

# Warwick Natural History Society

## Snippets

No. 155

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

You can follow the Society on Bluesky

<https://bsky.app/profile/warwicknathistsoc.bsky.social>

### May insects

Starting left on the collage, the female Hairy Footed Bee's proboscis is ready for the next flower. Feeding at Erysium, a female Mason Bees' mandibles are clearly visible. Many Holly Blue butterflies around and excited to see three Painted Ladies so far.

An Early Bumblebee with a bright yellow moustache and yellow bands, definitely a male. Several Meadow Longhorn moths on Iberis and (possibly new to the area) a Dame's Rocket Moth. Swollen-thighed beetles feed at a variety of flowers, only the male has swollen thighs. A Hawthorn Shield bug's broad shoulders and deep red triangle help ID.

A parasitised 7-spot Ladybird joins three others found so far this year. As yet no wasps have emerged from the cocoons. Ox-eye daisy flowers are the favoured plants of a Tephritis picture wing fly which uses its wings for courtship displays. The Barred Ant-Hill hoverfly's larvae feed on aphids in ant hills. A typical wasp mimic with striking black and yellow markings.

20<sup>th</sup> May SG



### Stockton Taskers Meadow & Stockton Cutting

Assembling at the Boat Inn in Stockton, 18 members led by our moth expert David Brown strolled across the golden meadow filled with buttercups. Few butterflies or moths were evident at first glance but they were there: moths were caught in the sweeping butterfly net and popped in the transparent pot for us to see close-up. All were soon released back in their habitat.



Stockton Cutting was glorious and many butterflies were identified as we walked through.

We also saw flowers such as blue Germander Speedwell, purple Milkwort, yellow Cowslips and many beautiful white Butterfly orchids. The circular walk finished in sunshine.

Thanks David for a most informative and enjoyable tour.

21<sup>st</sup> May FW



**Butterflies:** Brimstone, Green Hairstreak, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Orange Tip, Large White, Green-veined White, Small White, Dingy Skipper, Brown Argus, Small Heath, Grizzled Skipper

**Moths:** Burnet Companion, Pyralid, Grass Rivulet, Cinnabar Moth, Burnet Moth

**Birds:** Mallard, Pheasant, Chiffchaff, Buzzard, Black-headed Gull, Wood Pigeon, Rook, Blackcap, Robin, Jackdaw, Crow, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Great Tit, Blackbird, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Song Thrush, Wren, Red Kite, Swallow

.../



*Stockton Cutting*



*Holly Blue*

On May 23rd and 24th I saw two Painted Ladies butterflies as the heatwave began. They migrate across the channel from mainland Europe. Sometimes it is a 'Painted Lady year' with millions of them arriving. Perhaps this year will be one of them.

24<sup>th</sup> May RT



*A fresh water shrimp found in our brook in late May.*

27<sup>th</sup> May BP

Watching this swan family on one of their first outings on the water, it was fascinating seeing the adults stir up the water by paddling with their feet or with their heads under water so that goodies floated up to the surface for the cygnets to feed on. They have a very sheltered nest hidden away behind a fence in shrubbery on land bordering the Grand Union canal near Braunston tunnel, on the edge of a small housing estate. My son's family visit regularly.

25<sup>th</sup> May FW



*During the hot spell the warblers have been very vocal around the pools in St. Nicholas Park. Five sedge warblers singing and displaying, three Cetti's warblers singing and a reed warbler, which is unusual there. The Warwick Birding Group that aims to see 100 species within two miles of St. Mary's Church each year reached 99 on May 27th when a marsh harrier was seen flying over the racecourse - photo taken by Robert Bailey.*

28<sup>th</sup> May RT

A lone coot on the lake in Abbey Fields, Kenilworth, near the new swimming pool. They used to be a common sight here but this is the first I've seen for several years. Others may have seen them more recently, of course.

1<sup>st</sup> June MP



*It's going to be a year for Painted Lady butterflies, four seen today in our Kenilworth garden.*

29<sup>th</sup> May SG

## Arts events for you

One or two arts events you might be able to join us at:

### Summer Art Weeks, Warwickshire Open Studios

Kenilworth at St John's Church, CV8 1HY

25th to 28th June, 10 - 5pm

15 Artists present a range of artworks; Watercolour, Charcoal, Acrylics, Linocut & Oil Paintings. Weaving, textiles, cards & glass.

A lovely outing to enjoy with friends, stop for cake and coffee and browse the art - a visual feast, what's not to like!

### A large art and entertainment extravaganza - Art in the Park,

Leamington Spa, Jefferson Gardens

Saturday August 1st, Sunday 2nd, 10 - 6 pm

Entertainment, Food stalls, local food & drink produce, the biggest gathering of mostly local artists, 'a great way to spend a week-end'

J E



**Stockton Cutting again...** A week after our WNHS visit were seen more orchids in bloom, including Common Spotted, Pyramidal, Twayblade and Bee orchids ... and several Painted Lady butterflies around - they must have all flown in during the heatwave.

4<sup>th</sup> June FW



*We have Penstemon Glaber in the garden and short-tongued Bumblebees choose an easy route to the nectar piercing or chewing the neck of the flower. This behaviour is known as 'nectar' robbing.*

8<sup>th</sup> June SG

The stunning array of 'candles' on a horse chestnut tree seen on a visit to Kew Gardens last week.



Sitting in the sunshine in front of the Orangery cafe at Kew Gardens this brazen fox was completely unafraid of people enjoying their tea and cakes.

It was obviously used to picking up tit bits from the enthralled customers. Some were actually feeding it by hand! However as soon as a gardeners' vehicle approached, off it went. Maybe it realised it wasn't really welcomed.



Along the Thames Path a couple of Egyptian Geese. Technically they are a type of duck belonging to a sub family of shelduck. They were introduced into Britain from Africa about 400 years ago chiefly in ornamental collections from where they have continued to spread into the wild.

11<sup>th</sup> June LD



*I have a giant yellow Scabious (cephalaria gigantic) in my garden which the bees appear to enjoy but they stay a long time on each flower. It is common to see three bees on one flower which seems unusual.*

15<sup>th</sup> June RM

## Warwick District Council Biodiversity Newsletter

The Summer 2026 edition is now out with lots of interesting articles – here's the link:

[Biodiversity newsletter - Summer 2026](#)

*A glimpse of the insects seen at **Avon Wood** on May 25th. I was lucky to find the two Knapweed flies since the new woodland has an abundance of their host plants. Bit like searching for a needle in a haystack.*

16<sup>th</sup> June SG



June is the month when baby bats are born in the UK. UK bats just have one baby in a year (or none). They are born in June and need to be flying and foraging before the end of August so that they can build up fat reserves for hibernation. Earlier this month I took in a female common pipistrelle whose left wing had been ripped away by a cat. She gave birth last week and the baby is already struggling to hide itself in mother's wing. The female bats' nipples are in what would be the armpits on a human.

18<sup>th</sup> June TS *(Image is also attached to email)*

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[www.wnhs.info](http://www.wnhs.info)