

Gedling Country Park Walk Saturday 1st June 2019

Fifteen wildlife walkers joined Jenny, Rod, Mark and Brian on a cloudy but bright day by Café 1899. We turned left down to the wildflower meadow, immediately



Bittersweet



Oxeye daisy & guests



Cut-leaved cranesbill



Phil and Gay enjoy



Garden with buttercups



Field Penny cress

finding plenty to keep the cameras busy. The large hoverfly sitting beside a green hair-streak butterfly on this oxeye daisy was an unusual combination, but there was interest everywhere in what was now quite high abundant vegetation.



Southern Marsh Orchids were our next find—more even than last year, hiding in 2's and 3's. They are fairly common on this Park.

Northern Marsh and Pyramid can

be seen elsewhere. The 'Exhibition' garden seemed entirely surrounded by buttercups. Mark found a plant new to the Park, a field penny cress, common in Leicester and Rut-



Northern Marsh orchids



Grass vetchling

Not far away, grass vetchling showed its tiny crimson flower in several places, with bees taking nectar from birds foot trefoil. Along the solar panel fence, black medick lay hidden in the grass. It was here that Mark, in the lead, spotted a young skylark on a



Black Medick

post just in front of him. It stayed long enough for our close-ups, before making off to its family nearby.



Young Skylark



Birds foot trefoil



Down towards the ponds we stopped on the way to find more orchids—bee orchids, which, like the others, rely on a particular fungus to thrive. All was well on both ponds, with the swan content to approach our group. The yellow flag iris at the water's edge were at their best, quite close to a male spider that had made a rough cocoon prior to his mating procedures. Beside the path up to the reed pond, oxeye daisies covered the



Yellow flag iris



Mark & oxeye daisies

ground, whilst on the path itself a lone bee orchid tried to block our progress. A small patch of Herb Robert marked the edge of the path. At the pond, Mark spotted a Hairy Dragonfly flitting among more flag irises –



Bee orchid



a final gift. Our thanks to Jenny and Rod Fillingham for their help during this walk.

Brian Cluff