

Summer Wildlife Walks in Gedling Country Park - July and August

27th July Although fewer attended these last 2 walks, everyone participated with great interest. Several white butterflies immediately showed themselves, followed by various hoverflies. Mark's remarkable knowledge of the latter, with identification and scientific name, were again impressive.



Round on the wildflower meadow, a male Holly Blue alighted on Brian's arm. As we saw on 29th June, some male butterflies need nutri-



ents like sodium (from salt) and amino acids. This butterfly is taking up sweat from Brian's skin. Just later it was doing the same from Phil's finger. A more refined way of 'puddling', as this is known. These 'puddling' groups are sometimes quite large.

Above the ponds we spotted this Painted Lady butterfly with a rare acceptance of a close-up camera, then several small butterflies that were either Brown Argus or female Common Blue. They rarely opened their wings for proper identification, but this is a female Common Blue.



A heron on the bottom pond was the largest inhabitant seen that day, but it was soon followed by the smallest—this tiny yellow ladybird, with 22 black spots, only 3mm (1/8th inch) long. Name? *Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata*—the last word is Latin for '22 spots'. The day ended with a good view of a 6-spot Burnet Moth - like the Cinnabar Moth, it is poisonous to predators.



6-spot Burnet Moth

10th August The last walk this year covered the western side of the Park, leaving

the main path to explore what's hidden in the grasses - Common Blue butterflies with many hoverflies supplementing the bees in pollination efforts. This chryso-

toxum bicintum has become fairly active here—a very distinctive yellow and black



2 Lesser Marsh Grasshoppers

hoverfly. Grasshoppers are everywhere here, but need much

patience to track and photo them. This area is full of daisies and wild strawberries earlier in the year. In the hope that we might see a purple streak butterfly above the trees, we trekked a roller-coaster path through the woods, but found little



but a distinctive fungus.



Back in the open, a hovering kestrel brought the binoculars out for a few moments.



Field Grasshopper

This was followed by a field grasshopper, with a different shaped head and colour from the marsh variety. Fairly common but rarely spotted, one of the various tiny shield bugs posed for a close-up. This is the common green variety.



These walks have become very popular with a keen nucleus of wildlife spotters who have learned much from Mark's incredibly wide and detailed knowledge of our Park's wildlife. **Will there be more to see in 2019?**



Myathropa Florea hoverfly



Painted Lady

