

Who would you like to see as Vice President: Peter Miller (Sea Life), Prof Germaine Grear, or can you suggest somebody else?
.....

Can you write an article for the Newsletter?

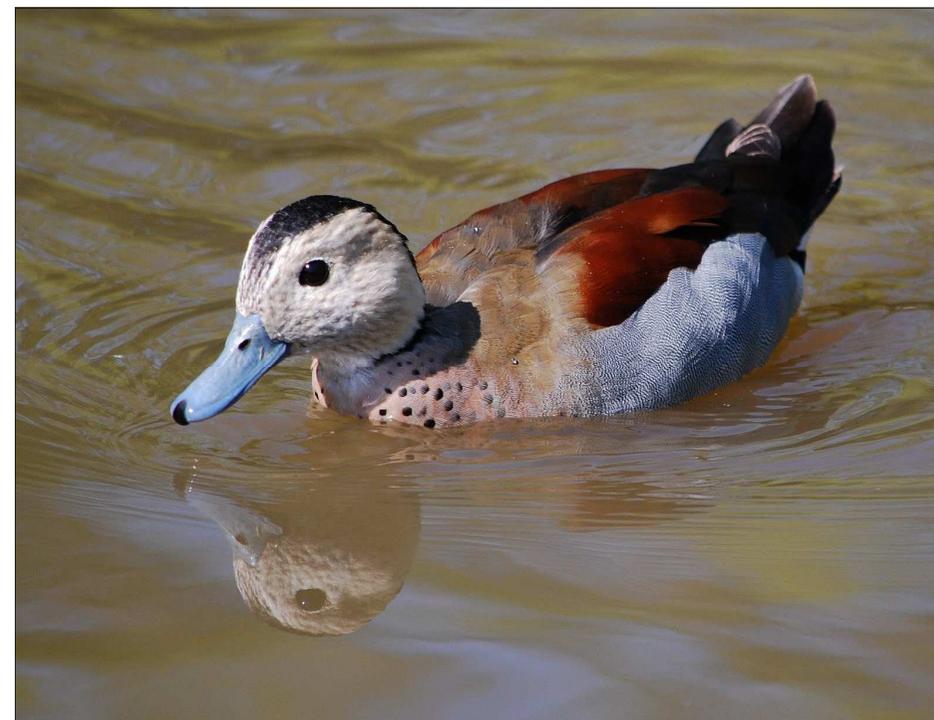
Please reply to: Pat Wortley – 3 Burlescombe Leas, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 3QF

Telephone: 01702 588115 – E-mail: pjwortley@btinternet.com

South Essex Natural History Society



Registered Charity No 231981



Male Ringed Teal

Notes for your Diary

Saturday 24th January : 2-4pm at The New Beecroft Centre (Old Library)
Talk by Don Down entitled "Gardening for Butterflies and Moths"

Thursday 12th February 7-9pm Members' Evening to replace Sea-Life talk.

Would members please make a special effort to attend and hopefully provide material to make the evening a success. Please let Pat Wortley know if you can contribute. Tel: 01702 588115 or e-mail: pjwortley@btinternet.com.

Apologies from the Editor

Errors in Newsletter 91(October 2014)

1. In Roger Payne's article on page 11 I inadvertently typed the incorrect caption on the beautiful photograph of the White Admiral provided by Kathy Greenwood.
2. In Don Down's article on page 6 at the end of the second paragraph from the bottom "...Gatekeeper Butterflies were being harassed by a male Essex Skipper...."

My sincere apologies to all concerned.



White Admiral

CONSULTATION

Name

Please answer this. It is very important to know if you can contribute:

Time per month:

Skills:

- for example **Leading a Field Meeting,**
Suggestions for the Programme
Giving or creating a talk
Teaching or demonstrating a topic
Joining as a Council member (6 meetings per annum)
Photo or collecting records on birds, plants, mammals or other.

Do you want involvement through learning? If so what topics?
.....

Which topics would you like talks on: flowers, fungi, bryophytes, trees, fish, amphibian, reptiles, birds, mammals, conservation?
.....

Do you want to see live specimens?

What help can you give for socials: Plate of food, supply milk, tea, kettle, nibbles?

Can you do publicity adverts in newspapers or on local radio?
.....

Where do you wish to go on field trips?
.....

Are you prepared to book for field trips?

Are you prepared to pay for coach trips?

Can you offer lifts to other members?.....

17 June 2014

Peek-a-boo!!

Yellow-necked mouse checking the coast is clear before jumping onto the bird feeder.

Photo taken on Dave Whitewood's Bretts Meadows



Contributions for the Newsletter

should be sent to:

Mrs V Tring
46 The Dale
Benfleet
Essex
SS7 1TD

Or by Email to: v.tring@talktalk.net

Note: accompanying photographs are particularly welcome.

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Neonicotinoids and bees

In April 2013 the EU suspended use of three of these pesticides for two years. DEFRA objected to the EU ruling but noted it would be reviewed in 2015, although other countries such as France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia have introduced their own bans. As sprays they are used to control aphids, thrips, whiteflies, turf insects, soil insects and some beetles and as seed dressings on maize, sunflowers, oilseed rape, wheat and linseed among others. There are many research papers published but some controversy about the validity of the research methods used, e.g. using hives of 500 bees rather than 10,000 bees.

They work as insecticides by blocking specific neural pathways in insect's central nervous systems. It seems bees' genetic makeup renders them particularly vulnerable to neonicotinoids as the bees' capacity to detoxify chemicals is much lower than other insects.

Instead bees have two strategies to protect themselves. On the first day of foraging in a new area, scout bees are sent out to taste the nectar and pollens-if any are adversely affected they will be expelled from the hive immediately, and the colony will avoid the area. Also, once foraging begins, nurse bees in the hive clean foragers each time they return, protecting the colony from mass exposure to lethal doses of chemicals. However honey bees are still susceptible to sub-lethal doses of any contaminants they encounter.

The other really important factor is the complex behaviour of honeybee colonies. For example the 10,000 forager bees in a typical hive need to co-ordinate their quest for nectar and they do this through the famed "waggle dance", which communicates the flight direction and distance to the sources of nectar. Success relies on the integrity of a nervous system where each synapse is crucial. It is no surprise then that bees have been shown to have a higher number of neurological receptors than other insects.

Honey bees live and work as a colony, not as individuals; what seems to be happening is that cumulative impact of small doses of neonicotinoids on thousands of bees over time is affecting an individual bee's ability to work and communicate as part of a colony. Sudden and devastating outcomes, which have been seen in recent years, could be because lots of bees are behaving sub optimally.

Jack Tring

Sparrow Hawk



How often do they come through our gardens?

A few years ago a beautiful female sat on our fence tucked into the side by the hedge waiting for a bird to pass by, but nothing did. She sat watching and waiting for at least half an hour before she flew away. Had she been lucky

enough to catch a Collared Dove she would have hit it hard, brought it to the ground and plucked it before eating it. All that would have been left would be the tell-tale circle of feathers and possibly the bird's beak and legs. Rather gruesome and a side of nature that many of us do not want to see but everything is food for something.

This bird of prey passes through our garden regularly, probably more often than I know but the other birds know. Suddenly they all disappear. The other day the 50 or so Starlings that use our garden flocked together in a tight ball en masse, mobbed the Sparrow Hawk until it flew away. The 20-30 House Sparrows vanish into the hedge. After half an hour or more they appear again and continue sunning themselves and feeding.

I have seen the tell-tale circles of feathers but only once have I seen a Collared Dove actually caught but on that occasion it managed to escape by flying away minus a few feathers.

Barbara Williams

A Plea for help

Marion is looking for somebody to share the job of Indoor Meetings Secretary. She would appreciate a hand with this as she is not always able to attend and look after speakers.

have never seen Red Bartsia do so well. These beautiful heather-like plants are everywhere, in every field and on the scrape.

The Hawthorns and Blackthorns and Cherry Plums are full of fruit and there are acorns on some of the oaks. There are plenty of berries on the Wayfaring Trees, Guelder Roses and Buckthorns.

Just a Note of Interest

Saturday, 29th November 2014

After many days of dull wet and drizzle this morning began drier and brighter and by midday it was quite sunny and warm for the time of year. So after a little gentle pruning I sat on a chair to enjoy the pleasant conditions. Whilst looking at a late flowering Hebe bush I watched a Red Admiral fly down to nectar from the last of the blossoms and to my surprise it was joined by a second specimen; both looked in fine condition for this time of the year.

Even more exciting was the number of small worker White-tailed Bumble Bees that were feeding from the early flowers of the winter heathers and a Queen Buff-tailed bumble bee also put in an appearance. Whether it had been drawn out of hibernation or just a late specimen that had not hibernated I cannot prove. But I can prove that I recorded two Tree Bumble bees, *Bombus hypnorum*, flying in the garden on **11th November**. That was the day the ROSETTA COMET landed.

Monday, 1st December 2014

Another note of interest today is the fact that many mosquito larvae are still very active in a large tub of rainwater containing the fading away of water-lily plants.

One December Eggar moth was brought to me this evening which was found on security lamps in Jack Tring's garden.

Don Down

I have watched recently as the adult Moorhens, on the big pond, "reject" their three fully grown youngsters from their first clutch. It's quite dramatic and very sad, but that's nature. This morning I found out why. A new bunch of day old chicks at the first nest sight. There's another brood of seven quite large Moorhen chicks further up the reed beds and I've no doubt there are other nests elsewhere. A week or so ago a Mallard turned up at the pond with a lone duckling; that's the third this year! The weather has been fine and sympathetic, and the duckling is doing well, and Mum is being very attentive and protective!

This has been the best year yet for Ringlets. They are everywhere, in large numbers. I am seeing Red Admirals and Commas, plus some Large and Small Whites, alongside the Meadow Browns and Skippers. Just the one Marbled White in the pond field, but I saw another this morning in the top field, near the front gate. So there's hope yet! I'm watching out for Purple Hairstreaks. Seen a few, but I'm not around early evenings when they are likely to show in big numbers in the Oak canopies.

5th July 2014

The Bird Cherry shrubs, in the hedge-line behind the pond, gave a fantastic display of blossom in the spring. Not surprisingly, the shrubs were covered in masses of black berries a few days ago. Blackbirds, particularly, find the fruits irresistible and I could hear the chatter of the birds nearby. I checked this afternoon and the shrubs have been stripped bare!

When the hard track was laid last year, the contractor spread the spare clay soil left and right, and levelled it out. Imagine my delight when I spotted a lovely Corn Marigold in flower in the top field, amongst tall grasses, earlier this week. I'm guessing the disturbance did the trick, but can't imagine where the original seed came from.

The Deptford Pink seedlings have finally come good! The plants are only 8 inches tall, a bit stunted according to my reference book. Whatever, they are just coming into flower and are delightful.

19 Aug 2014

The fields are flush with this year's final showing of flowers. The Knapweed and Teasel are already going to seed, but there are nice stands of Fleabane, Wild Carrot, Angelica and various Vetches providing nectar for the bees and other bugs. The dreadful rainstorms we've had have taken their toll of the wild bees. Ann's honey bees are everywhere in huge numbers but the Bumble Bees are few and far between. The Water Mint on the scrape is in flower and I

Help to save our woodland species of butterflies including our beautiful White Admiral

This species forms discrete colonies in local woodlands and over recent years numbers have increased and seem to be spreading again after a thin spell in the 1980s. I have worked hard in two of our local woods together with many others.

After many years of studying this butterfly and enjoying their graceful flight I have gained much knowledge about the particular habits of the species. I have found many larvae in some of the Surry and Sussex woodlands. All were found on spindly twining growth growing around birches just



inside the borders of open rides and in partial shade.

The females nearly always use this type of growth. I have never found any on large clumps of Honeysuckle and they never use Honeysuckle growing over the woodland ground. The males will often be recorded taking the salts from damp woodland paths before mating. They love the blossoms of Brambles before they take to the tops of the woodland canopy in search of their newly emerged partners.

It is just a dream to observe these butterflies gliding around the local woods with their undulating flight. Let us hope they will remain with us. It all depends on the sensitive management of the rides and glades when coppicing is taking place.

Don Down

Members' Meeting on Prittle Brook

A surprising variety of presentations was enjoyed by 16 members and visitors at the Salvation Army Temple, Hadleigh on 4th December 2014.

Roger reported his recent discovery on the banks of the Prittle Brook, the first in Essex of Wall Pennywort, *Umbillicus rupestris*, confirmed by Tim Pynor.

Mick Holland, Photographer, showed a variety of shots from Westwood to the tidal reach at Rochford, including natural banks and concrete culverts. He saw very little wildlife, apart from a fox, but found the water clean in all areas.

Tony Doveaston, Castle Point Park Ranger, explained the installation of a grating in Westwood and the constant work in keeping it clear to prevent flooding in surrounding roads. He remarked on the rapid rise of water level in a storm. Is a concealed pipe drain also flowing in? Drawing on over 30 years' experience he reminded us of a splendid wild-life sanctuary at Rochford, now the Purdey Way Industrial Estate.

Bob Delderfield of Hadleigh Archives showed old maps which showed various streams in the area, probably now in pipes and long forgotten. This probably explains the floods which still occur from time to time in the Rayleigh Road area.

Pat Wortley gave a presentation based on the record of projects from Darlinghurst Junior School, three older pamphlets by ex-member Hilda Parry, and a more recent plant survey by Pat and Beryl Murfin of plants along the brook.

Jack Tring pointed out that recent surface flooding in many areas had forced the Environment Agency to start mapping streams and ditches in Essex. Interestingly planning permission for a development at Glebelands, Rushbottom Lane in Benfleet included a clause that

had climbed up a clover and another was perched on fresh Fleabane leaves. A couple were eating grass leaves stems. As I walked on I did see a few more.

There has been a hatch of smaller dragonflies which I can't identify. Jim is confident the grasshopper nymphs are, in fact, Roesels Bush Crickets. The wildflowers are looking scrumptious and I was pleased to see a lone Yellow-wort in flower. I lost most of them since the scrape has remained flooded. Sad to say I have also lost most of the Birds-foot Trefoil as well. The Ladies' Bedstraw is only starting to show. I saw my first Ringlet a couple of days ago, but none since. Over the past few days Gary and I have watched as an Orange Tip caterpillar pupated on a Garlic Mustard stem next to the van. We've never seen this before. It was beautiful and perfectly camouflaged.

24th June 2014

The family of Moorhens on the scrape are avid feeders, snaffling up anything they can find. Don tells me the birds even find Wainscot caterpillars hidden inside the reed stems; nothing escapes them. On a less exciting note, I spotted two new plants near the second gate. I identified them from my Oxford Book of Wild Flowers! Monkey-flower, *Mimulus guttatus*. I'm guessing this foreigner arrived from the bird seed mix I put down nearby just like the Flax.

4 July 2014

There are still some Ox Eye Daisies and Buttercups in flower in the meadows, along with all the new plants, and the fruits on the brambles are showing. I can't begin to list all the plants in flower, on the fringes of the trees, like St John's-wort and Agrimony. Also out in the fields, where the Meadow and Tufted Vetches stand out. Lots of Self-heal appreciates the paths that I trim. The scrape continues to be the star turn. It was only yesterday that some Pink Centaury came into flower and I was delighted to find a lone Betony plant on the far bank on Wednesday. Lots of Red Bartsia and Ladies' Bedstraw, amongst the grasses, plus all the Clovers, Birds Foot Trefoil, 2 Yellow-wort and a host of Yellow Rattle, some in seed and others just emerging. All of this is surrounded by Knapweed, Fleabane, Wild Carrot and Ragwort, all waiting to add to the extravaganza! On Wednesday, Jim found a small, pink flowering Cranesbill that I didn't know I had! The water level on the scrape is declining rapidly. But the contrast between the masses of flowers on the banks and the stands of Water Mint, rushes, sedges and Norfolk Reed in the water simply add to the ambience of the sight.

Bretts Meadows -David Whitewood's Diary

4th June 2014

The fields and glades and rides are looking at their very best right now. Big stands of Spotted Orchids are looking particularly pretty. The scrape may still be flooded but this hasn't stopped Quaking Grasses from prospering at the water's edge. Add them to the carpet of Yellow Rattle, Vetches, Ox Eye Daisies, Orchids and red flowered Grass Vetchling and you begin to get the picture. That scrape has turned into an amazing "gem."

At last I got a sighting of a singing Whitethroat on the scrape this morning. Saw a freshly emerged Small Tortoiseshell yesterday morning, near the nettle bed where most of the caterpillars were. Had a quick look at the Buckthorns at the back of the pond this afternoon and saw just the one Brimstone caterpillar. I also checked the jungle of Garlic Mustard around the van, and found two very small Orange Tip caterpillars.

10 June 2014

Lots of Tortoiseshells have arrived but just the lone Painted Lady, looking pristine. A few Meadow Browns have freshly emerged and I spotted our first Burnet caterpillar on the scrape; it was climbing up a grass stem about to pupate. A Heath Fritillary flew in and fed on Ox Eye Daisies only a few feet away. In the wood next door the EWT had counted only 5 males a few days ago. I'm guessing this wind-blown rarity reduces that to 4! At the scrape I also saw a fresh hatch of Grasshopper nymphs and lots of whirly-gig beetles on the surface of the water.

12th June 2014

Having seen my first Burnet caterpillar on the scrape on Monday, I was a tad surprised to see a pristine 6-Spot moth in the top field this afternoon! I'm guessing the answer is simple - the moth is a different generation which emerged and pupated weeks ago! Also saw my first Skipper of the year in the pond field. Its wings hadn't fully opened.

17 June 2014

I appreciate about the continuous breeding of these moths at this time of year, but it is nonetheless quite fascinating. Since Vera and I found that emerging caterpillar a week or so ago on the scrape, I have seen a few 6-Spot moths in the top field and not a lot else till yesterday afternoon. I was taking a slow walk up and down the bank of the scrape when a lone 6-Spot flew up and landed nearby. It takes two to tango, so I'm hoping for more! I then spotted a Burnet caterpillar, and another, and more. I counted 8 in a very small area. One

surface water had to be discharged into a ditch which could be proved to give an open flow to the coast.

In response to a public notice in the Echo about Southend Airport discharging de-icing fluid run-off into the brook, Jack wrote an objection on behalf of SENHS, as did the Roach Fishery Board. It is claimed that the de-icers are harmless, but little is known about the effect of preservatives on wild life. The EA say deliberations are ongoing about the use of holding tanks, but the amount of flow when discharge takes place is obviously a problem as the degree of dilution will vary considerably.



Whales in the River Blackwater

On 18th November 2014, a pod of about 40 pilot whales were spotted in the River Blackwater. Local boatmen and the police guided them out to sea. They had previously been spotted off the Isle of Sheppey in the shipping lane and been guided out to sea, as well as being seen off the Belgian coast.

An invitation from RSPB and Friends of Southend Museums

Our members have been invited to join the RSPB and Friends of Southend Museums on their meetings. Examples of some which might interest members are:

RSPB Coach Trips

Sunday 15th February 2015 – WWT London Wetland Centre, Barnes £15 coach trip.

Sunday 26th April 2015 – RSPB Minsmere £15 coach trip.

Sunday 24th May 2015 – Weeting Heath and RSPB Lakenheath £15 coach trip + £4.25 entry.

There are various pick-up points between White Horse Southchurch and Halfords at Rayleigh Weir.

Friends of Southend Museums meetings - 2015

Wednesday 11th February – The ‘Home Front’ 1914-18. William Tyler - Essex ‘at home’ in the Great War

Thursday 12th March – The Bishopsgate Archives. Stefan Dickers – From the Krays to the Co-op and much more

Wednesday 15th April – Southend Old and New. Simon Deacon – New Aspects of Well-known Areas.

Thursday 11th June – An Evening at the Pictures. David Simpson – Picture Houses of Southend and ‘Sunday by the Sea’.

Telephone Catherine Williams on 01702 293357 for further details

Guidacre Moth night

At the request of the guardians of the Guidacre site, which is a small woodland next to Thundersley Glen, Don Down held a moth night on Monday 6th October 2014. A good number of interested folk attended. We all sat around in the comfort of the Guidacre Pavilion chatting and generally enjoying the excellent hospitality of copious cups of tea, coffee and biscuits.

Although the weather was most suitable for there to be plenty of moths, only one Yellow Under-wing came to the mercury lamp which Don had set up to attract them. However, everybody agreed that it had been a most enjoyable evening and a request was made for a return visit in the spring.

No doubt there will be excuses made as to why the whole special botanical site was completely overdone.

Thank you to all concerned!

Don Down

What use are Trees?

From: Porters: History and Description, issued by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

"About 1506 Jasper Tyrell sold Porters to William Browne, son of Sir John Browne, Lord Mayor of London in 1513. The estate continued in the Browne family at least until 1635, for in that year the Master and Wardens of Trinity House reported to the Lords of the Admiralty that John Browne, a merchant of London, and owner of certain trees at Porters, known as Porters Trees, standing in the parish of Prittlewell, had cut down one of these trees and intended to cut down the others. The Lords of the Admiralty thereupon wrote to John Browne pointing out to him that these trees were an ancient and noted sea-mark for the conducting of their charts, but more especially of His Majesty's ships and vessels in their passage into and out of the rivers Thames and Medway.

Browne was, therefore, instructed not to fell or cut away any of the said trees, and to take special care that they were preserved. For any failure to do so he would answer at his peril.

At that time open land lay between Porters and the sea, for it was not until after 1700 that the first cottages were built near the shore. A group of trees, standing on the rising ground of the estate, would be visible for a considerable distance and would prove a valuable sea-mark".

Belton Hills - 2nd October 2014

After attending a Committee Meeting I thought it would be good to take a stroll along the sea front from Chalkwell to Leigh. It was a pleasant warm afternoon and a little bontanising seemed on the cards as I found a few interesting plants along the way. I discovered several large patches of Wall Rocket, *Diplotaxis renuitolia*, growing along the track near the cockle sheds. Most of the plants were rather sickly and stressed due to the recent hot and dry conditions. However, I noticed several silken cocoons amongst some of the stems and picked a few in case they may have contained some larva of a local pyralid moth called *Evergestis extimalia*. This species lives as a larva amongst the seed heads of cruciferae plants especially along the Thames. I have found them in years gone by feeding on Charlock flower heads in the Brecklands of Suffolk and Norfolk.

I gathered a few more healthy shoots and on arrival home I placed the shoots into a large plastic box. On looking into the container the next evening after dark I was delighted to find a number of caterpillars feeding amongst the greener growth. This find pleased me as I have recorded the odd moth over many years.

This species is single brooded and flies as a moth during June and into July when fully bred larva spins a tough cocoon in debris and soil in which to hibernate before turning to a pupa during May and June according to the season.

I continued my walk to Leigh Station to catch the bus home. Here the joy of my walk turned to devastation when I saw the way that the Belton Hills Nature Reserve had been treated over recent days: in fact the tractor was still operating. I was heart-broken as many other nature lovers must have been. I go back many years with ideas for the management of the site but all seems to have been in vain.

Further Joint meetings have been arranged with Essex Feld Club as follows:

June 6 th 11.00	Sat	BOTANY GROUP & SENHS. Hadleigh C.P. Meet north eastern car park off Chapel lane SS7 2PP. TQ804,873. Packed lunch.
June Mon 29 th 11.00		BOTANY GROUP & SENHS. Bowers Gifford Marshes, RSPB. Meet church road car park SS132HG. TQ755,867. Packed lunch.
July Sat 8 th 11.00		BOTANY GROUP & SENHS. Daws Heath. Starvelark's & Tile Wood. Meet Pound Wood car park on corner St. Michael's Rd. Nearest SS7 2UN. TQ816,888. Packed lunch.
Sept Frid 11 th 11.00		BOTANY GROUP & SENHS. Canvey Heights C.P. and saltings. Meet in pavilion car park off Creek Road at SS8 8QP. TQ807,838. Packed lunch. Wellies.

Westwood – 17th December 2014

A very mild evening, between 5.30 and 6.00 pm, tempted me to walk up the main ride in Westwood. I entered at the gate in Rayleigh Road and walked up the track to the stream and back again. I carried a torch to search the trunks of Oak trees and the remaining scrub growth for three of the winter flying moths that used to appear in great numbers at this time of year. However, not a single specimen was found. I have studied and recorded in Westwood for over 40 years and this is the first time I have failed to find any specimens.

Something very wrong has been happening in the wood over the last few years since all three common species I had hoped to record this evening were flying abundantly in other areas of the district. It has been difficult to try to save a few of our less common species but to see such a decline in our common residents could become very serious. The lack of larva feeding on foliage has been a great concern to me for the last three seasons. I used to enjoy the wood in years gone by, but now find real natural history elsewhere.

Don Down

Ringed Teal

When I walked onto the spit this morning, 6th January 2015, to feed the gathering hoard of ducks, moorhens, the crippled Coot and those pesky Gulls, a tiny little duck ran up to my feet, desperate to be fed. I reckon I'm pretty good when it comes to recognising birds, but I'd never seen anything like it. It was so very small, like a toy, and had a blue beak. I knew straight away that

I should mentally retain a description of this stranger but my brain is like a sieve. All I could remember was that blue beak. I jumped to the conclusion that it was a Tufted Duck (blue beak!) hybrid because they are noted for it. So when I got home, I Googled hybrids. No luck. So I phoned Richard in



Surrey. He is "red hot" on any subject and loves a mystery challenge. He couldn't believe I hadn't noted any other detail about the bird and insisted I take a pen and paper on my afternoon visit, hoping the bird will still be there.

Richard did hazard a guess, which had nothing to do with Tufted Ducks! I had to ring a wildfowling friend on another subject, after speaking to Richard, and told him about the mystery bird. Ryan, much to my surprise, immediately "guessed" the same as Richard. I had to ring Don as well, and gave him the story.

When I did return to the meadows this afternoon, my friend Brent was just leaving and he was full of excitement. He'd

seen the bird and taken pictures!!! and asked me what it was. By then, and looking at his photos, I knew that Richard and Ryan were right. It's an "escape" from a wildfowl collection, a Ringed Teal which I've never even heard of before!

The wee critter was back at my feet again when I went to the pond, twice, this afternoon. It was obviously starving hungry and I fed it bread and corn. This really is a knock-out, even if it is only an escape. Originally from South America, The Ringed Teal was in its full breeding plumage.

David Whitewood

Banded Damoiselle

Photo by David Blackwell

What a stunningly beautiful, graceful, creature, surprisingly big and very blue. Needless to say, I'm talking about a male! It was bright and sunny when I ambled along the banks of the scrape, on 18th June 2014, expecting to find a Burnet fest of caterpillars. No such luck. But as I bent over to search the vegetation more closely, this amazing creature flew out of the small rushes and landed on a flower stem, only a few yards away. Words fail me. Damselflies are relatively tiny, this Demoiselle was HUGE, the size of a dragonfly. Unlike the Emeralds, whose wings are at right-angles to the body, its wings were folded along its back. As I stepped closer it flew off and its huge wings were almost Hummingbird-like, but a lot slower! It landed in an adjacent hedgerow. What a cracker!



Banded Damoiselle

David Whitewood