



# ABINGTON NATUREWATCH

The Record  
2015

Records the activities of Abington Naturewatch for 2015. Includes records of sightings of the fauna and flora in Great and Little Abington, Cambridgeshire, as noted by members and covering several sectors: Life at Granta Park and in the River Granta, Birds, Reptiles & Amphibians, Mammals, Insects, Flora.



1: (cover) Starling Murmuration, Granta Park – 19 Dec (AM)

2: (cover) River sampling, near Cricket Field – 12 Aug (PJB)



3: Sluice Wood – Jan (DF)



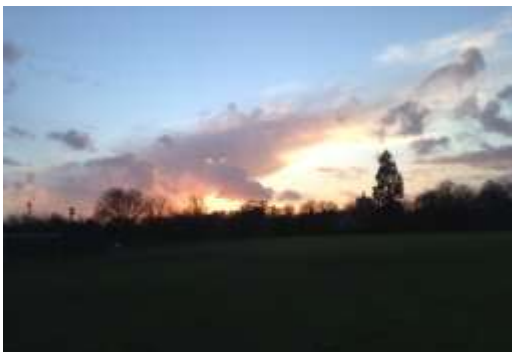
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5: Fungus, Recreation Ground – 31 Jan (PJB)



6: Bracket Fungus, High St – 4 Oct (PJB)



7: Sunset over GA church – 16 Jan (PJB)



8: Winter Dawn – 5 Dec (DF)



9: Lunar Eclipse – 28 Sept 02:07 (PJB)



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15: Lesser Redpoll and Goldfinch, Lewis Cr – 19 Dec (AM)



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19: Minnows at new shoal, Rec – 12 June (DLT)



20: Minnows at new shoal, Rec – 12 June (DLT)

### Granta Park – see Section 10



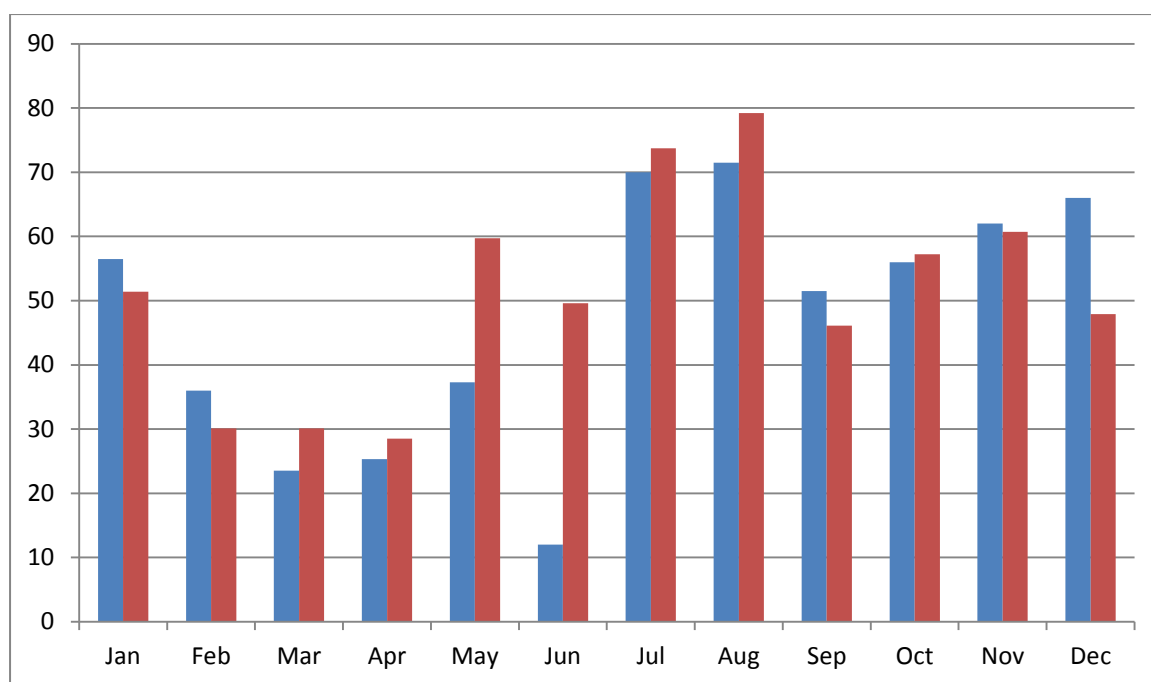
21: Dawn Chorus walk, Granta Park – 1 May (LM)

# 1. FOREWORD

## *I. Weather*

2015 proved to be a fairly average year for weather. January and February were cold with some frosts and light snow but average rainfall. Both March and April were fairly dry with some light frosts in March but April was a warmer month. May and June were mild and dry months with June being especially drier than average. This was followed by the wet months of July and August broken up by some hot periods. The autumn months and December proved to be milder than average with few frosts and average rainfall in September, October and November but the year finished with a very wet month in December.

Rainfall for 2015 (blue) compared to 10 Year Average (red) in mm.



Source of 10 year average: Cambridge Botanic Gardens

22: Abington Rainfall 2015

The weather pattern in 2015 had two main effects on nature. The mild spring meant that early Brimstone and other butterflies and bumble bees were seen in March and April together with some early and prolonged flowering in hedgerows and gardens. The summer, although wet, was mild and nesting birds seem to have had a successful breeding season.

The second half of the year was very mild with swallows having a second brood and departing late. Hedgehogs and bumble bees remained active and there was concern that underweight hedgehogs might not survive a later cold spell.

## *II. The 2015 Programme*

We again had a busy programme during 2015. This started off with the RSPB Birdwatch in January and an excellent visit to Fen Drayton Lakes to see the birdlife in February. The highlight of the trip was a rare Glossy Ibis. Our river sampling programme continued in April, June and August but there was some concern that the river bank near our sampling area behind the cricket storage shed was getting very overgrown and discussions took place with the relevant authorities to clear the river bank in that area during the 2016 winter. Naturewatch held its own Birdwatch in May and we were very pleased to get the school involved for the first time in both this and the RSPB Birdwatch. We visited Beech Wood to

see the rare White Helleborines and had a very interesting trip to Wicken Fen in June to see dragonflies, damselflies, birds and plants. During this visit we had the chance to learn some new facts on dragonflies and help with damselfly identification from the local expert. In July we visited RSPB Lakenheath which is always excellent for birds and saw 41 bird species with the highlight being a Bittern flying over the reed beds. August saw us visit the western section of the Roman Road where we identified several chalkland plants. Among the butterflies seen was an expanding colony of Chalkhill Blues and several Small Skippers.

The only disappointment in our busy summer season was that we were unable to carry out two planned moth trap events but hope to do these again in 2016.

Our autumn members' evening, this year in November, was a very popular event where our local bird expert, Andy Merryweather, gave a very interesting talk on the identification of birds that would be expected to be seen in the village, illustrated by several of his own photographs.

Naturewatch has been trying to get an idea of the number of hedgehogs in our village over the last two years and in 2015 tried out some Hedgehog tunnels which record their footprints as they move through. This has provided some interesting results and hedgehogs appear to be more prevalent than we thought. We will continue the programme in 2016.

### ***III. Granta Park***

Granta Park is a very important part of our area and we are grateful for their financial support of Naturewatch which goes towards the cost of meetings and printing the Record. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions to the Record from Tracy Thomas, Sheila Stevens, Andy Merryweather and Mike Gittos.

### ***IV. Naturewatch Members***

We have a steady core of members in Naturewatch and our visits have in the main been well supported. However we need some new active members and hope that a Volunteer Day in the village in April will be successful.

Apart from the visits, Naturewatch relies on observations and photos from our members in the village which are put together in the annual report, the Record, and interesting observations or photographs put onto our website blog.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed during the year and we look forward to even more in 2016. The Naturewatch visits, our website blog and the reports in the Record, would not happen without the work of our Project Team and I would like to record my thanks to them for all their efforts during the year.

David Farrant

#### **Notes:**

1. In this document, GA stands for Great Abington and LA for Little Abington.
2. All photographs were taken in 2015, unless noted.  
Photographers: Audrey Bugg (AB), Andy Merryweather (AM), Anne Dunbar Nobes (ADN), Barry Brooks (BMB), David Farrant (DF), Derek Turnidge (DLT), Emma Jones (EJ), Jennifer Hirsh (JAH), Len Mead (LM), Pam Parris (PP), Peter Brunning (PJB), Peter Dawson (PD)
3. Visits out of the Abingtons are recorded separately in Section 8.
4. For contact details for all sectors, please refer to the back page.
5. Species of particular interest (declining native or invasive non-native) are shown in **red**.

## 2. RIVERCARE

### I. Overview

*Abington RiverCare* has two main interests: looking after the 'home' stretch of the River Granta and surveying its flora and fauna. *RiverCare* is a member of the national *RiverCare* organisation <http://www.rivercare.org.uk/> (see below).

On the last Saturday of each month, we walk through the cricket and recreation fields along the river and check its condition, picking up litter along the bank and, if possible, from the river. [Volunteers are always welcome at the road bridge at 9:30 a.m.] We look out for, and attempt to eradicate, invasive plants such as Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed – we removed a small amount of **Himalayan Balsam** from Abington Woods this year but we seem to be reducing it somewhat. We also notify landowners or the *Environment Agency* of any issues that need further attention, such as the clearance of larger items of debris. The national *RiverCare* organization provides equipment, insurance, safety guidelines and other advice.

In August 2014, we realised a major project, which had taken quite a while to plan. We installed a gravel shoal in the river by the Recreation Ground, quite close to the Millennium Footbridge. This is now an established feature: it looks natural and shoals of minnows have been seen close to it. It has been inundated several times, which should have stabilised it quite effectively.

RiverCare members also take part in the Cam Valley Forum, a voluntary group, established in 2001, which works to protect and improve the environment of the River Cam and its tributaries – see <http://www.colc.co.uk/cambridge/cam.valley.forum/>.

### II. River Sampling 2015

As for the last few years, we performed the sampling within a 30m stretch of the River Granta beside the Abington Cricket Meadow (as agreed with Rob Mungovan). Grid ref: TL534490.

The Riverfly Partnership *abundance* figures are as follows:

1 – 9	category A = (based on a quick count)
10–99	category B = (+ estimated number to nearest 10)
100–999	category C = (+ estimated number to nearest 100)
over 1000	category D = (+ estimated number to nearest 1000)

#### i. Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015

We sampled mostly Mayfly Ephemeridae, Olive Baetidae, Caddisfly at the usual site.

#### ii. Wednesday 24 June 2015, 6.30pm - fine, dry weather, warm evening

**River level:** very low

**Recorders:** Anne Dunbar-Nobes and Peter Brunning

3 kick-shuffles undertaken within the allotted 3 minutes:

- Gravel/rocky bottom in main flow;
- Weedy area (water crowfoot) with rocky gravel bottom;
- Deeper water, rocky bottom

*Riverfly species*

**Cased caddisfly:** Nil

**Caseless caddisfly:** B, Estimated number 20

**Mayfly Ephemeridae:** A, Estimated number 3

**Blue-winged olive:** Nil

**Flat bodied up-wings:** Nil

**Olives:** Category B, Estimated number 20

**Stoneflies:** Nil

**Gammarus (Freshwater shrimp):** Category C, Estimated number 100

Many (50+) unidentified tiny Mayfly larvae

**Hatches seen:** none

**Other fauna:** 1 tiny pea mussel, 1 tiny water snail

Non-sightings (we've usually found these when monitoring elsewhere in the river): leeches, crayfish, minnows, demoiselle larvae.

### **iii. Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014, 18:30 - fine, dry weather, warm evening;**

**River level:** very low

**Recorder:** Peter Brunning

3 kick-shuffles undertaken within the allotted 3 minutes:

- a) Gravel/rocky bottom in main flow;
- b) Some Weed (water crowfoot) with rocky gravel bottom;
- c) Deeper water, rocky bottom

All under trees.

#### *Riverfly species*

**Cased caddisfly:** Nil

**Caseless caddisfly:** B, ca. 10

**Mayfly (Ephemeridae):** Nil

**Blue-winged olive (Ephemeridae):** Nil

**Flat bodied up-wings (Heptageniidae):** Nil

**Olives (Baetidae):** C, ca. 100

**Stoneflies:** Nil

**Gammarus (Freshwater shrimp):** B, ca. 20

**Hatches seen:** none

**Other fauna:**

3 signal crayfish - ca. 7cm, 5cm, 2cm

### **iv. Wednesday 09 September 2015, 6.30pm – fine, dry weather, cool evening**

*NOTE: this session was held at the old ford to check fauna in a slightly different stretch of the river.*

River level: low

Recorded by: Peter Brunning Riverfly sampling - Sept 2015

3 kick-shuffles undertaken within the allotted 3 minutes

- a) Some Weed (water crowfoot) with rocky gravel bottom;
- b) Gravel/rocky bottom in main flow, deeper water;
- c) Lower flow, rocky bottom, edge of weed).

#### *Riverfly species*

**Cased caddisfly:** Nil

**Caseless caddisfly:** B, ca 10

**Mayfly (Ephemeridae):** Nil

**Blue-winged olive (Ephemeridae):** Nil

**Flat bodied up-wings (Heptageniidae):** Nil

**Olives (Baetidae):** C, ca 200

**Stoneflies:** Nil

Gammarus (Freshwater shrimp): C, ca 100

Hatches seen: none

Other fauna: 1 signal crayfish - 3cm; 4 fish (stone loach) - 3 x 10-12cm, 2 x 5 cm

Non-sightings (we've often found these): leeches, worms, minnows etc.



23: Caddis larvae, Shrimp – 9 Sep (PJB)



24: Olive nymphs – 9 Sep (PJB)



25: Demoiselle nymph – 26 Sep (PJB)



26: Shrimp – 9 Sep (PJB)

### ***III. RiverCare & Beachcare Activities***

#### **i. Winter Conference – Friday 27th February 2015**

Robin and Peter attended quite a full day (10:00am - 3.45pm) of talks and discussions at Hayman Lodge, Oak Lane, Old Catton, Norwich NR6 7DB. There were others from the Anglian region and Rivercare people from around the country.

Topics included biodiversity, projects (including the Abington Shoal project), non-native species, working tools and techniques.

#### **ii. Summer Conference – Thursday 20th August 2015**

Richard, Deborah and Peter attended a morning (10:30am – 1.45pm) of talks at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Rutland Water, Egleton, Oakham, Leicestershire, LE15 8BT. Afterwards, we visited the Lyndon Visitor Centre to watch the Ospreys. It was an exciting time to view these magnificent birds as the young were improving their flying skills and learning to catch fish. <http://www.ospreys.org.uk/osprey-facts/>



27: Rivercare & Beachcare Winter Conference 2015:

### iii. RiverCare visits to Abington

#### 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015 – Introducing Rob to Abington

Rob Martyr, David, Deborah, and Peter walked along the river from the road bridge to the coach road, via the Cricket Field, the Recreation Ground, Abington Woods and Sluice Wood.

#### 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – Ecological visit to Abington

Rob Martyr and Andrew Walters of RiverCare, with help from David Farrant, arranged to review the stretch of the river from the bridge to the footbridge. In attendance were Lou Mayer (Environment Agency) and Ruth Hawksley (Wildlife Trust). The idea was to advise on possible improvements. The key points noted include:

- They were very impressed with the current state of the Recreation Ground stretch. (The committee plans to keep it clear by strimming and spraying.)
- They suggested that a plan be put together concerning the whole stretch, including all the work planned, which could then be used to get grant money. This would include any work by tree surgeons (they suggested that the willow by the shed be pollarded), deflectors or a further beach/shoal.
- First step would be for all brush and elderflower bushes to be removed, and relevant lower branches to shoulder height, by the local group over the winter

- Rob was to try to arrange for Anglia Water to clear the stretch from the bridge to the equipment shed. They have since agreed to clear their site but do not, apparently, own the river bank.
- As the lower stretch is now so clear, would it be possible for local contractors to trim the nettles behind the cricket pitch on a regular basis? (The cricket club has since cleared much of the scrub.)
- It was suggested a further shoal/beach be put in by the play area and more deflectors (3) in the river but this would need approval.

#### **IV. Other Events**

##### **i. Training**

Wildlife Training Workshop: “Natural History of the Water Vole” with Iain Webb and Ruth Hawksley - 26 April 2015. Cambourne office, Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire.

This workshop introduced us to the natural history and field signs of the water vole. We heard a little about what caused their decline and what can be done about it.

This was followed by a field visit to look for evidence of water vole activity in the Cambourne/Cambridge area and information on how to conduct surveys.

##### **ii. Anglian Water Open Day – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015 -**

Robin & Peter visited the Milton Water Recycling Centre and saw exhibits related to water saving and cleanliness. Some were aimed at children, attempting to educate them about the effects of putting unwelcome material in the sewers. The combination of wipes and fats, for example, can cause severe blockages, which are costly and very inconvenient for all concerned. A good rule is only pee, poo and paper!

We also toured the treatment works, following the path of the water from sewer to river. We saw some of the strange things they find occasionally, including a couple of mobile phones. It is a large site with enormous lagoons where the solids are digested by bacteria and put back in the river in a clean and safe state.

It was an interesting morning, and would perhaps make an interesting and educational outing for children.

##### **iii. World Rivers Day – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

World Rivers Day (<http://worldriversday.com/>) is celebrated each year all round the world on the last Sunday of September. Naturewatch arranged a small display to celebrate the occasion on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, at ‘Abington Woods’ – they also had a display in the former Scout training building. We had young visitors from late morning to early afternoon.

The main objective of the day was to introduce the fauna of the river to younger members of the community. In spite of belated and restricted publicity, the event seemed to be a success!

We had samples of creatures, taken from the river that morning, in trays and specimen pots to examine with magnifying glasses and a microscope. These included fish, shrimp, and Mayfly larvae – but no crayfish this time.

Peter Brunning



28: Robin at nest, Lewis Cresc – 25 Apr (AM)



29: Wren at nest, Lewis Cresc – 25 May (AM)



30: Red Kite, Granta Park – 24 Apr (AM)



31: Curlew, Granta Park – 29 June (AM)



32: Reed Warbler, Granta Park – 17 May (AM)



33: Baby Blue-tits, South Rd – 26 May (PP)



34: Great Spotted Woodpecker, South Rd – 16 Feb (PP)



35: Green Woodpecker, West Field – 16 Dec (PD)

### 3. BIRDS

#### *I. Members' Reports*

Once more I am extremely grateful for all the reports I have received from many people during the year including reports from Granta Park. Frequent or infrequent, detailed or simple, without them there would be no record. All reports are recorded and highlights follow here. Because of the excellent detailed report of birds recorded on Granta Park which appears elsewhere in this Record, I have only included Granta Park sightings which have been provided to me by village residents, as opposed to people working there and reporting to Andy Merryweather.

#### **January 2015**

Fieldfares and Redwings were seen throughout the month, there were two sightings of Little Egret including one in the top of a tree near the Millennium Bridge. Treecreepers, Stock Dove, Blackcap and Redpoll were among the less usual species. After a farm machinery event on Grange Farm there were many Gulls and Corvids there. A report appeared on BirdTrack of a Merlin in Great on 29<sup>th</sup>. The RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch produced 14 reports including one from the school and a total of 33 species including Yellowhammer.

#### **February 2015**

Siskins were seen in the early part of the month. A Grey Wagtail was watched twice on a roof in Cambridge Road, once being chased by a Pied Wagtail. There were reports of Goldcrests, drumming Great Spotted Woodpecker, Tawny Owl, Bullfinches, Stock Doves and Reed Bunting. A pair of Mallard was seen on a garden pond in Great Abington

#### **March 2015**

Reports of Buzzards from early in the month and a single Brambling was seen on 8<sup>th</sup>. Chiffchaffs heard from the last week of March and a **Kingfisher** was seen in Sluice Wood in the same week. Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers were seen regularly. Fieldfares and Redwings continued to be seen as was Little Egret. A partial albino Blackbird was reported. One report of Skylark.

#### **April 2015**

Chiffchaffs continue in evidence and Swallows from 9<sup>th</sup> onwards, House Martins from 12<sup>th</sup>. There were several reports of Treecreepers, one of Corn Buntings and a Whitethroat, also Skylarks, Redlegged Partridges, Yellowhammer and Blackcap.



36: Long-tailed Tit chicks, Lewis Cresc – 9 May (AM)



37: Partial Albino Blackbird, Church La – 3 Apr (GS)

**May 2105**

A Cuckoo was heard in Sluice Wood on 5<sup>th</sup> and again on 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>; elsewhere in the village Swifts reported from 7<sup>th</sup> onwards. There was one report of a Spotted Flycatcher and two of a Red Kite, a pair of Grey Wagtails was seen on the river. The Survey over the weekend of 23-25 produced 14 records (2014: 7) including one from Class 1 at the school. 48 species (2014: 45) were recorded.

**June 2015**

Young Robins, Wrens, Blue and Great Tits and Pied Wagtails were all seen early in the month. On 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> a **Barn Owl** was reported from Lewis Crescent. Reports of Bullfinches, Buzzards calling, Goldcrest, Jays and Longtailed Tits all received. From 24<sup>th</sup> onwards several reports of Nuthatch in Little Abington. A Curlew photographed flying above Great Abington.

**July 2015**

Pair of Great Crested Grebes seen on Granta Park Lake among Canada Geese and Mallard also a single Greylag Goose. Nesting Spotted Flycatchers reported from Little Abington. Grey Wagtail, Treecreeper, Bullfinches and Swifts all in evidence as well as Swallows and House Martins. Tawny Owls heard at night.

**August 2015**

Swifts reported up to 8<sup>th</sup>. A pair of Cormorants was seen on Lake on 9<sup>th</sup>. House Martins and Swallows were seen throughout the month and a **Kingfisher** was seen near the Millennium Bridge on 11<sup>th</sup>. There were several reports of Grey Heron and also Treecreepers.

**September 2015**

A Shorteared Owl was seen on 13<sup>th</sup> in south of Great Abington. Swallows were reported up to 21<sup>st</sup>. A Red Kite was seen on 20<sup>th</sup>. Flocks of Goldfinches were seen on verges before they were cut. Both Chiffchaffs and Wood Warblers were heard in Sluice Wood. Goldcrest seen on 26<sup>th</sup> in conifer on Cambridge Road.

**October 2015**

6+ House Martins reported flying round Little Abington Church on 11<sup>th</sup> and a **Kingfisher** near the Millennium Bridge. On 28<sup>th</sup> a flock of 30-40 Fieldfares seen from path towards Abington Park Farm. Skylarks reported over Bourn Bridge Road fields.

**November 2015**

A Sparrowhawk was photographed near a house in Great Abington where there were 30+ Goldfinches feeding on seeds in paddock and trees. Goldcrests seen in conifer on Cambridge Road. Large flock of Chaffinches – at least 27 – in garden in Little Abington. On 23<sup>rd</sup> 9 Fieldfares and 2 Redwings in Cooke's Meadow. 115 ducks on Lake on 26<sup>th</sup>, all apparently Mallard.

**December 2015**

On 15<sup>th</sup> Song Thrush was singing in top of a conifer. Two reports of Grey Wagtail early in the month. Several reports of Starling murmurations at dusk near the Granta Park Lake and nearby. A **Kingfisher** was seen in Sluice Wood on 19<sup>th</sup>. Seven Lesser Redpolls reported from Lewis Crescent for first time in nearly three years, feeding on Niger seed. About 100 Fieldfares were seen on Christmas Day from the Coach Road.

## II. RSPB Garden Birdwatch 24-25 January 2015 – Abington records

14 records were received including one from Class 1 at the school; 31 species were recorded. In descending order they were:

### 14 records

Blue Tit  
Blackbird  
Robin

### 13 records

Great Tit

### 11 records

Chaffinch

### 10 records

Collared Dove  
Dunnock

### 9 records

Longtailed Tit  
Goldfinch  
Woodpigeon

### 8 records

Magpie  
Coal Tit

### 6 records

House Sparrow

### 5 Records

Starling  
Greenfinch

### 4 records

Great Spotted Woodpecker  
Wren

### 3 records

Carrion Crow  
Fieldfare  
Jackdaw

### 2 records

Jay  
Song Thrush  
Blackheaded Gull  
Pheasant  
Pied wagtail

### 1 record

Green Woodpecker  
Bullfinch  
Kestrel  
Linnet  
Redwing  
Skylark  
Yellowhammer  
Redlegged Partridge



38: Male Bullfinch, Lewis Cresc – 25 Jan (AM)



39: Male Bullfinch, Lewis Cresc – 25 Jan (AM)



40: Female Blackcap, Lewis Cresc – 25 Jan (AM)



41: Male Chaffinch (diseased leg) – 25 Jan (AM)



42: Brambling, Lewis Cresc – 29 Nov (AM)



43: Pheasant, West Field – 6 Nov (PD)

**III. Abington Naturewatch Bird Survey 23-25 May 2015**

Species	No of records	Species	No of records
Black-headed Gull	1	Kestrel	2
Blackbird	<b>14</b>	Linnet	1
Blackcap	4	Long-tailed Tit	3
Blue Tit	<b>12</b>	Magpie	<b>10</b>
Bullfinch	2	Mallard	4
Buzzard	5	Mistle Thrush	5
Carrion Crow	5	Moorhen	3
Chaffinch	8	Pheasant	2
Chiffchaff	6	Pied Wagtail	<b>10</b>
Coal Tit	4	Red Kite	1
Collared Dove	<b>12</b>	Red-legged Partridge	3
Corn Bunting	2	Robin	<b>11</b>
Dunnock	<b>10</b>	Rook	<b>10</b>
Goldfinch	<b>11</b>	Skylark	3
Great Crested Grebe	1	Song Thrush	8
Great Spotted Woodpecker	5	Sparrowhawk	1
Great Tit	9	Starling	6
Green Woodpecker	7	Stock Dove	3
Greenfinch	6	Swallow	5
Grey Heron	3	Swift	5
House Martin	6	Whitethroat	1
House Sparrow	8	Willow Warbler	1
Jackdaw	8	Woodpigeon	<b>14</b>
Jay	3	Wren	8

There were 14 records (2014: 7) received including one from Class 1 at the school.  
48 species (2014: 45) were recorded, an increase of 3 over the similar survey in 2014.

Species recorded by 10 or more of the 14 are shown in **Bold**.

**IV. Outings**

*Please note that Reports of Outings can be found in Section 8.*

Derek Turnidge

## 4. REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

The first report of **frogspawn** in early March matched that of previous years, but thereafter there seemed to be very few ponds with **frog** spawn and tadpoles. This, together with the mixed weather, probably also explains the paucity of grass snake reports through spring and summer. It seemed to be a fairly good year for Common Newts, with over 20 being counted on one day in our pond in the summer. Our pond had no spawn but small **frogs** and **toads** made it their home for much of the summer. In early autumn, young **frogs** were seen in grass on the village allotments.

An interesting report of a **Common Lizard** was received from Marion Rusted, who saw it in her conservatory in July where it had made its home in a crack in the wall.

And then, deep in November after quite a quiet year on the reptile and amphibian front, I received a report of a hibernating **Common Lizard** from the Cambridge City Greenways Project Officer (Iain Webb) who was clearing brambles and wild clematis off the north-facing bank of the old railway cutting in Great Abington (a county wildlife site). Common Lizards have not been recorded from this site before so this was a matter of much interest.

Date	What	Where	Comments
8 March	<b>Toad</b>	Garden, 41 South Rd, GA	Large adult in undergrowth near pond
10 March	<b>Frogspawn</b>	Hannah pond	No frogs seen, and no frog spawn in the larger pond
March	<b>Frogspawn</b>	Tredget pond, 40 South Rd, GA	2 clumps of spawn. <b>Toad</b> also seen. <b>Grass snake</b> over-wintered in compost heap.
Late March	<b>Toad</b>	Tredget pond, 40 South Rd, GA	
March	<b>Grass snake</b>	Tredget pond, 40 South Rd, GA	Known to have over-wintered in compost heap, <b>not yet seen</b>
5 April	Smooth Newt	Dunbar-Nobes pond, 41 South Rd, GA	Warm weather has increased algae and newts seen coming up to surface
7 April	Smooth Newt	Turnidge pond, 23 Cambridge Rd, LA	
10 April	<b>Toad</b> , large adult	Dunbar-Nobes garden	On patio, late evening
11 April	Squashed <b>Toad</b>	Chalky Road	First roadkill of the spring
14 April	3 Smooth Newts	Turnidge pond, 23 Cambridge Rd, LA	
15 April	2 <b>frogs</b>	Dunbar-Nobes pond, 41 South Rd, GA	No spawn yet
May onwards	<b>Frogs</b> , Smooth Newts	Garden ponds	Regular reports of sightings
May onwards	<b>Grass snakes</b>	Garden ponds	Occasional sightings of single specimens
July	<b>Common lizard</b>	Marion Rusted's conservatory, LA	Living in crack in wall in conservatory
Mid-Aug	Newts	Garden ponds	Numbers are declining as breeding season finishes
Mid-August	<b>Frogs and toads</b>	Gardens	Sporadic sightings in flower beds and grassy areas
30 Aug	<b>Grass snake</b>	Footpath in Little Abington	About 2' long, quite dark in colour
5 Sept	6 young Smooth Newts	Turnidge pond, 23 Cambridge Rd, LA	Still with gills
3 Oct	<b>Toad</b>	Dunbar-Nobes garden, 41 South Rd, GA	Large adult <b>toad</b> in wood pile in garden
25 Nov	<b>Common lizard</b>	County wildlife site, old railway cutting, GA	Hibernating in bank under roots of brambles/wild clematis

**Granta Park Plant ID and Bug Hunt – see Section 10.V.iii**



**44: Group in wildflower meadow – 17 July (TT)**



**45: Examining the sweep net's contents – 17 July (TT)**



**46: Inspecting a 'bug' – 17 July (TT)**



**47: Group in Lagden's Grove – 17 July (TT)**



**48: Leaf Beetle, Granta Park – 17 July (PJB)**



**49: Frog Hopper, Granta Park – 17 July (PJB)**



**50: Robber Fly, Granta Park – 17 July (PJB)**



**51: Lesser Stag Beetle, Granta Park – 17 July (PJB)**

## 5. MAMMALS

### *I. Introduction*

Following a visit from Peter Pilbeam in 2014, Naturewatch investigated Footprint tunnels, which are a non-invasive tool recommended by the Mammal Society to look for the presence of mammals in a habitat by identifying their footprints. Mammals walk over ink-pads to reach bait inside, and leave footprints on special paper as they do so.



52: Hedgehog – 24 July (DF)



53: Hedgehog tracks – July (DLT)



54: Hedgehog footprint tunnel (DF)



55: Hedgehog tracks from tunnel (DF)

Hedgehogs and evidence of hedgehogs were again well reported. Disturbingly, since the end of the year, there have been sightings of hedgehog activity at a time when they should be hibernating, which may be a sign of the warm winter weather affecting them in a detrimental way, since there is likely to be less food available at that time of year.

**Bats** have also been reported flying in November and December, when they, too, should have been hibernating.

Reports of foxes have remained similar to the previous year and **Muntjac** deer are still in evidence.

**II. Summary report of mammal sightings:**

Species*	Location*	Number	Comments
Fox	High St / Pampisford Rd	1	Seen midday
<b>Muntjac</b>	Railway line off Pampisford Rd	1	<b>TL527481</b>
Fox	Field behind house	1	8am
Badger	Railway line, Chalky Rd	1	Dead 11.30am
<b>Bats</b>	Round security light	2	Feeding 9.30pm
<b>Bat</b>	Church Lane	1	Behind fence – maybe Pipistrelle
Short-tailed vole	Cambridge Rd	1	By bird feeder
Badger	Side A11. N of Junction	1	Dead at side of A1307
Roe deer	Abington Pk Fm by Chalky Rd	8	V. interested in horses
Fox	Cambridge Rd	1	Large fox, early afternoon
Fox	Sluice wood, by Coach Rd	1	
Hedgehog droppings	Cambridge Rd		Droppings on lawn
<b>Hares</b>	Chalky Rd – top farm	2	
Hedgehog droppings	Cambridge Rd		Droppings on lawn
Hedgehog droppings	1 Bourn Bridge Rd		Droppings on lawn
Short-tailed vole	)	1	
Grey squirrel	) Cambridge Rd	1	
Mole activity	)		
<b>Muntjac</b>	Coach Rd	1	<b>TL523492</b>
Roe deer	Fields before Hildersham Wood	9	
<b>Bats</b>	Cambridge Rd	2	Pipistrelle & Serotine
Common shrew	Cambridge Rd	1	Dead
<b>Muntjac</b>	9 Bourn Bridge Rd – front lawn	1	6.30am <b>TL528494</b>
Hedgehog	Cambridge Rd – on lawn	1	Evening
Hedgehogs	1 Bourn Bridge Rd	2	Making lots of noise in back garden
<b>Bat</b>	Little Abington church	1	
Common shrew	Garden, High St	1	Dead
<b>Bats</b>	Garden, High St	several	Pipistrelles flying every warm evening
<b>Muntjac</b>	Cooke's field	several	<b>TL528494</b>
<b>Hare</b>	Granta Park		
Hedgehog	9 Bourn Bridge Rd	1	Snuffling by back door
Hedgehogs	Church Lane	3	In garden
Hedgehog droppings	Garden, Meadow Walk		Evidence on lawn
Hedgehog	51 Church lane – on lawn	1	
Hedgehog	Cambridge Rd – on front lawn	1	
Hedgehog droppings	Cambridge Rd		Evidence on regular basis
<b>Muntjac</b>	Cambridge Rd – in garden	1	<b>TL531495</b>
<b>Bat</b>	Little Abington church	1	Long eared – on lectern
Hedgehog	High St / Gt Abington	1	In garden
Hedgehog	Church Lane	1	Large specimen by side gate
<b>Hares</b>	Granta Park	2	
<b>Bat</b>		1	In garden
Fox	Coach Rd	1	
<b>Muntjac</b>	Coach Rd into Granta Park	1	<b>TL523492</b>
Fox	Newmarket Rd	1	Dead in road
<b>Bat</b>	Field by Sluice Wood	1	Flying – very small specimen
<b>Bat</b>	Granta Park	1	Flying at lunchtime

Gill Smith



56: **Muntjac**, Cambridge Rd – 25 Sept (DLT)



57: **Long-eared Bat** on LA church lectern – 26 Sept (DLT)



58: **Pipistrelle Bat**, High St – 13 Mar (JAH)



59: Grey Squirrel, Church La – 2 Oct (PJB)



60: Field Mouse, Roman Road – 23 Aug (PJB)



61: Field Mouse, Roman Road – 23 Aug (PJB)



62: Hedgehog, Church La – 4 May (LM)



63: Southern Hawker dragonfly and its nymph case, S Rd



64: ... and with wings spread after ~5 hours – 7 Jun (ADN)



65: Southern Hawker and Exuvia, High St – 6 July (AB)



66: Emerald Damselfly, High St – 21 July (JAH)



67: Small Magpie Moth, North Rd – 23 May (EJ)



68: Grasshopper, Church La – 21 Aug (PJB)



69: Bees on Lavender, High St – 11 July (JAH)



70: Buff-tailed Bumblebee, High St – 20 July (JAH)

## 6. INSECTS

This report covers butterflies, moths, bees, dragonflies, damselflies, and ladybirds. These are the groups that members recognize and can usually identify.

Other invertebrates, which are hardly ever reported or identified, are also mentioned at the end.

This was a reasonable year for butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies, though due to variable weather some months were better than others.

### I. *Insect reports and reporters*

This year I had a total of 826 individual species reports (824 in 2014).

There are four truly regular reporters (includes couples) and only six occasional reporters.

*I would welcome more reporters on insects, particularly butterflies, bees, dragonflies and damselflies and ladybirds. These are generally the easiest to identify. I can help with identification charts if necessary. I would particularly like reports from different parts of the village and different habitats.*

### II. *Butterflies*

March 7, the first warm day of spring, brought in 24 species reports from 12 members. The majority of these were of Brimstones and these topped the ranking once again being seen all through the summer from March until the end of September. Small tortoiseshells were seen in much bigger numbers again – buddleia bushes in full flower attracted them. Peacocks and Red admirals also like these shrubs. Orange tips, large and small whites were seen in good numbers. Increasing numbers of Commas and Speckled woods too. Meadow browns, Ringlets and Gatekeepers however were down in number from the last couple of years. This may be due to the fact that we cannot now access Cooke's Meadow down the Old Coach Road due to horses being kept there – this had been a good habitat for butterflies in previous years.

#### i. **List of butterflies recorded as present in Cambridgeshire 1990-2005.**

*Ref: The Butterflies of Cambridgeshire, 2006, Robin Field, Val Perrin, Louise Bacon, Nick Grestorix-Davies*

This book shows a total of 34 current resident species in the county of which **20** have been reported in Abington this year from February to October. (In 2014 we had reports of 20 species, in 2013 21 species, in 2012 19 species).

In comparison with the report from Granta Park (see 10.II), where systematic surveys of butterflies are carried out, five more species were reported in the village (Orange tip, Small Copper, Holly Blue, Painted Lady, Fritillary). However two species (Brown Argus and Large Skipper) were recorded for Granta Park but not seen in the village.

**Sightings (species to date)** are shown in the table as:

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| ✓  | only one reported sighting in month      |
| ✓✓ | more than one reported sighting in month |

In the **Current** table below, names in **black bold** are those that have been reported this year in Abington village, and names in **red italic** are those that have not been seen this year.

First butterfly seen outside: Red Admiral in late February 2015

Last butterfly seen: Brimstone in September 2015

2015	Butterflies ranked by number of sightings (top 12)
1	Brimstone
2	Large White
3	Small tortoiseshell
4	Small white
5	Peacock
6	Comma
7	Orange tip
8	Meadow brown
9	Red Admiral
10	Holly blue
11	Gatekeeper
12	Speckled wood



71: Small Tortoiseshell underwing, High St – 10 July (JAH)



72: Small Tortoiseshell / lavender, High St – 11 July (JAH)



73: Peacock butterfly, High St – 7 Aug (JAH)



74: Small White butterfly, High St – 10 July (JAH)



75: Orange Tip underwing, High St – 9 May (JAH)



76: Speckled Wood, High St – 9 May (JAH)

*The table overleaf shows those butterflies seen in Abington in 2015 by month (20 species)*

Butterfly name	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Notes from Butterflies of Cambridgeshire
<b>Reported in Abington 2015</b>										
<b>Small skipper</b>						✓✓✓				Widespread & common
<b>Large white</b>			✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	Widespread & common
<b>Small white</b>			✓✓✓	✓✓✓		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓		Widespread & common
<b>Green veined white</b>			✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓			Widespread & common
<b>Brimstone</b>		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓		Widespread & common
<b>Orange tip</b>			✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓					Widespread & common
<b>Small copper</b>				✓	✓		✓			Widely distributed – but not abundant
<b>Common blue</b>				✓		✓	✓			Widespread & fairly common
<b>Holly blue</b>			✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓				Widespread & common
<b>Red Admiral</b>	✓	✓✓✓			✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	Widespread & common
<b>Painted lady</b>					✓✓	✓	✓	✓		Common migrant
<b>Small tortoiseshell</b>		✓✓✓	✓✓✓		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓		Widespread & common
<b>Peacock</b>		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓		✓✓✓	✓✓✓			Widespread & common
<b>Comma</b>			✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓		Widespread & common
<b>Speckled wood</b>				✓✓✓	✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓		Widespread & fairly common
<b>Gatekeeper</b>						✓✓✓	✓✓✓			Widespread & common
<b>Meadow brown</b>					✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓			Widespread & common
<b>Ringlet</b>						✓✓✓				Widespread & common
<b>Small heath</b>				✓			✓✓			Widespread but localised
<b>Fritillary, unknown species</b>						✓	✓			Uncommon
<b>Not seen in Abington 2015</b>										
<i>Clouded yellow</i>										Regular migrant
<i>Essex skipper</i>										Widespread & common
<i>Large skipper</i>										Widespread & common
<i>Dingy skipper</i>										Localised and rare
<i>Grizzled skipper</i>										Localised and scarce
<i>Green hairstreak</i>										Uncommon
<i>White-letter hairstreak</i>										Widely distributed – rarely seen
<i>Purple hairstreak</i>										Widespread & common – rarely seen
<i>Black hairstreak</i>										Vulnerable
<i>Brown argus</i>										Widespread but local
<i>Chalkhill blue</i>										Rare
<i>Small blue</i>										Extremely scarce
<i>Marbled white</i>										Uncommon
<i>Wall</i>										Previously common, now rarely seen

### **III. Bees**

Bumble bees were reported from March onwards but in much smaller numbers than in previous years; this reflects the national situation. Bees, especially bumble bees, were very active on the warm spring days but the erratic weather patterns meant that they did not always have the right food plants in flower. Better identification of the different kinds of bumble bees is needed as these are so important for our plant life.

There were honey bees but relatively few all through the summer.

### **IV. Dragonflies and Damselflies**

A reasonable year for dragonflies and damselflies of several species were reported through to September. This year there were fewer banded demoiselles reported at their usual haunt on the river by the Millennium footbridge. Several reports of Southern hawker dragonflies received, with photographs of the unusual transition from larva to adult.

See <http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk/content/biology-ecology>.

### **V. Ladybirds**

Very few ladybirds reported at all during the spring and summer but more in autumn including a few harlequins.

### **VI. Moths**

Seven members reported seeing the hummingbird hawk moth from June to September. Numbers seem to be increasing.

We were not able to have any moth evenings this year. The first, in May, was cancelled due to very wet weather. The second, due to be in August, had to be cancelled for family reasons.



77: Harlequin ladybird, Church La – 30 Mar (PJB)

These moth nights take a lot of organising and a lot of work afterwards.

### **VII. Other**

Six members reported seeing the curious bee-flies so it is good to know that members are becoming more familiar with them.

### **VIII. Outings**

We arranged three outings (one cancelled) with insects as the main interest:

**Wicken Fen** in June

**Devil's Dyke** in July (cancelled due to bad weather and lack of support).

**Roman Road west of Worsted Lodge** in August

*Full details of outings are in Section 8.*

Jennifer Hirsh 27 January 2016

## 7. FLORA

We had another outing to the Beech Wood in May. It was a little early but we saw that the Helleborines were plentiful and perhaps spreading into a few more places than we had noticed before. We had a good number of participants and they enjoyed the visit. See next section 8.II.i.

Our second outing was planned for the end of July to include looking for Chalkhill Blue butterflies on the Devil's Dyke. Unfortunately this had to be cancelled because of bad weather. I had been to the Dyke earlier to see what it was like; I recorded 22 species of flowers including plenty of lizard orchid, though these were by now just plants, with no flowers. Late May or early June would be best for them another year.

The Bourn Bridge road verges have been quite interesting over the last year, but I found no plant of wild Basil in 2015. Toadflax was also not evident in the actual verge but was growing very well in the hollow behind the verge where the grass from the mowing had been put. There was a good display of Chicory near the crossing point for the tractors. I was not sure if this was truly wild or perhaps introduced with the new use for the fields.

Patrick Daunt identified a thistle in the field between Church Lane and Cambridge Road. At the time he said it was new to the list of plants in the Abingtons. He said it was *Cirsium acaule* that he had called picnic thistle. Two books in our shelves call it dwarf thistle and ground thistle. Since we no longer have horses in the field it seems to be increasing.

December 2015 was unusual, Cowslips in flower in a wildlife garden, Primroses in several places. Granta Park had Snowdrops and Aconites, these too were reported elsewhere. Dog Violets were also seen in flower. Hopefully all will continue into spring.

Sally Turnidge 31.1.16



78: Snowdrops, Southern Wood, Granta Park – 7 Mar (PJB)



79: Snowdrops, Southern Wood, Granta Park – 7 Mar (PJB)



80: Celandine, Rec Ground – 20 Mar (JAH)



81: Violets, Rec Ground – 20 March (JAH)



82: Cowslip, Church La – 30 Mar (PJB)

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### Roman Road outing



83: Roman Road, W of Worsted Lodge – 1 Aug (DF)



84: Cowslip, Roman Road – 5 Apr (JAH)



85: Ground Ivy, Roman Rd - 5 Apr (JAH)

## 8. VISITS OUT OF THE ABINGTONS

### I. Bird Outings

Derek organised two trips, primarily to see birds.

#### i. Outing to Fen Drayton Lakes – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015

We met at Trumpington to travel on the Guided Busway 09:42 Bus and were met by RSPB Volunteer Guide John Harding. We walked round the site and were rewarded with the following sightings:

Blackbird	Great Crested Grebe	Oystercatcher
Blackheaded Gull	Great Tit	Pochard
Blue Tit	Grey Heron	Redcrested Pochard
Canada Goose	Greylag Goose	Shelduck
Carrion Crow	Jackdaw	Shoveler
Chaffinch	Lapwing	Sparrowhawk
Common Gull	Lesser Blackbacked Gull	Teal
Coot	Little Egret	Tufted Duck
Cormorant	Magpie	Wigeon
Gadwall	Mallard	Woodpigeon
Glossy Ibis	Moorhen	
Goldeneye	Mute Swan	

*34 species in all.*

#### ii. Outing to Lakenheath Fen Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2015

On 11<sup>th</sup> July, 10 of us visited RSPB Lakenheath Fen where we were made most welcome and were given an introductory talk on the current situation there. 41 species were noted, of which four were only heard. The highlight was a protracted view of a Bittern flying over the reed-beds, seen by all.

Bearded Tit	Great Tit	Pied Wagtail
Bittern	Greenfinch	Reed Bunting
(extended view of Bittern in flight over reed beds)	Grey Heron	Reed Warbler (H)
Blackheaded Gull	Greylag	Sedge Warbler
Blue Tit	Jay	Shoveler
Carrion Crow	Kestrel	Sparrowhawk
Cetti's Warbler (H)	<b>Kingfisher</b>	Stock Dove (H)
Chaffinch	Little Egret	Swallow
Common Tern	Longtailed Tit	Swift
Coot	Magpie	Tufted Duck
Cormorant	Mallard	Whitethroat
Goldfinch	Marsh Harrier	Woodpigeon
Great Crested Grebe	Moorhen	Wren
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Mute Swan	
	Pheasant (H)	

*41 bird species. Those marked (H) heard only.*



86: Fen Drayton outing – 28 Feb (JAH)



87: Wicken Fen outing – 27 June (DF)

## ***II. Insects & Flora Outings***

Jennifer organised four outings (one cancelled) to see flora, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies – birds were also seen on some of these outings.

### **i. May 28<sup>th</sup> – The Beech Wood**

Twelve members of the group had an enjoyable evening in this wood at the bottom of the Gog Magog Hills near Wandlebury. We went to see the rare white helleborines which only occur in beech woods; this was again a very good spring for these small flowering plants which are related to orchids. It was a very beautiful sunny May evening. Several visits to the wood are necessary before an evening can be arranged in order to check that the helleborines will be in flower when we go.

### **ii. June 27<sup>th</sup> – Wicken Fen**

This was on a Saturday morning mainly to see the dragonflies and damselflies for which the Fen is renowned. We were blessed with a lovely June morning, just the right weather and time of day for these insects, and ten members and two grandchildren came.

We were fortunate that an expert from the British Dragonfly Society talked to us at the start about the life cycle of dragonflies and how to differentiate between some of the blue damselflies.

Then we walked round the Fen on the boardwalk and saw many dragonflies and damselflies at close quarters in their exquisite colours. Some excellent photographs were taken.

A lot of birds were seen on this visit too and some lovely fenland flowers including marsh orchids.

### **iii. July 24<sup>th</sup> – Devil's Dyke**

This outing had to be cancelled due to bad weather and lack of support.

### **iv. August 1<sup>st</sup> – Roman Road – West of Worsted Lodge**

Seven members enjoyed lovely weather with sunshine, warmth and a very light wind – ideal for seeing butterflies. We also saw lots of wild flowers, more than 40 different ones.

They saw 8 different butterflies altogether including at least 8 Chalkhill Blues and 1 Painted Lady. The Chalkhill Blues have only recently established on this part of the Roman Road. A good Painted Lady year had been predicted, with lots migrating from further south in Europe, but we saw very few. Other more common butterflies were: Brimstone, Peacock, Large White, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Small Skipper.



88: Chalkhill Blue, Roman Road – 1 Aug (DF)



89: Painted Lady, Roman Road – 1 Aug (DF)



90: Blue-tailed damselfly, Wicken Fen – 27 June (BMB)



91: Azure damselfly, Wicken Fen – 27 June (BMB)



92: Blue-tailed damselfly, Wicken Fen – 27 June (BMB)



93: Small skipper, Wicken Fen – 27 June (BMB)



94: Four-spotted chaser dragonfly – 27 June (BMB)



95: Four-spotted chaser, Wicken Fen – 27 June (BMB)



96: Marsh orchids, Wicken Fen – 27 June (BMB)



97: Flag Iris, Wicken – 27 June (JAH)

## 9. WORKING WITH CPERC

We continue to contribute some records to CPERC (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre). We have been focusing on those native species which are in decline and also the undesirable non-native species, that is:

*Native species in decline:* Otter, Water Vole, Bats, Brown Hare, Adder, Grass Snake, Common Lizard, Slow Worm, Great Crested Newt, Common Toad, Common Frog, Scarce Chaser Dragonfly, Wall Brown butterfly, Kingfisher, Barn Owl

*Invasive non-native species:* Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed, Floating Pennywort, Parrot's Feather, Giant Hogweed, Creeping Water Primrose, New Zealand Pigmyweed, Muntjac deer, American Mink, Chinese Water Deer

This year's Record highlights the above species in **red**.

More details and pictures were published in the Abington Naturewatch Record for 2012.

Reports to CPERC need the species name, date and place (6 digit grid reference). For more information, please refer to the CPERC website [www.cperc.org.uk](http://www.cperc.org.uk); you may also submit records online on the website.



Jennifer Hirsh has been reporting sightings in Abington, and in 2015 was advised of these (number of sightings in brackets)

### *I. Native (declining) species*

<b>Mammals</b>	-
<b>Amphibians</b>	-
<b>Birds</b>	Kingfisher (3), barn owl (2)
<b>Invertebrates</b>	-

### *II. Non-native invasive species*

<b>Plants</b>	-
<b>Mammals</b>	-

## 10. GRANTA PARK – WILDLIFE SUMMARY 2015

### I. Introduction

Over the last few years more effort has been concentrated towards the wildlife on Granta Park. Staff from across the Park have joined in and benefited from events held by The Wildlife Trust as well as more informal arrangements.

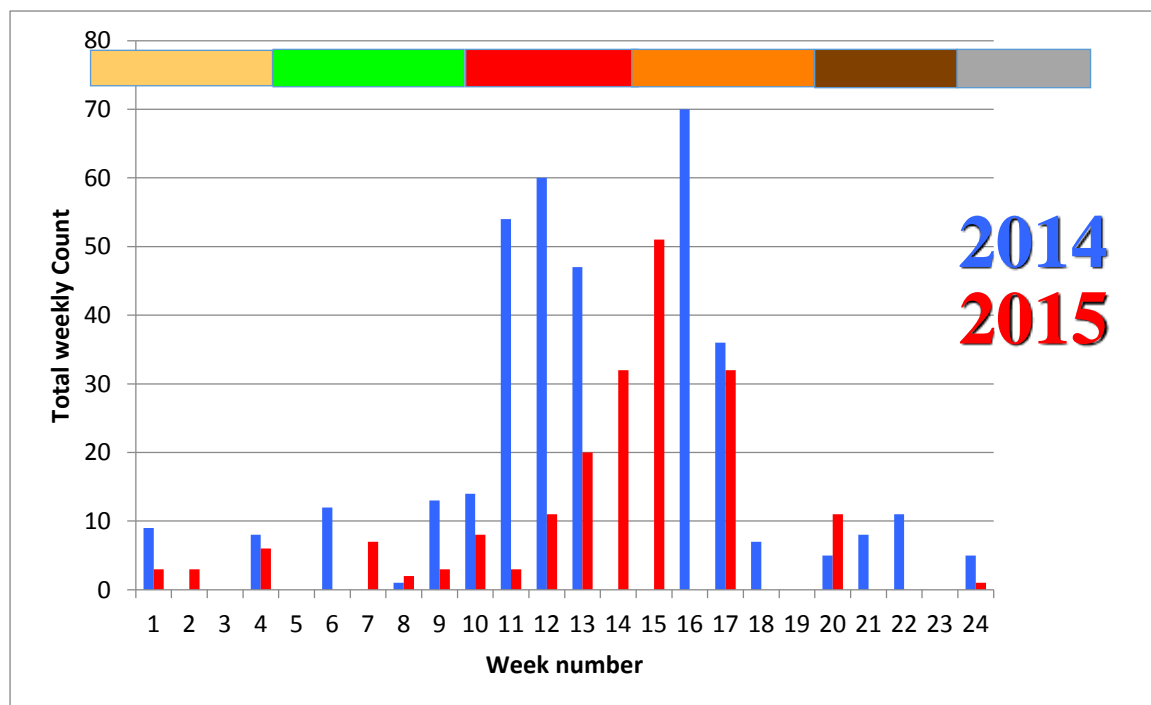
During 2015, staff based on the Park were encouraged to report what they saw on their lunchtime walks and this in turn was filtered back to Abington Naturewatch via several volunteers we have in place.

### II. Butterflies - Granta Park Butterfly Species List 2015

Small/Essex Skipper  
Brown Argus  
Brimstone  
Large White  
Small Tortoiseshell  
Peacock  
Gatekeeper  
Speckled Wood  
Ringlet  
(Cinnabar)

Large Skipper  
Common Blue  
Small White  
Green Veined White  
Red Admiral  
Comma  
Small Heath  
Meadow Brown  
(Six Spot Burnet)

The species list does not indicate the low numbers and short season experienced in 2015. The effects are illustrated in the graphs, below, which compare the total weekly butterfly transect counts on The Park, during 2014 and 2015.



98: Butterfly Count, Granta Park – 2014/15 (MG)

Mike Gittos     January 2016

**III. Wildflowers (list compiled by Sheila Stevens, TWI)**

Aconite, winter	Forget-me-not, wood	Pimpernel, scarlet
Agrimony	Foxglove	Plantain, hoary
Angelica, wild	Fumitory, common	Plantain, ribwort
Aquilegia vulgaris	Goat's beard	Poppy, common
Avens, wood	Goosefoot, red	Poppy, opium
Balsam, Indian	Ground ivy	Ragged-robin
Bedstraw, ladies	Groundsel	Ragwort, common
Bedstraw, hedge	Groundsel, sticky	Ragwort, hoary
Bellflower, nettle-leaved	Gunnera tinctoria	Rattle, yellow
Betony	Hawk's beard, beaked	Redshank
Bindweed, black	Hawkbit, lesser	Sainfoin
Bindweed, field	Hawkweed, mouse-ear	Saxifrage, meadow
Bindweed, hedge	Hemlock	Scabious, field
Bird's-foot trefoil, common	Herb-Robert	Scabious, small
Borage	Hogweed	Sedum acre
Brooklime	Horehound, black	Selfheal
Bryony, white	Iris, yellow	Snowdrop
Bugloss	Knapweed, common	Sow-thistle, prickly
Bugloss, viper's	Knapweed, greater	Sow-thistle, smooth
Burdock, lesser	Knotgrass	Speedwell, common field
Burnet, salad	Lady's-mantle	Speedwell, germander
Buttercup, creeping	Lettuce, prickly	Speedwell, ivy-leaved
Campion, bladder	Loosestrife, purple	Speedwell, slender
Campion, pink	Loosestrife, yellow	Speedwell, thyme-leaved
Campion, white	Lords-and-ladies	Speedwell, wall
Carrot, wild	Madder, field	Spurge, petty
Cat's ear	Mallow, common	Star-of-Bethlehem
Celandine, greater	Mallow, dwarf	St John's wort, perforated
Celandine, lesser	Mallow, musk	Stachys byzantina
Centauray, common	Marjoram, wild	Stork's bill, common
Chickweed, common	Marsh marigold	Tansy
Cleavers	Mayweed, pineapple	Teasel, small
Clover red	Mayweed, scentless	Teasel, wild
Clover, white	Medick, black	Thistle, creeping
Comfrey, common	Medick, spotted	Thistle, weltd
Cowslip	Mercury, dog's	Thistle, spear
Crane's-bill, meadow	Melilot, ribbed	Thorn apple
Cuckoo flower	Mignonette, wild	Toadflax, common
Cudweed, common	Mouse-ear, common	Tormentil
Daisy	Mugwort	Vervain
Daisy, ox-eye	Mullein, dark	Vetch, common
Dandelion, common	Mullein, great	Vetch, kidney
Dead nettle, red	Mustard, garlic	Vetch, tufted
Dead nettle, white	Mustard, hedge	Violet, sweet
Dead-nettle, henbit	Nettle, common	Water-cress
Dock, wood	Nightshade, black	Weld
Dock, curled	Orchid, bee	Willowherb, broad-leaved
Fat-hen	Orchid, pyramidal	Willowherb, great
Figwort, water	Oxtongue, bristly	Willowherb, hoary
Fleabane, blue	Pansy, field	Winter-cress
Fleabane, Canadian	Parsley, cow	Yarrow
Fluellen, sharp-leaved	Parsley, upright hedge	

#### IV. *Granta Park Bird Summary: 2015*

Many thanks to all those on Granta Park who contributed their sightings throughout the year. A total of 75 bird species were recorded in 2015, nine of which were not reported last year.

January: Large flocks of Redwing (30-100+) were reported throughout the month, with 20-80 Fieldfare seen feeding on the snow-covered cricket green. Barnacle Geese were also regularly seen on the cricket green, as were small flocks of Black-headed Gull, joined by a single Common Gull on 8<sup>th</sup>. A Little Egret was spotted along the river, and a **Kingfisher** was seen on 20<sup>th</sup>. Canada Geese, Mallard and Moorhen were reported on the lake early in the month, and Meadow Pipit (23), Pied Wagtail (41) and Reed Bunting (30) were reported roosting in the reedbed. Buzzard and Kestrel were seen flying overhead, as were 13 Golden Plover on 12<sup>th</sup>. In the woods, regular mixed flocks of Great, Blue and Long-tailed Tit were occasionally accompanied by Coal Tit, Treecreeper and Goldcrest. Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Jay were regularly seen, as was an occasional Chiffchaff. Small flocks of Goldfinch, Chaffinch and Greenfinch, as well as 30 Linnet, were seen feeding on the rough grassland.



99: Male Reed Bunting

February: A juvenile Mute Swan was seen on the lake, as were Canada Geese, Barnacle Geese, and small numbers of Mallard. A single Great Crested Grebe returned on 17<sup>th</sup> and Reed Bunting continued to roost in the reedbed. Fieldfare (~50) were seen feeding alongside Starling on the cricket green, and 10-35 Redwing were reported in the yew trees behind Abington Hall. Mixed Tit flocks were often seen, with Great Tit heard calling '*teacher, teacher*', and a pair of Coal Tit and a Goldcrest were spotted several times. A flock of 20 Linnet was seen on waste ground, and Mistle Thrush, Song Thrush and Blackbird were regularly heard singing. A Green Woodpecker was often seen feeding alongside the permissive footpath, and a Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard drumming. A **Barn Owl** was observed hunting one evening (23<sup>rd</sup>), 1-2 Buzzard were regularly heard, and a single Kestrel was reported. Jay, Pheasant and Stock Dove were also seen.

March: Fieldfare (100+) and Redwing (10-30) were reported until 16<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Great Tit, Blue Tit and Long-tailed Tit were observed more frequently as pairs now, Chiffchaff were heard from mid-month, and Mistle Thrush and Song Thrush were regularly reported singing from high trees. Greenfinch and Bullfinch were seen occasionally in the woods, as were Goldcrest and Treecreeper. Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers were regularly heard. A single Great Crested Grebe was often seen on the lake, as were a few Mallard, with a juvenile Mute Swan and 2-4 Canada Geese seen occasionally. Small numbers of Reed Bunting continued to be observed in the reed-bed, and a single Little Egret was seen in the field behind Abington Hall. Buzzard could regularly be heard overhead, and a Kestrel was reported on several occasions. Two Stock Dove were recorded near the footbridge, and up to ten Magpie seen in the fields near the river.

April: The summer visitors started to arrive with a Whitethroat seen on 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Willow Warbler heard on 16<sup>th</sup>, and Chiffchaff and Blackcap regularly reported throughout the month. The first House Martin was seen over the lake on 14<sup>th</sup>, as were the first two Swallow on 20<sup>th</sup>. A juvenile Mute Swan remained on the lake, along with three Greylag and two Canada Geese. Moorhen were seen displaying territorially and the single Great Crested Grebe was joined by a second on 28<sup>th</sup>. An adult and a young Grey Heron were observed fishing along the lake edge, and a Coot was reported. Blue Tit and Great Tit were regularly reported, with Coal Tit and Long-tailed Tit seen more occasionally, as were Jay, Treecreeper, Goldcrest and small flocks of Linnet. Seven Red-legged Partridge were reported in the field near the permissive footpath. A Red Kite was spotted and Buzzard, Kestrel and a Sparrowhawk were also reported.

May: A Reed Warbler was heard, and occasionally seen, singing from the reeds throughout the month, and 1-2 Spotted Flycatcher were seen in oak trees near the lake. A male Reed Bunting was also occasionally seen. House Martin were regularly reported over the lake, as were smaller numbers of Swallow and Swift. Blackcap and Chiffchaff continue to be regularly reported, and flocks of up to 18 Long-tailed Tit were seen around the sluice. Both Blue Tit and Jackdaw were seen feeding young, and on the lake the Great Crested Grebe pair was spotted 'head-shaking'. A Grey Heron was regularly seen fishing around the lake, and a pair of Grey Wagtail was seen near the sluice. Near the bridge, two Treecreeper were seen, and Linnet and Skylark were both heard singing. Buzzard and Kestrel were seen occasionally, and a Red Kite was reported flying low over woods near the sluice. The 'Dawn-Chorus Walk' group identified 17 bird species by song, thanks to the expertise of Iain Webb from The Wildlife Trust.



100: Reed Warbler

June: Of the summer visitors, Chiffchaff and Blackcap were regulars, as were small numbers of Swift (6), Swallow (2) and House Martin (15), the latter occupying at least eight nests across the site. Both Blackcap and Grey Wagtail were spotted carrying food, and a pair of Spotted Flycatcher was also reported to be nesting in the oak trees. A Kestrel was reported at its nest, in which at least one downy chick could be seen. A Hobby was spotted, as were Sparrowhawk and Red Kite. On the lake, up to 15 Canada Geese including six goslings were regularly seen, along with a single Greylag Goose, and the Great Crested Grebe pair were again observed 'head-shaking'. A Moorhen with small chicks was reported on the lake, along with two adult Mute Swan, 20-40 Mallard and a pair of Tufted Duck. A **Kingfisher** was seen briefly near the footbridge on 17<sup>th</sup>, and Grey Heron were regularly spotted along the river. Flocks of up to 15 Long-tailed Tit were seen in the woods, and both Great Tit and Pied Wagtail were seen feeding young.

July: Two families of Canada Geese were seen regularly on the lake, along with an occasional Greylag Goose, and a Moorhen with two chicks was regularly reported. A single Great Crested Grebe was regularly seen fishing, but with no sign of any young. A family group of three Spotted Flycatcher was seen in the oak trees, with at least one juvenile seen being feed. An adult Dunnock was also seen feeding fledged young. House Martin (up to 30) were regularly seen, and a group of 15 Swift was observed screaming above the bowling green. Chiffchaff could regularly be heard singing throughout the month, whereas Blackcap were only seen early on. Occasional sightings of Treecreeper, Stock Dove and Linnet, and a Buzzard and a Red Kite were spotted being mobbed by corvids over the woods.



101: Spotted Flycatcher

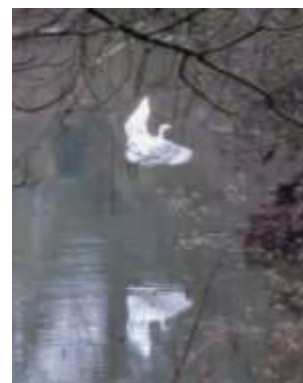
August: A single Common Sandpiper was reported flying around the lake on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Canada Geese (12-17) continued to be seen regularly, with numbers swelling to 50 at one stage. The flock was also joined by 15 Barnacle Goose on several occasions. A single Great Crested Grebe was regularly reported, as were up to 40 Mallard and three Moorhen, and a **Kingfisher** was spotted upstream of the footbridge. A few Swallow and up to 60 House Martin were seen regularly, with a few Swift last being reported on 25<sup>th</sup>. A Whitethroat was seen in scrub near the footbridge, and two family groups of Spotted Flycatcher (totalling 8) were spotted. A Cormorant was seen flying overhead, as was a group of 30 Herring Gull. A flock of around 40 Goldfinch, including many juveniles was reported, and 25 Long-tailed Tit were observed near the sluice, along with Coal Tit, Goldcrest and a single Bullfinch.

September: A male Redstart was seen in small trees near the sluice, and a female Pied Flycatcher was spotted amongst a mixed Tit flock, along with a Chiffchaff, a female Blackcap and a Goldcrest. Chiffchaff and Robin could again be heard singing, and a single

**Kingfisher** was heard on 23<sup>rd</sup>. House Martins were regularly seen until 26<sup>th</sup>, with a large flock of 250-300 observed gathering around one of the buildings on 11<sup>th</sup>. Swallow (4-8) seen feeding low over the cricket green, were last reported on 23<sup>rd</sup>. A single female Tufted Duck was spotted on the lake, as were 11-15 Barnacle Geese, up to 29 Canada Geese, a Greylag Goose and 1-2 Mute Swan. The single Great Crested Grebe continued to be well reported, as were up to 60 Mallard, mostly near the end of their eclipse. Up to 40 Pied Wagtail were seen feeding on the cricket green, as were 30-50 Starling, and a flock of 35 adult and juvenile Goldfinch was seen on the birdfeeders. A pair of Cormorant was reported flying over.

October: Redwing were first seen on 7<sup>th</sup>, then reported regularly from mid-month. In the woods, small flocks of Great, Blue, Coal and Long-tailed Tit were joined by an occasional Chiffchaff, Goldcrest and Treecreeper. Jay were often spotted carrying acorns and up to 30 Goldfinch were seen feeding on thistle-heads. Large flocks of Mallard (up to 130) were seen on the lake, along with a Great Crested Grebe until 16<sup>th</sup>, and single sightings of a Mute Swan and a Canada Goose. On the river, a **Kingfisher** was seen on 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Little Egret on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a Grey Wagtail was reported twice. Small flocks of Starling, Pied Wagtail and Meadow Pipit were observed feeding on the cricket green, as was a regular flock of 15 Barnacle Geese. A female Sparrowhawk was spotted on 12<sup>th</sup>, and up to four Buzzard and a Kestrel were regularly seen, once observed being mobbed by Jackdaw.

November: Redwing (up to 15) continued to be regularly seen in the yew trees behind Abington Hall, with Fieldfare (7) first reported on 23<sup>rd</sup>. A male Gadwall was spotted on 6<sup>th</sup> amongst the regular large number of Mallard (up to 130) on the lake. A Little Egret was spotted on 30<sup>th</sup>, as was a **Kingfisher** near the bridge. In the woods, there were regular reports of mixed Tit flocks, which occasionally contained single Goldcrest and Treecreeper. Flocks of up to 50 Black-headed Gull were seen on the cricket green, often with up to 30 Starling, and an occasional Common Gull. Four Meadow Pipit were also reported. A female Kestrel was observed hunting, and a male Sparrowhawk was seen flashing passed in the woods. Both Great Spotted and Green Woodpecker were occasionally reported, as were Linnet and Jay.



102: Little Egret

December: A murmuration of 250 to 800 Starling were regularly seen over the lake around dusk as they gathered prior to roosting in the reedbed. On the cricket green, 15 Barnacle Geese were often joined by a flock of around 30 Black-headed Gull, which often contained 2-4 Common Gull, as well as an occasional Lesser Black-backed Gull. A Grey Wagtail was seen along the river, as were 1-2 Grey Heron, and up to 160 Mallard and six Moorhen were reported on the lake. Small numbers of Redwing were occasionally seen, as were 1-2 Mistle Thrush. A few Goldcrest were spotted in amongst flocks of mixed Tit, small flocks of Goldfinch (15) and Linnet (7) were seen on scrubby waste ground, and a Buzzard and a male Kestrel were also reported.

*The table below indicates the number of occasions each bird species was reported, by month – the darkness of the blue shading represents the relative number of reported sightings. The pale red shading in the first column indicates those species seen in 2015, but not reported in 2014. Contributors: Jerry Lanfear, MedImmune, Andy Merryweather, Gareth Rees, Stephen Roughley, Mat Sleeman, Hayley Smith, Jez Smith, Tracy Thomas, Iain Webb.*

Provided by Andy Merryweather, MedImmune, January 2016

<b>Total 75 Species</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Barn Owl</b>		1											1
Barnacle Goose	7	7						2	12	5	7	5	45
Black-headed Gull	11	5	4	1	1					2	4	6	34
Blackbird	15	10	25	21	19	18	3	3	6	9	7	6	142
Blackcap				18	18	20	2		1				59
Blue Tit	17	9	27	22	18	19	7	6	18	12	6	4	165
Bullfinch			2					1	1				4
Buzzard	4	5	11	8	5	6	1	3	11	7	2	2	65
Canada Goose	3	4	6	4	3	20	15	6	12	2			75
Carrion Crow	12	6	21	14	15	13	11	6	12	12	5	4	131
Chaffinch	12	11	23	12	12	10	1	1	2	3	2	2	91
Chiffchaff	2		6	18	15	18	5		5	2			71
Coal Tit	2	1		1				1	1	4			10
Collared Dove				1	1	1							3
Common Gull	1										1	4	6
Common Sandpiper								1					1
Coot				2									2
Cormorant				1				1	2				4
Dunnock	1	6	4	8	4	2	1			4	1		31
Fieldfare	9	7	6								2		24
Gadwall											1		1
Goldcrest	2	3	1	1		1		1	1	3	3	2	18
Golden Plover	1												1
Goldfinch	11	9	18	16	14	20	11	8	13	12	6	6	144
Great Crested Grebe		3	10	10	11	15	4	3	15	7			78
Great Spotted Woodpecker	7	5	10	8	4	7	2	3	8	5	3	2	64
Great Tit	17	12	28	23	8	8	5	2	14	13	3	6	139
Green Woodpecker	10	8	25	18	9	13	9	5	11	11	5	1	125
Greenfinch	2	6	4	7	2	1	1			1	1	1	26
Grey Heron	3	2	6	8	9	12	3	3	9	8	4	6	73
Grey Wagtail					1	4				2		2	9
Greylag Goose				2		18	2		1				23
Herring Gull			1				1	1	1				4
Hobby						1							1
House Martin				2	12	20	14	8	16				72
House Sparrow					1				1				2
Jackdaw	20	11	28	21	20	19	6	6	18	13	7	6	175
Jay	4	4	4	4	3	8	3	1	8	10	2		51
Kestrel	1	4	5	2	3	7		2		6	2	1	33
<b>Kingfisher</b>	1					1		1	1	1	1		6
Lesser Black-backed Gull			1									2	3
Linnet	2	1		4	4	2	4	2	1		1	1	22
Little Egret	3		1							1	1		6
Long-tailed Tit	10	3	15	9	9	9	2	1	11	5	5	3	82
Magpie	13	10	19	12	11	14	7	5	15	13	5	6	130
Mallard	13	10	23	14	18	22	15	7	24	14	7	7	174
Meadow Pipit	2									2	1	1	6
Mistle Thrush		4	10	7	7	4		1	1	1	3	1	39
Moorhen	11	10	13	9	12	9	11	6	17	13	5	6	122
Mute Swan		1	3	4		10			2	1	1		22
Pheasant		1	5	7	2								15
Pied Flycatcher									1				1
Pied Wagtail	12	8	15	18	18	17	6	6	15	10	7	7	139
Red Kite				2	3	3	1	1					10
Red-legged Partridge				3									3
Redstart									1				1
Redwing	9	10	8							6	5	3	41
Reed Bunting	1	2	4	1	2					2	1	1	14
Reed Warbler					11								11
Robin	17	11	29	18	16	13		4	19	14	3	3	147
Rook	11	5	14	9	6	7	3	3	7	12	4	5	86
Skylark					2					1			3
Song Thrush	3	5	7	8	10	8	1		3	4	3		52
Sparrowhawk				1		2				1	1		5
Spotted Flycatcher					3	4	2	3					12
Starling	12	8	9	9	14	11		1	5	6	6	9	90
Stock Dove	1	1	8	4	5	2	2	2	5			1	31
Swallow				4	5	4		4	6				23
Swift					8	11	12	3					34
Treecreeper	1		3	1	3		2		2	4	2		18
Tufted Duck						1			2				3
Whitethroat				2				1					3
Willow Warbler				1									1
Woodpigeon	15	10	26	21	17	22	14	6	18	9	4	6	168
Wren	15	8	22	22	16	17	8	2	6	6	4	3	129
<b>Total Reports</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3655</b>

## V. *Granta Park events with The Wildlife Trust during 2015*

### i. 1<sup>st</sup> May

At the beginning of May, Iain Webb from The Wildlife Trust, met a group of Granta Park staff and a few members of Abington Naturewatch for a Dawn Chorus Walk followed by breakfast at the Discovery Café. During the walk Iain helped us identify the beautiful calls we heard walking through the woods and alongside the River Granta.

*Bird species heard during the walk (list compiled by Andy Merryweather)*

Blackbird	highly melodious, varied, mellow, more often heard at dawn and dusk
Blackcap	rich, undulating, fluty - "scratchy at first then ending melodiously" alarm call 'tacc tacc' – "like two pebbles knocking together"
Blue Tit	agitated, urgent, high-pitched 'tsee, tsee'
Bullfinch	very quiet, 'pew pew'
Chaffinch	descending 'chip chip chip choee choee choee' - "falling down the stairs"
Chiffchaff	as per its name, 'chiff chaff' repeated
Goldfinch	liquid, rambling, tinkling twitter
Gt Sp Woodpecker	loud, staccato, 'tchuck, tchuck'; reminiscent of a Blackbird's alarm call
Great Tit	two syllable 'teacher, teacher'
Green Woodpecker	loud, 'laughing' yaffle
Jackdaw	loud, metallic 'tchack, tchack' (or Jack! Jack!)
Long-tailed Tit	excitable, squeaky, twittering 'tsee tsee tsee'
Mistle Thrush	simple, loud, fluty, far-reaching song, often from treetops
Robin	melodious, warbling, thin, slightly mournful, song
Song Thrush	rich, throaty, variety of fluty motifs, each phrase repeated 3-4 times
Treecreeper	very high-pitched, quiet, 'tsee tsee tsee'
Wren	loud, trembling, "energetic burst of song, ending in a trill"

*Species also seen, but not heard*

Buzzard	Jay
Linnet	Magpie
Mallard	Moorhen
Pied Wagtail	Rook
Starling	Stock Dove
Woodpigeon	

### ii. June

During June Iain returned to the Park to lead our **Annual Bat Safari**. The bats put on a great display. The bats we saw and heard were Soprano Pipistrelle and Common Pipistrelle in the woods and Daubenton's over the river and lake.

### iii. 17<sup>th</sup> July (see pictures on page 20)

Mid July we held a lunchtime Plant ID and Bug Hunt. Iain first led a session for the children from the nursery and then he held a session for staff based on the Park as well as a few from Abington Naturewatch. Both children and adults had great fun using the sweep nets and bug boxes. Iain's enthusiasm and expert knowledge was wonderful as always.

With his help, we noted the following bugs: Crab Spider, Leaf Beetle, Speckled Bush Cricket, Froghopper, Sawfly larvae, Meadow Damselfly, Flea Beetle, Summer Chafer, Robber Fly. A few examples of bugs are shown overleaf.

Plants included Ladies' Bedstraw, Wild Carrot, Betony, St John's Wort & Scarlet Pimpernel.

It was a beautiful summer day and we also saw lots of butterflies: 4 Commas on one tree, Peacocks, Meadow browns, Gatekeepers, a Brimstone & many Large whites.

**iv. 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Peter Walker, from The Wildlife Trust, returned to Granta Park to lead our annual fungi foray. This is a list of species seen:

<i>SCIENTIFIC NAME</i>	<i>COMMON NAME</i>	<i>NOTES</i>
<i>Agaricus xanthoderma</i>	Yellow Staining Mushroom	Not Good to Eat
<i>Armillaria</i> Species	Honey Fungus Rhizomorphs	On logs
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Wood Jelly Ear	On dead Elm
<i>Auricularia mesenterica</i>	Tripe Fungus	On dead Elm
<i>Clitocybe fragrans</i>	Fragrant Funnel	Scented smell
<i>Collybia maculata</i>	Spotted Tough Shank	Large ring found
<i>Coprinus micaceus</i>	Glistening Ink Cap	Tufted at base of stump
<i>Ganoderma australe</i>	Artists Bracket	On Stump
<i>Hebeloma crustuliniforme</i>	Poison Pie	Poisonous
<i>Hebeloma Sacchariolens</i>	Sweet Poison Pie	Sweet Smell
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	On rotting log
<i>Lepista flaccida</i>	Tawney Funnel	Trooping under shrubs
<i>Lycoperdon Pyriforme</i>	Stump Puff Ball	On Logs
<i>Meripilus gigantea</i>	Giant Polypore	On rotting stump
<i>Mycena arcangeliana</i>	Angels Bonnet Trooping	On wood
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet	On fallen branches
<i>Mycena Inclinata</i>	Clustered Bonnet	Orange brown stipe (stem)
<i>Mycena olida</i>	Rancid Bonnet Small white solitary	On mossy logs
<i>Mycena pura</i>	Lilac Bonnet	On soil
<i>Mycena pura var rosea</i>	Rosy Bonnet	On soil
<i>Mycena speirea</i>	Bark Bonnet	On mossy Bark
<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	Brown Roll Rim	Under Birch Tree
<i>Rhodatus palmatus</i>	Wrinkled Peach	Scarce on Elm
<i>Stropharea caerulea</i>	Blue Round Head / Verdigris fungus	On rotten wood
<i>Tricholoma Atrosquammosum</i>	Dark Scaly Knight	In grass under trees

*List compiled by Peter Walker*



103: Fungi Foray, Granta Park – 6 Oct (TT)



104: Fungi Foray, Granta Park – 6 Oct (TT)



105: Fungi Foray, Granta Park – 6 Oct (TT)



106: Fungi Foray, Granta Park – 6 Oct (TT)

## 11. CONTACT INFORMATION

### *I. The Abington Naturewatch Website*

The Abington Naturewatch Website is maintained as a *blog* (i.e. web log) at <http://abington-naturewatch.blogspot.com/>. It is also easily reached from the village web-site: <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/>. Using a blog means that it is simpler to publish material in diary form.

The site lists the aims of the group and has details of members' meetings. Those interested are encouraged to join – there is no membership fee! Members receive personal invitations to meetings, by email if available.

There is a link to a simple Google map of the area, with the names we use to refer to some parts of the area covered. There are also reports and photographs submitted by members and some useful links to other sources of information.

### **Naturewatch Home Page:**

**Abington Naturewatch**

This is a place to post sightings and news for the Naturewatch group of Great and Little Abington in Cambridgeshire, UK. See below for more details and information on how to join.

Tuesday, 29 December 2015

**Starling murmuration in Granta Park**


The performance is still occurring... these photos were taken by David Farrant on 28 December.

**Resources**

- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Resources on the Web](#)
- [Archive of older material](#)

**Blog Archive**

- 2007 (18)
- 2008 (19)
- 2009 (21)
- 2010 (18)
- 2011 (35)
- 2012 (30)
- 2013 (32)
- 2014 (49)
- 2015 (54)
- ▼ 2016 (1)
  - ▼ January (1)
  - Signs of Spring at Granta Park





## ***II. The Abington Naturewatch Project Team and Sectors***

### **i. Programme Coordinator (and Membership Secretary)**

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### **iv. Amphibians & Reptiles**

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### **vi. Mammals**

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### **vii. Plantwatch**

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### **viii. Rivercare**

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### **ix. Granta Park**

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## ***III. Other Contacts***

RiverCare: <http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/environment/our-commitment/our-projects/rivercare.aspx>

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC): <http://www.cperc.org.uk/>

Wildlife Trust (for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire): <http://www.wildlifebcn.org/>

