

RODLEY NATURE RESERVE ANNUAL REVIEW 2025

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1.

AMPHIBIANS

Common Frog *Rana temporaria*

Common Frogs spend much of their lives on land but between January and March they gather in shallow ponds to spawn. The first frogs this year were reported on 8th March crossing from the Dragonfly Ponds to the Wet Grassland. The first spawn was found on 10th March, just six days later than last year, on two of the Dragonfly Ponds and on grass around a third pond. Large numbers of tadpoles were reported in several of the ponds subsequently but there were few reported sightings of adults after this date. Numbers of small frogs were photographed crossing a gravel path on the Reserve on 30th July but there were only a handful other records. The species is almost certainly more common on the Reserve than the relatively few records of adult frogs received would suggest.

Common Toad *Bufo bufo*

This is a widespread species in the UK but numbers are thought to be declining rapidly. The first reported sighting was on 24th March at the Dragonfly Ponds, just six days later than last year. A total of 110 included 66 on the new large Lake Pond. Numbers at the Dragonfly Ponds reached 130 on 28th March. The first spawn was recorded on one of the ponds on 24th March and there were just a few reported sightings subsequently.

Smooth Newt *Lissotriton vulgaris*

Between February and June is the best time to see this species as this is when they move into water to breed. They can be found in all the ponds on the Reserve during this period but very few sightings are actually recorded. They can also be found around the larger water bodies on the Reserve. There were several records of them falling prey to both Water Rails and Grey Herons this year. Several young newts or efts were found under logs in the Rodley Robins Garden on 7th May and a few turned up during supervised pond dipping sessions on the Reserve during the summer months. Away from the breeding season adults can sometimes be found by lifting the lids on the wooden shelters along the Willow Path and one or two were again recorded during school visits this year.

2.

BIRDS

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

Resident Breeder

At the start of the year 2 adults and 3 cygnets from last year were still present on the Lagoon. Between February and April counts generally were in the range 5-8 and various pairs tried to set up territories in different parts of the wetlands. By the end of April, the dominant pair had built a nest on an island in the Duck Marsh and by 25th May all their eggs had hatched as 7 fresh cygnets were seen on the Duck Marsh with the adults (exactly as last year). By the end of June, the family had moved over to the Lagoon, and the cygnet number had been reduced to 6. During July, August and September the swans could be seen around the Lagoon and by October the cygnet number was down to 5. By the end of December just the 2 adults were present, though some of the cygnets occasionally made an appearance. Other than the residents, swans regularly visited the reserve with maximum counts of 11 in February and October.

Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

Passage Visitor

A group of 4 were spotted flying over the Reserve on 25th October (JWC) but that was the only report this year for this winter passage visitor.

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

Passage Visitor

A skein of c40 flew over on 15th January. Seven were seen on the farmland on 1st March and skeins of c100 were spotted over the Reserve on 2nd and 8th March. A single bird was regularly seen amongst the other geese on the farmland during February and March. At the other end of the year groups of 60 and 40 were seen flying over on 20th September (JWC) and a single bird was spotted amongst the Greylags on the farmland on 28th October (JWC) and on 2 further days in October. The final record for the year was c80 seen over the farmland on 9th November.

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Resident Breeder and Winter Visitor

Counts were generally higher than last year, with a record count for the year of 256 on 14th January during WeBS. Other notable counts were 162 on 17th February (SB) and 135 on 13th October (SB). Counts of 30-70 on the farmland were regular during the year, though numbers dropped at the end of the year with a high count of only 16 in November and none in December. Breeding occurred on the Reserve this year with 3 goslings seen on the

Lagoon on 17th May, another 3 seen on 18th June and a further 2 goslings on 7th July. Monthly maxima are shown below:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
256	162	88	38	30	5	23	36	46	135	16	-

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

Rare Visitor

There have been no sightings in the last 15 years. A single bird seen on the farmland during an early morning WeBS visit on 18th April 2010 was the first record since 26th April 2003 and these are the only records for the Reserve.

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla

Rare Visitor

A lone bird was seen feeding on the farmland on Friday 7th February during a regular survey (SB). Unfortunately, it had left by the next day. This was only the second ever sighting at the Reserve following a single bird found on the farmland with other geese on 13th November 2016. Not surprising for a species that is generally a winter migrant to coastal areas.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Rare Visitor

Feral populations of this introduced species occur in parts of Britain and on the Continent. A single bird picked out among Greylag Geese on the farmland on 4th March 2018 was the first and only record to date.

Common Shelduck

Tadorna tadorna

Scarce Visitor

Shelduck was back to its more normal scarce status on the Reserve this year, with sightings on just 9 dates compared to the 22 days that it was reported last year. A single bird was seen on 31st January, then a pair were present on the Duck Marsh on 7th to 10th February. A pair was again seen on the Duck Marsh on 30th March (JWC) and 13th April (WeBS) and the final reports for the year were a single bird on the Duck Marsh on 24th May (JWC) and 28th June (JWC).

Mandarin Duck

Aix galericulata

Scarce Visitor

This colourful introduced species of duck was spotted at the Reserve on 13 days this year, a decrease from last years 31sighting but equal to the previous record of 13 sightings in 2021. It was only seen on 4 dates in both 2022 and 2023, so it continues to be a more regular visitor. It appears to be present more in the earlier part of the year, with 1 seen on 9th and 4 seen together on 26th February. There were 2 records at the start of March, then a pair were seen together on most days between 21st and 31st March, often in the river. One was seen on the Duck Marsh on 7th May (DW), a female on the

Duck Marsh on 9th August (JWC) and 3 more on 26th September. No indication of any breeding success was noted.

Wigeon

Anas Penelope

Winter Visitor

A poor year for Wigeon with only low numbers reported in the Autumn and early Winter. Only a few sightings were recorded early in the year, with 4 seen on the Duck Marsh on 18th to 20th January. There was a “hybrid” Wigeon present on the Reserve from the end of August and during September. Birds started to show up again at the start of October in small numbers with a high count of only 9 on the Lagoon on the 14th (JWC) and a few were seen in November. Seven were reported on the 14th December but the only other record in December was 1 on the 24th.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	9	3	7

Gadwall

Anas strepera

Resident Breeder

Still the most numerous breeding duck on the Reserve, with counts similar to last year at the start of the year but not reaching the highs of last year later in the year. Birds recorded on all four main wetland areas with the biggest concentration on the Duck Marsh and Lagoon. Numerous reports of families of ducks, and hopefully more detailed records of breeding success will follow in future years.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
74	70	44	38	20	45	64	65	82	48	18	26

Pintail

Anas acuta

Rare Visitor

A single female was first spotted on 30th September and remained throughout October either on the Lagoon or Duck Marsh. It was last seen on the Lagoon on 5th November. First recorded on the Reserve in 2011, single birds have only ever been seen on 7 years since.

Teal

Anas crecca

Winter / Passage Visitor

A relatively common winter/passage visitor to the Reserve, good numbers of Teal were again reported this year. Counts of 20-30 were common between January and April, with the highest count of 41 noted on 17th March (SB). Numbers dropped during April with most gone by the end of the month. A single bird was occasionally reported between May and July before numbers started to increase again in August, with a group of 8 spotted on the Duck Marsh on the 16th (JWC). Counts of 20-30 birds were common for the rest of

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* Former Breeder / Winter Visitor

Overall numbers were up again on last year, particularly from January until April, but this former breeder was still only present on the Reserve in single figures for most of the year. The biggest count was 22 on 6th April, up from the high of only 11 in April last year. No Tufted Duck were seen at the Reserve at all in July and August and there were only 2 counts of more than 1 bird for the rest of the year. The record count for this species of duck was 122 in December 2010.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
12	14	17	22	5	5	-	-	1	1	3	4

Scaup *Aythya marila* Rare Visitor

It is now 6 years with no records of this species. In 2019 an immature bird arrived on the Lagoon on 10th November and was seen most days until 15th December. Before that there had been no sightings since 9th March 2014.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* Rare Visitor

The only record of this sea duck at the Reserve was a female or immature bird on 21st March 2016

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* Winter Visitor

A poor year for this winter visitor to the Reserve. A single bird was reported on just 2 dates in January then on 8 dates in February, the last record being on the 19th. At the other end of the year a female was seen on the Lagoon on 15th November (JWC) then a male on the Lagoon on 22nd/23rd November. The final record for the year was a single bird on 24th December.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

Goosander *Mergus merganser* Resident Breeder / Winter Visitor

Most birds are seen in the winter months and spring when groups gather to roost on the Duck Marsh or Lagoon. After dispersal for breeding numbers drop and most sightings are along the river or in flight. Breeding has occurred at the Reserve in the past and family groups have been spotted along the river, but no signs of breeding were reported this year. The best counts of the year were 10 (7 male and 3 female) on the Duck Marsh on 28th and 30th April (DW).

J	F	M	A	B	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
3	11	6	10	6	1	-	-	9	2	1	-

Red-legged Partridge*Alectoris rufa***Rare Visitor**

There have been no sightings of this introduced species on the Reserve since 24th April 2012. Its distinctive call was heard near the Manager's Garden in 2023, but nothing had been reported since.

Grey Partridge*Perdix perdix***Casual Breeder**

Small releases of birds were made in July and October 2020 and there were 2 further small releases in 2023. A single female bird was seen on numerous occasions in January 2024 in the Bee Garden, Poplar Field or in the Manager's Garden, and the last report was on 19th February 2024 in the Manager's Garden (SB). Presumably the released birds have moved off site or suffered from predation, as there have been no records since that date.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus***Resident Breeder**

A common bird on the Reserve that is seen on most days, typically in the Bee Garden or the Manager's Garden near the feeders, though it appears to be becoming less numerous. The best count of the year was 12 on 9th November (WeBS). There were the usual reports of breeding success with family groups spotted on a few occasions.

Cormorant*Phalacrocorax carbo***Resident**

Present all year in varying numbers and is regularly spotted fishing in the river, Duck Marsh or Lagoon or resting on the pylons behind the Reedbed or in the trees on the islands in the Lagoon. Numbers are highest in the late summer, presumably after breeding elsewhere judging by the number of juvenile birds. Counts of 20+ birds in the tree on the Lagoon started in early August, with a high of 30+ on the 23rd (JWC). Numbers remained high for the rest of the year with a maximum count of 36 on 13th November before counts dropped to regular levels in December.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2	9	9	12	4	7	4	30+	27	29	36	9

Bittern*Botaurus stellaris***Rare Visitor**

Until this year the only record of a Bittern at the Reserve was in 2016 when a bird spent several weeks in the Reedbed from 16th January until 26th April. With the species expanding its range there was always the chance that another one could appear and on 13th April one was seen from a hide flying across the Duck Marsh during a WeBS count. It was also spotted the previous day, but there were no further sightings.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* **Rare Visitor**

No more records this year. It was a new bird for the Reserve in 2023 when a first summer bird was spotted on the Duck Marsh on 18th August and was last seen on the evening of 21st August. Another species that is expanding its range northwards.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba* **Scarce Visitor**

The species is now being sighted at the Reserve annually since it was first spotted as a “fly over” on 9th December 2018. There were only two sightings this year, the first was on 8th July on the Duck Marsh during a school visit, then one was seen flying over on 25th August (JWC).

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* **Common Visitor**

This species can now be seen at the Reserve most months of the year. It was only reported in ones and twos from January to April, but numbers increased from then onwards. The highest report for the year was 15 on the Duck Marsh on 15th October (JWC) and 11 were seen on 28th June. Most sightings were on the Duck Marsh or in the trees on the islands in the Lagoon with Cormorants.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* **Resident**

Recorded most days on the Reserve, but generally in lower numbers than last year. As is usual, the biggest groups seen together were either on the Duck Marsh or on the farmland adjacent to the Reserve. The highest count was 10 on the Duck Marsh on 8th October.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
5	5	2	3	3	5	7	3	2	10	5	4

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* **Rare Visitor**

No records again this year. The only record was on 7th November 2022 when one was spotted feeding in the river upstream from the bridge.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* **Resident Breeder**

Birds were seen in all the wetland areas and the river, but as usual the highest numbers were present on the Lagoon. Counts were highest from July onwards, with 13 noted on 4th July (JWC) and a high for the year of 24 was recorded for the Duck Marsh and Lagoon combined on 3rd September (JWC). Numbers were highest in the second half of the year after breeding.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
8	11	5	3	2	8	13	16	24	14	13	8

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* **Summer Visitor / Breeder**

It was a very poor year for Great Crested Grebes at the Reserve. The first bird arrived on 2nd March and was not joined by a second bird until 25th April. Unfortunately, due to an unusually high coverage of duckweed on the surface of the Lagoon there was not enough clear water for the Grebes to successfully feed or breed. They were last seen on 30th April and did not return.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* **Common Visitor**

Red Kites can be seen over the Reserve any month of the year, but usually only 1 or 2 birds. Six were seen over the Reserve on 25th January and 5 were seen on 22nd February.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* **Rare Visitor**

A good year for sightings of Marsh Harrier with birds seen on 3 dates. The first was on 23rd March, then at the end of the year 1 was seen over the Willow Path hide on 31st October (JWC). The final record was on 22nd November when 1 was spotted high over the Dragonfly Ponds (JWC). There have only been 5 records at the Reserve before this year.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* **Casual Breeder**

Seen in most months of the year, darting around the Reserve after its prey or high overhead. No evidence of nesting but is suspected to breed in the woodland across the river from the Reserve. Just 1 bird seen on most occasions but sometimes 2.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* **Common Visitor and Casual Breeder**

Now seen every month of the year, commonly spotted emerging from the woodland across the river from the Reserve or soaring high in small groups in thermals. Larger groups are now becoming more regular, with 11 seen high over the farmland on 8th March and another group of 6 on 21st September (JWC).

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* **Rare Visitor**

There has been just one record of this species. One was photographed high over the Dragonfly Ponds on 13th June 2012.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* **Rare Visitor**

An immature bird was photographed high over the Reserve on 5th May 2021, but that was the only record to date.

Osprey*Pandion haliaetus***Scarce (Summer) Visitor**

There is always the chance of seeing Osprey during passage to and from their breeding sites, but none were seen this year. Last year 1 was spotted high over the site on 6th April and photographed (RH) and another one later in the year on 24th August (PH).

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* **Possible Breeder and Winter Visitor**

Reports of this species increased again this year, records of it either being seen or heard (more likely) on 80 days during the year, an increase from 52 days last year. The vast majority of records were in the autumn or winter, with only a few records from April to September. It is a very secretive species, and most records were of brief glimpses of single birds, but several reports of multiple birds did occur, including 4 on 24th March (SB) and 4 on 22nd October (JWC). There is no clear evidence of breeding, but this will be investigated more closely in future years.

Spotted Crane*Porzana porzana***Rare Visitor**

There have been no sightings for the last seven years. A bird was seen on the Wet Grassland between 25th August and 2nd September in 2018. Prior to that the last record was in 2005.

Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus***Resident Breeder**

A common resident breeding species, Moorhen is visible in all the wetland areas and along the river and the riverbanks throughout the year. Numbers generally peak in the late summer and autumn when many juvenile birds are also present.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
19	19	13	10	7	9	12	11	11	7	12	9

Coot*Fulica atra***Resident Breeder and Winter Visitor**

Another common resident breeding species, seen in all the wetland areas and particularly numerous on the Lagoon. Numbers are generally lower in the winter months when many of the resident Coots seem to move on to other locations. Numbers were particularly low in the early winter this year. Counts build during the spring and peak in the autumn when numbers are boosted by the presence of immature birds.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
14	25	27	12	10	13	16	14	8	7	1	3

Common Crane*Grus grus***Rare Visitor**

Not seen on the Reserve for the past 7 years. Two birds were seen standing on adjacent farmland on 13th April 2018 and this was a first record for the Reserve.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* **Summer Visitor / Breeder**

The first Oystercatcher of the year was spotted on 26th January and was joined by a second bird on 8th February and a third arrived on 22nd February. From 9th April 4 birds were regularly reported, generally 2 on the Duck Marsh and 2 on the Lagoon. The pair on the Duck Marsh were seen with 2 young on 3rd May, but this had reduced to 1 by 7th May, unfortunately that disappeared soon afterwards. There were no sightings of any young from the pair on the Lagoon, though their presence may have been obscured by the dense vegetation. The 4 adults remained during June but started to leave during July and the final record for the year was on 29th July when 1 was reported (PM/BM).

Avocet*Recurvirostra avosetta***Rare (Summer) Visitor**

No reports of Avocet again this year. The first record for this species was in 2018 when 2 spent the day on the Duck Marsh on 27th June and another sighting on the Lagoon on 2nd July the same year, but no records since then.

Grey Plover*Pluvialis squatarola***Rare Visitor**

There have been no records in the last 9 years. A single bird that flew over the Reserve on 30th May 2016 was the first and only record of this species.

Golden Plover*Pluvialis apricaria***Scarce Visitor**

This species breeds in the uplands during the summer and can be spotted in large flocks anywhere in lowland Britain during winter and spring movements but is only rarely seen at the Reserve. No sightings for the last 4 years and just 2 records in 2021.

Lapwing *Vanellus Vanellus***Winter Visitor and Casual Breeder**

A similar pattern to most years for this species, with large flocks appearing on some days during the winter months and a smaller number remaining for the rest of the year with breeding attempts on the Wet Grassland and Tim's Field. The highest counts were 25 on 14th January and c100 over the Reserve on 20th October (JH). A single juvenile was spotted on the Duck Marsh on 31st May and was still present during most of June, but there appears to be only limited breeding success. Peak monthly counts are shown below:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
25	18	10	12	7	7	13	16	12	c100	-	2

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* **Summer Visitor**

A relatively good year for Little Ringed Plover, with the first bird spotted on the Wet Grassland on 31st March (SB). On 11th April 2 were seen on the Wet Grassland (JWC) and they soon moved to the Duck Marsh where they remained until the start of July. They were last seen together on the Duck Marsh on 1st July (JWC), and the final record was of a single bird on the Duck Marsh on 2nd July (DW).

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* **Rare Visitor**

Another year with no reports of Ringed Plover for the Reserve. The last record was in 2007 on 13th September.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* **Scarce (Summer) Visitor**

There have been no records since 2012.

Curlew *Numenius Arquata* **Passage Visitor**

Records of Curlew are usually of birds heard calling when flying over the Reserve or seen on the farmland. This year there were 5 records, the first on 9th March when 2 were seen on the farmland and the last on 22nd December, again on the farmland (BE).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* **Rare Visitor**

No records this year. A bird seen on 3rd November (BE) last year and the previous records to that were in 2021 when 4 were seen on the Duck Marsh on 10th July and another 15 on 31st July.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* **Rare Visitor**

This species was recorded for the first and only time on 7th May 2006 when a single bird was found on the Duck Marsh.

Knot *Calidris canutus* **Rare Visitor**

Not recorded this year. The only record was of a single bird on the Duck Marsh on 26th May 2006.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* **Scarce Visitor**

There have been no records of Dunlin for the past 4 years. A single bird was reported on the Duck Marsh on 12th July 2021 and that was the first record since 1st February 2012.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoeucos* **Passage Visitor**

Only recorded on 6 days this year, mainly single birds on the Duck Marsh area. First seen on 19th April (JWC) and last reported on 10th September.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* **Passage Visitor**

Green Sandpiper is becoming a regular sight at the Reserve. There were records for 94 days and the only month when one was not seen was May. Between January and April only single birds were usually reported, apart from a record of 2 on 18th January. From June onwards it was common to have reports of 2 birds together and on several occasions 3 were seen together, including 3 on the Reedbed on 25th August (PM/BM). Generally seen on the Wet Grassland or Duck Marsh but also seen flying over the Lagoon or along the river.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* **Rare Visitor**

There have been no records since 2006 when a single bird was seen on the Duck Marsh. This was the first and only record for the Reserve.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* **Scarce Passage Visitor**

No sightings this year. The last records were of a single bird seen on the Duck Marsh on 21st and 22nd August 2021.

Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus* **Scarce Passage Visitor**

Only 1 report of Common Redshank for the Reserve this year, on 12th March, when up to 4 birds were briefly heard and seen flying around the wetland areas. A single bird was seen on the Duck Marsh on 24th July 2023 and before that 1 was seen flying over 11th September 2022, this being the first record since 17th March 2019.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* **Rare Visitor**

This is a new bird for the Reserve. A single bird was seen and photographed on 17th September on the Duck Marsh. It only remained for a short time before moving on.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus* **Scarce Passage / Winter Visitor**

Birds were recorded on 27 dates this year, a big increase on the 8 records last year. They are very difficult to spot, so were probably present on the Reserve on many other days but were not spotted. The increase in records could be due to observers becoming more skilled at picking them out. Two were seen on 1st January and the last record for the early part of the year was on 15th April (JWC). The first record for later in the year was on 19th October on the Duck Marsh (JWC) and there were further sightings up to the end of

the year. Most records were for the Wet Grassland, but some sightings occurred in the Reedbed and Duck Marsh.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* **Passage / Winter Visitor**

Another species that is sometimes very hard to spot, they were seen on 98 days this year, up from the 46 reported sightings last year, so they appear to be becoming more common. Mainly seen in the Wet Grassland but also regularly spotted on the Reedbeds and Duck Marsh. The highest count at the start of the year was 12 on 23rd March in the Wet Grassland (JWC), before they moved on at the start of May and were not present in June or July. They reappeared during August and sightings increased for the rest of the year with a high count of 11 (9 in the Wet Grassland and 2 on the Duck Marsh) on 6th December (JWC). Monthly best counts are shown below:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
7	6	12	7	1	-	-	1	5	4	5	11

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* **Uncommon (Winter) Visitor**

An elusive bird that feeds at night and is only seen during the day if it is disturbed when hiding on the ground. One was seen on 15th January

and another on 5th February. There were 2 records in March on the 2nd and the 16th. Usually flushed from the edge of the Wet Grassland or near to the Willow Path.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* **Summer Visitor**

No sightings this year of a species that as recently as 2017 nested on rafts on the Lagoon. Last year the only confirmed record was 1 bird seen in a photo taken on 26th June amongst some Black-headed Gulls.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* **Rare Visitor**

No records this year. Last year 2 birds were reported on 1st May (BE), and that was the first record since 24th May 2015 for a species that was first seen at the Reserve in 2011.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* **Rare Passage Visitor**

Not surprisingly, there were no records of Kittiwake at the Reserve this year. This species of gull is almost exclusively a maritime bird and is only seen on land when it comes ashore to breed on coastal cliffs. It was first recorded at the Reserve in 2023 when an adult bird was seen over the Lagoon on 26th February (EC) and on the Duck Marsh on 12th March (JWC).

Black-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

Common Visitor / Casual Breeder

Numbers are highest at the start and the end of the year, and counts are a lot smaller during the breeding season when most birds disperse to their colonies. The highest count for the year was when 200+ were seen on 1st January, but generally around 50+ birds can be seen around the Reserve and on the farmland in the winter months. Monthly maxima are shown below:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
200+	117	64	2	4	12	34	49	24	81	36	63

Little Gull

Hydrocoloeus minutus

Rare Visitor

No records this year. An adult bird in winter plumage was spotted on the Lagoon last year on 2nd November (JWC), but this was the first record for the last 7 years. The first record for the Reserve was on 7th April 2018 when an adult bird paid a brief visit to the Lagoon.

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

Rare Visitor

No reports of Mediterranean Gull at the Reserve this year. There was a single record on 22nd October 2024 amongst other gulls on the flooded farmland. First recorded on 7th October 2015. It is worth checking out flocks of Black-headed Gulls for this species as it has been known to breed locally.

Common Gull

Larus canus

Common Visitor

Common Gulls are the second most common of gulls around the Reserve in the winter months. From the start of April Common Gulls move to their breeding grounds further north, so were not present until a few started to reappear from July onwards. Numbers increase from then onwards and the biggest gatherings are generally on the farmland. The best count for the year was 58 on the farmland on 6th October (SB). Monthly maxima are shown below:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
c50	19	7	-	-	-	1	11	23	58	7	15

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Common Visitor

Recorded every month of the year but usually only in ones and twos. There were higher numbers present in March and April, with 8 seen on 22nd March and 11 flew over on 19th April (JWC).

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* **Common Visitor**

The highest counts were the winter months as part of the gull flocks on the farmland or on the Lagoon and there were very few records from April to September. Generally, counts are up to 10 birds, but an unusually high count of 70+ was noted on the farmland on 27th December (JWC).

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* **Rare Visitor**

No records this year. A second winter bird was seen on the farmland on 27th November (BE) last year. First seen on the Reserve on 24th February 2019 it has only been seen on a few occasions since then.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* **Scarce Visitor**

This was a new species for the Reserve in 2021 with numerous sightings of a single bird, and (probably) the same bird has been visiting the Reserve each year since. It was first noted on 23rd February this year then was present for all of March and a few dates in April. It then disappeared but was spotted on 12th August before leaving again after a few days. Clearly a bird of regular habits. It appears to be paired up with a Lesser Black-backed Gull, and it shows features that are atypical of pure Yellow-legged Gulls, so may be a hybrid bird, but without further evidence it will continue to be recorded as a Yellow-legged.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus* **Uncommon Visitor**

Two records this year on 4th and 15th January (JWC).

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides* **Rare Visitor**

First recorded on the Reserve on 17th January 2009, this species was last seen on 11th December 2021 but has not been reported since.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia domestica* **Common Visitor?**

A species that is not very often reported at the Reserve and probably overlooked. The highest count for the year was 4 on 13th July.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas* **Resident (probable) Breeder**

Most records of this species come from the Manager's Garden, with typically up to 10 birds noted most months. Higher counts come from the farmland in the winter months, with 30 on 3rd November (SB) the best for the year.

Wood Pigeon

Columba palumbus

Resident Breeder and Winter Visitor

During most of the year around 20 birds are present around the Reserve, but in the winter months these numbers are boosted by large flocks from elsewhere. A hundred+ were in Tim's field on 20th January (SB) and c2200 Wood Pigeons were seen flying over the Reserve on 25th October (JWC). This must be a regular movement of this species as almost the same number were spotted at the same time last year.

Collared Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

Uncommon Visitor

This species is fairly common locally but is rarely seen within the Reserve. There were no records this year.

Cuckoo

Cuculus canorus

Scarce (Summer) Visitor

One was seen on the farmland on 22nd June (JWC) and presumably the same bird on 24th June near the Willow path hide (JWC).

Barn Owl

Tyto alba

Resident Breeder

The camera in the Barn Owl nest box on the Scrubland enables a yearlong view into the lives of these birds. An adult was roosting in the box from the start of January and was joined by a second bird by the 14th of January. Egg laying was first noted on 26th April and by 25th May there were 4 eggs visible. There may have been more, but Barn Owls are a protected species that cannot be disturbed whilst breeding, so it is only by chance that the contents of the nest are visible when the monitor is on and an observer is in the Visitor Centre when the adult bird moves off the eggs. Two young owls were first noted on 13th June, and these were successfully reared by the adults, and the final young owl was last seen in the nest box on 10th August. A total of 16 young have fledged in the last 5 years. The adult birds continued to use the box for roosting for the rest of the year and were occasionally spotted hunting over the Scrubland.

Little Owl

Athene noctua

Resident Breeder?

The Manager's Garden has been a popular place to see this species for many years, and the 2 resident birds regularly seem to be happy to pose for photographers near their new nest box that was installed a few years ago. There were sightings from January to May, but they seemed to have moved elsewhere from June onwards, as there was only one record for the rest of the year when 1 was seen on 6th October in the Manager's Garden (JH). There is no evidence of successful breeding this year.

Tawny Owl*Strix aluco***Uncommon Visitor**

This nocturnal species of bird is rarely seen (but occasionally heard) and is most likely to be encountered only in the early morning when the Reserve is being opened up by volunteers. They were only reported on 5 occasions this year, mostly single birds, but 2 were heard calling together along the Willow Path on 23rd August.

Swift*Apus apus***Summer Visitor**

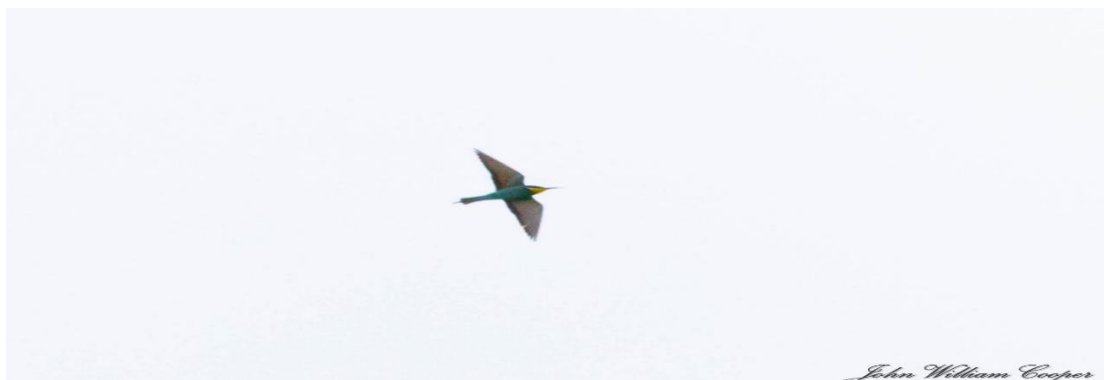
The first record for the year was a single bird over the Lagoon on 26th April (JWC), 5 days earlier than last year. Regular sightings in small numbers continued May to July, then on 3rd August c150 were seen over the Reserve (JWC), presumably gathering before their return south. The final record for the year was 2 seen on 31st August, a week earlier than last year. The Swift nesting tower installed last year to hopefully encourage Swifts to nest on the Reserve was not used but it is still early days.

Kingfisher*Alcedo atthis***Resident Breeder**

Not recorded at the Reserve in January and February this year, the first sighting was 2 birds on 1st March, and after that there were regular records of 1-3 birds on site each month for the rest of the year. There were no signs of nesting in the Kingfisher bank on the Duck Marsh, and it is more likely that breeding was attempted along the riverbank. Birds were seen on 71 days this year, down from the 104 days last year and 135 days the year before, so there appears to be a downward trend in sightings.

European Bee-eater*Merops apiaster***Rare Visitor**

On 13th April, the call of a Bee-eater was heard (JWC) but not taken too seriously until soon afterwards the bird settled briefly near the Lagoon to the complete surprise of all that observed it! The bird spent the next hour or so flying around the Reserve before moving on. It was the only record of Bee-eater in the UK that day, though 1 had been reported in Anglesey on 11th April. The species has bred in Norfolk in recent years and records in the UK appear to be increasing. A new species for the Reserve.

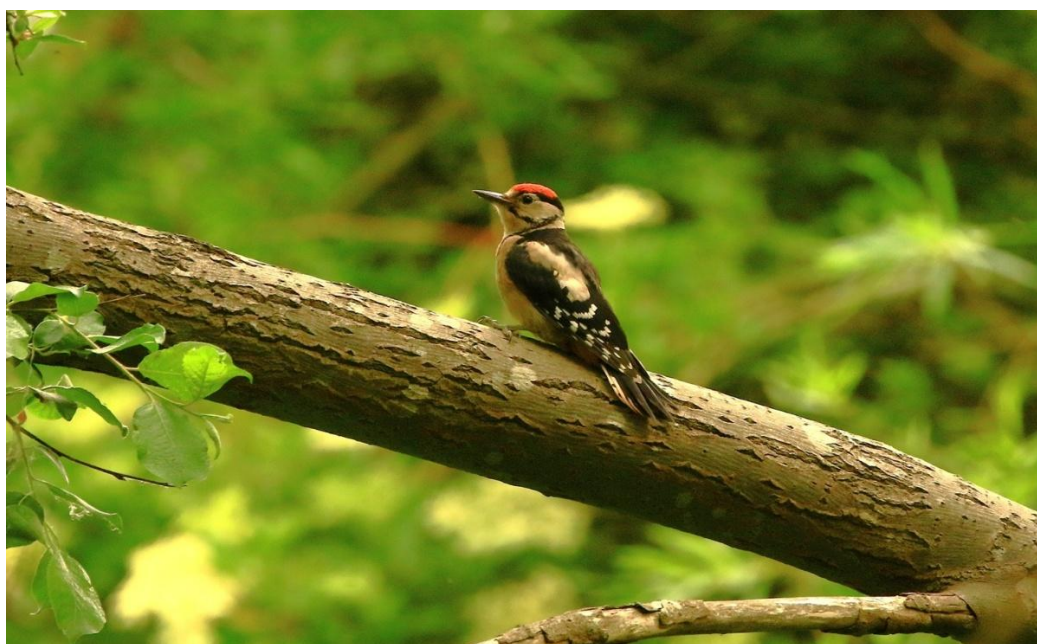


Green Woodpecker*Picus viridis***Uncommon Visitor**

An occasional visitor to the Reserve, there were no records this year. Last year 1 was reported on 14th February (BE), then heard on 6th March (BE) and 8th July (SB) with further sightings later in July and August.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* **Resident Breeder**

Seen around the Reserve every month, but most commonly seen in the Manager's Garden. Also, frequently heard hammering against trees and strangely against the metal of the pylons that pass through the wetland areas. Breeding occurred again on the Reserve this year as a juvenile was spotted near the Duck Marsh hide on 31st May (AT) and again on 28th June.



Andrew Thompson

Kestrel*Falco tinnunculus***Resident Breeder**

A pair were first seen together on 22nd January and frequently during February. Breeding activity commenced during March, and 2 eggs were seen in the nest on 25th April, and this had increased to 5 by the 28th. All the eggs hatched and 5 young were seen in the nest on 25th May. They were successfully reared by the adults, and all 5 fledged juveniles were seen on top of the nest box on 25th June. The birds dispersed after leaving the nest and sightings became less frequent for the rest of the year, though a pair were seen together on top of the nest box on 8th November. The camera in the nest box continues to provide a great insight into the lives of the Kestrel family.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* **Scarce (Winter) Visitor**

No records this year. Last year 1 was seen flying fast and low over Tim's Field on 15th January (SB). There were 4 sightings in 2024.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* **Uncommon (Summer) Visitor**

Arriving from Africa in April this raptor hunts both small birds and dragonflies, often low over water. There was only 1 reported this year, seen flying over the farmland then over the Visitor Centre and then towards the Manager's Garden on 10th August (JWC).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* **Uncommon Visitor**

A below average year for Peregrine sightings with birds seen on only 15 days this year compared to 22 different days last year. Two were seen around the Reserve together on 4th January, all other records being of single birds. The best place to see one still appears to be on the pylons behind the Manager's Garden.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* **Escaped Species or Scarce Visitor from feral population**

This species that started from a small feral population in the southeast of England is spreading northwards and is now believed to have a population of up to 12,000 pairs in the wild. This is reflected by the number of sightings at the Reserve, up from just 1 in 2023 to sightings on 7 dates last year and increasing to 11 records this year. Two were seen on 22nd January, followed by a few records each month from June onwards. The highest count was on 4th November when 6 were seen flying over the Lagoon (JWC).

Magpie *Pica pica* **Resident Breeder**

Still a very common bird on the Reserve, noisy groups of as many as 15 birds can be seen together on the farmland, particularly in the winter months but big groups can be seen at any time of the year. There are probably several breeding pairs around the Reserve, judging by the number of juveniles seen later in the year. Twenty seven were seen on the Wet Grassland on 11th November (JWC).

Jay *Garrulus glandarius* **Resident Breeder**

A common bird seen every month, with groups of 3 to 5 birds often first heard before they are seen, particularly in the late summer and autumn when they are building up their caches of acorns. A likely breeder on the Reserve, though there is not usually any evidence of such as they become more secretive during the nesting period.

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* **Rare**

A new and totally unexpected species record for the Reserve last year. A single bird was spotted flying over the farmland with Jackdaws on 24th November (JWC). It could be picked out in a video that was taken at the time. Presumably a one-off for the Reserve, as it was way off the normal habitat and range for the species. No further records this year.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* **Resident Breeder**

A common sight around the Reserve all year. Generally, can be seen in flocks of 30+ on the farmland or Tim's Field. Larger groups sometimes accumulate, such as 120+ on 17th February (SB) and 150 on Tim's Field on 7th July (SB).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* **Uncommon Visitor**

Similar to last year, Rooks were recorded on 16 different dates spread throughout this year. All the sightings were from the farmland amongst the other crow species, the first record being on 29th January. The best count for the year was 7 on 21st September (JWC).

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* **Resident (Probable Breeder)**

Present throughout the year with maximum counts of 30+ on the farmland and across the Reserve each month. The highest counts for the year were 82 on the farmland on 23rd September (JWC) and 71 on 6th October (SB). No reports of breeding on the Reserve but more than likely to have bred in the woodland adjacent to the farmland.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* **Rare Visitor**

This species is closely related to the Carrion Crow and is mainly found in North and West Scotland where it replaces that species. It is also a winter visitor from Scandinavia. There have been no sightings for the last seven years. One seen briefly over the farmland on 10th November 2018 was the first and only record for the Reserve.

Raven *Corvus corax* **Rare Visitor**

This species was recorded on 10 dates this year, so is either becoming a more common visitor or is being noticed more often by observers. Whilst it breeds in upland areas it tends to roam to lowland areas during the winter. Two birds were heard and seen high over the Reserve on 15th January and 3 seen on 16th February. At the end of the year another 2 were seen on 26th October (JWC).

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* **Scarce (Winter) Visitor**

No records this year. There was only one brief sighting of Waxwings at the Reserve last year when 16 were seen flying over the River Bridge towards the entrance gate on 21st January (JWC). Hopefully there will be another large irruption of Waxwings from the Continent in future years.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater* **Uncommon Visitor**

Not a common sight on the Reserve, but with records on 11 dates this year it was an improvement on the two reports last year. One was heard near the Lagoon hide on 11th March, but there were reports of single birds from September onwards with November being the best month with records on 6 days. The most likely place to spot one is in the Manager's Garden or possibly near to the Visitor Centre.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* **Resident Breeder**

The majority of sightings of this common species come from the Manager's Garden and Bee Garden where it is a daily visitor to the seed feeders. Also frequently seen along the Willow Path and in the hedges around John Ackroyd's meadow. The highest count for the year was 18 during a WeBS count on 9th November, but daily counts of around 10 are common throughout the year. Breeds every year on the Reserve and juvenile birds are frequently seen later in the season.

Great Tit *Parus major* **Resident Breeder**

Commonly found at the same locations as Blue Tits, though always reported in slightly higher numbers. The high count for the year was 16 on 22nd December. A successful breeder in most years, mixed groups containing juvenile birds were reported from June onwards.

Willow Tit *Poecile montanus* **Rare Visitor (former Breeder)**

There have been no sightings here since 13th November 2013.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris* **Rare Visitor**

Very similar in appearance to its cousin the Willow Tit, it is best identified by its call. However, it is very unlikely to be seen at the Reserve as the UK population has declined significantly. Not recorded here since 2004.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea* **Rare Visitor**

No records at the Reserve in the last 6 years. First recorded here in 2019, when 1 was reported flying south over Tim's Field on 23rd March.

Skylark*Alauda arvensis***Uncommon Passage Visitor**

Generally only heard calling or seen flying over the Reserve. There had been no records since 2021, but last year they were reported on 8 dates and on 7 dates this year. The first record was over the farmland on 29th January (JWC) with further records of single birds in February and April. There were 4 further records at the end of the year with notable reports of 10 over the farmland on 8th October (JWC) and another 5 over the Visitor Centre on 29th October (JWC).

Sand Martin*Riparia riparia***Summer Visitor and Breeder**

The first sighting this year was on 16th March over the Lagoon, the same date as last year. Sightings became more regular from 22nd March onwards and numbers increased to regular 100+ birds from April until the middle of July. Numbers then started to drop to 30-40 birds on site and the last report for the year was c15 birds over the Lagoon on 17th September. It was a successful year for breeding in the nesting bank, with the final count noted at 154 holes.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of nest holes</u>
2019	180
2020	142
2021	133
2022	67
2023	35
2024	67
2025	154

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica***Summer Visitor and Breeder**

The first record for the year was a single bird on 9th April, 3 weeks earlier than last year, and 2 were regularly seen around the Reserve soon after that. Breeding was reported from the usual place in the containers close to Tim's Field and the adults were frequently seen taking food to the nest and 5 juveniles were first noted outside the nest on 18th June. Sightings of small numbers of Swallows continued around the Reserve and a large flock of 69 was seen over the Reserve on 3rd September (JWC). The final record for the year was 4 over the Visitor Centre on 8th October.

House Martin*Delichon urbicum***Summer Visitor**

One bird was picked out amongst the Sand Martins over the Lagoon on 12th April (JWC), 6 days later than the first record last year. The next record was 3 seen over the Duck Marsh on 18th July (JWC). Numbers began to increase in August with c20 seen on the 29th before September saw big numbers around the Reserve prior to their migration south. A 100+ were seen on 7th September before c40 birds were seen over the Lagoon on 21st September (JWC), the last record for the year.

Cetti's Warbler*Cettia cetti***Common Resident**

This species was first recorded on the Reserve on 17th December 2014 and has been reported every year since. It is rarely seen but often heard and its explosive call is unmistakable once heard. There may be over 4 territories present on the Reserve now, as up to 5 males can be heard calling from the Wet Grassland, Reedbed, Duck Marsh and Lagoon areas at various times. Reported on 69 dates throughout this year (down from 78 last year) but was noted in every month. Most frequently recorded in March and April. Breeding suspected but no proof as yet.

Long-tailed Tit*Aegithalos caudatus***Resident Breeder**

A fairly common sight and sound around the Reserve, most likely seen in the winter months when they forage in larger groups often with other tits and the occasional Chiffchaff. The largest count of 24 was on 9th November during a WeBS survey. Less conspicuous during the breeding season they become more visible again in the autumn when larger family groups move around the Reserve together.

Yellow-browed Warbler*Phylloscopus inornatus***Rare Visitor**

This was a new species for the Reserve in 2021 when 1 was heard on the Willow Path on 16th October, and both heard and seen briefly on the following day. There have been no records since.

Chiffchaff*Phylloscopus collybita* **Summer Visitor and Breeder**

Recorded every month this year, a few of this species commonly overwinter in the area. The summer influx began in March and by the 24th up to 9 singing males were regularly reported. Daily counts of 7+ birds continued until the end of October, but after that counts dropped to 1-3 birds for the remainder of the year, presumably the overwintering population.

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita tristis* **Rare (Winter) Visitor**

This subspecies of Chiffchaff breeds in coniferous taiga forest from the Ural regions eastwards and mainly winters in India, but a few birds stray to Western Europe each year in the autumn. It differs from the Common Chiffchaff in having a greyer body and black legs but is most easily distinguished by its different song and call. First reported at the Reserve in December 2018, last year there were records for the 22nd, 26th and 28th December (JWC), all presumably the same bird. There were no records this year.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* **Summer Visitor and Breeder**

Not as common around the Reserve as its close relative the Chiffchaff, its song was first heard this year on 2nd April, a day later than last year. Four to five singing birds were reported during April and May, and a juvenile was seen on 25th June. The final record for the year was on 24th August, although the species was presumably still around the Reserve well into September but not heard.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* **Summer Visitor and Breeder**

No records of overwintering birds, as the first report for the year was on 18th March and there were regular records from 29th March onwards. Up to 8 birds were then regularly recorded between April and August before numbers dropped during September with the final record being a male seen on the spoil heap on the farmland on 1st October (JWC). It must have been a successful breeding season judging by the volume of distinctive sharp “teck-teck-teck” calls heard coming out of shrubs around the Reserve.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* **Summer Visitor and Breeder**

This species is a lot less numerous than the other summer warblers at the Reserve and can be overlooked. Its song could be confused with Blackcap, but once the source of the song is spotted the plain appearance of the bird confirms its identity. The first record for the year was on 2nd May in the coppice (JWC) and 2 were noted on the 12th (SB). There were a few more reports during June and July with the final record for the year on 26th July, similar to last year.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* **Summer Visitor and Breeder**

Smaller and more secretive than its more conspicuous cousin the Common Whitethroat, this species is only very rarely seen and occasionally heard at the Reserve these days. There was only 1 record last year which was heard

on 1st May (BE) and this year the only report was 1 heard near the Lagoon on 26th April (JWC).

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* **Summer Visitor / Breeder**

Another relatively quiet year for Whitethroat at the Reserve, with maximum counts of only 5 noted. First reported on 13th April this year, records of only 1-5 birds were the best for the rest of the season. The final sighting was on 19th September near the Lagoon (JWC), a full month later than last year. Best places to see them continues to be the Poplar Field and the Scrubland, though they can also be regularly seen in the hedges along the entrance road. A juvenile was seen on 8th June.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Uncommon Summer Visitor and Casual Breeder

Its presence at the Reserve is always first indicated by the sound of its unmistakable “reeling” song. It had not been recorded at the Reserve since 2019, but last year 1 was heard on 13th April (BE) and also seen and well photographed. It continued to be heard during April, usually in scrub at the side of the entrance road near the Lagoon hide. Two were heard in different locations on 1st May (BE) and the final record for the year was when 1 was seen (but not heard) in bushes at the edge of the coppice on 15th July (SB). It was a much quieter year this year, with the only record being of 1 seen on 24th August.

Sedge Warbler

Acrocephalus schoenobaenus **Summer Visitor and Breeder**

This year the first record was noted on 19th April near the Lagoon (JWC). Small numbers were noted for the rest of the season with counts of 2-4 common. Three were seen in Tim’s Field on 27th September (JWC) and the last record was of a single bird on 7th September.

Reed Warbler

Acrocephalus scirpaceus **Summer Visitor and Breeder**

The first record for the year was a single bird on 13th April, a week earlier than last year, and up to 4 were noted regularly from 25th April onwards. Counts in the range 4-6 were common between May and July before numbers started to drop. The final report was on 3rd September. The Wet Grassland and Reedbed were the most common areas for records, with the Duck Marsh also a good place to spot one.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla* **Rare Visitor**

No records this year. Last reported at the Reserve on 1st February 2020 and first seen on 17th December 2017.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* **Winter Visitor**

This resident species is rarely seen at the Reserve during the summer months and more commonly noted in winter and autumn. One was spotted on 1st January and 2 were reported on several dates between September and December. They were occasionally spotted during the rest of the year with a notable summer record of 1 on 9th July along the Willow Path (JWC).

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* **Resident Breeder**

A common bird around the Reserve in all areas. Counts of between 7-11 birds were common most days. A secretive breeder, 1 conspicuous breeding site of note was the hide in the Manager's Garden where Wrens have nested in different corners for several years now. They could regularly be seen coming into the hide to feed their chicks oblivious of the people watching other birds.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* **Scarce Visitor**

A better year for Nuthatch around the Reserve with records on 8 different dates. One was seen on 11th April and there were 7 further records between July and October. September was the most productive month with 1 seen near the Willow Path hide on the 6th (JWC), and sightings in the Manager's Garden on the 13th and 17th.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris* **Casual Breeder**

A species that is present at the Reserve all year but rarely seen. There were 17 records this year, up from 12 last year, with sightings in trees near the bridge, along the Willow Path and in the Manager's Garden. Most records were of single birds, but there were a few of multiple birds. There were 2 occasions in October when 3 Treecreepers were seen together, on the 1st along the Willow Path (JWC) and again on the 12th.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* **Casual Breeder and Winter Visitor**

Usually seen feeding on the farmland or perched on overhead cables around the Reserve. It does not appear to breed within the Reserve these days but was seen carrying food off site on several occasions. Recorded most months usually in low numbers, but notable records were 55 on 27th January (SB), c50 on 9th February and c400 on 1st October (JWC), all on the farmland. On 27th September 120+ were noted perched on the pylons (JWC).

Ring Ouzel*Turdus torquatus***Rare (Passage) Visitor**

This thrush spends the winter in North Africa before returning in the spring to breed in upland areas. It is always possible that one may drop into the Reserve on passage, but they are rarely seen. First recorded at the Reserve in 2017, when there were sightings on 6th May and 4th November, there have been no records since.

Blackbird *Turdus merula***Resident Breeder and Winter Visitor**

A common breeding bird on the Reserve with counts of 5-10 birds regularly reported each month. There were no specific reports of juvenile birds, but male and female adults were seen on many occasions carrying beaks full of worms, so it is likely that there several pairs located all around the site. The highest counts for the year were 13 on 14th January and 12 on 15th October, when birds wintering from the Continent join local birds.

Fieldfare*Turdus pilaris***Winter Visitor**

This thrush spends the winter months here to escape the colder conditions in Northern Europe. Present from January until March, the final record at the start of the year was 12 on the 26th March. The highest count for the early part of the year was 17 on 24th February (SB). At the other end of the year, the first report was 6 over the Visitor Centre on 1st November (JWC), with a high count of 17 on 5th November (JWC).

Redwing*Turdus iliacus***Winter Visitor**

There were numerous good counts in the late winter and spring, with c20 on 22nd January and c80 on 9th February. The last record in the early part of the year was on 9th April. The earliest record in the autumn was 3 over the farmland on 24th September (JWC), then the winter influx began in earnest with 60+ over the Visitor Centre on 15th October (JWC) and c100 on the farmland 26th December (JWC).

Song Thrush*Turdus philomelos***Resident Breeder**

There are probably 2-4 pairs of Song Thrush in and around the Reserve and they are seen regularly but only in ones and twos. The best time of day to assess the population in the area appears to be the early morning when the males are singing, as the highest monthly counts are always recorded during WeBS visits. At the end of the year, it was more normal to record 2-3 birds.

Mistle Thrush*Turdus viscivorus***Uncommon Visitor**

The least numerous of the common thrushes at the Reserve, the most likely place to spot one was feeding on the farmland. At the start of the year 3 were

seen on farmland on 4th January and later in the year 6 were seen on 14th September. They were only recorded on 17 dates this year, mainly single birds on the farmland or heard singing in the distance.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* **Uncommon Passage Visitor**

There were 4 records this year for this species that has shown a rapid decline in population in recent years. All were in September (possibly the same bird). One was seen on the farmland on the 3rd (BE) and near the Lagoon on the 4th (JWC). Later in the month 1 was spotted in the Manager's Garden on the 17th (JWC) and from the Riverside Walk on the 21st (JWC).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* **Rare Visitor**

This was a new species for the Reserve in 2020 when a ringed juvenile was photographed on the Willow Path on 1st August. One seen last year on 14th April has been the only other record since.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula* **Resident Breeder and Winter Visitor**

This is a common sight and sound around the whole reserve and is usually seen daily in the Manager's Garden, Bee Garden and along the Willow Path. Daily counts of 5-9 are normal throughout the year, with a high count for the year of 15 on 9th November during a WeBS survey.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* **Rare Visitor**

One was seen on 1st April 2023 on the spoil heap on the farmland, but that was the first record since 9th February 2008. There were no records this year.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* **Uncommon Passage Visitor**

Last year saw reports of a bird on the 6th, 17th and 24th of April (BE), the first records for 3 years. This year there was just 1 record, a bird spotted on the farmland on 16th September (JWC).

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* **Uncommon Passage Visitor**

There were just 2 records this year, both over the farmland. The first was on 21st April (JWC) and the other on 3rd May (JWC).

Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola* **Uncommon Passage Visitor**

Another good year for reports of Stonechat. At the start of the year, 1 was seen on 26th February. During the Autumn passage, 1 was seen on 3rd August (JWC), then there were sightings on 4 dates in September, including 4 in Tim's Field on the 30th (JWC). Mainly single birds were reported on 8 days in October.

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* **Uncommon Passage Visitor**

Only 1 record this year. One was spotted on and around the area of the spoil heap on the farmland on 17th September (JWC).

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* **Uncommon Visitor**

Sightings of Dipper in the river from the River Path are only very occasional and much dependent on the water level in the river. This year there were just 4 records of single birds. The first was on 20th January just downstream from the weir on the river (SB), then on 5th June and finally on 11th and 12th October.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* **Uncommon Visitor**

This species is not present within the Reserve but can frequently be seen along the canal bank on the way to the reserve entrance. They occasionally venture into the Reserve, and this year a single female was spotted on the feeders near the Visitor Centre on 16th November (JWC).

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* **Casual Breeder**

Only a single record this year, when 3 were spotted over Tim's Field on 23rd August (JWC). This species appears to have disappeared from the Reserve, after being seen on several occasions in recent years, mainly in the Manager's Garden or close to the Visitor Centre.

Dunnock *Prunella modularis* **Resident Breeder**

Common across the Reserve, its song can be heard everywhere in the spring. Recorded every month it appears to be most visible earlier in the year with many counts in double figures. The highest count for the year was 13 on 10th February (SB). Later in the year counts were usually in the region of 4-7 birds.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* **Scarce (Summer) Visitor**

Just 1 record this year, when 2 were seen flying over the Visitor Centre on 23rd August, at a similar date to last year's sighting. Very rarely seen at the Reserve, this was only the second record since 2021.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* **Common Visitor/Casual Breeder**

A frequent sight around the Reserve, but usually just 1 or 2 birds. The commonest places to see one is near the spoil heap on the farmland or along the river when viewed from the River Path. Notable records for the year include 4 seen on the riverside on 17th March (SB), 9 flying over the Visitor Centre on 25th August and 6 in the Yorkshire Water compound on 27th August. Probably breeds annually along the river.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii* **Common Visitor/ Casual Breeder**

usually seen around the spoil heap at the edge of the farmland or inside the Yorkshire Water compound or on top of the Visitor Centre. Seen all year though most common in the winter months and most records are of 1 or 2 birds. Three were seen together on 13th April and 4 were seen on 7th December. Breeds somewhere around the Reserve as juvenile birds were seen in the autumn.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* **Scarce Passage Migrant**

This is the continental variety of wagtail of which the Pied Wagtail is a subspecies. It has a grey back rather than the black back of the Pied Wagtail. There were no records this year, but one was spotted on the farmland on 3rd April last year and was the first record since 6th April 2020.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* **Passage Migrant**

Fairly common locally on higher ground this species is only occasionally seen at the Reserve at the start and end of the year when numbers are boosted by winter visitors from Northern Europe. Two were reported on 15th January and there were a further 3 reports for March. They were reported on 6 dates in September to November, including a total of 27 seen flying over on 14th September (JWC).

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* **Rare Passage Visitor**

Just one record again this year when 1 was heard calling over the Visitor Centre on 7th September (JWC). This is only the sixth record for the Reserve.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* **Resident and Winter Visitor**

The small resident population can increase markedly in the winter due to birds migrating from more northern areas and attracted by the seed crop on Tim's Field. A flock of 33 were seen on 19th January, 40+ on 23rd February and c50 on 1st March. Numbers then dropped down to the normal resident level of 1-2 birds between April and September. The large flocks then returned to the areas around Tim's Field with c20 on 17th October, 30+ on 15th November and c50 on 20th December (JWC).

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* **Scarce (Winter) Visitor**

no sightings this year, but in December 2 were heard over the farmland on the 20th and 1 over the Visitor Centre on the 31st. There were records on 5 dates in 2023, but that only takes the total number of records in the last seven years to 15 sightings of mainly single birds, so there appears to be little chance of seeing one of these finches at the Reserve most years.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula* **Resident Breeder**

Common around the Reserve and regularly seen on the feeders in the Manager's Garden and around the Visitor Centre. Also frequently heard from with the coppice and the trees adjacent to the Lagoon. Usually seen in pairs, normal counts around the Reserve are 2-4 birds, but at the end of the year bigger groups move around together. Ten were reported on 18th January and 9 on 24th February (SB).

Greenfinch *Chloris chloris* **Resident Breeder**

Not as common as Bullfinch but still reported each month in smaller numbers. The Manager's Garden and Visitor Centre were good areas to spot some and they could sometimes be heard singing and calling from hedges around Tim's Field and the John Ackroyd meadow. Notable counts this year were 7 on 4th January and a flock of 15-20 in the Bee Garden on 11th July (JWC).

Twite *Linaria flavirostris* **Rare (Winter) Visitor**

No records this year. The last record was of a single bird seen on 11th and 12th November 2017 amongst a group of Linnets, prior to that there have only been just 2 records for the Reserve in 2000 and 2003.

Linnet *Linaria cannabina* **Casual Breeder and Winter Visitor**

The trend from last year continued at the start of this year, with low numbers around the Reserve and disappointing highest counts of 12 in January, 4 in February and 10 in March. There were no sightings from April to September, but the early winter brought a return to the numbers of previous years. On 17th October 70+ were around Tim's Field and on 15th November a flock of 200+ were seen (JWC). This trend continued in December with a high of 150+.

Redpoll *Acanthis flammea* **Passage and Winter Visitor**

Recorded on 15 dates this year, better than last year's 3 sightings. A single bird was spotted on 30th March, then there were no sightings from April to August. There were a couple of records in September, but the last 3 months of the year saw reports of sightings on 12 further days. Small flocks were seen feeding in Alder or Birch, including 6 in the Dragonfly Ponds area on 18th October (JWC) and 14 in trees on Poplar Field on 28th December.

Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* **Rare Visitor**

No records this year. This species is found in coniferous habitats throughout Britain and Ireland and is resident, and in some winters, numbers are boosted by arrivals from Northern Europe. The Reserve does not have the ideal

habitat to encourage any visiting Crossbill, so all the few past records have been for “flyovers”. First recorded in 2018, 1 was seen flying over the Dragonfly Ponds on 18th September 2023.

Goldfinch

Carduelis carduelis

Resident Breeder

This colourful finch can be seen around the Reserve all year, though daily counts are usually of 10 birds or less. There are occasional influxes of bigger groups in the winter or after breeding. Thirteen were seen on 14th January, then later in the year 60+ were noted in the John Ackroyd meadow on 18th July (DW) and 40 near the Visitor Centre on 1st August (DW).

Siskin

Spinus spinus

Passage and Winter Visitor

This is 1 of our smallest finches and it breeds in coniferous and mixed forest, but in winter it can be found almost anywhere with suitable food, and its numbers are boosted by arrivals from more northern areas. Alder and birch trees along the entrance road and in the Dragonfly Ponds area are good sites to check. Twenty+ were noted on 29th June (JWC) and 20 again on 22nd November and 27th December (JWC).

Yellowhammer

Emberiza citronella

Rare Visitor

This is a very scarce bird in the area and another bird that is in long term decline in the UK. A single bird was photographed in the Manager's Garden on 4th May (CR) last year and that was the first record for the Reserve since 2018. No sightings this year.

Reed Bunting

Emberiza schoeniclus

Resident Breeder

This species breeds in the wetland areas, and its song/call can be heard in the spring, but it is most reliably seen on the feeders in the Manager's Garden and around the Visitor Centre. Counts of 2-7 were common throughout the year, but there are sometimes bigger flocks in the winter with 11 noted on 25th and 29th January and c20 on 8th February.

Review by Simon Brown April 2026

3.

ANNUAL REVIEW 2025 - BUTTERFLIES

Unfortunately it has not been possible to include a review for 2025

4.

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES

It has been a good year for dragonflies, with 20 species being recorded, 1 of them (Norfolk Hawker) for the first time. A combination of providing good habitat and global warming has seen a marked increase in our dragonfly fauna at the reserve. The presence of teneral, individuals in the wheel or tandem formations, observations of oviposition and the presence of larvae, all indicate probable breeding (Tables 1 & 2). However, there is still a lack of recording of exuviae, the presence of which is the only criterion that is accepted as satisfying the definition 'Confirmed Successful Breeding', since an exuvial presence signifies that a complete life cycle has been gone through (Table 2).

Table 1. The number of days on which the different phases of reproductive behaviour (wheel, tandem and oviposition) were recorded.

Species	Wheel	Tandem	Ovipositing
Large Red Damselfly	-	2	-
Azure Damselfly	1	8	7
Blue-tailed Damselfly	1	-	-
Red-eyed Damselfly	-	-	1
Willow Emerald	-	1	1
Emperor Dragonfly	-	-	6
Brown Hawker	-	-	3
Norfolk Hawker	-	-	3
Southern Hawker	-	1	-
Broad-bodied Chaser	-	-	2
Common Darter	1	-	3

Table 2. The number of larvae, exuviae and teneralis recorded.

Species	Larvae	Exuviae	Teneralis
Brown Hawker	-	4	-
Emperor Dragonfly	1	-	-
Southern Hawker	1	-	-
Broad-bodied Chaser	-	-	1
Common Darter	2	-	1

Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)

It was another good year for the Banded Demoiselle. It was first recorded on 3rd May (JWC, KH), the earliest ever date since recordings began. It was recorded on a total of 15 days. The first time it was seen in the vicinity of water was at the Dragonfly Ponds on 10th May (PJM), from where most of the records were obtained. It was also seen on the Willow Path on 29th May (PM/BM) and by the Lagoon on 8th June (MC/PC) and on 2nd August (MG/PG). It was last seen on 17th August (AT) at the Dragonfly Ponds. This is a species that breeds in flowing water and it would be good to look for reproductive behaviour over the river.

Emerald Damselfly (*Lestes sponsa*)

Yet another disappointing year for this species. It was only seen on 2 occasions in 2024, and this year there was only 1 positive identification at the Dragonfly Ponds on 9th July (JWC), although a possible sighting was made on 17th August, again at the Dragonfly Ponds (AT). This is very concerning as it was seen on 11 days in 2021. The reason for the decrease in observations is unclear but hopefully is down to recorder effort.

Willow Emerald Damselfly (*Chalcolestes viridis*)

2025 was a much better year for the Willow Emerald. Having been seen on only 3 days in 2024, this year it was recorded on 11 days. The first record was on 16th July (JWC) on the Willow Path near the Lagoon, the earliest date so far. Indeed, most of the recordings were on the Willow Path (JWC) or at the Willow Path hide (JWC). However, on 25th August, at least 6 individuals were seen at the Dragonfly Ponds, with 3 pairs in tandem and one ovipositing, the latter in the new Lake Pond (JWC). Of the tandem pairs, 2 were at the Lake Pond, the other on Bruce's Pond. The last sighting was on 16th November at the Willow Path Hide (JWC), the latest date on which it has been recorded at the Reserve.

Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrrosoma nymphula*)

This year the Large Red Damselfly was recorded on the earliest date so far on 20th April near the Lagoon Hide (JWC). It was recorded on a total of 7 separate days. Three pairs in tandem were seen at the Dragonfly Ponds on 30th April (JWC) and a further pair, also at the Dragonfly Ponds, on 12th May (PJM). All of the recordings were from this area, the last being on 16th June, when 2 individuals were seen (PJM). This is quite early for its flight period to finish, as it was recorded as late as 6th August in 2008. The early start and short season may have been due to the hot summer of 2025.

Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*) It was another excellent year for the Azure Damselfly with it being seen on 14 separate days. The first record was on 30th April, the earliest date on which it has been recorded. This was at the Dragonfly Ponds (JWC), where most of the records have been from PJM, MC/PC, PS, WN. The most recorded on any one day was 98 (67 males and 31 females) on 30th June (PJM), when 4 pairs were recorded in tandem and 31 were observed ovipositing. There was 1 occasion when a pair in the wheel formation was sighted (PJM), 8 when tandem pairs were seen (PJM, MC/PC) and also 8 when oviposition was observed (PJM, MC/PC). The largest number of pairs seen in tandem was 10 on 30th June; the greatest number of ovipositing pairs was 20 on 16th June and 31 on 30th June. There were 3 days on which over 50 were observed (Table 3). This species was also recorded from the Public Dipping Ponds on 3 occasions (PJM). The last record was of over 20 individuals, including 1 pair in tandem and another ovipositing, on 30th July (GRM/PJM).

Table 3. Days on which over 50 individuals of the Azure Damselfly were recorded.

Date	Total	Males	Females	Wheel	Tandem	Oviposition
2 June	76	53	23	1	10	12
16 June	54	50	24	-	4	20
30 June	98	67	31	-	4	31

Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

A very disappointing year for the Common Blue Damselfly. Its first sighting was on 3rd May (JWC), the earliest ever recorded, but it was only seen once more on 17th August (AT). Both records were from the Dragonfly Ponds. This species prefer larger bodies of water and it is hoped that the establishment of the large Lake Pond will result in more sightings in the future.

Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)

It was another excellent year for sightings of this species, with records on 12 separate days (compared to 15 in 2024). The first record was of a single male at the Dragonfly Ponds on 30th April (JWC), just 5 days later than its earliest ever sighting on 25th April 2020. The only reproductive activity recorded was of a pair in the wheel formation on 17th August (AT). The only records away from the Dragonfly Ponds were of a singleton on 7th July at the Public Dipping Ponds (PJM) and of another lone individual on 17th September on the River Walk (JJ/RB), which turned out to be the last sighting of the year.

Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma najas*)

Sightings of the Red-eyed Damselfly were similar to those of 2024, being recorded on 6 separate days. The first record was of 5 males at the Dragonfly Ponds on 17th May (JWC), the earliest record to date. All of the records were from the Dragonfly Ponds (MC/PC, C/DW). The most seen on any one day was in excess of 20 (JWC) and oviposition was witnessed on 7th July (PJM). The last record was of 2 individuals on 9th July (DW), this being the latest date on which it has been recorded.

Small Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma viridulum*)

As in previous years, records of the Small Red-eyed Damselfly were few. In 2023 it was recorded on 3 separate days, all at the Co-op Pond; in 2024 on only 2 separate days and 1 of these was only a 'probable' sighting. This year was slightly better, it being seen on 4 different days, all at the Dragonfly Ponds. The first record was of a male on 29th June (JWC); the last of 3 males and 2 females on 17th August (AT).

Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*)

It was a rather disappointing year for the Migrant Hawker but better than 2024, when it was not seen at all. This year it was seen on 3 widely spaced days. The first sighting was of 1 individual at the John Ackroyd Meadow on 31st July (JWC). The next, again a lone individual, was seen at the Dragonfly Ponds on 17th August (AT) and the final individual was recorded at Tim's Field on 22nd October (JWC).

Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*)

This turned out to be another good year for the Southern Hawker. It was first seen on 15th June at the Dragonfly Ponds (JWC). It was seen on 4 more occasions throughout June and July, all at the Dragonfly Ponds (DW, JWC, WN), but was not seen again until 17th September when an individual was seen on the River Walk (JJ). On 28th September individuals were seen at the Dragonfly Ponds and on the Riverside Walk (the same individual?) (PM/BM). On only 1 occasion was more than 1 recorded on a given day and

that was on 18th June when a pair was seen in tandem over the Co-op Pond in the Dragonfly Ponds area (DW). The last sighting was of an individual at the Dragonfly Ponds on 6th October (PJM). The maximum recorded on any one day was 2, which were in tandem at the Co-op Pond (DW). A larva was found in the Public Dipping Ponds on 29th October (CF).

Brown Hawker (*Aeshna grandis*)

Another really good year for this species; it was recorded on 13 separate days. The first record was on 18th June, the earliest date ever recorded. There were 2 records for this date, both at the Dragonfly Ponds (JWC, DW). It was seen throughout June and July, mostly at the Dragonfly Ponds (JWC, PS, PJM, MG/PG, DS, GRM/PJM), but also on the Education Pond (PJM), over the Wet Grassland (MG/PG) and at the Public Dipping Ponds (DS). It was only recorded once in August (17th), when the maximum number seen at any one time was 5, all at the Dragonfly Ponds (AT). There were just 2 records in September, 1 at the dragonfly ponds on 8th (PJM) and 1 on 17th over Tim's Field (JWC), the latter being the last sighting of the season. Oviposition was recorded on 3 occasions – 25th June (JWC), 16th July (MG/PG) and 30th July (GRM/PJM). Four exuviae were found, 1 on 30th June at the Dragonfly Ponds (Woodhead Pond) (PJM), 1 on 1st July at the Education Pond (PJM) and 2 on 26th July at the Public Dipping Ponds (DS).

Norfolk (Green-eyed) Hawker (*Aeshna isocetes*)

In the UK, this dragonfly has traditionally been called the Norfolk Hawker because, though it was historically also found in the Cambridgeshire fens, its range became restricted to the Broadlands of Norfolk. However, over several years its range has been expanding. As a consequence it has been suggested that it should be referred to as the Green-eyed Hawker, the name used by Dijkstra, Schröter & Lewington and by Smallshire & Swash in their European field guides. This is the first year that it has been seen on the reserve and it appeared on 6 separate days. The first sighting was of a male at the Dragonfly Ponds on 21st June (PS). On 22nd and 25th June single males were again seen at the dragonfly and public dipping ponds (JWC, AL, PD). Thereafter, only females were recorded, the first on 28th June at the Dragonfly Ponds (PS, JWC), and another at the same location the following day (JWC, PS). There was another sighting of a female on 7th July at the Dragonfly Ponds and this was the last record for the species. Oviposition in Water Soldier was observed on the Woodhead, Bruce and Co-op ponds.

Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*)

It was a much better year for the Emperor Dragonfly, being seen on 11 different days compared to 6 in 2024. However, 2 individuals were the most recorded on any one day (JWC, M&P). The first recording was of a single male on 31st May at the Dragonfly Ponds (JWC). Males and females were seen regularly throughout June, July and up to the start of August, exclusively at the Dragonfly Ponds (JWC, M&B, PS, PJM), the 2nd August being the last date on which a mature adult was seen (M). Oviposition was observed at the Dragonfly Ponds on 6 occasions – 11th June (JWC), 25th June, 30th June (PJM), 7th July (PJM), 16th July (MG/PG) and 2nd August (M). A larva was caught in one of the Public Dipping Ponds on 17th September (JD).

Four-spotted Chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*)

This was at least the third year in a row with few sightings of the Four-spotted Chaser. The first sighting was on 11th May (JWC). It was then not seen for a month, being recorded on just 3 more days, all in June – 11th (C/DW), 28th (PS) and 30th (PJM), the last sighting of the year. All of the records were from the Dragonfly Ponds.

Broad-bodied Chaser (*Libellula depressa*)

It was a good year for this species but it was only seen on 10 days compared to 17 last year. All of the records this year were from the Dragonfly Ponds (KL/JWC, PJM, GW, C, MG/PG). It was first sighted on 30th April (KL/JWC). This was equal to the earliest date recorded which was in 2011. It was seen regularly throughout May, June and the first half of July, the last occasion being on 16th July. Between 2 and 4 individuals were often recorded, 4 being seen on 28th May (3 males and 1 female) and on 18th June (4 males). A teneral was seen on 30th April (KL/JWC). Oviposition was recorded on 2 dates – 2 individuals on 28th May (DW) and 1 on 2nd June (PJM).

Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthrum mcancellatum*)

As in 2024, the Black-tailed Skimmer was sighted on 4 dates. The first record was of a female on the path near the JB benches on 4th June (JWC). The next 2 records were single males at the Dragonfly Ponds on 11th June (C/DW) and 16th June (PJM). The final record of the season, also at the Dragonfly Ponds, was of a male on 28th June (PS).

Black Darter (*Sympetrum danae*)

A single male was seen at the Dragonfly Ponds on 17th August (AT). The reserve is a long way from this species' normal habitat and this was the first sighting since 2021.

Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

It was a good year for the Common Darter, being recorded on 10 separate days, compared with only 5 last year. Indeed, until this year, it had been declining in recorded days since 2022. The first sighting was of a teneral at the Public Dipping Ponds on 28th June (JWC). It was a month before it was seen again, when 5 were seen, including 1 ovipositing at the Dragonfly Ponds on 30th July (GRM/PJM). Two other instances of oviposition were recorded – on 8th September (PJM) and on 28th September (PM/BM), both at the Dragonfly Ponds. The maximum recorded on any one day was at the Dragonfly Ponds on 17th August, when in excess of 20 were seen, including 2 pairs in the wheel formation (AT). Other places where it was seen were on the path to the river (MS/JJ), at the Education Pond (JD) and on the Riverside Walk (JJ/RB), all on 17th September. On 21st September it was seen again on the Riverside Walk next to the Dragonfly Ponds (PM/BM). The last record of adults was on 8th November, when lone individuals were seen at the Public Dipping ponds and the Dragonfly Ponds (PM/BM). Two larvae were caught on 17th September (JD), 1 from the Education Pond, the other from 1 of the Dragonfly Ponds.

Hairy Dragonfly (*Brachytron pratense*)

This is only the second record for the reserve, the first being in 2023. A male was seen on just one day, 17th May, at the Dragonfly Ponds (JWC). It is mostly a species of the midlands

and the south, but there have been several records from Yorkshire and, indeed, from as far north as the west coast of Scotland. It is hoped that there will be more sightings on the Reserve in future.

First and Last Dates – see Table 5

Eight of the regular visitors were first recorded at the earliest date since records began and a ninth equalled the first date. This was probably due to the exceptionally long hot summer. At the other end of the scale three latest dates were recorded. These first and last dates exclude those for the Norfolk Hawker as it was the first time that this species was seen at the reserve.

Breeding Criteria

Using the criteria of the British Dragonfly Society (below), the only species for which successful breeding has been confirmed this year is the Brown Hawker. Clearly other species are breeding on the reserve, as they have been consistently present for many years in reasonable numbers, and various aspects of reproductive behaviour (wheel, tandem and oviposition) have been observed. However, it would be helpful if, in future years, exuviae could be searched for to confirm successful breeding.

Table 4. First and Last Dates (in order of first date seen in 2025) *Rare visitor to the reserve.

	First recorded	First Recorded (order)			Last recorded
		2022	2023	2024	
Large Red Damselfly	20 th April	1	1=	1=	16 th June
Azure Damselfly	30 th April	2=	1=	1=	30 th July
Broad-bodied Chaser	30 th April	2=	4=	3=	16 th July
Blue-tailed Damselfly	30 th April	2=	4=	8	17 th Sept
Banded Demoiselle	3 rd May	5	3	5=	17 th Aug
Common Blue Damselfly	3 rd May	9	11=	5=	17 th Aug
Four-spotted Chaser	11 th May	7	4=	3=	30 th June
Red-eyed Damselfly	17 th May	-	8	5=	9 th July
*Hairy Dragonfly	17 th May	-	9	-	17 th May
Emperor Dragonfly	31 st May	10=	10	11=	17 th Sept
Black-tailed Skimmer	4 th June	8	7	9	28 th June
Southern Hawker	15 th June	10=	18	13=	29 th Oct
Brown Hawker	18 th June	6	13	10	17 th Sept
Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker	21 st June	-	-	-	7 th July
Common Darter	28 th June	10=	14	16	8 th Nov
Small Red-eyed Damselfly	29 th June	-	16	17	17 th Aug
Emerald Damselfly	9 th July	10=	11=	11=	9 th July
Willow Emerald Damselfly	16 th July	17	15	13=	16 th Nov
Ruddy Darter	16 th July	10=	19	13=	22 nd Oct
Migrant Hawker	31 st July	16	17	-	22 nd Oct
*Black Darter	17 th Aug	-	-	-	17 th Aug

Successful Breeding Confirmed

Exuviae present constitutes absolute proof that at least one specimen has completed a cycle from egg to adult at the site.

Probable Breeding

Larva present or female ovipositing or teneral (newly emerged adult) or regular presence of both sexes (normally annual presence in reasonable numbers or a repeated period consistent with the species' life-cycle length). All records to be at, or adjacent to, a suitable water body.

Possible Breeding

Pair copulating (in the wheel formation) or a female seen at a water body suitable for the species where at least one male has been observed to be engaged in some form of reproductive behaviour.

Adult(s) Present

None of the above breeding evidence or behaviour observed.

Table 5. Earliest and latest dates (as at the end of 2025) *Rare visitor to the reserve; **bold** indicates that the earliest and latest dates were in 2025.

Species	Earliest Date	Latest date
Large Red Damselfly	20th April 2025	6 th August 2008
Blue-tailed Damselfly	25 th April 2020	23 rd September 2006
Broad-bodied Chaser	30th April 2011 & 2025	11 th August 2012
Azure Damselfly	30th April 2025	30 th September 2015
Common Blue Damselfly	3rd May 2025	4 th October 2006
Banded Demoiselle	3rd May 2025	8 th September 2012
Four-spotted Chaser	9 th May 2020	12 th August 2020
Red-eyed Damselfly	17th May 2025	9th July 2025
*Hairy Dragonfly	17th May 2025	10 th June 2023
Common Darter	23 rd May 2010	13 th November 2021
Emerald Damselfly	24 th May 2019	2 nd October 2015
Emperor Dragonfly	25 th May 2008	29 th September 2007
Black-tailed Skimmer	27 th May 2018	26 th August 2020
Southern Hawker	12 th June 2014	9 th November 2024
Brown Hawker	18th June 2025	19 th October 2014
Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker	21st June 2025	7th July 2025
*Keeled Skimmer	1 st July 2015	1 st July 2015
Migrant Hawker	3 rd July 2019	12 th November 2006
Ruddy Darter	10 th July 2022	22nd October 2025
*Black Darter	14 th July 2018	27 th September 2013
Willow Emerald Damselfly	16th July 2025	16th November 2025
*Golden-ringed Dragonfly	24 th July 2022	24 July 2022
*Common Hawker	27 th July 2010	18 th September 2004
Small Red-eyed Damselfly	29 th July 2020	27 th August 2019

Recorder Initials

JWC	J Cooper	PM	P Murphy
JD	J Dhinsa	WM	Wharfedale Naturalists
PD	P Dicken	MS	M Stone
CF	Carolyn Finn	DS	D Swan
MG	M Greenwood	AT	A Thompson
PG	P Greenwood	C	Christine?
KH	K Hockridge	DW	D Walker
JJ	J Jones	C/DW	?/D Walker
JJ/RB	J Jones/?	GW	?
KL	L Limb	M	Millie?
AL	?	MC/PC	?/?
GRM	G Mill	PS	P Strickland
PJM	P Mill	JB benches	?
BM	M Murphy		

5.

FUNGUS

Three Forays were held during 2025:

8th November for the Rodley Robins Saturday Club and 19th October when morning and afternoon forays were held.

Rodley Robins Fungus Foray - 8th November 2025 Recorder Andy Woodall

Smoky Bracket *Bjerkandera adusta*
Amber Jelly *Exidia recisa*
Blushing Bracket *Daedaleopsis confragosa*
Turkeytails *Trametes versicolor*
'False' Artist's Bracket *Ganoderma adspersum*
Silverleaf Fungus *Chondrostereum purpureum*
Jelly Ear *Auricularia auricula-judae*
Common Jelly Spot *Dacrymyces stillatus*
Common Rustgill *Gymnopilus penetrans*
Drab Bonnet *Mycena aetites*
Iodine Bonnet *Mycena filopes*
Ivory Bonnet *Atheniella flavoalba*
Hairy Curtain Crust *Stereum hirsutum*
Sloe yeasts *Saccharomyces* spp.
Parrot Waxcap *Gliophorus psittacinus*
Blackening Waxcap *Hygrocybe conica*
Snowy Waxcap *Cuphophyllus virgineus*
Scurfy Twiglet *Tubaria furfuracea*
Ergot *Claviceps purpurea*
Potato Earthball *Scleroderma bovista*
Scaly Earthball *Scleroderma verrucosum*
Coconut Milkcap *Lactarius glycosmus*
Candle Snuff Fungus *Xylaria hypoxylon*
Violet Bramble Rust *Phragmidium violaceum*
Sunburst Lichen *Xanthoria parietina*
Wood Pinkgill *Entoloma rhodopolium*
Oyster Mushroom *Pleurotus ostreatus*
Glistening Inkcap *Coprinellus micaceus*
Fibrecap *Inocybe* sp.
Purple Brain *Ascocoryne sarcoides*
Photos - Andy Woodall



"False" Artist's Bracket



Honey Fungus

Public Forays Sunday 19th October

Combined list of species recorded on morning and afternoon forays. Recorder Andy Woodall

Fungi in alphabetical order by scientific name

Honey Fungus *Armillaria mellea*
Bulbous Honey Fungus *Armillaria lutea*
Ivory Bonnet *Atheniella* (was *Mycena*) *flavoalba*
Jelly Ear *Auricularia auricula-judae*
Smoky Bracket *Bjerkandera adusta*
Yellow Fieldcap *Bolbitius titubans*
Shaggy Parasol *Chlorophyllum rhacodes*
Silverleaf Fungus *Chondrostereum purpureum*
Ergot *Claviceps purpurea*
Glistening Inkcap *Coprinellus micaceus*
Shaggy Inkcap *Coprinus comatus*
Round-spored Oysterling *Crepidotus cesatii*
Snowy Waxcap *Cuphophyllus virgineus*
Blushing Bracket *Daedaleopsis confragosa*
Freckled Dapperling *Echinoderma asperum*
Wood Pinkgill *Entoloma rhodopolium*
Velvetshank *Flammulina velutipes*
False Artist's Bracket *Ganoderma adspersum*
Parrot Waxcap *Gliophorus psittacinus*
Golden Waxcap *Hygrocybe chlorophana*
Blackening Waxcap *Hygrocybe conica*
Elder Whitewash *Hyphodontia sambuci*
Sulphurtuft *Hypholoma fasciculare*
The Deceiver *Laccaria laccata*
Willow Milkcap *Lactarius aspideus*
Common Puffball *Lycoperdon perlatum*
Fairy Ring Champignon *Marasmius oreades*
Drab Bonnet *Mycena aetites*
Angel's Bonnet *Mycena arcangeliana*
Iodine Bonnet *Mycena filopes*
Common Bonnet *Mycena galericulata*
Brownedge Bonnet *Mycena olivaceomarginata*
Oyster Mushroom *Pleurotus ostreatus*
Greyling Bracket *Postia tephroleuca*
Oysterling species *Resupinatus* sp. (lost the specimen)
Hairy Curtain Crust *Stereum hirsutum*
Yellowing Curtain Crust *Stereum subtomentosum*
Blue Roundhead *Stropharia caerulea*
Turkeytails *Trametes versicolor*
Sunburst Lichen *Xanthoria parietina*
Candlesnuff Fungus *Xylaria hypoxylon*

FUNGUS RECORDED AT THE RESERVE 2013 to 2025 - Total 195 species

<i>Agaricus campestris</i>	Field Mushroom
<i>Agaricus silvaticus</i>	Wood Mushroom
<i>Aleuria aurantia</i>	Orange Peel Fungus
<i>Armillaria lutea</i>	Bulbous Honey Fungus
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus
<i>Ascocoryne sarcoides</i>	Purple Jellydisc
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Jelly-ear
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	Smoky Bracket
<i>Bjerkandera fumosa</i>	Big Smoky Bracket
<i>Bolbitius titubans</i>	Yellow Fieldcap/Yellow Cowpat Toadstool
<i>Bovista nigrescens</i>	Brown Puffball
<i>Bovista plumbea</i>	Grey Puffball
<i>Byssomerulius corium</i>	Netted Crust
<i>Calocera cornea</i>	Small Stagshorn
<i>Calocera pallidospathulata</i>	Pale Stagshorn
<i>Calocybe gambosa</i>	St George's Mushroom
<i>Calycina citrina</i>	Lemon Disco
<i>Cerioporus squamosus</i>	Dryad's Saddle
<i>Cerioporus varius</i>	Blackfoot Polypore
<i>Chlorophyllum rhacodes</i>	Shaggy Parasol
<i>Chondrostereum purpureum</i>	Silverleaf Fungus
<i>Claviceps purpurea</i>	Ergot
<i>Clavulina coralloides</i>	White Coral Fungus
<i>Clavulina rugosa</i>	Wrinkled Club
<i>Clavulinopsis fusiformis</i>	Golden Spindles
<i>Clavulinopsis helvola</i>	Yellow Club
<i>Clavulinopsis laeticolor</i>	Handsome Club
<i>Clavulinopsis umbrinella</i>	Beige Coral
<i>Clitocybe decembris</i>	Winter Funnel
<i>Clitocybe metachroa</i>	Twotone Funnel
<i>Infundibulicybe geotropa</i>	Trooping Funnel
<i>Infundibulicybe gibba</i>	Common Funnel
<i>Clitocybe nebularis</i>	Clouded Funnel
<i>Clitocybe phyllophila</i>	Frosty Funnel
<i>Clitocybe rivulosa</i>	Fool's Funnel
<i>Collybin sordida</i>	Sordid Blewit
<i>Conocybe arrhenii</i>	Ringed Conecap
<i>Conocybe brunneola</i>	
<i>Conocybe pubescens</i>	Downy Conecap
<i>Conocybe subovalis</i>	Ellipsoid Conecap
<i>Conocybe tenera</i>	Common Conecap
<i>Conocybe velutipes</i>	Fleecy Foot Conecap
<i>Coprinellus disseminatus</i>	Fairy Inkcap
<i>Coprinellus micaceus</i>	Glistening Inkcap
<i>Coprinopsis atramentaria</i>	Common Inkcap
<i>Coprinopsis lagopus</i>	Hare'sfoot Inkcap

<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	Shaggy Inkcap
<i>Cortinarius hemitrichus</i>	Willow Webcap
<i>Crepidotus cesatii</i>	Round spored Oysterling
<i>Crepidotus mollis</i>	Peeling Oysterling
<i>Crepidotus variabilis</i>	Variable Oysterling
<i>Crinipellis scabella</i>	Hairy Parachute
<i>Cuphophyllus virgineus</i>	Snowy Waxcap
<i>Cystoderma amianthinum</i>	Earthy Powdercap
<i>Dacrymyces stillatus</i>	Common Jellyspot
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket
<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	King Alfred's Cakes
<i>Deconica horizontalis</i>	Wood Oysterling
<i>Diatrype stigma</i>	Black Tarcrust
<i>Diatrype bullata</i>	Willow Barkspot
<i>Echinoderma asperum</i>	Freckled Dapperling
<i>Entoloma conferendum</i>	Star Pinkgill
<i>Entoloma rhodopolium</i>	Shield/Wood Pinkgill
<i>Entoloma sericeum</i>	Silky Pinkgill
<i>Erisyphe heraclei</i>	Hogweed Mildew
<i>Exidia recisa</i>	Amber Jelly
<i>Exidia thuretiana</i>	White Brain
<i>Flammulina velutipes</i>	Velvetshank
<i>Galerina hypnorum</i>	Moss Bell
<i>Ganoderma adspersum</i>	Artist's Bracket
<i>Geastrum triplex</i>	Collared Earthstar
<i>Gliophorus irrigatus</i>	Slimy Waxcap
<i>Cuphophyllus pratensis</i>	Meadow Waxcap
<i>Gliophorus psittacinus</i>	Parrot Waxcap
<i>Gymnopus andrisaceus</i>	Horsehair Parachute
<i>Gymnopus dryophilus</i>	Russet Toughshank
<i>Gymnopilus penetrans</i>	Common Rustgill
<i>Gymnopilus spectabilis</i>	Spectacular Rustgill
<i>Stereum rugosum</i>	Bleeding Broadleaf Crust
<i>Hebeloma crustuliniforme</i>	Poison Pie
<i>Hebeloma leucosarx</i>	Pale Poisonpie
<i>Hebeloma radicosum</i>	Rooting Poison Pie
<i>Hebeloma sacchariolens</i>	Sweet Poison Pie
<i>Hebeloma velutipes</i>	Velvetfoot Poisonpie
<i>Helvella acetabulum</i>	Vinegar Cup
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft
<i>Hygrocybe chlorophana</i>	Golden Waxcap
<i>Hygrocybe coccinea</i>	Scarlet Waxcap
<i>Hygrocybe conica</i>	Blackening Waxcap
<i>Hygrocybe insipida</i>	Spangle Waxcap
<i>Hygrocybe lepida</i>	Goblet Waxcap
<i>Hygrocybe miniata</i>	Vermillion Waxcap
<i>Hygrocybe reidii</i>	Honey Waxcap
<i>Hyphodontia sambuci</i>	Elder Whitewash
<i>Jachrogersella multiformis</i>	Birch Woodward
<i>Imleria badia</i>	Bay Bolete

<i>Inocybe geophylla</i> var. <i>lilacina</i>	Lilac Fibrecap
<i>Inocybe rimosa</i>	Split Fibrecap
<i>Inonotus hispidus</i>	Shaggy or Hairy Bracket
<i>Kretzschmaria deusta</i>	Brittle Cinder
<i>Laccaria laccata</i>	Common Deceiver
<i>Laccaria proxima</i>	Scurfy Deceiver
<i>Lacrymaria lacrymabunda</i>	Weeping Widow
<i>Lactarius aspideus</i>	Willow Milkcap
<i>Lactarius glyciosmus</i>	Coconut Milkcap
<i>Lactarius uvidus</i>	Shiner Milkcap
<i>Lepiota cristata</i>	Stinking Dapperling
<i>Lepista nuda</i>	Wood Blewit
<i>Leptosphaeria</i> sp	
<i>Lycogala epidendrum</i>	Wolf's Milk Slime Mould
<i>Paralepista flaccida</i>	Tawny Funnel
<i>Lycoperdon excipuliformis</i>	Pestle Puffball
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	Common Puffball
<i>Lycoperdon pratense</i>	Meadow Puffball
<i>Lyophyllum connatum</i>	White Domecap
<i>Lyophyllum decastes</i>	Clustered Domecap
<i>Marasmius oreades</i>	Fairy Ring Champignon
<i>Melanoleuca polioleuca</i>	Common Cavalier
<i>Monilinia johnsonii</i>	Hawthorn Cup
<i>Didymium spongiosum</i>	Dog Sick Slime Mould
<i>Mycena aetites</i>	Drab Bonnet
<i>Mycena arcangeliana</i>	Angel's Bonnet
<i>Mycena corynephora</i>	
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet
<i>Atheniella flavoalba</i>	Ivory Bonnet
<i>Mycena haematopus</i>	Burgundydrop Bonnet
<i>Mycena inclinata</i>	Clustered Bonnet
<i>Mycena leptcephala</i>	Nitrous Bonnet
<i>Mycena filopes</i>	Iodine Bonnet
<i>Mycena olivaceomarginata</i>	Browndge Bonnet
<i>Mycena pura</i>	Lilac Bonnet
<i>Mycena rosea</i>	Rosy Bonnet
<i>Mycena vitilis</i>	Snapping Bonnet
<i>Nectria cinnabarina</i>	Coral Spot
<i>Panaeolus acuminatus</i>	Dewdrop Mottlegill
<i>Panaeolus fimicola</i>	Turf Mottlegill
<i>Panaeolus foenisecii</i>	Mower's Mushroom
<i>Panaeolus papilionaceus</i>	Petticoat Mottlegill
<i>Parasola leiocephala</i>	Bald Inkcap
<i>Parasola plicatilis</i>	Japanese Parasol
<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown Roll-rim
<i>Peniophora incarnata</i>	Rosy Crust
<i>Peziza varia</i>	Layered Cup
<i>Phlebia radiata</i>	Wrinkled Crust
<i>Pholiota gummosa</i>	Sticky Scalycap
<i>Pholiota squarrosa</i>	Shaggy Scalycap

<i>Phragmidium violaceum</i>	Violet Bramble Rust
<i>Pleurotus cornucopiae</i>	Branching Oyster
<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>	Oyster Mushroom
<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Deer Shield
<i>Pluteus salicinus</i>	Willow Knight
<i>Picipes badius</i>	Bay Polypore
<i>Polyporus tuberaster</i>	Tuberous Polypore
<i>Polyporus varius</i>	Blackfoot Polypore
<i>Postia subcaesia</i>	Blueing Bracket
<i>Postia tephroleuca</i>	Greyling Bracket
<i>Parasola conopilus</i>	Conical Brittlestem
<i>Psathyrella corrugis</i> (ex <i>gracilis</i>)	Red Edge Brittlestem
<i>Psathyrella piluliformis</i>	Common Stump Brittlegill
<i>Resupinatus applicatus</i>	Smoked Oysterling
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Sycamore Tar-spot
<i>Rickenella swartzii</i>	Collared Moss-cap
<i>Rhopoglyphus filicinus</i>	Bracken Map Fungus
<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>	Purple Brittlegill/Crumblecap
<i>Sarcoscypha austriaca</i>	Scarlet Elf Cup
<i>Schizopora paradoxa</i>	Split Porecrust
<i>Scleroderma verrucosum</i>	Scaly Earthball
<i>Scleroderma bovista</i>	Potato Earthball
<i>Scleroderma citrinum</i>	Common Earthball
<i>Skeletocutis nivea</i>	Hazel Bracket
<i>Spinellus fusiger</i>	Bonnet Mould
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	Hairy Curtaincrust
<i>Stereum subtomentosum</i>	Yellowing Curtain Crust
<i>Stereum rugosum</i>	Bleeding Curtaincrust
<i>Stropharia aeruginosa</i>	Verdigris Agaric
<i>Stropharia aurantiaca</i>	Redlead Roundhead
<i>Stropharia caerulea</i>	Blue Roundhead
<i>Stropharia coronilla</i>	Garland Roundhead
<i>Stropharia pseudocyanea</i>	Peppery Roundhead
<i>Stropharia semiglobata</i>	Dung Roundhead
<i>Taphrina alni</i>	Alder Tongue
<i>Tarzetta catinus</i>	Greater Toothed Cup
<i>Terana caerulea</i>	Cobalt Crust
<i>Trametes gibbosa</i>	Lumpy Bracket
<i>Trametes hirsuta</i>	Hairy Bracket
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Turkeytails
<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	Yellow Brain (Witches Butter)
<i>Tricholoma argyraceum</i>	Silvery Knight
<i>Trochila ilicina</i>	Holly Speckle
<i>Tubaria furfuracea</i>	Scurfy Twiglet
<i>Verpa conica</i>	Thimble Morel
<i>Volvariella speciosa</i>	Stubble Rosegill
<i>Xanthoria parietina</i>	Yellow Sunburst Lichen
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	Candlesnuff Fungus
<i>Xylaria longipes</i>	Dead Moll's Fingers



Sarcoscypha austriaca

Scarlet Elf Cup

6.

INSECTA, ARACHNIDA and MOLLUSCA

NEW SPECIES

In 2025 there were fifteen species newly recorded at the Reserve. One of these was the Clouded Yellow Butterfly (*Colias croceus*) and one was a dragonfly, the Norfolk Hawker (*Aeshna isoceles*). The Norfolk Hawker is described in the Dragonfly review.

INSECTA

Orthoptera

The Lesser Marsh Grasshopper (*Chorthippus albomarginatus*) is in the family Acrididae. It was found in the Poplar Field and is the third species of grasshopper recorded at the Reserve. Originally found in the south of England it has been spreading north and is now fairly common as far north as York. It differs from the Meadow Grasshopper *C. parallelus* by its ability to fly and by its more pointed snout. Also, the female has a white stripe on its wing. Its song comprises between two and six half-second chirps. In spite of its name it inhabits dry as well as damp-marshy grassland.

Hemiptera

Two new shield bugs belonging to the Pentatomidae have been recorded for the first time this year; the Crucifer Shield Bug and *Stictopleurus punctatonervosus* (no English name).

The Crucifer Shield Bug (*Eurydema oleracea*) is also called the Cabbage Bug, the Brassica Bug or the Rape Bug. The adult is dark metallic green/blue to black with coloured markings which are yellow in young adults. As they age these markings become either white or red. It overwinters as an adult. The larvae are found on various brassica plants, including Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) and Horse-radish (*Armoracia rusticana*). Apart from a single record near Glasgow, Yorkshire is the furthest north it reaches.

Stictopleurus punctatonervosus belongs to the family Rhopalidae. It can be distinguished from the only other species in the genus found in Britain by two half circles in the dark furrow behind the anterior margin of the pronotum, which has an incomplete transverse ridge. Formerly rare in Britain, it is now firmly established in south and central England and there are a few records as far north as Yorkshire.

Diptera

Two Craneflies belonging to the order Tipulidae were recorded for the first time, the Tiger Cranefly and the Lunate Cranefly:

The Tiger Cranefly (*Nephrotoma flavescens*) has a yellow and black thorax and yellow abdomen; the latter with a thin (usually broken) black stripe down the centre. There is a black 'ace of spades' mark on the back of the head. The adults can be found feeding on umbellifers (e.g. Cow Parsley).

The Lunate Crane fly (*Tipula lunata*), also called the Tabled Orange Long-palp has a pale grey thorax and an orange abdomen. There is a white band across the wing which stops short of the rear edge. As with the Tiger Crane fly, it can be found on umbellifers.

The Ornate Brigadier (*Odontomyia tigrine*) is a large soldier fly belonging to the order Stratiomyidae and has variable orange markings on its abdomen. It is rare in Britain, most records coming from a few coastal sites. It is rarer inland but there are a few records from Yorkshire; the one at Rodley has been accepted by the NBN Atlas.

The Banded Burdock Fly (*Terellia tussilaginis*) is a fruit fly in the family Tephritidae. Its body is pale green-yellow and it has distinctive brown banding on its wings. It is only about 5 mm long. Its larvae feed on the flowerheads of species of Burdock: *Arctium lappa* (Greater Burdock), *A. minus* (Lesser Burdock) and *A. tomentosum* (Woolly Burdock)) and on *Cirsium vulgare* (Spear Thistle), where it causes galls to form.

Hymenoptera

The Oak Apple Gall Wasp (*Biorhiza pallida*) belongs to the family Cynipidae. There are two generations. The first comprises agamic females which lay unfertilised eggs in the young buds of oak trees, injecting a venom at the same time, which causes the leaf tissues to swell and soften, ultimately producing an oak gall (oak apple). Males and females emerge from different galls, mate, and produce fertilised eggs. These are laid below ground inside the small rootlets of the oak. Many species of oak are used, including the Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and the Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*). The adults of the first generation have a golden-brown head, the rest of the body being yellowish brown. The second (summer) generation are golden brown all over.

The Berberis Sawfly (*Arge berberidis*), also known as the Barberry Fusehorn, belongs to the family Argidae. The adults are bluish-black and look metallic blue in a good light; the wings are brown and the legs black. The larvae have a black head and a grey-white body with yellow blotches and numerous small black dots. It causes severe defoliation on some *Berberis* and *Mahonia* species. It probably arrived in Britain in about 2000 and was confirmed as present in 2002 (in Essex). It has only recently reached as far north as Yorkshire.

ARACHNIDA

Opiliones

The Common Harvestman (*Phalangium opilio*), also referred to as the Brown Harvestman, belongs to the family Phalangidae. It has a white underside and two small, pointed tubercles above its chelicerae. The males have a large spur on the anterior surface of the first chelical segment. It is widely distributed in Europe and is the most widespread harvestman worldwide. Like other harvestmen, it has four pairs of legs, three of which are used for movement; the other pair are sensory appendages.

MOLLUSCA

Gastropoda

Two gastropod snails belonging to the family Helicidae have been found on the Reserve: the Garden Snail and the Brown-lipped Snail.

The Brown-lipped snail (*Cepaea nemoralis*), sometimes called the Grove Snail or the Lemon Snail, is right-coiled (dextral). Its shell is very variable and can be brown, pink, yellow or white, with from none to five dark brown bands. It is one of the commonest large land snails in Europe and has been widely used in the study of ecological genetics.

The Garden Snail (*Cornu aspersum*). The adult has a shell with four or five whorls. It is normally right-coiled (dextral) but left-coiled (sinistral) shells have been recorded. The shell usually has a reticulated pattern of brown with some yellow markings.

Although the above species have been recorded at the Reserve for the first time in 2025, this does not necessarily mean that they have not always been present. Apart from the butterflies and dragonflies, there is a lack of recorders for the other groups and hence some species have only been recorded once or in just a few different years.

7.

MAMMALS



Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Sightings of this common resident were reported in every month of the year except December and at least one pair again bred on the Reserve. On 2nd May an adult was seen with two cubs in the corner of the Coppice (JWC) and on 14th May one was seen on the Willow Path with three cubs (DW/JPr). The following day two cubs were again seen in the Coppice (PH). There were numerous further sightings throughout the remainder of May and well into June. On 2nd August two probable juveniles were watched just outside the patio doors of the visitor centre

(JWC) and there were further sightings of two together that month. Two were recorded in the Manager's Garden on 6th November (JWC), almost certainly attracted by the presence of a number of Brown Rats under the feeders at the time. On 16th November two were seen on the Duck Marsh (CF).

Otter *Lutra lutra*

There were sightings in eight months of this year, 15 of these in the last two months. This followed a disappointing year in 2024 with just nine records in total. The year started well with an adult and two cubs filmed on the river from the bridge on 19th January (RK). On 1st February two were seen on the Duck Marsh (BE/RG) and on 22nd February two were again recorded there (PM/BM). On 27th February an adult and cub were photographed in the river (KMCL) and the following day two animals and a possible third were reported near the weir during tree management work (JSK). The period from March to October produced just five sightings of single animals but there were then sightings reported on seven dates in November and eight in December, all of a single Otter on the Lagoon. The river level was very high throughout this period and this probably encouraged the Otter onto the Lagoon for easier fishing and it is likely that many sightings went unrecorded, particularly in December.



American Mink *Neovison vison*

There was a slight increase in the number of reported sightings of this unwelcome visitor this year – 10 in total following eight in 2023 and six in 2024. Nine of these came in the first seven months of the year. On 25th January one was reported going into a mound of branches and vegetation at the edge of the Scrubland close to the River Path and on 9th



March two were seen on the far riverbank in the same area (RBr). The same bit of riverbank produced photos of a blackish individual on 26th April (TM) and 18th May (PLa). On 18th June one was recorded on the Lagoon ((DT), on 29th June on the Duck Marsh (LB) and on 16th July again on the Duck Marsh (MH). On 5th October a black individual was observed catching a Brown Rat and a pigeon in the Bee Garden just outside the patio doors of the visitor centre (AL).

Weasel *Mustela nivalis*

It was a disappointing year with just 12 sightings reported and only one in the last four months of the year. The road between the Visitor Centre and the Dipping Ponds has always produced sightings in the past and it was the same again this year. On 29th January one was seen in the Bee Garden (CF) and on 11th February one was seen from the Visitor Centre just outside the patio doors (DDB). There were sightings on the ramp to the Butterfly Bank on 8th March (RR) and on the road nearby on 24th March (JHa). On 16th April two were filmed fighting on Bentley's Path and one killed the other (PH/ MGo). On 12th July one was seen emerging from bankside vegetation at the start of the River Path where it proceeded to perform what was described by the observer as a full on "war dance" for two to three minutes (AT). On 2nd August one was again seen on the ramp to the Butterfly Bank (JWC) and on 13th August one was reported in the Manager's Garden (LB).



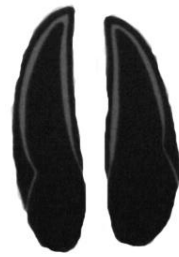
There were no further records until 3rd December when a photograph appeared on social media though no details of location were provided.

Stoat *Mustela erminea*

Sightings are few and far between. There were just three in 2023, two in 2024 and none this year.

Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*

Sightings were reported on a total of 42 dates and in every month of the year from March onwards. Many were of single animals but three photographed on the Scrubland on 5th March included two males and one female (PH). On 9th July a female and two young were filmed on the entry road at the start of the Willow Path (PS) and over the next three weeks there were several reports of a single juvenile. Four were recorded during a Bat Night event on 26th July - two of these on the Scrubland and two on Tim's Field. This field can also be productive early in the day and three were reported here on 17th October (DW). However, the highest count of the year came on 26th November - a total of five photographed on the Scrubland (KHo). Three were again recorded on Tim's Field on 5th December (DW).



Mole *Talpa europaea*

Evidence of this small mammal's presence can be found all around the Reserve in the form of molehills and fresh ones were still appearing up to the last week in December. However, the animal itself is rarely seen.

Common Shrew *Sorex araneus*

Live animals are difficult to find but dead individuals do turn up on occasions as large mammals such as Foxes will kill them but not eat them because of the foul tasting liquid produced from glands on the skin. There were two such records last year but none this year.



Pygmy Shrew *Sorex minutus*

The remains of this tiny mammal have been found in the pellets of Barn Owls on occasions and a live one did turn up once in a Longworth trap in June 2016 but there were no records this year.

Water Shrew *Neomys fodiens*

Almost certainly more common on the Reserve than the very few records of this large shrew would suggest, 2024 actually ranked as a good year with sightings on five dates, albeit three of these were of sightings of dead animals. There were no records this year.

Harvest Mouse *Micromys minutus*

There were again no sightings reported of these tiny mice or their nests but there is no reason to suppose they are not doing well on the Reserve following a major breeding and release project which started in 2012. While they will always be difficult to spot in the wild they can be seen very easily in the permanent display area in the Visitor Centre.

Wood Mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*

Despite the absence of any reported sightings on the Reserve this year this is certainly still a very common small mammal here. Being an excellent climber one or two are usually found when nest boxes are checked and it is the species most frequently caught during Longworth trap surveys.

Bank Vole *Clethrionomys glareolus*

Almost certainly still a common species on the Reserve though there were no records submitted this year. The large majority of records in the past have come from Longworth trap surveys which have not taken place in the last few years.

Field or Short-tailed Vole *Microtus agrestis*

This is a common species in grassland and is probably at its most numerous here on the Scrubland. In the absence of any Longworth trap surveys in this particular area this year the only evidence of their presence was again in the form of remains in the pellets of the resident Barn Owls.

Water Vole *Arvicola amphibius*

There were no sightings reported this year or last year. 2023 was one of the better years with three sightings - on the Wet Grassland, on a pool by the Education Pond and at the Dragonfly Ponds. American Mink remain a serious threat to this species.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*

Despite efforts to deter this species in these areas it is becoming an increasingly common sight in both the Manager's Garden and the Bee Garden where it is attracted by the supply of dropped food from the bird feeders. As many as eight were reported in the Manager's Garden in February and again in November.

Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*

The report is very similar to last year - a common visitor to the Reserve and seen much more often than the relatively few records would suggest. There were just five reported sightings in the first nine months of the year, most involving single animals but two were recorded in the Coppice on 26th March (MG/PG) and three on the entry road near the bridge on 22nd August (PM/BM). As in previous years the Manager's Garden produced most records in the latter part of the year with one making numerous attempts to take over the Little Owls' nest box there in December.

Rabbit *Oryctogalus cuniculus*

This remains a rare visitor to the Reserve . There were four records of single animals in 2021 but there have been none since then.

Brown Hare *Lepus capensis*

There have only been four records in the Reserve's history, the last one on 15th November 2020.

Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*

There have only been three records since the Reserve opened 25 years ago, the last one seen under the main entry gates on 19th July 2019. This species is in serious decline and classified as "vulnerable to extinction" on the Red List for Britain. Populations are said to have fallen by up to 50% in rural areas and 30% in urban areas since 2000.

Common Pipistrelle Bat *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

This species was recorded in good numbers during the Bat Night events on 26th July and 23rd August, the Willow Path being a productive area as usual. There were two late records. On 19th October two were seen flying around the Lagoon Hide at 7.00am (JWC) and on 11th November one was seen over the Reedbed Hide at 3.30pm (JWC).

Soprano Pipistrelle Bat *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

Very similar in appearance to the Common Pipistrelle, this has only been classed as a separate species since 1999 when the Common Pipistrelle was split into two species on the basis of the different frequency echolocation calls. Like the Common Pipistrelle it was recorded during both Bat Night events this year, particularly along the Willow Path.

Noctule Bat *Nyctalus noctula*

This is one of the largest of the British species and is the first bat to appear in the evening, sometimes before sunset. It was recorded in particularly good numbers this year along the River Path and over the Scrubland during both the July and August Bat Night events.

Daubenton's Bat *Myotis daubentoni*

The Water Bat, as it is known, is recorded over both the river and the wetlands where it catches insects on the surface of the water. A few were recorded from the Willow Path Hide during the July event but just one was recorded during the second event on 23rd August - by the Education Pond flying towards the river.

Acknowledgements

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M Appleby	MA	J Knapp	JSK
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L Barrett	LB	E Lessani	EL
M Bethell	MBe	A Levitt	AL
DD Booth	DDB	S Malpass	SM
A Brook	AB	K McLeod	KMcL
R Brookes	RBr	T Morley	TM
S Brown	SB	P&B Murphy	PM/BM
V Clayton	VC	A O'Connor	AO'C
JW Cooper	JWC	J Pickard	JP
E Cowan	EC	J Pritchard	JPr
B Eckersley	BE	C Rawson	CR
C Finn	CF	D Smith	DSm
R Gander	RG	H Smith	HS
M Goodall	MGo	D&P Swann	DS/PS
M&P Greenwood	MG/PG	A Thompson	AT
RA Harper	RAH	D Todd	DT
M Haxby	MH	C Tordoff	CT
J Hayley	JHa	D Walker	DW
J Hayter	JH	D Ward	DWa
K Hockridge	KH	G Webster	GWe
K Holmes	KHo	R Westerman	RWe
P Humphrey	PH	G White	GW
R Kitchen	RK		
Rodley Robins		RR	
Wharfedale Naturalists Society		WNS	

8.

MOTHS

2025 has been a phenomenal year for moth records with public events on 17 May, 21 June and 16 August being supplemented by additional trapping activities Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from February through to December.

A further trap for the Rodley Robins Club took place on 11 July but, unfortunately, the trap planned for the Nature Quest Day on the 19 July had to be cancelled because of the weather conditions.

In addition to the above trapping activities a further 52 daytime observations were recorded and included in the Reserve records.

As at 31 December 2025 the number of species recorded on the Reserve stands at –

MACRO 255 MICRO 253

NEW SPECIES 2025

BF List	ABH List	Vernacular	Scientific Name	Date
MACRO SPECIES				
1934	70.255	Dotted Border	<i>Agriopsis marginaria</i>	21/03/2025
1958	70.280	Clouded Silver	<i>Lomographa temerata</i>	16/05/2025
1778	70.075	May Highflyer	<i>Hydriomena impluviata</i>	20/05/2025
2380	73.101	Treble Lines	<i>Charanyca trigrammica</i>	20/05/2025
2410	73.024	Marbled White Spot	<i>Protodeltote pygarga</i>	23/05/2025
2047	72.046	Scarce Footman	<i>Eilema complana</i>	15/07/2025
2400	73.076	Scarce Bordered Straw	<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	23/08/2025
2135	73.356	Heath Rustic	<i>Xestia agathina</i>	02/09/2025
2231	73.232	Deep-brown Dart	<i>Aporophyla lutulenta</i>	01/10/2025
2247	73.224	Merveille du Jour	<i>Dichonia aprilina</i>	18/10/2025
1933	70.254	Scarce Umber	<i>Agriopsis aurantiaria</i>	31/10/2025
MICRO SPECIES				
663	29.001	Early Reveller	<i>Diurnea fagella</i>	08/03/2025
672	32.036	Parsnip Moth	<i>Depressaria radiella</i>	15/04/2025
1104	49.193	Marsh Marble	<i>Endothenia quadrimaculana</i>	30/05/2025
964	49.137	White-faced Straw	<i>Neocochylis dubitana</i>	10/06/2025
656	28.024	Australian Orange-tip	<i>Tachystola acroxantha</i>	13/06/2025
246	12.032	Orange-tipped Nest Moth	<i>Tinea semifulvella</i>	14/06/2025
1000	49.022	Brindled Tortrix	<i>Ptycholoma lecheana</i>	17/06/2025
954	49.111	Dark-Barred Straw	<i>Eupoecilia angustana</i>	20/06/2025
1033	49.059	Green Oak Tortrix	<i>Tortrix viridana</i>	20/06/2025
1415	62.076	Double-striped Tabby	<i>Hypsopygia glaucinalis</i>	21/06/2025
866	35.028	Gorse Wanderer	<i>Brachmia blandella</i>	21/06/2025
987	49.021	Yellow Larch Tortrix	<i>Ptycholomoides aeriferana</i>	21/06/2025
1032	49.060	Yellow Oak Tortrix	<i>Aleimma loeflingiana</i>	21/06/2025
1245	49.359	Hawthorn Piercer	<i>Aspila janthinana</i>	27/06/2025
1086	49.155	White-backed Tortrix	<i>Hedya salicella</i>	01/07/2025

796	35.094	Striped Sorrel Moth	<i>Aroga velocella</i>	18/07/2025
782	35.046	Grizzled Moss-moth	<i>Bryotropha senectella</i>	08/08/2025
964a	49.138	Tawny-fronted Straw	<i>Neocoxyliis molliculana</i>	12/08/2025
607	38.037	Common Grass-miner	<i>Elachista canapennella</i>	16/08/2025
266	14.002	Daisy Tuft	<i>Bucculatrix nigricomella</i>	16/08/2025
460	17.010	White-shouldered Ochre	<i>Ypsolopha parenthesella</i>	22/08/2025
2400	73.076	Scarce Bordered Straw	<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>	23/08/2025
1279	49.313	Common Daisy Moth	<i>Dichrorampha acuminatana</i>	26/08/2025
814	35.118	Beet Moth	<i>Scrobipalpa ocellatella</i>	06/09/2025
1309	63.095	Chevron Grass-moth	<i>Agriphila geniculea</i>	06/09/2025
965	49.136	White-fronted Straw	<i>Neocoxyliis hybridella</i>	06/09/2025
776	35.146	Common Groundling	<i>Teleiopsis diffinis</i>	27/09/2025
1501	45.004	Triangle Plume	<i>Platyptilia gonodactyla</i>	01/10/2025
1395	63.031	Rusty-dot Pearl	<i>Udea ferrugalis</i>	14/10/2025

MACRO SPECIES

Dotted Border – Moth trap shelter 21 March. A fairly common and widespread resident this is one of the more common species to appear in traps in winter and early spring. Over the county numbers and distribution appears stable. Foodplant – Oaks and other broadleaved trees.

Clouded Silver – Public trap event 16 May. A very common and widespread species it's difficult to understand why it has not been recorded previously bearing in mind its foodplants, Blackthorn, Hawthorn, Plum, Cherry and Crab Apple, all of which are prolific across the Reserve. A further 7 moths were subsequently recorded between 23 May and 21 June.

May Highflyer – Field trap Dragonfly Pond area 20 May. Its Yorkshire status is shown as scarce and thinly distributed or restricted resident. The species foodplant, Alder, can be found in certain areas across the Reserve including the Dragonfly Pond area.

Treble Lines – Moth trap shelter 20 May. Feeding on herbaceous plants this species is regarded as very local and has had a rather patchy distribution across the county. It can, however, be quite frequent where it does occur.

Marbled White Spot – Field Trap Coppice 23 May. Now a fairly common resident in Yorkshire it was formerly confined to southern England and Wales. First recorded in the County in 1978 it is now widespread across most lowland parts of the County. Food plant – grasses.

Scarce Footman – Moth trap shelter 15 July. Yorkshire moth status is fairly common resident but it has a chequered history across Yorkshire with an unusual stop/start colonisation over the years. The species reached VC64 in 2016 and shows little indication of slowing. Foodplant – lichens.

Scarce Bordered Straw – Moth trap shelter 23 August. Classed as a sporadic migrant arriving from southern Europe this moth can be recorded throughout the year but primarily between August and October. A very widespread species globally and considered a pest in many parts of the world.

Heath Rustic – Field trap Mike Fisk Meadow 2 September. Classed as a local resident and described as a moorland and heathland species feeding on heather. There are reports, however, that they will also accept blackthorn and wild plum which can be found on the Reserve.

Deep-brown Dart – Moth trap shelter 1 October. Regarded as a local resident the species has never been a common moth in Yorkshire but numbers may have increased in recent years. This is the first record for the 10km square. Feeds on herbaceous and woody plants and grasses.

Merveille du Jour – Moth trap shelter 18 October. This is a very attractive fairly common resident autumnal moth which continues to do well across the county. Another late flyer that is attracted to light. Foodplant - Oaks.

Scarce Umber – Moth trap shelter 31 October. Regarded as a thinly distributed and restricted resident that comes to light. It is difficult to know accurately how the species is actually doing across the county as, being a late flyer, most trappers will have retired for the season. A second moth came to light at the same location on 4 November. Foodplants - broadleaved trees and shrubs.



Merveille du Jour

DNesham



Scarce Footman

DNesham

MICRO SPECIES

Early Reveller – Moth trap shelter 8 March. A common to abundant moth across Yorkshire and its early flight season may possibly have avoided light traps in previous years. Foodplant – various deciduous trees.

Parsnip Moth – Moth trap shelter 15 April. Widespread and common throughout Yorkshire. Whilst bearing the name Parsnip Moth, Hogweed is its more likely foodplant and the only plant in Yorkshire on which larvae or pupae have been found.

Marsh Marble – Field trap by Duck Marsh Hide 30 May. Classed as a local resident the moth has a somewhat patchy distribution preferring damp habitats where its main foodplant Marsh Woundwort can be found. Larvae may also feed on Hedge Woundwort and Spearmint. A further 7 moths were recorded at the Reserve between 31 May and 21 June. New species for the 10km square.

White-faced Straw – Trap on Mike Fisk Meadow 10 June. Classed as a local resident this species occurs only sparingly and mostly in the south of the county. Foodplant – Feeds on the flowers and seed heads of Ragwort, Hawk's-beards and Hawkweeds.

Australian Orange Tip – Moth trap shelter 13 June. Yorkshire status is listed as “Adventive”. Introduced to the UK via the horticultural trade being first recorded in 1908 in Devon. First recorded in Yorkshire in 2012, its distribution is very patchy and much commoner in urban areas including Leeds. A further 20 moths were recorded between 21 June and 7 July. The larvae feed on leaf litter. (Eucalyptus litter in Australia!)

Orange-tipped Nest Moth – Field Trap by Reedbed Hide. A common and widespread species across Yorkshire with most records coming to light. Numbers have increased over recent years especially the second brood which was unknown before 2002. A colourful micro, its larvae feed on birds’ nest material.

Brindled Tortrix – Moth trap shelter 17 June. Now widely recorded and fairly common it only ever appears in small numbers. The species may be under-recorded as it might not have a strong attraction to light. Foodplant – variety of trees and shrubs.

Dark-barred Straw – Moth Trap Bee Garden 20 June. Widespread and very common across Yorkshire. Once regarded as a moth of heathland it can now be found in a variety of habitats. Foodplant – Plantains, Yarrow, Sneezewort, Marjoram, Goldenrod, thymes and Heather.

Green Oak Tortrix – Moth Trap, Bee Garden 20 June. Common and widespread throughout the county especially in Oak woodland. Whilst a little less common in gardens it should be present wherever there are Oaks. Foodplant – Oaks and occasionally other trees.

Double-striped Tabby – Public trap event 21 June. A fairly common and widespread species with records over most of the county increasing substantially since 2000. Adults fly at dusk and are attracted to light with a high percentage of records being of only one or two moths. Can also be recorded in September and October due to a small second generation. Foodplant – hay, thatch, bird’s nests, dry leaf litter.

Gorse Wanderer – Public trap event 21 June. A fairly common resident its numbers increased substantially after the turn of the century and can be found over much of the county apart from some northern and western areas. Foodplant – As its name would suggest gorse is listed as its foodplant but it can be found in areas well away from any gorse and must also use other food plants.

Yellow Larch Tortrix – Public trap event 21 June. Classed as a fairly common resident the species is a recent addition to the county being first recorded in 1992. It has spread rapidly and by 2004 had been recorded in all 5 vice- counties. Foodplant – Larvae feed on Larch, among spun needles.

Yellow Oak Tortrix – Public trap event 21 June. A common and fairly widespread resident found in Oak woodland. In really good quality oak woodland counts can reach 3 figures and the county population appears to be doing well. Foodplant – Oak, though larvae will occasionally feed on other trees such as Acer species and Hornbeam.

Hawthorn Piercer – Moth trap shelter 27 June. Once a rarity in Yorkshire numbers have increased considerably in recent years and the species can now be found across the county apart from the north-west. Adults will fly on sunny afternoons and also come to light. A second moth came to the light trap on 6 September. Foodplant – Hawthorn berries.

White-backed Tortrix – Moth Trap Shelter 1 July. Holding the status of local resident this moth has never been particularly common across the County. Records have, however, increased slightly in recent years. The adult moth is quite distinctive and is a prime example of a “bird dropping” moth. Foodplant – White Willow, Goat Willow, Aspen, Black Poplar.

Striped Sorrel Moth – Moth Trap Shelter 18 July. A local resident it was first recorded in Yorkshire in 1947 with the species maintaining a rather low profile until recent years. First recorded in VC 64 as recently as 2018 this record represents the first for the 10Km square. Foodplant – Sheep’s sorrel.

Grizzled Moss-moth – Moth trap shelter 8 August. A locally resident species with only scattered records across the county. Identification can be difficult and requires a retained specimen or photograph for it to be accepted by the Yorkshire recorder. Foodplant – mosses.

Tawny-fronted Straw – Moth trap shelter 12 August. Classed as a rare resident this moth was first recorded in the UK in 1991 with the first county record in 2019. Records have increased considerably since then and has now been recorded over much of the county. Foodplant – Bristly Oxtongue.

Common Grass-miner – Public trap event 16 August. A common and widespread resident, records are spread widely across the county in a wide range of grassy habitats. Foodplant – various grasses with a fondness for creeping soft-grass and false oat-grass.

Daisy Tuft – Public trap event 16 August. Classed as a local resident it can be found all over the county where Oxeye Daisy grows i.e. most often on lower ground. The species has 2 generations May/June and August. Its foodplant Oxeye Daisy is plentiful on the Reserve.

White-shouldered Ochre – Moth trap shelter and Field trap Manager’s Garden 22 August. Widespread and very common to abundant throughout the county. Very much a woodland moth being less common in gardens. Foodplant – Oak, Hazel, Hawthorn, Hornbeam, Birch etc.

Scarce Bordered Straw – Moth trap shelter 23 August. Holding the status of sporadic migrant the species has become a regular visitor since 1985 except for 2008 when no recordings were made. Sometimes large influxes can occur with 83 records being counted in 2024. In Yorkshire the moth seems to appear between August and October. A very widespread species globally it is considered a pest in many parts of the world. Foodplant – many plants

Beet Moth – Moth trap shelter 6 September. A rare and local resident the species was initially confined to the shingle coast in the south of England the larvae feeding on sea beet. From 2020 records increased before reaching Yorkshire in July 2022. By the end of September that year it had been reported across all five vice-counties. A second moth came to light 3 days later on 9 September. Foodplant - Beta vulgaris (Beetroot).

Chevron Grass-moth – Moth trap shelter 6 September. Locally fairly common, its distribution across the county is extremely patchy being much less common in the NW half of Yorkshire. It is a moth of dry grassy habitats and can be disturbed by day, fly at night and comes to light. Foodplant – grasses.

Whit-fronted Straw – Moth trap shelter 6 September. A local resident this was once a very rare moth in Yorkshire. Since the first Spurn record back in 2014 it has slowly spread across South-east Yorkshire and now into the South-west quarter where it has become common in recent years. This was the first record for the 10Km square. Foodplant – Bristly Oxtongue, Hawkweed Oxtongue, hawks-beard.

Common Groundling – Moth trap shelter 27 September. A fairly common resident where ever there is grassland or heathland with plenty of Common or Sheep's Sorrel. There are scattered records across all five vice-counties. Two generations May-July and July-September. Foodplant – Sheep's S`orrel

Triangle Plume - Moth trap shelter 1 October. A common and widespread resident moth occurring all across the county except for the most of the north west. It has 2 generations May-June and August-September with the autumn larvae overwintering in roots and in spring can be found in flowers and seeds. Foodplant – Coltsfoot, Butter-bur.

Rusty-dot Pearl – Moth trap shelter 14 October. One of the counties commoner migrants which can turn up in almost any month but are usually seen August/September and again in October. Adults can often be disturbed by day and will come to light. Foodplant – Herbaceous plants.



White-backed Tortrix

JWCooper



Green Oak Tortrix

DNesham

Footnote on the Reserve moth records:

Rodley Nature Reserve is located in VC64

Macro moths : All recorded under their English names.

Micro moths : Up to the 31 December 2024 are recorded under their scientific names except for those micros with a commonly used English name at this date. From 1 January 2025 all new species of micro will be recorded under their English name as published in Micro-moths of GB and Ireland (Second Edition).

Contributors : John Cooper – trapping and day time obs., Jerry Knapp day time obs., Howard and Penny Smith day time obs.

Review by Dave Nesham February 2026