

Roll: **20210619-9132**

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

Film: **Full frame digital**

Subject:

Hanging baskets, squirrels and pigeons.

Notes:

The swans are the ones that nest alongside Ropsley Crescent. This pair always nest early and raise a large brood of strong healthy cygnets. I think one egg failed to hatch in 2021 and six grew to maturity. Unfortunately they are greedy beasts, aggressive and ready to occupy the territory of weaker pairs.

This year the Ropsley swans crossed into the Rutland Road section of the canal and went so far as to occupy the residents nest while they were out feeding at the Gamston Bridge end of that section of the canal. I saw the Rutland Road swans returning as I walked with the dog up there. Anticipating trouble I finished the walk and headed back down the canal as quickly as I could. The conflict was already in progress. The Rutland pen and her cygnets were swimming back up the canal while the cob tried to hold off the Ropsley Crescent cob on the tow path. Considerably

bigger and stronger the Ropsley cob attacked and pecked at him. Rutland tried hard, raising himself to his full height and flapping his wings but the attacks were too violent and he was repeatedly driven back. Clearly hurt he eventually turned and ran with Ropsley in full pursuit pecking at his back. He tried to escape through the hedge but Ropsley caught him in the hedge. I chased after them hoping to perform some sort of rescue. Rutland was on his back and Ropsley was standing on his neck and pecking ferociously at his chest. Shouting and waving my walking stick had no effect so I hit Ropsley twice. Both blows were quite hard and it felt like hitting a tree stump. Ropsley now turned away and set off walking back down the Radcliffe Road. Rutland staggered off, the pen and their three little cygnets swimming up the canal back toward Gamston. The Ropsley Pen and her magnificent brood were cruising behind them. I wanted to ensure the Rutland brood were able to climb out at the Gertrude Road crossing (where the canal waters are carried in pipes beneath the footpath) and so walked back with them and watched them climb out and cross to the next section of the canal. Then I stood guard and railed at Ropsley mob who came to a halt and looked at me. I waited until I was fairly confident that the Rutland Road swans would have reached Gamston Bridge.

Horrible business. Very upsetting. This wasn't a matter of survival, it was simply the demonstration of power.

The Rutland Road cygnets did not survive very much longer. By July I think, all were dead.

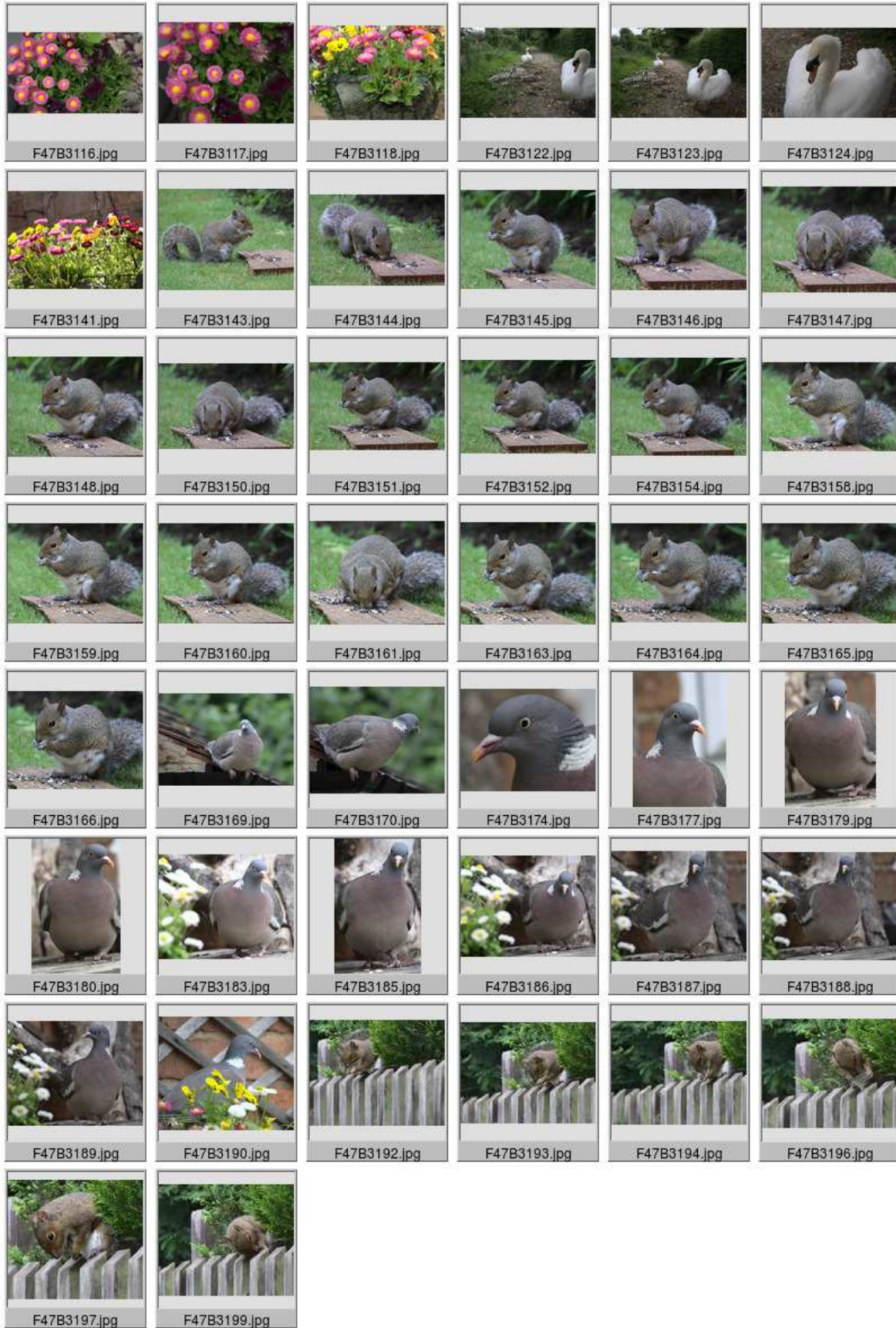
All the rest of the pictures were taken in the back garden.

The biggest fattest pigeon I've ever seen. The destroyer of my cherry crops.

I deliberately tempted shadow tails into the garden to be fed and photographed. Not sure in retrospect that was such a good idea.

Dates:

Dates and times are verified from original exif data.



Frames:

F47B3116 20210610 12:01:06 Hanging basket.
F47B3117 20210610 12:01:17 Hanging basket.
F47B3118 20210610 12:01:40 Hanging basket.
F47B3122 20210610 14:05:08 Ropsley Crescent intruders.
F47B3123 20210610 14:05:11 Ropsley Crescent intruders.
F47B3124 20210610 14:05:17 Ropsley Crescent intruder.
F47B3141 20210616 13:27:22 Hanging basket.
F47B3143 20210617 07:04:18 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3144 20210617 07:05:32 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3145 20210617 07:05:33 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3146 20210617 07:05:37 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3147 20210617 07:05:42 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3148 20210617 07:05:54 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3150 20210617 07:06:07 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3151 20210617 07:06:10 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3152 20210617 07:06:10 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3154 20210617 07:06:12 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3158 20210617 07:07:18 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3159 20210617 07:07:19 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3160 20210617 07:07:22 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3161 20210617 07:07:26 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3163 20210617 07:07:32 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3164 20210617 07:08:57 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3165 20210617 07:09:00 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3166 20210617 07:09:00 Squirrel on the lawn.
F47B3169 20210619 10:27:28 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3170 20210619 10:27:34 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3174 20210619 10:29:57 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3177 20210619 10:30:20 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3179 20210619 10:30:54 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3180 20210619 10:30:54 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3183 20210619 10:36:41 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3185 20210619 10:36:55 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3186 20210619 10:36:55 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3187 20210619 10:37:00 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3188 20210619 10:37:00 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3189 20210619 10:37:00 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3190 20210619 10:43:01 Large well fed wood pigeon.
F47B3192 20210619 15:26:25 Sitting on the fence.
F47B3193 20210619 15:26:25 Sitting on the fence.
F47B3194 20210619 15:26:26 Sitting on the fence.
F47B3196 20210619 15:26:29 Sitting on the fence.
F47B3197 20210619 15:26:30 Sitting on the fence.
F47B3199 20210619 15:26:37 Sitting on the fence.



Squirrel on the lawn.



Squirrel on the lawn.



Squirrel on the lawn.



Large well fed wood pigeon.



Large well fed wood pigeon.



Large well fed wood pigeon.



Sitting on the fence.



Large well fed wood pigeon.