

North Cave Wetlands field trip April 2024

Nine of us made it on a mizzly, muggy Bank Holiday Monday, not great for birds and muddy underfoot, although the bird count never totally disappoints here. We were tracked all the way by clouds of dancing male “Phantom midges”, fortunately of the non-biting kind. Paul had hoped to visit the new hide on this ever-expanding site but it wasn’t yet open. We saw:

Coot	Greylag	Wigeon	Gadwall	Blackbird
Chiffchaff	Moorhen	Tufted Duck	Redshank	Mallard
Robin	Black-headed Gull	Great-crested Grebe	Oystercatcher	Wren
Blue Tit	Wood Pigeon	Little Grebe	Lapwing	Chaffinch
Great Tit	Maggie	Mute Swan	Avocet	Cormorant
Little Egret	Carrion Crow	Duncock	Reed Bunting	Shoveler
Goldfinch	Rook	Siskin	Buzzard	Cetti’s Warbler
Yellowhammer				



Left and above: Phantom Midges.

Below: a tantalising view of the new Hide.



Over:

Mallards make themselves at home on the feeders in ‘Rat Alley’;

Carole entices Robins to feed from her hand with mealworms.





Above: A Great Tit eyes up Carole's mealworms; Great Crested Grebe. Below and over: mating time at the reserve: Black-headed gulls, pairs of Northern Shoveler and Gadwall.







Above: Little Egret; Little Grebe

Below: an Orbweaver Spider in its refuge inside a Teasel seedhead; over: now is the time to see the short-lived and weird fertile cones of Horsetail; we were intrigued by these regular holes along the side of the Dragonfly Ponds. Any ideas? Photos JK and HK. Report HK.



