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## NOTICEBOARD

### Winter Programme and Membership Card

Comes with this *Fieldfare*. Please sign it straight away (names of junior members should be put on adults' cards) and always carry it if you go to Eyebrook or Burley Wood, or use it for books at Uppingham Sports and Books. This card has details of events through to April 2010, so you can plan ahead. Looks interesting! As always, membership subscriptions are due promptly on January 1st each year. You can of course renew before that date. All who renew, by Standing Order, cheque or cash, will receive the next Card with the summer programme with the March *Fieldfare*. Anyone who has only just joined, however, is not due to renew until 1.1.10.

### Early Journals go to Record Office

The Society began in 1965 with 13 *Newsletters*, followed by *Fieldfares*, and we produced *Annual Reports*. In 1978 we started sending *Fieldfares* and *Annual Reports* to the Local Record Office in Leicester. However, thanks to careful keeping of journals from 1965 by Carol and Dave Needham, we have recently been able to provide the Record Office with all the missing back numbers! The Librarian was extremely pleased, and we are very glad to know they now hold them all safely and they can be accessed. They also have a copy of the 25th Anniversary Book.

### 50 Rutland Birds by Terry Mitcham

Terry Mitcham (our RNHS Bird Recorder) has a new book out, *50 Rutland Birds: an introduction to Rutland's birdlife* (Spiegel Press, £7.50, available at local bookshops and [www.spiegelpress.com](http://www.spiegelpress.com)). He says:

*"Well, it was definitely a bird of prey – it had a long tail – it looked like a sparrow – it made a funny call". Non-bird-watchers have often caused me much head scratching when describing birds they have seen locally. This book is my attempt to retain a little street cred by enabling readers to identify fifty of our resident and migrant birds, with stunning photos by Brian and Liz Nicholls and John Wright and up-to-date information on when and where to look for them. Hopefully, some will be persuaded to join the Society.*

# Fieldfare

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## Community Tree Planting Day, Saturday 14 November

The Woodland Trust is organizing a tree-planting day at the George Henry Wood, a new wood near Stretton, from 11.00 am to 1 pm on November 14. George Sellars, an honorary member of the RNHS and very well known to longer standing members, left a bequest to the Woodland Trust for this wood, which is named after him. Phone 0845 293 5753 (Woodland Trust) for more details.

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## RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY events

### **Sunday October 11      BIRD RINGING      8.00 am**

*Martin Kerman, Reserve Warden at Rutland Water Nature Reserve and birdringer with the CES project, will give a demonstration of bird ringing (see indoor meeting on October 6). Meet at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton.*

### **Sunday November 22      SEALS AND PUPS AT DONNA NOOK**

*Please phone Dawn Whitefield, Programme Secretary, on 01572 723991 or 07933 758 950, for further details of this visit to the Lincolnshire coast (and possible car-sharing arrangements).*

#### **INDOOR MEETINGS**

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

### **Tuesday October 6      THE HISTORY OF BIRD RINGING      7.30 pm**

*Martin Kerman, Reserve Warden at Rutland Water Nature Reserve and birdringer with the CES project, is giving a talk on the history of bird ringing; to be followed up by a bird-ringing demonstration on October 11.*

### **Tuesday November 3      NATURAL HISTORY OF WHITTLESEY BRICK PITS 7.30 pm**

*Phil Parker, an ecologist retained by Hanson Building Products, has been particularly involved with this site since 1995. The Brick Pits are part of the Kings Dyke Nature Reserve.*

### **Tuesday December 1      TRIALS OF LIFE OF BUTTERFLIES      7.30 pm**

*Richard Revels is a renowned wildlife photographer whose photographs often appear in British Wildlife. His interest in butterflies brought him into nature photography some 40 years ago.*

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## LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST Rutland Group events

*Indoor events are held at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton, admission £1 includes tea/coffee/biscuits. See [www.lrwf.org.uk](http://www.lrwf.org.uk) for other events in Leicestershire and Rutland.*

### **Monday October 19      INVOLVING PEOPLE IN WILDLIFE      7.30 pm**

*Rachel Price, Community Wildlife Officer (Peterborough) for the Beds, Cambs, Northants and Peterborough Wildlife Trust, will talk about the Trust and John Clare country.*

### **Monday November 16      RE-WILDING OF THE SOAR VALLEY      7.30 pm**

*Michael Jeeves, Head of Conservation for the Leicester and Rutland Wildlife Trust, outlines plans for this area.*

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## WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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

### July 2009

**Atmospheric pressure and winds** The atmospheric pressures this month showed little in the way of low or high readings. On the 1st it was the highest for the month at 1023 mb and on the 22nd it was 1001 mb, the lowest. In between these dates and indeed to the end of the month, the weather was dictated by a series of atlantic depressions which meant that nationally it ranked as the sixth most 'cyclonic' month in 137 years of records. Despite this, wind speeds were generally moderate, the one exception being on the morning of the aforementioned 22nd when speeds varying between 9–18 knots were recorded at 0900 hours. Wind directions were generally between S and NW for the period.

**Temperatures** The month started with maximum temperatures on the 1st and 2nd of 30 °C but the rest of the month they were generally in the lower 20s; the lowest maximum recorded was 17.9 °C on the 29th. Minimum temperatures ranged from 7.6 °C on the 30th to 14.6 °C on the 2nd, and the mean minimum for the month was 11.8 °C, slightly lower than 2008 (12.0 °C) but higher than 2007 (11.5 °C).

**Rainfall** After 3 consecutive months with rainfall close to half that expected, the July total was 76.0 mm (2.99 inches) or 136% of my long-term mean (LTM). Nationally, averaged over England and Wales it was 5.12 inches or 227% of the average for the standard reference period, 1971 to 2000, which again emphasises that this is a low rainfall area. Nationally it was the fourth wettest July in the past 100 years.

**Sunshine** The figure for England and Wales was 191 hours or 95% of the 1971–2000 mean.

### August 2009

**Atmospheric pressure and winds** Again this month the barometric pressure has shown no marked highs nor lows and, apart from a period between 24th and 28th when a low pressure area was over us, the pressure was generally between 1014 and 1022.5 mb. Mostly winds were between S-W except from 6th to 13th when they were often W-NW. Wind speeds were generally low.

**Temperature** The mean minimum this month was 12.4 °C, virtually the same as in 2008 (12.6 °C) but the mean maximum was 23.2 °C compared with 22 °C for 2008. The coolest night was the 24th at 8.4 °C and the warmest were the 4th and 5th at 17.1 °C and 17.0 °C respectively. The highest daytime temperature was 28.1 °C on 19th and, although it dipped a bit on the 28th and 29th to 19.9 °C and 19.8 °C respectively, it rose again on the last day of the month to a maximum of 25.2 °C.

**Rainfall** The total I recorded this month was 57.0 mm (2.24 inches) or 95.5% of my LTM. However this result hides the fact that 40.4 mm fell on just one day, the 6th, i.e. 71% of the month's total fell on that one day. Looking back from 1993 to the present I can find only 2 days on which this total was exceeded; these were 44.9 mm on 7th July 2004 and a whopping 98.6 mm (3.9 inches) on 9th August 2004. 2004 was a very wet year with a total of 786.4 mm or just under 31 inches of rain. Broadly speaking we could expect to get around 600 mm per year, i.e. 24 inches.

**Sunshine** Nationally, averaged over England and Wales, it was 179 hours or 91% of the 1971–2000 mean, considerably more than 2008 but less than in 2007.

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## HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK Nola Thurlow

High tides for Snettisham; for Titchwell add 5 minutes. Times in GMT from 25 October.

October			November		
Sunday	4	07.04 19.34	Sunday	1	04.52 17.27
	11	11.59 -		8	09.56 22.06
	18	06.50 19.24		15	04.44 17.20
	25	10.38 22.40		22	09.29 21.26
				29	03.18 16.07

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

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



## JULY/AUGUST 2009

There have been records of two species of amphibian and two species of reptile in these two months. Of the latter **Grass Snakes** were widely reported.

**Common Frogs** were seen in Barrowden, where they were occasionally noted in wet conditions, in Oakham, where one was caught by a Grass Snake, and in Wing, where froglets were seen on a number of occasions. **Common Toads** were also seen in Wing, where road casualties were seen in both months, but live toads were also seen on the road and in the recorder's garden and in his kitchen. Toadlets were seen on the road at Leighfield.

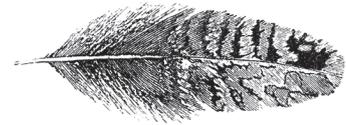
It was good to have a record of a **Slow Worm** from Burley Wood as there were no records last year. Grass Snakes were widely seen, mainly in July, but there were a couple of August records too. A Common Buzzard was seen over Morcott carrying a snake in its talons, which is interesting as snakes are not regarded as common prey items for buzzards. A Grass Snake was seen curled up asleep on the verge in Morcott four weeks later, obviously unaware of the fate of its congener. Garden sightings of snakes were received from Barleythorpe, Lyddington, Wing and Oakham, where one was seen with a frog in its jaws, which it released when it was disturbed. They were also seen at Greetham, visiting rabbit burrows presumably for smaller prey, and at Exton sheltering under corrugated iron sheets.

*My thanks to T Caldicott, D Cole, P Langston, F & D Lee, T Mitcham, D Perril, A & M Thorp and L & G Worrall who sent in records.*

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## BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

30 Sutherland Way, Stamford PE9 2TB. Telephone: 01780 751268



## July/August 2009

A very busy two months produced an excellent range of species despite indifferent weather. A pair of Common Cranes continued a good run of records for this species. The autumn wader passage began well – especially on the new lagoon at Eggleton, where a Purple Sandpiper was the highlight. Birds of prey featured strongly with Ospreys, Red Kites and Hobbies noted at several sites. Quail were reported from two farmland in two areas whilst the autumn passage of passerines started with an early Wheatear.

Thanks to everyone who submitted tetrad counts for their atlas squares – these have been forwarded to the BTO. Some more tetrads, mainly in the west of Rutland, are available for the 2009/10 recording seasons – details at the October indoor meeting.

*My thanks to the following for their summer records: J Ansley, T Appleton, V Arnold, P & C Brown, T Caldicott, A & J Comber, C Debney, Dr C H Gallimore, J Harris, M & S Iannantuoni, M Kerman, W Kirby, F & D Lee, LROS, A Malcolm, T Mitcham, G Morley, L Park, P Rudkin, Jill Stapleton, A R & M A Thorp, L & G Worrall.*

**Mute Swan.** Bred at Chapel Farm, Burley-on-the-Hill.

**Egyptian Goose.** One or two were at Leighfield from 24.08 to the end of Aug.

**Ruddy Shelduck.** Two were at RW(Eggleton) between 07.07 and 03.08.

**Garganey.** One or two were at EBR between 06.08 and 09.08, and again from 13.08 to 24.08. At RW there were four in North Arm on 12.08 and three on 23.08.

**Red-crested Pochard.** One or two were at RW from 23.08 to the end of Aug.

**Tufted Duck.** Breeding was confirmed by broods of ducklings at EBR (two) and Chapel Farm, Burley-on-the-Hill.

**Scaup.** One was at RW on 15 and 31.08.

**Quail.** Singles were calling near Cottesmore on 04.07 and Great Casterton on 08.08.

**Grey Partridge.** One or two called near Gorsefield Wood on 24 and 31.08.

- Great Crested Grebe.** There were six occupied nests at EBR on 04.07.
- Little Egret.** Numbers at RW increased from 12 on 03.07 to 41 by the end of July. At EBR there were up to three between 01.07 and 07.08. Two were briefly at Tolethorpe Mill on 21.07.
- Grey Heron.** At Wing, one visited a garden pond in search of an easy meal on four dates between 14 and 24.07.
- Red Kite.** Well reported from the Barrowden area, Wing and Morcott with birds regular over Stamford to the middle of Aug and in the Horn Mill area.
- Marsh Harrier.** A good period with a first year male noted regularly at RW from at least 25.07 to 14.08, visiting FHP on 08.08 and one at EBR on 05–08.08 with a juvenile there on 18.08.
- Sparrowhawk.** A newly-fledged brood of three was seen at Edith Weston on 30.07.
- Buzzard.** Fledged juveniles were reported from 4 sites across the county in late July/early Aug.
- Osprey.** In addition to the RW birds, one was at EBR on 04.07 and one or two visited FHP/Horn Mill and Leighfield regularly from late July.
- Kestrel.** A brood of four fledged from a nest-box at Chapel Farm.
- Hobby.** A brood of three fledged at one site and there were reports of pairs at three other likely nesting sites. Singles were also noted over FHP, RW (Edith Weston), and EBR.
- Peregrine.** Singles were noted near Hooby Lodge on 19.07 and Leighfield on 31.08.
- Water Rail.** An adult and a juvenile were seen at RW(Lyndon) on 19.07.
- Moorhen.** In July a pair at a garden pond in Wing were very protective of their young – chasing away Rabbits and Woodpigeons and even trying to face down a Grey Heron.
- Common Crane.** A pair were present in a paddock at Pilton on 25.07.
- Oystercatcher.** On 18.07 there were three at EBR and five at RW(North Arm).
- Avocet.** One was at EBR on 01.07.
- Little Ringed Plover.** There were three at EBR on 11.07.
- Ringed Plover.** All reported came from EBR – five on 04.07, ten on 17.08 and seven the following day.
- Grey Plover.** Singles were at RW on 07.08 and 16–17.08.
- Lapwing.** There were 328 at EBR on 04.07.
- Knot.** One was at RW on 23.07.
- Sanderling.** Three were at RW on 20.07, with two on 12.08 and eight on 28.08.
- Little Stint.** Three were reported at EBR on 01.08.
- Purple Sandpiper.** A juvenile was at RW(Eggleton) on 10.08.
- Dunlin.** Up to eleven were at EBR on several dates from 06.07 to the end of Aug. At RW nos. increased from three on 06.07 to 20 on 18.08.
- Ruff.** Apart from two at EBR on 01.08 and one on 24.08, all reports were from RW where nos. increased from low single figure counts from 01.07 to 12 on 28.08.
- Black-tailed Godwit.** Present regularly at RW throughout both months with a max. of 28 on 23.07. Singles were at EBR on 6–7.07, 11.07 and 23.07.
- Whimbrel.** One was at RW on 01.07 with two noted on 07.08.
- Curlew.** One was at EBR on 11.07 and three were at RW(Manton Bay) on 16.08.
- Spotted Redshank.** Singles were at EBR on 07/08 and 12.08, with one at RW on 07/08 and 27–31.08.
- Greenshank.** Noted at both reservoirs from 03.07 to the end of Aug. Up to three were at EBR (27.08) and twelve at RW (06.07).
- Green Sandpiper.** Present at RW throughout both months with a highest count of at least 20. Up to five were noted at EBR in the same period and there were singles at Leighfield Fishponds on 14.08 and Exton Park lake on 25.08.
- Wood Sandpiper.** Singles were at RW on 01.07 and 03–06.07, with another on 06–16.08. One was at RW on 02–04.08.
- Common Sandpiper.** Up to eleven were at RW from 05.07 with up to three noted at EBR from 14.07.
- Turnstone.** A max. of four were at RW on six dates between 20.07 and 31.08.
- Mediterranean Gull.** A first summer bird was at RW on 06.07, where up to three juveniles roosted between 13.07 and 13.08. A juvenile was also at EBR on 11.08.
- Little Gull.** Single birds were reported at RW between 03.07 and 12.07 and 16 and 19.08, with one at EBR on 23.07.
- Common Gull.** An adult flew west at Leighfield Fishponds on 08.07, with two on 16.07.
- Lesser Black-backed Gull.** c.340 flew SW at Leighfield on 24.08.
- Yellow-legged Gull.** Reported only from RW where up to ten were noted between 03.07 and 11.08.
- Arctic Tern.** Single juveniles were at RW on 27.07 and 07.08, with one also on 12.08.

- Black Tern.** Birds passed through intermittently at RW from 01.07, with max counts of 35 on 24.08 and 20 on the following day. Odd birds were at EBR from 05.08 with six on 24.08.
- Turtle Dove.** One sang at Oakham on 02.07 and one was around lagoon 1 at Egleton from 10.07 to 28.07.
- Cuckoo.** One flying SE at RW(Egleton) on 14.07 was the only record.
- Barn Owl.** Birds were noted at RW(Egleton), Brooke, Barleythorpe and Leighfield. Bred successfully at Teigh.
- Little Owl.** Regularly seen at FHP in Aug with other birds noted at Tixover, Barrowden, Leighfield and Wing.
- Tawny Owl.** Noted at Burley Wood, RW(Egleton), Brooke and Priors Coppice.
- Swift.** Breeding activity/screaming parties were reported from Barrowden, Lyddington, north Stamford, Uppingham and Aldgate. The latest Aug birds were three at Barrowden on 23rd.
- Kingfisher.** A better showing than earlier in the year with birds at Leighfield (four on 22.08.), Barleythorpe, EBR, RW, and Wing Fishing Lakes.
- Green Woodpecker.** Family parties or fledged juveniles were noted at Wing, Burley Wood, Williamson Cliff Quarry site, and Barleythorpe. Regular at FHP with birds also noted in Oakham and Tickencote.
- Swallow.** High counts were c.50 at Oakham on 20.08 and 150 at Leighfield on 22.08.
- House Martin.** Good breeding success was reported from Barrowden in July with second broods at four nests in a local colony.
- Yellow Wagtail.** Odd birds reported from Brooke, Oakham allotments and EBR, mainly in July.
- Grey Wagtail.** Singles were at RW(Dam) on 17.07 and at FHP on 19.07.
- Redstart.** Two were on a boundary fence in Exton Park on 05.08, a male was at RW(Egleton) on 25.08, and a female was at the Fisherman's carpark at RW(Hambleton) on 29.08. An excellent showing.
- Whinchat.** Between 14.08 and 31.08 up to three were at Leighfield on four dates. Two were at Luffenham Airfield on 22.08.
- Wheatear.** A juvenile was at FHP on 01.08. One was at Home Farm, Great Casterton on 08.08 and there were nine at Luffenham Airfield on 22.08. Singles were at RW(Egleton) on 19 and 29.08.
- Blackbird.** A latish brood of three fledged in a Stamford garden on 07.08.
- Mistle Thrush.** Flocks of 21 fed on cut pasture in Tickencote Park on 07.07 and were at Wing on 09.08.
- Grasshopper Warbler.** Up to three were still in song at RW(Egleton) to 18.08. One was seen at Barleythorpe on 29.07 and a late bird was ringed at RW on 21.08.
- Sedge Warbler.** Three were singing by the R. Welland at Turtle Bridge on 11.07. Fourteen were counted on the southern section of the Egleton Reserve on 17.07 and there were eight at Leighfield on 31.07.
- Reed Warbler.** A passage bird sang at FHP on 01–02.08.
- Garden Warbler.** Six still in song at RW(Egleton) on 07.07 and two were in Burley Wood on 07.07. Singles were noted at RW(Egleton) on 29.08 and Leighfield on 31.08.
- Lesser Whitethroat.** Five were at Leighfield on 27.08 and eight around the Egleton Reserve on 28.08.
- Chiffchaff.** On 13.07, 22 were noted around Burley Wood and there were 24 around the Egleton Reserve on 28.07 – many thought to be on passage. Two passage birds were in an Oakham garden on 02.08.
- Willow Warbler.** 18 were on the Egleton Reserve on 28.07 – thought likely to be migrants.
- Spotted Flycatcher.** The decline of this species has prompted a good number of records. Family parties were noted near Priors Coppice, FHP, Tunneley Wood, Exton Park, Lyddington and Burley Wood. One or two were noted at Edith Weston, Tixover, Leighfield, Brooke and Barleythorpe.
- Long-tailed Tit.** Flocks of 15 at Wing on 25.07 and 11 at Flitteris Park on 7.08 were reported.
- Willow Tit.** One was heard at the RW(Egleton) car park on 17.08.
- Marsh Tit.** There were two in Gorse Close at RW on 10.07 and 12 were counted in Burley Wood on 13.07.
- Nuthatch.** Regularly heard at FHP during both months, with other reports from Burley Wood, Leighfield, and Gorse Close at RW.
- Treecreeper.** c.20 were noted in Burley Wood on 13.07.
- Raven.** Pairs were noted over Leighfield on 12.07 and 17.08.
- Starling.** c.100 were seen catching flying ants over Barrowden on 05.08.
- Tree Sparrow.** Three were noted at Barleythorpe on 26.07 and 01.08.

**Goldfinch.** c.110 were around Leighfield on 24.08.  
**Linnet.** c.30 fed in oilseed rape on 05.07 in Exton Park and there were c.50 at Leighfield on 17.08.  
**Crossbill.** Passage extended from 16.07 to 11.08 with one or two noted over Barleythorpe, Leighfield and Burley Wood. 11 flew over Oakham on 26.07.

**Bullfinch.** A pair were in a Barrowden garden on 08.07 and a family party was seen at Flitteris Park on 07.08. 16 were counted around the Barleythorpe area on 13.07.

**Corn Bunting.** One was at Luffenham Airfield on 22.08.

### Wildfowl Counts for Rutland Water

	July	August
Mute Swan	494	400
Greylag Goose	554	497
Canada Goose	679	1084
Egyptian Goose	40	63
Ruddy Shelduck	3	1
Shelduck	10	14
Wigeon	1	14
Gadwall	430	961
Teal	38	177
Mallard	974	1164
Garganey	-	5
Shoveler	18	299
Red-crested Pochard	-	1
Pochard	10	80
Tufted Duck	1315	3136

	July	August
Goldeneye	1	1
Ruddy Duck	-	1
Little Grebe	10	49
Great Crested Grebe	254	406
Cormorant	233	287
Little Egret	33	23
Grey Heron	24	33
Water Rail	2	-
Moorhen	67	109
Coot	1209	1698
TOTALS	6400	10464

## BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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### July/August 2009

Roy Lemmon found two unusual plants for Rutland. At Gibbet Gorse (Rutland Water) he found **Balm** *Melissa officinalis* – an escape from cultivation where gardeners call it Lemon Balm because of its smell when crushed. At the Lyndon reserve he found **Small Teasel** – a biennial near-relation to the Teasel but smaller.

The most unusual sighting must be by Pat Simmonds, who found just one plant of **Cut-leaved Selfheal** *Prunella laciniata* which, as well as having cut leaves, has a white flower clearly very different from the Selfheal we all know.

The **Pyramidal Orchid** did very well in some areas, especially Bloody Oaks Quarry where 56 were found, much the highest total ever.

Terry Mitcham spotted **Nettle-leaved Bellflower** at Tunneley Wood in July, and at both Ingthorpe and Welland Spinney Barrowden in August.

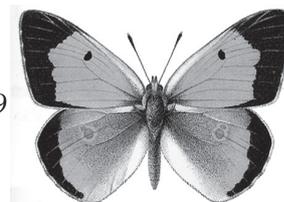
As August progressed only the autumn specialists were found, such as **Autumn Gentian** at Bloody Oaks Quarry and Fort Henry, and the tail end of **Field Scabious** and **Common Toadflax** on most country verges.

Thank you for the Verge reports – keep them coming!

Reports from: A & L Biddle, C Jones, R Lemmon, J Mallet, T Mitcham, P Simmonds, P Tomalin, G & L Worrall.

## LEPIDOPTERA NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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### July/August 2009

#### BUTTERFLIES

Firstly, the butterfly species which has really hit the headlines this summer has been the **Painted Lady**. It has been recorded by many members throughout the County in all types of habitat and has often been quite numerous. Some examples include 46 in Stamford Brickyard Quarry, over 25 in Ketton Quarry, 15–20 on Verge 7 at Great Casterton, 15 in Oakham, 13 on 20 yards of thistles at Wing and 12 at Leighfield Fishponds. Secondly, the other migratory butterfly deserving a special mention is the **Clouded Yellow** with 4 records this year so far. One was seen at Pickworth at the end of July and another at Exton in early August. On the afternoon preceding the Society's moth evening at Ketton Quarry, a female of the 'pale form' was observed there and later in the month 3 or 4 were recorded at Great Casterton.

**Small Skippers** were found in very large numbers at Barleythorpe (50), Egleton Reserve (40), and Ketton Quarry (10+) with smaller numbers on other sites. Overall, this species has been much more successful than in 2008. On the other hand **Large Skippers** have been recorded less frequently this year, with three quarries, Verge 7 and Great Casterton being the only named sites. **Essex Skippers** were identified at Beaumont Chase Farm and Exton.

Over 50 **Brimstones** were counted in Ketton Quarry in mid-August, whilst elsewhere odd ones were seen in ten different areas. **Large** and **Small Whites** and also **Green Veined Whites** were prolific and well recorded, especially in the quarries and on the reserves.

Burley Wood was visited in both July and August when 5 **Purple Hairstreaks** were found on each occasion. A further record also came from Lax Hill. One **White Letter Hairstreak** was observed in a member's garden in Oakham in July. **Small Coppers** have continued to do well this year with 14 records during the two months.

**Brown Argus** were reported from five areas with 10 being seen in Ketton Quarry. The **Common Blue** was a well-recorded species on numerous sites with more seen than in 2008. The largest numbers were in Stamford Brickyard and Ketton quarries with other good totals at Bloody Oaks and Clipsham quarries, Clipsham Park Wood,

Empingham and Verge 7. The second broods of **Holly Blues** have been few this year, with reports only coming from Barrowden, Empingham, Great Casterton and Oakham. Similarly **Red Admirals** have only been seen singly in a few sites.

It is pleasing to note that **Small Tortoiseshell** numbers have increased this summer, especially in members' gardens where they have often frequented Buddleia. Both Rutland Water reserves have been mentioned in reports and a number were seen on Verge 7 at Great Casterton with other records coming from many areas. **Peacocks** have had a good year in most parts of the County with the exception of Wing, where they were thought to be scarce! The maximum number seen in Ketton Quarry in August was 25 and other large numbers were found at Leighfield Fishponds (18) and Egleton Reserve (10+), with smaller numbers on numerous other sites.

**Commas** were seen throughout July and the first half of August and were often said to be in very good condition as though they were freshly emerged. After reporting large numbers of **Speckled Woods** in June, numbers have been much lower recently and thus fewer records were received. During the first week of July, over 100 **Marbled Whites** were counted in Ketton Quarry and the final one seen there was on July 31st. Three were observed on two occasions in Bloody Oaks Quarry and a single one was found in Clipsham Quarry.

**Gatekeepers** were said to be 'abundant' on Beaumont Chase Farm, 23 were seen in Clipsham Quarry, 18 in Clipsham Park Wood and over 15 were observed at Flitteris Park, Ketton Quarry and on the Egleton Reserve. This was certainly a well-recorded species.

**Meadow Browns** also yielded large numbers, with over 100 seen at Ketton Quarry, over 25 in Bloody Oaks Quarry and 16+ at the Lyndon Reserve. Numerous records were received for the whole of July and the first half of August. Two records for **Small Heath** came from North Luffenham in July and Great Casterton in August. During July, **Ringlets** were on the wing in large numbers in some areas, for example Ketton Quarry (100+) and Bloody Oaks Quarry (25+) but overall, records for this species would appear to be fewer than in 2008.

Finally, I thought it might be of interest to members to pass on two pieces of information recently received.

1 'On July 31st a Buddleia bush at Leighfield Fishponds had 12 Painted Ladies, 18 Peacocks and several other species on it – an amazing sight!'

2 'In Barrowden six local Buddleia bushes were visited and the average numbers of butterflies seen on them were 10 Small Whites, 8 Large Whites, 8 Peacock, 4 Painted Ladies, 2 Commas, 1 Red Admiral and 1 Small Tortoiseshell.'

The summer of 2009 has certainly been quite memorable for the number of butterflies, which have been appreciated by many members judging by the number of record cards received. Thank you!

## MOTHS

An evening meeting was held at Ketton Quarry on August 7th when traps were operated near the car park area to enable members to experience recording at a tripod light and to see species attracted to the box traps. The final total was 61 species but numbers within the species were fairly low following heavy rain on the previous day. The scarcest moth seen that night was the **Square Spotted Clay**, which frequents woodland flowers and is classified as 'notable'. Members also saw 2 **Tissue** moths, which are unusual in our area.

Other sessions undertaken recently have included our regular visits to Eyebrook Reservoir where the best moth was a **False Mocha**, which is also a rare 'notable' species and was last seen locally in Barrowden in 2004. A **Gold Spot** was also new for this site and we had the migrant **Dark Sword Grass**.

At Rutland Water Reedbeds, the best single night during the period yielded 141 species on July 4th. We were invited to run traps at Dawn's Paddock at Braunston and although only 42 species were recorded, one third of these were new for the site. This was due to us going in late August when previous visits in 05, 06 and 07 had all been in July.

The garden trap at Barrowden recorded 65 micro- and 146 macro-species during July and August with the two most interesting species being **Small Rufous** and the **Crescent**.

A tripod light operated adjacent to Lyndon Wood in early July attracted 105 species.

The Edith Weston garden trap was run on seven nights in total and four new species were added here. At Barnsdale Gardens in July a **Bleached Pug** was a first for Rutland and 13 new species were added to the site list out of 119 caught in four nights of trapping. In August, on five nights 23 new species were added out of a total of 134. These included an **Old Lady**. Several new micros were identified by a visiting recorder from Huntingdonshire.

Old Lady moths were also found at Barleythorpe, in a bedroom in Oakham and in Empingham. This large moth roosts by day in buildings and is not often seen, in fact I am told that the one located in Empingham was the first record there for 20 years!

**Hummingbird Hawk** moths have been observed by several members in Oakham and also at Barnsdale and Edith Weston. Several records were received for **6-Spot Burnet** moths and also for **Cinnabar** larvae. Other reports of larvae have included those of the **Mullein** moth at Bloody Oaks Quarry and an **Elephant Hawk** moth in Barrowden.

I was asked by a non-member (who had enquired from the library) to identify a caterpillar from a photograph as he had a large number causing devastation amongst his *Bergenia* plants. These proved to be the very attractive tufted larvae of the **Vapourer** moth. The adult male can be seen flying in gardens in the sunshine but the female is wingless and is only seen on tree trunks.

A number of species have been identified at Barleythorpe, being attracted to lights. These have included a **Bordered Beauty** and a **Gold Spot**. It is good to receive cards from a new area of Rutland and also to know that these records have come from two members completely independently.

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*Recent records came from: G & V Arnold, A & L Biddle, T Caldicott, B Dickerson, R & J Follows, C H Gallimore, J Harvey, T Jefferis, C R Jones, A L Lawrence, R Lemmon, J Mallett, P & E Mann, D Manning, T Mitcham, E Northen, D & B Parker, D Perrill, P Rudkin, A Russell, M Tyler, D Whitefield, M Winslow and G & L Worrall*

# ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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## July/August 2009

The mini heat wave during June aided the development of the orthoptera. The weather forecasters told us to expect barbecues and scorching conditions. I quote from a national newspaper headline of 28th July 2009. 'Scorcher? July's a washout.' This did not seem to affect the crickets and grasshoppers. August was not particularly a scorcher either. Nevertheless, some interesting stories have unfolded.

The 2008 site of the Short-winged Conehead disappeared under the cutter. But there was a happy ending. Alan Chiverton decided to come along with wife Gill, and we visited the Exton footpath and meadows. I gave Alan two catching pots, and off he went to a rough grassy edge of field. Alan caught male and female Long-winged Coneheads in fast time. To our delight, they were both macropterous (long-winged forms). These are the forms that can fly well, which results in movements and new areas colonised. The point is proven by the fact that, in the last two years this species was only found in the valley meadows, which is approx. 200 yards up the valley, where the current ones were captured.

Visiting orthopterists have had an input this season, regular contributor and advisor Roy Frost, and a new name this season, Richard Rogers, from Notts. Roy keeps me informed of happenings over the border, in Derbyshire and Notts, which is of great interest in comparing results.

On the Society's weekend June visit to Suffolk this year, Peter Scott took a photograph of a grasshopper. Peter sent it to me via email, to identify. I was unsure, so I passed it on to David Richmond, the Norfolk recorder. David confirmed it as the Stripe-winged Grasshopper. 'It has recently began to extend its range, since the hot summer of 2003, and can turn up in the most unlikely places. It is no longer restricted to chalk grassland. It has occurred in Notts, so listen out for it in Rutland.'

I have memorised its song, but have not heard it in Rutland yet. Another case of climate change!

### Bush Crickets

#### Oak Bush Cricket, *Meconema thalassinum*

Always an under recorded species, and again reflected in only two sightings this season so far, both observed on 19th August: one, seen on outside light at Barleythorpe; the other, found in moth trap at Barnsdale Gardens.

#### Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

Four, stridulating males, in small patch of bramble, with long grasses, 25th July, behind the small woodland, Tickencote Warren Plantation. New square for this species, SK 975 113. Large colony, near verge, at junction of the Hambleton Peninsular road with the A606, 21st August.

#### Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Metrioptera roeselii*

An abundance of reports of this very successful cricket. **July** sightings: stridulating males, in the BBQ area of Ketton Quarries. Massive numbers in long grasses of both verges on the protected Verge 4, Bloody Oaks. Additional numbers found further up the verge, on the A1 slip road. Large numbers all over the Bloody Oaks reserve, and on the roadside verge outside the reserve. The neglected farmland at Quarry Farm, Little Casterton Road, Stamford, (inside Rutland), still retains its large population. 2 stridulating males,

just off public footpath, close to Eayres Lodge, Pickworth. 2 males heard in long grasses, on the southern edge of Burley Woods. 30+ males heard in rough grasses, Mill Hill, Barleythorpe. 2 on grass verge, near Brooke.

On the Lyndon reserve at Rutland Water, on a visit with friends on 27th July, the sun at 11.30 am encouraged a few to sunbathe. We observed a male and a female, both macropterous (long winged forms), with 2 normal winged males. 2 males approached a female, but she did not respond, and moved away. On our way back along the farm track, we noted that the hay had been cut, but many had survived, and lots of stridulating was heard in the rough corners and thick grasses at the field edges.

**August** sightings: all the well-established colonies occupied with large numbers. The Exton Horn Mill footpath and meadows, and the reedy ditches. The North Arm 1, South shore, at Rutland Water. Ketton Quarries rocky trail. At the Eggleton reserve, in the usual locations near Fieldfare Hide, and this season, in the vegetation at the side of the boardwalk up to Tern Hide. For the first time, I wandered behind Harrier Hide, and was rewarded with good numbers, and also in the vegetation in front of the Hide. Alistair Lawrence

and myself visited Flitteris Park, outside of Barleythorpe. We park our cars next to the Radio Relay Station (which is a familiar landmark in this part of Rutland). Large numbers found here are new squares for Rutland.

Natural England kindly invited Roy Lemmon and myself, again to accompany them to private farmland at Ingthorpe Farm, Great Casterton, on 11th August. Roesel's were abundant in this location. Second visit to Bloody Oaks reserve confirmed previous numbers. On 9 August, Clive Jones and myself surveyed Beaumont Chase Farm, Uppingham, for Joe and Mary Nourish. After missing last year's visit, we found that numbers were normal in the top area, but slightly down in the Rabbit Bank. Joe had cut the grass, but many had survived on the rough corners.

#### **Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus discolor***

Slightly later maturing than the Roesel's Bush Cricket, but when established, they occupy the same habitats, and can often be heard stridulating side by side. First stridulating heard on 26th July. **July** sightings: nymphs were found in Burley Woods, on 18th July, with 12 observed on wooden posts at the Egleton Reserve, on 22nd July. Two stridulating males were at neglected farmland, Quarry Farm, on 26th July.

**August** sightings: on 15th August, Alan and Gill Chiverton and myself checked the Exton footpath and meadow, in readiness for the forthcoming Society visit in early September. Alan caught a male and female, and both were macropterous (long winged forms). Well done! The reedy ditches in the valley had good numbers stridulating. 2 males were heard on Verge 7, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton. 3 adults observed in long grasses in rides, in southern area of Burley Woods. At Beaumont Chase Farm, numbers slightly down on 2008. Bloody Oaks reserve, had only 2 stridulating males, on the far bank, 11th August. A visiting orthopterist located a male and female, in a fallow area of a field, just south of Ashwell, on 21st August. However, on the Egleton reserve, on 30th August, large numbers reflected those of Roesel's Bush Cricket, and were found in the same habitats. Good news!

#### **Short-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus dorsalis***

For the third year running, there is a very interesting story to relate. The excitement of the first year (2007) was for Rutland a (tiny colony) record, on the Hambleton Peninsular Road. Then in 2008, a group of us found a large colony in rushes, on the North Arm 1, south shore, of Rutland Water. Now to 2009; I was contacted by Richard Rogers, a Notts. naturalist, and wildlife

photographer. Richard inquired about the location of this green, attractive bush cricket. I agreed to meet up with him, on 19th August. Richard was already on his way back from the site, on the south shore. Then for a shock! The rushes had all been cut down. The colony was no more. However, he had gone on over two more fields, and had discovered another colony, in a similar habitat. So, we went back to the site together, and had a great time, observing males and females, and nymphs, and listening to their stridulations. The stretches of rushes were 60 yards in length, slightly longer than the destroyed site. Richard later revisited the site, and took some stunning digital photographs. The new map reference is: SK903 079.

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

Bat Detectors were at work, finding this spotted creature in wide scattered areas. It continues to be one of our most common insects. They do not fly; so can be found every season in the same locations. First stridulating heard on 9 August, at Beaumont Chase Farm. Our web master, Peter Scott, had a surprise when he observed a male in his garden, in North Luffenham, on 8th August, the first for his garden. For the remainder of this period, all the regular habitats were surveyed in August, and large numbers were present. At Beaumont Chase Farm, on the Rabbit Bank, the nearby Deepdale Brook, and in Hawthorn bushes, along the lower area of the farm. Bloody Oaks reserve, well established in most areas. And on protected Verge 7, with Natural England, one male caught and admired, with 10+ stridulating males in Ash tree. In Bramble, at Exton/Horn Mill footpath, and finally in Ash trees, on the south shore of North Arm 1, Rutland Water.

#### **Groundhoppers**

##### **Slender Groundhopper, *Tetrix subulata***

Always pleasing to receive record cards for this tiny hopper. There are more than we realise. They take much searching for, but often are found by chance, as the following story demonstrates. The credit goes to Richard Rogers, from Notts. On 9th August, as Richard and myself were enjoying the Short-winged Coneheads, on North Arm 1, south shore of Rutland Water, Richard spotted a tiny beast moving around on the bare earth. On closer inspection, it was a Slender Groundhopper. I caught it for close identification. We then noticed several more, milling around on the soil. Absolutely thrilled, as this is a new square for this species. (SK903 079, 28 °C, dry and sunny, 12.30 pm). Tim Caldicott found one, next to the Eight Riding Tree, at Burley Woods, on 9th July; and on

his famous Brooke Road allotment, he found 4 on 5th and 6 on 13th August.

**Common Groundhopper**, *Tetrix undulata*

The same story of a new square applies to this species. As Richard and myself inspected the Slender Groundhoppers, on 9th August, we found a colony of Common Groundhoppers in the same spot. Excellent! On 20th July, Tim Caldicott observed one, on a wide grass footpath, just west of Leighfield Fish Ponds.

**Grasshoppers**

**Common Green Grasshopper**, *Omocestus viridulus*

An enigmatic grasshopper! However, when Alistair Lawrence and myself surveyed Flitteris Park near Barleythorpe, on 7th August, we had new squares for this species. The purring song was heard in a pasture field, in two separate wet gulleys, then in long grasses in the sheep pasture. Finally, as we reached the cars, one male, heard in rough grass corner, beneath the Radio Relay Station, SK 829 086.

**Field Grasshopper**, *Chorthippus brunneus*

Sightings improving over the years! **July** records were: 5+ nymphs, near Eight Riding Tree, Burley Woods, on the 9th. On the Brooke Road, Oakham, allotments, adults and nymphs on 19th; 3 nymphs on 28th.

**August** records: digital photographs sent in from Ketton Quarries, on 18th, of adults typically resting on stones, in the rock area of footpath, near entrance gate. These showed the various colour variations, which this species is well known for. 2 adults on edge of rough grassy corner, beneath the Radio Relay Station, Flitteris Park, constituting a new square. One pair sunning themselves on dry stone wall, on Verge 7, Pickworth Road. A further visit to Ketton Quarries on 19th August resulted in 10 adults on the stones. 9 adults, reported from the Brooke Road allotments, during August.

**Meadow Grasshopper**, *Chorthippus parallelus*

This species, and the Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, are the most common and widespread grasshoppers in Rutland. Nearly always found side by side. **July** records: massive numbers at BBQ area of Ketton Quarries, and further into the quarry, at the North Glade. Bloody Oaks reserve. Verge 4, Bloody Oaks verges. Exton/Horn Mill, footpath and meadows. In the rough grasses,

on North Arm 1, south shore of Rutland Water. Finally, on the reserves at Rutland Water. West of the Interpretive Centre, at Lyndon. In the rough corners and edges of the cut hay fields, large numbers have survived.

**August** records: new squares at Flitteris Park, near Barleythorpe, SK 827 082. Many males stridulating, and adults and nymphs found, in sheep pasture, and wet gulleys, and in long grasses at side of fields. Beaumont Chase Farm, the expected large colonies in the boundary ditch, and the Deepdale brook. Also, on the Rabbit Bank, and Marlstone Rock bed, of the bank. Bloody Oaks reserve, 11th August. Finally, amazing populations, as expected, on the Egleton reserve during August, in the areas near Tern Hide, Harrier Hide and Fieldfare Hide, which is south east of the Birdwatching Centre.

**Lesser Marsh Grasshopper**, *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Common and widespread. **July** records: smaller numbers this month. They tend not to sing in the duller weather, unlike the Meadow Grasshopper, and therefore are harder to locate. 3 adults stridulating, and 3 courting pairs, in small-uncut corner, behind Tickencote Warren wood. Small numbers caught and identified, in rough corners and grass edges of cut hay fields, on the Lyndon reserve, west of the Interpretive Centre.

**August** records: 3 courting pairs in grassy corner, under the Radio Relay Mast, Flitteris Park, new square, SK 829 086. Beaumont Chase Farm, only 4 stridulating males, and one female caught, on the Rabbit Bank and adjoining field, on 9th August. However, the conditions were warm, and dry, but a 4/8-cloud layer, which reduced the sun hours. One female, caught and identified, on Ingthorpe Farm, 11th August. But I admit to warm, sunny weather. However, things picked up, on 15th August, when Alan and Gill Chiverton accompanied me to the Exton/Horn Mill footpath and meadows. With relief, we found large numbers of stridulating males, and a few nymphs, in rough grasses at the edge of wheat crops, and down in the valley meadows. 5 males heard, on North Arm 1, south shore of Rutland Water, and 4 males heard in Ketton Quarries BBQ area on 19th August. Last word to the Egleton reserve, on 30th August. Good numbers heard and observed in the areas of Tern Hide, Harrier Hide and Fieldfare Hide (south east of the Birdwatching Centre).

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Many thanks to contributors for their records and photographs: V Arnold, G Chiverton, A Chiverton, T Caldicott, R Frost, C Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, R Rogers, P Rudkin, P Scott, M Winslow.

## PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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### July 2009

The great majority of records this month come from the last week, perhaps members were on holiday at the beginning! On the 5th a report of Robin's Pincushion galls on Wild Rose in Bloody Oaks Quarry drew my attention to the fact that they were on tiny seedlings often not more than 15 cm high. I have seen this quite often and in other places; I can only imagine that predation by rabbits has something to do with it. There were just two other early records, both of the Stem Gall on Creeping Thistle which were on the 6th at Gorsefield Wood and the 10th at Egleton. Robin's Pincushions were also seen on Wild Rose at Egleton on 17th, Verge 7 on 23rd, in Clipsham Quarry on 26th and near Barleythorpe on 29th. This is a common gall but all records of it are very welcome.

An interesting record of the Dogwood Rivet Gall came from Clipsham Quarry on 26th and this is one that is caused by a Gall Midge *Craneiobia corni*. The final flurry of activities were on the 30th when a batch of records came from Lyndon Centre and Gibbet Gorse; they were on a wide

variety of plants from Ferns through Cleavers to trees such as Lime, Alder, Willow and Sloe.

### August 2009

A quieter month with the chance to accompany a group of Natural England personnel to a couple of sites normally off limits. These were Shotbolts Farm, Ingthorpe and a set-aside field margin near Great Casterton, both on the 11th. The former yielded a Leaf Gall on Field Maple and another on Perennial Sow Thistle, and the latter a gall-forming rust on Sun Spurge. None of these are unusual but valuable records nevertheless.

A quick trip to Bloody Oaks Quarry on the same day, the 11th, produced galls on Marjoram, Germander Speedwell and Hairy Violet as well as a Sputnik Gall on Wild Rose. These galls are small, under 1 cm diameter, usually with several spikes protruding from the outer surface, hence the name. They are caused by a Gall Wasp and sometimes but less commonly are smooth, i.e. they do not carry spikes. Final records for this month were for Robin's Pincushion on Wild Rose from Leighfield and Egleton on 22nd and 25th respectively.

Thanks to T Caldicott, M Grimes, J Harvey, R Lemmon, P Mann, D Parker and P Rudkin

## INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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### July 2009

#### Odonata

Hawker dragonflies were the most noted this month. Marmalade making was in progress in Oakham when a **Southern Hawker** flew in through an open back door and had to be rescued! (More exciting than the usual wasps!) **Southern Hawk**s were recorded on more than one occasion in Wing and also in a garden in Barrowden. A **Migrant Hawker** was seen in Burley Wood. **Brown Hawk**ers were noted at the L&RWT meeting at Bloody Oaks Quarry and a single specimen flew across a garden at Barrowden. At the beginning of the month a **Banded Demoiselle** was seen in Barrowden. Two **White-legged Damselflies** were recorded at Leighfield Fishponds.

#### Hemiptera

**Forest Bugs** *Pentatoma rufipes* (also called Red-legged shieldbugs) were recorded at Wing and Burley Wood. A **Pied Shieldbug** *Sehirus bicolour* was noted at Oakham.

#### Trichoptera

Specimens of the largest British **Caddis Fly** *Phryganea grandis* were seen on two occasions in Edith Weston.

#### Diptera

A **Midge** *Cerotelion lineatus* of the family Mycetophilidae was recorded in Uppingham. Hoverflies were much in evidence this month and the following records were received – a **Brindled Hoverfly** *Helophilus pendulus* was noted at North Luffenham; a **Dainty bee hoverfly** *Leucozona lucorum* was recorded in Uppingham; 'hundreds'

of **Marmalade Hoverflies** *Episyrphus balteatus* were noted on wasteland flowers at Barleythorpe. Interestingly the recorder notes 'this hoverfly has migrated in large numbers this year'.

#### Hymenoptera

A **Hill cuckoo-bee** *Bombus rupestris* was recorded at Barrowden - 'it seemed disorientated' and orange mites were noted on its thorax.

#### Coleoptera

**Orange Ladybirds** *Halyzia 16-guttata* were recorded at Edith Weston and Lyndon Pond. **7-spot Ladybirds** *Coccinella 7-punctata* were seen in good numbers at Edith Weston and 4/5 were seen on Verge 7. A **10-spot Ladybird** *Adalia 10-punctata* was noted at Leighfield. **Fourteen-spot Ladybirds** *Propylia 14-punctata* were recorded at Burley Wood and Leighfield. A **Kidney-spot Ladybird** *Chilocorus renipustulatus* was noted at RW Egleton. **Harlequin Ladybirds** *Harmonia axyridis* were seen in Edith Weston, Oakham and at Leighfield Fishponds.

## August 2009

#### Odonata

Three **Brown Hawker Dragonfly** records were received for this month. One sighting from a garden in Wing, a single insect in flight at Beaumont Chase and occasional sightings from a Barrowden garden. A **Migrant Hawker** was recorded noted in Barleythorpe, a **Common Darter** was recorded in Wing and **Southern Hawkets** were also seen over the month at Wing.

#### Hemiptera

**Forest Bugs** *Pentatoma rufipes* – six were recorded at Barnsdale Gardens over two different dates; 2 were noted at Edith Weston; several were in moth traps on two different occasions at Eyebrook. An interestingly shaped **Spiked Shieldbug** *Picromerus bidens* was recorded at Barrowden. A

**Hawthorn Shieldbug** *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* was observed at Barleythorpe. About 20 **Dock Bugs** *Coreus marginatus* were recorded at the allotments in Brooke Road, Oakham.

The second recorded sighting in Rutland of a **Treehopper** *Centrotus cornutus* came from Barnsdale Gardens.

#### Hymenoptera

Two **Buff-tailed Bumblebees** *Bombus terrestris* were observed on a flower at Barleythorpe. A **Red-tailed Bumble** *Bombus lapidarius* worker was noted at Ingthorpe, and a queen *Bombus lapidarius* was noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry. Eighteen **Honeybees** *Apis mellifera* were recorded on artichoke flowers at Oakham. A **Hornet** *Vespro crabro* was recorded at Barnsdale Gardens. Hornets were doing well at Eyebrook. In the middle of the month a large number were caught in moth traps at Eyebrook and at the end of the month 'a nest was spotted high up on the trunk of a nearby tree! In the morning one of the traps was full of hornets!! Great care was needed to avoid getting stung'.

#### Coleoptera

Two specimens of the **Burying beetle** *Nicrophorus humator* were recorded at Edith Weston; and single specimens of the **Burying beetle** *Nicrophorus vespillo* were recorded at Uppingham and Edith Weston. Two **Orange Ladybirds** were caught in a moth trap at Eyebrook and a record also came from Barleythorpe. Two records for the **Pine Ladybird** *Exochomus 4-pustulatus* also came from Barleythorpe. **7-spot Ladybirds** were well recorded this month – they were noted in a garden at Barrowden, at Barrowden Cricket Field, there were 'lots' at Edith Weston, and 'big numbers' at Barleythorpe. Lastly a **14-spot Ladybird** *Propylea 14-punctata* was noted at Brooke Road, Oakham.

*It is good to note that despite dire predictions 7-spot ladybirds are still well recorded, and also a good cross-section of various other ladybirds, as well as Harlequins.*

*Thanks to the following members for more interesting records and photographs: V Arnold, T Caldicott, C Gallimore, D Grimes, J Harvey, C R Jones, R Lemmon, J Mallett, D Perril, P Scott, L & G Worrall.*

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## GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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### July/August 2009

There was more rain in July than in the two previous months, but it was still warm.

#### Essendine, Verge 5 and cutting top

25.7: 1 on the verge opposite cutting top; 2 in cutting top between A6121 and footbridge over railway. Numbers have been remarkably low this year, which may be related to wet and windy weather in the two previous years' glowing seasons in this open area.

#### Ketton Quarry, around Geological Trail

4.7: 5 on scraped area, 3 in mown nettles by fence with reserve, 1 near gate to trail by Japanese Knotweed, 1 by scrub in medium height vegetation, 7 near rockface (where barbecue used to be), 2 by steps near face. 19 in total.

late/7: c20 near carpark end of scraped area. It is good to know they are still here, at least round the edges of the scraped area and in nooks and crannies. Other areas of reserve were not visited.

**Barrowden** No further sightings.

#### Clipsham Quarry

Errata from June's report: Moth trappers reported 5 females, not males as given, sorry.

11.7: **SK980155**: 15 in all: 8 on Clay Bank, 3 near office/weighbridge, 4 on North Bank.

#### Over the Border:

##### Barnack Hills and Holes

The warden reported on short public Walks: end June: 3 in 1st place, 4 in second. Early July: 6 in 1st place, 8 in second. Most were in longer

grass under sheltering trees in this rather open habitat. Numbers appear low, but it is possible more may have been elsewhere on this large rather open site. Reduction in sheep grazing is being considered, which could benefit glow-worms as well as orchids. Sheep's urine has been found to be not good for snails, and without snails to eat, glow-worm larvae starve. The warden believes g-ws are still present in other local reserves such as Castor Hanglands, though surveys have not been carried out recently.

#### Bedford Purlieus

15.7: 6 glows at TL 048994/5, to west of track on east side of wood. Super news!

#### Stonesby Quarry Reserve, Leics

None reported this year, but in 2007 one female noted at Bescaby Lane end.

#### Corby area, Northants

April, May: Larvae found during pipeline works; conservation measures taken.

#### Hodnet, Shropshire

Local newspaper notes a summer glow-worm walk organised by Shropshire Council Parks and Countryside sites on a disused railway.

#### Transylvania

July: None found, but lots of crickets, grasshoppers and bats!

#### Russia

None reported from large farming area some 200 miles from Moscow.

*Thanks to all: P Armitage, AJ Biddle, G and F Chiverton, P Clayton, R Follows, C Gardiner, J Harris, J Harvey, R Lee, P Mann, E Mann, B Parker, D Parker, A Russell, J Whiteford, L Worrall.*

## MYCOLOGY NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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### July/August 2009

Unsettled: some heavy showers particularly in July, warm dry spells. Very few larger fungi about. There was an August flourish of yellow waxcaps at Bloody Oaks Quarry, but they struggled to mature. Sycamore Tarspot seems happy, though. However, a huge triumph occurred in July in Uppingham with the finding of a Summer Truffle: see below.

#### RESERVES

**Gibbet Gorse SK901058**: 30.7: Anamorph states of powdery mildew *Erisiphe depressa* on Lesser Burdock and *E heraclei* on Hogweed; rust telia *Puccinia arenariae* on Red Campion; at wood entrance 4 very small emergent Yellow Fieldcaps *Bolbitius vitellinus* and 3 gone over.

**Lyndon Centre SK895056**: Anamorph state of powdery mildews *Sawadaea bicornis* on Field

Maple and *Microsphaera alphitoides* on Oak; uredinial and telial stages of rust *Phragmidium violaceum* on Bramble.

**Bloody Oaks Quarry SK971108: 11.8:** Very heavy infestation of Sycamore Tarspot; rust *Coleosporium tussilaginis* telia on Red Bartsia and Eyebright, rust *Puccinia violae* telia on Hairy Violet; and an excellent sighting of 50-60 yellow waxcaps *Hygrocybe persistens (langei)*, although they appeared to have begun to emerge and then dried. Their habitat on the old quarry bottom has very thin soil and they probably didn't get enough rain when they needed it.

#### FIELDS, GARDENS, VERGES

**Uppingham SK866001 7:** Brilliant discovery of a Summer Truffle *Tuber aestivum* among Silver Birch roots near other trees, in ferruginous loam over Northampton sand, in Clive Jones's daughter's garden. When it reached me it had dried and looked like a small hard rough lump of tarmac. After rehydration, the interior was creamy brown with white veins, and pungent, the exterior firm with black angled warts. A mould quickly developed over the damp fungus and a small black fly emerged a few days later. A first for the Society and Rutland, and I believe also for VC55. Gilbert White noted truffle hunters with dogs doing well with them at Selborne in the 18th century, and several families carried on the truffle trade till the 1930s. We don't have the really valuable continental forms, and Summer Truffles are now 'widespread, rare' in this country. The only other truffle we have had was the basidiomycete version of the usual ascomycete form, a *Melanogaster broomeianus* in the Beech wood at Ketton Quarry in 1993, which looked like a smooth brown potato half visible on soil and that is the only Vice-county record to date. Our lime-rich soils suit them.

**Nr Brooke crossroads: 4.7:** Several fresh and mature Dryad's Saddle *Polyporus squamosus* on old cut Ash stumps.

**Verge 7, Gt Casterton-Pickworth TF000116: 23.7:** Teleomorph state of powdery mildew *Erisiphe heraclei* on both Cow Parsley and Hogweed, anamorph states of *E sordida* on Hoary Plantain and *Sphaerotheca fusca* on both Nipplewort and Dandelion; telial stage of rust *Puccinia lapsanae* on Nipplewort.

**Shotbolts Farm, Ingthorpe SK992084: 11.8:** Powdery mildews: teleomorph states of *E heraclei* on Hogweed and *Podosphaera clandestina* var *clandestina* on Hawthorn, and anamorph state of *Sawadaea bicornis* on Field Maple.

**Beaumont Chase, Rabbit Bank SP842994: 9.8:** Many Dung Mottlegills *Panaeolus semiovatus* on sheep and rabbit droppings on the short sward.

**Gunthorpe Park SK871570: 16.8:** Giant Puffball *Calvatia gigantea* on edge of small paddock and wooded edge.

**Barrowden: 2.8** On edge of Cricket Field SK948003: Newly sporulating creamy orange edge of large hard lumpy algae-covered brackets *Rigidoporus ulmarius* at base of old stump with brown rot. What little bark remains looks more like Ash than Elm, though both are extant nearby. The name means 'relating to Elm' but the fungus did not conform with the bracket *Perenniporia fraxinea* which means 'relating to Ash', though both can be on other broadleaves. **5.8:** Scatter of fungi in cut outfield including Brown Mottlegill *Panaeolus foenicicii*. **11.8:** On our lawn: 1 Blackening Waxcap *Hygrocybe conica* - a very pleasing first for us. **15.8:** Under usual Oak on the Green by duckpond: 12 Ruby Boletes *Boletus rubellus* close to trunk and 1 in grass at canopy edge between rails to duckpond. No sign of any other fungi on the dry, mown Greens.

Many thanks for records from: T Caldicott, C Jones, R Lemmon, A Mortimer, P Rudkin, G Smith, G Worrall, L Worrall.

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## MAMMAL REPORT

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## BAT REPORT

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