



Booker Common Woods contain a network of well managed footpaths which are wide enough to prevent social distancing problems during the coronavirus restrictions.

**Issue 92
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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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For the purposes of management of the Group, membership information is held on computer.

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 and around 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.

Resources permitting, helps manage local wildlife sites by undertaking practical conservation work. Resources permitting, provides advice to schools, other bodies and individuals on all aspects of wildlife.

Stimulates public interest in wildlife and its conservation, organising 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.

As well as reporting the talks and walks in January to April, the May issue of our newsletter is normally circulated after our AGM in order to avoid any delay in informing members of any important issues arising from that meeting. 2020 has of course not been a normal year for anyone, and all our activities following the March members' meeting had to be either cancelled or postponed until further notice. With the help of a few other contributors I have managed to come up with plenty of material for this issue but, the longer the period before we can recommence our normal activities lasts, the more I will need contributions from others to be able to issue a September newsletter.

The timing of our AGM is set out in our Constitution, which as we are a Registered Charity has been approved by the Charity Commission. In the light of the coronavirus crisis, the Charity Commission has advised small charities to find alternative ways to obtain member approval of their income and expenditure accounts to enable them to submit their annual report to the Charity Commission before the deadline of the end of January 2021. Although we cannot predict how long the restrictions preventing the holding of meetings will need to continue, the earliest date we could arrange our delayed AGM would be Monday 21 September 2020, the next meeting date for which a room has been provisionally booked. As far as obtaining member approval of the annual accounts is concerned, it has been our normal practice to circulate a copy of the draft financial statement in advance of the AGM and to table a copy of the independently inspected accounts at the AGM. Having discussed this matter with our Treasurer, I am circulating a copy of the AGM documentation, including the draft financial statement, with this newsletter and would ask any member who is not happy with anything relating to the financial statement to let me know so that the matter can be considered and resolved before the AGM takes place or the accounts need to be submitted to the Charity Commission, should an earlier AGM not be possible. In the absence of any comments from members to the contrary, it will be assumed that members are happy with the content of the draft financial statement. In the event of a change to the draft statement being necessary as a result of the independent inspection following a nil response from members, the latter will be informed either at the AGM if and when it can be held, or by other means. I hope you all enjoy reading this newsletter and hope our talks and outdoor activities can get back to normal as soon as possible. In the meantime take care and keep yourselves occupied as best you can whilst complying with the restrictions.

Roger Wilding

New Member

We are pleased to welcome as a new member Mrs Gray who lives at Totteridge.

Obituary

We were sorry to hear of the death of Dr Paul Walker, one of our members, who passed away peacefully at Stoke Mandeville Hospital on 3 February 2020. Paul had been taken into hospital with a broken hip following a fall just before the New Year. Following an operation, however, he developed pneumonia and his Parkinson's Disease took over and he never really regained consciousness. Our condolences go to Jill and other family members.

Why I love the Chilterns - an illustrated talk by Richard Bradbury

We were pleased to welcome Richard Bradbury, Editor of the Chiltern Society's quarterly publication 'Chiltern', as the speaker at our members' meeting on 20th January. Richard began his talk by telling us that he was born and bred in the Chilterns at Croxley Green in Hertfordshire. He described Croxley Green as the boundary between the unspoilt Chilterns and Metroland, the village green and the River Chess being on one side of the road through the village with modern housing along the other side. He said that one of the oldest buildings in Croxley Green is the Great Barn and that Croxley Moor is the floodplain of the River Gade. Both the Chess and Gade are chalk streams which flow into the River Colne.

Richard told us that he now lives in Chesham and that, although he has travelled to many parts of the world, he is always happy to return home to the Chilterns. He became a member of the Chiltern Society and has enjoyed many local walks with his dog Misty, as well as undertaking a number of marathon walks and challenges, and of course walking the Chiltern Way.

Being appointed editor of the Chiltern Society's magazine provided Richard with a much wider appreciation of the Chilterns, and mention was made of the Ridgeway National Trail and the Icknield Way, which both pass through the Chilterns, and of the 42 mile North Chiltern Trail which was opened in 2014, followed by the 52 mile Chiltern Heritage Trail in 2016.

The Chiltern Society arranges a regular programme of walks, and we were informed that, in 2018, 101 walks led by 45 leaders were arranged and attended by 2,000 people. The Donate a Gate scheme launched in 2006 has enabled several hundred stiles to be replaced by gates, making access to our local countryside much easier for many people.

The watercress beds at Ewelme and a few other sites managed by Chiltern Society volunteers, as well as many nature reserves, estates, houses and historic buildings that are open to the public all provide opportunities for enjoying the rich

natural history and heritage of the Chilterns. Lacey Green windmill, the oldest smock mill in the country, receives around 1,000 visitors a year since it was restored to working order by the Chiltern Society.



Mention was also made of the Chiltern Open Air Museum where many old buildings that have been saved have been relocated for the visiting public to enjoy.

Copies of the Chiltern Society's latest walks guide, which Richard was actively involved in producing, were available for sale at the meeting.

Our thanks go to Richard for his inspirational talk and for what he and the Chiltern Society are doing to promote the Chilterns and what the area has to offer.

Down Memory Lane

This talk by our Chairman was based on the photographic work of Maurice Young, one of our best known environmentalists who died in 2004. Roger knew Maurice well and, after his death Maurice's daughter lent Roger his collection of slides. Roger spent many hours converting them into a digital format before returning them, together with a disc containing the digital images, to Maurice's daughter who gave permission for copies to be kept for future use by WWG.

Maurice lectured at High Wycombe College of Further Education (now Bucks. University) on a range of science subjects. Amongst his many activities he was a member of WWG, BBOWT and Friends of Holtspur Bank, the volunteer warden of Gomm Valley nature reserve and undertook regular hands on management of many local sites. He was a founder member of WWG and the Environment Centre and helped develop Holtspur Bank into a local nature reserve. He gave talks and led walks in our local area and also went further afield to photograph and record many aspects of natural history.

After this summary of his achievements, Roger continued by giving a presentation illustrated by a selection of Maurice's photographs covering his favourite subjects - starting with orchids. These ranged from common species such as Pyramidal Orchid to the rare Monkey Orchid, the very rare Red Helleborine and even the Ghost Orchid which has been declared to be extinct on more than one occasion in the past. Maurice's photograph of the Ghost Orchid was one of the last to be taken of the species in this country, and Roger recounted how Maurice had shown him the photograph and the site at Marlow where it had been seen, only well after it had finished flowering. In those days such information was jealously guarded! The photographs were all of fine quality and Roger added to the interest with captions indicating the type of habitat in which the plants occurred and some of the locations where they may be found. Photographs of other plants followed, including one of the Fringed Gentian which had been rediscovered at the local site where it had originally been found 100 years earlier.



Fringed Gentian
(*Gentianella ciliata*)

This tiny plant can still be found in its same one and only UK site, which is not easy to locate even if you know where to look, and the plant doesn't appear every year.

The next group of photographs illustrated Maurice's great breadth of interest in wildlife and included butterflies, insects (including beetles and glow worms), birds and lizards. Plant galls mainly caused by insects such as small wasps, flies and mites were then illustrated, as well as different types of lichen which are made up of a mixture of algae and fungi.



The lichen *Caloplaca flavescens* is a good example of why Maurice referred to lichens as Nature's graffiti.



Great Green Bush-cricket (*Tettigonia viridissima*)

The presentation ended appropriately with a photograph of a Dormouse as Maurice was one of a restricted few who were authorised to handle these animals in the wild.

An evening full of beautiful photographs, expertly curated by our Chairman, illustrating the wide interests of Maurice Young, one of our most admired local natural historians.

Derek Bourne

Recording for the BSBI in South Buckinghamshire

The BSBI (Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland) has been promoting the study, understanding and enjoyment of botany since 1836. Dr Tim Harrison, who lives in High Wycombe, undertakes recording for the Society in the south of our county and, at our meeting on 16th March 2020, gave us a very detailed and well illustrated talk about the various habitats and some of the plant species that can be found within the area he covers.

Tim started his presentation using maps and diagrams to illustrate the extent of his recording area and to explain the geological features which determine the plants most likely be found in the associated habitats. The area he covers is contained within thirteen 10km National Grid squares extending roughly from Wraysbury in the south-east, to Fawley in the south-west, Stokenchurch in the west, Wendover in the north, and Denham in the east.

Tim then explained that the plants found in the area he covers vary not only according to the underlying geology and the resulting natural habitats, but are also affected by the use of the land by man. The main geological features of the area are the chalk scarp with its foothills and vale fringes, the Chilterns plateau and dip slope, and the river valleys of the Misbourne, Chess, Wye, Colne, and Thames. Seven main habitats are found in the area covered - rivers, chalk grassland and woodland, dip slope, relict heaths (upland and lowland), grassland, arable (including hedgerows and lanes) and urban/man-made habitats.

Rivers, the first of the seven habitats is further divided into five sub-habitats - rivers and margins, flood plains, water meadows, tall fen and carr.

These habitats were illustrated by photographs of the Chess, Wye and Thames and adjacent wetland areas at Marlow, Temple and Medmenham.

The chalk grassland and woodland, and the dip slope habitats were then covered with reference to a range of interesting plant species including both common and rare orchids that can be found in this area. The photographs shown included an excellent one of the very rare Red Helleborine.

Upland heaths can be found on the ridges of the dip slope where there are Palaeocene sandy clay deposits. The largest of these heaths is Cholesbury Common and others include Naphill, Downley, Marlow and Cadmore End Commons as well as Penn Wood, and areas at Flackwell Heath and Great Hampden. Many of these heathland areas have developed into secondary woodland.

Lowland heaths can be found on the Thames gravels overlying Palaeocene sands. Stoke Common and Littleworth Common are good examples of this habitat. Mention was made of Starfruit, a plant that was present in some of the local heathland ponds including those on Naphill Common, at Gerrards Cross and Littleworth Common, but the species is once again more or less extinct. Moorend Common was mentioned, together with the fact that the area is unusual because of its acidic soils supporting species that are not found in the surrounding chalk habitats.

We were told that unimproved grassland is probably the rarest habitat in Bucks and that arable land, which in the past would have supported a range of now rare annual species adapted to the conditions, have been lost as a result of modern farming methods. Many of the local country lanes have grass margins, grass banks and hedgerows which support a wide range of plant species.

The talk concluded with the urban/man made habitat which, surprisingly, is perhaps the most interesting from a plant recording point of view, because one never knows what will turn up. We were told that around 500 plant species have been recorded in High Wycombe. Casual species that appear along road verges include coastal plants such as Danish Scurvygrass, which has appeared as a result of the use of salt spraying of roads in winter. Unusual species can be introduced within industrial areas as a result of goods vehicles delivering items from far

afield and soil disturbance occurs far more often in urban areas. Mention was made of Apple of Peru being found on the Cressex Business Park in High Wycombe. Garden escapes add to the flora of urban areas and such species can quickly become established and spread. Typical examples are Canadian Golden-rod and Italian Lords-and ladies.

Our thanks go to Tim for his extremely detailed and informative talk, during which he managed to fit in nearly 200 habitat and species photographs.

At the end of his talk, Tim recommended that we all get out and walk, record, notify and submit records of what we find. He did, however, add that a bad record is worse than no record, and pointed out the importance of verification. He advised making use of the local BSBI recorder or County plant recorder for this purpose.

Bird watching at Spade Oak Lake Nature Reserve

With the cancellation of all planned WWG outdoor events from mid March, the only members' walk that can be reported on in this issue of the newsletter is the bird walk which took place at Spade Oak Lake on 1st February 2020. The walk was led jointly by John Hoar and Paul Bowyer and their combined individual lists of the species seen resulted in the following 38 species being recorded for the walk:-

Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Heron, Canada

Goose, Shelduck, Egyptian Goose, Wigeon, Gadwall, Mallard, Shoveler, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Red Kite, Peregrine, Kestrel, Moorhen, Coot, Lapwing, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Wood Pigeon, Kingfisher, Skylark, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, House Sparrow and Goldfinch.

Moth Trapping with a difference

Although WWG moth trapping events which had been planned and scheduled from April 2020 could not go ahead due to coronavirus restrictions, moth trapping still took place in Paul and Karen's Flackwell Heath garden without others attending.

The first of these lockdown events was on 9th April when the following species were recorded:- Hebrew Character, Brindled Beauty, Early Grey, Twin-spotted Quaker, Common Quaker, Small Quaker, Dark Quaker, Banded Quaker, Double-striped Pug and Light-brown Apple Moth. The second event was on 24th April when The Herald, Lime Hawkmoth, Brimstone, Spectacle, Shuttle-shaped Dot and Light-brown Apple Moth came to the light trap.



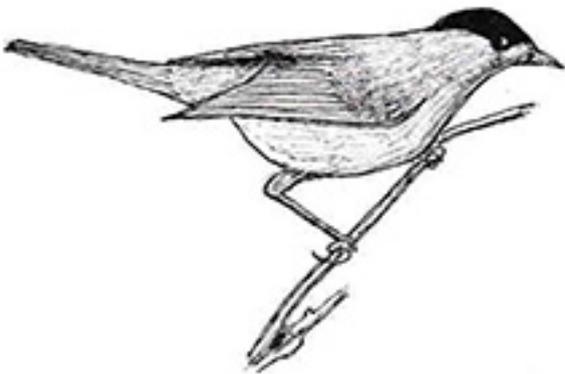
The Herald and Lime Hawkmoth

Coronavirus walks

Being confined to the local area for my exercise walks during the 'lock down' has not been a problem for me. During the wonderful weather in April I have been more than happy to walk the variations of the local footpaths, fields and woods, watching nature unfold day by day, being gradually more enriched by each day that passes. There have been plenty of different birds to listen to and new leaves and flowers appearing each day.

On the chalk scarp beneath Carver Hill Road there are beautiful clumps of Cowslips amongst the chalk loving shrubs. On the path leading into the field, Shining Crane's-bill plants line the edges with their tiny bright pink flowers and glossy leaves. Further into the woodland area there are Wood Forget me-nots, including one with beautiful pure white flowers.

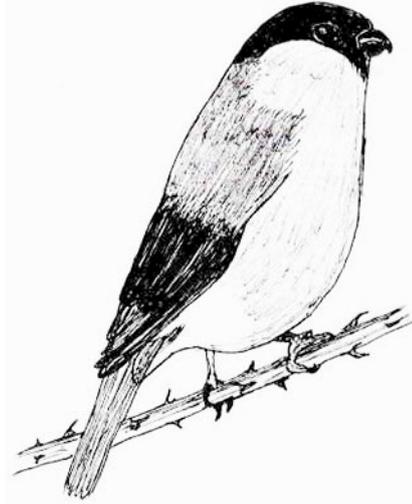
There has been plenty of blossom on the wild Pear at the top of the field, and a Garden Warbler has been singing its sweet song. There have been several Blackcaps in full song also.



Blackcap

The Garden Warbler's song is almost non-stop, and very much as though it is singing to itself, whereas the Blackcap's song is delivered in sweet melodious full phrases, always to the listener. Both species sing deep within scrub cover, which makes them difficult to see. There have also been several Chiffchaffs calling. This area has always been a stronghold for the beautiful Bullfinches who remain faithful to each other all their lives. Invariably when you see a

male Bullfinch, its mate is close by. The Bullfinch is not known for its singing ability: it has a one note call, and, on a good day, three notes.



Bullfinch

Out onto Tom Burt's Hill I am pleased to see that last year's regime of mowing large paths through the grass has been strictly adhered to this year. Already there are Daisies in the short grass, and Dandelions and Bulbous Buttercups on the unmown grass. There are promising signs of the show to come with the basal leaves of Hoary Plantains, Dwarf Thistles (campers' nightmare!), Scabiousses, Knapweeds, Lady's Bedstraws and Hedge Bedstraws. Carpets of Thyme will come later, and the whole hillside will be a riot of colourful chalk-loving flowers. I will write more about the flower species in the next newsletter. Honesty is blooming prolifically under the rows of Beech trees, and most of the beautiful ornamental trees are fully in leaf, the Walnuts being the latest of all.

On my way back through the footpath by the High School, it reminds me of the party game 'musical chairs' when, because of the social distancing rules, I find myself pausing at all the wide areas, and rushing along all the narrow areas!

A thoroughly enjoyable hour's walk, even if it has been imposed upon me!

As we are allowed to go for a very short drive in order to take a longer walk, I have, just lately, been taking the car to Harrison's old car park, and walking around the Hughenden estate. Since the beginning of May I have taken the walk down the steep wooded slope just beyond Hughenden Manor (where the icehouse/bat cave is) and walked along the sunny path that leads eventually to Naphill. This is a walk that I have always known as "the Horseshoe Vetch footpath", and true to its name, the Horseshoe Vetches are in full flower, lighting up the bank with their egg yolk coloured pea flowers. Together with more Common Milkwort flowers than I have

ever seen before, in varying shades of white, blue and purple, this is a truly beautiful scene. (Horseshoe Vetch is so called because the seed pods look like miniature horseshoes joined together). As with Tom Burt's Hill, the flora will mature and multiply throughout the summer. Although mankind is sorely pressed at the moment, nature is having a wonderful year.

Frances Wilding

Walking further afield

Preferring to vary the location of my exercise walks, I have tended to go for longer walks but not every day, fitting in garden tasks on the non-walking days.

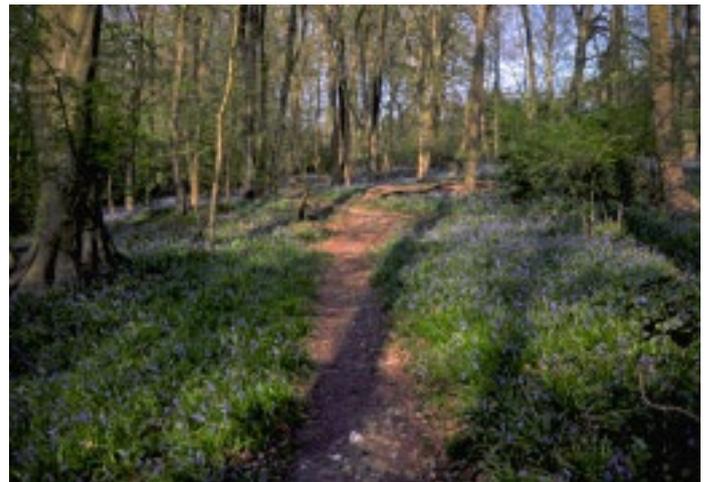
My first permitted exercise walk was to drive to Penn Wood and walk along all the paths within it. Although I thought I knew this huge wood well, I managed to find a few spots I could'nt remember seeing before, including one of the ponds.



Before I managed to fit in any further such walks the tighter restrictions on car use to get to countryside areas beyond walking distance, such as Black Park and Burnham Beeches, resulted in a number of planned walks being shelved awaiting the easing of the restrictions.

Like Frances, I too have done several walks around Carver Hill and Tom Burt's Hill, because that area provides a number of different routes for walking from home to The Rye and Holywell Mead and through Keep Hill Woods.

One of my walks covered all the paths around Castlefield and Rowliff Woods at Sands, and one covered Sands Bank Local Nature Reserve where I was surprised to find the Bluebell flowers at the eastern end of the wood fully out on 10th April.



As this was extremely early for a flower which used to be at its best in the first week of May and more recently the last week in April, I did a walk a few days later to the woods at Hughenden via Great and Little Tinker's Wood at Downley, and again found Bluebells in full flower.

One of my walks took me to Buttlers Hangings SSSI on the hillside below Hearnton Wood at West Wycombe. Having approached the reserve via the footpath which runs from the A40 on the west side of West Wycombe village, and crosses to the valley containing the roads to Radnage and Bledlow Ridge, I was delighted to see that the Wye stream was flowing strongly from beyond Chorley Green Farm which is just upstream of where I crossed it. Unfortunately time did not permit me to check how far up the valley the flow was coming from.

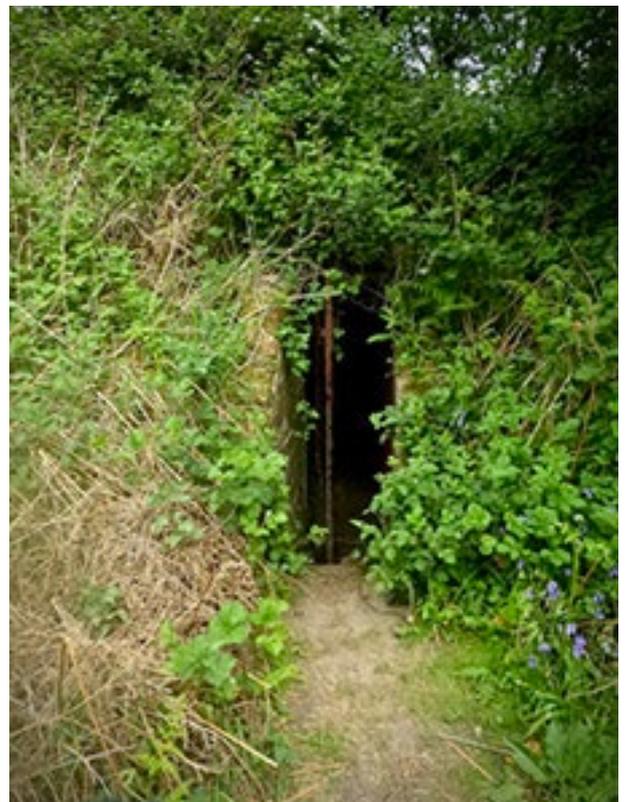
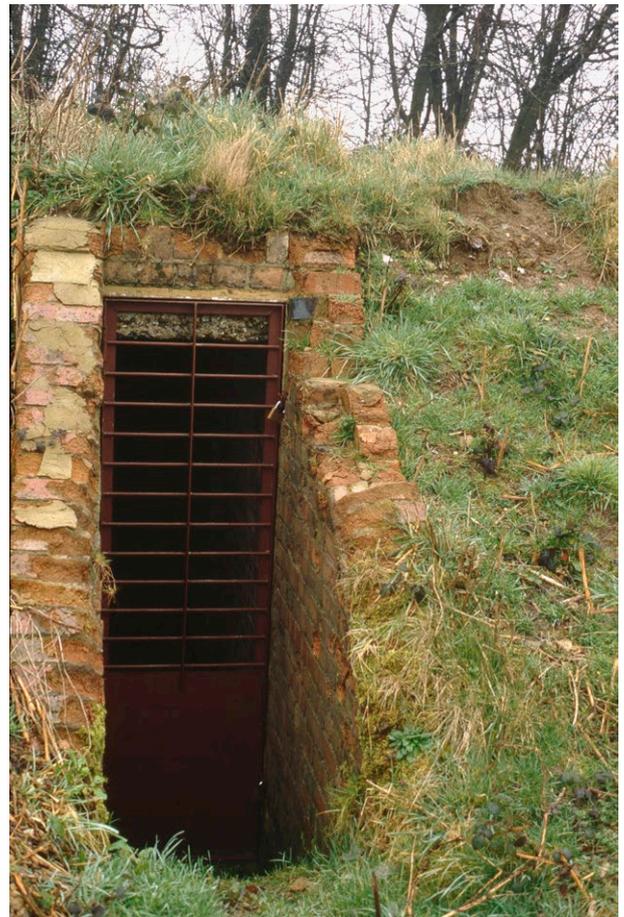


A walk around Hughenden Park provided an opportunity see that the Hughenden Stream was still flowing well from the pumping station at the foot of Cryers Hill and through both the National Trust and Wycombe District Council sections of Hughenden Park.

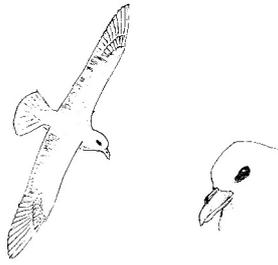
I was pleased that I had chosen Widdenton Park Wood at Lane End for one of my walks, as this provided an opportunity to revisit a wood that I have always considered to be unusual and interesting, being on a hill which is 100ft higher than West Wycombe Hill and visible on the skyline from high ground on the eastern side of High Wycombe. My walk passed through Booker Common Woods both going and coming back, but on my outward walk I went through Spring Coppice and on my return I walked past Wycombe Airpark. At the western end of the airfield I decided to have a look to see if I could locate the former wartime air-raid shelter that WWG volunteers converted into a bat cave in 1991. Surprisingly I managed to find it, and the

following photos show the bat cave shortly after it was constructed, and what it looks like now.

Roger Wilding



The flight of the Fulmar



Running along the west coast of Berwickshire is a rugged line of cliffs, and in the midst of them, a headland thrusting out into the North Sea: St Abbs Head. Many years ago I stood at this spot. The sun had broken through after a wet and blustery start to the day. It was September, well beyond the breeding season, so the many sea birds which would have thronged the cliffs below me earlier in the year had departed. There were still gulls, riding the wind, and among them was a bird which was new to me. Although in colouring it resembled the gulls – dove grey above and white below – its manner of flying immediately distinguished it from them. It came sailing up the cliff face, seemed about to alight, then tipped forward sweeping down almost to the level of the sea before allowing its momentum to carry it in a great arc up towards the cliff top once more. This manoeuvre was repeated again and again, all achieved without a flicker of the wings, simply by taking advantage of the up-draught created by the wind striking the cliff face.

The bird, or rather, birds, for there were several of them, were not shy, at times passing low overhead. I was thus able to see at short range the dark eyes, the bull neck, the short, curiously shaped bill and the glider-shaped wings, usually not showing the kink at the carpal (“wrist”) joint that characterise the wings of gulls. All these served to identify the Fulmar Petrel. It is a bird I have encountered many times since along sea coasts, from the Orkneys in the north to Essex in the south. This would not always have been possible. Until the last few decades of the 19th century, the Fulmar’s sole nesting place in the British Isles was on the remote archipelago of St Kilda in the North Atlantic. The nests were built on the precipitous cliffs of the islands, where they were safe from predators, apart from the most intrepid of humans. But of these, the small community that made the island its home had an ample share. Men and boys would scale the cliffs in spring, using primitive equipment and at risk of their lives, to take the downy young and adults for food and for the oil the latter secreted. It has been estimated that the annual take amounted to some

10,000, and constituted a substantial part of the diet of the isolated community. The impact of this harvest seems to have kept the population in check, but with the opening of the islands to more regular access to the mainland in the late 19th century and their final abandonment in 1930, the pressure on the colony eased and numbers increased. Equally important, food sources available to the birds increased in the form of waste products cast into the sea by fishing trawlers and whalers. By the second half of the 20th century, Fulmar colonies were established in suitable sites all around the coasts of Britain and Ireland. The rapid expansion of the population is quite astonishing bearing in mind that each pair raises only a single chick in a season and that the first breeding does not occur until six to twelve years after hatching. No longer are they confined to inaccessible sites, though cliffs, not necessarily precipitous, are usually chosen; one pair I came across, however, had selected a window recess in a ruined chapel. The pair bond between male and female is strong; whenever one arrives at the nest, both birds throw up their heads and give vent to a joyous cackling, and frequently the two then settle down side by side. They share the incubating of the single egg and the tending of the chick, and after the breeding season, although they then depart and go their separate ways, they come together again in time for the breeding season the following year.

The adult birds seem to haunt the nesting cliffs both before and after the nesting season. I have recorded them in March, a good two months before the single egg is laid, though they are reported to be present much earlier than this, and also later in the season, in September, after the young have fledged. These out-of-season birds, however, are relatively few individuals. The bulk of the population takes to the open seas between breeding seasons, ranging across the North Atlantic, up to the Arctic Circle and as far as Greenland and Labrador. It is now that that they display their flying skills to the full.

I was once crossing by ferry from Ullapool in Wester Ross to Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. There was a fresh wind blowing and the sea was whipped into waves capped by “white horses”. Numbers of Fulmar were flying parallel to our course, skimming low over the water, rising to the top of each wave, then tipping over the top and sliding down the far side, and then up the next wall of water, never a hesitation, just imperceptible adjustments to the set of the wings and tail to accommodate the vagaries of the wind. They could be said to relish wild weather, continuing to cruise unconcernedly over mountainous waves thrown up by winter gales. Like their larger cousins, the albatrosses, they can be said to be truly masters of flight.

John Hoar

Sightings submitted by members January - May 2020

Deeds Grove garden

3rd January - Chiffchaff
5th February - Robin building
8th March - First Brimstone
10th March - Frogspawn
11th March - First Peacock butterfly
20th March - Blackcap singing
23rd March - First queen wasp
23rd March - First Comma
1st May - Goldfinches nesting
4th May - Chicken of the Woods (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) fungus on decaying tree stump
5th May - Greenfinches nesting
6th May - Blue tits feeding babies in nest box
7th May - First Swifts over garden
10th May - Pair of Red-legged Partridges coming into the garden for grain

Flackwell Heath garden

10th January - First Red Admiral
16th March - First Brimstone
23rd March - First Peacock butterfly
25th March - First Holly Blue
6th April - First Comma
6th April - First Orange Tip
9th April - First Small White
10th April - First Green-veined White
10th April - Hummingbird Hawk-moth nectaring on Forget-me-not 5.20pm

Downley garden

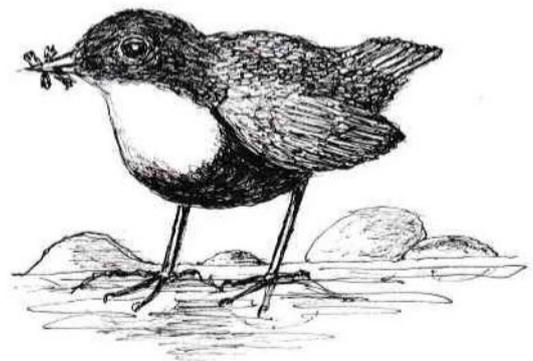
20th February - female Blackcap
10th March - male Blackcap (Hope they got together!)

Hughenden

20th March - 5 Skylarks singing

Rye and Holywell Mead

31st January - Little Grebes trilling on The Dyke
31st January - Mistle Thrush in full song within Wycombe Abbey grounds
31st January Winter Aconites all over Margaret's Garden at Pann Mill
12th - 15th March - Reports received from two members, of sightings of a Dipper around The Rye and Holywell Mead. (Sightings of the native Dipper are rare in Bucks with only 14 previous records, the most recent being in 1994 and 2016. This particular sighting was even rarer, as the bird seen was identified by Bucks Bird Club as a Black-bellied Dipper, a continental race of Dipper which is occasionally recorded in Eastern England.)



Black-bellied Dipper

What was this?



In the last newsletter I asked readers to submit answers to my question “What is this?” and said the best answers received would be published in this newsletter. As no answers were received, I have decided to publish my own best answer.

It is a Dead leaf Butterfly, a species in the genus *Kallima* found in the tropical rain forests of Asia; Its colour and shape helps to camouflage it.

Personally I think the camouflage is more suited to our local Beech woodlands but the butterfly wouldn't find supplies of the fruit it feeds on there or be warm enough to survive in such a habitat.

The photograph was taken in the tropical butterfly house in Stratford-upon Avon (after my camera had become accustomed to the humidity).

Contacting Wycombe Wildlife Group

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E-mail: w.w.group@btopenworld.com
Website: www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk

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.

Please enrol me as a member of Wycombe Wildlife Group

Name

Address

.....

Telephone

Email

EITHER Payment by bank standing order

To Bank
..... 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

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.