



# Kempshott Conservation Group e-Newsletter

April 2014

## Flying this month

Small Tortoiseshell



Peacock



Common Quaker



Early Grey



Did you know that of the million or more animal species in the world more than 98% are invertebrates ?

There was a short introductory course to learn about 'Simple survey methods and habitat management for invertebrates'; led by Phil Budd at Crabtree Plantation on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Phil demonstrated various survey techniques including sweep-netting, use of a beating tray, and examination of leaf litter/soil.



Checking the contents of a beating tray

He also stressed the importance of recording all sightings and submitting them to the relevant organization to build up a picture of the abundance or lack of all wildlife.



New Beech trees planted in the Meadow by BDBC as a replacement for the ones recently felled along Winchester Road (A30).

## Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

European Swallows spend the winter in Africa, south of the Sahara; in Arabia and in the Indian sub-continent. British Swallows travel to South Africa, a journey of over 5,900 miles. Despite accumulating some extra fat reserves before attempting to cross areas such as the Saharan Desert they are vulnerable to starvation during these crossings. Migrating Swallows cover about 200 miles a day, mainly during daylight at speeds of 17-22 miles per hour. The maximum flight speed is 35mph. In Barn Swallows the tail of the male is 18% longer than that of the female, and females will select a male on the basis of his tail length. The Swallow has the most extensive distribution of any summer migrant in Britain and Ireland.



Existing nests are often refurbished and there are instances where nests have been used for nearly 50 years. The nest is an open shallow cup of mud or cattle-dung pellets mixed with grass or plant material, built by both adults. Incubation is by the female only; the young are tended by both adults with food carried by the parents in the throat. Swallows have been known to feed their young up to 400 times a day. Usually double brooded.

Their aerial manoeuvrability is such that they can even manage to drink and bathe whilst still in flight, by dropping with a brief splash to the water's surface and never actually landing.

Length: - 17-19cms, including tail streamers. Wing span: - 32-35cms. Weight: - 16-25g. Typical Lifespan 2 years. Status - Numerous summer visitor and abundant passage migrant.

**Amber-listed as Bird of Conservation Concern (BoCC3)**      Average arrival date (Hampshire)  
20 March.

### Work Parties for April      Only one more left this season!

Date	Meeting Point
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Old Orchard. Kendal Gardens.

Times: - Sunday's 10:00 - 12:30. Anytime you can spare is valued!

If you would like to join us for the first time please ring Marion on 470171

Our thanks to all volunteers who have contributed to this season's work