

Friends of Weir Wood Newsletter

Newsletter No.97

Summer 2022



Welcome!

OPEN DAY - Sunday 17th July *by Bob Johnson*

Sunday 17th July is the day set for our annual Open Day, based as usual at the Nature Reserve car park and Whillet's meadows and with a similar format as before.

The main car park viewing area will have volunteers with telescopes set up to show you the birds and wildlife on and around the water and give you close views. With the current low water levels this is attracting more varied species such as waders. We also have several pairs of Common Terns nesting on the rafts and hopefully there may be young to see by the time of the Open Day. Some of the recently fledged cormorants & herons from the heronry should also still be around the reserve.

Whillet's meadows should be at their best for the flowers, birds, butterflies etc. with information charts to help you.

We will again have our popular bird ringing demonstration by our bird ringers at the meadows (weather permitting), with a chance to see birds close in the hand. Previous years have seen kingfishers & reed warblers amongst others.

You will also be able to visit our meadow pond and do some pond dipping with experts to tell you about the wildlife you find. Come and see the dragon and damselflies and the wonderful and varied aquatic life of a pond.

We have beehives on site, and you will be able to chat to our beekeepers who will be explaining to visitors what is inside a beehive box and explaining how a beehive box colony works and how they are looked after.

You will be able to watch the hives from a safe distance and be able to understand what is happening inside the box. We will also have jars of local honey available for sale.

We intend to have some moths to show from our moth traps (weather permitting). This has proven to be very popular at previous open days.

We hope to have some refreshments available in the car park. Copies of our 25th anniversary book "The Nature of Weir Wood Reservoir" will also be available for purchase.

We open for visitors at 9:30AM at the Nature Reserve car park in Legsheath Lane. The event will be open until 4:00pm but the bird ringing will finish an hour earlier. The event is free and open to all.

Both adults and children alike will love the bird ringing and pond dipping. So please come along and support us, bring your friends. Whillet's meadows are not normally open to the public, so this is an opportunity to see this normally private wetland meadow area at one of its best flowering times.

Free entry – but donations appreciated. Children should be accompanied.

2022 AGM Meeting formal results

Our AGM went very well. It was only open to members this year, the intention being to keep numbers low and so relatively covid safe. 27 people attended. The full minutes of the 2022 AGM meeting are available to view on our website.

To summarise the main business:

The 2021 AGM minutes were approved with no matters arising. Richard Allan & Ian Hodgson were successfully elected to the Committee. Glenn Tocher & Alan Caulkett retired from the....

Committee. The other standing Committee Members were re-elected, and their positions remain unchanged.

All the proposed changes to our Aims & Objectives & Equal Opportunities Statement: were agreed and ratified.

All the Constitution Rule changes proposed were agreed.

Full details of the changes are on our website within the new "Aims & Objectives, Equal Opportunities & Constitution Rules" document – latest version - Amendment 7.

Both the Chairman & Membership Secretary / Website Editor had no major changes to report and mainly gave updates and thanked various people for work carried out.

The Treasurer presented and explained various aspects of the audited accounts which were all agreed and accepted by the membership. Doug Roberts was re-elected as our auditor for 2023.

There were no questions or any other business raised at the end of the formal business.

We followed our AGM business with a talk by a guest speaker, our own bird ringer Phil Holland entitled, "**What our nest boxes have taught us**". This was a fascinating talk on the species using our nest boxes within the reserve. Phil showed how detailed study and recording of nest boxes over many years had given some surprising information about the species that use them. He explained what can be found out by this type of detailed examination and recording. The talk was very well received by the audience. Our thanks to Phil for a very interesting and entertaining talk.

Website Update.

We apologise to members for the fact that our website has been down since early June. Those who use the site will be aware that the site has had on-going issues, particularly displaying photographs. The photo archive was no longer operating, and the site was becoming generally unreliable in operation.

This was due to the age of our website software, parts of which were out of date and no longer being supported, particularly on the photo side. There was an urgent need to update the whole website with a new fully supported software package.

Peter Johnson, our computer expert, has been looking into possibilities and eventually recommended a new supported software package which we have now purchased.

The whole website now has to be transferred from the old system to the new. This is a time-consuming business which Peter has to try and do in his limited spare time.

Peter advised he is hopeful that the website should be operational again in about another week, when you should find a more pleasing and reliable website system, particularly for the photos and archive side.

Please continue to use our facebook page which is unaffected by these changes.

Do also keep sending in your wildlife sightings etc. which are still being entered onto our wildlife database and will be updated to the new website by Tom our Website Editor once it is operational.

Little Grebe – 1 on 20/3, 1 on 12/5.

Great Crested Grebe – Regular (counts over 8), 9 on 19/3, 15 on 20/3, 12 on 17/4, 10 on 22/4, 14 on 24/4, 20 on 15/5, 9 on 27/5, 22 on 2/6, 13 on 5/6, 19 on 6/6, 15 on 7/6, 9 on 9/6, 39 on 10/6, 53 on 12/6, 43 on 13/6.

Cormorant – Regularly up to 10 (counts over 10), 42 on 19/3, 52 on 20/3, 32 on 22/3, 25 on 5/4 when 19 active nests noted within Heronry, 33 on 10/4, 56 on 17/4, 52 on 22/4, 56 on 28/4, 60 on 5/5, 36 on 10/5, 57 on 15/5, 69 on 21/5, 43 on 24/5 & 26/5, 42 on 2/6, 52 on 3/6, 30 on 7/6, (Cormorant nesting total – Of 22 active nests, 19 nests were successful producing 46 young averaging over 2 per nest with some nests raising 4 young.

Little Egret – 1 on 25/4, 1 on 19/5 & 20/5, 1 on 29/5, 2 on 30/5, 1 on 16/6.

Grey Heron – Regular (counts over 10), 11 on 19/3, 35 on 20/3, 23 on 22/3, 22 on 5/4, 23 on 10/4, 27 on 17/4, 29 on 22/4, 22 on 28/4, 18 on 5/5, 28 on 10/5, 22 on 15/5, 28 on 19/5, 21 on 21/5 & 24/5, 20 on 26/5, 13 on 2/6 & 3/6, 12 on 12/6, 17 on 16/6. Heronry - 40 active nests. By the 5/5 we had 32 successful nests that produced 51 confirmed young. By this date Willow leaf growth meant several nests were no longer visible, so actual young counts could be slightly higher. By far the heronries most successful year.

White Stork – 1 on 16/4, 2 on 7/5 & 20/5, 7 flyover on 22/5 & 6/6.

Mute Swan – 2 on 19/3, 20/3, 29/3, 1/4, 4/4, 5/4 & 7/4, 3 on 10/4 & 12/4, 2 from 17/4 to 24/4, 3 from 25/4 to 29/4, 1 on 27/4, 2 on 28/4, Up to 5 on 29/5, 2 regularly from 3/5 to 26/5.

Greylag Goose – Regular (counts over 4), 7 on 20/3, 11 on 21/3, 12 on 22/3, 7 on 7/4, 11 on 10/4, 14 on 17/4, 18 on 28/4, 7 on 29/4, 8 on 3/5 & 5/5, 10 on 15/5 & 17/5, 6 on 19/5 & 27/5, 5 on 2/6, 7 on 3/6, 8 on 5/6, 13 on 7/6, 18 on 9/6, 8 on 16/6.

Canada Goose – Regular (counts over 15), 30 on 20/3, 48 on 21/3, 35 on 22/3, 22 on 27/3, 30 on 4/4, 37 on 7/4, 19 on 17/4, 16 on 22/4, 20 on 26/4, 17 on 28/4, 21 on 5/5, 20 on 10/5 & 15/5, 31 on 17/5, 61 on 25/5, 38 on 2/6, 20 on 9/6, 32 on 13/6. Also Canada/Barnacle Goose hybrid on 24/4 & 10/5. Occasional Canada/Greylag hybrid also seen.

Egyptian Goose - Up to 3 regularly (counts over), 7 on 27/3, 4 on 5/4, 5 on 10/4 & 12/4, 12 on 17/4, 9 on 22/4, 6 on 23/4, 4 on 25/4, 9 on 26/4, 5 on 3/5, 6 on 5/5, 2+8 young on 12/5, Up to 7+8y from 17/5 to end of period.

White Feral Farmyard Geese – Resident - 6 until 17/4, then 5 to end of period.

Mandarin – Regular (counts over 5), 8 on 20/3, 7 on 4/4 & 17/4, 6 on 23/4 & 26/4, 10 on 5/5, 20 on 15/5, 6 on 16/5, 29 on 17/5, 32 on 18/5, 40 on 19/5, 6 on 20/5, 23 on 22/5, 28 on 23/5, 8 on 25/5, 6 on 26/5, 15 on 29/5, 10 on 30/5, 9 on 2/6, 13 on 5/6, 7 on 7/6, 14 on 12/6, 26 on 16/6.

Teal – 5 on 20/3.

Gadwall – 3 on 29/3, 2 on 5/4.

Shelduck – 2 on 20/3.

Wigeon – 1 on 20/3 & 21/3.

Shoveler – 4 on 20/3, 2 on 11/4 & 5/6.

Mallard - Resident, (counts over 10), 17 on 20/3, 18 on 17/4, 12 on 25/4, 14 on 5/5, 33 on 15/5, 42 on 16/5, 38 on 19/5, 34 on 20/5 & 21/5, 43 on 22/5, 34 on 23/5, 14 on 24/5, 19 on 27/5, 24 on 29/5, 30 on 2/6, 20 on 3/6, up to 67 on 5/6, 46 on 6/6, 19 on 7/6, 31 on 9/6, 28 on 12/6, 50+ on 13/6. Also an occasional White feral duck.

Tufted Duck – 5 on 20/3, 2 on 5/4, 10/4 & 17/4, 1 on 22/4, 3 on 27/4, 1 on 28/4, 4 on 3/5, 1 on 5/5, 2 on 11/5, 3 on 12/5, 6 on 15/5, 2 on 17/5, 19/5 & 24/5, 1 on 9/6, 2 on 13/6, 1 on 16/6.

Tufted Duck/Pochard hybrid – 1 on 5/4.

Champagne Fulvous Whistling Duck (Escapee Species) – 1 on 29/3.

Common Scoter – 2 on 3/5.

Red Kite – 1 on 20/3, 2 on 22/3 & 23/3, 1 on 27/3 & 29/3, 1 on 7/4 & 10/4, 2 on 24/4, 1 on 3/5, 11/5 & 18/5, 2 on 20/5, 5 on 23/5, 1 on 27/5 & 30/5.

Hobby – 2 on 4/5, 1 on 12/5, 6 on 13/5, 2 on 15/5, 6 on 16/5, 3 in 17/5 & 18/5, 5 on 19/5, 9 on 20/5, 5 on 22/5, 9 on 23/5, 7 on 25/5, 11 on 26/5, 5 on 27/5, 6 on 30/5, 2 on 31/5, 4 on 3/6, 2 on 5/6, 3 on 6/6 & 7/6, 5 on 8/6, 1 on 9/6, 4 on 13/6.

Sparrowhawk – 1 on 20/3 & 21/3, 2 on 27/3, 1 on 5/4, 10/4, 17/4 & 22/4, 1 on 1/5, 2/6 & 13/6.

Goshawk – 1 on 21/3, 10/4 & 17/4, 1 on 5/5 & 3/6.

Peregrine – 1 on 3/4.

Common Buzzard – Up to 2 throughout period (counts over), 4 on 20/3, 8 on 21/3, 11 on 23/3, 6 on 27/3, 3/4 & 10/4, 5 on 17/4 & 22/4, 4 on 4/5 & 17/5, 4+ on 20/5, 7 on 8/6.

Honey Buzzard – 1 on 20/5, 2 on 1/6, 1 on 8/6 & 13/6.

Hen Harrier – 1 on 28/3.

Osprey - 1 on 19/3, 25/3 & 26/3, 1 on 7/4, 9/4 & 10/4, 1 on 14/4 & 15/4, 1 on 1/5, 1 regularly from 16/5 to 26/5, 1 on 3/6, 7/6, 8/6 & 13/6.

Kestrel – 1 on 20/3, 2 on 21/3, 1 on 22/3, 27/3, 3 on 3/4, 2 on 5/4, 3 on 10/4, 1 on 14/4, 2 on 17/4, 1 on 22/4, 2 on 22/4, 1 on 26/4 & 27/4, 1 on 5/5 & 15/5, 2 on 17/5, 1 from 18/5 to 22/5, 2 on 2/6, 1 on 3/6 & 13/6.

Moorhen – Resident – 3 on 20/3, 1 on 27/3, 29/3, 5/4 & 10/4, 2 on 17/4, 1 on 28/4 & 15/5, 2 on 17/5, 4 on 19/5, 1 on 21/5 to 24/5, 2 on 29/5, 1 on 2/6 & 5/6, 3 on 6/6 & 12/6, 1 on 13/6, 3 on 16/6.

Coot – 1 on 20/3, 22/3 & 26/4.

Water Rail – 2 on 20/3, 1 on 27/3 & 7/4, 2 on 10/4, 1 on 13/4.

Oystercatcher – 2 on 23/5.

Redshank – 1 on 6/4, 13/4, 23/4 & 19/5, 1 on 7/6.

Dunlin – 1 on 21/3, 1 on 13/5, 26/5 & 31/5.

Sanderling – 1 on 11/5.

Little Stint – 1 on 17/5.

Ringed Plover -3 on 18/5, 1 on 26/5.

Little Ringed Plover – 4 on 20/3, 2 on 21/3, 1 on 23/3, 2 on 25/3, 1 from 27/3 to 4/4, 2 on 9/4 & 17/5, 1 from 18/5 to 22/5, 2 on 24/5, 1 on 25/5, 3 on 26/5, 2 on 29/5, 3 on 30/5 to 1/6, 1 on 2/6, 2 on 3/6, 1 on 5/6, 4 on 6/6, 2 on 7/6, 8/6 & 10/6, 1 on 12/6, 2 on 13/6.

Greenshank – 1 on 17/4 & 1/6.

Lapwing – 1 on 20/3, 14/4 & 5/5, 2 on 15/5, 1 on 16/5, Up to 4 from 17/5 to 23/5, 5 on 24/5, 3 on 25/5, 6 on 29/5 & 2/6, 5 on 3/6, 10 on 5/6, 6 on 6/6, 5 on 7/6, 6 on 10/6, 15 on 12/6, 14 on 13/6, 21 on 16/6.

Common Snipe – 2 on 20/3, 1 on 12/4.

Wood Sandpiper – 1 on 1/5 & 9/5.

Common Sandpiper – 1 on 15/4, 22/4, 24/4 & 27/4, 2 on 29/4, 3 on 1/5 & 3/5, 1 on 4/5, 2 on 5/5, 4 on 7/5, 1 on 8/5, 3 on 11/5 & 13/5, 2 on 17/5, 1 on 22/5, 3 on 23/5.

Green Sandpiper - 1 on 19/3, 6/4, 24/4 & 27/4, 3 on 16/6.

Little Gull – 1 on 7/6.

Common Gull – 1 on 11/5.

Black Headed Gull – 7 on 20/3 & 21/3, 8 on 25/3, 3 on 27/3 & 1/4, 6 on 3/4, 1 on 25/4 & 26/4, 4 on 12/5, 6 on 15/5, 10 on 16/5, 14 on 17/5 then up to 5 regularly with 8 on 6/6 & 16/6.

Mediterranean Gull – 1 on 27/3.

LBB Gull – 1 regularly (counts over) 2 on 25/3, 7 on 27/3, 4 on 3/4, 2 on 5/4, 2 on 12/4, 5 on 22/4, 2 on 25/4, 2 on 3/5, 4 on 16/5, 3 on 18/5, 2 on 19/5, 2 on 9/6, 3 on 10/6 & 13/6.

GBB Gull - 1 on 20/3, 25/3, 2 on 7/6, 1 on 13/6

Herring Gull – Occasional (counts over 2), 33 on 27/3, 42 on 7/4, 4 on 11/4, 3 on 10/4, 12 on 22/4, 6 on 5/5, 7 on 12/5, 9 on 15/5, 6 on 19/5, 4 on 7/6, 20 on 13/6, 23 on 14/6.

- Arctic Tern** – 2 on 11/5, 1 on 17/5. **Sandwich Tern** – 3 on 26/3.
- Common Tern** – 1 on 13/4, 2 on 15/4, 1 on 22/4, 2 on 24/4, 1 on 25/4, 3 on 26/4, 7 on 27/4, 3 on 28/4, 8 on 29/4 & 1/5, 6 on 3/5 to 5/5, 8 on 7/5, 10 on 9/5, 11 on 10/5, 10 on 11/5 to 13/5, 13 on 15/5 & 16/5, 12 on 17/5, 14 on 19/5, 13 on 20/5, 8 on 21/5, up to 12 from 22/5 to 1/6, 7 on 2/6, 8 on 3/6, up to 6 from 5/6 to 10/6, 8 from 12/6 to 16/6.
- Stock Dove** – Up to 2 intermittently (counts over 2), 6 on 17/4, 3 on 23/5 & 24/5.
- Collared Dove** – 1 on 3/4, 3 on 10/4, 1 on 26/5, 2 on 6/6.
- Wood Pigeon** – Ubiquitous - (counts over 30), 60 on 20/3, 31 on 30/4.
- Tawny Owl** – 1 on 11/4 & 3/6. **Cuckoo** – 1 on 24/4, 1/5, 30/5 & 7/6.
- Swift** – Regular (counts over 4), 50 on 11/5, 10 on 12/5, 100 on 13/5, 14 on 15/5, 6 on 16/5, 7 on 18/5, 12 on 19/5, 16 on 20/5, 60 on 25/5, 50 on 26/5, 200 on 31/5, 15 on 1/6 & 5/6, 35 on 6/6, 8 on 7/6.
- Kingfisher** – 2 on 20/3, 3 on 21/3, 1 on 22/3, 27/3, 5/4, 17/4 & 22/4, 2 on 24/4, 1 on 26/4 & 1/5, 1 from 15/5 to 23/5, 1 on 2/6, 5/6, 7/6, 12/6 & 15/6. **Green Woodpecker** – 2 on 20/3, 12/4, 17/4 & 24/4, 1 on 3/5.
- Gt Spotted Woodpecker** – 1 on 19/3, 2 on 20/3, 1 regularly from 27/3 to 28/4 with 3 on 17/4, 1 on 10/5, 15/5 & 19/5, 2 on 21/5, 1 on 22/5, 2 on 24/5, 1 on 26/5 & 3/6.
- Skylark** – 2 on 24/4. **Woodlark** – 1 on 3/6, 2 on 6/6, 1 on 7/6.
- Sand Martin** – 1 on 23/3, 2 on 29/3, 10 on 10/4, 4 on 11/4 & 13/4, 22 on 22/4, 1 on 24/4, 12 on 25/4, 2 on 26/4, 5 on 27/4, 10 on 29/4, 3 on 31/5, 1 on 2/6.
- Swallow** – 1 on 29/3, 1/4 & 4/4, 3 on 7/4, 16 on 12/4, 50 on 13/4 (Regular - counts over 4), 14 on 22/4, 25 on 25/4, 50 on 27/4, 7 on 28/4, 60 on 29/4, 8 on 3/5, 5 on 4/5, 25 on 8/5, 6 on 12/5, Up to 8 from 15/5 to 27/5 then up to 5 until end of period.
- House Martin** – 1 on 29/3 & 13/4, (counts over 2), 16 on 22/4, 30 on 27/4, 3 on 28/4, 20 on 29/4, 5 on 3/5, 6 on 5/5, 8 on 13/5, 4 on 15/5, 10 on 18/5 & 19/5, 6 on 20/5, 5 on 22/5, 5 on 31/5, 4 on 9/6, 3 on 13/6.
- Meadow Pipit** – 2 on 27/3, 3 on 29/3. **Yellow Wagtail** – 1 on 13/5.
- Grey Wagtail** – 4 on 20/3 & 21/3, 2 regularly from 25/3 to 12/4, 3 on 17/4, 1 on 26/4 & 27/4, 2 on 5/5, 1 on 12/5, 3 on 15/5 & 17/5, 2 on 22/5 & 27/5, 1 on 2/6, 5/6, 6/6, 9/6 & 13/6.
- Pied Wagtail** – Up to 2 regularly (counts over 2), 6 on 25/3, 5 on 27/3, 3 on 3/4, 4 on 17/4, 3 on 22/4, 5 on 29/4 & 12/5, 4 on 15/5, 17/5 & 18/5, 5 from 19/5 to 25/5, 6 on 26/5, 8 on 2/6, 6 on 7/6 & 9/6, 18 on 13/6, 19 on 14/6.
- White Wagtail** – 2 on 25/3, 1 on 11/4.
- Pheasant, Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird & Wren** – Regular and resident reported in low numbers (no count over 5).
- Black Redstart** – 1 on 27/3, 3/4 & 4/4. **Spotted Flycatcher** – 1 on 19/5.
- Whinchat** – 1 on 11/5. **Northern Wheatear** – 1 on 26/3 & 15/4, 1 on 3/5 & 4/5.
- Redwing** - 6 on 20/3, 1 on 22/3, 19 on 27/3, 20 on 7/4.
- Song Thrush** – 1 on 22/3 & 5/4, 2 on 10/4, 1 on 17/4 & 23/4, 3 on 5/5, 1 on 10/5 & 12/5, 3 on 15/5, 1 on 17/5, 19/5, 24/5, & 6/6. **Fieldfare** – 3 on 20/3 & 25/3.
- Mistle Thrush** – 2 on 27/3, 1 on 3/4 & 14/4, 2 on 17/4 & 18/4, 1 on 22/4 & 12/5, 2 on 18/5, 1 on 19/5.
- Reed Warbler** - 2 on 17/4, 1 on 18/4, 2 on 23/4, 24/4 & 26/4, 3 on 1/5, 2 on 3/5 & 5/5, 3 from 8/5 to 11/5, 4 on 15/5, 1 on 17/5, 3 on 19/5, 1 on 21/5, 22/5, 26/5 & 7/6, 8 on 12/6, 2 on 16/6.
- Sedge Warbler** - 1 on 24/4 & 10/5. **Lesser Whitethroat** – 1 on 22/4.
- Whitethroat** – Regular (counts over 2), 3 on 12/4, 4 on 17/4, 3 on 18/4, 24/4 & 26/4, 7 on 1/5, 6 on 8/5, 4 on 10/5, 3 on 15/5 & 23/5.
- Garden Warbler** – 1 on 26/4, 3 on 1/5, 5 on 3/5, up to 2 from 5/5 to 10/5, 3 on 15/5, 2 on 17/5 & 22/5, 1 on 2/6, 2 on 7/6.
- Spotted Flycatcher** – 1 on 9/5.
- Blackcap** – Regular, 1 on 23/3, 2 from 3/4 to 7/4, 3 on 9/4 (counts over 2), 5 on 10/4, 8 on 12/4, 3 on 15/4, 8 on 17/4, 3 on 18/4, 14 on 22/4, 3 on 26/4, 5 on 5/5, 3 on 15/5.
- Chiffchaff** – Up to 2 regularly (counts over) 5 on 20/3, 3 on 23/3, 5 on 27/3, 4 on 3/4 & 5/4, 3 on 9/4, 8 on 10/4, 6 on 12/4, 3 on 14/4, 8 on 17/4, 3 on 18/4, 12 on 22/4, 5 on 24/4, 3 on 26/4, 4 on 10/5, 3 on 15/5 & 19/5, 3 on 2/6, 3/6 & 9/6.
- Willow Warbler** – 1 on 9/4 & 12/4, 2 on 13/4, 3 on 15/4, 1 from 19/4 to 26/4, 1 on 3/5.
- Goldcrest** - 1 on 5/4, 7/4, 10/4 & 12/4, 2 on 17/4 & 3/5, 1 on 10/5, 19/5 & 22/5.
- L.T. Tit** – 10 on 20/3, 4 on 22/3, 1 on 5/4 & 10/4, 2 on 12/4 & 14/4, 3 on 17/4 & 27/4, 4 on 21/5, 3 on 22/5, 13 on 12/6.
- Marsh Tit** – 1 on 20/3, 29/3, 5/4, 7/4, 10/4, 12/4 & 17/4, 4 on 18/4, 3 on 19/4, 1 on 22/4, 2 on 26/4 & 28/4, 2 on 11/5 & 26/5, 5 on 2/6, 1 on 3/6. **Coal Tit** – 1 on 19/3, 20/3 22/3, 29/3, 12/4 & 26/4.
- Blue Tit & Great Tit** – No counts over 5 with exception of 6 Great Tit on 10/4.
- Nuthatch** – 1 on 19/3 & 20/3, 2 on 22/3, 1 on 29/3, 2 on 5/4, 1 regularly from 10/4 to 28/4 & 5/5 to 17/5, 5 on 6/6.
- Tree Creeper** – 1 on 19/3 & 22/3, 3 on 12/4, 1 on 26/5.
- Jay** – 4 on 20/3, 1 on 29/3 & 3/4, 2 on 5/4, 1 on 10/4 & 12/4, 2 on 17/4, 1 on 18/4, 2 on 22/4, 1 on 27/4, 3/5 16/5, 17/5 & 18/5, 2 on 19/5, 1 from 22/5 to 26/5, 1 on 3/6, 5/6 & 12/6.
- Magpie & Carrion Crow** – Resident with regular reports (counts over 5). (Magpie – 6 on 20/3 & 5/6).
- Rook** – Regular (counts over 2), 6 on 20/3, 24 on 27/3, 43 on 3/4, 3 on 14/4, 36 on 17/4, 10 on 5/5, 13 on 12/5, 6 on 3/6, 10 on 7/6, 13 on 9/6.
- Jackdaw** – 5 on 20/3, 7 on 27/3, 2 on 22/4, 19 on 3/6.
- Raven** – 1 from 20/3 to 23/3, 1 on 29/3, 4/4, 12/4 & 15/4, 3 on 17/4, 2 on 19/4, 22/4 & 23/4, 1 on 25/4, 2 on 10/5, 3 on 20/5.
- Starling** – 9 on 20/3.
- House Sparrow** – 2 on 3/4. **Chaffinch** – Occasionally up to 3 with 4 on 21/3.
- Lesser Redpoll** – 1 on 27/3. **Siskin** - 16 on 27/3.
- Goldfinch** – 1 on 19/3, 2 on 20/3, 3 on 22/3, 1 on 12/4 & 14/4, 6 on 17/4, 2 on 22/4, 26/4 & 28/4, 2 on 15/5, 21/5 & 23/5, 2 on 6/6.
- Bullfinch** – 3 on 20/3, 2 on 27/3, 3 on 12/4, 2 on 17/4, 3 on 22/4, 1 on 24/4, 2 on 5/5, 1 on 17/5, 2 on 19/5, 1 on 22/5, 2 on 6/6 & 13/6. **Yellowhammer** – 1 on 10/4.
- Reed Bunting** – 4 on 27/3, 1 on 5/4 & 10/4, 2 on 18/4, 3 on 24/4, 1 on 1/5, 5/5 & 8/5, 2 on 15/5, 1 on 22/5, 2 on 2/6, 1 on 12/6.

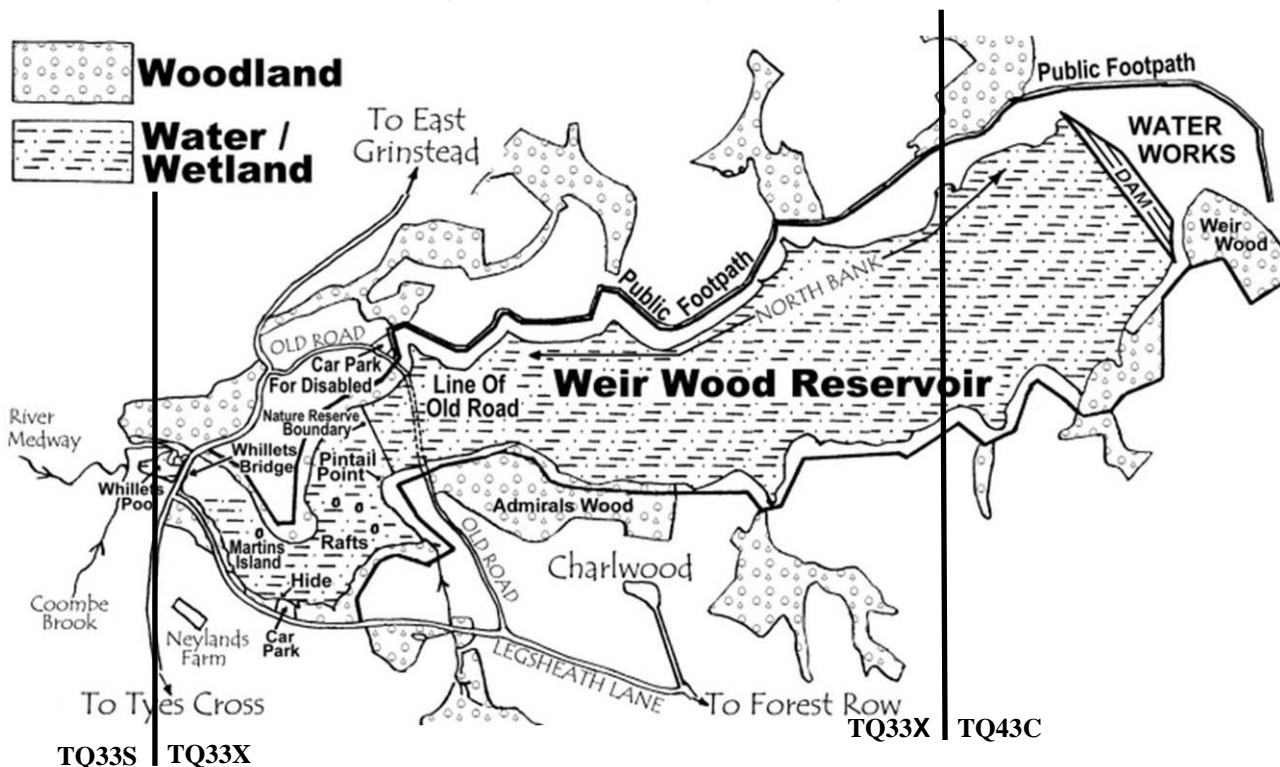
Around 20 people attended our Spring Walk. A look over the water first thing showed several Mandarin Ducks, Egyptian & Canada Geese, displaying GC Grebes, and pair of Mute Swans at a nest. We then moved into the birch wood and a Mandarin Duck flew from a nest box giving close views. Various spring flowers were pointed out, also singing birds, including Blackcap & Chiffchaff. We stopped to view the newly cleared Iron Bog and see the recent work carried out. A small nest box was opened to show a blue tit nest with eggs and later a Great Tit nest with eggs was shown. We stopped at both the new pondlet & Marsh Pool to show the work we had done in that area. At the study area a few Adder's-tongue Ferns were pointed out, also Common Spotted Orchids, although not in flower, they were close to the path and easily trodden on. We left the study area and entered the older part of the wood, banks of Bluebells drew much interest for photographs and were at their best, with Wood Sorrel, Wild Garlic (Ramsons), Wood Anemone, Dogs Mercury, Greater Stitchwort, Yellow Archangel and Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage, all part of the supporting cast. Some who were happy to climb a ladder had a peep at a Jackdaw nest which had eggs (a beautiful blue colour).

We continued over Plaw Hatch Stream bridge to an area where we had stands of Marsh Marigolds and a number of Marsh Valerian plants which are fairly rare in Sussex. At Pintail Bank we saw our fine Black Poplar tree and the wader scrapes that had been attracting wild fowl. We checked several refugia tins for grass snakes but only found some wood mice. We took a few moments to enjoy the fine views from this area before retracing our steps back to the car park for refreshments, noting wild Redcurrants and a singing Willow Warbler on route.

Refreshed, we walked over to Whillet's meadows, pointing out Coltsfoot growing along the road. We had a stop at the heronry with closer views of the young Herons & Cormorants. We could hear the higher pitched begging calls of young Cormorants compared to the lower pitched constant chatter of Herons.

Once at the meadows we started by visiting the reed-bed and where we heard Reed Warblers but did not see them. The sun brought out Orange Tip & Green Veined White butterflies. Into the second meadow and Water Horsetails, Cowslips and a False Oxlip (hybrid between Cowslip & Primrose) were shown. Several more refugia tins were and checked and more Toads and Wood Mice seen, the Grass Snakes remained elusive.

At Meadow Pond the eggs of the Willow Emerald damselfly were seen. They lay their eggs by ovipositor under the bark of Willow stems overhanging the water. An immature Large Red damselfly settled on the hat of one of the members, giving general amusement and good photo opportunities. Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies were noted as we wandered into the third meadow and along to the flooded woodland glade where a large stand of water dock was pointed out. With time running out this concluded the walk. Early feed back was an enjoyable walk by all.



Friends of Weir Wood Society General Information

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Chairman: | Bob Johnson, 01892 661548 | E-Mail: info@weirwood.me.uk |
| Membership Secretary: | Tom Howard-Jones, 01293 883039 | E-Mail: membership@weirwood.me.uk |
| Treasurer: | Bob Hastings, 01825 763573 | E-Mail: treasurer@weirwood.me.uk |
| Newsletter Editor: | Peter Johnson, 01892 661548 | E-Mail: newsletter@weirwood.me.uk |
| Website Editor: | Tom Howard-Jones, 01293 883039 | E-Mail: sightings@weirwood.me.uk |

Other Contact Information

- Tuesday Work Party Volunteers:** work@weirwood.me.uk **Website Photos:** photos@weirwood.me.uk
Wildlife Sightings: sightings@weirwood.me.uk **Friends General E-Mail address:** info@weirwood.me.uk
Website Address: <https://www.weirwood.me.uk>