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NOTICEBOARD

Terry Mitcham (page 4) is the only Recorder to put in a good word for the winter weather! But as we are now approaching summer, you may want to check the 'Items for loan' on page 11 in preparation for the new season.

Your New Summer Programme and Permit Card

Comes with this Fieldfare – please sign it NOW (juniors should sign on each parent's card), and carry it when visiting Eyebrook or Burley Wood or if buying books at Uppingham Sports and Books. Some meetings are at different times on different days than you might expect: three are on Sundays, three on Saturdays and one is a Tuesday evening; two start at 10.00 am but others are all different, so there is plenty of choice in both events and timings. Do hope you enjoy them.

Annual General Meeting 5th March 2010

Including 7 visitors, 92 people were present. The following were elected for the year: President: Sir Clifford Boulton; Chairman: Ann Tomlinson; Secretary: Linda Worrall; Treasurer: Martin Grimes; Membership Secretary: Graham Worrall; Programme Secretary: Dawn Whitefield; Fieldfare Editor: Hendrina Ellis; other committee members: Linda Biddle, Gill Chiverton, Jenny Harris, Andrew Lear, Peter Scott. Martin Grimes has taken over the Treasurership as Derek and Frances Lee have left the county after a long period of careful work for the Society. Finances are in good shape, the Society has had another active and stimulating year and Ann Tomlinson thanked everyone for all they do. Such support also means the Society can speak up on local issues where the environment needs consideration. The sound system at indoor meetings has been very useful for a long time, and the Committee will now be looking into its renewal.

Loughborough Naturalists' Club LROS www.lros.org.uk

Steve Lister of LROS has written to the Society as follows: *Membership of the LROS committee has recently fallen below the usual number and so we are seeking a few new members. According to our constitution the committee should contain at least one member from Rutland. Would anyone be interested in joining the LROS committee this May? The basic requirements are an interest in the local birdlife and a willingness to attend most of the 5 or 6 committee meetings each year. Meetings are held at Holly Hayes, Birstall, on a Monday evening. Should anyone be interested, please contact me at 6 Albert Promenade, Loughborough, LE11 1RE, telephone 01509 829495; or the LROS Secretary, Mrs Marion Vincent, 48 Templar Way, Rothley, LE7 7RB, telephone 0116 2303405.*

Fieldfare

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RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY events

OUTDOOR MEETINGS

Sunday April 18 **LAUNDE PARK WOOD** **10.00 am**

A joint walk with the Leicester and Rutland Wildlife Trust led by Trust Conservation Officer and RNHS Committee member Andy Lear. Meet at OS Explorer 234, SK800033. Park at wood entrance.

Saturday May 8 **CROFT QUARRY** **10.00 am**

Led by Carl Baggot who is giving the illustrated talk on Croft Quarry on March 30. Meet at OS Explorer 233, SP513971.

Tuesday June 8 **LONG DROVE ON THE LOW WASH** **8.00 pm**

Long Drove is north of Whittlesey, near Dog-in-a-Doublet bridge. Led by Charlie Kitchen, we hope to see Owls and Corncrakes, amongst others. Meet at OS Explorer 235, TL280993. Park at gate on the Drove.

INDOOR MEETINGS

Indoor meetings are held at the Burley Road School, Oakham: charge of 40p for tea/coffee/biscuits. After the summer break they start again in October.

Tuesday March 30 **CROFT QUARRY** **7.30 pm**

Carl Baggott's illustrated talk will take us on a journey around the many different habitats that are found at this interesting hill and quarry complex.

LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST

See www.lrw.org.uk for events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks all over the area for which it is often necessary to book.

LEICESTERSHIRE FUNGI STUDY GROUP

Thursday April 22 **GOOD FINDS IN 2009** **7.30 pm**

Talk by Peter Long at Holly Hayes, 216 Birstall Road, Birstall, Leicester: visitors £1.

Sunday April 25 **SPRING FUNGUS FORAY IN KETTON QUARRY** **10.00 am**

Led by Tom Hering and Richard Iliffe, this is an opportunity to see what's about in our local limestone quarry and woodland with two very experienced, friendly mycologists, and Society members are most welcome BUT YOU MUST RING Richard Iliffe on 01455 612769 a day or so before going to the event because of the Fungi Study Group's insurance requirements. Meet at SK982051: going through Ketton village on the A6121 towards Stamford, turn left into the wide entrance to Pit Lane, follow Pit Lane for a few hundred yards. Turn left between industrial units and you will find a large parking area ahead of you.

HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK Nola Thurlow

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

	April		May				
Sunday	4	10.28	23.00	Sunday	2	09.27	22.01
	11	05.44	17.41		9	04.04	15.58
	18	09.23	21.46		16	08.23	20.58
	25	04.41	16.43		23	03.05	15.08
					30	08.31	21.08

WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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



January 2010

Atmospheric pressure and winds Generally pressure was above 1003 mb except for the 29th to 31st when it dropped to 988–1001 mb. Winds were generally N-E on the 1st to 13th, variable from the 14th to 22nd, with two mornings where there was no measurable wind at 0900 hours, and then NW-NE to the end of the month.

Temperatures Nationally this was the ninth coldest January in the past 100 years, largely due to the cold period in the first half of the month; it was incidentally in that same period that the snow fell. The mean minimum for the whole of the month here was -0.4°C , below even January 2009 (0.26°C) and well below 2008 and 2007 (3.5°C and 4.1°C). The mean maximum at 3.7°C was also lower than those quoted years, which were 5.8°C , 9.7°C and 10.1°C respectively. One can see that over the past four years January has been getting progressively colder.

Rain I recorded a total of 57.2 mm (2.25 inches) which is 117% of my LTM (long-term mean) and contrasts with the rainfall averaged over England and Wales of 68 mm or 72% of the mean for the standard reference period 1971–2000. The precipitation I measured comprised snow and sleet in the first half of the month and was about 66% of the monthly total. This snow had largely gone by the 16th of the month.

Sunshine This was 70 hours averaged over England and Wales, which is 127% of the 1971–2000 mean. I have been unable to find figures for this locality but it was probably less than this as the East had more cloud generally.

February 2010

Atmospheric pressure and winds Pressure was generally low from the 2nd to 5th but rose on the 6th and remained elevated until the 16th when it fell to 990 mb and remained low until the end of the month with the lowest point being 977 mb on the 26th. Wind directions have been quite variable throughout, with the definite bias to NW-E for a considerable part of the month. There was a period from the 17th until the 21st when there was low visibility in the mornings; on the 18th I recorded just 75 m at 0900.

Temperatures Nationally this has been the coldest winter since 1978–79 and certainly this month has played its part. The mean night-time minimum was 0.13°C compared with 0.96°C (2009), 0.69°C (2008) and 2.74°C (2007). This pattern was echoed by the mean daytime maximum of 5.59°C compared with 7.24°C , 9.7°C and 9.48°C for the preceding years. The lowest minimum was -3.7°C on the 20th and the highest maxima were on the 5th and 25th, both at 10.0°C .

Rain A wet month: I recorded a total of 63.7 mm (2.5 inches) which is 179% of my 1991–2009 mean. February is generally a dry month, 1993s total was 5.0 mm and 1998 produced just 7.4 mm. So this year and last, which coincidentally had exactly the same monthly total, are together the wettest I have recorded. On the 18th and 20th the precipitation fell as snow but it didn't linger, it was of course recorded as rain. There were just 8 days on which no rain was recorded and it is fair to say that daily amounts were not high, the highest being 8.7 mm on the 27th, 8.2 mm on 25th and 8.0 mm on the 18th.

Sunshine Averaged over England and Wales, this was 67 hours or 87% of the 1971–2000 mean.

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

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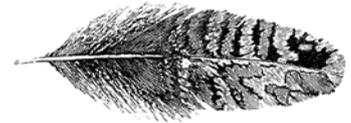
The cold start to the year has not been conducive to amphibian activity, although the months have not been a total blank.

A large female frog was found dead on a lane in Wing on 26th January and another was disturbed in a Wing garden on 8th February. During the

slightly warmer period at the end of January, seven were found in leaf litter in Barrowden and on 24th February one was croaking there. The only other amphibian seen was a female Smooth Newt in my cellar on 4th February.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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Bert Axell, one-time warden of the RSPB reserve at Minsmere, once remarked that bad weather for birds is good weather for bird watchers. This has certainly been true of the cold start to 2010, with a wide variety of birds in the county and some excellent counts of species at the reservoirs, on farmland and in gardens. January saw the highest wildfowl counts with many Gadwall and Tufted Ducks at Rutland Water, along with more Ruddy Ducks than for several years avoiding culls at other sites. Gardens attracted Blackcaps, Siskins, good numbers of Goldfinches and Reed Buntings, whilst game cover crops and feeding stations provided sanctuary for finches and buntings.

My thanks to the following for their records and to everyone who has worked on Winter Atlas tetrads under such testing conditions! Thanks for submitting your records so promptly: V Arnold, R Baker, A & L Biddle, K Botting, M A Branston, A & R Burdett, T Caldicott, A & J Comber, J Crosby, Dr C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, M Iannantuoni, A Lambert, P Langston, A L Lawrence, LROS, R Lemmon, P Mann, I Misselbrook, T Mitcham, L & B Nicholls, J & M Nourish, J Ostler, G Panter, D Perril, J Rodgers, P Rudkin, Jill Stapleton, A R & M A Thorp, B & M Winslow, L & G Worrall.

Whooper Swan. There were ten at RW (Eggleton) on 09.02, with nine in the North Arm the following day. 68 visited EBR briefly on 23.02.

Wild Swans. Twenty flew over RW (Normanton) on 10.01. They were not specifically identified but may have been part of the movement which brought the Whooper Swans to the reservoir.

Black Swan. Two were at Holywell Lake on 23.02.

Pink-footed Goose. One was with Greylags at EBR on 30.01.

White-fronted Goose. Five were at RW (North Arm) on 09.01, with six on the Filter Beds between 13-15.01. Two were at EBR from 30.01 to mid-Feb, and a pair were at RW (Manton) on 26.02.

Greylag Goose. The peak count at FHP was 119 on 07.02. Five flew over HMP Stocken on 17.02.

Barnacle Goose. One was with Greylags at FHP between 07 and 16.02.

Egyptian Goose. Away from Rutland Water a pair were at LFP between 17 and 26.01, one was at EBR on 30.01 and one at FHP on 16.02.

Australian Shelduck. The oft-noted bird was with its Egyptian Goose partner at RW (Lyndon) on 21.02.

Shelduck. There were three at FHP on 14.02.

Gadwall. A peak of 165 was at FHP on 14.02.

Green-winged Teal. The EBR bird was present throughout both months.

Pintail. A female was at EBR on 30.01.

Scaup. Eight were at RW (Barnsdale Bay) on 06.02.

Goosander. A max. of twelve were at LFP between 07.01 and 13.02.

Ruddy Duck. c.35 frequented Whitwell Creek at RW during the second half of Jan. There were 29 at EBR on 27.01, and 22 on 14.02. These

counts represent a substantial proportion of the remaining population of this species in Britain following the cull of recent years.

Red-legged Partridge. 19 were at Stocken on 08.01, and 15 were seen near Morcott on 11.01.

Grey Partridge. Two were calling at Leighfield on 31.01, and there were five at Greetham Golf Course on 08.02.

Red-throated Diver. One was at RW (Main Water) throughout Jan.

Great Northern Diver. One was at RW throughout both months, mainly at Whitwell.

Slavonian Grebe. Two were at RW in both months, with one at EBR from at least 16.02.

Shag. A juv. was at RW (Dam) on 06/07.01.

Bittern. One was at EBR inflow on 03/04.01, and a max. of four were at RW (Eggleton) throughout both months.

Little Egret. One was at FHP/North Brook between 16.01 and 14.02 and one was near Langham on 04.02.

Red Kite. Records of pair or larger groups were received from seven sites including FHP, Morcott, Stamford, Wing, Barrowden (four on 03.02), Holywell (five on 07.02) and Stocken (nine on 28/29.01).

Sparrowhawk. Widely reported with garden birds taking House Sparrow (Stocken), Blackbird (Cottesmore) and a Carrion Crow (Edith Weston).

Buzzard. A max. of seven over LFP on 24.01 indicates how common this species has become. Other records were from FHP/Exton, Morcott, Wing, Preston, EBR, Martinthorpe and RW (Barnsdale). Five were over Stocken on 03.02, where they were seen hunting worms on the sportsfield.

Kestrel. I hope to produce a distribution map for this species in the 2010 Annual Report and would welcome all records this year – reports for these months still indicate a widespread distribution with birds noted from Stretton in the north through RW and Exton down to Morcott and EBR.

Merlin. A male was seen flying over RW (North Arm) on 09.01.

Peregrine. One was at RW (Edith Weston) on 01.01 – a good start to the new year – and two were at Egleton on 17.01.

Water Rail. At RW one was in Egleton Meadows on 16.02 and four were noted on 21.02.

Moorhen. Up to three were in a Wing garden from 11.01.

Golden Plover. c.40 flew over Stocken on 01.02 and there were 286 at RW (Egleton) on 16.02.

Lapwing. At RW there were 86 on 18.01 and 1674 on 21.02. c.100 were at Stocken Hall Farm on 28.01, there were 55 in Exton Park on 20.02, and 63 at Stocken on 22.02.

Knot. One was at RW (Egleton) on 09/10.02.

Dunlin. There were 15 at RW on 17.10 and 55 on 21.02.

Snipe. Odd birds were noted at FHP in Jan. There were 17 at LFP on 01.01, and twelve there on 20.02. RW had only seven on 17.01 but there were 42 on 21.02.

Woodcock. Singles were noted at Leighfield, Brooke, Priors Coppice, Little Haw Wood, Morkery Wood and Tunneley Wood between 07.01 and 20.02. There were three in Tunneley Wood on 07.02.

Black-tailed Godwit. One was at RW (North Arm) between 02 and 04.01.

Curlew. Three remained at RW to at least 16.02 and one was noted on 26.02.

Redshank. There were 29 at RW on 17.01 and 25 on 21.02. Two were at EBR on 13.02.

Green Sandpiper. Singles were at RW (Egleton) on 29.01 and 16.02.

Black-headed Gull. c.500 were on Stocken sportsfield on 09.01.

Iceland Gull. A second-winter bird roosted at EBR on 05/06.02.

Glaucous Gull. A first-winter bird was at RW on 12.01.

Woodpigeon. Some large flocks were reported on arable land – 800 were near Brooke on 08.01, increasing to 1,000 on 05.02; on 10.02 there were c.1,200 at RW (Burley Fishponds) and 400 over Lady Wood, and c.600 were at FHP/Horn Mill throughout Feb.

Collared Dove. Early nest-building, with snow lying, was reported at Barrowden on 07.01.

Barn Owl. Records were received from Barrowden, near Wing, Seaton Meadows and LFP.

Little Owl. There was a remarkable record of one calling in suburban Stamford at 11.30 pm on 13 and 23.01. Two were at the regular EBR oak tree on 30.01.

Tawny Owl. Calling birds were noted at Stocken (three on 25.02), Uppingham, Edith Weston, Tunneley Wood and Barrowden.

Long-eared Owl. Up to four were reported at the RW (Egleton) roost throughout both months.

Short-eared Owl. One was at RW (Egleton) throughout both months.

Green Woodpecker. One in a Stamford garden in Jan was a good record. Birds were noted at eleven other location throughout the period.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. Birds visited peanut feeders at Oakham, Normanton (up to three), Barleythorpe, Barnsdale Gardens and Tunneley Wood (up to three). Four were at RW (Hambleton Road) on 09.01, and drumming was heard at Stocken and Tunneley Wood.

Kingfisher. This species must have had problems during the hard weather and the only reports were from RW (Normanton and Edith Weston) between 03 and 17.01, and Stamford Meadows on 03.02.

Skylark. In Jan c.40 flew south at Leighfield on 07 and 20 flew south at RW (Dam). There were 36 on stubble near Mounts Lodge on 30.01.

Grey Wagtail. Singles were at Exton on 03.01, and RW (Edith Weston) on 09.01.

Black Redstart. The male at Home Farm, Exton was seen to 03.01 but then disappeared during the cold spell, surfacing again on 25.02 and showing well to the end of the month.

Fieldfare. The hard weather produced records of garden birds and large flocks in the countryside. c. 250 flew over Stocken on 06.01 and there were 150 near Braunston-in-Rutland on 17.01. Ninety flew south-west at Wing Fishing Lakes on 24.01. At Stocken c.150 flew east on 25.01, with a similar no. on 27.01. There were regular large nos there in Feb, with 138 on 11.02 and flocks of 300 noted between 14 and 19.02. In gardens two or three were noted in two Oakham gardens, a third hosting 28 on 29.01.

Redwing. This species descended on berry bearing bushes during the hard weather with four Stamford and Oakham gardens attracting up to fifteen birds from 01.01. The record, however, goes to a Stamford garden where c.200 stripped holly berries on 10.01.

Cetti's Warbler. One sang at RW (Eggleton) from 20.02.

Blackcap. Reported from 03.01 to the end of Feb in Oakham with long-staying singles in two gardens and a male on 10.01 in a third. What may have been the same male was in two Stamford gardens between 22.01 and 01.02.

Chiffchaff. One was seen along Hambleton Road, RW, on 09.01. Seven were ringed at RW in these months.

Long-tailed Tit. Small flocks visited gardens during cold weather. Four were at Oakham on 02.01, and in Feb up to ten were at Normanton and six were at Barleythorpe. Six were along a hedgerow near Great Casterton on 19.01.

Coal Tit. Noted on feeders at EBR, Oakham, Barleythorpe and Tunneley Wood.

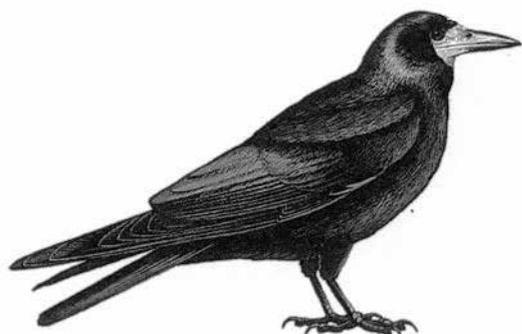
Willow Tit. One or two were noted at Leighfield, RW (Burley Fishponds), Brooke, and Braunston-in-Rutland between 20.01 and 07.02.

Marsh Tit. Reported from EBR, Tunneley Wood (at feeders) and Holywell.

Nuthatch. Fed on peanuts at Barnsdale Gardens (31.01) and Tunneley Wood. Also noted at Pickworth and Barnsdale Woods, Exton Park, Gunthorpe and Priors Coppice.

Treecreeper. Several records indicate that Treecreepers have survived fairly well during the recent freeze. Three were at Stocken on 13.01 and four were in the Burley Fishponds area at RW on 10.02. Singles were noted on Eggleton reserve, at Normanton and in Tunneley Wood (song on 28.02).

Rook. Activity was noted at the Lady Wood rookery from 09.02.



Carrion Crow. 19 were attracted by stale bread at Stocken on 01.01.

Raven. One or two were at Gorsefield Wood on 07.01 and one was in Exton Park on 24.01.

House Sparrow. An impressive 88 were counted on a Winter Atlas walk near Ashwell on 16.02.

Tree Sparrow. Noted at EBR feeders in small nos during both months. Two fed at a Pilsgate (Stamford) feeder between 14.01 and 27.01.

Chaffinch. Nos at Leighfield increased from sixty on 26.01 to c.100 on 07.02.

Brambling. Up to three fed at Eggleton Birdwatching Centre between 01.01 and 26.02. One was at Barnsdale Gardens on 31.01.

Goldfinch. Good nos frequented some gardens in both months. Up to fifteen were at Oakham in Feb, with c.30 at Beaumont Chase Farm feeders. 36 were at Empingham on 07.02 and 30 at Stamford on 16.02. c.35 were in alders at Exton on 28.02.

Siskin. Up to three fed in a garden near Barrowden in Jan, with one at Eggleton Centre on 16.01. An Oakham garden attracted three from 20.02. Flocks of twenty at RW (Lyndon) on 21.02 and 30 in Exton Park were also reported.

Linnet. Eighty were at EBR inflow on 30.01. At Leighfield c.200 on 31.01 increased to c.220 on 03.02. Maize, sunflower and millet were the attraction.

Lesser Redpoll. Up to six fed in a garden near Barrowden between 04.01 and 02.02, and four or five were noted in Barrowden in early Feb.

Bullfinch. A popular species noted from ten sites, three of them in gardens – Barrowden (two pairs), Langham (five), and Oakham. Fourteen were around Brooke on 08.01 and eighteen were at Leighfield on 26.01.

Yellowhammer. Flocks of twenty near Ridlington on 23.02 and eighty at Stocken on 25.02 were reported.

Reed Bunting. A regular garden visitor in hard weather, noted in five gardens at Stamford, Oakham, Empingham and near Barrowden between 02.01 and mid-Feb, with a max of five in one Oakham garden. c.40 were with Yellowhammers near Ridlington on 23.02.

Corn Bunting. Just one was at Mounts Lodge on 23.01.

Wildfowl Counts January/February 2010

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park		Holywell Lake	
	17.01	21.02	17.01	21.02	17.01	20.02	21.01	23.02
Mute Swan	271	51	64	35	9	10	4	1
Pink-footed Goose				2				
White-fronted Goose				2				
Greylag Goose	187		141	120	88	67	6	9
Canada Goose	917	160	250	8		2	84	44
Barnacle Goose	13							
Egyptian Goose	46	10						
Shelduck		34	1	1	1	2		
Mandarin Duck		3						
Wigeon	3063	2739	290	666	3	52	6	
Gadwall	2054	853	32	41	136	143	2	11
Teal	1070	1142	375	184	9	2	26	10
Green-winged Teal				1				
Mallard	903	605	71	44	66	128	15	73
Pintail	1							
Shoveler	5	36			16	8		
Red-crested Pochard	84	13	3					
Pochard	274	171	124	75	32	5	1	
Tufted Duck	4767	1720	332	230	60	201	10	16
Scaup	10	11						
Goldeneye	294	390	48	42		1		
Smew	16	18	1					
Goosander	47	12	8	9				
Ruddy Duck	44	3						
Red-throated Diver	1							
Great Northern Diver	1							
Little Grebe	86	72	9		9	11		
Great Crested Grebe	970	210	2	32				
Slavonian Grebe	2	2		1				
Black-necked Grebe	1	1						
Cormorant	126	84	21	39		6		
Bittern	2	4						
Little Egret	2							
Grey Heron	13	13	4	4		2		
Water Rail		4						
Moorhen	137	60	3	1	8	16	23	13
Coot	2838	1646	235	174	60	86	27	21
TOTAL	18245	10067	2014	1711	498	741	204	199

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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January/February 2010

Only two flowers were observed in flower. On January 24th a number of **Toothwort** stems were found in Clipsham Park Wood and seven were showing pink of the corolla. On February 3rd, two bushes of **Hazel** were in fully extended male catkins on the main road at Manton.

Spurge-laurel was in bud throughout the period of cold weather at the roadside near Bloody Oaks Quarry, just west of the quarry entrance.

Let us hope for a warmer March and April; the longer the winter cold, the quicker will be the 'early' spring flowering!

Thanks for reports from R Lemmon, B Parker, D Parker, J Myers and G Worrall.

LEPIDOPTERA NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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January/February 2010

With the extreme cold weather of this winter it comes as no surprise to have very little to report for the first two months of the year. The only butterfly record received was for a Small Tortoiseshell found fluttering in an office on January 21st in the Stretton area. It was released into a polytunnel where it quickly settled amongst the weeds and resumed its dormant state.

At Barrowden, a moth trap was run on three occasions resulting in two nil catches and one Pale Brindled Beauty on February 25th. The trap in the reed beds at Rutland Water was operated weekly, but what with it being near the water,

and the very low night temperatures (between 0 °C and -4 °C) there were nil results on all except two occasions. The species caught were a Dotted Border once, and Pale Brindled Beauty twice.

On January 1st a Brown House Moth was recorded in Edith Weston.

I personally have seen several moths flying illuminated by the car headlights and have had two species coming to the lighted kitchen window (Early Moth and Dotted Border) but these unfortunately were not in Rutland!

We now hope that temperatures will soon rise once more to enable more records to be collected for our next publication.

Thanks are due to V Arnold, J Crosby and R Follows for their contributions.

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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January/February 2010

It will be no surprise that there were no reports for these two months; there may be the odd gall about but the weather has not been conducive to going out and looking for them. I will take this opportunity to write about the literature that is available to help one identify plant galls.

The most comprehensive book is *British Plant Galls* in the Aidgap series by Redfern & Shirley, £18.00 plus £3.00 p & p from F.S.C. Publications, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, SY4 1HW, Tel: 01743 852140, website www.field-studies-council.org. This was first published in

2002 and has resulted in a lot of work being done on galls, so much so that a new edition is sorely needed; quite when this will happen is not in the public domain. The FSC also do a folded card on plant galls which is very good and can usually be obtained from the Egleton Centre for about £3.50.

I currently hold the Society's copy of *Plant Galls*, number 17 in the Naturalists' Handbook Series which is available for any member to borrow – just let me know (see page 11).

There are plans for a photographic guide to around 180 of the most common and conspicuous galls, it will be in A5 format which is convenient

to take into the field and with a clear, easy-to-understand text. It is likely to be published by

WILDguides and as soon as this happens I will let members know.

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

20 Victoria Road, Stamford PE9 1HB. Telephone: 01780 753820



Again no surprise that the insects were still tucked away during the cold January and February weather, and hence not many records.

I must apologise to Mr Nick Holford. He took the very clear photo of the Longhorn beetle which was featured in our last Fieldfare. Apologies for the fact that this was not noted alongside the photograph.

January 2010

No records received.

February 2010

Neuroptera On 16th February approximately 30 **Green Lacewings** were noted hibernating in a nestbox at Stretton. It is interesting that the recorder noted 'They are reddish-brown ...'. Michael Chinery notes that '*Chrysoperla carnea* is a pale green, becoming pinkish in the autumn when it seeks hibernation sites ... However accurate identification necessitates a detailed examination ...'. On 17th February a single Green Lacewing was noted on a window inside at the same

location. Also at various times during the month one or two Green Lacewings were recorded inside a new-build house in Stretton.

Coleoptera On 10th February about 100 **7-spot Ladybirds** *Coccinella 7-punctata* were observed hibernating on old wooden posts at RW Burley Fishponds. Also present in the same location were a **2-spot Ladybird** *Adalia bipunctata*, a **Harlequin Ladybird** *Harmonia axyridis* and a **Cream-spot Ladybird** *Calvia 14-guttata*.

Gastropoda At the beginning of February a **Slug** *Limax maximus* was seen in a garden at Barrowden. It was observed after a damp and relatively 'warm' night feeding on peanut crumbs.

Many thanks to the following for their records: T Caldicott, A Chiverton, J Crosby and L Worrall.

MYCOLOGY NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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

January/February 2010

It snowed, it froze, but there were fungi; admittedly not a lot! At least we had Green Elfcups though not Scarlet ones; White and Yellow Brains and Purple Jellydiscs brightened things up while the star (and only!) gill-fungus Velvet Shanks, whose Latin name *Flammulina velutipes* means 'little flames with velvet feet', certainly warmed the heart if not the toes. Cramp Balls could help with cold hands, and there they were! For more delight there were Field Bird's Nests near Uppingham, and lichens and algae. You can depend on fungi for ingenuity in tricky circumstances.

Should it, incredibly, now turn mild with plenty of rain, we could perhaps even have some Semifree morels *Mitrophora semilibera* in April or May. Please look out for their small conical brown

honeycombs on top of white stalks; they like slopes of damp moss near to old Hawthorns, and sometimes appear in gardens, as does the larger Morel *Morchella esculenta*, though that one likes it to have been hot in the previous summer, so a bonfire might have helped.

RESERVES

Rutland Water Egleton Reserve 17.1: A living spiny shrub near Redshank hide was smothered in the lichen *Physcia adscendens*; quite an extraordinary sight, notes Jane Ostler who found it. This lichen was also spotted on Belton parish church in 1996, going up a south facing limestone buttress. Jane also reported Cramp Balls *Daldinia concentrica* on Ash, and both ascomycete Purple Jellydisc *Ascocoryne sarcoides* and basidiomycete Common Jellyspot *Dacrymyces stillatus* were on decorticate wood.

Hambleton Wood SK904071 28.1: Large fresh patch of Smoky Bracket *Bjerkandera adusta* on trunk of living Hazel, Turkeytail *Trametes versicolor* fresh on log, Witches Butter *Exidia glandulosa* on decaying Hazel wood and several patches of Green Alga *Vaucheria sp* in streamlet/ditch adjacent to Fisherman's Carpark.

Ketton Quarry Woodland SK974055 21.1: Reasonably fresh Candlesnuff Fungus *Xylaria hypoxylon* on 2 logs, 4 developing Birch Polypores on fallen Birch log and a good quantity of fresh White Brain *Exidia thuretiana* on a twig of unknown species. **25.2:** On decaying Beech, among litter, a group of 4 well developed Green Elfcups *Chlorociboria aeruginascens*, a frosted incrustation of *Stereum rameale* with hairy margin, a few smallish Jelly Ears *Auricularia auricula-judae* on dead but attached Elder branch and (oh yes!) several clumps mostly 20–25 Velvet Shanks *Flammulina velutipes* in various areas on fallen Ash and possibly Hawthorn too; and lichen *Badhamia utricularis* on fallen Beech trunk (new to us, thanks Roy).

Bloody Oaks Quarry SK971108 28.1: Two patches of quite fresh Candlesnuff Fungus on old Hawthorn stumps.

WOODS

Clipsham Park Wood Yew Tree Avenue SK 975166 24.1: Felled Birch with abundant new Birch Polypore *Piptoporus betulinus*; and Lemon disco *Bisporella citrina* on a stump.

Clipsham Park Wood Car park SK 979170 4.2: Cramp Balls (King Alfred's Cakes) on Ash stump and (hurrah!) Velvet Shanks *Flammulina velutipes*.

Congratulations for sightings in difficult weather to J Crosby, C R Jones, R Lemmon, J Ostler, B & D Parker, J Myers, D Perril, L Worrall.

GARDENS, FIELDS, VERGES

Uppingham SK848011 25.1: A super find of Field Bird's Nest *Cyathus olla*, when a group of 11 cups were observed by Clive Jones in a winter wheat arable field on Northampton Sand substrate. They are known as 'splash cups'. The little 'eggs' containing spores are loosely attached to the tiny 'nest' by a sticky coiled cord. Heavy raindrops splash out the coil and eggs, the coil straightens and together they fly up to a metre away, where the stickiness of the coil glues the eggs to whatever they land on, and the spores will then be liberated nearby. Neat, and utterly charming.

Barrowden SK948002 21.1: Snow melted a week ago and intrepid Velvet Shanks, which had just begun to emerge before they were snow-covered, had survived and become more mature, while another clump was developing higher on their well-sheltered stump. Hairy Curtain Crust *Stereum hirsutum* had also survived on the same stump plus a small amount of Smoky Bracket. All three species, however, were overcome by further snow and cold during February.

Barleythorpe SK848098 15.2: Splendid clump of flourishing Velvet Shanks on a stump. Thanks to DP, a first for Barleythorpe.

Stretton SK957174 18.2: Some 9 Yellow Brains *Tremella mesenterica* on dead twigs and branches under Oak in extremely wet garden. Similar in shape to the black Witches' Butter, these orange-yellow jellies certainly cheer up the winter! Thanks, JC.

BAT REPORT

compiled by Jenny Harris

41 Woodland View, Oakham, LE15 6EJ. Telephone: 01572 755274

During this two-month period there have been no records of bats from members. However, a survey of a hibernation site was carried out in January and February for the National Bat Monitoring Programme. In January, the weather had been freezing for some time before the survey was carried out, but the temperature had risen for a few days and was above freezing when we visited. Huge icicles hung from the ceiling and walls of the site, and the sound of them crashing to the ground ahead reminded us that extreme

care should be exercised. On that occasion we found two Natterer's bats, one Daubenton's and a single Barbastelle, a rare bat that we do not regularly encounter. On the February visit to the site, there had been snow the previous week, but it was milder on the visit date. The Barbastelle had moved on, sadly, but five Natterer's and two Brown Long-eared bats were present.

No grounded bats have been found, but soon the weather will be warming up and I hope there will be more to report next time.

ITEMS FOR LOAN TO RNHS MEMBERS

The summer season is approaching! The following items are for members to borrow, to help make naturalising more enjoyable and spotting even better. They are held by the Recorders named – please contact the Recorder who holds what you would like, and make arrangements. No charge for borrowing anything; availability and length of borrowing at the Recorder's discretion. There is more than one of some items, given by a number in brackets; and in some cases, e.g. hand lenses, they are held by several Recorders – these lenses should also make Outdoor Meetings particularly interesting.

With Dr Charles Gallimore

Collins Field Guide to reptiles and amphibians of Britain and Europe.

With Terry Mitcham

Concise Edition Volumes 1 and 2 The birds of the Western Palaearctic.

Terry Mitcham, *Rutland Breeding Bird Atlas* (2).

With Gill Chiverton

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

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

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

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

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

Steve Grover and Helen Ikin, *Leicestershire Dragonflies.*

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

Large hand lens; hand lens x8 + x15; hand lens x10.

With Roy Lemmon

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

With Graham Worrall

Stace, *New Flora of the British Isles*. 2nd edition.

Stace, *Field flora of the British Isles* (5).

Collins (1996) *Pocket Guide to Wild flowers of Britain and Northern Europe* (6).

Collins *Pocket Guide to Grasses, sedges, Rushes and Ferns of Britain and Northern Europe.*

The New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora (with CD), acquired 2002.

Large hand lens; hand lens x8 + x15; hand lens x10.

With Linda Biddle

Spring balance 50 g, spring balance 100 g.

MX stereo microscope in case with dissecting kit and slides (2).

Live Trapping Small Animals, a practical guide.

Collins Field Guide to Mammals of Britain and Europe.

Harris, Morris, Wray and Yalden, *A review of British Mammals*, JNCC.

Yalden, *The History of British Mammals.*

With Jenny Harris

Bat box 111 (2)

Bat identification tape

The Bat Detective (Field guide book and CD).

With Linda Worrall

Michael Jordan, *The encyclopaedia of fungi of Britain and Europe.*

Breitenhach and Kranzlin, *Fungi of Switzerland: Volume 1 Ascomycetes; Volume 2 Non-gilled fungi; Volume 3 Boletes and Agarics, 1st part; Volume 4 Agarics, 2nd part.*

Roger Phillips, *Mushrooms and other fungi of Great Britain and Europe* (2).

Paul Nichol, *Initial guide to the identification of mushrooms and toadstools*, WEA (6).

Paul Nichol, *Aid to the identification of mushrooms and toadstools (Agaricus, Russula, etc.)* WEA.

John Tyler, *Glow-worms* (2).

Large hand lens; hand lens x8 + x15; hand lens x10.

With Dr Clive Jones

Regionally important geological sites (RIGS) handbook.

With Henry Stanier

Large hand lens; hand lens x8 + x15; hand lens x10.



Something to look out for from now on - we saw an osprey with a fish at the RNHS meeting at Burley Woods on March 21st! Drawing by Chris Parks (cover of an Annual Report).