

WYCOMBE



WILDLIFE GROUP

Issue 54

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SEPTEMBER
2007



Beautiful and Banded Demoiselles, two damselfly species found by the Family Group at Kings Mead (see page 6)



Perfoliate Honeysuckle seen at Hughenden - see page 7

VISIT TO HIGHGROVE

18TH ANNIVERSARY WALK

MOLES AND MOLEWATCH

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LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS



See pages 4 and 5 to learn all about Moles and how to take part in the MoleWatch survey - all you need to do is count molehills.

Front page photographs by Roger Wilding

Contact address, telephone and e-mail :
see page 11

Registered Charity No : 1075175



Wycombe Wildlife Group is a registered charity with the following objects:

To conserve the environment, mainly using volunteers, for the benefit of the public.

To educate the public in the principles and practice of conservation.

Within **Wycombe District** the Group:

Surveys wildlife habitats and their associated flora and fauna, giving those taking part plenty of opportunities to increase their knowledge and identification skills.

Helps manage local wildlife sites, undertaking practical conservation work on local nature reserves.

Provides advice to schools, other bodies and individuals on all aspects of wildlife.

Stimulates public interest in wildlife and its conservation.

Organises walks, talks and other activities covering a wide range of wildlife topics.

Provides advice on and encourages wildlife gardening.

Organises activities for young children and their parents.

Co-operates with other groups with similar aims and supports the Environment Centre on Holywell Mead.

Wycombe Wildlife News is published 3 times a year to promote the Group and wildlife issues and inform members and the public of its activities.

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Editorial

Though there was some pleasant summery weather during August 2007, most of the past season was marred by rain, more than double the seasonal average, with June the wettest on record. Many outdoor activities were spoilt (moth trapping for example). However the day managed to remain dry for the Group outing to Highgrove House, the residence of the Prince of Wales, the undoubted highlight of the season for those who went. On the other hand, it was perfect weather for slugs and snails who, making the most of abundant foliage and moist conditions, munched their way through favourite plants. Did I say in my last Editorial that there were fewer of these creatures? If there had been any hedgehogs or Song Thrushes, they would have had a feast, but I saw little evidence of either.

Many birds seem to have had a good nesting season, with young of most species apparent, and feeders busy. Migrant birds will start their journey well fed, with the high numbers of flying insects. Of those, bloodsuckers such as mosquitoes will also have had a good season, judging by the number of bites I have received from them this year. Butterflies have not done so well, and it is only during the sunny periods that they have appeared in any numbers. Plants such as roses have put on a good show this year and, in the fruit garden, raspberries have done particularly well. My Victoria plum tree has been heavily laden with disease-free fruit, and there are lots of sloes in the countryside. Blackberries have ripened extremely early - from mid July - and at least some trees have moderate amounts of seed. So it has not all been doom and gloom.

In this issue we introduce a new survey, MoleWatch, in support of one being launched this month by the People's Trust for Endangered Species. You will find details on pages 4-5. Do support it if you can - it is really simple, all you need is to be able to count!

Pat Morris

New Members

We welcome the following new members, and look forward to seeing them at future meetings.

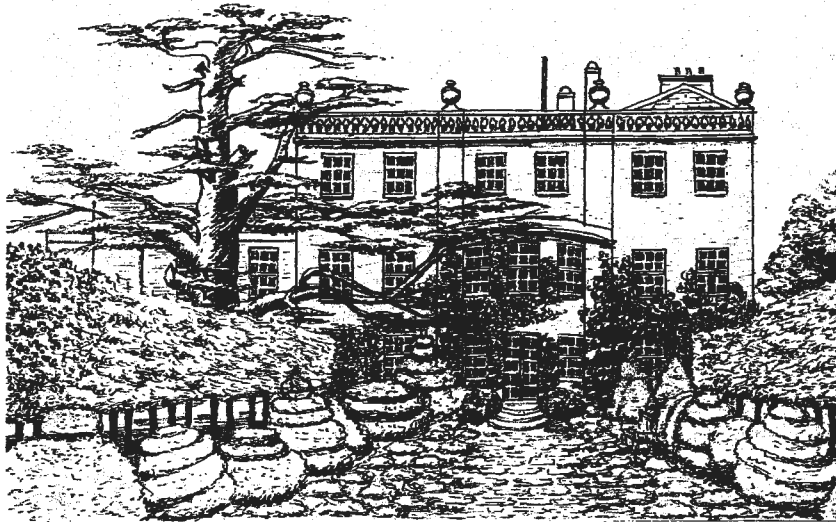
Mrs J. Hopton
 Mr P. Bowyer

Views expressed in this 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.

Visit to Highgrove

After two years on a waiting list, Wycombe Wildlife Group was offered a date for a visit earlier this year. Here is an account of the outing.



We travelled by coach on May 24th, in sunshine, to see the private home of Prince Charles in Gloucestershire. After a coffee stop in nearby Tetbury, police officers at the entrance carefully checked our identification. We began in the Orchard Room, by admiring the private collection of watercolour mountain landscapes by the Prince. Then with a charming and knowledgeable guide, we set off for a two hour tour of the garden, with its varied and pleasing design, covering over 16 acres. I came away with an appreciation of the Prince's love of peace and quiet, apparent throughout the woodland areas and the wildflower meadow of over four acres. A thatched tree house, once enjoyed by his sons, has been re-erected, and lovely sculptures and natural features are to be seen everywhere amongst an amazing collection of hostas. We saw and heard many birds and insects.

There is an extensive walled vegetable garden, and we glimpsed an area set aside for beehives, fruit growing, and chickens. In contrast, sweeping lawns lead to formal borders filled with flowers, and design by experts was acknowledged, in what was once a neglected area. Sadly, the great Cedar tree does not look as if it will survive, but some kind of replacement will protect the gracious 18th Century fine stone built house.

The fulfilment of the organic and environmental commitment is quietly stated without pomp and ceremony throughout, and group visits are spaced in order to give no feeling of 'over tourism'. The visit ended with tea served in the Orchard Room, and an opportunity to buy gifts and plants from the small shop. All profits go to The Prince's Trust, and other charities to which much of HRH's time is devoted, in order to help young and disadvantaged youth.

Pat Dancer

18th Anniversary Walk - Saturday 21st April

On 23rd April 1989 about 100 people turned up for the Group's inaugural walk around Keep Hill. For the 18th Anniversary Walk there were only 10, with four founder members away at a Records' Seminar at Green Park. The weather was warm and sunny. Led by Frances Wilding, supporters followed the original route of 18 years ago, going first round the Dyke to view the water birds, then up into Keep Hill Woods. A large number of species of plants and birds were seen, including Coralroot, the nationally rare plant recorded on the Group's launch in 1989. Thank you Frances for leading this event and making it so interesting.

*Coralroot
(Cardamine
bulbifera)*



Moles and MoleWatch

Moles are harmless little creatures that can help get rid of garden pests such as slugs and leatherjackets, yet they engender a great deal of hate, and hold pest status among many people. Their only fault is their burrowing habit, resulting in the molehills they throw up, which may spoil the look of a lawn, or damage the plants under which they tunnel. Here is an article about moles and the MoleWatch survey, which the People's Trust for Endangered Species has given us permission to reproduce, along with information from their Factfile on Moles.



MoleWatch ...counting molehills across the country

Although the familiar sight of molehills betrays their presence, very few people have actually ever seen a mole. They are so well adapted to life underground, excavating tunnels and feeding on any worms or insects that accidentally stumble into them, that they rarely need to come to the surface.

Moles belong to the mammalian group of insectivores, which are descended from the early mammals that scurried around the forest floors whilst dinosaurs still roamed the Earth. Moles, like their close cousins golden moles and desmans, have changed little from their early ancestors. They are small (smaller than your hand), have long, pointed snouts and short fur. Relying predominantly on their senses of touch and smell, they have small eyes. They live a mostly solitary existence and are nocturnal.

Despite spending their time digging through soil, moles manage to keep their fur pretty clean as it is short and waterproof. Moles can also lay their fur in any direction, so that they can move forwards or backwards in a tunnel, without their hair bristling backwards against the walls, limiting movement. In fact a mole's fur is so well adapted to the elements that moleskin clothing was very popular in Britain during the nineteenth century. As it became ever more fashionable, there emerged professional mole catchers, or "Wanters", whose entire time was spent killing and skinning moles. By the turn of the century more than a million skins each year were being sold in London, and twelve million a year were being sent to the United States.

The mole is thought to be one of the most common mammals here in the UK. However there is very little basic information about them and their numbers. With continuing changes to our countryside, it is important to monitor species that can be affected by farming methods and the fragmentation of their habitat, before something happens and it is too late to help. Currently there is no detailed distribution map for moles in the UK, so we have decided to carry out MoleWatch, to find out more about these secretive creatures.

Of course the very fact that moles are so rarely seen means that MoleWatch will, strictly speaking, be 'molehill watch'. Molehills are among the easiest wildlife signs to recognise and we're going to take advantage of that. At present seeing a molehill in an area is the only reliable means we have of recording the presence of moles. We don't know how many molehills a single mole makes and a mole can live in an area without creating any molehills, so an absence of molehills does not necessarily mean that there are no moles in the area.

In undisturbed populations of moles, once feeding tunnels have been created, there can be very little or no new digging activity and some areas - even though they have large numbers of moles - may bear no molehills for most of the year. It may well be that our perception that there are plenty of moles is unfounded and based on fewer moles creating more molehills. So mapping molehills will tell us whether at least one mole has been recently present in a particular place. For the purposes of creating a distribution map, this is all we need to know.

People's Trust for Endangered Species

Please let us know if you've seen any stag beetles or their larvae by taking part in our Great Stag Hunt (details from www.greatstaghunt.org.uk). We are also looking for people to Bury Buckets for Beetles and help us monitor their populations over the next few years. Register your interest at <http://www.speciesdata.co.uk/cgi-bin/stagpro/BB4bIntro.htm>. Thank you.

Fact File - Moles

Living out of sight but conspicuous nonetheless, the mole is one of the most widespread mammals in Great Britain.

Common names:

Mole, moldwarp, want, taupe, famh (Scottish Gaelic), gwadd, twrch daear (Welsh)

Scientific name:

Talpa europaea

Description:

About 120mm long and 110g. They have an elongate cylindrical body with uniformly short, usually black, fur. Prominent features are broad, spade-like forelimbs with long, sturdy claws, pink fleshy snout and short tail. No external ear shows, tiny eyes are hidden in fur.

Habitat:

Highly adaptable; can thrive wherever soil is deep enough for tunnelling, especially in deciduous woodland, pastures and arable land.

Diet:

Soil invertebrates, especially earthworms and insect larvae, collected in the tunnel or from tunnel walls. An adult mole consumes almost two thirds of its body weight each day.

Habits:

Adults alternate 3-4 hour bursts of activity with similar periods of rest. Breeding males may leave their nests for days at a time, sleeping at irregular intervals in the tunnel system. Lactating females return to their nests 4 to 6 times in 24 hours.

Breeding:

A litter of 3-4 young is born in an underground nest in the spring. Newborns are naked and weigh about 3.5g. They wean and start leaving the nest at 4-5 weeks. Juveniles reach adulthood in about 3 months and become sexually mature in the spring following their birth.

Distribution:

Throughout mainland Britain and on the islands of Skye, Mull, Anglesey, Wight, Alderney and Jersey wherever habitat is suitable. Absent from Ireland.

Conservation status:

No longer hunted for skins, but still widely persecuted because of perceived pest status.

Moles in gardens

- Although moles rarely live permanently in gardens without large lawns or orchards, they can be found in gardens on the edge of built-up areas where the enriched soil offers visiting moles a plentiful source of earthworms, their main food. This is particularly true of gardens near grassland or woodland, especially in the summer when the young are searching for new territories. A mole digs its tunnels mainly to create a giant underground trap for invertebrates. The familiar molehills appear when they dig new tunnels to extend their 'trap' or search for moles of the opposite sex.
- The results of a survey carried out in 1992, funded by the RSPCA, asking 157 farmers their opinion about moles, showed that whilst moles were widely perceived to be pests, in general the damage attributed to them tended to be slight. Damage to gardens and recreational green space is mainly aesthetic.
- Neither commonly-cited homespun nor ultrasonic deterrents are likely to scare moles away, and trapping and poisoning methods of removal are inhumane. The live-trapping and removal of moles is unlikely to be effective, as other moles will probably move into the empty tunnels, and may even extend them.
- It is better to live with the problem of molehills and remove them as they appear, generally in the autumn and winter when it is damp and easy to dig. The loamy, textured soil can be used for potting plants.
- Moles are actually a gardener's friend; leaving them undisturbed, means that they are less likely to dig new tunnels. They can actually benefit the garden by eating harmful insect larvae like leatherjackets, cockchafers and carrot flies, while tunnels help drain and aerate heavy soils.
- The only time you are likely to see a mole in the garden is if it comes to the surface to collect leaves and grass to build its nest. This will be located under a larger than normal molehill (known as a fortress).

A survey form is included with Wycombe Wildlife Group members' newsletters. Anyone else who would like to help can either call 020 749 84533, or visit www.molewatch.org.uk, or collect a form from the Environment Centre on Holywell Mead.

Wildlife Gardening Reminder - Water for birds

- Remember that, when keeping your birdfeeders and the area below them clean and disinfected (weekly, if possible) you should also include your birdbaths.
- Change the water in your birdbaths daily, and scrub out with a brush dipped in a weak solution of detergent at least once a week. Rinse and, if possible, allow to dry in the air before refilling.
- If it is likely to freeze overnight, empty the birdbath in the evening, and refill the following morning. This saves having to thaw and remove the ice the next day.

Reports of Wycombe Wildlife Family Group Meetings APRIL - JULY 2007

Saturday 14th April - "Easter Egg Hunt"

Thirty adults and children turned up and took part in an Easter Egg Hunt, where they followed a trail across the Rye to the play area, on to Pann Mill garden, then around a route along the back of the Dyke, looking for the answers to clues on our question sheets. After receiving their prized eggs, several children stayed on for an egg and spoon race before heading back to the Environment Centre. A lovely sunny day - more like summer than spring.

Julie Hopton



*Egg and spoon race
at the Easter Egg
Hunt*

*Photograph by Julie
Hopton*

Saturday 12th May - "Uptails All"

Unfortunately, due to the really awful weather on the day, there were no attendees when I turned up at Court Gardens in Marlow. Had the weather been kinder, I am sure that there would have been a few robust stalwarts, but it was not to be. Never mind, we will keep this one in mind for next year's programme. (We may make it a summer walk though.)

Julie Hopton

Saturday 9th June - "The Ugly Bug Ball"

We gathered together on the edge of Kings Mead car park armed with our viewers and a couple of guide books, and set off to see what we could find. We weren't too sure what we would discover in this thin strip of long grasses between the river and the mown grass of the cricket and rugby pitches. We started off well, finding a plethora of wolf spiders in the long grasses near the water. Almost all of them were females carrying egg sacs underneath, making them a lot easier to spot. As we carried on searching, we found large numbers of true bugs, including a couple of species of leaf hoppers, a squash bug (*Coreus marginatus*) which looks just like a shield bug and feeds on docks, several capsid bugs, and numerous kinds of aphid. This is probably why we found so many ladybirds, including the 7 spot, 14 spot, Orange, and several different forms of the extremely variable 2 spot. We also found a Roesel's Bush-cricket nymph which, until a few years ago, was unheard of in these parts. Since we have had warmer summers, this creature has become quite a common sight.

As we had been out for nearly an hour and a half by this time, we abandoned thoughts of making any bugs, and decided on a slow walk back to the car park through the long grass in the hope of finding a mislaid field guide. As we wandered back we only saw one species of butterfly, the Small White, but we did see the Common Blue Damselfly and the unmistakable Beautiful and Banded Demoiselles, both of which are pollution intolerant. Alex even managed to coax a male Banded Demoiselle onto her finger! And, to round off a good afternoon, Alex even found our lost guide book!

Tony Speight, WDC Ranger

Saturday 7th July - "Batty Business"

This was a lovely session with many people passing through the Environment Centre, as the weather had turned mild and sunny. First they came to see the bees before meeting Rose, the injured Noctule bat, who can no longer be returned to the wild. She was the star as always. Both parents and children were fascinated by their close encounter with a real live bat! Many were amazed just how small they actually are, and any parents that were rather wary, or even scared of bats, before they came in, were soon 'ooohing' and 'aaahing' along with the children at how lovely Rose was. A few conversions there! The children made masks and flying bats to take home. Over 70 people came through in the course of the two hour session. Some stayed, others couldn't stay but picked up a programme and asked if they could come along to another WWFG session. The more the merrier.

If you want to hear bats hunting for their prey, join us on Saturday 8th September for the Haymaking Funday at Funges Meadow Nature Reserve. A spot of raking, pond dipping, and bug hunting, will be followed by a well-earned picnic. If you don't mind staying until dusk, we will sit down to listen to the bats feeding over the pond whilst silhouetted against the sky. A simple device helps us to hear their high pitched calls. Don't forget to bring a torch and jumper, as it can get nippy once the sun goes down.

Julie Hopton



Julie holding the injured Noctule bat. Photograph by Margaret Simmons

Introduction to chalk grassland flora

This was the first of four planned outdoor Wednesday evening meetings at Hughenden to study chalk grassland flora. Leader Angus Idle's approach to his subject was, as always, unorthodox. He produced a large screwdriver, with which he levered up a hapless Bulbous Buttercup to show us the roots from which it derived its name. Then he plucked a grass blade and passed it between his lips to test its hairiness to help identify it. He encouraged us to munch the leaves of the native Common Sorrel to compare its flavour with the cultivated counterpart bought in supermarkets. We were also told we could eat Common Cornsalad (*Valerianella locusta*), though not everyone was eager to try this unappetising-looking plant. 14 different grasses were identified during the meeting, and 13 species of wild flowers. Angus also pointed out the unusually large blooms of Hupeh Crab (*Malus hupehensis*) which contrasted with the tiny fruits it would bear later, and the strongly perfumed Perfoliate Honeysuckle (*Lonicera caprifolium*), with its cup-shaped leaves. 5 people attended this first meeting but only 1 person attended the meeting on 16th May. The meetings on 9th and 30th May were cancelled due to wet weather.

Pat Morris



Left - Common Cornsalad (also known as Lamb's Lettuce) - easy to grow and good to eat

Right - Herb Paris - one of our local rare plants



Unscheduled visit to Langley Wood

Following a request from Reading and District Natural History Society (RDNHS), a special visit to Langley Wood to view the flowering Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*) was arranged. Three members from Wycombe (plus a dog) and three members from Reading met up on a surprisingly sunny morning to make the tour. Meryl Beek, Hon. Field Excursion Secretary, who was one of those who attended, later wrote:- "June, Martin and I had a lovely morning with you, and the best Herb Paris we have yet seen! What a fascinating old wood. I am sure a few more people in the Society would like to come over in the future." *Paris quadrifolia* is the logo of RDNHS and the Society is carrying out a survey of all locations within a 20-mile radius of Reading where it might exist. There are about 60 plants in Langley Wood, and they are multiplying well.

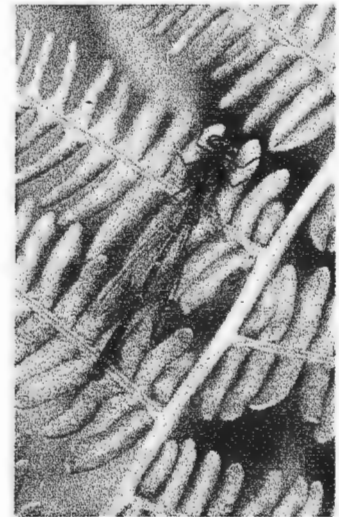
Pat Morris

Talk on Dragonflies - Monday 16th April

The subject of this talk, given by County Dragonfly Recorder Alan Nelson, proved to be very popular. About 30 people attended, including members of Wycombe Wildlife Group, the general public and members of other wildlife organisations. Alan's incredibly detailed slides showed all the phases in a dragonfly's life, how to recognise one nymph from another, the different types of dragonfly, and recognition features between commonly-confused species, such as the Large Red Damselfly (*Pyrhosoma nymphula*) and the Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*).

Everyone would have liked to hear more, but time did not allow, and it was agreed Alan should come again next year. Many thanks to Alan for a most informative and helpful talk.

Pat Morris



*The Large Red Damselfly has its wings folded backwards when at rest and has red stripes on a black background on the two rear abdominal segments.
Photograph by Roger Wilding.*

AGM and "Ridgeway" talk - Monday 21st May

The AGM was well attended and business, such as elections, swiftly completed. Then our guest speaker, John Tyler, gave his talk on "The Ridgeway - the History and Natural History of Europe's Oldest Road". More people had joined those from Wycombe Wildlife Group by then, and were entertained by John's slides of long barrows and sarsen stones. Were tall thin ones male, and short stubby ones meant to represent females? John asked. He also showed slides of hill forts and burial mounds, with an astonishingly clear picture of the dark entrance to a burial chamber. He explained how the bones inside were in side chambers, sorted into skulls, limbs, and different age groups. Possibly they had been placed there once they had been picked clean by crows outside.

A wide selection of natural history slides included Common Blue and Large Skipper butterflies, a Bloody-nosed Beetle (it uses reflexed bleeding to warn off predators), birds such as the Great Spotted Woodpecker and fungi, of which Chicken of the Woods was one. The floral slides included poppy fields, and John suggested their seed might have been introduced by the Romans in their wheat.

It was an excellent evening, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Thank you, John.

Pat Morris



Bloody-nosed Beetle



Wycombe's Swans 2007



One breeding success on the Thames - photograph by Roger Wilding

There have continued to be good numbers of swans on the Dyke. Up to fifty in the winter. One or two have been caught up in fishing tackle but not too seriously. One looked to be in a bad way but a little blood goes a long way on a white swan. About July, swans moult; the new growing feathers are delicate and easily damaged. This swan was wrapped and tangled in line, breaking some quills and causing a little loss of blood. She was taken to Swan Lifeline but no hooks could be found.

The pair mentioned in Issue 52 carrying rings A2S and A2T spent most of last winter on the Dyke. A little is known of their history. Swan Lifeline collected them from Pangbourne on 4th September 2006 when they were fighting with another pair. A2T also had an infected leg. A2T had been born in 2002. They were released into the flock at Reading on 11th October, as stated in the last report. Eleven days later, they had arrived on the Dyke, staying until early spring. At

Swan Upping in mid July this year, they were seen together back near Pangbourne, which is six miles upstream of Reading. We wonder whether they flew 16 miles each way over the hills direct, or 25 miles via Henley, Bourne End and Wooburn, or parts of both.

The Swan Uppers found comparatively few cygnets during their annual census on the Thames this year. An average number of pairs were seen but many had only one cygnet. Many youngsters were small suggesting they were replacements for lost early broods. A number of nests were known to be washed out during the high water levels in the spring. In another hazard, one nest at Marlow had cygnets go over the weir several times. Some rescues were successful but only one survived to be a juvenile.

If you come across any swan with a problem, please contact Swan Lifeline on 01753 859397.

Eric Britnell

Below are the records of birds, including Swans, seen on the Rye in July 2007 by Roy Barks

	2nd July 2007	9th July 2007	18th July 2007	23rd July 2007
Mute Swan	30	32	29	33 (plus 5 juveniles on the Abbey Lake)
Mallard	123	153	217	210
Coot	28	30	17	23
Moorhen	6	4	1	2
Grey Wagtail	2			
Heron	2	1	1	
Tufted Duck		5		1 female plus 7 ducklings
Mistle Thrush				7



Starring Phil Space

One day in June, as I was clearing a border under the apple tree, I heard the familiar sound of Long-tailed Tits. Looking up I could see a small group moving across from the neighbouring garden. A few settled in the tree and searched for insects before flying on. Another group took their place and then the process repeated itself several times. There were about thirty in total. I could have reached out and touched some of them, they were so close; one of those special moments which happen now and then.

My wild cherry was smothered in blossom and then laden with fruit which is perfectly edible, though of course small. I never did pick any and the tree was stripped bare very quickly by Wood Pigeons.

Butterfly numbers are down this year. So far, in spite of the warmer weather and the Buddleia blossoming, there have been only odd appearances by Red Admiral, Peacock and Comma. Small, Large and Green-veined Whites have outnumbered them, but the Marjoram has attracted quite a few Gatekeepers. Also the occasional Holly Blue flies in. I haven't seen a Small Tortoiseshell since the spring and not a single Painted Lady has turned up yet.

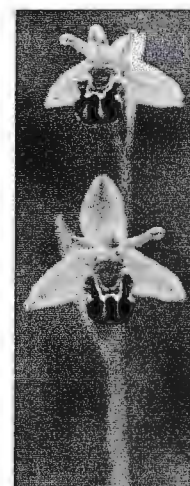
The Badgers continue to come in at night and dig up the lawn and then leave a parting gift in pits which they scrape at the end of the garden.

Orchids

I was surprised in 2001 to find a Bee Orchid growing in the front lawn. As it hadn't happened before, I contacted the late Maurice Young for his comments. I wondered if I'd brought the seed in on my walking boots. Maurice's theory was that the dust-like seed had blown in on the wind and he congratulated me on my lawn maintenance regime, ie doing nothing (except mowing). So I was really surprised this year when the leaves of sixteen orchids appeared in early spring. But two of them proved to be Pyramidal Orchids and of different shades, one pink and the other more purple. The first Bee Orchid flower opened on June 3rd, 10 days earlier than in 2001. One Pyramidal Orchid flower was still blooming in mid-July, though it had finished by mid-August.

I started to think about Maurice's theory again and how another species had grown this year. But here's an idea. When I finish a walk, assuming that I've got to the start by car, I throw the boots in the back. Now and again I shake the mat from the car boot over the lawn. And that, I think, is how the orchid seed got there.

Harry Wheate



Bee Orchid (Ophrys apifera).

Photograph by Roger Wilding.

Other reports of orchids have come in, 30-40 Common Spotted-orchids growing in the front lawn of a garden on Hamilton Hill, High Wycombe. Though these are looked after and not cut down until they have finished flowering and set seed, others on the hill are mown down regularly each year. Two White Helleborines were in flower on the footpath above High Wycombe Cemetery in June in the same area. This area of land was obviously a good spot for orchids, before it was built on.

Editor



Slow-worm (Anguis fragilis). Photograph by Roger Wilding

Allotment News Allotment visit - Wednesday 23rd May

As this walk was scheduled for the evening before the visit to Highgrove House, little support was expected. Even so, three of the six people who came along were due to set off at 8am the following morning for the Highgrove outing.

It was a lovely sunny evening (yes, we do seem to have had some good weather!) but too cold for butterflies. However, there were plenty of other things to enjoy, from the song of the Blackcap and Thrush, to plants such as Hemlock, Spotted Medick and Wild Clary, and the white flowerheads of Guelder-rose. The seed-heads of Cowslips were detected, half-hidden in the grass, and a Slow-worm was found, resting under an old carpet. The Slow-worm departed rapidly when we all went to look at it.

Pat Morris

Walk from Kings Mead to Funges Meadow Wednesday 20th June

Though there were a few dark clouds hanging overhead, it was a pleasant, sunny evening. Only one person turned up but leader John, from WDC Ranger Service, sportingly conducted the walk nevertheless. Thank you John for giving your time in spite of such poor support.

WWG Contact Details

Postal correspondence should be addressed to:
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Website: www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk
Webmaster: Malcolm Pusey
mac@mpusey.freereserve.co.uk

To join Wycombe Wildlife Group, please complete the forms below (or photocopies) and send to the Membership Secretary, 73 Carver Hill Road, High Wycombe, HP11 2UB.

Subscription rates: £6 per annum, if paid by standing order or £7 per annum, if paid by cash or cheque.

Please enrol me as a member of Wycombe Wildlife Group
Name:.....
Address:.....
Telephone:..... Email:.....

Payment options

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.....Branch
Address:.....
NEW standing order instruction:
Account to be debited (your account details)
Sort code:
Account number:
Account name:
Beneficiary bank and payee details
HSBC 1 Corn Market High Wycombe HP11 2AY
Sort Code: 402417
Account number: 92116685
Account name: Wycombe Wildlife Group
Ref:
Payment details
Amount of payment: £6.00 Six pounds
Frequency: Annually
From: Date in box below
Number of payments: Until further notice
Signature Date
OR Payment by cheque or cash
I enclose my cheque/cash for £7.00, payable to Wycombe Wildlife Group.



WILDLIFE NOTICE BOARD



Observations



02/04/07 Comma, Small Tortoiseshell & Peacock between Downley and Hughenden Park
 16/04/07 Swallows - Little Marlow
 20/04/07 Hornet at garden pond - Carver Hill Rd, H. Wycombe
 24/04/07 100 Greenfinch, 2 Bramblings & Hobby - Penn Wood
 25/04/07 Nightingale singing in Amersham Hospital car park
 30/04/07 Slow-worm in compost heap - Amersham Hill Drive
 01/05/07 Swifts - Cressex
 04/05/07 Grey Wagtail - Hughenden Lodge
 10/05/07 Small Copper - Ladies Mile, Hazlemere
 23/05/07 Slow-worm - Bassetsbury Allotments, H. Wycombe
 24/05/07 Cuckoo - Vicarage Wood, Penn
 25/05/07 Red Admiral & Common Blue. Yellowhammer singing - Ladies Mile, Hazlemere
 05/06/07 2 Swallows & 4 Skylarks - Puttenham Place Farm
 13/06/07 Large Skipper - Farther Barn Field, Common Wood, Penn

22/06/07 4 Elephant Hawkmoths - Hughenden
 23/06/07 20+ Marbled Whites, 20+ Meadow Browns, 20+ Ringlets & Comma - Penn Wood
 29/06/07 Longhorn beetle (*Strangalia maculata*), *Oedemera nobilis* (beetle) & Ichneumon fly - Puttenham Place Farm
 05/07/07 *Volucella zonaria* (hoverfly), 7 Long-tailed Tits & Buzzard overhead - Amersham Hill Drive
 10/07/07 Heron on roof - Amersham Hill Drive
 13/07/07 8 Linnets & 2 Yellowhammers - Puttenham Place Farm
 13/07/07 Maple Prominent (moth) - Deeds Grove
 15/07/07 Small Blood Vein (moth) - Deeds Grove
 19/07/07 7 Yellowhammers, 7 Whitethroats (5 juveniles), 4 Jays & 55 Starlings - Lude Farm (between Loudwater and Penn)
 21/07/07 Small Tortoiseshell - Puttenham Place Farm
 21/07/07 *Melanogaster ambiguus* (a false truffle) - Deeds Grove
 24/07/07 Hornet - Gravelly Way, Penn Wood
 08/08/07 Buff-tip moth larvae - Common Wood, Penn

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	Alison Smith	01296 330033
British Trust for Ornithology (Regional Rep.)	David Lee	01844 347576
Bucks Invertebrate Group	Mike Palmer	01296 624519
Bucks Badger Group	Mike Collard	01494 866908
Bucks Bird Club	Roger Warren	01491 638691
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
Chiltern Chalk Stream Officer	Allen Beechey	01844 355502
Chilterns AONB	Steve Rodrick	01844 355500
Chilterns Conservation Board (Activities and Education)	Cathy Rose	01844 355506
Chilterns Woodland Officer	John Morris	01844 355503
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 Beekeeping Association	Christine Hazell	01494 531599
High Wycombe Society	Frances Presland	01494 523263
Lane End Conservation Group	Bärbel Cheesewright	01494 882938
Marlow Society	Bob Savidge	01628 891121
National Trust	(Office)	01494 755573
Pann Mill Group	Robert Turner	01494 472981
Prestwood Nature	Tony Marshall	01494 864251
Ramblers Association	J.L. Esslemont	01494 881597
Princes Risborough Countryside Group	Francis Gomme	01844 274865
St. Tiggywinkles	Les Stocker	01844 292292
Swan Lifeline	Wendy Hermon	01753 859397
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

