

# **North Pond Surveys**

Bird Survey
April - June 2012

Dr. Barry R. Jerome Bishops Waltham North Pond Conservation Group

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### Introduction

This survey is one of five planned for Spring 2012. The surveys are:

#### 1. Birds:

Birds observed in the pond area and birds seen using the nest boxes (the ten nest boxes which were put up at the beginning of March).

Time: 1 hour per week from April to June during the day

## 2. Flying Insects:

Flying insects such as butterflies, moths, dragon flies, damsel flies, bees, ...

**Time:** 1 hour per week from April to June during the day

### 3. Viewing Area wildlife:

Wildlife seen from the Viewing areas i.e. near the sluice, near the Corhampton Road lay-by and from the footbridge. This will be mainly birds and butterflies

**Time:** 1 hour per week from April to June during the day

#### 4. Plants:

Plants growing on the pond bed and around the periphery

Time: Six visits April to June, at fortnightly intervals, during the day.

#### 5. Amphibians & Pondlife:

Amphibians and other pondlife which are using the enlarged pilot hole.

**Time needed:** Approximately four visits April to June. Three day-time visits at monthly intervals and one dusk visit in April. A further dusk visit may be required in May

The survey team will work in pairs for each survey. The surveys have been allocated as far as possible based on skills and preferences as follows:

**Birds:** Alison and Mark Wallington

Flying Insects: Sandi Jennings & Mark Gardaner

**Viewing Areas:** Sue Jones & Georgina Busher

Plants: Jeff Florence & Alan Inder

Amphibians/Pondlife: Barry Jerome & Phoebe Worley

The pond will be divided into 4 zones to make recording of location easier, the zones are shown on the location map. The plan is to start the surveys from Saturday 14th April and continue until Sunday 24th June.

## **Approach**

Please try to make one set of bird observations per week between Saturday 14th April and Sunday 24th June. The date and time of the observations should be noted on the recording sheets. The observations do not need to be the same day and time every week, please organise them to fit in with your other activities or weather conditions.

Do not feel you need to commit to doing it every week. Weekly is ideal, but the main intention is to get a view of the birds in and around the pond during the Spring. I can see if I can arrange backup if you may be unavailable for any particular week.

Please allocate an hour to making the observations, spending roughly 15 minutes observing each zone. If possible use binoculars and take a suitable reference book to help identify the less usual species seen. There is a recording sheet for each week plus some spares.

If you have any queries or problems with the survey, please contact me. Details are on the front cover.

# **Recording Sheets**

Attached are the sheets for recording observations.

Please record the maximum number of any species that you see at any time. This should include birds flying overhead if it is possible to identify them.

For the bird nest boxes, please look to see if any bird is flying to/from the nest box and, if it is in use, record the species using it.

There are blank lines for recording the less usual species. There is also a place for comments if anything unusual is observed, or if something is seen which is not part of this survey, but which is worth noting.