



# Friends of Rising Sun Country Park



## NEWSLETTER — MAY 2022

The Early May Bank Holiday weekend saw a few of the Friends Group take part in the 2022 City Nature Challenge (CNC). CNC is a global citizen science project. It first started in 2016 as a competition between California Academy of Science based in San Francisco and Natural History Museum of Los Angeles. 14 UK City areas took part this year. Rising Sun Country Park is in the 'city' region covered by CNC North East England, which extends from the Scottish border, along the Cumbrian border to the border with North Yorkshire in the South and 10km into the North Sea.

Over the course of the four days, we explored the wildlife within the park, participating in bug hunts, pond dipping, nature and dusk walks to find an array of flora and fauna wildlife.

Observations were made using an iPhone and the iNaturalist app and shared to CNC 2022: North East England Project. There were 169 observers taking part in the North East England Project, making a total of 4045 observations of 1044 different species. **The Friends Group ranked 7<sup>th</sup>, making 179 observations of 139 different species!** A few of the findings:



**3 Spined Stickleback**



**Frog Tadpole**



**Small Flat Diving  
beetle larvae**



**Ramshorn Snail**

We also had a group of volunteers in from Accenture

and they helped with painting the Swallow Pond bird hide and the tricky job of re-covering the greenhouse in the garden area that was damaged by the storms we had earlier in the year. The Friends are keeping the garden tidy at the rear of the Centre with a hope in the future of opening it up to local groups. Thanks again to the volunteers they did a great job and thankfully we had Google to help finding out how to replace the plastic!! Our gardeners have also been busy keeping the flower tubs tidy and trying to get on top of the weeds in the gardens near the Centre entrance—garlic mustard everywhere!!





# NATURE NOTES



The composite picture shows a number of the flowers recorded around the Park as part of the City Nature Challenge. (answers on a postcard!!) Flowers are really showing now and my little ramble found the lovely Common Orchids really blooming and, now taking over from the Red Campion, the Oxeye Daisies which love the area around Dukes Pond.

It is nice to see the Facebook photos including some of our flowers so once again I will leave it to our great group of photographers who help us record the wildlife around the Park. Keep them coming!



Photo by John Baker

**Goldfinch (2nd)**



**Horse Chestnut (3rd)**



Photo by Ian Willey

**Speckled Wood (9th)**



Photo by Amanda Douglass

**Buttercup (14th)**



Photo by Sarah Jones

**Bluebells (17th)**



Photo by Sarah Jones

**Red Campion (10th)**



Photo by Michael Matthews

**Water Ladybird! (19th)**



Photo by Sarah Jones

**Canada Geese Galore! (24th)**



Photo by Michelle Richards

**Happy Swan Family (21st)**

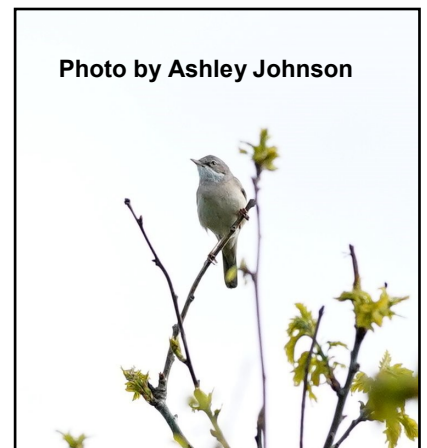


Photo by Ashley Johnson

**Whitethroat (10th)**

**We are currently meeting the second Friday of each month at 12 noon in the Rising Sun Centre everyone is welcome, nice to see some new faces. In the meantime why not follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofrscp/>**