



## RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY events

### OUTDOOR MEETINGS

**Sunday February 6**      **EYEBROOK RESERVOIR**      **10.30 am**

*Always interesting things to see at Eyebrook Reservoir (find its wildfowl counts in Fieldfare). Meet at the bottom of Stoke Dry Hill, OS Landranger 141, SP853 964.*

**Sunday March 20**      **FORT HENRY LAKES**      **9.30 am**

*Leader Terry Mitcham, RNHS Bird Recorder, will show us round this lovely lake area, whose wildfowl counts are included in Fieldfare. Meet by the lakes, SK949 119.*

**Saturday April 30**      **CALKE ABBEY PARK, DERBYSHIRE**

*Bill Cove, the National Trust warden, will show us round this park, which is a National Nature Reserve and contains outstanding wood pasture, including two oaks over 1000 years old. Free if National Trust member, if not £1.80, plus £2.00 per person for walk with warden. More details in next Fieldfare.*

### INDOOR MEETINGS

Indoor meetings are held at the Oakham Church of England school, Burley Road, Oakham: there is a charge of 40p for tea/coffee/biscuits.

**Tuesday February 1**      **HERITAGE HEDGEROWS**      **7.30 pm**

*A talk by Jan Dawson. In the early days of the Society, Jan was the curator of Leicester Museum's Natural History section, and showed us around the museum's collections. Now retired, she has been associated with the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society (Natural History Section) for many years.*

**Tuesday March 1**      **AGM and FLOWERS OF COSTA BLANCA**      **7.30 pm**

*The AGM is followed by an illustrated talk on the botany of Costa Blanca by Roy Lemmon, the RNHS Plant Galls Recorder, Weather Recorder and all-round naturalist.*

**Tuesday April 5**      **CHRISTMAS IN THE KALAHARI**      **7.30 pm**

*An illustrated talk by RNHS member Dave Needham, globe-trotting birder, will focus on the birds he found in the Kalahari.*

### LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST

Rutland Group indoor events are held at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton; admission £1 includes tea/coffee/biscuits. See [www.lrwt.org.uk](http://www.lrwt.org.uk), or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, for all events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks, for which it is often necessary to book.

**Monday 21 February**      **BROWN'S HILL QUARRY NATURE RESERVE**      **7.30 pm**

*A talk about this local reserve by Ralph Johnson, expert naturalist and convenor of Brown's Hill Quarry.*

**Monday 21 March**      **AGM and CECIDOLOGY**      **7.30 pm**

*The AGM of the Rutland group, followed by a talk on the study of plant galls by Roy Lemmon, our RNHS cecidologist (who we know as the Plant Galls Recorder).*

### LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

See [www.lincstrust.org.uk](http://www.lincstrust.org.uk), or phone 01507 526 677 in office hours, for details of the LWT Bourne Group's events and other Lincstrust events in Lincolnshire.

# WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU. Telephone: 01780 762051

## November 2010

**Atmospheric pressure and winds** Pressures in the first half of the month were very variable with a high of 1018 mb on the 5th and then lows of 972 and 973 mb on the 8th and 9th respectively. Winds during this period were correspondingly variable, especially the 7th to 9th when they went from north to south and then north again. The second half pressures were more stable, although winds from the 14th to 19th were either nil or between W and SE. After that they were NW–N for the rest of the month with, of course, correspondingly low temperatures.

**Temperatures** Up to the 13th these were exceptionally high, with a maximum of 14.9 °C on the 6th and a low on the same day of 13.0 °C. From the 14th it cooled down, with a high of –1.5 °C on the 28th and a low of –9.1 °C on the night of 26th–27th. Looking back through my records, I

find that the previous lowest lows for November were –3.9 °C (23rd, 1993), –3.8 °C (18th, 1996), –3.3 °C (20th, 2004), and –3.1 °C (19th, 2005). The mean minimum for the month was 1.96 °C, much lower than all years 2006 to 2009, and the mean maximum was 8.25 °C, also lower than those quoted years.

**Rain** The total precipitation was 46.5 mm (1.83 inches) which is 80% of my LTM; from the 26th to the end of the month it fell as snow. In the last ten years I have only recorded snow in November twice, on the 1st of the month in 2001 and on the 18th in 2004. In both cases it went quickly, unlike this year when it was still with us well into December.

**Sunshine** The average figure for England and Wales was 76 hours or 113% of the 1971–2000 mean. The LTM for RAF Wittering is 71.8 hours for this month.

## December 2010

**Atmospheric pressure and winds** A month of generally elevated pressures apart from the period 17th to 20th when they were below 1000 mb; and it was also a month in which wind speeds were generally low, or on seven days at 0900 hours were nil. A feature of the month has been that the winds that blew were predominantly NW–NE and this of course is apparent in the temperatures.

**Temperatures** Nationally this was the coldest December for 120 years and this is also reflected in these results. The night 5th to 6th produced a minimum of –10.5 °C, the lowest I have recorded since I started in 1993. The next lowest, –9.9 °C, was on 29th December 1995. The mean minimum for this month was –2.93 °C, much lower than 2009 (0.28 °C) which was itself a cold December.

Daytime maxima were generally low apart from the period 9th to 16th, and during that period the night time minima were also relatively high. Apart from the 6th mentioned above, the 18th

stands out with a minimum of –7.5 °C and a day time maximum of –1.3 °C. The mean maximum for the month was 2.52 °C, well below that of 2009 at 5.42 °C.

**Rainfall** This was a dry month. I registered a total of 22.9 mm (0.9 inches) which represents 40% of my long-term mean. It is interesting that the national figure was 39% of the average for the standard reference period 1971–2000, although the actual amount was higher at 39.4 mm. The great majority fell as snow apart from a little rain on the 3rd and 4th, but no precipitation was recorded on 20 days in the month. The Decembers of 2004 and 2005 were drier with 19.7 mm and 18.9 mm respectively.

The total rainfall for 2010 was 586.0 mm (23.1 inches) or 97.5% of my LTM.

**Sunshine** Averaged over England and Wales this was 55 hours or 116% of the mean for the standard reference period. The LTM for RAF Wittering is 55.9 hours.

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## HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK Nola Thurlow

High tides for Kings Lynn. Times in GMT, until March 27 when BST starts.

February				March			
Sunday	6	08.18	20.20	Sunday	6	07.21	19.24
	13	00.35	13.33		13	11.16	–
	20	07.42	19.48		20	06.38	18.45
	27	01.30	13.56		27	12.51	– (BST starts)

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# AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE REPORT compiled by Dr C. H. Gallimore

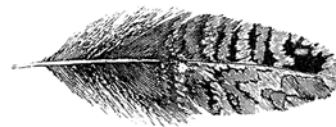
The Stone House, Reeves Lane, Wing LE15 8SD. Telephone: 01572 737343

*No records received for November/December. Please continue sending in your sightings.*

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## BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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### November/December 2010

*EBR – Eyebrook Reservoir. LFP – Leighfield Fishponds. RW – Rutland Water  
FHP – Fort Henry Ponds. WCQS – Williamson Cliffe Quarry Site.*

The year ended with some excellent bird watching – for those willing to brave the Arctic conditions! Wildfowl flocked to Rutland Water in huge numbers, producing a count of over 22,500 in December. There were high totals of regular species – Wigeon, Gadwall, Tufted Duck and Coot – and several scarce species were also recorded such as Red-crested Pochard, Scaup, Long-tailed Duck and Smew. Inevitably one or two rarities were found. As wildfowl moved in, waders left but there were notable birds in November with a long-staying Grey Phalarope and a Lesser Yellowlegs at Rutland Water.

Garden bird watchers were not to be left out with Waxwings for the lucky few along with Blackcap, Nuthatch, flocks of Long-tailed Tits and Reed Buntings. A Little Gull was a bizarre garden record in Stamford.

*My thanks to the following for their records and my best wishes for good bird watching in 2011: T Appleton, A Biddle, R Brewster, T Caldicott, J & A Comber, J Crosby, J Foster, Dr C Gallimore, N E Gordon, M & G Griffin, D Holman, Dr C R Jones, P Langston, A L Lawrence, LROS, I Misselbrook, T Mitcham, L & B Nicholls, J W Nourish, J Petrano, P Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, L & G R Worrall.*

**Bewick's Swan.** Three were at EBR on 02.12. At RW there were 22 on 19.12, and 32 flew over the dam on 21.12.

**Whooper Swan.** At RW there were two on 15.12 and five on 21.12. Forty were at EBR on this latter date, a very large flock for Rutland.

**Black Swan.** One was at Holywell Lake on 19.12.

**Pink-footed Goose.** On 21.11 flocks of 45 and 120 flew over FHP. Two flew over RW(Egleton) on 17.12.

**White-fronted Goose.** 24 were at RW (Normanton / Whitwell) between 21 and 26.12.

**Greylag Goose.** 154 were on arable land in Exton Park on 04.12.

**Canada Goose.** 320 were at RW(Whitwell) on 15.12.

**Brent Goose.** One was at EBR on 31.12.

**American Wigeon.** A drake, found at RW(Lyndon) on 09.12 remained to the end of the month.

**Gadwall.** The peak count at FHP was 177 on 05.11. 23 flew over Stocken on 10.11.

**Green-winged Teal.** The regular wintering drake was at RW between 05.11 and 14.11 before moving to its regular EBR site, where it was seen intermittently to the end of the year.

**Red-crested Pochard.** 32 were counted at RW on 13.12.

**Scaup.** Up to five were noted at RW from 05.11 to mid-Dec.

**Long-tailed Duck.** A first-winter male was at RW from 10.11 to the end of the year, usually in North Arm.

**Common Scoter.** One was at EBR on 09.11.

**Smew.** Noted at EBR from 22.11 with a max of 14 on 05.12, and at RW with a max of 23 on 19.12.

**Goosander.** At LFP there were eight on 16.11 and three on 22.11.

**Ruddy Duck.** A female was at RW(North Arm) on 13.11.

**Red-throated Diver.** One was at RW (Normanton) between 02 and 14.11.

**Great Northern Diver.** One was reported at RW(Whitwell) on 22.11 and one was at EBR on 04/05.12.

**Slavonian Grebe.** Up to three were at RW from 05.11 onwards.

**Black-necked Grebe.** Five were at RW(Barnsdale) on 14.12.

**Bittern.** The wintering bird at RW was seen regularly throughout Dec.

- Little Egret.** Five were at RW(Lyndon) on 26.11, with one there on 11.12. One frequented the North Brook valley between Horn Mill to Greetham golf course from 09.12 to the end of the year.
- Grey Heron.** One was noted on a house roof in Barrowden on 19.12, no doubt sizing up the local ponds for goldfish, but it was driven away by Carrion Crows.
- Red Kite.** Widely reported in ones and twos; the max count was six over Stocken on 10.11. Two birds ringed as chicks in Rutland in 2009 were noted at Colsterworth landfill site in late Nov/early Dec.
- Hen Harrier.** A ring-tail was at George Henry Wood, Stretton, on 23.11.
- Sparrowhawk.** Garden records were received from Barrowden, Oakham and Stocken.
- Buzzard.** One or two were noted at numerous sites. One, feeding on a rabbit in Wing Hollow on 20.12, allowed a close approach.
- Merlin.** A male was at Luffenham Airfield on 21.12.
- Peregrine.** Two were over RW(Egleton) on 13.11, with possibly the same birds over Oakham on 18.11. One was near Brooke on 13.12.
- Water Rail.** One was at LFP on 10.11 with two at TW(Burley Fishponds) on 15.11. One was flushed at FHP on 04.12.
- Crane.** One flew east at RW(Normanton) on 01.11.
- Avocet.** One stayed at RW(Egleton) between 09 and 26.11.
- Little Ringed Plover.** A late juv was at RW on 02.11.
- Golden Plover.** In Nov there were 2058 at RW (14th), 97 near Hambleton (17th) and c.100 near Cottesmore (25th).
- Grey Plover.** One was at RW(Egleton) on 15.11.
- Lapwing.** At RW there were 1212 on 14.11, decreasing to just 227 on 19.12 as the cold weather took hold.
- Knot.** One frequented the Dam/Normanton area at RW between 25.11 and 05.12.
- Sanderling.** One was at RW(Dam) on 06 and 13.12.
- Dunlin.** There were 95 at RW on 14.11 and four on 19.12.
- Ruff.** Six were at RW on 14.11.
- Jack Snipe.** Singles were flushed at RW(Treatment Works) on 14.11, Seaton on 24.12 and Uppingham on 26.12.
- Snipe.** At RW two were counted on 14.11 and five on 19.12. There were five at LFP on 28.11 and singles were noted at Gorsefield Wood, FHP and Brooke.
- Woodcock.** One or two were found at Tunneley Wood, Stocken, Wing and Brooke from 21.11 onwards. Four were flushed at the Lyndon reserve on 24.12.
- Curlew.** Six at RW on 14.11 declined to three by 17.12. Others were over Leighfield (16.11), Brooke (08.12) and FHP (three on 21.12).
- Green Sandpiper.** At RW five were counted on 14.11 with singles on 06 and 13.12.
- Lesser Yellowlegs.** The second Rutland record was a bird at RW from 20.11 to the end of Nov, with a reported sighting also on 04.12.
- Redshank.** Nos at RW declined from 36 on 14.11 to 31 on 19.12.
- Grey Phalarope.** An unusually long-staying bird was at RW from 01.11 to 02.12.
- Little Gull.** A first-winter was at EBR on 17.11, and a similarly aged bird visited a Stamford bird table with Black-headed Gulls on 01.12.
- Common Gull.** c.1,100 flew west at Leighfield on 01.11.
- Caspian Gull.** A second-winter was at RW on 12.12.
- Iceland Gull.** A third-winter was at RW on 22.11.
- Glaucous Gull.** A first winter was at RW on several dates between 29.11 and 19.12.
- Woodpigeon.** A total of c.1,900 flew south and west at Oakham on 07.11 and c.640 were at Brooke on 11.12.
- Collared Dove.** The highest count was eight in an Oakham garden on 25.11.
- Barn Owl.** Singles were noted near Barrowden at Brooke and near Oakham.
- Little Owl.** One was at RW(Egleton) on 17.12.
- Tawny Owl.** One roosted all month in an ash tree at Brooke throughout Nov, and one was at a nest-box at Tunneley Wood on 30.12.
- Short-eared Owl.** One flew south-east over Stamford on 02.12.
- Kingfisher.** Reported from FHP, RW, Tinwell Pumping Station (two) and Brooke in both months.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** A pair fed at Tunneley Wood feeders on 12.11, and four were noted at Oakham allotments on 18.11. Garden records came from Oakham and Stamford.
- Skylark.** Hard weather movements were noted with 45 south at Tinwell (02.12) and c.233 north and west near Brooke on 11.12.
- Grey Wagtail.** The only report was one in an Oakham garden on 25.12.

- Waxwing.** Generally small nos were reported from 07.11. Flocks of twenty and over were noted at Empingham (24), North Luffenham (40 and 21), Langham (20) and Oakham (20). Smaller nos were at Stamford, and RW(Egleton and Lyndon).
- Robin.** Following overnight snow, eleven were in song at Stocken on 01.12.
- Blackbird.** Some high counts included 42 at Leighfield (10.11), 37 at Lyndon Reserve (26.11) and c.80 around Brooke (18.12).
- Fieldfare.** Good nos arrived with 480 west at Leighfield (01.11) and 400 there on 16.11. c.150 flew north at FHP on 21.11, and 450 were around Brooke on 13.12. Two were in an Oakham garden on 19 and 26.12.
- Redwing.** In Nov. c.300 flew west at Oakham (2nd) and there were c.100 at RW(Lyndon) on 14th. c.220 were at LFP on 22nd. On 10.12, 780 flew west at RW(Lyndon) and there were 80 on Egleton reserve on 17.12. Four were in an Oakham garden on 26.12.
- Mistle Thrush.** Up to six were at Park House Normanton in Nov.
- Reed Warbler.** An exceptionally late bird was at RW on 01.11.
- Blackcap.** Singles were in two Oakham gardens on 21 and 26.12.
- Chiffchaff.** One was heard calling at Brooke between 13/23.12.
- Long-tailed Tit.** On 05.12 flocks of 13 and ten respectively were in gardens at Wing and Oakham.
- Willow Tit.** Reports came from Whissendine, RW(Egleton and Lyndon), Brooke and Leighfield.
- Marsh Tit.** Up to three fed at Tunneley Wood feeders and one was regular at a Tickencote feeder in Dec.
- Bearded Tit.** Up to five were in the RW(Egleton) reedbed from 01.11 to at least 17.12.
- Nuthatch.** Some interesting records were from Tickencote and Oakham gardens, near Cold Overton and at Tunneley Wood feeders. One was in Barnsdale Wood on 15.12.
- Treecreeper.** Records came from Tunneley and Barnsdale Woods, RW(Lyndon) and Wing.
- Raven.** Well reported in both months with birds at Exton Park, Brooke, Leighfield (four), Cold Overton and over Morcott Windmill.
- Starling.** Passage was noted at Leighfield on 01.11 when c.2,287 flew west. At Stocken 940 were noted on 08.11, and 261 the following day.
- Tree Sparrow.** There were seven at Whissendine allotments (10.11) and a max. of ten at RW(Lyndon) feeders in both months. There were six at LFP on 22.11, and two were regular at a Tickencote feeder in Dec.
- Brambling.** Twelve were at LFP on 01.11, declining to one by 16.11. A pair were at Park House, Normanton on 09.11, but all other records were of singles at RW, Stamford and WCQS.
- Goldfinch.** c.30 were at WCQS on 01.11 and there was a good garden count of 24 in Oakham on 19.11.
- Siskin.** c.20 were in Tunneley Wood on 05.11. Counts of 20 and 50 came from Egleton and Lyndon reserves in Dec and there were 44 near Brooke on 11.12.
- Linnet.** A flock of c.40 at WCQS on 01.11 increased to c.80 by 25.11. Winter flocks are not common now.
- Lesser Redpoll.** Ten were at RW(Egleton) on 10.11, five were at LFP on 12.11, two were at RW(Lyndon) on 14.11, and five were at Brooke on 26.11.
- Bullfinch.** Max counts were 15 at Leighfield on 22.11 and 16 at Brooke on 23.12. Two were at Barnsdale on 15.12 and a pair ate *Leycesteria* berries in a Barrowden garden on 19.12.
- Snow Bunting.** One was on the RW Dam on 06.11.
- Yellowhammer.** Six were at WCQS on 25.11. Noted as very scarce at Beaumont Chase Farm in Dec, where good nos bred to 2009 – please report all flocks of this species.
- Reed Bunting.** One was at a garden feeder in Oakham on 07.12.

## November/December 2010 Wildfowl Counts

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Fort Henry Ponds /Exton Park		Holywell Lake	
	14.11	19.12	14.11	19.12	12.11	17.12	13.11	19.12
Mute Swan	457	295	113	120	10	6	2	2
Bewick's Swan		22						
Pink-footed Goose		1						
Greylag Goose	52	611	315	14	200	52	3	6
Canada Goose	816	974	170	162			171	23
Barnacle Goose	14	15			1			
Egyptian Goose	27	37						
Shelduck	22		2			2		
Wigeon	2009	5480	295	1208	14	25		
Gadwall	814	1289	147	13	154	87	22	42
Teal	725	237	97	482	15	11	92	98
Green-winged Teal	1							
Mallard	1005	1005	56	245	101	95	109	107
Pintail	21	14	12		6			
Shoveler	31	4	13		29	7	6	9
Red-crested Pochard	6	58	1					
Pochard	122	504	38	7	7	5		2
Tufted Duck	2796	5281	412	51	25	27	18	13
Scaup	1	9						
Long-tailed Duck	1							
Common Scoter	1							
Goldeneye	193	285	5	5	1			
Smew		23		4				
Goosander	8	31						
Ruddy Duck		23						
Red-throated Diver	1							
Little Grebe	120	107	10	3	10	3	10	6
Great Crested Grebe	727	580	23	2				
Slavonian Grebe	3							
Black-necked Grebe	1	9						
Cormorant	38	71	58		1		1	
Bittern		1						
Little Egret	4					1		
Grey Heron	15	6	5					
Water Rail	4							
Moorhen	140	34	5		28	3	24	8
Coot	5232	5570	148	411	74	33	26	25
TOTAL	15407	22581	1925	2727	750	357	484	341

## **BOTANY NOTES** compiled by Graham Worrall

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### **November/December 2010**

Only two cards were received – for the first half of November – then the weather changed!

Roy Lemmon reported from the Lyndon Centre, Rutland Water Reserve: **Red Campion**, **Bramble**, and the first few flowers of **Dogwood** on 4th November. I found three flowers of **Lesser Celandine** on 12th November at my usual early place, the verge outside the west wall of Seaton Churchyard. This is the earliest I have ever, in 25 years, seen these flowering.

PLEASE do consider volunteering, perhaps with a friend, for Roadside Verge Monitoring. This needs about three or four visits between the end of March and the end of August. We could arrange a training year with one of our existing visitors if you feel it necessary. Some verges have now not been visited for two years because of the shortage of volunteers. Please ring 01572 747302 to explore the situation.

*Thanks for sightings: R Lemmon and G Worrall*

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## **LEPIDOPTERA NOTES** compiled by Jean Harvey

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### **November/December 2010**

#### **BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS**

With some of the lowest temperatures recorded in the last 100 years occurring during this period, it is no small wonder that members have not reported seeing butterflies. I have received only two cards and they were for a single **Comma** seen by two members on bramble to the west of the Lyndon Centre on the morning of November 3rd.

The trap in the reedbeds at Rutland Water was operated weekly and only attracted a few moths in November (maximum 3) and none at all in December.

With regard to moth trapping generally, 2010 would appear to have been better than the previous three years when numbers had declined somewhat. There were however very few migrants seen and this was so in other areas also.

A report has been compiled for Eyebrook Reservoir, where incidentally regular trapping

has now taken place for eleven years, and we were delighted to note that twenty new species were added to the site list for 2010. Fifteen of these were micros (more effort has been put into the identification of these species) and five were macro-moths. These were: **Cream Bordered Green Pea**, a scarce (Nb) species which is recorded elsewhere in the County, the **Coronet** and the **White Marked** which have been coming to light traps more regularly in the area, the **Little Emerald** and finally **Lesser Common Rustic**.

Lastly, I should like to thank all members who have contributed to the notes during 2010 and to wish everyone a prosperous New Year. Let us hope that many more interesting observations can be made once Spring is on its way.

*The information above came from R Follows, C R Jones and P Rudkin.*

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## **ORTHOPTERA REPORT** compiled by Phil Rudkin

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### **November/December 2010**

In November's *Fieldfare* (Sept/October report), I wrote a lengthy preamble before the species list. There was much to say about the grasshoppers and crickets, and I wanted to give members an

update of the current season, also some recent history from the mid 1970s, regarding the reporting then, compared to the present day. Over the past few weeks, at field meetings and



indoors, I have had some pleasing comments that the content has been much enjoyed. Roy Frost, the Derbyshire and Notts orthoptera recorder, emailed me to say he enjoyed it, and it reminded him of the warm days of summer. I was chatting to Norman Gordon after the January indoor meeting in Oakham, and he made an interesting comment regarding the Oak Bush Crickets that he found lurking in his wheelie bin. Norman remarked how small the cricket was. This is a common misconception that many people make. Yes, the orthoptera species in this country are very small compared to continental ones. And of course, TV programmes have wonderful close-ups of insects, giving them an unrealistic size impression. Also, when members of the public stop and listen to the sounds on my bat detector (which are loud and exciting), they are amazed when I catch a specimen, and they see a tiny creature in my bug pot.

One member said that the report was the biggest in the November newsletter. The reason for this is that orthoptera reports are seasonal, limited to basically three *Fieldfares*: July (May/June report), September (July/August report) and November (September/October report). I use the preamble to educate members about the orthoptera and their activities. I have used this method from the start in 2007, and hope that it has given you much interest. Each season there is always something new!

Finally, it is important to mention, that along with other insect species, the grasshoppers and crickets are included as indicators of a healthy environment. (This was in a report published on 15th September 2008, in *The Times*.) 2010 has been a very good year for the orthoptera in Rutland, therefore, hopefully this holds good for our countryside.

#### **Speckled Bush Cricket** *Leptophyes punctatissima*

I was just about to discard the bat detector for the winter, when Clive Jones and I decided to meet at the Lyndon reserve at Rutland Water, on 3rd November. The conditions were reasonable, sunny, clear, and force 2. Rain was expected later that day. I thought that I might as well take the detector (just in case)! At 10.15am we were in the car park, and just getting ready for the walk towards Tufted Hide. I switched on, and there was one, lone stridulating male in the car park trees. This area is full of these spotted creatures in the autumn, so this one must have been very lonely, and was having one 'last gasp' rub of the tiny wings. We had a long walk to the west of the Interpretive Centre, and I had the bat detector switched on all the time, but no other orthopteran was discovered. So, I put away the detector, and next job is the Winter BTO Bird Atlas. Best wishes to all of our members for 2011.

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## **PLANT GALLS REPORT** compiled by Roy Lemmon

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### **November 2010**

Just three reports this month, hardly surprising in view of the end of the season and also the unseasonal arctic-type weather we have had. Two were gall-forming rusts, one on Hairy Violet, which is fairly frequent, and the other on Common Knapweed, which we haven't had before. The identification of this latter rust presents a problem as there are two rust galls on Common Knapweed which are very difficult to sort out even with a microscope. I thought it

was *Puccinia hieracii* which is the less common of the two but felt I ought to get it verified, so I sent it to a friend of mine in Wales who agreed that on balance I was probably right. The third report is a mite gall on young shoots of Cleavers in which the leaves are markedly twisted and which can affect the whole plant. This one turns up fairly often during the season.

### **December 2010**

No reports this month.

## INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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Amazingly I've just come in after relocating a 7-spot Ladybird that was on the outside of our kitchen window. I found a suitable refuge for it in a clump of comfrey (bees love the flowers) where I found another 7-spot sheltering. Not a Rutland record unfortunately but a really good sign that insects are just holed-up and waiting for Spring. Incidentally I also noticed that our snowdrops are showing flower buds, and all in the second week of January after some record breaking cold weather. Therefore, it's not surprising that the only insect records I have to report were all noted in the first two weeks of last November.

### November 2010

#### Odonata

**Southern Hawker** – a single dragonfly was recorded on a sunny morning at Uppingham.

#### Hemiptera

A **Green Shield Bug** *Palomena prasina* was noted on dogwood at RW Lyndon Centre.

#### Hymenoptera

Four **Common Wasps** *Vespula vulgaris* were seen flying round flowers in a garden at Stocken.

#### Coleoptera

**Kidney-spot Ladybird** *Chilocorus renipustulatus* – approximately a dozen insects were seen on smooth ash bark at RW Lyndon Reserve; and interestingly a **Water Ladybird** *Anisosticta 19-punctata* was noted on a wooden fence post at Leighfield Fishponds.

*Many thanks for records to T Caldicott, J Crosby, C R Jones and R Lemmon.*

*I would like to send New Year Greetings to everyone who is interested enough to read through the insect records and a big thank you to all recorders. If you always read the records but have never sent in one of those little white cards perhaps you might like to consider joining the growing ranks of RNHS insect recorders!*

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## MYCOLOGY NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

6 Redland Close, Barrowden LE15 8ES. Telephone: 01572 747302

*No report this issue, please continue sending in your records.*

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## MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH. Telephone: 01780 762108

*No report this issue, please continue sending in your records.*

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## BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

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### November/December 2010

At this time of year, bats of all species spend most of their time hibernating, although they may emerge to feed, especially if they are under weight, when the temperature rises above 6°C (warm enough for insects to fly)

After mid November in 2010 it was rarely above 6°, but on 1.11 a small bat was flying at dawn near Brooke village. On 5.11 two small bats were

flying at dawn near Leighfield Lodge, not far from Braunston. The recorder, Tim Caldecott, felt that these bats could well have been **pipistrelle sp.**

In very cold weather, bats may be caught out if they have chosen hibernation sites that are not well enough insulated against prolonged freezing temperatures. They may then be forced to move somewhere less exposed or risk freezing

to death, and it is then that they occasionally find themselves inside buildings as they seek a safe roost. During a period of very cold, snowy weather a small bat was seen flying round the school hall at Empingham Primary School on 8.12. The bat came to rest on a high curtain, but the caretaker was unable to reach it before it flew off and disappeared. On 14.12 this bat, or another, re-appeared in the school hall, flew into a storage area and could not be found. I heard nothing further, so I hope the bat managed to find its own way out again.

In Glaston Road, Uppingham, a householder was attempting to defrost frozen pipes in her loft on

the morning of Christmas Eve. Pulling aside the lagging she found a small bat in deep torpor, and after putting it in a box for safety, she rang me. The best advice I could give was to keep it cold, so as not to awaken it from torpor, while the pipes were defrosted, then replace the bat as close as possible to where it had been found.

The last record of the year was of a probable **long-eared bat** found indoors at Morcott Hall on 30.12. It was disturbed before it could be taken into protective custody, and disappeared. It was not seen again.

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*Thank you to everyone who has sent in records during 2010.*

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## **CHANGE OF CONSTITUTION – see Noticeboard page 1**

*At the AGM it is proposed to amend the Constitution, as follows. These changes will need the approval of two-thirds of those members attending the meeting. The reason for the changes is to bring the Constitution up to date with current practices.*

*The clauses affected are as follows, showing the existing wording and the new:*

### **Clause 3. Membership**

*Existing clause:* Membership of the Society shall be open to any persons interested in natural history. Members shall pay an annual subscription of 50p up to the age of 15 years and a minimum of £1.50 over the age of 15 years.

*Proposed replacement clause:* Membership of the Society shall be open to any persons interested in natural history. Classes of membership and subscriptions shall be decided by the Committee.

*(Note: The Committee would like the following classes of membership and subscriptions:*

*Honorary membership: Awarded by the Committee for services to the Society and with a nil subscription.*

*Individual membership:*

*for people aged 18 years and over, with a £10 subscription.*

*for people under 18, with a nil subscription*

*Joint membership for two named adults at the same address and with named children aged under 18 years, with a subscription of £20.)*

### **Clause 7. Annual General Meeting**

*Existing clause:* The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in the month of March, 21 days notice having been given to all members. Business to be included at the meeting shall be the election of officers and committee, the approval of the annual audited accounts, the report of the committee, the appointment of an auditor or auditors and any other business of which the Secretary has been given notice in writing. A Special General Meeting may be called by the President or Chairman or at the written request of at least ten members of the Society. A quorum at such general meetings shall be two-thirds or 25 of the members present whichever is the least.

*Proposed replacement clause:* The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in the months of March or April each year, 21 days notice having been given to all members. Business to be included at the meeting shall be the election of officers and committee, the approval of the annual independently examined accounts, the report of the committee, the appointment of an independent examiner or examiners and any other business of which the Secretary has been given notice in writing. A Special General Meeting may be called by the President or Chairman or at the written request of at least ten

members of the Society. A quorum at such general meetings shall be two-thirds or 25 of the members present whichever is the least.

*(Note: The changes specify the time-frame for the date of the AGM and effect technical changes about examination of accounts.)*

#### **Clause 8. Finance**

*Existing clause:* The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Society who shall submit the audited accounts to the Annual General Meeting. The bank account of the Society may be changed at any time considered prudent by the Committee to any financial institution which provides advantageous terms to the Society. All cheques to be signed by the Treasurer and Secretary.

*Proposed replacement clause:* The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Society and shall submit the accounts to the Annual General Meeting. The bank account of the Society may be changed at any time considered prudent by the Committee to any financial institution which provides advantageous terms to the Society. All cheques to be signed by any two officers.

*(Note: Changes make the cheque signing arrangements more convenient.)*

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## **MINUTES OF RNHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010**

The Annual General Meeting of the Rutland Natural History Society was held on 2nd March 2010 at the Church of England School, Oakham, with 85 members and 7 visitors present. The President, Sir Clifford Boulton, was in the Chair.

- 1 **Apologies:** J Levisohn, S Stoodley, D and B Parker, A Lear.
  - 2 **Minutes of AGM 2009:** Circulated in *Fieldfare* January 2010; proposed J Harris, seconded L Biddle, approved and signed.
  - 3 **Matters arising:** nil.
  - 4 **Treasurer's report:** circulated at AGM. M Grimes reported slight rise in subscription income; legacy in 2008 and lower interest rates explained drop in total income. Savings had been made in printing and insurance costs. The Society needed to decide how money in excess of prudent reserves, e.g. two years' running expenses, should be used. Thanks were recorded to Derek Lee, from whom M Grimes had taken over in mid-year. Proposed N Thurlow, seconded A Paterson, report adopted and M Grimes gratefully thanked.
  - 5 **Chairman's report:** the Society continued to do well, with over 300 members and stable finances. Indoor meetings attracted high numbers, outdoor events were always well supported and the weekend away to Norfolk/Suffolk in June was most successful. In addition to compiling and interpreting the Society's records produced by the membership, the Society's Recorders were forging links with the Local Records Centre. Thanks for a great amount of hard work were given to officers, committee, practical helpers and the whole membership, which enabled the Society to continue to champion Rutland's wildlife and its wild places.
  - 6 **Election of officers and committee:** proposed E Northen, seconded R Lemmon, the following were elected. President: Sir Clifford Boulton; Chairman: Ann Tomlinson; Secretary: Linda Worrall; Treasurer: Martin Grimes; Membership Secretary: Graham Worrall; Programme Secretary: Dawn Whitefield; *Fieldfare* Editor: Hendrina Ellis; other Committee members: Linda Biddle, Gill Chiverton, Jenny Harris, Andrew Lear, Peter Scott.
  - 8 **Any other business:** N Thurlow suggested financial investment in a new sound system. The Committee would research.
  - 9 **Date of next AGM:** Tuesday 1st March 2011.
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