



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Blashford Lakes Walk

Date: 24th September 2025
 Weather: Sunny but cold
 Walk Leader : Christine Storey
 Attendees: 16

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

Our morning walk started from the main car park off Ellingham Drove at Tern Hide. After visiting the hide we walked the footpath to Goosander Hide, along the way we saw many fungi growing as a result of recent heavy rain. Afterwards we returned back to the car park, along the way we found evidence of Badger scat and Fallow Deer droppings. We had a picnic lunch outside Tern hide.

Birds	Fungi	Flowering Plants	Others
Robin	Fly Agaric	Perforate St. John's Wort	Pale Tussock Moth Caterpillar
Wood Pigeon	Sulphur Tuft	Bramble	Speckled Wood Butterfly
Buzzard	Maz's Brown Rollrim	New Zealand Pigmyweed	Hornets & nest
Cormorant	Glistening Inkcap	Common Fleabane	
House Martin	Shaggy Inkcap	Marsh Ragwort	
Goldfinch	Bleeding Broadleaf Crust	Holly Fern	
Swallows	Brown Birch Bolete	Harts Tongue Fern	
Great Crested Grebe	Poisonpie	Stinging Nettle	
Coot	Slippery Jack		
Canada Geese	Deceiver	Fruits	
Grey Heron	Beechwood Sickener	Blackberry	
Mute Swan	Red Cracking Bolete	Haws	
Black-headed Gull	Larch Bolete	Black Nightshade	
Herring Gull	Rosy Bonnet	White Bryony	
Moorhen	Blushing Bracket		
Blue Tit			
Wren's nest			
Tufted Duck			
Lapwing			

Egyptian Goose			
Snipe			
Turnstone			
Pied Wagtail			
Carrion Crow			



Pale tussock moth catapillar by Gerry Traves



Speckled wood by Gerry Traves



Fly agaric mushroom by Gerry Traves



Hornets nesting in a bat box by Gerry Traves