



Oliver's Battery Countryside Group

Newsletter 1/2014

FEBRUARY 2014

There has been little activity in the wildlife area over winter with dormant trees, hibernating slow worms and small mammals keeping a very low profile, although rabbits are creating small bare scrapes. People who have been walking through the area have spotted visiting winter birds such as Fieldfares and Redwings as well as the resident Blackbirds, Robins, Greenfinches and Tits. We wait to see what impact the extremely wet weather will have had on the wildlife here.

Currently the hazel trees have “lamb tails” (catkins) dangling from their twigs. These are the male flowers scattering their pollen in the wind. If you look carefully on any hazel twig you will probably also see tiny red female flowers which will eventually develop into hazel nuts by the autumn.

OBCG MEMBERS are invited to borrow our copy of “Wildlife Gardening Information Pack” which has been produced by Hampshire Wildlife Trust. It contains 12 practical ways to improve your garden for wildlife plus lots of information, such as how to identify bumblebees and make compost. Contact Alison on 855772 or Clare on 852136 to arrange to borrow it.

Wider wildlife events:

- Look out for frogs arriving at ponds from mid February onwards. No pond? Try sinking an old sink/ baby bath in your garden then place a gently sloping plank to help amphibians get in and out. Watch to see who arrives!
- Snowdrops in their hundreds can be seen in Hursley Churchyard.
- OB Parish Council are financing an interpretation board for this area.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday 7th June - Parish Fete

3rd - 5th July - National Moth Nights (probable event here on Saturday 5th)

New membership year: membership renewal form attached. Please rejoin ☺ www.oliversbatterycountysidegroup.org.uk