

## Green Flag for Forbes Hole



**Forbes Hole Green Flag Award 7 November 2022**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

Forbes Hole was awarded a Green Flag for the second year. The Green Flag award is the benchmark national standard for England and Wales and is presented to parks, nature reserves and green spaces that are well maintained. Flags are also flying high at Ilkeston's Victoria Park; Straw's Bridge Local Nature Reserve (LNR), West Hallam; Pioneer Meadows LNR and Long Eaton's West Park.

### Inside this issue:

Forbes Swan Rescue	2
Long Eaton Town Deal	2
Vinnie the Raven	2
Barker's Pond our Garden	3
Birds on Reserves	4-7
Garden Birds, Butterflies & Dragonflies	8-11
Natural History 2022 A Health	12
Long Eaton Weather	13-15
Butterfly Transects 2022 Ken Orpe	15
Forbes Hole Butterflies	16-17
Toton Washlands Butterflies	18-19
Manor Farm Butterflies	20-21
Clover Close Butterflies	22-24
Bennerley Butterflies	25-27
Garden Moth Year in Long Eaton	28-29
Erewash Tree Warden Events	30
Moth Trap Intruders	31
Giant Willow Aphid	31
Toton Washlands Biodiversity	31
Ring-necked Parakeet Future events Contact details	32

## Elvaston Woodland Festival



**Do you know your trees?  
Elvaston Woodland Festival  
17 September 2022**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

A slightly sombre feel at Elvaston Woodland Festival as it was held on the weekend before the Queen's funeral, but 'the show must go on' so Ann opened up with Neil and soon we were back in the swing!

Activities on offer were spider web making using willow wand hoops from Forbes Hole. By the end of the day we had all mastered the skill!

Families also enjoyed Joan's tree quiz and the ever popular duck pond.

There is a unique feel to this celebration of woodland skills and crafts as the smell of wood smoke fills the air. It is a good opportunity to meet friends old and new.

Thank you Ann, Neil, Penny, Joan, Margaret and Bryce et al

### Linjoy Wildlife Sanctuary

Burton Wildlife Rescue and Linjoy Sanctuary is a 24 hour emergency rescue service for British wildlife in the Midlands.

**PLEASE NOTE: THEY DO NOT TAKE DOGS OR CATS!**  
Tel : 07780  
742748 (24 hour)

## Forbes Hole Swan Rescue

A pair of swans had been sporadic visitors since we started recording birds at Forbes Hole in 2015. However as reed cover increased, by 2019 the pair had made Forbes Hole their home and built a nest in the central reed bed, but no eggs were laid. In 2020 we were delighted when 5 cygnets were successfully hatched. Throughout lockdown in 2021 many families visited bringing food for the swans, but one day the entire swan family were killed, presumably by a fox, since one had been seen in the woodland the preceding day. It did not take long for another pair of swans to move in, at first the cob was very aggressive. The swans got into trouble as it seemed the pond is too small for take off and they couldn't always manage it, landing on the railway line and having to be rescued a few times as they were then stuck behind the fence. In the summer of 2022 they constructed a nest in

nest in the shade of the willow carr and again 5 cygnets were hatched. One by one they disappeared, it was a mystery whether the fox or bird flu was responsible. By autumn In November 2022 the Forbes Hole Swan family was relocated to Linjoys Wildlife Sanctuary by the Swan Rescue Group. The Cob had already flown off leaving the Pen and one surviving Cygnet who ventured onto Fields Farm Road on several occasions looking for food, causing traffic chaos. Susan Blake and Susan Buck of the Swan Rescue Group started feeding them daily with corn but due to their wandering nature, for their own and public safety, they were relocated to a large gravel pit at Burton on Trent. People now come to Forbes Hole to feed the ducks!  
<https://www.linjoywildlifesanctuary.org.uk/>



**Swan Nest at Forbes Hole  
7 May 2022**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

## Long Eaton Town Deal

In July 2021 Erewash approved an investment plan using £24.8 million of town deal funding. Six projects form the town deal: To replace the derelict former Galaxy cinema on Derby Road with new commercial and residential units, including a courtyard/car park: West Park visitor attractions, including enhancement of events field; better drainage, improved parking provision, and providing basic utilities: The creation of the 'West Park Waterfront' providing moorings along the Canal and street furniture, removing the fence would allow visitors to enjoy the waterside: Conversion of a former stable block into a mixture of offices, meeting spaces and workshops. The redevelopment could include a courtyard with green space planted up for wildlife.

To improve town connectivity it has been proposed to replace the bridge at Broad Street which currently doesn't connect with the canal tow-path. A new bridge over the canal at Britannia Road would provide an alternate route along the canal. Other improvements include lighting the West Park cycleway. It is also proposed to improve Derby Road Junctions around Long Eaton Green: Redesign Long Eaton High Street (to high standards). Potential options include locating the market back to the Market Place and removing parking to improve safety and allowing for more sociable areas for sitting out and enjoying an enhanced green space street layout.  
<https://www.longeatontowndea.org>



**Long Eaton Waterfront Broad Street  
7 January 2022**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

## Vinnie the West Park Raven

From Roger Flindall 'I was feeding the crows in front of my house in Thoresby Road when a Raven swooped down, cronking and making soft clicking sounds. 4 crows tried frantically to fight it off but to no avail. It seems this raven has been raised in captivity, it has a ring on its left leg and it is so used to humans that it will eat out of your hand. Cannot take liberties with it tho' - this morning it gave me a peck - had to count my fingers. One could not read its ring without picking it up, which would be rather fraught. Looked on the Internet - only missing raven was 'Merlina' from the Tower of London which went in January this year. Am going to email the Queen and ask her to collect it ASAP as it is eating so much. No reply!'

I photographed the ring number while Vinnie caught chips thrown by children on the way home from school. He continued to visit Roger and had a bath in a big bowl of drinking water, Roger fetched the watering can and gave him a shower. Vinnie was learning to feed himself by copying the crows. With the West Park bonfire and firework party on the horizon we were really concerned for Vinnie. It turned out the ring number was the phone number of the breeder who had sold the bird to people in Worcester, but when the owners came to collect him, he was nowhere to be seen. Vinnie was born in a cage, but now he was free



**Vinnie the West Park Raven  
10 November 2021**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

[www.lensweb.wordpress.com](http://www.lensweb.wordpress.com)

# Barker's Pond Our Garden 1.4.21 to 5.2.23

## Fay & John Blackburn



**Barker's Pond 6 February 2023**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

I can't believe it's nearly two years since I last submitted an account of the visitors to Barker's Pond and our garden, although Marion published my contribution to Member's Night October 2021.

There hasn't been much change over that period at Barker's Pond except pleasingly the reeds and vegetation that the fishermen removed are starting to re-appear. As regards the winter period, goosanders still visit, the first this time by 3 females on 28th November, with the largest number of 6 male and 7 female on 29th December. During the early part of January there were varying numbers on most days. Obviously, when the pond was frozen none appeared and the last sighting was 3 male and 2 female on 28th January.

One unusual visitor was a female mandarin duck on 21.12.21. It was a frequent visitor until 28th Feb 2022 and we were disappointed when it finally disappeared.

During the two year period we have enjoyed occasional visits from tufted duck, Canada goose, cormorant, common gull, herring gull and lesser black-backed gull, the gulls having been seen during December 2022. Swans still visit, but none have nested for several years, probably due to a lack of reeds. There is a lone swan present at the moment, obviously having lost its mate which could perhaps be due to avian flu? Fortunately the pond does not appear to have been affected and there is a healthy population of mallards, approximately 30 of which I'm feeding daily with mixed seed, plus 2 moorhens and coots.

With regard to our garden. Reed buntings, both male and female, visit our feeders during the winter period but not in the numbers of previous years. Both male and female sparrowhawk fly in hoping to catch the other birds unawares.



**Blackcap**

Photo credit John Blackburn

Also both male and female blackcap visit the garden and have been seen several times during winter, confirming reports that some now stay all year round.

Great-spotted woodpeckers are seen occasionally with a juvenile 'red cap' seen frequently during July 22. A goldcrest was observed flitting around one of our shrubs on 23.10.22. We still have a healthy number of greenfinches and goldfinches but I was concerned at the lack of chaffinches although a pair put in an appearance for the RSPB garden bird watch. No bullfinches have appeared for two years. Blue tit, great tit and long-tailed tit visit regularly but there has been no sign of coal tits for sometime. Sightings of mistle thrush are now rare but every spring a song thrush can be heard each morning and occasionally I can locate it through binoculars. Dunnock, robin and wren seem permanent residents along with a healthy population of sparrows, pleasingly as many as 20, but starlings have become rare visitors, arriving on our lawns in summer when feeding young, although I counted 7 in the large ash tree by Barker's Pond during the RSPB birdwatch.

A hedgehog comes into the garden, we have seen it occasionally, but we have foxes most nights and see them regularly as they trigger our security lights.



**Sparrowhawk**

Photo credit John Blackburn

# Birds on Reserves 2022– Toton Washlands

LENS BIRD MONTHLY FIELD RECORDING FORM														
TOTON WASHLANDS														
YEAR	2022						RECORDER				Marion Bryce & Marion Farrell			TOTAL NO OF SIGHTINGS
	MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Blackbird	12	4	9	2	3	1					3	15	17	66
Black headed gull	25					1	1			2	1	3	5	38
Blackcap				3	4	1	1							9
Bluetit	15	3	10	4	3	1	1	2			6	8	16	69
Bullfinch	5											6	4	15
Buzzard	2		1	2								1	1	7
Carriion crow	2		3	3	1	1	1			2		3		16
Chaffinch	2		2	2	1	1						3		11
Chiff chaff			5	4	3	1								13
Collared Dove	4			2	2	1								9
Cormorant	1		1	2								1	1	6
Dunnock	3	1	4	2	2						2	1	1	16
Goldcrest			2									2		4
Goldfinch	12	20	22	2	4	1						1	4	66
Goosander												4		4
Great tit	25	4		2	2	1	1	2			6	5	11	59
Great spotted woodpecker		1	1											2
Green woodpecker	1		1											2
Greenfinch	4		3	2		1	2	1				2	2	17
Grey wagtail						1								1
Heron	1		1											2
House sparrow	25	2	20	10	6	1	1				10	10	18	103
Jackdaw						1								1
Jay		1	1											2
Kestrel														0
Kingfisher	1		4									1		6
Lesser Whitethroat						1								1
Lesser redpoll	15													15
Little egret	1		1	1		3						1		7
Long tailed tit	6	2	7	1									18	34
Magpie	6	1		2	5	1	1			2	1	5	5	29
Mallard	6		2		5	1						2		16
Mistlethrush				1										1
Moorhen	4		3	1	1				1			1		11
Raven	1		1	1										3
Redwing	10	2										15	6	33
Robin	8		7	2	2						2	4	10	35
Song thrush	2	2	1	1	1				1			2	2	12
Sparrowhawk			2	2								1		5
Starling	30		25			1						30		86
Stock Dove	1													1
Swan (mute)						2								2
Swift						10								10
Teal												5		5
Treecreeper													1	1
Whitethroat				3	3	1	1							8
Willow warbler				1										1
Wood pigeon	30	10	10	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	28	100
Wren	2		5	2	2	1	1			1		2	3	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>153</b>		<b>979</b>
DATE	3rd	23rd	15th	5th,10	21st	13th	15&17th				31st	21st	31	

## Toton Washlands November Bird Count Walk

It is not far from Long Eaton Town Centre to Toton Washlands from the bottom of Midland Street the path follows cycle route 67 alongside an unused railway bank which has recently been fenced off. Toton Washlands is a nature reserve created by the Environment Agency that sits between the River Erewash and the Erewash Canal which serves as flood defence for Long Eaton.

Down the dark alley by the old allotment site, tiny Goldcrests are busy in the back garden conifers Bluetits and Great-tits keep in touch with chats and whistles while probing for ladybird eggs and aphids in the scrawny bark of old hawthorn and elder. Magpies and Blackbirds turn over brown star splodged sycamore leaves looking for worms while the curious Robin sits on the fence tic-tic-ing, head on one side, watching me. Pause on the bridge to look down along the River Erewash in full fierce foamy flow.

Onto the Nature Reserve to be greeted by chatter-chirp house sparrows 'born in the briar patch'. Males have brown heads with a grey flat cap and black bib, they can't resist sitting on the top perch. Chip chip, there is a Blackbird in every hawthorn. At the newly cleared ford a solitary Heron, still as a statue, no dinner today.

With an irritable tsk tsk a Great-tit with yellow belly and black stripe down its breast flies across the path to join his partner on a leafless hawthorn which is bursting with dripping round red haws. Chee, chee, chee, zee, zee, zee, here come the acrobats, Long-tailed-tits tumbling and hanging upside down, pink powder puffs with ridiculously long tail feathers, busy beaks seek out insects and spiders.

Arrival at the new pond is announced by a clatter of Wood Pigeons, then the spring-loaded Teal take to the air in a flurry, before dropping down, well out of sight. Beautiful Teal are small dabbling ducks from colder climes, chestnut coloured heads with bright green eye-patches glow in the light, females are camouflaged, mottled brown. Another flapping flurry of Woodpigeons as a sparrowhawk floats.

A Bellowing of Bullfinch, the male standing proud black cap, pink breast, grey back, and white rump, so smart, searching for buds and softly calling the family. Blackbirds are busy bolting down berries, one eye on the path and pip, pip, they have disappeared. The flighty Redwings rattle from branch to topmost branch still on the move. The Sparrowhawk, feathers falling, snack finished, leisurely tips off a high branch and circles for further opportunity.

Too late, through a gap to the rushing river, a watching eye signals scam and 3 funky chestnut crested Goosander plunge, disturbing a Kingfisher from watching for fish in the rill, a streak of gleaming blue light streaks upriver. Mallards splash, quack and paddle furiously then rest under the dark river bank where the Moorhen is hidden, a strangled squawk giving the game away. A small white heron with trailing black stilts followed by bright yellow feet, the Little Egret flaps towards the distant willows. The Buzzard stretches both wings vertically then tips off, swooping down to follow the river and resettle on another perch, having a lazy day.

Birds on the move, a small murmuration of Starlings swirls round the rooftops, small flocks of Redwings fly in formation. A swirling charm of Goldfinches spirals around a glowing yellow Silver Birch stripping catkins. Kiss-me-de-ar from a Chaffinch ensconced within the golden Oak Tree becomes Eek as the weather closes in. Wearing Wellingtons walking home in steady rain floating on a Natural History high.

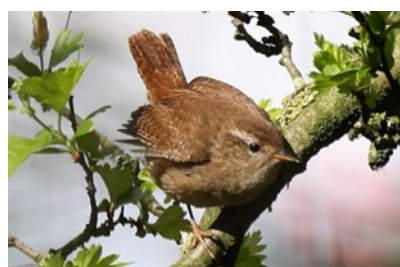
Marion Bryce November 2022

# Birds on Reserves 2022– Manor Farm LNR

LENS BIRD MONTHLY FIELD RECORDING FORM														
MANOR FARM LNR														
YEAR	2022						RECORDER				Marion Bryce			TOTAL NO OF SIGHTINGS
MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
Blackbird	2	8	6	3	3	1				2	11	9	45	
Black headed gull	2	25	1	6							10	10	54	
Blackcap				2		2							4	
Bluetit	8	9	4		4					4	8	12	49	
Bullfinch		3						1			4		8	
Buzzard		1	1	1								1	4	
Carrion crow	2	4	3	2	3					2	3	2	21	
Chaffinch	2	5	2	4							2	2	17	
Chiff chaff			1	1		1							3	
Coal-tit					3								3	
Collared Dove		1											1	
Cormorant	1									1	1	6	9	
Dunnock	1	5	4								2	6	18	
Goldcrest		1			4						2	2	9	
Goldfinch	12	34		6						4		5	61	
Goosander	1											40	41	
Great tit	25	9	4	2	2		1			6	11	9	69	
Great spotted woodpecker		1									6		7	
Green woodpecker	1		1			1						1	4	
Greenfinch		4	1	3	1								9	
Grey wagtail		1											1	
Heron	1	1	1	1						1	1	1	7	
House sparrow	6	35			8						10	20	79	
Jay			1									1	2	
Kingfisher	1		1	2	2	1				1	1		9	
Lesser redpoll		15											15	
Little egret	2									1	1		4	
Long tailed tit	15	10	9	4	6					10	6	6	66	
Magpie	2	12	3		3					1	1	7	29	
Mallard	6	1	2	4	10					2	7	12	32	
Mistlethrush		3									1		4	
Moorhen	4	1	1	1			1				2	4	10	
Pheasant			1										1	
Raven				1									1	
Redwing	20											3	23	
Robin	2	8	3	3	1					1	9	6	33	
Song thrush	1	2	1	1							2	1	8	
Sparrowhawk			1	1								1	3	
Starling	20	15								20	100	4	159	
Swan (mute)		1											1	
Swift					2		10						12	
Whitethroat					2								2	
Willow warbler				1	3								4	
Wood pigeon	8	22	3		4	1				7	6	16	67	
Wren	1	1	2			1	1			3	4	2	15	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>ND</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>1023</b>	

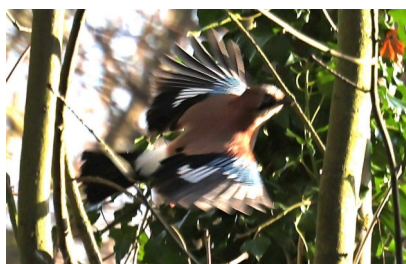
# Birds on Reserves 2022– Forbes Hole LNR

LENS BIRD MONTHLY FIELD RECORDING FORM														
FORBES HOLE LNR														
YEAR	2022						RECORDER			Marion Bryce				
	MONTH	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL NO OF SIGHTINGS
Blackbird	4	2	8	4						2	1	4	1	26
Black headed gull	50	25										20	10	105
Blackcap			2	4										6
Bluetit	6	2	8	4						2		3	2	27
Bullfinch	1											2		3
Buzzard	1			1							1		1	4
Canada Goose				2	2									4
Carrion crow	2	2	2	1						2			2	11
Chaffinch	4			2						2		3	2	13
Chiff chaff			1	2						1				4
Coot	2	4	1	4	4		3			4	4	2	4	32
Cormorant			1	1							1			3
Dunnock	2	2	2	2	1					2	1	2	5	19
Goldcrest												2	1	3
Goldfinch		2	3	3									4	12
Goosander		3	5									4		12
Great tit	2	2	4	2						2		1	1	14
Great spotted woodpecker			2											2
Green woodpecker													1	1
Greylag goose			2	2	2									6
Heron	1			1						1	1	1	1	6
Jay	2	2	4										1	9
Kingfisher		2	1									1	1	5
Little egret			2											2
Long tailed tit	15	3								10	6		6	40
Magpie	4	2	1							3			2	12
Mallard	10	5	2							5	5	5	7	39
Moorhen	2	2	4	2	1					2	2	2	4	21
Redwing	6												3	9
Robin	4	2	2	6			1			2	2	2	5	26
Song thrush	1	1	1	1										4
Sparrowhawk			1			1	1							3
Swan (mute)	3	3	3	3	2					4	3			21
Treecreeper													1	1
Wood pigeon	7	5	8	4					1	4		2	4	35
Wren	2	1	2	6					1	2		4		18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>69</b>		<b>558</b>



**Wren at Forbes 2 April 2022**

Photo credit Marion Bryce



**Jay at Forbes 30 Jan 2022**

Photo credit Marion Bryce



**Bullfinch at Forbes 30 Jan 2022**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

# Garden Birds 2022– 114 Breedon St John and Roe Langford

Bird	J	F	M	A	My	Jn	Jy	A	S	O	N	D
Blackbird	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Blackcap	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓
Blk-headed gull												
Bluetit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Buzzard												
Carrion crow	✓				✓							
Chaffinch			✓ <sub>M</sub>			✓ <sub>F</sub>						
Coal tit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	
Collared dove	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dunnock	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Feral pigeon												
Goldfinch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Great tit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenfinch												
Gt spotted wdpkr												
Herring gull												
House sparrow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jackdaw												
Lesser redpoll												
Little egret												
Long tailed tit										✓	✓	
Magpie	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mallard												
Robin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song thrush												
Sparrowhawk								✓				
Stock dove												
Starling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Wood pigeon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wren	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	

The figures are the highest number of each species seen in the garden at any one time during the month. 0 denotes a bird that was seen, but didn't land in the garden.

Chiffchaff			✓	✓								
Goldcrest										✓	✓	
Total species for the month	15	14	16	14	13	12	12	12	11	13	13	11

Notes.

1. We did not record birds seen overhead.
2. Only a 'tick-list' I'm afraid.
3. Note absence of Greenfinch and only two Chaffinch sightings.
4. Chiffchaff and Goldcrest sightings - just one bird each time.
5. Blackcap: Female - possibly same individual - present from Christmas Day 2021 through to April; male seen in Jan. and April. 2 males in Dec.
6. Wren: all records are of one bird.
7. The above can be compared with 'The Birds of 114' - J+JL - Jan 2011.



## Garden Birds 2022—Joan Breakwell

Bird	J	F	M	A	My	Jn	Jy	A	S	O	N	D
Blackbird	2	3	4	2	3	5	3	2	3	2	2	2
Blackcap	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blk-headed gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bluetit	2	3	2	2	2	3	7	7	3	7	3	2
Buzzard	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carrion crow	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Chaffinch	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coal tit	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Collared dove	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Duncock	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1
Feral pigeon	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	1	2	-	-
Goldfinch	6	8	8	3	5	2	-	3	12	7	7	6
Great tit	2	1	2	1	4	8	3	4	3	2	2	2
Greenfinch	4	5	3	4	2	2	-	3	2	1	1	3
Gt spotted wdpkr	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Herring gull	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
House sparrow	4	3	4	4	3	9	5	5	5	5	5	7
Jackdaw	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-
Lesser redpoll	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Little egret	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Long tailed tit	2	4	2	2	2	3	8	4	3	11	4	5
Magpie	2	2	2	2	2	4	3	5	0	1	2	2
Mallard	-	-	1	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robin	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2
Song thrush	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Sparrowhawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Stock dove	5	6	5	3	5	5	3	4	2	2	3	3
Starling	1	0	2	3	6	4	1	-	-	0	-	-
Wood pigeon	7	6	5	4	4	3	4	3	3	2	3	5
Wren	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

These birds were seen at 60 Wensleydale Road, Long Eaton by Joan Breakwell.  
The figures are the highest number of each species seen in the garden at any one time during the month.  
0 denotes a bird that was seen, but didn't land in the garden.

## Garden Butterflies and Dragonflies 2022—Joan Breakwell

Butterfly	J	F	M	A	M	Jn	Jl	A	S	O	N	D
Small white				1	1	1	2	2	1	2		
Large white				1	1	1	3	3	1			
Green-veined white					2	1	1	1				
Comma			2	1	1	1	2	-	-	1		
Holly blue				3	4	2	5	5				
Small tortoiseshell						1						
Gate-keeper							47	23				
Speckled wood				2	2	2	2	1	2	1		
Peacock			2	2	-	-	1					
Red admiral							1	-	1	2	2	
Brimstone			1	1	1	-	1					
Orange tip				2	1							
Ringlet						1	1					
Meadow brown							1	1				
Painted lady								1				
Small copper					1							
Common blue								1				

Dragonfly	J	F	M	A	M	Ju	Jl	A	S	O	N	D
Banded demoiselle								1				
Brown hawker							1	2				
Common blue damselfly					2	1						
Common darter								2	1	1		
Southern hawker							1	4	1	1		
Migrant hawker									1	1		

Butterfly and dragonfly records from 60 Wensleydale Road, Long Eaton.

# Garden Birds and Butterflies 2022—Alan Heath

## GARDEN BIRDS - 6 Harlaxton Drive, Long Eaton 2022

BLACKBIRD	/	/	/	/	/	/	/						/
BLUE TIT													
COLLARED DOVE	/												
CROW	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/				/
DUNNOCK	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/				/
GOLDFINCH				/	/	/	/	/	/				/
GT. SPOTTED WOODPECKER													
GREAT TIT	/	/	/	/	/	/	/					/	/
HERON													
JACKDAW	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
LONG TAIL TIT													
MAGPIE	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
ROBIN	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
SPARROW, HOUSE													
STARLING													
THRUSH, MYSSEL		/											
THRUSH, SONG													
WOOD PIGEON	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
WREN													
SPARROW HAWK	/												/
COMMON GULL													
2022	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	

## GARDEN BUTTERFLIES - 6 Harlaxton Drive, Long Eaton

BRIMSTONE													
COMMA													
COMMON BLUE													
GATEKEEPER							/						
HOLLY BLUE					/			/					
LARGE WHITE													
ORANGE TIP													
PAINTED LADY													
PEACOCK													
RED ADMIRAL						/							
RINGLET													
SMALL TORToisHELL			/		/		/						
SMALL WHITE													
SPECKLED WOOD				/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
UNIDENTIFIED WHITE			/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
2022	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	

## Natural History 2022—Alan Heath

### NATURAL HISTORY - 2022

14 February Daffodil in flower in the garden  
24 March A Small White and a Small Tortoiseshell  
in the garden  
8 April Given Honorary Doctor of Science Degree  
by Nottingham Trent University  
30 April MANOR FARM LOCAL NATURE RESERVE  
13.30 to 14.00  
Sunny. Temperature 68°F  
Orange Tip 2  
Peacock 1  
Unidentified White 7  
Scrade A has a little water in it despite a  
mainly dry April

BATS Between 21 May and 31 August 2022 (96 nights) a  
total of 55 bats were heard on 45 kHz. This is  
57.3% Of the bats heard 12 were high pitch and  
it is asumed that they were Soprano Pipestrelle.  
This is 21.8% of the bats heard. Recordings made  
just after dusk in the garden of 6 Harlaxton Drive,  
Long Eaton

BUTTERFLIES Manor Farm L.N.R  
Orange Tip, Peacock, Unidentified White  
Garden - Gatekeeper, Holly Blue, Red Admiral,  
Small Tortoiseshell, Speckled Wood,  
Unidentified White

BIRDS Garden - Blackbird, Crow, Dunnock, Goldfinch,  
Great Tit, Jackdaw, Magpie, Robin,  
Missel Thrush, Wood Pigeon, Sparrow Hawk,  
Common Gull

GARDEN The last butterfly seen was an Unidentifid White  
on 7th October  
A Fox is a regular visitor and comes every night  
after dark for the food I put out. However on  
21st November 2022 the fox was seen in the garden  
at 13.30 for about 10 to 15 minutes just sniffing  
around

POND LIFE No pond visits were made this year.

# Long Eaton Weather 2022—Alan Heath

## WEATHER MONTHLY SUMMARY - 2022

- January - Quite cold at times with 9 air frosts and 12 clear nights. Very little rain after the first week. It was foggy on two days with one lasting all day. Very windy in the final week
- February - Quite a lot of rain, especially the 2nd week. One air frost on 26th. Strong wind on 18th. Storm Eunice. Dominance of west wind.
- March - Mild for the time of year, especially the 3rd week but final week much cooler. 4 air frosts.
- April - Driest month of the year with some warm days. Very windy on the 7th.
- May - A mixed month. Warm in the 2nd week and there were 14 days with temperature of 70°F or more.
- June - Very warm in the 2nd week. Dominance of West and South West wind. 16 days of 70°F or more, 6 with 80°F or more and one with 90°F or more.
- July - A warm or hot and mainly dry month. 29 days of 70°F or more, 12 of 80°F or more and 5 of 90°F or more and 2 days of over 100°F. Highest temperature I have ever recorded was 104°F on the 19th. Met Office Red Alert for heat on the 18th and 19th.
- August - A mainly dry and warm or hot month. 30 days of 70°F or more, 14 days of 80°F or more and 6 days of 90°F or more. Very little rain except on the 16th and 17th.
- September - A mixed month. Warm in the first half with 15 days of 70°F or more and 2 with 80°F or more. Two thunderstorms in the first week. Only one west wind.
- October - Wettest October I have recorded with rain mainly in 2nd half of the month. Mild for the time of year with 30 days of 60°F or more. Dominance of south, south-west and west wind.
- November - A wet month especially the 3rd week. Over an inch of rain in 24 hours on 17th and 21st.
- December - Cold in the first half of the month and the lowest temperature of the year was 21°F on the 13th.
- RECORDS : Warmest day recorded since my records began in 1960 with 104°F on the 19th July at 104°F. It was the wettest October since my records began.

Alan W Heath  
6, Harlaxton Drive  
Long Eaton  
Notts. NG10 2ER

# Long Eaton Weather 2022—Alan Heath

WEATHER SUMMARY - 2022.												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
TEMPERATURE Max	58	56	70	73	78	92	104	98	90	68	62	58
Min	24	30	30	30	44	42	51	48	40	37	33	21
Average	42	43	50	51.5	61	67	77.5	73	60	52.5	47.5	35.5
RAIN cm Day	12.5	45.1	25.7	9.5	21.0	13.1	4.6	13.4	32.4	71.2	70.5	24.6
Night	18.9	41.3	10.7	6.5	19.5	18.9	15.7	15.4	25.5	50.1	32.1	29.6
Total	30.4	86.4	36.4	16.0	40.5	32.0	20.3	28.8	57.9	121.3	102.6	54.2
DAYS DRY	26	16	24	25	22	20	27	27	20	18	17	23
NIGHTS DRY	26	17	28	27	21	24	23	29	22	18	23	23
DRY DAYS + NIGHTS	52	33	52	52	43	44	50	56	42	36	40	46
DAYS WITH RAIN	5	12	7	5	9	10	4	4	10	13	13	8
NIGHTS WITH RAIN	5	11	3	3	10	6	8	2	8	13	7	8
RAIN INCHES	1.2	3.4	1.43	0.63	1.59	1.26	0.80	1.09	2.28	4.86	4.04	2.13
WETTEST DAY	2	20	16	13	1	5	31	17	6/7	21	17	23
THUNDERSTORMS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
BAROMETER Max	30.8	30.5	30.9	30.55	30.45	30.25	30.45	30.3	30.3	30.4	30.45	30.46
Min	29.25	29.1	29.5	28.85	29.6	29.45	29.3	29.45	29.4	29.4	29.9	29.1
FOO	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DAYS WITH NEW SNOW ON GROUND	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SNOW - Inches	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TEMPERATURE 70° OR MORE	-	-	-	6	13	22	29	26	15	-	-	-
90° OR MORE	-	-	-	-	-	6	12	14	2	-	-	-
90° OR MORE	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	6	-	-	-	-
30° OR LESS	9	1	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
100° OR MORE	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-

## Long Eaton Weather 2022—Alan Heath

	WIND - 2022								TOTAL
	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	
Jan	4	1	-	-	-	4	5	5	19
Feb	-	-	-	-	3	2	14	5	24
Mar	1	6	5	2	6	3	3	1	27
Apr	4	3	6	1	5	1	6	1	27
May	3	1	-	1	-	6	10	3	24
Jun	2	-	3	-	-	7	7	-	19
Jul	2	-	-	-	1	4	9	3	19
Aug	-	2	2	-	1	4	10	-	19
Sep	4	1	1	-	2	2	1	5	16
Oct	-	-	-	1	7	10	8	2	28
Nov	1	1	-	-	2	7	7	2	20
Dec	-	2	3	-	3	2	3	-	13
Total	21	17	20	5	30	52	83	27	255

### PERCENTAGE WIND

NORTH	8.2
NORTH EAST	6.6
EAST	7.8
SOUTH EAST	1.9
SOUTH	11.7
SOUTH WEST	20.4
WEST	32.5
NORTH WEST	10.6

## Butterfly Transects 2022—Ken Orpe

128 transects were walked by volunteers in Derbyshire in 2022. Pleasley Pit had the highest butterfly numbers (3154, of 24 species), Clover Close came in at No 10 on the list. Lathkilldale had the most butterfly species, 26.

Interestingly the average numbers seen per site in 2022 was 775 butterflies against 774 seen per site in 2021, but 21 species had an increase in numbers whereas 11 species declined including spectacularly the **Small Tortoiseshell** and the **Peacock** (both 50% down on 2021). In fact the number of transects walked last year was almost a 50 :50 split between sites that had an increase in butterfly numbers against 2021 and sites that had a decrease in butterfly numbers against 2021.

So the overall situation is that despite the intense periods of heat and sun during the summer of 2022 (6 periods of heatwaves against 3 in 2021) sites that had areas of shade which protected larval foodplants and the caterpillars that use them, fared better than sites that were exposed to the full effect of the heat and sun. Let's hope that there is no repeat of the after effects of the long hot summer of 1976 when it took at least 6 years before our butterfly populations recovered back to their previous numbers – only your surveys will prove or disprove this situation on transects in 2023!

# Forbes Hole Butterfly Transect 2022

## FORBES HOLE LNR BUTTERFLY TRANSECT 2022

**METHOD:** Standard UKBMS Butterfly Transect as previously described (see LENS Bulletin)

### RESULTS:

FORBES HOLE LNR	2021	2022	8 Yr Av
SMALL SKIPPER	6	26	16
ESSEX SKIPPER	0	0	3
LARGE SKIPPER	3	12	4
DINGY SKIPPER	0	0	0
BRIMSTONE	8	19	15
LARGE WHITE	42	81	53
SMALL WHITE	12	105	51
GREEN VEINED WHITE	56	50	74
ORANGE TIP	40	23	38
SMALL COPPER	0	2	2
BROWN ARGUS	7	4	8
COMMON BLUE	20	66	27
HOLLY BLUE	15	52	15
RED ADMIRAL	3	12	14
PAINTED LADY	0	2	3
SMALL TORTOISESHELL	23	7	27
PEACOCK	20	15	40
COMMA	12	20	12
DARK GREEN FRITILLARY	0	0	0
SPECKLED WOOD	65	100	135
MARBLED WHITE	0	0	0
GATEKEEPER	37	54	44
MEADOW BROWN	104	93	86
RINGLET	90	80	87
SMALL HEATH	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>752</b>

## DRAGONFLIES 2022

Large Red Damselfly was the first to appear (18 April). Blue-tailed Damselfly on 7 May was an early record with Azure Damselfly, 16 May brought Hairy Dragonfly and 4-spotted Chaser, 10 June Black-tailed Skimmer and Emperor Dragonflies were hunting in the meadow. Common Blue Damselfly and Banded Demoiselle were noted 22 June. Common Darter emerged 28 June. Brown Hawker and Southern Hawker seen 10 July. Ruddy Darter was late to the party on 19 July. Red-eyed Damselfly seen sunning on Water-lily pads 11 August. Migrant Hawkets arrived 30 August, a large number of dragonflies were skimming the pond.



**Ruddy Darter Forbes Hole  
19 July 2022**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

**DAY FLYING MOTHS 2022** Small Purple and Gold, Silver Ground Carpet, Burnet Companion, Garden Grass Veneer, Common White Wave, 6-spot Burnet, Cinnabar, Shaded Broadbar, Mother of Pearl, Elbow-striped Grass Veneer, Straw Dot, Silver Y.

**Total Butterfly Sightings** increased by 260 to 823

A 46% increase compared to 2021 and 35% above the 8 year average.

**Number of butterfly species recorded** = 20 in 2022 compared with 18 in 2021, Small Copper and Painted Lady, not seen in 2021, recorded in low numbers in 2022.

**Not seen**, but seen in previous years Essex Skipper, Small Heath, Dingy Skipper, Dark Green Fritillary giving an historic total of 24 species.

**Peak count** was week 14 July 11th.

**Most numerous butterfly** was the Small White, closely followed by the Speckled Wood.

**Increased sightings** of Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Small Copper, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Comma, Speckled Wood and Gatekeeper compared with 2021. All of these species except the Speckled Wood were above the 8 year average.

**Decreased sightings** of Green-veined white, Orange tip, Brown Argus, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Meadow Brown, and Ringlet.

**Migrant butterflies** - Painted Lady in Week 11/12 Early June.

### DISCUSSION:

A very satisfactory result.

Most butterflies have prospered considering it was such a hot dry summer and most nectar sources had dried and crisped. The larvae of the next generation may have suffered more.

The Nymphalids- did not cope so well, numbers of Small Tortoiseshell were concerning.

As nitrate pollution of the air has increased, rank vegetation such as nettles and brambles has also increased, we have battled to keep a variety of vegetation but the number of Orange-tips has decreased significantly due to a decrease in Jack-by-the-Hedge or Garlic Mustard.

Network Rail cleared a lot of sycamore from by the railway line 11 August, improving light to Section 2 on the transect which will benefit plants and insects.

An increase in Common Sorrel in the meadow would benefit Small Copper butterflies.

The ratio and number of sightings of Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet butterflies was virtually unchanged as the meadow had not improved over recent years.

Christine Carrier noted that the meadow was cut by Erewash Borough Council and grass cuttings cleared on 19 August.

Section 7 was a blaze of colour all through the summer the number and variety of butterflies increased on this section.

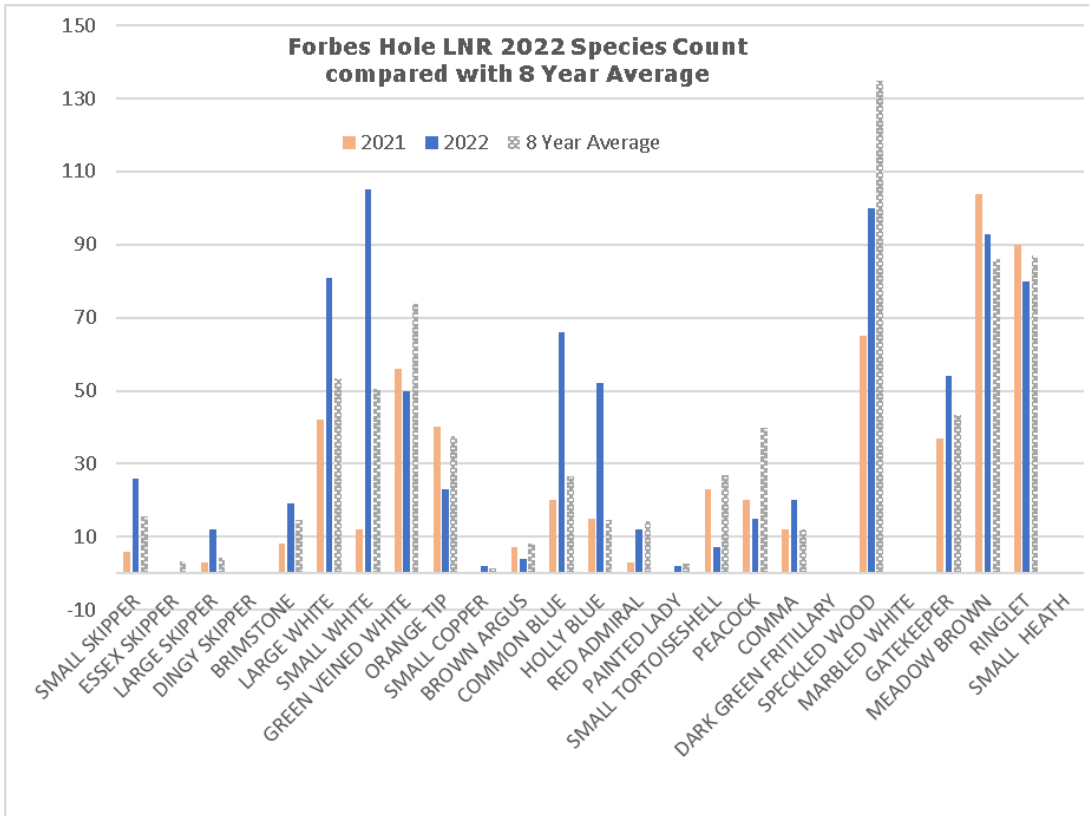
A big thank you to all of our butterfly transect volunteers at Forbes Hole LNR. Fay & John Blackburn, Norman Blake, Marion Bryce, Charlotte & Brenda Hyman Christine Carrier and Ivan.

Marion Bryce 3 January 2

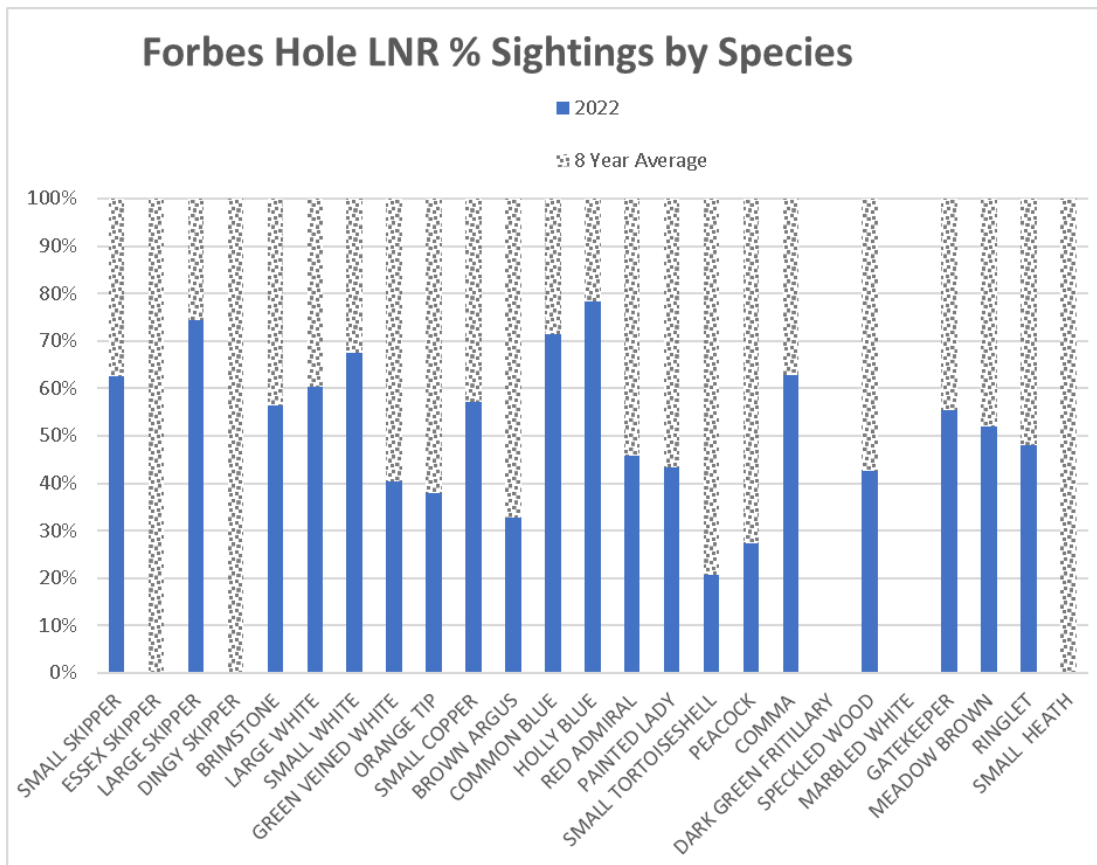


# Forbes Hole Butterfly Transect 2022

## Butterfly Species Counts 2022 compared with 2021 & 8 Year Average



## Butterfly Species % Count 2022 compared with 8 Year Average



# Toton Washlands Butterfly Transect 2022

**TRANSECT ROUTE AND METHOD:** Standard UKBMS Butterfly Transect as previously described (see LENS Bulletin

**RESULTS:**

TOTON WASHLANDS	2021	2022	9 Yr av
SMALL SKIPPER	21	25	26
ESSEX SKIPPER	0	0	4
LARGE SKIPPER	1	13	17
DINGY SKIPPER	0	0	0
BRIMSTONE	2	6	9
LARGE WHITE	52	42	72
SMALL WHITE	23	71	108
GREEN VEINED WHITE	46	87	61
ORANGE TIP	37	43	33
SMALL COPPER	1	0	1
BROWN ARGUS	0	1	0
COMMON BLUE	1	8	5
HOLLY BLUE	7	181	8
RED ADMIRAL	3	12	6
PAINTED LADY	0	1	1
SMALL TORTOISESHELL	59	78	71
PEACOCK	30	14	28
COMMA	20	47	15
DARK GREEN FRITILLARY	0	0	0
SPECKLED WOOD	71	139	84
MARBLED WHITE	0	0	0
GATEKEEPER	37	157	62
MEADOW BROWN	47	120	35
RINGLET	246	233	186
SMALL HEATH	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>1278</b>	<b>832</b>

**DRAGONFLIES 2022** A newly emerged Banded Demoiselle was recorded by Marion Farrell on 7 May, Azure Damselfly 22 May, Emperor Dragonfly and Black-tailed Skimmer 12 June, Common Blue Damselfly and Blue-tailed Damselfly 13 June, Southern Hawker 25 June, Brown Hawker 17th July, Common Darter 31 July, Migrant Hawker 1st August.

**DAY FLYING MOTHS 2022** Silver Ground Carpet, Common Carpet, Burnet Companion, Straw Dot, Humming Bird Hawkmoth, Pale Straw Pearl, Snout, Shaded Broadbar, Dingy Footman, Mother of Pearl.



**Cyclist on floodbund Toton Washlands 18 July 2022**  
Photo Credit Marion Bryce

**Total Butterfly Sightings** increased by 574 to 1278 An 81% increase compared to 2021 and 54% above the 9 year average.

**Number of butterfly species recorded** - 19 in 2022 compared with 18 in 2021, giving an historic total of 21 species.

**Not seen**, but seen in previous years Essex Skipper, Small Copper.

**Peak count** was 222 in week 14 July 11th (Brenda and Mick).

**Most numerous butterfly** was the Ringlet (233), followed by the Holly Blue (181).

**Increased sightings** of Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Brimstone, Small White, Orange Tip, Brown Argus (1 only), Common Blue, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, and Gatekeeper compared with 2021. All of these species except the Large Skipper, Brimstone and Small White were above the 9 year average.

**Decreased sightings** of Large White, Peacock, and Ringlet.

**Migrant species** - Painted Lady in Week 11/12 Early June. Humming Bird Hawkmoth seen on Meadow Cranesbill.

**DISCUSSION:** The butterflies responded well to the high summer temperatures giving a very satisfactory result. To quote Brenda and Mick on 3rd July (Week 14). 'We may have missed some ringlets/meadow browns as we were so overwhelmed by butterflies coming out of the long grasses. It was just a magical afternoon, it was overcast and we weren't really expecting to see very much at all.'

But by 10th July Brenda and Mick were beginning to feel the heat 'Good for butterflies but not for humans!'

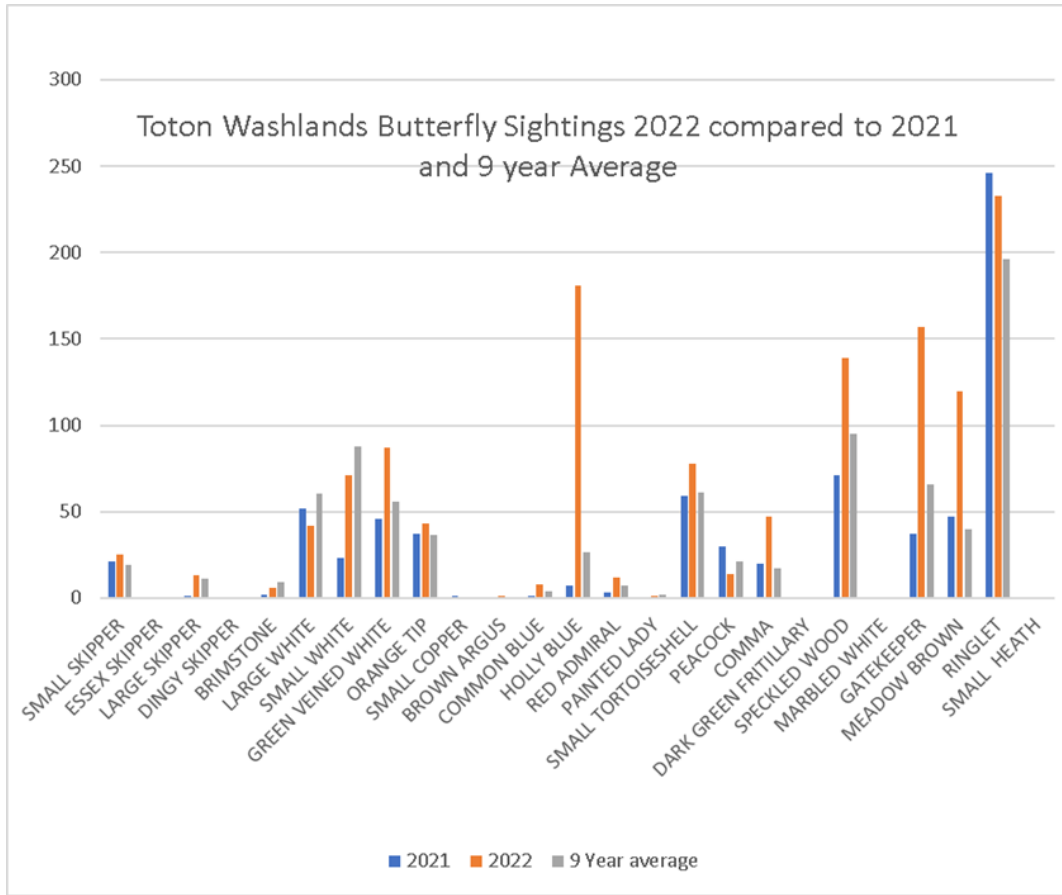
I had to agree as by 17th July it was 26C!

Significant increases were of Large Skipper, Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper whose larvae feed on grass so respond well to reduced mowing of the floodbund. It was good to see Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral and Comma numbers, bucking the trend, nymphalids generally not responding well to hot conditions, noting that most counts were early in the season.

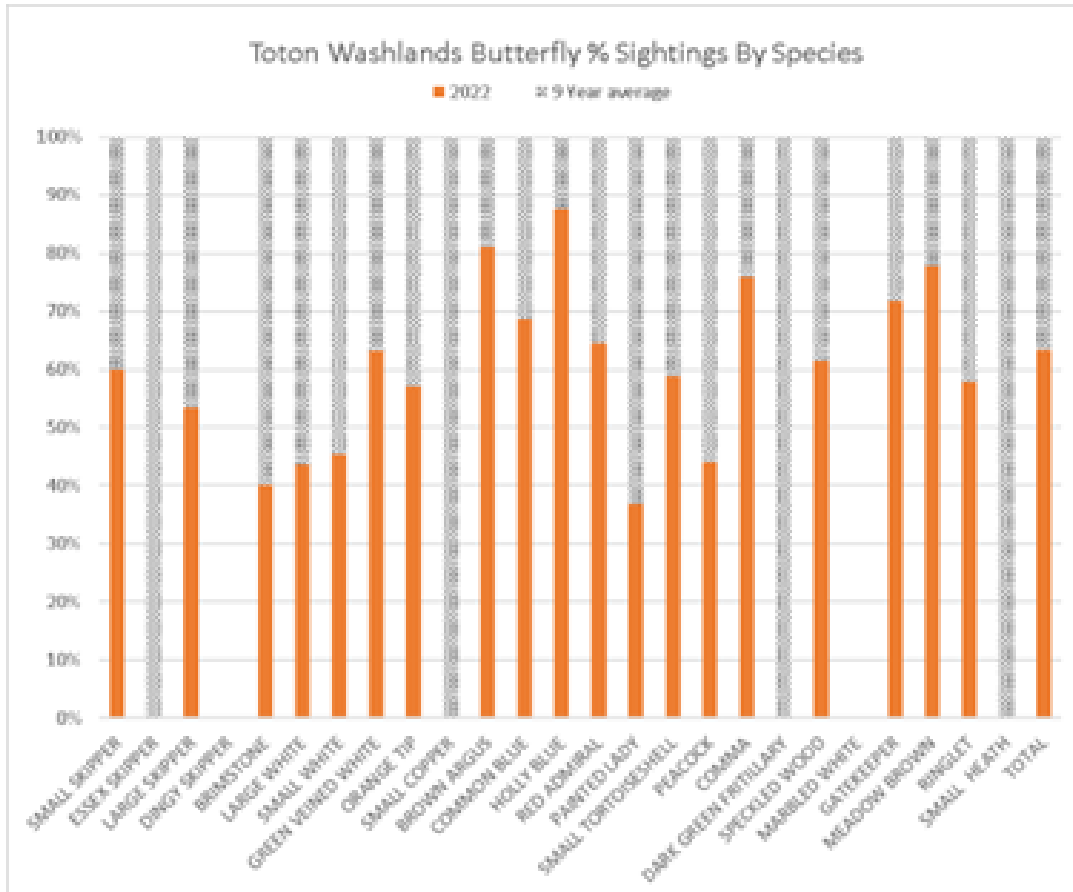
Orange-tip foodplant is Mustard Garlic or Jack by the Hedge which has increased since the hedge on section 4 has been cut back. There was a massive increase in Holly Blue numbers which breeds on holly and ivy numbers are augmented by migrants in warm years.

# Toton Washlands Butterfly Transect 2022

## Butterfly Species Counts 2022 compared with 2021 and 9 Year Average



## Butterfly Species % Count 2022 compared with 9 Year Average



# Manor Farm LNR Butterfly Transect 2022

## MANOR FARM Grid Ref SK504343

This transect in the flood plain of the River Erewash incorporates Manor Farm Green Space (Norfolk Road Park) as well as Manor Farm Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Erewash Borough Council manage the LNR and mow the grassland annually.

### RESULTS:

MANOR FARM	2021	2022	4 Yr Av
SMALL SKIPPER	54	82	120
ESSEX SKIPPER	6	0	36
LARGE SKIPPER	5	14	26
DINGY SKIPPER	0	0	0
BRIMSTONE	4	6	7
LARGE WHITE	116	150	123
SMALL WHITE	38	122	86
GREEN VEINED WHITE	110	109	120
ORANGE TIP	52	88	52
SMALL COPPER	0	1	0
BROWN ARGUS	0	0	0
COMMON BLUE	3	2	3
HOLLY BLUE	20	93	21
RED ADMIRAL	11	9	10
PAINTED LADY	1	0	4
SMALL TORTOISESHELL	118	86	85
PEACOCK	26	18	29
COMMA	39	51	30
DARK GREEN FRITILLARY	0	0	0
SPECKLED WOOD	278	316	247
MARBLED WHITE	0	2	0
GATEKEEPER	241	140	114
MEADOW BROWN	85	78	73
RINGLET	244	276	249
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1451</b>	<b>1641</b>	<b>1433</b>

## DRAGONFLIES 2022

Azure Damselfly, Banded Demoiselle, Brown Hawker, Emperor, Southern Hawker, Migrant Hawker

## DAY FLYING MOTHS 2022

Timothy Moth (L), Common Nettle Tap, Mullein moth (L), Silver Ground Carpet, Snout, Straw Dot, Knotgrass (L), Mother of Pearl, Garden Grass Veneer, Pale Straw Pearl.

### DISCUSSION:

**Total Butterfly Sightings** increased by 191 to 1451

A 13.1% increase compared to 2021 and 14.5% above the 4 year average.

**Number of butterfly species recorded** - 19 in 2022 compared with 19 in 2021, giving an historic total of 22 species.

**Not seen**, but seen in previous years Essex Skipper, Brown Argus, Painted Lady.

**Peak count** was in week 14 July 11th.

**Most numerous butterfly** was the Speckled Wood (316), followed by the Ringlet (276).

**Increased sightings** of Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Brimstone, Large White, Small White, Orange Tip, Small Copper (1 only), Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Comma, Speckled Wood, and Ringlet compared with 2021. All of these species except the Small Skipper, Large Skipper and Brimstone were above the 4 year average.

**Decreased sightings** of Green-veined White, Common Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Peacock, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Small Tortoiseshell.

**DISCUSSION:** A good year for Holly Blue. Orange tip has increased as the foodplant prospered in the wet conditions at the beginning of the year. Common Blue would benefit from planting Bird's-foot Trefoil. Nymphalid butterflies had a good start to the year but were affected by later arid conditions. Great to see Marbled White on Section 2. Grassland species Speckled Wood and Small Skipper significantly increased. Disappointing absence of Essex Skipper especially since this site was mentioned in the 2020 UKBMS Report for the highest count of Essex Skipper recorded in a single visit. Brian Parkes saw a Purple Hairstreak on an Oak in Banks Road, Toton 31st July.



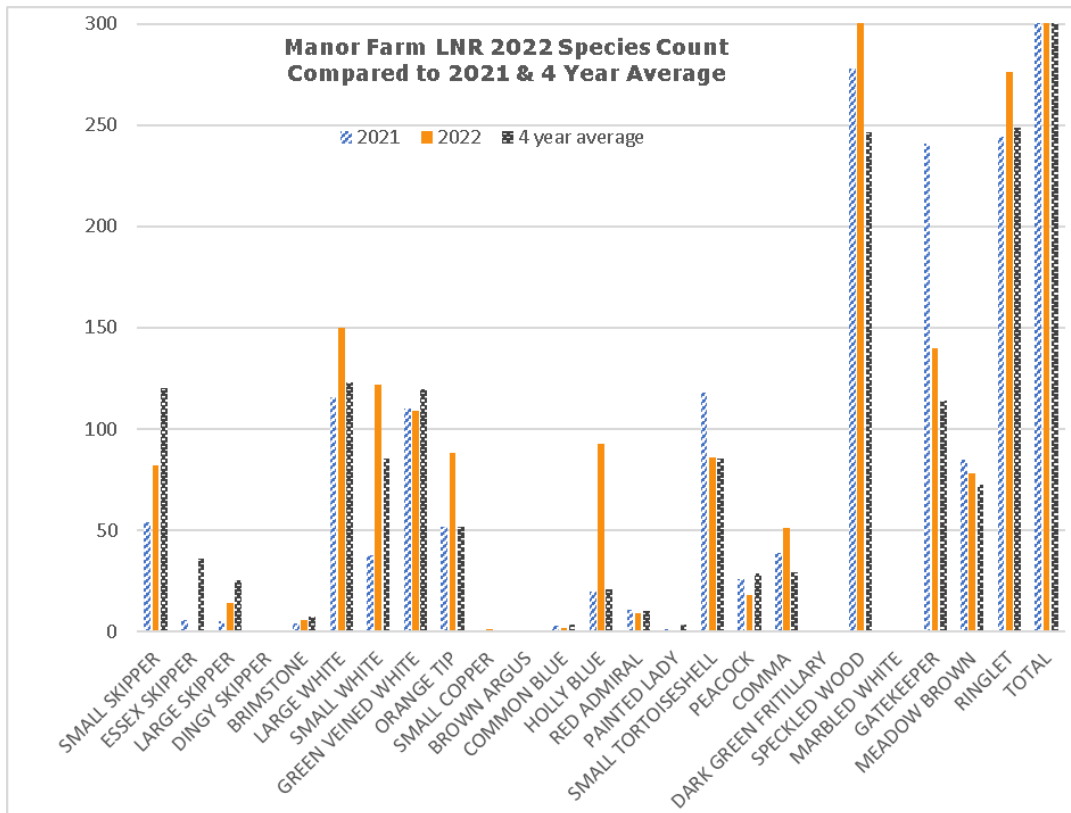
Manor Farm section 3  
21 June 2022  
Photo Credit Marion Bryce



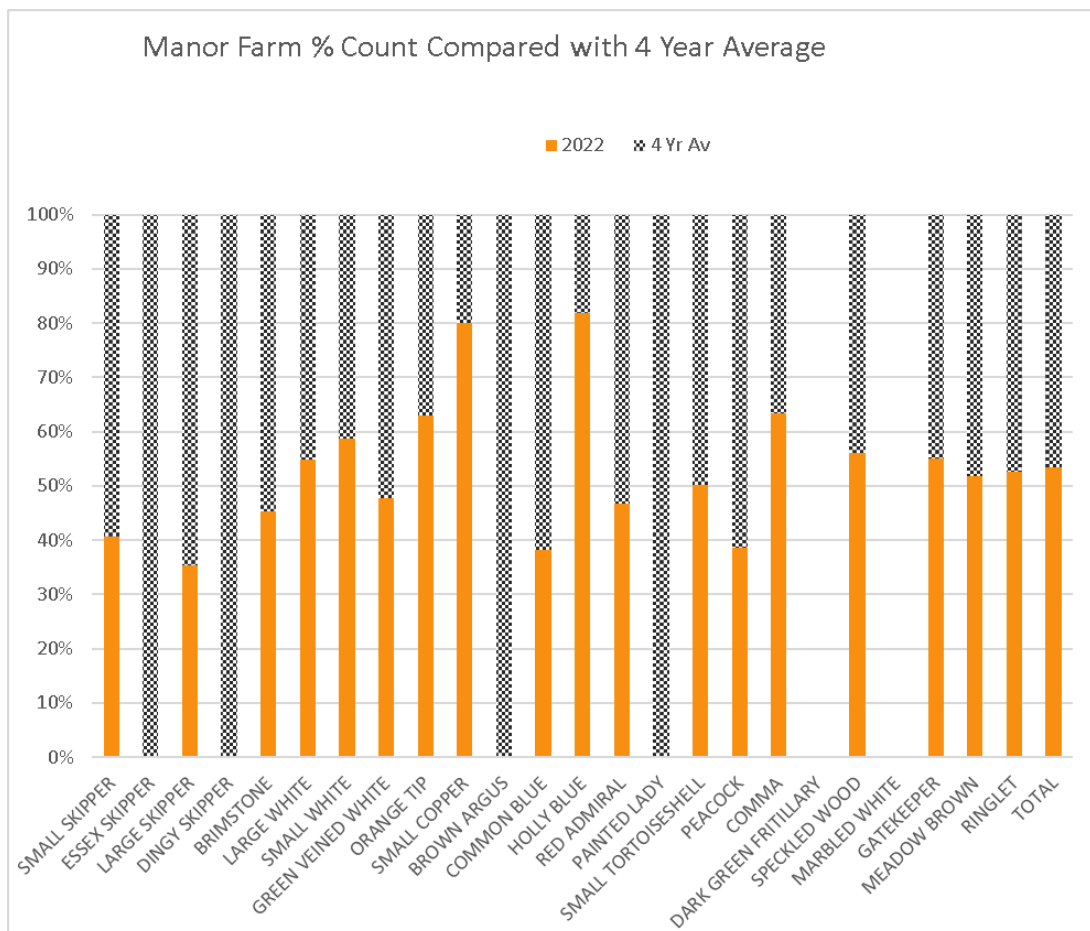
Marbled White Manor Farm  
21 June 2022  
Photo Credit Marion Bryce

# Manor Farm LNR Butterfly Transect 2022

**Manor Farm Counts 2022 compared with 4 Year Average**



**Manor Farm % Count 2022 compared with 4 Year Average for Individual Species**



# Nature Notes Clover Close Butterfly Transect 2022

16/04 Although sunny it was quite hazy a lot of the time. We saw a brimstone in the field adjacent to the meadow. We saw several rabbits and buff tailed bumble bees and heard a green woodpecker.

22/04 Common lizard Section 5

5/05 Meadow grasses just starting to grow up a bit, with a few low grasses in "flower". Still a fair few dandelion flowers, celandine in shading spots and sporadic thin patches of ladies smock. Quite a bit of garlic mustard starting to flower around boundary hedges.

Remarkably few insects of any description in evidence, with only very sporadic bumble bees and the odd crane fly. Given the relatively benign conditions, one wonders of numbers might be affected by spraying on arable fields in the locality.

6/05 Grasses still quite low, but growing, with a few in "flower". A few dandelion flowers, celandine in shade spots and sporadic thin patches of ladies smock. Quite a bit of garlic mustard and hawthorn blossom in boundary hedges. Insect life on the meadow still relatively sparse, with flowers relatively few and far between, but definitely more butterflies around. Yellow rattle shoots widespread, but too small to flower. The odd bud on birds foot trefoil just starting to show colour.

17/05 Grass growing up with quite a few seed heads showing. Buttercup all over, with widespread sporadic red clover. Patches of birds foot trefoil coming into flower. Insect life on the meadow still relatively sparse, but a few dragonflies around, including female broad bodied chaser. Notably few butterflies for such a warm sunny day.

26/5 Disappointing. We didn't get the timing right. There were a lot of light brown moths. The yellow rattle was widespread and birds foot trefoil coming into its own.

7/06 Much as last week. Birds foot trefoil still flowering strongly in patches. Widespread red and white clover, with buttercup. Lots of umbellifers, mostly hogweed. Butterflies still few and far between, but meadow browns perhaps a sign of change to come.

12/06 Orchid Hunt, Common Spotted rare, Southern Marsh common.

15/06 Much as last week. Birds foot trefoil still flowering strongly in patches. Widespread red and white clover. Yellow rattle mostly past its best. Bramble blossom in hedge and thickets. Meadow browns starting to be out in numbers. Other species still few and far between!



**Southern Marsh Orchid  
Clover Close 12 June 2022**  
Photo Credit Marion Bryce

22/06 Birds foot trefoil mostly past its best flower-wise. Still red and white clover. Yellow rattle flowers largely spent. Still some bramble blossom in hedge and thickets. Meadow browns starting to be out in numbers. Other species still few in number. Slight increase in ringlets, 3 commas (on hedge/thicket), 3 skippers (on grass) and I red admiral (on bramble).

26/06 Swallows flying low

12/07 Just as an FYI, the purple hairstreaks (50) are now about in reasonable numbers in the top of the oak trees, especially in the SE of the meadow. We have also managed to confirm their presence in the oaks on the B5010, which are under threat from DCC's development plans for Elvaston Castle and Country Park.

13/07 Lots of activity around flowering rose-bay willow herb amongst bramble (section 4) - a notable hotspot for the skippers, with most found to be Essex on examination. Also noted: common darter and southern hawker (section 1), 2 x brown hawker (sections 4&5).

16/07 20C Out slightly earlier, to avoid over-warm conditions anticipated for later in the day. While no ringlets were recorded on the transect, a couple were noted when walking off the meadow across the southern end.

22/07 Field Scabious, Ladies Bedstraw.

28/07 Out slightly earlier, to avoid over-warm conditions anticipated for later in the day. While no ringlets were recorded on the transect, a couple were noted when walking off the meadow across the southern end. Gatekeepers showing quite strongly where the transect runs alongside boundary hedges. Meadow browns still dominating the numbers. Skippers still quite widespread, with a higher proportion of Essex (six individuals netted to confirm ID) than has been noted in previous years.



**Field Scabious Clover Close  
22 July 2022**  
Photo Credit Marion Bryce

29/07 Thin cloud cover, but warm and still. Photo of brown argus sent.

11/08 V dry most vegetation crisped. 29C!

27/08 A bright, warm, sunny day, but not many butterflies around at all. Numerous dragon flies (common darter and southern hawker) in and around the trees along sections 5 and six - maybe they ate all the butterflies! A sole female common blue was the only real meadow butterfly encounter, with a few speckled woods and whites encountered around the hedged / wooded margins.

3/09 The three small coppers varied in condition from a pale worn one we tried to rescue from a spider's web to one in pristine condition, second brood?

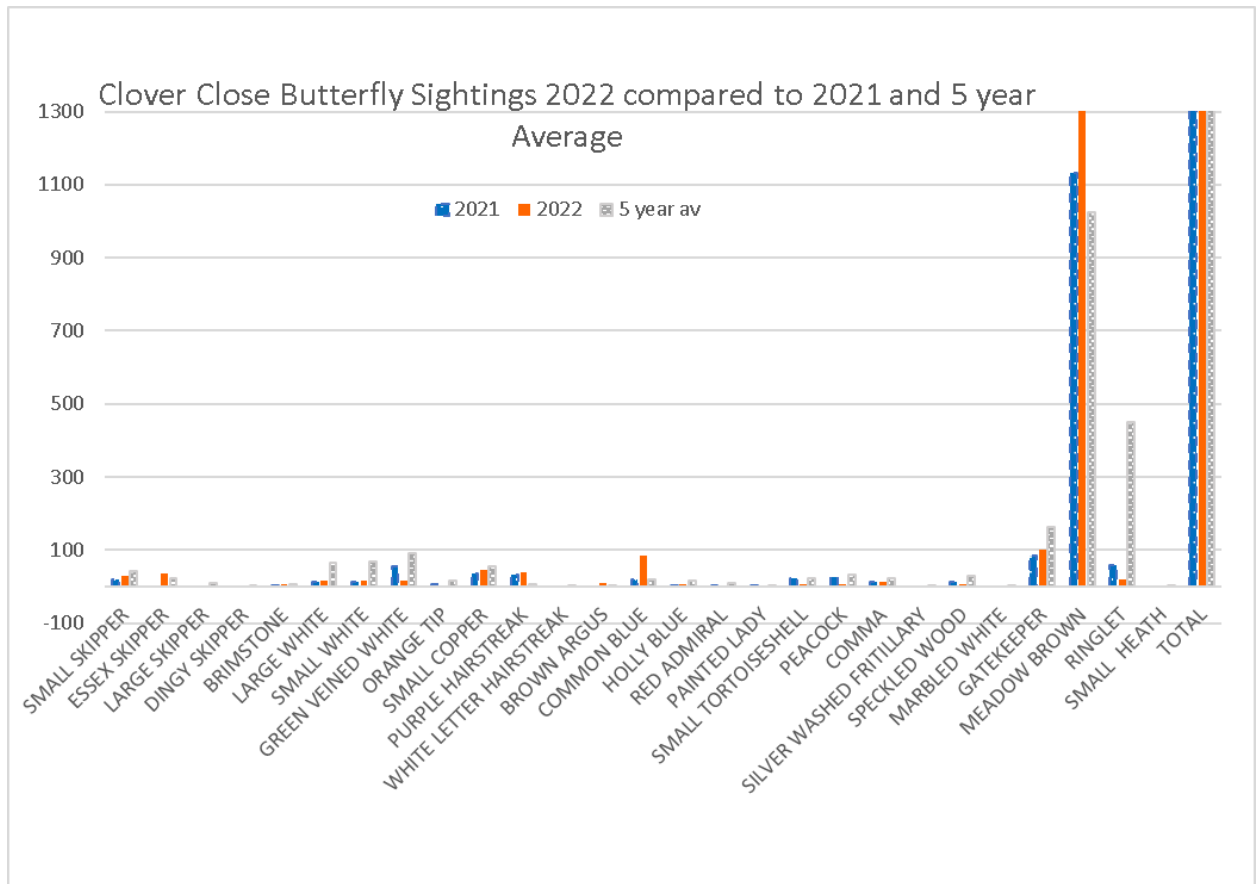
16/09 Intermittent cloud wind and sun, lots of dragonflies

23/09 A bright day with warm sunshine, despite the relatively cool air temperature. Very few flowers showing on the meadow, with a few bits of red clover, occasional patches with hawkweed and the odd thistle not yet gone completely to down. Most notable were the relatively fresh looking small coppers. Also lots of common darters and a fair few hornets in evidence along the wood margins of sections 4,5 and 6.

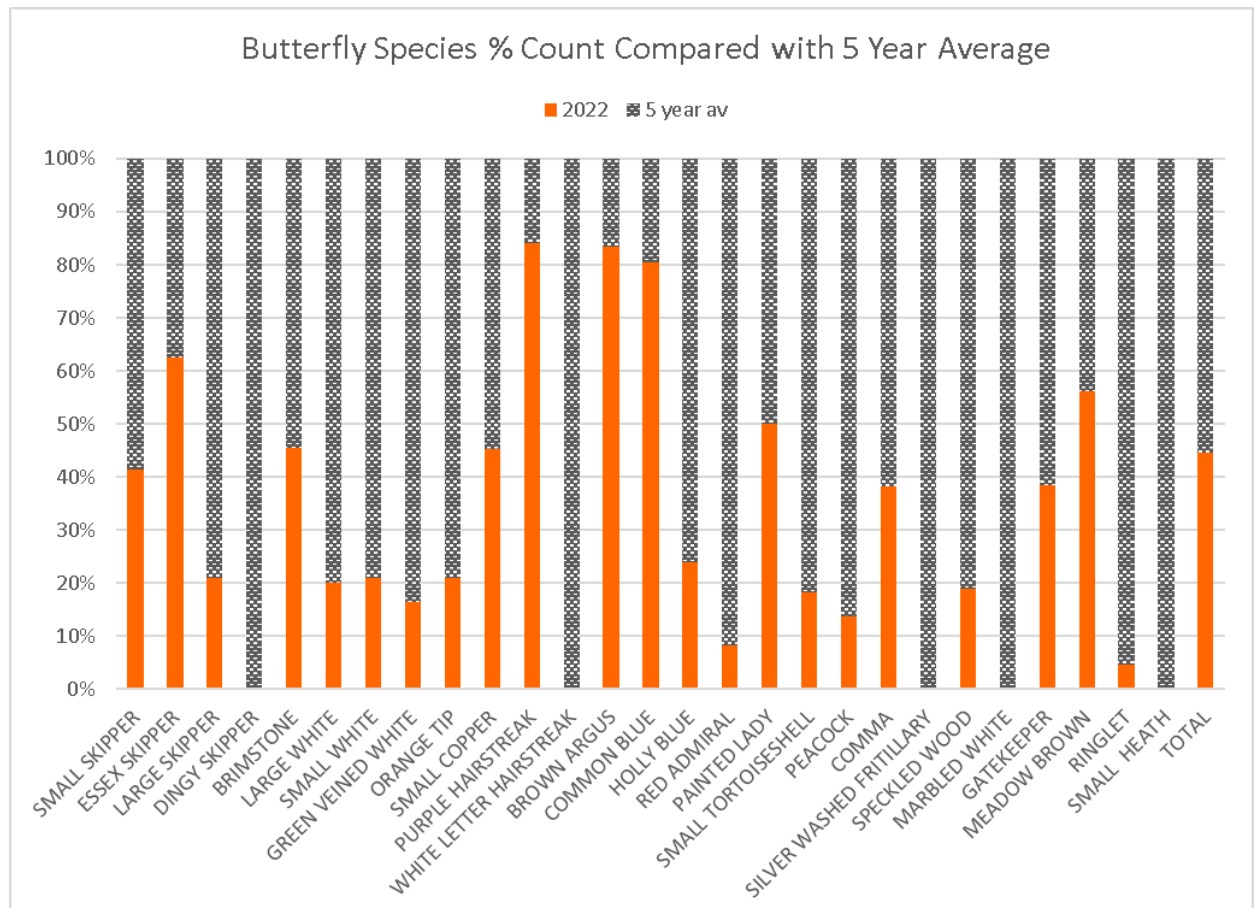
Thank you to Robin and Sally Bryce, Joan Breakwell, Marion Bryce, Christine Carrier, Marilyn Horner and Robert Waldron, Mike and Caroline Tong.

# Clover Close Butterfly Transect 2022

## Clover Close Butterfly Species Counts 2022 compared with 4 Year Average



## Clover Close Butterfly Species % Count 2022 compared with 5 Year Average for Individual Species



# Clover Close Butterfly Transect 2022

## Introduction

In the summer of 2022 members of LENS Long Eaton Natural History Society Wildlife Group and the Friends of Elvaston Park walked a butterfly transect at Clover Close, The Coronation Meadow at Derbyshire County Council's Elvaston Castle Country Park. [UKBMS guidelines](#) were followed

CLOVER CLOSE	2021	2022	5 year av
SMALL SKIPPER	20	29	41
ESSEX SKIPPER	0	36	22
LARGE SKIPPER	0	3	11
DINGY SKIPPER	0	0	0
BRIMSTONE	1	5	6
LARGE WHITE	14	16	64
SMALL WHITE	12	18	68
GREEN VEINED WHITE	55	18	92
ORANGE TIP	5	4	15
SMALL COPPER	36	46	56
PURPLE HAIRSTREAK	32	39	7
WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK	0	0	0
BROWN ARGUS	0	9	2
COMMON BLUE	21	85	21
HOLLY BLUE	1	5	16
RED ADMIRAL	3	1	11
PAINTED LADY	1	1	1
SMALL TORTOISESHELL	24	5	22
PEACOCK	25	5	32
COMMA	14	14	23
SILVER WASHED FRITILLARY	0	0	0
SPECKLED WOOD	12	7	30
MARBLED WHITE	0	0	0
GATEKEEPER	84	101	163
MEADOW BROWN	1133	1312	1025
RINGLET	59	21	451
SMALL HEATH	0	0	0
TOTAL	1521	1741	2173

In June and July Purple Hairstreaks were seen flying above two large oak trees at the SE edge of the meadow. Specific counts were made by Robin and Sally Bryce, using a telescope in the evening. Activity ceased after a heavy shower of rain.



**Purple Hairstreak 18 July 2022**  
Photo Credit Robin Bryce

Purple Hairstreak	
15-Jun	0
05-Jul	7
11-Jul	32
17-Jul	0
01-Aug	0

**Total Butterfly Sightings** increased by 220 to 1741. A 15% increase compared to

2021 and 20% below the 5 year average.

**Number of butterfly species recorded** - 22 in 2022 compared with 19 in 2021, 26 species have been recorded on the transect in the past 6 years.

**Peak count** was 323 in week 12 June 26th of which 308 were Meadow Browns. Most numerous butterfly overall was the Meadow Brown(1312), followed by the Gatekeeper(101).

**Increased sightings** of Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Large Skipper, Brimstone, Small White, Large White, Green-veined White, Small Copper, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Comma, Ringlet and Gatekeeper compared with 2021. All of these species except the Essex Skipper, Brown Argus, Purple Hairstreak (included but off transect) and Meadow Brown were below the 5 year average.

**Decreased sightings** of Orange Tip, Speckled Wood Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Peacock, and Ringlet.

**Migrant butterflies** - Painted Lady

**Not seen**, but seen in previous years, Marbled White, Small Heath, White-letter Hairstreak, Silver Washed Fritillary, and Dinky Skipper.

## DAY FLYING MOTHS

Yellow shell, Chimney Sweeper, Knotgrass larva, Common Grass Veneer, Silver Y, Bloodvein, Straw Dot, Common Marble, Garden Grass-veneer, Knot Grass L, Orange Pine Twist

## DRAGONFLIES

**Black-tailed Skimmer**, Broad-bodied Chaser, Black-tailed Skimmer, Southern Hawker, Emperor, Brown Hawker, Migrant Hawker, Common Darter.

## DISCUSSION

The overall count did not differ greatly from 2021 and the 5 year average, but what a difference in the ratio of butterfly species! Many species did not cope well with the hot, dry conditions in the open meadow.

Ringlet numbers crashed as coarse grass (Cock'sfoot, Tufted Hair Grass) retreats. The Meadow Brown favours Meadow Grass and Fescues ie finer leaved grass and this is the most numerous species by far. The Small Skipper feeds almost exclusively on Yorkshire Fog whereas the Essex Skipper breeds on Cock'sfoot for preference but also various grass species including Meadow Foxtail which is increasing. The most noticeable difference in the meadow this year was the low height of the grass, a sign of species transition promoted by management for biodiversity, aided by ubiquitous Yellow Rattle combined with dry conditions.

There is plenty of Bird's-foot Trefoil available and there was a remarkable increase in the Common Blue colony. Brown Argus breeds on Crane'sbills which increase under hay meadow management. This is one of the best sites in Derbyshire for Small Copper which feeds on Common Sorrel. Holly Blue is a species of woodland edge so numbers are unlikely to increase. The Speckled Wood feeds on coarse grass and prefers shade. Cows grazing the grass under the nearby woodland may affect these and also the nymphalid butterflies which feed on nettle. The 3 Highland cattle were moved back onto the meadow in early October.

Orange-tip numbers are still low since the Cuckoo Flower/Ladysmock colony was decimated by late grazing and dry conditions. It is hoped that the few remaining plants will set seed and the colony increase.

An astounding variety of butterflies have been recorded on the Coronation Meadow and it is a privilege to record the increased biodiversity which is emerging.

A big thank you to all of our Butterfly Transect Volunteers. A special thanks to to Fay Simnett for all of her hard work looking after Clover Close.



# Bennerley Butterfly Transect 2022

Throughout the summer months of 2022 butterflies, day-flying moths and dragonflies were recorded in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of a butterfly transect walked around Bennerley Viaduct. [UKBMS guidelines](#). were followed

## Summary of Results

BENNERLEY	2021	2022	5 Yr Av
<b>SMALL SKIPPER</b>	75	123	72
<b>ESSEX SKIPPER</b>	0	0	5
<b>LARGE SKIPPER</b>	10	76	32
<b>DINGY SKIPPER</b>	6	23	12
<b>BRIMSTONE</b>	9	16	7
<b>LARGE WHITE</b>	54	67	107
<b>SMALL WHITE</b>	75	138	144
<b>GREEN VEINED WHITE</b>	109	103	134
<b>ORANGE TIP</b>	57	39	37
<b>SMALL COPPER</b>	9	9	9
<b>BROWN ARGUS</b>	1	4	2
<b>COMMON BLUE</b>	99	132	96
<b>HOLLY BLUE</b>	6	34	10
<b>RED ADMIRAL</b>	24	6	14
<b>PAINTED LADY</b>	0	3	6
<b>SMALL TORTOISESHELL</b>	22	22	30
<b>PEACOCK</b>	59	14	32
<b>COMMA</b>	17	24	15
<b>DARK GREEN FRITILLARY</b>	0	0	0
<b>SPECKLED WOOD</b>	69	66	77
<b>WALL BROWN</b>	0	0	1
<b>GATEKEEPER</b>	65	141	80
<b>MEADOW BROWN</b>	101	284	165
<b>RINGLET</b>	88	190	157
<b>SMALL HEATH</b>	27	65	20
<b>SMALL BLUE</b>	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>1260</b>



Margaret Beresford and Joan Breakwell try out the new bench installed by the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct 22 April 2022

Photo Credit Marion Bryce

## DAY FLYING MOTHS

Garden Grass Veneer, Nettle-tap, Straw Dot, Burnet Companion, Common Yellow Conch, Cinnabar, Latticed Heath, Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet, 6-spot Burnet, Six-belted Clearwing, Satin Grass Veneer, Shaded Broadbar.

## DRAGONFLIES

Hairy Dragonfly, Southern Hawker, Emperor, Blue tailed Damselfly, Large Red Damselfly, Red-eyed Damselfly, Banded Demoiselle, 4-spot Chaser, Common Blue Damselfly, Emerald Damselfly, Common Darter, Migrant Hawker.

**Total Butterfly Sightings** increased by 598 to 1580

A 61% increase compared to 2021 and 25% above the 5 year average.

**Number of butterfly species recorded** - 22 in 2022 compared with 19 in 2021, giving an historic total of 25 species.

**Peak count** was 229 in week 16 July 16th

**Most numerous butterfly** was the Meadow Brown (284), followed by the Ringlet (190).

**Increased sightings** of Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Dingy Skipper, Brimstone, Small White, Large White, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Painted Lady, Comma, Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Gatekeeper and Small Heath compared with 2021. All of these species except the Large White, Green-veined White, Small White and Painted Lady were above the 8 year average.

**Decreased sightings** of Green-veined White Orange Tip, Common Blue, Red Admiral, Peacock and Speckled Wood.

Small Copper and Small Tortoiseshell unchanged.

**Not seen**, but seen in previous years Essex Skipper, Wall Brown, Small Blue.

**Migrant species:** Painted Lady

**Notable day flying moth:** 6-belted Clearwing

**Principal Species of Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity:** Dingy Skipper Small Heath, Shaded Broad-bar, Latticed Heath and Cinnabar.

**DISCUSSION:** An excellent result which shows a well balanced population of butterflies within a variety of habitats which are enhanced locally by the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct. An increase in grass dependent species Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Gatekeeper, Small and Large Skipper continues, helped by the long strip of wild by the road in Section 6.

Dingy Skipper foodplant is Birds-foot Trefoil which is plentiful in Section 4 the industrial apron which continues to disappoint. The Small Heath is dependent on fine leaved grass, it only flies in sunshine and there was plenty of that this year. These two species were recorded in Section 3 and 5 only.

Holly Blue population increased this year. Common Blue colonies on Section 3 and 5 expanded, Brown Argus recorded on Section 3 only This species occurs in small, compact colonies the warm weather may have encouraged long flights this year to expand the colony.

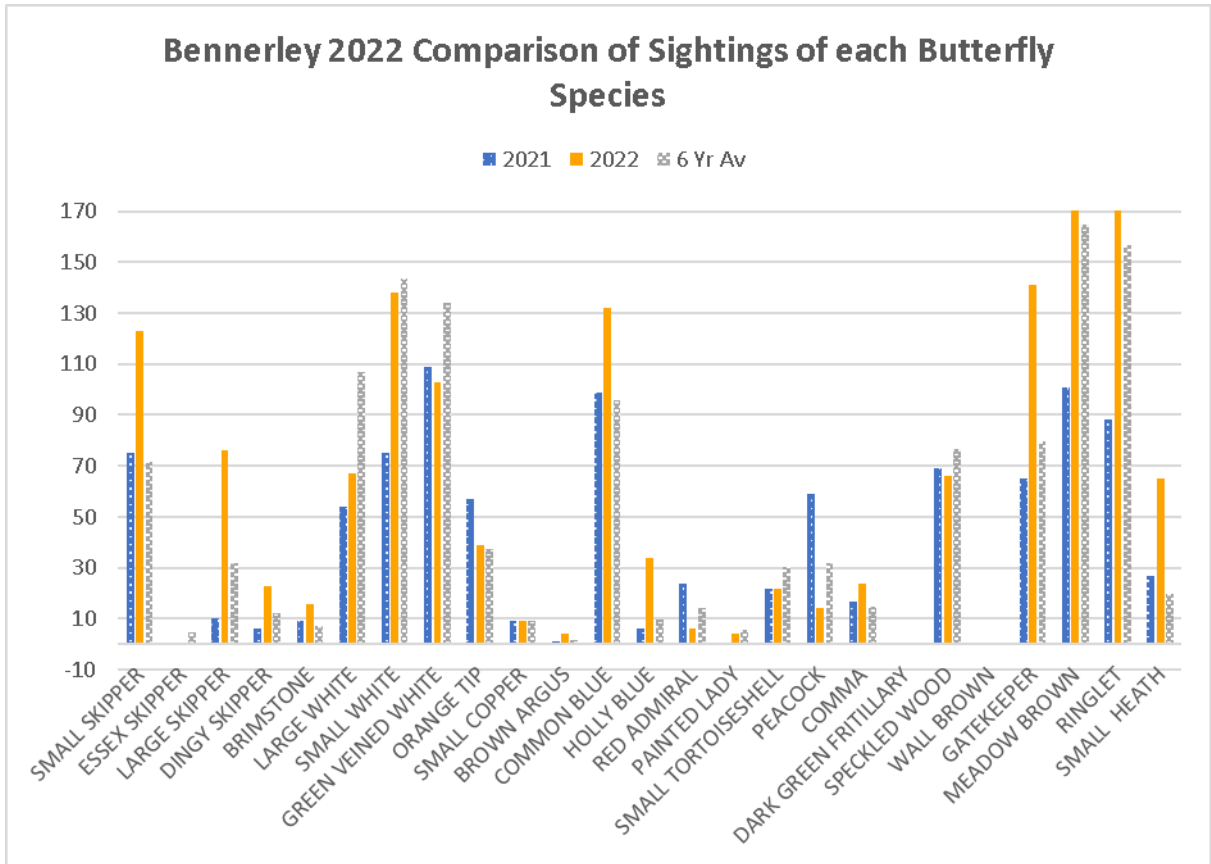
Nymphalid Species, Peacock and Red Admiral suffered in the high temperatures. As usual most sightings of these were on the Buddleja in Section 3 although the caterpillars feed on nettles.

This is a tremendously important site for butterflies.

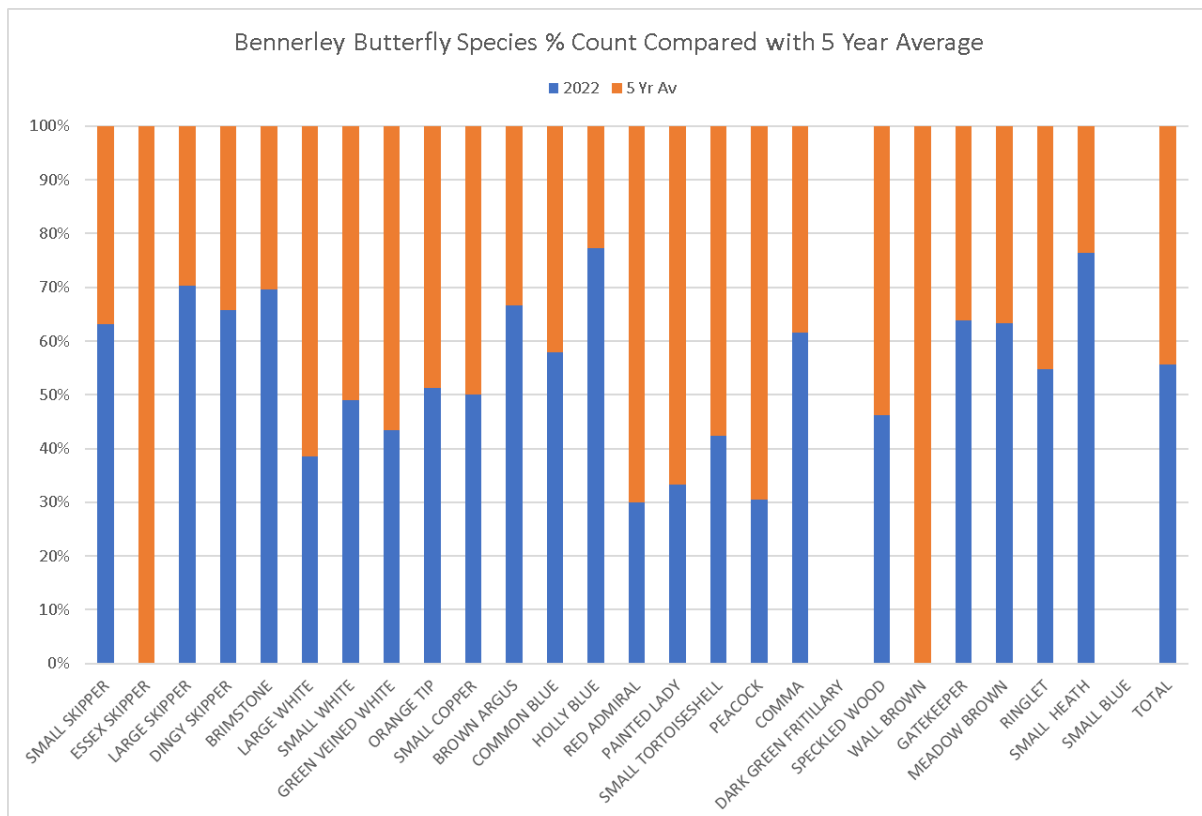
A big thank you to all of our butterfly transect volunteers. Butterfly recorders in 2022 were Marion Bryce, Stephanie White, Joan Breakwell, Margaret Beresford, Helen Knewstubb and Norman Blake.

# Bennerley Butterfly Transect 2022

## Bennerley Annual Abundance of Individual Species Compared



## Bennerley Butterfly Species % Count 2022 compared with 5 Year Average



# The 2022 Garden Moth Year in Long Eaton

Let's be honest, my garden is very small, but it is surrounded by trees in the far more generously proportioned nearby gardens. The garden is fairly close to the River Erewash in the Trent Valley and not too far from Toton Sidings which is a vast industrial relic site, ear-marked for HS2, the train that never arrived. I am so lucky to be surrounded by green space close to a busy wildlife corridor on the border of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Every Friday night I switch on the actinic lamp of my Skinner moth trap at dusk, and then I have to rush downstairs at first light to see the moths that have been attracted. A privileged glimpse of life in a parallel universe. If I tarry too long in bed the moths disappear, the Robins and Blackbirds eat them or a Cat scares them all away.

The Garden Moth Scheme (GMS) is a citizen science project open to anyone interested in recording moths regularly in their garden. The moths must be identified and the number of each species counted and entered onto the notorious GMS Spreadsheet. It gives moth-ing purpose to be part of a national project, they are good indicators of biodiversity and inform us about changes in the environment.

## **Quarter 1** March 1st – May 2nd

A cold and wet Spring brought old faithfuls, Grey Shoulder Knot, Hebrew Character, Clouded Drab, Common and Twin-spotted Quaker. Additional delights were Streamer, Oak Beauty, Herald and Early Thorn. An Oak Nycteoline *Nycteola revayana* on 23 March was New For Garden (NFG). Yellow-barred Brindle just made it into the first recording quarter. Total 79 moths 18 species on the Garden Moth Scheme (GMS), additional species 8. Most common moth, Double-striped Pug (12), and Light Brown Apple Moth (11).

## **Quarter 2** May 3rd - July 4th

Numbers of several common micros began to increase, my favourites being Ruddy Streak, Long-horned Flatbody and Small Magpie. The Bee moth is



**Small Clouded Brindle, Tree Lichen Beauty: Grey Poplar Bell  
Long Eaton 2022**

Photo Credit Marion Bryce

less popular. 8th May brought Least Black Arches which I should see 8th May brought Least Black Arches which I should see more often. Waves included Small Dusty, Small Fan-footed, Common, Single-dotted and of course the Riband Wave whose caterpillar lurks in the ivy with the Willow Beauty.

There were plenty of pugs about including the very large Freyer's Pug which feeds on conifers; the pretty Foxglove Pug and another easy to recognise, the Green Pug.

Carpet moths included Spruce, Garden, Common, Silver Ground, Green, Red-green, Common Marbled and the colourful Flame Carpet. Small Bloodvein, Bloodvein, Clouded silver and Clouded Border rest on the outside of the trap, while shocking pink Elephant hawkmoths, squeeze plump bodies inside.

Lovely furry moths, Pale Tussock, Muslin Moth, Buff Ermine and White Ermine, more subtle are the footmen, Common, Buff and Scarce Footman, while Light Emerald and Swallowtail win the beauty parade. Just one Common Emerald, surprising really that there are not more green moths. Scalloped Oak followed Scalloped Hazel, Beautiful Hooktip and a very large Pebble Hook-tip. The Phoenix caterpillar feeds on currant bushes.

Straw Dot and Snout we know better as day flying moths. Sycamore, The Miller (whose gorgeous caterpillar feeds on Birch), Poplar Grey, Dotted Clay NFG, Varied Coronet (foodplant Sweet Williams and Bladder Champion) and Bright-line Brown-eye, from next door's Tomatoes, flew in. Shuttle-shaped dart, Heart and Dart, Flame and Rustic Shoulder knot. Flame Shoulder, Small Square-spot, Double Square Spot, Setaceous Hebrew

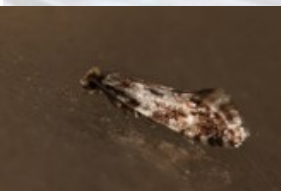
# The 2022 Garden Moth Year in Long Eaton contd

Character and Large Yellow Underwing (second most common moth overall) are a normality check. The Peppered Moth is renowned for its markings that camouflage it against lichen in the countryside and soot in the city. Dark Arches and 'Rustic agg', start to pour into the trap. Total 567 moths 84 species on the Garden Moth Scheme (GMS), additional species 33. Most common moth Quarter 2, 'Rustic agg' (100) second, Heart and Dart (62).

The additional species, (rarely accepted by Moth Recorders), are usually the most interesting in Quarter 2 we saw a handsome Alder Moth (2<sup>nd</sup> garden record), the Engrailed, and fabulously good-looking, but unwelcome, Box Moth (NFG in 2021). 22<sup>nd</sup> July an exciting morning with 6 species NFG. Water Carpet *Lampropteryx suffumata* NFG, supposedly common, caterpillar feeds on bedstraws. I'm not sure how much we owe the next record to Global Warming or the desulphuriser on Ratcliffe-on Soar Power Station together with the general move away from coal fires: Tree-lichen Beauty *Cryphia algae* NFG feeds on tree lichens, considered a rare migrant by Waring & Townsend, 2004, now breeding in SE.England (British Lepidoptera) and a recent arrival in Derbyshire. Noteworthy micromoths, *Luquetia lobella* Sloe Flat Body NFG, overdue, we've got enough Blackthorn around. Not so good looking was Acer Sober *Anarsia innoxella* NFG which feeds on Acers and was 'new to science' in 2017! The larvae of Cork Moth *Nemapogon cloacella* NFG feed mainly on types of bracket fungus, Heather Twist *Argyrotaenia ljugiana* NFG belongs on



**Sloe Flatbody**



**Cork Moth**



**Acer Sober**



**Heather Twist**

## Quarter 3 July 5<sup>th</sup> – September 5<sup>th</sup>

Hot, hot, hot in the third quarter. Warm Southerly winds carried hundreds of migrant species to UK shores and many of them such as Rush Veneer, Diamond Back Moth, Double-striped Tabby *Hypsopygia glaucinalis* and Grey Knothorn *Acrobasis advenilla* even reached Long Eaton! Overwhelmed by micros, many are London Dowd *Blastobasis lacticollella*, too numerous to count. Codling Moth (apple grubs) as usual, then a colourful orange splashed variant of Grey Poplar Bell *Epinotia nisella f decorana* (NFG) caught my eye. Many specks of gold around the trap Golden Argent *Argyresthia geodartella*, are from the nearby Silver Birch. Gold Triangle and Mother of Pearl are large micros and there are always a couple of hot nights when Water Veneer *Acentria ephemerella* sprinkle all around the trap like confetti.

Huge pink and black striped Privet Hawkmoths squeeze into the trap, Dwarf Cream Wave and Mullein Wave NFG 2011, rest their wings outside. Two more day flying moths, Shaded Broad-bar and Yellow Shell are attracted. Even more beautiful is the Barred Yellow – food plant Dog-rose, and the Rivulet which feeds on Red Campion. Moths ever ingenious, the Lime-speck Pug looks like a bird dropping while the long snouted Pale Prominent looks like a twig. Record Fan-foot and Small Fan-foot, Gold Spot, Grey Dagger with lots of Copper Underwings (all Svensson's), Marbled Beauty, Pale Mottled Willow, the bat-like Old Lady and the wonderfully named Setaceous Hebrew Character. The Chocolate tip (6<sup>th</sup> August) is possibly my favourite moth, but the Wax Moth *Galleria mellonella* is the beekeepers bane as it feasts on honeycomb. Later in the quarter Straw Underwing, Flounced Rustic followed by Six-striped Rustic and Dusky Brocade, also Dun-bar, Centre-barred Sallow. Turnip Moth, and Clay (whose male helpfully has a black chevron on the underside). Short Cloaked Moth came in with Middle-barred and Marbled Minors. Among the ubiquitous Yellow Underwing there are now Lesser Yellow Underwings, Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwings and the very large Broad

# The 2022 Garden Moth Year in Long Eaton contd

-bordered Yellow Underwing. Vine's Rustic always looks the same whereas Square-spot Rustic appears in various guises. Then the Shuttle-shaped Darts and various other second generation moths re-appear. A single Orange Swift finishes the quarter. Off the GMS core species list, garden regulars Toadflax Brocade (first garden record 2015) and Toadflax Pug. On 30<sup>th</sup> July, two pristine Small Clouded Brindle *Apamea unanimitis* NFG. Quarter 3 total 813 moths, 90 species on the GMS list, highest count (not including micros) Large Yellow Underwing 142, followed by Vine's Rustic 90, it's best year yet.



**Scarce Bordered Straw      Orange Sallow:**

**Long Eaton 2022**

**Photo Credit Marion Bryce**

Additional species 27.

Quarter 4 September 6th – November 1st  
Continuing warm weather brought more migrant moths Silver Y, Scarce Bordered Straw *Helicoverpa armigera* NFG and Dark Sword Grass. An eye-catching micro moth *Ypsolopha horridella* Dark Smudge NFG feeds on Blackthorn, expect to see more. Lunar Underwing, Blair's Shoulder Knot, Sallow, Beaded Chestnut, Yellow-line and Red-line Quaker are to be expected but an Orange Sallow *Tiliacea cit-rago* NFG was overdue Lime Trees are locally common. Similar to Diamond Backed Moth was Pale-backed Clothes Moth *Monopis crocicapitella* (NFG). Late in the quarter Black Rustic, Green -brindled Crescent, Feathered Thorn, Red-green Carpet and November Moth are as per normal, whereas Figure-of-eight *Diloba caeruleocephala* NFG is a welcome addition to the garden moth list.

Quarter 4 total: 280 moths, 36 species on the GMS list, Most common moth Q4, Light Brown Apple Moth (46) followed by Large Yellow Underwing 36, Vine's Rustic 28. Additional species 26.

The Winter Recording season brought the angelic Jasmine Moth (*Palpita vitrealis*) NFG, a large migrant micromoth with pearly fringed wings which feeds on Olive and Jasmine in the Mediterranean where it is a very common moth; Rusty Dot Pearl and Ruddy Streak. Winter Groundling *Scrobipalpa costella* NFG a micromoth that feeds on Woody Nightshade appeared twice with December Moth, but finally, with the first frosty weather, even Light Brown Apple Moth disappeared to mark the end of a stupendous 2022 Garden Moth Season.

'Rustic agg', the most common moth overall, and Large Yellow Underwing second most common moth overall are generalist species feeding on a wide variety of plants. 17 species were new records for the garden. Total GMS for the year 1739 moths of 144 species, and additional 58 species identified which are not on the East Midlands Garden Moth Scheme list. This is the highest number of moths recorded so far annually in my Long Eaton Garden, showing a 44% increase on the 10 year average.

Marion Bryce 10 January 2023

<b>Moth Species New for Long Eaton Garden 2022</b>	
Oak Nycteoline	Scarce Bordered Straw
Water Carpet	Dark Smudge
Tree-lichen Beauty	Orange Sallow Lime
Sloe Flat Body	Pale-backed Clothes Moth
Acer Sober	Figure-of-eight
Cork Moth	Jasmine Moth
Heather Twist	Winter Groundling
Grey Poplar Bell <i>Epino-tia nisella f decorana</i>	Small Clouded Brindle <i>Apamea unanimitis</i>

# Tree Warden Events 2023

	Time	Place	Activity
<b>January</b>	<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b> 10am – 1pm	<b>Former Pewit Golf Course, West End Drive, Ilkeston, DE7 5GH</b> – meet in car park	<b>Winter tree identification</b> Introduction to the site's development as a local nature reserve. Learning to identify trees by looking at winter silhouettes, bark, branches, buds and seeds on the tour.
<b>February</b>	<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b> 10am – 1pm	<b>Forbes Hole, Fields Farm Road, Long Eaton, NG10 1GA</b> – meet in car park	<b>Woodland management</b> Prune trees to maintain viewpoints and clear footpaths with Friends of Forbes Hole.
<b>March</b>	<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b> 10am – 1pm	<b>Orchid Wood, Sawley Road, Breaston, DE72 3QF</b> – meet in car park	<b>Woodland management</b> Prune trees back from car park. Remove suppressed trees to create halo of light to selected oaks.
<b>June</b>	<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June</b> 10am – 1pm	<b>Victoria Park, Drummond Road, Ilkeston, DE7 5HA</b> – meet in car park by play area	<b>Summer tree identification</b> Learn to identify trees by looking at leaves, bark, flowers and seeds in a park setting.
<b>September</b>	<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b> 10am – 1pm	<b>West Park, Wilsthorpe Road, Long Eaton, NG10 4AA</b> - meet at leisure centre car park	<b>Tree Care Campaign</b> Assess the health and condition of newly planted trees. Check tree ties, stakes and carry out formative pruning.
<b>October</b>	<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b> 10am – 1pm	<b>Fox Covert, Wilsthorpe Road, Long Eaton, NG10 4AA</b> - meet at leisure centre car park	<b>Woodland management</b> Crown lift trees adjacent to the wildflower meadow. Clear footpaths by pruning and coppicing.
<b>November</b>	<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b> 10am – 1pm	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Tree planting in National Tree Week</b> Plant specimen trees in a park setting.
<b>December</b>	<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b> <b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b> 9.30am – 11am	<b>Long Eaton Market Place</b> <b>Ilkeston Market Place</b>	<b>Free Tree Scheme</b> Give away trees to households on a first come first served basis.

**Invitations for events organised by Tree Wardens will be emailed to the network as and when arranged throughout the year.**

Tree Wardens will be provided with a hi-viz vest, gloves and safety glasses.  
Please bring these with you for practical sessions.

All equipment or learning resources will be provided for each session.  
Please dress appropriately for weather and activity, including suitable footwear.

Don't forget to bring your own refreshments and snacks for tea break.

**Please let me know if you would like to attend any of these events by**

## Moth Trap Intruders

Every Friday night when I run my garden moth trap for the Garden Moth Recording Scheme I see Moth Trap intruders-invertebrates which, as well as moths, are attracted to the light. These 'invaders' now have their own facebook group '[Moth Trap Intruders UK](#)' and the moderator, Steve French, publishes a monthly list of the top 10 species likely to turn up, compiled from i-record records. Bugs and beetles, Lacewings, Flies, Spiders, Harvestmen, Wasps and Woodlice; a variety of species many not seen before, all turn up in the trap. I've only once seen a Butterfly, it was a Speckled Wood. In high summer, Lesser Water Boatmen and Water Beetles fly in and it is exciting to see big Burying Beetles such as *Nicrophorus humator* and *investigator*, Lesser Stag Beetle *Dorcus parallelipipedus* and the occasional Cockchafer *Melolontha melolontha*.

There are fleeting visits from Caddis they never stay til morning. Green lacewings *Chrysoperla carnea* lucasina are weekly visitors and this year for the first time *Nineta flava* and a black lacewing *Nothochrysa capitata* were recorded.

Soldier flies, Hoverflies and crane flies all need careful examination for identification. Wasps are regular visitors, rarely the common wasp (unwelcome as they feed on the moths), more often Braconid and Ichneumon Wasps. Harvestmen and Spiders appear in the trap in autumn. This year saw an Ivy Spider *Nigma walckenaeri* for the first time.

With the first frost most activity stops and we are unlikely to see any moth trap intruders or moths until next year.

**Stop press news:** Marmalade hoverfly trapped New Years Day!



**Black Lacewing Long Eaton Garden Moth Trap 7 July 2022**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

## Giant Willow Aphid

Possibly the largest aphid in the world was seen at Forbes Hole during a work party. *Tuberoachnus salignus* feeds on willows Unlike most aphids, it does not feed on leaves, but on stems and twigs feeding through the bark. The long tube-like mouthpart (the stylet) is difficult to see because the aphid tucks it neatly underneath its body. These aphids are unmistakable, the adults are up to 5 or 6 mm long and have a tubercle on their back like a rose thorn or shark's fin Unlike just about every other insect, the Giant Willow Aphid is most active during freezing weather, reproducing parthogenetically continually through the winter. ? The colonies are made

up of females who give birth to live young. No male Giant Willow Aphid has ever been found. How can it survive the freezing temperatures of winter? Perhaps like springtails, they are able to release a protective anti-freeze chemical. Very few predators feed on them. Apparently, between March and August, they disappear and no-one knows where they go. How strange, this aphid spends all winter feeding on willow trees and then in the spring when most aphids are hatching from overwintered eggs, our Giant Willow Aphid disappears! Where does it go, what plants is it feeding on and why leave the willows when their sap is rising and soluble nitrogen is readily available?



**Giant Willow Aphid Forbes Hole 25 November 2022**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

## Toton Washland Environment Agency Biodiversity Enhancement—Ruth Coxon

Update from the Environment Agency Biodiversity Officer regarding work on Toton Washlands

Works to repair the fords were completed in mid October.

Tree removal along the Eastern flood bund ( trees marked with orange) commence over winter

Hedge planting to fill in gaps along the canal/site boundary in collaboration with a Canal & Rivers Trust volunteer Group in late Winter.

Further enhancement sites – e.g. bramble removal, clearing out ditches and drains, and willow coppicing around seasonally wet pond across the Autumn-Winter

Flood bund reprofiling works will take place in 2023. A works compound will be placed near the south ford for the works.

The field team sided up the bramble along the butterfly transect route on a couple of occasions.

No signs of signal crayfish or water vole were found during surveys. eDNA testing of old meanders did not detect any great crested newts. The kingfisher has been seen a few times during visits, near the ford by the lock at the North of the site.

An overhanging tree was made safe on the southern footpath parallel to Royal Avenue further tree works scheduled in winter for this copse.



**'New' Pond Toton Washlands December 2022**

22

Photo credit Marion Bryce

**LENS Field Trips**

**Sat Apr 22 Clifton Woods**

**Meet 2pm** at Holgate car park, Clifton village, postcode NG11 8NL, Grid Ref SK 410 426. Bluebell walk, 2 miles with some uphill.

**Leader** Marion Bryce

**Mon May 8 Woodthorpe Grange Park**

**Meet 2pm** at Woodthorpe Grange Park car park on Woodthorpe Drive, postcode NG5 4HA. Formal gardens, wild areas, interesting trees, old railway tunnels. Hilly park with mainly good paths. Arrive early to visit the excellent nursery (supplying most of Nottingham's plants for Britain in Bloom) and hot-house, and have lunch at the café.

**Leader** Peter Wood

Mon May 22 Woodside Reserve (DWT) butterfly walk Meet 2pm at Pit Lane entrance (off Heanor Road), postcode DE75 7JL, for 2-3 mile undulating walk with flowers and butterflies.

**Leader** Robert Waldron

Contact Joan Breakwell 07527 007280 [joan.breakwell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:joan.breakwell@yahoo.co.uk) or [Lensnaturalhistory@gmail.com](mailto:Lensnaturalhistory@gmail.com)

Wear suitable clothing. Cost £1.50 for members, £2.50 for visitors.

see LENS [Website](#) for full program



**Ring-necked Parakeet**  
**Thulston 2 January 2023**

The Ring-necked Parakeet is the world's most northerly and Britain's only breeding parrot. It's colonisation has been aided by warm winters and abundant bird-table food, first record Kent 1969, but by 2016 increased to 12000 pairs recorded nationally. They first bred in Derbyshire in 2003 (BTO).

**Dates for your Diary**

See LENS at

- Rotary Club Fun Day 30th August 2023 West Park
- Elvaston Woodland Festival 16 & 17th September 2023
- DaNES Insect Show 11th November 2023 Brackenhurst

**Wildlife Talks start Wednesday 27th September 2023**

**Ken Balkow**

**Wildflowers of the Algarve**

7.00 pm in the United Reformed Church, 26 Midland Street, Long Eaton, NG10 1HQ. Full disabled access.

Cost £1.50 for members, £2.50 for visitors. All welcome.

Committee Meeting 9 September 2023

Agenda items invited.

**LENS Wildlife Group**

**We welcome articles and photographs of local wildlife**

**CONTACT**

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