



RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 514693

“The objects of the Society are to further the cause of Natural History in the County; to study and help preserve the flora and fauna; to note in the Society’s records all information of interest; to meet and exchange information with other societies and to encourage young people to take an interest in wild life and its conservation”

RECORDING CARDS

Members are invited to submit their observations of Rutland’s wildlife to the Society’s Recorders for the various disciplines at their addresses given, using the printed cards provided by the Society.

These cards can be obtained at the indoor meetings from Graham Worrall or can be printed from the website www.rnhs.org.uk

Instructions on the cards should be followed in general. It is important that full **6-figure grid references** are used wherever possible, **together with a general place name**. Each Recorder needs particular information, differing in detail, and they have compiled the following individual notes to help you provide accurate and useful records.

Recorders use your records in compiling their reports for Fieldfare, so it is vital that you **post your cards no later than the first day of the month** in which Fieldfare appears, i.e. January, March, May, June, September and November. However, a good habit would be to send your cards on the 1st of every month. Please see the Recorder’s notes for any specific remarks about timings. Occasionally, alterations will appear in Fieldfare.

Record cards are also used to compile the Society’s Annual Report, and they remain the property of the Society. Unless a member has requested the Society to treat his or her records otherwise, information may be used at its discretion in the furtherance of its own aims and in support of other authorised scientific work.

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REFERENCES

An Ordnance Survey map for the area is essential. Map references should consist of 2 letters and 6 figures. The letters are those designating the relevant 100 kilometre grid square, followed by 3 figures designating distance in kilometres eastwards from the left of the square, then 3 figures designating the distance northwards from the bottom edge of the square. It is important to get the correct order.

How to give a 6-figure map reference

First, pinpoint your sighting on the map – this example is for a sighting at Oakham Station.

- i) **Letters.** The 100 kilometre square in which the sighting is made will be shown in the body of the map in the Landranger series by two large blue letters, and in brackets on the top margin of the Pathfinder series. The Explorer 15 map has a diagram in the bottom margin: much of Rutland is SK, but where “00” crosses “00” (south of Stamford, near Duddington, Northants), to the right and above is in TF; to the right and below is in TL and below SK is SP. **For our example “SK”**
- ii) **First set of 3 figures.** Parallel lines, 1 kilometre apart, run up and down the map. Look for the nearest line which runs to the *left* of your sighting and read off its number (given at the top and bottom of the map). **EG: SK 85.** Then estimate the distance in tenths from this line to your sighting – for example if it is about two thirds across to the next line, as at Oakham Station, you would add a 7. **For our example “SK 857”**
- iii) **Second set of 3 figures.** Parallel lines, 1 kilometre apart, run across the map. Look for the nearest line which runs *below* your sighting and read off its number (given at the sides of the map). **In our example 09.** Then estimate the distance in tenths from this line to your sighting – if it is just above, as in our example, you would add a 1. **For our example 091**
- iv) **Final reference would be SK 857 091**
- v) You would now enter under “Location” on the record card:
Oakham Station SK857091

LIST OF RECORDERS

Linda Biddle	21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford, PE9 1BH Recorder - Mammals abiddle21@talktalk.net	01780 762108
Gill Chiverton	20 Victoria Rd., Stamford, PE9 1HB Recorder - Insects & Others gill.chiverton@googlemail.com	01780 753820
Jenny Harris	41 Woodland View, Oakham, LE15 6EJ Recorder - Bats jharris@lrwt.org.uk	01572 755274
Graham & Linda Worrall	6 Redland Close, Barrowden, LE15 8ES Recorders - Botany/Mycology/Glow worms worrall6redland@talktalk.net	01572 747302
Phil Rudkin	10 Brooke Avenue, Stamford , PE9 2RU Recorder - Orthoptera phil.rudkin@talktalk.net	01780 762998
Terry Mitcham	30 Sutherland Way, Stamford, PE9 2TB Recorder - Birds joterpat@btinternet.com	01780 751268
Dr Charles Gallimore	The Stone House, Reeves Lane, Wing, LE15 8SD Recorder - Reptiles & Amphibians chasgall@hotmail.com	01572 737343
Jean & Ron Harvey	4 Clarkesdale, Great Easton, LE16 8SP Recorder - Lepidoptera - Moths jean-harvey@realemail.co.uk	01536 770259
Roy Lemmon	87 Empingham Road, Stamford, PE9 2SU Recorder - Plant Galls & Weather Summary jill.lemmon@talktalk.net	01780 762051
Alistair Lawrence	11 Edmonton Way, Oakham, LE15 6JE Recorder - Lepidoptera - Butterflies	01572 770492

AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE RECORDS

Herpetological Recorder: Dr Charles Gallimore

Desired information

- 1) One species per card.
- 2) Location, including 6-figure grid reference.
- 3) Date, preferably the exact date, especially for:
 - a) first sighting
 - b) first mating
 - c) first spawning
 - d) first larvae
 - e) first terrestrial young (amphibians)
 - f) first eggs and/or young (reptiles)
 - g) last sightings
- 4) Quantity
 - a) number of individuals
 - b) quantity of spawn (e.g. number of clumps of frog spawn)
- 5) Description if the observer is in any doubt, as confusion is possible between, for example:
 - a) frog and toad, especially when dead
 - b) frog and toad larvae
 - c) all three British newts, especially when terrestrial
 - d) newt larvae
 - e) Common Lizard and newts
 - f) Grass Snake, Adder and Slow Worm
- 6) Any information of the success of breeding, second spawning, conservation implications, behaviour, weather, or any aspects of possible interest.
- 7) ***Please record ALL amphibian and reptile species.*** There are only 8 that have been recorded in Rutland: Frog, Toad, Crested Newt, Smooth Newt, Common (Viviparous) Lizard, Slow Worm, Grass Snake Adder, although the Palmate Newt is a possibility.
- 8) Timing – send in records at any time but preferably by the end of the month before Fieldfare is produced. **Not many records are received, but all are welcome.**

BOTANY RECORDS

Botanical Recorder: Graham Worrall

Records for every species, whether common or rare, of all flowers, grasses, trees and ferns are requested.

Please send records to arrive no later than the 5th of the month in which the Fieldfare is produced, giving information as requested on the card. The map reference is particularly valuable.

Records may be sent in the form of one species per card, or as site lists.

GLOW WORM RECORDS

Glow Worm Recorder: Linda Worrall

PLANT GALL RECORDS

Plant Gall Recorder: Roy Lemmon

Reports are welcome of any plant gall seen, even the common ones like moss gall on Dog Rose or Oak Apples, it all helps to fill the picture across the County.

For the general naturalist probably the best source of information on plant galls is the Identification Card published by The Field Studies Council and which is usually obtainable from the shop in Eggleton Reserve as well as from other sources. Current cost around £3.50.

The record card should state both the parasite which causes the gall as well as the host plant it is found on.

Please quote the 6-figure map reference indicating where it was found and send the record cards at the end of each month.

CRICKET AND GRASSHOPPER RECORDS

Orthoptera Recorder: Phil Rudkin

Please send in record cards to arrive not later than the 5th day of the month in which 'Fieldfare' is produced.

Please enter each species on one record card. All species are required. If one is unsure of the hopper observed, have ago at catching one in the bug pots (which can be purchased at most wildlife centres). Most members have digital cameras now, and if caught (or one is still enough in its habitat), then please attempt a photograph of the Pronotum (the large, saddle like shield behind the head). With the grasshoppers, this is often a diagnostic point in identification. No need to do this with the Crickets, as they are much more individually shaped, therefore, easier to identify with some practice.

Sexing: Don't worry about sexing the grasshoppers, as they are very tricky. However, the crickets are easier; all females have a long ovipositor, some curled upward and some straight. If possible please report these.

Accurate numbers are not important, but a rough estimate would be very welcome. If more than four individuals of one species are located, then this is regarded as a colony.

Furthermore, the description: a large or small colony would suffice. If only one individual is located, please do report it. It may be more important than you think.

Stridulating: the name given to the songs of the grasshoppers and crickets. This method of identification can make life easier. Just like identifying birds by their songs, the same applies to the orthopterans. If your high frequencies have gone, do not despair. Most of you will be aware of the amazing use of the mini bat detectors.

These are used extensively for field work (for bats and orthoptera). These can pick up every orthoptera species, and they are ones extra pair of ears.

Map references: In this day and age, when our records are sent to the National Recording Schemes, it is essential to add a 6-figure map reference for all species.

The Ordnance Survey map I use is the Explorer 234; Rutland Water, Stamford and Oakham. I use a small Global Position Sensor, which is fabulously accurate.

Habitat; Please record brief details of the habitat, which can be very useful to me if one is unsure of the species observed. Weather and temperature is also helpful.

MOTH RECORDS

Lepidoptera Recorder (Moths): Jean Harvey

Please send in record cards to arrive not later than the 5th of the month in which Fieldfare is produced.

For all sightings please enter the species name, map reference, number of individuals seen, date and recorders name. Please add any other information that might be of interest i.e. weather or time of day. Where a number of species are present, this site list can be noted on one card.

Where garden traps are operated, species and numbers of moths should be recorded on a spread sheet showing dates of trapping. This should preferably be computerised (i.e. Excel), or a paper copy if this is not possible. This request is to ease the transfer of data to Vic County 55 Records.

BUTTERFLY RECORDS

Lepidoptera Recorder (Butterflies): Alistair Lawrence

Please send in record cards to arrive not later than the 2nd of the month in which Fieldfare is produced.

Please enter on the record card the species seen, number of individuals, precise location with accompanying six figure map reference and where appropriate sexes. Other information that might be of interest such as type of habitat and weather conditions can also be included.

Reports should be included for the more common species with emphasis being given to first and last sightings during individual flight periods.

If a site is visited where a number of species are present, the record card should be used as a group list utilising the reverse of the card as necessary. Only **ONE SITE** per record card.

BIRDS

Ornithological Recorder: Terry Mitcham

Please submit records of all birds seen in Rutland according to the key in the appendix.

Records of large numbers of common species, birds in unusual locations or interesting behaviour should also be sent in.

Please arrange for records to reach me by 4th of January, March, May, July, September and November so that they may be included in Fieldfare.

If you find a **/BB species or have difficulty confirming identification and need help please phone me.

Red-throated Diver	**		Wigeon	b
Black-throated Diver	**		American Wigeon	BB
Great Northern Diver	**		Gadwall	b
Little Grebe	b		Teal	b
Great Crested Grebe	b		Green-winged Teal	**
Red-necked Grebe	**		Mallard	b
Slavonian Grebe	**		Pintail	*
Black-necked Grebe	**		Garganey	*
Fulmar	**		Shoveler	b
Manx Shearwater	**		Red-crested Pochard	**
Storm Petrel	**		Pochard	b
Leach's Petrel	**		Ring-necked Duck	BB
Gannet	**		Ferruginous Duck	**
Cormorant	*		Tufted Duck	b
Shag	**		Scaup	**
Bittern	**		Lesser Scaup	BB
Night Heron	BB		Eider	**
Squacco Heron	BB		Long-tailed Duck	**
Cattle Egret	BB		Common Scoter	**
Little Egret	b		Velvet Scoter	**
Great White Egret	BB		Goldeneye	*
Grey Heron	b		Smew	*
White Stork	**		Red-breasted Merganser	**
Glossy Ibis	BB		Goosander	*
Spoonbill	**		Ruddy Duck	*
Mute Swan	b		Honey Buzzard	**
Bewick's Swan	**		Black Kite	BB
Whooper Swan	**		Red Kite	b
Bean Goose	**		Marsh Harrier	**
Pink-footed Goose	**		Hen Harrier	**
White-fronted Goose	**		Montagu's Harrier	**
Greylag Goose	b		Goshawk	**
Snow Goose	*		Sparrowhawk	b
Canada Goose	b		Buzzard	b
Barnacle Goose	*		Rough-legged Buzzard	**
Brent Goose	**		White-tailed Eagle	BB
Egyptian Goose	**		Osprey	**
Shelduck	b		Kestrel	b
Ruddy Shelduck	BB		Red Footed Falcon	BB
Mandarin	**		Merlin	**

Key * all records required, description not normally required
** all records required, description normally required
b all breeding or possible breeding records required
BB records sent to British Birds; full description plus supporting evidence and
experience of the species required
w winter records required

Hobby	*		Dowitcher sp.	BB
Peregrine	**		Woodcock	*
Red Grouse	**		Black-tailed Godwit	**
Black Grouse	**		Bar-tailed Godwit	**
Red-legged Partridge	b		Whimbrel	**
Grey Partridge	*		Curlew	*
Quail	*		Spotted Redshank	*
Pheasant			Redshank	*
Water Rail	*		Greenshank	*
Spotted Crake	**		Green Sandpiper	*
Corncrake	**		Wood Sandpiper	**
Moorhen			Common Sandpiper	*
Coot	b		Turnstone	*
Oystercatcher	*		Red-necked Phalarope	**
Black-winged Stilt	BB		Grey Phalarope	**
Avocet	**		Pomarine Skua	**
Stone Curlew	**		Arctic Skua	**
Collared Pratincole	BB		Great Skua	**
Black-winged Pratincole	BB		Mediterranean Gull	**
Little Ringed Plover	*		Little Gull	*
Ringed Plover	*		Sabine's Gull	**
Killdeer	BB		Black-headed Gull	
Kentish Plover	**		Ring-billed Gull	**
Dotterel	**		Common Gull	
Golden Plover	*		Lesser Black-backed Gull	
Grey Plover	**		Herring Gull	
Lapwing	b		Iceland Gull	**
Knot	**		Glaucous Gull	**
Sanderling	**		Great Black-backed Gull	**
Little Stint	*		Kittiwake	**
Temminck's Stint	**		Caspian Tern	BB
White Rumped Sandpiper	BB		Sandwich Tern	**
Baird's Sandpiper	BB		Roseate Tern	**
Pectoral Sandpiper	**		Common Tern	*
Curlew Sandpiper	**		Arctic Tern	**
Purple Sandpiper	**		Bridled Tern	BB
Dunlin	*		Little Tern	**
Ruff	*		Black Tern	*
Jack Snipe	**		White-winged Black Tern	BB
Snipe	b			

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Little Auk	**		Waxwing	**
Puffin	**		Dipper	**
Pallas's Sandgrouse	BB		Wren	
Feral Pigeon			Duncock	
Stock Dove	*		Robin	
Woodpigeon			Nightingale	*
Collared Dove			Black Redstart	**
Turtle Dove	b		Redstart	*
Ring-necked Parakeet	**		Whinchat	*
Cuckoo	b		Stonechat	**
Barn Owl	*		Wheatear	*
Little Owl	*		Ring Ouzel	**
Tawny Owl	*		Blackbird	
Long-eared Owl	**		Fieldfare	*
Short-eared Owl	*		Song Thrush	
Nightjar	**		Redwing	
Swift	b		Mistle Thrush	
Alpine Swift	BB		Cetti's Warbler	**
Kingfisher	*		Grasshopper Warbler	*
Hoopoe	**		Savi's Warbler	**
Wryneck	**		Sedge Warbler	
Green Woodpecker	*		Reed Warbler	b
Great Spotted Woodpecker	*		Lesser Whitethroat	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	*		Whitethroat	
Woodlark	**		Garden Warbler	
Skylark			Blackcap	w
Sand Martin	b		Wood Warbler	
Swallow			Chiffchaff	w
House Martin			Willow Warbler	
Tree Pipit	*		Goldcrest	
Meadow Pipit	b		Firecrest	**
Red-throated Pipit	BB		Spotted Flycatcher	
Rock Pipit	**		Pied Flycatcher	**
Water Pipit	**		Bearded Tit	**
Yellow Wagtail	b		Long-tailed Tit	
Blue-headed Wagtail	**		Marsh Tit	*
Citrine Wagtail	**		Willow Tit	*
Grey Wagtail	*		Coal Tit	
Pied Wagtail			Blue Tit	
White Wagtail	**		Great Tit	

- Key
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Nuthatch	b			
Treecreeper				
Golden Oriole	**			
Red-backed Shrike	**			
Great Grey Shrike	**			
Woodchat Shrike	BB			
Jay				
Magpie	b			
Jackdaw				
Rook				
Carrion Crow				
Hooded Crow	*			
Raven	**			
Starling				
House Sparrow				
Tree Sparrow	b			
Chaffinch				
Brambling	*			
Greenfinch				
Goldfinch	w			
Siskin	*			
Linnet	w			
Twite	**			
Redpoll	b			
Arctic Redpoll	BB			
Mealy Redpoll	**			
Crossbill	**			
Bullfinch				
Hawfinch	**			
Lapland Bunting	**			
Snow Bunting	**			
Yellowhammer				
Cirl Bunting	**			
Reed Bunting				
Corn Bunting	*			

- Key
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 - w winter records required

MAMMAL RECORDS

Mammal Recorder: Linda Biddle

Mammal species are relatively easy to identify, but it helps if identifying points are specified by the observer, so that outside bodies are willing to accept our records.

All mammal records will be welcome – even if species is not known.

Please include where possible

- 1) Date and time – especially where it may be a first or last sight of the year
- 2) Location, including 6-figure map reference whenever possible
- 3) Weather and other conditions, e.g. wind often affects time of emergence of badgers, so this would contribute to our knowledge
- 4) Habitat and position in the habitat e.g. “emerging from sett, under bramble canopy”
- 5) Activity and manner of movement
- 6) Features which led to identification of species e.g. size, white rump, colouring etc.

BAT RECORDS

Bat Recorder: Jenny Harris

The Institute of Terrestrial Ecology only accepts “in hand” identification of bat species, and then only when accompanied by a detailed description.

However, for the Society’s records, all information can be useful. Any bat sighting may lead to the discovery of an important roost, but naturally the more information a card contains the more likely it is that I can draw some conclusion about the species involved.

Therefore, **ALL bat observations, however brief, would be welcome.**

Please include as much of the following information as possible

- 1) Date and time (especially if day-time flight or emergence from a roost was observed)
- 2) Location, including a 6-figure map reference whenever possible
- 3) Weather including temperature if possible
- 4) Habitat and position in that habitat e.g. “Barnsdale Wood, flying along ride at about head height” or “flying round a tree, in roadside hedgerow, level with top of canopy”
- 5) Type of activity. If in flight, type or manner of flight e.g. “twisting, fluttery flight” or “straight, direct flight”
- 6) Any physical characteristics which can be definitely be seen, such as indication of size, whether ears were visible, colouring if visible

FUNGI RECORDS

Mycology Recorder: Linda Worrall

Please send sightings of **any Rutland fungi in any habitat**, including gardens. Cards can be made out for individual species or if there are several, as a site list (use both sides of the card if you wish). Records should be posted on the 1st of each month.

Details desired

- 1) Location and 6-figure map reference
- 2) Weather conditions and whether site is wet or dry
- 3) Where growing – e.g. in grass, on dung, twig, stump (with tree species if possible) etc.
- 4) How many (roughly, if necessary)
- 5) If identification was trickier than usual, what finally clinched it for you?

If a fungus cannot readily be named, I would still appreciate a card with its description, e.g. size, shape, colour, whether gills or spores, spore print colour, smell and anything else which the observer finds interesting.

Sketches, photographs and slides would be most welcome.

OTHER INVERTEBRATE RECORDS

Insects and others Recorder: Gill Chiverton

If your sighting has not fitted nicely into one of the previous categories then it probably belongs here, should you be in doubt please send to Gill who will ensure it reaches the correct destination.

As with other recorders please include as much detail as possible in your submission, especially 6-figure map references.

Please quote the Latin Name (if known) of the species you are reporting as there are many very similar species and this will ensure it is correctly recorded.

Records are welcome at any time but should be posted on the 1st of the month in which Fieldfare is produced to ensure its inclusion in that edition.