



Issue 47

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**APRIL  
2005**

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SWAN NOTES  
INSECTS IN THE GARDEN  
ATTRACTING BENEFICIAL INSECTS  
WILDLIFE IN STORE  
RARE PLANTS OF BRITAIN  
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- DID YOU SEE ?  
- WWG CONTACT LIST  
- GUIDE TO LOCAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS**



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**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

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**Wycombe Wildlife Group**  
is a Registered Charity  
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**Editorial**

Wycombe Wildlife Group, like all who garden for wildlife, has always advocated a little untidiness in the garden. Those dead flower stalks left standing over winter create hibernating sites for insects; shrivelled leaves provide nesting material for birds the following spring. However, a new environmental stewardship grant scheme may now encourage a little more untidiness in the countryside at large, according to a report in the Daily Telegraph on 4th March 2005.

By untidiness I do not mean more drink cans and takeaway food wrappings left about, but field corners in farmland left to bloom, and hedges trimmed less often. The yearly hedge trimming immediately after harvest has always been a particular bugbear of mine. Hedgerow fruits are regularly lost to the flail each autumn when they should be left to sustain wildlife during the lean months of winter. Members of Wycombe Wildlife Group have seen this happen, and not only at farms, but in the Chilterns as a whole. By November, the whole landscape presents a neatly manicured appearance, not propitious for wildlife.

Luckily, this winter there has been an abundant crop of seed and berries, not only in woodland, but also on ornamental trees in gardens, for both visiting and native wild birds to feast on. Hence, not only resident Thrushes and Finches, but also migrant Redwings and huge flocks of the rare Waxwings have not gone hungry. These latter birds have been seen in such diverse habitats as Slough Trading Estate, Lane End and north of High Wycombe railway station. Crops of ornamental Rowans and Cotoneasters have sustained them when hedgerows are bare. However, with money coming into the equation (and all men have to earn a living) maybe farmers will at last put good wildlife husbandry into practice and leave their hedgerows at least two years without cutting (and that field corner full of wild flowers). It remains to be seen whether farmers will actually do it, but at least it is a promising start to what might look like to the casual eye a less tidy Britain, but certainly a more interesting one, and one much better for wildlife.

**Welcome to new members**

We welcome the following new members, who have joined since January 2005 and look forward to meeting them during forthcoming events:

Mrs D. K. Snudden  
Booker Common and Woods Protection Society  
Amanda, Andrea and Curtis Stone

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.

## REALITY TV HITS STOKENCHURCH

If you're a fan of "fly on the wall" documentaries or reality TV shows like Big Brother, then head down to the Charwood Garden Centre near Stokenchurch this spring. Here, the Chilterns Conservation Board will be using CCTV technology to give you a close-up view of family life in a local Red Kite nest. This will be the third year that live images of the nest will be beamed into the Garden Centre's coffee shop. And knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and explain what's going on.

At the beginning of March, the camera was put into a tree where the Kites have been nesting for the last four years. If the birds co-operate, we expect eggs to be laid in early to mid April and chicks to hatch in early to mid May.

If previous years are anything to go by, it'll be survival of the fittest. Last year, there were three chicks in the nest, with the smallest one taking a bit of a bashing from its bigger nest mates. The largest of last year's chicks ended up being relocated to southern Scotland and appears to

be doing well, and as far as we know, the middle chick is still in the Stokenchurch area. Unfortunately, "Little Chick" didn't fare so well. Just one day after fledging, she crash landed in Bicester and has been at a local wildlife hospital ever since. She had a bad infection in one of her wing joints, and it's not certain she will ever be able to fly properly. We're keeping our fingers crossed for her.

The Charwood Garden Centre is on the A40 at Studley Green, between Stokenchurch and West Wycombe and is open from 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and 10.30am to 4.30pm on Sundays (tel. 01494 483761). Regularly updated video clips will be shown on the Chilterns AONB website [www.chilternsaonb.org/caring/red\\_kites.html](http://www.chilternsaonb.org/caring/red_kites.html)

We are grateful to Fidget Computers Ltd and Advanced Diagnostics Ltd for providing equipment for this project.

Cathy Rose

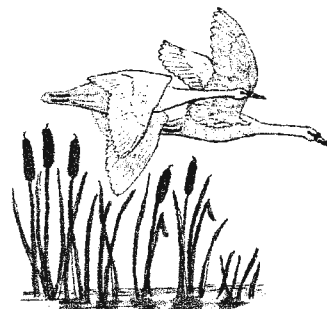
## SWAN NEWS by Eric Britnell

(As a member of Swan Lifeline, Eric keeps records of swan broods produced on the River Thames and provides details to HM Swan Warden and HM Swan Marker for the annual Swan Upping ceremony. He has even appeared on television!)

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In March 2004, David, whose mate Amanda had died, was still present on the Dyke and had chosen a new mate, Kate.

Normally there have been very few swans on the Dyke as David would drive them away but by August 2004 there were 9 adults. By October 2004 there were 12 adults and 2



cygnets and by December 2004 there were 21 adults and 4 cygnets, the highest number ever reported in Wycombe.

By March 2005 the number of swans on the Dyke was reducing as fully mature swan pairs started to move away to establish their own breeding territory. One pair was seen preparing a nest.

The cygnets of Leander and Hero were released in Marlow when the Hughenden stream dried up. One is still there and the other has been seen on a gravel pit between Cookham and Maidenhead.



## Insects in the Garden

There are 10 insect species for every native plant in Britain - some 22,450 known species so far - yet only a few of them are really pests, and we are generally totally ignorant of their existence. It is only when we have a good insect summer, as we had in 2003 and 2004, that we gain some inkling of their variety and abundance.

Insects are the most successful living organisms on earth. Their external skeleton, developed at the beginning of evolution, enabled them to leave damp places without risk of drying out, and they are now found in every kind of habitat, and every climate, in the soil, on the land, in water and in the air. They feed on all types of organic matter, natural or manufactured: plants, wood, blood, carrion and dung, or furniture, clothing, paper and flour. Adults and larvae often feed on different foodstuffs, which adds yet another dimension to their ability to survive. While adults may feed only on nectar or other juices, if at all, the larvae, the feeding machines, devour leaves, roots, or any of the already-mentioned materials. They are the world's opportunists, using what is available.

Insects are arthropods, that is they have a jointed body and jointed limbs. Their body is divided into three parts: head, thorax and abdomen. The head bears a pair of antennae or feelers, the thorax three pairs of legs, and generally one or two pairs of wings. Fleas and lice don't need wings and therefore don't possess any. The abdomen deals with reproduction amongst other things.

An insect's ability to smell, using its antennae, can lead it to food some distance away: the Carrot Fly easily picks up the odour of your newly-sown carrots. Male insects, such as moths, equipped with specially designed antennae, can find a mate, even in the dark, guided unerringly by the alluring perfume, or pheromone, of the possibly wingless females. For either purpose, their wings are a distinct advantage, carrying them directly to their target, be it the meat left on your kitchen table, or the mate waiting amongst the vegetation. Wings too, enable them to zoom away from your fly-swatter, or the predatory bird. Additionally with wings, they can fly to new breeding grounds once



Male Black Arches moth showing the comb-like antennae which help it find a mate in the dark

the original spot becomes overcrowded. Insects normally wingless, such as aphids and ants, can grow wings especially to do this.

Many insects, like ants and aphids, are extremely tiny, so that they can exploit small spaces in large numbers. They can also escape detection by gardeners until the results of their presence - yellowing leaves, or sticky honeydew, reveal the pest. I once had a sickly Hydrangea in a tub, and on turning it out discovered more than 70 Vine Weevil grubs destroying its roots. My attendant Robin was delighted to bear them off to its waiting nestlings! Insect abundance, particularly in the larval stage, is vital to the food chain. If there are no caterpillars in spring, or a bird has mistimed its breeding attempt, its offspring can easily starve. Similarly, a lack of aphids and other small insects can cause disaster. It is suspected of being the cause of juvenile House-sparrow decline. Even seed eating adult birds need soft, succulent larvae on which to feed their brood.

Fortunately many insects reproduce both rapidly and prolifically, and so they cater for this vast predation. They may be open to predation at any stage in their lives, egg, larva, chrysalis or adult, but the larval stage is the most important for breeding birds.

It takes nerve when one sees one's favourite plants smothered in aphids not to squash these pests by hand straight away, but in a garden which has beneficial insects as well as all the others, nature eventually instates a balance. Thus insects can continue to be the most successful living organisms on earth, 80% of all known animals, until all too many of the habitats are over-run by housing, because of the needs of man.

Pat

## Attracting Beneficial Insects



Lacewing  
and larva



Hoverfly  
and  
larva



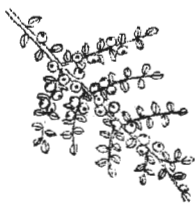
Ladybird  
and  
larva



Many of the plants that attract butterflies into gardens also provide nectar for other insects, some of which help to control garden pests and some of which pollinate fruit and vegetable crops and enable plants to produce seed.

Not everyone appreciates the Common Wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*), especially if there is a nest too near the house, or if one tries to share an *al fresco* meal in late summer: however, this insect eats huge numbers of aphids. Other carnivorous insects in our gardens include the larvae of hoverflies, most ladybird species and lacewings. Ladybirds and lacewings can be attracted to your garden or wildlife area by providing suitable places for hibernation. More information on how to do this is contained in the WWG leaflet "Welcoming Beneficial Insects to your Garden".

Life on earth relies heavily on pollination and, in our gardens, most of this work is undertaken by bees. As well as the Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) there are many wild bee species that come into gardens. Information about creating homes for solitary bees and wasps can be found in the WWG leaflet "Welcoming Bees and Wasps to your Garden".



Wall Cotoneaster;

Purple  
toadflax



Many species of native plants will attract beneficial insects to a wildlife area but the following are some of the best garden-worthy species.

Hemp-agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), Viper's-bugloss (*Echium vulgare*), Purple-loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Borage (*Borago officinalis*), Purple Toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*), Large Thyme (*Thymus pulegioides*) and Wild Thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*), Corn Mint (*Mentha arvensis*) and the native Golden-rod (*Solidago virgaurea*),

For small gardens, especially where the owner prefers to grow garden species and cultivars, it is still possible to attract large numbers of beneficial insects if plants rich in nectar are grown. The following should get results.

Buddleias (*Buddleja* spp), Ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp), Wall Cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), Mints (*Mentha* spp), Lavenders (*Lavandula* spp), Michaelmas Daisies (*Aster nova-belgii* and *A. novae-angliae*), Butterfly Stonecrop or Ice Plant (*Sedum spectabile*), Heaths (*Erica* spp) and Heathers (*Calluna vulgaris* cultivars).

Roger

Wycombe Wildlife Group gardening leaflets can be obtained from the Environment Centre, or by sending a A4 SAE with your request to Pat Morris, 30 Amersham Hill Drive, High Wycombe, HP13 6QY.

## Wildlife in Store

# Buckinghamshire County Museum's Natural History Collections

The Museum's natural history collections are made up of around 40,000 specimens of local plants and animals. These support a programme of displays, exhibitions and events as well as providing a physical record of the county's biodiversity and an important jigsaw piece in our understanding of British wildlife as a whole. They can be used to help people develop identification skills, investigate variation within species, study changes in distribution, changes in environmental conditions and a whole host of other variables such as hybridisation levels, flowering times, butterfly emergence times etc. All this means that the collection, although composed of dead plants and animals, can help inform decisions for the conservation of living plants and animals. The collection also provides a historical angle for the county's wildlife enabling researchers to compare the past with the present. Most importantly, and unlike paper records, they can be checked and verified time and time again should there be any dispute over their identification or change in their taxonomy.

The collections comprise around 6,000 plants, 21,000 insects, several hundred arachnids and molluscs and 600 mounted birds and mammals, along with associated material including osteology, eggs and a range of 'tracks and signs'. Small numbers of reptiles, amphibians and fish are also present. There is also a secondary collection of non-data material used for events and activities. Unfortunately, we are currently unable to loan material to schools due to limited resources.

The museum collects specimens in accordance with a number of codes and laws established by relevant natural history societies and conservation organisations. Material for the collection generally comes in two different ways.

Firstly, as interesting one-offs, either donated as a record or brought in as an enquiry, and secondly, as large personal collections built up over time and either donated after the collector has finished with them or bequeathed to us after their death. Such collections include the herbaria of Miss A.F.Woods, Molly Hyde and R.Heley. Also the lichen collection of H.M.J.Bowen and bryophyte collection of E.R.B. Little. For insects we have large collections of Lepidoptera by Sir Eric Ansorge, Capt. J. Ellerton and G.Oliver. Coleoptera from H.J.Quilter of Prestwood and Sir Eric Ansorge. Diptera from Cecil Monk and small collections covering Hymenoptera, Hemiptera, Orthoptera and Odonata. Contributors to the bird and mammal collection are numerous, however, notable collectors include A.H.Cocks, who helped found the museum in 1907 and Susan Cowdy, a founder member of BBOWT.

Access to the collections is via a number of means. If you have a particular interest in seeing part of the collection you can contact me to make an appointment. Alternatively if you would just like to view the collections generally you could either come along to one of our collections tours run as part of Museums and Galleries Month in May or you could arrange a group visit for a small charge.

If you would like any further information on the collections, how to arrange a visit, how to donate material or how to use our enquiry service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mike Palmer, Keeper of Natural History  
Buckinghamshire County Museum Resource Centre  
Tring Road, Halton, Aylesbury, HP22 5PN  
Tel: 01296 624519  
E-mail: [mpalmer@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mpalmer@buckscc.gov.uk)

Specimens donated by WWG member Barbara North are among the collections at Halton.

WWG will be having a stand at the Bucks Wildlife Day at the County Museum in Aylesbury on Saturday 18 June. Selected items from the County Museum's natural history collections are usually on display at that event.





## "Rare plants of Britain" - An illustrated talk by Dr Alan Showler



I am sure everyone who came to the February members' meeting found much of interest in Dr. Alan Showler's talk on the rare plants of Britain, including his photographs of mountain tops and other remote locations where some of our rare native plants are found.

Alan gave the standard definition of a rare plant in the UK as one found in less than 15 hectrads (10 km<sup>2</sup> OS National Grid squares). He then went on to say that whilst this definition is fine for a species such as Red Helleborine which only occurs in very small numbers in 3 widely spaced hectrads, it includes plants which are locally common such as the Cornish Heath, widespread on The Lizard although confined to 4 hectrads within the UK as a whole. In the case of both this species and the White Rock-rose, which is locally common at Berry Head in Devon and on Brean Down in Somerset, the occurrence of the plants in adjoining

hectrads results in a single colony being recorded for more than one hectrad.

After this introduction, we were treated to a rare plant tour of the UK starting in Buckinghamshire and finishing on the north coast of Scotland. Along the way, Alan described a number of the locations visited as botanical hotspots on account of the richness of the local flora. Thank you Alan for such an interesting talk.

Whilst I would have liked to include a list of all the species and locations mentioned in Alan's talk to help those who would like to follow in Alan's footsteps and try their luck at finding some of the UK's rarest plants, space does not permit. Here are some of them to whet your appetite, however.

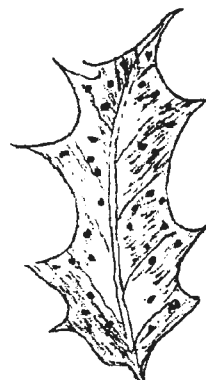
Roger

Box	The best stand of native Box in the country is near Chequers
Fringed Gentian	The only site in Britain is at Coombe Hill.
Late Spider Orchid	Can be seen at Wye Downs NNR.
Ground-pine	Grows in Surrey in disturbed soil, mainly around field margins.
Brown Galingale	Grows locally at Cock Marsh and Dorney Common
Wild Gladiolus	Grows under Bracken in the New Forest but is difficult to locate
Hampshire Purslane	Can be seen at Hatchet Pond in the New Forest
Martin's Ramping-fumitory	Grows on an allotment at Lake near Ventnor on the Isle of Wight.
Oxtongue Broomrape	Can be found at Freshwater Bay on the Isle of Wight.
Viper's-grass	Can be found at Ridge near Arne in Dorset.
Tuberous Thistle	Found on Wylve Down in Wiltshire but it is threatened by hybridisation with Dwarf Thistle
Downy Woundwort	Found near Charlbury in Oxfordshire where its hedgerow habitat has been disturbed.
Spotted Catsear	Can be found near Pegsdon in Bedfordshire but also grows at places as wide apart as Kynance Cove in Cornwall and Great Orme in Wales
Bristol Rock-cress	Only site is near the Clifton Bridge at Avon Gorge in Somerset.
Cambridge Milk Parsley	Grows at Chippenham Fen in Cambs and 2 other locations
Fen Orchid	Found in Norfolk but also at coastal sites in S. and W. Wales.
Yellow Whitlowgrass	Restricted in Britain to a couple of sites on the Gower Peninsula.
Early Star-of-Bethlehem	A few flowering plants can be seen at Stenner Rocks along with Sticky Catchfly, Upright Clover and Perennial Knawel.
Snowdon Lily	Found on cliffs in Snowdonia but there are few flowering plants.
Tufted Saxifrage	Found in Cwm Idwal and in 4 or 5 sites in Scottish mountains.
Spotted Rock-rose	Found on Anglesey and on the Llyn Peninsula.
May Lily	Grows on damp acid soils near Scarborough: also in Norfolk.
Alpine Bartsia	Found in Upper Teesdale, in Cumbria and around Ben Lawers in Scotland.
Teesdale Violet	Found in Upper Teesdale. A white form grows at Arnside Knott.
Scottish Dock	Rare species of Dock found beside Loch Lomond.
Drooping Saxifrage	Grows on Ben Lawers.
Rock Speedwell	Also found on Ben Lawers
Snow Gentian	Can be seen on Ben Lawers but only when the sun shines.
Pipewort	Found in lochans on Skye.
Alpine Rock-cress	Found only high in the Coolins on Skye.
Iceland-purslane	Found in bare open habitats in the north of Skye and on Mull.
Diapensia	Only occurs on an exposed mountain ridge near Glenfinnan.
Norwegian Mugwort	Can be found on Cul Mor in the North West Highlands
Norwegian Sandwort	Grows on limestone or on shingle at Inchnadamph
Twinflower	Found at Golspie in North East Scotland along with Alpine Milk-vetch
Purple Oxytropis	Found at Bettyhill on the north coast of Scotland

## Winter woodland walk and tree identification



Douglas Fir cone



Holly Speckle



Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*

Needles grow in pairs all round the shoot, on a basal sheath 1 cm long. Needle 2.5-8cm

Well, which would it be? The WWG programme advertised a Winter Woodland walk on 22 January, but the Bucks Free Press promised a Winter Wonderland Walk. Perhaps it would snow! On the morning, however, the sky was clear and the sunshine was most welcome after several grey days. About 15 people eagerly awaited the start of the walk in Common Wood, led by Angus.

We set off along the path parallel to Common Wood Road with the aim of completing a circular route passing a stand of conifers and returning through a grove of Aspens. At the southern edge of the wood, several hibernating 7-spot ladybirds were seen on gorse bushes. Roger found several different fungi, including the Lumpy Bracket, growing on a decaying trunk, which had been noted on the Fungus Foray in October as a good fungus habitat. The Lumpy Bracket is a greyish white fungus with conspicuous green discolouration caused by algae.

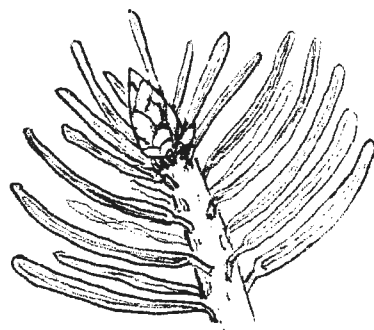
A little further on, Angus pointed out the remains of a large dead beech tree. A brave examination of the hollow trunk revealed amongst other things of interest, a very good example of a Tango orange drink can. The

abundance of beech mast this winter was commented on.

Away to the left a flock of wood pigeons took to the air in a great hurry. We soon saw what had disturbed them when two buzzards landed in the trees. We moved out of the wood and along a ride between Douglas Firs, where Norway Spruce and the deciduous Larch were also seen. Angus showed us how to recognise a Douglas Fir from the cone or a needle. The cone has distinctive three-pronged thin papery bracts between the scales and the needles have two whitish stripes along the underside. Angus spotted an inflorescence on some Annual Meadow Grass and Roger picked up two items for us to examine. The first was a dead Holly leaf with dark spots the size of pinheads and the second a dead Bracken stem with dark markings a few millimetres long. Both were very common but often overlooked fungi.

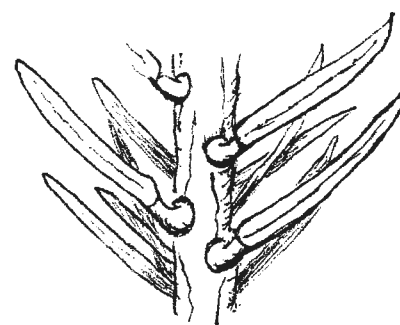
By this time we were already past the scheduled finishing time and so, reluctantly, we decided to make our way back to the starting point by the shortest route. And we didn't even get as far as the Aspens.

Harry Wheate



Douglas Fir *Pseudotsuga menziesii*

Needles grow singly all round the shoot, but are parted on upper and lower sides, so that the central stem is visible on both sides. There are two whitish stripes on the underside of the needle, which is blunt-tipped and 2-3.5cm in length



Norway Spruce *Picea abies*

Needles are short, stiff and pointed, from 1-2.5cm long, and grow on a small peg. Only the underside of the stem can be clearly seen



## Lyde Garden revisited

Brilliant sunshine in High Wycombe, fog and gloom in Bledlow. Seven of us met outside the church and admired the Violets, Primroses and Daffodils growing along by the churchyard wall.

We made a leisurely circuit of the Lyde Garden, listening to the birds singing- Song Thrush, Dunnock and Robin. The yellow flowered Creeping Comfrey blanketed the steep slopes, A Pyrus was reaching the bud burst stage and Berberis and Elder were well in leaf. Several clumps of Skunk Cabbage with their brilliant yellow spathes lit up the lower pond and the yellow Marsh-marigold and Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage carpeted the banks.

Roger then led us up the bridleway from the Lions PH to the Icknield Way and we turned left up a steep chalky hollow way in the woods to where the Bledlow Cross was shown on the map. The O.S. map was studied and the cross

was eventually located by Audrey and Lorna on a very steep slope amongst dense prickly undergrowth. It had been cleaned and shored up reasonably recently. On a clear day Whiteleaf Cross over the vale is clearly visible - these being the only two turf-cut crosses in Bucks: I wonder why! G. Grigson in the Shell County Alphabet 1966 says the crosses were "possibly cut in the Middle Ages, intended to impress travelers along the Icknield Way below".

It was after 1pm when we came back to our cars after a very pleasant morning. Thank you, Roger and Frances.

Audrey Roberts

Sorry we didn't take the fine weather with us to Bledlow. At least we left the fog behind when we returned to brilliant sunshine back in High Wycombe.

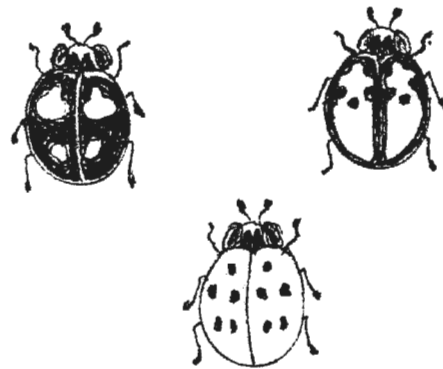
Roger

## Harlequin Ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*)

This Asian species of Ladybird is 6-8mm long, and is slightly larger than the common 7-spot ladybird. The body is more domed and the legs are brown. The wing covers vary in colour but are usually buff to orange with up to 19 black spots or they can be black with coloured spots. Probably the most reliable identifier is the broad white "W" (if looking from the front) or "M" (if looking from the back) on the pronotum. The larva has a broad red stripe down each side of the mid-section.

This alien species eats not only aphids but also other Ladybirds and their larvae, Hoverflies and Lacewings!

If you find any suspect ladybird you should place it in an old film canister and send it to Dr Michael Majerus, Dept of Genetics, Cambridge University, CB2 3EH saying when and where you found it.



# WATCH

## Reports on the January to March 2005 meetings

**8th January 2005**

Homes for  
Red Ma-  
son Bees

The January WATCH meeting was held at the Environment Centre, and was a very interesting session with Raymond and Sylvia Chamberlin, who are beekeepers. They explained to the children how to make homes for Red Mason bees, which involves making little hollow tubes from papier mache and putting them all into a pot, which then goes into the garden. You can buy one from the Oxford Bee Company for £10, but the children's were every bit as good. Raymond and Sylvia also answered all the children's questions on bees and showed them a video.

It was a very interesting session for both the children and adults, and many thanks to Raymond and Sylvia for sharing their interest with us, and for their time.

Wendy

**12th February 2005**

Coppice  
clearout at  
Cock Lane

What a lovely afternoon.

After the earlier hailstorm, we arrived at Cock Lane to mild spring weather and blue skies. Wycombe District Council ranger Tony explained the history of coppicing and how we were going to continue the work previously started in Cock Lane. After a safety talk we set to work with loppers, being careful to angle the cuts so that the rainwater could drain freely from the centre of each coppice stool. WATCH leaders were most impressed with how our young volunteers organised their working area and how much they achieved in the afternoon session. Well done Toby, Holly, Grace and Verity!

The afternoon ended with potatoes baked in the fire tended by WDC ranger John.

Kristina

**12th March 2005**

Easter egg  
decorating

It was a real treat to join such wholehearted enthusiasm from the children, their parents and teachers in the spacious facilities of the Environment Centre. Julie from the WDC RangerService had organised some eye-catching yellow posters promoting this event, which resulted in a bumper turnout. After admiring eggs from last year's Environment Centre Easter tree and some treasured examples of local and Eastern European work, over 20 people blew, threaded and decorated hens' eggs which could last for many Easters to come. The variety of decorating styles was genuinely striking. One young participant produced a Red Nose day egg with feet. Ross, our veteran egg decorator, blew his own egg and painted it carefully in a Fabergé style, using colours to match the bi-coloured cord he had made to hang it from.

Each participant painted at least one egg to take home, and decorated one to hang on the Easter tree. This stunning catkin-covered hazel branch stands in a bucket of water, so, by the time Easter arrives, it will be sprouting green shoots as a symbol of the new life that we enjoy at this time of the year.

Kristina



Children enjoying the WATCH Easter egg decorating at the Environment Centre

(photograph by Mary Williams)

**Wycombe Wildlife WATCH** meets on the second Saturday of 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 814068 or Julie (WDC Ranger) on 01494 421825

**Situation Vacant**

**Schools Liaison Officer (voluntary post within Wycombe Wildlife Group)**

Job specification available on the WWG website or apply to the Chairman for further information..

**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)

**E-mail addresses :**

Chairman : Roger Wilding:  
[w.w.group@btopenworld.com](mailto:w.w.group@btopenworld.com)  
 Newsletter editor : Pat Morris:  
[roymorris@freeuk.com](mailto:roymorris@freeuk.com)

**snail-mail**

Chairman WWG  
 129 Deeds Grove  
 High Wycombe  
 HP12 3PA

Would you like to join us ?

If so complete this application (or a photocopy) and send to :  
 WWG Membership Secretary  
 c/o 73 Carver Hill Road,  
 High Wycombe, HP11 2UB  
 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



## Observations

### Insects

1st Bumblebee	Holmer Green	12/01/05
1st Ladybird	Holmer Green	16/01/05
1st Brimstone	Common Wood	16/03/05
1st Frogspawn	Amersham Hill Dr	15/02/05
1st Slow-worm	Downley	16/03/05
Common Quaker moth	Flackwell Heath	17/03/05
March Moth	Flackwell Heath	17/03/05
1st Queen Wasp	Carver Hill	19/03/05
1st Small Tortoiseshell	Deeds Grove	17/03/05
1st Lacewing	Amersham Hill Dr	25/03/05

### Birds

Redwings	widespread	Feb/Mar
Fieldfares	Holmer Green	February
41 Waxwings	Slater Street	10/02/05
Chiffchaff singing	Tom Burt's Hill	21/03/05

(More sightings are given on our web site)

## WWG Contact List

Chairman & Site Management Co-ordinator:  
 Roger Wilding 01494 438374  
 Newsletter Editor: Pat Morris 01494 529484  
 Membership Secretary:  
 James Donald 01494 637877  
 Treasurer: Peter Hazzard,  
 Wycombe Wildlife WATCH:  
 Wendy Thomas 01494 814068  
 Biological surveys: Angus Idle 01494 563673  
 Schools Liaison Officer: Post vacant  
 Project Officer: Post vacant



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

Bassetsbury Group	David Reed	01494 439665
Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust	(Oxon Office)	01865 775476
Booker Common & Woods Protection Society	Ron Walker	01494 444824
British Naturalists' Assoc. S. Bucks Branch	Ann Jones	01494 675196
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	David Wilding	01296 330033
British Trust for Ornithology (Regional Rep.)	Mick A'Court	01296 623610
Bucks Invertebrate Group	Mike Palmer	01296 624519
Bucks Badger Group	Mike Collard	01494 866908
Bucks Bird Club	Roger Warren	01491 638544
Bucks Community Association	Francis Gomme	01844 274865
Bucks County Council Countryside Initiatives Team	Anna Humphries	01296 382288
Butterfly Conservation	Jaci Beaven	01494 444158
Chiltern Society	Angus Idle	01494 563673
Chilterns Chalk Streams Officer	Simon Fisher	(new)
Chilterns AONB	Steve Rodrick	(telephone)
Chilterns Conservation Board (Activities and Education)	Cathy Rose	(numbers)
Chiltern Woodlands Project	John Morris	(awaited)
Downley Common Preservation Society	Bill Thompson	01494 520648
English Nature Conservation Officer Bucks	Jenny Young	01635 268881
Frieth Natural History Society	Alan Gudge	01494 881464
Grange Action Group	Dave Wainman	01494 716726
High Wycombe Society	Frances Presland	01494 523263
Lane End Conservation Group	Barbel Cheesewright	01494 882938
Marlow Society	Bob Savidge	01628 891121
National Trust	(Office)	01494 755573
Pann Mill Group	Robert Turner	01494 472981
Prestwood Nature	Anna Amblin	01494 862644
Ramblers Association	J.L. Esslemont	01494 881597
Princes Risborough Countryside Group	Francis Gomme	01844 274865
Saunderton Wildlife Sanctuary	Margaret Baker	01844 342188
St. Tiggywinkles	Les Stocker	01844 292292
Swan Lifeline	Wendy Hermon	01753 859397
South Bucks Organic Group	Howard Raimbach	01494 531214
The Environment Centre on Holywell Mead Co-ordinator		01494 511585
Woodland Trust (voluntary speaker)	Michael Hyde	01628 485474
Wycombe District Council Ranger Service	Julie Hopton	01494 421825



For queries about **BATS** contact the **WDC Rangers** : 01494 421824

