

**WYCOMBE
 and
 SOUTH BUCKS**

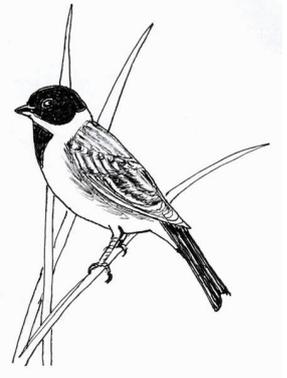
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**SEPTEMBER
 2015**

Issue 78

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Reed Bunting - one of the bird species heard during the visit to Otmoor (see page 6)



Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*) - this rare native annual plant is increasingly being sown in parks and gardens along with other annuals to provide a colourful floral display which also benefits wildlife. Some were seen during the Stoke Poges walk (see page 10).

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Tuesday 1st December 2015

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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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.

Chairman's Chat



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.

Despite the efforts of those responsible for improving the condition of London Road to sabotage this year's Wycombe Wildlife Group AGM, we did have a successful meeting. I am grateful for all those who put up with the terrible traffic chaos in the town that evening to attend. I received apologies from several people who were forced to abandon their attempts to find a way of getting to the meeting, when they found they were still stuck in the traffic gridlock well after the starting time. We started the meeting 15 minutes late, by which time the majority of those who managed to get to the venue had arrived, and we managed to get through the full programme arranged for the evening. As usual, our business meeting was short, but it allowed time for answering questions from members as well as presenting the group's independently inspected accounts and electing trustees for the coming year. The remainder of the evening was a departure from our normal practice of having a guest speaker. Instead we arranged a number of brief presentations on some of the Group's priority activities, and also had a mini video presentation by Stan Armstrong, one of our long-standing members who sets up cameras to record the wildlife that visits his garden and the adjoining woodland at night. We have seen some of Stan's video footage in the past, but it was good to see some of his more recent recordings. We were all pleased to hear that Stan is happy to come along and give a longer presentation at one of our future members' meetings.

The Group's Constitution requires the Executive Committee (comprising the elected trustees) to discuss and agree who should undertake the Chairman and Treasurer roles for the coming year, as well as who should fill other roles agreed by the Committee. It was agreed that no changes would be made for this coming year, but all of the trustees remain committed to taking whatever action is necessary to secure the mid to longer term future of the Group. The trustees decided that this action should be taken forward as the Group's sole priority project for the coming year, with James Donald taking the lead in his capacity of Vice Chairman. The note from James below explains how you can help.

New members

We welcome the following new members to WWG:
Angus and Judith Myless from Haddenham

Planning for the future of WWG

The trustees recognise the need for succession planning, as well as building membership and member involvement, to secure the mid to long term future of the Group. At the recent AGM we were delighted by the contribution of ideas by members to help us plan the future of the Group. I'm keen to follow up on those sessions and, whether you were at the AGM or not, if you think you could help me in developing our thinking please let me know.

I'd like to get together a steering group to consider the points raised and develop an action plan to address 'The future of the Group'. Although I have not yet made any specific arrangements, I envisage an initial meeting of about 90 minutes to get things going with further meetings (and/or email communication) to be arranged as necessary.

Please let me know by 23rd September 2015 if you would like to help shape the Group's future and, in general, what time of day and which days of the week would suit you best for a meeting.

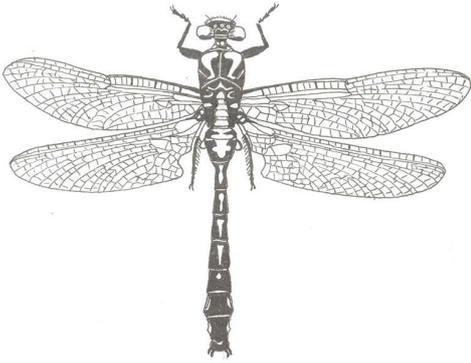
Thank you.

James Donald

Vice Chairman & Hon. Treasurer

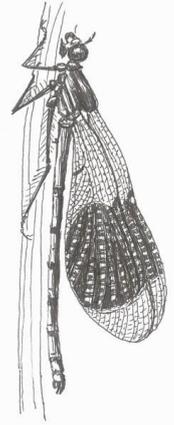
(I can be contacted by 'phone on 01494 637877 or via the "Contact us" button on our website, www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk)

A walk on the wild side



Left:
Club-tailed Dragonfly (*Gomphus vulgatissimus*) - despite its scientific name, this species is quite rare, but it can be found along the Thames.

Right:
Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*) - a very common species along the Thames.



The title of the talk given to us by Brian Clews at Holtspur on 10th April was “A walk on the wild side”. It covered some of the flora and fauna to be found in the Chilterns landscape along the Thames Valley, and referred to its varied habitats, from riverbanks and riverside meadows to chalk grassland and woodland. The good network of public footpaths in the area enables most of these habitats to be explored.

Brian started his talk with a brief coverage of the Thames from its source in Gloucestershire, where you can stand with one foot on each bank of the stream, to the Thames Barrier 184 miles downstream. The Thames is joined by many other rivers, including the Ray, Churn, Coln, Cole, Leach, Windrush, Evenlode, Cherwell, Ock and Thame, and also connects to the Oxford Canal and the Kennet and Avon Canal, before it reaches the Chilterns. Not surprisingly, a number of dragonfly and damselfly species and some of our well-known butterfly species were illustrated during the talk. We were also shown a photograph of the attractive larva of the Pale Tussock Moth, Brian pointing out that the resulting moth is very dull. We saw a photograph of the very rare Death’s Head Hawkmoth and an Eyed Hawkmoth, before moving on to a few daylight flying moths, including the

Cinnabar and Six-spot Burnet, and finally the *Nemophora degeerella*, an unmistakable moth, the male of which has antennae up to four times as long as its wings.

Moving on to the flora of the area, mention was made of woods with large colonies of Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) and chalk grassland sites supporting many species of orchid, including some of the UK’s rarest species.

When talking about some of the local bird species, Brian referred to the Buzzard, which used to be uncommon in the area but is now seen regularly, and other species such as the Grey Partridge, which used to be common but now rarely seen. He pointed out that the latter’s place has been taken by the Red-legged Partridge, introduced as a game species: he added that this species is so tame it often remains still and waits to be shot. Brian told us that some 200 species of bird are currently listed as endangered, in many cases as a result of the loss of suitable habitat. In the Thames Valley, using worked-out gravel pits to create nature reserves has been very successful, providing ideal new habitats for both fauna and flora.

Our thanks go to Brian Clews for his interesting talk.

Getting to know our local woodlands

Everyone is being encouraged to get more exercise and what better way of achieving this than for those who enjoy the countryside and its wildlife to get out and walk around the numerous open spaces and woodlands and the huge network of public footpaths throughout our local area. I can almost guarantee that all our members and supporters could look at the local map and find places of wildlife interest that they have never visited.

Following a request from one of our members to organise a few walks in the local woodlands, we

decided to plan a series of such walks to enable our members and supporters to get to know our woods better, and discover what they have to offer to those interested in natural history. We referred to these as “Wycombe woodlands walks” and included two in the Spring events programme, one in Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods in Micklefield and one in Round Wood in Sands. Both walks went well and further woodland walks will be included in forthcoming programmes. Peter Osborn submitted the following report on the first of these two walks:

A walk with Roger in Highfield and Hangingcroft Woods

It was a bright sunny spring morning on 8th April 2015, when six of us met Roger in the car park at Micklefield Community Centre for a walk through these ancient woodland remnants on the steep western slopes of the valley, which have been designated as a Local Wildlife Site. As we left the carpark and entered Highfield Wood, Roger pointed out the Dog-violets. He showed us how to distinguish between the Early Dog-violet (*Viola reichenbachiana*) and the Common Dog-violet (*Viola riviniana*). The former has a spur which is usually purple and curved upwards without a groove or notch at its tip, whereas the spur of the latter is usually paler with a notch or groove at the end. Although the Early Dog-violet often blooms slightly earlier than the Common Dog-violet, this is not always the case, which explains why we seemed to find a lot of hybrids between the two species. Roger pointed out that the term “Dog” in a plant name generally indicated that it was inferior and of no use to humans. Moving on we came across numerous plants, which are indicators of ancient woodland: Coralroot (*Cardamine bulbifera*), which is a speciality of the Chilterns, Yellow Archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*), Bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) which were just opening, Dog’s Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*).

After reaching the top of the wood, we found many fallen trees and the path seemed to be disused, so we had to descend to a lower level and find an alternative route taking us into Hangingcroft Wood. The boundary between the two woods is marked by an ancient but indistinct ridge and ditch. Nearby, Wendy spotted what looked like a wild strawberry, and Roger identified it as Barren Strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*) a species which he

had not previously seen in this wood. It can be distinguished from the Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) by the pointed green sepals being clearly visible between the five white petals. The leaves have fewer teeth, and again unlike those of the Wild Strawberry, the terminal tooth is shorter than the two adjacent teeth. Around here we also spotted numerous white flowered Dog-violets, some of which were hybrids, and also the white cluster flowers of Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), an ancient apothecary’s “cure all” plant.

Moving on, we reached a clearing where Hangingcroft Wood meets Kings Wood. Here we spotted spring butterflies on the wing, all enjoying the sunshine: Brimstone, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Speckled Wood. We also noted some other plant species, including Wayfaring-tree (*Viburnum lantana*), Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*), Wood Forget-me-not (*Myosotis sylvestris*), Travellers-joy (*Clematis vitalba*), two species of St John’s Wort (*Hypericum* sp), Spurge-laurel (*Daphne laureola*), Lesser Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*) and Wood Avens (*Geum urbanum*).

During our walk, the wood was alive with the sound of birds: Green Woodpecker, Long-tailed Tit, Jay, Greenfinch, Wren, Robin, Blackbird were all seen or heard. On the way back to the car, Roger pointed out various fungi. Our thanks go to Roger for organising the walk and showing us the surprising diversity of these small woods now surrounded by housing estates. A sad reflection on its present day proximity to civilisation, is the amount of litter and discarded items – mattresses and the like, abandoned in parts of this ancient woodland.

Peter Osborn



Left:
A white-flowered
Common Dog-violet
(*Viola riviniana*)



Right:
Barren Strawberry
(*Potentilla sterilis*)

Round Wood walk

A second woodland walk was held on 15th April when we visited Round Wood in Sands. Although this was a smaller wood than the one visited the previous week, there was plenty to see whilst following the paths up and down and around the wood. Round Wood is another survivor within an area where extensive joined up woodland cover has had to make way for housing development. The creation of the Bookerhill Estate in the 1930s and later housing on part of Five Acre Wood off New Road and on the land between Bookerhill Estate and Lane End Road broke the green corridors which linked Round Wood to Rowly Wood, Booker Common Woods and the wider countryside. Still, we need to be thankful that Round Wood remains, that it is designated as a Local Wildlife Site (LWS) and that it is under the

management of the Chiltern Rangers. Because the LWS includes chalk grassland and scrub as well as woodland, a visit in spring enables woodland flowers such as Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) to be seen, whereas a summer visit reveals flora such as Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), Wild Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*) and Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*).

At the end of the walk, the footpaths which lead to other nearby woods such as Sands Wood (part of the Sands Bank Local Nature Reserve), High Barbers Wood, Sunter's Wood and Hellbottom Wood were pointed out. There are obviously still plenty of choices for future Wycombe woodland walks.

Tree identification at Mop End

On Sunday 10th May, we visited the Amersham Field Studies Centre at Mop End by arrangement, for a tree identification walk. After a short indoor session identifying some pre-collected samples, we went on a guided walk around the site looking at the wide range of tree species growing there.

The time of our visit coincided with the peak of the Bluebell flowering period. Although we are used to seeing this species in many of the woods in our area, it is a sight which one can never see too much of, and the Mop End display was absolutely stunning. All those who attended enjoyed their visit and our thanks go to the Field Studies Centre for running this talk and walk for us.

Top right: WWG members enjoying their walk around the Amersham Field Studies Centre at Mop End.

Bottom right: Our visit coincided with the peak Bluebell flowering time.



Visit to Otmoor



Common Lizard seen during visit to Otmoor

On the cold but bright morning of 30th May, Roger and I met up with several more members of WWG in the rather crowded car park of the lovely unspoilt wetland and reedbed RSPB Reserve at Otmoor, near the village of Beckley, NE of Oxford.

We were there to meet Barry Oxley, an RSPB volunteer speaker who has been very actively involved in the creation and management of the Otmoor reserve. He was going to take us on a walk around the site, as a follow-up to his earlier talk to WWG.

It was just the right time of year to hear birdsong at its best, but the wind was rather too cold for all but the bravest birds to sing. We heard Cetti's Warblers, Reed and Sedge Warblers, and also Reed Buntings. What the Reed Buntings lack in musical ability they more than make up for in appearance, the males being very smartly

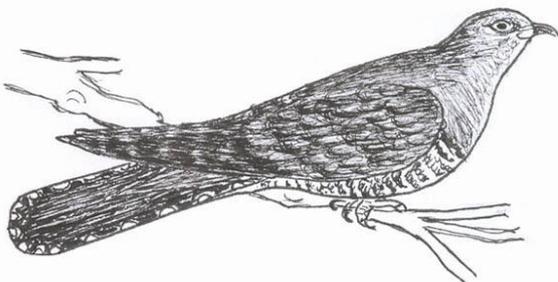
dressed with striking black heads and barred plumage.

As the day warmed up, we were treated to the sounds of Cuckoos and Turtle Doves, two sadly declining migrant species. The Turtle Dove's call is a placid purring sound heard from deep within a bush. We also saw a few Common Lizards out basking in a sheltered spot.

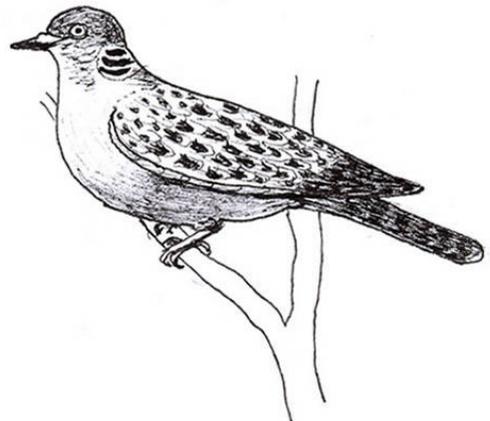
Wetland flowers tend to be at their best in mid to late summer, but we did see lots of pretty Water-violets (*Hottonia palustris*) in the wet ditches. These are not violets at all but members of the Primrose Family.

As we returned to the car park, we were thrilled by the sight of a Turtle Dove on an overhead wire, making a beautiful ending to an enjoyable walk. Our thanks go to Barry for such an interesting walk.

Frances Wilding



Left: Cuckoo



Right: Turtle Dove

A visit to BBOWT's newest reserve

On Friday 12th June we visited Yoesden, BBOWT's newest nature reserve, where Paul Bowyer led a walk looking for grassland butterflies and orchids. Yoesden is the only remaining site in Bucks for the Adonis Blue, so this was certainly one species we were looking forward to seeing during the visit. Were we lucky? Yes, we were, and we had some very close views of that species. We also had some good views of the Green Hairstreak and, as well as Orange Tip, Red Admiral, Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Small Blue, Brimstone and Common Blue, we saw our first Marbled Whites of the year, on what was an early date for the species.

Before its purchase by BBOWT, Yoesden Bank was open access land and well known for its huge numbers of orchids: most of them are Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) but other species are present, albeit in smaller numbers. Sure enough, there were Common Spotted-orchids everywhere and, in addition, Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia conopsea*), Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*), White Helleborine (*Cephalanthera damasonium*), Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*) and what was thought to be a

Southern Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*) were present and in flower. There were of course plenty of other chalk grassland flowers to see, as we walked around the reserve.

It is good to know that the future of this very interesting site is in safe hands, following its purchase by BBOWT. It is a wonderful place to visit, and its location away from busy roads makes it a very peaceful place, where the only sounds are those that one expects to hear in the countryside.

The Chiltern Way passes through the reserve after crossing the road by Radnage Church to where it crosses the Bledlow Ridge road. There is also footpath access from Bottom Road in Radnage and a second footpath leading from Bledlow Ridge. Places to park vehicles are in short supply near to Yoesden, so it is best to park along Bledlow Ridge and access the reserve from one of the two footpaths from there. The bus from High Wycombe to Oxford stops in Bledlow Ridge very close to where the Chiltern Way crosses, but the service is very infrequent, resulting in a long, albeit interesting, walk if you just miss the return bus.



Above:
The highlight of Yoesden reserve is Yoesden Bank, the large sloping area of open south-facing chalk grassland with some isolated young scrub. This is where you will find the majority of the butterflies and the orchids.

Below:
Adonis Blue

Yoesden Bank is currently the only Buckinghamshire site for this rare butterfly.



Supporting the National Trust

During the weekend 20th and 21st June, The National Trust at West Wycombe organised an overnight Summer Solstice family camp alongside the lake in West Wycombe Park from the Saturday evening until the Sunday morning and a Fathers' Day event on the Sunday which was open to the campers and to the public visiting West Wycombe Park on that day. Wycombe Wildlife Group was asked to support the event by organising some wildlife related activities on the Saturday evening and providing a display stand at the Sunday event.

During the early evening Julie Hopton ran a pond dipping session at the edge of the lake and Richard Bird ran a similar activity in one of the streams running through the park to look for riverfly larvae. Alan Beechey, the Chiltern Conservation Board's Chiltern Chalk Streams Project Officer, also came along and led a riverfly monitoring task in one of the other streams. These activities proved to be of great interest to both the children taking part and to their parents.

Two other activities had been planned for later on the Saturday evening. Julie Hopton brought along a large number of bat detectors which were distributed among the families that wanted to take part in the bat detecting walk around the park. A great time was had by all with enthusiastic shouts from those picking up the echo location calls from passing bats, on the bat detectors. The other planned activity was

moth trapping but by the time it was dark enough to turn the moth trap light on, most of the campers were thinking about the need for an early night to enable them to get up early for the solstice sunrise. This coupled with the lack of a suitable location for the moth trapping near to the camp site resulted in nearly everyone supporting the bat detecting activity instead. There was some support for the moth trapping by WWG members as it had been advertised in the Group's events programme, and Paul was happy to carry on by himself when everyone else had decided it was time to leave.

On the Sunday, WWG shared a gazebo (on loan from the Chiltern Rangers) with Revive the Wye (RTW) which housed a new RTW display and a table with literature provided by WWG, RTW, Chiltern Rangers and the Chiltern Society. The stand, which was manned by representatives of WWG and RTW, was visited by a number of people who were interested in the activities of both organisations. Having visited some of the other stands at this event, however, it became clear that any future stands at such events needed something other than just display panels and literature, to attract people to the stand rather than just walk past it. The big draws were a working pole lathe, live birds of prey, a beekeeping demonstration and the BBOWT stand with natural history exhibits which could be held and examined. There is a clear lesson to be learned from this experience.



Top left: Will these enthusiastic young children become future riverfly monitoring volunteers?

Top right: Pond dipping in the West Wycombe Park lake to see what can be caught.

Left: As darkness falls, a walk around West Wycombe Park with bat detectors proves to be an exciting adventure for the campers, whatever their age.

Butterflies and flowers in Homefield Wood

Homefield Wood is probably best known as one of the three nature reserves where the Military Orchid can be seen, but is also a good place to see many other interesting flowers and butterflies. Paul Bowyer led a walk there on Thursday 9th July, starting off along the woodland ride. We saw quite a few Silver Washed Fritillaries and Dark Green Fritillaries and managed to get a glimpse of a White Admiral which flew briefly out of the woodland fairly high up and then disappeared back into the trees. We kept a look-out for White-letter Hairstreaks and Purple Hairstreaks which are often seen along the woodland ride, but unfortunately neither species put in an appearance. As well as masses of bramble flowers along the ride to attract the butterflies, there is a wide range of other flowering plants, including Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), Common Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*), Vervain (*Verbena officinalis*), Dark Mullein (*Verbascum nigrum*), Ploughman's-spikenard (*Inula conyzae*), Musk Mallow (*Malva moschata*) Balm (*Melissa officinalis*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Corn Mint (*Mentha arvensis*) and Lesser Stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*).

We diverted into the woodland, hoping we might see another White Admiral but we were unlucky, so we made our way back to the open grassland area of the reserve. On our way through a fairly damp area of the woodland, we came across a patch of the invasive alien Indian Balsam growing amongst the bracken, and decided to deal with the plants before they had chance to produce and disperse their seeds.

As expected on such a sunny day, there were plenty of butterflies to see in the open grassland of the reserve, including Marbled Whites. The effect of the recent lack of rain on the ground flora was very obvious, although there was still plenty of colour. Particularly noticeable was a large patch of mixed Hedge Bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*) and Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), where the white colour of the former species and the yellow colour of the latter species created a very attractive mix.

Our thanks go to Paul for leading this interesting walk.



Left: Silver Washed Fritillary

Right: Dark Green Fritillary



Holtspur Bank wildflower walks

As usual there were plenty of wildflowers to see on the spring and summer wildflower walks around Holtspur Bank. The spring walk on 24th May was well attended and the weather was good. The summer walk on 12th July was not so well attended, but heavy rain had been forecast and it was thought that the tennis at Wimbledon might have kept some people away. Apart from one heavy downpour, which

fortunately coincided with the time we reached the woodland section of the reserve, the weather wasn't a problem. These two annual walks are well worth attending, as they provide an opportunity to see a good range of both grassland and woodland flora. A list of the plant species seen on these walks during the last couple of years totals 122.

Stoke Poges walk



On Saturday 18th July, the date of the annual National Butterfly Count, Paul led a walk around the Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens. A total of 15 butterfly species was recorded, many in the grassland areas left uncut for the benefit of wildlife. One such area had been sown with cornfield annuals, including Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), Corn Marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) and Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*).

For those who have never visited the Memorial Gardens, they are well worth a visit. There is an attractive view across the lake towards Stoke Park House, a rather ornate white 18th century mansion which is now a luxury hotel and golf clubhouse. A visit to the adjoining St Giles' Church is worthwhile to see its Saxon and Norman architecture, and to walk around the churchyard where it is generally believed that Thomas Gray wrote his "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" in 1750. The Manor House next to the church was mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Survey, although the present building dates from the 16th century.



Supporting Revive the Wye

The purchase of new tools and equipment, using funding provided by organisations within the Revive the Wye Partnership, provided a good photo opportunity to get some press publicity.

When the RTW Partnership was formed, WWG used some of its restricted funds which had been set aside for project use, to purchase a few pairs of waders to enable RTW volunteers to be able to carry out practical tasks within the river. Waders do not have a long life when used on river management tasks, and our waders began to be referred to as WWG's "leaking waders". Following agreement by the Chilterns Conservation Board to make a generous contribution from the Chilterns Chalk Steams Project budget towards the purchase of new waders and other equipment and tools required for RTW tasks, the Chiltern Society, High Wycombe Society and WWG agreed to jointly match fund the amount of the CCB funding. This enabled all the tools and equipment needed to be purchased. A handover event was arranged on King's Mead in co-operation with the Chiltern Rangers, at which the donor organisations were thanked and photographs taken for press and other publicity purposes.

Most of the new waders were used during three recent task days at Funges Meadow, where volunteers helped the Chiltern Rangers undertake a wide range of tasks both within the riverside nature reserve and in the Wye's back stream which flows on two sides of the reserve. A large number of wellingtons was also purchased, and these proved very useful in a task which took place on 30th July at Desborough Recreation Ground for a large group of corporate volunteers from Defra, the government department responsible for the Environment Agency. Work undertaken last year at Desborough Recreation Ground which resulted in the former canal-like watercourse on the north side being changed into a winding natural looking stream and creating an adjoining wetland area, unfortunately caused some unwanted flooding on the recreation ground, making one of the football pitches unusable. As well as some additional wildflower planting and cutting back excess vegetation, the volunteers helped to install some coir rolls to reduce the flooding.

One of the RTW tasks needing more volunteers is riverfly monitoring. Following a set of standard procedures, the riverfly monitors use nets to collect samples of water from the riverbed and from amongst the in-stream vegetation, and examine a few large stones on the stream bed to identify the broad types of riverfly larvae found, and estimate their numbers. The Environment Agency compare this data with earlier records to assess any changes in the quality of the water and investigate any significant deterioration. If anyone is interested in finding out more about riverflies and would like to come along to one of the monitoring sessions or, even better, would like to be trained to undertake the monitoring, have a word with Richard or Roger.



When riverfly monitoring is carried out near the footbridge by Fryers Lane Car Park, it always promotes a lot of public interest from people of all ages.

Wildlife observations - April 2015 to November 2015

April 2015

6	Comma and 7-spot Ladybird	Deeds Grove garden	HP12 3PA
6	Peacock, Comma, Small Tortoiseshell	Littleworth Road garden	HP13 5UY
7	4 Skylarks singing	Over field in Marlow	SU841851
8	Tadpoles in garden pond	Deeds Grove garden	HP12 3NY
11	Pied Wagtail (with one leg)	Desborough Road	SU856934
13	7-spot Ladybird	Littleworth Road garden	HP13 5UY
15	Swallows collecting mud for nests	Thames Path, Marlow	SU845849
17	Starlings collecting food for young	Deeds Grove garden	HP12 3PA
19	Red Kites mating in Birch tree	Littleworth Road garden	HP13 5UY
20/23/26	Bat	Shaftesbury St garden	HP11 2NB
28	2 Bats	Littleworth Road garden	HP13 5UY
30	10 House Martins	Hughenden Park	SU863947
	6 Swallows	Hughenden churchyard	SU864955

May 2015

2	Robin feeding babies on lawn	Deeds Grove garden	HP12 3PA
5	2 Common Terns, Reed Bunting and Swift	Thames Path, Marlow	SU845849
7/15/16/25	Bat	Littleworth Road garden	HP13 5UY
17	Pipistrelle bat	Deeds Grove garden	HP12 3PA
18	First young Starlings on lawn	Deeds Grove garden	HP12 3PA
26	Great Spotted Woodpecker (juv)	Littleworth Road garden	HP13 5UY
27	Great Spotted Woodpecker (male)	Littleworth Road garden	HP13 5UY
28	Great Spotted Woodpecker (female)	Littleworth Road garden	HP13 5UY
28	2 Bats	Littleworth Road garden	HP13 5UY

June 2015

20	Stag Beetle about to cross road	B482 in Marlow	SU848868
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July 2015

10	Painted Lady	Deeds Grove garden	HP12 3NY
11	Marbled White	Deeds Grove garden	HP12 3PA
23	Elephant Hawkmoth in daytime on red garage door	Deeds Grove garden	HP12 3NY
29	Southern Hawker dragonfly	Deeds Grove garden	HP12 3PA
29	Black Garden Ants swarming	Deeds Grove garden	HP12 3PA

Review of members' wildlife sightings

We have published members' wildlife observations in our newsletter ever since its second issue back in 1970. We have been reviewing our wildlife recording activities, however, as not all of the data we receive meets the requirements of the county wildlife records. For the latter purpose, reported sightings need a date, name of recorder (and verifier if appropriate), the name of the species (both common name and scientific name), and also the location with a grid reference or postcode. The county records office does not include wild or cultivated plant species in gardens and, whilst fauna records from gardens as well as in the wild are accepted, sightings of common species submitted should normally be restricted to one sighting per location in any year, although a sighting unusually early or late in the year would be of interest. It would be helpful if members could bear these points in mind when submitting their sightings, as keeping the county records database up to date is far more important than merely recording sightings in our newsletter and on our website.

As far as the recording of common species is concerned, it was pointed out that according to the county wildlife records, the Common Frog was very rare in Bucks: this was because it was so common that no-one bothered to submit a record when one was seen. More recently, it was reported that records of Mole sightings were uncommon in the county, whereas it would only require a few sightings of recent molehills to be submitted to show how widespread these mammals are.

The format of the wildlife sightings in this newsletter has been changed to incorporate the relevant grid reference or postcode, but scientific names have not been included for the species listed at this stage. This action is just one of several we need to implement to make Wycombe Wildlife Group once again an active county wildlife recording group. Most of the other actions relate to historical data, requiring some research to see if the Group is holding information of value to the county records.

Joining Wycombe Wildlife Group

To join our Group, please complete a copy of the form on the right 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.

Contacting Wycombe Wildlife Group

Postal correspondence
The Chairman,
Wycombe Wildlife Group,
c/o 129 Deeds Grove,
High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 3PA

Telephone
01494 438374

E-mail
w.w.group@btopenworld.com

Website
www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk

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 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:

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.