

MEDINA VALLEY Wildlife -1999 Report

Welcome to the 1999 Report, which we hope you will find interesting and informative.

Inside this issue you will find the 14th Bird report; put together as usual by Keith Marston with the help of local birdwatchers. Included are data from the monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) for the Medina Estuary, which is also sent up to the British Trust for Ornithology, along with similar data from all over the country. The data, kept here at the Centre is, from time to time, requested to re-appraise the importance of the resource and identify important feeding and roosting areas in the Valley. Last year, the data was required as part of the Environmental Statement for the proposed new *Aerolaminates* factory to be constructed just south of the SP Systems development. It is in these cases that locally obtained information and observations can play a valuable part in decision-making and sustainable development.

Also in this issue is a 10-year analysis of our weekly butterfly census, carried out around the Centre's grounds between April and September. On a warm and sunny July day, Marbled Whites and up to twenty other species may be seen flying in the vicinity. The diversity of wildlife present within a given locality is now frequently being used as an indicator of the general health of an area (i.e. healthy for wildlife and us too). With changing land usage all around us, the observations that we, and others make will become increasingly important to monitor the state of our environment.

This concern for our local biodiversity is all part of the Agenda 21 initiative that came out of the Rio conference in 1992. Now that we are in the 21st Century, let's renew our interest in observing and recording our local wildlife by encouraging other to do so too.

Roger Herbert

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