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## NOTICEBOARD

The result of the vote on the Society name at the last meeting was:

# Rutland Natural History Society

i.e. no change! This is a bit of mouthful to use in conversation and has tended to get shortened to 'Rutland Nats' - any other ideas for a shortened name?

Our aims - to monitor, record and protect Rutland's wildlife - are the same, our welcome to new members remains as warm, our indoor and outdoor meetings promise to be even more interesting. Our website and publications are being redesigned for the 50th Anniversary next year, so watch out for [www.rnhs.org](http://www.rnhs.org) and January *Fieldfare* for a new look - and please tell us of any changes you would like to see.

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## Membership subscriptions and *Fieldfare* distribution

The annual membership subscription is now due, and details are given on the back page of this *Fieldfare*.

You will see that there is an option to receive the publications electronically, and Margaret would be very grateful if you could let her know on the form, or by email or post. See the back page for more details.

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## Digital recording forms

Some of you have started using the digital recording forms, and Roy would like to point out that the form is 'elastic'; there is plenty of room for all that interesting extra information - 'This is where we fell in the lake', etc. - in the Comments column - just go on keying and the box gets bigger to fit (try it and see). The data go to the various recording communities as part of the national records, but the personal bits enliven *Fieldfare*!

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## **Especially for wildlife photographers - Friday 5 December**

Leicester and Leicestershire Photographic Society presents an evening with David Osborn. Visitors are welcome (donation £3).

David is a professional wildlife photographer and current chair of the Royal Photographic Society's Natural History distinctions panel. His interest in wildlife and photography developed from an early age and he is now a UK based professional wildlife photographer. As well as leading wildlife photo tours, he has exhibited widely in National and International photographic salons and received numerous awards. He also acts as a selector for major photographic exhibitions including photographic salons. His images feature regularly in magazines such as *Advanced Photographer* and RSPB publications. See David's website for further examples: [www.davidosbornphotography.co.uk](http://www.davidosbornphotography.co.uk).

**Date and time:** Friday 5 December 2014, 7.30–9.30 pm

**Venue:** The Friends Meeting House, 16 Queens Road, Clarendon Park, Leicester LE2 1WP.

**Leicester and Leicestershire Photographic Society website:** [www.landlps.org.uk](http://www.landlps.org.uk)

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## **RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS**

Full details of all these events can be found on our website at [www.rnhs.org.uk](http://www.rnhs.org.uk). If the weather is bad, please contact the 'Queries' phone number to check what is happening.

### **OUTDOOR EVENTS**

**Sunday November 30      WAKERLEY WOOD      10.30 am**

*Leader Cheryl Joyce*

*Meet in the main car park. OS Landranger 141, Grid Ref SP 961987.*

*Queries: please call Linda Biddle on 01780 762108.*

**Sunday 11 January      EYEBROOK RESERVOIR      10.00 am**

*Leader Phil Rogers of the Eyebrook Wildlife Group.*

*Meet at the Stoke Dry Car Park, OS Landranger 141, Grid Ref SP 853964.*

*Queries: please call Peter Scott 0753 550 8932.*

**Sunday 22 February      RUTLAND WATER      10.00 am**

*Leader Tim Mackrill.*

*Meet at the Eggleton Reserve Visitor Centre, normal admission charges apply.*

*Queries: please call Dawn Whitefield 01664 454578.*

### **INDOOR EVENTS**

The venue for RNHS indoor events is Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR), Lands End Way, Oakham LE15 6RB. There is no charge for tea/coffee.

**Tuesday 2 December      ROBINS IN YOUR GARDEN      7.30 pm**

*A talk by David Tideswell, described by Bill Oddie on Springwatch as 'the robin man'.*

**Tuesday 6 January      THE LIFE OF STARS      7.30 pm**

*Speaker David Conner. We hope for a clear night so that we can have a star-gazing session afterwards.*

**Tuesday 3 February      A COUNTRY YEAR      7.30 pm**

*Terry Barnatt, whose talk on birdsong was very much enjoyed in October, gives an illustrated account of a country year using his own photos.*

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## LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST RUTLAND GROUP

*Rutland Group indoor events are held at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton; admission £1 includes tea/coffee/biscuits. For event details, and other activities in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks, see [www.lrwf.org.uk](http://www.lrwf.org.uk), or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours.*

### Monday 15 December **BROWN'S HILL QUARRY: ITS WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION FOR BATS** 7.30 pm

*Jenny Harris, RNHS Bat Recorder, is giving an illustrated talk on Holwell's Nature Reserves, which include Brown's Hill Quarry, the Mineral Line and North Quarry.*

### Monday 19 January **WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION IN NEW ZEALAND** 7.30 pm

*An illustrated talk by RNHS's Linda and Anthony Biddle following their wildlife trip to New Zealand's North and South islands.*

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## LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST BOURNE GROUP

*Bourne Group indoor meetings are held in the Methodist Church Hall, Bourne, and start at 7.30 pm. Refreshments are available at all indoor meetings. A donation of £1.50 as an admission fee is requested, children free. For details of the LWT Bourne Group's events, see [www.freewebs.com/bournetrust/programme.htm](http://www.freewebs.com/bournetrust/programme.htm). For other LWT Lincstrust events, see [www.lincstrust.org.uk](http://www.lincstrust.org.uk), or phone 01507 526 677 in office hours.*

### Saturday 27 December **A WINTER WANDER AT WILLOW TREE FEN** 10.30 am

*Meet at the farm buildings for a walk around this Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust reserve in Deeping St Nicholas parish. Light refreshments will be available after the walk, which will take around two hours, but will depend on the weather. (OS 130, TF 181213)*

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## WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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

### September 2014

**Atmospheric pressure and wind** This was a markedly high-pressure month with values mostly between 1020 and 1030 mb, apart from the period 15th to 20th when they were between 1014 and 1019 mb. Winds were generally N-NE for the first three weeks and then SW-W for the remainder. Wind speeds were generally low throughout the month.

**Temperature** This was a warm month, the mean minimum at 10.0 °C was fifth in the last decade, and the mean maximum at 21.01 °C was third in the same period; and thus overall September 2014 was fourth highest in the decade. There were some cool nights, the coolest was 4.6 °C on 20th-21st and although this was quite close to a ground frost it isn't all that unusual for the month. The warmest days were the 3rd, 24.5 °C, and the 18th, 24.4 °C. The Central England Temperature for the month was 15.3 °C or 1.2 °C above the average.

**Rain** A very dry month, a total of 5.4 mm (0.21 inches) was recorded here and this is 11% of my long-term mean of 24 years. This is very unusual for September; my LTM for the month is around 50 mm and I have to go back to 1996 for the lowest I have recorded which was 3.7 mm followed literally by 1997 at 7.7 mm. Total average rainfall for England and Wales was 15.1 mm (0.61 inches) which equates to 20% of LTM.

**Sunshine** The total averaged over England and Wales was 146 hours or 99% of LTM and in the past 100 years 49 Septembers were sunnier.

### October 2014

**Atmospheric pressure and wind** Pressures were high for the first five days of the month and amongst these was the month's highest, 1029.5 mb on the 2nd. From the 6th to 16th they were generally low, the month's lowest being 994 mb on 7th and during this period winds were very

changeable in direction and often of low speeds, giving mist on the mornings of 11th and 12th. After this winds were mostly S-SW, except during the 21st and 22nd when they were NW and of high velocity. At 0900 on the 21st I recorded gusts of up to 28 knots. This was the tail end of hurricane Gonzalo.

**Rain** A wet month, a total here of 79.9 mm (3.1 inches) which is 126% of my long-term mean. There were 13 days on which no precipitation was recorded and the first half of the month was by far the wetter. In this period 63.2 mm fell, just 79% of the month's total. Averaged nationally, the total was 4.63 inches or 124% of the mean for the standard reference period 1981-2010.

**Temperature** Using the overall mean, i.e. including the mean maximum and minimum,

this was the fourth warmest October in the last decade. This year's figure, 12.5 °C, was lower than 2005 (13.3 °C), 2006 (13.0 °C) and 2011 (12.77 °C). The lowest overnight minimum I recorded was 3.0 °C on the 3rd to 4th and the highest maximum was 20.9 °C on the 31st, very high for the end of October. This is, however, well below the highest in 2011 which was 29.8 °C, but this latter occurred as part of a very warm three days at the beginning of that month. Nationally the Central England Temperature was 1.55 °C above the average. In the past 100 years 10 Octobers were warmer.

**Sunshine** Averaged over England and Wales the total was 99.6 hours or 91% of the LTM. In the past 100 years 64 Octobers have been sunnier.

*The national figures are from Philip Eden's Weatherwatch column in the Sunday Telegraph.*

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

The Stone House, Reeves Lane, Wing LE15 8SD. Telephone: 01572 737343. Email: chasgall@hotmail.com

### **September/October 2014**

There were no reptile records in this period, as last year, but all four amphibians were seen.

Common Frogs were seen in long grass in Braunston and Barrowden in September and they were also seen in two gardens in Oakham and one in Uppingham. At the end of October they were heard croaking in Barrowden. Toads were only recorded from Wing, where five live toads were

seen on the streets in the small hours of 6 October and happily no corpses were found the following day. However from 7 to 27 October five road casualties were found.

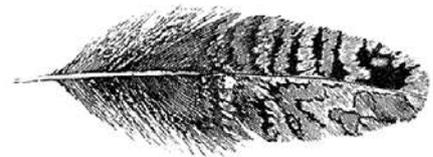
A single small Smooth Newt was found in a Wing garden on 8 September and a Great Crested Newt was found in the Recorder's cellar on 28 October.

*My thanks to the following who sent records: P Langston, R Lemmon, Dr C R Jones and L Worrall.*

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## **BIRD REPORT** compiled by T. Mitcham

30 Sutherland Way, Stamford PE9 2TB. Telephone: 01780 751268.  
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### **September/October 2014**

*A remarkable period for rarities culminated in Rutland's third Long-tailed Skua on 31st. Also recorded were Fulmar, Ring-necked Duck, Great White Egret, Great Skua, Arctic Skua and Wryneck – an impressive list. There were good numbers of wildfowl at both reservoirs, especially Wigeon, Gadwall and Tufted Ducks at Rutland Water. Waders made a good showing with Knot, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Jack Snipe and Black-tailed Godwit among the more regular species. Relatively few winter thrushes were reported, perhaps due to the mild weather.*

*My thanks to the following for their records: T Appleton, V Arnold, P Bennett, A & L Biddle, T Caldicott, M Collins, J & A Comber, Dr C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, A H J Harrop, Dr C Jones, P Langston, A Lawrence, LROS, S Lister, E & P Mann, K Mathers, I Misselbrook, T Mitcham, B Moore, L Park, J S & J Rodgers, P Rudkin, L Worrall.*

**Whooper Swan.** Two were at RWEg on 29.10 and six at EBR on 31.10.

**Pink-footed Goose.** A juvenile was at EBR between 12 and 30.10, and 12 flew over Leigh on 15.10.

**Greylag Goose.** 127 were at FHP on 23.10.

**Barnacle Goose.** One was at FHP on 19.10.

**Shelduck.** Three were at EBR on 28.09.

**Wigeon.** 92 were at FHP on 23.10.

**Gadwall.** There was a peak of 223 at FHP on 23.10.

**Teal.** There were 43 at Banthorpe Gravel Pit on 30.09 and 54 at FHP on 14.10.

**Pintail.** Five were at FHP on 03.10.

**Garganey.** Six were at RWEg on 02.09, with one noted next day.

**Shoveler.** 66 was the October peak at FHP on 18.10.

**Red-crested Pochard.** Regular at RW from 02.09 with a max of 16 on 10.09. At EBR there were two on 15/16.09, four on 26.10 and two on 31.10.

**Ring-necked Duck.** A male was at RWNA/Eg from 24.09 to 31.10.

**Scaup.** Present at RWNA/Eg from 21.09 to 31.10 with a max of three on 25.10.

**Common Scoter.** Eight were at RW Dam on 19.09 with a female at LFP next day. Two were at RWNA on 14.10.

**Grey Partridge.** On 21.09 there were coveys of 13 and seven in Ext Park and 14 at Pilt. Eight were at Pilt on 23.09.

**Fulmar.** One flew through at RWSA on 14.10 during windy weather.

**Bittern.** Singles were seen at RWEg on 08 and 18.09 and 24.10.

**Great White Egret.** Two were at RWEg to at least 05.10 with one for much of the month and two on 23.10. One was present to the end of the month.

**Little Egret.** Six were at Banthorpe Gravel Pit on 17.09 with nine there on 30.09.

**Red-necked Grebe.** One remained at RW Dam throughout Sept to at least 17.10.

**Black-necked Grebe.** One was at RWNA from 01.09 with two from 23.09 to the end of Oct.

**Red Kite.** Four over QF Wood on 15.09 was the peak count.

**Marsh Harrier.** Two juveniles were at RWEg from 02 to 12.09, one of which had been wing tagged in Norfolk in June. A late bird was at RW on 30.10.

**Sparrowhawk.** One was at Braun Meadows on 13.09. There were garden records from Oak on 22.09 and Lang on 09.10, where one plucked and ate a pigeon.

**Osprey.** One was at EBR on 07.09 and a late migrant was over Barleythorpe Hill on 30.09.

**Kestrel.** Noted regularly at FHP in Sept. One was at Rid on 12.10 and one roosted on a Wing house from 17.10.

**Hobby.** A good scatter of Sept records with birds at LFP, BW, Man, RWEg, Stam, Kett, and Glast. One was over BW on 09.10 with a RW bird next day the last record.

**Peregrine.** Noted at RWLynd on 09.09, LFP on 20.09, RWEg on 24.10, and Martinthorpe on 27/30.10.

**Water Rail.** One was by Lagoon 3 at RWEg on 14.09.

**Moorhen.** 64 were at FHP on 13.09.

**Coot.** 111 were at FHP on 23.10.

**Golden Plover.** c.80 were over Horn House on 21.09, with 84 counted nearby on 27.09. 418 were at RW on 12.10.

**Grey Plover.** Seven flew over RW on 23.09.

**Lapwing.** On 07.09 there were 350 at EBR and 811 at RW. 600 were at EBR on 12.10 with 808 at RW.

**Little Ringed Plover.** Three were at RWEg on 13.09.

**Ringed Plover.** Noted at RW between 03.09 and 16.10 with a max of seven on 09/10.10. One or two were at EBR on six dates between 12.09 and 14.10.

**Curlew.** One was at RW on 07.09 with six there on 12.10.

**Black-tailed Godwit.** At RWEg, up to four (25.10) were noted between 02.09 and 25.10.

**Knot.** Two were at RWEg on 12.09.

**Ruff.** Noted at RW between 01.09 and 12.10 with a peak of 11 on the first date. Up to three were at EBR between 01.09 and 30.10.

**Curlew Sandpiper.** One or two were at EBR between 09.09 and 14.10 and RW between 15.09 and 07.10.

- Sanderling.** Singles were at RW on 02.09 and EBR on 09.10.
- Dunlin.** Low numbers were noted at both reservoirs with peaks of six at RW on 05.10 and 14 at EBR on 14.10.
- Little Stint.** One was at EBR on 07.09 with another between 07 and 30.10. At RW there were singles on 12/18.09 and 05/12.10.
- Common Sandpiper.** Up to three were at EBR and RW between 01.09 and 12.10.
- Green Sandpiper.** Noted at RW from 01.09 to 25.10 with five on 07.09. Two were at Banthorpe Gravel Pit on 05.09, with singles over Martinsthorpe and at FHP on 03.10. One was at EBR on 26.10.
- Spotted Redshank.** One was at RW on 03.09.
- Greenshank.** Noted at RW between 01.09 and 10.10, with a max of four on 12 and 27.09. Singles were at EBR on 01 and 07/09.09.
- Wood Sandpiper.** One was at RWEg between 01 and 07.09.
- Redshank.** Scarce this autumn – one was at RW on 12.10 with four there on 24.10.
- Jack Snipe.** One was at RWEg on 17/20.09 with two there on 24.10.
- Snipe.** At RW there were nine on 07.09 and 26 on 12.10. Nine were at EBR on 21.09 and one at FHP on 27.09.
- Arctic Skua.** A pale phase bird flew through at RW on 21.10.
- Long-tailed Skua.** A juvenile was present near Pug's Park Spinney in Ext Park on 31.10, mobbed by crows. It was later found dead there and the corpse recovered. This is the third Rutland record.
- Great Skua.** Two were at RWNA on 13.10, with one remaining early next morning.
- Little Tern.** One was at EBR on 25.09.
- Black Tern.** One was in RWNA on 01/02.09.
- Common Tern.** Three were at RW on 07.09.
- Arctic Tern.** Two were at RW on 13.10.
- Little Gull.** One was at RW between 02 and 27.09, and on 13.10. Five flew through on 14.10. One was at EBR on 15.09.
- Mediterranean Gull.** Single adults were at RWEg on 24.09, and 14 and 16.10.
- Woodpigeon.** Between 18 and 28.10 large numbers migrated west across Rutland: 400 over WFL on 18, 530 over LFP on 22, 2580 over Martinsthorpe on 25, and 715 over Pilt on 28.
- Barn Owl.** Five young were ringed on 02.09 from the clutch of nine eggs noted in the previous *Fieldfare*. Single hunting birds were noted at Martinsthorpe, Bden, Kett and Mor.
- Little Owl.** Two called near Lynd Centre at RW on 07.09.
- Tawny Owl.** Calling birds were heard at Bden (two), Martinsthorpe (three) and Upp (two).
- Kingfisher.** Two were at RW-Whit on 22.09, with two at ponds at Greet Valley GC on 29.09. One was at EBR on 11.10.
- Wryneck.** One was at RWEg on 08.09.
- Green Woodpecker.** Regular at FHP throughout both months. Two were at Braun Meadows on 13.09 and one at QF on 30.10.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** One was at KQ on 24.09 and one in a Lang garden on 12 and 24.10.
- Jay.** Ten were at BW on 14.09. Westward migration was indicated by six at Leigh and five at Martinsthorpe on 22.09 and four at Man next day.
- Raven.** Reported from five sites, with eight in the Leigh/Martinthorpe area on 03.09 the peak count. Three were at FHP on 02.09 and seven were again at Martinthorpe on 16.10.
- Blue Tit.** c.45 were counted in BW on 14.09.
- Willow Tit.** Singles were at LFP, RWLynd, Martinthorpe, Pilt and WFL.
- Marsh Tit.** Well reported with birds at PGW, BW (17 on 14.09), Leigh, Wg, Martinthorpe, HambW and TunnW.
- Sand Martin.** Our last record was of several in a mixed hirundine flock over EBP on 20.09.
- Swallow.** c. 100 were at LFP on 07.09. October singles were at LFP on 20 and Martinthorpe on 26.
- House Martin.** c. 40 were over Bden on 06.09. Last noted at Norm on 07.10.
- Bearded Tit.** One was reported from Lagoon 3 at RWEg on 18.09.
- Cetti's Warbler.** One sang regularly at RWEg from 07.09.
- Chiffchaff.** Widespread on passage throughout September. 16 were around Leigh on 01.10. One was at Banthorpe Gravel Pit on 12.10 and one at Leigh on 31.10.
- Willow Warbler.** Last noted in a Man garden on 19.09.
- Blackcap.** A female was near HM on 27.09. Ten were at Leigh on 29.09, with one or two there throughout October to 31. Singles were at Martinthorpe on 03.10 and Pilt on 12.10.
- Lesser Whitethroat.** Our only autumn record was one at FHP on 02.09.
- Whitethroat.** A late bird was at Leigh on 29.09.
- Sedge Warbler.** Last reported from LFP on 17.09.
- Reed Warbler.** Our final birds were at RWLynd on 18.09 and LFP on 25.09.

**Starling.** Autumn passage was noted from 20.10, with 550 SW at LFP, 570 W at Martinsthorpe on 26.10 and 1275 west there next day.

**Blackbird.** 38 were around Leigh on 31.10.

**Fieldfare.** The first birds were five at NLuff and two over Leigh on 15.10. Five were at QF on 30.10 and 390 flew SW at Leigh next day.

**Song Thrush.** 13 were at RWLynd on 15.09, 12 at LFP on 21.09 and 12 at Leigh (Bushy Wood) on 29.09.

**Redwing.** The first birds were c.20 near EBR and ten near Upp on 11.10. Three or four were at Ext Park and Banthorpe Gravel Pit next day but the first large arrival was 300 SW over Leigh on 15.10.

**Mistle Thrush.** 15 were at Martinsthorpe on 19.09, and 20 were at LFP on 25.09 and 02.10.

**Spotted Flycatcher.** The only autumn records were one at Wg on 02.09 and four at LFP on 07.09.

**Robin.** High autumn counts were 35 at Martinsthorpe on 24.09, 32 around Leigh on 28.09 and 42 around Pilt on 30.09.

**Redstart.** In September a male was at Martinsthorpe on 02/03 and a female on 05. A female was at RW, Sykes Lane, on 06.09.

**Whinchat.** Singles were at RW-Tertiary Treatment Works on 07.09, GHW on 13.09 and Leigh on 29.09.

**Stonechat.** One or two were at RWEg from 23.09 to at least 20.10. A max of three were at EBR from 12.10 to 26.10.

**Wheatear.** One or two were at Martinsthorpe on five dates between 05.09 and 03.10. One was at RWNA on 16.10.

**Yellow Wagtail.** Passage birds were at Martinsthorpe to 24.09 with 30 on 10.09. Two flying over there on 27.09 were the last record.

**Grey Wagtail.** Singles were noted from 06.09 at FHP (2 on 18.10), EBR, Norm and Ext Park lake.

**Pied Wagtail.** Up to 30 were on pasture at Martinsthorpe between 17 and 22.09. 44 flew SE at RWLynd on 18.09. 25 were on roofs at Man on 09.10 and 83 roosted at LFP on 21/22.10.

**Tree Pipit.** One flew over near Pilt on 21.09.

**Meadow Pipit.** c.20 were in Ext Park on 06.09, c.110 flew SE at Leigh on 10.09, there were 30 at Banthorpe Gravel Pit on 17.09 and c.316 flew S at Martinsthorpe on 27.10.

**Rock Pipit.** Noted at RW between 06 and 14.10, with two on three dates. At EBR reported between 07 and 24.10, with four on 12.10.

**Water Pipit.** One was briefly at EBR on 26.10.

**Chaffinch.** October passage was noted over Leigh from 15.10 with 160 W. 100 were counted on 24.10, with a similar number over Martinsthorpe on 26.10.

**Brambling.** One or two were at Leigh (Bushy Wood) on 29.09. The main passage began on 14.10, with birds noted to 28.10 over Pilt, RW, Leigh and Man with a max of 28 over Leigh on 24.10.

**Siskin.** Four flew S at Martinsthorpe on 27.09.

**Linnet.** 300 were at Martinsthorpe on 03.09, with counts of 100 to 300 there to 24.10.

**Lesser Redpoll.** Ten were at PGW on 31.10.

**Hawfinch.** One was at the EBR car park near Stoke Dry on 14.10.

**Reed Bunting.** 30 were at Leigh on 17.09.

*See over for Wildfowl counts.*

## September and October 2014 Wildfowl Counts

*No counts were received for October from Holywell Lake*

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park Lake		Banthorpe Gravel Pit		Holywell Lake
		12.10	07.09	12.10	06.09	14.10	05.09	14.10	07.09
Mute Swan	403	303	111	67	17	17	4	4	2
Whooper Swan		6							
Pink-footed Goose				1					
Greylag Goose	631	331	318	350		43			97
Canada Goose	779	280	206	55		10			63
Barnacle Goose	1	2	1						
Egyptian Goose	147	35							
Shelduck			5	2					
Mandarin Duck	1	1							
Wigeon	971	4458	12	122	1	89		1	
Gadwall	1207	951	17	52	73	152			2
Teal	450	870	119	146	15	54	17	35	
Mallard	1156	846	231	151	155	105	24	53	98
Pintail	9	66	7	8	1	4			
Garganey	1								
Shoveler	500	304	6	11	18	52	3		
Red-crested Pochard	1								
Pochard	77	163				1			
Ring-necked Duck		1							
Tufted Duck	3560	4059	22	21	17	10	2	5	10
Scaup		3							
Goldeneye	1	2		1					
Cormorant	264	252	52			1			
Little Egret	27	28	6				2		
Great White Egret		1							
Grey Heron	21	27	5	2	2	1	1	1	
Little Grebe	168	163		3	1	4			
Great Crested Grebe	427	415	35	41					
Red-necked Grebe	1	1							
Black-necked Grebe	1	2							
Water Rail	14	16							
Moorhen	228	243	4	16	58	35		5	20
Coot	2624	3565	53	116	75	91	1	7	14
Kingfisher	4	3		1					

## BOTANY NOTES compiled by John Rodgers

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### September/October 2014

There has been a period of mild, even warm weather in the early autumn, though this has not led to many records being submitted. There are the faithful few, most of whom do verges as well, but the majority of members have not submitted anything. Do please make a New Year resolution to send in your observations next year. Nothing is too mundane for our records.

There is also a problem with the verge recording. I have received records for verges 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 16, and for Shipley's Common verge, near Prior's Coppice, but the others have not been covered. Partly this is because of Graham's death, but others have had to withdraw for personal reasons. We need some more volunteers.

Two notable records both came from the same person. Clive Jones submitted a record of a plant found by Peter Ennis, a terrestrial form of Amphibious Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*). A single plant was found on the Town Hall steps in Uppingham. The other is a record of Corn Marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*) which was found in the rough grass edge of a field at Ridlington. Clive wondered if these five clumps represented the only specimens left in Rutland. Since 2000 the flowers have been reported in 9 locations all in the south of the county, but the last report was in 2010. Is it the last resting place?

*Records were received from: L & A Biddle, L & R Brown, R Edwards, P Ennis, M Grimes, C R Jones, R Lemmon and from the RNHS walk along Oakham Canal*

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## BUTTERFLY NOTES compiled by Alistair Lawrence

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### September/October 2014

*The dry sunny days of September saw some of the later summer migrants still on the wing; whilst in October Red Admirals were the dominant active butterfly.*

**Brimstone** There were three sightings of this species during this period, a singleton in an Oakham garden on 3 September, one near Braunston on 13 September, and another in a Langham garden on 4 October.

**Large White** Reports for this species were both on 28 September when a pair were seen at George Henry Wood and there was a sighting at Clipsham Park Wood.

**Small White** During September three were seen at Quarry Farm on the 5th and four in fields near Braunston on the 13th.

**Clouded Yellow** On 8 September one specimen was seen and photographed on the pavement along Burley Park Way, Oakham.

**Common Blue** Three specimens were observed on Fleabane flowers in a field near Braunston on 13 September.

**Red Admiral** Over the two months this was the most widely reported species, with records coming from a variety of habitats. On 28 September 12 specimens were observed at George Henry Wood and a week earlier 5 were counted at Egleton. In October sightings were mostly of singletons from around the county, ranging from Stoke Dry and Ketton to Market Overton. Latest record received comes from a Barrowden garden on 30th.

**Painted Lady** There were two reports of this species – a sighting at Uppingham on the 18th September, and another singleton at Egleton Reserve on 21 September.

**Small Tortoiseshell** The only records received are of a singleton in an Oakham garden on 5 September and a pair at Clipsham Park Wood on 28 September.

**Peacock** This species was a frequent visitor to an Uppingham garden in early September, and was also seen at Egleton reserve and Clipsham Park Wood during this month. On 28 October, 3 were observed in a Market Overton garden and in the same month a singleton was seen in Langham.

**Comma** Singletons were seen on the Hambleton peninsula and near Ketton in early September but on the 28th of that month 11 were counted at Clipsham Park Wood. The only record for October is of a pair in a Market Overton garden.

**Speckled Wood** This species was reported at Egleton during mid September with 6 being counted on the 21st. Specimens were seen regularly in Uppingham and records also come from Quarry Farm, Clipsham Park Wood and George Henry Wood.

**Small Heath** The only record during this period is of 2 specimens at Quarry Farm on 5 September.

*My thanks to the following for their contributions: R Brown, C Butterfield, C Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, E & P Mann, D Masters, D Needham, E Northen, B & D Parker, P Rudkin, B & J Taylor and L Worrall*

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## **MOTH NOTES** compiled by Jean Harvey

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### **September/October 2014**

With a mild autumn, some species have had extra broods and have remained on the wing much later than normal. For example, on 30 October a Rosy Footman was trapped in Collyweston Great Wood, which is over 2 months late as this species is listed in the books as flying from June to August.

Following the report of a Webb's Wainscot in the reed bed at Rutland Water in August another was trapped in early September, so let us hope it will become a regular species there.

There have been odd signs of migration during the last two months, with Diamond-backed moth, Rush Veneer and Dark Sword Grass being recorded. The highlight was a Vestal at Luffenham Heath golf course on 2 October.

We ran overnight traps at Eyebrook Reservoir on September 5th and 18th, resulting in 38 species

on both occasions. On the first date there were 444, with Scorched Carpet a new species for the site. Also that night we had 4 Red Underwings in one trap, which was an unusual occurrence. On the second date the number of moths taken had dropped to 263 and these included more Autumn species.

Reports have been received from the small group that meets at Lyndon on a regular basis. They trapped on the evenings of September 3rd and 18th, when 22 and 15 species were recorded respectively. On October 1st a total of 14 species included 30 Barred Sallows!

Finally, a Privet Hawkmoth caterpillar was found in mid-September in a garden at Barrowden and relocated to a more suitable habitat as it seemed ready to pupate.

*My thanks to the following: V Arnold, P Bennett, R Follows, M Grimes and L Worrall.*

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# ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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## September/October 2014

*Good news! Yet another brand new Rutland site to report this period. During the recorders' meeting at Rothley in Feb 2013, I noticed a stand that was manned by LRWT Senior Conservation Officer Neill Talbot. One of the displays featured a meadows complex, west of Braunston in Rutland, just near South Lodge Farm. We immediately agreed that the RNHS should get involved and gradually work the various patchworks of the fields. Neill's group have surveyed the botany of the area, and have amassed an impressive list.*

*Fast track to season 2014 and Neill contacted the farmer, Mr Colin Roger, and arranged access for a small team from RNHS to study the wildlife. Mr Roger kindly agreed to this request and indeed, came to meet us on the site, during our first visit on 13th September. The farm has been in the High Level Stewardship Scheme since 1992, and we feel privileged to be allowed into this private land. This is an important new habitat for us, and although a little late in the season, records were logged. We have been invited to carry on in 2015.*

*This was fortuitous, as this is the end of the cut off point for sightings to be submitted to the National Orthoptera Recording Scheme, who will be producing their National Orthoptera Atlas in 2015.*

*What an excellent season for insects, and the Orthoptera also benefited from the heat wave, followed by the driest September since records began. In particular for the period under review, it was remarkable to note the immense numbers of Long-winged Coneheads (particularly at the Egleton reserve, Rutland Water), and numbers were high elsewhere in Rutland.*

*The grasshopper species start to wind down during late September, so the sightings for this period are down in number, but of course the crickets are still going strong. We always look for the last stridulating at the end of October, and two of our crickets feature. As usual, only new site records will have their map references mentioned.*

## Bush Crickets

### **Roesel's Bush Cricket** *Metriopectera roeselii*

The Rutland Water Lyndon Reserve Survey took place on 7 September, 11.30 am, cool but dry and calm, 11 °C. However, by midday the temperature moved up to 21 °C. The expected large colonies were located in their regular haunts, west of the Interpretive Centre, in the nettle beds outside Deep Water Hide, and in rough herbage outside Tufted Duck Hide. The return walk was on the farm track (adjacent to the hides), and large colonies were located. During September, away from the reserve, numbers were checked at regular sites in the LRWT nature reserve Bloody Oaks, the Cutting area at Ketton Quarries, Quarry Farm, Stamford, and Elaine's Field, Lyddington; all numbers maintained, and in good health.

As a result of access to an important new site (see introduction), arranged for the RNHS by Neil Talbot and by kind permission of Colin Roger, five members of an RNHS team surveyed the wildlife in part of the Braunston Meadow complex (Braunston Grassland 2) on 13 September. They started at 11.30 am, with 6/8 cloud, sunny, dry

and calm. Four stridulating males were heard in rough grasses, and a further 20+ in a thin linear stretch of rank vegetation. At 1.0 pm we reached the top of the hill, and found two, in rough grasses, and further along, six stridulating in field rough edge. All the above are new squares for this species, SK818057.

Finally, last stridulating heard on 30 October at 3.30 pm, in the First Field, Quarry Farm, Stamford; two males heard in rough grasses, 16 °C, dry, force 1.

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

Rutland Water Lyndon Reserve Survey on 7 September resulted in pleasingly large numbers of stridulating males, in grasses along the path (west of the Interpretive Centre), and on the return walk on the farm track – many males heard in the grasses along the path. On 28 September, at 3.00 pm, warm calm and dry, large numbers of stridulating males were found in rough grasses, in the First Field, Quarry Farm, Stamford. The stridulating was normal speed!

October sightings: on the 27th, 11.00 am, mild, force 2, sunny with 4/8 cloud, three stridulating

males were found in the rough bank of the disabled car park, outside the Bird Watching Centre, Egleton. Three days later on the 30th, at 4.30 pm, 16 °C, dry, force 1, 4/8 cloud, I was amazed to find 15 stridulating males in the rough grasses, in the First Field, Quarry Farm, Stamford. By 4.55 pm, in the Second Field (the wildflower meadow), two very large colonies were stridulating in the vegetation. The stridulating was subdued, but constant. This was to be the last heard of this conehead for October!

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

The nature reserve at Lyndon is the stronghold of this species at Rutland Water! The survey on 7 September proved this, with all the regular areas to the west of the Interpretive Centre fully occupied by this attractive spotty creature: the trees and shrubs in the car park, the Hawthorn hedgerows full all the way along the trail to Tufted Duck Hide, and on the farm track on the way back.

New site at Braunston Meadows (Braunston Grassland 2), was visited on 13th September, 11.50 am; there were four stridulating males in an Ash tree. 20 yards further, two heard in Ash tree. At 12.20 pm, at the top of the field hill, six males were found in Blackthorn, four heard in Hawthorn, and 20+ in an Oak tree (all picked up by the bat detector at 35kHz), SK818057.

The following sightings were both on 24th September: six stridulating males in tree, North Glade, Ketton Quarries, at 10.45 am. The expected large numbers at their stronghold, the LRWT Bloody Oaks reserve, all around the area in the Hawthorn hedgerows, at 3.30 pm.

## **Grasshoppers**

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

September: Richard Brown started off the month, with one female nymph in an overgrown rubbish tip, Lyddington, on 1st September. He followed this up with an adult in rough grasses, near Horn Mill, Exton, on the 2nd. The Lyndon Reserve survey on the 7th produced only two stridulating males, along the farm track adjacent to Tufted Duck Hide. Richard visited the Egleton reserve on the 13th and located two adults, just north of the Bird Watching Centre.

The new site at Braunston Meadows (Braunston Grassland 2), on the 13th, produced two adults (one netted by Clive Jones), SK818057. Finally, two adults were found and identified in grass at Bloody Oaks reserve, on the 24th.

#### **Lesser Marsh Grasshopper** *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

September: one female in rubbish tip, Lyddington, on the 1st. One female nymph, in grasses, near Horn Mill on the 2nd. The Lyndon Reserve survey on the 7th produced five courtship pairs in grasses, near Deep Water Hide, and five stridulating males in the herbage, outside Tufted Duck Hide (west of the Interpretive Centre).

The new site at Braunston Meadows, surveyed on the 13th (Braunston Grassland 2), had four courtship pairs in rough vegetation under hedgerow. SK818059.

One nymph, in rough grasses, was observed at Egleton Reserve, on the 14th.

One late instar nymph was found in grasses, at the North Glade, Ketton Quarries, on the 24th.

Finally, one record for October, Clive Jones reported from Elaine's Field a small colony in the pasture, on the 3rd October. This field has been surveyed over many years, and it is good to know that this species is still thriving!

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*Many thanks for reports contributed by: R Brown (on line), C Jones, D Needham, P Rudkin.*

## PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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### September 2014

There have been a good number of plant gall reports this month, probably the last month of this season when this will happen. Hambleton Wood on the 4th gave a total of 17, mostly run of the mill, but a mite gall on Wood Avens and a Dipteran gall on Bracken have been scarce this year.

A guided walk by Andy Lear (LRWT) on the drawdown zone of Lagoon 2, Rutland Water, on the 6th produced just three records, but two of them, a Psyllid gall on Rosebay and a Midge gall on Redleg, were new to the County.

Merry's Meadows on the 11th gave rise to 18 records and Braunston Meadows on the 13th a further 13. This latter is a new site for the Society; the farmer who owns it is keen for us to monitor it and the visit was ably organised by Phil Rudkin.

An interesting record reached me on the 14th, this was on Wild Pear from a garden in Oakham. Wild Pears in Rutland are on a par with hen's teeth but this one was grown from a pip collected in Norfolk. It has now developed pear rust, which is a galler and is a new record for the County.

The final record for the month was from Lax Hill on the 25th and gave a total of 27 species. All were run of the mill but of course all contribute to a fuller picture of gall distribution in the County.

### October 2014

At a time when one would expect reports of galls to be lessening in frequency, it is remarkable that I have received results from ten sites, although it has to be said that several are for only small numbers of species, all very welcome however.

Wing was the source of three different galls on Oak; and the roadsides around Horn Mill produced galls on Ground Elder, Hardheads and Buckthorn, amongst others which were more run of the mill.

Ketton on the 9th saw a gall on Yew and nearby the field owned by the Wildlife Trust gave two new species, Mistletoe on apple trees and a Psyllid gall on Box. The first of these is very unusual in the sense that it is one plant parasitising another plant; and where the Mistletoe enters the apple stems to obtain its nutrients it forms a gall.

Manor Farm Pickworth and Pickworth Great Wood on the 16th gave a total of 20 species, mostly 'fillers' but nevertheless useful, and the same applies to reports from Clipsham and Addah Wood on 23rd, among which was the gall on Yew reported previously from Ketton.

Finally on the 30th there was a report from Eyebrook plantation of nine galls including the Yew gall again and a rust gall, this time one of those that parasitise the anthers of plants and give the petals a dusting which colours them brown-purple. The host plant on this occasion seemed to be Greater Chickweed, and this will have to be checked as it does not appear as a host to this fungus, at least not in the usual literature. I hope to have the answer for the next report.

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*Thanks to Dr C Gallimore, M Grimes, A Lawrence and R Lemmon for their reports.*

# INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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*This report covers the months July to October. For no particular reason, insect reports were quite sparse for July and August. For many different reasons it just happens this way sometimes. However, a lovely spell of weather in September has led to some interesting records, in particular for two species of Squash Bug. Both those recorded are interesting. Corizus hyoscyami is noted more on sandy dunes but seems to be moving inland and we now have had four records for Rutland. The Western Conifer Seed Bug is a fairly recently introduced species and this is the first recording we have received for Rutland.*

## July 2014

### DRAGONFLIES *Odonata*

#### DAMSELFLIES

BANDED DEMOISELLE *Calopteryx splendens* One male was reported flying south down Oakham high street!

EMERALD DAMSELFLY *Lestes sponsa* Fourteen noted at Leighfield Fishponds.

WHITE-LEGGED DAMSELFLY *Platycnemis pennipes* One mature male recorded at Leighfield Fishponds.

COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY *Enallagma cyathigerum* Many recorded at Oakham Canal.

#### TRUE DRAGONFLIES

BROWN HAWKER *Aeshna grandis* Two reported from Oakham Canal.

MIGRANT HAWKER *Aeshna mixta* One flew over a garden in Manton several times on two consecutive days.

EMPEROR DRAGONFLY *Anax imperator* Two were noted at Leighfield Fishponds.

BROAD-BODIED CHASER *Libellula depressa* Five were recorded at Oakham Canal.

### TRUE BUGS *Hemiptera*

#### JUMPING PLANT LICE – PSYLLIDS

APPLE PSYLLID *Psylla mali* This insect was noted at RW Lyndon Centre where it had caused a marked leaf fold, with characteristic mottling, on an apple tree.

### BEES *Hymenoptera*

#### BUMBLE BEES *Apidae*

TREE BUMBLE BEE *Bombus hypnorum* One insect recorded at Quarry Farm near Stamford.

RED-TAILED BUMBLE BEE *Bombus lapidarius*  
One insect recorded at Quarry Farm near Stamford.

### BEETLES *Coleoptera*

SUMMER CHAFER *Amphimallon solstitialis* One specimen recorded near Lyndon (noted as being big and hairy!).

### SLUGS AND SNAILS *Gastropoda*

LEOPARD SLUG *Limax maximus* Three were noted feeding on crushed peanuts, which had been put out for hedgehogs in a garden at Barrowden.

## August 2014

### DRAGONFLIES *Odonata*

#### DAMSELFLIES

BANDED DEMOISELLE *Calopteryx splendens* One recorded on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal.

EMERALD DAMSELFLY *Lestes sponsa* A few recorded on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal.

BLUE-TAILED DAMSELFLY *Ischnura elegans* A good number recorded on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal.

COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY *Enallagma cyathigerum* Again a good number recorded on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal.

AZURE DAMSELFLY *Coenagrion puella* Recorded on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal.

RED-EYED DAMSELFLY *Erythromma najas* A number recorded on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal.

#### TRUE DRAGONFLIES

BROWN HAWKER *Aeshna grandis* A few recorded on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal. One recorded at Tixover. Two sightings recorded in Barrowden.

SOUTHERN HAWKER *Aeshna cyanea* Recorded on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal.

EMPEROR DRAGONFLY *Anax imperator* One recorded on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal. One noted on two separate days in Barrowden.

FOUR-SPOTTED CHASER *Libellula quadrimaculata* One noted on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal. One noted in garden at Barrowden.

COMMON DARTER *Sympetrum striolatum* A few noted on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal.

RUDDY DARTER *Sympetrum sanguineum* A few noted on RNHS visit to Oakham Canal.

## TRUE FLIES *Diptera*

HOVER-FLY *Volucella inanis* One recorded on marjoram at Ketton Quarry.

## BEES, WASPS *Hymenoptera*

SOCIAL WASPS *Vespidae*

HORNET *Vespa crabro* One recorded at Priors Coppice.

### BEES

ASHEN BEE *Andrena cineraria* One noted on Verge 8.

BUMBLE BEES *Apidae*

WHITE-TAILED BUMBLE BEE *Bombus lucorum* One noted at Greetham.

COMMON CARDER BEE *Bombus pascuorum* One noted at Greetham and one noted at Exton.

## BEETLES *Coleoptera*

7-SPOT LADYBIRD *Coccinella 7-punctata* One recorded on ash at Ketton Quarry.

BLOODY-NOSED BEETLE *Timarcha tenebricosa* One recorded at The Seek. The Seek is located next-door to Dawn's Paddock where there is a thriving population of these beetles and obviously they are expanding their territory.

## September 2014

### DRAGONFLIES *Odonata*

TRUE DRAGONFLIES

BROWN HAWKER *Aeshna grandis* – one recorded at RW Egleton.

COMMON DARTER *Sympetrum striolatum* – one recorded at RW Egleton.

RUDDY DARTER *Sympetrum sanguineum* – one recorded at RW Egleton.

## TRUE BUGS *Hemiptera*

SQUASH BUG *Corizus hyoscyami* – two recorded on purple toadflax at Lyddington.

SQUASH BUG/Western Conifer Seed Bug *Leptoglossus occidentalis* – one came to moth trapping light at RW Lyndon.

## BEES *Hymenoptera*

LEAF-CUTTER BEE *Megachile centuncularis* – one noted at RW Egleton entering a hole in a wooden seat.

## BEETLES *Coleoptera*

22-SPOT LADYBIRD *Psyllobora 22-punctata* – two recorded at Braunston Meadows.

## SPIDERS *Araneae*

ORB WEB SPIDER *Araneus quadratus* – one recorded at Ketton Quarry with a honey bee caught in its web.

## SLUGS AND SNAILS *Gastropoda*

LEOPARD SLUG *Limax maximus* – Seven individuals feeding on peanuts and fallen hibiscus flowers at Barrowden.

SNAIL *Oxyloma pfeifferi* – one recorded in wetland area at Braunston Meadows.

SNAIL *Ceruella virgata* – one recorded at RW Lax Hill.

GREAT POND SNAIL *Lymnaea stagnalis* – a record of several empty shells seen in the draw-down zone of Lagoon 2 RW.

## October 2014

### DRAGONFLIES *Odonata*

TRUE DRAGONFLIES

EMPEROR DRAGONFLY *Anax imperator* – two individuals noted at Eyebrook.

SOUTHERN HAWKER *Aeshna grandis* – one recorded at Eyebrook.

## SCORPION FLIES *Mecoptera*

SCORPION FLY *Panorpa sp.* – one recorded during moth-trapping at RW Lyndon.

## CADDIS FLIES *Trichoptera*

CADDIS FLY – one insect recorded in garden at Barrowden. Noted as having long antennae, orange-coloured legs and well-marked orange and black-coloured wings.

## SOCIAL WASPS *Vespidae*

HORNET *Vespa crabro* – recorded frequently over Sept/Oct during moth-trapping at RW Lyndon, with 25 noted on one evening. A nest of hornets was reported nearby to the moth-trapping location.

## BEES *Hymenoptera*

WHITE-TAILED BUMBLEBEE *Bombus lucorum* – recorded on two occasions near month end at Barrowden.

## BEETLES *Coleoptera*

HARLEQUIN LADYBIRD *Harmonia axyridis* – one noted at Eyebrook Plantation.

ORANGE LADYBIRD *Halyzia 16-punctata* – two noted at Eyebrook Plantation.

## SLUGS AND SNAILS *Gastropoda*

LEOPARD SLUG *Limax maximus* – several recorded nightly during the month at Barrowden.

LARGE BLACK SLUG *Arion ater ater* – two slugs (brown with orange foot fringe) recorded at Barrowden.

SWAN MUSSEL *Anodonta cygnea* – several broken/opened shells recorded on shoreline at Eyebrook Plantation.

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*Grateful thanks to the following recorders: V Arnold, P Bennett, M Branston, R Brown, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, M Grimes, J & R Harvey, C Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, D Needham, P Tomalin, L Worrall.*

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## GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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You don't usually hear about glow-worms at this time of year, so I was stunned to see an article in *The Times* on November 3rd entitled 'Dim your garden lights to put glow-worms in the mood'. Yes! I thought, and remembered the kind household in Barrowden who temporarily put away their own green garden solar lights last summer to help flying male glow-worms to find their females, rather than get exhausted trying to get a response from glass or plastic.

*The Times* article reports that South Gloucestershire council has, shall I say, seen the light. They have now put up signs saying 'This street light column will be switched off from May to September to allow glow-worms to breed. Glow-worms are fascinating creatures suffering decline. We are committed to trying to safeguard our biodiversity.' This was because in the summer males were found trying to mate with LED lights installed on the Bristol to Bath railway path, a stretch of a popular walking and cycling track.

But then there is the Fineshade Wood planning application, where the Final Ecological Report

noted the presence of glow-worms at the proposed site of 70 luxury cabins and other buildings and stated there was no need to do anything about them. Attraction to all those lights and waymarkers was not mentioned. As you can imagine, I explained the situation to East-Northamptonshire council and objected very strongly indeed.

Nice news is that one of our own Rutland glow-worms has her photograph in the Winter edition of RSPB's magazine, *Nature's Home*. Matthew Rumbelow of Barrowden took the picture there near the end of June, wrote to the editor about how he had been watching a family of little owls and was then delighted to see a colony of eight glow-worms in the grass verge opposite. He also described how, despite repeated requests from residents to leave them uncut and preserve such an important habitat, the council had mown another glow-worm rich verge in the village that very day. The editor commented: 'A fantastic photo of an insect that is not easy to capture. My local wood has glow-worms and I enjoyed a couple of evenings with them this summer. One visit also led

to the discovery of a family of long-eared owls, so a particularly memorable evening. Sadly, around the same time, some of my local colonies of bee orchids were also destroyed by mowing.' Amongst other letters and photos, including secretive woodcock chicks, a grass snake eating a toad and a school's

eco-friendly garden, Matthew's glow-worm gleaming amongst the dark grass stalks shone out, and he and she were awarded the Star Letter prize. Truly brilliant! Hopefully, she was one of the very few which survived her own verge being unexpectedly cut five days later.

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## **MAMMAL REPORT** compiled by Linda Biddle

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*Please continue sending in your records. Your Recorder has been very busy. A full report will appear in January Fieldfare.*

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## **BAT REPORT** compiled by Jenny Harris

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### **May to October 2014**

*Over the summer and autumn I have received few bat records from members and have been out 'batting' less often myself. When I discussed this with Linda Biddle, she said that she no longer sent in records because there are no longer bats foraging over her garden to record, and perhaps this is the same all round the county. I too see fewer bats foraging over my own garden, front and back, even though this summer should have provided good breeding conditions for juvenile and adult survival. However, Linda Worrall has still regularly seen bats in her Barrowden garden, including one on 20.5. My last bat sighting of the year was of a foraging bat in my front garden on 1.10, where it patrolled to and fro for at least 10 minutes on a mild evening; I actually saw it catch a mosquito.*

*Over the summer I was privileged to accompany Matt Cook from Nottingham during his harp-trapping sessions for the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) Nathusius' pipistrelle research project. He carried out seven visits around Rutland Water; I accompanied him on four of those, to Compartment 23 Burley Wood on 31.5, which included on the edge of the relict woodland overlooking Burley Reach; at Hambleton Wood on 27.7 and 13.9; and at Egleton reserve behind Lagoon II on 24.8. The full list of species caught included Soprano (but not Common) Pipistrelle, Daubenton's bat, Natterer's bat, Whiskered bat, Brandt's bat, Brown Long-eared and, at last, Nathusius' Pipistrelle. I hope to have full details from Matt for the Annual Report.*

*The harp trap is formed of two rows of very fine vertical wires attached to a rigid frame. Beneath this is stretched an open bag covered by two flaps of smooth polythene. The bats become confused by the wires, try to go through or land, then slide down into the trough-shaped bag below, where they are prevented from taking flight again by the smooth flaps. They can roost on the bag and remain there calmly until removed, protected from weather and predators, beneath the plastic flaps.*

#### **Common pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

In spite of its name this species seems less common than expected in this area. They were recorded regularly over a Barmstedt Drive garden in Oakham, throughout the summer and occasionally in my garden on Woodland View; in Aldgate, Ketton, on 11.7 during the Bats and Glow-worms walk, and up to four were foraging around Whissendine church on 13.6 and 28.6.

There were four 'grounded' bats between May and October, all but one of them males. An adult was found on 8.6 on a pavement in Uppingham Road, Oakham, and seemed to have been hit by a car, so it was taken for euthanasia by the vet next day. A very young female, probably only just flying and not weaned, appeared from under furniture at Simmonds Optometrists, Burley Road, Oakham on 11.7. I gave it glucose

water and fed it mini-mealworms and whole milk several times over 36 hours, and when it was released on 12.7 I watched it flying and hunting over the Burley Road car park for some time, hoping it could re-join its mother. A more advanced juvenile was found in Westfield Road, Oakham on 31.7 and released on 7.8; and the last of the year was found dehydrated and thin in a house at South Luffenham on 28.8, and released on 14.9. Earlier in the year I reported on a male common pipistrelle found in Stamford with two holes approximately 1cm diameter in its wing membranes. By July these had fully healed and the bat was flying well round my lounge, so was successfully released where found, a testament to the amazing resilience of bats' wing membranes.

Two roosts were counted for the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP). At Wing 38 bats emerged on 11.6 and 59 were counted on 5.7. On the morning of 24.8, having scrubbed his patio on 23.8, Dr Gallimore noticed (and counted) 145 droppings. That evening 84 bats emerged from the new extension roof and a further 41 from the old west part of the roof, a total of 125 bats. Many of the bats appeared to be smaller, possibly juveniles. A roost in Morcott had 61 bats on 14.6; but the bats seemed to have left for the second count on 19.6. However, 86 emerged on 15.7 (probably including some juveniles) and 67 were still present on 21.7. A new roost site, with 36 bats, was discovered in The Jetty, Wing on 13.6 but not counted for the NBMP.

### **Soprano pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

Soprano pipistrelles were the most numerous bats caught in the harp traps around RW (see above), with 14 at Hambleton on 27.7 being the peak count. Those caught included adult and juvenile males, often only weighing 4.1 gm, pregnant and post-lactating females. Several males had small fur samples taken for stable isotope analysis.

Three grounded bats were rescued: on 2.6 an adult male found its way into Empingham Primary School, and was released after care on 8.6; while on 5.8 a juvenile male fell out of a sun parasol at Edith Weston village shop. It too was released, on 6.8. A juvenile found at Egleton churchyard in July was taken to Joelle Bryan at Egleton Visitor Centre, but was very dehydrated and died.

Several soprano roosts were counted. At Egleton Church on 11.6, 692 bats emerged, with more than 60% emerging from the south aisle. No counts were made in July at this site. At All Saints church, Braunston-in-Rutland, where sopranos

appear to have taken over the common pipistrelle roost after losing theirs in 2013, 372 bats were counted on 14.6 and 405 on 2.7. The maternity roost at The Fox and Hounds pub in Exton was counted, with 661 on 8.6; 597 on 20.6 and 769 on 5.7. Many of the bats emerging on 5.7 are likely to have been juveniles. A roost in Edith Weston also contained more than 700 bats in September. There were no bats at the Rutland Watersports Centre, Whitwell, as the entrance had become partially blocked, but this has now been remedied.

Foraging bats were heard at Burley Wood on 2.5 and 31.5; and at Ketton along Station Road and in glades in the small community woodland next to the R. Chater and Sinc Bridge on 11.7. They were the commonest species heard behind Lagoon I during the Bird Fair bat walks in mid-August and two were foraging around Whissendine Church on 13.6 and 28.6. A single soprano pipistrelle was foraging at Barmstedt Drive, Oakham on 31.7.

### **Nathusius' pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus nathusii*

So little is currently known about the distribution and status of this species in Britain that BCT have initiated a research project, piloted this year by certain bat groups, including Nottinghamshire Bat Group. Because there are a number of records for Burley Wood and Rutland Water, Matt Cook was keen to include Rutland in his harp-trapping project. Trapping took place from April to October, missing out June and most of July so as not to trap pregnant and lactating females. Disappointingly no *Nathusius'* pipistrelles were heard during a visit to Burley Wood on 2.5, nor during the trapping session there on 31.5. They were however heard on 16.8 behind Lagoon I during the Bird Fair bat walk. The capture of two male *Nathusius'* pipistrelles at Hambleton Wood on 13.9 was of course the highlight of these sessions. The trap had been set between two large oaks in the open grassland area between the two cattle grids, with an acoustic lure placed on the traps to attract bats. *Nathusius'* pipistrelles are slightly larger than the other two pipistrelles, have very hairy tail membranes, and distinctive veining in the wings. For the study the bats were ringed on the forearm and a small fur sample was clipped off the lower back, which will be tested by stable isotope analysis to help determine if these bats are resident or migratory, and what the implications are for the population around Rutland Water. These were the first *Nathusius'* pipistrelles in the hand since the species was first discovered in the county and recorded on a Duet bat detector, foraging in the eastern part of Burley Wood, Compartment 26, in 2005. Very exciting.

**Brown Long-eared bat** *Plecotus auritus*

Brown Long-eared bats seem to be rather elusive in the county now, with only Dr Gallimore's roost in Wing counted for the NBMP. There were six bats on 11.6 and five there on 5.7. Dr Gallimore reports that in June the bats came from the outbuildings next to the house, those in July from the extension on the west end of the house. Droppings suggested that the species was present at Greetham, Lyddington and South Luffenham churches, and we felt sure two or three bats emerged from the north aisle of South Luffenham church on 12.8. Bats circling Linda Worrall's Barrowden garden, larger than pipistrelles and flying lower and more slowly, could have been long-eared bats, with three or four on 26.7, and two on 17.8. A male was caught in the harp trap at Egleton reserve on 24.8. An injured male was found in South Luffenham on 6.7, which died on 2.10.

**Daubenton's bat** *Myotis daubentonii*

The capture of a pregnant Daubenton's bat in a harp trap overlooking Burley Reach was an exciting discovery on 31.5. On each of the other trapping sessions I attended only single males were caught. As usual Daubenton's were seen foraging along the R. Chater at Station Road bridge and Sinc bridge in Aldgate on 11.7 during the bats and glow-worms walk. A surprise find was a male Daubenton's under the skirt of one of the marquees at Bird Fair on 15.8. It was brought to the BCT stand, fed up and released at the start of the bat walk at Egleton on 16.8.

**Natterer's bat** *Myotis nattereri*

The colony at St. Andrew's church, Whissendine, was counted for the NBMP. The results were 34 bats on 13.6, and 36 bats on 28.6; so there has no significant recovery of the colony since the decline of the last 10 years. On both 24.8 (Egleton) and 13.9 (Hambleton Wood) single male Natterer's were caught in the harp traps. It was only in 2013 that the presence of this species was confirmed at Rutland Water, Egleton reserve when a male was found in a bat box.

**Whiskered bat** *Myotis mystacinus*

The only records were of single male bats caught in the harp traps at Egleton on 24.8 and Hambleton Wood on 13.9 and a non-breeding female in the Hambleton Wood trap on 27.7.

**Brandt's bat** *Myotis brandtii*

A single male Brandt's bat was found in a harp trap set up near Osprey hide, Egleton on 24.8. This is only the second record for RW and for Rutland as a whole.

**Noctule bat** *Nyctalus noctula*

On 11.7 a single noctule was observed from Egleton church, flying towards the nature reserve at about 9.30 pm. Twenty minutes later a bat made several feeding circuits of the field next to the church before disappearing. A noctule was heard briefly, but not seen, passing over the R. Chater at Aldgate on 11.7. Matt Cook saw a noctule fly low over the harp trap near Osprey hide on 25.8 at about 4.00 am.

*I would also just mention that I am still happy to accept records on the Society's record cards.*

*My thanks to M Branson (out of county records), J Bryan (RW), L & I Burger, D Cole, A & J Comber, M Cook (Notts Bat Group), P & M Coughlan, C Gallimore, J Harris, L Worrall.*

**MYCOLOGY NOTES** compiled by Linda Worrall

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**Society's Visit to Morkery Wood, September 25th, led by Dr Vin Fleming**

September was a dry, warm month and Morkery Wood was dry too, with few fungi about. Nevertheless, good hunting by 20 members and friends revealed two ascomycetes: King Alfred's Cakes and, inside rotting wood, the green stain of Green Elfcap. Seven basidiomycetes were also discovered: a large Shaggy Ink Cap on a grassy

margin at the corner of two rides, Sulphur Tuft, Honey Fungus, a red *Russula sp.*, Turkeytail on log piles, Hoof Fungus on birch and a large number of Blushing Brackets.

Roy Lemmon identified 16 rusts, powdery and downy mildews, plus 11 plant galls; records of these have been forwarded to the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

*Thanks to Linda and Anthony Biddle and Roy Lemmon for their notes.*

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