



Support **Essex Wildlife Trust** by joining your Local Group of volunteers and getting involved in fundraising, events, and activities. Meet fellow enthusiasts to **protect wildlife** and inspire others.

An Unusual Spring



Photos: Tony Morton

As everybody seems to be saying, it has been a very unusual Spring, for us humans at least, but all of the other species have been getting on with their lives, and in some cases finding that a reduced presence of people has turned out to be a benefit for them. Birds have been singing more clearly, with less noise to compete with, insects seemed to be more plentiful, or perhaps we just had more time to notice them. The warm weather helped too, with everything being weeks earlier than usual.

Photographs were gathered locally over the Spring of some of the rarer species of wildflowers that live in our area, and here is a montage of some of them, for you to use your skill and expertise to put names to the 'faces'. An answer can be found on the reverse of this Newsletter.

Not all of the photos were gathered on Essex Wildlife Trust reserves, as our Special Roadside Verges are the home for some of the wildflowers, so sympathetic management of the roadsides has a large role to play in the conservation of some very rare species indeed, and in the case of one species in particular we have the largest colony in the entire country.

Tony Morton

Contacts

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For Trust and Local
Group issues.**

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**Conservation work on
our nature reserves.**

**Tuesday and Thursday
mornings from 9:30 to noon.**

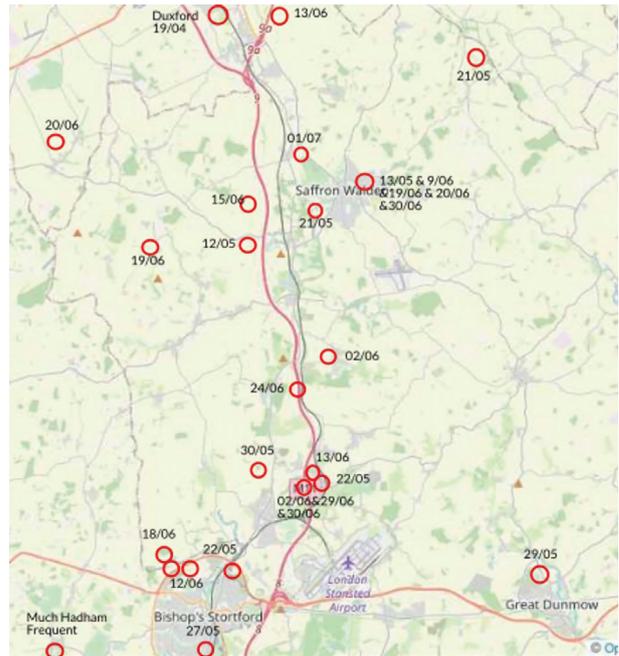
New volunteers are always welcome, contact **Michael Rowley** on the phone number above.

See details of the locations and dates on our local website at **uttlesford-wildlife.org.uk** and navigate to the Essex Wildlife Trust Work Party page with the quick link button at the right side of the page.

Spring Migrants – and Red Kites

During the Lockdown our Work Party members were asked to keep an eye open in their locality for Swallow, Swift and Cuckoo. The idea was to track arrival of migrant species as they returned to Uttlesford. The sightings were then plotted on maps and put on the Uttlesford Wildlife website. This gave an impression of the arrival pattern of these migrant species with the dates and locations shown on the maps. It turned out to be a better year for Cuckoo than many recent years, with several heard in different areas. One suggestion for this is that the lockdown in southern Europe prevented the usual shooting of migrant birds which local hunters in those areas would normally engage in. After all of the migrants had arrived we started to map Red Kites, and found a widespread distribution, shown on the map here. They can fly fast and far, so the mapping is not necessarily where they live, but there are “hot spots” around Elsenham, Bishops Stortford, Much Hadham and Saffron Walden.

Tony Morton



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Moths

We were fortunate to be contacted by Kevin Wood, who runs a light-trap for moths in his garden, and who sent us photographs of some of the moths which he caught. These traps use a bright light which attracts moths into a container that is easy to get into but harder to get out of, and the moths then move into a dark part of the container which has places for them to hide in; usually cardboard egg trays. In the morning the catch can be examined and named, and then the moths are released the following evening, so that they do not get predated by birds in the daytime. This is a wide selection of moth species, can you put name to them? Answers are at the foot of the page. Many Thanks Kevin.



Photos: Kevin Wood

Answers to the Photo Quizzes

Wildflowers;

Top row – Pyramidal Orchid – Crested Cow-Wheat (Largest colony) – Greater Butterfly Orchid

Lower row – Common Spotted Orchid – Sulphur Clover – Bee Orchid

Moths;

Top row – Poplar Hawk Moth – Pine Hawk Moth – Pebble Hook Tip

Lower row – Pale Prominent – Spectacle (Note her Glasses) – Elephant Hawk Moth