

Wildlife surveys results 2015

Throughout the year we have done a number of different wildlife surveys. Here are some of the things we found.

Bird Survey (Big Farmland Bird Count)

Black headed Gull
 Blackbird
 Carrion crow
 Common Gull
 Long tail tit
 Magpie
 Ring necked parakeet
 Green Woodpecker
 Greenfinch
 Wood pigeon
 Feral Pigeon
 Sparrow hawk
 Stock dove
 Blue tit
 Great tit
 Lesser black backed gull
 Robin

This survey was undertaken on 2 days in January recording all the birds we saw in a half hour session. We were stood in the centre of lower old coals. The data was sent to the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust as part of their Big Farmland Bird count.

Pond survey

Amphibians

Smooth newt (eggs, larvae and adults)
 Common frog
 Common toad - the hundreds of tadpoles were identified as toads due to their black colouration and their shoaling behaviour both of which are characteristic of toads. It will be interesting to see if they return next year to spawn.

Invertebrates

Blood worms
 Freshwater hoglouse
 Ramshorn snail
 Water fleas
 Water beetles
 Great diving beetles and larvae
 Lesser Water boatman
 Greater water boatman
 Dragonfly nymph
 Mayfly nymph
 Damselfly nymph

These are all species we have found in the dipping pond - pretty impressive as it is only 6 months old!

Bat survey

Only 1 survey done so far this year, 1 more survey and 3 public bat walks still to do.

Common pipistrelle
 Soprano pipistrelle

Plant survey

In June we undertook surveys in both Hill view and Orchard field of the meadow plants and grasses. We did this using two 20 metre transects; we used a quadrat and recorded all the species in the 50cm² quadrat every 2 metres. Below are the species lists for the 2 fields. Hopefully we should be able to repeat this survey yearly in the same location to assess if there are any changes to the wildlife.

Hill view

Perennial rye-grass
Red fescue
Smooth meadow grass
Yorkshire fog
Yellow oat-grass
False oat grass
Soft brome
Sweet vernal grass
Crested dog's-tail
White clover
Creeping buttercup
Grass vetchling
Hop trefoil
Tufted vetch
Squirrel tail fescue
Smooth tare
Annual meadow grass
Smooth vetch
Common mouse ear
Hairy tare vetch
Wall barley
Common bent
Meadow fescue
Lesser trefoil
Meadow vetchling
Smooth brome
Thistle
Common vetch

Orchard field

Perennial rye-grass
Red fescue
Smooth meadow grass
Yorkshire fog
Yellow oat-grass
False oat-grass
Sweet vernal-grass
Red clover
White clover
Creeping buttercup
Meadow fescue
Corky fruited water dropwort
Common Bent
Hairy tare
Squirrel tail fescue
Tufted vetch
Lesser trefoil
Crested dog's-tail
Grass vetchling
Hop trefoil
Meadow barley
Wall barley

Our surveys will continue in August with the Big Butterfly count and Hedgerow biodiversity survey, and mammal surveys will start in September.

Hannah