

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ORTHOPTERA ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Recorder: *Phil Rudkin*

Weather for the summer season, 2019, turned out to be one of extremes, with a lot of rain but also some hot and very dry spells. This of course was good for the insect world, and in our case, the Orthoptera.

During the June/July period, our small team came up with some new sites. Marian Markham reported large colonies of Speckled Bush Crickets in the scrub and trees of the 'Pocket Park' in Langham, and Tim Caldecott found many of the resident *Orthopteran* species in his allotment in Wing. Slender Groundhoppers featured during June and July. The Society were delighted to have permission (restricted access), to a private site; the Luffenham Heath Golf Club. This was negotiated through RNHS member David Cotter, and our committee, with the Golf Club officials; this meant that the *Orthoptera* species discovered are new sites for the records.

I was involved (with Linda Clark) in joining the Wing village Group, to survey the *Orthoptera* for the Wing Wildlife Survey during August. I carried out a thorough investigation over two visits at my old sites, and found Roesel's Bush Crickets, Dark Bush Crickets, Speckled Bush Crickets, Long-winged Coneheads, Meadow Grasshopper and Lesser Marsh Grasshoppers all in the same areas, and in excellent numbers, as I used to find them in the 1970s and up to 2003.

The September period produced more intense hot weather conditions, and new sites for Roesel's Bush Cricket. Five full surveys were carried out at Rutland Water during the 2019 season: there were two at the Lyndon reserve, and three at Egleton reserve. All areas had maintained good, healthy populations of the resident species.

Oak Bush Crickets dominated the news in September, at Lyndon village and Wing village. And there was a surprise with a new species, just squeezed in at the end of December: Southern Oak Bush Cricket.

In accordance with previous Annual reports only new sites will be reported in the species lists but sites visited will get a mention.

SPECIES LIST 2019

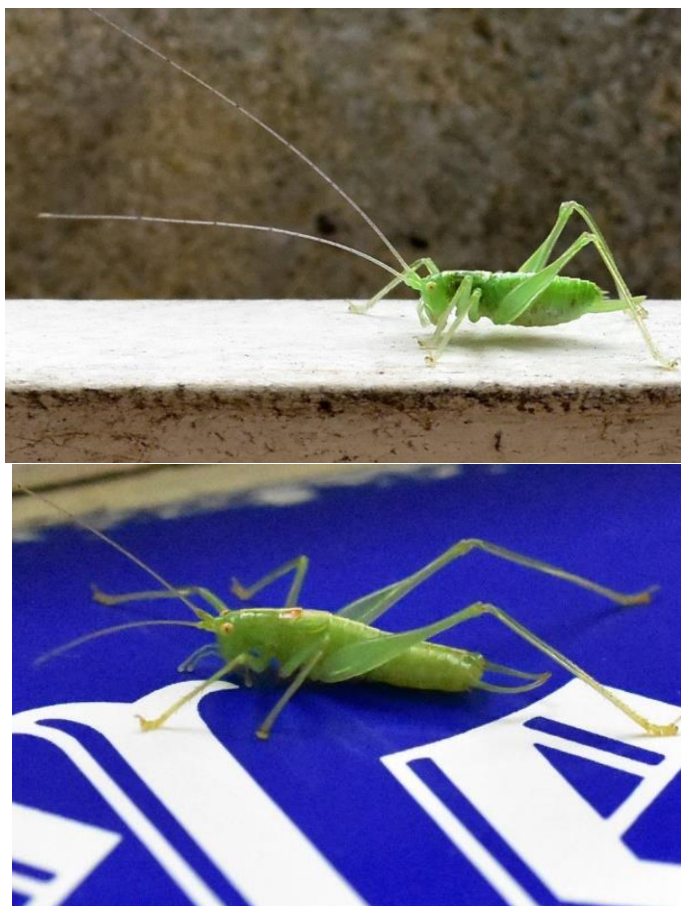
BUSH CRICKETS

Oak Bush Cricket *Meconema thalassinum*

This cricket was found scattered on the road, beneath Oaks on the tree-lined lane outside Lyndon village: five found on 11 August and one on 19 August. New site: SK899048. One dead female found in Wing village garden, (with large trees), on 25 September, New site: SK891029.

Southern Oak Bush Cricket *Meconema meridionale*

Males and females observed and photographed on the walls around the Empingham Village shop on 3 August and 24 October 2019. This was a new species for Rutland and new site: SK95030845. The full story was reported in the January 2020 'Fieldfare'!



Pictures by Andrew Dejardin:- Southern Oak Bush-cricket, Empingham Village

Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoaptera*

A large colony was found in rough herbage at Luffenham Heath Golf Club, on 22 August.
New site: SK962029.

Roesel's Bush Cricket *Roeseliana roeselii*

One female, Macropterous form, was in rough grasses on the track beside Stoke Dry Wood on 3 August. New site: SP849980.

Large colonies were discovered in two areas of Luffenham Heath Golf Club, on 10 July and 22 August. New sites: SK962029 and SK960026.



Pictures by Phil Rudkin:- Male (top) Female (bottom) Roesel's Bush-cricket

Long-winged Conehead *Conocephalus fuscus*

One female nymph and one adult male were in Wing village allotments, on 17 August. New site: SK889029.

Large colonies were in 'The Rough' at Luffenham Heath Golf Club, on 22 August. New sites: SK96029, SK960026, SK961028.

Speckled Bush Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*

One female, on 19 July, and a male and female on 20 July were in the 'Pocket Park' in Langham. New site, SK848112.



Pictures by Marian Markham:- taken at Pocket Park, Langham
Female (top) Male (bottom) Speckled Bush-cricket

I visited this site, on 21 September, and the Bat-Detector picked up enormous numbers stridulating, in all areas.

Large colonies located with the Bat-Detector, at 35kHz, in areas of the Luffenham Heath Golf Club on 22 August. New sites: SK962029, SK960026, SK961028.

GROUNDHOPPERS

Slender Groundhopper *Tetrix subulata*

Two identified in Wing Village allotments on 24 June. New site: SK889029.

One identified at the edge of the track next to Badger Watching Hide, Eggleton Reserve, on 30 June. New site: Field 34, SK879073.

GRASSHOPPERS

Common Green Grasshopper *Omocestus viridulus*

Four stridulating males in 'The Rough', at Luffenham Heath Golf Club, on 10 July.

New site: SK960039.

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*

Five nymphs observed south-east of Pilton village, on 9 June. New site: SK920024.

Ten adults found in Wing village Allotments, on 29 July. New site: SK889029.

Seven adults in rough corner, at Luffenham Heath Golf Club. New site: SK960026.

Two adults in rough grasses, St. Peter and Paul churchyard, 'Pocket Park', Langham, on 22 August, and one adult on 23 August. New site: SK844111.

Two adults in bare earth patches, on verge, Pilton village, on 26 August. New site: SK905026.

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*

Two stridulating males, plus six nymphs, in Wing Village Allotments, on 11 July. New site: SK889029.

Large colony found in 'The Rough', Luffenham Heath Golf Club, on 22 August; nymphs also observed. New site: SK961030.

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Six stridulating males found in 'The Rough', on 10 July, at Luffenham Heath Golf Club. New site: SK961030. This was followed by six, observed in 'The Rough' on 22 August.

Many thanks to our small team of reporters throughout the 2019 season:

Carolyn Baxter, Tim Caldicott, Linda Clark, David Cotter, Ian Day, Andrew Dejardin, Martin Grimes, Clive Jones, Marian Markham, Philip Rudkin, Lizzie Waring.