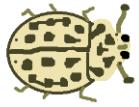


# 16-spot ladybird aggregations in Oxford – observations of a citizen scientist



- I am monitoring 16-spot ladybird aggregations in a nature reserve (Iffley Meadows) and an urban park (Christchurch Meadows). I chose 3 clusters in Iffley and 4-5 in Christchurch.

## Some things I've noticed:

- Individuals seem to move between clusters, leaving in milder weather and returning when conditions worsen.
- Smaller clusters (8-20 individuals) seem more stable, whereas larger ones grow or shrink dramatically.
- I've only seen 1-2 dead individuals since I began observing in depth.
- Other species sometimes join the aggregation, but non-ladybird inverts are transient – only there for a day or 2.
- Aspect and exposure to sun seems much more important in urban parkland than in the grassland reserve, where the 16-spots seem far less fussy!

