

Issue 64

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JANUARY
2011

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A Happy New Year to all our readers.

Wycombe Wildlife Group was formed in 1989 and the first issue of Wycombe Wildlife News was published in January 1990. This issue marks the start of your newsletter's 22nd year.

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.

Co-operates with other groups with similar aims.

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 - January 2011

December 2010 was the coldest period for 100 years, yet, surprisingly, it did not result in any unusual winter visitors to my wildlife garden: no Redwings or Fieldfares (but see "Observations") nor any Bramblings or Siskins, only flocks of the tit family bombarding the feeders , once the ports had been cleared of snow. Wood pigeons were a problem, clinging to the feeders and preventing the smaller birds from taking the seeds and devouring the harvest of berries in the hedgerow before any thrushes had had a chance to discover them.

The decline in the number of Starlings and House Sparrows has continued, as has the worrying absence of Greenfinches, though this has been compensated for by small charms of Goldfinches - always a delight to witness. It is to be hoped that the choking disease trichomonosis has not taken too great a hold on Greenfinch numbers, as all we can do is continue to maintain rigorous hygiene (difficult in such hard weather conditions) and provide plenty of places for birds to feed, in varying positions.

The absence of unusual visitors to the garden so far, has been reflected in the number of records sent in to the website, and comments and observations for use in the Newsletter. It has been a worrying time for many of our members, myself included, with sickness, family problems and ageing (yes!) to contend with, apart from snow. I am therefore doubly grateful to the contributors to the current Newsletter - without them there would have been nothing for people to read. I thank them for their continued loyalty and support, and prompt submissions.

Let us hope the New Year provides better weather for us all to enjoy, and good health for us, as well as our wildlife. If you make any New Year resolutions, determine to send in those records and comments whenever you can, to make your website and Newsletter that much better.

A Happy New Year

Pat Morris

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.

Proposed schools wildlife gardening project

The ambitious project we had planned, to promote wildlife gardening projects in schools, doesn't look as if it will get off the ground for a while yet. No-one has approached me offering to help manage the project or join the steering committee, as a result of the appeal in the last newsletter. The matter will need to be considered further at the next Quarterly meeting of the Executive Committee.

Roger Wilding

A day to remember



Tawny Owl (left), Little Owl (top) and Barn Owl (right)

In the Spring of 2010, I was given a voucher for an Owl Flying Experience at the Hawk Conservancy Trust at Andover. Although I had been close to owls on various occasions, when they had been brought to exhibitions at Notcutts Garden Centre, on this occasion I was actually going to hold owls on my wrist, and fly them. It was an exciting prospect.

I did not redeem my voucher until October 2010. By then, the weather had deteriorated, and on the day concerned it was actually raining. However, since I received no news of a cancellation, I set off soon after 8am, armed with protective clothing, and fully expecting a thorough soaking. The day turned out otherwise, as it happened, and after an hour of travelling, the sun broke through, the autumn countryside looked lovely, and the rest of the day was bright and clear.

My hosts for the morning, Mike and Pete, were waiting at a side entrance, when I arrived at the Trust car park. I was immediately welcomed, and as there was only one other guest taking part, and he was already in position, I was taken straight to the small area of woodland where the event was to take place.

Mike explained that owls do not fly for pleasure, but for a purpose. While he spoke, Pete fetched the first owl, and our Experience began.

Altogether, we flew four different owls during the first hour. With only two of us, we both had plenty of opportunity for photography, and to be up close and personal with each owl. First came a Malaysian Brown Owl, or Wood Owl. His name was Gucci. A Milky Eagle Owl, a larger bird with white-lidded eyes, came next. He was called Tolkein. After him, appeared the diminutive Little Owl, Achilles, who preferred to disappear into the crevices of a central woodpile, to perching on our gauntleted fist for his meal of chicken legs, though he did relent, and visit us too. Finally came Troy, a Tawny Owl. It was wonderful to have this owl so close to one's face, when it is normally only dimly visible, hooting in a lofty tree top. In the meantime, Brahma hens pecked at our feet, oblivious to the fact that their one-day old relatives were being consumed above them.

In the next hour we were taken on a brief tour of the various enclosures, in one of which was the rare Great Bustard. We entered a large meadow where our Flying Experience continued, with two types of vulture, and a Barn Owl. The vultures were Mike's favourite bird, and he considered they possessed far more intelligence than owls.

(continued on next page)

A day to remember (contd.)

We had a break for coffee, and viewed other vultures, a Polecat, and Sweeney Todd, a three-year old Snowy Owl. We then returned to the meadow, where children were queuing to have their own turn at holding a Barn Owl, my own grandchildren among them.

Our three-hour Experience was complete, but the day was not over. After a lunch of soup and rolls, eaten al fresco (such was the quality of the weather), we headed for a 500-seat amphitheatre to watch the afternoon's display. We saw an African Fish Eagle, taking chicken over a small pond, the vultures, and 13/14 Black Kites, all swooping so low over our heads, we could almost touch them. One of them, Paris, was 23 years old. It was a thrilling display. Red Kites had been fed during the morning, while we were enjoying our Experience. Last but not least, came Lark, a Peregrine Falcon, and he and his handler demonstrated how such birds were used in falconry on horseback in days gone by.

It was time to go home, and as I and my family said goodbye to one another, we all agreed it was the best day out with birds of prey we had ever had. Even visits to such places in Canada and Malaysia could not compare with the quality of the show at the Hawk Conservancy Trust at Andover. It was a day to remember, and we vowed to come again.

The Hawk Conservancy Trust Visitor Centre is to be found at Sarson Lane, Weyhill, Andover, SP11 8DY.
tel : 01264 773 850
e mail: info@hawkconservancy.org
website: www.hawkconservancy.org

A three-hour Hawk or Owl Flying Experience session cost £67.50 in 2010, but there are many other activities in which to take part. Normal admission Adults £11.50 Children £7.50 Group concessions available.

Pat Morris

Fires of life

A talk by Dr Jill Eyres on volcanos at Holtspur on Friday 8th October 2010

The talk started with Jill explaining that, although the general perception of volcanos is that they are cone shaped mountains with smoke coming out of the top, both active and dead volcanoes can take many forms. They can be shield shaped, flat or even valley shaped, and may be covered with ice or by the sea. Many active and non-active volcanos are to be found where the earth's tectonic plates come together.

Pillow larva, formed from underwater volcanic activity, is found in every ocean and can be seen on the NW coast of Wales and on Anglesey. Off Scotland, there were active volcanos on the island of Mull when the Atlantic Ocean was being formed, and the basalt columns on the island of Staffa were formed some 60 million years ago, as the fallen material from volcanic eruptions cooled.

The famous Old Faithful geyser in Yellowstone National Park in the United States is an example of volcanic activity occurring on a regular basis within a confined system. Many volcanoes do not have a regular cycle, however, and can erupt at intervals many years apart. Jill said that a further eruption from Mount Vesuvius is overdue, but predicted that the next eruption would probably occur in the Bay of Naples, rather than from Mount Vesuvius itself.

Jill ended her talk with a mention of super volcanos, which fortunately do not erupt very often. When they do, however, their eruptions are so violent they self destruct, and their debris can enter the stratosphere, having a major detrimental effect

on the world's climate. They can also cause species extinction. According to the type of material entering the stratosphere from such an eruption, there can be a resulting mini ice age or a large temperature rise. Yellowstone Park is one of six known super volcano sites: an eruption there could cover much of the United States with ash and debris.

Jill's talk created a great deal of interest and generated some interesting questions, particularly from a couple of young attendees. The collection of samples of volcanic debris, which Jill brought along, to illustrate the wide range of minerals associated with volcanic eruptions, also fascinated everyone. Some of the items were so perfectly shaped by nature that they looked as if they could only have been created by the hands of a skilled craftsman.

Thanks Jill for such an interesting and informative talk.

Pat Morris

Editor's note: Jill is giving a talk entitled "All stones and bones" at a High Wycombe Society meeting in the Guildhall on Friday 21st January, starting at 7.30pm, and on Saturday 26th March she is leading a walk (organised by BBOWT (South Bucks)) from West Wycombe Hill to Bradenham looking at the local geology. It is almost certain that Jill's involvement in the examination of the bones of young babies discovered at Hambleden, a subject covered in a recent television documentary, will be referred to during the High Wycombe Society talk.

Settlers, tourists and invaders - a talk by Martin Harvey on Monday 8th November 2010



Cypress Pug



Cypress Carpet

*Three moths to
look out for on
Leyland Cypress.*



Blair's Shoulder-knot

We welcomed Martin Harvey once again as our speaker. This time he was telling us about our non-native species of fauna and flora and their impact upon the natural history of the British Isles. He pointed out that our perception of foreign species arriving in this country is often clouded by publicity which tends to concentrate on introductions which have a harmful effect upon our environment, e.g. the problems caused by the introduction of Japanese Knotweed. Sometimes introduced species become unpopular, partially because they are foreign. Martin assured us there are also native species of flora which have become a nuisance because of their invasive nature, e.g. Dogwood.

In 2005, Natural England research counted 2,721 non-native species in our country, and 73% of these were flowering plants. Some of these species arrived by accident. Shipments from abroad may contain seeds of unwanted plants, or insects, from any area in the world. As trade increases, more of these accidents may occur. Foreign plant species may escape from gardens, and animals from laboratories, farms and collections. Some foreign species have been deliberately introduced into this country, without the full knowledge of their impact on British biodiversity. The impact of foreign species may be increased with the effects of global warming, which may help them proliferate. A lot of these foreign species have had a notable negative impact upon the environment. The Signal Crayfish, introduced from America in the 1970s, however, has brought disease to the native crayfish of Britain, and ousted them from most of our inland waters. A number of introductions have been a success economically. Some species of conifer have been imported for the timber trade, and game birds such as Pheasants and Partridges have done well. The vast majority of foreign species have had a neutral effect, although their longer term impact upon the environment is often unpredictable.

Martin told us about some species which have recently settled in our country. The moths Blair's Shoulder Knot, the Cypress Pug, and the Cypress Carpet have all found homes here, probably connected with the widespread planting of foreign Cypress trees, especially *Cupressocyparis leylandii*. He also mentioned an addition to Britain's list of bumble bees, *Bombus hypnorum*, which has an orange thorax and a black and white tail. This species has settled in southern England, and is rapidly

colonising northwards without apparent conflict with other species. Another insect, proceeding in a similar way, is the Ivy Bee (*Coletes hederae*). First recorded in 2001 near the south coast, it is now being found in areas further north. Other settlers mentioned were a yellow slug, *Limax flavus*, and a lacewing *Nineta pallida*, which seems to have spread from mainland Europe.

Martin continued his talk covering species which he considers to be tourists, i.e. those that are here for a short period and then die out. An example of this is the Rannoch Looper moth. In Britain, it is usually only recorded in Central Scotland, but was seen in a few areas of Berkshire in 2009. In 2010, this species was not seen. Climatic conditions may not be favourable every year for this insect to visit Britain.

Invading species are those which travel to this country and are able to breed and prosper here, spreading rapidly. Currently, the Harlequin Ladybird is an example. It is likely, however, that the large population of this insect will have a negative and disruptive impact upon our native insect life. An invasive moth which has had an adverse effect is the Horse-chestnut Leafminer moth, whose caterpillars can defoliate Horse-chestnut trees. The Oak Processionary moth caterpillar has a similar effect upon the foliage of Oak trees, but also poses a threat to human health. This moth is not widespread, but it has spread from mainland Europe. The Rosemary Leaf Beetle is another pernicious invader, eating the leaves of Rosemary and Lavender. It was probably brought to this country accidentally from the U.S.A. A rare insect, the Western Conifer Seed Bug, has made its way from North America, where it is considered a menace, to mainland Europe and, subsequently, to Britain. This is another unwelcome invader to this country.

Martin finished his talk by asking us to consider whether all non-native species are unwanted. In some way, they all change the ecological balance. The last picture he showed us was of the Red Kite, a species introduced locally and prospering. Should we look upon this introduction favourably, as it boosted the numbers of our declining native population?

Thanks to Martin Harvey for another enjoyable talk.

Paul Bowyer

Late autumn fungus walk in Bradenham Woods

The cloudy, damp and rather cold morning of the 13th November saw over 20 hardy souls assemble in Bradenham Wood Lane to hear our leader, Roger Wilding, introduce his late autumn walk. Despite it having been a very prolific year for fungi, the main flush had, by now, subsided. However he hoped a good selection would be seen.

Tracking first to the east of the road, through mixed deciduous woodland, it soon became clear that terrestrial fungi would be difficult to find, because of the carpet of recently fallen leaves. However, as the group spread out, isolated examples were discovered, including Red Cracking Bolete (*Boletus chrysenteron*), Ochre Brittlegill (*Russula ochroleuca*) and Wood Mushroom (*Agaricus silvicola*). The fruiting bodies of a number of small fungi were found and identified by Roger, with the Candlesnuff Fungus (*Xylaria hypoxylon*) being quite common.

Passing across a ride, we moved on to Naphill Common. Here the ground was more boggy, but, in general, similar fungi were encountered. Fruiting bodies on the trunks of trees, both living and fallen, were the most easy to see. One Oak tree had a rather old specimen of Chicken of the Woods (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) on its trunk, while the Birch Polypore (*Piptoporus betulinus*) was seen a number of times. This fungus is sometimes referred to as the Razorstrop Fungus, as it used to be employed as the final stage in the process of

sharpening razors. It was also used as a form of blotting paper. Some of the small fungi, which most of us would not have noticed, were pointed out to us by Roger. These included the Bracken Map (*Rhopoglyphus ficcinus*), growing on dead bracken stems, and Holly Speckle (*Trochila ilicina*) growing on dead Holly leaves.

The undergrowth in the woods was very sparse, and the flora not very inspiring, but a Holly bush was noted in full flower, and one very mixed up Beech sapling had fresh pale green leaves opening.

On returning to the road, those of us who had time crossed over to the woods on the west side, and were rewarded with a number of new finds. Wood Blewit (*Lepista nuda*) and Amethyst Deceiver (*Laccaria amethystina*) were observed amongst the leaf litter, and on our way back, the unusual Pipe Club (*Macrotyphula fistulosa*) was identified. The fruiting body of this fungus does indeed look like an upright, long, brown club, about 10cm tall.

Thus ended a very enjoyable walk, with a list of over 40 different species of fungi having been identified. Thanks must go to Roger for leading the walk, and to all the participants, especially the youngest, Laura Dodd, without whose diligent searching the list would have been considerably shorter.

Derek Bourne



Left: Pipe Club (*Macrotyphula fistulosa*) - an uncommon fungus found on wood, amongst leaf litter of broad-leaved trees, especially Beech.

Right: Section of Sycamore leaf showing a number of black dots on a green blotch on the underside of a fallen leaf in autumn. These are the fruiting bodies of the fungus *Sawadaea bicornis*, a very common but under-recorded species. This was one of the small fungi recorded on the Bradenham Woods walk.



Site management tasks



Glades at Gomm's Wood (left) and at Chairborough LNR (right) which support chalk grassland flora

The good weather in the early and mid autumn of 2010 enabled the grassland management tasks in the Cock Lane cemetery and the adjoining section of Gomm's Wood to be completed in record time. For a change, all the cut material was burnt up while it was dry. We had a team from Earthworks Conservation Volunteers helping with the cutting back of more scrub to extend the chalk grassland areas.

The permanent glades at Chairborough Local Nature Reserve were also strimmed, and the cut material burned before the snow came. Scrub cutting was also undertaken at Chairborough LNR, working with the Green Thursday Group, and during a Saturday conservation work party organised by the WDC Woodland Service.

A priority conservation task for 2011 is to help control the spread of Indian Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). This alien plant is the UK's tallest annual species and is spreading rapidly, particularly along watercourses, where it crowds out the native plant species, leaving bare soil on the banks in winter, risking soil erosion. The Revive the Wye Steering Group has decided that the control will take the form of cutting the flowering stems before

Indian Balsam (often called Himalyan Balsam) was introduced into this country in the mid 19th century as a garden plant. By the mid 20th century, it had begun to spread in the wild, particularly in wet and damp places, where it is now causing habitat destruction, and having a serious adverse effect on native plants. The photograph on the right, taken from London Road looking towards the Rye, shows how the species dominates the other flora present.

seeding takes place, rather than pulling the plants which can loosen the soil on the river banks and cause erosion.

We tried cutting some of the plants growing alongside London Road in 2010 with some volunteers working in the river doing the cutting, and others trundling green bins along the pavement to collect the cut material passed through the railings by those in the river. We soon realised that more time and resources would need to be devoted to this task to make any noticeable impact.

If anyone would like to help with this vital task, please get in touch with me and I will let you know when the work parties will take place. There are also huge quantities of this plant at King's Mead in the wetland habitat adjacent to the river on the north side of the open space. The plants in this location are likely to be controlled initially at least, by strimming. If anyone would like to help with the raking up and disposal of the cut material, please get in touch with me.

Your reserves and river need you.

Roger Wilding



Birds on the Rye Sep to Dec 2010 (recorded by Roy Barkes)

| Species | 13 th September | 11 th October | 30 th November |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mute swan | 41 | 47 | 45 |
| Canada goose | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Mallard | 268 | 319 | 292 |
| Tufted duck | 22 | 44 | 46 |
| Coot | 24 | 26 | 31 |
| Moorhen | 12 | 21 | 24 |
| Little grebe | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| Grey heron | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Herring gull | 14 | 38 | 24 |
| Lesser black-backed gull | 4 | 26 | 14 |
| Common gull | 15 | 18 | 12 |
| Black-headed gull | 135 | 210 | 285 |
| Mistle thrush | 4 | 9 | 10 |
| Fieldfare | 0 | 4 | 14 |
| Redwing | 0 | 12 | 18 |
| Song thrush | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Blackbird | 6 | 10 | 12 |
| Robin | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| Dunnock | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Chaffinch | 12 | 16 | 8 |
| Goldfinch | 0 | 24 | 0 |
| Greenfinch | 8 | 2 | 6 |
| Wren | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Blue tit | 8 | 14 | 12 |
| Great tit | 4 | 8 | 8 |
| Long-tailed tit | 22 | 0 | 0 |
| Coal tit | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Grey wagtail | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Pied wagtail | 5 | 0 | 4 |
| Goldcrest | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Nuthatch | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Great spotted woodpecker | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Green woodpecker | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Jackdaw | 0 | 4 | 18 |
| Wood pigeon | 30 | 38 | 62 |



*Two winter
migrant
thrushes -
Fieldfare
(left) and
Redwing
(right)*



Birds in winter

Report on talk by Brian Clews on 10th December 2010

The talk by Brian Clews at the members meeting at Holtspur on Friday 10th December was a little bit different from most bird talks. The speaker made extensive use of statistics to explain his points, illustrated his talk with some very high quality photographs, which he stated he had 'begged, borrowed or stolen' from various bird photographers he knew well, and involved the audience in the naming of the birds as they appeared on screen.

Brian started his talk by calculating the theoretical increase over ten years in the number of Robins that could be produced from a single pair and their offspring. Obviously many young birds do not survive long enough to produce their own young, and much of the talk covered the risks which our birds face. Predation is a major factor in restricting bird numbers, although of course some larger bird species rely on catching and killing smaller birds for their own survival, and for the survival of their young. The destruction of nests by birds such as the Magpie and Carrion Crow, looked at from the point of view of those species, is also a means of providing suitable food for their young. Mention

was made of cats, and the statistical evidence relating to the destructive impact they have on garden birdlife: in this case, the animal is merely practising its hunting instincts and rarely kills for food.

Issues such as habitat loss, and the need for birds to travel great distances in their hunt for adequate food supplies to see them through the winter months were covered. It was pointed out that some birds which used to migrate south for the winter, are now overwintering in Britain. A number of continental migrants have decided that the UK offers good accommodation for their winter break, enabling them to return to Europe before the migrants who have travelled further south, return. This enables the short-haul migrants to start breeding earlier.

This talk, with its interesting facts and excellent photographs, was very professionally presented and much enjoyed by those who attended.

Roger and Frances Wilding

150 years on from Charles Darwin

At the members' meeting on Monday 13th September 2010, Angus Idle gave a brief talk on Charles Darwin (1809-82) and his theory of evolution by natural selection. He went on to discuss how this theory has stood up to 150 years of research and argument.

Darwin's views were based on observations of fossils and plants during a voyage around South America and the Pacific. His "The Zoology of the Voyage of the Beagle" published in 1839 was followed by the "Origin of Species" in 1859. His conclusions in the latter conflicted with Christian opinion on the creation of the world. "The Descent of Man", published in 1871, caused further controversy, as the view that humans probably descended from apes conflicted with religious teachings that all humans descended from Adam and Eve.

Science has provided plenty of evidence to support much of the work of Darwin, which, supplemented by work on genetics and heredity including mutation and variation, is still valid today.

There has always been a conflict between religious teachings and science, and probably those most affected are the scientists themselves, many of whom have strong religious beliefs. As with so many issues which are of interest to people like ourselves, who care for our planet and all life on it, we need scientists to carry out research and produce the evidence on which others can come to informed decisions. Science hasn't yet come up with an answer to all aspects of creation. We probably all accept that humans evolved from similar species in Africa and then gradually spread around the world. We probably all accept that the solar system, containing our world, was the result of an astronomical event, but who can tell us how the universe was created?

Thanks Angus for an interesting evening and for generating such a lively debate at the end of your talk. Question time has never been quite like it before or since.

Roger Wilding.

A rare treat!

Having heard, via the Bucks Bird Club website, that a Wryneck had been spotted near Wendover, we were wondering whether it would be worth going to see it, but were not sure of its whereabouts.

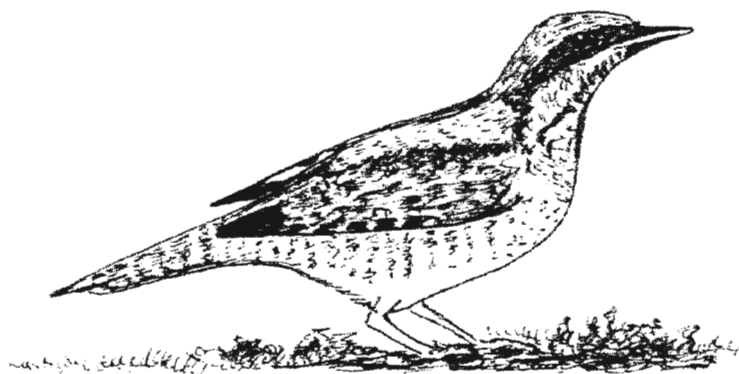
It was a lovely surprise, therefore, when our good friend Kevin rang up and offered to take us to the right location, as he had been there the previous day. We happily accepted the offer and set off on a perfect sunny day in September to Bacombe Hill on the Chiltern escarpment. The bird was obviously still around, because as we came out of the wooded area, we saw a distant group of people with scopes, binoculars and cameras!

The views over the Vale of Aylesbury were spectacular, and it was worth seeing this alone

on such a beautiful warm day! However, we soon joined the group of birders and eagerly viewed the nearest group of bushes and trees. However, to our surprise, the Wryneck was much nearer than we had realised, and was on the ground feeding on ants only a few yards from our feet. We stayed there for nearly two hours watching the bird and talking to other enthusiasts. We were told, just after leaving, that three birders, on trying to photograph the bird, were unable to do so, as it was too close!

This confiding, and seemingly fairly fearless, little bird was enjoyed by many people over the period of several days that it stayed on Bacombe Hill, before it departed from the area.

Carole Bowler and Roy Barkes



Wryneck - this small bird, which is related to the woodpeckers, is only fractionally larger than a House Sparrow.

Bird bonanza in one tree!

On 7th September, on a regular walk to High Wycombe via Grange Farm and Four Ashes, I noticed movement half-way up a Holly tree near Cockshoot Wood. With binoculars at the ready, the first bird noticed was a female Redstart (flicking its tail); to the left of this were three Yellowhammers; above there were four Greenfinches and several Chaffinches.

Other members of the cast included a male Blackbird, two Dunnocks, one male Linnet; and the icing on the cake was a Little Owl,

which flew out as I approached.
.....all in one holly tree!

A little further on, as I approached the rear of the old Wellesbourne School, I saw a Treecreeper, four Nuthatches, two Great-spotted Woodpeckers and several Jays!

The total species seen on my walk that morning was 42.

Roy Barkes

Roy Barkes and Kevin Holt are leading a bird walk for us in Penn Wood on 12th February, so let's hope their birding luck continues, and that we see the large numbers of Bramblings, which regularly roost in that wood.

. Editor

The WWG Christmas Party 2010

The turnout for Wycombe Wildlife Group's 2010 Christmas Party was disappointingly low. Those that did come along enjoyed the food and drinks brought along by members, and the opportunity this event gives to socialise with other members more than at the normal members' meetings.

James Donald acted as MC for the evening as usual, and this year, by request, repeated the wildlife quiz in the form of a beetle drive. This had been a great success on the two previous occasions it had been done. Those present divided themselves into two teams but a team could only be given a question to answer after throwing a number on the dice equating to the body part or parts on their team's beetle. To

ensure each game did not last for too long, each team had two dice to throw and there were three possible options for an answer to each question for the team to choose from. This resulted in some lucky guesses and some disappointment when one member of the team came up with the correct answer, only to be overruled by the other members of their team. Many of the questions were a bit obscure, but this evened out the varying levels of knowledge on different aspects of wildlife within each of the groups, creating a level playing field for all.

Our thanks go to James for researching the questions and organising the evening for us.

Roger Wilding

Contacting and/or joining Wycombe Wildlife Group

To join Wycombe Wildlife Group, please complete the form on the right (or a copy) and send to the Membership Secretary, 15 Cherrywood Gardens, Flackwell Heath, HP10 9AX. Subscription £6 per annum if paid by Standing Order or £7 per annum, if paid by cash or cheque.

WWG Contact Details

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Webmaster: Malcolm Pusey
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Please enrol me as a member of Wycombe Wildlife Group

Name:.....
Address:.....
Telephone:..... Email:.....

EITHER Payment by bank standing order

ToBank
.....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 Com 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:

Number of payments: Until further notice

Signature Date

OR Payment by cheque or cash

I enclose cheque/cash for £7.00, payable to Wycombe Wildlife Group.



WILDLIFE NOTICE BOARD



Observations



September

17/09 70-80 House Martins Hughenden Park
 22/09 Orange Ladybird in garden Amersham Hill Drive
 25/09 200+ Fly Agaric Common Wood

October

01/10 Queen Hornet under flowerpot Amersham Hill Drive

November

01/11 Red Admiral Hughenden Park
 15/11 5 Jays Carrington Road
 24/11 Red Fox around pond - lunchtime Amersham Hill Drive

December

04/12 1st Brambling Amersham Hill Drive
 11/12 1st Blackcap Amersham Hill Drive
 14/12 Brambling and Fieldfare Fernie Field
 15/12 Fieldfare and Redwings Fernie Field
 20/12 18 Fieldfares Tylers Green
 25 Redwings Tylers Green
 25 Godfinches Tylers Green
 Great Spotted Woodpecker Tylers Green
 25 Red Kites - seen from garden Tylers Green
 28/12 Satellite Moth Amersham Hill Drive



Contacts for Wildlife, Conservation & Environmental Groups in Wycombe District



| | | |
|---|----------------------|--------------|
| Bassetsbury Group | David Reed | 01494 439665 |
| Bat queries | WDC Rangers | 01494 421824 |
| Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust | (Oxon Office) | 01865 775476 |
| Booker Common & Woods Protection Society | Rita Luxton | 01494 436807 |
| British Trust for Conservation Volunteers | Jane Craven | 01296 330033 |
| British Trust for Ornithology (Regional Rep.) | Roger Warren | 01491 638691 |
| Bucks Badger Group | Mike Collard | 01494 866908 |
| | Mobile (at any time) | 07887 955861 |
| Bucks Bird Club | Neil Foster | 01296 748597 |
| Bucks Community Association | Francis Gomme | 01844 274865 |
| Bucks County Council Countryside Initiatives Team | Mark Bailey | 01296 382389 |
| Bucks Invertebrate Group | c/o BMERC | 01296 696012 |
| Butterfly Conservation | Nick Bowles | 01442 382278 |
| Chiltern Society | Angus Idle | 01494 563673 |
| Chilterns AONB | Steve Rodrick | 01844 355505 |
| Chilterns Chalk Streams Officer | Allen Beechey | 01844 355502 |
| Chilterns Conservation Board (Activities and Education) | Cathy Rose | 01844 355506 |
| Chilterns Countryside Group | Julie Rockell | 01628 526828 |
| Chilterns Woodland Officer | John Morris | 01844 355503 |
| Downley Common Preservation Society | Bill Thompson | 01494 520648 |
| Frieth Natural History Society | Alan Gudge | 01494 881464 |
| Grange Action Group | Dave Wainman | 01494 716726 |
| High Wycombe Beekeeping Association | Sheila Borwick | 01494 739313 |
| 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 |
| Natural England Conservation Officer | Rebecca Hart | 01189 392070 |
| Pann Mill Group | Robert Turner | 01494 472981 |
| Prestwood Nature | Tony Marshall | 01494 864251 |
| Ramblers Association | John Shipley | 01494 862699 |
| Risborough Countryside Group | Francis Gomme | 01844 274865 |
| St. Tiggywinkles | Les Stocker | 01844 292292 |
| Swan Lifeline | Wendy Hermon | 01753 859397 |
| Woodland Trust (voluntary speaker) | Michael Hyde | 01628 485474 |
| Wycombe District Council Woodland Service | John Shaw | 01494 421825 |