

## Diary

### August 2006

#### *Weather*

A very near “average” month with rainfall amounting to 58mm which is 98% of the long term average. The 18/19<sup>th</sup> was the wettest 24 hour period with 14.7mm of rain but the remainder of the month’s rain was distributed through the rest of the month. The total for the year is now up to 86% of the average for the first eight months of the year.

Temperatures were also “very average” with both maximums and minimums fluctuating around the average. The only unusual reading was the very high minimum temperature recorded on the 7<sup>th</sup> when it did not drop below 17° C.

#### *Birds*

August was a quiet month for birds. The highlight of the month was the sighting of my 74<sup>th</sup> species for the site with a Treecreeper paying a brief visit on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Warblers were in short supply with only a Common Whitethroat being recorded. The Kingfisher was a regular visitor and Swallows and House Martins were very active. This year these birds were a little slow in starting their breeding but seem to be making up for it with late broods. The left hand photo is of a House Martin feeding young on 25<sup>th</sup> and the right hand one is of a Wren - they are making a great deal of noise as they hunt the area for insects. The last Swift I have seen over the village was on the 26<sup>th</sup> though it would not surprise me to see a late straggler sometime in the first half of September.



#### *Butterflies*

The cooler August weather did not suit the butterflies quite so much though I saw a total of 11 species during the month with the highlights being my second record of Painted Lady for the year and my third for Small Heath. I am just waiting for the Ivy to flower for a late burst of activity especially of Red Admirals.



*Etc*

I am not sure if it is down to the hot weather warming up slow moving water or something else but Frogs do exist on the watercress beds. This was one of several discovered whilst clearing the beds down the High Street.



Dragonflies were still around and, I'm told, one was a Migrant Hawker. Also, pictured, a Common Darter was recorded.

