



# ABINGTON NATUREWATCH

The Record  
2018

Records the activities of Abington Naturewatch for 2018. 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, Fungi.



**Front Cover:** Photos from Andy Merryweather

1: Common Blue Butterfly, Roman Road – 14 July

2: Fewer Poplars at Abington Hall – 27 January

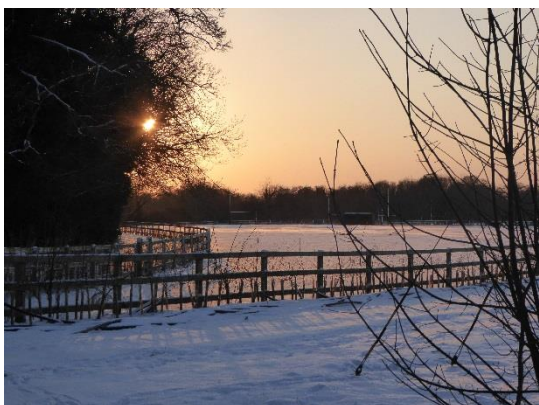
## NOTABLE EVENTS OF 2018



3: JAN – Ash tree felling, Rec Ground – 3 Jan (PJB)



4: JAN – Trees blown down at Abington Hall (AM)



5: FEB – Snow & Sunset, Bourn Br Rd – 28 Feb (PJB)



6: MAR – Badger tracks in the snow, LSA – 3 Mar (AM)



7: JULY – Storm damage to Ash tree, Rec. Ground (PJB)



8: JULY – Storm damage to Ash tree, Rec. – 29 Jul (PJB)

Many thanks to all those, especially new members, who submitted observation records and photographs for use in the Blog and this *Record*. Please keep it up, with as many photographs as possible.

To keep in touch during the year, please visit the Blog <http://abington-naturewatch.blogspot.com/>

### Notes:

1. In this document, GA stands for Great Abington, GP for Granta Park and LA for Little Abington; LSA means former Land Settlement Association area (North, South, Chalky and Cutting Roads).
2. All photographs were taken in 2018, unless noted. Photographers are:  
Andy Merryweather (AM), Anne Dunbar Nobes (ADN), Barry Brooks (BMB), Carolyn Hannah (CH), David Farrant (DF), Derek Turnidge (DLT), Esme Langford (EL), Jennifer Hirsh (JAH), John Webb (JW), 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.

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# 1. FOREWORD

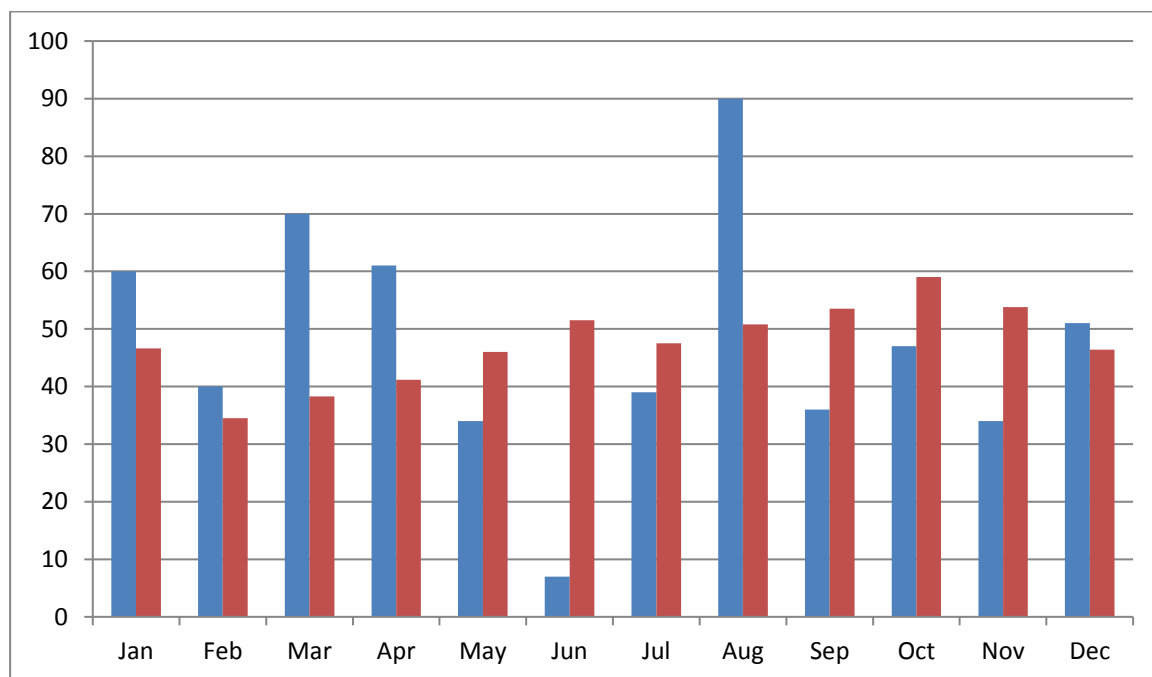
## *I. Weather*

2018 was characterised by a cool wet spring followed by a very dry hot period between May and July when temperatures got up above 30°C. Even though July and August look wet, this was essentially because of a few heavy local thunder storms. The autumn period was warmer and drier than average.

The cool wet period between March and April did reduce early butterfly numbers, with only a few Brimstones seen, but bird brood numbers appeared unaffected. The dry spell from May through to July severely reduced flowering plants and therefore nectar availability but Small and Large White butterflies were unaffected and were the main species seen. Very few of our normal seasonal butterflies – Red Admiral, Peacock and Tortoiseshells were seen this year. The hot dry summer weather did see improved insect numbers which helped young birds, but overall insect and bee numbers were down.

The thunder storms in August and rain in September did help the annual flowering plants to recover and helped late butterfly numbers. The warmer weather also saw late flowering and autumn tree colour continue well into November.

Abington Rainfall for 2018 (blue) compared to 10 Year Average (red) in mm.



*Abington Rainfall 2018*

*Source of average (1981 to 2010) – Cambridge*

Over the last few Records we have been asking for more reports and photos of our local mammals, which we felt were under reported. This situation has improved but we would like to see even more for 2019. There have been fewer signs in 2018 of an otter on the river around Granta Park but recently they found a Polecat dead at the side of the road. Polecats are reported to be spreading but are rarely seen in this area. Muntjac and Fallow Deer are regularly seen around the villages and more recently a dog fox locally named “Ginger” has been regularly seen in the Sluice Wood area and the gardens in Bourn Bridge Road.

## ***II. The 2018 Programme***

Our 2018 programme started with our local Birdwatch in conjunction with the RSPB Garden Birdwatch and then in February with an excellent visit to the Ouse Washes where we saw large numbers of Whooper Swans in the nearby fields and a large array of wildfowl on the washes. In April we held our review of the winter and presented the proposed spring and summer programme which began with River sampling in May and this was repeated in July and August. The sampling again shows how clean the river is in our area and how much aquatic life there is in it. The only negative being the presence of American Signal Crayfish in parts of the river.

In early June we had a visit mainly to see the Helleborines in Beech Wood, which is also an interesting area for birds. This was followed in July by a visit to RSPB Lakenheath where 35 species were recorded with the highlight being sightings of Bitterns.

The hot dry weather in July and August put paid to planned visits to Fleam Dyke, the Old Railway line and Abington Park Farm but we did manage to fit in a visit to the Roman Road where a good display of butterfly species were on show.

In September, RiverCare celebrated World Rivers Day in conjunction with Abington Woods with a display of what we find in our river, the highlight for children being the large Signal Crayfish kindly supplied to us by Roy.

Our programme finished in November with our annual Review of the Visits held and the Reports of wildlife seen over the spring, summer and autumn. This again showed the wide range of wildlife we have in our area and how important it is to record it.

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

The access to Granta Park was improved during the year in that residents from the Abingtons could gain access up to the lake area by signing in through security at the main entrance. Additional access to the area alongside the river and sluice was also allowed to key members of Naturewatch. This has allowed improved monitoring of the area, but we are grateful to certain park staff for more regular reports. In addition, Naturewatch was invited to some of the activities run by the Park during the year and you will find more detailed accounts of these in the Granta Park report.

I must thank Granta Park for their support of Naturewatch through the award of a small grant. This goes towards the printing of the Record, the hire of the Institute for meetings and the cost of speakers.

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

The Record is now in its fifteenth year and grows a little each year. Thanks must go to everyone who send in regular reports and photos, and to the project team members for summarising them and organising the visits we have during the year. Special thanks must go to Peter Brunning for assembling the various reports and photographs for the Record and, together with Andy Merryweather, for keeping the Blog updated. For information about access to the 'blog' and our Project Team members, see details at the back of the Record.

We will have to see what 2019 has in store for us but in the meantime please keep the sightings, photos and reports coming in as they are essential for monitoring our local environment.

David Farrant

## 2. RIVERCARE

### I. Overview

*Abington RiverCare* has two main interests: looking after the stretch of the River Granta next to the playing fields in the village 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 Monday in the month except for bank holidays, when it is the next working day, we walk through the playing 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 occasionally remove a small amount of **Himalayan Balsam** from the bank near the cricket field but there is now less than before. We notify landowners or the *Environment Agency* of any issues that need further attention, such as the clearance of larger items of debris, and had to remove some debris from the river after the storm in July 2018. The national *RiverCare* organisation provides equipment, insurance, safety guidelines and other advice.

### II. News

#### i. Recreation Ground Trees

The Abington Recreation Ground Committee commissioned a survey of the trees on the ground, which was conducted at the end of 2017. During 2018, a few trees were felled, and others reduced for safety reasons. At the end of July, a storm felled two more and caused some other damage, notably debris in the river. Trees lost will be replaced during 2019.

#### ii. Contacts

There have been changes in our contacts in various places:

- RiverCare: Lottie Williams has moved on but Andrew Walters is still there and has been joined by Lynsey Stafford to cover our area. She lives in Cambridge, which is helpful.
- South Cambs District Council: We have had little contact on river matters since Ecology Officer Rob Mungovan moved to the Wild Trout Trust.

### III. River Sampling 2018

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

We now sample at the Ford (Grid ref: TL534489), just upstream of the road bridge.

We have finally managed to get our site on the database so can log our findings directly. In fact, we have entered the last 3 years data on <http://www.riverflies.org/riverflies-gis-home>.

We use a sampling method based on 3 minutes (1 minute, for each of 3 locations) 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 river 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. 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 18:00**

<b>Weather</b>	Clear sunny evening ca. 18C		<b>Abundance</b>
<b>Recorded</b>	Anne Dunbar Nobes, Peter Brunning	Robin, Sally, Ross	
<b>Samples</b>	3 kick samples:	Stoney, Weed edge, Thick weed & muddy	
<b>Caddisflies</b>	Cased	0	
	Caseless	1	A
<b>Up-wing flies</b>	Mayfly (Ephemeraidae)	4	A
	Blue-winged Olive (Ephemerellidae)	0	
	Flat-bodied (Heptageniidae)	0	
	Olives (Baetidae)	100	C
<b>Stoneflies</b>	Stoneflies	0	
<b>Shrimp</b>	Gammarus	20	B
<b>Other</b>	Leeches	15+	very small
	Pea shell bivalve	1	
	Conical Shell	1	small
<b>Notes</b>	Winged mayflies were seen rising downstream – there seemed to be lots of them dancing above the water in the evening sunlight.		
<b>Photos:</b>	<a href="https://www.flickr.com/gp/peterjeb/bp47r8">https://www.flickr.com/gp/peterjeb/bp47r8</a>		

**ii. 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 16:30**

<b>Weather</b>	Clear sunny evening ca. 18C	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Overall</b>
<b>Recorded</b>	Anne Dunbar Nobes, Peter Brunning	Robin, Sally, Ross			
<b>Samples</b>	3 kick samples:	Weed	Gravel	Muddy weed	Abundance
<b>Caddisflies</b>	Cased	0	0	0	
	Caseless	0	0	1	A
<b>Up-wing flies</b>	Mayfly (Ephemeraidae)	2	1	0	A
	Blue-winged Olive (Ephemerellidae)	0			
	Flat-bodied (Heptageniidae)	0			
	Olives (Baetidae)	0	50+	50+	C
<b>Stoneflies</b>	Stoneflies	0			
<b>Shrimp</b>	Gammarus	10+	10+	30+	B
<b>Other</b>	Leeches	0	0	0	
	Pea shell bivalve	1	0	0	A
	Conical Shell	0	0	0	
	Signal Crayfish (all very small, 1 cm)	1	5	0	A
	Tiny midge (culicoides?) larvae	100+			C



9: Signal Crayfish, Ford – 18 Aug (PJB)



10: Shrimp (Gammarus), Ford – 15 May (PJB)



**21<sup>st</sup> August 2018 at 18:00****Weather** Clear sunny evening ca. 20C

<b>Recorded</b>	Anne Dunbar Nobes, Peter Brunning	Robin, Derek, Sally, Ross, David			
<b>Samples</b>	3 kick samples:	1 sand, gravel	2 weed	3 weed, gravel	Overall Abundance
<b>Caddisflies</b>	Cased	1			A
	Caseless	2	1		A
<b>Up-wing flies</b>	Mayfly (Ephemeridae)	2		3	A
	Blue-winged Olive (Ephemerellidae)				
	Flat-bodied (Heptageniidae)				
	Olives (Baetidae)	100+	20	30	C
<b>Stoneflies</b>	Stoneflies				
<b>Shrimp</b>	Gammarus	15	10	10	B
<b>Other</b>	Leeches				
	Hairworms				
	Pea shell bivalve	20	4	5	B
	Conical Shell				
	Signal Crayfish (all small, 2-3 cm)	2	8	6	B
	Tiny midge (culicoides?) larvae				
	Blackfly larvae			2	A
<b>Photos:</b>	<a href="https://www.flickr.com/gp/peterjeb/w850j5">https://www.flickr.com/gp/peterjeb/w850j5</a>				

**IV. RiverCare & BeachCare Conferences****i. RiverCare & BeachCare Annual Conference – Cambridge – 21<sup>st</sup> April**

We did not manage to attend this year.

**V. Other RiverCare Events****i. RiverCare visits to Abington**

Lydney has made a couple of visits, joining us for our regular litter-pick on one occasion.

**ii. World Rivers Day – 30<sup>th</sup> September**

Abington Woods (the former scout campsite) hosted an informal open day for people to access their woodland site, including the river from the north side opposite the Rec Ground.

Naturewatch and RiverCare helped and had a stand showing something of our activities, as well as a quiz about trees.

**iii. Crayfish Survey – 18<sup>th</sup> October**

Peter met Ruth Hawksley and John Findlay to check that our crayfish are Signal Crayfish (non-native).



11: River sampling – 30 Sept (Abington Woods)

all

**iv. Riverfly refresher – 20<sup>th</sup> October**

Peter went to a refresher course at Babraham Institute on Saturday morning, 20<sup>th</sup> October.

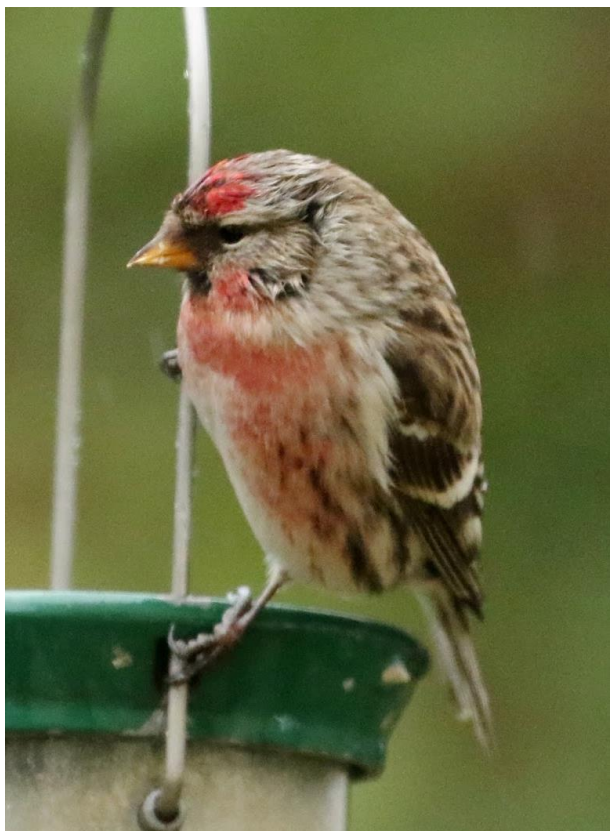
**v. Riverfly training course – 10<sup>th</sup> November**

Robin attended a Riverfly training course at Hildersham Village Hall on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> November. There was also a trainee from Hildersham attending.

**vi. First Aid Course – 24<sup>th</sup> Novmber**

Peter attended a course, tuned for RiverCare activities, on 24<sup>th</sup> November at Grafham Water.

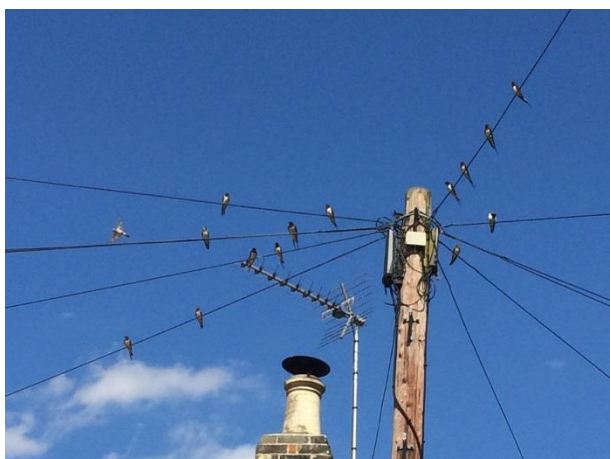
Peter Brunning



12: Mealy Redpoll, Lewis Cresc. – 23 Jan (AM)



13: Golden Plovers, Roman Road – 16 Dec (AM)



14: Swallows, Church Lane – 2 Aug (JAH)



15: Green Woodpecker, High St – 20 Nov (JAH)



16: Jay, Bourn Bridge Rd – 25 Nov (EL)



17: Goldfinch, Bourn Bridge Rd – 27 Dec (EL)

### **3. BIRDS**

#### ***I. Members' Reports***

This annual review could not be written without the reports sent in by many people in our villages. Many thanks to all contributors. All reports are recorded in detail and highlights follow here. Because of the separate 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. Continued lack of easy access for residents to Granta Park restricts the number of such reports.

#### **January 2018**

Several reports of Nuthatches and some of Blackcaps, Siskins and Lesser Redpolls. More unusually a Common or Mealy Redpoll. Fieldfares, Bullfinch, Redwings, Lapwings, Buzzards and a Red Kite all seen. Tawny Owls heard. Towards the end of the month Barnacle Geese back at Granta Park.

26-29/1/18 RSPB Garden Birdwatch: 11 reports and 26 species – see separate list.

#### **February 2018**

Further sightings of Redwings, Fieldfares, Nuthatches, Barnacle Geese and Buzzards. Flocks of Goldfinches, Starlings, Lapwings, and Long-tailed Tits all seen. Green Woodpecker, Stock Dove, Little Egret, Sparrowhawk and Siskins reported as well as Tawny Owls and a Barn Owl. Great Crested Grebe, Canada and Barnacle Geese on Granta Park lake.

#### **March 2018**

First half of month Barn Owl, Snipe, Woodcock, Yellowhammer, Goldcrest, Reed Bunting, Siskins, Green Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Bullfinch and Skylarks all reported. Fieldfare and Redwing still being seen. Chiffchaffs reported from 19/3. Several Red Kite and Little Egret reports.

#### **April 2018**

1/4: Pair of Great Crested Grebes on lake. First Swallows on 5/4 on South Road. Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps and Wrens singing; fewer Lesser Redpolls and Siskins being seen. 22/4: House Martins seen - Cambridge Road. Common Whitethroat and Corn Bunting – Railway Cutting. Yellowhammers and a Kingfisher reported. Willow Warbler, Treecreeper and Mistle Thrush heard on early morning Wildlife Trust visit to Granta Park.

#### **May 2018**

Pair of House Martins at nest on shop on 5/5. On evening of 7/5, 3 Swifts over Little Abington Church and more reports in both villages thereafter with numbers up to 12 by end of month. Buzzard and Red Kites seen several times. Female Mallard and 6 ducklings on river on 18/5. Survey 25-28/5: just 5 reports but total of 47 species. Fledged birds in gardens.

#### **June 2018**

Many reports of young birds being fed. Blackcaps, Skylarks and Lesser Whitethroats seen on Roman Road. Moorhens on river with at least one young. Little Owl near path to Hairdressers.

#### **July 2018**

Continued sightings of Swifts up to 20 in number. Little Owls calling at night in South Road area. Barn Owl seen at dusk in Lewis Crescent. Red Kites, Buzzards and Kestrels seen.



Spotted Flycatchers nested successfully in South Road. Nuthatch being seen regularly in Little Abington. Swift seen on 27/7.

### August 2018

Several reports of Grey Wagtails mostly on river. Young Willow Warbler in South Road. Flocks of House Martins and Swallows seen. Green Woodpecker, Pied Wagtail, Red Kite, Buzzard and Sparrowhawk reports, Kingfisher seen on river, including one report via Village Facebook site. On 30/8 Spotted Flycatcher seen for a while in Lewis Crescent, probably passing through. Swallows still being seen in last week of month. House Martins active in centre of village.

### September 2018

2-3/9: large numbers of House Martins observed. 50+ Canada Geese on lake. Kingfisher on Little Abington pond for first time in recent years. Goldcrest visiting garden on South Road regularly. Jays in gardens.

### October 2018

Mandarin on lake. Large Starling murmuration in Granta Park on 2/12 not over until 1620. Mixed flock of Redwings and Fieldfares on Bourn Bridge Road fields. Great Spotted Woodpeckers visiting feeders. Bullfinches in Cambridge Road garden. Yellowhammers and Golden Plovers seen on Roman Road. More Grey Wagtail, Grey Heron and Little Egret sightings on river and a Nuthatch at the end of the month in Bourn Bridge Road. Finally, Blue Tits investigating a nestbox in Lewis Crescent on 30/12 (see 12.I).



18: Heron, Linton Rd – 10 Oct (CH)



19: Goldcrest, Church Lane – 25 Nov (PJB)

### November 2018

More reports of winter thrushes. Grey Heron regularly visiting Cambridge Road garden pond. Several reports of Song Thrush singing. Black-headed Gulls seen flying over at dawn and dusk. Starling murmurations at Granta Park. Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers noted as well as Little Egret and Grey Wagtail.

### December 2018

Mandarin on lake. Large Starling murmuration in Granta Park on 2/12 not over until 1620. Mixed flock of Redwings and Fieldfares on Bourn Bridge Road fields. Great Spotted Woodpeckers visiting feeders. Bullfinches in Cambridge Road garden. Yellowhammers and Golden Plovers seen on Roman Road. More Grey Wagtail, Grey Heron and Little Egret sightings on river and a Nuthatch at the end of the month in Bourn Bridge Road. Finally, Blue Tits investigating a nestbox in Lewis Crescent on 30/12 (see 12.I).

## ***II. RSPB Garden Birdwatch – seen in Abington – January 2018***

11 reports were received, including one from Class 1 at Great Abington Primary School. In total, 26 species were seen, with varying numbers of reports for each species.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of reports</b>
Blackbird	11
Blue Tit	10
Bullfinch	1
Carrion Crow	3
Chaffinch	6
Coal Tit	6
Collared Dove	10
Dunnock	5
Goldfinch	4
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1
Great Tit	7
Greenfinch	2
House Sparrow	3
Jackdaw	7
Jay	3
Lesser Redpoll	1
Long-tailed Tit	5
Magpie	4
Mealy or Common Redpoll	1
Nuthatch	1
Robin	10
Siskin	2
Starling	4
Stock Dove	1
Woodpigeon	10
Wren	2



20: Blackbird singing, Lewis Cresc – 5 May (AM)



21: Young Blue Tit, Lewis Cresc – 9 Jun (AM)



### ***III. Abington Bird Survey – Bank Holiday Weekend (25 to 28 May)***

Five reports were received this year.

The number of species (47) shows the variety of birds in our area at this time of the year.

As well as gardens, places visited included the Old Railway Cutting, the area to the south up towards Abington Park Farm, and Granta Park.

Blackbird	Kestrel
Blackcap	Long-tailed Tit
Blue Tit	Magpie
Buzzard	Mallard
Canada Goose	Mistle Thrush
Carrion Crow	Moorhen
Chaffinch	Nuthatch
Chiffchaff	Pheasant
Coal Tit	Pied Wagtail
Coot	Red Kite
Corn Bunting	Red-legged Partridge
Collared Dove	Robin
Cormorant	Rook
Dunnock	Skylark
Goldfinch	Song Thrush
Great Crested Grebe	Starling
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Stock Dove
Great Tit	Swallow
Greenfinch	Swift
Green Woodpecker	Whitethroat
House Martin	Woodpigeon
House Sparrow	Wren
Jackdaw	Yellowhammer
Jay	

### ***IV. Outings***

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

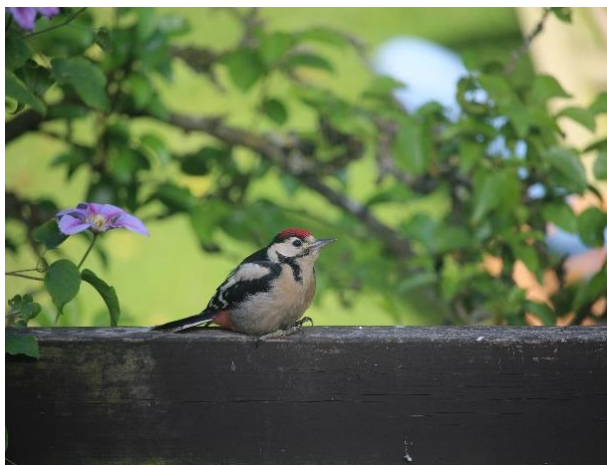
Derek Turnidge



22: Kestrel, Granta Park – 16 Dec (AM)



23: Yellowhammer singing from oak – 11 Jun (ADN)



24: Young Great Spotted Woodpecker – 14 Jun (ADN)



25: Gt Spotted Woodpecker feeds young – 14 Jun (ADN)



26: Long-tailed tits, Lewis Cresc – 17 Mar (AM)



27: Little Egret, Granta Park – Mar (AM)



28: Pheasant, Church Lane – 29 Mar (PJB)



29: Chiffchaff, Old Railway – 22 Apr (AM)



30: Dunnock, Old Railway – 22 Apr (AM)



31: Common Whitethroat, Old Railway – 22 Apr (AM)





32: Spawning Frogs+Toads, 40 South Rd – 5 April (ADN)



33: Frog in pond, 41 South Rd – 7 May (ADN)



## 4. REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

### I. Summary

The highlight of the amphibian year was the observation of a population of tadpoles discovered in a field ditch beside the path between Abington Park Farm and Hildersham Wood in late May. This is the first time that tadpoles have been reported outside of garden ponds in the Abingtons and reflects the high spring rainfall which left the fields sodden for weeks. *Their back legs are just visible in the photo.*



34: Tadpoles, Abington Pk Farm ditch – 31 May (ADN)

Newts appeared to be present in usual numbers in garden ponds. However, the lengthy period of hot weather through June, July and August did not bring the expected reports of Grass Snakes or Common Lizards. Only two Grass Snakes were reported and no Lizards.

### II. Amphibians

#### i. Frogs

**11 March** – one adult frog seen squashed on Chalky Road.

**5 April** – frog spawn and adult frogs in pond at 40 South Rd.

**14 April** – frog seen and heard calling in pond at 41 South Rd.

**24 April** – thousands of tadpoles in pond at 40 South Rd.

**Early to mid-May** – adult frogs seen leaving the pond at 41 South Rd and many smaller ones found in long grass surrounding the pond.

**Late May to mid-June** – large, well-developed tadpoles observed in ditch beside path between Abington Park Farm and Hildersham Wood. The ditch here was well-supplied with water from the fields all through spring and it is the first time we have observed tadpoles in the ‘wild’ rather than in garden ponds. On 10 June, with the ditch in danger of drying out, the tadpoles had front and back legs and a mottled brown appearance but still with prominent tails. By 11 June they had disappeared, perhaps seeking deeper water in inaccessible parts of the ditch (obscured by wetland vegetation), or perhaps now able to function adequately in the moist mud. Hot dry weather set in after this, so it is hoped that they survived and will come back to spawn next year.

**July/August** – small frogs seen in and around pond at 41 South Road.

**September** – large adult frogs seen among damp leaves in flower beds at 41 South Road.



35: Frog leaving pond, 41 South Road – 20 May (ADN)

## **ii. Toads**

**4 April** – 3 adults seen in pond, 41 South Rd

**5 April** – toad spawn in ponds at 40 + 41 South Rd. About 20 toads in pond at 40 South Rd. They had all disappeared a week later.

**25 April** – toad tadpoles in pond at 41 South Rd.

## **iii. Newts**

**4 April** – 2 Smooth Newts seen in pond, 41 South Rd

**5 April** – 4 Smooth Newts seen in pond at 40 South Rd.

**15 April** -- 2 Smooth Newts seen in pond, 23 Cambridge Rd

**24 April** – 6 Smooth Newts in pond at 41 South Rd.

**Early May** – lots of newt activity in pond at 41 South Rd.

## **III. Reptiles**

### **i. Grass Snakes**

**20 May** – one specimen in pond at 23 Cambridge Rd, thin but c.45 cm long.

**2 August** – small grass snake in garden at 23 Cambridge Rd, not near pond.

### **ii. Common Lizards**

No reports

Anne Dunbar-Nobes



## 5. MAMMALS

Hedgehogs have been reported in their usual numbers this year, so hopefully the general decline has been halted in our locality. There has been an increase in the sightings of Bats, Foxes and Muntjac, and evidence of Otters and Badgers has again been seen, though there have been fewer signs of otters on GP this year compared to last.

As expected, Muntjac are making the most of being undisturbed in the wooded areas of Granta Park, increasing their numbers, and are seen in village gardens more frequently.

The same is occurring with Foxes, with sightings around Sluice Wood and Little Abington area, which could point to a Fox family now living fairly permanently in the woods.

### *I. Summary report of mammal sightings:*

Species	Location	Date	No.	Comments
Muntjac	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	14.01.18	1	
Muntjac	Abington Woods	16.01.18	1	
Bat	Lt Abington church	11.02.18	1	In the afternoon
Badger activity	Granta park	05.02.18		No siting but signs of activity
Woodmouse	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	08.03.18	1	On birdfeeder
Otter spraint	Sluice wood-restricted area	12.03.18		On otter marking slabs
Hare	Abington Park Farm	15.03.18	1	In open field
Fallow deer	Abington Park Farm hill	Jan-Mar	Many	Groups of 4-8, even up to 60
Badger dig	Lagdon Grove	25.03.18		On path in wood
Badger	Newmarket Rd	26.03.18	1	Dead in road
Muntjac	High St	27.03.18	1	
Field vole	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	30.03.18	1	
Hare	Granta Park nr Sluice Wood	01.04.18	1	
Bats	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	10.04.18	Several	
Hedgehog signs	Meadow Walk	15.04.18		
Hedgehog	High St garden	19.04.18	1	
Muntjac	Church lane garden	04.05.18	2	
Muntjac	BB Rd	04.05.18	1	
Bat	In garden	05.05.18	1	
Fallow deer	Sluice wood	06.05.18	1	
Muntjac	BB Rd	12.05.18	1	
Hedgehog/Bats	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	13.05.18		
Fox	Coach Rd	21.05.18	1	Mid afternoon
Hedgehog	High St garden	06.06.18	1	
Field vole	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	06.06.18	1	
Hedgehog/bats	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	06.06.18		
Muntjac	Church lane	09.06.18	1	
Hedgehog	High St garden	10.06.18	1	
Hedgehog	High St garden	14.06.18	1	
Muntjac, Hedgehog	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	28.06.18		
Bats	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	28.06.18		
Field voles	Garden LS	04.07.18	4	
Fox	Sluice Wood	25.07.18	1	
Bats	Abington Woods	01.08.18	Several	
Muntjac	BB Rd	01.08.18	1	
Hedgehog	High St garden	11.09.18	1	regularly through Sept.
Muntjac	Sluice wood	12.09.18	1	regularly seen in wood

Bats	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	16.09.18	Several	
Badger	Garden High St LA	23.09.18	1	evidence of dig for worms
Fallow deer	Old railway line	30.09.18	1	Female
Fox	Sluice wood	01.10.18	1	
Muntjac	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	07.10.18	3	
Bat	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	08.10.18	1	
Fox	Garden BBR	08.10.18	1	Large dog fox, striped tail
Fox	Garden BBR	10.10.18	1	
Fox	Garden BBR	28.10.18	1	
Badger	LSA garden	28.10.18	1	
Fallow deer	Linton Rd. GA	18.10.18	1	Hit by car, dead at roadside
Fox	Garden BBR	02.11.18	1	
Muntjac	Garden Church Lane	02.11.18	3	2 adults, 1 fawn
Bats	Back garden, Cambridge Rd	05.11.18	Several	
Fox	Church Lane	05.11.18	1	
Fallow deer	Nr Hildersham woods	11.11.18	10	
Hare	Granta Park	13.11.18	1	
Fox	Nr Lt. Abington church	13.11.18	1	Between church & river
Muntjac	Nr Gt Abington Church	23.11.18	1	Between church & river
Dog fox	Corner of Perse Field	24.12.18	1	



36: Fallow Deer, nr Chalky Rd – 18 Nov (AM)



37: Hedgehog, High St – 20 Apr (JAH)



38: Muntjac drinks at garden fountain – 10 Jun (ADN)



39: Hares in wheat field, Abington Pk Fm – 22 Apr (AM)





40: Hares, Abington Park Fm – 3 Mar (AM)



41: Badger tracks, Abington Park Fm – 3 Mar (AM)



42: Fox Tracks, Abington Park Fm – 3 Mar (AM)



43: Grey Squirrel, Bourn Bridge Rd – 28 Dec (EL)



44: Pipistrelle (?) bat over Lewis Cresc. – 5 May (AM)



45: Fox, Bourn Bridge Rd – 1 Jan 2019 (EL)



46: Hedgehog, Bourn Bridge Rd – 4 Sep (EL)





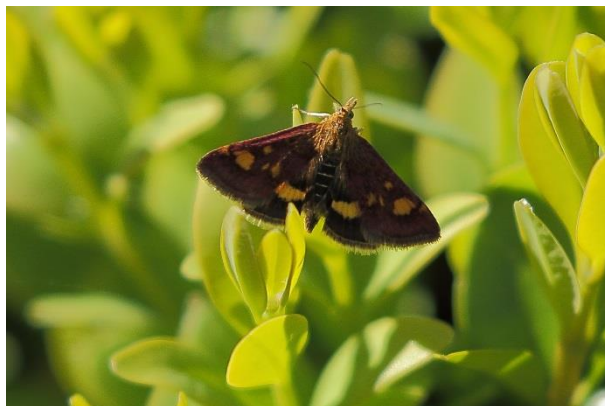
47: Small White, Lewis Cresc – 5 May (AM)



48: Green-veined white, Lewis Cresc. – 5 May (AM)



49: Holly Blue, Lewis Cresc. – 5 May (AM)



50: Mint moth, Lewis Cresc. – 5 May (AM)



51: Large Skipper, Lewis Cresc. – 5 May (AM)



52: White Letter Hairstreak – 12 July (JW)



53: Southern Hawker, Church La – 3 July (LAM)



54: Buff-tailed Bumblebee, High Street – 17 Jun (JAH)

## 6. INSECTS

This report covers mainly butterflies, bees, dragonflies and damselflies. 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 – a cold wet spring and early summer followed by very hot weather.

### *I. Insect reports and reporters*

This year I received a total of almost 841 individual species reports, less than the number received in each of the last three years.

There are four regular reporters (includes couples) and fewer occasional reporters.

### *II. Butterflies*

This year we saw 26 of the 34 county resident species, more than we usually see. Nine of these were more unusual for Abington with 5 or fewer sightings. These are shown in **red** in the table on the next page.

Small White butterflies topped the ranking this year in the reports, pushing Brimstones into second place; these were seen in more months, from February until November. They say that Brimstones can be seen every month of the year!

Large Whites were next, and fourthly Meadow Browns. The Red Admiral had a more difficult year but was seen in every month except March and December. There were increasing numbers of Speckled Woods, Small Tortoiseshells, Orange Tips and Commas which is encouraging. Ringlets and Gatekeepers were down in number again.

Overall the white butterflies, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, Orange Tip and Brimstone, had a very good year and seemed to cope with the very hot weather better than the others. These five butterflies account for 50% of all reports.

First butterfly seen outside: Red Admiral on 7 January 2018

Last butterfly seen: Brimstone on 30 November 2018

2018	Butterflies - by number of reports (top 12)	Last year's ranking 2017
1	Small White	4
2	Brimstone	1
3	Large White	2
4	Meadow Brown	7
5	Speckled Wood	not in top 12
6	Orange Tip	8
7	Small Tortoiseshell	6
8	Comma	5
9	Red Admiral	3
10	Ringlet	11
11	Gatekeeper	12
12	Holly Blue	10

*The table overleaf shows the butterflies seen in Abington in 2018 by month (26 species)*



<b><u>Butterfly reports</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>												
<b><u>26 species</u></b>	<b><u>No of</u></b>	<b><u>Rank</u></b>											
	<b><u>Reports</u></b>												
			<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>
Brimstone	121	2		1	8	43	25	15	17	3	4	2	3
Comma	37	8			1	2	2	4	11	11	5	1	
Common Blue	14							1	4	8	1		
Gatekeeper	30	11							24	6			
Green veined white	22					2	4	3	12	1			
Holly blue	28	12				5	17	1	2	3			
Large white	110	3				2	17	23	44	16	8		
Meadow brown	70	4					1	34	25	10			
Orange tip	44	6				12	30	2					
Peacock	23		1	1	1	10	1	1	4	1	1	1	1
Red Admiral	34	9	1	1		1	3	2	7	8	5	2	4
Ringlet	31	10						12	19				
Small heath	6							1	2	2	1		
Small skipper	7							1	6				
Small tortoiseshell	44	6	1		1	10	3	13	12	3	1		
Small white	142	1				14	30	13	45	25	14	1	
Speckled wood	57	5					5	20	12	15	5		
Marbled white	5							3	1		1		
Large skipper	4							1	3				
Painted lady	4							2	1	1			
White letter hairstreak	2								1	1			
Essex skipper	2								1	1			
Dark green fritillary	1								1				
Pearl bordered	1					1							
Silver washed fritillary	1								1				
Small copper	1										1		
<b>Total reports</b>	<b>841</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>

**Note that the numbers in the table are not the numbers of butterflies seen but just a report of that species being seen, however many.**

### ***III. National Big Butterfly Count 20 July to 12 August***

Our reports on the whole reflect the national reports with the ‘whites’ being at the top and Red Admirals and Commas being down on the previous year.

Effects of long hot spell of weather:

- Experts have looked back at 1976 (very hot dry summer) and 1977.
- Numbers of most butterflies were well down in 1977 probably due to lack of food plants for the caterpillars in the hot weather in 1976.

### ***IV. Other reports 2018***

#### **i. Bees**

Bee numbers were well down on previous years. Bumble bees were reported from April onwards but in much smaller numbers than in previous years; this reflects the national situation. 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. Fewer reports of honey bees this year.

## ii. Damselflies and Dragonflies

Fewer reports of Damselflies this year but some Azure, Common Blue and Large Red were seen. There were a few reports of Banded Demoiselles in June and July at their usual haunt on the river by the Millennium footbridge but not as many as in previous years. Reports of Dragonflies were mainly Southern Hawkers and Broad-bodied Chasers.

Other reports 2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
<b>Bees</b>											
Bumblebees				y	y	y	y	y			
Honey bees				y		y					
Bee Flies				y	y						
Mining Bees				y							
<b>Damselflies</b>											
Large Red					y	y		y			
Common Blue					y	y	y				
Azure						y					
Banded Demoiselle						y	y	y			
<b>Dragonflies</b>											
Broad-bodied Chaser				y	y						
Southern Hawker						y		y	y		
Common Darter								y			



55: Hoverfly, Lewis Cresc – 5 May (AM)



56: Broadbodied Chaser D'fly, Camb. Rd – 18 May (DLT)

## iii. Ladybirds

Few reports of any ladybirds until autumn, when they were mainly of our native 7 spot ladybirds. Very few reports of harlequins.

## iv. Other

Several reports of Bee-flies in April and May – more people are recognising them now. There were a few reports of Hummingbird hawkmoths in June, to August.

## V. Outings

We planned two outings to see butterflies. One, on July 14, was to the Roman Road, Little Abington section. This was attended by a dozen members, in spite of the hot weather, and we recorded a lot of butterflies and flowers. An outing to Fleam Dyke on 27 July was cancelled due to the extreme heat, with no shelter from the sun. We shall try to repeat this latter outing every summer; it is not far and is always very rewarding.

Jennifer Hirsh





57: Snowdrops, GP – late Jan (AM)



58: White Violet, Old Railway – 23 Mar (AM)



59: Celandine, Bourn Bridge Rd field – 25 Mar (JAH)



60: Violets, Bourn Bridge Rd field – 25 Mar (JAH)



61: Periwinkle & Beefly – 7 Apr (AM)



62: Old Man's Beard – 11 Nov (AM)



63: Pine flowers – 11 Nov (AM)



64: Teasel – 11 Nov (AM)



## 7. FLORA

In January Anne Dunbar-Nobes reported Coltsfoot up towards the farm at the top of Chalky Road. I also saw this about a week later.



65: Coltsfoot, path W of Abington Pk Fm – 29 Mar (ADN)



66: Coltsfoot, path W of Abington Pk Fm – 3 Apr (ADN)

In the early spring we did not visit Granta Park and so missed the early spring flowers. In late spring Cowslips were amazing and were good for a long time, there were lots on the meadow leading down to the cricket pitch at Granta Park and they were also good on the Cambridge Road near the bungalow at the top of the High Street. There lots of dense patches on the Roman Road.

In the summer I had hoped to see many orchids in Granta Park but found none. The new contractors cutting the grass round the lake had been keeping it very short, so I imagine had mown them out. Small daisies and a few dandelion leaves were all I could see.

The railway cutting off Chalky Road had quite a good show of flowers when I visited in spring and early summer. There were plenty of Bugle, Speedwell, Daisies and Buttercups in spring, some persisting into summer and Rough Hawkbit, Wild Pansy and Weld. In the summer there was plenty of Restharrow too.

In July 11 of us went to the Roman Road (see 9.II.ii) hoping to see flowers and butterflies. It was an extremely hot day and so we finished the visit a little early but managed to see 49 species in bud, in flower or as seed-heads. A later visit to Fleam Dyke was cancelled because of the very hot weather.

Bourn Bridge Road verges were poor for most of the year. Grasses grew very strongly, and Nettles spread but few of the good plants showed. Some Dead Nettles managed to flower and, briefly, Cow Parsley. There were a few Buttercups, Mallow leaves and Dandelions on the edge where vehicles had disturbed the soil. There was a small patch of Chicory on the left side near the top of the Old Coach Road and a few Knapweed plants too as well as some good Toadflax on the left-hand side, in late summer in a few places.

Pampisford Road, especially where the grass has been cut regularly near the entrance to Granta Park had a variety of flowers for quite a time until well into the drought including many Wild Carrot, Daisy, Dandelion, Hawkweeds and Thistles.

The footpath from Pampisford Road to the High Street was good during the autumn with lovely Dark Mulleins and one or two Great Mulleins showing well in September and October.

Sally Turnidge





67: Yew – 11 Nov (AM)



68: Hawthorn – 11 Nov (AM)



69: Spindle – 11 Nov (AM)



70: Hazel Catkins – 11 Nov (AM)



71: Holly – 11 Nov (AM)



72: Sloe – 11 Nov (AM)



73: Rosehip – 11 Nov (AM)



74: Dogwood – 11 Nov (AM)



## **8. GRANTA PARK – WILDLIFE SUMMARY**

### ***I. Introduction***

2018 has seen even more changes on Granta Park. It was one of the hottest summers we have seen for years, bringing out even more wildlife and insects on the park. The living wall on the car park has been a great success and is still flourishing beautifully. We were able to carry out our annual Bat Safari again this year, much to the delight of staff on the Park, although this year the weather wasn't on our side and it was a rather wet and windy Bat Safari.

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.

### ***II. General Wildlife (contributed by Darren Bast, MedImmune)***

The central cricket pitch and adjoining wild flower meadow still hold plenty of habitat and are abundant with flora and fauna. I have placed five new refugia tiles around the lake meadow in the hope of attracting some herpetofauna.

Over the course of the year I recorded seventeen species of dragonfly and twenty-five different species of butterfly, including Dark Green Fritillary and White Letter hairstreaks.

Camera traps in the wooded area produced lots of mammal activity including fox, muntjac, polecat and otters on the river Granta. A recording of an otter can be viewed by visiting the following link <https://youtu.be/GLGe-3hm2js>

I have also begun to contribute a monthly wildlife section to the Granta Park newsletter. In this I report what I have seen over the previous month. For example, in December I reported that starling murmuration numbers swelled to over 500. This is a great platform for highlighting what wildlife other staff at the Park may be able to get out and see. The addition of this section to the newsletter has proved to be very popular.

### ***III. Wildlife related events held on Granta Park during 2018***

#### ***i. 26 April***

At the end of April, 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. During the walk Iain helped us identify the beautiful calls we heard walking through the woods and alongside the River Granta. Iain advised that this year was the best year he had seen for birds on the Park.

Species seen or heard: Blackbird, Blackcap, Blue Tit, Carrion Crow, Chaffinch, Chiffchaff, Coal Tit, Cormorant, Dunnock, Goldfinch, Great Crested Grebe, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Green Woodpecker, Greenfinch, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, Jackdaw, Linnet, Long-tailed Tit, Mallard, Mistle Thrush, Moorhen, Pied Wagtail, Reed Bunting, Robin, Rook, Song Thrush, Starling, Treecreeper, Willow Warbler, Woodpigeon, Wren.

#### ***ii. 24 May***

During June, Iain returned to the Park to lead our Annual Bat Safari. Daubenton's bats were spotted over the lake.

#### ***iii. 27 June***

Iain joined us again to share his excellent talk on riverside mammals. This was well-attended, and we got some great feedback.

#### ***iv. 28 September***

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

**AGARICALES**

<i>Agaricus arvensis</i>	Field Mushroom
<i>Amanita strobiliformis</i>	Warted Amanita
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus + Rhizomorphs
<i>Coprinus micaceus</i>	Glistening Ink-cap
? <i>Coprinus domesticus</i>	(Solitary on wood)
<i>Coprinus plicatilis</i>	Pleated Parasol
<i>Laccaria laccata</i> var <i>moelleri</i>	Deceiver
<i>Macrolepiota rhacodes</i>	Shaggy Parasol
<i>Mycena galericulata</i>	Common Bonnet
<i>Mycena arcangeliana</i>	Angels Bonnet
<i>Mycena olida</i>	Rancid Bonnet (Tiny)
<i>Pleurotus</i> species	(in Knot hole)
<i>Rhodotus palmatus</i>	Wrinkled Peach (on Elm)
<i>Collybia butyracea</i>	The Butter-cap
? <i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	(Old dry specimen in verge)

**BRACKETS ETC**

<i>Auricularia auricula-judae</i>	Wood Jelly Ear
<i>Auricularia mesenterica</i>	Tripe Fungus
<i>Bjerkandera adusta</i>	Grey Curtain Crust
<i>Daedaleopsis confragosa</i>	Blushing Bracket (very old)
<i>Ganoderma australe</i>	Artists Fungus
<i>Inonotus hispidus</i>	Hairy Bracket (on Ash)
<i>Lycoperdon pyriforme</i>	Stump Puff-ball
<i>Polyporus squamosus</i>	Dryads Saddle
<i>Polyporus Varius</i>	
<i>Postia stipticus</i>	Bitter Bracket
<i>Scleroderma areolatum</i>	Earth-ball
? <i>Trametes gibbosa</i>	Lumpy Bracket (immature)

**ASCOMYCETES**

<i>Daldinia concentrica</i>	King Alfred's Cakes
<i>Leptosphaeria acuta</i>	On dead Nettle stems
<i>Hypoxyton polymorpha</i>	Dead-man's Fingers
<i>Microsphaera alphitoidea</i>	Mildew on Oak leaves
<i>Rhytisma acerinum</i>	Tar-spot on Sycamore leaves

**IV. Dragonflies and Butterflies (contributed by Darren Bast, MedImmune)**

	2018	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Predicted
Large Red damsel					GP	GP	GP	GP						Y
Azure damsel					GP	GP	GP	GP						Y
Common Blue damsel					GP	GP	GP	GP		GP				Y
Four spotted chaser					GP	GP	GP	GP						Y
Broad bodied chaser					GP	GP	GP							Y
Black tailed skimmer						GP	GP	GP						Y
Emperor							GP	GP	GP					Y
Southern hawk								GP		GP				Y
Migrant Hawker									GP	GP				Y
Banded demoiselle						GP	GP	GP						Y
Brown Hawker								GP						Y
Norfolk Hawker														Y
Hairy						GP								Y
Common darter								GP	GP	GP				Y
Ruddy darter							GP	GP	GP					Y

2018	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Predicted
BRIMSTONE			GP	GP	GP		GP	GP	GP				Y
COMMA				GP	GP		GP	GP	GP				Y
PEACOCK			GP	GP	GP			GP	GP				Y
SMALL TORTOISESHELL				GP	GP		GP						Y
SMALL WHITE				GP	GP		GP	GP	GP				Y
ORANGE TIP				GP	GP								Y
LARGE WHITE				GP	GP		GP	GP					Y
WOOD WHITE													
CLOUDED YELLOW													
COMMON BLUE					GP		GP	GP					Y
GATEKEEPER							GP						Y
GREEN HAIRSTREAK					CH								
PURPLE HAIRSTREAK							GP						Y
WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK							GP						Y
BLACK LETTER HAIRSTREAK													
BROWN HAIRSTREAK													
GREEN VEINED WHITE					GP		GP						Y
HOLLY BLUE					GP			GP					Y
LARGE SKIPPER							GP						Y
MARbled WHITE						GP							Y
MEADOW BROWN							GP	GP					Y
PAINTED LADY						GP							Y
RED ADMIRAL					GP								Y
RINGLET							GP						Y
ESSEX SKIPPER													Y
CHEQUERED SKIPPER													
SILVER SPOTTED													
GRIZZLED SKIPPER													
DINGY SKIPPER													
SMALL COPPER					GP		GP	GP	GP				Y
SMALL SKIPPER						GP							Y
SPECKLED WOOD					GP		GP	GP					Y
BROWN ARGUS					GP			GP					Y
CHALKHILL BLUE													
ADONIS BLUE													
LARGE BLUE													
WALL													
SWALLOWTAIL													
SMALL HEATH					GP		GP	GP					Y
LARGE HEATH													Y
WHITE ADMIRAL													
PURPLE EMPEROR													
HIGH BROWN FRITILLARY													
DARK GREEN FRITILLARY							GP						Y
SILVER WASHED FRITILLARY							GP						Y
PEARL BORDERED FRITILLARY													
MARSH FRITILLARY													
GLANVILLE FRITILLARY													
HEATH FRITILLARY													
GRAYLING													
			2	7	16	17	25	26					28



## V. *Birds (contributed by Andy Merryweather, MedImmune)*

A total of 73 bird species were recorded on Granta Park during 2018, including six species not seen in recent years: Mandarin Duck, Shoveler, Snipe, Great Black-backed Gull, White Wagtail and Yellow Wagtail. Many thanks to all those who contributed sightings throughout the year; a total of 182 reports containing almost 1,500 individual records. Notable sightings each month are summarised below, followed by a tabulated record of all reports.

**January:** Winter visitors included up to 90 Fieldfare feeding on the cricket pitch, and 4-5 Redwing seen mostly in the Yew trees. Meadow Pipit were also seen on the cricket pitch, and up to 28 Reed Bunting roosted in the reedbeds. On the lake, up to 80 Mallard were joined by 13 Barnacle Geese and a single Canada Goose, and on the river Grey Heron and Little Egret were occasionally seen. In Sluice Woods, a Treecreeper and a Nuthatch were seen (26<sup>th</sup>), and an occasional Goldcrest, Coal Tit and Greenfinch were spotted amongst the usual mixed tit and finch flocks. Buzzard, Kestrel and Red Kite were seen occasionally.



75: Treecreeper – March (AM)

**February:** A Tawny Owl was seen flying during the day in Lagden Grove (17<sup>th</sup>), and single Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Red Kite were both reported circling overhead. Barnacle and Canada Goose continued to be seen, as well as Fieldfare (up to 94) and Redwing (up to 15). Rook were pairing up and noisily nest-building, and both Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush were heard singing, as were Great Tit. A pair of Grey Heron seen did not stay, presumably moving on after their nesting tree was badly storm-damaged. A single Great Crested Grebe arrived on the lake (19<sup>th</sup>), and a Little Egret was reported once (17<sup>th</sup>). Both Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers were seen and heard, with Stock Dove and Treecreeper being reported occasionally, as well as Black-headed Gull and Herring Gull.

**March:** A Barn Owl was seen hunting one evening (28<sup>th</sup>), and a Tawny Owl was heard calling (20<sup>th</sup>). Regular reports of up to three Buzzard, seen being mobbed by crows on one occasion. Similarly, a Sparrowhawk was spotted being mobbed by Jackdaw. Single Red Kite and Kestrel were also reported. On the lake, the regular Moorhen, Mallard (c.12) and single Great Crested Grebe, were joined by pairs of Greylag, Canada Goose and Mute Swan. A single Grey Heron was regularly reported, as was a Little Egret (16<sup>th</sup>), and several pairs of Reed Bunting. Up to 30 Black-headed Gull and a few Pied Wagtail were seen on the cricket pitch, as were around 12 Fieldfare. Redwing were last reported on 26<sup>th</sup>. A single Chiffchaff was heard near the sluice on 19<sup>th</sup>, 1-2 Nuthatch were seen on three occasions, and a Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard drumming on 7<sup>th</sup>. Single reports of Red-legged Partridge and Goldcrest, with Treecreeper, Jay and Stock Dove also being seen occasionally.



76: Nuthatch – March (AM)

**April:** Blackcap (first reported on 5<sup>th</sup>) and Chiffchaff were regularly heard, a Willow Warbler was heard (26<sup>th</sup>), and a single Swallow was first seen flying overhead on 6<sup>th</sup>. The remaining flock of nine Fieldfare was last reported on 8<sup>th</sup>. On the lake, a pair of Great Crested Grebe was

regularly seen and observed displaying early in the month, with only a single bird being reported after 16<sup>th</sup>. Mute Swan, Greylag, Canada Goose and five Cormorant were seen on the lake, with Reed Bunting spotted in the reedbed. On the river, a Kingfisher was spotted (23<sup>rd</sup>), and Grey Heron and Little Egret were also seen. Occasional reports of Coal Tit, Jay, Treecreeper, Greenfinch, Stock Dove and Kestrel, and 16 Linnet around the cricket pitch.

**May:** Unusually, a Coot was seen (22<sup>nd</sup>), joining the single Great Crested Grebe and a few Mallard on the lake. Up to five Mute Swan, four Greylag, two Canada Goose and two Cormorant were also reported, as were several Reed Bunting. Six House Martin were spotted feeding over the lake (from 9<sup>th</sup>), with single reports of a Swallow (10<sup>th</sup>) and two Swift (22<sup>nd</sup>). Blackcap continued to be heard. A flock of 24 Goldfinch were seen, as were smaller numbers of Pied Wagtail, Linnet and Stock Dove. A Red Kite was spotted overhead. A Little Owl was first reported on 5<sup>th</sup>, later confirmed to be nesting in a pipe being stored on site. Many thanks to Tracy Thomas and the TWI staff who ensured that the nest remained undisturbed for the rest of the breeding season.

**June:** A Coot was again spotted on the lake (1<sup>st</sup>), as was a male Tufted Duck (7<sup>th</sup>), with the single Great Crested Grebe last being reported on 1<sup>st</sup>. Four Canada Goose were regularly present, and both Mallard and Moorhen were seen with young. A single Reed Warbler sang from the reedbed between 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, with Blackcap and Chiffchaff being heard throughout the month. Swift (2-6) were regularly reported, as were 2-4 House Martin, with at least one active nest being spotted. Blue Tit were also reported nesting, and a family party of around 11 Coal Tit was seen (7<sup>th</sup>). A flock of 50 Starling included at least 40 juveniles, and young Jay were heard begging an adult for food. Green



77: Little Owl adult at nest – June (AM)

Woodpecker were spotted feeding on ants. Two adult Little Owl were observed catching beetles and feeding them to at least one well-developed chick at the opening of their 'pipe-nest'. The chick is believed to have successfully fledged in early July. Occasional reports of Kestrel, Buzzard, Linnet, Stock Dove and Mistle Thrush, as well as a Nuthatch (4<sup>th</sup>).

**July:** An adult female Kestrel was seen feeding a young bird adjacent to probable nest site (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>), a Green Woodpecker was spotted with young, and there was a regular flock of nine adult Canada Goose with four juveniles on the lake. Around 20-30 Mallard were also regularly seen, with reports of birds seen diving for weed, rather than dabbling. A single Swallow was spotted (2<sup>nd</sup>), and 1-2 House Martin were occasionally seen over the lake. A few Swift were also seen early in the month, with a last report of 23 over the lake on 15<sup>th</sup>. Blackcap and Chiffchaff were heard until mid-month. A flock of 170 Black-



78: Young Kestrel on nest – July (AM)



headed Gull on the cricket green was reported to include three Common Gull and three Lesser Black-backed Gull. Occasional reports of Jay, Stock Dove, Coal Tit, Pied Wagtail and Reed Bunting.

**August:** Up to 21 Canada Goose, five Barnacle Goose and two Greylag were reported on the lake. On the river, a Kingfisher was reported on 21<sup>st</sup>, and a Grey Wagtail on 30<sup>th</sup>, both near the sluice. Two Yellow Wagtail were seen and heard flying over (22<sup>nd</sup>), and a flock of 22 Pied Wagtail feeding on the cricket green was reported to contain two White Wagtail (23<sup>rd</sup>). Small numbers of House Martin were regularly seen, with a flock of c.40 likely migrants seen flying low overhead (9<sup>th</sup>). Last report of a single Swallow on 16<sup>th</sup>. Flocks of 20 Linnet and up to 50 Goldfinch were also reported.

**September:** Busy on the lake, with groups of 50-85 Canada Goose, nine Barnacle Goose and five Greylag regularly reported, and a female Mandarin Duck was spotted (28<sup>th</sup>) amongst the regular 60-70 Mallard. A male Grey Wagtail was seen feeding on leaf-rafts near the sluice, and a single Grey Heron was regularly reported. House Martin were last seen on 17<sup>th</sup>, when a flock of 40+ was reported. A Chiffchaff was seen on two occasions. Family groups of both Long-tailed Tit and Blue Tit were spotted, and Green Woodpecker were regularly reported. On the cricket pitch, 30+ Starling were seen, as were small numbers of Pied Wagtail and Herring Gull. A single Snipe flew over one evening (6<sup>th</sup>), and occasional reports of Buzzard, Kestrel, Jay, Stock Dove, Treecreeper, Sparrowhawk and Mistle Thrush were received.

**October:** Amongst the 140+ Mallard on the lake, the female Mandarin Duck was seen for two weeks, along with a male Mandarin Duck on 4<sup>th</sup>, as well as two female Shoveler (1<sup>st</sup>), and a female Tufted Duck (5<sup>th</sup>). Up to 25 Canada Goose, nine Barnacle Goose, a Mute Swan and 1-2 Cormorant were also seen regularly on the lake. A Grey Wagtail was again spotted along the river, as were a Kingfisher (8<sup>th</sup>), a Little Egret and 1-2 Grey Heron. In the woods, Great Spotted and Green Woodpecker were regularly seen, as were small mixed tit flocks, including a Coal Tit. Around 30 Pied Wagtail and a Meadow Pipit were reported feeding on the cricket pitch, and 30+ Goldfinch were seen on seedheads around the edge. Redwing (20+) were first reported on 31<sup>st</sup> feeding on Yew tree berries, and there were occasional reports of single Reed Bunting, Buzzard, Kestrel, Mistle Thrush and Herring Gull.



79: Mandarin Duck (in front) – October (AM)

**November:** Large flocks of Starling (1500-2000) were seen murmuring and roosting in the main reedbed at dusk (22<sup>nd</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>), along with a few Reed Bunting. On the lake, Mallard flocks regularly numbered 80-160, with pairs observed displaying and mating. A female Mandarin Duck, seen regularly, was again joined by a male in breeding plumage on 29<sup>th</sup>. A few Black-headed Gull were reported, along with Herring Gull and unusually a Great Black-backed Gull. Near the sluice, a Grey Wagtail was seen



80: Starling murmuration – November (AM)



twice, and 1-2 Grey Heron were regularly reported. Large mixed-tit flocks were seen, containing up to 10 Blue Tit, 20 Long-tailed Tit, six Great Tit, and an occasional Chiffchaff, Goldcrest or Treecreeper. Small flocks of Chaffinch and Goldfinch were also reported, as well as a few Greenfinch, seen especially amongst the flocks of 20-50 Redwing feeding in the Yew trees. Linnet were seen feeding on waste ground. A Lesser Redpoll was spotted overhead (2<sup>nd</sup>), and 14 Fieldfare were first reported on 26<sup>th</sup>. Both Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush were heard singing. Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Pheasant, Jay, Dunnock and up to eight Stock Dove were also occasionally seen.

**December:** Great Spotted Woodpecker were seen and heard regularly, with a pair observed displaying around a nest-site tree, followed by drumming. Fieldfare (c30) were seen flying over (19<sup>th</sup>), and 10-25 Redwing were regularly reported. Five Mistle Thrush were seen on the cricket green, as were 20 Pied Wagtail, a Meadow Pipit, and up to 50 Black-headed Gull. A Grey Wagtail was again spotted near the sluice, and Little Egret were seen twice including a pair apparently displaying. Stock Dove (6-8) were regularly seen in trees along the river. Chiffchaff, Goldcrest and Treecreeper continued to be spotted amongst the mixed-tit flocks, and Great Tit were heard singing. On the lake, 50-90 Mallard remained, including pairs seen head-bobbing and mating. Three Mute Swan and a Cormorant were reported, and the female Mandarin Duck was last seen on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Small murmurations of only 10-20 Starling were reported since, due to the sheer number of Starling roosting last month, most of the reeds in the main reedbed became bent over or broken. Up to 12 Reed Bunting roosted in the smaller reedbed. Buzzard, Kestrel, Jay, Dunnock and Linnet were occasionally seen.



81: Buzzard, Old Railway – 23 March (AM)



82: Grey Heron – December (AM)

*All photographs in this section were taken on Granta Park by Andy Merryweather.*

*The table on the next page indicates the number of occasions each bird species was reported, by month; the darkness of the blue shading representing the relative number of reported sightings. The pale red shading in the first column indicates species seen in 2018, but not reported in recent years. Contributors: Darren Bast, Peter Brunning, David Farrant, MedImmune, Andy Merryweather, Gareth Rees, Jez Smith, Derek Turnidge.*

<b>2018 Total: 73 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>
Barn Owl			1										1
Barnacle Goose	2	1						2	7	7			19
Blackbird	4	4	7	3	1	5	1		2		12	8	47
Blackcap				5	1	3	1						10
Black-headed Gull	1	1	2				2				7	6	19
Blue Tit	4	4	9	4	1	2		1	5	4	13	8	55
Buzzard	3	1	4	3		2			1	4	3	2	23
Canada Goose	2	3	1	1	3	5	6	2	8	5			36
Carrion Crow	4	3	7	6	2	3	1	1	6	7	14	8	62
Chaffinch	4	3	5	1		4				1	8	5	31
Chiffchaff			1	7		4	1		2		1	2	18
Coal Tit	1			3		1	2			1			8
Common Gull							2						2
Coot					1	1							2
Cormorant				1	1					8		1	11
Duncock	3	3	6	3							1	2	18
Fieldfare	6	4	3	4							1	1	19
Goldcrest	1		1								2	2	6
Goldfinch	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	2	9	7	52
Great Black-backed Gull											1		1
Great Crested Grebe		3	4	8	3	1							19
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	2	4	2		2			1	4	8	8	33
Great Tit	6	5	8	8	1	3		1	3	4	12	7	58
Green Woodpecker	4	4	6	7	1	5	2	1	7	7	10	5	59
Greenfinch	1			1							7		9
Grey Heron	2	2	5	1			1		5	6	9	6	37
Grey Wagtail								1	1	1	2	1	6
Greylag Goose			1	1	1			1	7				11
Herring Gull	1	1							2	3	2		9
House Martin					3	6	3	4	3				19
Jackdaw	5	3	11	4	2	5	1		4	6	12	9	62
Jay			2	1		3	1		2		2	3	14
Kestrel	2		1	3		1	3		1	1		1	13
Kingfisher				1				1		1			3
Lesser Black-backed Gull							2						2
Lesser Redpoll											1		1
Linnet				4	2	1		2			3	1	13
Little Egret	2	1	1	1						1		2	8
Little Owl					1	1							2
Long-tailed Tit	1		6	3	1	1			2	4	7	3	28
Magpie	2	2	8	4		2			2	2	7	6	35
Mallard	6	4	7	6	2	6	6	2	9	9	15	10	82
Mandarin Duck									1	4	9	1	15
Meadow Pipit	1									1		1	3
Mistle Thrush		1		1	1	1			1	1	5	2	13
Moorhen	4	4	6	4		5	1	2	6	7	14	8	61
Mute Swan			1	1	3					2		1	8
Nuthatch	1		3			2							6
Pheasant	1			2	1	1					1		6
Pied Wagtail	2	1	2	2	1	5	1	4	1	5	11	6	41
Red Kite	1	1	1		1								4
Red-legged Partridge			1										1
Redwing	4	4	4							1	13	3	29
Reed Bunting	3	1	1	2	1		1			2	3	2	17
Reed Warbler						5							5
Robin	3	5	8	4	1	3	1	1	8	4	13	8	59
Rook	3	2	7	5	1	2			1	4	7	7	39
Shoveler										1			1
Snipe									1				1
Song Thrush	2	2	4	2		2					3	4	19
Sparrowhawk		1	2						1		2		6
Starling	3	1	6	6	1	4			4	3	6	6	40
Stock Dove		1	4	3	1	2	2		1		4	5	23
Swallow				2	1		1	1					5
Swift					1	4	7						12
Tawny Owl		1	1										2
Treecreeper	1	1	2	1					1		1	1	8
Tufted Duck						2				1			3
White Wagtail								1					1
Willow Warbler				1									1
Woodpigeon	6	5	7	3	2	5	3	1	6	3	10	7	58
Wren	5	3	6	4		4	1		3	1	7	5	39
Yellow Wagtail								1					1
<b>Total Reports: 182</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1490</b>

## 9. VISITS OUT OF THE ABINGTONS

### I. *Bird Outings*

#### i. Visit to RSPB Ouse Washes – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018



Six Abington Naturewatch members enjoyed a sunny but chilly visit to RSPB Ouse Washes on Saturday 24th February. A good variety of duck and other waterbird species were seen, as well as two large flocks of Whooper Swan, probably totalling more than 800 birds, mostly in fields adjacent to the reserve. At the Visitor Centre, the feeders attracted large numbers of Chaffinch and Goldfinch, as well as Tree Sparrow, Reed Bunting, and one or two Lesser Redpoll and Brambling. A thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding morning!

47 species were recorded:

Barn Owl – *seen a little before 10am from the approach road*  
 Blackbird  
 Black-headed Gull  
 Blue Tit  
 Brambling – *female seen from the Visitor Centre*  
 Buzzard  
 Canada Goose  
 Carrion Crow  
 Chaffinch  
 Collared Dove  
 Coot  
 Cormorant  
 Dunnock  
 Fieldfare  
 Gadwall

Goldeneye  
 Goldfinch  
 Great Crested Grebe  
 Great Spotted Woodpecker  
 Great Tit  
 House Sparrow  
 Kestrel  
 Lapwing  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull  
 Lesser Redpoll  
 Little Grebe  
 Magpie  
 Mallard  
 Moorhen  
 Mute Swan  
 Pied Wagtail  
 Pheasant

Pochard  
 Redwing  
 Reed Bunting  
 Robin  
 Rook  
 Shelduck  
 Song Thrush  
 Starling  
 Stock Dove  
 Teal  
 Tree Sparrow  
 Tufted Duck  
 Whooper Swan – *two large flocks in neighbouring fields*  
 Wigeon  
 Wren





83: Great Crested Grebe, Ouse Washes – 24 Feb



84: Whooper Swans, Ouse Washes – 24 Feb ↑



85: Tufted Duck, Ouse Washes – 24 Feb



## ii. RSPB Lakenheath Fen – 7 July 2018

The following 35 species were seen or heard on a very warm visit. In spite of there being many dragonflies and damselflies, no Hobbies were seen though there were several good sightings of Bitterns flying.

Bittern	Kestrel
Blackcap	Kingfisher
Blackheaded Gull	Lapwing
Blacktailed Godwit	Mallard
Blue Tit	Marsh Harrier
Buzzard	Moorhen
Canada Goose	Mute Swan
Carrion Crow	Oystercatcher
Cetti's Warbler	Redshank
Chiffchaff	Reed Bunting
Common Tern	Reed Warbler
Coot	Sedge Warbler
Cormorant	Stock Dove
Goldfinch	Swift
Great Tit	Whitethroat
Greenfinch	Woodpigeon
Greylag	Wren
Grey Heron	

We saw the following butterflies:

Brimstone	Peacock
Comma	Red Admiral
Gatekeeper	Ringlet
Meadow Brown	Small Tortoiseshell

The Dragonfly and Damselfly species identified (though there were others) were: Four-spot Chaser, Blue-tailed Damselfly and Broad-bodied Chaser. Finally, we saw a day-flying bat identified at the Visitor Centre as a Daubenton's Bat.

Derek L Turnidge



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

### **i. Beech Woods, Wandlebury – 29 May 2018**

Sally led a visit to Beech Woods reserve on the evening of 29 May. Derek took this photo of the rare White Helleborine in flower.



86: White Helleborine – 29 May (DLT)

Sally M Turnidge



## ii. Butterfly and Flora walk on Roman Road – Saturday 14 July 2018

Jennifer and Sally arranged a trip to the Roman Road (Little Abington section, in the village) to see butterflies and flowers on the morning of 14 July. There were 11 of us altogether.

These are the butterflies that we saw:

- Brimstone
- Large White
- Small White
- Green Veined White
- Meadow Brown
- Gatekeeper
- Ringlet
- Common Blue
- Small Skipper

The majority were Large and Small White (very numerous everywhere this summer).

These are the flora we noted:

- Parsnip
- Field Scabious
- Small Scabious
- Spear Thistle
- Curled Dock
- Dog Rose
- Dark Mullein
- Common Mallow
- Geranium
- Dead Nettle
- Common Ragwort
- Yarrow
- Knapweed
- Knapweed [rayed form]
- Great Knapweed
- Ladies bedstraw
- Hedge bedstraw
- St John's Wort
- Wild Carrot
- Field Bindweed
- Hedge Bindweed
- Mugwort
- Wild Mignonette
- Weld
- Black Horehound
- Herb Robert
- Lucerne
- Rough Chervil
- Restharrow
- Bladder Campion seed heads
- Rock Rose
- Goat's Beard seed heads



87: Roman Road Walk – 14 July (AM)



88: Common Blue, Roman Road (DLT)



89: Common Blue, Roman Road (DLT)



90: Meadow Brown, Roman Road (PJB)



## 10. FUNGI

There were again reports and a few photographs of fungi – a selection (with provisional identification) below:



91: Lichen Xanthori, GP – 18 March (AM)



92: Lichen Physcia, GP – 7 April (AM)



93: Auricularia 'Jew's ear', GP – 13 Mar (AM)



94: Auricularia 'Jew's ear', GP – 13 Mar (AM)



95: Shaggy Inkcap, GP – 17 Sept (AM)



96: Waxcap, GP – 14 Nov (AM)



97: Hygrocybe, GP – 15 Nov (AM)



98: Phellinus, GP – 15 Nov (AM)

## 11. REFERENCES

### ***I. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Environmental Records Centre (CPERC)***

CPERC (<http://www.cperc.org.uk/>) collates, manages and stores data that describe biodiversity in the local area. It is the main source of natural history and protected species information for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. In the past we have provided some of our records to them, notably about native species in decline and undesirable non-native species.

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](http://www.cperc-record.org.uk).

### ***II. Local Wildlife organisations***

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

### ***III. RiverCare***

A small group of NatureWatch members make up the Abington RiverCare team, which is affiliated to the regional *RiverCare* organisation <http://www.rivercare.org.uk/>. This, together with *BeachCare*, is run in East Anglia by [Keep Britain Tidy](#), a national environmental charity, in partnership with [Anglian Water](#).

### ***IV. GB non-native species secretariat (GBNNSS)***

The GB Invasive Non-native Species Strategy was developed to meet the challenge posed by invasive non-native species in Great Britain. See <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/>.

### ***V. Cam Valley Forum***

RiverCare members also occasionally attend Cam Valley Forum events. This is 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/>.

### ***VI. Naturewatch documents:***

Flora Abingtonia 2008, compiled by Pat Daunt:

<http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/site/assets/files/1179/flora-abingtonia-full.pdf>

River Sampling 2006-2011

<http://www.theabingtons.org.uk/site/assets/files/1179/riversampling.pdf>

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

"What's that bird?" – by Andy M:

- Warblers <https://goo.gl/eFXYZo> and Buntings <https://goo.gl/8BhaLx>
- Raptors: Falcons <https://goo.gl/wunx4b> and Accipiters <https://goo.gl/QUhpeK>



## 12. 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. See next page for contacts.

#### 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.

Sunday, 30 December 2018

### Blue Tits inspect nest box - spring is coming!

Andy M heard birds calling insistently in the garden today, and tracked it down to a pair of Blue Tits inspecting a nest box on the side of the house. One bird (possibly the male) was clearly very happy - blue crest up and blue tail spread - standing guard and calling to the world that this box was theirs, while the other spent ten minutes or so inspecting inside and out. We'll see whether it passed muster!



#### Resources

- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Naturewatch Programme](#)

#### Blog Archive

- ▶ 2007 (18)
- ▶ 2008 (19)
- ▶ 2009 (21)
- ▶ 2010 (18)
- ▶ 2011 (35)
- ▶ 2012 (30)
- ▶ 2013 (32)
- ▶ 2014 (49)
- ▶ 2015 (54)
- ▶ 2016 (62)
- ▶ 2017 (58)
- ▼ 2018 (53)
  - ▶ January (4)
  - ▶ February (2)
  - ▶ March (4)
  - ▶ April (6)
  - ▶ May (2)
  - ▶ June (12)
  - ▶ July (9)
  - ▶ August (5)
  - ▶ September (1)
  - ▶ November (6)
  - ▼ December (2)
    - Golden Plover over Roman Road
    - Blue Tits inspect nest box - spring is coming!





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

The team is always interested to hear of any sightings in the Great and Little Abington parishes, especially accompanied by photos that can be published on our website.

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

David Farrant, 9 Bourn Bridge Road, Little Abington

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### **RiverCare, Website & Record**

Peter Brunning, 47 Church Lane, Little Abington

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### **Birdwatch**

Derek Turnidge, 23 Cambridge Rd, Little Abington

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### **Amphibians & Reptiles**

Anne Dunbar-Nobes, 41 South Road, Great Abington

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Email: [ac.dunbar.nobes@gmail.com](mailto:ac.dunbar.nobes@gmail.com)

### **Insects**

Jennifer Hirsh, 34 High Street, Little Abington

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Email: [jennifer@hirsh.com](mailto:jennifer@hirsh.com)

### **Mammals**

Gill Smith, 1 Bourn Bridge Road, Little Abington

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Email: [richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk](mailto:richardandgill.smith@live.co.uk)

### **Flora**

Sally Turnidge, 23 Cambridge Rd, Little Abington

☎ 01223 891 133

Email: [sally@turnidges.com](mailto:sally@turnidges.com)

### **Rivercare**

Robin Harman, 22 West Field, Little Abington

☎ 01223 891 730

Email: [robandkayharman@gmail.com](mailto:robandkayharman@gmail.com)

### **Website / Blog – submission of photos etc.**

Andy Merryweather

Email: [amerryweather61@gmail.com](mailto:amerryweather61@gmail.com)

### **Granta Park**

Tracy Thomas, Granta Park Estate Office, Great Abington

☎ 01223 893 710

Email: [tracy.thomas@grantapark.co.uk](mailto:tracy.thomas@grantapark.co.uk)

