Wildlife Walk 8th September 2021

The September wildlife walk took place on Wednesday 8th on a very warm and sunny early autumn day. Birds were very quiet with only a few singing and even the Canada Goose flock are on holiday from the lake. Many birds are moulting into their winter plumage at this time of year and keep quiet and out of the way during this period. Once the moult is completed, they will be back singing and defending territories and generally more active. There were still a few butterflies around, although not in the large numbers we saw earlier in the year but plenty of whites and Speckled Woods can be seen. A few dragonflies can also be seen, with decent numbers of Common Darters around. Surprisingly, this species is a new addition to our wildlife list. We also added another moth to the park list in the form of a large hairy caterpillar on the path. This was a Fox Moth caterpillar, which surprisingly, is in the same family (Eggars) as the other large caterpillar we saw this year, the Oak Eggar. Sighting details are below:

Birds – 14 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Comments
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	08/09/2021	3	3 birds flew over the boardwalk area as we walked towards this.
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	08/09/2021	2	Only 2 seen on this visit.
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	08/09/2021	1	Just one flew across the path at the back of the lake.
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	08/09/2021	4	4 at the lake, which probably included grown up juveniles from earlier this year.
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	08/09/2021	3	A small flock flew over the reed beds.
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	08/09/2021	9	A few around the park.
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	08/09/2021	6	Heard and seen in the hedgerows.
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	08/09/2021	2	Seen at the lake.
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	08/09/2021	1	1 at the back of the lake.
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	08/09/2021	6	Usual noisy birds around the park.
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	08/09/2021	6	A few heard and seen moving along the hedgerows.
European Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	08/09/2021	1	Usual “yaffle” call heard and then seen briefly.
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	08/09/2021	3	A few heard in the hedgerows but not really singing yet.
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	08/09/2021	2	2 sleeping on the lake island.

Butterflies – 5 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Comments
Large White	Pieris brassicae	08/09/2021	4	Lots of whites in the park – mainly small but the odd large can be seen.
Meadow Brown	Maniola jurtina	08/09/2021	5	Still a few around but some looking at bit tatty now!
Small Tortoiseshell	Aglais urticae	08/09/2021	1	Flew past us at the back of the lake.
Small White	Artogeia rapae	08/09/2021	16	The most common butterfly in the park at the moment.
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria	08/09/2021	7	Still present in good numbers mainly in the shaded areas at the back of the lake.

Dragonflies – 4 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Comments
Blue-tailed Damselfly	Ischnura elegans	08/09/2021	1	Just one seen at the lake.
Brown Hawker	Aeshna grandis	08/09/2021	1	A fine specimen flying across the lake.
Common Darter	Sympetrum striolatum	08/09/2021	5	Seen on brambles and laying eggs at the lake. A surprising first record for this common species.
Migrant Hawker	Aeshna mixta	08/09/2021	5	A few around the park patrolling the hedgerows, although not in the numbers seen in previous years.

Moths – 1 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Status	Comments
Fox Moth	Macrothylacia rubi	08/09/2021	1	Caterpillar	Large hairy caterpillar was later identified as Fox Moth – see photos attached.

The next walk will take place on **Wednesday 13th October** at the usual time of 11.30am. I will remind you all nearer the time.

regards

Martin

PHOTO GALLERY – pictures taken by Martin Singleton

Pictures of the caterpillar of the Fox Moth