



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre

## Newsletter—Second Edition

## June 2020

**We are back with the second edition of our newsletter. Thank you to our recorders who got in touch after our first edition to let us know what you'd like to see going forward, and please keep the feedback coming! We love to hear from you.**

Here at the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre (BMERC) we have been keeping busy in lots of different ways. Many of the team have been attending online training sessions, such as those organised by Tracking the Impact and the Field Studies Council. We've spotted a few familiar faces of our recorders in some of them and there are lots more planned so check out the following links if you haven't already:

- ⇒ [Tracking the Impact](#)
- ⇒ [FSC Biolinks Virtual Meet Ups](#)

We've also been making use of expertise within our team. Our Local Wildlife Sites Surveyor, Fiona, kindly arranged a Grasses ID course for the BMERC team, sharing her knowledge and experience with us in an online team meeting.

We appreciate the sightings our recorders have been able to send to us while on daily exercise. Lockdown means we've had time to dedicate to organising and improving some of the data we hold. It might not be the most exciting task, but it's a very important job all the same. We are beginning to resume site visits where possible, but keep your records coming! And please be sure to follow the government guidance to stay healthy and safe.

In this issue, we have updates from our recording community as well as news from the BMERC team:

- **Water for Wildlife: Can your garden help?**  
*Claudia Bernardini* p. 2
- **Recording Fungi during the Lockdown**  
*Paula Shipway* p. 3
- **Bird monitoring brings farmers and nature volunteers together in the Chilterns**  
*Nick Marriner* p. 5
- **Traditional Orchards Project Update**  
*Emma Foster* p. 6
- **First Steps into Recording**  
*Luke Marriner* p. 8
- **Understanding Wildlife Crime**  
*Dean Kingham* p. 9
- **Every Flower Counts**  
*Emma Foster* p. 10
- **What on earth is that?** p. 10
- **What have we been up to in lockdown?** p. 11
- **Resources Round-up & Our Final Thoughts** p. 12



Getting ready to learn about grasses!



## Water for Wildlife: Can your garden help this summer?

*Claudia Bernardini, Environmental Project Officer, BMERC*

**Do you remember spring 2018, when we all thought the weather couldn't get any better?** Well, 2020 so far has seen the sunniest spring since records began in 1929, with 626.2 hours of sunshine, totalling more sunshine hours than most summer seasons. We had the sunniest April on record and May was the sunniest calendar month since records began. So far as the water cycle goes, May was also the driest May on record for England.

So, we all enjoyed the sunny sky... but did we all benefit from it?

If you happened to go for a walk in the countryside in April you could already see scorched fields and dry ponds. Although it is natural and beneficial for some ponds dry out in the summer, changes in the climate can be too quick for some wildlife to adapt and survive. We have all seen reports of wildlife coming closer to urban areas than before, and although the lockdown has possibly played a role, the lack of water might also have pushed some animals out of their natural areas in search of water.

Climate projections for the UK indicate that we will see sunnier springs in the future with the associated increasing temperatures. This is likely to lead to water scarcity with some vulnerable species more negatively affected than others.

Domestic gardens represent an invaluable habitat. According to the Office for National Statistics in 2019 there were around 520 thousand hectares of residential garden in urban areas in Great Britain (29.5% of the total urban area) with England claiming the highest proportion (30.1%). Many

gardens are visited regularly by wildlife attracted to water. Water to drink is vital for wildlife, but it also fulfils other essential



A thirsty Badger approaches...

functions such as providing food for reptiles and mammals. Water is used to clean feathers and fur, to get rid of parasites, and especially in warm weather water is important for its cooling effects. Damp environments offer shelter and breeding areas for amphibians and invertebrates. Likewise, many aquatic and non-aquatic plants also rely on water for their propagation and dissemination.

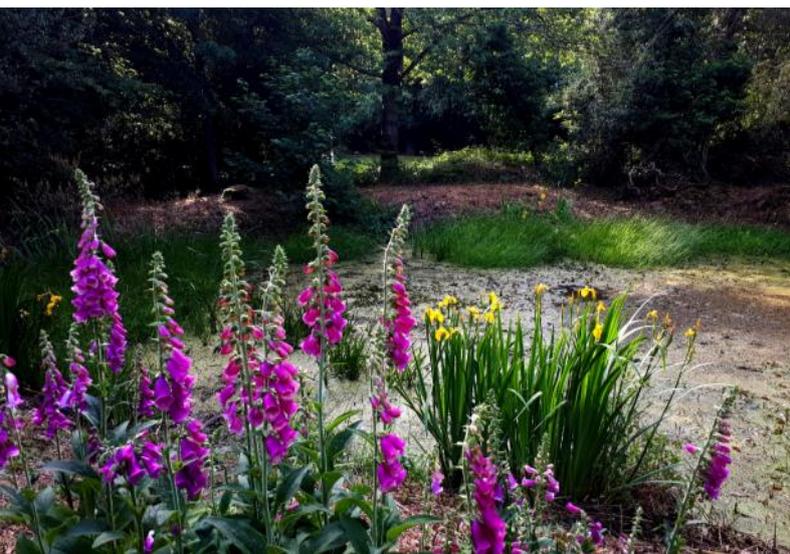
There are many ways we can help wildlife to survive hot and dry months, regardless of the size and location of our garden. Here are some ideas (use rain water if you can and only use tap water that has been left outside for a day):

- Leave water out for larger animals such as Foxes, Badgers and Hedgehogs to drink
- Provide drinking and bathing water for birds above the ground and change the water regularly to avoid the spread of avian pathogens
- [Create a pond in your garden](#)
- [Create water bodies of different sizes across your garden by burying a pot or an old sink](#)
- [Make a Hoverfly Lagoon](#)
- Create cool, damp areas for insects and amphibians with logs and shaded corners
- [Make a Bog Garden](#), great for plants and insects
- Leave areas in your garden with long and dense grass, this habitat is great for insects and birds
- Wet mud can also help. Swallows and mason bees will thank you for creating mud baths!

So have a think: how many water sources are in your garden and is there anything more you can do?

All images © Claudia Bernardini.

Weather statistics from Met Office, June 2020.





## Recording Lichens during the Lockdown

*Paula Shipway, British Lichen Society Recorder*

Early in the lockdown I decided to record lichens in 'out of the way' 1 km squares during my daily exercise. This seemed to be a good opportunity to gather records away from the usual lichen hotspots such as church-yards, ancient woodlands, and commons. I live in Hertfordshire so the nine squares that I concentrated on were all close to the border. I walked to each location and kept to public footpaths, pausing to look at interesting trees, wooden fence posts and rails, and in one square an old farm trailer. In another square I was pleased to find a lovely old brick bridge over a brook and this habitat added numerous records to an otherwise

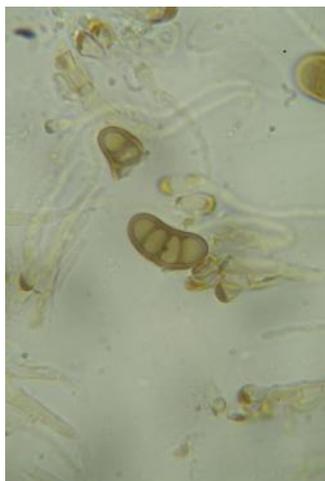
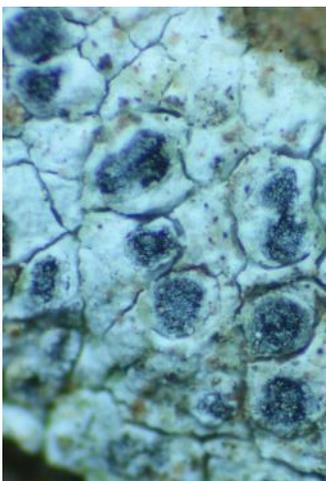
unpromising area. I was particularly pleased to find *Diplotomma hedinii*, on mortar on the bridge which was a personal first for me and a second county record.

With experience many lichens are readily recognized in the field however some species need to be examined under a microscope. This species is separated from the more commonly recorded species, *Diplotomma alboatrum*, by the distinctive 3-septate ascospores.

Near Puttenham on an old track I paused to look at the trunk of an Ash tree and was pleased to find numerous 'pins' belonging to the pin lichen, *Chaenotheca hispidula*. They are remarkably colourful despite being only 0.5 to 1 mm high with the fruiting body being held aloft on a short stalk. This was a first county record and made we wonder how many other species are still waiting to be discovered in the county.



*Chaenotheca hispidula*



*Diplotomma hedinii* and *Diplotomma hedinii* ascospore, X1000

Another unexpected find came from an old coppiced Ash tree just a few metres from the new A41 by-pass. *Bacidia rubella* was recorded more commonly in our region before 2000 than it is now although it is evaluated as being of least concern.

*Lecanora campestris* is a common species on concrete and calcareous stonework but in 2013 DNA sequencing showed that up until then two different species were being recorded within the generally accepted variation in the species. The newly discovered species *Lecanora horiza*, is generally recognized by the discs of the fruiting bodies being shiny and usually more convex. The thallus or main body of the lichen is also a brighter white and lacks the usually visible fimbriate or fringed outer margin. It is now commonly recorded on vertical calcareous stonework in churchyards in the Home Counties.

An old farm trailer left by a farm track where dust had penetrated the old timbers proved to be a habitat for several species of lichen that are normally considered to be saxicolous (growing on stonework) and included *Lecanora campestris*. On a vertical plank on the trailer one specimen led me to consider *L. horiza* but without any morphological differences visible under a microscope to separate the two species I could not be certain so after much deliberation did not record it as such.



*Physcia caesia*

A particularly fine specimen of a species that I was certain of, *Physcia caesia* grew on the painted metal-work of the trailer and along with other species added to the overall number of records from the area.

Lichens grow in a vast range of habitats and I should confess that I found the enforced restriction of the area in which to search for them quite liberating.

*Paula Shipway is the British Lichen Society recorder for Buckinghamshire. If you have records of lichens or want to know more, please contact Paula at [paula.shipway@btinternet.com](mailto:paula.shipway@btinternet.com)*



*Bacidia rubella* partially framed by *Xanthoria parietina*

Reference:

**Malíček, J. & Powell, M. (2013)** *Lecanora horiza* and other surprises in the *Lecanora subfusca* group. *Bull. Brit. Lichen Soc.* **112**: 66-71.

All images © Paula Shipway

# Bird monitoring brings farmers & nature volunteers together in the Chilterns

*Nick Marriner, Landowner Engagement Officer, Chilterns Conservation Board*

---

**The idea of farming clusters bringing local farmers together isn't new, but has seen a recent resurgence - in this case to promote conservation and much valued volunteer input into local landscapes. The Central Chilterns Farmer Cluster is relatively young, made up of 18 farmers covering c. 6,500 hectares across the Buckinghamshire Chilterns.**

Being a keen birdwatcher myself I have been able to speak with other local birders and work through both the Bucks Bird Club and BBOWT to recruit 14 experienced volunteer surveyors. They each covered 9 farms in 2019 and now 17 in 2020 as part of the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trusts (GWCT) Big Farmland Bird Count; the first time any of our farms had taken part in the scheme.

We have focused on getting a better understanding of each of the farms, looking at the wider distribution of key farmland bird species (Yellowhammer, Linnet and Corn Bunting). In tandem, volunteers from the Bucks Owl & Raptor Group (BORG) have been installing nest boxes, and both the Hughenden and Bisham Ringing Groups have completed their first winter of a long term farmland bird ringing study on 4 of the farms.

Volunteer surveyors have recorded 86 species across the cluster. Species counts have topped 50 on 3 farms with some standout highlights. Yellowhammer counts of over 40 were recorded on 6 farms (one had 85!) and Corn Bunting were recorded on 4 farms, revealing the area to hold one of the strongest populations in the county. Other records included Short-eared Owl, Snipe, Peregrine, Raven, Yellow Wagtail and Barn Owl; the standout one being a passage Stone Curlew.



Hughenden Ringing Group caught and fitted rings to 339 birds including 93 Yellowhammer and 19 Corn Bunting, showing the importance of the area for farmland birds – so much so that BTO have recently approved a new Corn Bunting colour ringing project. BORG have managed to carry out site surveys and, despite being hampered by the weather, have installed 42 new nest boxes on 12 farms across the cluster (including 14 Barn Owl boxes).

This work has given a real sense of energy to the cluster and a healthy sense of competition between farmers to get higher bird counts or to find rarer species with great photos, conversations and banter on our WhatsApp group.

Our farmers have been really keen to take time out to welcome the volunteers and join in with the surveys, have a go at ringing and help put up the Owl boxes. They have said how much they enjoy learning from the volunteer's skills and experience and our volunteers have valued the chance to explore new areas and find some great birds.

My time and this work is supported through the Chalk, Cherries and Chairs project led by the Chilterns Conservation Board and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Building on this we have recently launched a new project to carry out bird, butterfly and plant surveys across 50 1km squares as part of what we hope will become a long-term study for the Chilterns. We have just completed our first surveys for the spring and there are plenty of squares left. Likewise, we have a species ID and survey methodology training package in place and lots of other ways to keep in touch with and learn from other surveyors. If you would like to find out more please get in touch with me at [nmarriner@chilternsaonb.org](mailto:nmarriner@chilternsaonb.org)





## Traditional Orchards Project Update

*Emma Foster, Environment Team Graduate*

**Long established traditional orchards are defined by the features within the habitat. Structurally and ecologically similar to wood-pasture and parkland, traditional orchards are generally distinguished by their complex tree arrangement and dominant species, primarily species located within the family *Rosaceae*.**

Frequently located in mosaic fragmented patches nearby old village settlements, this habitat is extremely important to the surrounding environment, society and the economy. Home to many UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and protected species such as Stag Beetles, Mistletoe, Bullfinch and Noble Chafer Beetles, orchards are a biodiversity hotspot for many nationally scarce and rare species.

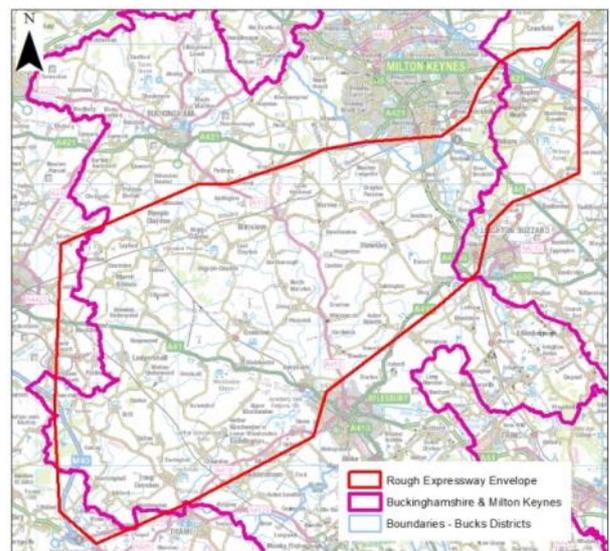
The difference between a commercial orchard and a traditional orchard is the intensity of management on the land and trees. Traditional orchards are not managed intensively for example, with any chemicals such as inorganic fertilisers and pesticides which can be present in many production orchards.

Orchards are rapidly declining in the British landscape; many are disused or under threat from development as our urban areas are expanding at an astonishing rate to keep up with human populations.

### **Buckinghamshire Orchards**

Historically, Buckinghamshire has a number of locally-bred and significant fruit trees such as the Langley Pippin and the Aylesbury Prune. There is a lack of understanding and knowledge on the distribution of the surviving traditional orchards

within the county. Traditional orchards are mentioned in the biodiversity section of Highways England's Oxford to Cambridge Expressway (Strategic Outline Business Case), a major road scheme with the potential to affect a large area of orchards. It is important to act now to re-establish a traditional orchard culture and appreciate what this important habitat gives to all, particularly given the lack of understanding on the current scale of these habitats within the expressway corridor.



© Crown copyright and database rights 2020  
OS Licence No. 100021529

### **BMERC Plans**

As a team, BMERC are recording orchards by looking at our current orchard mapping, alongside data from Natural England, Peoples Trust for Endangered Species and old maps from the 1940. Our target area is the proposed expressway area where there is high pressure from infrastructure development.

Through this project, BMERC directly meets one of the objectives from the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Biodiversity Action Plan; to increase our knowledge and appreciate the value of old orchards for their contribution to biodiversity, culture and landscapes.

As traditional orchards cannot be distinguished easily from commercial orchards, nor parklands and gardens from aerial images, surveying on foot gives confidence and assurance on what type of orchard it is, as well as species present, number of trees, level of management, an approximate age of the trees, etc. Therefore, to understand what we currently have in this area specific survey forms were created to carry out a preliminary survey of orchards on the ground. The question from here was where do we start?

565 potential orchard sites were identified in the 'Expressway Envelope'. Over the past year, we have surveyed private land, farms, and gardens. So far, we have performed just over 415 orchard surveys within the envelope. Of the orchards located, we found out:

- 228 potential sites are no longer an orchard
- 211 orchards still present, i.e: commercial, gardens
- 60 traditional orchards

Not only have we gathered information about the surviving and thriving traditional orchards within Buckinghamshire but we have unravelled parts of history in regards to this important habitat. For example Stone Villages' Buckinghamshire Mental Hospital (1852 to 1948) kept a traditional orchard in their grounds in the latter periods of the Hospital to allow clients access to fresh free food; getting back to everyday life also helped their mental wellbeing.

Parts of the orchard are still present today in a derelict state. We continue to explore parts of Buckinghamshire's past with orchards, understanding the importance of this critical habitat not only for the wildlife but also how the trees are important to us.

### **Into the Future and Beyond**

We are adding the data we have collected to our Priority Habitat mapping, which is also linked with the Noble Chafer project.

For the future of the project we will continue with the search across Buckinghamshire. There are still 150 orchards needing to be surveyed within the proposed expressway as of 12 March 2020. Furthermore, there are plans to start surveying orchards within the south of Buckinghamshire.



Emma on site to survey an orchard

**If you have a traditional orchard or know of any that you would like to be included in our inventory, please contact us: [erc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:erc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)**

**Please include your name and contact details, as well as the location (preferably a 6 figure grid reference). Additional information is always welcome such as number of trees, species, age, habitats present and current management.**

**If you prefer to write to us or contact us by phone, our postal address and telephone number are included at the end of this newsletter.**



## Early Steps into Recording

*Luke Marriner, Student*

**Hi, I my name is Luke, I am 15 and should be doing my GCSEs at the moment (if they weren't cancelled due to the Coronavirus!) I live in Thame and am really into birding and all things conservation.** My interest in birds started about 10 years ago when my Dad took me on a birding weekend to North Norfolk and I started going with him on bird surveys for BBOWT.

As well as finding new birds and the odd twitch I really enjoy surveying. I have been doing a BTO Wetland Bird Survey for the last year on a couple of sites near home.

I am really interested in owls and my dad introduced me to Norman Shepherd from the Bucks Owl and Raptor Group two years ago. Since then I have been helping out with making and putting up nest boxes and I have got my BTO Trainee T ringing licence (it's amazing ringing Barn Owls and I even got to ring a Long-eared Owl chick).

This got me hooked on ringing and last year Lynne Lambert kindly offered to take me on as one of her trainees at Marsworth in the Tring Ringing Group. This has been great fun—even the 3am starts in the spring!

There are so many ways in which you can get involved in conservation. I was lucky to do my school work experience with Natural England helping out at Aston Rowant NNR, as well as putting up miles of stock fencing with BBOWT on Upper Ray Meadows reserves.

I have been helped by so many people in recent years who have taken time to train and support me and make me feel so welcome as part of various groups and I have learnt so much (it has helped my bird list too!)

This summer I have had some time on my hands as my GCSEs have been cancelled and have been getting into moth trapping in my garden. I have even had a go at making my own moth trap from bits of scrap wood in the garage. I have caught some crackers including Privet and Elephant Hawk Moths.

It might look like there aren't many young people into wildlife but on social media there are loads of us. I am on WhatsApp groups of young birders and moth(ers), and there are many of us on Twitter—always happy to learn from more experienced people and get more involved. Join me on Twitter: [@lukemarriner249](https://twitter.com/lukemarriner249)



Images supplied by Luke, from top:  
One of my first Tawny Owl chicks with BORG  
Ringing at Marsworth; Sea watch in the beach shelter, Cley  
Elephant & Privet Hawk Moths caught in my homemade trap



## Understanding Wildlife Crime

*Dean Kingham, Police Wildlife Crime Officer, Thames Valley Police*

---

**Dean Kingham is your local Police Wildlife Crime Officer and has been a keen fan of nature since childhood. Here is some information about Dean, his role and how we can help him protect wildlife.**

Thames Valley Police (TVP) have 13 wildlife crime officers spread evenly across the counties of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire and in 2008 I was lucky enough to pass a board to have this role added to my responsibilities. I joined TVP in 2005 and when I found out that a wildlife role existed, I knew I needed to plan ahead and get it. I have always had a passion for wildlife from an early age; my family were farmers from Cheddington and I can recall fond memories of being out with my mum studying bird nest success rates, rearing caterpillars or just out on the Chiltern hills hunting for beetles and glow-worms on warm summer evenings. At the moment we are rearing Peacock Butterfly caterpillars and running a moth trap from our garden, having caught Hawk Moth species it's been great for my children and they are increasing their identification skills too!

This early wildlife interest was continued into my adult life working with Rhinos, Elephants, Tigers and hatching/rearing penguins while working at Whip-snade Zoo for ten years before joining the police.

Wildlife crime is any action that breaks the law regarding protection of the UK's wild animals and plants. The current UK priorities nationally for wildlife crime are badger persecution, bat persecution, freshwater pearl mussel, poaching, raptor persecution and CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). My area is mainly Aylesbury Vale, although when others are not on duty I will travel to all counties. I have investigated everything on this list apart from Pearl Mussel theft! I have had a larger amount of Raptor Persecution jobs in and around Aylesbury, very few have ended as suspicious/crimes - but because this crime is very well covered by the media we get a higher amount reported and any found birds of prey including Red Kites/Buzzards are flagged for x-rays and possible toxicology reports.

Wildlife crime is generally underreported, so a big part of my role is raising the profile. Wildlife crime can be difficult to solve, as much of it occurs in remote locations where there are limited witnesses. We get all sorts of crimes reported to us, from Badger Act offences, to water vole habitat destruction, as well as illegal hunting and poaching. I have been part of ivory import/export operations at Heathrow and we have previously investigated bird egg collectors. It's not just about animals though, as flora are protected too.

Investigating wildlife offences against badgers, bats, and newts, the role has certainly not been quiet. I have met with hunt monitor groups and hunt masters to open channels of discussion, as well as working with partner organisations such as Natural England, Forestry England, National Trust, and the Environment Agency. I obviously can't do this all by myself, but I know there is a sea of people and agencies in the region that will be able to help me along the way. I hope to build a good working relationship with many of the key partners to help enhance the Force's wildlife portfolio. I then hope to be able feed it all into the National Wildlife crime picture.

I would ask as many of you will be out and about in some really undisturbed or not frequently walked areas, if you see or hear anything suspicious to report it to TVP. There are a few options: 999 if it's an emergency and happening now, 101 for a slower response, or of course contact me on 07814 485189 or [dean.kingham@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:dean.kingham@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk). I will hopefully meet up with some of you while out and about and also, it would be great to help with any wildlife projects to increase my identification skills and recording knowledge.





## Every Flower Counts

Emma Foster, Environment Team Graduate

Every Flower Counts is a citizen science initiative held by Plantlife between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May. This year, it gave me an opportunity to find out what lives in my wildflower haven... or should I say wild grassland, by counting the flowers present to discover how many bees can feed off the provided nectar.



My small grassland patch is located in the front of the house and it's fairly new; there have already been visits from local Sparrows, Dunnocks and the occasional Blue Tit.

Unmowed this year the grass has grown to extraordinary lengths (up to my knee in some cases), with the occasional management over the last few months to control the scrambling bramble.

Within my random 1m<sup>2</sup> quadrat there was:

- 3 flowering bedstraw (*Galium* sp.)
- 2 common vetch (*Vicia sativa*)
- 1 dandelion (*Taraxacum* agg.)
- 1 garden escapee, potentially snapdragon species (*Antirrhinum* sp.) recorded in May (identified by Julia Carey & Fiona Everingham).

Plantlife estimated that only 6 bees can be supported in this grassland lawn, below the national average, however, I have excluded the garden escapees. This is an unknowingly terrible result of my newly wild grassland.

Fortunately I attended an online workshop organised by the Chilterns Conservation Board and Plantlife, which shared information to help increase flowering plants in my grassland. This includes reducing the nutrients in the soil, choosing a wildflower mix to suit my soil type, and removing all dead material at the end of September, to reduce the competing grasses for wildflowers to grow.

I'm hopeful next year the grassland will have more flowering plants to provide for pollinating insects.



## What on earth is that?

The BMERC Team

As some light entertainment we thought we'd include a little photo challenge. Can you identify these species found in Buckinghamshire and/or Milton Keynes from the close-up photos?

All will be revealed in the next issue...





## What have we been up to in lockdown?



Neil has attracted a Current Clearwing moth to his allotment—a nationally scarce species and a first for him!



Julia has been spending time looking at new and unusual things too, such as watching Goldfinches pick rotten mortar out of an old railway bridge, presumably for the salt? There are three Goldfinches, can you see them?

Rhiannon is participating in the Wildlife Trusts' 30 Days Wild Challenge. You can follow her journey on Twitter [@BucksBuzzing](https://twitter.com/BucksBuzzing) or on the [Bucks Buzzing website](https://www.bucksbuzzing.co.uk/).



Claudia is rearing hungry caterpillars with her son Dylan. They've moved on from Green Oak Tortrix and are currently on Peacock caterpillars: very big, shiny and voracious!



Emma is creating a garden for people and wildlife to live and enjoy the same space. By adding bug houses, bird feeder, small grass area, flowers and a bowl of water, the garden now attracts many delightful birds and insects to a space which was an unloved area in the past.



Fiona has finally been released into the wild and is brushing the cobwebs from her brain trying to remember what it is a Local Wildlife Sites surveyor actually does. She's only visited a few sites but already has some potential Local Wildlife Sites on the horizon.



## Resources Round-Up

This issue has been packed with links to projects, guidance, and ways to get involved. To help you keep track, here's a quick reference guide to all the links we've included, as well as some relevant news stories:

### Tracking the Impact

[www.chilternsonb.org/tracking-the-impact.html](http://www.chilternsonb.org/tracking-the-impact.html)

### FSC Biolinks Virtual Meet Ups

[www.fscbiodiversity.uk/VirtualMeetups](http://www.fscbiodiversity.uk/VirtualMeetups)

### Freshwater Habitats Trust—Make a garden pond

[freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/pond-clinic/create-pond](http://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/pond-clinic/create-pond)

### RSPB—Make a mini-pond

[www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/water-for-wildlife/small-water-features-and-bog-gardens/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/water-for-wildlife/small-water-features-and-bog-gardens/)

### The Buzz Club—Make a hoverfly lagoon

[www.thebuzzclub.uk/hoverfly-lagoons](http://www.thebuzzclub.uk/hoverfly-lagoons)

### The RHS—Make a bog garden

[www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=356](http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=356)

### Every Flower Counts

[www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts/)

### Bucks Buzzing

[www.bucksmknep.co.uk/bucks-buzzing](http://www.bucksmknep.co.uk/bucks-buzzing)

### BBC News: Clean water ponds boosts rare wetland plants, say experts

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-52910464](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-52910464)

### BBOWT launches 100 Miles Wider

[www.bbowt.org.uk/100-miles-wilder](http://www.bbowt.org.uk/100-miles-wilder)

### Natural History Museum: Nature and breast cancer: the plants that saved a botanist's life

[www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/nature-and-breast-cancer-the-plants-that-saved-a-botanists-life.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/nature-and-breast-cancer-the-plants-that-saved-a-botanists-life.html)



## Our Final Thoughts

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of the BMERC newsletter. It is a new endeavour for us and we're still finding our feet, so if you have any feedback—good or bad—we'd love to hear from you.

We'd also like to thank our guest authors in this issue: Dean, Luke, Nick and Paula.

Do you have a great idea for an article? We are welcoming submissions for our next issue now, so please get in touch if you'd like to be included in a future newsletter. Our contact information is below.

You can keep up to date with our team and ways to get involved on our website. The next issue of our newsletter will be published in early August, so until then happy recording!

*Best wishes from the BMERC Team,  
Claudia, Emma, Fiona, Julia, Neil & Rhiannon*



## Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre

Buckinghamshire Council, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Walton Street Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury HP20 1UY  
erc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk • 01296 382431 • www.bucksmkerc.org.uk

## Great news about one of our Peregrine chicks!

In 2016, there was a webcam operating at the Peregrine platform on the Walton Street Offices (then County Hall) and many people watched fascinated as our local Peregrine pair raised two chicks until they fledged in the middle of June (*image above*). We have not heard of any sightings of the young birds until now when the male was spotted on St Peter and St Paul Church in Kettering by photographer/bird watcher Julie Roe (*left*). The male was new to the site for the 2020 breeding season and is holding territory with an unringed female.



*Thank you to Lynne Lambert for this story and Julie Roe for the recent photograph.*