



## **RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

### Longham Lakes Walk

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024  
 Walk Leaders: Sonia Wilkinson and Judy Thomas  
 Weather: Sunny  
 Attendees: 16

Longham Lakes lies between Ferndown and the main Poole/Bournemouth conurbation, adjacent to where the A348 crosses the River Stour at Longham Bridge in Dorset. The site is owned and managed by Bournemouth Water. In 1994 planning permission was granted for the extraction of gravel and formation of reservoirs on this land by Bournemouth Water. The purpose being to store river water to be used when existing resources are unavailable. Longham Lakes has only been in existence since February 2010, when the large Longham Reservoir South was flooded for the first time and where no fishing is allowed, it is put over to wildlife. The smaller Longham Reservoir North was filled in spring 2002 and is stocked for mixed coarse fishing. The site boasts a comprehensive bird list, in winter there are large numbers of wildfowl and in summer the lakes are surrounded by rushes and reeds and there are lots of wild flowers and insects. We left our cars at Haskins Garden Centre after obtaining permission from them to do so. We walked along Ham Lane into High Mead Lane to reach Green Lane and a gate which led onto the Longham Lakes site. Our walk took us on a circuit around the outside of both lakes back to the same entrance point, then retracing our steps back to the garden centre where we had a very pleasant lunch in their cafe.

<b>Birds</b>	<b>Flowering Plants</b>
Kestrel	Dandelion
Carrion Crow	Prickly Sow-thistle
Jackdaw	Self-heal
Black-headed Gull	Ox-eye Daisy
Herring Gull	Common Ragwort
Blue Tit	Meadow Buttercup
Blackbird	Catsear
Mute Swan	Red Clover
Rook	Daisy
Magpie	Common Field Speedwell
Gadwall	Yarrow
Coot	Hedge Cranesbill
Pochard	Blackberry
Little Egret	Hogweed
Cormorant	Bristly Oxtongue
Canada Geese	Hedge Bindweed
Tufted Duck	Rose Hips (fruits)
Grey Heron	Haws (fruits)
Pied Wagtail	Reedmace
Long-tailed Tit	Common Reed
Wren	Sweet Galingale - <i>Cyperus longus</i> (a sedge)
Wigeon	Annual Meadow Grass
Great Crested Grebe	
Cetti's Warbler	
Mallard	<b>Butterflies</b>

Robin	Large Whites
Starling	
Velvet Scoter reported as present but not seen by us	



*Sweet Galingale at Longham Lakes by Lyn Traves*