

## Wildlife Report – July 2021

On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, It was a very hot and sunny day and as expected bird activity was limited at this time of year but butterflies were everywhere in large numbers. Details of our sightings are below:

### Birds - 20 Species

| Common Name             | Scientific Name                                    | Date       | Total Count | Notes  |
|-------------------------|--|------------|-------------|--|
| Canada Goose            | <i>Branta canadensis</i>                           | 21/07/2021 | 21          | The flock at the lake is now up to 21, which may include some grown up juveniles from earlier this year.                                   |
| Carrion Crow            | <i>Corvus corone</i>                               | 21/07/2021 | 2           | Only 2 seen in the park today!   |
| Common Blackbird        | <i>Turdus merula</i>                               | 21/07/2021 | 1           | Just one heard singing at the back of the lake.  |
| Common Chiffchaff       | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>                      | 21/07/2021 | 3           | A few still singing in the park, is there time for another brood this year before they depart?   |
| Common Moorhen          | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>                         | 21/07/2021 | 3           | At least 3 at the lake.  |
| Common Wood Pigeon      | <i>Columba palumbus</i>                            | 21/07/2021 | 26          | Lots flying around and quite active for mid-summer.  |
| Eurasian Blue Tit       | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>                         | 21/07/2021 | 6           | A few in the hedgerows.  |
| Eurasian Collared Dove  | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>                       | 21/07/2021 | 1           | 1 seen at the entrance to the park.  |
| Eurasian Coot           | <i>Fulica atra</i>                                 | 21/07/2021 | 3           | At least 3 at the lake.  |
| Eurasian Magpie         | <i>Pica pica</i>                                   | 21/07/2021 | 1           | Only 1 today!  |
| Eurasian Reed Warbler   | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>                     | 21/07/2021 | 1           | 1 heard in the reed bed.   |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk    | <i>Accipiter nisus</i>                             | 21/07/2021 | 1           | One seen by Colin and I along the track to Cranfield Park Road flying from the park across the track. Probably seen earlier near the lake. |
| Eurasian Wren (British) | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i><br><i>indigenus</i> | 21/07/2021 | 2           | A couple heard in the hedges.  |
| European Goldfinch      | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>                         | 21/07/2021 | 3           | A few heard flying overhead.   |

|                           |                            |            |   |  |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------|---|--|
| European Green Woodpecker | <i>Picus viridis</i>       | 21/07/2021 | 2 | 2 birds seen well flying across the lake – possibly 2 juveniles. |
| European Greenfinch       | <i>Chloris chloris</i>     | 21/07/2021 | 1 | 1 male heard singing at the back of the lake.                    |
| European Robin            | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i>  | 21/07/2021 | 3 | A few singing in the hedgerows.                                  |
| House Sparrow             | <i>Passer domesticus</i>   | 21/07/2021 | 2 | 2 near the picnic tables.  |
| Long-tailed Tit           | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> | 21/07/2021 | 6 | A nice flock moving through the hedges near the boardwalk.       |
| Mallard                   | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>  | 21/07/2021 | 5 | On the lake, including a mixed drake of various sub species.     |

### **Butterflies - Day total 14 Species - Park Total 12 Species.**

| Common Name        | Scientific Name            | Date       | Total Count | Notes  |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------|-------------|--|
| Comma Butterfly    | <i>Polygonia c-album</i>   | 21/07/2021 | 2           | 2 very nice specimens looking like they had just emerged.  |
| Essex Skipper      | <i>Thymelicus lineola</i>  | 21/07/2021 | 6           | We counted at least 12 “small” Skipper species one of which we identified as an Essex. I guessed that we saw many very active and only the Essex stopped for long enough to positively identify.   |
| Gatekeeper         | <i>Pyronia tithonus</i>    | 21/07/2021 | 5           | Nice to see a few of this little summer butterfly. Hopefully more will emerge over the next few weeks.   |
| Green-veined White | <i>Artogeia napi</i>       | 21/07/2021 | 5           | As with the Skippers we saw lots of white butterflies and identified some as Green Veined.   |
| Large White        | <i>Pieris brassicae</i>    | 21/07/2021 | 10          | As above we identified a few Large Whites among the many whites seen.  |
| Marbled White      | <i>Melanargia galathea</i> | 21/07/2021 | 17          | The most Marbled Whites I have seen in the park and would have been big news a few years ago. This was quite a rare butterfly not too long ago and you had to travel to see it. Now we have large numbers on our doorstep and what looks like a large colony. Fantastic! |
| Meadow Brown       | <i>Maniola jurtina</i>     | 21/07/2021 | 135         | Well, how many Meadow Browns did we see? My rough count was 135 but when you consider the areas missed then there must be 300 / 400 or even more of these butterflies in the park at the moment.   |
| Peacock Butterfly  | <i>Inachis io</i>          | 21/07/2021 | 2           | 2 very nice Peacocks seen, again looking like they had newly emerged.  |
| Red Admiral        | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i>    | 21/07/2021 | 3           | Seen flying along during the walk.   |

|                         |                       |            |    |  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------|----|--|
| Ringlet                 | Aphantopus hyperantus | 21/07/2021 | 1  | 1 seen by Colin and I along the track to Cranfield Park Road. Not really in the park so I won't include it in the overall records but will be sent to the Essex Recorder. We do know that there are Ringlets in the park but we missed them today. |
| Small Skipper           | Thymelicus sylvestris | 21/07/2021 | 6  | We did not positively identify a Small Skipper but some of the skippers we saw must have been this species.  |
| Small White             | Artogeia rapae        | 21/07/2021 | 25 | Most of the whites we saw will have been Small Whites. We identified several during the walk.  |
| Speckled Wood           | Pararge aegeria       | 21/07/2021 | 4  | Mainly in their favoured place in the shadows behind the lake.   |
| White-letter Hairstreak | Strymonidia w-album   | 21/07/2021 | 2  | 2 of these butterflies seen briefly by Colin and I along the track to Cranfield Park Road. Again, this won't count as a park record but it is likely they are in the park wherever Elms are. A butterfly that needs a stakeout however!            |

### **Dragonflies - 2 Species**

| Common Name           | Scientific Name       | Date       | Total Count | Notes   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------|---|
| Common Blue Damselfly | Enallagma cyathigerum | 21/07/2021 | 10          | Lots at the lake with several mating in the margins.  |
| Black-tailed Skimmer  | Orthetrum cancellatum | 21/07/2021 | 7           | Several at the lake but the most exciting sighting was one which had caught a Meadow Brown butterfly for its lunch! You would never think of a Dragonfly catching a medium sized butterfly as food but they obviously do. |

Other wildlife seen included a 7 Spot Ladybird along with 3 Harlequin Ladybirds! These were at the boardwalk on the reed stalks and leaves. Despite the heat and humidity, overall it was a very good for butterflies and most of these will be around for a few weeks yet so it is well worth a visit to the park, especially to see the Marbled Whites. Take lots of water and a hat too!

Next walk should take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August but I may be busy that day so I am proposing we do this on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August instead. I will remind everyone nearer the date.

Regards

**Martin**

**Martin Singleton**