

At this time of year Conway Rec is bursting with new spring life. The moorhens which have lived there for many years have a small brood; previous pairs often had up to four broods a year and it was a delight to watch the older siblings showing the youngest babies how to find food.

For a number of years a pair of Canada geese have moved from their regular home in Broomfield Park and nested in the Rec. When the goslings are a few days old they walk them down the roads back to Broomfield, generally shepherded by local residents who spot them on their journey and make sure they can cross the roads safely. This year they have just hatched a mega brood of seven who are snuggled underneath mum and building their strength for the walk.

We have also had a resident pair of the colourful Egyptian Geese who prefer the Rec to any other local park and to our delight, this year have produced three babies. They show no sign of taking them elsewhere – this is, after all, their home, so we hope we will have the pleasure of seeing the babies grow up.

The pond is also a favourite spawning area for frogs, toads and newts. The amphibians emerge from neighbouring gardens where they have been overwintering and converge on the Rec to find mates. It won't be long before sharp-eyed spotters will see the tadpoles among the waterlilies.

If you visit the Rec at dusk on a warm summer evening you may see small black shapes flitting around – bats swooping around feeding on tiny insects.

Conway Rec manages to pack a lot of fascinating wildlife into a small area. The local volunteers try to keep the area wildlife friendly with the regular work days. The next work day is Sunday 19th May. So if you would like to come along, see the sort of work that is being done and chat with the volunteers you would be very welcome.



