

Diary

September 2006

Weather

A slightly above “average” month with rainfall amounting to 69mm which is 119% of the long term average. It would have been well below average without the 22.9mm in the last 24 hours of the month. The total for the year has now risen to 90% of the average for the first nine months of the year.

Apart from three days between 7th and 9th minimum temperatures were well above average for the month. Maximums were generally above average too. The lowest temperature reached during the month was 4° C on the night of the 7th/8th.

Birds

It was a good month for sightings of birds of prey with Red Kite, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk and Kestrel all putting in appearances. The first Snipe of the winter turned up on the 13th but has not been seen since so was probably just passing through. Gulls, both Black Headed and Lesser Black-backed were observed flying over, a sure sign that autumn is well under way. Swallows and House Martins were still around, in smaller numbers than earlier and warblers were well represented with Common Whitethroat, Blackcap and Chiffchaff all seen and the last named actually singing briefly.



Butterflies



As I wrote last month “I am just waiting for the Ivy to flower for a late burst of activity especially of Red Admirals” and this month was not a disappointment. I am never sure how they manage to time it so well but a sunny warm September day when the Ivy is in flower wakes up the butterflies. The 24th was such a day and I counted 61 Red Admirals, 1 Large White, 2 Small Coppers, 3 Painted Ladies and a Comma. During the month a total of 11 species were recorded. .

Etc

The excellent year for dragonflies continued with Migrant Hawkers and Common Darters still active. Not the best time of the year for wild flowers but the Musk Mallow was worthy of note.

