

Diary

October 2005

Weather

Yet again a month with below average rainfall. The total in my Benson garden amounted to 53.6mm which is 81% of the October average of 66.3mm. We have now had 9 of the last 10 months with below average rainfall. The total for the year is now 59% of the average for the first ten months of the year. The wettest day was the 22nd with 10.6mm of rain.

October was a very mild month with minimum temperatures well above average for all but the first week or so of the month. During the final week of the month minimums were around 5°C above average! The lowest temperature recorded during the month was on the night of the 9/10th when the thermometer fell to 2.5°C. Maximum temperatures were well above average for most of the month with only 4 days when recorded highs were below the average.

Birds

Most noteworthy of the birds seen were a Snipe on the 6th and the first winter thrush, a Redwing, on the 22nd. A Chiffchaff on the 2nd was either coming or going – always difficult to tell at this time of the year but probably an overwintering bird newly arrived. The long awaited addition to my Ewelme list of a Coal Tit also turned up on the 2nd. The arrival of two Redpoll on exactly the same patch of weeds as last seen in December 2004 was a welcome sight and they were still there a week later on the 30th. A female Bullfinch was seen on the 16th.



Butterflies



The unusually warm weather extended the butterfly season with Large White, Red Admiral and Comma seen. The Admirals were still around in small numbers and in sheltered sunny corners up to the end of the month.

Etc

Two mammal sightings of note: an un-identified mouse species climbing a Hawthorn bush – when seen it was well up in the branches about 3metres above ground level and a Stout hunting the bank side vegetation around the Mill weir.