

My recent field walks between Shenstone Woodend to Little Aston Sewage Works. Report by John Foulds scu3a Birdwatching Group

As part of my fitness walks, I have recently been walking the field paths as mentioned in the title. There has been a lack of birds, except for a solitary red kite and common buzzards. What has surprised me was the number and variety of insects mainly in September. I have been seeing fantastic insects mainly new to me especially the bug family which I was relatively ignorant about. The first set of photos are of shield bugs and a leather bug quite unique in their looks.



Spiked shield bug



Hawthorn shield bug



Box bug (nymph)

The next bug group is the miridae or plant hoppers. They are minute being between 3 and 8 mm making photography difficult. I managed to see about 10 different ones.



Potato caspid



Meadow plant bug

Still with the bugs, more small ones in the froghopper and leafhopper family. The froghopper has many different guises and is named after it's frog like head. The potato leafhopper has a few similar looking cousins and they are minute being 4 to 6 mm.



Common froghopper



Rhododendron leaf hopper



Green leafhopper



Potato leafhopper

Obviously there are many different insect groups but I found these bugs fascinating because of their various colours and shapes.

John Foulds October 2023