

from the Willoughby Society Archives

Introduction

This document contains photographs of the pages from the Records of Nature Sightings started in 1977. The notes record sightings of interest as well as observations on the weather etc.. Most of the entries are hand written but these are supplemented by some photographs, illustrations, and cuttings. The notes cover the period 1977 to August 2007. There is greater detail in the later years.

Subsequent notes are typed and can be found in searchable pdf files for each year.

The Year 1977.

January 15th at 8.20 p.m. a Badger was observed moving from Big Ground to Side Ground.

On Tuesday March 1st Bees were seen on the Crocuses and a Butterfly, brown in colour, was also seen.

March 1st saw also the return of the Titlards on the village pond.

A Fox was sighted in the village on Sunday 6th March - A previous sighting was on Sunday January 30th

Magpies building again using last year's nest at the top of the garden at Church View.

Young Hare and Pheasants in Toot Lane on March 30th also Heron and a pair of Woodpeckers.

April 10th saw the return of Joe Bussey's Tit for yet another season.

Cuckoo heard 28th April.

Titlard and seven ducklings cross Mrs Vera Hall's lawn on Monday 9th May making for the brook and on the same day a Fox was seen behind the coal shed - also Tree Creepers.

Early June was the period of bad Sheep worrying resulting in the loss of Lambs.
The dog was subsequently shot under police supervision.

On the morning of June 12th, Vera Hall observed a Brown Owl taking away a baby Skating in its claws.

"On recent gardening tidying up, we turned over some rotting leaves, sticks and general rubbish. Beneath the pile we found a lizard type reptile. It was greeny brown on top with long tail, and its underside was bright yellow with a distinct black zig-zag marking. The creature was fast asleep, obviously hibernating. We managed to take a photograph, not very good I'm afraid, after which we turned over a large stone, made it a bed and laid back the stone."

.... Jim Waller.

Gold Finches, two in number in the European Larch Tree in Peter Brownlow's garden. This was on Monday 13th June.

Tuesday June 14th was the day of the Floods in Willoughby. The Flood was severe and the Village was closed to traffic for a time. It was announced over the radio that the floods were the second most severe on record for the area. Fortunately the heavy rains ceased during the afternoon and the water level began to drop

- rapidly and mopping up operations began.

The weather continued abnormally dull and cool for June.

The Year 1978.

The ever observant Jim Wallon sighted a Kingfisher in the culvert in Tiloor Lane heading for the spinney. The date was Saturday 11th February.

On Monday 20th, four Jack Snipes were searching for food in the bed of the culvert - One died after flying into a window. - Jim was able to confirm the species after the mishap.

Two days earlier on Saturday 18th Peter Brownlow saw a pair of Goldcrests at 13 Brooks Close and Fieldfares as individuals and not in flocks.

Towards the end of April, Mr Hatwell was delighted to find that the ten eggs in his garden shed had ten Blackbird chicks emerging.

The Year 1979.

During the early hours of Saturday morning January 27th - 16° of frost was recorded - snow has fallen on successive occasions since the start of the new year and is still very much in evidence. Parts of the brook are frozen over and icicles hang from the eaves of the houses.

The splendour of the frost laden trees must be seen to be believed. No doubt many photographs have been taken and will be preserved for the benefit of future "Willoughbyions".

The birds are all too eager for the scraps of fat and bread - We hope they will remember our acts of kindness when the yellow crocus appears and our crops mature.

On Monday February 15th a solitary Pochard was seen by Mrs Pygott diving in the Canal, where free from ice, by Navigation Cottage

Mrs and Mrs Walton saw a Weasel passing through the garden on two occasions on or about the 21st April.

Our Chairman may have been the first in the Village to have heard the Cuckoo on Monday 30th April.

The Year 1980.

Joe Bussey heard the Lark in Wolscofe Lane on April 4th and on April 13th the Martins were seen by Peter Brownlow flying over the village Pond.

The Magpies seem to be much in evidence and after last years experience it is necessary to cover at least half the surface of the fish pond in my garden with wire mesh.

R.S.W.

The one of two houses being built on the south side of Tulain St on part of the original College Farm site, was the scene of a domestic tragedy for two small birds on the evening of Thursday 6th May. The window glasses had been fitted that day and access to the house was no longer possible for them. They continued to fly around until dusk seeking entry and access to the nest which had been built in the loft. Again the following morning and then later in day after the workmen had left. On the following morning it soon became obvious that all hope had been abandoned.....

The week end of 22nd and 23rd November saw the end of the Pheasants which had enjoyed the scraps of food thrown out for them. The local "Bloods" armed with air rifles were seen in the fields.

R.S.W.

The Year. 1981

The evening of January 23rd saw a lone Wasp flying around the kitchen and very lively it was too - no doubt the result of the recent mild spell. NW.

On the early evening of Wednesday July 6th. Dorothy and Peter Brownlow saw a lone Swallow and a Heron a few days earlier.

During the previous month during the early hours of Sunday 26th, Willoughby in common with other villages was affected by freak weather conditions. Snow and high winds caused overhead power lines to collapse. The houses situated in the central area of Titain Street were without electricity supply for approaching 15 hours. Other less fortunate households had to wait until the following Tuesday evening.

Mrs Foster spotted a half green Woodpecker on Independence Day July 4th.

Fred Titchell tells of a family of Woodpeckers nesting in the Ash Tree on the Cricket Ground the previous year. The family took wing during the third week in July - a family of 6 or 7.

Mr and Mrs Cook whilst exercising their dog
Robbie near the old railway bridge at 10-30 in
the evening - The date - 21st November, saw
what appeared to be the glow of two cigarettes
- on closer investigation they were thrilled to
have seen two Glow Worms moving in opposite
directions

The Year. 1983.

A year we enjoyed for the generous amount of hot and sunny weather which followed a rather dry Spring.

Wych Elm in old Glebe field (alongside the Vicarage Drive) was felled on 10th November having slowly died over the past 3 years. It was well over a hundred years old.

Mrs Ivy Roach described an event which took place on Wednesday November 30th at a little after midday, when she observed a Fox walking sedately towards the rear of Danny Rowe's garage intent on evading the Hounds which it did successfully.

The Year 1984.

JANUARY.

January came in with gale force North westerly winds, which persisted throughout the month and felled down several trees in the district.

A fox was caught up - by a hind leg on some sheep wire on the old railway track. Mr J. Dodds had to kill it as the wire had severed the leg to the bone.

We spotted a Kingfisher on the River beam at the site of the old viaduct also a heron.

M.A.C

Mr & Mrs P. Brownlow were out walking along the Woolscott Rd when they were suddenly joined by a flock of long tailed tits, flying in the high hedge by the roadside.

There were a few snowfalls during the month but no large amounts, also very few sharp frosts.

Winds have been mostly North and East.

February.

Three new lime trees have been planted on Buckhill Lane.

Feb. 2nd.

The morning of candlemas day was sunny, but cloud and rain queerly spread over the region in the afternoon.

We have had a great variety of birds on our bird table throughout this winter so far, as many as fifteen blue and great tits at one time, also several pairs of greenfinch, chaffinch, robin and siskin.

17th Feb.

We disturbed a poached on the canal near the "Navigation Bridge." M.A.C.

A very cold period commenced at this time with temperatures often below freezing but the countryside was transformed by hoar frost, brilliant sunshine, and cloudless blue skies.

The wind has remained in the N.E. for most of the month often gale force and doing great damage.

26th Feb.

Mrs Iwent noticed the daisies were all in bloom in the grass by the village hall.

March

March came in "like a lion" with gale force northerly winds and flurries of snow.

10th March

Peter Brownlow reported seeing a common skoter, when spent 36 hours on the pond with Beryl Hallam's mallard ducks.

Mr & Mrs Aland saw a snipe in Buckhill Lane also about twenty swans flying over the village.

Mrs Vera Hall had a sparrow hawk on her front lawn.

25th March.

Several pairs of mallard duck, and some moorhens are very active around the canal area.

The grass verges are brightened by thecelandines which are very prolific this year. Violets are blooming on the canal towpaths.

27th The skylark has been seen and heard the herons are back by the canal and also in the Leam farm area.

March on the whole has been very dull and dreary, with few sunny days, some frosts and very cold N.E winds

April.

8th April

Mr & Mrs Warwick saw a Kingfisher in Mrs V. Hall's garden.

12th April

A lesser spotted woodpecker was seen by Mrs D. Brownlow in a tree by the pit round the shrubbery path.

15th April.

A fine specimen of stoat was seen by Mrs P. Brownlow, it disappeared into a drain under Mr Hobbey's garden.

25th April.

Mrs D. Brownlow, ever observant, spotted a charm of goldfinches in the village hall car park.

21st April

The cuckoo seen and heard.

April has been a good month weatherwise. There has been no rain to speak of. Easter Monday 23rd, was the warmest ever recorded. Temperatures soared to 21°C (70°F) on several days with sunshine hours well above average.

Winds have been in the Northerly direction for most of the month.

May.

In the autumn of 1982 Mr J. Ellard fenced a length (some 800 yds) of the old railway track, up to the R. Leam. He planted a variety of young trees there, when are now lovely and green with fresh leaf, they will provide cover for birds and animals.

The embankment is at present bright with cowslips.

15th May

Mrs Hilda Martin was very surprised to see a sparrow hawk swoop down on to her lawn, and carry away a fully grown thrush.

Mrs E Pettifer had a visitor on the front room window ledge, it was a stoat when paraded up and down and peered inside.

A lovely month weatherwise with no rain, very high temperatures and above average sunshine. Winds light Northeasterly.

June.

The linnets and goldfinches ~~are~~ in Peter Brownlow's garden have raised their young successfully, and all have now flown, likewise the blue tits and great tits which have nested in the boxes in the garden of Bill + Margery Cook.

The weather is still hot and sunny, still no rain.

1984

—Phew! So dry July—

LAST month was Rugby's eleventh driest July on record.

No more than 13.3 millimeters of rain fell in the town during the month — compared with a normal

average of 75 millimetres.

"We have records going back to 1871 and we estimate July was the eleventh driest since that year," said George Thompson, a spokesman for the

Rugby Weather Bureau.

"One of the more recent drier July's we had was in 1961."

June and July combined were the tenth driest on record.

August.

A state of drought was declared.

Temperatures reached 90° F.

September.

Peter Brownlow saw a Kingfisher fly off the canal near the Navigation bridge.

a flock of geese flew over the village.

The hot weather finally ended and Sept came in cool and showery. This pattern continued throughout the month
S. W. winds.

October.

Peter and Dorothy Brownlow had a grass snake in their garden.

The month has been fairly dry, but not a lot of sunshine. Winds mainly S.W.

The first frost came on the night of the 26th October.

A heron has been seen flying around over the village. It appears to have an injured leg.

November.

A very dull month with scarcely any frosts,
winds mainly from the S.W.

December.

The winds still in the South West in the
first half of the month then changing
N. westerly with a few sharp frosts.

1985.

January.

Quite a cold month, sharp frosts, and
snow flurries on several days.

Peter Brownlow saw a flock of long-tailed tits
on Longdown lane. Winds mainly N.W.

February.

6th February, a very heavy snowfall accompanied by freezing east winds, which brought drifting and chaotic conditions on all roads throughout the area. The snow remained right through the month. Temps: were -17°F on many days.

A sparrow hawk was seen on the ground in the churchyard on 12th February, it appeared to be around the area for about a week, Mr & Mrs Waddington (Brooks Close) saw it swoop down and snatch a starling from the path outside their kitchen window. Many birds, large and small were visiting the bird tables, Miss Aland (Lower Street) had a cock pheasant on her bird table every day for about a week.

March.

A very dull month, winds mainly N.E.

1st March.

a very sleepy tortoiseshell butterfly was observed by Peter Brownlow, in his garden.

April.

20th The moorhen is again nesting on the village pond.

Peter Brownlow has a blackbird nesting in the pyracantha.

Bill & Margery Cook have a robin, a Thrush and a hedge sparrow nesting in their garden.

Mrs Vera Hall was surprised to see a Muntjac deer on her front lawn early in the morning of 27th April.

The winds are still very cold North Easterly
mainly dry very little sunshine.

May.

10th. A pair of herons have appeared
again on the canal.

Cowslips are blooming on the old railway
track, on the southerly side of the village.

Rather a wet month, and still very cold.

June.

A tortoise, which Serena Rowe lost two
years ago, has suddenly found its way
home.

Winds are still from the cold quarter and
apart from just the period 24th to 30th
when was reasonably warm — it has been
a very cold, wet, windy month.

JULY.

A few warm, bright days, but very

windy.

N.W.

August, cold and wet throughout the month.

September and October, were the best months of the year weatherwise, fine and dry with good long periods of sunshine.

October 9th.

At around 10pm, in bright moonlight, Joe Bussey heard and saw a skein of geese fly over the village.

The following morning at 8am a large skein was to be seen flying in the opposite direction.

A heron had returned to the canal area.

Winds mainly S.W.

November and December.

Both months rather dull with considerable rainfall. No frost to speak of until after Christmas, when it was very severe for a week.

The Year 1986.

January

4th January.

It started to snow at midday and continued until about 10pm about six inches.

There was a rapid Thaw with heavy rain and wind, and the village was flooded.

February

5th. A very heavy snowfall accompanied by biting Easterly winds. It continued to snow for the remainder of the week.

Throughout the month, it was very cold the winds were easterly, gale force at times.

Temperatures were rarely above freezing

by day or night, and it was the coldest
February since 1947.

Peter Brownlow had a coor roosting in the
larch tree in his garden.

March.

5th. It started to rain and the snow and ice
melted very quickly

March was very cold with sharp frosts
and freezing easterly winds

April.

No change, still bitterly cold, with rain
nearly every day, fields all waterlogged.

Pelandus very late this year did not appear
until the last week of the month

27th April

Twoumble bees appeared in my garden today, but as yet no honey bees have been seen about.

M.A.C.

The mallard ducks are again nesting by the canal, several pairs have been spotted.

May

Nor much change in the weather, wind and rain throughout the month.

Mrs Fleming found a strange "creature" in her garden. It turned out to be the caterpillar of the elephant hawk moth.

The elder blossom has been particularly beautiful this year.

Joe Bussey removed a cuckoo's egg from a dunnocks nest in his garden 14th May. We had a cuckoo on the lawn for about half an hour.

M.A. Cook.

June.

Mr & Mrs Aland, Lower St, are among our keenest naturalists and they were delighted when they observed a humming bird hawk moth in their garden. It remained for about five days, but unfortunately the farmer sprayed the field at the back of their garden, and it has not been seen since.

June has been a dreary month on the whole, cold and dull, but lived up to "Flaming June" for the last week when the temperature rose to 90° , the highest so far this year.

July.

Not much sunshine again this month, very dull with strong winds often easterly.

Four green woodpeckers have been seen several times on Buckhill near the "Navigation". It is thought they may have nested in a hollow ash tree.

August.

Mrs Walton and Mrs Aland were chatting in the garden, when a sparrow hawk swooped and carried off a blackbird just a few feet away from them. Fortunately for the blackbird the hawk dropped it, and it flew away unharmed.

Again we have had no sunshine to speak of, cold winds, and very wet weather, the coldest August for thirty years say the weathermen.

September.

265r

Mr Chadwick was taking his grandchildren for a walk through the shrubbery, when they were delighted to see a beautiful Kingfisher rise from the pond near the path. One was also seen on the canal by Roger Cook and his family.

The weather in September and October picked up

~~can~~ and we had some long sunny days and
very little rain.

November and December were dull months,
no frost to speak of, but fogs and no sunshine.

The Year 1987.

JANUARY.

We had our first taste of winter, with heavy snow on 13th, north easterly bitter winds swept across and caused inner drifting of snow. The village was cut off on 14th with no mail or newspapers.

FEBRUARY.

No rain to speak of this month, but still cold N.E. winds and very sharp frosts.

MARCH.

7th March

About fifty wild geese were seen flying over the village in an easterly direction

26th March

A stoat crossed our drive at 7-30 am
m.c.

A dull month with periods of heavy rain. Sharp frosts and cold winds.

APRIL

9th April

Herons are back along the canal
Six swans were also seen near the
"Navigation".

13 April

Peter Brownlow saw some house martins,
and a swallow on 19th April.

23rd

The eukoo was heard.

~~(The weather was very wet and cold)~~
April started wet, cold and rough, but the
second week there was a change, and
the remainder of the month was sunny and
very warm with temperatures into the
seventies.

E winds

MAY.

A warm and sunny start, then dull and wet and cold for the remainder of the month.
E Winds

JUNE

6th

Peter Brownlow was very surprised to find a wasp's nest in his blue tits' nesting box.

An early purple orchid is blooming on the old railway track near the Navigation.
m.a.c.

A very wet month, gardens and fields waterlogged.

JULY.

Wood warbler's had a nest in Buckhill Lane and Peter Brownlow is regularly serenaded as he takes his morning walk!

A moorhen is building a nest under the willow tree on the village pond.

Several hatchlings of mallard and moorhen are frequently seen along the stretch of canal to Navigation.

Once again the stretch of railway embankment is beautified with many species of wild flowers, one in particular, the Agrimony has not been seen for many years.

OCTOBER.

11th

Mr and Mrs Sid Ivens had about thirty young housemartins in their bedroom for a couple of nights.

November.

The herons are back ~~are~~ in the area around the Navigation, Peter Brownlow witnessed a couple in slight altercation over territory!

November.

Eileen Pettyfer had a large spotted woodpecker
in the garden.

Mr & Mrs Aland, saw a Kingfisher by the river
bridge at Sawbridge.

December

This month followed the same pattern as the
last three, Wet and windy. The village has
been flooded on at least three occasions.

The year. 1988

January.

No snow and very little frost, but torrencial rain on most days, with flooding again in the village street.

February.

A dozen Bewick swans have taken up residence on the flooded osier fields at Sawbridge.

March - April

Still no sunshine. Strong ^{eastern} winds and very heavy showers.

Peter Brownlow has a pair of goldeneyes nesting in his garden.

May.

Two pairs of heron seen along the canal also a kingfisher.

Quite a dry month with reasonable sunshine.

June. July.

Both very wet months,

August.

Two pairs of large spotted woodpecker seen
in the shrubbery.

The year.

1989.

February.

Once again Mr & Mrs Bland have seen
the kingfishers in the brook at the Moor Lane
end.

April 20th

Herons are seen along the canal again.

24th.

A couple of Canadian geese spent two days
on the canal.

A wood warbler serenades Peter Brownlow as
he takes his daily walk along Beechill Lane

December.

It has been a most wonderful summer, breaking all sunshine records, and causing water shortages everywhere

15th Dec:

Peter Brownlow was surprised to see a pair of tufted ducks on the village pond. They stayed there for two nights.

The year 1990.

January, February and March, very little frost but gale force winds brought quite a large amount of damage in our area.

Rainfall. Small.

April 23rd The swallows and martins have arrived.

29th. Cuckoo heard.

26th September.

We were amazed to see a mink

in the canal.

M. A. C.

October.

There is evidence of an increase
in the badger population. They have been
digging in the churchyard, and some dung
pits have been seen.

1991.

February.

A very heavy snowfall in the second week.

March 21

The violets are out! Very early this year.

A mass of purple along the field by the canal
ledge.

April

Very cold with N & Easterly winds.

July. 1

A pair of swallows were today feeding their
six young on a hawthorn bush by the canal

September

A warm sunny month.

1992.

12th April.

Whilst taking our usual walk towards the canal, we watched a rabbit being chased by a stoat.

September.

Summer has been rather wet & cold, August very dull with very little sunshine.

The last week of September started with very heavy rain which caused extensive flooding in Main St on either side of the village hall.

Several gardens were completely flooded, and the water entered six or seven houses, on two separate occasions.

1993

April

A sparrow hawk swooped down and pounced on a small bird in the garden at the house of Mr & Mrs B. Hawkins Lower St.

The brook that runs through the village has been cleared and is now much deeper, hopefully there will not be any flooding in the houses this winter

Mr B Hawkins was walking by the brook along Moor Lane and was surprised and delighted to see an otter, as far as I know this is the first sighting in the village

1994

May.

Mr + Mrs J. Hawkins watched a hedge sparrow
feeding a young cuckoo in their garden.

1995.

The foxes seem to be on the increase, they
are visiting the gardens in daylight and
chickens have been killed.

1992.

12th April.

Whilst taking our usual walk towards the canal, we watched a rabbit being chased by a stoat.

September.

Summer has been rather wet & cold, August very dull with very little sunshine.

The last week of September started with very heavy rain which caused extensive flooding in Main St on either side of the village hall.

Several gardens were completely flooded, and the water entered six or seven houses, on two separate occasions.

1993

April

A sparrow hawk swooped down and pounced on a small bird in the garden at the house of Mr & Mrs B. Hawkins. Lower St.

The brook that runs through the village has been cleared and is now much deeper, hopefully there will not be any flooding in the houses this winter

Mr B Hawkins was walking by the brook along Moon Lane and was surprised and delighted to see an otter, as far as I know this is the first sighting in the village

1994

May.

Mr + Mrs B. Hawkins watched a hedge sparrow
feeding a young cuckoo in their garden.

1995.

The foxes seem to be on the increase, they
are visiting the gardens in daylight and
chickens have been killed.

1996.

April 6th.

A large fox was found dead on the road by the entrance to Hayward's Lodge.

8th April

Another fox has been run over in just the same place as above

1997.

May.

The woodpeckers have been ~~set~~ seen again in the shrubbery.

June

A pair of swans have hatched seven cygnets, and seem quite tame when walkers approach them on the canal towpath.

1998

Spring.

There has been a good selection of wild flowers on the canal bank in the cutting between bridges 83 + 84. The snowdrops were the first to show, then violets, both blue & white, and cowslips etc

A patch of ragged robin has been seen growing on the old central railway embankment, it is quite rare now.

JANUARY 2002

WEATHER WISDOM "A WET JANUARY, A WET SPRING"

After severe frosts for over a week, at the beginning of the month, everything is coming into bud. The catkins are in great abundance, snow-drops, winter aconites, & crocus, are showing their welcome winter colours. The snow-drops in St Nicholas churchyard are a delight to see, especially after the dusting of snow on them.



Our feathered friends are looking very healthy, they are all well fed.

7 Long-tailed tits have been seen, hanging in a group on a fat ball. Sightings of gold-finches and a pair of sparrow hawks, behind Bath Farm Barberry cottage has a very tame robin & blackbird, which have stayed all winter in the garden. We hope for several new young like last year, if we can keep the cats out.



Several dead frogs have been seen by members. A deadly virus appears to be sweeping across the country. I will update this in the coming months.

The last week of the month has been mild, with moderate rainfall. Gales up to 80 mph, has swept some parts especially the South/West. Many rivers have burst their banks, & others are on flood alert, but Willoughby stood firm.

B & J. Walton.

FEBRUARY 2002

WEATHER WISDOM. "IF FEBRUARY BRINGS NO RAIN,
TIS NEITHER GOOD, FOR GRASS & GRAIN."

floods continued over much of the country, with severe flooding in parts, but here the weather was mild with few showers

18th A year has passed since the outbreak of the dreaded Foot & Mouth disease, although in Warwickshire farms remained clear. We have now come full circle, & new life is appearing in our fields. Calves & lambs, are running & jumping about, enjoying their freedom.



Our chairman, Graham Geddes reported seeing a Jay, & the Great spotted Wood-pecker in his garden. Haywards Lodge is thought to be their habitat. This is a perfect untouched woodland for them, although now, it needs a general tidy up, & sleeves removed off some of the trees having outgrown them.

The month ended with a lovely sunny day after a sharp frost, & I saw, two "Bumble Bees", on the heathers, enjoying the warmth of the long awaited sun-shine.



MARCH. 2002

WEATHER WISDOM.

"MANY MISTS IN MARCH
MANY FROSTS IN MAY"

March certainly came in "like a lion" with gales reaching 70 m.p.h. in parts of the country.

The Mallards are really enjoying themselves, using Foot Lane + Main St, as an airstrip for low flying ducks. This year the lone female, had many male admirers, so we may see some broods of ducklings.



The Wood-pecker has been seen in many gardens, it certainly sounds like men at work, drilling. He's a regular visitor to the dead tree opposite the church gate.

Barberry cottage have a pair of wrens nesting, it would be nice to have some young, but already one smashed egg had been found.

Linda Belgrave observed loads of frog spawn in the village pond, + by the looks of all the mating going on, our frog population looks of the increase, hopefully, disease free.

Many spring flowers are out in bloom, the daffodils brighten up the village, with violets, primroses, cow-slips in gardens. The warm sunshine over the past few days, even brought out the butterflies, as the month, went out "like a lamb".



APRIL

2002

WEATHER WISDOM.

"WHEN APRIL BLOWS HIS HORN,
TIS GOOD, FOR BOTH HAY & CORN"

The first 3 weeks in April has been very dry, with sunny days, especially the latter 4 days, when the temp. reached 70°F. I think its too early to last, but to-day 23rd, the cuckoo has been heard by several villagers.

The willow trees in Moor Lane, are humming with honey bee's, collecting pollen from the catkins

The "Waltons" saw a female Kestrel, having lunch, on the verge of the A45.

Marian Neville had a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, on the bird feeders in her garden.

Maurice Henson had to act as a lollipop lady, & see "Mother duck" & her 8 ducklings safely across Moor Lane, to the water-course.



The month ended with a week of typical April weather. Sunshine, showers, hail, & very cold N/E winds. According to the weather experts, it was the driest April on record.

MAY 2002

WEATHER WISDOM.

"CHANGE NOT A COAT,
TILL MAY IS OUT"

Very strong, cold drying winds continued into May. A few sunny days in the middle of the month, was very welcome, but it turned out to be very wet & miserable the last two weeks. It was certainly

a mac & wellies month. Even "BANDIT" & his master GRAMM, had to take the umbrella when it was time for "walkies".



The house Martins have returned once again to Marion & Dennis Neville

garage.

Mr & Mrs Cook have a mistle thrush nesting in the garden, these are the largest of the thrushes, & a beautiful bird.

Linda Belgrave commented on the gold fish in the pond, also it is well stocked with Moorhens & Mallards. The water lilies have grown well, after being thinned out. It looks very attractive, now it has been cleaned out.

Mrs Cook's sister whilst walking the canal bank, was surprised to see a small snake swimming, whilst being attacked, by parent Moor-hens. It seems it was trying to take the chicks from the nest.

JUNE

WEATHER WISDOM.

"JUNE DAMP & WARM,
DOES THE FARMER NO HARM"

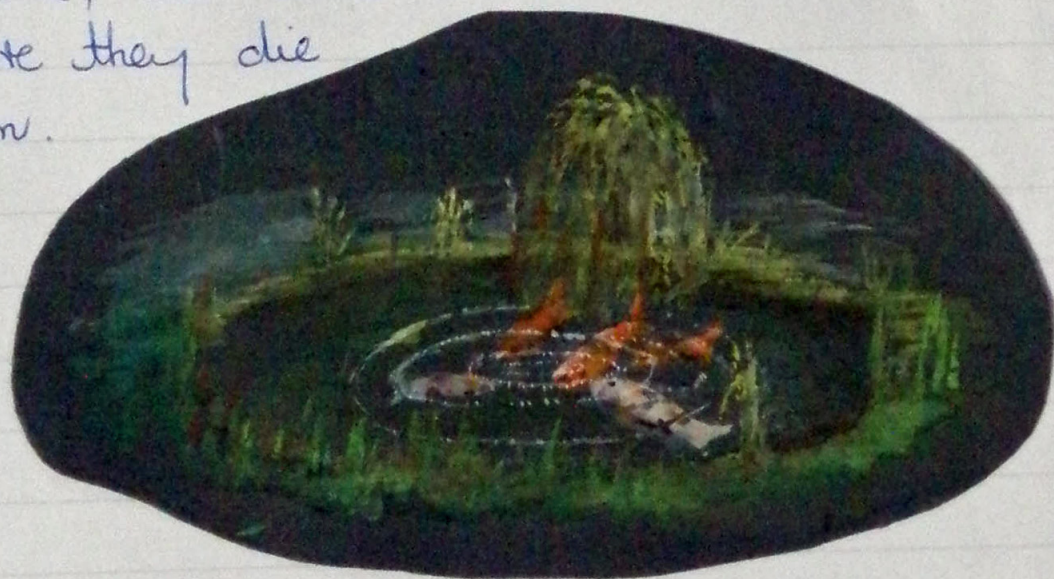
THE QUEENS GOLDEN JUBILEE, was blessed with a few days of good weather, although this changed back to rain on Wednesday 5TH.

A good time was enjoyed by all, & Richard Heckfords cattle & rabbit take their eyes off the funny creatures running about in the playing field.

Marion & Dennis Neville have a family of Swallows in the garage. These birds certainly know where to find a good B+B!

The Waltons have had a young Great Spotted Woodpecker for several days, it has spend hours boring into the electric pole. It sounded like men at work.

Considering how wet & over-cast June has been, the pond is drying up quickly. The remaining ducklings & Moorhens (sadly several have been lost to man & beast) are growing fast. Hopefully a good down-pour, will come, to save these birds, & also the gold fish, before they die from lack of oxygen.



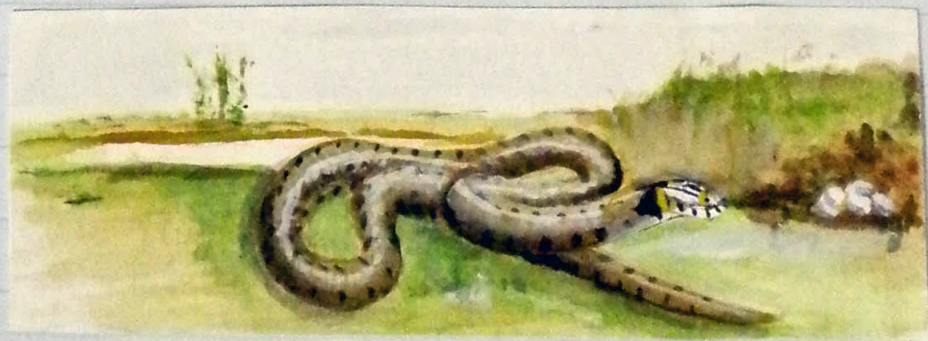
JULY 2002
WEATHER WISDOM

JULY 15^{JH} ST SWITHIN.

This year we proved the motto wrong. We had a slight shower on this day, followed by some glorious hot weather, reaching mid 80's in the Midlands until the 29th when the heavens opened. Everything is well watered with gutters, + water butts over flowing.

A brightly coloured parrot type bird has been seen in Pye Court. It appears to have come from an aviary and is being picked on by wild birds. Unless caught it certainly will not survive, lets hope the R.S.P.C.A. have been informed, (or Roff)!

Several gardeners have unearthed grass snakes in their compost heaps. This is the perfect habitat, as it will keep them damp and warm. They look alarming when found but are harmless.



Graham Geddes has had Fieldfares in the garden. These winter in central + S. Europe, but appear here in flocks. They look like the mistle-Thrush.

The month ended with some heavy down-pours + thunder, but on the whole a good month.

AUGUST 2002
WEATHER WISDOM.

"IF THE 24TH AUGUST BE FAIR + CLEAR,
THE HOPE FOR A PROSPEROUS AUTUMN, THAT YEAR"

The month began, with a week of very wet weather, many places around the country suffered flooding.

As regard nature sightings, not much to report, I think many villagers are on their holidays. We have a great many Starlings, flying in huge flocks, leaving their calling cards.

The "Walters" found 4 huge caterpillars feeding on the fuchsia's. These are laid by the Elephant Hawkmoth & can grow to 8 cm long. Needless to say, they were removed from the garden, & put in the hedgrows in Moor Lane.



We had sunny days the last week, but it is sad to see the swallows collecting, ready to fly to sunnier climes, it reminds us, winter is on its way.



Goldfinch
on
Thistle

SEPTEMBER. 2002

WEATHER WISDOM.

FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 1ST,
FAIR FOR THE MONTH.

This month has been recorded as one of the sunniest on record.

The duck pond is drying up, + gardens badly need water.

Many birds are returning to gardens:-

Goldfinch are feeding on seed-heads

sighting of a group of Long Tailed Tits.

Thrushes feeding on the Rowan Tree berries.

The squirrels have been gathering the Horse Chestnuts - (conkers) up, + hiding them. They must have seen the "head-lines". The playing of "conkers" to be banned!

The hedge-rows have been hanging with Blackberries, + lots of wild Hops in the Village Hall grounds

Scarcely any of the foliage on the trees has turned colour, + on the farms, all has been safely gathered in. The barns are well stocked with animal feed for the winter months.

Weather continues perfect. Sunny days, cold + clear at night, mist in the morning.

Although the evenings are drawing in, it has been a lovely month.

OCTOBER. 2002
WEATHER Wis)off.

"IN OCTOBER DUNG YOUR FIELD,
AND YOUR LAND) ITS WEALTH WILL YIELD)"

The first couple of weeks brought bright sunny days,
+ few very cold nights, but change is on the way.

lots of birds are now seeking food in our gardens,
+ marking out their habitats. Blue-tits are in + out of nesting
boxes, the wrens are busy in the Waltons green-house.

Vast amounts of ducks + geese have been seen, +
"Jawny" owls have been heard at night.

Kestrels have been spotted in gardens, also the small
lesser Spotted Woodpecker seen feeding on the nuts.

Mrs Bland, Keith Skinner, + Jim Walton, have all seen
the Buzzard, a beautiful bird, which soared with
hardly any wing movement, for quite a while.



The month ended, with gale force winds all over
the country, 95 mph. was recorded with several people
losing their lives, by falling trees. Hundred of homes
were without power, some up to a week, or more.
A very sad, wet, + windy end to October.

NOVEMBER 2002
WEATHER WISDOM.

"IF THERE'S ICE IN NOVEMBER, THAT WILL BEAR A DUCK
THERE'LL BE NOTHING AFTER, BUT STUDGE & MUCK"

The month came in very wet & cold.
Nothing much to report on the nature front,
except, pheasants seen in Haywards Lodge, & in
Mr Heckfords field behind the church.
The month went out on a wet note.

DECEMBER 2002
WEATHER WISDOM.

"IN DECEMBER, KEEP YOURSELF WARM, & SLEEP."

Although the month was warm, it was very wet
all over the country. Many countries were flooded, it
was a bleak Christmas for many people.

The duck pond flooded, closing the road, the
birds had a great time, without the fear of
being run over.

The garden birds are all looking very plump, with
so many feeders out, they are spoiled for choice.

Its been a good year on the nature front, which is
pleasing, as the Willoughby Society is 40 yrs old.
What the future holds for flora & fauna is unknown,
as more homes are to be built on "green belt", & proposed
airports, destroying open spaces.

JANUARY 2003.

WEATHER WISDOM

"THE DARKEST MONTH OF ALL THE YEAR, IS JANUARY

The month began with continual rain for 5 days, the cloud was so low, it didn't get light. Very depressing. We were so pleased a week of frosty nights followed, although black ice caused problems for many.

Sunday January 13th, was like a picture postcard, everything hanging in frost. The trees, + especially cobwebs, were things of beauty. Mother Nature certainly showed her true colours.

Jim Lasset moving a herd of ewes up Moor Lane early in the morning, makes one realise what country life is all about.

Jim Walton saw a kingfisher in the watercourse outside Barberry cottage.

Linda + Ellen Belgrave have had a small bird in their garden, yet to be identified.

The first fall of snow fell towards the end of the month, + out came the snow-drops. As last year they are in abundance in the church-yard.

Large flocks of starlings in the church field, didn't mind the snow, + several Moor Glens have been skating on the pond.

BARBARA WATSON

FEBRUARY 2003

WEATHER WISDOM

"IF IN FEBRUARY, THOU HEAREST THUNDER, THOU SHALT SEE A SUMMER WONDER"

The month came in wet, with wintery showers, hail or some thunder.

Its nice to see the spring flowers coming through, crocus, daffodils, winter aconite, primroses.

The willows are showing their downy white catkins

FEB 14TH ST VALENTINES DAY

Bright sunshine, but sharp frost & bitter east winds
Lots of cold hands, but plenty of warm hearts!

Birds seen by members:-

lyn Busby had a little owl in the garden.

A Pheasant had been paying a visit to many gardens, & a large heron had been seen in Jim Ellards field

The month ended with a nice down-pour of rain, and Main St, was alive with a great many frogs, coming out of hibernation.

MARCH 2003

WEATHER WSE011

MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LAMB. GOES OUT LIKE A LAMB

True to the above saying we had gale force winds the first week of the month, followed by 2 weeks of warm glorious sunshine, with frosts at night. Day-time temperatures were the highest ever recorded for March.

The gardens are like dust-brooks, but the bulbs all around the village are at their best.

The education foundation garden is a picture. it looks beautiful.

Mother duck has made a nest on the water-course bank in Moor Lane, and at present is sitting on 13 eggs. We shall feel relieved when she & her brood are on the water, & away from cats & foxes. (Update later)

Luchey Mitchell saw a large bird & its offspring on the patio, it was a bird of prey, & appears to have been a Sparrow-Hawk.

The ducks pond is once again full of frog-spawn. In January 02, we were worried about a virus sweeping across the country, killing off frogs, but ours are in abundance again.

The month ended, dull but warm, & a few spots of welcome rain.

April 2003.

WEATHER WISDOM.

"APRIL WEATHER, RAIN & SUNSHINE BOTH TOGETHER"

The first 3 weeks of the month was very dry. Temperatures reached 75° , the hottest April for 20 yrs. The garden are like dust bowls, & winter hanging baskets are needing a daily water.

On the 18th (Good Friday) Mother ducks & chicks left the nest, sadly one died in its shell. Mrs M. Heckford has seen them swimming around in the moat. How they survived was a miracle.

Linda & Alan Belgrave had two red legged partridge feeding in the garden, & the pheasant has been seen in many gardens.

In the church field its nice to see the calves & lambs running around, the grass is almost gone, so a down pour would be welcome.

The cuckoo was heard on the 27th, last year it was first heard on the 23rd.

2 white Ducks on the village pond, are an unusual breed,

The welcome rain, ended the month, with hail & thunder. April was the warmest since 1987, the driest since 1997 & and the sunniest since 1990. We hope we haven't had our summer.

MAY 2003

WEATHER WISDOM.

WHO DOFFS HIS COAT ON A WINTER DAY,
WILL GLADLY PUT IT ON IN MAY."

The weather has been very mixed this month. We had a few really hot days, then a spell of hail-stones, thunder, followed by wet humid weather.

The ducks have been laying eggs in some unusual sites.

In the shrubbery a nest containing 5 ducklings. The pond had several ducklings + Moor Hen chicks. Mrs Fleckford (Junior) had a duck nest in a Hay-Rack. She had thrown all the plants out, built + laid 13. eggs. Town people staying in the holiday cottage, have been fascinated, watching the coming + going of the duck.

The Waltons have had daily visits to the nut feeders of a male + female Greater Spotted Woodpecker. These birds are very laid back, + have become quite tame

Brenda Homan had 4, lock-shafes beetles by her back door. The outside night light had drawn them. After catching them, Barbara Walton placed them in the hedge row in Moor Lane.

Mrs Cook, saw a brightly coloured bird (yellow all over with a black head) feeding on the bird table. This was slightly smaller than a starling. It appears to have escaped from an aviary.

JUNE 2005.

WEATHER WISDOM.

MIST IN MAY, & HEAT IN JUNE
BRINGS ALL THINGS INTO TUNE"

The weather was mixed, with S/West winds & periods of heavy rain. Everything in the gardens are growing at an alarming rate. Trees, plants & weeds seem to be taking over, although baskets & tubs are very colourful, also foxgloves & poppies abound.

Wasps are appearing early, several nests having to be dealt with, including a large one in the roof of the Village Hall.

Young blackbirds & thrushes are keeping "mum & dads" busy in feeding them, it nice to see some manage to survive

The high-light of the month was a Falconry Display in one of Richard Heckfords fields.

A number of society members & friends, saw Mr Jan Prymaka, put these birds through their paces, some flying in, landing on peoples heads, (Jim Walters for one) this caused a great deal of laughter.

The last few days of June has been dry & quite warm, we hope next month will be more like summer should be.

JULY 2003

WEATHER WISDOM

15TH ST SWITHINS DAY. "IF IT BE FAIR, FOR 40 DAYS
WITH RAIN NO MORE."

The above saying was wrong this year. July's weather brought us endless days of very hot sun. It's been so warm, one couldn't work or sleep or step outside. On Wednesday 16TH all records reached 93 f, one of the hottest countries over Europe. But then St Swithin let us down, when thunder-storms arrived & the gardens welcomed the rain.

Red legged Partridge have been coming into gardens, looking for water, because farm ponds have dried up, & springs have stopped running. The duck pond is very low, but lots of young's ducklings & Moor-hens have survived.

A Heron is a regular visitor to water-course in Moor lane, hoping for a good catch.

AUGUST 2003.

WEATHER WISDOM

"ST BARTHOLOMEW 24TH AUGUST
BRINGS THE COLD DEW."

August has been a very hot + dry month. On Sunday 10TH the warmest day in history, was recorded at 100 F. Already leaves are falling because of lack of water. Autumn has arrived at least a month early.

Not much to write of the wild life. The birds have been skulking from the heat only coming to drink later in the evening. Swallows are still flying around, when normally they would be gathering to fly to warmer climes.

Butterflies + bees have been in abundance, enjoying the sun-shine, so have the caterpillars, eating everything in sight

Its been lovely to have nice warm + balmy evenings, but already the nights are drawing in.

"The squirrel gloats on his accomplished hoard,
The ants have buried their gains with ripe grain
And honey bees have stored, the sweets of summer in
their luscious cells,

The swallows have winged across the main."

Thomas Hood.

SEPT. 2003.

WEATHER WISDOM.

"WINDY BLENDS SOFT, TILL THE FRUITS
ARE IN THE LOFT"

The whole of September has been sunny & dry. Everywhere is burnt brown, gardens are like dust-balls. Farmers are already feeding livestock with winter fodder.

The Waltons found a slow-worm (or snakes) basking in the sun, in the garden.

3 Buzzards were seen hovering, on 3 occasions, by Linda's Alan Belgrave, & Jim Walton. They are very much in evidence at Priors Marston.

Mrs Lok saw a Spotted Fly Catcher, darting about in her garden.

The pond had been very dry during the drought, & sadly a Heron, had over 8 gold-fish for lunch.

OCTOBER 2003.

"THEN CAME OCTOBER, FULL OF HERRY GHEE"

The dry weather continued until almost the end of the month, when after 3 hard frosts, the welcome rain came. The last 2 days of the month was very wet.

Margaret Heckford has been having in her garden every day for weeks, a white fan-tailed dove.

Beryl Hallam, lost 8 chickens to the fox.

Long tail tits are feeding once again in the Waltons garden, plus 2 visits from a Sparrow Hawk.

The Lutetian colours have been recorded as one of the best on record, a real spectacular sight.

Mother Nature is very clever, & cannot be beaten.

NOVEMBER 2003.

WEATHER WISDOM "NOVEMBER TAKE FLAIL
LET NO SHIPS SAIL."

The month came in very mild, with little rain
Everywhere is parched, the ground rock hard.
Bulbs are coming through early also spring flowers
have their buds. Still lots of berries about, the birds
have lots eats to choose from.

Every evening the Walton's have a visit from a
Sparrow Hawk. He sits on the bird table hoping
to catch his supper. Whilst some one is around,
he hasn't been lucky so far.

The long tailed tits have returned, 4 in all.
They are likely to watch all hanging together, on
the feeders, + fat balls.

NOVEMBER 24th

The Willow trees on Moor Lane, have been felled,
after advice being given by W.C.C. Forester, of
the danger to motorists and residents, of falling debris
Roots have gone into the main sewage system, and
footpath is being under-mined, & must now be relaid.
Although it looks sparse at present, we look to the
future, when new ornamental trees will be
planted.

DECEMBER 2003.

WEATHER WISDOM ..

COLD DECEMBER BRINGS THE SLEET
BLAZING FIRE AND CHRISTMAS TREAT"

December has been a very mild month, with a average amount of steady rain. The gardens still look good with roses out, & new shoots appearing on a lot of shrubs. These were burnt off during the very hot spring & summer. It always pays to wait, (miracles happen) before discarding what looks like dead wood.

There are still plenty of seeds for the birds, but they still come to be ^{fed} now, especially the robins, who want it all.

The week before Christmas we had severe night frosts, but beautiful sunny days.

Snow fell in several countries, causing chaos, but here in Kildare all was well.

It was good travelling weather over the Christmaside, & few feet.

JANUARY 2004.

WEATHER WISDOM

"IF THE GRASS, GRASS IN JANUARY,
IT GROWS THE WORSE, FOR ALL THE YEAR."

WE began the month with very strong gale-force winds, & lots of rain. Several flood warnings out of the country.

On January 14TH, the first snow fell here. What a winter wonderland, from windows by the fire, it looked a picture postcard. The sheep grazing in the church field, & gardens full of birds. Our monthly meeting was cancelled, as the speaker was unable to get, due to impassable roads. A heavy fall of snow, & freezing conditions, meant many people had to walk, some staying in their vehicles.

FEBRUARY 2004.

WEATHER WISDOM

CANDLEMAS DAY. 2ND FEB

"IF CANDLEMAS BE FAIR AND BRIGHT, WINTER'LL HAVE ANOTHER FLIGHT, IF CANDLEMAS BE CLOUDS & RAIN, WINTER IS GONE, AND WILL NOT COME AGAIN."

The spring bulbs are so colourful at this time of the year, the birds look very well fed, & give pleasure when hearing their song calls. The lambs & calves love running about in the fields, a sign spring is just around the corner.

MARCH. 2004.

WEATHER WISDOM.

"MARCH HAS MANY WEATHERS"

The beginning of the month was very mild but damp. Grass, weeds, & garden plants are growing rapidly.

Birds are busy finding places to nest, gathering lots of rubbish, leaves, stems, feathers etc. from our gardens.

* The duck is back in the same hay manger at Manor Farm barns, sitting on 14 eggs.

Long tailed tits, gold finches are regular visitors to members gardens. The kestrel visits the "Walters" garden about 5 o'clock, two or three times a week.

He comes to catch his tea, but is now proving to be a pest.

The trees in Moot Lane which had to be felled in November for safety reasons, have now been replaced with - Rowan, Silver Birch & Ash.

Warwickshire County Council Forestry Div, chose & planted them. We are proud to say they were paid for by Willoughby residents donations. We look forward to seeing them reach maturity.

The evenings are drawing out, & we have had some nice sunny spring days, with some frosty nights.

APRIL 2004.

WEATHER WISDOM

"IF ASH IS OUT BEFORE THE OAK,
SUMMER WILL BE ONE LONG SOAK"

The beginning of April was warm & sunny, temperatures reaching 70° in some areas during the Easter break, (11th + 12th April) which was a real bonus.

The cuckoo was heard on the 23rd, exactly the same date as in 200~~2~~², earlier than in 2003, when it was 24th.

The swallows are building in the usual places ~

Marion + Dennis Nevilles garage + likewise Richard Hedford's.

* The duck which was in the hay manger, only managed to rear 2 of her brood, due to unforeseen circumstances. Toads & frogs are coming out of hibernation, still looking very sleepy.

Mrs. Irons's gold fish are feeling very amorous, & mating, as the weather warmed up.

The month ended with two days of gentle rain although homes in Worcester & the South East, had homes flooded after thunder storms.

MAY 2004.

WEATHER WISDOM

"SHEAR YOUR SHEEP IN MAY, & SHEAR THEM ALL AWAY"

Over the Bank Holiday (May 3rd) we had lots of wet weather although mild

The village pond ~~not~~ flowed on to lower St, & remained so, for almost a week, as the wet weather continued.

Grass, trees & flowers are growing out of control as weather is so mild

Birds are busy nesting with lots of young in gardens.
A spotted fly catcher has been seen, also pair of Partridge

After 2 dry weeks, some gentle rain arrived at the end of the month (another Bank Holiday 31ST May).

JUNE 2004.

WEATHER WISDOM

"A LEAK IN JUNE, SETS THE CORN IN TUNE."

~~For~~ 2 weeks of the month was like Mid-Summer, temperatures soaring into the seventies.

but came butterflies, young chicks, lots of families of ducks & Moor-hens on the pond.

The weather changed on "Mid-SUMMER DAY" 24TH.

Autumn arrived 3 months early, with gale force winds, rain, hail & thunder.

The MET OFFICE confirmed it was the worst area of Low Pressure for this time of the year, in 150 years of records

The month ended on a wet & windy, but mild note

JULY 2004.

WEATHER WISDOM. "IN JULY, SHEAR THE RYE"

Not very good weather during this month, several down pours, + it rained on St Swithons days 15TH July!

Getting to report on the nature side.

August 2004

St Swithon certainly lived up to his motto, it certainly rained for 40 days.

Three words sum up August weather: WET WET WET

We suffered flash floods, days on end of thunder + lightning storms, sewers out, + gale force winds

This month has been the wettest on record.

Cornwall suffered bad with properties being swept away at Bosccastle, + Staffordshire having had flooding. It will certainly be a month + year to remember

No nature to report, except the swallows are gathering to fly south, + who can blame them

SEPTEMBER 2004.

WEATHER WISDOM. ST MATTHEW BRINGS THE
COLD + DREW. (SEPTEMBER 21ST)

The first day of the month, brought the sun-shine to-day 9th. We are still enjoying a late longed for summer 70° plus, but for how long?

Margery Cook removed a dead mink off the A.145.

Joe + Keith Skinner has a red legged partridge nesting in their garden.

Lots of rain + gales ended the month.

OCTOBER 2004

WEATHER WISDOM. "ST SIMON + ST JUDE* (28TH OCTOBER) LIKE ST SWITHIN'S THIS DAY HAS A BAD REPUTATION, FOR GALES + STORMS. SAILORS HEAD FOR THE HARBOUR AT THE FIRST SIGN OF WIND"

* Gales + storms have swept the S + W coasts, causing much flooding, sea walls have been breached.

A number of cattle decided the grass was green^{er} in the church yard, sadly 2 died after eating the yew trees.

The autumn leaves are beautiful, still on the trees, despite gale-force winds, + cold nights.

NOVEMBER 2004

WEATHER WISDOM

"NO WARMTH, NO CHEERFULNESS, NO HEALTHFUL EASE,
NO COMFORTABLE FEEL IN ANY MEMBER,
NO SHADE, NO SHINE, NO BUTTERFLIES, NO BEES,
NO FRUITS, NO FLOWERS, NO LEAVES, NO BIRDS"
NOVEMBER!

DECEMBER 2004

WEATHER WISDOM

"WHEN THE STARS BEGIN TO Huddle, THE EARTH
WILL SOON BECOME A PUDDLE"

TERRIBLE WEATHER CONDITIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD.
THOUSANDS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES, IN THE BOXING
DAY. TSUNAMI IN ASIA. HUNDREDS OF BRITISH HOLIDAY
MAKERS STILL NOT ACCOUNTED FOR.

Nearest home, here in Willoughby our weather has been
cold, with little snow, but strong winds + some sunny
days.

On the nature side - A Kingfisher has been seen
in the watercourse, a rare sight

The long tail tits have returned, as many as
nine, hanging on the nuts + fat balls.

Betty + Jimmie Bates had a visitor, call to see their
Christmas lights - A "deer" disguised as a pig, left them
a large calling card on the lawn.

JANUARY 2005

WEATHER WISDOM.

"IF THE BIRDS BEGIN TO SING IN JANUARY,
FROSTS ARE ON THE WAY"

This month has been a mixed bag of weather.
Spales, very little rain, some sunny days, + very mild

on the nature front:-

New born lambs are appearing in the fields, at
fine intervals

Snow drops + bulbs are early. Trees are budding.

Birch are already looking in the most boxes.

2 female + 1 male pheasant, has been seen, feeding
from a bird table, very tame.

FEBRUARY 2005

WEATHER WISDOM.

"AS THE DAYS LENGTHEN, SO THE (COLD) STRENGTHENS"

Up to the 21ST Feb, it had been the mildest winter
for 15 years, + then a really cold snap arrived.
We had several days of sleet + snow, but nothing
to compare with Scotland + the north. In the
south schools were closed, + everything came to a halt
Nature:-

Red wings have be seen, + also the Skinnel's
have a resident Jaywing owl.

MARCH 2005

WEATHER WISDOM.

AS HAZY MISTS IN MARCH,
AS THERE ARE FROSTS IN MAY

Bitter cold winds + dull days kept everyone wrapped up warm, the first 2 weeks of the month. Sharp frosts minus 6, were recorded here.

On 17th/18th of the month the village pond was full of frogs mating, hundreds were seen crossing Lower St, also lots of frog spawn was in the pond.

Dorothy + Bert Cole have a pair of Greater Spotted Wood-peckers, in a tit box, + the annual return of the white headed Blackbird.

White Barn development

It was sad to see so many trees felled, but when buildings are complete, more trees are being replaced, + hopefully the wild life will return.

At the end of the month "Summer-time" began, with the lighter evening. Weather wise, some nice warm sunny days, but very cold evenings.

APRIL 2005

WEATHER WISDOM

"AN APRIL FLOOD CARRIES AWAY THE FROG + HIS BROOD"

Plenty of lambs, + calves enjoying some nice sunny days, although they are having to keep warm at nights, with severe frosts
Swallows + swifts are in abundance, nesting in barns + car-ports

The pond is home for ducks + ducklings, who are managing to survive the speeding cars going through Lower St, this is in spite of caution notices were erected.

MAY 2005

WEATHER WISDOM

"MAY BRINGS FLOCKS OF PRETTY LAMBS, SPORTING ROUNDS THEIR FLEECY DARTS"

Lovely sunny days, with May being recorded the warmest for 50 yrs.

The cuckoo was heard briefly on the 20th, almost a month later than 2004.

New ducklings continue to hatch on the pond, + hares have been seen.

JUNE 2005

WEATHER WISDOM.

(ST VITUS'S DAY JUNE 15TH)

"IF ST VITUS DAY BE RAINY WEATHER,
IT WILL RAIN FOR THIRTY DAYS TO-GETHER"

How correct the above saying turn out to be. With the exception of a few very hot days, temperatures reaching 90 degrees, the remainder of the month was a wash out.

Thunder storms continued day after day, flooding all over the country, many houses being struck by lightning. Residents gardens & verges are like jungles, flowers & shrubs damaged by the lorr rain. It hard to believe we have a hose-pipe ban!

Slugs & snails have been in their glory, the frogs & toads are plentiful.

Betty Bates had a grass snake in the garden, eating a

Jim Walton saw a pair of buzzards, flying high, on one of the sunny days.

Another batch of ducklings are on the pond, they are enjoying the wet weather.

The monkey puzzle tree standing in Brooke Close, has produced large ball shapes on the ends of branches.

Anyone any answers please?

Weather wise. We are pleased to say goodbye to June, & hope for a better July.

JULY 2005

WEATHER WISDOM ~

CATCHY DRAWER + STICKY DOOR,
COMING RAIN WITH POK + POK.

HEZ weather followed by a few warm days, but its been a disappointing summer, very few warm evenings when you could sit in the garden + relax.

Nature sightings: ~ Buzzards have been seen, several grass snakes in compost heaps. (nice a worm).

Moles have been busy making a mess with their tunnelling, they always come up under a prize shrub.

AUGUST 2005

WEATHER WISDOM.

MAKES TALES, + MACKERAL SCALES,
MAKE TALL SHIPS TAKE IN THEIR SAILS"

Lots of heavy showers this month, with a few sunny days in between. The gardens are very over grown, with plenty of pruning needed

The swallows are gathering on the wires, the ducklings are now fully grown.

Bees + butterflys are busy, + so are the caterpillars eating all the vegetables. (You cannot beat mother-nature"

Perhaps we shall have a sunny September + October.

SEPTEMBER 2005.

WEATHER WISDOM

FAIR ON SEPTEMBER 1ST
FAIR FOR THE MONTH

We had sunshine + showers, through the month, although it was very mild.

Buzzards have been seen hovering on two occasions, also a grey partridge has taken refuge, in Sue + Keith Skinner's hedgerow, plus a hare, who has become very tame.

OCTOBER 2005

WEATHER WISDOM

"IF SQUIBBELS EARLY MASS THEIR HOARD
EXPECT A WINTER LIKE A SWORD"

If the weather experts are correct, we are in for a hard winter.

The Waltons have a daily visit from an already fat squirrel, who takes the nuts from feeders + bird-table, plus the wood-peckers.

The ducks look very healthy on the pond, plenty of water for them, as we have had lots of heavy downpours.

On 24th October it was recorded the warmest day on record, with London reaching 49°
On Saturday 29th, we all had an extra hrs sleep, so it's now dark about 5.0 clock.

Roll on the spring, although there are many sightings of "Snow Drops", + Wasps + Bees are still buzzing, plus Roses are out once again, that is until the frosts arrive

NOVEMBER 2005

WEATHER WISDOM.

ST MARTIN'S DAY 11TH NOVEMBER

St Martin has a little summer named after him. It is not really appropriate however, as St Martin is the patron saint of reformed drunkards, and so it ought to be a time of heavy rain, with abundant fresh water.

Until two weeks ago, roses were blooming, snowdrops were out, & leaves were still on the trees.

However the last weeks have changed to hard frosts, and on Monday 28th we had snow & black ice. To-day Wednesday 30th it is wet & mild.

No nature sightings to report.

DECEMBER 2005

WEATHER WISDOM.

COLD) DECEMBER BRINGS THE SHEET,
BLAZING FIRES, & CHRISTMAS TREAT.

December saw the coldest day in Britain for 20yrs. Daytime temperatures reaching a high of -8°C (17°F) in the North East. On the 26th many areas in the East had heavy snow falls, causing much disruption. We had a nice covering in Willoughby, making everything look very festive.

Nothing to report on the nature front, except the birds are looking very fat from being fed well, in the gardens.

JANUARY 2006.

WEATHER WISDOM

"JANUARY BRINGS THE SNOW,
MAKES OUR TOES + FINGERS GLOW."

January came in very damp, + foggy, with the days remaining dark, + people were very depressed but on the 11th, the sun came out, it was very uplifting. We have continued with dry sunny days, but sharp frosts. We are so lucky here, when you read of Russia's cold winters (minus 30°) many people have died.

The gardens are very forward, lots of lady birds, the bulbs are shooting, snow drops round the church + new born lambs are in the fields, a pair of blue-tits, are already making their claim in a nest box at the Walters. With the weather so cold, we hope they delay, before laying any eggs.

FEBRUARY 2006.

WEATHER WISDOM.

"A RING AROUND THE SUN OR MOON,
MEANS RAIN OR SNOW IS COMING SOON"

1st Feb, bitter cold day with snow showers + N. East winds. This was the first of many through the month.

Nothing to report on the nature front, except the birds are still looking in the nest boxes, blue-tits, + 2 pairs of Robins. We are certainly keeping the pet shops in business with mits etc.

J + B. Walton

MARCH 2006.

WEATHER WISDOM

" IN MARCH THE BIRDS BEGIN TO SEARCH.
IN APRIL THE CORN BEGINS TO FILL, + IN MAY
THE BIRDS BEGIN TO LAY."

The first three weeks of the month, has been the coldest since 1987, with blizzards + arctic winds. Also it has been the driest since 1921. Many areas have hose-pipe bans, + are struggling to keep up water demands.

Several sightings of sparrow-hawks in gardens, + Mrs Hilda Martin has seen a king-fisher, very rare in Hillingbury now. Several residents have had visits from badgers, + sadly, many are killed on the A45.

Photograph taken by Linda or Alan Belgrave.
Is it a 1 legged duck, or just foot-sore?
Frog spawn is appearing in the pond, almost the same dates ~~as~~ 05. March 16th / 17th, sadly last year many were run over.

The month became warmer the last week, when tropical winds raised temperatures to 15c in London. The daffodils came out over-night, + hedges + shrubs are shooting.

APRIL 2006. + MAY 2006

WEATHER WISDOM

"A COLD APRIL + A FOLW BARN"

During the first week in April, we had sleet showers, with very cold nights. On Sunday 9th the size of snow flakes was unbelievable. After a couple of hours, it had all gone, + the sun came out.

Nature sightings

Gold fish are in the village pond. Lots of young ducklings around, but sadly some were lost to traffic, despite having large warning signs erected.

Lyn Busby has a little owl in the garden, + partridge, buzzards, + sparrow hawks has been seen.

Due to very late hard frosts, when the pond froze, it looks as if we lost the frogs spawn.

JUNE 2006.

WEATHER WISDOM. "A LEAK IN JUNE, SETS
SETS THE CORN IN TUNE"

A mixture of sunshine + showers, especially warm at the end of the month.

Nothing to report on nature, except Barbara Walton briefly heard the cuckoo, almost a month late. Sadly it's a dying breed, due to trees + hedges, being destroyed.

Sighting of the "Hummingbird
Hawk Moth" in Bert & Dorothy Ogle's
garden - The Willows, Mau St, Willoughby,
in July 2006



UPBEAT: The hummingbird moth is migrating to Britain for the hot summers

Invasion of the huge moth that thinks it's a hummingbird

GIANT moths that can be mistaken for hummingbirds are flocking to Britain.

And experts say the arrival of the exotic insects is one of the bonuses of climate change.

Thousands of Hummingbird Hawk Moths have been spotted up and down the country, with a cluster of them starting to breed along the South-west for the first time.

The colourful moths fly between plants and feed on the nectar of tubular flowers. Many gardeners think they are hummingbirds as they just hover beside the bloom.

The insects, which even make a slight humming sound, migrate north from Africa and southern Europe. Dr Martin Warren, chief executive of Butterfly Conservation UK, believes their invasion is one of the advantages of our unnaturally

By **Lisa McCarthy**

hot summers. He said: "It has been an exceptional year for the numbers of hummingbird moths flocking here and we believe it's down to our extraordinarily hot weather.

"The moths are starting to become a resident species for the first time, which would have been unheard of 10 years ago."

Dr Warren said that when he first became interested in moths and butterflies 30 years ago, the hummingbird moth was a rare sighting.

"Now we are seeing clusters of them in people's gardens in Dorset, hovering above their flowers and feeding," he said.

"It really is an incredible sight. But they are very weather dependent. If we have a cold summer next year we will see the numbers fall. We should enjoy them while we can."

JULY 2006.

WEATHER WISDOM

"IN JULY SHEAR YOUR RYE"

This month turned out to be the hottest since 1659, when records began in this area. Over 90 degrees F, some days, caused us humans to stay indoors in the cool. Sadly lots of shrubs + trees died in gardens, due to lack of water. The birds were the most sensible only coming into gardens for water + food. It is lovely to see the butterflies, especially the Holly-blue. Jays have been seen + Rustic Bunting. A welcome down-pour came at the end of the month, plus a (thunder + lightning) picture show.

AUGUST 2006.

WEATHER WISDOM

AUGUST 24TH ST. BARTHOLOMEW
"BRINGS THE COLD DEW"

The very hot weather continued during the 1ST week of this month, then cooled down, with light showers of rain.

Nature sightings: Jim Walton saw a large Green Woodpecker in the vicarage garden, + Barbara W found a large brown caterpillar, 2" long, in the garden, this was related to the Giant Hawk Moth (Elephant). The caterpillars feed on Willow herbs + garden Clarkia. It was quickly moved into the hedgerow in Moor Lane.

SEPT. 2006.

WEATHER WISDOM.

- SEPTEMBER DRIES UP WELLS, OR
BREAKS DOWN "BRIDGES"

The month became the warmest ever recorded. Hotly warm winds coming from the south-west, made Britains streets hotter than beaches in Tenerife. Light showers convinced some plants it was spring, with snowdrops emerging in parts of the country.

Nature:

Every year Marion + Dennis Neville, have the swallows nesting in their car-pot, this year the same pair produced 3 times. All flew away safely to their winter homes.

A number of "Holly Blues" have been seen, after a long absence.

The month ended with thunder storms + heavy prolonged rainfall.

OCTOBER. 2006.

WEATHER WISDOM.

"A FOG IN OCTOBER, SUGGESTS
A COLD WINTER"

The month came in with prolonged rainfall, + thunder storms.

Nature sighting: an abundance of Red Admirals in the shrubbery. Dragon-flies enjoying the warm wet weather.

Betty + Brian Hawkins, found a checks nest in the garden. The Buzzards are still flying high.

Whilst recording the nature book over the past years, I have noticed big changes in our weather, + decline of flora + fauna. I wonder what the next 5 years will bring?

Barbara Walton

November 2006

The poet Thomas Hood (1799-1845) summed up the less favourable characteristics of November when he wrote: -

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease
No comfortable feel in any member
No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees
No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds
- NOVEMBER

We have experienced a very different November in 2006 to the one Thomas Hood described in his poem.

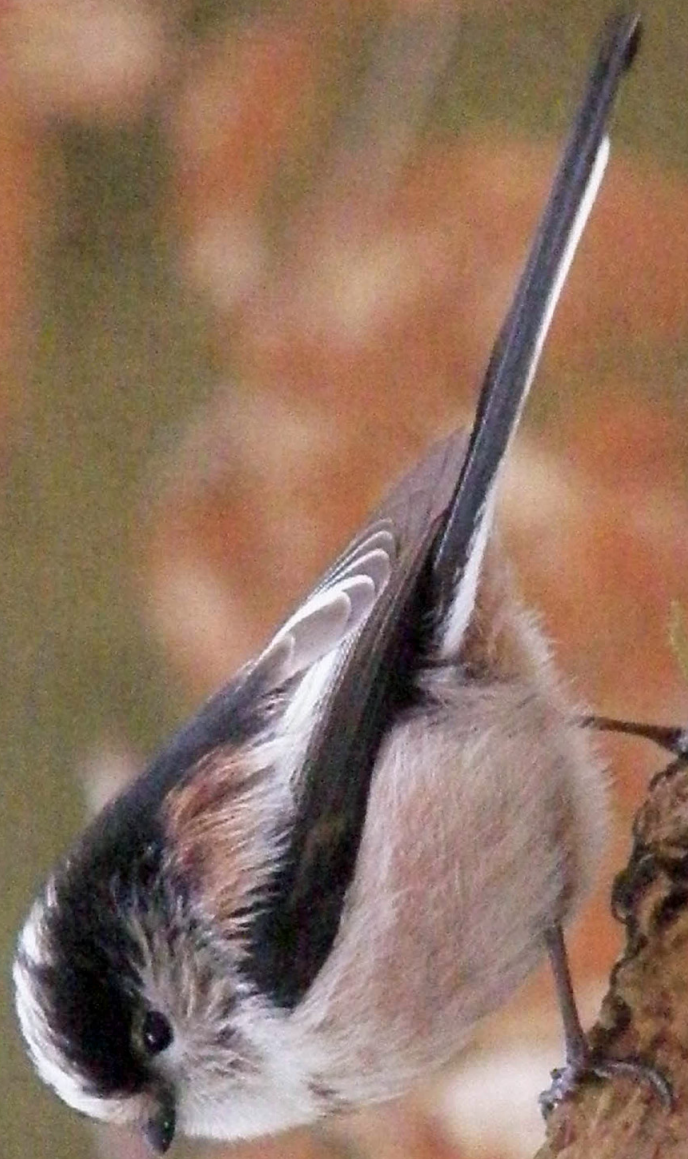
Although not a record breaking month, temperatures have been above average. Early November, although rather cool, gave us dry & sunny days. A wet spell in the final third of the month resulted in November having above average rainfall.

The gardens are still looking good, summer flowers in full bloom & the leaves on the trees show no signs of falling.

Birds seem to be finding plenty of natural food & feeders do not have to be topped up so often. While moving a pile of logs we found many peacock butterflies very much awake, making the most of the sunshine.

Wildlife sightings :- A baby fox. A Tawny owl & 36 ducks were counted on the pond.

The dead trees in Moor Lane have been replaced and are looking good.



John Robinson

December 2006

Weather

Once again a fairly mild month, (This seems to be coming the norm). The month was characterised by two types of weather. Strong wind & rain for the first half & last few days of December. A change in the middle of the month brought overcast & often foggy days. The fog in our area caused problems to Christmas travellers. It was so persistent that Birmingham Airport was unable to get planes in the air for three days. Result - chaos! However, the fog disappeared in time for Christmas celebrations.

Wild life sightings rather thin on the ground this month.

Long-tailed Tits arrived at the bird feeders, moving around in small groups. Always amusing to watch. The Robin is a permanent visitor - very territorial!

Spring may be coming rather early. At Christmas I noticed that some daffodils in our front garden were in bud & sure enough in a few days, two were open.

SK-15

January 2007

Weather - January was the hottest since 1916 and again global warming is in the news. The mild weather is on course to break temperature records. Unseasonable temperatures have brought mild, but often very wet & windy weather. Above average rain caused some flooding in Willoughby. Severe gales on 18th January brought havoc to Rugby & district. Property was damaged, trees brought down & some people were left with hefty repair bills.

DAILY TELEGRAPH HEADLINE:

"WINTER HEADS FOR RECORD AS THE WEATHER GOES BALMY!"

NATURE SITINGS :-

Garden birds seem to think that Spring has arrived & are very territorial.

Nest boxes are being investigated.

A female blackbird in our garden seems to be investigating possible nesting sites.

There was a report of a strange duck on the village pond. It was a peculiar colour & didn't move very far. It turned out to be a decoy duck & has since disappeared!

Snowdrops & daffodils are blooming in many village gardens. Lawns refuse to stop growing.

Early lambs have been kept indoors because of the wet weather. We have missed seeing them in the fields.

S.S.K. - 25

February 2007

Experts recorded this February the wettest in 30 years. As well as all this rain it was also mild & sunny, despite four days of snow early in the month. Sunshine levels were above average for the time of year making it the warmest February for five years.

The wettest day was 10th February with 15.5mm falling over the 24 hour period & this caused some local flooding in Willoughby.

Wildlife Sightings

A Kugfisker was spotted in the garden of 'The Willows' in Main Street.

Frogs are mating in garden ponds

A fox was spotted in the village

Mad 'March' hares, although it is only February.

A pair of Bullfinches spotted in a village garden.

A profusion of Redwings in the fields

S. Skinner

March 2007

Weather Report

Early March was very wet with local flooding once again. 84% of the total monthly rain fell in the first five days, two of which were dry! So much rain fell in the first few days that March 2007 has become the wettest March in our region since 1988!

Despite these wet days March has been milder than average. Clear skies at night resulted in several ground frosts (I think this killed the frog spawn in my garden pond) We have also enjoyed many sunny days & real feel of Spring.

WILDLIFE SITINGS

Brimstone & Tortoiseshell Butterflies observed in villagers' gardens.

Bumble Bees also.

A duck has built a nest & is sitting on eggs in Mr. & Mrs. Ogle's front garden.

The birds are busy looking for suitable nesting sites. Bird boxes are being investigated. Spring is in the air.

HAYWARDS LODGE

(For some months now the Willoughby Society members have been working here, clearing, replanting & tidying this conservation area. It has been decided

to report on the work done in the
Willoughby Society Nature Diary)

HAYWARD'S LODGE (situated at the top of the
village on the A45) is so
named to commemorate the founder of the
Willoughby Charity, Margaret Haywood
(c1437) together with the house which once stood
on the site (c1794-1951). In 1988 the site
was landscaped and planted to re-establish
the area owned by the Parish Council as a
wildlife friendly environment. Since 1988 the
area has been left untended but now the
Willoughby Society are busy tidying &
improving the area again. Their aim is
to encourage wildlife to the area &
hope that local children will take an
interest too (adopting a bird box etc.)

So far working parties have :-

- Layered existing hedges
- Planted a new hedge
- Cut back overgrown vegetation
- Have taken advice & coppiced some trees
- Erected an insect pile
- Cut back & raked the meadow area

The work continues.

S. Skinned

April 2007

April Shower bring May flowers
(but not this year)

This has been the hottest April since records began almost 350yrs ago - and also one of the driest.

Hawthorn, which is usually a symbol of May since ancient times, was flowering early in the month. In central England April has been about 3°C warmer than average - A lovely month.

All the Spring flowers, bushes & trees have blossomed early & look magnificent. No April showers to harm the blossom. I must mention all the Magnolia trees. They have been a splendid sight.

The trees came into leaf very early. It was interesting to observe that the Oak was in leaf early, but many Ash trees remained bare. This could present a problem to birds, nesting early, & trying to feed young, who rely on a plentiful supply of insects further up the food chain.

We had a pair of Wagtails who raised an early brood - but all the

The Willoughby Society - Bird Box No. 1

Date: 09:04:07

Today I saw:

Today Monday 9th April Myself and the family saw a blue tit going into box number 3. This box belongs to my younger sister Emily.

Name: Holly Wilson

Age: 9

Please forward your observation to one of the following for recording in the Willoughby Society Nature Book:

Linda, 6 Magdalen Road

Bert, The Willows, Main Street

Sue, The Leys (near Cricket Club)



The Willoughby Society - Bird Box No. 1

Date: 09:04:07

Today I saw:

A black bird hovering around the area where the boxes are.

Name: Emily Wilson

Age: 2

Please forward your observation to one of the following for recording in the Willoughby Society Nature Book:

Linda, 6 Magdalen Road

Bert, The Willows, Main Street

Sue, The Leys (near Cricket Club)

chicks were dead in the nest.
Were they short of insects to feed
them on?

VILLAGE NATURE SITINGS

Swallows have been seen.
Cuckoo has been heard.
Ducklings on the Village Pond.
A Grass Snake in Bert Ogles' garden.
Brimstone butterfly seen.
Red Masonry Bees - doing what they
do best. (Eating the 'Rose Put'.)

HAYWARDS LODGE

Thanks to Keith Skinner and Bert
Ogle who have made & erected
twelve bird boxes for the conservation
area. At least two of them have
birds nesting in them.

Thanks to Emily & Holly Wilson
(Age 2yrs & 9yrs respectively) for
their ornithological observations)

S. Skinner

May 2007

"Cold wet May, good for corn
and Hay."

After our splendid April, May was cool, dull and unsettled. We had more than double the average rainfall. Quite a contrast with last month, which was so very dry.

The Spring Bank Holiday was marked by a spell of cold weather, wet as well. A night frost at the end of the month caught some gardeners unaware (I was one of them.)

However, nesting birds seem to be doing well. We have had a thrush nest in the garden along with robins, blue tits, great tits, sparrows & wagtails. Also a tiny genny Wren is nesting some-where near. The amazing song from such a tiny bird. We are also sure that a pair of goldfinches are nesting some-where. We see them so frequently.

NATURE SITINGS

Cuckoo heard again
Swallows and House Martins swooping about.

A Kestrel seen eating a duck

Green woodpecker

This list of Insects has also been recorded for inclusion this month.

MAY 2007

Untitled

Leucozona lucorum - hoverfly
Rhingia campestris - hoverfly
Helophilus pendulous - Hoverfly
Episyrphus balteatus - Marmalade Fly
Sylvicola sp - window gnat
Nephrotoma appendiculata - Spotted Crane-fly
Sarcophaga carnaria. - Flesh Fly
Mesembrina Meridiana - Muscidae

Nomada sp. - Parasitic bee
Bombus pascuorum - Common Carder Bee
Osmia rufa - Red Mason Bee
Psithyrus vestalis - Cuckoo Bee
Dolerus sp. - Sawfly

Cyrchus caraboides - Ground Beetle
Tytthaspis 16-punctata - 16-spot Ladybird
psyllobora 22-punctata - 22-spot ladybird
Propylea 14-punctata - 14 spot ladybird

Silver-ground Carpet - Xanthorhoe montanata

Azure Damselfly - Coenagrion puella

S. Skinner

June 2007

'Weather Wisdom'

If the first of June be rainy weather,
T'will rain four full weeks together.

A warm dry start to the month, but unfortunately the weather became increasingly unsettled.

The ridge of high pressure slowly declined and cloud became widespread.

From the 13th to the 17th of June a deep depression moved slowly across the country bringing spells of heavy thundery rain. For the rest of the month low pressure dominated the weather and very heavy rain and flooding was reported in parts of the country.

On the 25th of June the Midlands suffered a prolonged spell of very heavy rain and very strong northerly winds and flooding was again reported in many areas.

To have such a miserable June was a big disappointment. The garden flowers were battered and bruised and the vegetables just didn't want to grow.

Nothing really to report on the nature front. We hope for a better July!!

S. Skinner

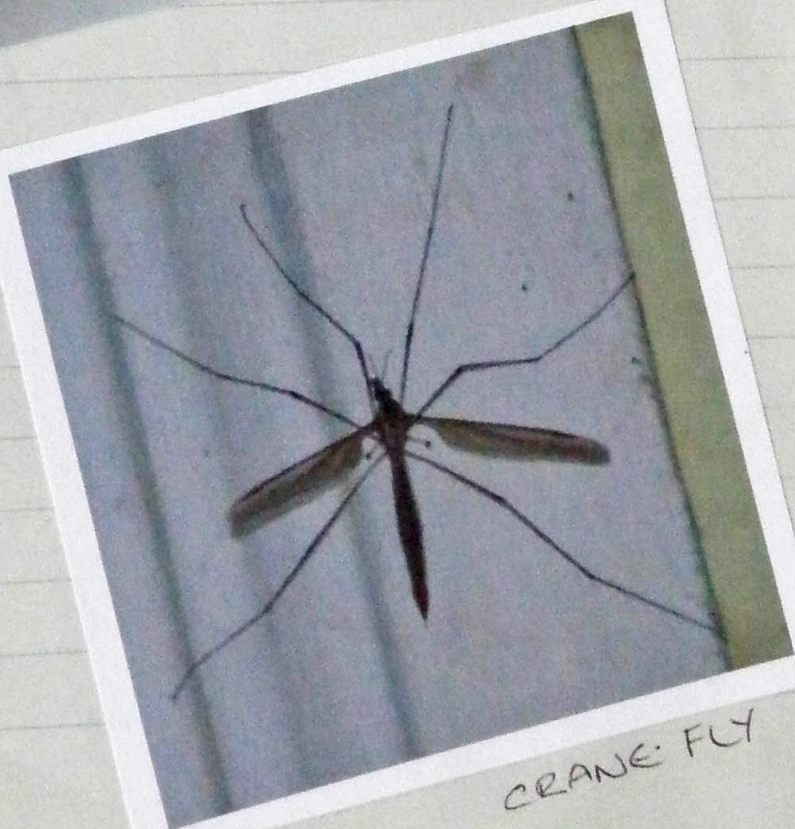
May 2007



HOVERFLY



CUCKOO BEE



CRANE FLY

July 2007

Oh dear! June was bad enough - but the weather in July was even worse.

Weather Wisdom

'St Swithin's Day, if it doth rain
Full forty days it will remain
St Swithin's Day, if it be fair
For forty days, t'will rain no more'

(Elizabethan weather rhyme)

Unfortunately it rained on St Swithins Day (July 15th) and so if the rhyme is to be believed this summer will definitely be a wash out.

July has been a washout. A very unsettled month with frequent rain, a shortage of sunshine, fresh winds and below average temperatures.

1st - 29th July low pressure was either close to or over the British Isles bringing rain, sometimes **very heavy rain**, or showers to all areas. There was also thunder, hail, funnel clouds and even tornadoes reported in some areas.

The worst day by far was July 20th when some extremely heavy rain affected parts of the country including the Midlands and Willoughby.

Flooding returned to our village as can be seen by the photograph that appeared in the Rugby Advertiser showing water-soaked Willoughby. I have also pasted in a letter that appeared in the same newspaper written by a Willoughby resident.

Meteorologists agree that the miserably wet British summer has been caused by a southward shift towards Britain by the jetstream, the high-level airflow that brings depressions eastward across the Atlantic.

Could climate change be responsible for the intensity of the freak rain episodes in June and July?

Some statistics for this month.

Wettest May/June/July over England and Wales since records began. (1766)

Coolest July since 1993

Total rainfall 15.25in (387.6mm) - across England and Wales was 208% higher than average.

Nature report.

Family of Pied Wagtails successfully reared, flew this month from a nest in our front garden.

A baby hare is seen most days in our garden. We are sometimes fortunate enough to see the adult hare that comes to feed the baby morning and evening.

S. Skewes
The Keys
Willoughby

JULY 2007



Water-soaked Willoughby.

Drivers made waves in flood

ON BEHALF of many of the residents of Willoughby, may I take this opportunity to thank all those who took part in the 'Willoughby Flood Water Sports Competition' held in the village on Friday, July 20.

We were amazed at the amount of competitors who defied the Road Closed signs to participate in a range of sporting activities in Main Street and Lower Street.

The competition was fierce, with many participants vying for supremacy in ensuring that several of our properties, despite sandbag barricades, received their fair share of flood water on the inside!

Our commiserations go both to the

lady in the silver Mercedes whose aquaplaning exploits ended when her engine expired and to the man in the Aston Martin who, despite his belief that his car was impervious to water, limped to a halt and finally had to be towed away.

Judging was difficult as there were so many acts of stupidity to choose from, but three particular incidents stood out from the rest and prizes have been awarded to the following drivers should they be brave enough to collect them.

In third place: The man in the burghundy metallic car for his choice of language, rudeness to those trying to help him and for the blue smoke trail left behind when he revved his engine to a crescendo, in a superb display of temper tantrum, as he raced away leaving waves of water lapping behind him.

In second place: The driver of the blue tractor who used Main Street to practice his bow waving technique, taking the opportunity to wash the tractor wheels as the waves rose and soaked those trying to walk to their homes.

Overall winner: The driver of the blue Subaru whose bow wave, achieved by driving at great speed down Main Street, created such an enormous surge of water that it reached almost two metres high as it passed the front of The Old Bakehouse and its neighbour, leaving a water mark on the walls, door and windows and drenching carpets and furnishings inside.

We will be ready for you next time!

**Rachel Settle,
Lower Street,
Willoughby.**

August 2007

Weather Wisdom

St Bartholomew's day August 24th

'All the tears that St Swithin can cry
St Bartholomew's mantle will wipe dry.'

Weather

I'm glad to say there was an improvement in the weather this month. There was no repeat of the widespread downpours that characterised June and July and on the whole it was a quiet month.

Sunshine was plentiful during the first 12 days and again during the last week but there was some wet and gloomy weather in the middle of the month.

We are very glad to see the sunshine. Better late than never!

Nature Report

Rather quiet on the wild life front.

There are plenty of butterflies and bees about.

Our baby hare is still in the garden and has grown considerably.

A Barn Owl was spotted in Lower Street.

A Kingfisher was seen at The Ley's garden pond.

Swallows and House Martins are still flying about

A Green Woodpecker spotted in the garden at Marlin, Pye Court.

