

Wildlife Walk – May 2022

The most recent walk was held on Wednesday 25th May and despite a warm forecast, it proved to be a cool, cloudy and breezy day. Not ideal for spring wildlife watching. However, as always, the Park had a few surprises for us and there was plenty to see and hear once we started looking. All of our summer warblers are here and can be seen and heard in the Park, including the Lesser Whitethroat. This is a bird that stays well hidden so you really need to know its call to identify it, but it is a good recording for the Park. Also, having a good number of Reed Warblers is also good news - lets hope that they all have successful breeding seasons. Another skulking bird is surprisingly the Bullfinch, one of our most colourful birds but generally stays very well hidden. However, one was heard calling behind the lake, so we know that they are present in the Park (they have also been seen by several people.) I think that here and along the river near Giddings Copse are the only areas in Wickford where Bullfinch can be seen, so this is a very good recording. Due to the weather, we did not see many insects but after some debate we identified an Azure Damselfly, which is a new recording for our walks. I suspect we have seen many of these in the past but as they are so similar to the Common Blue we have not definitely identified. We also had a couple of butterflies but hopefully will see more as the summer progresses. Sighting details are below:

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

June – 15th

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

Dragonflies: 2 species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Azure Damselfly	Coenagrion puella	25/05/2022	1	In the large meadow hedgerow
Blue-tailed Damselfly	Ischnura elegans	25/05/2022	1	In the same area

Martin Singleton has kindly provided photos of the two damselfly species listed above, available at [\(Azure\)](#) and [\(Blue Tailed\)](#)

Butterflies: 2 species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Green-veined White	Artogeia napi	25/05/2022	1	Very nice specimen in the large meadow hedgerow
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria	25/05/2022	3	In the shaded areas behind the lake

Birds: 24 species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus	25/05/2022	1	Just one wandering over the lake
Canada Goose	Branta canadensis	25/05/2022	9	9 adults at the lake with at least 6 chicks
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	25/05/2022	5	Usual birds around the park
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	25/05/2022	2	Just 2 males - are females on eggs/chicks?
Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita	25/05/2022	3	3 heard singing at various locations
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	25/05/2022	2	At the lake
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	25/05/2022	7	A small flock overhead
Common Whitethroat	Curruca communis	25/05/2022	2	One near the car park and one at the back of the large mound
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	25/05/2022	13	A guess of how many we saw flying around
Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	25/05/2022	4	4 singing at various locations
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	25/05/2022	4	Just 4 seen/heard today
Eurasian Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula	25/05/2022	1	Heard calling from the path at the back of the lake
Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra	25/05/2022	2	At the back of the lake
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	25/05/2022	2	2 birds flew across the large meadow
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	25/05/2022	8	Several birds at various locations
Eurasian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	25/05/2022	4	At least 4 birds singing in the reedbed
Eurasian Wren (British)	Troglodytes troglodytes indigenus	25/05/2022	5	Several birds heard singing today
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	25/05/2022	2	Just 2 overhead at the back of the lake
European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	25/05/2022	1	1 over the pavilion
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	25/05/2022	17	Very active today - singing from many areas
Lesser Whitethroat	Curruca curruca	25/05/2022	1	1 singing at the back of the lake near the teasel field
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	25/05/2022	5	Nice to see a couple of family groups
Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	25/05/2022	1	At the lake
Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	25/05/2022	3	Nice to hear 3 birds singing - 1 giving great views at the back of the lake.