

# WYCOMBE WILDLIFE NEWS

NEWSLETTER NO.5

APRIL 1991

## GARDEN POND EDITION

### EDITORIAL COMMENT

In spite of an extremely cold spell at the beginning of February, spring bulbs have flowered right on cue and frog spawn has appeared in the garden pond.

As Wycombe Urban Wildlife Group enters its third year we are publishing our Objects and Aims, together with our Co-ordinator's report of what has been achieved over the last two years. I think you will agree that we, too, are well on cue.

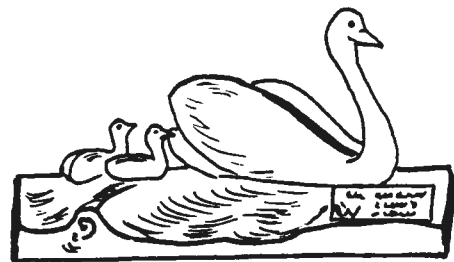
We are especially pleased by the number of schools joining us and seeking advice on wildlife projects. It is among the young that the seeds of future attitudes are sown, and so many schools taking an interest augurs well for time to come.

I deliberately mentioned frog spawn. One pond owner filled a five-gallon bucket with it in order to clear the way for toads to spawn. But I hope she, and all of you, will have kept a note of the number of frogs & toads that have produced such awesome quantities to enter on this year's survey form. Your copy of the survey leaflet is included with this issue of the newsletter which we hope you will enjoy completing with, perhaps, a few extra comments as many did with the hedgehog survey reported on page 34.

Your opinion sought: Our typesetter has used three different fonts in this issue, which one do you prefer? The small print as used on the **WATCH** page - if gets more in but can you read it? The font used for this page and for the Ponds, Do's & Don'ts article or the font used in previous issues and for the Grange Farm article on page 36?

Pat Morris.

### OUR GROUP WINS NEW ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD



The first Environmental Award to be made by Wycombe District Council was won by our Group for the management scheme & work at the Chairborough Road Public Open Space. For this new Environmental Award Wycombe District Council commissioned local craftsman Derek Ansell to create a special trophy - the Buckinghamshire Swan & two Cygnets carved in lime and mounted on a yew base. The presentation was made at a meeting of the Full Council on March 18 by Cllr. Frank Sweatman who said "The efforts they have put in shows what can be achieved by members of the community who care" Appropriately, the Award was received by Roger Wilding and Matthew Ellis who represented the Group at the meeting. As a record of our achievement we have a framed certificate & to encourage and support our efforts a cheque for £100, for which we thank Wycombe District Council.

Our congratulations and thanks go to Roger for masterminding and doing much of the work that brought us this award.

COPY for the September Issue, 1991 to be in by Friday 2 August, please. Send it to:  
Pat Morris, 30 Amersham Hill Drive,  
HIGH WYCOMBE, HP13, 6QY.

**SUPPORT YOUR GROUP - COME TO THE AGM**  
Monday 8 April at 8 p.m. at the Priory Centre.

## A PROGRESS REPORT from the COORDINATOR.

Since our Urban Wildlife Group was officially launched on 23rd. April 1989, our membership has grown to over 50 with 12 local schools now affiliated.

The activities of the Group have included regular walks and evening talks, biological surveys, and practical conservation projects. We have also acquired our first nature reserve on land leased to us by Little Marlow Parish Council.

We have undertaken numerous biological surveys to record the wide range of wildlife that lives in and around High Wycombe. So far we have carried out:

- 6 Phase 1 (habitat) surveys,
- 9 phase 2 (higher plant) surveys.
- 4 bird surveys
- 4 butterfly surveys.

The information gathered from the surveys may either be used as a basis for writing management recommendations or for providing data for responses to planning applications.

Last year we invited everyone in the Wycombe area to participate in a Hedgehog Survey, and over 200 completed survey forms were returned. This year we are conducting a similar survey on ponds and amphibians jointly with the Thames & Chilterns Herpetological Society.

Practical conservation work has become increasingly popular, and over 160 work days have been completed since our Group was launched. We have worked on a variety of sites including the Chairborough Road Public Open Space, Sheepridge Nature Reserve, and the river Wye. The projects undertaken have included, tree planting, pond restoration, scrub clearance and litter clearance. Participants in our projects have come from a variety of backgrounds, and apart from our members have included girl guides, BTCV members and the retired.

Environmental education is becoming increasingly important and advice has been given to Bellfield & Sands Middle Schools and we are currently working with Bucks C.C. to create a range of wildlife habitats in the grounds of Clayton Middle School, Bourne End.

The Group produces three newsletters annually.

Finally may I take the opportunity to thank everyone who has helped and participated in our activities over the past two years. Matthew Ellis.

## THE OBJECTS AND AIMS OF WYCOMBE URBAN WILDLIFE GROUP

+ WyUWG +

The **OBJECT** of the Group is: to further the knowledge of wildlife and its ecology in the urban district of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire; to conserve, protect, restore and create wildlife habitats; to encourage colonisation and survival of all plant and animal life in such areas and to promote the education of the public in matters pertaining to urban wildlife and its conservation.

### AIMS:

1. To survey and map the wildlife habitats of High Wycombe and publish the results.
2. To protect important sites of wildlife value.
3. To advise on the management of areas set aside for wildlife in the District.
4. To study the ecology of the urban areas of High Wycombe and publish the results.
5. To manage suitable sites in High Wycombe in a manner that enhances their natural history so they develop their full ecological potential.
6. To stimulate public interest in the care of the natural flora and fauna and its role in relation to health, enjoyment recreation and education of town dwellers and others of all ages.
7. To advise on wildlife gardening and encourage the establishment of wild areas in urban gardens in the Wycombe District.
8. To establish links with other local and national environmental groups having Objects similar to those of the Group, Wycombe District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and co-operate with and encourage them in their actions to study and conserve the wildlife of High Wycombe.
9. To promote the objects and make known the work of the Group by means of personal and written appeals, press releases, public meetings, exhibitions, lectures, guided walks, site meetings and publications and other such means as are deemed fit.
10. To organise training for Group members & others in particular young persons in local schools & youth groups, in the study and conservation of wildlife & encourage their active participation in conservation.
11. To do all such other things deemed fit in furtherance of the attainment of the objects of the Group.

## POND DO'S and DON'TS

Many books have been written on water gardening in which adequate descriptions of how to construct a pond may be found so rather than trying to compete with them we thought we would highlight the main do's & don'ts of pond construction.

**DO** choose a sunny sheltered spot - some water plants, like waterlilies, will not flower in the shade, and fish will not put on necessary body tissue in winter in a cool wind-swept area. Ideally a pond should receive 8 hours sunshine per day in mid-summer.

**DON'T** place your pond near trees. Some leaves like horse-chestnut and laburnum are poisonous and all leaves cause problems in ponds in winter as they rot.

**DO** have your pond near the house where you can enjoy watching the wildlife it attracts.

Before digging your pond:

**DO** experiment with a piece of hosepipe or rope on the ground to achieve the most pleasing shape, and having done that leave it there for a day and observe how much sun it will get over the day.

**DON'T** leave sharp stones under the butyl liner - remove them and cover the soil with, polyester matting, sand or thick layers of news paper before spreading the liner.

**DO** have a shallow, gently sloping end, so that wildlife can climb out after their dip also a shallow area is essential for birds to bathe in.

**DO** remember a marginal shelf in the deep end to place baskets for plants that like shallow water.

If you have young children:

**DO** make sure you have a low hedge, flower bed, fence or white rope between the pond and the lawn where they play and **DON'T** construct a steep sided, deep pond - shallow, sloping sides are safer! That said one side or short section which is 15 cms (6") deep and has a flagstone or paving stone edge is fun for children to "pond dip" from - or launch toy boats.

**DO** Cover the exposed margins of the pond liner with turves, sand or soil as the UV in sunlight causes butyl rubber to deteriorate and crack.

Finally **DO** get in touch with **WyUVC** if you need more advice. Pat Morris.

## ACID RAIN & THE GARDEN POND IS IT A THREAT ?

This article was prompted by a telephone call for help with a rather distressing problem. The caller had a small pond which, like most, is visited by frogs but many were dying, their bodies becoming bloated and floating to the surface. Was it a disease? When animals congregate, as frogs do in the spring, epidemic spread of disease is possible, but I believe there were similar problems reported last year so is there some underlying cause that might link these "outbreaks" together.

As everyone knows frogs have a slippery, moist skin - through which they can breathe. The skin is, therefore, very permeable, not just to oxygen but anything else dissolved in the water.

Current research suggests that it is the increased solution of certain metals in the soil brought about by acid rain that is killing trees in Europe. Could a similar phenomenon be killing these frogs? Does your pond have a butyl liner and is it rain filled? I asked the caller, the answer was YES! It is quite possible, then, that acid rain is the problem and something is dissolving out of the soil in the pond and poisoning the frogs. The bloated bodies are typical of decay that sets in after death, especially in water.

Is there a remedy? YES. Add a handful of crushed chalk to the water to neutralise the acidity. Unlike some exotic tropicals such as neons from the black, acid water of the Amazon, the usual fish and plants used to stock our garden ponds are tolerant of hard water.



This problem calls for some research so if you are taking part in our pond survey could you answer a few more questions please?

a/. Have you experienced this problem in your pond?  
b/. If you have a soil test kit could you let us know the acidity of your water - before and after you treat it with chalk, c/. did you have the problem last year? d/. are tadpoles affected in any way? e/. Do toads and newts suffer in a similar way? Maurice Young.

THE 1990 HEDGEHOG SURVEY

Returns for the hedgehog survey came from as far afield as Henley and Aylesbury, but the majority came, not unexpectedly, from Wycombe and Marlow. The analysis, using a program written by Liz Stoelker of Holmer Green, gave some insights into distribution and diet.

More than 560 hedgehogs were counted, over 400 within the urban area of Wycombe. In Marlow more than 50 were recorded. This by no means represents the entire hedgehog population because many more will have gone unseen or unreported. Some may have been counted twice as they roamed from garden to garden in search of food.

The distribution analysis was based on post code - a useful piece of information for a survey. The map shows the numbers of hedgehogs recorded in the different postal areas. These are designated by the start of the second part of the code, eg. HP11 1(QX). The highest numbers recorded were found on an axis running from the Rye (HP11 1) through Totteridge (HP13 6 and 7) to Hazlemere (HP15 7). Most probably the reason is that a lot of people live in those areas!

Contrary to the recommendations of the experts, the hedgehogs seem quite happily to eat a variety of foods - and they should know best! According to my books they eat mice, worms, insects, eggs, frogs and even snakes. The survey identified the following, in order of popularity (the occasions recorded being indicated):

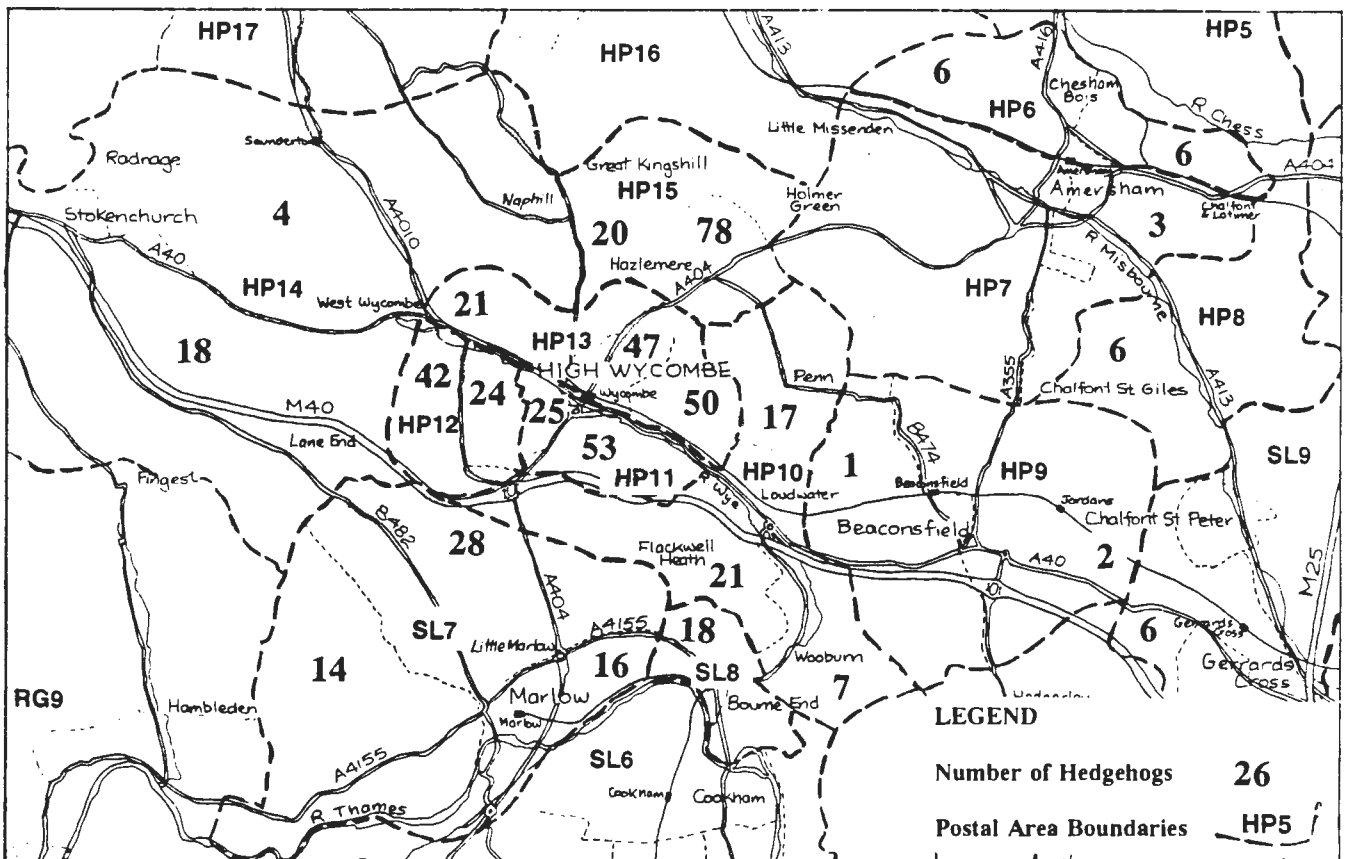
Cat food	69	Cheese	4
Bread	35	Chocolate	2
Scraps	31	Fish	2
Dog Food	29	Bird food	2
Meat	17	Egg	1
Peanuts/Walnuts	14	Oats	1
Biscuits/Cake	9	Potatoes	1
Fats	8	Mushroom Stalks	1
Fruit	6		

Many people feed hedgehogs on bread and milk. More than one person commented that they had tried dog or cat food, but had gone back to bread and milk when the hedgehogs refused it! Unfortunately, milk is not good for the digestive system of a hedgehog and it is better to stick to water. This is particularly welcome in hot summers, like that of 1990, and it doesn't go off!

Since hedgehogs are carnivorous animals, the experts recommend we put out tinned dog or cat food, as long as it is meat-based. Unfortunately, my dog even eats the bread we put out for the birds in winter, so the hedgehogs may have trouble getting near their supper!

Many thanks to all those who sent in a reply - more than 220 individuals and families. They were very much appreciated and the many letters made interesting reading. We look forward to an even better response on this year's Pond Survey.

Martin Hadrill





## WYUWG RECENT ACTIVITIES - REPORT

### POND RESTORATION AT GRANGE FARM

Although I have lived in Widmer End for almost 23 years, it is only recently that my family and I have begun regular walking in the area around Grange Farm - this started through a decision to keep Widmer End tidy by collecting cans and going on "litter blitzes". One of the few times we had walked beyond Grange Farm was on the H7 protest walk about 17 years ago. Our nature walks always used to be miles away with the need if a car.

Earlier this year I commented that I would like to see the Grange Farm pond cleared and restored for wildlife, so it was with great interest that we turned up for duty for the "Grange Farm Pond Restoration Task" in response to an advert in the local Post Office.



Grange Farm pond  
March 1991.

We arrived at 10.30 on a cold Sunday morning with all the tools we imagined might be required - spade, fork, pick-axe etc. quite believing that within 10 minutes we would be frozen to the marrow. But after meeting Matthew and 2 other helpers my daughter & I spent 3 hours without even getting our hands wet! We were provided with work gloves and saws and spent the time cutting down willows with a welcome break for coffee provided by Matthew.

The cutting seemed a bit drastic to me but Matthew assured me that the pond would benefit from the extra light and that by July the area would be thick with vegetation. The pond, surrounded scrub, lies in a hollow at the edge of a field with a hedge on it's east side. I have taken before and after photographs and we will be visiting the pond regularly to see how it develops through the seasons and what wildlife colonises it in addition to existing plants which include the yellow flag.

Since taking part in this task we have decided that we must join the Group and hope to get involved in creating the pond at the Group's Sheepridge Reserve near Bourne End.

Alan Albrow.

Pippistrelle bat



### NORTHCROFT ESTATE, WOBBURN GREEN

Unfortunately not everyone is as interested in their local area as Alan seems from his account above and it was just as well that a small skip was delivered for use on the pond restoration task as the Northcroft Estate. Despite posters in local shops and mention in the Beaconsfield Advertiser no one from the Estate helped on the task and it was left to 3 dedicated WyUWG members to clear out an old tyre and other rubbish from the pond. One passer-by confessed "the locals love their pond". Perhaps, one day they will be moved to take it in hand and see that such an attractive pond is not used as a rubbish bin.

Strong words (watered down a bit by the Editor and sub-editor (type-setter)) but we only get the environment we deserve and are prepared to work for. We are fortunate in having a Council that is "Environmentally Conscious" but there are limits to what they can spend on the environment - without risking capping! Volunteering costs us nothing, well, perhaps a few aching muscles for a couple of days, but its returns in satisfaction are high. If you care about your neck of the woods and there are problems let us know and we will see what we can do - but better still join the Group and join in on our tasks.

Maurice.

## GRANGE FARM, WIDMER END.



Grange Farm, once part of a large area of potential building land, known as H.7, still bears the scars of both neglect, over intensive farming, and some very ugly concrete barns and grain store.

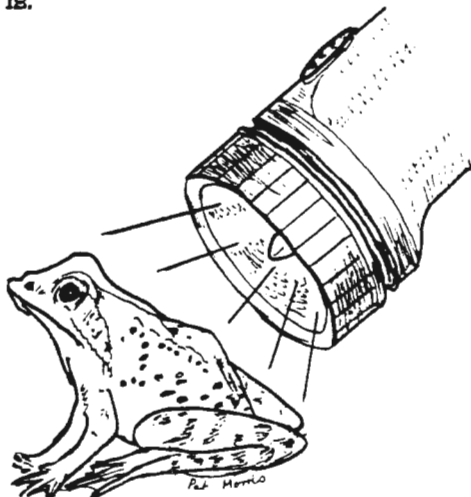
Once owned by the Lovells the old cruck constructed farmhouse was left to the elements. It formed one side of a square of old barns which were burned down. Then another new barn was put in at an angle across what was the farm yard.

The Council bought the farm in 1986, and Chris Wallis and his Company after successfully restoring the windmill at Lacey Green started carefully reconstructing the farm house. However, after some acrimonious dispute he was forced to abandon the project and another builder bought it up to its present state, with doors and windows boarded up, awaiting further decisions by the Council.

These 174 acres, surrounded as they are by development, woods and the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should not be intensively farmed, nor should they be neglected. The pond typifies this. Members of the Urban Wildlife Group and others helped to clean it up recently. Last year it was a stagnant brown hole surrounded by impenetrable brambles and thickets and too close to crops which bore signs of weedkiller. We hope wildlife will be encouraged back in the future and the land seen as the valuable recreational area it surely is.

Lorna Cassidy.

### THE WYE BY TORCHLIGHT



One dark Monday night in March, nine brave people ventured forth to search the river Wye for signs of aquatic wildlife. Many interesting species of fish were seen including perch, pike, tench and roach. Several common frogs were also found and numerous large freshwater crayfish. Towards the end of the evening much excitement was caused when a large American Catfish was spotted.

This species is alien to this country and was probably illegally introduced. - no doubt it had outgrown the aquarium it was kept in. The evening was a tremendous success and by request will be repeated on 15th May. If you come remember to bring a torch.

Matthew.



## WYCOMBE WATCH GROUP



Wycombe WATCH Group began the year with a talk on the Wildlife Hospital at Aylesbury. Its reputation for hedgehog care earned it the nickname "St. Tiggiwinkles" but birds and mammals of all kinds & conditions are given the best of attention to nurse them back to health. Some animals, of course don't pull through but we were heartened by the number of success stories. The children showed their concern by donating towels, blankets and tins of pet food.

We had two meetings in February. Early in the month our recycling roadshow had the children inventing a floor game, producing a puppet show, and making junk models, all with the theme of reusing resources and taking care of our environment.

Later in the month we resumed our conservation work in Keep Hill Wood and have now completed a scrub clearance programme. Anyone is welcome to help keep down the regrowth in Autumn. Better still spend some time up there looking for new plants and insects we hope we are encouraging.

March began first of the family WATCH series of activities. We met at Tring reservoirs, and led by Richard Tomlim, spent a spring afternoon birdwatching. The red crested pochard was the star of the show, but there were several other ducks to be seen, along with gulls, herons and various woodland birds around the edges of the reservoir.

Do please join us on one of our Spring or Summer events. You do not have to be a member of WATCH to join in. Our events are detailed in the diary on page 40.

Sylvia Barnes.



Pochard (male)  
One of the birds seen on the Rye this February

For information about Wycombe WATCH Group ring Christine on Penn 4767 or Sylvia on 0494 713430.

## MY POND

I have a small pond in my back garden, it is only 108 cm. by 54 cm.. My dad and I built it in June 1989 and within a few days of having the pond filled with tap water a water beetle appeared. I was very surprised because there was nothing in the pond for it to eat, only earth that had got in when we were putting it in. The beetle has been there ever since and seems to have mated with another one as there are some young beetles in the pond.

Soon after that we bought a water lily and some oxygenating weed for the pond, unfortunately the lily died but the pond weed is thriving and we had to take some out there was so much!

There are quite a few frogs in the pond but no newts yet. There is also a caddis fly larva, water boatmen, pond snails, pond skaters and some tadpoles were in our pond that we got from somebody else's pond. I have also seen one or two dragonflies over the pond. Our pond is quite small but lots of things live in it.

I think more people should have a pond in their garden so that rare animals such as newts become more common.  
Helen Albrow, aged 13.

## CLAYTONS SCHOOL, BOURNE END.

There is great excitement at Claytons as we prepare for our environmental project. We are looking forward to digging a pond 10 m. by 7 m., planting an orchard, developing a wildlife meadow, establishing butterfly areas and putting up bird and bat boxes. We are going to turn the school garden into a tree nursery and use the greenhouse for seedlings so we may be able to provide stock for other schools in the area. We also hope to develop a wetland meadow area and are already recruiting an eager band of parents and children.

We have been inspired and advised by the Wycombe Urban Wildlife Group, and they have also advised us how to obtain the necessary grants.

We will keep you posted!

M.B. Volunteers will be welcome at the pond digging sessions on Saturday July 13 & 22.

Further details from the school: 06285 25277  
Gardening note: As Helen described above the pond weed (*Elodea canadensis*) grows like mad - in the 19th. century it blocked canals and rivers disrupting traffic on these waterways. So don't throw it in the river or Dyke put it on your compost heap.

# WILDLIFE NOTICE BOARD

## NAMES OF CONTACTS FOR WILDLIFE GROUPS IN WYCOMBE DISTRICT

BBCS	British Butterfly Conservation Society	:	Ron Beaven	:	0494 444158
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	:	Martin Jakes	:	0296 383393
BBONT	Berks, Bucks, & Oxon Naturalists' Trust	:	Maurice Young	:	0628 472000
BBC	Bucks Bird Club	:	Arthur Brown	:	0628 604769
CS	Chiltern Society	:	Charles Mills	:	0494 28487
CWP	Chiltern Woodlands Project	:	John Morris	:	0494 461286
FDE	Friends of the Earth	:	Lyn Jack	:	0494 447680
NCC	Nature Conservancy Council	:	Janet Welsh	:	0635 268881
RA	Ramblers Association	:	Anne Solomon	:	0494 443730
SWS	Saunderton Wildlife Sanctuary	:	Mrs Baker	:	084 44 2188
T&CHG	Thames & Chilterns Herpetological Society	:	John Owen	:	024 06 4973
WWF	World Wildlife Fund	:	Valerie Lambourne	:	0494 443761
WATCH	Wycombe 'WATCH' Group	:	Sylvia Barnes	:	0494 713430
WYUWG	Wycombe Urban Wildlife Group	:	Matthew Ellis	:	0628 522455

Enquiries or advice concerning BATS contact the Nature Conservancy Council.  
For BADGERS contact BBONT Aylesbury Office : 00296 433222

**IT'S SUBSCRIPTION TIME (AGAIN !)**  
**FORMER MEMBERS** - time to **RENEW** your subs  
(unless you have joined since January)  
(Cheques payable to Wycombe Urban Wildlife  
Group to the treasurer at 3 Berwick Mews,  
Berwick Close, Berwick Road, MARLOW  
If you are not a member **DO JOIN** and  
help us win next year's environmental award

**WyUWG NEEDS YOU**

**MEMBERSHIP FEES**  
Ordinary member £3  
(extraordinary really  
- if you join **WyUWG**)  
Household members £5  
Affiliated members £5  
(Schools etc)  
Corporate members £25  
**Due: April 1st.**

Slides Refreshments Quiz  
**\* WyUWG Annual General Meeting \***  
Priory Centre 8 - 10 p.m. Priory Road  
Why not bring a few slides along yourself ?

**DID YOU SEE ?**  
**FEBRUARY**  
Jack Snipe - River Wye, Sands  
Desborough Rec. Gr'd  
Marsh Green  
Pochard (5) - Rye  
Kingfisher (2) - Rye  
**MARCH**  
Female Merlin - Little Marlow

**FOR  
PEAT'S  
SAKE  
GIVE  
IT UP**

**CAN YOU BEAT ?**  
1st. Frog of the year  
(under ice in pond) 20/2/91  
1st. Frog spawn 27/2/91  
30 frogs in one pond 14/3/91  
1st Red Admiral 3/3/91  
1st. Brimstone 8/3/91

**GARDENERS AHoy !** Get in touch if you have any native plants to  
exchange or donate from your surplus seedlings or offsets.



**SPECIAL EVENT for ENVIRONMENT WEEK**  
**WyUWG**

**24 Hour Wildlife Watch Marathon**

**START 10 a.m. SATURDAY 11th. MAY 1991**

**10.00 - 12.00 noon POND DIPPING**

(River Wye and the Dyke. Meet/start from swimming pool car park 10 a.m.)

**12.30 - 2.30 p.m. WILDLIFE of CHALK GRASSLAND & SCRUB**

(Gomm Valley. Start from Bridge in Gomm Road, 12.30 p.m.)

**3.00 - 5.00 p.m. WILDLIFE on the HEATH**

(Stoke Common. Park, start from Stoke Common Road SU 983 856)

**5.30 - 7.30 p.m. WILDLIFE of ANCIENT WOODLAND**

(Bloom & Warren Woods. SU 875 897, meet at: SU 883 895 5.30 p.m.)

**8.00 - 12.00 p.m. WILDLIFE of the NIGHT (Bats & Moths)**

(Spade Dak Gravel Pits. Meet Council car park SU 884 875)

**12.30 - 2.30 a.m. WOODLAND NIGHTLIFE**

(Davenport Wood, meet and park at SU 823 865, bring torch)

**4.30 - 5.30 a.m. DAWN CHORUS in BOURNE END**

(Spade Dak. Public car park SU 884 875)

**6.00 - 8.00 a.m. WILDLIFE of the WATER MEADOWS**

(Meet at Marlow Sports centre car park, SU at SU 814 866)

**8.30 - 10.00 a.m. WILDLIFE in WYCOMBE'S GREEN CENTRE**

(Keep Hill & The Rye, park at Swimming Pool car park)

**FINISH 10.00 a.m. SUNDAY 12th MAY 1991**

(The above programme is provisional, fuller details can be obtained from Matthew and will be available later in a leaflet to be issued for ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK)

**PROGRAMME OF EVENTS - SUMMER 1991**

**APRIL**

**SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE: 1 APRIL 1991**

**Monday 8 April 1991**  
**WyUWG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**8 p.m. Priory Centre, Priory Road**

**Sunday 14 April 2.00 p.m.**

**BBONT/WATCH** Family walk. Park Wood, Bradenham.  
Meet: N.T. car park, Small Dean lane (SU 823 990)

**Sunday 21 April 2.00 p.m.**

Spring woodland walk. Meet: Swimming pool car park.

**Sunday 28 April 10.30 - 4.30**

Step building at Chairborough Road Public Open Space, Meet at SU 849 922 (Access via track from Lincoln Road opposite Osters & Fleming)

**MAY**

**Sunday 5 May 10.30 - 4.30**

Conservation task at the Group's Sheepridge Reserve. Meet at SU 884 886.

**Saturday 11 to Sunday 12 May.**  
**24 Hour Wildlife Watch Marathon**  
See previous page for details.

**Sunday 12 May 2.00 p.m.**

**WATCH** Snakes alive. Indoor meeting in the Rye Health Clinic. Come & cuddle a python!

**Monday 13 May 8.00 p.m.**

Planning meeting. Priory Centre, Priory Rd.

**Wednesday 15 May 8.00 p.m.**

Evening wildlife watch, bring a torch.  
Meet: Swimming pool car park on the Rye.

**Saturday 18 May 2.00 p.m.**

Conservation Project at Gosling Grove Open Space, Downley. Meet: SU 846 949

**Wednesday 22 May 7.30 p.m.**

Grass identification I (wetland grasses) Meet: 10 Whitfield Rd. off Coombe Lane (SU 862 965)

**JUNE**

**Sunday 9 June 2.00 - 4.30 p.m.**

**WATCH.** Picnic & family fun at Black Park. Fulmer. Meet at Picnic area just beyond main car park, 1.0 p.m. Bring own food, wear old clothes!

**Sunday 9 June 10.30 - 4.30.**

Conservation work Chairborough Rd. P.O.S. (Access details as for 28th April. SU 849 922)

**Sunday 16 June 10.00 am. - 2.00 pm.**

Litter removal from River Wye.  
Meet: Texas Homecare car park. Loudwater Estate.

**JUNE (continued)**

**Wednesday 19 June 8.00 p.m.**

Grass identification II (chalk grassland spp.) Sands Bank, park in Hill Bottom Road (SU 833 932)

**Saturday 22 June 2.00 - 5.00 p.m.**

Habitat creation at Claytons School, Bourne End. Meet at SU 891 882. Further details from the school on 06285 25277.

**Tuesday 25 June 7.30 p.m.**

Walk round Gomm Valley SSSI.  
Meet under bridge in Gomm Road.

**JULY**

**Sunday 7 July 10.00 - 4.00**

Conservation work at the Group's Sheepridge reserve. SU 884 886.

**Sunday 7 July 2.00 p.m.**

**WATCH** Butterfly walk, Prestwood Picnic Site, west end of Perks Lane.

**Monday 8 July 8.00 p.m.**

Planning meeting at the Priory Centre.

**Saturday 13 July 2.00 p.m.**

Habitat creation - pond dig at Claytons School.  
Details as for June 22.

**Sunday 14 July 10.00 - 4.00**

Create new marginal habitats by new Arts Centre. Park & meet in Bucks College car park

**NO WyUWG or WATCH meetings in August.**

**SEPTEMBER**

**Sunday 1 September 10.30 - 4.00**

Stream restoration at Savill Road, Marlow.  
Meet at SU 861 870.

**Monday 9 September 8.00 p.m.**

Planning Meeting at the Priory Centre.

**WHO'S WHAT**

The WyUWG contact list.

Co-ordinator:

Matthew Ellis, 0628 522455

Treasurer:

Mike Wallen, 0628 477865

Publicity:

Maurice Young, 0628 472000

Survey Co-ordinator:

Angus Idle, 024024 3673

Newsletter Editor:

Pat Morris, 0494 29484

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