

Glow-worms at Pound Green

ROSEMARY WINNALL

Sue and Dennis Brooks again recorded the numbers of glowing female Glowworms in their garden during 2007 when counts were made at 11pm each evening. (Table 1 and Figure 1 show the results). During Sue and Dennis's holiday Tony Wall kindly took on the task of the nightly counts, driving several miles each evening, and on occasion braving very bad weather during which it was difficult to reach the site at Pound Green.

The maximum count of 25 was the lowest total since 2002. Sue reports that they were not seen in the usual places close to the house, and she fears that the beetles from those higher areas might have been washed down the slope on the occasions when there was torrential rain and a river of water flowed down through the garden.

It will be interesting to see what happens in 2008. The value of long-term recording cannot be over emphasised when we wish to discover more about a species at a site. The Study Group appreciates the interest that Sue and Dennis show in these beetles, and their hospitality in welcoming the group to see the Glowworms in the summer.

An interesting note arrived from Jeff Rush concerning Glowworms. Whilst out moth recording at night in Herefordshire Jeff reported that in the summer he often saw male Glowworms which were attracted to his lights. He said that actinic lamps attracted more Glowworms than mercury vapour bulbs, but the small red light on his extension lead attracted many more than the moth lights, occasionally over 50 around one light! Interesting!

Table 1

Year	First sighting	Last sighting	Max. count date	Max. count no.
2002	18 June	21 July	29 June	13
2003	09 June	19 July	25 June	44
2004	08 June	04 August	25 June	37
2005	08 June	05 August	23 June	42
2006	06 June	25 July	24 June	37
2007	13 June	19 July	28 June	25

Figure 1. Glow-worms numbers at Pound Green - 2007

