

## Ouse Fen (south) RSPB reserve visit – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019

A small group of members together with the Warden Chris Hudson, visited the Fen on afternoon of the 8<sup>th</sup> September. Some members spotted a Water Vole in the ditch near the entrance to the reserve (TL 381718). Others missed the sighting, too busy photographing *Berula erecta*, Lesser Water Parsnip and *Sagittaria sagittifolia*, Arrowhead, also in the ditch. Weather was warm and clear, and Chris provided an excellent overview of the work of the RSPB and the success in attracting a wide variety of species to the site. Below are lists of those seen during the visit. Butterflies were scarce but Red Admiral and Small Heath occurred.



### Other Species noted from visit 08/09/2019 HFFS 14.30-16.30

Birds included:

Buzzard;	Great Crested Grebe;	Mallard;
Cetti's Warbler;	Heron;	Marsh Harrier;
Coot;	Hobby;	Moorhen;
Cormorant;	House Sparrow;	Mute Swan;
Crane;	Kestrel;	Reed Bunting;
Gadwall;	Lapwing;	Shoveller.
Goldfinch;	Magpie;	

Most plant species were recorded in former intensive agricultural land (arable / grassland) now intermittently grazed by cattle. The wetlands consist of disused

gravel workings dominated by *Phragmites australis* and associated drainage ditches.

*Agrostis stolonifera*, Creeping Bent  
*Anthriscus sylvestris*, Cow Parsley  
*Artemisia vulgaris*, Common Mugwort  
*Capsella bursa-pastoris*, Shepherd's-purse  
*Carex riparia*, Greater Pond-sedge  
*Cirsium arvense* var. *arvense*, Creeping Thistle  
*Cirsium vulgare*, Spear Thistle  
*Convolvulus arvensis* var. *arvensis*, Field Bindweed  
*Crataegus monogyna*, Hawthorn  
*Crepis capillaris* var. *capillaris*, Smooth Hawk's-beard  
*Dactylis glomerata* ssp. *glomerata*, Cock's-foot  
*Dipsacus fullonum*, Wild Teasel  
*Epilobium hirsutum*, Greater Willowherb  
*Heracleum sphondylium*, Hogweed  
*Hypericum perforatum*, Perforate St John's-wort  
*Juncus effusus*, Soft Rush  
*Lamium album*, White Dead-nettle  
*Lapsana communis*, Nipplewort  
*Lolium perenne* agg., Ryegrass  
*Lythrum salicaria*, Purple-loosestrife  
*Malva neglecta*, Dwarf Mallow  
*Phragmites australis*, Common Reed

*Picris echioides*, Bristly Oxtongue  
*Plantago lanceolata*, Ribwort Plantain  
*Plantago media*, Hoary Plantain  
*Poa annua*, Annual Meadow-grass  
*Potamogeton natans*, Broad-leaved Pondweed  
*Potentilla repens*, Creeping Cinquefoil  
*Ranunculus acris* var. *acris*, Meadow Buttercup  
*Rosa canina* agg., Rose  
*Rubus fruticosus* agg., Bramble  
*Rumex acetosa*, Common Sorrel  
*Schoenoplectus lacustris* ssp. *lacustris*, Common Club-rush  
*Senecio jacobaea* var. *jacobaea*, Common Ragwort  
*Sonchus arvensis*, Perennial Sow-thistle  
*Taraxacum officinale* agg., Dandelion  
*Thalictrum flavum*, Common Meadow-rue  
*Trifolium pratense* var. *pratense*, Red Clover  
*Trifolium repens* var. *repens*, White Clover  
*Typha angustifolia*, Lesser Bulrush  
*Typha latifolia*, Bulrush  
*Urtica dioica* subsp. *dioica*, Stinging Nettle

At the end of the walk we spotted a damselfly, which we later identified as an Emerald Damselfly.



Pat Doody, Chair,  
09/10/2019