

Diary

January 2007

Weather

63 mm of rain fell in January which is 13% above the average for the month. Of the last 7 months six have been above average and one “fractionally” below average. The grand total for 2006, thanks to the second half of the year, was almost exactly average. It is good to see the strong flow down the beds – long may it continue. The wettest day in January was the 5/6th when 12.1mm fell.

As has been widely reported in the press temperatures during the month were well above average. With the exception of a five day period between the 22nd and 27th minimum temperatures were well above the average by as much as 7.5 degrees. There were 7 nights of frost and a lowest temperature of -6°C on the night of 5/6th. A similar picture applied to maximums with only two readings in my Benson garden being below the average.

Birds

A rather good month for birds with a total of 29 species seen including my 75th species for the watercress beds – a Nuthatch made a brief appearance on the 14th. There were regular sightings of the Water Rail (though there only appears to be a single one this winter) and both a male and female Blackcap have been seen taking advantage of the plentiful Ivy berries. A list of species seen during the month is on the



back of this sheet.

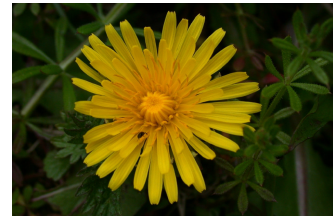
Butterflies

Perhaps unsurprisingly no butterflies were seen in January.

Etc



Little to report though 7 flowers were seen in bloom and evidence of 4 mammals were seen including a Badger.



Wot's about – January 2007

BIRDS

Mallard
Moorhen
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Woodpigeon
Wren
Dunnock
Robin
Blackbird
Blue Tit
Great Tit
Jackdaw
Rook
Chaffinch
Goldfinch
Red Kite
Kestrel
Pheasant
Water Rail
Feral Pigeon
Kingfisher
Green Woodpecker
Grey Wagtail
Mistle Thrush
Blackcap
Nuthatch
Magpie
Starling
House Sparrow
Greenfinch

FLOWERS IN BLOOM

Red Dead-nettle
Groundsel
Shepherd's Purse
Dandelion
Lesser Celandine
White Dead-nettle
Stinking Chamomile

MAMMALS (evidence)

Badger
Squirrel
Rabbit
Mole