## The Cam Valley Wildlife Group



# Newsletter



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**AUTUMN 2019** 

## (Not) locating the little ones

As the construction of my lily pond is slowly progressing – the membrane is 'in' but wonky - I thought it time to do my homework regarding ideal small-scale inhabitants.

However when out on nature walks I have gazed hopefully into every pond and puddle without encountering the candidates I desire nor the pests I don't want, so is there anyone out there who knows of a secret source?

And my H<sub>2</sub>O stars are as follows:

Daphnia (*Daphnia pulex*): the staple diet used by aquarists for their fishes which when very plentiful give the water a pink tone. Not to be found in fish ponds because they have all been eaten!



Schaefferi (*Daphnia schaefferi*): a cousin to *Daphnia pulex*, it is twice as big. Its mode of motivation is to roll 'head over heels' through the water. This I would love to see! It is rather rare though.



Freshwater shrimp (*Gammarus pulex*): this familiar fellow is a good scavenger but requires two summers to fully mature to full-size.



Water louse (Assellus aquaticus): it would make a good ally to Gammarus in the cleaning up world. Its cousin is the Woodlouse. I once had a pond teeming with this species.



Cyclops copepod – this is a miniature version of the estuarine and marine varieties popular with the fishes we devour. I recall its presence in one of the four ponds my father maintained in my boyhood days.



Frogs and newts – they will have to train themselves for the high jump as my pond has vertical sides.

#### Fergus Callander

[Note from the CVWG Conservation Coordinator: One secret source of pond colonisers is the feet of birds, and species that can fly such as Water Boatmen will come in on their own. It is interesting how the advice on ponds has been changing in recent years. Organisations such as the Amphibian and Reptiles Group, Pond Conservation and Froglife now advocate natural colonisation and discourage proactive colonisation because of the dangers of accidentally introducing diseases or undesirable animals or plant life and legal considerations such as

movement of protected species and species damaging to native wildlife. Froglife reassures that "Amphibians often find their way to a pond within a year or two and some can travel over a kilometre or so to get to new ponds. Likewise many invertebrates like dragonflies, Water boatmen and pond snails have surprising abilities to colonise".

Links: <a href="https://www.arc-trust.org/pond-faqs">https://www.froglife.org/</a>]



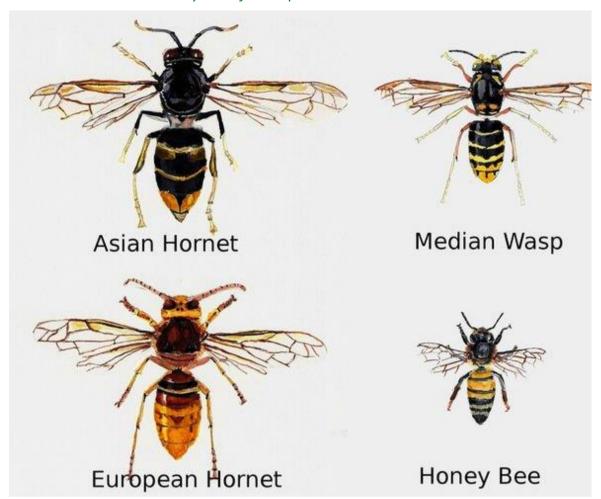
The Common Darter may well get to Fergus's pond before too long!

## Have you seen this insect? The Asian hornet (Vespa velutina)

What is it? It's an invasive non-native hornet originally from Asia. The Asian hornet is a highly aggressive predator of native insects and poses a significant threat to honeybees and other pollinators. In 2004 it was accidentally introduced into France where it has spread rapidly and into neighbouring countries. In 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK. Suspected sightings should be reported immediately using the details provided below.

Where might it be seen? It may be seen on flowering plants, around beehives, around rotting/fermenting fruit and protein, and at street markets attracted by sweet fruit and fish stalls. It is active from February to November across England and Wales.

What does it look like? Slightly smaller than the native hornet, it has a dark abdomen, with the fourth segment yellow/orange. It has bright yellow tips to legs (native hornet dark) with entirely brown or black thorax (native hornet is more orange). Any sightings of this species should be reported using the details provided at the end of this article.



#### Species description:

- Scientific name: Vespa velutina,
- Aka: Yellow-legged hornet.
- Native to: Asia.
- Habitat: Nests usually high in trees and man-made structures, sometimes closer to the ground; hunts honeybees, other insects and also feeds on fruit and flowers.

It is not easily confused with other species, as it has a dark brown or black velvety body and a characteristically dark abdomen and yellow tipped legs. It is smaller than the native European hornet.

There is a high possibility of introduction through, for example, soil associated with imported plants, cut flowers, fruit, garden items (furniture, pot plants), freight containers, in vehicles, or in/on treated timber.

The possibility that it could fly across the channel has not been ruled out. A highly aggressive predator of native insects, it poses a significant threat to honeybees and other pollinators. Do not disturb an active nest.

Members of the public who suspect they have found an Asian hornet should report it with a photo using the details provided below.

- with the free iPhone and android recording app: Asian Hornet Watch
- or online at: www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet
- or by email: alertnonnative@ch.ac.uk

## **Some Member sightings from 2019**

Members have reported sightings of some interesting and attractive insects over the years. This article highlights a handful of the sightings of butterflies and moths this year and last.

Several members have had the pleasure of seeing good populations of Small Heath, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species, designated due to its decline in the UK, on Haydon Batch. This is thought to be the only location for this small butterfly in the Cam Valley Wildlife Group area. Haydon Batch is now owned by Radstock Town Council. It is very good news that there is a thriving population there and that it is not on a site that is threatened. The Small Blue has been recorded in our area for the first time in many years. It's larval food plant is Horseshoe Vetch.



Small Heath by Phil Hall

Adult Hummingbird Hawk-moths, a Summer visitor, and Scarlet Tigers, a striking day-flying moth most obvious in the late afternoon/early evening, were seen in various places including Faulkland and Radstock.

The most attractive caterpillars reported were Pale Tussock moth in a Hawthorn hedge near Falkland and Yellow-tail moth in Radstock. The Pale Tussock, Calliteara pudibunda, is fairly common in England and Wales and flies in May and June. The adult Yellow-tail moth, Euproctis similis, flies in July and August.

It is a white moth with a yellow tail, unlike its larva, that sports a multi-coloured warning livery — it must be handled with great care due to its irritating hairs, a feature it shares with many of the Lymantriidae. The larvae of both moths feed on a number of trees and shrubs.



Small Blue by Phil Hall



Scarlet Tiger moth by Patrick Clements



Pale tussock moth larva by CFB



Yellow-tail moth larva on Sallow

Cinnabar and Mullein moth caterpillars often strip their food plants, Common Ragwort and Great Mullein, of foliage; Scarlet Tiger moth larvae, that commonly feeds on Comfreys and Hemp Agrimony, rarely does. All were reported this year from Radstock. The Cinnabar is an attractive Black-and-red day-flying moth that dipped in numbers here but is increasing again. The Mullein moth is a night-flyer.



Mullein moth larvae by Gary Kingman



Cinnabar moth larvae on ragwort



Scarlet Tiger larva by D Porter

Last year there were reports of Eyed Hawk-moth caterpillars near Faulkland. The Eyed Hawk-moth Smerinthus ocellata is well-named and flashes its intense blue 'eyes' when provoked. If it does not move, however, its camouflage ensures that it blends into the background. It is fairly well distributed in England and Wales. The caterpillars feed on sallow, apple and several other trees and the adults emerge in May. The adults, which have a wingspan of 70-80 mm, fly from May to July and you are most likely to see them in Woodlands or in suburban locations.



Eyed Hawk-moth caterpillar

Members report that these moths used to be much more abundant in the area than they are today, so if you see any of them, or other moths and caterpillars, please report them and send any photos to us at camvalleywildlifegroup@gmail.com, or contact us through our website (https://cvwg.org.uk) or by phone on 01761 435563.

#### **Deborah Porter**

### **Books for distribution**

Following the recent death of one of our members, his wife has kindly donated to the group a number of his books for distribution to any members who would like them, and to possibly raise some funds for the group through the sale of some of them. The books have just been catalogued and the list is extensive. There are many informative books that reflect a keen academic interest along with guides and other interesting books. If you would like any of these books, please contact Deborah through <a href="mailto:camvalleywildlife@gmail.com">camvalleywildlife@gmail.com</a> or on 01761 435563 to arrange for putting by and collection. It is possible that some of the books have some value that could be used to help raise some funds, which needs some investigating, so offers are requested for books marked with an asterisk. The list will be published on our website (<a href="https://cvwg.org.uk/">https://cvwg.org.uk/</a>) but the books cannot be stored for long and will be disposed of (sold or given away) in due course, so please request the books you want sooner rather than later and spread the word to non-members.

#### **Deborah Porter**

Birds	
1955* Birds of Ceylon,	Henry
1960* The Canaries, Seed-eaters & Buntings of Southern Africa,	Skead
1967* Sunbirds of Sothern Africa also Sugarbirds, White-eyes	Skead
& the Spotted Creeper (includes 7" vinyl disk of sunbird calls	
and songs. Two books above are companion books)	
1980 A field guide to the Birds of East African	Williams & Arlott
1984 Newman's Birds of Southern Africa	Newman
1960* The Birds of Borneo	Smythies
1954* The Birds of Burma	Smythies
1987 Extinct Birds	Fuller
1983 A pictorial guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent	Ali & Ripley
1974 The Birds of Seychelles and the outlying islands	Penny
1975 A field guide to the Birds of South East Asia (a guide to birds of	King, Woodcock &
Burma, Malaya, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Hainan	Dickinson
& Hong Kong)	
1980 Birds of the Indian Ocean Islands	Sinclair & Langrand
(Madagascar, Seychelles, the Comoros and the Mascarenes	
1980 Collins Handguide to the Birds of the Indian Sub-continent	Woodcock
The Birds of Paradise and Bowerbirds	Everett
1996* The Birds of Sulawesi	Holmes & Phillipps
1988 Rare Birds of the World – a Collins/ICBP handbook	Mountfort
1979 Artic Summer (Birds in North Norway)	Vaughan
1966 The Birds of Canada	Godfrey
1998 Birds of Southern South American and Antarctica	de la Pena & Rumbell
1946 Audubon Bird Guide, Eastern Land Birds	Pough
1966 The Birds of Tikal	Smithe
1983 A field guide to the Birds of Britain & Europe	Peterson, Mountford &
	Hollom
1982 Collins Handguide to the Birds of New Zealand,	Talbot Kelly
1979 Birds of Nepal with reference to Kashmir & Sikkim	Fleming et al
1970* Birds of Guatemala	Land

1949	* Indian Hill Birds	Ali
1977	Birds of the Eastern Himalayas	Ali
1964	The Book of Indian Birds	Ali
1957	Audubon Western Bird guide: Land, Water and Game Birds	Pough
1995	Illustrated Checklist of Birds of Eastern Africa	Collins
1999	Illustrated Checklist of Birds of Southern Africa	Collins
2002	Illustrated Checklist of Birds of Western &	Collins
	Central Africa	
2000		Robson
2000	Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam	11023011
	& Cambodia	
2000		MacKinnon & Phillipps
	Birds of the Middle East & North Africa	• •
1900	Birds of the Middle East & North Africa	Hollom, Porter, Christensen &Willis
4005	A field solide to the blinds of leaves	
	A field guide to the birds of Japan	Bird Society of Japan
	A field guide to the birds of Mexico & Central America	Davis
	A field guide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali	MacKinnon & Phillipps
	A field guide to the Birds of Galapagos	Harris
1989	A field guide to the Birds of the USSR	Flint, Boehme, Kostin &
		Kutnetsov
1978	A guide to the Birds of Venezuela	Meyer de Schauensee
1988	Guide to Birds of the Falkland Islands	Woods
2007	Birds of Peru	Schulenberg, Statz,
		Lane, O'Neil & Parker
1970	A guide to the Birds of South American	Schauensee
2003	A comprehensive illustrated field guide to Birds of Africa	Sinclair & Ryan
	South of the Sahara	
1972	A coloured key to the wildfowl of the world	Scott
	Birds of Hawaii	Munro
1986		Bardarson
1987	The Birds of Hawaii and the tropical Pacific	Pratt, Bruner & Berrett
	South Pacific Birds du Pont	
1969		
	Audubon Water Bird guide	Pough
	Falkland Island's Birds	Woods
	Birds of Britain, Europe with North Africa & the Middle East	Heinzel, Fitter & Parslow
	The new guide to the Birds of New Zealand	Falla, Sibson & Turbott
	* Birds of New Guinea	•
1900	birds of New Guillea	Beehler, Pratt &
4060	ko: L (N. 7 L L	Zimmerman
	* Birds of New Zealand	Williams
	A field guide to Mexican birds	Peterson & Chalif
1983	A field guide to the Birds of North America	National Geographic
	Society	
1979		Bond
2009	S	van Perlo
1988	Wildfowl – an identification guide to the ducks, geese &	Madge & Burn
	swans of the world	
1986	Shorebirds – an identification guide to waders of the world	Hayman, Marchant &
		<b>.</b> .

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1989	A handbook to the Swallows and Martins of the World	Turner & Rose
1992	Kingfishers, Bee-eaters & Rollers	Fry, Fry & Harris
1997*	A guide to the Birds of Wallacea: Sulawesi, The Moluccas, the lesser Sunda Islands, Indonesia	Coates & Bishop
1998	Seabirds – an identification guide to the seabirds of the world	Harrison
1990	Guide to the Birds of Madagascar	Langrand
	Birds of the Solomons, Vanuatu & New Caledonia	Doughty, Day & Plant
	Common Malayan Birds	Tweedie
Plants	and Plant Geography	
1972	Wildflowers of Louisiana and Adjoining States	Brown
1973	Nebraska Wild Flower (paperback)	Lommasson
1967	Wild Flowers of Alberta	Cormack
1973	Trees and Shrubs of Kentucky	Wharton & Barbour
1983	Flora of Iceland	Love
1982	Plants of Prey in Australia (1982 re-print)	Erickson
1976	Carnivorous Plants of the United States and Canada	Schnell
1979	Carnivorous Plants	Slack
1970	The Protaceae of South Africa	Rousseau
1974	Wild Flowers of the World (1974 edition)	Everard & Moreley
1964	The Natural Geography of Plants	Gleason & Cronquist
1968	The Flora of Greenland	Bocher, Holmen &
		Jakobsen
1981	Mushrooms and other fungi of Great Britain and Europe	Phillips
1995	The Private Life of Plants (BBC Books)	Attenborough
Fauna		
1978	The Life of the Bumblebee	Alford
1985	Sea Mammals of the World	Stonehouse
1980	The Mammals of Britain & Europe (Collins paperback)	Corbet & Orenden
1966	The Mammals of Rhodesia, Zambia and Malawi	Collins
1987	Bumblebees – Naturalists' Handbook 6	Prys-Jones & Corbet
1965	The Frogs of South Africa	Wager
1967	Freshwater Fishes of Southern Africa	Jubb
1962	Snakes of Southern Africa	Fitzsimons
1986	Collins field guide to Freshwater Life	Fitter and Manuel
1956	Fishes – A guide to Familiar American species (a Golden Nature guide, paperback)	Zim and Shoemaker
1991	Freshwater Fishes, North America north of Mexico	Page & Burr
	(Peterson Field Guides)	
1962	Pheasants Afield – the Pheasants of North America	Allen
	A field Guide to the Snakes of Southern Africa (Collins)	Fitzsimons
	Wildlife in America – The first history of man's effect on the	Matthiessen
	fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals of the	
	North American continent	
1985	A Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo	Payne, Francis &
		Phillipps

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1965	The Book of Indian animals (2 <sup>nd</sup> revised edition)	Prater	
1968	A Guide to Field Identification – Seashells of North America	Abbot	
	(A Golden Field Guide)		
1968	Mollusks (unabridged republication of Vol 10 of the	Bartsch	
	Smithsonian Institution Series)		
1971	A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Southern Africa	Migdoll	
1988	Field Guide to the Snakes and other reptiles of Southern Africa	Branch	
1985	A Field Guide in Colour to butterflies and Moths (European	Novak	
4064	species; 1985 reprint)		
1964	Reptiles of the World – Reptiles and Amphibians of the World (Translated by Gwynne Vevers)	Hvass	
1960	Hong Kong Butterflies - Shell Company of Hong Kong	Marsh	
1969	The Wild Mammals of Malaya	Medway	
1955	Wildlife of Mexico – the game birds and mammals	Leopold	
1951	The Mammals of Southern Africa	Roberts	
Parasitology, Disease, Pests, Biological Control			
1983	Malaria Studies in Biology No. 52	Phillipps	
1986	Blood-sucking Insects - Vectors of Disease	Service	
	Studies in Biology No 167		
1974	Pest Control and its Ecology Studies in Biology No. 50	van Enden	
1970	Platyhelminthes and Parasitism – An Introduction to	Burt	
	Parasitology		

1985 Parasitic Worms

(paperback)

1974 biological control by Natural Enemies

## Natural History, Ecology. Evolution, Extinction, Paleobiology, Paleontology, Paleoclimatology, Environmental Change, Climate, Geology.

1976 The Constant Pest – a Short History of Pests and their Control

1996 Plague's Progress – a Social history of Man and Disease

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2006	The Great Warming – Climate Change and the Rise and Fall	Fagan
	of Civilisations	
2004	Frozen Earth – the Once and Future Story of Ice Ages	MacDougall
2004	the Long Summer – how Climate changed Civilization	Fagan
2000	the Little Ice Age – how Climate Made History 1300 – 1850	Fagan
1999	Floods, Famines and Emperors – El Nino and the Fate of	Fagan
	Civilizations	
2005	Climate Change in Prehistory – the End of the Reign of Chaos	Burroughs
2009	The Long Thaw – How Humans are changing the next 100 thousand	Archer
	years of Earth's Climate	
1997	The Call of Distant Mammoths – Why the Ice Age Mammals	Ward
	Disappeared	
1994	The Fate of the Mammoths – Fossils, Myth and History	Cohen
1990	Frozen Fauna of the Mammoth Steppe – the Story of Blue	Guthrie
	Babe (paperback)	
2005	Twilight of the Mammoths – Ice Age Extinctions and the	Martin
	Rewilding of America	

	Mammoths Field Notes from a Catastrophe, Climate Change – Is Time	Lister & Bahn Kolbot
	Running Out?	
1990	Missing Links: The Hunt for Earliest Man (paperback)	Reader
1988	Before the Indians (paperback; not good condition)	Kurten
2011	Once and Future Giants – What Ice Age Extinctions tell us	Levy
	about the Fate of Earth's Largest Animals	
2000	Rivers in Time – the Search for Clues to Earth's Mass	Ward
	Extinctions	
1985	A Naturalist in Borneo (1985 edition; paperback)	Shelford
1994	Evolution Illustrated by Waterfowl (paperback)	Lack
2002	The Ghost with Trembling Wings – Science, Wishful Thinking	Weidensaul
	and the Search for Lost Species	
1990	Island Africa – the Evolution of Africa's Rare Animals	Kingdom
	and Plants	
	The Complete World of Human Evolution	Stringer & Andrews
	The Early Settlement of North America – the Clovis Era	Hayes
1994	The Future Eaters — an Ecological History of the Australasian	Flannery
2004	Lands and People	Flancan
2001	The Eternal Frontier – Ecological history of North America	Flannery
1007	and its Peoples	Lavelia
1987	Bones of Contention – controversies in the Search for	Lewin
1001	Human Origins (paperback: 2nd edition)	Diolou
1991	After the Ice Age – the Return of Life to Glaciated North	Pielou
1993	America  Ecological Imperialism — the biological Expansion of Europe,	Crosby
1993	900 - 1900	Closby
1995	The Sixth Extinction — Biodiversity and its Survival	Leakey & Lewin
	On Methuselah's Trail – Living fossils and the Great Extinction	Ward
1998	Becoming Human — Evolution and Human Uniqueness	Tattersall
1996	The Wisdom of Bones – In Search of Human Origins	Walker & Shipman
1987	Extinction	Stanley
	Life Before Man (1985 edition)	Burian
1937	A History of Land Mammals in the Western Hemisphere	Scott
1971	The Age of Mammals	Kurten
2002	Mammoths, Sabertooths and Hominids	Agusti & Anton
1995	Late Quaternary Environments and Deep History	Steadman & Mead
1985	The Natural History of Britain and Ireland	Angel
1988	Life in the Ice Age	Stuart
1972	The Ice Age	Kurten
1989	Polar Ecology (paperback)	Stonehouse
1993	In Search of the Neanderthals	Stringer & Gamble
	Lost Land of the Dodo	Cheke and Hume
	A Gap in Nature – discovering the World's Extinct Animals	Flannery & Schouten
	A Sand county Almanac (7 <sup>th</sup> print)	Leopold
	From Lucy to Language	Johanson & Edgar
1984	Guide to the Geology of Iceland	Gudmundsson &
		Kjartansson

1982	The Flight of the Condor	Andrews		
History				
1987	The Fatal Shore: the epic of Australia's founding	Hughes		
	The Spanish Armada	Martin & Parker		
1958	The Plains of Abraham (American history 1759 to 1774	Connell		
	<ul> <li>the years preceding the War of American Revolution)</li> </ul>			
1971	Norse Greenland (booklet)	National Museum,		
		Copenhagen		
2010	Road of Bones: The Siege of Kohima 1944: the epic story of the	Fergal Keane		
	last great stand of Empire			
ввс р	ublications			
1982	The Flight of the Condor: A wildlife exploration of the Andes	Andrews		
1988	Nature of Australia: a portrait of the Island Continent	Vandenbeld		
1992	The Velvet Claw: A Natural History of the Carnivores	Macdonald		
1987	The First Eden: the Mediterranean World and Man	Attenborough		
	1985 The Living Isles: A Natural History of Britain and Ireland	Crawford		
1995	The Private Life of Plants	Attenborough		
1988	The Great Rift: Africa's Changing Valley	Smith		
2002	Wild New World: Recreating Ice Age North America	Barton, Bean &		
		Dunleavy & White		
	The Jewel of the Kalahari: Okavango	Ross		
1994	Horizon: the Last Mammoth (text adapted from 17 Jan 1994	BBC		
	programme transmission)			
1999	Walking With Dinosaurs: a Natural History	Haines		
	Publication about the making of Walking With Dinosaurs	Radio Times		
More	General or mixed wildlife, geography, geology, zoology and			
1974	Animals of Asia: the ecology of the Oriental Region	J & K Mackinnon		
1975	The World's Wild Places	Mackinnon		
	Borneo: The World's Wild Places: Time Life Books	Mackinnon		
1986	Iceland: Nature's Meeting Place: a Wildlife Guide	Carwadine		
1971	The Unforeseen Wilderness: an Essay on Kentucky's Red River Gorge	Berry		
1972	The Life of the Far North: Our Living World of Nature	Fuller & Holmes		
1965	Island Life	Carlquist		
1981	After Man: A Zoology of the Future	Dixon		
	This is Borneo	Payne, Cubitt & Lau		
1981	The Living Arctic (1981 edition)	Muller		
1969	Spitzbergen	Budel & Imber		
1971	Animals of the Arctic	Stonehouse		
1986	the Arctic and its Wildlife	Sage		
1983	Ice Ages: Planet Earth	Chorlton & Time Life		
	Galapagos: Islands Lost in Time	DeRoy Moore		
1979	The North Cape and its Hinterland	Senje		
	Svalbard: Norway in the Arctic	Grondahl		
1973	Appalachian Wilderness: the Great Smoky Mountains	Abbey		

1966	The Last Paradises	Shuhmacher
1982	Iceland: A Portrait of its Land and People	Bardarson
1980	Ice and Fire (3rd edition)	Bardason
1976	Frontiers of Life: Animals of Mountains and Poles	Lucas, Hayes &
		Stonehouse
1970	Africa: A Natural History (6th printing)	Brown
1987	The Natural History of the USSR	Knystautas
1986	The Pirate Wind; Tales of the Sea-robbers of Malaya	Rutter
1988	Nature of Australia – a portrait of the Island Continent	Vandenbeld
1988	The Great Rift - Africa's Changing Valley	Smith
1975	Borneo - the World's Wild Places	MacKinnon
1974	Animals of Asia - the Ecology of the Oriental Region	MacKinnon
1992	The Velvet Claw – a natural history of the carnivores	BBC Books

## Volunteer to be Treasurer needed urgently

Carol Powley, who has done the job of Treasurer so well for many years, is stepping down this year and we urgently need someone to volunteer to fill her shoes before we hold this year's AGM, which will be on 4th December at Swallow. Without a Treasurer, the group cannot function and will be forced to fold. We really appreciate the dedication that Carol has shown in her role as Treasurer over the many years that she has performed this vital role. I think we can all agree that it is only fair that someone else now takes it on. Carol will assist with the hand-over. Please contact Deborah through <a href="mailto:camvalleywildlife@gmail.com">camvalleywildlife@gmail.com</a> if you, or someone you know, would be willing to be our Treasurer.

#### **Deborah Porter**

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**Next Newsletter:** The copy date for the next Newsletter is **15**<sup>th</sup> **December 2019**.

This Newsletter is published four times a year by Cam Valley Wildlife Group, an independent, volunteer-run wildlife group, covering Midsomer Norton, Radstock and surrounding villages.

To contribute articles, or provide feedback on previous articles, contact the Editor:

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