

WYCOMBE WILDLIFE



NEWS

no. 12

URBAN WILDLIFE

GROUP

SEPTEMBER 1993

The Countryside Centre, Bassetsbury Manor, Bassetsbury Lane, High Wycombe, HP11 1QX

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IN THIS ISSUE

Wildlife Gardens and competition results - prizes for everyone. 21

Update: WyUWG embraces latest technology. 22

Flora & fauna: your chance for active participation. 23

Wildlife Gardening: Competition judges speak out. 24-25

Reports: A valuable day out and Grange Farm Pond. 26

Conservation. 27

Questions & answers. 28

Pen-ultimate. 29

Wildlife Notice Board

Demonstration Wildlife Garden Blooms

On August 14th. 1993, Cllr. Mrs. Pam Priestley, Chairman, Leisure Dept., Wycombe District Council revisited West Wycombe Garden Centre, where she dug the first turf of our Demonstration Wildlife Garden.

On this occasion Cllr. Mrs. Priestly opened the Wildlife Garden and announced the winner of WyUWG's Wildlife Garden Competition and was presented with a bird box, made by the Group, by Mrs. Pat Morris,

Chairman of WyUWG. The Wildlife Garden Project, launched in tandem with the Competition, was completed during the summer by WyUWG members. It will be available for schools to study, and to visitors to the Garden Centre to encourage interest in wildlife gardening.

Sets of Wildlife Gardening leaflets, sponsored by West Wycombe Garden Centre, are now available.

Wildlife Garden Competition Results

JOINT WINNERS: Angela Colmer, High Wycombe and Irenke York, High Wycombe, both will receive £50 worth of plants. Joint runners up: John Willson, Downley and Wendy Willson, High Wycombe will receive 50 wildflower plugs. Other contestants

including: Lorna Cassidy, Margaret Simmons, Joanna Hunter, and Messrs. Jewers & Kennedy will also receive wildflower plugs. All prizes have been generously donated by Glyn Onione, Dove Cottage Nurseries, Penn Street. (Turn to pages 24 & 25 for judges' observations)

Award for Riverside Garden

It was with great pleasure that we heard earlier this year that Margaret Simmons, an active member of WyUWG, has won WDC's annual Environmental Award for her wildlife garden in the grounds of Pann Mill. Margaret has used the natural features

of this attractive riverside setting to good effect introducing both native & garden plants to create an interesting place to visit. The garden, to which the public have free access, provides a peaceful retreat close to the town centre for both people and wildlife.

(cont. on page 23)



This issue generously sponsored by the
West Wycombe Garden Centre
Part of the Bourne End Garden Centre Group



Wycombe Urban Wildlife Group is a voluntary organization the OBJECT of which is to further the ecology and knowledge of the urban and fringe areas of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire; to conserve, protect, restore and create wildlife habitats; to encourage colonization 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.

Within Wycombe District the Group aims to:

- Survey and map wildlife habitats.
 - Protect important wildlife sites.
 - Study wildlife sites and their associated wildlife.
 - Manage wildlife sites and associated flora and fauna.
 - Stimulate public interest in wildlife & its conservation
 - Encourage wildlife gardening.
 - Co-operate with other groups with similar aims.
 - Promote the objectives of the Group.
 - Encourage active participation in conservation of all persons and groups and provide appropriate training to that end.
- (A detailed copy of the aims is available on request)

Wycombe Wildlife News is published 3 times a year to promote the Group's activities and inform members & the public of its progress.

Editor: Pat Morris.
Produced by Maurice Young.
Printed by: WDC Design & Print.
Illustrations by: Pat Morris,
& Maurice Young.
Photos: Maurice Young &
Paul Franklin.

Evolution Proceeds Apace

There are two main theories of evolution. One maintains that evolution proceeds in slow, but continuous small steps; the other suggests the process goes in leaps and bounds with relatively quiet periods between each dramatic change.

The evolution of our newsletter seems to combine both mechanisms.

Changes in technology have resulted in huge leaps in quality, as witnessed in the previous edition when FIRST DATA undertook the typesetting on their latest PC and printed all the newsletters on a laser printer - a massive leap from my old BBC Master, 9 pin dot printer and "photocopy" printing!

Well, we now have the technology - as announced in the last issue the Group has a FIRST DATA computer and, as my micro was on its last legs, I have updated to a similar machine - so we hope to maintain the quality. Although we will have to revert to "photocopy" printing, we will produce the top copy with an inkjet printer. In the last issue

Sarah copied my recently redesigned front page format faithfully but I have decided to take full advantage of my new Avagio 2e desk top publisher (DTP) and make further changes. Gone are the boxes, lightening and, I hope, brightening the pages and releasing a little more space for the text - so I can either get more in or use larger print. According to all

“ We have the technology,
now all we have to do
is learn to use it ”

the books on DTP I am reading justified text (all the text lines the same length) tends to produce a "grey page" so I am trying left justified, ragged right - as it is technically known - which, hopefully, will brighten the page still further. I have retained the little boxes and the framework, however, for our Notice Board on the back page but, if I can master the techniques I will add a few shadows and other embellishments.

That last statement highlights the current dilemma, we may have the technology but we now have to learn to use it. Future editions will, of course, continue to evolve, but in small steps - as I get to grips with all the facilities on my DTP.

Learning the RECORDER

I was tempted to emulate the editor of a tabloid with an even more flippant title than this one for this serious subject for RECORDER is not, as you might have been led to think, the musical instrument. RECORDER is a sophisticated biological recording computer package and the reason for the Group's acquisition of a computer. It was developed by English Nature and is rapidly becoming the main biological recording system used in this Country. It is used at the Aylesbury Museum where the County biological records are held and BBONT and, as

I am sure, many other County Naturalists' Trusts are busily transferring all their records to this system.

When we get it up and running it will mean that our records will be in a nationally accepted format and we will then be able to exchange records with other groups, like BBONT, that are using the system. Its powerful analytical, mapping and charting programmes will allow us to produce very professional looking reports for the sites we are asked to survey - when we have learnt to use it! Maurice.

Views expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Group. For the purposes of management of the Group membership information is held on computer. Any members who object to their membership details being held in this way should notify the Secretary.



Grow Something Rare

Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*) is an extremely rare plant in the wild but you can grow it easily in your garden. Sow ripe seed in August or September in a sunny location and the plants will germinate quickly and overwinter, producing flowers the following June. If you save some seed and sow in Spring you can extend the growing season into July or even August.

Corncockle will produce plenty of seed which is easy to collect. If you leave some seed to ripen & fall you can have plants flowering year after year provided you remember to disturb the soil to assist

Corn-cockle, poppy, & marigold, some of the colourful 'weeds' of arable fields.



germination - corncockle was a cornfield annual (arable weed) which needed to cope with annual ploughing.

The plants tend to be rather tall and floppy when grown in good soil so need some form of support.

The best solution is to grow a "cornfield" mixture including the blue cornflower, yellow corn marigold, the red common poppy and white mayweeds. The colourful show you will get will impress your friends and neighbours and, hopefully, convert a few more people to the delights of wildflower

gardening.

Roger Wilding.

Like to grow some ?

Corncockle seed is usually on sale, courtesy of Roger, at **WyUWG** meetings.

WyUWG HEALTH WARNING:

Keep corncockle seeds out of the reach of young children as they are poisonous.

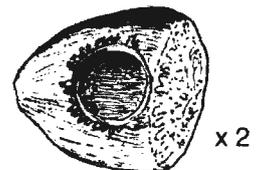
Going Nuts Over Dormice

Loss and decline in the quality of the habitat has reduced the range and numbers of the hazel dormouse to the extent that English Nature have included them in their Species Recovery Programme. To focus attention on dormice English Nature are organizing a National Dormouse Week at the end of October. To do their bit for National Dormouse Week the South Bucks Region of BBONT have arranged for Dr. Pat Morris (not the editor) to give a talk on dormice at the Beaconsfield High School on Friday

29th. October at 8 p.m. Make a note of the date & venue in your diary. Come and learn about dormice and the Great Nut Hunt which you will be invited to take part in to discover where dormice still occur in the country.

The hazel dormouse is not to be confused with that alien pest - the edible dormouse that invades houses in the Tring - Amersham area, i.e. the one that those who have them in their loft hiss its Latin name, *Glis glis*, between clenched teeth when they speak of it.

Maurice.



Hazel nut nibbled by dormouse - surface of the round hole is smooth with deep grooves running round it and there are tooth marks on the surface of the nut around the hole.

Riverside Garden Award (continued from front page)

The idea of having a garden at the Mill originated some 5 years ago from a suggestion made by Margaret that the grounds should be tidied up as a W.I. Environment Week activity. Margaret subsequently offered to keep the grounds tidy and later suggested the idea of the garden. WDC favoured the idea and suggested she liaise with the High Wycombe Society who had

restored the Mill to working order. Margaret has never had a garden of her own but makes up for this by treating Pann Mill garden as if it were her own spending many hours working there. Margaret also works on the Group's wildlife gardens at the Museum and West Wycombe Garden Centre and keeps about 6 gardens tidy for elderly ladies.

Roger Wilding.

Congratulations Margaret - keep up the good work.

Welcoming

WILDLIFE

TO THEIR GARDENS

Gleanings from the WyUWG 1993 wildlife gardening competition.

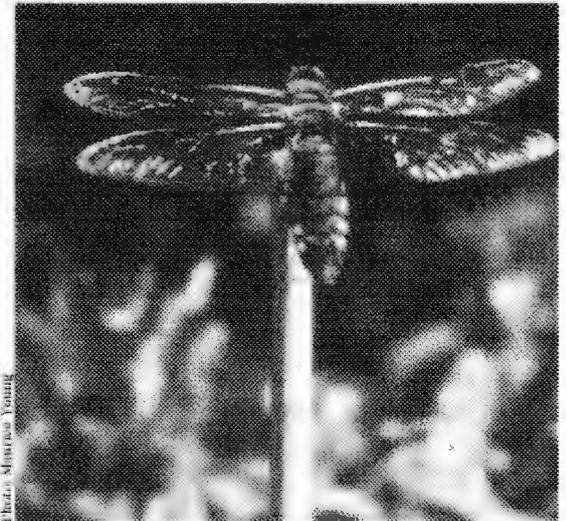
Although only nine gardens were entered in our wildlife gardening competition each one taught us something about gardening for wildlife.

It can not be stated often enough that a pond is the greatest asset a wildlife garden can have. However small, a pond attracts wildlife like a magnet. The gardens we visited had small to medium sized ponds but they all have had frogs, and one of the smaller ponds newts, breeding in them as well as a variety of aquatic insects like the beautiful dragonfly pictured here (right). This insect, we were told and observed, appreciates tall garden canes on which to perch so, perhaps, to encourage dragonflies you should stake your dahlias as well as putting in a garden pond. Several 'liner' ponds seem to have produced a good crop of froglets this year. All the plants around one pond, to which I was called this year, had masses of froglets sheltering under them - emphasizing the importance of the whole habitat for the breeding and survival of wildlife. For amphibians it is not just a pond that is essential for their survival, they must have an area, sheltered by plants around the pond where the froglets can emerge in safety and, of course, a larger area of land around this into which the tiny frogs can disperse to feed and grow to maturity. This is why I was called in.

However small, a pond attracts wildlife like a magnet

Problems of safety of ponds for children and wildlife were solved.

Few could be expected to survive in the surrounding gardens so I transferred about 100 to our new pond in the Sheepridge Nature Reserve and a few to the wildlife garden pond we have set up at West Wycombe Garden Centre.

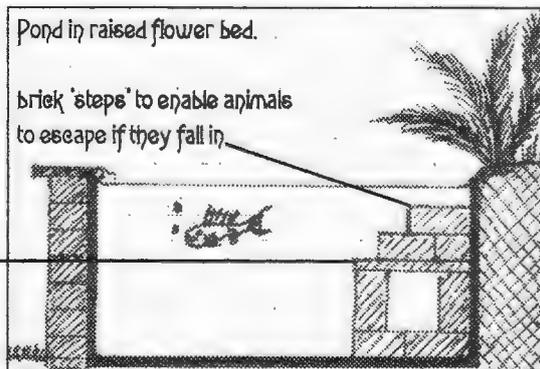


Sun glinting on the wings of the broad-bodied chaser dragonfly perched on a garden cane in Angela Colmer's garden.

The problem of safety of ponds for families with young children was solved admirably by one contestant. He (Dad) had built a raised bed, about half a metre high along one fence and had incorporated a water tank in it as a pond. It is shoulder high to the youngsters so there is no danger of them rushing around and falling in and they do not play in that part of the garden unless their parents are with them.

Thought was also given for the safety of wildlife for, although hedgehogs can swim many drown in steep sided ponds made from water tanks or plastic boxes. Thus a shallow area had been made at one end using bricks as shown in the drawing. This shelf will also accommodate pots of marginal plants.

Most unexpected and perhaps the biggest surprise was a beautiful little garden tucked away behind a terrace of houses in the oldest part of the town. On the day we visited bright sunlight emphasized the contrast between the narrow, tarmac grey street and the colourful, small gardens behind these drear frontages. The garden backed onto the river and management of the river bank beyond the garden greatly benefited the wildlife associated with it. Maurice.



Paving stone 'shelf' supported on bricks to create a 'cave' - cover for pond occupants and reduces water displaced.

Visiting

WYCOMBE'S

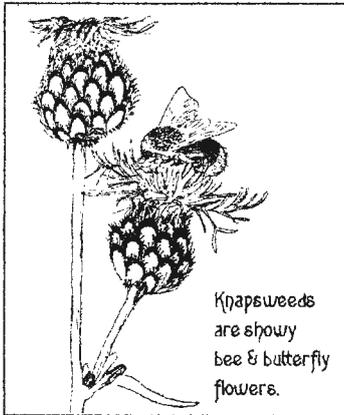
WILDLIFE GARDENS

Many had taken advantage of natural features close by.

Get the plants right - and the wildlife will follow.

Gardens need more native plants, especially 'cottage garden' plants

Thank you very much to all who entered - keep on gardening and encourage and inspire your friends to enter next year.



Knapsweeds are showy bee & butterfly flowers.

- all contained so much more of interest than conventional gardens and repaid careful observation. As a garden designer, I was especially interested in the provision of varying kinds of habitat and how these were combined with all the demands of a home garden - enjoyment, children, vegetables, pets, livestock - to make a beautiful and varied environment.

All the gardens we saw were very individual, much loved and used. Many had taken advantage of natural features close by, the River Wye, pieces of established hedgerow and woodland, to extend & develop the plant life &, consequently, the wildlife of their gardens.

It is with the plants that you need to start - get them right, i.e. establish as many native plants as possible suited to your soil and situation, plus a range of garden plants to attract and feed bees, butterflies and birds, then other wildlife will follow.

Some of the gardens needed more native plants, especially 'cottage garden' flowers - the biennials and herbs so useful for insects and with so much colour and scent. The little garden in the centre of Wycombe, which Maurice mentioned, was an excellent example of a colourful wildlife

I really enjoyed visiting all the gardens in the Wildlife Garden Competition

garden. Thanks to Glyn Onione those who took part in the competition will be able to increase their stock of plants. They should look especially for 'high-summer' flowers, because so many wild and cottage garden flowers are finish by mid July. Suitable July/August flowering plants include:

toadflax (*Linaria* sp.), the evening primroses, mulleins, red valerian, scabious, knapweeds, annual and perennial sunflowers and, of course Michaelmas daisies. All are attractive to bees, butterflies and hoverflies.

Other gardens we saw were in the process of development - an exciting stage when the pleasure is in the anticipation! I look forward to seeing

the results in a year or two, I am sure they will bring great pleasure. Some of the gardens did not have the advantage of a 'wild' area close by, but were surrounded by other gardens,



Brimstone feeding on scabious. Wild and cultivated scabious are attractive garden perennials and good butterfly plants.

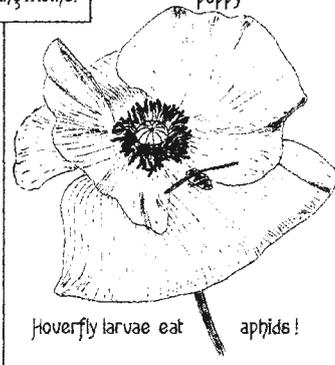
Evening primroses attract night-flying moths.

Hoverfly taking pollen from a poppy

not so conducive to wildlife. Their owners had to work a little harder, and wait a little longer, to attract and establish wildlife. Both winning gardens show how a successful

and attractive wildlife garden can be made within a conventional garden setting.

Sue Goss.



Hoverfly larvae eat aphids!

Thank you very much, Sue, for giving your time for judging the competition, and for your helpful comments. -- Ed.

A Day Out at Little Wittenham Nature Reserve.

Little Wittenham Nature Reserve lies on the River Thames, 10 miles south of Oxford. Established in 1982, it is owned by the Northmoor Trust and consists of 400 acres of woodland, grassland, riverbank and wetland.

We left Bassetsbury aboard a mini-bus, arriving at 10.40 a.m. at the reserve. Weather bright and clear. We were ushered into a converted barn, where our hosts for the day, John and Julia Sargent gave us tea and an informal talk before leading us to the reserve.

Our first stop was at a pond, which had been full of frogs earlier in the season. We then walked down to the banks of the Thames to see the rare Loddon Lily passing pollarded willows on the way. The bank is eroded as a result of people and dogs playing in the water so, as the club-tailed dragonfly (*Gomphus vulgatissimus*) breeds here, a fence has been put in to protect the marginal plants which the dragonfly nymphs need, as they crawl up them when they leave the water.

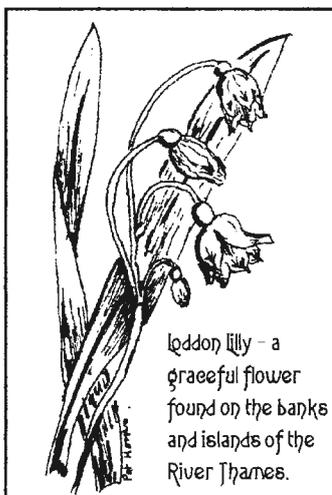
We then climbed gradually up a bank - an ideal area for scabious, salad burnet, cowslips and comfrey. Higher still we saw Day's look - the keeper here raises money for life boats by running pooh-sticks competitions here!

A mountain biker cycled over The Clump on the horizon. Yes! this is permitted, but on paths only. Passing another pond we entered woodland. This was a particularly pretty walk, bordered by conifers and with many wild flowers and fungi. Most of the conifers are being felled and coppicing of broad-leaved species is being introduced to encourage wildlife. After the 'great crested newt' pond and other ponds Julia showed us badger holes, which I really enjoyed, having never seen any before.

We climbed out of the top of the wood to a beautiful panoramic view, stretching as far as the Cotswolds, with Dorchester village and the Didcot Power Station below. The character of the Clumps is being restored by planting beech trees so in coming years the familiar skyline will be preserved.

Following the hill down back to the Centre we passed Suffolk Cross, Oxford Down and other sheep grazing to encourage wild flowers. After a pub lunch we climbed back onto the mini-bus to return to Wycombe after a truly interesting day out.

Fiona Gosnell.



Loddon lily - a graceful flower found on the banks and islands of the River Thames.

What did we learn at Little Wittenham

?

Read on.



Ponds at Grange Farm

It is nearly two and a half years since I reported on the 'pond restoration' at Grange Farm, Widmer End, so here is a progress report.

From memory and photographs taken then the pond is now almost as overgrown as when we arrived that February morning; the willows we cut down have regrown to the same height and the surrounding vegetation is similar, perhaps even thicker.

I have noted in that time that the water level fluctuates from almost dry to almost full and back to dry, a difference of a few feet, in a very short time.

The pond appears to have the usual creatures expected including tadpoles, water beetles and water-boatmen etc. with visiting dragonflies, birds, to drink, and, on one occasion, a pair of mallard.

In February 1991 I noted how polluted a second pond about 150 metres away had become due to run-off from a large manure heap WyUWG expressed concern at the time so I am pleased to report that one end of the pond has recently been built up with earth and half the heap has been removed. The pond now seems to be free of polluting run-off but its currently low level of water reveals a rubbish problem.

Alan Albrow.

Why do we go out of our area ?

No! not for the pub-lunches!

but to learn from others.

How do you convert pooh sticks to lifeboats ?

Beautiful view - Didcot ?

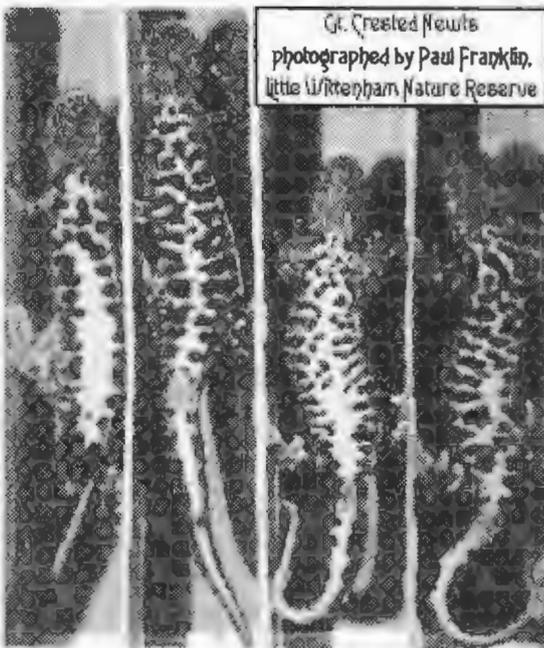
Grazing at Little Wittenham.

There is about 120 acres of chalk grassland at Little Wittenham N.R. To manage this a flock of 200 Suffolk crossed ewes graze the grassland year round. The Reserve also keep 30 Oxford Downs, a rare breed typical of the part of the country.

The main purpose of running sheep on the reserve is to maintain the grassland areas in optimum condition for the wild flowers. The sheep, however, are moved round the reserve so that they don't over graze any areas but do keep the coarse grasses down.

Editor's note:

This was of particular interest as Ian hopes to introduce grazing on Sands Bank. WyUWg Vice-Chairman, Angus Idle and other Group members, have been surveying Sands Bank weekly this summer so that the effects of any grazing can be monitored.



Surveying Newts

Little Wittenham N.R. has around 3000 great crested newts, one of the largest populations in the country. They breed in two woodland ponds from March to July, living in surrounding woodland for the rest of the year. Research into their terrestrial ecology began in 1988 and continues today.

Population estimates, sex ratios and preferred terrestrial habitat have been studied using pit-fall traps. Early in the year, Jan/Feb, circular areas in various

parts of the woodland are enclosed in netting about 4 inches high. Any newts emerging later in the year in the netted areas are caught in pit-fall traps set at the edge of the nets. The traps are checked twice a day for newts which are counted, sexed, measured and their bellies photographed before they are released. Their belly patterns are very distinctive and each one is different so, like our finger prints, can be used to identify individual newts. Researchers used to photocopy the newts but thanks to a grant from the Vincent Wildlife Trust researchers at Little Wittenham now photograph them in colour.

Editor's note:

There are great crested newts in Wycombe District so ideas gleaned from our visit are of great value. If members are interested in surveying Wycombe's ponds for newts a course, to enable them to gain a licence to handle them, may be arranged.

Half-barrel ponds

We acquired a half barrel early last year and created an instant pond. That first May, common blue damselflies mated in tandem and laid eggs on the water weed. Throughout last winter and this spring we watched the nymphs skulking in the mud at the bottom of the pond until mid-May/June this year when they crawled up plant stems to leave the water. Within minutes of the section behind the head splitting damselflies had emerged to dry for an hour before helicoptering away.

We must have had 50 (8 or 9 a day some days); what they had all fed on as nymphs is a bit of a mystery. We have only seen blue ones (males) and the only mating observed this year was that of a green female in our other small pond which is about 4 years old and never had damselflies near let alone laying eggs.

This success, I am sure, is due to the position of the tub in full sun for much of the day and the fact that we had not introduced tadpoles. The other pond is in shade much of the day and has masses of frog introduced tadpoles.

So, if you have a small garden, and do not want the bother of digging a pond, a tub or half barrel is ideal. You can sit in a chair by it and watch its wildlife at your level and in comfort. Alan Albrow.

Great crested newts, like dormice and bats, are protected by law and you must have a licence from English Nature to handle them.

Yet more ponds

Choose your half barrel with care one of our wildlife garden competition contestants had problems making hers hold water.

Natural or artificial ponds do best in the sun - a sunny patio is just the place for a half barrel pond.

Safe for children too!

Questions and answers

Hilary Hide asks:

We've just got tadpoles and frogs in our small garden pond, no fish, but we have got some plants. Should we feed the tadpoles?

Are birds fussy about clean bath water? Our visiting blackbirds and mistle thrush, in particular, often hop round the edge of the water bath on the ground if the water is dirty or low.

I have seen bats flying round our house in the last few weeks as they have done in the past. Would they come from far away and how far do they fly each night?

Is there a shortage of hedgehogs this year? We haven't seen any for weeks and there are few road casualties locally.

What are the transparent, grub like objects sticking to the underside of water lily leaves?

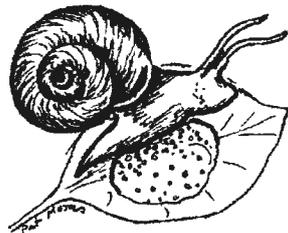
It is not necessary to feed them if there are plenty of plants. Young tadpoles feed on algae and soft plant tissue. As they grow they may feed on dead fish or tadpoles! You could supplement their food supply with little pieces of meat but this will foul the pond water and probably kill them all off. They are best left to their own devices.

Birds are not generally fussy about the condition of water they use for drinking or bathing. We have seen them bathing in water absolutely brown from other birds. It could be that your water is too low for them to use or they may be looking for worms and slugs present because of the damp conditions. I (Maurice) top my bird bath up daily, if I remember! and the blackbird often comes shortly after and bathes showering the water everywhere. Neither Arthur nor I (Pat) ever have crows bathing which spend much of their time in the tree tops observing all that is going on, so it is not surprising that they often come down, when the bird bath is full, to dunk food or bathe as Hilary also observed in her letter.

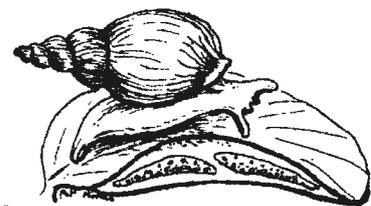
Not an easy question to answer. How do you follow a dark colour bat at night? Phil Richardson and his colleagues have come up with the answer, as was graphically described on a radio wildlife programme earlier this year. They stick little chemi-luminescent capsules on Daubenton's bats caught over the Grand Union Canal. The bats are then released and can be 'seen' as little green lights flying up and down the canal. Some flew up to 3 miles from their roost to their feeding territories. Daubenton's feed over water so with long, narrow ribbons of water like canals not all the members of a large colony can feed close to the roost so some have to fly a fair distance to feed. Bats feeding over lakes or in woodland or urban habitats may not have to fly so far to their feeding territory but until someone sticks some little lights on them we won't know the answer.

Members I have questioned agree, but why not ask expert Dr. Pat Morris when he gives his talk on dormice on October 29th. at Beaconsfield. Your question, however brings to mind another Natural History Programme in which a researcher tracking radio-tagged hedgehogs reported that several of tagged hedgehogs were eaten by badgers. If badger numbers increase and they spread into new territories on the edge of town, numbers of hedgehogs might be expected to decline in those areas. We have still got a lot to learn about factors controlling animal numbers, even familiar animals like the hedgehog.

These are the egg masses of water snails. The long, sausage shaped ones are from the great pond snail, the rounder blobs are those of the ramshorn snail.



Ramshorn snail and egg mass



Great pond snail with its egg masses on underside of leaf.

Answers to questions from WyUWG Member, Hilary Hide were compiled by Pat Morris in conjunction with Arthur Brown of Bucks Bird Club and Maurice Young.

Communications from the Chair

WyUWG does not lack ideas - the Wildlife Garden Competition and Demonstration Wildlife Garden are only two of the ideas that have become reality this summer. However, what it has lacked is support at its functions, and this has caused the committee to take a long hard look at itself and the Group's activities.

Poor support is not a problem confined to WyUWG. At an Urban Nature Day held at Bassetsbury Manor on June 19th. 1993 other wildlife groups had similar complaints. It is perhaps a reflection on the present economic climate, and people are less willing to help secure the natural environment while their own is under threat.

One way of increasing support is by increasing membership and this we hope to do with your help - see the Notice Board! (p.s. it's on the back page) Our new Membership Secretary, James Donald, also has ideas on attracting new members.

One way of getting viable numbers for activities is to hold joint events. So, with their agreement, we are holding joint walks with BBONT, Bucks Bird Club and Bucks Archaeological Society. There will be no talks by outside speakers this autumn. After consistently making losses, albeit small ones, at all the talks this year so far, we shall only invite local experts connected with our Group for informal "friendship" evenings. These will replace alternate Planning Meetings, so will be held bi-monthly and, hopefully, have a more user-friendly atmosphere, and a greater social emphasis.

We will continue our committed programme of practical conservation tasks and local surveys.

Just as Jo Hale is leaving, fresh help has arrived and we are most fortunate to have secured the services of ANDY CORREY and GRAHAM EADIE.

Andy is confident he can find the support needed among the wider public. In the meantime, we will keep a sharp eye on all those ideas, and attempt only those for which we have the available manpower.

We wish Jo a happy and successful future as full-time Conservation Instructor at Berkshire College, and thank her for her hard work and dedication while contracted to WyUWG. We hope to see her occasionally, when she can spare the time.

My personal thanks to all those who have supported me so loyally and cheerfully. Pat Morris.

1993 AGM - Report.

The AGM was held at Bassetsbury Manor at 8 p.m. on Monday, 19th. April 1993.

The Chairman's report confirmed the successes of the Group on the ground, and the Treasurer indicated that the Group was on a firm financial footing for its work to continue apace in 1993/94.

In her absence, the Chairman read the Project Co-ordinator's report outlining the highlights of the Group's work over the year.

The majority of officers and ordinary committee members were re-elected and ex-officio members representing BTCV, NT, & WDC will also continue as will the Project Co-ordinator, on a consultancy basis!

James Donald was elected to serve as Membership Secretary.

Two matters were discussed under A.O.B. One resulted in a heated discussion about the level of membership fees and entry fees to events held, and the other, equally heated, was about the fate of management of Bellfield Pit, now the housing construction is nearing completion. Decisions on both were deferred to the next planning meeting, allowing in the case of Bellfield Pit, further possibilities to be explored.

During a break for tea, a number of members purchased WyUWG sweat shirts and items of pottery. The latter, bearing transfers of wildlife subjects, were made by the Chairman's sister. Both were well received and added to the Group's funds.

After a break, there was a very informal quiz on the identification of a variety of wild flowers, hosted by Vice-Chairman, Angus Idle. This produced much humour and many totally incorrect answers, but I am sure everyone came away with at least some small nuggets of new knowledge about the subjects in question! Thank you, Angus, for a challenging quiz Sue Haines.

COPY DATE: 26th. November 1993.
Send to Pat Morris, 30 Amersham Hill Drive, High Wycombe, HP13 6 QY.

Gripes

Lack of support at functions - but we're not the only ones.

h h h h h

BORING ?

NO !



We have a 'fun' slide show and quiz at our AGMs and a social get-to-gether. +G:D+D+

Passions ran high

Welcome to Andy Correy our new Project Co-ordinator and Graham Eadie.

WILDLIFE NOTICE BOARD

DID YOU SEE ?



April

Red-legged partridge
Flackwell Heath, garden.

May

Tree pipit - Mop End.

June

Mullein moth larvae,
Hughenden Allotments.
Stag beetle - Flackwell Heath, garden.
Wild lily-of-the-valley, Tyler's Green.
White-letter hairstreak, Mop End N.R.

July

14/07/93, 11 p.m: 33 glow-worms
BBONT evening walk, Gomm Valley.
Narrow-lipped helleborine orchids
Hollowhill Wood, Marlow.

Late July/August

Little Marlow Gravel Pits:
Common Sandpiper, 6 Terns,
2 Tufted Duck broods, 2 turtle doves but
no partridges in the pear tree.

The WyllWG contact list:

Chairman & Newsletter Editor:
Pat Morris, 0494 529484
Secretary: Roger Wilding, 0494 438374
Programme Secretary:
Frances Wilding, 0494 438374
Treasurer: Sue Haines, 0628 532334
Membership Secretary:
James Donald, 0494 439840
Project Co-ordinator: Andy Correy, 0494 536930
Biological Surveys: Angus Idle, 0494 563673
Education Officer & Assistant Editor:
Maurice Young, 0628 472000

Use the enclosed
MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET
to recruit a new member

Our grateful thanks to
SARAH & ANDREW of FIRST DATA
for the production of our previous newsletter

NAMES OF CONTACTS FOR WILDLIFE GROUPS IN WYCOMBE DISTRICT

BC	Butterfly Conservation	Ron Beaven	0494 444158
BTCU	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers		
	Buckinghamshire Office / County Officer	Martin Jakes	0296 383393
	Wycombe Office - The Countryside Centre	Andrew Lyon	0494 536930
BBONT	Berks, Bucks & Oxon Naturalists' Trust	Maurice Young	0628 472000
BBC	Bucks Bird Club	Arthur Brown	0628 604769
FOE	Friends of the Earth	Lyn Jack	0494 447680
EN	English Nature	Frances Richmond	0635 268881
SWS	Saunderton Wildlife Sanctuary	Margaret Baker	0844 342188
StJw	St. TiggYWinkles	Les Stocker	0844 292292
SL	Swan Lifeline	Tim Heron	0753 859397
T&ChS	Thames & Chiltern Herpetological Society	Tom Burgess	0494 815319
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature	Valerie Lambourne	0494 443761
WyllWG	Wycombe Urban Wildlife Group	Pat Morris	0494 529484

For other groups contact the Countryside Centre
If you have enquiries about BADGERS contact the BBONT Aylesbury Office 0296 433222
and if you have any enquiries about BATS contact The Countryside Centre 0494 536930