

NATURE SOCIETY NEWSLETTE



May 2017

Issue 4

NATURE SOCIETY
Making a real difference

RASCALLY RABBITS!

Lots of things have been going on during the last month. Some more successful than others. Two areas earmarked for wildflowers were duly planted up and seeded. Looked good and promising until the local rabbit population found them. It was not long before there were only a couple of the plants left. For some reason the seed did not take very well either. So! We have now re-seeded the two areas and are keeping fingers and everything else crossed that this time they will take.

The Butterfly Nursery has also been seeded, now after the hard work of the gardeners getting the ground all ready for us. Plants have also been put out here to help boost the flowers along, however this time protection, in the form bottomless flower pots have been provided. The problem with the plants is they are young and tender so just right for rabbits. It is hoped that as they get more mature they will be left alone. Time will tell but that's the joy of gardening?

OTHER GARDENERS

Two other gardeners have also been busy with plants and seeds. Nancy has been at work again on the area by Jay/Kingfisher and Graham Jeffrey has been doing the same with an area close to Lapwing/Moorhen. What has been good is a report from that area that the plants put there last year are back and growing very well.

QUIZ

The Nature Society took over the last quiz of the year with all questions relating to wildlife in one sense or another. Some very tenuous it must be said. However, it was a good night with lots of laughs and all the money raised from taking part and a raffle will be put towards donations to the chosen charities of the Society.



Thinking heads on and ears open for the bird call round.

DAWN CHORUS

April 29th and up early for the dawn chorus walk. A good number of people out for this. Learning about the calls of our most common birds especially Robin, Wren, Great Tit. Listen closely to a Robin and it has a slight sound of Blackbird. Why? Because surprisingly it is the same family as Thrushes and Blackbirds.

We were very lucky to also hear a Cettis Warbler. Very distinctive song. Explosive and loud a short phrase repeated every few minutes as it moves along.



Inhabits damp/wet areas of reedbeds, ditches and thickets. Sparse breeding in the south, so good to hear it calling here. As the climate warms we may get breeding locally.

SURPRISE SIGHTINGS

A young fledged Robin has been seen around the lodge areas, begging for food from it's parents who are still feeding it. Very, very early for this as they do not usually lay until April. March, if weather is particularly warm but then the eggs are incubated for 13 days and the chicks then fledge after another 14 days. The young Robins are speckled and look like many other small brown birds so not always easy to identify.



REMINDERS

Don't forget to come along and support the Wildlife Weekend on May 6th/7th.

Visit Mercia Marina website > wildlife > Mercia marina nature and wildlife newsletters. There you will find a wildlife library with detailed information about many of our animals, birds and insects. More added to this each month.