

Much of June had been damp, breezy and cool, but Sunday 29th was fine and the Wildlife Area was inviting.



The approach to the gate was pleasant, past the yellow flowers of Evening Primrose in the car park and a luxuriant growth of varied grasses where Large White butterflies were flying.



Almost immediately inside the gate bushes of Raspberries were in fruit and Blackberries in flower. The path had just been mown and access was easy.



Although the range of flowering plants, grasses etc. was perhaps the most obvious wildlife, it seemed that the warm weather might have been encouraging activity amongst the insects !



Small Tortoiseshell butterflies on nettles and Common Red Soldier beetles on Greater Knapweed



Oxe-eye Daisy



Tufted Vetch



Greater Knapweed



Stopping by the bridge for a few minutes I was pleased to watch a freshly emerged Ringlet butterfly and a White-tailed Bumblebee enjoying the sunshine. Moving on it was noticeable that plants suited to wetter conditions were beginning to appear.



Meadow Cranesbill



Purple Loosestrife



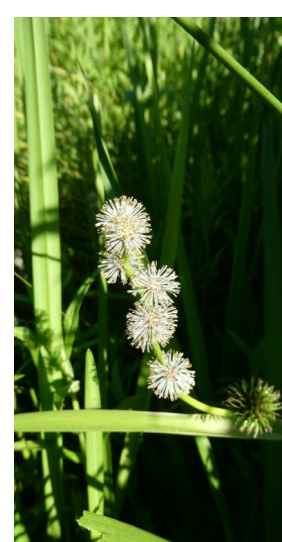
Hairy Willowherb



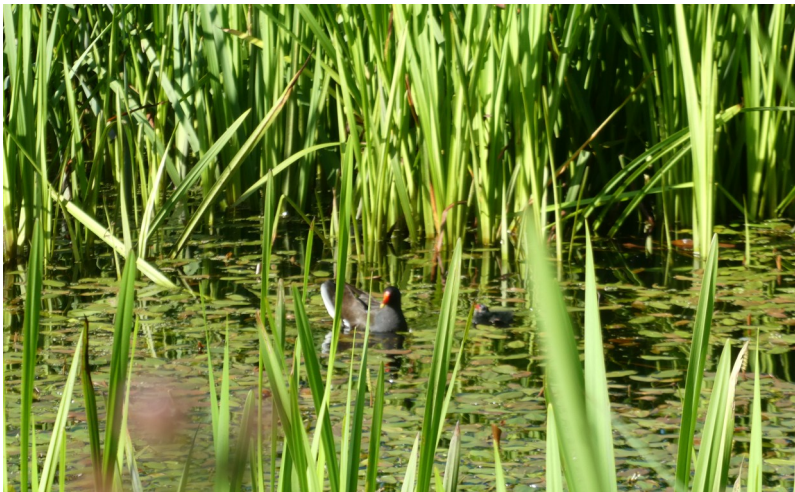
Meadowsweet



Flowering Rush, Pendulous Sedge and Branched Bur reed.



Maintaining the footpath is hard work and the time put in by volunteers is much appreciated. The vegetation is so tall where the path goes into the Reed bed that it feels like entering a tunnel. Viewing the pond from the south west (bottom) corner the margins support a strong growth of Bur reed, Reed Mace (*Typha latifolia*) as well as Common reed (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Sometimes Reed Mace is (wrongly) referred to as 'Bullrush' which is more correctly applied to *Schoenoplectus lacustris*, a plant with lengthy stems shooting skywards, it grows in places around the edge of the pond where it was introduced when the pond was constructed in 2008



I saw two adult Moorhens and one small 'chick' amongst the vegetation on the pond surface, and heard a good number of birds including Reed Bunting and Sedge Warbler calling in the reedbed. Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Greenfinch, Garden Warbler, Song Thrush and Blackbird were singing in the trees and bushes surrounding the area. Finally, on my way out I noticed a brightly coloured plant known as 'Fox and Cubs'.

