

Welcome to the Wild BRC blog. Every month I hope to keep you up to date about the goings on with the conservation and wildlife here at Babraham Research Campus.

The last couple of months have been very damp in theme but in a good way!

You may have heard on the grapevine that Otters have been recorded on video! Well it's true. After spotting some signs of Otter activity under the bridge to the campus I put a trail camera out and within 24 hours a lovely large Dog otter made his first appearance. From further footage it appears that he is a regular visitor to our site, and may be just maybe next year we will see a female! The video of this can be seen on the Wildlife Babraham Research Campus You Tube Channel. Keep an eye on this as this is how I will share other videos captured by the trail cameras.

At the beginning of October we played host to a training course run by River fly Partnership in conjunction with Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northants Wildlife trust (BCN WT). The aim was to train interested parties to be able to carry out monthly river health checks using river fly larva as indicators. 3 members of BBT Estates team attended the course and 3 weeks later Ruth Hawksley from BCN WT and John Findlay from the Environment Agency visited the site to carry out the first monitoring session with myself. The idea is that these surveys should pick up small pollution incidents that could affect the health of the river, which by the way is good at the moment. I will continue with these monthly and if you would like to join me for a session let me know I am always happy to let someone else try to catch small wriggly things in pipettes!



You may have noticed that some boards with polystyrene underneath have started floating on the river, there is a very good reason for this....Water voles! They love sitting on floating objects to feed (and so poo) making it a great way to establish if there is a population of water voles on the River. I will let you know in time if I find anything.

Away from the river (sort of) winter is a great time for spotting birds. Things to keep an eye out for a "charm" of Gold Finches, large mixed flocks of Tits made up of Long tailed tits, Blue tits and Great tits, down on the river a Little Egret has been making regular appearances and the Kingfisher, which successfully fledged 2 young this year, can be seen darting along.



Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Long-Tailed Tit (*Aegithalos caucatus*)

If you see any interesting wildlife on the site over the next month, please let me know via email [ruth.angrave@babraham.co.uk](mailto:ruth.angrave@babraham.co.uk) . I am trying to build up a species list for the site and the more eyes and ears there the better the list will be.

And finally Have a great December and have a relaxing Christmas break and enjoy the wonderful wildlife around the area.

Photos Courtesy of R. Angrave and RSPB.