



ABINGTON NATUREWATCH

The Record
2016

Records the activities of Abington Naturewatch for 2016. Includes records of sightings of the fauna and flora in Great and Little Abington, Cambridgeshire, as noted by members and covering several sectors: Wildlife at Granta Park and in the River Granta, Birds, Reptiles & Amphibians, Mammals, Insects, Flora.



DRAFT 20/01/2017 16:41:00

- 1: Little Owl, Granta Park (JS) [cover]
 2: Fen Drayton trip – June (DF) [cover]



3: Little Owls, Granta Park - Jul (AM)



4: Bracket Fungus, Beech Wood – June (PJB)



5: Bracket Fungus, Sluice Wood – Sept (DF)



6: Fungus: Rhodophyllus spp, Granta Park – Sept (AM)



7: Mushrooms, Granta Park – Sept (GW)

Notes:

1. In this document, GA stands for Great Abington and LA for Little Abington.
2. All photographs were taken in 2016, unless noted.
 Photographers: Andy Merryweather (AM), Anne Dunbar Nobes (ADN), Barry Brooks (BMB), David Farrant (DF), Derek Turnidge (DLT), George Woodley (GW), Helen Pimblett (HP), Henry Smith (HS), Jennifer Hirsh (JAH), Jeremy Smith (JS), Len Mead (LAM), Peter Brunning (PJB)
3. Visits out of the Abingtons are recorded separately in Section 9.
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**.

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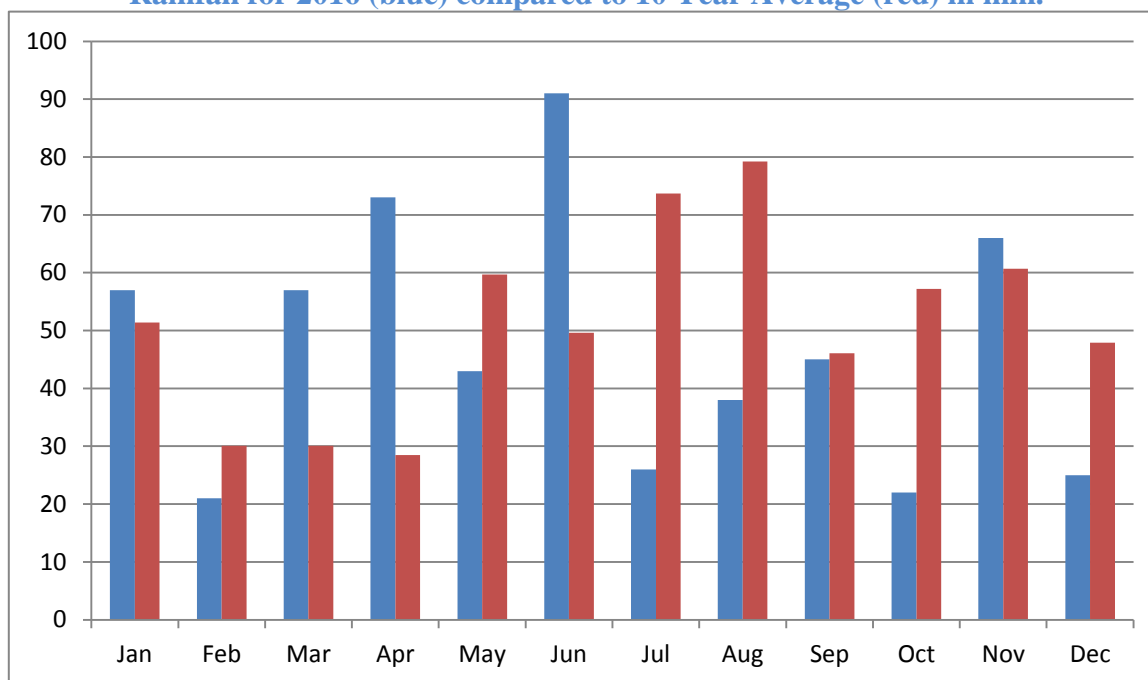
1. FOREWORD

Although 2016 proved a difficult year for butterflies, bees and bird broods because of a cool April and very wet stormy June, there were highlights with Granta Park having a Starling murmuration round the lake, Little Owls and the first record of Herons nesting in the area. The Little Owls were a special case with Granta Park agreeing not to remove rubble in the area of the nest for three months in case they were disturbed. Although general butterfly numbers were down, a trip to Fleam Dyke in July saw large numbers of Chalkhill Blues.

I. Weather

The year started with a cold and frosty January which got milder towards the end. This milder weather together with a dry spell in February saw signs of an early spring and apart from a few frosts March was relatively warm. The mild theme was carried on in April which also was quite a wet month. A warmer and dryer May was followed by a wet June with heavy rain and several storms. Both July and August were dry and warm months with a few temperatures reaching 30 deg.C. September, October and December remained dry and warm with rainfall increasing in November. November and December saw temperatures falling overnight with several frosts.

Rainfall for 2016 (blue) compared to 10 Year Average (red) in mm.



Source of 10 year average- Cambridge Botanic Gardens

8: Abington Rainfall 2016

The mild spring and autumn produced an early spring and long autumn. Both hedges and gardens saw early growth in late February and early March and the mild and dry months of September and October led to prolonged autumn tree colour with leaves only starting to drop in November. Butterflies, (apart from Small and Large Whites), and bees were badly affected by the high rainfall in April and June's storms which also reduced bird broods. Migrating birds stayed around late into the autumn and some swallows managed 3 broods with the young birds still here in October. Due to the mild autumn migrating birds such as Fieldfares were late arriving and only started feeding on the large berry crop in December. The dry weather in December meant that the levels in the River Granta through the villages were low and made interesting by turning blue for a few days due to dye getting into the river through the Linton sewerage works.

II. The 2016 Programme

Our 2016 programme started with an excellent visit to the Ouse Washes in March to see overwintering wildfowl and also featured the group of Tree Sparrows near the RSPB centre. Andy Merryweather gave another talk on “What's that bird?” and then published illustrated sheets to use. Our river sampling started in April and continued in June and August with an extra session this year in September. Our sampling site was at the ford but in future we may return to the stretch near the cricket field now that the bank has been cleared and surrounding trees cut back. This has allowed more light into that stretch of the river.

As well as receiving the local results from the RSPB Garden Birdwatch in February, Naturewatch held its own more comprehensive Birdwatch in May and received a good response in terms of individual reports.

Our birdwatching events over the summer featured trips to Fen Drayton Lakes and Paxton Pits where a good number of species were recorded at both sites and we were ably supported by our guides Andy Merryweather and Stuart Elsom respectively. Fen Drayton also produced numbers of Damselflies. On the wildflower side, we went to see the Helleborines, impressive as usual, in Beech Wood and a walk round Granta Park Lake in July produced good numbers of flowering chalkland plants. This venue replaced the Old Railway, which was overgrown.

July also saw an excellent visit to Fleam Dyke where a wide range of plants and butterflies were identified including large numbers of Chalkhill Blues. Due to weather and other issues, the planned 3 moth trapping events were reduced to one at the end of September, which only produced a small number of species. We will plan earlier moth events next year.

In November we held a review of the years reported observations for members; in December, following several requests from members, Peter Walker came to give a talk on “*Fascinating Fungi*” in which he described the widely differing types of structures and types which make up the world of fungi. We will try to follow this up with a fungal foray next autumn.

III. Granta Park

The Starlings, Herons, Little Owls and wild flowers again illustrated how important Granta Park is in our area. We are very grateful for their financial support which goes towards supporting the printing of the Record, the cost of the Institute for meetings and our speakers and guides at our talks and visits.

I would also like to thank the administration staff for allowing access to the site and the reporters who contribute to the site report in the Record. There is a great deal of building activity in Granta Park at present and it will be interesting to see how the wildlife copes and especially how the living wall develops on the new carpark.

IV. Naturewatch Members

Naturewatch has grown in terms of the observations over the years but the number of members has remained fairly static. We have added reports from the school to the Birdwatch events and with the interest from Granta Park the number of reports that go into the Record have slowly grown. The village volunteer event in April produced twelve new members and I look forward to more reports being generated and more support for our events in 2017.

We have a Naturewatch website (see information on the back page) which is maintained as a blog; there is a need to generate wider interest in the website and ensure it is kept up-to-date.

The reports, events and production of the Record would not happen without the work of the individual members of the Naturewatch Project Team and you will see from the following reports how important their support of Naturewatch is. My thanks to them for all their contributions throughout 2016.

David Farrant



9: Gulls, Perse Playing Field, Bourn Br. Rd – Oct (AM)



10: Ouse Washes trip (DF) – see section 9.I



11: Paxton Pits trip (DF) – see section 9.I



12: Teal, Ouse Washes – March (AM)



13: Tree Sparrows, Ouse Washes – Mar (AM)



14: River Granta Pollution, Abington – Dec



15: Soon after pollution incident - Dec

STOP THE SPREAD

STOP THE SPREAD
INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES
CHECK-CLEAN-DRY

Are you unknowingly spreading invasive species on your water sports equipment and clothing?

Invasive species can affect fish and other wildlife, restrict navigation, clog up propellers and be costly to manage. You can help protect the water sports you love by following three simple steps when you leave the water.

CHECK

Check your equipment and clothing for live organisms - particularly in areas that are damp or hard to inspect.

CLEAN

Clean and wash all equipment, footwear and clothing thoroughly.
If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them.

DRY

Dry all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions.
Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

For more information go to www.direct.gov.uk and search for **Check Clean Dry**



16: Stripping the Willow – Dec (PJB)



17: Willow by the footbridge – Dec (PJB)

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 the banks this year but we seem to have reduced it quite well. 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. News

During 2016, there were some changes along the river bank in the middle of Abington, some prompted by a visit from our RiverCare contact, Rob Martyr, and others by nature!

In March, high winds felled a Poplar opposite the cricket nets, narrowly missing the scoreboard. A visit from the tree surgeon prompted the removal of a further two large Poplar trunks, one that had been joined to the fallen tree and another that was found to be hollow. The picture below shows the scene before these two trees were removed.



The river banks were also cleared of scrub and nettles by the Recreation Ground Committee and the Cricket Club. Two large willows near the Millennium Bridge needed attention: one fell from the Old Vicarage in July and another from Abington Woods fell in December. Other changes continue to be made at Abington Woods, which has increasingly been used for village events as well as its primary purpose for youth activities.

III. River Sampling 2016

Our reports from the River Granta are submitted in the name of Abington Naturewatch.

This year, we decided to revert to the site at the Ford (Grid ref: TL534489), just upstream of the road bridge. This is instead of a site close to the cricket nets near the right of the picture.

We use a sampling method based on 3 minutes use of a net, disturbing the river bed by kicking/shuffling just upstream so that material is carried into the net. We supplement this by examining stones and local vegetation for additional specimens. We look mainly for the larvae of some specific species of flies.

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. 23rd April 2016 at 14:30

Weather: Cloudy bright, quite warm.

Not very prolific – early in year.

Some young people present.

Images: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskyGiDag>

Caseless Caddis: B: 10-100

Mayfly Ephemeridae: Nil

Blue-winged Olive: Nil

Flat bodied up-wings (Heptageniidae):

Olives Baetidae: B: 10-100, lots very small

Stoneflies: Nil

Shrimp Gammarus: B: 10-100

Other fauna:

Leech: A: 1-9

Red-clawed (Signal) Crayfish: 1 dead

Snails: A: 1-9



18: Freshwater Shrimp – April (PJB)

ii. 22nd June at 18:30

Reasonable weather after a lot of rain.

Very good flow but no longer too deep for wellies.

Lots of very small (possibly misidentified) specimens, some small but nothing big...

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/peterjeb/sets/72157670025869966>

Cased caddisfly: Nil

Caseless caddisfly: B: 10-99

Mayfly (Ephemeridae): Nil

Blue-winged olive (Ephemeridae): A: 1-9

Flat bodied up-wings (Heptageniidae):

Olives (Baetidae): C: 100-999

Stoneflies: Nil

Gammarus (Freshwater shrimp): C: 100-999

Other fauna:

Leech: A: 1-9

Red-clawed (Signal) Crayfish: 1 dead

Snails: A: 1-9



19: Leech - June (PJB)

iii. 11th August at 18:30

Weather: Overcast, ca. 20C.

Not very prolific.

Images: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskEVtVsF>

Caseless Caddis: A: ca. 3

Mayfly Ephemeridae: Nil

Blue-winged Olive: A: ca. 6

Flat bodied up-wings (Heptageniidae): Nil

Olives Baetidae: B: ca. 60

Stoneflies: Nil

Shrimp Gammarus: B: ca. 55



20: Blue-winged Olive - Aug (PJB)

iv. 28th September at 18:00

Weather: Cloudy Bright, dry, ca. 15C. River very low

Not very prolific.

Images: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskKu1qYA>

Caseless Caddis: A: ca. 3

Mayfly Ephemeridae: Nil

Blue-winged Olive: A: Nil

Flat bodied up-wings (Heptageniidae): Nil

Olives Baetidae: B: ca. 60

Stoneflies: Nil

Shrimp Gammarus: B: ca. 15



21: Minnow - Sept (PJB)

Other:

1 Signal crayfish, ca. 3 cm

1 Stone Loach, ca. 8 cm

2 Minnows, ca. 3 cm – very lively, jumped out of tray

1 Mussel



22: Signal Crayfish - Sept (PJB)

IV. RiverCare & BeachCare Conferences**i. Winter Conference - Cambridge 25 February 2016**

Richard, Robin and Peter attended an interesting day at St Philips Church in Mill Road.

After brief summary of RiverCare's achievements from Rob Martyr, we were introduced to new staff member Fiona McKenna, who will cover the north-west of the Anglian region.

We were then given various briefings:

1. Victoria from Anglian Water briefed us about their work in combating pollution, throughout their extensive network of pipes – the total length is twice the circumference of the world! In addition, they were preparing to take over responsibility for private pumping stations in October 2016. They have a new hotline to report water supply and sewerage service queries and emergencies: 03457 145 145 or <http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/help-and-contact-us/contact-us/>.
2. Ecologist Paul Cooke told us about biological risks near rivers: a 9m zone around them.
3. Guy Belcher of Cambridge City Council gave a talk about restoring Cherry Hinton Brook, which is accessible between Cherry Hinton and Sainsbury's. Like the Granta, it's classed as one of 200 chalk streams in world! After trimming trees, installing flow deflectors, adding lots of gravel, ponds, meanders etc., all sorts of wildlife is returning: water voles, bats, fish, toads...

4. Cliff Carson, of the Middle Level Commissioners (MLC) (www.middlelevel.gov.uk) gave us the benefit of his extensive ecological experience. He had 30 years at Ouse Washes, and has now had 10 at his current post. The MLC covers 80 000 hectares, including lots of small drainage boards. He favours small-scale regular maintenance and showed pictures of many examples of works to encourage biodiversity, including Water voles, Kingfishers, Bats, Barn Owls etc.

ii. Summer Conference

Chris and Peter attended for an interesting day at Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre at Egleton, Oakham LE15 8BT. The training room at the Centre looks out over Rutland Water.

After tea and coffee on arrival, we were given a welcome and a review of the last year. During a break, we were able to look at display materials from the various groups and chat with those from other groups. After this, we had a reminder from Anwen Bickers of the Environment Agency about the importance of volunteers in environmental monitoring. This was the subject of one of the four short Activity Sessions that followed:

1. Throwline and biosecurity challenge
2. Media and Communications Q&A
3. Biodiversity and litter quiz
4. Data recording activity

After lunch, we drove to the nearby Lyndon Centre for a short talk about their Ospreys, and a walk to the viewing hides, where we could stay as long as we liked.

V. Other RiverCare Events

i. RiverCare visits to Abington

27 May (morning) – Rob Martyr visited to take a look at Sluice Wood with a view to our team, and perhaps other volunteers, tidying it up and making improvements to encourage the wildlife. He was very enthusiastic about the possibilities, including possible funding. It is hoped to revisit this idea, once the Nutt estate is fully sorted out.

ii. Training

In water training at Nowton Park, Bury St Edmunds - 8th and 9th April

Peter Brunning attended this course run by Tom Partridge, in preparation for any projects, such as improvements to Sluice Wood, which we might run in future. The focus is on rescuing any volunteer who gets into trouble.

Riverfly Monitoring Training Course at Abington - 12th July

RiverCare arranged another of these courses in the Abington Institute on Tuesday 12th July 2016 and had kept places for Abington – but sadly no new volunteers could make it. Peter Brunning attended the morning session but was unable to stay for the practical session! About 12 people attended from other groups in the area.

iii. World Rivers Day – 24th September

Abington Woods hosted an open day with various activities, including a River Sampling stand, where children could look at the various creatures that had been collected earlier.

Peter Brunning



23: Riverfly training course – sampling – July (PJB)



24: Riverfly training – catch inspection – July (PJB)



25: Riverfly training, Abington – July (PJB)



26: Riverfly training – Signal Crayfish – July (PJB)



27: World Rivers Day, Abington Woods – Sept (PJB)



28: World Rivers Day, Abington Woods – Sept (PJB)



29: Bank Clearance – Rec ♡ and cricket field ♠ (DF)



30: Blackbird – Feb (JAH)



31: Long Tailed Tit – Feb (JAH)



32: Goldfinch – Feb (JAH)



33: Great Tit – Feb (JAH)



34: Lesser Redpoll – Feb (JAH)



35: Chaffinches – Feb (JAH)



36: Chiffchaff wing-flicking, Old Railway – Apr (AM)



37: Male Blackcap, Old Railway – April (AM)

3. BIRDS

I. Members' Reports

Many people have provided reports during the year: without them there would be no record. All reports are recorded and highlights follow here. Because of the detailed report of birds 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 2016

Throughout the month, Lesser Redpolls were seen in Lewis Crescent; Up to 60 Fieldfares reported from mid-month. Less usual birds included Red Kite, Treecreeper, Goldcrest, Buzzard, Bullfinch, Grey Wagtail and Little Egret. RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch resulted in 14 reports and 29 species.

February 2016

Blackcaps and Lesser Redpolls reported throughout the month in gardens. Fieldfares seen from time to time and both Barnacle and Canada Geese on Granta Park. Female Reed Bunting and male Siskin were noted as were Stock Doves. Great Crested Grebes returned to Granta Park Lake at the end of the month.

March 2016

Siskins noted throughout the month. Fieldfares (up to 100) seen until mid-month. Blackcaps seen as well as a pair of Red Kites, Buzzards, Stock Dove, Sparrowhawk, Goldcrest and a Nuthatch. Moorhen reported in gardens some way from river. Great Crested Grebes on Granta Park Lake. Lesser Redpolls Lewis Crescent 31.3.

April 2016

Chiffchaffs reported from 4.4. First Swallow on 8.4. Willow Warbler heard, Blackcaps also much in evidence, Whitethroats heard and a Yellowhammer seen on Roman Road. Skylark over Grange Farm fields. Corn Bunting on regular bush and a pair of Shelduck flying. Heron on nest in Granta Park. 19.4 House Martin in centre of village. Black Redstart on migration on 21.4. Siskins on 25.4. Little Owl observed on Granta Park.

May 2016

First Swifts reported on 2.5. Occasional reports of Kingfisher on river. Cuckoo heard on 6.5 from Bourn Bridge Road. Reed Warbler and Reed Bunting singing on Granta Park. Spotted Flycatcher on Granta Park mid-month. Great Crested Grebes on lake with young. Grey Heron nest has young. Yellowhammer seen in south of area. Naturewatch survey over weekend of 28-30 May produced 11 reports and a total of 54 species. Hobby on Perse playing fields 30.5

June 2015

Red Kite around Grange Farm on 5.6. Up to 15 Swifts near Little Abington Church. Confirmation of a Spotted Flycatcher nest in a garden in Little Abington with 4 young (earlier 5 eggs). 3 of the 4 expertly ringed by BTO and geo-device fitted to an adult. Great Crested Grebes and young on lake.

July 2016

Several reports of one or two Grey Wagtails on river. Pair of Little Owls seen on Granta Park during evening of 11.7. Mallard with 8 ducklings on river. Buzzards have nested in Little Abington and Swift numbers up to 20/22. Red Kite seen South Road. Tawny Owls calling in early hours. Grasshopper Warbler identified by song.

August 2016

On 1.8 Wheatear seen on track toward Abington Park Farm; 3 Corn Buntings regularly singing and Skylarks, all in same area. Sightings of Kingfishers and Grey Wagtails on river. Little Owl seen in morning on Granta Park on 28.8. Up to 15 Barnacle Geese by lake.

September 2016

Nuthatch on a feeder on 5.9 in Little Abington. 3 Red Kites seen in south of area. More reports of Kingfishers. Tawny Owls heard at night. Chiffchaffs seen from time to time. Barnacle and Canada Geese on Granta Park. 4 Swallows overhead Little Abington on 29.9. Little Owl on Granta Park on 29.9.

October 2016

Several House Martins above Cambridge Road appearing to be flying north! Magpies seen sitting on backs of horses, Little Abington. From 20-27.10 at least one but up to 3 Tree Sparrows on feeders in Cambridge Road garden. Fieldfares reported from 22.10 and a Redwing on 21.10. Further sightings of Grey Wagtails on river and of Buzzards. Large flocks of both Lesser Blackbacked and Blackheaded Gulls on Perse playing fields at end of month. 31.10 Nuthatch in Great Abington garden.

November 2016

Fieldfares and Redwings in evidence throughout the month. Sightings of Red Kites, Little Egret, about 20 Yellowhammers near Abington Park Farm, 3 female Tufted Duck and 2 Mute Swans with the Mallard flock on lake on 10.11, Meadow Pipits on Granta Park cricket field. Continued sightings of Nuthatch. Towards end of month Starling murmurations watched at sunset in Granta Park – as many as 500+ birds. Also Reed Buntings roosting in reeds. 3 Siskins in South Road garden on 29.11. Several sightings of Redlegged Partridges.

December 2016

Further reports of Grey Wagtails including one in a Cambridge Road garden. Flock of 100-200 Lapwing in field to NE of Four Went Ways roundabout. Little Egret near Millennium Bridge on 8.12. Barn Owl seen after dark on 14.12 on Bourn Bridge Road near old A11. Treecreeper reports in mid-month.



38: Chiffchaff, South Rd – Sept (ADN)



39: Male Brambling – Feb (AM)



40: Fledgling Blue Tit – May (AM)



41: Siskin, South Rd – Nov (ADN)



42: Great Spotted Woodpecker – Mar (JAH)



43: Robin – Mar (JAH)



44: Jay – Mar (JAH)



45: Siskin – Feb (AM)



46: Spotted Flycatcher – June (JAH)



47: Buzzard & Magpie – October (DLT)



48: Nuthatch – Sep (JAH)



49: Goldcrest – Nov (JAH)

II. RSPB Garden Birdwatch - 30-31 January 2016

14 records were received including one from Class 1 at the school; 29 species were recorded:

14 records

Blue Tit

Blackbird

Robin

13 records

Great Tit

11 records

Dunnock

10 records

Woodpigeon

9 records

Collared Dove

Chaffinch

8 records

Goldfinch

7 records

Longtailed Tit

Magpie

6 records

House Sparrow

5 Records

Coal Tit

Greenfinch

4 records

Jackdaw

Great Spotted Woodpecker

3 records

Wren

Starling

Carrion Crow

Jay

2 records

Pied wagtail

Goldcrest

1 record

Song Thrush

Siskin

Pheasant

Rook

Lesser Redpoll

Mistle Thrush

Skylark

III. Abington Naturewatch Bird Survey – 28-30 May 2016

Eleven Reports were received.

<i>Species</i>	<i>Maximum number noted</i>
Blackbird	5
Blackcap	1
Black-headed Gull	3
Blue Tit	8
Bullfinch	2
Buzzard	4
Canada Goose	9
Carrion Crow	3
Chaffinch	2
Chiffchaff	2
Coal Tit	3
Collared Dove	16
Corn Bunting	3
Dunnock	4
Goldfinch	16
Great Crested Grebe	3
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2
Great Tit	4
Green Woodpecker	2
Greenfinch	5
Grey Heron	3
Hobby	1
House Martin	10
House Sparrow	7
Jackdaw	>20
Jay	1
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1
Linnet	6

<i>Species</i>	<i>Maximum number noted</i>
Little Owl	2
Long-tailed Tit	12
Magpie	3
Mallard	5
Mistle Thrush	2
Moorhen	2
Mute Swan	3
Pheasant	3
Pied Wagtail	4
Red-legged Partridge	6
Reed Bunting	1
Robin	8
Rook	>10
Skylark	4
Song Thrush	1
Sparrowhawk	1
Starling	>40
Stock Dove	2
Swallow	9
Swift	7
Treecreeper	4
Whitethroat	2
Willow Warbler	1
Woodpigeon	>50
Wren	2
Yellowhammer	2

IV. Outings

Please note that Reports of Outings can be found in Section 9.

Derek Turnidge

4. REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Reports were received from five members over the year. The first frogspawn was reported on 10 April (23 Cambridge Road), and the first **grass snake** on 15 April. Thereafter the **grass snake** reports came in steadily through the spring and summer, following a similar pattern to previous years. The largest reported specimen was about 3 feet long (100cm), found in a greenhouse on South Road. All other reports were of snakes either in ponds or close to water.

Only one pond reported frog spawn in spring; our pond (South Road) had no apparent frog spawn at all, but through June and July we had plenty of tiny froglets in the surrounding grass (some no bigger than a thumbnail), which made mowing a rather worrisome activity. This is rather puzzling as it seems unlikely that such tiny frogs would have migrated from the next-door pond some distance away. Another puzzle was the report received in late autumn of frog spawn and tadpoles in a garden pond with no chance of producing viable frogs this year. Apparently this is fairly common and these ‘overwintering’ tadpoles complete their development the following spring (if they survive the winter). This may be a deliberate strategy – tadpoles that overwinter in the pond and leave the water in spring have an advantage over tadpoles that complete their development in one year, leaving in late summer.

Only one report of a Toad was received – a large adult in a pond in late July. By contrast, Common (Smooth) Newts were reported from all four ponds from April onwards until late summer. After breeding, the adults leave the pond but will stay in damp habitats on land, and the young newts will leave in autumn to find a frost-free place to spend the winter, e.g. log piles, compost heaps.

In summary, this was a quiet but steady year on the amphibian and reptile front – no spectacular influxes of any species, although the small number of reports of frog spawn and of toads is possibly of concern. We need to keep up the reporting from the four ponds that are actively monitored so that we can begin to establish trends and assess if these are seasonal or more long-term.



50: Young **Grass Snake** – April (PJB)



51: Young **Grass Snake** – May (ADN)



52: **Frog**, Granta Park bug hunt – July



53: Adult **Frog** - May (ADN)

I. Records**i. AMPHIBIANS****Frogs**

1 March	large adult in pond	41 South Rd.
10 April	first frog spawn reported in pond	23 Cambridge Rd
4 May	frog in pond but still no spawn	41 South Rd
5 May	2 small frogs in pond	41 South Rd
8 May	lots of young frogs crossing lawn to get to pond	41 South Rd
July	regular sightings of tiny froglets (many no bigger than thumbnail) in garden within vicinity of pond	41 South Rd.
October	report of tadpoles in pond	Bourne Bridge Rd.

Toads

24 July	large toad seen in pond	41 South Rd.
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Newts

21 March	first Smooth Newt observed in pond	23 Cambridge Rd.
April-late summer	regular sightings in ponds in both villages.	

ii. REPTILES**Grass Snakes**

15 April	first sighting, 30 cm long, in grass in garden	Church Lane.
4 May	small grass snake in pond	41 South Rd.
22 May	very young grass snake seen on road, about 15 cm long but no thicker than a boot-lace.	Corner: South Rd / Chalky Rd
22 May	slim grass snake in pond, about 40-60 cm long	23 Cambridge Rd
5 June	75 cm grass snake in pond	23 Cambridge Rd.
25 June	60 cm grass snake in pond	23 Cambridge Rd.
25 July	45 cm grass snake in garden	23 Cambridge Rd.
25 July	100 cm grass snake seen in greenhouse	41 South Rd.

Common Lizards

None



54: Fox, Roman Road – May (AM)

5. MAMMALS

This year has seen a marked increase in the reports of Hedgehogs and **Muntjac**.

Muntjac seem to be moving closer to the village and have even been seen in the High Street area, which possibly means there are more of them, and they are moving closer to human habitation looking for food.

Our gardens continue to be a much needed refuge for hedgehogs and, therefore, we have to continue to ensure they are hedgehog friendly.

Other mammals reported to me during the year have been the usual mix of **Bats**, Hares, Deer and Foxes, and the occasional Stoat, Weasel and Shrew.

Gill Smith



55: Muntjac – June (JAH)



56: Wood Mouse – Feb (JAH)



57: Squirrel on bird-feeder, Church Lane – Dec (PJB)



58: Wood Mouse – April (ADN)



59: Grey Squirrel, Sluice Wood - April (AM)

Summary report of mammal sightings:

Species*	Location*	Date	Number	Comments
Hedgehog	Church Lane	10.01	1	3pm in garden
Weasel	Cambridge Rd	11.01	1	
Otters	Granta Park	14.01	2	Near Riverside building
Hare	Granta Park	02.02	1	
Hare	South of Chalky Rd	13.02	1	
Hare	Nr Abington Park Farm	13.02	1	
Muntjac	Sluice Wood bridge	16.02	1	11.15am
Muntjac	South Chalky Rd	19.02	2	
Hare	South Chalky Rd	20.02	1	
Wood mouse	High St, LA	24.02	1	On bird feeder in garden
Muntjac	Sluice Wood, Granta Park side	26.02	1	
Short-tailed vole	Garden, Cambridge Rd	06.03	1	
Muntjac	Garden, Linton Rd	07.03	1	
Foxes	Garden, Linton Rd	07.03	1	Vixen and dog fox
Muntjac	Garden, Cambridge Rd	12.03	1	Early morning
Bat	Garden, Cambridge Rd	13.03	1	Pipistrelle possibly
Wood mouse	Garden, South Rd	15.03	1	
Fallow deer	Field north of Cambridge Rd	16.03	several	(opposite houses)
Hedgehog	Garden, Church Lane	18.03	1	
Muntjac	Garden, Cambridge Rd	12.03	1	Early morning
Hedgehog	Garden, Cambridge Rd	13.04	1	On lawn
Wood mouse	Garden, South Rd	April	1	Lives near birdfeeder
Hare	Granta Park	24.04	1	
Hares	Granta Park	24.04	3	
Hedgehog	Garden, High St	25.04	1	
Hedgehog	Garden, High St., LA	28.04	1	10.30pm
Muntjac	Path to Millennium Bridge	01.05	1	
Hedgehog	Garden, Bourn Bridge Rd	04.05	1	
Hare	Granta Park entrance	04.05	1	
Pygmy shrew	Garden, Cambridge Rd	17.05	1	Dead
Hedgehog	Garden, Cambridge Rd	17.05	1>	Droppings
Bats	Garden, Cambridge Rd	17.05	1	Pipistrelle & Serotine
Hedgehog	High St, Abington	21.05	1	Near Jeremiah's cottage
Muntjac	Path to Millennium Bridge	01.05	1	
Fox	Crossing Bourn Bridge Rd	28.05	1	By school
Fox	By Cooke's meadow	29.05	1	Walking across field
Badger	Junction Linton Rd/A1307	31.05	1	Dead by side of road-young
Hedgehogs	Garden, Meadow Walk	Apr/May	1>	Droppings on lawn
Hedgehogs	Millennium bridge	03.06	1	Also 8 & 9 June
Shrew	Millennium bridge	04.06	1	
Muntjac	Lane behind house, High St, LA	09.06	1	
Muntjac	Garden, High St, LA	25.06	1	
Hedgehog	Drive, Cambridge Rd	26.06	1	
Muntjac	On grassy ford, High St	28.06	2	
Bat	Bridge on High St, LA	30.06	1	
Muntjac	Gate by garden, High St, LA	18.07	1	
Stoat	Sluice Wood, Granta Park side	27.07	1	
Bats	In Lewis Crescent	17.07	1>	
Baby hedgehog	Westfield/Church lane	02.08	1	Exhausted
Baby hedgehog	Church La nr Bourn Bridge Rd	11.08	1	Same one as above?
Large fox	Carriage road by Cooks field	16.08	1	Probably dog fox
Hedgehog	Church La nr Bourn Bridge Rd	18.08	1	Family of hedgehogs in area?
Badger	South Road – middle of road	25.08	1	Running - 10:30pm
Hedgehogs	Garden, Land Settlement	30.08	7	Nest of babies disturbed
Hedgehog	Garden, Cambridge Rd	Sept	1>	Droppings + actual siting
Muntjac	Church La / Bourn Bridge Rd	01.09	1	On corner
Hedgehogs/bats	Church La nr Bourn Bridge Rd	Sept	1>	

Muntjac + fawn	Newmarket Rd	10.09	2	
Hedgehog/bats	Bourn Bridge Rd	Sept		
Badger evidence	Edge of Sluice Wood	October		2 wasp nests destroyed
Hedgehog/bats	Cambridge Rd	02.10		
Stoat	Granta Park	03.10	1	
Muntjac	Side of old A11	19.10	1	Dead – knocked down
Muntjac	Cambridge Rd	21.10	1	Walked across garden
Bat	Cambridge Rd	23.10	1	possible Pipistrelle
Muntjac	High Street, LA	04.11	1	In front garden
Otter spraint	Sluice Wood	02.12		Granta Park side
Hedgehog	High Street, LA	18.12	1	In garden about 9pm
Muntjac	Sluice wood	23.12	1	Rescued from sluice gate
Dog fox	Bourn Bridge Rd	27.12	1	Crossing road
Muntjac	Abington Woods	30.12	1	Crossing river

Small, round, brown and famously covered in spines, the hedgehog is one of the most familiar of Britain's wild mammals.

Hedgehogs are most commonly spotted in parks and gardens, where bushes and hedges provide the perfect day-time getaway, and insect-rich lawns and flowerbeds make excellent feeding grounds at dusk. Hedgehogs eat all kinds of invertebrates, as well as amphibians, birds eggs and anything else they can catch, they particularly like big, crunchy beetles, earthworms and slugs, making them a gardener's best friend.



Hedgehogs are in trouble

“”

Hedgehogs are disappearing from our countryside as fast as tigers are worldwide

The once common hedgehog is now under threat from development and habitat loss caused by the reduction of hedgerows and increase in intensification of our agricultural landscapes.

In just the last 10 years, hedgehog numbers have fallen by 30%, and there are now thought to be fewer than one million left in the UK. They are disappearing from our countryside as fast as tigers are worldwide.

For more information, please see <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/hedgehogs>



60: Holly blue butterfly – May (AM)



61: Red Admiral – July (JAH)



62: Marbled white butterfly – July (JAH)



63: Painted lady butterfly – June (AM)



64: Meadow brown butterfly – June (AM)



65: Speckled Wood butterfly – June (AM)



66: Comma butterfly – July (JAH)



67: Brimstone butterfly – Aug (PJB)

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 not a good year for butterflies, though, due to variable weather, some months were better than others. After the fairly mild winter there was a late spring delaying the emergence of early butterflies and bees and there was very unseasonal weather in June.

I. Insect reports and reporters

This year I received a total of 765 individual species reports, down on the last two years (813 in 2015, 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

Brimstone butterflies topped the ranking once again being seen all through the summer from March and until mid-October. Small tortoiseshell numbers were down again after a better year in 2015. Large and small whites were seen in good numbers throughout the months seeming to survive all the adverse weather conditions. Orange tips were fairly abundant in April and May though not in the same numbers as seen a few years ago. Red Admirals were the first and last butterflies to be seen and appeared in every month; like Small tortoiseshells they often overwinter in a dormant state. There were increasing numbers of Commas, going against the national trend, and also Speckled woods.

Meadow browns, Ringlets and Gatekeepers however were down in number again. This may be due to the lack of access to three previously recorded sites: Cooke's Meadow down the Old Coach Road in Little Abington due to horses being kept there, limited access to the meadow between Church Lane and Cambridge Road, and the overgrown state of the path along the old railway line in Great Abington – these have all been good habitats for butterflies in previous years.



Gardening with butterflies and moths in mind is one of the most rewarding things you can do in your own backyard. By simply growing a few choice plants and providing butterflies and moths with a garden refuge, you can make a huge difference. Don't feel daunted, read on for our tips and tricks. This is the page you need for all the basics.

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/12215/get-gardening.html>

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

Ref: The Butterflies of Cambridgeshire, 2006, Robin Field, Val Perrin, Louise Bacon, Nick Greated-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 2015 we had reports of 20 species, in 2014 20 species, in 2013 21 species).

See also the report from Granta Park (see 0), where systematic surveys of butterflies are carried out.

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 early March 2016

Last butterfly seen: Red Admiral on last day of October 2016

2016	Butterflies ranked by number of sightings (top 12)
	<i>(last year's ranking in brackets)</i>
1	Brimstone (1)
2	Small white (4)
3	Large white (2)
4	Orange tip (7)
5	Peacock (5)
6	Red Admiral (9)
7	Comma (6)
8	Holly blue (10)
9	Small tortoiseshell (3)
10	Meadow brown (8)
11	Speckled wood (12)
12	Green veined white (-)

The table overleaf shows those butterflies seen in Abington in 2016 by month (20 species)



68: Green-veined White – July (JAH)

Butterfly name	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Notes from <i>Butterflies of Cambridgeshire</i>
<u>Reported in Abington 2016</u>										20 species in 2016
Small skipper						✓				<i>Widespread & common</i>
Large white				✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓	<i>Widespread & common</i>
Small white			✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓		<i>Widespread & common</i>
Green veined white			✓	✓✓✓		✓✓✓		✓		<i>Widespread & common</i>
Brimstone		✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓		✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	<i>Widespread & common</i>
Orange tip			✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓					<i>Widespread & common</i>
Small copper						✓				<i>Widely distributed – but not abundant</i>
Common blue				✓		✓	✓✓			<i>Widespread & fairly common</i>
Holly blue				✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓				<i>Widespread & common</i>
Red Admiral		✓		✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	<i>Widespread & common</i>
Painted lady					✓✓		✓	✓	✓	<i>Common migrant</i>
Small tortoiseshell		✓	✓✓✓		✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓		<i>Widespread & common</i>
Peacock			✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	✓✓✓	✓✓		✓	<i>Widespread & common</i>
Comma			✓✓✓		✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓	✓	<i>Widespread & common</i>
Speckled wood				✓✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓		<i>Widespread & fairly common</i>
Gatekeeper						✓✓	✓✓✓			<i>Widespread & common</i>
Meadow brown					✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓			<i>Widespread & common</i>
Ringlet					✓	✓✓✓				<i>Widespread & common</i>
Marbled white						✓				<i>Uncommon</i>
White letter hairstreak						✓				<i>Widely distributed – rarely seen</i>
<u>Not seen in Abington 2016</u>										
<i>Clouded yellow</i>										<i>Regular migrant</i>
<i>Essex skipper</i>										<i>Widespread & common</i>
<i>Large skipper</i>										<i>Widespread & common</i>
<i>Dingy skipper</i>										<i>Localised and rare</i>
<i>Grizzled skipper</i>										<i>Localised and scarce</i>
<i>Green hairstreak</i>										<i>Uncommon</i>
<i>Small heath</i>										<i>Widespread but localised</i>
<i>Purple hairstreak</i>										<i>Widespread & common – rarely seen</i>
<i>Black hairstreak</i>										<i>Vulnerable</i>
<i>Brown argus</i>										<i>Widespread but local</i>
<i>Chalkhill blue</i>										<i>Rare</i>
<i>Small blue</i>										<i>Extremely scarce</i>
<i>Fritillary, species unknown</i>										<i>Uncommon</i>
<i>Wall</i>										<i>Previously common, now rarely seen</i>

III. Bees

Bumble bees were reported from February onwards but in much smaller numbers than in previous years; this reflects the national situation. Bees, especially bumble bees, can be 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.

There were few reports of honey bees this year.

IV. Dragonflies and Damselflies

A reasonable year for damselflies and several species were reported through to May to July, including several reports of banded demoiselles at their usual haunt on the river by the Millennium footbridge.

Reports of dragonflies were mainly Southern hawkers and Ruddy darters, but also two reports of Emperors.

V. Ladybirds

Very few reports of ladybirds this year, but mostly 7 spots and a few harlequins.

VI. Moths

There was a report of an Angle Shades moth in April. One moth evening was held rather late in the year on 1st October in Church Lane. A reasonable number of Noctuid moths (only) were seen but no larger hawk moths – probably due to being late in the year.



69: Ladybird, River bank – Mar (PJB)



70: Moth trap, Church Lane – Oct (PJB)



71: Barred Chestnut moth – Oct (PJB)

VII. Other

Six members reported seeing the curious bee-flies in April and May.

VIII. Outings

We organised two outings to see butterflies and damselflies.

Fen Drayton Lakes in June

Fleam Dyke in July

Full details of outings are in Section 9.

Jennifer Hirsh, November 2016



72: Beefly – April (HP)



73: Tree bumble bees in nest box – June (AM)



74: Angle shades moth – April (AM)



75: Tree bumble bees in nest box – June (AM)



76: Spindle Ermine Moth caterpillars – May (AM)



77: Lesser Stag beetle – July (DLT)



78: Spindle Ermine Moth caterpillars – May (AM)



79: Burying or Sexton beetle – August (DLT)



80: Large red damselflies mating – May (JAH)



81: Large red damselflies mating – May (JAH)



82: Azure damselflies mating – June (JAH)



83: Banded Demoiselle ♂, Rec Ground – July (DLT)



84: Banded demoiselle – July (JAH)



85: Southern hawker dragonfly – Sept (LAM)



86: Southern hawker nymphal cast – June (DLT)



87: Southern hawker nymphal cast – June (DLT)

7. FLORA

2016 has been rather unusual for flora in this part of the country. Many early species were in flower in early January: Aconites, Primroses, Violets and Daisies were all in flower in various places in the village. Daffodils, Wood Anemones, Dead Nettles and Dandelions were also early.

Bourn Bridge road verges showed some promise in the early part of the year: Ragwort, Yarrow, Mugwort, Curled Dock and the beginning of the Umbellifers started to grow. The grass was growing well and this obscured other plants as summer progressed.

The cool wet June was very evident when a few hardy people joined the walk in the Beech Wood at the beginning of the month. The helleborines had spread to a few patches outside their usual area but were flowering a little late after the surprisingly early spring.

On a hot day in early July I set off to survey the flora on the old railway line for a proposed visit on 13th July. I recorded the following and there were some I could not identify:

Common Ragwort	Yellowwort	Plantain
St John's Wort	Mignonette	Dog Rose
Curled Dock	Hedge Bedstraw	Speedwell
Wild Parsnip	Buttercup	Red Clover
Pyramidal Orchid	Field Scabious	Weld
Purple Orchid	Common Poppy	Betony
Dark Mullein	Bladder Campion	Bindweed
Wild Strawberry	Spear Thistle	Rest Harrow
Common Mallow	Cotton Thistle	
Black Medic	Globe Thistle	

Clearly from this evidence this is a site worth visiting but because access was extremely restricted, due to excess growth of head-high nettles and brambles crisscrossing the path at knee height, it was impossible to take a group. We decided that a visit to Granta Park should be arranged instead and a reasonable number were able to come at short notice. We recorded over 30 species between us on a very pleasant evening after a terrific thunderstorm.

I was unable to join the trip to Fleam Dyke in August but did manage a visit a few days earlier. The flowers by then were interesting and plentiful.

In late September the only flowers still in bloom on the Bourn Bridge Road verges were chicory and a small amount of Yarrow. The grass was cut and raked in October. We look forward to a better show of plants there in 2017.

Sally Turnidge



88: Aconites, Granta Park – Jan (AM)



89: Snowdrops, Granta Park – Jan (AM)

8. GRANTA PARK – WILDLIFE SUMMARY 2016

I. Introduction

2016 has seen some changes on Granta Park with the erection of a new office building and associated car park for Gilead and the start of another two buildings. Even with the temporary closure of two of the woodland walks on the Park (close to construction sites) efforts have continued to be made to encourage wildlife to flourish. One of particular interest is our new multi-deck car park with sections of ‘living walls’. It will be interesting to see over the next year what insects and butterflies these attract.

We have also improved access to one of the woodland walks, planted four large areas of woodland bulbs within it. We have looked at ways to improve the wildflower content of the meadow, including seeding with yellow rattle, as well as planted two new areas of bulbs at the entrance to the Park.

Clearance work to an area of car park under construction was actually halted for 6 months due to Little Owls nesting on a pile of rubble. Contractors cordoned off the area. Work did not start again until volunteers were sure the young had fledged.

We continue to encourage staff based on Granta Park to report what they see on their lunchtime walks. Anything of a significant nature is then reported back to Abington Naturewatch.



90: Ian Webb: River mammals talk – June



91: Barnacle Geese, Granta Park – Feb (DF)

II. Wildlife related events held on Granta Park during 2016

22 June

Iain Webb from The Wildlife Trust joined us to share his excellent talk on river dwelling mammals. The talk covered a range of creatures including water shrews, otters and Daubenton's bats. Did you know Daubenton's bats have been spotted here at Granta Park?

13 July

Iain returned to the Park to run our annual Plant ID and Bug Hunt. A group of children from the Granta Park nursery took part in the first session while the second was for staff based on the Park.

27 July

In the second of our talks provided by Iain from The Wildlife Trust we received some advice on Gardening with Wildlife in Mind.

Hedgehogs, bats, sparrows, song thrushes and stag beetles are all declining species in the UK, but if we manage our gardens to benefit wildlife, these creatures and many more will find refuge. Iain went through a whole host of wild ideas and features.

6 October

A group of staff from across the Park came together to build some more bug hotels for insects and invertebrates. These are works in progress for 2017.

25 October

Peter Walker, from The Wildlife Trust, returned to Granta Park to lead our annual fungi foray. He compiled the list of species below:

Scientific Name	English Name	Comments
<i>Auricularia mesenterica</i>	Tripe Fungus	On dead logs
<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Wood Jelly-ear	On dead Elm
<i>Conocybe sub ovalis</i>		In grass
<i>Coprinus sp</i>	Ink Cap	Too old to identify
<i>Crepidotus sp</i>	Oysterling	Too small, old & dry to identify
<i>Galerina laevis</i>		In mosses
<i>Haplopilus nidulans</i>	Cinnamon Bracket	Old specimens on branch
<i>Hebeloma crustuliniforme</i>	Poison Pie	Trooping under Oak
<i>Hygrophorus conica</i>	Blackening Waxcap	In grass
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft	Immature specimen on wood
<i>Hyphodontia sambuci</i>	Elder Whitewash	On twigs
<i>Marasmius rotula</i>	Collared Parachute	On twigs
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet	On dead wood
<i>Mycena olida</i>	Rancid Bonnet	In mosses on logs
<i>Mycena pura var rosea</i>	Rosy Bonnet	In litter
<i>Micena vitalis</i>	Snapping Bonnet	In litter
<i>Pluteus cervinus</i>	Deer Shield	On wood
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Tar Spot	On Sycamore leaves
<i>Tricholoma sculpturatum</i>	Yellowing knight	In grass under trees

November

Peter Wilkinson came to check and clean out our owl boxes on the Park. One had been used by Stock Doves earlier this year and the other a Jackdaw – sadly none by owls. It was discussed relocating one of our boxes to somewhere more suitable. We will look at this once the new buildings are finished.

III. *Granta Park Bird Summary*

A total of 72 bird species were recorded on Granta Park in 2016, seven of which were not seen in 2015. Many thanks to all those who contributed their sightings, in a total of almost 200 reports. Highlights for each month are summarised below, followed by a tabulated record of all species.

January: Flocks of 50-60 Fieldfare were seen in the fields around Abington Hall, with up to 20 Redwing feeding on berries nearby. Mistle Thrush and Song Thrush were also reported. On the cricket green, flocks of around 60 Black-headed Gull were seen, occasionally including a Common Gull, alongside small flocks of Barnacle and Canada Goose, Pied Wagtail and occasionally Meadow Pipit. Up to 50 Mallard and 6-7 Moorhen were regulars on the lake, with small numbers of Reed Bunting seen occasionally in the reedbed. Grey Heron (4-5) were often spotted along the river, as well as a Little Egret on 19th. Mixed flocks of various tits and finches were reported regularly in Sluice Woods, as well as occasional sightings of Treecreeper, Goldcrest, Jay and Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers. Kestrel, Buzzard and Stock Dove were also reported.

February: A single Great Crested Grebe returned to the lake on 29th, joining the regular small flocks of Mallard, Moorhen and Barnacle (15) and Canada Goose (7). A single Cormorant was also reported (24th), and a few Reed Bunting continued to be seen. Flocks of Fieldfare (100) and Redwing (20) were seen feeding on the cricket green, often alongside Jackdaw, Rook and a few Starling. In the woods, mixed Tit flocks included an occasional Coal Tit, Goldcrest and Treecreeper. Robin were regularly heard singing, as was a Mistle Thrush on 12th, with a Great Spotted Woodpecker heard drumming on 26th. Kestrel and Buzzard were reported, and a single Sparrowhawk was seen around the bird feeders. Grey Heron were seen regularly on the river, and a Grey Wagtail was also reported on 16th.

March: A small flock of Siskin (4-6) was reported feeding noisily high in the alder trees on two occasions (10-11th). Redwing (up to 26) continued to be well reported, whereas the flocks of c100 Fieldfare slowly dwindled, with the last report on 16th. Barnacle and Canada Goose were also less frequently seen, and Meadow Pipit (6) was last reported on 9th. Grey Heron were regularly spotted along the river, and a **Kingfisher** was reported on 24th. On the lake, the Great Crested Grebe pair was seen displaying and head-shaking (4th). A Linnet flock (30) was spotted feeding on rough ground, whilst in Sluice Woods, mixed Tit flocks, and Goldfinch and Chaffinch were regularly seen, with Greenfinch last reported on 14th. Occasional Bullfinch, Treecreeper, Coal Tit and Goldcrest were also reported. A Tawny Owl was heard (10th), with Pheasant, Sparrowhawk and Kestrel also seen.

April: As the winter visitors departed with the last Redwing sighting on 11th, the summer visitors arrived, with first sightings of Chiffchaff (2nd), Blackcap (4th), Swallow (4th), Willow Warbler (6th) and House Martin (20th). Excitingly, a female Black Redstart was seen passing through on 20th-21st. Robin were reported pair-bond feeding and displaying (5th), and Great Crested Grebe (4th) and Grey Heron (14th) were recorded on the nest. A pair of Little Owl was spotted regularly (from 20th) on the rubble heaps, and were believed to be nesting there; TWI kindly agreed to suspend building operations in the area for the duration of the breeding season. Coal Tit, Red-legged Partridge, Pheasant and Linnet were all seen occasionally, as were Treecreeper, Collared Dove and Reed Bunting. Perhaps unusually, a Jay was regularly seen 'picking' young arum shoots before pecking out and consuming the flower bud inside. A pair of Grey



92: Black Redstart (AM)

Wagtail was spotted near the sluice (28th), and interestingly there was a report of a Yellowhammer feeding on rough ground on 20th. Kestrel and Buzzard were regularly seen.

May: On the lake, the Great Crested Grebe pair fledged two chicks (13th), with one parent often seen catching fish and feeding the young being carried on their back of their mate. A Mute Swan was regularly seen, and a family of 9 Canada goose arrived late in the month. In the reedbed, a pair of Reed Bunting was often seen, and a Reed Warbler could be heard singing (5th to 15th). The Grey Heron pair had three young in the nest, and 2-3 small Moorhen chicks were also reported. A



93: Great Crested Grebe with chicks (AM)

family of Blue Tit was observed fledging from a nest box (29th), and a family group of 12 Long-tailed Tit was also seen (29th). Swift were first reported on 4th and regularly thereafter, as were 1-2 Swallow and 6-8 House Martin, the latter nesting on several buildings around the site. Blackcap and Chiffchaff were often heard, and a Spotted Flycatcher was reported once (11th). The male Little Owl was seen regularly, and sometimes the pair could be seen, at their presumed nest site. Coal Tit, Dunnock, Treecreeper, Skylark and Linnet were occasionally reported, as were Mistle Thrush, Grey Wagtail, Buzzard and Sparrowhawk. A single **Kingfisher** was spotted flying along the river on two occasions.

June: At least two young Grey Heron fledged the nest on 23rd. The Great Crested Grebe family was regularly seen on the lake, and Barnacle (2), Canada (12) and Greylag (1) Geese all joined a single Mute Swan there later in the month. A pair of Spotted Flycatcher was spotted on 6th. A Garden Warbler was seen in Sluice Woods (23rd), but Chiffchaff and Blackcap were heard less frequently. House



94: Grey Heron on the nest (AM)

Martin and Swift continued to be regularly reported. The Little Owl pair could be observed catching cockchafer beetles and other insects at dusk, and a Grey Wagtail pair was also seen collecting food. Jay, Treecreeper and Bullfinch were all reported, and a Skylark was occasionally heard singing overhead.

July: Following regular sightings of Spotted Flycatcher taking food to their nest early in month, four young were ringed and a male tagged by Michael Holdsworth/BTO, just before they fledged on 7th. House Martin and Swallow were regularly seen feeding over the lake, and up to 10 Swift could be heard screaming over the Hall (last report on 14th). There were a few reports of Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Reed Bunting singing, and Grey Wagtail continued to be seen collecting food. On the lake, only one Great Crested Grebe adult and one chick were reported, and 12 Canada Goose with a single Greylag and Mute Swan



95: Spotted Flycatcher young (AM)

were also seen. In the woods, Bullfinch were seen on three occasions, as well as Jay and Coal Tit, and an adult Goldcrest was spotted with young. A **Kingfisher** was seen flying along the river (7th). Kestrel and Buzzard were also reported, and a Sparrowhawk was seen carrying prey.

August: A quiet month, with fewer reports. The remaining Great Crested Grebe adult and juvenile were last reported on 1st. Up to 16 Barnacle, 27 Canada and 1 Greylag Goose were seen, alongside up to 40 Mallard. A Moorhen with 5 young was also reported. A Chiffchaff was spotted only once, and small flocks (c12) of House Martin were regularly seen, as were small numbers of Swallow. Up to four Spotted Flycatcher (ringed) were reported feeding avidly near the river (last seen on 22nd), and the Little Owl continued to be seen at the same site.

September: In Sluice Woods, Blackcap and Chiffchaff (2) were both reported early in the month, with single sightings of Coal Tit, Goldcrest and Mistle Thrush. Flocks of Blue Tit (up to 16), Long-tailed Tit (12), Great Tit (6) and Goldfinch (c15) were also reported. Larger flocks of 20-30 House Martin, and small numbers of Swallow were seen on several occasions. On the lake, Barnacle (c16), Canada (27) and a single Greylag Goose also



96: Grey Wagtail (AM)

remained, along with larger flocks of up to 90 Mallard and 5-7 Moorhen, as well as a single report of a Cormorant (15th). On the river, a Grey Wagtail was seen near the footbridge, as was a Kingfisher on two occasions (8th and 15th), and a single Grey Heron. The Little Owl pair were last sighted on 29th, just prior to building work restarting at the site; as no young owlets were ever seen, it remains uncertain as to whether the pair nested successfully.

October: Single House Martin and Swallow were both last reported on 3rd. A Brambling was spotted with a flock of Chaffinch (27th), and several Reed Bunting were reported roosting in the reedbed. On the river, there were several reports of Grey Heron, a Little Egret was seen feeding near footbridge (5th), a **Kingfisher** was spotted near the sluice on 3rd, and a Grey Wagtail was seen on three occasions, also near the sluice. Barnacle (14), Canada (22) and Greylag (1) Goose continued to be seen occasionally on the lake. Flocks of Goldfinch, Long-tailed Tit and Pied Wagtail were spotted, and single sightings of Jay, Goldcrest and Pheasant were also reported. Large flocks of c250 Black-headed Gull and c150 Lesser Black-backed Gull were reported feeding on the playing fields nearby, and were occasionally seen on the lake and flying overhead.

November: Flocks of Meadow Pipit (up to 21) and Pied Wagtail (30) were often seen feeding on the cricket green, as were up to 60 Black-headed Gull. Redwing were first seen on 14th, and regularly thereafter, feeding on berries along with several Blackbird. A single Fieldfare was first reported on 28th. A Brambling was seen feeding with Chaffinch (24th), and unusually 2-3 Greenfinch were also seen. Flocks of c500 Starling were reported on 24th, gathering above the lake before dropping



97: Female Tufted Duck (AM)

down to roost in the reedbed, alongside at least 12 Reed Bunting. On the lake, there were regular reports of 100-130 Mallard, as well as three female Tufted Duck and two Mute Swan on 10th. A Little Egret was seen on two occasions near footbridge, a **Kingfisher** was seen feeding upstream of the sluice (10th), and a Grey Wagtail was also reported there. Unusually, a single Lapwing was spotted, as were Linnet (6) and up to 20 Goldfinch feeding on teasel heads. Mixed Tit flocks were regularly seen, occasionally containing small numbers of Coal Tit and Goldcrest. Jay, Buzzard and Kestrel were also reported.



98: Starling Murmuration, Granta Park – Dec (AM)

December: Several small flocks of Starling (total c1000) were seen briefly ‘murmuring’ above lake around dusk before roosting in the reeds. Reed Bunting also continued to be seen. Redwing (up to 30) and Fieldfare (2-4) continued to be reported, as well as Song and Mistle Thrush, and Blackbird seen feeding on berries. Up to 100 Mallard were regularly seen on the lake, as well 2 adult and 2 juv Mute Swan (26th) and Barnacle Goose (29th). A Grey Wagtail was spotted on two occasions near the sluice, with Grey Heron and Little Egret (27th) also being reported. Small flocks of 10-18 Meadow Pipit were seen on the cricket green, as were 50 Black-headed Gull (6th). Goldfinch and Greenfinch were regularly reported, and more occasionally also Goldcrest, Jay and Stock Dove. A Great Tit was heard singing on 14th, and small flocks of 8-10 Long-tailed Tit were seen regularly. Sparrowhawk was reported once, and a Kestrel on three occasions.

*The table opposite 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 2016, but not reported in 2015. **Contributors:** David Farrant, Jerry Lanfear, Steven Latham, MedImmune, Andy Merryweather, Gareth Rees, Viola Ross-Smith, Stephen Roughley, Jez Smith, Derek Turnidge.*

Andy Merryweather, MedImmune

Total 72 Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Barnacle Goose	3	5	1			1		4	5	3	1	1	24
Black Redstart				4									4
Blackbird	10	12	11	9	12	5	5	3	4	4	11	8	94
Blackcap				9	11	4	3		2				29
Black-headed Gull	9	4	5		1	1				1	4	1	26
Blue Tit	13	12	10	10	11	3	2	3	6	5	10	6	91
Brambling										1	1		2
Bullfinch			2			1	3	1					7
Buzzard	4	3	3	7	5	2		1	2	3	2		32
Canada Goose	2	8	5		4	5	8	3	4	1			40
Carrion Crow	9	10	10	9	11	2	4	5	6	3	8	6	83
Chaffinch	6	8	11	6	12	5	2	1	1	2	11	3	68
Chiffchaff				14	9	2	5	1	2				33
Coal Tit		2	1	2	1		1		1		1		9
Collared Dove				1	1								2
Common Gull	3	1											4
Cormorant		1							1				2
Duncock	2	5	5	5	7	3	2			1	3	3	36
Fieldfare	5	8	5								1	3	22
Garden Warbler						1							1
Goldcrest	2	3	3		1		1		1	1	2	2	16
Goldfinch	11	11	13	9	9	5	4	5	9	5	10	4	95
Great Crested Grebe		1	8	11	13	2	6	1					42
Great Spotted Woodpecker	5	3	5		3	3	1	1	2		2	2	27
Great Tit	12	12	10	12	5	1	1	4	5	2	10	7	81
Green Woodpecker	5	7	8	7	11	3	6	6	3	3	2	2	63
Greenfinch	1	1	1								3	1	7
Grey Heron	11	9	7	11	13	5	2		1	3	6	3	71
Grey Wagtail		1		2	1	3	2	1	2	3	3	2	20
Greylag Goose						3	5	1	1	1			11
Herring Gull			1	1					1	1			4
House Martin				4	8	3	4	7	6	1			33
Jackdaw	10	11	11	12	13	5	3	3	6	5	9	6	94
Jay	1	2	1	4		1	1			1	5	1	17
Kestrel	3	1	4	4			1				1	3	17
Kingfisher			1		2		1		2	1	1		8
Lapwing											1		1
Lesser Black-backed Gull										1			1
Linnet			1	7	2			1			1		12
Little Egret	1									1	2	1	5
Little owl				10	8	4	4	2	2				30
Long-tailed Tit	10	10	10	11	9	2	4	4	5	3	6	7	81
Magpie	12	13	10	11	9	5	5	4	3	3	11	7	93
Mallard	12	11	10	15	14	5	8	8	8	6	11	8	116
Meadow Pipit	1		1								5	2	9
Mistle Thrush	4	6	8	8	5				1	2	2	1	37
Moorhen	13	13	10	9	8	4	6	8	8	5	10	8	102
Mute Swan					15	5	3	2			2	1	28
Pheasant			2	3						1			6
Pied Wagtail	9	9	8	10	11	5	5	3	4	6	12	4	86
Red-legged Partridge				1									1
Redwing	7	6	6	1							6	5	31
Reed Bunting	3	2	1	1	10		3			1	5	6	32
Reed Warbler					6								6
Robin	12	12	11	13	13	3	4	2	6	5	7	8	96
Rook	2	5	7	12	12	1	2	1	1	3	4	2	52
Skylark					1	2							3
Siskin			3										3
Song Thrush	5	5	7	2	3	3	3		2	1	2	1	34
Sparrowhawk		2	2		2		2					1	9
Spotted Flycatcher					1	4	6	5					16
Starling	6	5	8	12	8	2		2	4	2	6	4	59
Stock Dove	1		1	6	10	1	1	4	1			1	26
Swallow				5	7		4	2	2	1			21
Swift					9	4	4	1					18
Tawny Owl			1										1
Treecreeper	1	1	2	2	1	1							8
Tufted Duck											2		2
Willow Warbler				2									2
Woodpigeon	10	11	11	8	10	4	6	8	8	4	8	6	94
Wren	12	11	11	11	11	6	6	4	4	2	3	4	85
Yellowhammer				1									1
Total Reports	15	20	20	27	16	13	10	10	21	8	23	13	2422

9. VISITS OUT OF THE ABINGTONS

I. Bird Outings

Derek organised three trips, primarily to see birds.

i. Visit to RSPB Ouse Washes on 12th March

Derek reports that seven members were able to take part. They had a very good morning, as can be seen from the (alphabetical) list of species below:

Blackheaded Gull	Blue Tit	Brambling
Carrion Crow	Chaffinch	Collared Dove
Coot	Cormorant	Dunnock
Gadwall	Goldfinch	Great Crested Grebe
Great Spotted Woodpecker (<i>H</i>)	Great Tit	House Sparrow
Kestrel	Lesser Redpoll	Little Egret
Longtailed Tit	Mallard	Marsh Harrier
Moorhen	Mute Swan	Pheasant
Pied Wagtail	Pintail	Pochard
Redwing	Reed Bunting	Robin
Song Thrush	Starling	Teal
Tree Sparrow	Tufted Duck	Wigeon
Woodcock	Woodpigeon	Wren

(*H*) indicates that it was heard only

It was good to see Tree Sparrow, Lesser Redpoll, Reed Bunting and Brambling from the Visitor Centre and a variety of waterfowl from the hides overlooking the flood plain.

ii. Visit to Fen Drayton Lakes on 4 June

Twelve of us enjoyed the visit; the weather was kind to us after the recent heavy rain. Here is a list of the birds we saw or heard:

Blackbird	Blackcap	Blackheaded Gull
Canada Goose	Carrion Crow	Cetti's Warbler
Chaffinch	Chiffchaff	Common Tern
Coot	Cormorant	Cuckoo
Garden Warbler	Goldfinch	Great Crested Grebe
Great Tit	Green Woodpecker	Grey Heron
Greylag Goose	Herring Gull	Kestrel
Lapwing	Little Egret	Longtailed Tit
Magpie	Mallard	Marsh Harrier
Mute Swan	Oystercatcher	Pochard
Reed Bunting	Reed Warbler	Robin
Sedge Warbler	Skylark	Song Thrush
Sparrowhawk	Starling	Swallow
Swift	Tufted Duck	Whitethroat
Woodpigeon	Wren	

iii. Visit to Paxton Pits on Saturday 9 July 2016

Nine members enjoyed a visit to the Nature Reserve at Paxton Pits near St Neots under the guidance of local expert Stuart Elsom.

Some 40 species of birds were recorded in the various habitats on the site. The weather was not unkind, but not the best for dragonflies. Nevertheless we saw a good variety of butterflies, damselflies and other insects. Notable flora included both Common Spotted and Pyramidal Orchids.

II. Insects & Flora Outings

i. Beech Wood – June



99: Beech Wood reserve – June (PJB)



100: Helleborine, Beech Wood – June (PJB)

ii. Fen Drayton Lakes – 4th June

This outing was to see birds and damselflies. A large group of members came, mainly travelling on the Guided Bus, and we had a sociable and enjoyable day, watching birds as we enjoyed our picnic lunches.

Apart from the many species of birds seen (see Derek Turnidge's report), in the last half hour we were fortunate to see several species of damselflies as this was rather early in the year for them. Species seen were: Common damselfly, Red-eyed damselfly, Azure damselfly, Blue-tailed damselfly and Southern damselfly.

(More photos: http://abington-naturewatch.blogspot.co.uk/2016_06_01_archive.html)



101: Fen Drayton Lakes (JAH)



102: Mute Swan Cygnets (BMB)

iii. Fleam Dyke – July 30th

This outing was on a Saturday morning primarily to see the Chalkhill blue butterflies; it is a wonderful site for them and again we chose a good day and were lucky with the weather. Ten members came and we saw and photographed a large number of Chalkhill blues as well as other butterflies including a Painted lady and a Marbled white, both uncommon.

(See photographs on the blog by Henry Smith and Len Mead.)

<http://abington-naturewatch.blogspot.co.uk/2016/08/naturewatch-outing-to-fleam-dyke-on.html>



103: Fleam Dyke Walk (HS)



104: Chalkhill Blue (HS)

Sally Turnidge provided a useful checklist of flora to expect; we found many of these.

These are the flowers and butterflies seen on the walk:

Flowers

Harebell
Greater knapweed
Lesser knapweed
Yarrow, pink and white
Rock rose
Field scabious
Lesser scabious
Lady's bedstraw
St John's wort
Quaking grass
Tufted vetch
Birdsfoot trefoil
Lesser trefoil

Goatsbeard – seedheads
Rough hawksbeard
Smooth hawksbeard
Hawkweed oxtongue
Smooth catsear
Common ragwort
Dandelion
Dwarf thistle
Carline thistle
Dog daisy

Hedge parsley
Wild parsnip
Mignonette
Canadian fleabane
Hoary mullein

Plantain
Teasel
White bryony

Pyramidal orchid (seed head)
Salad burnet (seed head)

Just off the Dyke on the path:

Dark mullein
Common evening primrose

Butterflies

Chalkhill blue (lots)
Small skipper
Large white
Small white
Green veined white
Marbled white
Gatekeeper
Meadow brown
Brimstone
Peacock
Red admiral
Small tortoiseshell
Painted lady

105: Cinnabar *Tyria Jacobaeae* Caterpillar (LAM)106: Red Admiral *Vanessa Atalanta* (HS)

We shall try to repeat this outing every summer as it is not far and is always very rewarding.

10. WORKING WITH CPERC

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC) collate, manage and store data that describe biodiversity in the local area. It is the main source of natural history and protected species information for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

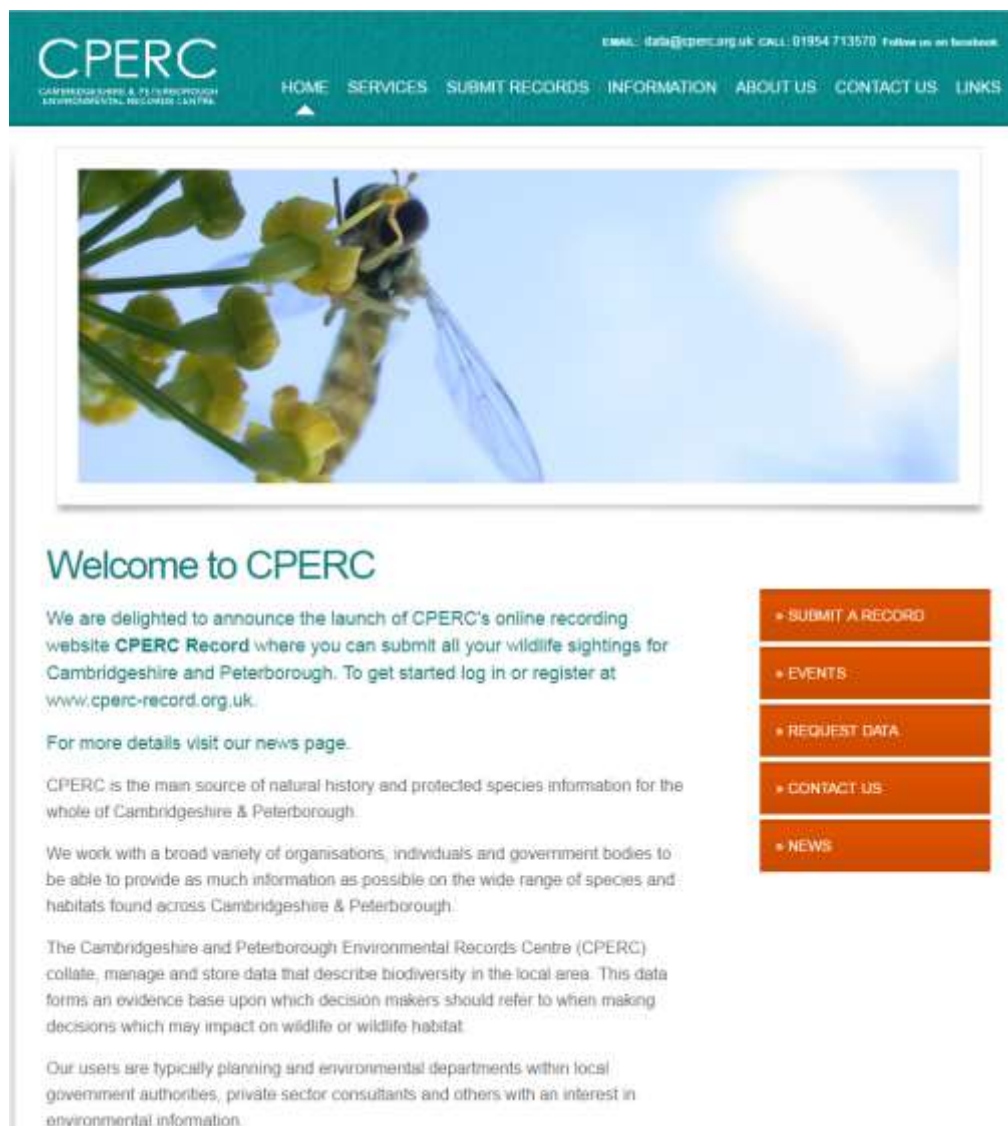
They work with a broad variety of organisations, individuals and government bodies to be able to provide as much information as possible on the wide range of species and habitats found across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

CPERC now has an online recording website *CPERC Record* where you can submit wildlife sightings for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. To get started, log in or register at www.cperc-record.org.uk.

In past years, Naturewatch reported on native species in decline and undesirable non-native species. This issue of the Record highlights these species in **red**.

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



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Welcome to CPERC

We are delighted to announce the launch of CPERC's online recording website **CPERC Record** where you can submit all your wildlife sightings for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. To get started log in or register at www.cperc-record.org.uk.

For more details visit our news page.

CPERC is the main source of natural history and protected species information for the whole of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

We work with a broad variety of organisations, individuals and government bodies to be able to provide as much information as possible on the wide range of species and habitats found across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC) collate, manage and store data that describe biodiversity in the local area. This data forms an evidence base upon which decision makers should refer to when making decisions which may impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat.

Our users are typically planning and environmental departments within local government authorities, private sector consultants and others with an interest in environmental information.

- » SUBMIT A RECORD
- » EVENTS
- » REQUEST DATA
- » CONTACT US
- » NEWS

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/>. Using a blog means that it is simpler to publish material in diary form. It is easily reached from the village web-site <http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/>: there is also a Naturewatch page under **Clubs**, which gives access to past issues of *The Record*.

The blog 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.

Saturday, 17 December 2016

Starling mini-murmurations on Granta Park

In recent evenings, Andy M has been watching 'mini-murmurations' of starlings above the lake in Granta Park. Just before sunset, several flocks each numbering a few hundred birds, start to arrive - each performing their swirling, aerial manoeuvres for several minutes before finally dropping into the reeds. Over 30 minutes or so, around a thousand starlings had crammed themselves into the reedbed, all chattering noisily before settling down to roost.





Resources

- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Naturewatch Programme](#)
- [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 (62)
 - January (1)
 - February (4)
 - March (8)
 - April (9)
 - May (9)
 - June (10)
 - July (4)
 - August (2)
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II. The Abington Naturewatch Project Team and Sectors

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III. Web links

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/>

Naturewatch documents:

Bird species noted in the Abingtons – a summary compiled by Derek:

http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/site/assets/files/1179/abington_naturewatch_bird_list_-161112.pdf

"What's that bird?" – by Andy M in two parts: <https://goo.gl/eFXYZo> and <https://goo.gl/8BhaLx>

