



Eyed Hawk-moth

It is always exciting to open the moth trap in a morning and find a Hawk-moth. Usually mine contains a Poplar Hawk-moth or an Elephant Hawk-moth. The food plants for the Eyed Hawk-moth include Aspen (seen by the bridge at the corner of Puddledock Lane), Sallows, Poplars and Crab Apple. This year has been a very poor year for moth trapping with very few about, especially in the cold northerly winds, we have noticed at night. The houses between Brookmead/Puddledock Lane have poor small back gardens and we rely on moths from a distance finding our traps.

Janet Craig sent me a small list of moths she collected on 17 July and they included 7 Elephant Hawk-moths and 2 Pine Hawk-moths. However numbers in my trap have been up during the heat wave with interesting species such as Sharp-angled Peacock and many Common Footman moths, which feeds on lichens as well as Hawthorn.

Ladybirds have been difficult to find this year, so I was quite pleased to receive a photograph from Janet of a 16 spot ladybird.



Wildlife Walks – Mondays from Fox Cottage near the Mission Hall at 9.30am. All welcome.

News Round-up

Janet Craig had more birds breeding in her garden than ever before, with around 20 nests from twelve species.

She also reported 12 species of butterflies including many Small Skippers.

Dorothy Emblem reported a Fox with three young as well as a female Roe Deer and two young. She also found two Slow worms with young but has seen around 12 in her garden this month. In Brookmead we have regularly seen a Fox on a 10 feet high wall looking into our lounge.

Insects have been very scarce so far in 2013, demonstrating the importance of gardeners planting pollinators to keep our bee populations up.



Hawthorn Shield Bug – one of a number of other insects in the moth trap

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Garden Bird Watch

The Little Owl photographed by Ruth Eggerton has been reported in the vicinity of the Springhead for over a year now and may well have bred. Apparently one hot morning, this character sat on a tree in Ruth's garden and waited for her to take a photograph. This is pretty good without a specialist camera.

Green Woodpecker made 50% of the reports in June and is doing well in the village reflecting the ants around our lawns. Black-headed Gull is rarely mentioned although it flies over regularly.

I am going to be interested to see how the scarecrow competition affects bird numbers in July!



Many of the lists contain a report on breeding successes by birds including Bullfinch from Plaisters Lane and a Green Woodpecker, nesting in a Plum tree in a garden by the Springhead. In my garden, we have been plagued by a Herring Gull, which hatched three young on next-door's roof. The parent bird has been dive-bombing our cats and has been a general nuisance with noise. Please can it be given an ASBO