



A Spotter's Guide to Boultham Park

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Insects



The **Blue Damselfly** is blue and black striped, and appear between May and September near most waters and large lakes.

The **Red Admiral** is a fairly large black, white and red butterfly, that are most common in Summer and early Autumn.



These large, hairy **Bumblebees** are generally black with varying degrees of yellow banding, spot them buzzing in various plants.

The **Speckled Wood** is a common butterfly and is most often found in woodland, with its dark colouring and light spots.





Insects



Hoverflies are experts in mimicry, with their yellow and black stripes looking just like wasps to protect them from predators.



Green Veined White butterflies have white wings with prominent greenish veins, and favour damper areas.



There are more than 40 different species of **Ladybird**, but the most common tend to be red with black spots, and oval in shape.



The **Small Tortoiseshell** is mainly reddish-orange in colour, with black and yellow markings, and can be seen feeding on flowers all year-round during warm spells.



Birds



The **Wigeon** is a medium-sized duck with a round chestnut head, a small bill, a yellow forehead, pink breast and grey body.

With a blue-grey crown, brown back and pink breast, the **Chaffinch** is one of the most colourful garden birds.



The **Greylag Goose** is a large, pale grey goose with pink legs and an orange bill and can be easily spotted around parks, gravel pits and river valleys.

The **Blue Tit** is a colourful little bird with a blue cap, white cheeks, black eyestripes, a greeny-blue back, yellow belly, and blue wings and tail.





Birds



The **Moorhen** can be distinguished by its dark back, with white patches under its tail, and red bill which has a yellow tip.



Chiffchaffs are a dull green above and pale yellow below, with an off-white belly and a short eyebrow stripe.



The **Tufted Duck** is very distinctive: the female is entirely chocolate-brown, while the male is black with white flanks and a long tuft at the back of the head.



During summer the **Black-headed Gull** has a dark head, which turns white for the rest of the year, with red legs, a red bill and black wingtips.



Wildflowers



Purple Loosestrife grows in upright stems up to 1.2m tall, clad in narrow, willowy leaves and small vivid purplish-pink flowers 2cm wide between June and August.

Wild Angelica can grow up to 2.5m in height, and displays large, umbrella-like clusters of white or purple-tinged flowers between July and September.



Meadow Sweet is a sweet smelling flower, with white flowers densely packed together in flower heads that sit on tall stems between June and September.

Marsh Marigold is a flower of damp moist areas, with large golden flowers that look like the cups of kings, hence its other name 'kingcup', seen between March and July.



Wildflowers



Often mingled among other reedbed plants, **Yellow Flag Iris** have large, bright yellow flowers that appear between May and August.



Lesser Spearwort grows around the edges of ponds, lakes and streams, with sunshine-yellow flowers and spear-like leaves, and can be seen between June and October.



Rosebay Willowherb is a tall plant with pink flowers rising up a flower spoke, and has lance-like leaves, these can be seen between June and September.



Red Campion has rose-red flowers with five petals, each deeply notched and almost divided in two, with leaves and stems that are hairy, seen between May and September.



Trees



The **Alder**'s leaves aren't pointed but often indented, and grows both round and long and thin catkins, often found near water.

The **Horse Chestnut** has white flowers in May that turn into conkers inside a spiky green husk in the Autumn, with 5-7 pointed toothed leaflets on each stem.



Weeping Willow's branches graze the ground with fluttering silver tinged leaves and curved branches often found near water.

English Oak are easily recognised by their lobed leaf shape and tell tale acorns in the Autumn season.



Trees



Sycamore leaves measure 7-16cm and have five lobes, and its female flowers develop into distinctive winged fruits often referred to as 'helicopters'.



The **Ash** tree has light green, oval leaves with tips up to 40cm long, and is easily identified in winter by its smooth twigs with velvety leaf buds.



Young **Beech** tree leaves are lime green with silky hairs, and as they mature they become darker green and lose their hairs, they are oval shaped and pointed at the tip, with a wavy edge.



Silver Birch trees have light green, small and triangular-shaped leaves with a toothed edge, and long yellow-brown catkins.

