

# WYCOMBE and SOUTH BUCKS WILDLIFE NEWS

JANUARY 2021



This inquisitive young Fox was photographed by a WWG member as it looked into the house from the patio.

The Fox appears to have taken no interest in the lifelike ducks on the patio.

## Issue 94

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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 No.1075175 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.

## Editorial

I hope all our readers managed to make their Christmas and New Year as good as they were able to within the restrictions imposed upon us this year. With no family members able to join us, we still managed to sing some carols, listen to instrumental performances by grandchildren and play various pen and paper games, charades and even Trivial Pursuit using Zoom. Getting the timing right with singing was challenging and some participants finished slightly ahead of others. The other activities worked very well and they all helped to make our Christmas and New Year period as normal as possible.

Having managed to produce a normal 12 page newsletter in both May and September 2020 despite not having any indoor members' meetings or outdoor activities to report on, I started to relax. I didn't think, with all the rules and advice that had been issued by the Government, that we would then enter 2021 in a worse situation than when we had the lockdown in March 2020. Although we do now have the vaccine programme to look forward to, we will all need to continue to take great care for some time.

In this issue I have been able to announce that our Group now has a new website to replace the one that has met our needs over the last 20 years, and we have completed our guide to the Wycombe Wildlife Group Round Wycombe Walk, albeit several years after we reported that we were planning it.

I am grateful to Derek Bourne for the informative article he has submitted about the Holtspur Bank Local Nature Reserve. The walks arranged there by the Friends of Holtspur Bank are published in our events programme and several of our members regularly attend and enjoy these events.

I am also grateful to Paul and Karen for sending me the results of their 2020 moth trapping events, attendance at which had to be limited to Paul, Karen and the moths that turned up.

I have not received many wildlife sightings for this newsletter but I did receive an excellent account from Caroline Kay of some difficult decisions she was faced with when the last of a Bluetit brood left the nest and was ignored by its parents: it's certainly a gripping story and, when you get to the end, like Caroline, you are faced with several possible outcomes. I think when you read the article you will agree that we must ask Caroline to submit more items like this for future newsletters.

My thanks go to all those who have helped to provide information that has enabled us to keep Wycombe Wildlife Group members informed of what the Group or its individual members have experienced, seen or done whilst we have been unable to meet either for indoor meetings or other activities.

I really do hope that you all managed to get through 2020 as well as you were able to, and that you have a much happier 2021.

Roger

## Update on AGM and meeting the Charity Commission's requirements

When we circulated the usual paperwork in advance of what we considered at the time would almost certainly be a delayed 2020 AGM, we had no idea that it would not be possible to hold our AGM at any time in 2020. We circulated the draft income and expenditure accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2020 and asked members to raise any issues relating to the contents with us, so that they could be looked into in case we were unable to arrange for the accounts to be independently examined in advance of the submission of the required financial information to the Charity Commission in time to meet the statutory deadline.

No issues were raised by members and we were able to arrange for the accounts to be independently inspected in time for their submission to the Charity Commission prior to the deadline. The independent inspection of our accounts revealed no errors.

Although the Executive Committee agreed to actions which enabled the Charity Commission's requirement to be met, our Group's Constitution does not allow for postponement, adjournment or cancellation of our AGM. We were pleased, therefore, to receive guidance from the Charity Commission which supported the actions we had taken to find an alternative way of seeking member agreement to our Group's income and expenditure accounts.

Our next AGM will not now be held until after the end of the 2020/21 financial year, on a date in May 2021, if possible, or later, if necessary. In the circumstances, the existing Executive Committee members will continue to be responsible for the governance of WWG until they stand down at the next AGM. Members will then need to vote for the members who they wish to serve on the Executive Committee for the financial year 2021/22. In accordance with our Constitution, those elected will be responsible for deciding who will undertake the various roles within the Executive Committee at their first meeting following the AGM.

## WWG decides to replace its 20 year old website

Our existing website was created 20 years ago by Mego o'Riley who was serving as the Group's Project Officer at the time. She arranged for Alun Rowe who had set up an Internet Service Provider company in Thame called Pentangle to host the website. Malcolm Pusey who was a WWG member at the time, and on its Executive Committee, agreed to take on the role of webmaster, a task which he has continued to undertake for us ever since, even after he left the Group following his move to Dorset. Alun Rowe continued to host the website for us without charge until recently, when we were advised that it would no longer be possible for Pentangle to continue to provide the service without changes needing to be put in place. When we started to experience problems with the service, I mentioned the issues to our son Richard who has had experience with the design of some large websites. He advised that we should consider replacing the website with a new more modern design and offered to help create a replacement once we had agreed the requirements. I undertook a review of the existing website and the recommendations were discussed and agreed by the Executive Committee.

Before saying any more about the new website, I would like to place on record our thanks to the following persons without whose help our old website could not have met our requirements over the last 20 years.

Mego o'Riley created the website in 2000 and only a few relatively minor changes have been made to it since.

Alun Rowe arranged for our website to be hosted by Pentangle Internet Limited without charge since its creation.

Malcolm Pusey has undertaken the role of webmaster for the old website from its creation to date, despite ceasing to be a WWG member when he moved to Dorset.

Roger

## The new WWG website

So how does the new WWG website differ from the old one? Will it still hold the same information? Will it do things that we could not do on the old website?

The main benefit of the new website is that it will be much easier to use by those who access websites from smartphones and other mobile devices. It will also be able to do a lot of things that could not be done on the old website.

The new website will continue to provide information about forthcoming indoor members' meetings and outdoor activities when it becomes possible to recommence them.

The newsletters page will continue to provide access to all the newsletters issued by our Group since its formation. The layout of the newsletters page has been improved and we have added an index which will make it much easier to find information that has been published in past newsletters.

Improvements have been made to the events and wildlife sites pages and a new Resources page has been added to hold information about wildlife walks, including our now finalised Round Wycombe Walk, our wildlife advisory leaflets, an improved members' photos page and links to the websites of other organisations and local groups containing information likely to be of interest to our

members. Resources also contains a new Projects page to hold the existing plans for making animal homes which we consider has an on-going relevance for members and for schools.

The Contact Us page is a replacement for the system on the old website that had stopped working. The new system enables someone wishing to contact our Group to send a message to an "enquiries" email address on the website from which a reply can be sent. Most junk mail is likely to be identified as such by our Internet Service Provider, listed in a daily Spam report and automatically deleted after 30 days.

A revised "Join Us" page now enables anyone wishing to become a member of our Group to download a membership leaflet and post it to our Membership Secretary.

Existing material which has not been transferred to the new website has been downloaded and retained for future reference if required.

My personal thanks go to Richard for creating this wonderful new website.

## Wycombe Wildlife Group 2020 moth report



Left: Privet, Lime and Small Elephant Hawkmoths

Next page: (Left): Scarce Bordered Straw

Next page (Top right): Scarlet Tiger

Next page (Bottom right): Festoon

During the past year our main interest in moths has been the results of moth traps we have run in our own garden in Flackwell Heath. In addition we have seen moths while walking the dog. In the summer we have seen some day flying moths and on winter evenings we have had occasional sightings attracted to the bright lights of the local shops. There have been no Wycombe Wildlife Group meetings.

Our first trapping session was on 9<sup>th</sup> April; our last was on the 21<sup>st</sup> September. We ran the trap on average every 2 weeks except for August when there was a lot of rain which put us off. The number of different moth species identified

varied from 9 during our first session to 64 on the 14<sup>th</sup> July. Through the summer we also kept an eye on our garden for any moths visiting during the day.

We have a set routine running our moth traps. The moth trap is run all night and we get up about 30 minutes before it gets light. The moths which are outside the trap are dealt with first to avoid them being picked off by birds. We have a keep net where we store the moths during the day. They are released at dusk when the birds are gone. In the meantime we attempt to identify all the moths. This is Karen's job in the main and she is improving every year.

Karen might take a photograph of a moth if we need help in identification or if we think the county moth recorder (Martin Albertini) may question the sighting.

On September 2nd Karen photographed the Scarce Bordered Straw sometimes known as Old World Bollworm. This moth migrates to Britain in varying numbers each year. Its caterpillars are a serious agricultural pest in other parts of the world but it does not survive British winters.



In spring we recorded insects that had been dormant over winter that were re-emerging e.g. the Twenty plume moth (a micro moth) and the Herald. Most species, however, were freshly emerged that year including Hebrew Character, Brindled Beauty and a lot of different species of Quaker moths e.g. Twin-spotted, Small, Common and Powdered.

Late Spring is when the spectacular hawkmoths appear. We had 5 different species this year: - Elephant, Small Elephant, Lime, Privet and Poplar. In one June session we attracted 10 Elephant hawkmoths to our trap. There were other multiple appearances. On June 24<sup>th</sup> there were over 40 Dark Arches and on 21<sup>st</sup> September over 50 Box-tree moths were seen including the melanic or darker form. Our moth field guide was first printed in 2003 and we have found significant changes to the distribution of some moth species and we refer to the new moth atlas for clarification. On May 9<sup>th</sup> we saw the Toadflax Brocade which our field guide states is a "Red Data" species, but the atlas describes its distribution as expanding rapidly. Karen photographed it in case we were questioned about it. Similarly on 21<sup>st</sup> July we trapped 14 Tree-lichen Beauty moths. The field guide calls it a rare immigrant but the new atlas says its distribution has "increased greatly". Other pleasing sightings have been Scarlet Tiger moths during the day in our meadow as well as in the moth trap at the end of June.



Ten Jersey Tiger moths on August 6th, Striped Lychnis on 16<sup>th</sup> July, and the Festoon seen on June 16th. The Festoon is "nationally scarce" according to our field guide and a moth of the high oak canopy. We were lucky to see it.



Most spectacular of all was the appearance of a Clifden Nonpareil on September 8th. A very large grey moth with a "violet blue curved band across the black hindwing". This is a species I have never even considered seeing. Its picture in any moth guide is stunning. We were so excited to see it that we failed to photograph it. It escaped in the morning flying north.

We have never trapped in our garden in November or December. This year I have been walking the dog at about 9pm. As I passed the Flackwell Heath shops I noticed that their lights were attracting moths. Most of these moths were species that only appear at this time of the year. We looked at the Hampshire Moths "Flying Tonight" web page and we had seen most of their top10 for this time of the year :- Feathered Thorn, December Moth, Rusty Dot Pearl, Common Plume, Winter Moth and Mottled Umber.

Paul Bowyer

#### References

Field Guide to the Micro Moths of Great Britain and Ireland by Phil Sterling and Mark Parsons  
Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland by Paul Waring and Martin Townsend  
Atlas of Britain and Ireland's Larger Moths by various authors

Butterfly Conservation Upper Thames web site moth blog  
Hampshire Moths What's Flying web page  
All photographs taken by Karen Roberts

## Launch of WWG's Round Wycombe Walk

The idea of creating a Round Wycombe Walk arose when I represented WWG on a Liaison Group that was formed by WDC to enable the views of local residents and organisations to be taken into account when considering proposals for the development of Gomm Valley. I personally had long considered that Gomm Valley was the last remaining unspoilt valley along the A40 corridor through High Wycombe.

It was made clear from the start of the consultation that development of the valley had been agreed by the local authority and that the consultation would be limited to consideration of the scale and nature of the development and decisions on how best to retain, enhance and protect the areas of conservation interest whilst meeting the housing and development infrastructure needs that had been identified.

One of the issues that needed to be addressed was the lack of public rights of way through much of Gomm Valley, despite the fact that it contained a SSSI nature reserve, remnants of ancient woodland and hedgerows and others areas of biological interest. I made the point that the lack of a public right of way through Gomm Valley was the only obstacle to creating a circular walk around High Wycombe following public rights of way and permissive paths through woodland, open spaces and commons around our town.

The latest proposals for the development of Gomm Valley should enable the planned Round Wycombe Walk to be routed through Gomm Valley in the future, but as the development is likely to be spread over a period of around ten years, it is necessary to include an alternative final stage of the route of the Walk to avoid delaying its introduction. We had considered using Hammersley Lane as a temporary route to by-pass the section of Gomm valley which currently has no rights of way, but this would involve walking along a road that can be busy and has no adequate footpaths. The other option which we have now included in the guide to the walk is to cross Hammersley Lane and follow public rights of way to Beacon Hill and through Wycombe Heights Golf Centre before crossing London Road and walking through Kingsmead to where Stage 1 of the Walk started. This makes a nice finish to the Walk and it will probably remain in the Walk guide as an alternative route even when it is possible to finish the Walk via Gomm Valley.

The guide to the Round Wycombe Walk has been placed on the new Wycombe Wildlife Group website in PDF format.

I will be pleased to receive any comments on the Walk and the Walk guide. Information relating to fauna, flora and fungi seen along the route of the Walk or in any of the areas of natural history interest which can be accessed from the Walk would be welcome. Location details, together with the date of sightings, would enable a record of the species to look out for when undertaking the Walk to be made available in due course.

A taste of what the Round Wycombe Walk has to offer



Kings Wood nr. Micklefield entrance

Wycombe Heights Golf Centre

Silver-washed Fritillary



## Holtspur Bank Local Nature Reserve

An article by Derek Bourne covering the development and natural history of this interesting local nature reserve.

The area now known as Holtspur Bank LNR is made up of approximately 2.5 ha. of grassland and about 4 ha. of ancient woodland ( Cut-Throat Wood ) on the NW facing slope of a small dry chalk valley to the west side of Holtspur Top Lane in Beaconsfield. Access is via footpath 33 off Holtspur Top Lane opposite Cherry Tree Road or from Riding Lane. Owned by Beaconsfield Town Council, it has been accessible for many years but after surveys by the late Maurice Young of the South Bucks region of BBOWT revealed a very interesting flora, a management plan was submitted and the Council obtained its designation as a Local Nature Reserve in 1995. Soon after its designation, members of the local community got together to form the Friends of Holtspur Bank LNR to provide volunteers to help with the upkeep of the reserve. Amongst this original group were Shirley Scrivener, the chairman for the first 17 years, who sadly died recently, and the present chairman Les Davies. The reserve receives financial support from DEFRA and the Council, following their acceptance of management plans for the grassland and woodland. The money is used to fund major work by the Chiltern Rangers, sheep grazing in the autumn and tools and materials for path and fence maintenance.

The eastern part of the reserve comprises a steeply sloping field of calcareous grassland surrounded on three sides by strips of encroaching scrub, with more scrub forming small islands on the grassland itself. The scrub is typical of the Chilterns and includes Blackthorn, Buckthorn, Hawthorn, Wayfaring tree, Field Maple, Crab Apple, Rose, Wild Privet, Spindle, Hazel and Guelder-rose, although the most common and invasive is Dogwood. In the past, rabbits kept the scrub and coarse grasses in check but, since myxomatosis arrived, numbers have greatly reduced and management has been required. This has included using sheep, and occasionally cows, in the autumn, and as Dogwood does not seem to be their favourite diet, manual cutting and brush cutting/strimming has to be used.

In winter the area is in constant shadow and little changes. The anthills of the Yellow Ant are more obvious at this time of year, dotted all over the slope, and are visited by Green Woodpeckers and Badgers looking for a meal. As the grasses begin to grow in spring, the bank becomes greener and Hairy Violet and Milkwort begin to flower, followed by large numbers of cowslips. These have increased tenfold over the years since management has been carried out.



Hairy Violet (*Viola hirta*)



Left: Pyramidal Orchid  
(*Anacamptis pyramidalis*)

Right: Wild Carrot  
(*Daucus carota*)

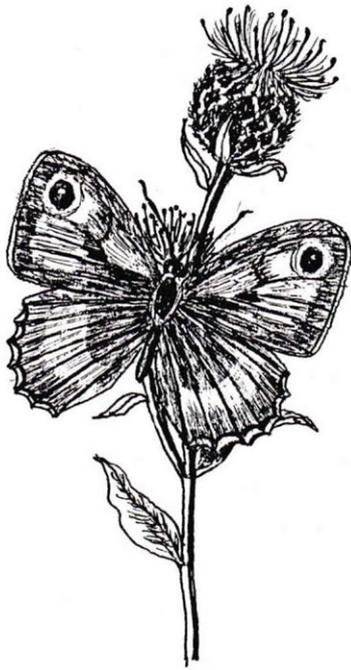


Management of the woodland areas has concentrated on widening the paths to increase light penetration but more recently some of the mature hazel and scrub have been removed to try to re-establish the coppice and grassland regime.

In July and August evenings the bright lights of glow worms may be seen.



In autumn the summer flowers are past their best and interest is more concentrated on the autumn colours of the surrounding scrub together with their fruit and berries. The flowers of the Ivy provide sustenance for late butterflies and insects.



Meadow Brown

An ancient woodland boundary of mature trees separates the grassland from the wood. The woodland itself can be divided into two distinct areas. On the plateau at the top, a sandy gravel layer forms a cap over the chalk resulting in a more acid soil and accompanying flora. Mature Oaks prevail with a scattering of Cherry and Holly. The shrub layer is mostly Bramble, Holly, Elderberry, Honeysuckle and Hawthorn with little in the way of ground flora except for Wood Sanicle and Wood Avens alongside the paths. In the SW corner, where the wood dips down into the chalk, Beech, Ash and Whitebeam are to be found with a more luxuriant ground flora of Dogs Mercury, Yellow Archangel, Woodruff, Primrose, Arum and some patches of Coralroot. Below the plateau the land drops steeply into the underlying chalk. Groups of large mature Hazel trees occupy a big part of the bank, but these areas are interspersed by others composed of old Dogwood, Spindle, Blackthorn, Privet and Hawthorn shrubs with a climax layer of Ash and Whitebeam above. It seems likely that in the past there were areas of Hazel coppice with open grassland, the latter since having been invaded by scrub. Even within living memory such grassy areas were to be seen on parts of the bank. In general the ground flora is very sparse on the steeper parts but is composed of Dogs Mercury and Ivy with some Violets, Arum, Wood Spurge and Primroses on the gentler slopes.

As with the rest of the reserve the woodland area is subdued in winter, although the early leaves of Arum and Dogs Mercury are encouraging signs of spring. Spurge-laurel is usually in flower by February as are many of the Hazel catkins. Spring itself brings the usual eruption of new leaves and flowers including Dogs Mercury, Violets, some Primroses and, in one part, a spreading area of Coralroot.



Coralroot (*Cardamine bulbifera*)

Small colonies of Early Purple Orchid, White Helleborine and Twayblade are also present in most years. Summer is a quiet time in the woods but the flowers of the Narrow lipped Helleborine can occasionally be found rising above the rest of the ground flora. In autumn, hazelnuts, acorns, Whitebeam and Holly berries are plentiful and especially in the oak woodland many species of fungi can be found including some county and even national rarities.

The fauna of the reserve, being more mobile and secretive, is more difficult to assess. Many of our common residential birds are present together with spring migrants mostly Blackcaps and Chiffchaff. Bulfinches and Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers are also resident.

Although Hazel Dormice were present in the early years of the reserve, there has been little sign of them more recently. However Wood Mice, Pipistrelle Bats, Voles, Glis Glis, Grey Squirrels, Foxes, Badgers and Muntjac Deer have all been observed.

The Friends of Holtspur Bank arrange guided walks around the reserve to see the flora and fauna in spring, summer and autumn as well as a bat and glow worm walk and a fungal foray.

However the reserve is always open and provides a pleasant afternoon stroll which can be supplemented by including a visit to the Butterfly Conservation reserve, Holtspur Bottom Reserve, on the opposite side of the valley.

## A Garden incident

Difficult decisions faced by Caroline Kay relating to the last Bluetit to leave a nest in her garden

Decision made. I had waited and watched from a distance long enough; my nerves were shredded.

The vulnerable puffball of Bluetit fledgling was gently ushered onto a trowel. Unsurprisingly, he hopped off. Absurdly and unthinking I proffered a finger ... and thus tiny feet clinging tightly, he was transported to the sheltered safety of the mulberry tree. Job done - the parents would find him now. I retired to the house. It seemed that the rest of the brood, at least five, were independently gaining their flying licence, batting along the path's corridor before executing dubious landings in the overly dense apple tree.

No sign of the parents. And blow me, there he was, down from security making full use of a ground based shallow water bowl. Scratching earlier, and likely the last to leave the nest, maybe the mites left with him? Wet feathers bedraggled and looking smaller and thinner than ever he was shivering as he hopped into the sunlight.

Still no sign of the parents. The flight of one adult Bluetit over the area was focussed - straight past all the youngsters. He wasn't going to survive.

I looked it up; books, Google, leaflets. "The parents will return" But they didn't.

Plan B: Feed him. Crushed mealworm soup, tiny bits of soft suet and mince morsels.

He was in the water again as I approached. He did eat - only a little but something. And then it happened. As I hunched, half balanced on one knee with food in one hand, tweezers in the other, and bird in the bath, there was an almighty pushing and shoving at my legs and the bird was no longer alone. He was joined by the tortoise. Against her indomitable will and unceremoniously nudged out of the water by an elbow, tortoise stomped off in high dudgeon, hotly pursued by fledgling who, weak or not, managed to deliver a swift peck to the retreating back legs!

With food smeared in crevices along branches I left the Bluetit in the relatively camouflaged safety of

the Mulberry while I went to seek further advice and supplies from Wycombe Wildlife Group members Paul and Karen. Late afternoon when I returned, there were no Blue tits, able-bodied or otherwise, to be seen. Had he survived? I couldn't contemplate the odds.

I tortured myself that night. Did I do too much? Or too little? With equally convincing counter arguments, I tried unsuccessfully to rationalise. He probably was the brood's weakest and quite simply, they don't all survive. I had failed him.

The next morning saw a bouncing and bobbing of Bluetits in the branches of the Apple tree. Was he there? Tolerant of my presence, they allowed close inspection but, constantly active, that gave neither time nor opportunity for me to categorically identify that slightly thinner head and sharper profile. They all looked too similar. Off they went and I stood a moment to ponder.

One appeared on the top of the fence hurdle, about a metre away. In a second it was on my shoulder, sitting briefly until I foolishly turned my head, before flitting into the adjacent Apple tree. Was it him?

It happened again - one bounced off the top of my head. Was I in the way? A convenient perch? Later as I sat with tortoise, a young Bluetit foraging close by took up post on the low barrier that I was on. He sat, unpeturbed, less than a metre and a half away eyeing the tortoise's water dish. So was this him, thankfully slightly more wary? I did not approach and he went to sit amongst the Honeysuckle.

The brood stayed but a day or two longer then disappeared - gone to new territories to lead their own lives. I so, so hope that he went with them.

This winter a more than usual number of Bluetits has returned to the garden. Now, I wonder.....

Caroline Kay

## Late flowering species in the garden

By November most of the back of our rear garden, which we refer to as the wildlife area, is usually starting to look untidy compared with the section of the rear garden nearest to the house which, with its garden plants and shrubs, usually remains attractive throughout the autumn and well into the Winter. Our Winter-flowering heathers and a *Callicarpa* shrub with mauve berries make a major contribution to keeping our garden looking attractive through the cold months of the year. This year we were surprised to have a few roses in flower until well after the Christmas and New Year period. Whilst much of the wildlife area is hidden from the house and can be left partly unmanaged for the benefit of wildlife, I usually undertake selective management of the area, especially alongside the paths, to ensure that it remains accessible whatever the weather, continues to provide some all year round interest, and maintains the habitat in a suitable condition for the species present to survive.

Following a sharp frost on 6 November, I walked around the garden and made a list of the plant species, which are native or can be found growing in the wild, that were bearing at least one flower. The total came to 19, which was higher than expected. I repeated this survey on 22 November, following another sharp frost, and was very surprised to find an even higher number of 24 species with at least one flower. After this, a longer cold spell made the plants realise that the time had come for them to accept that Winter was approaching and to save their energy for their next normal flowering period. The details of the two surveys are set out below:-

Species with one or more flowers showing	6 Nov 2020	22 Nov 2020
Argentinian Vervain ( <i>Verbena bonariensis</i> )	*	*
Barren Strawberry ( <i>Potentilla sterilis</i> )	*	*
Basil Thyme ( <i>Clinopodium acinos</i> )	*	*
Black Horehound ( <i>Ballota nigra</i> )		*
Bloody Crane's-bill ( <i>Geranium sanguineum</i> )	*	*
Bugle ( <i>Ajuga reptans</i> )		*
Common Centaury ( <i>Centaureum erythraea</i> )	*	*
Deptford Pink ( <i>Dianthus armeria</i> )	*	*
Field Scabious ( <i>Knautia arvensis</i> )	*	*
Green Alkanet ( <i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i> )	*	*
Herb Robert ( <i>Geranium robertianum</i> )	*	*
Herb Robert ( <i>Geranium robertianum</i> ) (white form)		*
Honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> )	*	
Hybrid Campion ( <i>Silene x hampeana</i> )		*
Ivy-leaved Toadflax ( <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i> )	*	*
Large-flowered Evening-primrose ( <i>Oenothera glazioviana</i> )	*	*
Mexican Fleabane ( <i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i> )	*	*
Nettle-leaved Bellflower ( <i>Campanula trachelium</i> )	*	*
Ox-eye Daisy ( <i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> )		*
Pink-sorrel ( <i>Oxalis articulata</i> )		*
Purple Toadflax ( <i>Linaria purpurea</i> )	*	*
Red Campion ( <i>Silene dioica</i> )	*	*
Red Valerian ( <i>Centranthus ruber</i> )		*
St Dabeoc's Heath ( <i>Daboecia cantabrica</i> )	*	
Wild Wallflower ( <i>Erysimum cheiri</i> )	*	*
Yellow Corydalis ( <i>Pseudofumaria lutea</i> )	*	*
TOTAL	19	24

I would be interested to know if other members experienced similar unusual flowering in their gardens this year.

# Garden Tweets

## Beginning of September

A young Great Tit has been practising its best song to woo the ladies in the Spring.

Two young Chiffchaffs (siblings I expect) have been flitting around in the bushes.

The Pied Wagtails have been noticeable flitting over the garden in their undulating flight to roost in the town centre where it is warm.

## End of September

A pair of Collared Doves are breeding. They are calling softly to each other from within the tree. The pigeon family are capable of breeding most of the year if the weather permits.

## October

Tree Bumblebees are occupying the Starling box - this is very late.

## November and December

Starlings are roosting in our golden Leyland Cypress trees. They are calling deep from within the trees until nearly dark and again early in the morning before its gets really light. How lovely if we have our own murmuration one day.

On 26th December two young Red Kites were trying their utmost to come down and feed in our garden but they need a lot more practice. They have been perching in our Leyland Cypress trees and calling loudly.

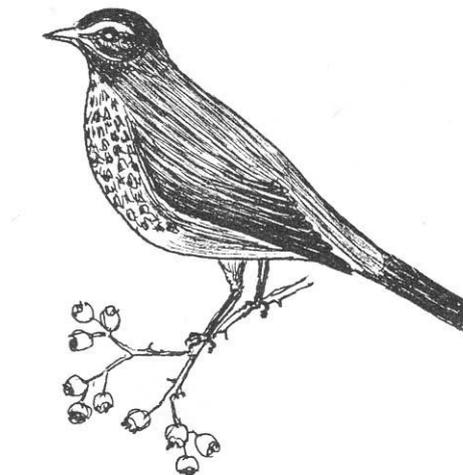
## Beginning of January

A pair of Bluetits have been investigating the nest box outside our kitchen window, something that would have been unheard of 20 years ago at this time of year.

## Early January

We have a male Blackcap visiting our bright mauve Callicarpa berries. He is seeing off any Bluetits and Robins that dare to perch in the shrub. More recently a female Blackcap has also been visiting.

A couple of Redwings have come to the garden very close to the house. They, along with the Fieldfares, have been around for some time as we put out a quantity of apples on the lawns for them.



Redwing

6 adult Robins are displaying to each other, trying to claim territories. None of them are fighting, however.

More of this gripping drama will unfold in the next newsletter.

## Reported sightings since the last newsletter

- 29 September Hawthorn Shieldbug (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*) - seen in a Holmer Green garden  
 30 September Burnished Brass moth (*Diachrysia chrysititis f. aurea*) nectaring on garden pansy flowers in Deeds Grove garden.  
 12 October First Redwings seen flying over Deeds Grove garden  
 14 October Very tame Little Egret on rock in the Wye stream next to the Queen Victoria Road bridge.  
 26 October Report received of hundreds of Pied Wagtails roosting in the Eden Centre -this is in fact not surprising as they have roosted in that area of the town even before the Eden Centre was built. It is good to know that they are still there in large numbers.  
 11 November Grey Wagtail seen at rear of Sainsbury's store in High Wycombe  
 18 November 2 House Sparrows in Deeds Grove garden  
 21 November 2 Robins feeding together in Deeds Grove garden.  
 7 December 20 Chaffinches on grass road verge and in a front garden in Deeds Grove.  
 30 December 156 Goldfinches roosting in a Tylers Green garden.

An interesting report was received about a large number of fungi being found on a unintentional fungus foray during a geocaching visit to Langley Park. Apart from this photo of a Birch Polypore, however, none of the photos submitted showed sufficient identification details to attempt to identify them. It is worth bearing in mind that Langley Park is an interesting site for rare fungus species, especially on the old trees.



### Contacting Wycombe Wildlife Group

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### 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.