



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Blashford Lakes Walk

Date: 10th August 2023
 Weather: Sunny spells
 Walk Leaders: Sonia Wilkinson and Judy Thomas
 Attendees: 19

Blashford Lakes is a 159-hectare (390-acre) nature reserve north of Ringwood, which is managed by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust in partnership with New Forest District Council and landowners Wessex Water and Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water. It is an internationally important site for thousands of wildfowl and woodland birds, as such it has SSSI, Ramsar, SPA and SINC protection status. The lakes are surrounded by willow, birch and alder woodland, as well as grassland. The site has six bird hides and 8km of rolled gravel paths. The landscape of the reserve has changed dramatically, in less than 100 years it has been farmland, a WWII airbase, motor racing circuit, sand and gravel pits and today is an important nature reserve and water reservoir.

Our walk started from the main car park off Ellingham Drove, which we crossed over to walk towards the Education Centre but turned off before reaching it to the right and crossed a bridge over Dockens Water. This path took us with the stream on our left and Ellingham Lake (a privately run water sports area) on our right to reach the reserve gate leading onto the A338 Salisbury Road. We walked alongside the road for around 100 yards to Ivy Lane which we walked along until we reached another entrance gate back into the reserve. This path led us with Ivy Lake on our left and Rockford Lake to our right until we arrived at a further exit gate back onto Ellingham Drove. After a picnic lunch at the Education Centre where we were joined by 7 non-walkers, we spent some time in Tern Hide where the highlight sighting was of a Ruddy Shelduck.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants cont	Birds	Butterflies
Common Ragwort	Yarrow	Mallard	Small White
Bramble	Knotgrass	Great Crested Grebe	Gatekeeper
Herb Robert	Lords and Ladies	Wood Pigeon	Large White
Enchanter's Nightshade	Redleg	Jackdaw	Red Admiral
Sheep's Sorrel	Nipplewort	Blackbird	Peacock
Herb Bennet	Wood Spurge	Robin	Brimstone
Self-heal	Wood Sage	Carrion Crow	
Red Campion	Forget-me-not	Collard Dove	Others
Scarlet Pimpernel	Common Chickweed	Chaffinch	Beautiful Demoiselle (f)
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Marsh Ragwort	Coot	Common Blue Damsel fly
Common Reed	Figwort	Egyptian Goose	Southern Hawker
Water Mint	Common Fleabane	Pied Wagtail	Emperor Dragonfly
Lesser Stitchwort	Purple Loosestrife	Cormorant	Garden Snail
Common Centaury	Great Mullein	Mute Swan	
Perforated St. John's Wort	Butterfly Bush	Herring Gull	Fungi
Catsear	Marjoram	Grey Heron	Zoned Tooth
Cinquefoil	Water Plantain	Ruddy Shelduck	Common Puffball

Mugwort	Yellow Water-lily		Peeling Oysterling
Prickly Sow-thistle	Feverfew		Brown Rollrim
Hedge Woundwort	Common Teasel		Giant Funnel
White Dead-nettle			Beefsteak Fungus
			Parasol



Common Centuary at Blashford Lakes by Lyn Traves



Large Parasol Mushromm at Blashford Lakes by Lyn Traves