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## NOTICEBOARD

On the RNHS visit to the Freiston Shore saltmarshes, our very helpful guides told us about the RSPB cruises on the Wash. Details can be obtained by phoning 01205 280057 or from the website [www.southlincsrspb.org.uk](http://www.southlincsrspb.org.uk), look for 'Bird cruises'. For more about this fascinating area, see 'Wash Week' under Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust events.

### Birdfair at Rutland Water 2008

The British Birdwatching Fair is on our doorstep at Eggleton on August 15–17 (9.00–5.30). The usual successful mixture of lectures, question and answer sessions, family events, a wildlife art tent (with a chance to meet the illustrators), specialist holidays all over the world, natural history books, binoculars and scopes, etc., it covers other wildlife (bats, butterflies, mammals, bugs ...) as well as birdlife. Phone 01572 771 079 or see [www.birdfair.org.uk](http://www.birdfair.org.uk) for more details.

### A Verge Recorder reports: RNHS, Natural England and Agri-Environment schemes

During my five years as Verge Recorder for Verge 7 (Pickworth Road, Great Casterton), I frequently had convivial conversations with farmer Richard Lamb. Much of Verge 7 borders Richard's land, and he was already in the Agri-Environmental schemes in many of his fields. He was extremely interested in my findings. I have now handed over to Roy Lemmon, but still enjoy observing the verge, which is close to my home. During autumn 2007, I met Richard near his barns, and he told me that he was soon due for assessment for funding, was keen to enter the higher level scheme, and would I write to Natural England to inform them of the important species occurring on his land and adjacent verges. This I did with pleasure.

Fast track to 9th January 2008, and I received a cordial e-mail from Martin Banham, Regional Landscape Adviser & Rutland Land Management Adviser, inviting me to accompany him and his colleagues to look at Cultivated Margins and Arable Plants on Richard's farm. It was agreed that the current Verge 7 Recorder, Roy Lemmon, would join us.

So on June 5th – a fine, hot, sunny morning – Roy and I met Martin Banham, Robert Powell, and Adam Kwolek from Natural England, and our own Andy Lear (there as Conservation Officer for the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust).

Grizzled Skipper



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We then spent a most informative three hours on Richard Lamb's land. The NE team and Andy Lear inspected the arable plants on the Cultivated Margins and Field Margins. We also looked over parts of Verge 7, where Roy joined in the botany ID, and I pointed out Whitethroats, Lesser Whitethroats and Corn Buntings, as well mentioning the large populations of Crickets in the hedgerows during the autumn.

Our final destination was a private part of the farmland, Woodhead, which is the site of an old castle. This is a wonderful wildlife oasis, consisting of a pond, scrub and old grassland.

When a small butterfly flew down and settled in the long grass, Adam Kwolek and I immediately recognised it as a Grizzled Skipper – a new square in Rutland for this species.

This was a very worthwhile exercise for Roy and myself (and for the Society), giving us an insight into the system used for assessment of the regimes for funding Agri-Environmental schemes, and the NE team an insight into how the RNHS works. A big thank you to Martin Banham, for inviting us along to join the team for the morning, and observe how they operate.

**Phil Rudkin**

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## **RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY events**

### **Sunday 10 August      PRIORY WATER      10.30 am**

*Another follow-up to an interesting talk. Ian Merrill will lead us around Priory Water, near Kirby Bellars, to look at the many different dragonflies they get there.*

*From Melton Mowbray, take the A607 to Leicester. After the village of Kirby Bellars, turn right (sign posted to Asfordby) and Priory Water is a short distance down this road, on the righthand side, just over the level crossing. Drive in and park near the Visitors' Centre.*

### **Tuesday 16 September      HAMBLETON PENINSULA      7.30 pm**

*Jenny Harris, our Bat Recorder (and Senior Conservation Officer with LWRT) will lead an evening walk to look for and listen to bats. Hambleton peninsula is the best place in Rutland to see a number of different species of bats, including Daubentons, Noctules and many others. This is a joint meeting with the Rutland Group of the LRWT. More details in next Fieldfare.*

### **FIRST AUTUMN INDOOR MEETING**

*Indoor meetings are held at Burley Road School, Oakham. There is a charge of 40p for tea/coffee/biscuits.*

### **Tuesday 7 October      GROUND BEETLES      7.30 pm**

*This first talk of the autumn is given by Brian Eversham, Head of Conservation at the Beds, Cambs, Northants and Peterborough Wildlife Trust, great friend of the RNHS, and expert on invertebrates.*

### **LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST**

*Details of the LRWT Rutland group's September event is given above, and their indoor talks start again in October – see September Fieldfare for details or phone Gabrielle Maughan, 01572 737 752 (evenings). For other LRWT events in Leics and Rutland, phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours or see [www.lwrt.org.uk](http://www.lwrt.org.uk).*

### **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 Bourne Group's events and other Lincstrust events in Lincolnshire.*

### **2–10 August      WASH WEEK**

*Celebrating the rich and diverse heritage of The Wash, including Boston, Skegness, King's Lynn and Hunstanton. Come and explore the history, wildlife, culture and ways of life. Guided walks, talks, boat trips, courses and events days for all. See Lincstrust website and phone number, as above.*

*Come along to this stunning nature reserve, located on the B1166, 1 km south of the manned level crossing in Deeping St James. (And for a fine Fen landscape, continue along the Deeping High Bank towards Spalding.)*

**WEATHER SUMMARY** John P Hollands, Wittering met.

**May 2008**

**Surface wind** May 2008 began with a mainly South Westerly light surface wind. During the 2nd the surface wind backed to become mainly South Easterly light. This run of wind persisted until the 5th when the surface wind backed again to become mainly North North Easterly light. During the 11th the North North Easterly surface wind freshened to become mainly North North Easterly moderate to fresh with gusts to strong. This rather blusterly run of wind persisted until the 20th when it moderated to become mainly Easterly light to moderate. Later during the 24th the surface wind backed to become mainly North to North East light to moderate. This run of wind persisted until the end of the month.

**Temperature** The average daytime maximum temperature during May 2008 was 17.8 °C, rather warmer than the long-term mean of 15.8 °C. The warmest day was the 10th with an afternoon maximum of 24.0 °C, lower than the absolute maximum for May of 27.6 °C recorded in 2005.

The coolest day was the 16th, with a maximum in name only of 10.8 °C. There were 170.7 hours of bright sunshine, rather less than the monthly average of 193.7 hours. The sunniest May on record occurred in 1997 when 262.0 hours of bright sunshine was recorded at Wittering.

The average night minimum temperature during May 2008 was 8.6 °C, significantly warmer than the mean of 6.7 °C. The coldest night was 19th/20th when 2.4 °C was recorded. The absolute minimum for May is -1.3 °C recorded in 1979 and 1982. The warmest night in 2008 was 4th/5th when a minimum of 12.5 °C was recorded.

**Rainfall** May 2008 was a relatively wet month when 73.2 mm (2.88 ins) of rain was recorded at Wittering compared to the long-term mean of 50.8 mm (2.0 ins). The wettest day was the 25th with 18.0 mm (0.71 ins), wet in name only compare to the truly wettest day in May 1989 when 39.2 mm (1.54 ins) was recorded at Wittering.

*During May 2007 the average day maximum was 15.8 °C, the average night minimum 7.7 °C, rainfall 107.4 mm (4.23 ins) and there were 112.9 hrs of electronically recorded sunshine*

**June 2008**

**Surface wind** June 2008 began with a mainly light and variable surface wind. During the 3rd it settled down to become mainly South West to West light but occasionally moderate to fresh with gusts strong to Gale. This run of wind persisted until the end of the month. The strongest gust recorded during June 2008 was 45 kts (51 mph). This occurred at 1452A on Sunday 22nd.

**Temperature** The average day maximum temperature during June was 18.7 °C, very close to the long-term day maximum of 19.0 °C. The warmest day was the 9th with a maximum of 24.2 °C. Some might say, 'thankfully' lower than the absolute maximum for June of 33.3 °C recorded in 1976. The coolest day was the 1st with an afternoon maximum of 13.6 °C. There were

185.4 hours of bright sunshine, rather less than the long-term mean of 198.0 hours. The sunniest June on record was in 1976 when 284.0 hours of bright sunshine was recorded at Wittering.

The average night minimum temperature was 10.2 °C, close to the long-term mean of 9.7 °C. The coolest night was 13th/14th when a minimum of 5.8 °C was recorded at Wittering. The absolute minimum for June is 0.8 °C recorded in 1975.

**Rainfall** June 2008 was a relatively dry month with 34.8 mm (1.37 ins) of rain recorded as compared to the long-term mean of 48.9 mm (1.93 ins). The wettest day was the 21st with 7.2 mm (0.28 ins). The wettest day on record for June was in 1974 when 45.5 mm (1.79 ins) was recorded.

*During June 2007 the average day maximum was 19.2 °C, the average night minimum 10.9 °C, total rainfall 97.2 mm (3.83 ins) and there were 135.1 hrs of bright sunshine.*

## HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK Nola Thurlow

High tides for Snettisham; for Titchwell add 5 minutes. All times in BST.

August			September		
Sunday	3	08.23 21.05	Sunday	7	11.33 23.55
	10	00.53 13.22		14	06.27 19.03
	17	07.31 20.04		21	10.53 23.19
	24	11.59 ----		28	06.22 19.03
	31	07.24 20.04			

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

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



### May/June 2008

After the amphibian breeding activity of March and April these two months are usually a bit of an anticlimax, and so it has proved to be again this year. Nonetheless there has been a smattering of records, all of them interesting.

Although there have not been any records of frogs for this period, there have been some **Common Toad** records. One was seen in early May swimming across the canal at Ashwell. There have been garden records from Barrowden and Wing, where they have been found in log-piles, in long grass and in undergrowth. One had its secure

refuge in a half-buried broken bottle disturbed by a digger. It remained in its bottle until the following day when it found a new home.

**Smooth Newts** were found in a number of ponds in Rutland Water Nature Reserve, as were **Great Crested Newts**, which were also found in the recorder's cellar and garden.

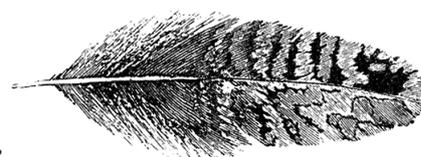
There was a single record of **Viviparous Lizard** in Ketton Quarry at the end of June and there have been just two records of **Grass Snake** – one was killed by a dog in Barrowden and the other was sunning itself by my pond in Wing.

*My thanks to T Allen, R Lemmon, P Scott and G Worrall who sent in records.*

## BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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*Terry's usual style of bird report will be resuming in the next Fieldfare.*



### May 2008

May proved to be an outstanding month for rare birds at Rutland Water, with three species added to the county list. A **Purple Heron** was in Burley Fishponds on 17th/18th, a real surprise find on a county Birdrace. Later in the month a **Stilt Sandpiper**, a very rare North American wader, was found on the Egleton reserve on 27th. Many birders came to see it but it left by mid-afternoon. On the same evening, a **Marsh Sandpiper** was found on the same lagoon. This east European species was more accommodating and stayed until the 30th, again attracting many admirers.

The easterly winds which brought these migrants also deposited three **Fulmars** at Rutland Water between 25th and 27th. One was seen flying over Stamford on the 26th. These oceanic birds should

have been feeding over the North Sea. Many species of wader dropped in at the reservoir with **Grey Plover**, **Knot**, **Sanderling** and **Bar-tailed Godwit** all noted among the more regular **Ringed Plover**, **Dunlin**, **Greenshank** and **Common Sandpiper**. Terns continued to pass through with up to twenty **Black Terns** and the occasional **Arctic Tern** at Rutland Water, where a **Little Tern** was seen on the 16th.

A very late migrant at Rutland Water was a **Whooper Swan** on 2nd, whilst at Eyebrook Reservoir a **Short-eared Owl** appeared on 9th. **Marsh Harriers** were noted twice at Rutland Water during the month. **Hobbies** hawked for insects along the edge of the lagoons there, with a maximum of six recorded. **Turtle Doves** sang

at the Lyndon reserve from 2nd, with a pair also at Egleton, but no others were reported. **House Martin** numbers seem well down on last year with some established nests still unoccupied into early June. **Nightingales** gave good value on the Lyndon reserve with up to five in song and some excellent views for the patient (or lucky) birdwatcher.

### June 2008

A quieter month than May, June did produce one or two interesting records. **Quail** called at Eyebrook and near Stoke Wood on 8th and 9th, and **Little Terns** were at Eyebrook on 12th and at Rutland Water (22nd). **Little Egrets** were noted at both reservoirs on 1st.

A good variety of waders continued to pass through at both reservoirs. **Sanderling, Dunlin, Black-tailed and Bar-tailed Godwits, Curlew and Green Sandpiper** all appeared. Eleven **Ringed Plovers** were at Rutland Water on 21st. Just out of county, a **Woodcock** roded at Morkery Wood on 23rd. A pair of **Egyptian Geese** in Exton Park were the first there for several years. At Fort

Henry Ponds, **Shelduck** produced ten ducklings on 8th but had lost them all a week later.

**Buzzards and Red Kites** were well reported, with **Hobbies** at Rutland Water and Wing. Hunting **Barn Owls** were a feature of Rutland Water reserves, with birds noted on most evenings. Two broods were noted in nest-boxes in the east and west of the county, and **Kestrels** bred in nest-boxes at three sites. **Kingfishers** were noted at Leighfield and Horn Mill. Three **Corn Buntings** continued to sing near Mounts Lodge and small numbers of **Crossbills** passed through at Beaumont Chase and Rutland Water during the last week of the month.

Two species not faring well this year seem to be **House Martin** and **Spotted Flycatcher**. House Martins arrived late at many traditional breeding sites and in much reduced numbers, whilst Spotted Flycatchers, which are declining nationally, have been noted at very few sites – Barrowden, Cottesmore, Beaumont Chase and Stamford. Any additional records of the latter species would be very welcome.

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## BOTANY NOTES

compiled by Graham Worrall

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### May 2008

Acid soils are relatively uncommon in Rutland and hence to see **Gorse** at Lyndon on Rutland Water and on the A47 at Barrowden, and **Foxgloves** at Gibbet Gorse is quite a sight!

Good stands of **Bluebell** were flowering into the middle of the month, as was **Cow Parsley** and **Hawthorn**, and **Early Purple Orchid** in Pickworth Great Wood and Wardley Wood.

Most of the records received for May were of woodlands – perhaps not surprising for members to wish to see our woods in their springtime glory.

### June 2008

The **orchids** seem to have done quite well this year - **Southern Marsh** on the A1(S) to A1 slip

road at Bloody Oaks excelled with 197 counted, even though there was evidence in 2007 of someone digging some up. **Bee Orchids** were reported from four sites and **Pyramidals** continue their slow increase in Bloody Oaks Quarry.

**Knapweed Broomrape** was up in force. There was a very interesting article on Broomrapes in *British Wildlife* April 2008. The only other broomrape around our area is the Common Broomrape on Bird's-foot Trefoil on the west verge of the A43 Duddington bypass – obviously in Northamptonshire!

Thank you to those recorders who have started to send me verge reports; I look forward to receiving more in the months to come.

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*Thanks for all sightings from R Lemmon, C Jones, G Worrall, G Panter, A Biddle, L Biddle, P Ennis, A Malcolm, J Mallett, T Caldicott, J Whiteford, B Parker, D Parker, E Mann, P Mann, E Northen, L Worrall, M Branston.*

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# LEPIDOPTERA NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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## May and June 2008

### BUTTERFLIES

I had anticipated that butterfly records might have been scarce for this period as so few have been seen in members' gardens this year, but the number of sightings elsewhere, especially in the quarries, have certainly made up for this deficit.

The first **Small Skipper** was seen at the Egleton Reserve at the end of June and an **Essex Skipper** was identified on Verge 8 at Great Casterton.

**Large Skippers** were found in Bloody Oaks and Ketton quarries and also at Belton and Egleton. Eleven **Grizzled Skippers** were counted in Clipsham Quarry in early May, with this species also noted in Ketton Quarry on several occasions and also on Verge 7 near Great Casterton. Twenty-one **Dingy Skippers** were found at Clipsham Quarry and a few at Ketton Quarry.

It has been reported to me that a **Clouded Yellow** was reported by a visitor at the Lyndon Reserve on June 5th and this was confirmed by a warden later the same day.

In early May, ten **Brimstones** were recorded in Ketton Quarry and this species was seen on nine other sites. In May, **Large Whites** were seen in Bloody Oaks Quarry and Pickworth Great Wood and in June records came from Edith Weston, Ketton Quarry and the Lyndon Reserve. **Small Whites** appeared at Belton, Ketton Quarry, Oakham and Rutland Water. **Green Veined White** sightings were on eight sites.

Records for **Orange Tips** came from sixteen areas, all within the month of May. **Green Hairstreaks** were found between May 6th and June 8th in Bloody Oaks, Clipsham and Ketton quarries, with up to four being seen on a single occasion, thus this species has been more successful than in 2007.

One **Small Copper** record came from Ketton Quarry and three for **Brown Argus** came from Bloody Oaks and Ketton Quarries. **Common Blues** were also seen in these quarries with over 25 being counted at Ketton on June 8th, and another record came from Seaton Meadows. **Holly Blues** were well recorded on fourteen sites between May 2nd and June 6th.

There were two reports of **Red Admiral** at the end of May in Barrowden and Lyddington and three in mid-June from Egleton, Edith Weston and Uppingham. This time last year this species was recorded throughout the County! **Small**

**Tortoiseshells** were found on Verge 7 at Great Casterton and Verge 10 at Ketton, the only other records coming from Bloody Oaks, Edith Weston, Egleton, Oakham and Wing. Ten **Peacocks** were noted in Ketton Quarry on May 2nd with further sightings in seven other areas. Single **Commas** were observed on six sites.

**Speckled Woods** flew in small numbers in many parts of the County during both months. There were good numbers of **Marbled Whites** once again in Ketton Quarry, and on June 29th, one was photographed in Bloody Oaks Quarry during a visit by members of LRWT.

One record for a **Gatekeeper** came from Barrowden on June 28th. **Meadow Browns** flew from mid-June in a several areas, with the largest numbers seen in Merry's Meadows and Ketton Quarry. **Small Heaths** were observed in Clipsham and Ketton quarries with over 25 being counted at the latter on June 8th. During the second half of June, **Ringlets** emerged and were seen in numbers on the verges and in the quarries. Six were observed adjacent to the Eye Brook near the northern end of the reservoir.

### MOTHS

In 2007 we reported that numbers of species and moths within each species were low for the time of year and now sadly our local numbers have been lower still this spring. Undoubtedly last year's wet summer had an effect on many larvae and cold spring nights have not helped. As an example one can compare an over-night trap in the reedbeds at Rutland Water in June 2006 when 1014 moths were caught and 138 species identified, with a recent visit to the same place at the end of June, which yielded 640 moths from 107 species. Several national newspapers published reports recently highlighting the decline of many moth species and noted that catches in some parts of the country are down by a massive 50% so we are fortunately not as badly affected as some.

We visited Eyebrook Reservoir twice in May and twice in June. The May visits both had fairly low numbers but these included a **Chocolate Tip**, a **Maiden's Blush** and a **Poplar Kitten**. By June numbers had improved and we were very fortunate to catch a new species for Rutland on the 27th. This was a **Beautiful Snout** for which there have only been two previous records in

VC55, both of which were at Charnwood Lodge in 2002 and 2006. This species is normally found in Wales, the West Midlands and southern England, where its food plant is bilberry, so where did this specimen come from? Could it have been blown on high winds or did it arrive via a fisherman's car? We shall never know!

The usual traps have been operated in Lyddington, where 33 micro- and 95 macro-species were recorded in May and 50 micro- and 123 macro-species in June. The most unusual here was a **Pale Oak Beauty** on June 10th. In May, 32 species were found at Barnsdale Gardens and in June 45 species were trapped there, amongst which was another Pale Oak Beauty on June 8th. At Edith Weston 20 species were recorded in May and 51 species in June when trapping took place on two nights of each month.

There are several other notable species to be included in these notes. At the end of April an **Emperor Moth** was found on the road at Essendine and moved to an adjacent hedge for safety (this record arrived too late for the last issue). At the end of May, a female Emperor Moth was found dead in a spider's web in Lyddington

by a local postman. On June 4th, a **Four Spotted Moth** was photographed at Ketton Quarry, this being one of the Brownfield Target Species for which we were asked to look last year.

On June 20th, a gentleman playing golf at Rutland Golf Course in the early morning saw what he believed to be a **Lunar Hornet Moth** (these frequent Willow trees). The County Recorder for VC55 tells me that he saw four **Hornet Moths** (these frequent Black Poplars) in a Leicester city car park that week. Both of these species of Clearwing moths are fairly uncommon.

Numerous records have been received for day flying moths. These have included **Cinnabars** seen on nine sites, **Chimney Sweepers** in good numbers at Merry's Meadows, on the Lyndon Reserve and at Seaton Meadows, **Mother Shipton** at Belton, Lyddington and Ketton Quarry, whilst **Burnet Companions** and a **Treble Bar** were also seen in this quarry and **Yellow Shells** in Seaton Meadows. A **Poplar Hawk Moth** was observed on a grass stem in mid-morning on May 25th at Prior's Coppice and **Mullein** moth larvae were found at Edith Weston.

*My thanks to all the following for their contributions: J Ansley, V Arnold, M Berriman, G Chiverton, A & J Comber, R Foers, R Follows, C H Gallimore, J Harvey, C R Jones, A L Lawrence, D & F Lee, R Lemmon, P & E Mann, E Northen, G Panter, D & B Parker, A Russell, P Rudkin, P Scott, P Stammers, M Tyler, M Winslow and G & L Worrall*

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## ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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### May/June 2008

I wrote in the corresponding newsletter of 2007, 'With the vagaries of the unseasonable weather during May and June, I was not surprised to find that no adult grasshoppers have been reported from members, or found by myself'.

The situation is mirrored in this season of 2008, the weather conditions being much the same, apart from the hot, dry April of 2007. And once again, no adult grasshoppers have been reported, only nymphs, as last year. The prize (metaphorically), for a first date sighting, goes to my friend, and our webmaster, Peter Scott.

#### **Dark Bush Cricket.** *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

Several nymphs found on Bramble, during moth-trapping session, Pickworth Great Wood, 7 June.

Several nymphs, observed on protected Verge 8, at two sites, 23rd June.

#### **Meadow Grasshopper.** *Chorthippus parallelus*

One nymph, found in short grassy area, below bank, LRWT nature reserve, Bloody Oaks, 20th May. Digital photograph sent via e-mail. First orthoptera sighting for this season – one of the strongholds for this species!

#### **Slender Groundhopper.** *Tetrix subulata*

One, located in marshy area, adjacent to stream, running east of Gower Lodge garden, Uppingham, 26th May. Same area as numbers found in 2007.

One, attracted to MV light, during moth-trapping session, Pickworth Great Wood, 7th June.

*My thanks to contributors, for sightings and digital photograph: G Chiverton, C Jones, D and F Lee, P Scott*

## PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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### May 2008

Growth in plants is now, of course, well under way and it is surprising how quickly various organisms take advantage of this and thereby instigate gall formation. The month started with no less than four records of gall-forming rusts on Verge 7, Great Casterton to Pickworth. Also in the same location were some plants of Hairy Violet with leaf edges rolled upwards, the work of the larvae of a gall midge. On the 8th the work of another different gall midge was seen on honeysuckle, again an upward rolling and thickening of the leaves. As far as I can see this has not been recorded previously in the County. The 22nd produced 3 records from the Lyndon Centre, one again with leaves rolled upwards but this time caused by a sawfly whose larvae live on Dog Rose. There were swellings on leaves of Common Lime caused by a mite and finally Oak Apple Galls, in considerable quantity. We are probably used to seeing them as small hard brown galls later in the season, but at this time they are large, green, and spongy – quite different.

*Thanks to Tim Caldicott, Gill Chiverton and Roy Lemmon*

### June 2008

With the season getting into its stride there was a total of 20 records this month, two galls were each reported from 3 sites by 3 different recorders! An insect gall on Germander Speedwell was reported from Verges 7 and 8, and also from Ketton Quarry and Bloody Oaks Quarry. Another insect gall on Ash leaflets was seen in Leighfield, Egleton and Prior's Coppice. Field Maple is another species which is often galled and this month has produced 3 different galls on this species, 2 from Verge 7 and one from Prior's Coppice. Meadowsweet also produced 3 different galls, all from Prior's Coppice. Also recorded were galls on Coltsfoot (this on the Society's visit to Merry's Meadows), Creeping thistle, Goat Willow, Ground Ivy, Male fern, Marjoram and Shepherd's Purse. As the number of records increases with the season it gets more difficult to give a precise report, but all will appear in the Annual Report of course.

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## INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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*March and April's notes are carried over from the last Fieldfare.*

### March 2008

March was a quiet month for insect observations. Our first record was a **7-spot Ladybird** which was enjoying a sunny spot in Bloody Oaks Quarry on the 19th.

Five **Pine Ladybirds** were seen crawling on a tree trunk in Burley Wood, and at the end of the month a **7-spot Ladybird** was noted at Edith Weston and two **7-spot Ladybirds** were disturbed during gardening in North Luffenham.

Two observations of female **Bumble bees** were received – one active in Bloody Oaks Quarry and one in flight at the Whitwell Centre. Our only other record for the month is of the **Common Rough Woodlouse** *Porcellio scaber*, which were observed in two areas of Ketton Quarry on bare ground under decaying logs.

### April 2008

On the first day of the month a Velvet Mite *Entrombidium rostratus* was seen at Clipsham

Scorpion fly



Quarry. For this record we have a close-up photograph of the actual observation, which is great because normally they just look like a small red dot walking across one's path.

Some Ladybird records were received for this month. Single specimens of the **Harlequin Ladybird** were at Edith Weston on the 3rd and the 13th. Lone **7-spot Ladybirds** were noted on the 22nd and the 27th at Ketton Quarry and on the 28th in Barrowden.

Our first record of the year of a **Common Bee-Fly** *Bombilius major* came on the 10th when one was seen in Burley Wood. Another Common Bee-Fly was in Edith Weston and on the 26th two were seen together and several single observations over the same day were noted at Barrowden; also on the 27th a Common Bee-Fly was recorded at Ketton Quarry. On April 1st a **Bumble Bee** was flying around Dawn's Paddock, a **Bombus terrestris** queen was seen at Gibbet Gorse on the 3rd. On the 26th, in the warm sun, two **Bumble**

**Bees** *Bombus lapidarius* were seen in Barrowden and on the 27th one *Bombus lapidarius* was seen flying in Ketton Quarry. Another interesting record was of the **Mining Bee** *Andrena haemorrhoa*,

*Thanks to recorders: V Arnold, C Jones, R Lemmon, P Scott, L & G Worrall and D Whitefield*

## May 2008

Bee records start the month. On May 1st two **Red Mason Bees** *Osmia rufa* were noted on Verge 7 (Gt Casterton – Pickworth), one very sleepy. A female **Red-Tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lapidarius* was seen entering what was probably her nest on Verge 7, and a foraging **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascorum* was also on Verge 7. Later in the week another Common Carder Bee was seen at Bloody Oaks Quarry, as was a female **Vestal Cuckoo Bee** *Bombus vestalis*. The observer was able to capture the bee (and release again) to help with identification. Several Common Carder Bees were seen in various parts of Hambleton Woods and a single one was recorded at Lyndon Centre. In the middle of the month we received a fascinating account of **Leaf Cutter Bees** making their cells in plant pots containing cacti in a greenhouse in Whissendine, 'they buzz pass my head taking no notice of me at all!' There were two sightings of **Bee-Flies** *Bombilius major*; two at Bloody Oaks Quarry and one seen resting on the ground in Hambleton Wood.

Two mollusc records for the month – an **Orchard Snail** *Arianta arbustorum* and a **White-Lipped Snail** *Cepaea hortensis*, an empty but fresh shell, both seen in Hambleton Wood. A **Common Pill Woodlouse** *Armadillium vulgare* (the one that rolls up) was noted on decaying wood in Bloody Oaks Quarry. Also recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry on the same day was a **Pea Weevil** *Sitona lineatus*.

Two sightings of damselflies, **Large Red Damselflies** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula*; one was seen at Lyndon Wood Pond and another record from Wing states 'abundant throughout May and June in garden round ponds'.

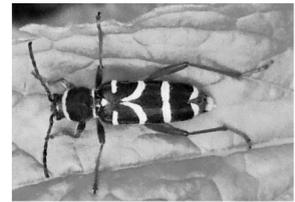
Only one record of **St. Mark's Fly** *Bibio marci* seen in Edith Weston. The recorder notes that he had no further records for this common insect. Another single record this time of a **Green Lacewing** *Chrysopa perla* seen in Ketton Quarry.

Beetle sightings end this month's records. **Cockchafer Beetle** *Melolontha melolontha* as follows; two records for the 8th, then five on 22nd, fourteen on 23rd and ten on the 31st, all at Barnsdale Gardens. Single insects were seen in Edith Weston on 11th and 23rd. **Cockchafers** were

one of the earliest Spring species, where a 'colony' of 10-15 excavations with attendant bees was observed at Gibbet Gorse on the 3rd.

also out and about in Barrowden, all recorded after dusk – one on the 21st, two on the 22nd and another single on the 27th.

A single **7-spot Ladybird** was seen at Bloody Oaks Quarry, a **2-spot** was noted at Edith Weston as was a **16-spot**, a **22-spot** was 'seen resting underside of a leaf near the ground' (dedicated recording!) in Hambleton Wood and one **Harlequin** was noted in Edith Weston. Recorded in Edith Weston was a predatory beetle *Thanasimus formicarius*, 2 **Lily beetles**, and a burying beetle *Nicrophorus humator* which was also noted at Barnsdale Gardens. Two **Cardinal Beetles** *Pyrochroa coccinea* were seen at Prior's Coppice and one record came from Lyndon Centre. A **Soldier Beetle** *Cantharis rustica* was noted at Ketton Quarry. A pair of **Leaf Beetles** *Gastrophys viridula* were recorded mating at Rutland Water. A variety of longhorn beetle, the **Wasp Beetle** *Clytra arietis*, was seen on a mint leaf in an Uppingham Garden.



Wasp Beetle

## June 2008

Dragonflies and damselflies have certainly been out and about this month. It's great to have so many detailed records. However, publishing space prohibits too much detail, but everything does go into later reports. The majority of sightings were recorded in the last two weeks of the month, with a much lower number in the first week. The first record was on the 3rd with 15+ **White-Legged Damselflies** and 4 **Banded Demoiselles** at Seaton Meadows. Banded Demoiselles/Banded Agrions *Calopteryx splendens* were also seen in Uppingham and Wing. Records for White-Legged Damselflies came too from Wing Fishing Lakes and Leighfield. A single female **Emerald Damselfly** was noted at RW Eggleton. **Red-Eyed Damselflies** were seen at Oakham Canal and Leighfield Fishponds. **Blue-Tailed Damselflies** were recorded at Oakham Canal, Wing Fishing Lakes, a garden in Wing and Leighfield Fishponds, where 50+ were noted. **Azure Damselflies** were seen at Oakham Canal, Wing Fishing Lakes and Priors Coppice. **Common**

**Blue Damsel**flies were recorded at Oakham Canal, Edith Weston and Priors Coppice where 2 records came of 60+ and 'numerous'. The first dragonfly records came at the end of the month with a **Brown Hawker** noted in a Wing garden. **Broad-Bodied Chasers**, both male and female, were recorded from Wing, RW Egleton and Priors Coppice.

Fewer bee records this month, but several **Common Carder Bees** *Bombus pascorum* were recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry and Ketton Quarry. **Red-Tailed Bumblebees** *Bombus lapidarius* workers were at Bloody Oaks Quarry and Red-Tailed Bumblebee workers were also busy in Ketton Quarry car park area. A single **Cuckoo Bee** *Bombus sylvestris* G. *Psithyrus* was recorded in Ketton Quarry.

A **2-spot Ladybird** and a **7-spot Ladybird** and 2 **Orange Ladybirds** were recorded in Edith Weston, and one Orange Ladybird was seen in Barnsdale Gardens. A **Cardinal Beetle** *Pyrochroa serraticornis* was seen in Priors Coppice, as was a **Longhorn Beetle** *Agapanthia villosoviridescans*.

Recorded in Edith Weston were a **Lily Beetle**, a **Wasp Beetle** *Clytus arietis*, a predatory beetle *Thanasimus formicarius*, a burying beetle *Nicrophorus humator* and a **Cockchafer**. A **Leaf Beetle** *Gastrophys viridula* was seen at Seaton Meadows.



Longhorn Beetle

**Scorpion Flies** (see page 8) were recorded at Priors Coppice, Barnsdale Gardens and Seaton Meadows. An **Alder Fly** was also noted at Seaton Meadows. A **Shield Bug** *Eysarcoris fabricii* was recorded in Edith Weston. Numerous **Green Lacewings** *Chrysopa perla* were seen in Priors

Coppice as was the brightly coloured red and black **Froghopper** *Cercopsis vulnerata*. A **Hoverfly** *Volucella bombylans* that mimics the buff-tailed bumblebee was noted in Barrowden. Also from Barrowden a note of **Daddy-Long-Legs Spiders** *Pholcus phalangioides*, doing very well inside the house and frequently re-located outside! (Your recorder has the same problem). Lastly one **Brown-Lipped Snail** *Cepaea nemoralis* seen in the valley area of Ketton Quarry.

#### Reminder about books

The following books, bought under the 'Awards for All' 2000 scheme are available for loan by any member of RNHS. The books currently with Gill Chilverton are:

*The Colour identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles*, by Bernard Skinner.

*British Pyralid Moths: a guide to their identification*, by Barry Goater.

*Collins Field Guide to Insects of Britain and Northern Europe*, by Michael Chinery.

*Collins Field Guide to Spiders of Britain and Northern Europe*, by Michael J. Roberts.

*Naturalists' Handbook 8: Common ground beetles*, by Trevor G. Forsythe.

*Naturalists' Handbook 17: Plant galls*, by Margaret Redfern and R. R. Askew.

*Leicestershire Dragonflies*, by Steve Grover and Helen Ikin.

*Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, by Steve Brooks.

**Do make use of these books** – please contact Gill Chilverton if you would like to borrow one of them.

Thanks to the following for records and some great photos: V Arnold, T Caldicott, G H Gallimore, C R Jones, R Lemmon, S Moyce, P Scott, and L & G Worrall

## GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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



### May/June/early July 2008

Yes! Some of our reporters were unable to do their regular sorties, but we do have sightings and I look forward to hearing of any more you find in July or even early August. The Warden of Barnack Hills and Holes also told me that he and moth trappers saw numbers of "flickering" larvae in undergrowth at Monks Wood last September. It

used to be thought that larvae flashed their little light spots on and off to warn predators they were not good to eat, but latest research suggests they flash, particularly in early autumn, even when obvious predators such as hedgehogs are not around. Some of us have certainly been surprised to see an odd autumnal flicker which turned out

to be a larva, and any further observations would be more than welcome.

**Essendine, Verge 5 next to the cutting top of East Coast Main Line:** 22.6: 3, ie one on verge, 2 seen over railway fence. This site often starts slowly about this date, though sometimes by now they have numbered twenty plus, and in 2006 there were 52! 5.7: (strictly belongs in the next issue, but can't resist including them) 23, ie 5 on verge on railway side, 2 on opposite verge, 1 on road, 15 visible over fence in rough grass. GC reports: 'It looks as though the Essendine Glow-worms are doing just fine. They were just so bright - it was magic. The vegetation in the grassy cutting top is very dense now and we thought we might go late to give them time to climb the long stalks and be more visible. I am sure there were plenty we never saw. Alan rescued one that was determinedly crossing the road! Good thing, as two small trucks went by soon afterwards.'

**Barrowden, Verge 3, The Drift:** 29.6: 6 on west verge, further up hill than usual, some 70m above village sign; and 2 on east verge just below village sign.

**Barrowden Verge 17, Back Road:** 29.6: North verge from start of housing development almost

to field entrance has temporary protective fencing so grass rather high: 5 glows on road edge near field entrance, 1 in field entrance, 3 in deep grass on field edge next to hedge running away from Back Road towards A47. None seen on south verge.

**Ketton Quarry:** 30.6: 11, ie 2 near valley entrance and others in first half of valley, clustered round patch of Japanese Knotweed and near scrub; vegetation sparse. None seen in geological area or paddocks.

### Outside Rutland

**Near Fineshade, Northants:** 16.6: 3.

**Barnack Hills and Holes:** 3.7: 4. 4.7: 3. Guided walk with Warden, eight people each night. Number of glows have been poor for some years, whereas they could be in triple figures a decade ago. Maybe they glowed earlier in June and no-one saw them. However, sheep used in management may be involved because their urine can adversely affect snails, and glow-worm larvae live for two years almost exclusively on snails before they pupate into glowing or flying adults for their brief summer fling.

Many thanks to: M Branston, A Chiverton, F Chiverton, G Chiverton, C Gardiner, J Smith, J Whiteford, G Worrall.

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## MYCOLOGY NOTES

compiled by Linda Worrall

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

### May/June 2008

A week into May and it became hot then later cool and wet; June was often cool and damp but sunny towards the end. Gill fungi were scarce, though St George's Mushrooms at Bloody Oaks Quarry have spread, Fairy Inkcaps at Ketton Quarry smothered felled logs, Verge 7 yielded Pale Brittlestems along with an unusual *Stropharia squamosa* and, oh joy, the yellow waxcap *Hygrocybe langei* was found in good numbers at Bloody Oaks Quarry by our members on the Society visit on 29th June. Microfungi still had the most reports though!

### RESERVES

**Bloody Oaks Quarry:** 5.5: Lichen *Xanthoria parietina* on upper surface of the wooden seat, Discomycete *Lachnellula occidentalis* on fallen Larch twigs, Rust *Melampsora populnea* on leaves of Dog's Mercury and 58 St George's Mushroom *Calocybe gambosa* in 5 locations in

the eastern half of the reserve, an increase in numbers and spread over the last few years. 22.5: 5 St George's Mushrooms in grassy area near conifers at the south east end. 29.6: Numerous yellow waxcaps *Hygrocybe langei* were found on the Society's visit, in their usual place on the stony soil of the dip before you climb up the bank. Excellent!

**Hambleton Wood:** 8.5: Anamorph of powdery mildew *Erysiphe cynoglossi* on Field Forget-me-not leaves, Rusts *Kuehneola uredinis* on Bramble stems and *Melampsora populnea* infecting several plants of Dog's Mercury, Smut *Entyloma ficariae* sparse on Lesser Celandine.

**Prior's Coppice:** 15.5: Rusts *Triphragmium ulmariae* on leaves and petioles of Meadowsweet and *Melampsora populnea* on leaf and petiole of Dog's Mercury, and Lesser Celandine plants highly infected with *Entyloma ficariae*, 'the most I have seen,' reports RL. 19.6:

A few Discomycete *Anthracobia macrocystis* on old fire site and anamorph form of Powdery Mildew *Erysiphe ulmariae* on Meadowsweet.

**Rutland Water Lyndon Centre: 22.5:** Rusts *Puccinia pulverulenta* on Great Willowherb and *Kuehneola uredinis* on Bramble.

**RW Gibbet Gorse: 22.5:** Rust *Kuehneola uredinis* on Bramble.

**Merry's Meadows: 22.6:** Choke disease *Epichloe typhina* on several grass plants, anamorph state of Powdery Mildew *Sphaerotheca ferruginea* on stems only of Great Burnet, Rust *Puccinia poarum* (gall former) on Colt's-foot.

**Ketton Quarry Valley area:** Anamorph state of Powdery Mildew *Microsphaera sparsa* on Guelder Rose and huge numbers of Fairy Inkcaps *Coprinus disseminatus* very fresh on a pile of felled logs, probably hawthorn.

**Ketton Quarry Woodland:** Powdery Mildew anamorph *Sphaerotheca aphanis* on Wood Avens and a good number of fresh fruiting bodies of Turkeytail *Trametes versicolor* on fallen hawthorn log.

## WOODS

**Wardley Wood: 9.5:** A particularly fine show of Dryad's Saddle *Polyporus squamosus* on an ash stump near Deepdale Brook. CRJ's photograph shows at least a dozen overlapping.

## FIELDS, GARDENS, VERGES

**Verge 7, Gt Casterton-Pickworth: 1.5:** 2 emergent and 3 washed out Yellow Fieldcap

*Bolbitius vitellinus*, 2 Pale Brittlestems *Psathyrella candolleana* near trees, Smut *Entyloma ficariae* on Lesser Celandine, Rusts *Melampsora populnea* on Dog's Mercury leaves, a considerable infection of *Puccinia alii* on a whole clump of Crow Garlic which was lying almost flat and visibly orange from 2-3m away, and gall forming Rusts *Puccinia lagenophorae* on Groundsel, *P. malvacearum* on Common Mallow and *Uromyces geranii* on leaves of Meadow Cranesbill and *Uromyces dactylidis* on Lesser Celandine. **11.6:** An intriguing find by RL of one pale russet yellow *Stropharia squamosa* where there could have been woody debris; marginal scales on the convex slightly viscid cap, grey gills and large brown spores, the stipe smooth above the ring but scaly/floccose below it. White Champion had Rust *Microbotrium violaceum*, False Oat-grass the loose Smut *Ustilago avenae*, Shepherd's Purse the white blister *Albugo candida* and Cow Parsley the Downy Mildew *Plasmopara umbelliferarum*.

**Barrowden: 30.5:** Jelly Ears erupted over top and sides of old Field Maple stump after heavy rain but by 1.6: had dried up! **7.6:** 3 Banded Mottlegills *Panaeolus cinctulus (subbalteatus)* on village green in cut grass after heavy rain, startlingly black when wet but drying pale with dark margin remaining.

**Woodhead Castle site: 6.6:** Anamorph state of Powdery Mildew *Erysiphe cynoglossi* on Field Forget-me-not and Rust *Puccinia punctiformis* (gall former) on Creeping Thistle.

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Many thanks for reports from R Lemmon, A J Biddle, C Hoptroff, C R Jones, L and G Worrall and members at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

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## MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

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Report next issue: please continue sending in your records.

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## BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

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Jenny has been overwhelmed by grounded bats and other bat problems, hence no report this issue, but please continue sending in your records for the September issue.

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