

Diary

17 August 2008

A good day for some of the species towards the top end of the food chain which must mean that there is plenty for them to eat which is a good indication for the health and bio-diversity of the area. A fox was briefly sighted near the Blackthorn Thicket followed by a Stoat near the Nellie Bridge (not such good news for the Water Voles). Another Slow worm was seen – a second male, this one with a complete tail so we must have at least three! Also a large Grass Snake:



The butterflies were a bit thin on the ground but 3 Common Blues were seen together with a good number of Whites (mainly Large) and a few Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers and a single Common Blue Damselfly.

6 August 2008

One of my regular (or not so regular of late) bird surveys. The number of species seen was rather low but this is normal for this time of year as many of our resident birds keep a low profile during the dangerous moult period following breeding. Nevertheless there is always something of interest and I was rather surprised to see a small family of Wrens, recently fledged and still being fed by their parents. At long last the butterflies seem to have realised that it is summer, or what we are going to get as summer this year, and numbers are high. If you are passing take a look at the mint that is now in flower at the lower end of the site which is buzzing with Butterflies and bees at the moment. I also spotted a Hornet there this morning. A few Common Blues are on the wing as well as Small and Essex Skippers. The Muntjak Deer that has been decimating some of our recently planted shrubs crossed my path but, saving the best to last, a Slow Worm was seen and photographed under one of the metal sheets. This is my first sighting of this Lizard at Ewelme but I was beaten to it by son Ian who saw a pair, male and female, in the same area last Friday.



12 June 2008

I thought I had better update this as it has been some time. The birds seem to be doing well with young Robins, Grey Wagtails, Great Tits, Moorhens and Mallard around. Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps singing almost continuously so I am sure they are nesting. Azure and Large Red Damselflies over the Trout pond extension.



Azure Damselfly

Ran two Moth traps outside the Centre overnight on 8/9th and caught over 60 moths of 29 (identified) species. Highlight were 4 species of Hawk Moth!



Elephant Hawkmoth

Lime Hawkmoth



Eyed Hawkmoth

Privet Hawkmoth



Who needs butterflies with these beauties around?