

HADDENHAM CONSERVATION SOCIETY

WINTER 2020

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Please feel free to get in touch with any committee member with questions or information you might have. If you have any specific records of flora and fauna send them to Sheila Dickerson on hadconsoc@gmail.com

Send articles or photos for the newsletter to Sally on hadconsoc@gmail.com

HCS website:
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Subs Due for 2021

About half of our members now pay by standing order (thank you), but for those who don't, just a reminder that your subscription is now *overdue*. Please send a cheque to our Treasurer or put an envelope with cash through her door.

Membership is £8 for an individual and £12 for family. Make the cheque out to Haddenham Conservation Society, with your name, address and telephone number, and send to Susan Everitt, 21 Twenty Pence Road, Wilburton, Ely CB6 3RM.

Whooper Swans

Contributed by Simon Stirrup

In the last two winters, extraordinary numbers of Whooper Swans have provided a spectacular sight and sound in fields to the west of Haddenham and Aldreth. Most winters, small numbers of wild swans visit the Haddenham Parish, but recent numbers are unprecedented. These swans are part of the Ouse Washes wintering population – the largest concentration of wild swans in western Europe – which comprises over 10,000 Whooper Swans and up to 1,000 Bewick's Swans. Birds roost



on the Ouse Washes and feed on the adjacent arable fields. The Haddenham Parish is situated on the extreme edge of their feeding area.

The recent increase in local Whooper Swan numbers started in the 2019/2020 winter. In mid-December, a flock of c. 25 Whooper Swans was present north of Dam Bank Drove, to the west of Aldreth. Numbers had increased to 125 by the end of the year. My maximum count was of 643 on Ewell Fen on 22 February and there was a count of 730 near Long Drove on 19 February (Mike Everett). My last record was of 5 on Ewell Fen on 14 March.

In the 2020/2021 winter, I heard my first Whoopers from Aldreth on 16 November. Numbers built up with counts of 425 to the west of Aldreth on 5 December and over 700 to the north of Hill Row Causeway on 24 and 26 December. Numbers increased on Ewell Fen to 800+ on 17 January and 1,000+ on 22 January (Barbara York), but by early February numbers had dropped to c. 200. The last local records were 215 (with a single Bewick's) to the north of Hill Row Causeway on 6 March, 7 on Ewell Fen on 14 March, a single over Ewell Fen on 20 March and finally c. 80 on the Upper Delphs on 21 March.

The sight of skeins of Whoopers flying across the fields towards Ewell Fen at dawn is worth the early start. Swans head in from various points on the Ouse Washes and keep alarmingly low, only just missing the telegraph wires that cross the fen. Thankfully, there appear to have been no collisions so far. Not all the Whoopers roost on the Ouse Washes; a few hundred have roosted on the wash adjacent to the Old West River. The sound of Whoopers from the fields at night suggests that at times some birds may feed until well after dark, if not all night.

Whoopers have not always been common locally. *The Birds of Haddenham*, published in 1995 and covering the 1980s and early 1990s, states that the Whooper Swan is 'far less numerous than Bewick's Swans' and only lists two records of 2 to 3 birds by the Earith Road in November 1993. Since then, small numbers (perhaps less than a 100) have occurred irregularly on fields to the north of Hill Row Causeway (A1123) although notably up to 400 Whooper Swans were by Clayton's Drove in 2009 (Paul Mason).

From 2006 to early 2019, my records of wild swans around Aldreth were mostly of single figure numbers of Whoopers and Bewick's in local fields plus the occasional flock of Whoopers heard over Aldreth at night. Wild swans were irregularly noted in most but not every winter. Exceptionally, in January and February 2013, up to 200 wild swans, mainly Bewick's, were present on Holme Fen, near Bedlam Farm.

Locally, Whooper Swans feed in a variety of arable fields. The favoured crop type is harvested sugar beet that has not been cultivated, winter wheat (in harvested sugar beet or potato fields that have not been ploughed) is less popular and oil seed rape is occasionally used. Mute Swans generally prefer winter wheat and oil seed rape.

The presence of large flocks of swans has been a frustration to local farmers. Attempts to scare them away have been ineffective and only moved them to adjacent fields. The impact of grazing by swans on winter wheat was significant but did not damage the crop too much. Counterintuitively, in some cases, grazing by Whoopers can be beneficial as it encourages plants to produce more shoots. However, this has not been noticed locally. The main issue caused by the large number of swans has been the panning and compaction of the soil around standing water on the fields. This prevents the water from soaking away and therefore it remains longer than normal. Furthermore, swans grazing at the edge of the water tend to pull up plants, because the roots have no hold in the saturated ground, which die rather than recover.

This dramatic increase in Whooper Swan numbers and their continual presence over the past two winters in the Haddenham Parish is thought provoking. What has caused this change? There are several factors that might have contributed. Firstly, there has been a recent switch to growing sugar beet and potatoes rather than oil seed rape. Growing oil seed rape has become less profitable because a major pest of this crop, the flea beetle, can no longer be controlled by neonicotinoid – a systemic pesticide that was banned in 2019. Secondly, local fields have been much wetter than in previous winters. Standing water has become commonplace on fields that were previously well drained. In 2021 temporary drainage channels were dug for the first time to assist with water run-off. Wet conditions after a sugar beet crop has been harvested result in field conditions that prevent further work and leave the harvested field untouched for a longer period. Finally, deep flooding on the Ouse Washes may have displaced swans south towards Earith where the water is shallower.



Perhaps the combination of these factors makes the sugar beet easier to access. Certainly, the largest Whooper Swan flocks that I have seen locally were associated with wet or flooded, harvested sugar beet fields and the large flock of Bewick's in 2013 was associated with a flooded field.

Additionally, the method of growing sugar beet in the wider Fens may be important. Could the practice of later harvesting, more rapid ploughing after harvesting or greatly reduced yields due to virus yellows disease be involved?

This increase in Whooper Swans is not confined to our parish and has also been noted to the north of Cottenham and between Stretham and Wicken where birds were feeding in harvested sugar beet and maize fields, respectively.

Will large numbers of Whooper Swans continue to be a winter feature or is this a short-term phenomenon? It will be fascinating to see what happens. I expect that much will depend on whether the trend for wetter winters continues and which crops are grown locally.

Images © Simon Stirrup

Wildlife Working Group

Would you like the opportunity to help care for and enhance our village's wonderful natural spaces? Would you like to see Haddenham becoming a wildlife friendly village? If the answer is yes, you might like to join the new Wildlife Working Group. It will be made up of community members who would like to contribute to projects – from bulb planting to bug hotel making. Get in touch with the group on HaddenhamWFV@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Wildlife-Friendly-Village-108570377984243>

News from Guppy's Pond

Contributed by Wendy Lanman

We have noticed how, year after year, the reeds have been encroaching into the western area of the Pond. On Boating Day in 2019 this made it very difficult to row the boats out from the safest area to board (the garden at no.1). Boating Day is organised by the Pond Management Committee (a Parish Council sub-committee) so that anyone in the village can enjoy seeing the pond from the water in safety.

None of us who are lucky enough to live on the water's edge have the right to access the water, except to carry out maintenance to our properties, but we are all monitors of its wildlife and environment. Ann and Alan Gardner at no. 2 are just opposite the area where the reeds had almost met in the middle, threatening to block off the western area completely and eventually turn it into dry land. Ann brought this to the attention of the Pond Management Committee. Ann Sherwood, a local ecologist, was consulted, and she prepared a detailed report on the state of that area of the pond, its wildlife and how a careful session to reduce the reeds and reed mace would affect it. With guidance from Michael Church of Haddenham Drainage Board, a contractor was selected, and a quotation presented to the Parish Council, who agreed to have the work done. The Gardners very helpfully allowed the contractors to use their garden to access the water, so a big thank you is in order.

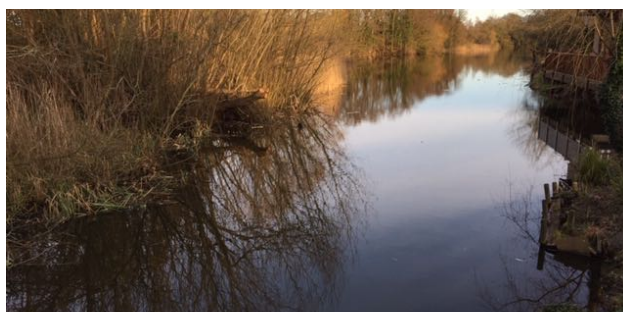
We have lived here for 28 years and, while the Pond Committee has undertaken control of the reeds over the years, often getting wet in the process (!), this was not possible in 2020, and the reeds had reached a stage that required radical measures.

Glenn Conway cut back a willow that was leaning far over the water and would soon have toppled. He removed all the cut-off branches using the little rowing boat we use for Boating Day. Quite a sight as he couldn't find the oars, so was using a broom and a shovel instead!



Then the specialist contractor came with an interesting reed cutting 'boat' which he directed with great skill and dexterity. He worked the cutters – one horizontal and one vertical – and directed the boat from two joysticks. In addition, when the boat dipped too much with the weight of the reeds, he had to slide his entire seat and engine unit backwards to counterbalance the movement – all at the same time! He cut the reeds above the water first, then under the water, then pulled up the roots. The spoils were placed on the edges of the pond to allow any creatures to crawl back down into the water.

This area of the Pond now looks as it did all those years ago when we first arrived. The Swans, Coots, Moorhens and ducks stayed back, watching as the boat moved, but, as soon as dockey time came round and the boat stopped for a while, they moved in to inspect the work! The Swans have already started to build their nest in the same area and will have plenty of already cut reeds to use for it. The large fish will again be able to spawn here – and we shall easily be able to row visitors out into the Pond at the next Boating Day. Covid restrictions permitting, that will be in early September this year and we look forward to seeing many villagers enjoy Guppy's Pond once again.



Before and after reed cutting.

The Muntjac Who Came to Stay

Contributed by Sheila Dickerson

In early December, before this last lockdown, we had checked from time to time on our night camera for any interesting visitors. In the past year we have had Badger and Fox, and in the daytime we have spotted our usual feathered friends, including Pheasant, Coot, Moorhen, ducks and Squirrels. One morning, however, Ian went to top up the bird feeders near some bushes and trees. A sudden kerfuffle, and then out of the bushes and between his legs ran a male Muntjac – I think they both had a bit of a scare! Anyway, no trace was found of said deer and we thought he had run through the hedge and away.

The following day, he was seen briefly near the end of the garden.

The next day, he came into the open and appeared to be limping quite badly. His front leg looked distorted. Not wanting to have him in pain or suffering, we phoned the RSPCA. A member from Norfolk area phoned and came early evening, armed with a cage and a torch. I thought: 'not a chance!'

The Muntjac had been laid down in a quiet area at the back end of the garden. Having discovered he had moved, we then found him with torches, and the deer, being a remarkably fast creature, dashed off through the hedge. "Well," said the warden, "he can certainly run ok." She offered to come back if he returned, but we thought that would be the last we saw of him.

The next day he was back in his same little corner. We decided to leave him, as he obviously felt safe there, to recuperate.

Early on Saturday morning, I had just had a shower and could hear a loud barking. It was different to any dogs' bark and sounded distressed.

We went to where the noise was, and in the opposite corner, where we keep our compost bins, we saw the Muntjac, which had obviously tried to leave the garden via the bins to head over the fence to the farm and fields. He had slipped on the wet surface and was stuck, upside down with legs flailing in the air, between the fence and the bins! Luckily, our neighbour had heard the noise too and came to investigate. The men, then both wearing thick gloves, went to help him. One grabbed two legs whilst the other moved the compost bin to rescue him. Success! The Muntjac ran between our neighbour's legs and dashed off through the hedge, and away!

He did not return, but a male Muntjac has been seen in the field since the adventure and appeared fine. I bet he had a good story to tell his friends!



*Artwork by
Ann Biggs*

Note: Muntjac Deer originate from China and were introduced to Woburn Park in the early 20th century. They are mainly found in woodland, parkland, and even gardens. They will eat most things, especially young tasty shoots of shrubs, woodland herbs and brambles. They breed all year-round.

Spring Thoughts from the Gallery Garden

Contributed by Ann Biggs

Another spring, another lockdown, while nature makes 'whoopie'.

Love scents the air, a fragrance of song cascades from on high as Thrushes welcome the rising of a February sun. A Wren quivers in anticipation as his mate shivers her wings in an invitation to mate; Robins threaten their rivals while yellow-beaked Blackbirds chase younger males from their patch.

Bumblebees cling to my studio door, confused in the sun's warmth, trees bud to catch this early start and unseen Badgers leave footprints in mud beneath ragged brambles. Muntjac 'slots' follow the hedge line in a regular path, nightly taken.

Newts rise, surfacing in our rejuvenated pond, hopeful of love, while Whirligig Beetles fly in, gyrating in a mad dance. Exotic plants from Garden friend Wayne wait their turn for a place near the water. Haddenham Arts Centre is presently closed but hopes to open again during April. Please visit the website for up-to-date information (<https://www.haddenhamartscentre.org.uk>). We miss our visitors and look forward to welcoming you back.

Meanwhile the February sun's heat delights us but warns we must mend our ways. The terror of a global pandemic has driven the far greater peril of climate change from our minds.

Love or Loathe Mr Tod?

Contributed by Barbara Grafton

I have loved Red Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) ever since I saw Beatrix Potter's illustrations in *The Tale of Mr Tod*. But then, I have never lost a chicken or gamebird. There are white chicken feathers from kills on successive nights scattered in the gardens of two of our neighbours. A deep hole in our fruit bed tells the tale of an excavated pigeon we buried at least six weeks ago. Months ago, our trail camera captured a handsome dog fox enjoying windfall apples we had set out as bait.

I first glimpsed a wild adult fox when I was about eight, in a Hampshire graveyard where my father was photographing wildlife. It was extraordinarily graceful and beautiful, a flicker of flame amongst the grey stones, its face and eyes full of intelligence. Two years ago in May, I had the joyful experience of watching four cubs along Hop Row play-fighting in the undergrowth. After Christmas, we often enjoyed the spine-tingling thrill of the vixen's blood curdling screams echoing over the Fen, announcing her readiness to mate.



Curious vixen. Peter Trimming on Flickr and released under <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

The peak time for fox births is mid-March to mid-April, in an earth or den beneath a shed, tree, or gravestone. The dog fox is an attentive partner, leaving food for the vixen at the den entrance before and after the young are born. It is quite common for two fathers to have sired a litter, and up to seven fathers have been identified in studies of wild foxes as both sexes roam widely in crowded territories. However, the vixen only forms a bond with a single male. There can be no hanging about, as vixens are only receptive to mating for an average of three days a year.

A typical litter will be four to six blind and deaf cubs weighing 50-150 g (1.8-5.3 oz.) and covered in a fine mole-grey woolly fur that changes to chocolate brown in the first month. By five weeks old, the blue eyes they had at birth will have become a striking amber. At two months old, the cubs will look almost adult, with a glossy red coat, a white-tipped tail, and black ears and legs.

Rearing a litter takes a heavy toll on a vixen which can lose up to 30% of her body weight by the time her cubs are weaned at seven weeks. A litter of four would require her to eat an extra 1,000 calories per day, equivalent to 20 mice or 400 worms. The dog fox and, occasionally, non-breeding vixens from an earlier litter, bring food and maybe scavenged playthings such as small balls, shoes, and dog chews to the den.

In late April and into May, you may catch glimpses of playful cubs outside the den, as I did. By the age of four months, they can catch invertebrates and find fruits and berries for themselves, but they lack the hunting skills for birds and mammals. Into August, they will become increasingly independent. By late September, they will be fully grown juveniles, and adults the following spring. Although some vixens breed in their first year, most males will be two years old before siring cubs. In the wild, in rural areas, foxes rarely live longer than three years.

Of course, many people dislike foxes and want them to be controlled or eradicated as vermin. They are opportunists when it comes to food, and often destructive (but their habit of killing multiple birds in a hen house is just the natural caching behaviour of a wild animal). However, they are also excellent controllers of vermin and pests such as mice, rats, rabbits, pigeons, gulls, and Muntjac fawns, and readily eat carrion, rotten fruit, and food waste. They also disperse fruit seeds in their droppings. In this respect, they are more to be loved than loathed. They are, after all, really just highly adaptable, astute and intelligent cousins to dogs that, instead of being handed everything on a plate by a besotted owner, have to earn their precarious living in the wild places.

For vastly more information on this beautiful mammal, see: <https://www.wildlifeonline.me.uk/animals/species/red-fox>

Lockdown Calm

Contributed by John Burgess

It would have been a brave man who predicted that we would still be in the grip of this pandemic after twelve months. Notwithstanding the virus, positives can be drawn from its effects. The number of people enjoying the countryside has increased tremendously. On my journey to Nine Acre Wood on Sunday morning, I passed no less than 15 parked cars between the bottom of Aldreth and the wood. Not all were headed in my direction, but I was heartened by the number of groups and families I encountered within the wood itself.

Spring is still just around the corner, the trees have yet to burst forth, but they are primed and ready to launch. I always seem to mention the primroses in my article, but seeing the perfect little islands of colour on the woodland floor it is impossible to ignore their early beauty.

Beauty is very definitely in the eye of the beholder when it comes to observing the deadwood, some standing, some horizontal, all a valuable wildlife asset. It provides a home for a myriad of insects, food for fungi and refuge for small mammals. Any branches cut down during the winter trimming are deliberately left in the leaf litter to encourage their micro environments. Occasionally the wind will intervene to push over a larger example, some of these can be observed securely propped between their neighbours, others make it all the way to the floor. Intervention with the jammed examples is limited to maintaining a safe area. With these natural processes, minimum outside input is the way forward.



The sun shone strongly from above the riverbank through the skeletal branches, even so the gusty wind was calmed by the fragile barrier. Once the wood is dressed in its summer foliage It will be impossible to see out, let alone feel draughts purporting to be a beast from any direction.

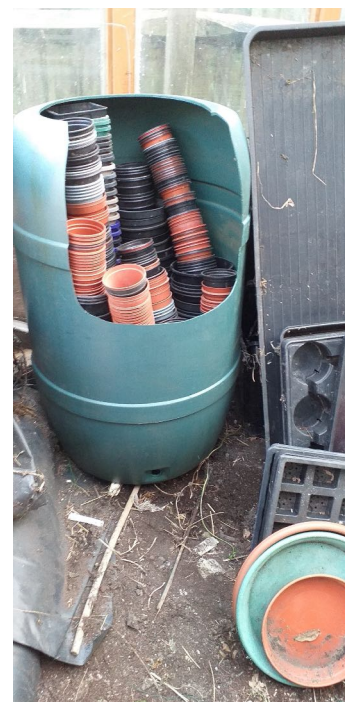
At any time of year, I find it a wonderful and calming place to be. Solo or with family and friends, plot a route to Nine Acre to find out for yourselves.

Going Potty!

Contributed by Jez Reeve

Conservation is about looking after what you've got. Careful use of resources not only protects the planet, wildlife and nature but can make you smile. When we moved into our house in Haddenham nearly 15 years ago I brought with me all my potted plants and spare pots. For some reason the previous owners had left theirs in the lean-to greenhouse. What a lot of pots, I thought. Over the years they have been invaluable as I have transferred my seedlings to grow into large and larger plants, many destined for the allotment. However, this lockdown scenario has been driving me potty! I have been looking around at all the jobs that I should have/could have done over the last 15 years and discovered a job I had not even considered before: how to get those pots organised and give me more space in the greenhouse. Nothing like a pandemic to get the creative juices flowing – the solution had been staring at me the whole time.

For over a year the split water butt that we had replaced had been hiding, rather unattractively, under the weeping willow. Now is your chance to shine, I thought. After a few minutes washing it down and a swift swipe with my jigsaw I had my space-saving solution: a water butt plant pot holder. It may no longer conserve water, but it is conserving my tidy-gene sanity.



Bats at Guppy's Pond

Contributed by Babs York

As many of you will know, I spend much of my time rehabilitating bats that have been injured or grounded for some reason. The general rule for rehabbers is that when our patients have recovered, we return them to the place they were found for release. We are able to do that with the vast majority of bats. However, there are a few situations where this is not advisable or indeed possible. These cases include when we don't know where the bat comes from. This is when the bat has been dropped off somewhere, usually at a vet practice, and there are no details. Other cases include baby bats that have been abandoned or orphaned and bats from disturbed or damaged roosts. So, when these bats recover, we need somewhere safe to release them, ideally with a plentiful supply of insects and some good roosting opportunities.

For some years now I have been using Guppy's Pond to release these bats. Thanks to the human residents (Wendy and Brian Lanman) we now have both soft release boxes and bat boxes for roosting in place in this area. All of the bats released here so far have been pipistrelles, both Common and Soprano, and with the help of my bat detector I know that both of these species were already present. I have often wondered whether any other species used the area too. So, when I had the opportunity to borrow a static bat detector, I grabbed it and the Lanmans agreed to have it placed on their property. Once these static detectors are set up, they will record all the calls of passing bats for about 7 to 10 days. These calls then need to be analysed so that the species can be identified.

It was with great excitement that I handed back the equipment to Rachel Bates of the Cambridgeshire Bat Group for analysis.

There were 3,287 passes recorded and nearly 90% of these were Common Pipistrelles. There were



When this baby bat first came into care she weighed less than 2 g.

good numbers of Soprano Pipistrelle, Brown Long Eared, Daubenton's and Natterer's Bats plus a few Noctules and single passes of both Nathusius' Pipistrelle and Barbastelle. What a wonderful selection and an indication of the richness of this area. The bats that are released there have already had to overcome huge challenges so it's great to know they are getting another chance in such a healthy environment.

Many thanks to the Lanmans for their help over the years and to Rachel Bates for ploughing through hours of calls. Thanks to Cambridgeshire Bat Group and Haddenham PC for funding the purchase of the bat boxes and for Wendy Lanman and John Burgess for installing them.

Unwanted Alien

Scientists have confirmed that the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (*Halyomorpha halys*) has arrived in Britain. The flying insect is considered a pest in the US and its south-east Asia home because it creates brown marks on fruit and vegetables, reducing their value. In addition, the unpleasant almond-like odour it releases in defence can contaminate the delicate flavours of wines.

The bug was first detected last year in the gardens of the Natural History Museum and has since been spotted in Surrey. It hibernates indoors in winter and so is likely to have arrived in packaging and shipping crates. Members of the public are invited to submit photographs of potential sightings to the Natural History Museum's biodiversity Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NHUKBiodiversity>) so scientists can confirm identifications and monitor the stink bugs' spread.



*Adult Halyomorpha halys
Hectonichus, CC BY-SA 4.0, via
Wikimedia Commons*

A Mixed Winter

It was very mixed weather this autumn/winter with heavy rain and flooding and then Arctic conditions followed swiftly by mild springlike weather. Winter visitors have been recorded, with Brambling and Siskin, and the occasional Blackcap. Fieldfare and Redwings have been on the Fens, but no-one has recorded them in gardens. It has been lovely to see so many Whooper Swans on the Fens.

1 January 52 species of bird were recorded on a walk from Aldreth to the Old West River and back via Nine Acre Wood: 2 Cormorant, 1 Little Egret, 3 Great Egret, 3 Grey Heron, c. 30 Mute Swan, c. 70 Whooper Swan, 2 Greylag, Canada Goose, 5 Gadwall, 7 Teal, 2 Mallard, 2 Buzzard, 1 Kestrel, Pheasant, Moorhen, c. 20 Lapwing, 3 Snipe, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Woodpigeon, Stock Dove, Collared Dove, Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, 1 Skylark, 2 Meadow Pipit, 2 Pied Wagtail, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, 1 pair Stonechat, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Redwing, 1 Blackcap, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Jay, Magpie, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow, Rook, Starling, House Sparrow, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Linnet, Reed Bunting. In addition, 2 Mink were seen swimming in the river. SS

10 January A walk to the Old West River produced: 1 Great White Egret, 1 Little Egret, c. 150 Whooper Swan, c. 30 Mute Swan, 6 Mallard, 1 Buzzard, 1 Kestrel, 1 Snipe, 1 Stonechat, 28 Yellowhammer. In addition, there was a Mistle Thrush in the garden, feeding on an apple we had put out. This was the first Mistle Thrush we have seen actually in the garden for many years. SS

16 January At least 2, possibly 3, Chiffchaff in the Aldreth area. SB

17 January Long Drove: 800+ Whooper Swan in one field, 1 male Hen Harrier, 1 Green Sandpiper, 1 Grey Wagtail. In the evening, a pair of Stonechat along Aldreth Causeway. SS

12 February An afternoon trip round Long Drove and Dambank this afternoon produced: 4 Snipe feeding in some thawed wet area, Lapwing, Fieldfare, 4-6 Reed Bunting, 1 Little Egret, 1 Buzzard sat on some piles of

manure, 1,000's Gulls, 2 Greylag Geese, 15 Stock Dove, 4 Partridge (Red legged?), c. 350 Whooper Swan between Aldreth causeway and Long Drove and another c. 100 down Long Drove. Amazingly, 19 Roe Deer disturbed by the tractor ploughing. I&SD

Spring is definitely trying its hardest, the Snowdrops gave us a fantastic show and now it's the Daffodils' and Aconites' turn. Queen Bees, Bumble Bees and also Honeybees are about on sunny days. Brimstone and Peacock butterflies have been spotted out in the sunshine. It is a great time of year for all of nature, a time of looking to the future and renewal. Let's hope the same goes for us too.



*Buzzard
photographed
by Simon
Stirrup.*

© Simon Stirrup

HCS Facebook

Contributed by Rachel Burgess

Some of the sightings reported over the past three months on our Facebook page. Please join the page and share sightings and photographs for us all to enjoy.

Dusky Warbler *14 December* Aldreth. GP
Great White Egret *13 January* Aldreth. SS
Sparrowhawk and Black (Grey) Squirrel
29 January. BY
Hen Harrier, Chinese Water Deer, 80+ Wigeon and 21 Gadwall *31 January* Aldreth. SS
Hedgehog *3 February* Aldreth. SS
Common Crane *6 February* Aldreth. SS
Snipe, Lapwing, Fieldfare, Reed Bunting, Little Egret, Buzzard, Stock Doves, Greylag Geese, Whooper Swans and 19 Roe Deer *12 February* Hillrow. SD
Greenfinch *14 February* Aldreth. SS
Female Siskin *27 February* Hillrow. MH
Little Owl, Barn Owl, Roe Deer *27 February* Aldreth. SS

WINTER TALKS

We very much hope to hold our usual October to December talks later this year.

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