Tiln North on the 4th and a single at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 21st **(Below) ©M.B. Vickers**.



The single ♀/immature **Garganey** from August remained, being noted again on Neatholme Fen on the 5th and finally at Neatholme Scrape on the 7th. A single notable count of **Shoveler** was 300+ at Chainbridge Pit on the 20th. A small numbers of **Wigeon** at Neatholme Fen rose from just three on the 7th to 40 by the 11th and just 8 birds were present at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 24th. Three reports of **Pintail**, including two birds at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 11th and 13th with a single ♀ on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 14th. A single count of 30 **Teal** was reported on the reserve on the 21st. Three reports of groups of **Red-crested Pochard**, including 8 at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 11th with 32 there on the 21st and a count of 12 on the reserve on the 26th. Two very unusually early immature/♀ **Goosander** were noted at Chainbridge Pit on the 2nd. Just a single report of three **Swift** flying over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 2nd with none noted after this date. Two late reports of single **Turtle Dove** noted at Walters Lane on the 2nd and finally from Walters Farm on the 12th. Three **Collared Dove** were noted at Walters Farm on the 13th. Single calling **Water Rail** were noted from Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 12th, 13th, 14th and 30th. A single notable count of 9 **Little Grebe** at Tiln North on the 4th. A group of six **Great Crested Grebe** at Bellmoor Lake on the 19th, with a single at Neatholme Fen on the 28th. A single **Oystercatcher** was noted at Bellmoor Lake from the 18th-24th being joined by another there on the 25th. A single was noted at Neatholme Fen on the 28th. Three notable reported counts of **Lapwing**, including 440 on the reserve on the 21st, 100 on the reserve on the 26th and 23 were at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 28th. All reports of **Ringed Plover** were from Chainbridge Scrape (East) with 1-3 birds present on various dates between the 2nd and 21st. There was also an additional report of six birds on the reserve on the 9th. Four reports of **Little Ringed Plover**, all from Chainbridge Scrape (East), with four present on the 2nd then 1-2 birds remaining there from the 11th until the 14th. Five reports of **Black-tailed Godwit**, including two at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 2nd, a single there on the 7th, two on Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 13th, with further singles again on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 14th and 27th. A single 'injured' **Knot** was present and giving close views on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 13th and 14th. The bird was almost permanently stood on one leg holding the other under its belly, yet the leg was not obviously damaged **(Below) ©G. Hobson.**



A small number of **Ruff** were present on Chainbridge Scrape (East) throughout, with 1-3 birds including a moulting but still 'white' male which was easy to spot amongst other birds there. A count of six birds on the reserve on the 9th, may have involved the same birds moving around, as a single was also noted at Neatholme Fen on the 21st and Chainbridge Pit on the 25th. Six reports of **Dunlin**, all from Chainbridge Scrape (East), with singles on the 2nd, 24th and 25th, two on the 26th, a single on the 27th and finally four birds were present on the 28th. Several reports of **Snipe**, and mainly noted from Chainbridge Scrape (East), with 6 there on the 24th and rising to 8 birds on the 27th and 28th. Five were noted at Neatholme Fen on the 11th and a single was at Bellmoor Lake on the 13th.

Many reports of **Common Sandpiper** across the recording area throughout. Here are all the reports based on dates, locations and numbers reported: - **(Below) ©M.B. Vickers.**

| **Location/Date** | **2nd** | **4th** | **5th** | **10th** | **11th** | **14th** | **21st** | **27th** | **28th** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chainbridge S (E) | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| Tiln North | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Chainbridge Pit | | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | |
| Chainbridge S (W) | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| **Totals** | **1** | **2** | **1** | **2** | **1** | **2** | **1** | **1** | **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** | **1st** | **2nd** | **4th** | **7th** | **9th** | **11h** | **12th** | **13th** | **14th** | **21st** | **24th** | **27th** | **28th** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Neatholme Fen | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | |
| Chainbridge S (E) | | 5 | | | 5 | | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Tiln North | 1 | | 2 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Chainbridge Pit | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Chainbridge S (W) | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| **Totals** | **1** | **5** | **2** | **1** | **5** | **1** | **1** | **3** | **1** | **3** | **2** | **3** | **2** |

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

| **Location/Date** | **1st** | **2nd** | **4th** | **7th** | **10th** | **11th** | **12th** | **13th** | **14th** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Neatholme Scrape | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Chainbridge S (E) | | 2 | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Tiln North | 2 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | |
| Chainbridge Pit | | | 2 | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Chainbridge S (W) | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| **Totals** | **2** | **2** | **3** | **1** | **1** | **2** | **1** | **1** | **2** |



Two reports of **Redshank**, including two birds on the reserve on the 9th and a single was at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 28th. The single **Spotted Redshank** reported at the end of August remained, being noted again on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 1st, and at Chainbridge Pit on the 4th & 5th. Just three reports of **Common Tern**, including three at Neatholme Fen on the 7th and a single juvenile was at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 13th & 14th. A single juvenile **Black Tern** was present at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 13th, then noted again on both Chainbridge Scrape (East) & (West) before flying to Neatholme Scrape on the 14th. Presumably, the same bird was then noted over the Neatholme Lane Pits on the 20th. The single moulting **Glossy Ibis** remained throughout the month being noted mainly on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on fourteen dates with just a single sighting from Chainbridge Pit (its other favoured location) on the 5th **(Below left) ©A&D. Meads (Below right) ©M.B. Vickers.**





A single report of **Bittern** noted at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 20th. A single report of three **Cattle Egret** at Chainbridge Pit on the 11th. Though generally seen as singles, an unusually high count of 12 **Grey Heron** was noted at Neatholme Fen on the 7th with just four there on the 11th and just three were at Chainbridge Pit on the 25th.

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

| **Location/Date** | **7th** | **11th** | **12th** | **13th** | **20th** | **21st** | **22nd** | **24th** | **25th** | **26th** | **28th** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Neatholme Fen | 7 | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| Neatholme Scrape | | | | | | 4 | | | | | |
| Chainbridge S (E) | | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Cross Lane Marsh | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Chainbridge Pit | | | | | 2 | | | | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Chainbridge S (W) | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Bellmoor Lake | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| **Totals** | **7** | **4** | **1** | **1** | **2** | **6** | **1** | **3** | **3** | **2** | **3** |

The number of **Little Egret** present across the recording area is often difficult to ascertain with their habit of moving repeatedly from one location to the next in short low flights. However, an incredible count of 18 birds was noted on Neatholme Fen on the 7th. Generally, singles or pairs were then noted across the reserve until a count of six were noted on the reserve on the 26th and five birds were noted at Chainbridge Pit on the 28th. A single report of a single **Osprey** noted heading south over Tiln village on the 4th whilst attracting the attention of the local corvids. Five reports of single **Sparrowhawk** across the reserve, with a single ♀ over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 6th, with two ♂ birds noted at both the Chainbridge Pit and Chainbridge Scrape areas on the 11th and 13th, with further single birds noted on the reserve on the 25th and 26th. Once again there were numerous **Marsh Harrier** sightings reported. These including an adult ♂ over Cross Lane Marsh on the 11th, adult ♀ birds were noted over Chainbridge Pit on the 14th and over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 24th, 25th and 28th. Immature 'cream-crowed' birds were noted at the Water Ski Pit on the 11th, at Neatholme Pit on the 21st and at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 25th. Unsexed/unaged birds included a single at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 4th and two birds noted on the reserve on the 26th. Two reports of single **Red Kite** from the Cross Lane area on the 24th and reported over the reserve on the 26th. Seven reports of 1-3 **Kingfisher** noted from the 7th until the 28th, with two birds noted at Chainbridge Pit and a further single over the Chesterfield Canal near Clayworth on the 21st. Other favoured areas for sightings are Bellmoor Pits, the River Idle itself, Chainbridge Scrape (East), Neatholme Pit and Neatholme Fen, though birds can turn up almost anywhere across the reserve and the wider recording area. Four reports of **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, including singles at Retford (Hallcroft) Sewage Works on the 2nd, at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 14th and at Chainbridge Meadows on the 25th plus a further report of three reported on the reserve on the 9th. Seven reports of **Green Woodpecker** from five dates throughout and generally noted in all areas north of the Lower Sheep Fields. An exception was a sighting of up to three birds at Chainbridge Wood on the 24th, presumably including fledged juveniles. Four reports of **Kestrel**, including singles in the Chainbridge Lane/Tiln North areas on the 4th, 13th and 25th with two birds noted along the Chesterfield Canal at Clayworth on the 21st. Nine reports of 1-3 **Hobby** noted between the 2nd and 25th. Generally seen as singles, apart from two birds were noted over the Water Ski Pit on the 11th, two over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 13th, two over Bellmoor Lake on the 19th, three over Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 20th and two over Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 21st. Three single **Jay** were noted from three areas on the 10th and 25th. Three reports of single **Raven**, including one calling over Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 10th, a bird on the deck alongside Carrion Crows at Tiln North on the 13th and another calling bird again over the Lower Sheep Fields on the 25th. A single report of five **Sand Martin** feeding with Swallows over Retford (Hallcroft) Sewage Works on the 2nd. Four reports of **Swallow**, including 100+ over Retford (Hallcroft) Sewage Works on the 2nd, a single reported on the reserve on the 9th, two south over Cross Lane on the 21st and finally 4 reported on the reserve on the 25th. A single report of 20+ **House Martin** over Bellmoor Lake on the 18th. Three reports of **Chiffchaff**, including singles on the reserve on the 9th, at Bellmoor Lake on the 19th and up to 6 birds were reported over the reserve on the 25th. Two reports of **Blackcap**, including a singing ♂ at Bellmoor Lake on the 19th and a pair were reported on the reserve on the 25th. A single **Whitethroat** was reported on the reserve on the 9th. Two reports of single **Treecreeper** reported on the reserve on the 2nd and 25th. A single **Redwing** was noted in a hedge near Wetlands Fishery on the 27th. A single **Spotted Flycatcher** was noted at Broom Wood, Tiln on the 17th. Just two reports of **Stonechat**, including a pair were on Clayworth Common opposite Cross Lane end on the 9th with a single ♂ reported on the reserve on the 10th. Just two reports of **Yellow Wagtail**, including 2 juveniles at Tiln North on the 1st and a single at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 5th. Two reports of **Grey Wagtail**, including three at Retford (Hallcroft) Sewage Works on the 2nd and a single reported on the reserve on the 26th. Just a single report of 20 **Pied Wagtail** at Retford (Hallcroft) Sewage Works on the 2nd. A single **Meadow Pipit** was noted at Tiln North on the 28th. A group of 20 **Chaffinch** feeding along Walters Lane on the 13th was the first post breeding gathering. Two notable reports of **Linnet** at Tiln North, including 35 on the 21st and 45 on the 28th. Two notable flocks of **Goldfinch** on the 25th with 15 along the River Idle and 20+ on the Lower Sheep Fields. A scattering of **Siskin** reports including singles reported on the reserve on the 10th and 21st with two birds also reported on the 25th. A single notable report of 30+ **Reed Bunting** near Clayworth on the 21st.

**Feral/Escapes/Unconfirmed**

A single **Ring-necked Parakeet** was noted near the Morrisons store car park in Retford on the 22nd.

G. Thomson, A Pickles, J. Bradley, G. Widdison, A. McCallum, M. Wallhead, A & P. Meads, A. Griffin, N. Murphy, T. Cooper, B. Lea, J. Furguson, D. Shaw, A. Fairburn, S. Fairburn, M. McCallum, K. Roberts, A. Blackburn, S. Came, B. Foster, K. Fisher, D. Anderson, 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, 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: - At Bunker Wood/Bellmoor Pits on the 12th, at Bellmoor Lake on the 18th, at Neatholme Fen/Linghurst Lakes on the 19th, at Tiln Meadow on the 25th and finally at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 28th. No new species for the Idle Valley NR were recorded this month.

**MACRO MOTH HIGHLIGHTS – September 2026**

Several **69.010 Hummingbird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*** were recorded, including singles at gardens in Lound village on the 6th, 13th and 14th, all feeding on Buddleia. A single was feeding on Buddleia at Chainbridge Wood on the 14th. A late record of a single **72.055 Small Fanfoot *Herminia grisealis*** observed at Linghurst Lakes on the 11th An impressive 15 **70.081 Grey Pine/Spruce Carpet (agg) *Thera obeliscata/brittanica*** were recorded at light at Bunker Wood on the 12th. Single **72.076 Cliftden Nonpareil *Catocala fraxini*** were recorded at light at Bunker Wood on the 12th, at Bellmoor Lake on the 18th and Linghurst Lakes/Neatholme Fen on the 19th **(Below left & right) ©P. Hobson & ©G. Hobson**. This species is certainly on the rise across the whole country, despite the first record in Nottinghamshire being a single on this reserve as recent as the 6th September 2017. Single **73.010 Dewick's Plusia *Macdunnoughia confusa*** to light at Bunker Wood on the 12th and observed at Tiln North on the 25th.





Large numbers of **73.357 Square-spot Rustic *Xestia xanthographa*** were trapped, including an impressive 135 to light at Bunker Wood on the 12th. Several **74.007 Scarce Silver-lines *Bera bicolorana*** were noted, including two to light at Bunker Wood on the 12th and five to light at Linghurst Lakes/Neatholme Fen on the 19th **(Below) ©P. Hobson**. A couple of **70.093 Barred Straw *Gandaritis pyraliata*** were noted including to light at Bellmoor Lake on the 18th and one was noted at Tiln Meadows on the 25th. Two **70.038 Vestal *Rhodometra sacraria*** (one pink & one lemon) were observed at Tiln North on the 21st. Two single **73.202 Grey Shoulder-knot *Lithophane ornitopus*** were observed roosting on the viewing screens at Neatholme Scrape on the 16th and at Neatholme Pit on the 28th.



**MICRO MOTH HIGHLIGHTS – September 2026**

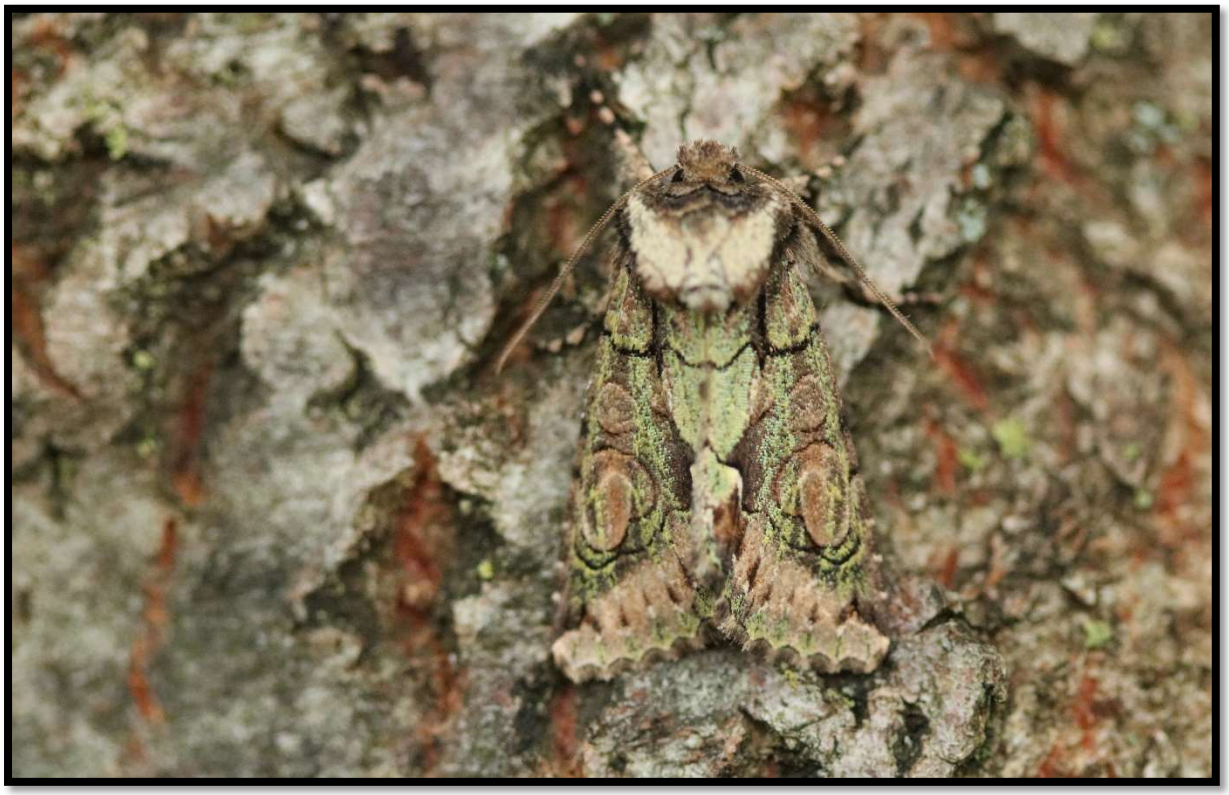
A single **17.011 Varied Ochre *Ypsolopha ustella*** was netted at Neatholme Pool on the 11th **(Below left) ©P. Cadman.** A single **15.089 Horse-chestnut Leaf-miner *Cameraria ohridella*** to light at Bunker Wood on the 12th. A single **62.038 Grey Oak Knot-horn *Acrobasis consociella*** to light at Bunker Wood on the 12th. A single **Pied Rabbit Moth *Ypsolopha sequella*** to light at Neatholme Fen on the 19th. A single **63.102 Chequered Grass-moth *Catoptria falsella*** to light at Neatholme Fen on the 19th **(Below right) ©P. Hobson**. Two records of **39.001 Hawthorn Berry Moth *Blastodacna hellerella***, to light at Bunker Wood on the 12th and to light at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 27th. A single **62.021 Rosy Knot-horn *Oncocera semimibella*** to light at Chainbridge Scrape (West) on the 27th was notable **(Bottom) ©G. Hobson**.







A fairly common early autum moth, the **73.068 Green Brindled Crescent *Allophyes oxyacanthae***, shown here blending into a moss covered Birch trunk. Lots of species have evolved to become criptic and difficult to see in daylight, which can protect them from preditors.



P. Hobson, C. Watkin, G. Hobson, T. Carter, S. Davenport, P. Cadman, I Hunt, Mel, P.J. Freeman, S Wright, M. Gray Lound Moth Group

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## **Other Nature Sightings for September 2026** compiled by Gary Hobson.

**Butterflies** – The following table gives the recorded 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 | 5th | 6th | 7th | 11th | 13th | 14th | 18th | 21st | 23rd | 25th | 26th | 28th |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clouded Yellow | 5 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 2 | **21** | | 4 | **1** | 1 | 20 | |
| Brimstone | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | |
| Speckled Wood | | 1 | 7 | 3 | | 5 | **17** | | | | | 9 |
| Red Admiral | | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 3 | | | 2 | | **5** |
| Peacock | | | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | | 2 |
| Comma | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Small Copper | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | | **5** | | 4 | | |
| Brown Argus | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Common Blue | | **5** | | | | 2 | | 1 | | | | |

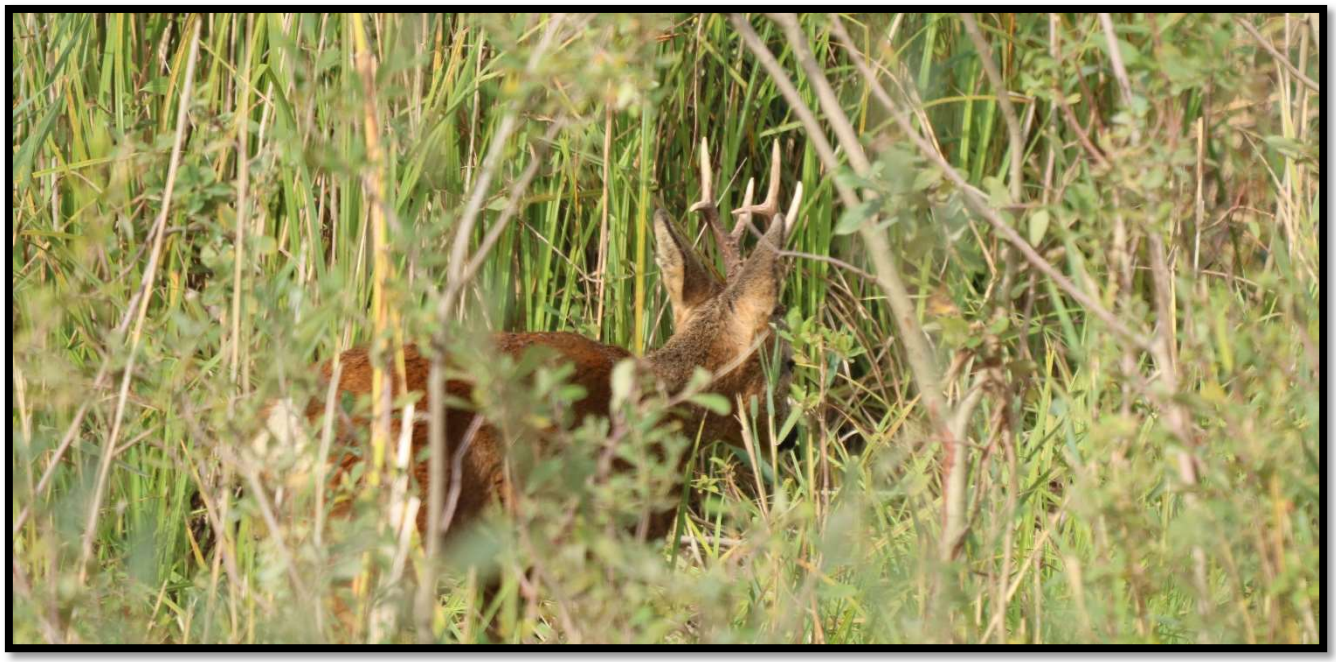
Noted highlights were as follows: - Plenty of **Clouded Yellow** continued to be seen in suitable grassland across the reserve peaking at 21 from four areas on the 14th. Three reports of unusually late **Brimstone** being seen at Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 13th, at nearby Chainbridge Wood on the 14th and in a Lound Garden on the 26th.

**Dragonflies & Damselflies** – The following table gives the recorded 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 | 7th | 11th | 14th | 18th | 19th | 21st | 25th | 28th |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Willow Emerald Damselfly | **12** | 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | | 1 | 2 |
| Migrant Hawker | 5 | 6 | 4 | **8** | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Southern Hawker | | | | | | | | **2** |
| Brown Hawker | 1 | | **2** | | | | | |

Noted highlights were as follows: - Another good year for **Willow Emerald Damselfly** with several individuals noted right across the reserve. Good numbers of **Migrant Hawker** peaking at 8 on the 18th and two single **Southern Hawker** were noted at Neatholme Fen and the nearby Water Ski Pit on the 28th.

**Mammals** – A fine buck **Roe Deer** was photographed on Chainbridge Scrape (East) on the 13th **(Below) ©G. Hobson.**



M. Vickers, 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.

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## Next month's - November 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 October 2026 + Lound Moth Group - Review for October 2026 + Other Nature Sightings for October 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**