



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Blashford Lakes Walk

Date: 10th October 2024
 Weather: Overcast becoming sunny
 Walk Leader: Christine Storey
 Attendees: 17

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 at Tern Hide. We walked the footpath to Gooseander Hide, along the way we saw many fungi growing as a result of recent heavy rain. From there we walked to the Education Centre and onto the Woodland Hide, unfortunately a party of school children were on a visit so we did not stay long. We passed Ivy South Hide and followed the path around Ellingham Lake (a privately owned water sports centre) on our left back to our start point.

Birds	Fungi	Flowering Plants	Butterflies
Carrion Crow	Giant Funnel	Common Ragwort	Red Admiral
Coot	Blue Spot Knight	Herb Robert	
Swallow	Shaggy Parasol	Red Campion	Mammals
House Martin	Chicken of the Woods	Bramble	Wood Mouse
Jackdaw	Clustered Bonnet	Self-heal	
Wigeon	Dead Man's Fingers	Water Forget-me-not	
Cormorant	Southern Bracket	Water Mint	
Black-headed Gull	Beech Tarcrust	Yarrow	
Mute Swan	Porcelain Fungus	Black Nightshade	
Robin	Sulphur Tuft	Stinging Nettle	
Firecrest	Turkeytail	Water Pepper	
Great Tit	False Deathcap	Canadian Fleabane	
Chaffinch	Amethyst Deceiver	Rose Hips (fruits)	
Green Woodpecker	Deceiver		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Black Bulgar		
Blackbird	Orange Moss-cap		
Herring Gull	Ivory Coral		
Great Crested Grebe	Brown Birch Bolete		
Egyptian Goose	Common Rustgill		
Canada Goose	Grey Milkcap		

Shoveler	Tan Ear		
Green Sandpiper	Bolete Mould/Eater <i>Hypomyces</i> <i>Chrysospermus</i>		
Magpie	Common Eyelash		
Grey Heron			
Black-necked Grebe			
Jay			
Marsh Tit			
Mallard			
Gadwall			
Tufted Duck			



Shaggy Parasol by Lyn Traves



Dead Mans Fingers by Lyn Traves