

## Visit to Idle Valley Nature Reserve - 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018

3 members – Charles, Malcolm and Brian took advantage of a clear and sunny day to visit the Idle Valley Nature reserve.

From Chain Bridge Lane we explored the old gravel workings, now full of water, and an attraction for water birds and waders.

Our lists for the morning were birds - Lesser Black-backed Gull, Cormorant, Black-headed Gull, Mallard, Lapwing, Carrion Crow, Blackbird, Robin, Wren, Mute Swan, Coot, Gadwall, Wigeon, Grey Heron, Shoveler, Woodpigeon, Great Crested Grebe, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Little Egret, Teal, Green Sandpiper, Ruff, Blue Tit, Greylag Goose Moorhen and Magpie. A few flowers were still showing this late in the month – Common Ragwort, Prickly Sow Thistle, Bramble, Daisy, White Clover, a single plant of Black Nightshade, Scentless Mayweed, White Campion, Creeping Cinquefoil.

We found a view point with a roof and seats to have our sandwiches. This overlooked Neatholme Pit with high numbers of Coot, approx. 30 Mute swan and approx. 200 Greylag Geese. The sun was quite warm here and hundreds of Ladybirds moved over the timber boarding and explored the joints between – looking for suitable places to hibernate?

There was more cloud in the afternoon as we continued to the River Idle and back to the top end of Chain Bridge Lane. Additional flowers were Dandelion, Chickweed, Hogweed, White Dead Nettle and birds were Great Tit, Great White Egret, a Kestrel being mobbed by a Carrion Crow, a small flock of Starlings and Stock Dove.

Back down the lane to the car we added Pineapple Mayweed, Shepherd's Purse and Yarrow to the flower list and from a couple more viewing points there were seen hundreds of Lapwing and first sightings of Pintail, Pied Wagtail, Little Grebe and Marsh Harrier. We concluded with the sight of a Pheasant running across the lane.

Birds 37 Flowers 16

Reporter: B.S. Smithson.

MALLARD





TUFTED DUCK



WIDGEON



RUFF