

Wildlife Walk – September 2022

The monthly wildlife walk took place on Wednesday 21st September. The details of the sightings are as below

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

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

Birds – 19 Species

A relatively quite day for birdlife but a few migrants passing through the park – Swallows, House Martins and at least one Blackcap. Otherwise, Robins were singing well after their moulting period, and they are now setting out their winter territories. Blue, and Long Tailed Tits are forming into winter flocks, which will roam around the park looking for food. A notable absence were the park geese? Where do they go when they are not here?

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica	21/09/2022	3	Feeding over the lake
Carrion Crow	Corvus corone	21/09/2022	4	Usual birds feeding in the grasses
Common Blackbird	Turdus merula	21/09/2022	4	A few in the hedgerows
Common House Martin	Delichon urbicum	21/09/2022	2	Feeding over the lake with the Swallows
Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	21/09/2022	3	At the lake
Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	21/09/2022	2	Flying over the car park road
Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus	21/09/2022	25	An estimate of numbers around the park
Dunnock	Prunella modularis	21/09/2022	1	Just one in the pavilion car park
Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla	21/09/2022	1	Heard near the picnic benches
Eurasian Blue Tit	Cyanistes caeruleus	21/09/2022	9	Quite active in the hedges One seen flying over the field left of the
Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	21/09/2022	1	bridge
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	21/09/2022	7	Several Magpies in the grasses
European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	21/09/2022	4	In the hedgerow towards the bridge
European Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis	21/09/2022	1	Seen in the field left of the bridge
European Herring Gull	Larus argentatus	21/09/2022	1	One flying overhead Staring to mark out their winter territories -
European Robin	Erithacus rubecula	21/09/2022	10	quite active
Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus	21/09/2022	10	A couple of flocks in the park
Rock Dove (Feral)	Columba livia 'feral'	21/09/2022	7	On the grass after the boardwalk
Stock Dove	Columba oenas	21/09/2022	3	With the feral pigeon flock

Butterflies – 3 Species

We are approaching the end of the butterfly season and not surprisingly we only saw a few species but it was nice to see Small Heath again near the lake.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Large White	Pieris brassicae	21/09/2022	2	A couple on brambles
	Coenonympha			
Small Heath	pamphilus	21/09/2022	2	Near the lake in the grasses
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria	21/09/2022	4	Behind the lake in the shaded woodlands

Dragonflies – 3 Species

Well just like buses, following last month's long anticipated Willow Emerald, we now get two! One of which looked like it had just emerged from the lake? I think there is no doubt that this Southern European species is breeding in the Park lake and continuing its recent colonisation of the UK. It was also interesting to see Common Darters breeding and laying eggs in the lake. Finally, only a couple of Migrant Hawkers were seen and it has not been a particularly good year for this species. Like the butterflies we are at the end of the season for these creatures and won't see them again until next spring.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Date	Total Count	Notes
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	21/09/2022	3	At least three at the lake - 2 breeding and laying eggs
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	21/09/2022	2	Two seen behind the large mound
Willow Emerald	<i>Chalcolestes viridis</i>	21/09/2022	2	One seen well at the lake looking like it had just emerged? Another in the hedges behind the large mound.