

Proposed walks for Gedling Country Park 2019

What we shall be looking for, every first Saturday of the month

Meet 10.00 am (except May 4th) by the Visitor Centre

Bring your camera, especially if you have a macro lens

- Feb. 2nd** Mixed flocks of redpoll, siskin, goldfinches and fieldfare. Snow drops. Wrap up very warm, with sensible footwear. Paths can be muddy. Walking may be slow.
- March 2nd** First signs of Spring on the ground—Coltsfoot and Lesser Celandine. (Not all wild yellow flowers are dandelions!)
- April 6th** Tree blossoms and early insects. Bird calls starting and pairs nesting. Bluebells and daffodils. Tiny Holly Blue butterflies.
- May 4th** *The dawn chorus.* Try to beat last year's count of 30 birds. Most migrants should now be here. Of the butterflies, dingy skipper and green hair-streak. Hairy dragonfly (first found here 2018) Possibly ring ouzel passing through.
- 6.00 am**
- June 1st** Plenty of interesting insects. Butterflies Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma. Large and Green-veined White, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Small Copper, Common Blue, Brown Argus — try photos in macro close-up. Find southern marsh or bee orchids, and possibly a rare pyramidal. Cuckoo passing through. Miner and other bees. This could be a longer walk than usual.
- July 6th** Large number of butterflies and dragonflies—emperors (the largest) should be exciting. Best month of the year for most wildlife.
- August 3rd** Southern and Migrant Hawker Dragonflies, Common and Red Darters, Common, Azure and Emerald Damselflies, Black-tailed Skimmers and Broad-bodied Chasers - many more. Kingfisher could be seen this month.
- Sept. 7th** Last of the insects, possibly heron and kingfisher on the ponds.
- October 5th** Autumn colours and the winter bird arrivals. Dragonflies still flying
- Nov. 2nd** If still warm, possibly common darters and migrant hawkers. Many unusual fungi in the woods. Squirrels hoarding nuts. Rare view of a stoat?
- Dec. 7th** Redwing and fieldfare bird arrivals (leaving the EU!)

Walks will be lead by Jenny and Rod Fillingham (Friends of Gedling Country Park) with Mark Tyler and Brian Cluff presenting the wildlife/ Their DVD of the Park's wildlife is still available at £15.00 per set of three discs.