



Affpuddle & Turnerspuddle Parish Wildlife Newsletter

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**This Edition: Sunset towards Bladen Valley
Butterfly Report, Serious Squabbles, Sand Martin**

Butterfly Report

Roger Hewitt: It was just warm enough this afternoon (Monday 26th April) to look for a few butterflies. I thought Moor Lane meadows would be a bit sheltered from the wind and so it proved:

9 Orange Tip
3 Speckled Wood
3 Peacock
2 Comma
1 Red Admiral

The Speckled Wood (see photo below) gets overlooked a little bit, but I think it is quite attractive. The brown base colour and yellow patches on the wings go together well.



Speckled Wood Photo by Roger Hewitt

A Serious Squabble

Adrian Middleton: On April 26th two woodpigeons on my lawn appeared to have a serious squabble which this photo appears to show. The major aggressor was more clearly a male. It all seemed a bit too aggressive just to have been a pair having a minor dispute. It may have had more to do with the limited availability of the bird feed I put out than anything else. Whatever, it all ended with the more obvious male bobbing and bowing but by then the other one was nowhere to be seen.



Woodpigeons on the lawn Photo by Adrian Middleton

Sand Martins in the Parish

Roger Hewitt: There have been good counts of Swallows and Sand Martins elsewhere but I have not seen any big numbers through our meadows yet. There are small numbers through most days.

Migration as a whole has been very patchy - apparently a big low-pressure system was blocking the birds in the south of France and Spain for a time. The same thing happened last year and we lost a lot of birds, but a few more are coming in now.

There is no breeding colony of Sand Martin in our parish that I know off. There used to be a small colony at Black Hill, but not anymore



Sand Martin Photo by Roger Hewitt

Stop Press (*Ian Cross*):

- 1st Small Copper 24th April.
- 1st female Orange Tip 25th April and first egg 26th April - that was fast! work! 1st female Brimstone on 17th April - a full seven weeks after the first male was seen!
- Green-veined White, Large White and Small White are all out now.