

Wildlife Walk – June 2022

The walk took place on Wednesday June 15th. The weather was perfect for wildlife watching – a warm, sunny morning with a gentle breeze, and there was plenty to see in the park. The walk started with a search for Bee Orchids, and we found at least 4. These are at the foot of the hedgerow as you enter the picnic area but you need to search for them! We then moved onto the boardwalk where a Reed Warbler was singing and sometimes emerging from the reedbed. Also here were a couple of Wrens singing, and the first of a few Chiffchaffs. In the large meadow, we started seeing some butterflies – mainly Meadow Browns but also a few Holly Blues. At the bridge we saw a nice Chiffchaff singing away and a few more butterflies. Along the hedge of the large meadow a lonely Swift flew overhead and we heard the Lesser Whitethroat singing. In the grasses there were lots of Meadow Browns – if you walked through the grass you would put up some huge numbers of them. Stuart surprised 2 Jays as we walked to the lake where we saw a few Swallows and a single House Martin plus a Common Tern fishing. Surprisingly, there were not many dragon or damselflies around but we did identify an Azure Damselfly. Also, at the lake we saw another orchid which we later managed to identify as a Pyramidal Orchid. At the back of the lake, we saw quite a few Speckled Woods and heard several Reed Warblers singing. As we walked around to the teasel field, we saw a very small butterfly in flight that we failed to identify – one that got away! At the back of the large mound we added a few more birds to the list, including a large family of Long Tailed Tits, plus a very nice Large Skipper. We also saw a couple of smaller skippers but could not positively identify. A very good day, let's hope July delivers just as much. Sighting details are as below.

Just a reminder of the remaining dates for the walks this year:

July – 20th

August – 17th

September – 21st

October – 19th

November – 16th

December – 14th

All starting at 10.30am from the Pavilion car park. Please note these dates in your diaries but as usual I will confirm by email / WhatsApp whether the walks will go ahead depending on weather etc.

The dates are also available on the [Friends of the Wick Country Park Website](#).

Martin Singleton

Butterflies: 8 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	15/06/2022	1	Just one on Brambles near the bridge
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	15/06/2022	2	Near the large mound
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	15/06/2022	5	Several in the park, mainly on brambles
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	15/06/2022	1	A very nice specimen behind the large mound
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	15/06/2022	17	At least 17 seen but loads more in the grasses
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	15/06/2022	2	2 in the large meadow
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	15/06/2022	1	Just one in the large meadow
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	15/06/2022	6	Lots in their usual place behind the lake

Dragonflies: 2 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Azure Damselfly	Coenagrion puella	15/06/2022	1	One identified at the lake
Blue-tailed Damselfly	Ischnura elegans	15/06/2022	1	Behind the large mound

Birds: 28 Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	15/06/2022	3	2 at the lake quickly joined by a third
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	15/06/2022	1	Just 1 wandering over the park
Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	15/06/2022	10	10 adults with 6 chicks
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	15/06/2022	4	2 at the lake and others around the park
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	15/06/2022	4	A few around the park
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	15/06/2022	6	Several in good voice in the hedges
Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	15/06/2022	1	A single bird at the lake
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	15/06/2022	2	2 adults with 2 chicks
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	15/06/2022	8	A small flock along the car park road
Common Swift	Apus apus	15/06/2022	1	1 over the hedges in the large meadow
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	15/06/2022	1	1 fishing at the lake
Common Whitethroat	Curruca communis	15/06/2022	2	1 singing in the reedbed and 1 at the back of the large mound
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	15/06/2022	11	Several around the park
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	15/06/2022	3	A few heard singing in the hedges
Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	15/06/2022	4	A few singing in the hedges
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	15/06/2022	5	Calling in the hedgerows
Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	15/06/2022	2	1 heard from the boardwalk and 1 at the back of the large mound
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	15/06/2022	2	At the lake
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	15/06/2022	2	In the large meadow
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	15/06/2022	16	Many Magpies today - hard to separate juveniles from adults
Eurasian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	15/06/2022	6	At least 5 singing in the lake reedbeds and another seen from the boardwalk
Eurasian Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes	15/06/2022	5	Some very loud wrens singing today
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	15/06/2022	2	Just 2 overhead
European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	15/06/2022	1	1 in the large meadow
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	15/06/2022	2	Only 2 heard calling today
Lesser Whitethroat	Curruca curruca	15/06/2022	1	Still singing in the hedges near the lake
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	15/06/2022	13	A few around the park with a large family group at the back of the large mound
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	15/06/2022	3	At the lake