

## **Wildlife Report for Turnpike Field 21st July 2022**

The Fields have continued to reveal the annual cycle of wildlife life. The winter did not see such a prolonged time of wet area and the Spring with its drier and colder weather held back much of the new growth. This has meant that the Grasslands have not grown so quickly this year and some of the prolific wild flowers have not shown so early with a consequence of less insects. The drier weather continued during early summer and is now having a noticeable effect.

Four characteristics of this dry weather pattern have been noticed:

- i. Some plants such as the grasses have not grown so much this year
- ii. This has had a the knock-on effect that deeper rooted plants such as Common Ragwort have done much better. There could be a benefit in culling some of this plant.
- iii. Plants have seeded earlier this year, this means that there might be benefit in cut the top field earlier completely.
- iv. The water level in the pond has shrunk considerable. This will have an affect on the aquatic life present but as it is natural feed with water there is little that can be done. Some judicious culling of some of the more vigorous Mace plants could be useful.

### **Survey Report**

Surveying began again in April. This year we have an enhanced team of seven AWEG members undertaking the survey. This has enabled a more defined survey to take place with individuals focussing on different types of wildlife and different habitats. As well as using individual knowledge and expertise, the facility of a WhatsApp Group has assisted interchange of knowledge and ideas.

Our Spring sightings have totalled 76 species of wild plant, 35 species of insect and 20 species of bird.

By also plotting where these were seen we are being able to build up a picture of density and spread.

Each year different species seem to flourish. This year has seen extensive numbers of Lesser Celandine, Hedge Garlic, and Dandelions. For the month of June the survey team recorded 38 species of wild plant, 10 new; 15 Grasses with 1 new; 30 species of insect, 18 new, 17 species of birds, 10 new. The full list is attached.

Around our ponds, life has continued to emerge. Some pond dipping has revealed a pleasing number of dragonfly and damselfly nymphs. Whilst already, one species of dragonfly and four species of damselfly have been

sighted. The pond dipping also revealed among other creatures, Great Diving beetles, water spiders, snails, water boatmen and caddisfly larva.

### **Tree Report**

Most of the saplings planted in the Autumn have survived the winter. One or two had animal damage. All the trees have been given new guards to overcome this problem. All the trees planted in the hedgerow are also thriving. Some of the trees in the original planting last May have also suffered some damage. We will wait until the Autumn to replace these.

### **Community Connection**

In June an evening "Safari" was undertaken with the local Beaver Scouts. A very energetic hour included a wildflower hunt, pond dipping, insect find, and "Know your Oaks" scamper. All undertaken at 100 miles an hour!. Maybe here was one of our future leading botanists or entomologist among them. In July a "Habitat Safari" was undertaken with AWEG members and others. Further safaris are being planned during the summer.

The provision of the wildlife noticeboard mentioned in a previous meeting would be much welcomed.

### **Turnpike Fields Wildlife Sightings for June 2022**

\* ( ) = New Sightings recorded

#### **Plants**

Balsam Himalayan  
Bedstraw Marsh  
Birdsfoot Trefoil  
Bramble  
Brooklime \*  
Buttercup Bulbous  
Buttercup Creeping  
Buttercup Meadow  
Campion Red  
Catsear  
Chickweed  
Cleaver  
Clover Red  
Clover White  
Cocksfoot  
Comfrey  
Cowparsley

Dames Violet  
Elder Ground  
Geranium Cutleaf \*  
Horsetail  
Mayflower  
Mouseear Commonj  
Nettle Common  
Orchid Common Spotted \*  
Pea Meadow \*  
Pignut  
Primrose Evening  
Plantain sp  
Rocket YellowRose Dog \*  
Snowberry \*  
Sorrel Common  
Speedwell Germander  
Thistle Creeping  
Thistle Marsh

Thistle Spear  
Vetch Common \*  
Willowherb Greater  
Willowherb Lesser 38 (7)

### Grasses

Bent Common  
Bent Creeping  
Brome Soft  
Cocksfoot  
Crested Dogstail  
Fescue Red  
Foxtail Meadow  
Grass Reed Canary  
Grass False Oats  
Grass Sweet Vernal  
Rush Soft  
Sedge Common  
Sedge Hairy \*  
Timothy  
Yorkshire Fog 15 (1)

### Insects

Ant \*  
Beetle Alder  
Beetle Soldier \*  
Beetle Swollen thighed \*  
Bug Dock Leather \*  
Butterfly Comma  
Butterfly Gatekeeper  
Butterfly Green Veined  
Butterfly Meadow Brown  
Butterfly Ringlet  
Butterfly Small White  
Butterfly Speckled Wood  
Damselfly Azure \*  
Damselfly Banded Demoiselle  
Damselfly Blue Tailed  
Damselfly Large Red  
Dragonfly Broad Bodied Chaser  
Drone Fly Eristalis Pevrtinax \*  
Dungfly \*  
Hoverfly (Marmalade) Episyrphus  
Balteatus \*  
Scorpion Fly Panorpa Communus \*

Ladybird Harlequin \*  
Mayfly \*  
Moth Nettle Tap \*  
Moth Brown Plume \*  
Moth Silver Ground Carpet \*  
Moth Yellow (caterpillar) \*  
Shield Bug Halothorn \*  
Spider Tetragnatha Exstensa \*  
Weevil Liophloeus Tessulatus \*  
30 (18)

### Birds

Blackbird  
Blackcap \*  
Blue Tit  
Bullfinch \*  
Buzzard  
Chaffinch \*  
Chiffchaff \*  
Coal Tit \*  
Goldfinch  
Great Spotted Woodpecker \*  
Great Tit \*  
House Martin \*  
Jackdaw  
Mallard \*  
Thrush \*  
Wood Pigeon  
Wren  
17 (10)

### Animals & Reptiles

Rabbit  
Frog