



### Summer time

During the winter, Wessex Water arranged for the reed bed to be cut. Dave Emery has provided two pictures showing the reed bed in March and this month with reed growing much higher than most people. Reed can be a strange habitat with little else growing between the tufts but it is an important host for many over wintering insects and in some rare instances produces unusual plant galls. Occasional cutting is important to prevent litter building up.

At last the white butterflies have made an appearance. Looking through my records from early in the year, I noted very few but now most sunny days there are plenty about around the garden.

Janet Craig sent me this photograph of the wasp spider *Argiope bruennichi*. There are less than 1500 records on the NBN gateway with most records from south eastern areas into Norfolk and Suffolk coastal areas. She also sent this photograph of the leaf-cutting bee, which it is not possible to determine to species level without a specimen.



© Janet Craig a leaf cutting bee



Janet Craig

Wasp Spider

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2015

Waterworks car park – moth trapping & bat emergence  
8.30p.m.

### GARDEN BIRD WATCH July 2015

I have has reports from 17 gardens this month. Members are reporting problems with the larger corvids raiding bird feeders keeping the smaller birds away. Little owl has made another appearance at Northdown Farm. We have had just two reports of grey wagtail. The latest online BTO Newsletter suggests that breeding grey wagtail is increasing in 2015. Most members reported house sparrow with numbers increasing following the breeding season. Whilst staying at my son's house in Rotherham recently, for the first time, I did not recall seeing a single house sparrow. Five people reported flocks of around a dozen long-tailed tit, but starling numbers appear down and I seem to have seen less on Old Bincombe Lane this year. Jon Campbell provided me with a copy of the monthly Wessex Water bird count with little change in the numbers and range of species but only one note of stonechat, which BTO are suggesting has increased its breeding occurrence by 50% in 2015. This week he reported good numbers of yellowhammer and whitethroat fledglings. Janet Craig photographed the house martin nesting this month. Garden Bird Watch 23- 19<sup>th</sup> August this month.



Reed Bed in Waterworks meadow in March 2015 and below August 2015 © David Emery



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# Wildlife Photos from July - August 2015

My new moth trap has significantly increased the number of moth species recorded each night. Large elephant hawk moths have been present most nights whilst this month Jersey tiger moths have been seen both in the trap and during the day. Sue and Jon Campbell have reported humming bird hawk-moth by day, pebble prominent, dusky thorn, pale mottled willow and flounced rustic. Jon also reported good numbers of Adonis blue butterflies around the waterworks paths.



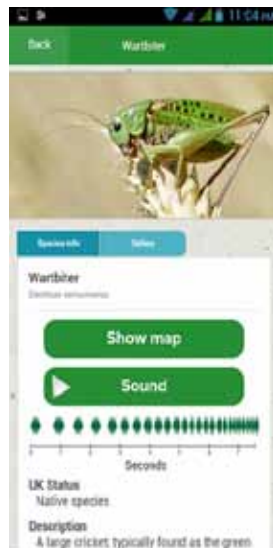
Jack Winspar ©  
Pair of great spotted woodpecker



© Sue and Jon Campbell  
Webb's wainscot



© Janet Craig



Oak bush cricket with new iRecord app for grasshoppers



© John Newbould

Pebble Prominent

The top left picture shows pair of great spotted woodpecker investigating spoil from a newly dug garden pond. The top right picture shows a Webb's wainscot moth collected by Sue and Jon Campbell on 6 August. This Nationally scarce Notable B moth's food plants are bulrush and yellow flag iris both found in the village pond. This moth is mostly found near the southern coast. The bottom right is a pebble prominent whose larval food plants are willows, aspen and poplars all found on the nearby Puddledock Lane. The bottom left shows an oak bush cricket, which is seen occasionally in gardens at this time of the year and importantly a new iRecord app for bush crickets, grasshoppers, cockroaches and earwigs. Importantly the app contains recordings of the song of grasshoppers and bush crickets, which I like many older people cannot hear but can be picked up using a bat detector. The app requires you to pen an iRecord account by visiting [www.ibrc.ac.uk/iRecord](http://www.ibrc.ac.uk/iRecord) first. Using this app will allow you to contribute to the national orthoptera recording scheme. Information on the distribution of Dorset orthoptera may be found in the *Atlas of Dorset bush crickets and grasshoppers* available from Dorset Environmental Records Centre at £14. The book is actually an excellent guide to the British species.