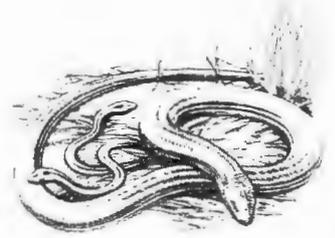


SAVE  
COMMON WOOD



Issue 41

**W  
I  
L  
D  
L  
I  
F  
E**

**GREY SQUIRRELS**

- YOU EITHER LOVE THEM OR HATE THEM



**REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

- WHERE ARE THEY , LET US KNOW

**SHEEPRIDGE POND REVISITED**

- RESTORED TO ITS FORMER GLORY.

**IVY**

“I DON'T BELIEVE IT”

- NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T



**REPORTS:**

- MEMBERS MEETING
- SAVE COMMON WOOD
- HOW TO HELP SPARROWS
- WINTER FARMLAND WALK
- BACKYARD BIODIVERSITY DAY

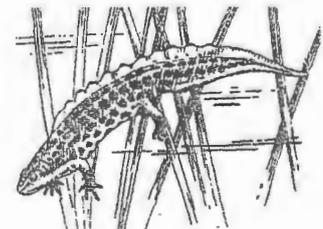


**WYCOMBE WATCH REPORTS**

**WEB & EMAIL ADDRESSES**

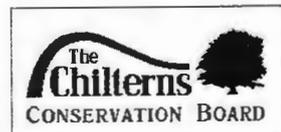
**NOTICE BOARD**

- DID YOU SEE ?
- CONTACT LIST - YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS



**APRIL  
2003**

Telephone : See the WWG  
contact list on back page  
Registered Charity No : 1075175



Address : WWG, C/O  
73, Carver Hill Road  
High Wycombe, HP11 2UB

**Wycombe 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 plants and animal life in such areas and to promote the education of the public in matters pertaining to wildlife and its conservation.

Within **Wycombe District** the Group aims to :

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

(A detailed copy of the aims of the group is available on request)

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

**Editor:** Pat Morris

**Produced by:** Maurice Young

**Illustrations by:**

E. Golding, Frances Wilding, Maurice Young, Nova Clip Art.

Printed by :

**Design & Print**  
**Wycombe District Council**

**\*\* COPY DATE \*\***  
Friday, 1 AUGUST 2003

Wycombe Wildlife Group  
is a Registered Charity  
Reg. Charity no : 1075175

## - IN THIS ISSUE -

Editorial & Welcome to	Ivy	34	Backyard Biodiversity	37
new members	"I don't believe it" !!	30	Wildlife Watch Report	
Grey Squirrels	Reports: Members meeting	31		38 - 39
Amphibians & Reptiles of	Save Common Wood		www. & e-mails addresses	
Buckinghamshire	Help sparrows	32	Membership Form	39
Sheepridge Pond	Winter Farmland Walk	33	<b>Wildlife Notice Board</b>	

## Editorial : The Importance of Records

Each day for more than two months I have been delighted by a flock of siskins, all attracted to my garden by my nyjer seed feeder (Nyjer is a black thistle-like seed, related to the sunflower, and adored by goldfinches). The siskins, and any other bird species present have all been duly counted and recorded on survey forms for three different organizations.

Recording has become an ever more important activity. Records have revealed, for example, that not only are farmland birds in serious decline, but a number of woodland birds also: e.g. Marsh Tit (-62%) Willow tit (-78%) and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (-62%). Their names are now on the Red List, while another, the Lesser Redpoll (-95%) is among four others on the Amber List. Interestingly, of the ten species doing well in woodland, eight appear regularly in my garden.

Records supply scientific evidence, and do not merely rely on people's impressions. The House Sparrow really has declined; numbers counted in gardens prove it. A new BTO survey hopes to provide a pointer as to why.

Casual records of flora and fauna, not necessarily kept for a specific purpose, can also suddenly assume importance. Those retained by Wycombe Wildlife Group from Common Wood have now been added to already existing data to assist the Penn and Tylers Green Residents' Society in their bid for Heritage Lottery Funding, with respect to the purchase of part of Common Wood. Other records held by Angus Idle, of species-rich hedgerows in Hughenden could now help to preserve the current state of the area. These records were originally the result of a campaign to identify such hedgerows. Their usefulness, only three years after the campaign, could not have been foreseen. Angus is now busy organising another ecological survey at Little Marlow.

My siskins will soon depart, well-fed, to their summer breeding grounds, and I shall start my House Sparrow survey. Who knows what records they will provide, but the certainty is that they will give me a lot of pleasure, and perhaps help to uncover the reason for this previously undervalued bird's decline.

*Pat Morris*

We welcome the following new members, who have joined this year :

Dr Alan Showler, Mr Tom Barnes, Mr & Mrs Alan and Juliet Gudge,  
Mr David Dyson, Ms Jenny Bottrill, Mrs Pat Dancer.

and look forward to meeting them at future events.

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.

## Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus Carolinensis*)

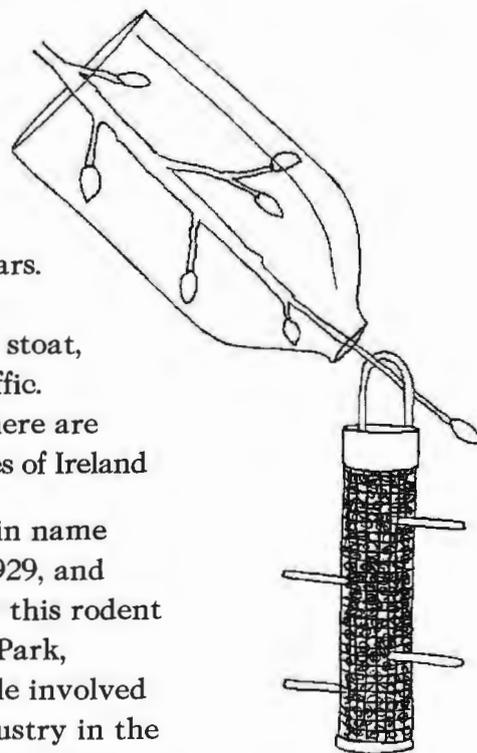
The Grey Squirrel is one of the most familiar mammals in Britain. Here in Wycombe, it occurs in all our parks, gardens and woodland.

Some people hold it in great affection, even feeding it, but others dislike its presence, for the harm it can do to trees, garden plants, nesting birds and bird feeders

Here is part of what Chris Ryde from WDC Ranger Service has to say about squirrels.



Size of adult	25-30cm (10-12in) over head and body; 20-22cm (8-9in) along tail.
Weighs	about 500g (17oz) females slightly less.
Breeding season	Jan-July.
Gestation period	42 to 45 days
No. of young	average 3, range 1-7
Lifespan	Known to live 8-9 years, but less than 1% reach more than 6 years.
Food	bark of oak, beech, acorns, nuts, fungi.
Predators	birds of prey, wild cat; casual hunters : stoat, pine marten, fox; control by man : traffic.
Distribution	throughout England & Wales where there are trees; lowland Scotland & central counties of Ireland

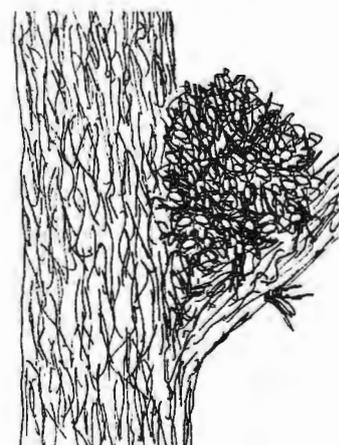


The Grey Squirrel is a native of eastern North America, as its Latin name indicates. It was first introduced into Britain between 1877 & 1929, and since then has colonized most areas. Little progress was made by this rodent until the beginning of World War 1 when it spread from Woburn Park, Bedfordshire, into Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. The people involved in harvesting the beech woods for the then thriving furniture industry in the Wycombe District must have been horrified by the damage it can do. The beech woods around Wycombe are an ideal habitat for the grey squirrel, for not only do they enjoy stripping bark from these trees and eating the beech-mast, but the small twigs of the beech with attached leaves make ideal material for drey building

Two kinds of nest are made. One is the winter drey, also used for a nursery. Here the young are born. It is constructed of interwoven, leafy twigs, domed and usually in the angle between a branch and the trunk. It is lined with leaves, bark, moss or grass and especially honeysuckle bark. The summer drey is a leafy platform built out on the branches

Attempts have been made in the past to eradicate the grey squirrel, but have failed, largely due to the squirrel's ability to conceal itself within the cover of trees. Baited hoppers laced with poison are presently used to control numbers. If you would like to see Chris's whole article, and his "Tails of the Unexpected" - visit our web site

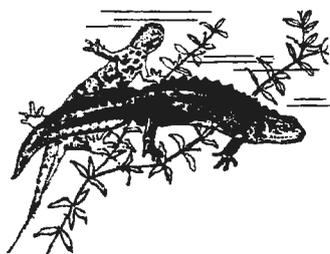
If you have problems with Squirrels damaging your bird feeders, illustrated in the margin above, is an idea passed on by Frances Wilding, which, so far, has been highly successful.



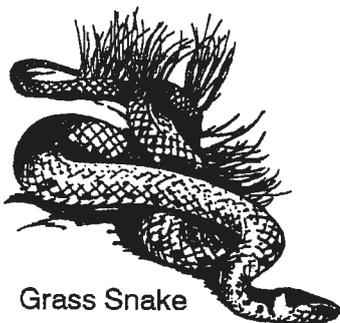
A squirrel's drey in the fork of a tree

## REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

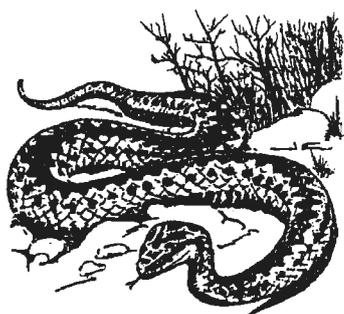
During his excellent talk on Ponds at Beaconsfield in February Rod D'Ayala announced that the Northmoor Trust is carrying out an amphibian survey in Oxfordshire and that they would like to extend it to Bucks and Berks and below he explains why these surveys are required.



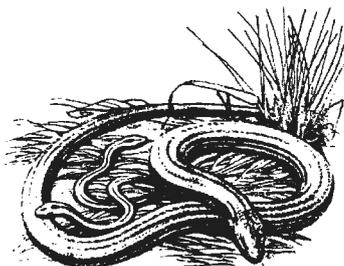
Great Crested Newt  
*Triturus cristatus*



Grass Snake  
*Natrix natrix*



Adder  
*Vipera berus*



Slow-worm  
*Anguis fragilis*

There are four common native species of reptile found in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, the Common Lizard (*Lacerta vivipera*) and Slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*), Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) and Adder (*Vipera berus*) - and five common species of amphibian, the Common Frog (*Rana temporaria*), Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*), Great Crested Newt (*Triturus cristatus*), Smooth or Common Newt (*Triturus vulgaris*) and Palmate Newt (*Triturus helveticus*). Occasionally other non-native species may be found, for example escaped or illegally released Terrapins.

Most species are easily recognised if clearly seen, however many casual records remain unconfirmed because all that was seen was a fleeting glimpse of an escaping tail or a "plop" of an amphibian as it drops below the surface of a pond. Problems arise with records for reptiles and snakes due to the popular misconception, that any legless wriggling reptile has to be an Adder.

Reptiles and amphibians are not the most popular groups of animals and have been neglected by most recorders. This has not been helped by the fact that reptiles, particularly snakes, have had a poor press in the past -

although this reputation is entirely undeserved. Consequently, relatively little is known about their distribution in Bucks and the neighbouring counties. Very few records are received, which for such a relatively easy group of animals to identify might seem surprising.

This lack of records is in part explained by their secretive nature and preference for quiet undisturbed places. But, there must be many casual observations made during the course of other surveys, which never find their way into the record system. However, there are so few records for some species (even from apparently suitable sites such as nature reserves) that there is some concern that, like a lot of other wildlife, they have suffered serious declines and are now genuinely uncommon or rare. For this reason the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust are carrying out a survey in the three counties. The Northmoor Trust are carrying out the survey in Oxfordshire and I am happy to extend our survey to Buckinghamshire and will be pleased to receive ANY records you have, current or historical for ALL species.

Rod D'Ayala

### REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN SURVEY RECORDING FORMS

As Rod has explained above the Northmoor Trust's survey was initially set up for Oxfordshire but he is keen to extend it to Bucks and has provided me with a copy of the record form so I can duplicate it and

send it to anyone wishing to take part in the survey.

If you would like to take part in the survey contact me for a survey form. Maurice Young (01628 472000)

## SHEEPRIDGE POND RESTORED

Some ten years ago when we created Sheepridge Nature Reserve on the land between Sheepridge Lane and the Little Marlow Cemetery, one of the main tasks was to build a pond. The result was a great success, providing much wildlife interest. Unfortunately, the pond liner became damaged at one end, resulting in a low water level even in wet weather.

Last year I was approached by one of the local Parish Councillors, who asked if we would be restoring the pond and I said I would like to if we could obtain the necessary funding. A follow-up site visit and submission of estimated costs resulted in Little Marlow Parish Council considering and agreeing to fund the restoration project. I then contacted Earthworks Conservation Volunteers to arrange for their help with this major undertaking.

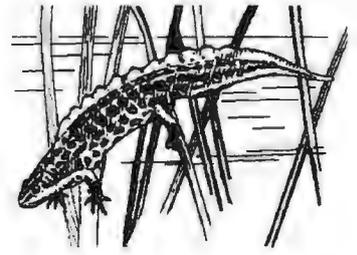
On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November work commenced and the whole of that morning was spent digging out the existing vegetation which had formed a tight matted mass in the remaining mud and water. The next stage was to improve the shape of the original pond, removing some of the former steep banks. By mid-afternoon

we were ready to line the pond with old carpets to protect the expensive rubber liner which was manoeuvred carefully into position. It's amazing how much a 36ft by 30ft liner weighs.

At last we were ready to fill the pond with water and, using some 360 ft of garden hose connected to the cemetery tap, the slow flow started. A total of 30 hours was taken up getting the water high enough to determine the levels of the pond edges, and a second work party was needed to finish off the task. The liner edges were buried and some of the vegetation, both on the land around the pond, and in the shallow water was replaced. It is now up to Mother Nature to complete the task of restoring the pond back to its former glory.

I would like to record my thanks to Little Marlow Parish Council for funding the task, to Earthworks Conservation Volunteers and to James Donald for their help with the hard work, and to the Ranger Service for transporting the carpets and pond liner to the site for us. All of the above played a vital part in enabling this project to be undertaken.

*Roger Wilding*



Common Newt  
*Triturus vulgaris*

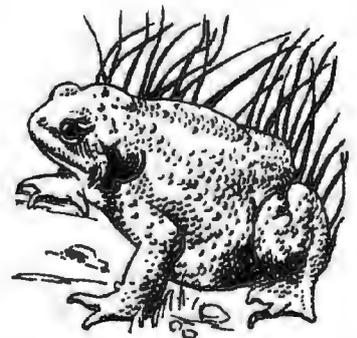


Common Lizard  
*Lacerta vivipera*



Photograph : Roger Wilding

The Sheepridge pond, restored and filled



Common Toad  
*Bufo bufo*

## Ivy (*Hedera helix*)



Underside of a climbing ivy stem showing the adventitious roots and the 5-lobed leaf



Close-up of the adventitious roots of ivy stem above showing the felt-like covering of tiny hairs.

It provides the last main source of nectar & pollen for bees to top up their winter resources

In view of our concern, expressed in the previous newsletters, of the loss of the ivy from the wall of our Wildlife Garden at the West Wycombe Garden Centre I have been asked to write something about ivy.

From our wildlife gardening team's observations ivy clad walls make good nesting sites for some birds and, I suspect, it is a good place for those butterflies that over-winter as adults to hibernate - as it must be for many other insects

The climbing stems of ivy, which bear the typical palmate, 3-5 lobed leaves, can climb almost any vertical surface as they produce many tiny, adventitious roots that will stick tenaciously to brick or bark. (The term adventitious is used for structures that develop in an unexpected position - in the majority of plants, roots do not grow out of the side of stems). These roots are only produced from the side of stems that touch the hard surface of the wall or tree. Although these roots will grow into any cracks and crevices that occur in the wall or bark they will not penetrate solid brick or wood and they do not produce any chemicals to attack the mortar of a wall. Problems only develop if the bricks of the wall are already weathering and flaking, when the weight of the ivy might pull flakes of brick off.

Close examination with a hand-lens shows these roots to be covered with a mass of tiny hairs (above left). I suspect these are modified root hairs but without young, growing roots, a microscope, and laboratory facilities I cannot tell. When young, root hairs are very malleable and mould themselves around soil particles, so, if these hairs are similar they would mould themselves to the rough brick or bark surface. Thus, when they dry and die, they would remain stuck to the surface. Normal root hairs are very delicate and usually only last a few days.

The fact that the hairs on the adventitious roots of ivy can still be seen (February) suggests they may undergo some chemical change similar to the cells in the outer layers of the bark so that, although they are dead, they do not shrivel up.

A healthy tree can support a mass of ivy but, as one contributor to Richard Mabey's *Flora Britannica* puts it, "In a gale a tree that is heavily laden with ivy is like a fully-rigged ship, unable to lower its sails. Over it goes!" This is not to say that every ivy-laden tree should be felled for these ivy-blanketed trees and walls are a unique habitat.

Conservationists think that ivy-clad trees and walls are valuable habitats - such value judgments should, however, be based on fact, not gut feeling. This is where you could help. Have you any ivy-clad trees or walls in your garden? Do any birds nest in the ivy? Next winter have a look to see if you can find any hibernating butterflies and moths and other insects under the ivy - but try not to disturb them! Send me your observations and, if I get sufficient data, I will write a report in the newsletter next year.

Some facts about ivy, however, are already known and well documented. For instance: the young buds of the developing flowers of ivy are food for the second brood of the Holly Blue butterfly and the flowers are a vital source of nectar for late-flying insects. One apiculturalist comments in *Flora Britannica* that "it (ivy) provides the last main source of nectar and pollen for bees to top up their winter resources". What insects have you seen nectaring on ivy in the late autumn?

The fruits ripen late in the year, what birds feed on them? *Maurice*



## I Don't Believe It !!!

At the BBOWT South Bucks January meeting WWG member, Bob Raper was very complimentary about the last Autumn newsletter and we had a deep discussion about digital cameras, scanners and the associated software. This led on to how I had manipulated the pictures. The most "changed" pictures were those of Jonathan and the Japanese Councillor. Here, in addition to increasing the contrast of the pictures to improve the printing quality I had traced round their figures with the selection tool and then cut them out of the picture. I was



then able with a couple of clicks (or so) of the mouse to fade the remaining background of these pictures. I then put (pasted) the figures back into their respective pictures and, as expected they stand out very clearly in the illustrations in the newsletter. You can see the difference in the pictures of Jonathan above.

This was a great improvement on the original and, I am sure you will agree, this sort of manipulation is acceptable. But, as Bob and I went on to discuss, it is amazing what you can do on a computer with affordable versions of photo manipulating software - what might be possible with the professional versions? !!



Looking though my digital photographs this week end I thought the one on the left, above would be ideal to demonstrate the "extraction" method (i.e. extraction of unwanted detail or persons). Can you spot the differences between the left hand, original picture and the one on the right? (sorry no prizes!)

But you can also make "additions" !! How about the picture to the right? A spoonbill and a young grizzly bear in the river at Marlow? And is that the elusive big cat of Bucks? All rather obvious like the S. American Indians paddling the canoe and the meercats. But what about the egret, which is far less obvious, did you spot it?

Perhaps I should not have written this because if I do discover the Bucks big cat in Gomm Valley and get a photograph of it no one will believe me !

*Maurice*



## Reports - Members' Meeting 10/2/03



(Photograph: Roger Wilding)

### *Clathrus archeri*

The arms of this strange fungus are dark pink (the whitish areas in this picture)

It is a native of Australia but became naturalised in the UK & Europe last century.

15 members gathered at the Environment Centre on Holywell Mead on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2003 for a social evening, and to view one another's slides.

First, Jane Bailey showed her slides of the Chiltern Society Conservation Volunteers at work, and fungi and orchids, seen during Wycombe Wildlife Group walks in 2002.

These were followed by such subjects as an 18 hour new moon, and a majestic elm tree growing at Hughenden, before Dutch Elm Disease struck 30 years ago. They were shown by Angus Idle. Then Roger Wilding showed some of his slides, including the strange *Clathrus archeri* fungus and the rare Lady's Slipper Orchid.

During refreshments, people were

able to see photos from the Group's website, printed out by Roy Morris, & others produced by Stan Armstrong. Then everyone gathered round a TV screen to view Stan's pictures of wild animals visiting his garden at night.

These were captured using a digital camera, infrared, and the surveillance system round his house. There were also images of moths at Downley.

The evening ended with Stan taking a photograph of all those present, himself included, and then showing the picture on the TV screen.

The variety and quality of slides, and the stunning techniques used by Stan in his presentation, made for a most memorable evening. Thanks are due to all those who brought material along, thus contributing to the meeting's huge success. *Pat*

### "Save Common Wood" - Campaign

"Broadleaf" the magazine of the Woodland Trust states, in issue 59, that "within three minutes of moving from an anxiety-ridden situation into woodland, stress levels are visibly lowered". In other words, not only is it important from a bio-diversity point of view to preserve woodland whenever we can, but also from considerations of human health. I know I always feel better once I have stepped into woodland.

Now that Common Wood, a wood I visit often, is under threat of fragmentation, Wycombe Wildlife Group is pleased to support the campaign to save it, by providing practical help and expertise. If you would like to support the Residents' Society's bid for funding, by signing a pledge, a Save Common Wood Campaign form is included with this Newsletter. *Pat*

### How to help House Sparrows - advice from the B.T.O

**A Nesting spaces:** As House Sparrows nest in colonies, either put up several boxes with entrance holes of about 32mm (1.3 inches) or make your own House Sparrow Hotel, see Wildlife News, Issue 36, Sept. 2001, p 56 or visit our web site for details.

**B Food:** Feed all year round, and remember that House Sparrows like to feed in groups. Provide space for birds to feed together

**C Water:** To drink & for bathing. House Sparrows also like dust-bathing

**D Somewhere to hide close to feeding area -** flocks of House Sparrows spend much of the day and night in thick bushes



The BTO web site is worth a visit. Go [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org)

## Report

### Winter farmland walk at Puttenham Estate, Penn

On Saturday 18 January nine of us braved the cold and misty conditions and met up by the pond in Penn for a walk across the Puttenham estate. Walk leader Pat Morris introduced the estate manager Michael Newth-West. He generously gave of his time to describe the type of farmland we would see on our walk and to indicate some of the issues and problems encountered in running the estate. He emphasised the farm's commitment to good conservation practices especially since 1986 when it became part of the Land Heritage Scheme. Plans are already underway to restore and extend hedges, plant hedgerow trees, instigate mowed grass strips around field edges and reduce the use of nitrogen containing fertilisers. Pat asked whether the timing of nettle removal could be managed more sensitively to avoid harming the butterfly larvae that feed on them, and whether the trimming of hedges could be delayed until after the hedgerow fruit had ripened.

After thanking our host we eagerly set off along a path that took us past fields of stubble waiting to be drilled for peas or oilseed rape as part of an 8-year arable rotation. The path took

us past the attractive timber framed house called Puttenham Place.

Pat showed us photographs and notes of the house, its history and environs and pointed out changes she has noticed over recent years including two newly established hedges that provide screening. The establishment of broad grassy rides and the conversion of an old barn to stables provide improved facilities for riders.

Our path took us along a gentle valley towards Penn Bottom returning via the edge of Brook Wood. The keen-eyed amongst us spotted just a few early flowers of scentless mayweed, shepherd's purse, charlock and speedwell. The few birds seen included a great spotted woodpecker, some great tits and long-tailed tits and a male bullfinch.

As the mist cleared some warming sunshine began to reveal some fine views. We reflected how worthwhile it would be to make some return visits at other times of the year to follow the progress of the conservation plans and enjoy the seasonal changes in this beautiful part of Buckinghamshire.

*Robert Raper*

### Backyard Biodiversity Day (ByBdD)

Action for Biology in Education has again joined forces with the Chelsea Physic Garden - London's secret botanic garden - to create an event that brings children face to face with the nature right under their noses. Chris Baines, patron of Backyard Biodiversity Day, says: "It's actually absolutely fundamental to the way that we work as a society, that we have to rediscover the connection between us and nature."

There are 15 million domestic gardens in the UK - an enormous opportunity for young people (& a few older ones) to explore Backyard Biodiversity! Why don't you join in?

For information on activities go to the web site [www.biodiversityday.org](http://www.biodiversityday.org)

Although Backyard Biodiversity Day is on 20<sup>th</sup> June activities will continue over the week-end up to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2003.

*Maurice*



CHARLOCK  
(*Sinapis arvensis*)

The next farmland walk at Puttenham takes

place on

Saturday,

26<sup>th</sup> April 2003

See

Spring Programme for details

Others are planned for July & October

#### SCAN

(Schools & Community agenda 21 Network) are organising a project for ByBdD related to the "girdled snail"

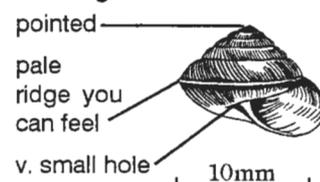
A Mediterranean species, it arrived in Wales in 1950 and has since spread. It was first reported in Bucks in 2001.

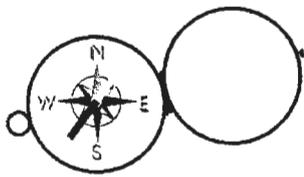
Where has it got to now? Is it in Wycombe District?

The National Museum of Wales wants to know.

For more details schools should go to web site: <http://scan.nmgw.ac.uk/projects.en.shtml>

Drawing below shows characteristics of the girdled snail





Wycombe

wildlife  
WATCH

### December 2002 : The Holly and the Ivy

Our last WATCH meeting of the year was themed by popular request because the activities were enjoyed so much the previous December. We met in the well equipped Education Centre of the Chair Museum in central Wycombe. John, our Wycombe District Council Ranger brought along several sacks of Old Man's Beard, Holly, Ivy, Mistletoe, Pine cones & lots of other treasures. Everybody, including the parents and leaders made at least one Christmas wreath. There was also the chance to make cards and big sheets of wrapping paper using dried leaves as stencils. We drank hot cranberry juice and ate mince pies to suit the festive theme. Thank you Chris, Helen and your little sister, Ross and Kirsty for making this a very enjoyable event.

### January 2003 : Boggarts "They seek them here, They seek them there, WATCH seek them everywhere"

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2003, WATCH was looking for Boggarts - those elusive woodland creatures

We spent a very cold and frosty afternoon making gifts for them, which were of natural materials found around the Rye. When the gifts had been made, they were put at the bottom of trees, to be found when all was quiet and there were no humans around.

We had several visits from some very tame squirrels, that were very interested in exactly what we were up to.

The meeting was very well attended and a running around environmental game was played at the end of the meeting to warm the children

### February 2003 : Orienteering

The WATCH meeting in February was held in Kingswood, & was Orienteering. This meeting was well attended and was really enjoyed by all who came. We all got slightly lost in the wood, but this added to the fun. Unfortunately it would seem that a couple of marker posts had been removed.

We still managed to be back at the start by 4pm - tired and muddy

### Coppice Clearing - March 2003

This meeting was a work party where we were doing real conservation work! Wycombe Wildlife Watch helps the Downley Common Preservation Society in the maintenance of Downley's three year old coppice. It has been planted with Goat Willow, Hazel and Ash. The young trees are still protected by their plastic quills (the tubes that prevent bark being nibbled by our many rabbits) and have established well. However the always present danger of smothering by brambles and young scrub poses a real threat to their survival. John, our Wycombe District Council Ranger, gave a brief tool talk about how to use loppers safely, and then we all set off to work. We cleared a significant area of brambles using loppers and secateurs. Star coppice clearers were definitely Helen and her mum!

The session finished with a tasty snack of baked potatoes cooked on the Rangers barbecue, served with salt, pepper and lashings of butter. Delicious!

Thank you to John and Phil from the Rangers for providing tools and the barbecue.

*Kristina Frydberg & Wendy Thomas*



**Wycombe Wildlife WATCH** meets on the second Saturday each month. To join in the WATCH meetings, which are open to children between the ages of 8-12, please contact :  
Wendy Thomas on 01494 814 068  
or Julie (WDC Ranger) on 01494 421 825

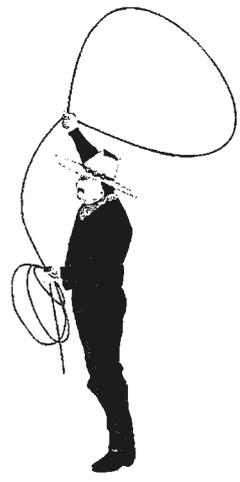
# WATCH



Any tree interested person can send for a free copy of  
 **The Dendrologist**  
Send a stamped, self-addressed A4 size envelope to:  
**THE DENDROLOGIST**  
PO Box 341, Chesham Bucks HP5 2RD



**Web Links Request**  
[www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk](http://www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk)  
We are keen to create reciprocal links with other environmentally-minded local groups' web sites. If your group would be happy for us to display your web address on our site please use the "Contact Us" page to let us know.



### www. & e-mails

Our web sites :  
[www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk](http://www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk)  
[www.comunigate.co.uk/bucks/wwg](http://www.comunigate.co.uk/bucks/wwg)  
Committee members e-mail addresses :  
Chairman : James Donald:  
[james\\_donald@lycos.co.uk](mailto:james_donald@lycos.co.uk)  
Newsletter editor :  
Pat Morris:[roymorris@freeuk.com](mailto:roymorris@freeuk.com)  
Maurice Young :  
[mauriceyoung@sniffout.com](mailto:mauriceyoung@sniffout.com)

### snail-mail

Chairman WWG  
73 Carver Hill Road  
High Wycombe  
HP11 2UB

**Would you like to join us ?**  
If so complete this application (or a photocopy) and send to :  
WWG Membership Secretary  
(see front page for the address)  
I / We wish to join WWG  
Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
Address : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_   
\_\_\_\_\_   
Tel no. \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount enclosed, (please circle)  
£5 (Individual/Family/School member)  
£2.50 (Student or Retired Person)





# WILDLIFE NOTICE BOARD



## Did You See ?



### Insects

1st Small Tortoiseshell - Flackwell Heath - 22/2/03

Six hibernating lacewings,

West Wycombe Garden Centre -

amongst programmes in Leaflet box - 15/3/03

### Amphibians

First Frogspawn:

Amersham Hill Drive 25/02/03

Deeds Grove 02/03/03

### Birds & Mammals

17 bird species in one hour -

Amersham Hill Drive 25/1/03

Red Kite, Mill rd. (nr. river) Marlow - 12/03/03

For more sightings, visit our website

## The WWG Contact list :

Chairman & Membership Secretary :

James Donald, 01494 637877

Newsletter Editor : Pat Morris, 01494 529484

Site Management Co-ordinator :

Roger Wilding, 01494 438374

Treasurer : Peter Hazzard,

**Wycombe wildlife WATCH :**

Wendy Thomas, 01494 814068

Biological surveys : Angus Idle, 01494 563673

Education Officer & Assistant Editor :

Maurice Young, 01628 472000

Project Officer : Post vacant

## Contacts for Wildlife, Conservation & Environmental Groups - Wycombe District

Bassetsbury Group

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

(South Bucks Region, Vol. Reserves Manager)

Booker Common & Woods Preservation Society

British Naturalists' Assoc. S. Bucks Branch

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

British Trust for Ornithology (Regional Rep.)

Bucks Invertebrate Group

Bucks Badger Group

Bucks Bird Club

Bucks Community Association

Butterfly Conservation

Chiltern Society

Chilterns Chalk Streams Officer

Chilterns Conference AONB

Chiltern Woodlands Project

Council for the Protection of Rural England (m' Chilterns branch.)

English Nature Conservation Officer Bucks.

Frieth Natural History Society

Grange Action Group

High Wycombe Society

Prestwood Nature

Lane End Conservation Group

Marlow Society

National Trust

Pann Mill Group

Ramblers Association

Red Kites in the Chilterns Officer

Princes Risborough Countryside Group

Saunderton Wildlife Sanctuary

St. Tiggywinkles

Swan Lifeline

South Bucks Organic Group

World Wide Fund for Nature

The Environment Centre on Holywell Mead (Manager)

Wycombe District Council Ranger Service

Wycombe Youth Action

Nigel Mossman 01494 462059

(Oxon Office) 01865 775476

Maurice Young 01628 472000

Ron Walker 01494 444824

Marion Hussey 01494 488336

David Wilding 01296 330033

Mick A'Court 01296 623610

Mike Palmer 01296 624519

Mike Collard 01494 866908

Roger Warren 01491 638544

Francis Gomme 01844 274865

Jaci Beaven 01494 444158

Angus Idle 01494 563673

Sarah Bentley 01844 271308

Steve Rodrick 01844 271300

John Morris 01844 271315

Sandy MacFarlane 01844 343004

Jenny Young 01635 268881

Alan Gudge 01494 881464

Dave Wainman 01494 716726

Frances Presland 01494 523263

Tony Marshall 01494 864251

Joyce Davis 01494 881295

Michael Hyde 01628 485474

(Office) 01494 755573

Robert Turner 01494 472981

J.L. Esslemont 01494 881597

Cathy Rose 01844 271306

Francis Gomme 01844 274865

Margaret Baker 01844 342188

Les Stocker 01844 292292

Tim Heron 01753 859397

Howard Raimbach 01494 531214

Valerie Lambourne 01494 443761

Jane Campbell 01494 511585

Julie Hopton 01494 421825

Lynda Cockerell 01494 447250

If you have any queries about **BATS** contact Maurice Young 01628 472000

or the **WDC Rangers** : 01494 421824