

# Idle Valley Nature Sightings

February 2025

## What's On – March 2025

**Every Tuesday each month – Wellbeing Walk (Bellmor Lake area) from the Idle Valley Visitor Centre Cafe at 10:30am. Volunteer led walk sponsored by Co-op Lincolnshire.**

**Every Wednesday each month – Wellbeing Walk (Bellmor Lake) from the Idle Valley Visitor Centre Café at the new time of 1:00pm. Volunteer led walk sponsored by Co-op Lincolnshire.**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March (First Thursday in each month) – Idle Adventure Walk** (min 8 miles) Meeting Point is the Idle Valley Visitor Centre Café at 10:30am until 3:30pm. Volunteer led walk.

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Gary's 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' Walk at Idle Valley NR.** 2:30pm until dusk. Meeting point is Rural Learning Centre car park at Bellmor Lake. A loop Walk to Bunker Wood via Bellmor Pits. Wintering and Resident birds.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Idle Valley Wildlife Watch: Signs of Spring.** Seasonal wildlife activities for 7 to 12 year olds, with a walk in the reserve. Meeting Point is Idle Valley Visitor Centre at 10:30am until 12:30pm. £2.00 per child. Leader is Ros Schwarz. Contact email: [idlewatch@nottswt.co.uk](mailto:idlewatch@nottswt.co.uk)

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS)** Organised by Lound Bird Club in conjunction with the BTO Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS). If you can help, please contact Phil Cadman on email: [philip.cadman@sky.com](mailto:philip.cadman@sky.com)

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Gary's 'Birdwatching & Wildlife' Walk at Idle Valley NR.** 9:00am until midday. Meet along Chainbridge Lane on left by kissing gate near the horse paddocks just East of Lound Village. Loop walk to Neatholme Lane, birding from viewing screens and back via Hawthorn Lane and Chainbridge Lane. Looking out for early Spring migrants.

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## Birds News for January 2025

A new year and another year of records and recording. Please submit all your bird records as they are very important for monitoring species and for the conservation of habitats. We must always remember that the bird records taken over many years of recording were used, in a large part, to getting this area its initial SSSI status in 2002 and ultimately to this site becoming a Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve. January was fairly uneventful with mainly just the usual wintering and resident birds seen. A two day birding session over the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> recorded a total of 86 species.



Just a single report of **Pink-footed Goose** with 55 noted on the deck at Alan's Meadow on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 6 **Tundra Bean Goose** noted flying SW and calling over Neatholme Fen at 3:00pm on the 18<sup>th</sup>. A number of juvenile **Mute Swan** were photographed landing onto melting ice on Chainbridge NR Scrape (East) on the 14<sup>th</sup> (above left to right ©G.Hobson). Just a single report of **Whooper Swan** with 5 birds seen flying N over Neatholme Scrape on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>. Two reports of **Egyptian Goose** including 30 on Clayworth Common on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 2 birds at Blaco Pits on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Only 2 records of **Shelduck** with singles at Chainbridge NR Scrape (East) on the 4<sup>th</sup> and at Bellmoor Lake on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Numbers of **Shoveler** remained higher than usual with two large counts noted from Neatholme Fen, with 225 there on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 250+ on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Previously high numbers at Bellmoor Lake had fallen over the Christmas and New Year period to just 31 noted there on the 11<sup>th</sup>. **Pintail** numbers remained fairly constant with counts of up to 10 birds on the 3<sup>rd</sup> across all the Neatholme Lane Pits and counts of 2 and 4 on Neatholme Scrape on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively. A single report of 20 **Goldeneye** on Neatholme Scrape on the 10<sup>th</sup>. A single 'redhead', thought to be a first-winter male **Smew** was noted on Neatholme Fen on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Counts of **Goosander** were up to 5 birds from the northern part of the reserve on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 33 at the Water Ski Lake on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2 birds at Chainbridge NR Scrape (East) on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 18 at the Water Ski Lake on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and a single at Neatholme Fen on the 29<sup>th</sup> (Below left to right ©G.Hobson).



Both **Grey Partridge** and **Red-legged Partridge** were noted on the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> but no counts were submitted. **Water Rail** are frequent winter visitors to the reserve and although birds remain in spring to breed, most sightings over the winter are likely immigrants from elsewhere. Two were noted at Walters Farm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> with a further 3 noted calling at Tilm North on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3 were still present there on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 2 there on the 10<sup>th</sup>. A single was reported on site on the 12<sup>th</sup> and a single was calling at Chainbridge NR Scrape (East) on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Low numbers of **Little Grebe** still, with a single remaining on the Conservation Lake on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 4, including 3 at Blaco Pits and a further single at Neatholme Fen on the 29<sup>th</sup>. **Great Crested Grebe** numbers were also low, with a single at Bellmoor Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 2 birds at Blaco Pits on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Typically, January hails the return of **Oystercatcher** to the reserve with a single noted at Chainbridge Pit on the 24<sup>th</sup>, remaining there on the 27<sup>th</sup>. A single report of 30 **Golden Plover** noted over Clayworth Common on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Three reports of single **Woodcock** including a bird 'roving' over Hawthorn Lane at dusk on the 8<sup>th</sup>, a single was seen at Tilm North on the 9<sup>th</sup> and a single noted but no details on the 12<sup>th</sup>. All three records could conceivably be the same individual. **Green Sandpiper** continue to winter at the reserve with a single noted at Neatholme Fen on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 3 birds were noted together at Chainbridge NR Scrape (East) on the 14<sup>th</sup>. These birds were feeding along the melting margins of the ice covered scrape and eventually flew towards Chainbridge Pit (Below left ©G.Hobson).



**Snipe** were recorded in small numbers at Tiln North with 2 there on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, and a single there on the 9<sup>th</sup>, plus a report of a bird/s present on the reserve on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Gulls were noted regularly over the month with several interesting sightings. A single adult **Mediterranean Gull** at Neatholme Scrape on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A very unusual 'leucistic' **Common Gull** (photo above right by ©P.Hobson) was noted at Neatholme Scrape on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Two reports of **Great Black-backed Gull** including 6 at Neatholme Scrape on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 2 adults at the Lower Sheep Fields on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A count of 9 **Herring Gull** and 6 **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at Bellmoor Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup>. A single adult **Caspian Gull** was noted at Neatholme Scrape on the 18<sup>th</sup> alongside it was a 'red legged' Herring Gull that showed some characteristics of the sub-species 'Thayer's' Gull, a rare visitor to the UK from NW Canada and the arctic. Three different **Yellow-legged Gull** were noted at Bellmoor Lake with an adult there on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and two birds, including a 2<sup>nd</sup> winter and 4<sup>th</sup> winter on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A single count of 28 **Cormorant** at Chainbridge Pit on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Just a single report of **Bittern** with a bird noted at Tiln North on the 8<sup>th</sup>. The following table shows the daily maxima per location of **Cattle Egret** reported during the month:-

Area/Date	3rd	4th	9th	10th	18th	19th	23rd	24th	27th
Walters Lane Field	3								2
Lower Sheep Fields		4					2		
Chainbridge Scrape (E)					3				
Tiln North	7		7	10				2	
Conservation Lake	4		3			1			
<b>Whole Site Totals</b>	<b>10-14?</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

The following table shows the daily maxima per location of **Great White Egret** reported during the month:-

Area/Date	3rd	4th	6th	8th	9th	10th	14th	19th	21st	24th	25th	29th
Blaco Pits												1
Clayworth Common						4						
Chainbridge Pit												
Neatholme Fen	2	2	2								1	
Cross Lane Fishery												1
Neatholme Pit												
Neatholme Scrape		2									1	
Chainbridge Scrape E	3				5		1		1		1	
Chainbridge Scrape W				1				1				1
Bluebell Fishery	2											
Tiln North	2					4				2		
Linghurst Pool	1											
<b>Whole Site Totals</b>	<b>8-10?</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

Good numbers of **Little Egret** were present during the month, although they were only recorded on three dates. A count of 7 birds at Linghurst Pool on the 3<sup>rd</sup> was followed with up to 6 in the Chainbridge Scrape/Pit area on the 10<sup>th</sup> and finally a single at Bluebell Fishery on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Very much under-recorded at Idle Valley NR, just two single **Sparrowhawk** were noted over Tiln North on the 10<sup>th</sup> and over Clayworth Common on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Now becoming an almost resident species, the **Marsh Harrier** was once again a very familiar sight over the northern parts of the reserve in January. Some days there were multiple sightings, of possibly up to 4 individuals, being reported on at least 11 days. A single **Barn Owl** was recorded hunting over Tiln North grassland and over Hayton Common on four dates between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. At least two sightings of a single **Short-eared Owl**, now becoming a scarce winter visitor, at dusk on the Tiln North grassland or over Clayworth Common on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. A single **Tawny Owl** was heard calling in Lound Village over the weekend 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. There were four reports of single **Kingfisher**, widespread across the reserve on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. A very showy bird at the drain outlet by Chainbridge River Bridge on the 16<sup>th</sup> was photographed. (Below left to right ©R.Hilditch)



Just three reports of single **Great Spotted Woodpecker** at Neatholme Lane on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Tiln Wood on the 4<sup>th</sup> and at Bellmoor Lake on the 10<sup>th</sup>. A good selection of **Green Woodpecker** sightings, with 1-2 birds in the Neatholme Lane/Cross Lane areas on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, a single at Bunker Wood on the 10<sup>th</sup> and finally singles at Chainbridge NR Scrape/Chainbridge Lane on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. A single report of a male **Peregrine** watched hunting Lapwing over Tiln North on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Now being seen more frequently at the reserve, the **Raven** appeared on four dates during the month. Five birds flew W then S over Neatholme Fen on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, a single was reported in the Neatholme Lane area on the 6<sup>th</sup>, a single flew S over Chainbridge NR Scrape on the 18<sup>th</sup> and finally a single was reported with no detail on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Just a single report of **Skylark** with two flocks totalling c75 birds presumed to be roosting at Tiln North/Hayton Common? on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Single wintering **Chiffchaff** were noted at Cross Lane/Neatholme Lane junction on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and at Bellmoor Lake on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Just three reports of **Redwing** with 20 at Bellmoor Lake on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 10 in the hedgerow by Alan's Meadow on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 15 were feeding on Ivy berries at Wildgoose Farm Copse on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Just a single report of 4 **Fieldfare** on Clayworth Common on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Typically, the only wintering **Stonechat** noted were found at either Tiln North or at the nearby Conservation Lake. Up to 4 birds (two pairs) were noted between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, with four birds noted on the 21<sup>st</sup> feeding around the Conservation Lake. A small number of **House Sparrow** were noted at Wetlands Fishing Lakes on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Three reports of single **Grey Wagtail**, at Clayworth Common near to Clayworth village on the 21<sup>st</sup>, at Bellmoor Lake on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and another reported with no detail on the 24<sup>th</sup>. A single report of 15+ **Meadow Pipit** on Clayworth Common near to Clayworth village on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A single report of just 3 Greenfinch in Sutton-cum-Lound village on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A single report of 30 **Linnet** at Clayworth Copse (The Willows) on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A single report of 15 **Lesser Redpoll** in the Neatholme area on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Two reports of **Goldfinch** with 20 at Tiln North on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 20 at Bellmoor Lake feeding on the island on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A single report of a few **Yellowhammer**, maybe just 3-4 birds, at Blaco Fields on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

R.Hilditch, M.Wilkinson, M.Goodman, P.Huddleston, P.Freeman, Tom, C.Parker, S.Horne, W.Hill, C.Booth, P.Ramsey, K.Ward, J.Ward, G.Shephard, R.White, P.White, G.Foy, D.Richardson, M.Lambert, M.Newman, M.Hyatt, G.Hobson, D.Housman, M.B.Vickers, A.Pykett, S.Davenport, V.Giles, P.Cadman, P.Hobson, I.Hunt, BirdGuides, Lound Bird Club (Website), Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers (Website), Idle Valley Bird Sightings (Facebook), Lound & Idle Valley Bird News (What's App), Notts Bird News (What's App), Notts Rare & Scarce (What's App) plus Idle Valley Walks (What's App). Please submit bird sightings to the above groups/pages or email to [ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk)

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## **Additional Nature Sightings for January 2025**

A single 'Queen' **German Wasp** was seen taking in the rare bit of sunshine on Chainbridge Scrape (East) viewing screen on the 14<sup>th</sup> and not something we are used to seeing in January ©G.Hobson.



Stuart Davenport saw a single **Muntjac Deer** along the most western path at the Woodland Walk route at Bellmoor Pits on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. The bird walk to Blaco Pits on the 29<sup>th</sup> produced a daylight sighting of what was believed to

have been a disturbed **Winter Moth** which flew over a Hawthorn hedge not far from Wildgoose Farm. As with last month very little was recorded but Spring will hopefully see more reports including the first butterflies in the sunshine.

P.Cadman, S.Davenport, S.Harrison, G.Hobson, Gary's Birdwatching & Wildlife Walks (What's App) plus the various Idle Valley NR - Wellness Walks (What's App).

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### **Common 'Red' and 'Orange' Flowers found at Idle Valley Nature Reserve**

The following gallery of photos are just a selection of the many species of 'Red' and 'Orange' flowers that have been found over the Idle Valley NR over recent years. All participants of the various walking/wildlife groups are now taking time to record and photograph the wide variety of flowers which can be found throughout the year. It is great to learn from each other and learn to use a growing selection of online applications (Apps) as tools to help with flower identification. Books do still come in very handy because these AI applications are not perfect and can often throw up incorrect identifications when trying to identify species. Now we have covered all the common coloured flowers we might look at Reeds & Rushes found on the reserve, not as pretty but just as important for wildlife here at Idle Valley NR.



(Top left to right) – **Orange Hawkweed (Fox & Cubs)** at Idle Valley NR, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (©M.Barley) and **Flowering Current** at Bellmoor Pits, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018 (©G.Hobson).

(Bottom row left to right) – **Scarlet Pimpernel**, at IVNR, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (©G.Hobson) and **Common Field Poppy** at Neatholme Lane, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (©G.Hobson).

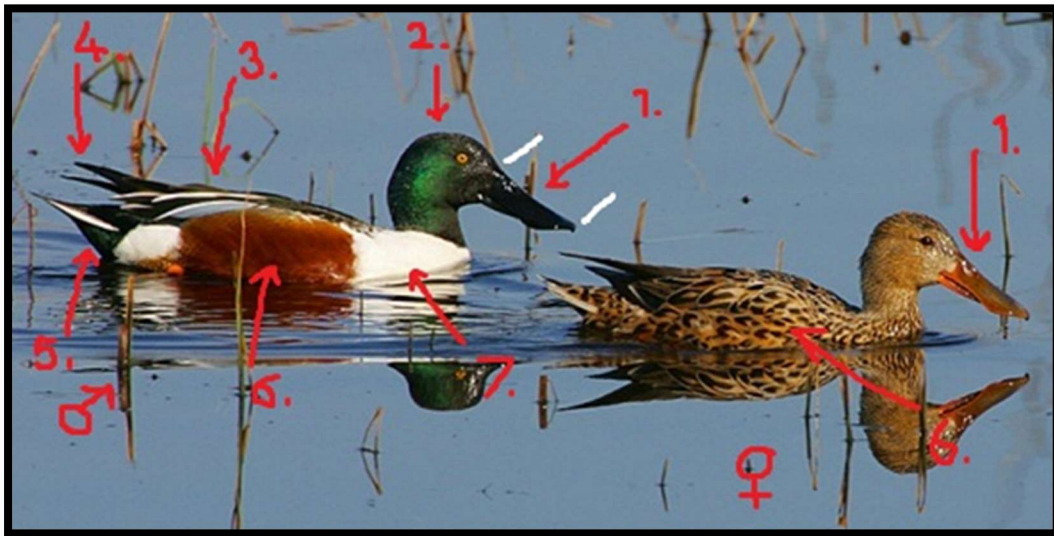
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## Wildlife in Focus – The Shoveler

The Shoveler (or Northern Shoveler) *Spatula clypeata* is a common duck species that can be seen at the Idle Valley NR. This article gives information on the species identification, its habits, its status locally, within Nottinghamshire and worldwide, using various publications and sources with references. Formally a duck species in the *Anas* genus, but more recently reclassified into the new *spatula* genus. The name *Spatula* is the latin word for "spoon", from which the English word "spatula" also originates. The latin word *clypeata* translates "shield-bearing" (from *clypeus*, "shield") #1 The Oxford Dictionary of British Bird Names states: - "Shoveler, also spelt Shoveller. First found c.1460 'shovelere'. The name originally denoted the Spoonbill (cf SHOVELARD), but Ray 1674 books the name as *Anas clypeata*, also adopting this meaning in 1678." #2

### Identification

The following photo guide, originally created for a specific Lound Bird Club publication, 'Wetland Birds of the Idle Valley Nature Reserve (Identification Guides) Part 1 – Waterfowl', gives a full account with associated numbered features to help identify key features in both sexes. I hope this helps and is more useful, especially for newer and less experienced birdwatchers.



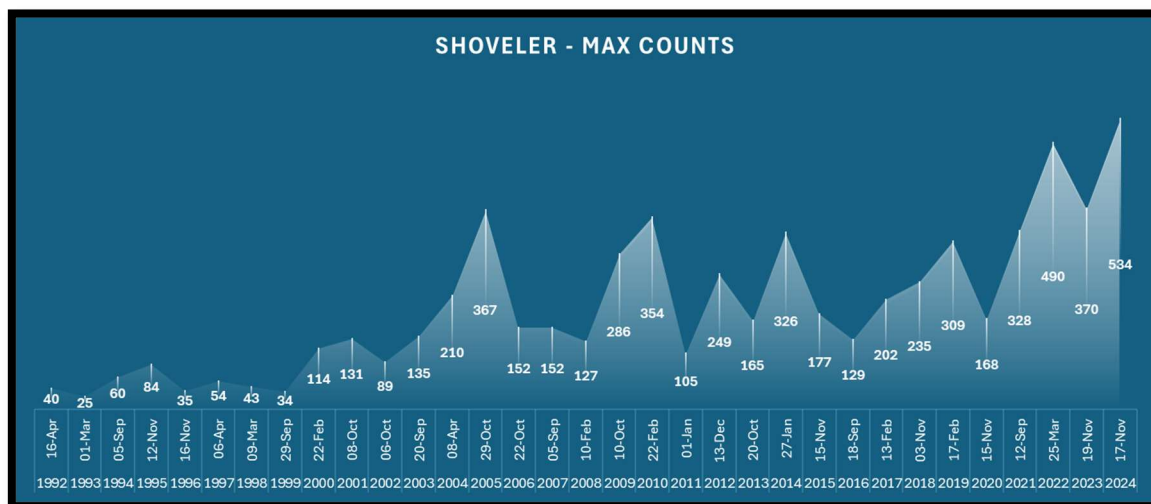
1. The bill is huge, both in length (between the two white lines) and its broad spatula 'shovel' shape. The male has a black bill, and the female has a dull orange bill.
2. The male has a bright iridescent green head which runs down the neck joining neatly and squarely with the white breast and belly.
3. The male has distinctive long dark scapular feathers that are finely edged white.
4. The rump is black, and the tail feathers are white.
5. The male has a black under tail patch, but this is separated from the flanks by a noticeable white 'patch'.
6. The male has a large and distinctive 'chestnut' coloured flank patch. The female has similar plumage to Mallard but has a rich 'orange' tone to the dark centred flank feathers.
7. The male has a bright white belly which is often clearly visible at distance on resting birds. #3

### Habits

This species gathers in large feeding groups (sometimes in just groups of only males) where they are often seen to swim in very tight circles stirring up the invertebrates that they feed on. The Shoveler has a flat spatula shaped bill that has a comb-like edge for filtering out food. Just like other dabbling ducks, they prefer shallow waters and lake margins but are also happy to feed in the 'bloom' near the surface in deeper lakes.

### Local Status

A rare breeding bird, regular passage migrant and winter visitor to Idle Valley NR. The following chart shows how this species has increased significantly in number over the 32 Year period from 1992 to 2024. Each entry giving the maximum count for each year, the date of the count and the maximum count figure indicated below each peak. Numbers remained stable from 1992 to 1999, then we see a rollercoaster of four significant peaks of 300+ in 2005, 2010, 2014 and 2019. From 2020 to 2024 numbers rose sharply to the largest maximum count of 534 on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024. #4



Within the county of Nottinghamshire, Austin Dobbs in his 'Systematic List of the Birds of Nottinghamshire,' records that "Whitaker's earliest date for this species was Stirland's report of a male at Thoresby on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1854. Breeding was recorded from 1874 (Whitaker) and by 1887 10 pairs were present in one valley at Clipstone, and presumably other pairs scattered around Nottinghamshire." **#5**

Jason Reece, in his 'Status of Birds in Nottinghamshire' publication, described the Shoveler as now a "rare breeding bird in Nottinghamshire since the nineteenth century. The species first bred at Rainworth Water in 1874. Numbers peaked in the 1940s and 1950s when 30-45 pairs bred in the Nottingham area. In the period 1974-2007 breeding numbers have been much lower with no more than 16 pairs in the whole of the county in the best year (2001)." **#6**

In a later work on 'The Birds of Nottinghamshire', it was described as "Numbers probably increased during the first half of the twentieth century for Dobbs believed that, through the 1940s and early 1950s, the Trent basin from Attenborough to Nottingham Sewage Works was a 'breeding stronghold'. The modernising of the Sewage Works, coupled with housing and industrial development in the Meadows and Dunkirk, and the draining of marshlands around the city, led to a loss of habitat and consequent fall in numbers." **#7**

The species, mainly through habitat loss, has now become less common as a breeding bird but is more abundant as a passage migrant and winter visitor. In more recent years there are several key sites for this species, which like shallow wetland habitat to feed. The Idle Valley NR (formerly known as Sutton & Lound GP), Newington Flash and the nearby Idle Washlands NR at Misson, Attenborough NR and Holme Pierrepont all do well for numbers of Shoveler. There now seems to have been a significant shift to the north of the county for this species. The River Idle and its tributaries and its abundance of adjoining flood lands north of Retford, is a key wintering area and the data above speaks for itself. Habitat protection, and control of water levels in these key areas may just help this species reverse the declining breeding trend.

The recently published Birds of Nottinghamshire Annual Report 2020 states: - "The Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) reported four confirmed breeding pairs in the county in 2020." **#8** Similarly, the Annual Report for 2021 states: - "The Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP) reported three confirmed breeding pairs in the county in 2021, with two pairs raising broods of four and two young at Newington." **#9**

## **World Status**

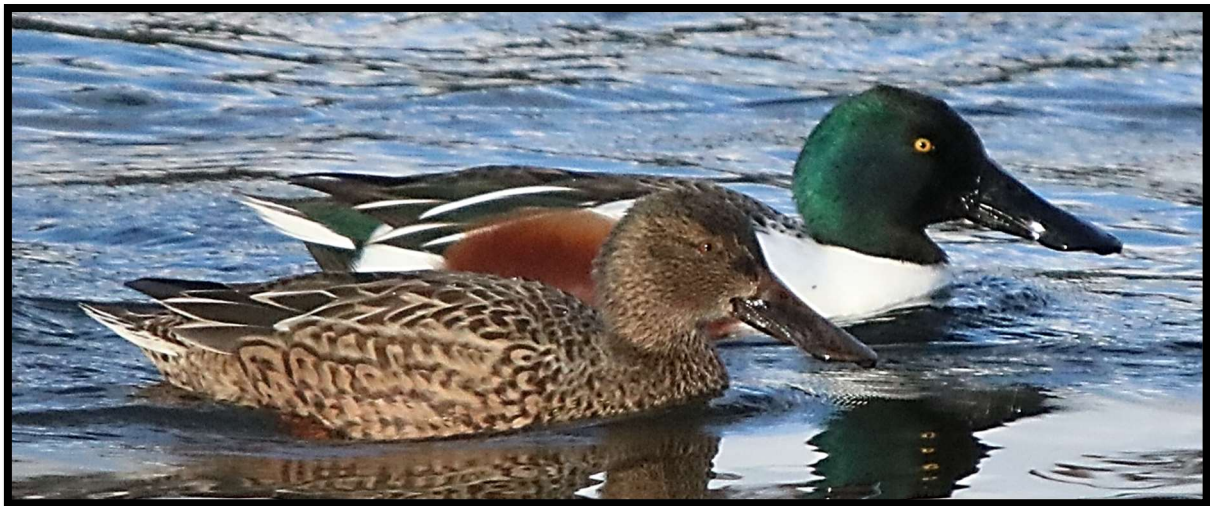
This widespread duck species breeds in the UK in small numbers but is more generally found breeding in northern areas of Europe, across the Palearctic and across North America, wintering in southern Europe, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, Central America, the Caribbean and northern South America. **#1**

## **Photo Gallery**

**(Top row left to right)** – Male photographed at Idle Valley NR in April 2012 ©M.B.Vickers and a male at Frampton RSPB reserve, Lincolnshire in March 2018 ©G.Hobson.

**(Middle row left to right)** – Males at Neatholme Fen, Idle Valley NR in November 2024 and in February 2018 ©G.Hobson.

**(Bottom two rows)** – A group of Shoveler, including adult and first-winter males and females at Neatholme Fen, Idle Valley NR in December 2024 and a pair at Potteric Carr YWT reserve ©G.Hobson.





## **References & Quotes**

Wikipedia – Northern Shoveler **#1**

'The Oxford Dictionary of British Bird Names' (W.B.Lockwood). Published in 1993. **#2**

'Wetland Birds of the Idle Valley Nature Reserve (Identification Guide) Part 1 - Waterfowl' (Lound Bird Club). Published 2013. **#3**Lound Bird Club's Excel Database (P.Cadman, V.Giles) Publication ongoing. **#4**

'The Birds of Nottinghamshire' (A.Dobbs, Trent Valley Birdwatchers). Published in 1975. **#5**

'The Status of Birds in Nottinghamshire' (J.Reece, C.Orgill). Published 2009. **#6**

'The Birds of Nottinghamshire' (J.Reece, N.Crouch, D.Parkin, C.du Feu, B.Ellis). Published 2019. **#7**

'Birds of Nottinghamshire – Annual Report for 2020' (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers). Published in 2023. **#8**

'Birds of Nottinghamshire – Annual Report for 2021' (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers). Published in 2025. **#9**

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## **Next month's March 2025 issue**

**What's On - April 2025 Events + Reserve News + Bird News for February 2025 + Additional Nature Sightings for February 2025 + Warbler Identification? + Common Reeds and Rushes at Idle Valley NR.**

Submissions for inclusion in this publication can be sent to Gary Hobson via his email at **ghlbc@hotmail.co.uk** Please state (species/observer/location/date) for all images. In the case of regular bird and wildlife sightings, please submit sightings via the relevant **Wellness/Birdwatching/Photo 'WhatsApp' & 'Facebook' groups** linked to Idle Valley NR. Submit all Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies) plus Dragonfly & Damselfly sightings to **philip.cadman@sky.com**