

March 2011

Weather wisdom

“A dry March and a rainy April makes a beautiful May”

It has been the driest March since 1953 according to the Daily Telegraph. Reservoirs are very low and companies are already pumping supplies from rivers. We have already been told that hosepipe bans will be necessary this summer.

High pressure dominated our weather this month keeping Atlantic systems at bay. The first half of the month was rather cold and cloudy. The second half however was more settled with warm days and cold nights.

Nature Notes

Spring has arrived. The birds are singing. The days are getting longer. Our garden Robin is very territorial.

We have had some beautiful sunny days.

March 15th was the warmest day so far this year. On that day we heard and saw the Skylark singing high in the sky.

March 14 we saw a Brimstone butterfly also 2 Tortoiseshell butterflies.

We have also noticed a lot of bees in the garden especially around our Goat Willow tree, which is full of blossom.

Ladybirds are everywhere.

A Chiffchaff has been spotted and also a dead Yellow Hammer. (I hope it wasn't the one I wrote about in last month's Nature Notes!)

This month's top bird watcher must be Mr Bob O'Donnell who saw a Waxwing (see photo) in his garden. The local paper reported sightings of this rather rare visitor from Scandinavia, in Warwickshire. They usually fly in flocks and are often mistaken for Starlings. They are rather upright birds, short-legged birds with a distinctive crest on their heads.

The spring flowers in village gardens are magnificent. The tree blossom is also looking good.

