

## Wildlife Report – June 2021

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, we carried out the monthly wildlife walk/count and it turned out to be a very interesting day. As hoped for, lots of butterflies were flying around, some causing identification conundrums, damselflies were active in the margins of the lake and we even found some Bee Orchids near the picnic area. Details of what we saw are below:

### Birds – 25 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Details
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	23/06/2021	2	At least 2 seen flying over the lake.
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	23/06/2021	1	A lonely single bird at the lake, probably a non-breeder this year. Remember in winter when we had 100's!
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	23/06/2021	13	The goose flock has nearly doubled to 13 adult birds. There are also at least 11 chicks/juveniles too.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	23/06/2021	6	The family of 3 are still along the new road to the car park with others being seen around the main park.
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	23/06/2021	5	Mainly males seen around the park.
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	23/06/2021	3	Chiffchaffs are still singing around the park, might be on their second brood now.
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	23/06/2021	6	At least 6 birds over the lake. Very nice to see.
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	23/06/2021	3	Three adults at the lake with at least 2 juveniles.
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	23/06/2021	3	Seen near the main gate on our way home.
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	23/06/2021	3	One seen around the teasel plantation, two others heard singing in the hedgerows.
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	23/06/2021	6	At least 6 birds seen around the park.
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	23/06/2021	2	A couple of birds heard singing in the hedgerows.
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	23/06/2021	4	A few Blackcaps still singing in the park, they too could be on their second brood now.
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	23/06/2021	11	A decent number of Blue Tits seen / heard. One small flock had a few juveniles with them.
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	23/06/2021	4	Four adults around the lake with a couple of juveniles too.
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	23/06/2021	6	Usual Magpies around the park.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Details
Eurasian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	23/06/2021	6	One seen and 5 heard singing in the reed bed.
Eurasian Wren (British)	Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus	23/06/2021	4	Four heard singing around the park.
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	23/06/2021	2	Just a couple seen today.
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	23/06/2021	1	Incredibly just one Robin heard singing. Perhaps breeding is over for this year and they are resting!
Great Tit	Parus major	23/06/2021	2	Two seen near the bridge.
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	23/06/2021	4	Two seen along the boardwalk and another 2 near the pillbox at the teasel plantation.
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	23/06/2021	1	Just one male at the lake.
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	23/06/2021	1	One bird singing at the back of the lake, well hidden in the trees.
Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula	23/06/2021	2	Nice to see a male and female at the lake.

### Butterflies – 11 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Details
Large White	Pieris brassicae	23/06/2021	2	One seen on brambles in the hedgerow and another along the car park road on the way home.
Holly Blue	Celastrina argiolus	23/06/2021	1	One definitely identified on daisies and a possible seen at the bridge.
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus	23/06/2021	2	Both seen in long grass at the back of the teasel plantation.
Red Admiral	Vanessa atalanta	23/06/2021	2	One flew past near the boardwalk and another seen in the hedgerows.
Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	23/06/2021	1	A really nice sighting in the pavilion garden.
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	23/06/2021	11	Lots of Meadow Browns in the park, there are loads more than we saw and counted.
Ringlet	Aphantopus hyperantus	23/06/2021	2	Two lively very dark butterflies, identified as Ringlet, seen near the entrance to the boardwalk.
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria	23/06/2021	3	In the shaded wooded area alongside the lake. Their usual spot.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Details
Essex Skipper	<i>Thymelicus lineola</i>	23/06/2021	6	Amongst a number of small skipper species, we definitely identified one Essex Skipper and then we found a hatch of 5 which we thought were all Essex Skippers. The ends of the antennae on Essex Skippers are black and Small Skipper brown.
Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	23/06/2021	4	We thought at least 4 of the skippers seen were Small Skippers rather than Essex but trying to see the ends of their antennae in the long grass is rather tricky!! I suspect some Small were Essex and vice versa but we did see both.
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	23/06/2021	3	One seen at the entrance gates and 2 more seen in brambles along the hedgerows. A good sighting.
<p>We also saw a yellow butterfly species flying near the pavilion that was not identified. Initially was thought to be a Brimstone but it looked a bit too small for this. Other options could be Brimstone Moth but it did not look like this and Clouded Yellow – a scarce migrant from Europe – but it's a bit early for this species and is usually seen in September or October. Sadly we did not see it well enough and its one that got away.</p>				

#### **Dragonflies and Damselflies – 4 Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Details
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	23/06/2021	3	At least 3 at the lake margins, 2 of which were mating.
Large Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	23/06/2021	3	Very nice male in the margins posed for my camera, at least 2 others flying around.
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	23/06/2021	4	Similar to Red-Eyed but much smaller. 2 at the lake and 2 at the back of the lake, one of which was a female "rufous form"! Had to look that one up online.
Emperor (Blue) Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	23/06/2021	1	Large Emperor flying near the over-grown pavilion pond. An impressive dragonfly this one, our largest species.

#### **Moths – 1 Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Details
Oak Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa quercus</i>	23/06/2021	1	A big impressive caterpillar in the brambles near the bridge was identified later (by the Essex Moth recorder) as this species.

The next walk will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July at the normal time of 11.30am.

**Martin Singleton**