

CONTENTS

Noticeboard	1	Moth notes	9
RNHS events	3	Orthoptera report	10
Weather summary	4	Plant galls report	11
Amphibian and reptile report	4	Insects and others	11
Bird report	5	Glow-worm notes	13
Botany notes	7	Mammal report	15
Butterfly notes	8	Bat report	16

NOTICEBOARD

I contacted members who have email addresses in early July about the following, so that they might lodge an appeal before the deadline of 23 July. Apologies therefore to those of you who have already received word of the Fineshade Wood proposals.

Hendrina Ellis

Threat to Fineshade Wood

Many members will have visited Fineshade Wood, and watched the changes that have taken place there. Forest Holidays, supported by the Forestry Commission, have filed a planning application to use 96 acres of the Public Forest Estate to create a holiday park with 70 cabins and central complex. 460 mature trees (trunks > 6 in. diameter) will be removed for roads and building construction. They will build a total of 2 miles of new roads fragmenting a large block of currently undisturbed woodland and there will be a particular threat to wildlife of all sorts, especially including birds, adders and other reptiles, glow-worms etc. There are no walking or cycling trails crossing the main part of the 96 acre site and it is currently very difficult to access – that's what makes it so important for wildlife.

With regard to birds, even the FH environmental consultant recognises the site's ecological sensitivity: '... Therefore... the site is of at least county importance for birds.'

They therefore recommend as mitigation: postponing construction work until the end of the bird-nesting season, erecting 30 nestboxes and creating new areas of certain habitats (primarily tussocky grassland and dense scrub) elsewhere. This will certainly not compensate for the destruction of this environmentally sensitive area.

The full application can be viewed here: <http://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/planning> (it is enormous!).

However, it is also important for East Northants councillors and planners to see that there is significant support from outside the area to counter the claim that this development will increase tourism – in fact it may put off visitors who value the wood's environmental richness.

Barrie Galpin (BTO Regional Representative for Northants)

15 Top Lodge, Fineshade, Corby. NN17 3BB
barrie.galpin@zen.co.uk 01780-444351

**F
i
e
l
d
f
a
r
e**

Chairman Mrs L Biddle
21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford
PE9 1BH: 01780 762108
abiddle21@talktalk.net

Secretary Mr R Edwards
4 Windsor Drive, Oakham,
LE15 6SN: 01572 757205
royvedwards@gmail.com

Membership Secretary
Ms M Conner, 24 Burrough Rd,
Somerby, Melton Mowbray
LE14 2PP: 01664 454 532
mjconner100@gmail.com

Programme Secretary
Mrs D Whitefield, Dairy Cottage,
33 Somerby Rd, Knossington
LE15 8LY: 01664 454578
dawn@whitefield34.plus.com

Fieldfare Editor Mrs H Ellis
Old Hunt's Maltings, Water St,
Stamford PE9 2NJ: 01780 482048
hendrina@efgh.demon.co.uk

Lonsdale Printing
01933 228855

Linda Biddle has written to the Planners as follows:

Objection to Planning Application Ref 14/01156/FUL

Rutland Natural History Society is an organisation of active ecologists based just over the county border in Rutland. We have over 200 members many of whom live within a few miles of Fineshade Wood, and have been visiting it for many years.

We have recorded species, such as Silver Washed Fritillary butterflies and Glow-worms, in the area where planning permission for development is being considered, and a large number of bird and mammal species. As a Society we are aware of the importance of the area botanically, and know of over 20 ancient woodland indicators, including for example Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Wood sedge *Carex sylvatica*, and Wild Service Tree *Sorbus torminalis*. The list of axiophytes, botanical indicators of important conservation habitats, contains over 40 plant species, including Remote sedge *Carex remota*, Perforate St John's Wort *Hypericum perforata*, and Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulis*. The planning application itself states that reptiles, amphibians and birds are 'of at least county significance': species such as Adders, Palmate Newts, and breeding Woodcock are not only rare in Northamptonshire but also in Rutland and beyond into Lincolnshire and

Cambridgeshire, so they could be said to be of regional (if not national) significance. We do not believe that it would be possible to mitigate for the damage done to them on this proposed site.

This wood is one of few remaining ancient woodlands, and could not be replaced by planting any new area. The whole area is unusual locally as a place where wildlife is relatively undisturbed, but also with public access.

This is a highly sensitive area for the large scale and intrusive development as shown in the application, and we as a Society consider its approval would be disastrous for the impact it would have on the environment. The removal of such a large number of trees alone would greatly affect the wildlife of the area, and construction of so many cabins and roads would permanently damage the ecological balance. There would be disturbance both during construction and afterwards. Light pollution would undoubtedly affect the population of glow-worms, by interference with their breeding habits, reliant on an undisturbed and dark environment.

As a Society we strongly recommend that the application for planning permission be refused on the grounds that its environmental impact would be damaging and irreversible.

Yours faithfully,

Linda Biddle (RNHS Chairman)



Seaton Meadows Memorial Walk 2014. In June, 19 RNHS members enjoyed a visit to Plantlife's Seaton Meadows, in special remembrance of the late Graham Worrall, who was RNHS botany recorder and warden for Seaton Meadows. Many happy memories of past field meetings with Graham were recalled. Joe Costly of Plantlife is seen (left) with the plaque indicating that this meadow has been named as Rutland's Coronation Meadow.

Threat to Rutland verges

Two recorders (Botany page 7, and Glow-worms, page 13) write about the damage to particular Rutland verges. Linda Biddle is well aware of this, would appreciate any evidence from other members, and is on the war path.

Sand martins

I noticed that on the Rutland Water website there is a sandmartin webcam with thanks to RNHS for funding it – see <http://www.rutlandwater.org.uk/sand-martin-webcam/>

Margaret Conner

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS

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

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Saturday 2 August **OAKHAM CANAL/DAWN'S Paddock** **11.00 am**

Leader Ian Merrill, who gave an excellent presentation on Dragonflies at our February indoor meeting, will meet us at the Oakham Canal and then go on to Dawn's Paddock. Bring a packed lunch. We will be focusing on dragonflies (hence the timing) but there is much more of interest. Ian is happy to stay until 3.00 pm if there is enough enthusiasm.

Directions: Leave the Oakham bypass on the Ashwell Road. Carry on to the crossroads, then turn left. After a short distance, park on the verges. (Grid ref: SK 865 110)

Queries: please call Dawn on 01664 454578.

Saturday 27 September **FUNGUS FORAY, MORKERY WOOD** **2.00 pm**

Dr Vin Fleming will be leading us on a Fungus Foray. He is a professional mycologist and Chairman and Wildlife Records Officer of the Bourne Group of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

Directions: Going north on the A1, turn right towards Castle Bytham, the wood is on the righthand side. Turn right into the entrance to the wood and meet at the car park. (Grid ref: SK 952 192)

Queries: please call Vin Fleming on 01778 570329.

INDOOR EVENTS

Indoor events start again on Tuesday October 7th, at Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR), Lands End Way, Oakham, at 7.30 pm. The first meeting is 'The fascination of birdsong' by Terry Barnett.

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.lrwot.org.uk, or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours.

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.

For other LWT Lincstrust events, see www.lincstrust.org.uk, or phone 01507 526 677 in office hours.

WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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

May 2014

Atmospheric pressure and wind A very variable month, basically one of low pressures with some three short periods of high pressure, 2nd to 4th, 14th to 17th and the 30th and 31st all inclusive. The highest pressure of the month was 1035 mb at 0900 on the 15th and again there were no deep lows, the lowest being 1001 mb on the 11th. Winds were very variable in both direction and speed and it is interesting to note that during the periods mentioned above winds were often northerly and at other times anywhere between east and west.

Temperature The month was overall the 5th warmest May in the last decade and this was composed of a mean maximum of 18.26 °C and a mean minimum of 7.87 °C. There was only one air frost, -1.1 °C on the night of 1st to 2nd, and the highest maximum I recorded was 26.5 °C on the 19th. The Central England Temperature for the month was 12.4 °C, just 0.67 °C above the average for the past 100 years. Just 19 Mays were warmer. The CET for this Spring quarter was 10.1 °C, only two Springs were warmer, 1893 and 1945, since the inception of the record in 1659.

Rain After a couple of relatively dry months, May was again very wet with a total recorded here of 111.9 mm (4.4 inches) which is 240% of my long term mean for this month. The highest daily rainfall was 21.7 mm on the 22nd; and there were just 11 days on which no precipitation was measured. Averaged nationally, rainfall was 4.01 inches or 156% of LTM.

Sunshine Averaged over England and Wales the total was 182 hours or 90% of LTM.

June 2014

Atmospheric pressure and wind This was a month in which a relatively weak high pressure system was located over North Wales and thus gave us winds which were predominantly from the N-E and also of generally low speeds. The highest pressures occurred between the 11th and 20th but during the other dates the lowest I recorded was 1007 mb on the 5th.

Temperature A warm month, due largely to the mean minimum at 10.71 °C being the third warmest in the last decade. The mean maximum however was only the fifth highest in the same period. At 21.85 °C it was well behind the warmest, 23.4 °C in 2006 and also below 2010, 2005 and 2011. The highest maximum I recorded was 27.0 °C on the 23rd and the lowest night-time minimum was 5.4 °C on the 4th to 5th. Averaged nationally the temperature for this month was between 0.5 and 2.0 °C above the 1981-2010 figure and the CET was 15.5 °C, some 1.1 °C above the average. In the past 100 years, 12 Junes were warmer and the rest colder.

Rain A total of 38.4 mm (1.51 inches) was recorded here which is 76% of my mean of 24 years. Most of the rain fell in two periods, the first four days of the month and the last seven. This total mirrored almost exactly the average rainfall for England and Wales, which was 75% of the mean, although the actual amount was higher at 50.0 mm or 1.97 inches; this as usual reflects the lower rainfall experienced in this part of the country.

Sunshine Averaged over England and Wales the total was 227 hours or 117% of the LTM. Over the past 100 years 24 Junes have been sunnier.

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

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

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



May/June 2014

There has been a healthy smattering of records of most species apart from Great Crested Newt and Slow Worm in these two months.

All Common Frog records occurred on the 19th and 20th May and concerned one in an Oakham cold frame, a small frog in a leaking water trough

that was being replaced in Merry's Meadow, and tadpoles that were seen in a puddle in a ride in Pickworth Wood. Common Toads were found at Ketton Quarry, Wing Lakes and Leighfield in May (the last two both dead). In June two were found at Bloody Oaks and one in Wing allotments plus another road casualty in Wing.

Smooth Newts were found on a track near Prior's Coppice and in a woodland pond in Tunneley Wood in May. There were no other newt sightings.

Viviparous Lizards were seen in four different areas of Ketton Quarry in both months. One was also seen at Bloody Oaks in June.

A dead Grass Snake was seen on a field edge in Pickworth on 19th May. In June they were seen

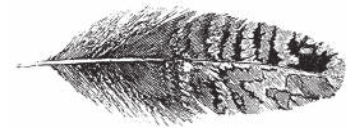
at Exton and Wing and at three different areas of the Rutland Water Nature reserve. One was also found entangled in netting in a garden in Barrowden and was successfully released. Three Adders were seen near the car park at Ketton Quarry in May and a female was seen in a different area in June.

Records were received by the new electronic form, by email, by record card, verbally by telephone and in person, but luckily not by semaphore (but all are welcome by whatever means), from: K Allsopp, T P Appleton, L & A Biddle, T Caldicott, D Cole, A & J Comber, J Harris, T Mitcham, A Orr and L Worrall.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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

Email: joterpat@btinternet.com



May/June 2014

Spring and early summer brought us some good birds, with a long-staying Glossy Ibis at Rutland Water and several birds which remained for only a day – Spoonbill, Red-necked Phalarope, Red-backed Shrike, plus a two-day Gannet. It seems to have been a successful breeding season for many species, if the results of the Beaumont Chase Farm CBC are replicated throughout the wider countryside, with forty species holding territory compared to thirty-four last year and the total of nests and territories increasing from 242 to 313. It was encouraging to receive reports of singing Turtle Dove, Tree Pipit and Corn Bunting; all now rare Rutland birds.

My thanks to the following for their records: T Appleton, P Bennett, T Caldicott, A & J Comber, Dr C H Gallimore, J Harris, M Jeeves, P Langston, LROS, R Lemmon, S Lister, T Mitcham, L Park, P Rudkin, L Worrall.

Mute Swan. Single pairs bred at FHP ((five cygnets), Ext Park (eight cygnets) and Banthorpe GP (two cygnets).

Egyptian Goose. Away from RW there were June records of up to five at Pilt, Lynd, Leigh and Martinsthorpe.

Shelduck. 13 were at Martinsthorpe on 01.05 and a pair were noted over BW, at LFP and FHP, where there were two ducklings on 06.06.

Mallard. A pair were flushed from a pond at WhdC on 01.05 and a pair nested by a pond in TunnW in June.

Garganey. Males were at RWeg on 10.05 and EBR on 01.06. Two males were at EBR on 10/11.06, with three from 12 to 17.06. Three were at RWeg on 19.06.

Common Scoter. Three were at RWSA on 06.06, with four there on 24.06, and three in NA on 28.06.

Goldeneye. A lingering male was at RWSA between 28.05 and 25.06.

Quail. One was singing near Man on 08.06.

Grey Partridge. Pairs were noted at Glebe Farm on 10.05, Ext Park on 22.05 and Pilt on 23.06.

Little Egret. Three flew west at Pilt on 18.06.

Gannet. An adult was at EBR on 27/28.06.

Glossy Ibis. One was at RWNA/eg between 07.05 and at least 13.06. This is the second Rutland record.

Spoonbill. Two were at RWeg on 25.06.

Red Kite. Three young were ringed at a regular nest site on 05.06.

Marsh Harrier. Single female/imms were at EBR on 23.05 and near Greet Valley GC on 02.06.

Buzzard. An occupied nest was found in a hedgerow tree near Upp in May. Fledged young were calling at FHP and Ext Park on 29.06.

Osprey. Away from the reservoirs, one was at FHP on 11.05.

Kestrel. Bred in nestboxes at RWLr and Ext Park with broods of five and two respectively.

Hobby. One was at RWeg on 03.05, with two on 10.05. Four hawked insects at FHP on 11.05

and there were June records from three likely breeding sites.

Peregrine. One was over BW on 04.05 with possibly the same bird at RWNA on 10.05 and over Oak allotments on 08.06.

Avocet. Three pairs bred at RWeg but no young were fledged.

Grey Plover. Three were at RWeg on 22.05, with one between 03 and 04.06.

Lapwing. Unsuccessful breeding in Ext Park – predation by Carrion Crows. c.100 were near Pilt on 24.06 – autumn migration already underway!

Little Ringed Plover. Three were at RWeg on 27.04.

Ringed Plover. Present at RWeg throughout both months with northern 'tundrae' birds noted from 09.05 (11), on 22.05 (17) and 03.06 (22).

Whimbrel. Five were at EBR on 02.05. One was near Leigh between 03 and 07.05. All other records were from RWeg with six on 03.05, and one or two on four other dates to 11.05.

Curlew. Breeding birds were present in May at MM and Cottes Airfield. One flew over Pilt on 31.05.

Black-tailed Godwit. Singles were at EBR on 11–13.06 and 29.06.

Bar-tailed Godwit. One was at RWeg on 02.05, two on 05.05 and seven on 22.05.

Turnstone. Singles were at RWeg on five dates between 10 and 23.05, with three on 22.05.

Knot. Four were at RWeg on 22.05 and 27.06.

Ruff. Two were at EBR on 16–17.05.

Curlew Sandpiper. Singles were at EBR on 14 and 18.05 and at RWeg on 04.06.

Sanderling. All records were from RWeg, where birds were present between 05 and 24.05, with a max of 13 on 09.05.

Dunlin. Noted at RW between 03.05 and 27.06, with 35 on 07.05 and 30 on 12.05. At EBR 36 on 07.05 increased to 39 the next day and then declined to two by 14.05.

Red-necked Phalarope. A male was at EBR on 13.06.

Common Sandpiper. Nos were low on spring passage with singles at EBR on 02, 07-08 and 17.05 and at RW on 07,10 and 20.05. One was at RWLr on 24.06.

Green Sandpiper. One was at Banthorpe GP on 29.06.

Spotted Redshank. One was at RWeg on 20.06.

Greenshank. Two were at RWeg on 03.05 with singles on 09 and 19.05 and four on 20.05. One remained to 22.05.

Wood Sandpiper. One was at RWeg on 08.06.

Redshank. One was at RWeg on 10.05 with a juv there on 27.05.

Snipe. One was at RWeg on 10.05.

Little Tern. Singles were at RWeg on 10 and 19.05.

Black Tern. Spring passage at RW extended from 04.05 to 24.06, with a max of six on 05.05 and 19.05.

Sandwich Tern. Two were at RW on 20.05.

Arctic Tern. Passage was noted at RWeg from 02.05, when there were 20, to 30.05 when nine were present, with up to six on three intervening dates.

Little Gull. One was at RWeg on 05.05, with three from 10 to 12.05.

Mediterranean Gull. Two were at RWeg on 06.06.

Common Gull. Three were with Black-headed Gulls near Lynd on 20.06, with two there on 25.06.

Turtle Dove. One was singing on the Lincs/ Rutland border at Banthorpe on 22.06.

Cuckoo. Singing birds were reported from ten well scattered sites, mainly singles but two at Leigh, BW, Pilt, Wg and RWeg, where the last birds were heard on 27.06.

Barn Owl. Hunting adults were noted at Lynd, Wg and Pilt. 17 were ringed at RW in June with an occupied nestbox at Ext Park.

Little Owl. May singles were at BCF and Cow Close Farm. Two adults and two juvs were near Pilt on 18 and 20.06, and breeding was also confirmed at Bden on the latter date.

Tawny Owl. Singles were in TunnW and Ext Park on 22.06, and an adult and three juvs were calling in BW on 26.06.

Swift. Six were over RW on 04.05 and two at Barrowden on 07.05. Screaming parties noted only over Emp and Stam – more reports of these would be very welcome. A Swift tower of nestboxes has been established at RWeg.

Green Woodpecker. An adult and juv were at Banthorpe on 22.06, and an adult and two juvs near Gun on 25.06. Also noted at FHP and TunnW.

Kingfisher. One was on the R.Gwash at Emp on 10.05.

Red-backed Shrike. A male was at MM on 17.06. This is the first Rutland record since one at EBR in 1998.

Rook. 32 nests were counted in the Heron Bay rookery at RW on 08.05.

Raven. Two pairs are known to have bred with broods of one and three. One or two were noted over Man, Pilt, Wg and Leigh with six near Man cemetery (!) on 29.06.

- Goldcrest.** One noted in an Oak garden on 28.05.
- Willow Tit.** Reported from strongholds at Pilt, RWLr and Leigh in both months.
- Marsh Tit.** Three were in BW on 04.05 with seven there on 01.06. One or two were at Bushy Wood, PC and Westland Wood. A family party was at Leigh on 30.05.
- Swallow.** c.50 were at LFP on 19.06.
- House Martin.** Birds were back at Bden, investigating natural and artificial nests on 09.05.
- Long-tailed Tit.** Six were in a Wg garden on 30.05.
- Chiffchaff.** 46 were in song in BW on 18.05.
- Willow Warbler.** 40 were singing in the Leigh area on 21.05.
- Blackcap.** 47 were in song in BW on 18.05.
- Garden Warbler.** 13 were singing at CPW on 14.05, with 27 in BW on 18.05 and ten at Leigh on 21.05.
- Lesser Whitethroat.** Four were singing around Martinthorpe and two at MM on 01.05. Four held territory at BCF this year.
- Whitethroat.** Well reported with singing birds across the county. 31 sang around Wg on 14.05, with 31 singing in the Leigh area on 20.05. The 11 holding territory at BCF was a site record.
- Grasshopper Warbler.** One sang at Leigh to 17.06, with two in song at Bushy Wood to 26.06. Two young were ringed at RW on 25.06.
- Reed Warbler.** Away from RW, singles sang at LFP on 11.06 and FHP on 29.06.
- Treecreeper.** A very confiding juv was watched for over an hour at Kett as it fed on a large cedar tree.
- Fieldfare.** A very late bird was over RWeg on 02.05.
- Song Thrush.** This species was more in evidence this spring with several garden records and one holding territory at BCF for the first time since 2011. Perhaps the wet and mild weather earlier in the year favoured their favourite food – slugs and snails.
- Mistle Thrush.** A fight between two feisty individuals was watched at RWeg carpark on 15.05 – the ‘dishevelled’ loser retreating to a nearby fence post.
- Spotted Flycatcher.** One near Lynd church on 16.05 was the first record with the same vigilant observer noting one or two (three at Pilt on 22.05) at a further eight sites to the south and west of Oak. Two were in Westland Wood on 29.06.
- Nightingale.** One sang at Leigh on 03.05 with one at Bushy Wood to 26.05. Two sang at Greet Wood Far on 10.05.
- Wheatear.** Singles were at Luff Airfield and RW on 10.05 and a late Greenland bird was ringed at Luff Airfield on 16.06.
- Grey Wagtail.** Singles were by the R.Gwash at Emp on 10.05 and at FHP on 06.06. Two were at LFP between 11–21.06 and one at RWLr on 12.06.
- Yellow Wagtail.** One was at Woodside Farm on 01.05 and one or two were in the Wg, Leigh and Pilt areas in May. Four or five held territory in Ext Park throughout both months and breeding was thought likely near Pilt in June.
- Tree Pipit.** Full song was heard near Leigh on 26.06.
- Meadow Pipit.** Four or five were song flighting at Luff Airfield and Cottes Airfield throughout May with an unspecified number singing at GHW on 22.06.
- Brambling.** A late bird was at RWeg on 04.05.
- Linnet.** c.60 were at Wg Burrows on 10.05, with 30 near Pilt on 22.05.
- Bullfinch.** A pair were in a Bden garden on 27.05.
- Reed Bunting.** Well distributed at both RW reserves; five sang from oilseed rape in Ext Park throughout both months, with one at BCF, and two were along the FHP/HM footpath during both months.
- Corn Bunting.** One sang along a field boundary north of GtCast on 25/26.06.

BOTANY NOTES compiled by John Rodgers

8 Summerfield, Oakham LE15 6PZ. Telephone 01572 757274. Email: rnhsbotanyrecord@gmail.com

Records are coming in and the digital recording is working well. The majority of records, however, are from observers who are also verge-recorders.

To an untutored eye it seems to have been a very prolific spring, with lots of blossom on the hedges – Blackthorn, Hawthorn and Elder. Orchids

too seem to be in profusion. The first Primroses were recorded on the 20th March, as were Lesser Celandines and Wood Anemones. There were Bluebells in profusion by the same date. The first Coltsfoot were reported on the 18th February and Cowslips by the 27th March. The first records of

Orchids, Early Purple, came on the 30th April, since when there have been records of 6 different species. A variation of Bee Orchid, *ophrys apifera* var *trollii*, was recorded, a Wasp Orchid, which is more usually found in the south west.

The road verges around the county have been savaged, with the loss of numerous plants, for example, pyramidal orchids at South Luffenham, though glow worms at Barrowden just survived.

My thanks to the following for their contributions: L & A Biddle, R Edwards, M Grimes, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, D Needham, D Perril

Linda Biddle is taking taken up this matter with the County Council and the guidelines for contractors are being examined.

Please send in your records. Don't think that you only have to send in rarities, or the most spectacular. The value is in recording what grows where and, over time, whether there are variations, gains or losses. This is all important for their, and our, futures.

BUTTERFLY NOTES compiled by Alistair Lawrence

11 Edmonton Way, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6JE. Telephone: 01572 770492



May/June 2014

The largely settled weather of these past two months, with June being one of the warmest on record, has maintained the trend of butterflies emerging much earlier than is usually the case.

Seven **Small Skippers** were recorded at George Henry Wood on 22 June, while **Large Skippers** have been seen frequently during June, mainly in ones and twos, but 7 were counted at Ketton Quarry on two occasions in June.

There have been numerous sightings throughout May and into early June of **Dingy Skippers**, mainly from the quarries, with the highest count of 34 at Clipsham Quarry on 18 May. Similarly, **Grizzled Skippers** have been seen regularly during May and early June at the quarries, with the highest count of 14 at Clipsham Quarry.

Brimstones have been seen in good numbers across the county, with 13 recorded at Ketton Quarry on 3 May, and 13 males and 3 females at Clipsham Quarry on 18 May. **Large Whites** were seen at reserves, woods and quarries, with 4 at Stocken on 19 May. Reports of **Small Whites** came largely from the reserves and quarries during this period, mostly in ones and twos. The position is the same for **Green Veined Whites**.

Orange Tips have been observed regularly during May and into early June, with the highest count being 10 at RW Lyndon on 14 May and a similar number a day later at Clipsham Park Wood. The numbers of **Green Hairstreaks** appear to be up on last year, with regular sightings during May and early June. 12 were counted at Ketton Quarry on 15 May and 17 recorded at Clipsham Quarry on 18 May.

Two **Clouded Yellows** were seen at Clipsham

Quarry during the Society's field meeting there on 22 June. Single sightings of **Small Copper** came from Merry's Meadow, Oakham, RW Lyndon and Ketton Quarry during May and June. Reports of **Brown Argus** come from Ketton Quarry, where they were seen in ones and twos during these two months.

The first report for **Common Blue** comes from Clipsham Quarry on 18 May where 6 specimens were observed, and thereafter they have been seen regularly throughout the county in May and June. There have been five single sightings of **Red Admiral** at RW Egleton, Ketton, Ketton Quarry and Uppingham.

Two records have been received for **Painted Lady** to date, with a single specimen at Verge 7 on 1 June and another one in an Uppingham garden on 7 June.

There have been abundant sightings of **Small Tortoiseshell** during this period, with the highest counts being 19 on thistles at Martinthorpe on 26 June, and 12 newly-emerged specimens at Bloody Oaks Quarry on 30 June.

Most **Peacock** reports occurred during May from a variety of locations, but in June the sightings were of single specimens at the quarries. The only record received during this period for a **Comma** comes from Bloody Oaks Quarry, where a fresh specimen was seen on 25 June.

The first report of a **Dark Green Fritillary** comes from Ketton Quarry where a single butterfly was recorded on 9 June. At the Society's field meeting at Clipsham Quarry on 22 June, 28 specimens were counted. The first sighting of a **Silver Washed Fritillary** also comes from Ketton Quarry where a single specimen was observed in

the valley on 20 June. There have been frequent sightings of **Speckled Wood**, especially in June, with the highest count being 13 at RW Egleton on the 10th.

The earliest records of **Marbled White** come from Ketton Quarry where a handful of specimens were seen in mid-June. Thereafter this butterfly was seen in good numbers at Clipsham Quarry as well as Ketton Quarry and Bloody Oaks Quarry, with 50+ being counted at the latter on 25 June.

The first records of a **Gatekeeper** come from Ketton Quarry, where 4 specimens were observed on 24 June and also at Bloody Oaks Quarry a day later.

From early June onwards **Meadow Brown** have been seen frequently throughout our area, with

figures in excess of 20 and 30 at Ketton Quarry and George Henry Wood respectively in late June. 9 were also observed flying amongst the grasses on the verge between Great Casterton and Tickencote.

There have been regular reports of **Small Heath**, with the highest counts coming from George Henry Wood where 10 were recorded on 18 May and 15 counted on 22 June.

Ringlets have also been seen widely and in abundance from early June onwards, with some very high counts. In excess of 50 were recorded at Leighfield on 22 June and at Ketton Quarry on the same day. At George Henry Wood 30+ were reported on 21 June.

My thanks to the following for their contributions: P Bennett, A & L Biddle, T Caldicott, C Butterfield, A & J Comber, J Crosby, C Gallimore, N Gordon, M Grimes, J Harris, C Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, P & E Mann, J Myers, D Needham, T Newton, E Northen, D & B Parker, R & J Parker, D Perril, P Scott, B & J Taylor.

MOTH NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

4 Clarksdale, Great Easton, Market Harborough LE16 8SP. Telephone: 01536 770259



May/June 2014

How years can vary! This time last year we were reporting very few sightings due to the poor weather for the time of year. This year, after a poor start, the month of June with much higher temperatures resulted in members submitting a wealth of records as the following report will show. I have selected a number of interesting ones from various sites across the County and the remainder will appear in the next annual report.

Records from Ketton Quarry included **Burnet Companions**, **Mother Shipton** and **Small Yellow Underwings** with also more common species such as **Cinnabars** and **Silver Ground Carpets**. At Clipsham Quarry a **Blackneck** was seen, several **Codling** moths and of course **6-Spot Burnets**. Two **Scarlet Tigers** were found in Ketton village and a **Humming Bird Hawkmoth** visited Valerian for a few days in an Uppingham garden. Also in Uppingham, an **Elephant Hawkmoth** was found and photographed in a workshop at the school. A large number of the micromoth *Celypha lacunana* were observed in Burley Wood.

At Ridlington, several metres of hedge were stripped of foliage and covered with webs by **Bird Cherry Ermine** caterpillars, several of which

were still present on June 8th. Other moth larvae recorded recently have included **Magpie** moth in Empingham, **Yellow Tails** at Great Casterton and a **Mullein** on a Mullein plant in another part of Empingham.

A group met at Clipsham Quarry on June 19th when a tripod light was operated from dusk until 2am with over 80 species identified on the sheet! Nine other traps were run over-night resulting in the excellent totals of 2,224 moths from 70 micro and 122 macro species, the final total for the night thus being 192 species. Although no new moths for VC55 were seen, there were 3 micro and 3 macro species added to the list for this Quarry.

Trapping took place once again at the Lyndon Centre on three occasions recently. On May 30th 22 species were recorded, on June 6th there were 25 species and on June 20th 38 species.

We visited Eyebrook Reservoir twice in May and twice in June. On May 11th in four traps we only had 11 moths of 10 species!! The poorest night ever! By May 30th there were 177 moths of 49 species which included three which were new for the site. These were **Alder** moth, **Ochreous Pug**; and a micromoth *Telechrysis tripuncta* of which there is only one previous record in VC55

in a Sapcote garden in 2011 and thus completely new for Rutland. June 15th was also a very good night, resulting in 380 moths of 81 species and once again three new ones for the site. These were **Ash Pug**, **Clay Triple Lines** and a completely new species for our area, the **Obscure Wainscot**. This

is mainly a southern and eastern species which over-winters as a fully grown larva in reed stems, pupating in the spring. It was thus an excellent record for Rutland and we hope it will be found again.

Many thanks are due to the following for their contributions and help: V Arnold, P Bennett, T Caldicott, A Dejardin, C Favell, R Follows, CH Gallimore, M Grimes, CR Jones, R Lemmon, D & B Parker, A Russell and M Tyler.

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin



10 Brooke Avenue, Stamford PE9 2RU. Telephone: 01780 762998. Email: phil.rudkin@talktalk.net

May/June 2014

This season has been early; there is no doubt about that! Many butterfly species were recorded well ahead of their flight dates. Many other insects fared the same. However, this did not seem to affect the orthoptera either way, with most sightings reported being nymphs. As is expected in June, the Common Green Grasshopper has matured into adult stage, and was the only one to be heard stridulating at the Society's field meeting at Clipsham Quarries on the 22nd. Therefore, the orthoptera community is progressing in what I would term as 'normal', despite the current heat-wave, for the May/June period under review.

Finally, this is definitely the final season for the cut-off point for new sightings, to be included into the proposed new National Orthoptera Atlas, promised by the organisers for publication in 2015.

With that in mind, I was delighted to receive new squares from Tim Caldecott for Speckled and Roesel's Bush Crickets. Furthermore, we have discovered some new areas in Rutland that are waiting to be explored in the coming months.

Crickets

Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

First sightings 15th June, four small nymphs found in Burley Woods. Large colony of nymphs (males and females) observed in the scrub on the edges of the Clay Bank, Clipsham Quarries, during the RNHS field meeting on 22 June.

Roesel's Bush Cricket *Metriopectera roeselii*

Two nymphs observed in grass rides, Prior's Coppice, the LRWT reserve, on 22 June. One nymph at Bushey Wood, near Leighfield, new site SK 820 053, 26 June.

Speckled Bush Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*

One nymph, at Bushy Wood area, 6 June, and one nymph on 17 June, new site, SK 820 053. One nymph observed at Pilton, 7 June.

Grasshoppers

Common Green Grasshopper *Omocestus viridulus*

First stridulating of the season heard on the Clay Bank, Clipsham Quarries, during the Society's field meeting on 22 June. Two bat-detectors in operation! Always the first grasshopper to be heard!

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*

One nymph, observed on bare ground patches, on the quarry floor area, at the Society's field meeting at Clipsham Quarries on 22 June.

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*

Large numbers of tiny nymphs, in the entrance area of Ketton Quarries, 11 June. Large numbers of nymphs, on the quarry floor area, at the Society's field meeting at Clipsham Quarries, 22 June.

Large numbers of nymphs, in the grass areas of the LRWT reserve, at Bloody Oaks, on 30 June.

Thanks for reports from: Tim Caldecott, Phil Rudkin

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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



May 2014

With the season now well underway it is interesting to see that the number of galls found in any one situation is increasing. That this is not always so is shown by a single record from Bloody Oaks Quarry on the 1st of the leaf roll gall on Spindle, this is quite common but not ubiquitous.

Yew Tree Avenue and Clipsham Park Wood each yielded five records on the 15th, these were a mixed bag of rusts, mites, jumping plant lice, midges and gall wasps, and it is of note that Currant galls are again quite common on Oak, although perhaps less so than last year. On the 26th a walk from the Egleton Centre to Lagoons 4 yielded a total of 26 records, among them a midge gall on Birch which we don't seem to have had before. One of the problems with damp conditions like these is not the identification of the galls but of the various species of Willow they are found on. Some, like the rusts, are host specific so getting the host species right is all important and Willows are not easy.

June 2014

On the 5th there were reports from Woodhead Castle and also Verge 5 at Essendine. Most observations were of the usual species but included a mite gall on Cleavers, which although very common in some years has only been seen occasionally this year. The RNHS visit to Seaton meadows on the 19th produced just six records, amongst which was 'Choke' caused by a fungus and specific to grasses. It would be useful for completeness to be able to identify the grass concerned but the fungus literally chokes it so that it does not flower, hence identification is extremely hard.

Another RNHS visit to Clipsham Quarry on the 22nd produced a total of 12 galls including a Rivet gall on Dogwood. Considering that Dogwood is common in the area this gall is seldom reported. On the 26th there was a report of just four galls from a field edge (set aside) off Verge 7 in Great Casterton. Among these were the Anther rust gall on White Campion and a new record, a midge gall on Cleavers.

Finally an evening visit to Burley Wood to check the glow-worm colony gave just 3 gall records, Choke again, a midge gall on Meadowsweet and a fly gall (Dipteron) on Broad Buckler fern.

Thanks to V Hemsley, M Grimes and R Lemmon for their records.

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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



MAY 2014

HEMIPTERA

Green Shield Bug *Palomena prasina* – one observed indoors at Barrowden and released into garden.

Red and Black Froghopper *Cercopsis vulnerata* – one was noted at Yew Tree Avenue, Clipsham, and 4 were observed at Clipsham Park Wood.

DIPTERA

Common Bee-fly *Bombylius major* – one was seen at Yew Tree Avenue, Clipsham.

HYMENOPTERA

A Common Wasp *Vespa vulgaris* was seen at Woodhead Castle.

White-tailed Bumble Bee *Bombus lucorum* – one was noted again at Woodhead Castle.

Buff-tailed Bumble Bee *Bombus terrestris* – single specimens again noted at Woodhead Castle and also at Clipsham Park Wood.

Common Carder Bee *Bombus pascuorum* – 2 were noted at Yew Tree Avenue, Clipsham and 2 noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

Red-tailed Bumble Bee – *Bombus lapidarius* – 2 were noted at Clipsham Park Wood and a single specimen noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

COLEOPTERA

Ground Beetle *Pterosticus nigrita* – one noted near Newell Wood.

Click Beetle *Athous Haemorrhoidalis* – one observed near Newell Wood.

Soldier Beetle *Cantharis rustica* – these were abundant near Newell Wood.

Malachite Beetle *Malachius bipustulatus* – one observed near Newell Wood.

7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* – one recorded at Yew Tree Avenue, Clipsham.

Raspberry Beetle *Byturus tormentosus* – several noted near Newell Wood.

Beetle *Lagria hirta* – one recorded near Newell Wood.

Wasp Beetle *Clytus arietus* – one noted at Clipsham Park Wood and one recorded near Newell Wood.

GASTROPODA

Slugs

Large Black Slug *Arion ater* – one relatively small specimen observed at Clipsham Park Wood, and 3-4 observed near Egleton Bird Centre.

Land Snails

Cerutuella virgata – these were observed at Woodhead Castle and Bloody Oaks Quarry.

Trichia striolata – observed at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

Monacha cantiana – also observed at Woodhead Castle.

JUNE 2014

ODONATA

Damselflies

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens* – a single specimen was noted on two consecutive days in a Barrowden garden. One male noted near Pilton. Many were recorded, both male and female, at Thorpe-by-Water.

Emerald damselfly *Lesetes sponsa* – one specimen recorded at Leighfield Fishponds.

White-legged damselfly *Platycnemis pennipes* – 3 noted at Thorpe-by-Water. One mature male observed at Leighfield Fishponds, one immature female noted at Priors Coppice.

Large Red damselfly *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* – 3 were recorded at Oakham Canal.

Red-eyed damselfly *Erythromma najas* – 7 were recorded on one visit to Leighfield Fishponds, and a week later 12 were noted at the same location.

Common Blue damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum* – many were recorded at Oakham Canal.

Blue-tailed damselfly *Ischnura elegans* – 2 noted at Oakham Canal.

Dragonflies

Hairy Dragonfly *Brachytron pratense* – one male specimen recorded at Leighfield Fishponds.

Broad-bodied chaser *Libellula depressa* – 2 specimens, a male and a female, recorded at Oakham Canal. One female recorded near Pilton and one male and one female recorded by a garden pond at Wing.

Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea* – one recorded at Oakham Canal.

HEMIPTERA

Forest Bug *Pentatoma rufipes* – one specimen noted in a greenhouse in Wing.

Common Froghopper *Philaenus spumarius* – several were observed on Verge 8.

DIPTERA

Hoverfly *Volucella bombylans* – one specimen of this bee-mimic hoverfly was noted in a Barrowden garden.

HYMENOPTERA

Sawfly *Rhogogaster viridis* – 2 were noted on umbellifers on Verge 8 and several were seen on umbellifers near Bisbrooke.

Hornet *Vespa crabro* – one recorded at Clipsham Quarry.

Honey Bee *Apis mellifera* – a swarm of honey bees, which had settled in an old pear tree in Barrowden, was taken by a local beekeeper who estimated that it numbered 5,000 bees.

Tree Bumble Bee *Bombus hypnorum* – 4 were recorded in an Oakham garden and one was seen on Verge 8.

Red-tailed Bumble Bee *Bombus lapidarius* – several were noted at Clipsham Quarry.

COLEOPTERA

Soldier Beetle *Rhagonycha fulva* – 5 were recorded on Verge 8.

7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* – one recorded at Seaton Meadows.

10-spot Ladybird *Adalia 10-punctata* – one recorded at Clipsham Quarry.

Wasp Beetle *Clytra arietis* – one recorded at Burley Wood.

GASTROPODA

Slugs

Large Black Slug *Arion ater ater* – one small specimen observed at Seaton Meadows and 2 were noted on the road at Verge 5, Essendine.

Many thanks to the following recorders: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, C H Gallimore, J & R Harvey, R Lemmon, D Perrill, L Worrall.

Land Snails

Oxyloma pfeffera – one specimen recorded at Seaton Meadows.

Cernyella virgata – one observed dormant on grass stem at Clipsham Quarry.

GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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



June/early July 2014

Glow-worm larvae live for two (or sometimes three) years, from eggs laid in summer through to pupation into glowing static females or flying males two summers later. They need snails for food. Snails like wet conditions, and it rained excessively in 2012. So if eggs were laid and larvae managed to hatch when summer eventually arrived, they should have fed well. However, there was a long cold spring in 2013 when snails might not have been available for larvae. We had much heavy rain last winter and spring 2014, but temperatures have been generally mild. There was tentative hope that we might find moderate glows this year, but to find a new site in Rutland and another just over the border was totally unexpected!

Barrowden

Grass cutting has been a problem again this year. Rutland County Council Highways cut a particularly wide swathe on west and east sides of Verge 3, Luffenham Road (The Drift) on 20th June, contrary to agreements not to cut in June or July, and apologies were given. Resulting lying hay was not thick, but numbers did not recover. Back Road cutting is organised by the Parish Council: a wide unexpected cut of thick grass was made north and south sides on June 25th, along with other village cutting just before Barrowden Fete. Deep overlying hay was left; apologies were made, but glows disappeared. Not only does cutting risk damage to females and pupae, but any which survive have difficulty getting through the hay, wasting energy needed for mating and egg laying in the very short time they have before they die.

The farmer is growing wheat behind both verges at Verge 3 and also in Back Road next to the Drift Close houses; rape in the next field to the west was cut on 9th July, earlier than usual. Snail sightings have not been good this year, and when rape is grown it may be that slug pellets are used. There were some small yellow ones on Verge 3 west, however, excellent food for larvae.

On 14th June I posted a message on the village email to tell villagers that glow-worms were about and had a good response, including several people who came from some distance. A villager near one of the sites also temporarily removed green solar lights decorating his garden lest they distracted males.

Barrowden, Verge 3 west, Luffenham Road SK 948 005

13.6: 7 in regular place opposite 'Barrowden' sign, mostly rather thin and therefore had probably been glowing for several days – I should have gone earlier in month. 11.00 pm, weather hot and humid, full moon but not visible.

18.6: 5 in same place, 11.00 pm, seen by delighted members of the Rutland Red Hatters to whom I gave a talk two years ago and they then found just one but thought it was wonderful.

20.6: After wide swathe cut that day, 3, on very front edge of verge. 4 visitors in car concerned about cutting.

21.6: 3 as before.

26.6: 3 as before. Verge checked both sides up to A47, none.

2.7: nil at 10.45; 1 at 11.05 pm struggling to escape from dried grass from cutting on 20.6. Hot day, sky still bright and waxing crescent moon.

East verge

No sightings.

Barrowden, Verge 17, north SK 945003

13.6: 3 actually inside Drift Close (2 on mown lawns in front of houses and 1 half way up a front door frame – all dangerous sites for them). Plus 2 along verge just further west, 1m back from road in tall grass. Hot, humid, 10.40 pm.

18.6: 2 at back of verge in long grass.

20.6: 4 front, 4 back in higher grass.

21.6: 8 as before. All quite low down.

26.6: Nil where seen before, and cut grass lying deep. But 1 on right side of field entrance with wheat and Drift Close and 1 on left side of entrance to next field west with rape, high on uncut grass.

2.7: 1 at back of thick hay half way between Drift Close and field entrance, plus 1 high in uncut grass by hedge at entrance to field to west, as on 26.6.

10.7: None. Weather warm, humid, full moon, 10.55 pm but not quite dark.

No sightings by thick hedge in the field with wheat next to Drift Close, which is sad and unusual; this hedge has been a refuge.

South verge

26.6: 1 west of paddock gate, opposite where 8 glows seen earlier on north verge. Warm, slight rain.

A historical record for Barrowden

On 19th June 2014 I received the following in response to my posting on the village email:

‘Very interested to see that glow-worms are still around where I used to see them more than 50 years ago, cycling back to South Luffenham after late evening fishing in Barrowden meadows. They used to be towards the top of the hill heading up to the A47. To my shame, I once put 4 or 5 glow-worms in my rear bicycle light when the batteries had run out! They provided a weak glow and I released them in our orchard, but they would not have become established without males for fertilisation.’

From the late 1980s, Graham and I often used to check right up to the A47, and I did so this year on 26th June. We’ve never seen any higher up

from where a footpath goes east across fields from the east verge. It is noticeable that the verges have got narrower as the road edges have increasingly been filled with tarmac where traffic has eroded them.

Burley Woods SK 889095

26.6: 13 glows found. Phil Rudkin and his team report: The group entered the wood at 8.50 pm. It was tough going this year! The rides had not been cut, and because of the dry conditions and the deep ruts made by the loggers, it was particularly hard to negotiate our way towards the site, and unusually there was little of note amongst the almost waist-high grasses. The site was reached at 9.50 pm, but it was still light in the wide glades of the wood. The team spread out along the rides around the centre of the colony, and the first glowing female was found at 10.18 pm. Two more glows were spotted at 10.20 pm and 10.21 pm. We began to think this was the total for the night, but a fourth glow appeared at 10.31 pm. Another 7 minutes later, numbers 5 and 6 were logged. These were much smaller numbers than the 42 glows recorded on 26th June 2013!

By now the temperature dropped slightly, and we decided to make our way back to the entrance going east, along the main lower ride of the wood, between compartments 23/25. Then to our extreme delight, we had numbers 7, 8 and 9 at 10.45 pm. We always expect to hear young Tawny Owls along this part of the wood during the glow-worm survey, and were not disappointed; the ghostlike scraping sounds of three fledglings were enjoyed in the darkness, accompanied by the calling of an adult. Moving towards the entrance, we were very satisfied when we found numbers 10, 11, 12 and 13 glows from 10.48 pm to 10.51 pm.

At 11.15 pm, as we reached our cars parked on the verge, a police car suddenly drove up with lights flashing and two young Rutland police, male and female, emerged. We explained our purpose in the woods, and showed them the picture of a glowing female taken earlier that evening. They enjoyed hearing about our exploits, and told us they thought there was a rave going on. We told them we appreciated their presence, and that it was good to know they were around, keeping an eye on things.

Phil’s comment: The date this night of 2014 was the same date as in 2013. However, due to the early season this year, we might have missed the large numbers of 42 glows in 2013. Because of this cool night, 12 of the glowing females were deep down in the vegetation, making observation

difficult. But we were reasonably certain that none were being mated, whereas in 2013 the majority had a male on them. One female was in the middle of the ride tonight (ideal for photography). These last two years, it was noticeable that there seems to be a shift east from the main centre of the colony. Depending on the weather and the season we will review the situation in 2015, and probably decide on a different date. However, numbers were reasonable.

Essendine, Verge 5 and mainline cutting top TF 943 129

A daylight visit revealed grass extremely high in cutting top. Our recorder is not able to make a night visit this year.

Tixover SK 976 005 – a new site!

1.7: 11.09pm an email arrived: ;Spotted my first Glow-worm ever in Tixover!' Fantastic. On her actual doorstep by the Welland, photo to prove it, lots of snails nearby, and she had visited the g-w website glowworms.org.uk. It glowed only for another night (hopefully mated), but she found other people had seen some in Tixover too. A rumour there has it that 'they blew over from the quarry in a bad storm years ago'; interesting, the myths that can arise when people try to explain the strange and unexpected. Verges have

now been searched, none found, but cutting is scheduled not to be carried out till after the end of July. Great. I just hope the traffic lights at the local roadworks are moved soon, or lots of males might take over the 'go' light!

Over the Border

Northamptonshire, Barnack Hills and Holes TF 075 046

Late June: 3 + 1 male found on short Village Walk with Chris Gardiner, the Warden, weather warm and drizzly.

Near Easton-on-the-Hill – New site

Early July: Chris Gardiner told me he found a male at mid-day at Racecourse Farm Field, a SSSI meadow owned by Burghley. Not sure quite where that is, but good to know about a glow-worm anywhere!

Fineshade Woods SP 975 985

Many people have objected to 3 separate proposals made this year for a large number of holiday chalets to be built in the woods, with roads and services. It is understood that those involved are aware there are glow-worms, but no full environmental survey has been carried out. Sorry to finish on such a sorry note.

Many thanks to all for these reports: Phil Rudkin and the team – Roy Lemmon, Dawn Whitefield, Warren Whitefield, Gill Chiverton, Hendrina Ellis, Tony Story, Val Story, David Cotter, Anthea Cotter – Chris Gardiner, B Murie, M Rumbelow, R Smith, S Cheverton, L Worrall, Barrowden villagers and Rutland Red Hatters.

MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH. Telephone: 01780 762108.
Email: rnhs mammals@talktalk.net



May/June 2014

Our most exciting record this month came from Exton Park. Terry Mitcham saw a female **Roe Deer** on a ride in Tunnely Wood. She leapt over the ditch and into the plantation, and a Roe fawn ran away along the ditch. This is our first evidence of Roe breeding in this area. A Roe deer was also seen along the top track at Martinthorpe, and a Roebuck observed at close quarters in Burley Woods.

An **Otter** was seen swimming under the small bridge at Leighfield Fishponds in May. An otter slide and the remains of a large fish, were found at Manton Bay in May, and many prints on the

mink raft in June. At Dog Kennel Cottage a mink raft was dug out deeply, with otter claw marks and prints in both May and June. At another mink raft near Fishponds Cottage, the raft was also dug out in June, indicating that this is the work of the same otter, since no other rafts have been treated in this way, though many signs of otter have been seen.

Unusually, no reports of **Badgers** have been received this month, though local setts have shown signs of activity. **Stoats** have been seen at Lyndon centre, two seen together in late May, and in June a group of five in a sinuous line, crossed the track between Lyndon and the Rutland Sailing

Club. At the end of June, on a visit to Verge 9 at Greetham, a young stoat was seen hunting in the verges, crossing and recrossing the road. It was curious when called up, and approached the observers to within two feet, before continuing to search the verge for unwary prey. On the same visit a **Weasel** crossed the road in front of the car, and earlier in the month another crossed the road between Cross Roads Farm and Exton.

In mid June a young **Fox** was disturbed as it munched on a rabbit, close to the central ride of Pickworth Wood. It was very reluctant to leave its prey, trying to run away with it, but abandoning it mid track as it ran, down the ride and into the undergrowth, causing great excitement to the dog!!

Seven **Hares** were seen together, having a 'meet' in a field S of Pickworth Wood in early May, one running away towards wood, the others staying put, and the following day 5 were seen in the same field, but only one was present on the third day. They were seen in the area in ones and twos for the rest of the month. At Westland Wood near Exton, 6 were observed in June, and one was seen in Wing Road Glaston. Hares were also seen regularly on Greetham valley golf club, on one occasion 3 leverets and 2 adults together.

Two **Bank Voles** have been reported from Linda Worrall's garden, one found dead, possibly killed by a cat, but another at the end of May was seen on the patio, a very plump individual, obviously having feasted on the food put out for the hedgehogs. A Common Shrew was also found dead in the carport, with no sign of injury. At Quarry Farm Great Casterton a Pygmy Shrew was found dead in June, again with no sign of injury. A grey squirrel is reported from All Saint's churchyard in Oakham, and another crossed the road between Pickworth and Great Casterton, both in June.

At Rutland Water the **Water Voles** have been enjoying a successful season. Many of the rafts have shown signs of vole activity, both in May and June. In the channel between Lagoons 1 and 2 the rafts were covered with droppings, and lovely piles of vegetation placed there by the voles for their later meals. In Dog Kennel stream the rafts were also well covered, voles heard plopping into the water and seen swimming away. Even near Grebe hide on the edge of the water, where few signs had been seen earlier, food piles and droppings were found. Along the perimeter track, behind the Birch plantation a dead **Mole** was found, seeming uninjured.

At Barrowden Linda has been seeing **Hedgehogs** very regularly. Two were courting in early May, and these visits continued through the month. Two courting on 19th were pestered by two others, which were seen off by the male of the pair, and Linda was visited by up to 4 at a time on subsequent evenings. On June 22nd a courting pair were again watched, the male nosing the female, who 'whisked' around as he silently circled her, so that her nose was politely always facing his. The pair took turns in drinking from a bowl of water placed for their comfort.

Four **Fallow Deer** were seen on three occasions at Pickworth, twice in the wood, and once near Eayres Lodge. Later in May an encounter between the observers and a female Fallow was quite special, the deer stopping in the middle of the ride, and turning to face us, standing still for maybe a minute before leaping off into the undergrowth, and leaving us to wonder what exactly she was thinking!

A Muntjac was seen on the estate road between Fort Henry and the A1, a female was feeding in a ride of Westland Wood, and another was seen in Clipsham Park Woods. A Muntjac was also a road casualty near Ketton.

Many thanks to those of you who sent in their reports this month, and special thanks to those who bravely tried to do so digitally. I hope that the digital recording is not the reason for their being so few recorders this month!

Thanks to: A Biddle, T Caldicott, J Harris, P Langston, T Mitcham, D Perril, P Rudkin, L Worrall.

BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

41 Woodland View, Oakham, LE15 6EJ. Telephone: 01572 755274. Email: jharris@lrwt.org.uk

No time for a report this month, please continue sending in your records.
