

Roll: **20240426-59733**

Camera: **Canon EOS 5D Mark III: E53**

Film: **Full frame digital 22MP**

Subject:

U3A topic "Animals"

Notes:

I have some good pictures of animals on file so I thought I would focus on capturing something completely different, namely a fox.

I tried going out at dusk and setting up on the railway embankment at Bridge Fields. The weather was still unpleasantly damp and cold. I found it near impossible to set up the camera and flash unit and very tiring. After an hour or so I gave and went home. I did leave some dog treats on the path outside the garden fence.

On Friday I moved one of the slats on the rear gate to make it easy for a fox to come into the garden. I practiced sync the flash to a remote trigger on the camera but could not get the settings right for several hours. In the end I just had to RTFM.

While practicing setting up in daylight I tried to photograph the pair of Great Tits that occasionally visit the bird feeder. Unfortunately neither the tits or my friend the Robin like having the camera pointed at them and I was unable to get a snap. The Jackdaw's are less concerned and I did get a couple on the feeder but was unable once again to capture the landing or take off. The Jackdaws incidentally are emptying the fat ball feeder completely in about six hours.

Having finally got the right set up to trigger the camera remotely and fire a flash gun that was remote to the camera, I put down some cat food as bait and left the kit in the garden. I tried to operate the camera remotely from the kitchen or the back sitting room. This worked fine but as darkness fell there was of course no way of knowing if there was any animal there. It was then literally a stab in the dark. I would perhaps be better off setting a repeat timer.

When I went out late to rescue the kit I found that a hedgehog was taking the bait.

Using Darktable for post processing I found all the flash images were black. Compensating for exposure I found I had indeed captured two shots of the hedgehog which was very gratifying in its way. After increasing the exposure in Darktable it looks as if the timing for the flash was right but that the light is falling in the wrong place and that setting the aperture to f40 was over egging the pudding.

I spent an hour or so searching for some kind of movement detector that could trigger the camera or at least send an alert so that I would know when to do it remotely. I could find nothing suitable but the search did throw up game or trail cameras. These seem to be remarkably well priced, some as little as thirty pounds. I went for something more expensive and ordered one which will hopefully arrive on Sunday.

I left the bait out again on Saturday but did not set up the camera.

Dates:

Dates and times are verified from original exif data.

Frames:

F47B8158 20240426 13:22:56 Squirrel on a feeder.

F47B8159 20240426 13:22:57 Squirrel on a feeder.

F47B8166 20240426 14:00:53 Jackdaw on a feeder.

F47B8167 20240426 14:00:55 Jackdaw on a feeder.

F47B8182 20240426 20:17:06 Hedgehog.



F47B8158.jpg



F47B8159.jpg



F47B8166.jpg



F47B8167.jpg



F47B8182.jpg



F47B8158 - Squirrel on a feeder.



F47B8167 - Jackdaw on a feeder.



F47B8182 - Hedgehog.