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NOTICEBOARD

NEW VENUE FOR EVENING MEETINGS

We are very glad to have secured a new venue for our evening meetings – a decent-sized hall, very good audiovisual equipment, catering facilities, good parking, easy to find. Here the is the address:

Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR),
Lands End Way,
Oakham, Rutland LE15 6RB

Directions: Everyone thinks everyone else knows the way to Lands End! But in case you are coming from well outside Oakham, turn off the Oakham Ring Road at the Lands End roundabout, VAR is about half a mile on the righthand side.

Look forward to seeing you there for our first evening meeting on Tuesday October 1st!

Your Winter programme and membership card

This comes with September's *Fieldfare*. It has details of indoor and outdoor events through to April 2014. It provides evidence of membership if you go to Eyebrook or Burley Wood (remember to take it with you!). Uppingham Sports and Books offer members presenting a signed card 10% off most books.

London Natural History Museum – 12 November - see page 2

This is an opportunity to see beetles and wasps with some of the country's leading experts. Not only may we be shown such exotic specimens as those actually taken by Darwin or Wallace, but tours in the past have encompassed the large metallic silver and gold coloured beetles from South America, big enough to fill a man's palm, some incredible dark blue wasps (reputedly the largest in the world), examples of wonderfully preserved wasp nests from around the world and a whole array of exotic beetles which make our fauna appear rather mundane. **Photographers:** you WILL be allowed to take photos of the specimens, and in many cases you will be in the unique position of being able to photograph your subjects without a glass case in the way – no more annoying reflections to spoil your images.

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Plantlife Award for Field Conservation Volunteer of the Year 2013

Plantlife has just given Graham the above Award in recognition of his long-running contributions to their work at Seaton Meadows Reserve. They had decided to do this before he died.

And may I say thanks, everybody, for all your kindness and support over this summer.

Linda Worrall

Leicestershire and Rutland Recorder

Leicestershire and Rutland are fortunate to have a long tradition in the recording of the counties' wildlife. Plant recording, for example, started about 300 years ago. A great deal of information has been collected in this time and many fine publications have resulted.

The first eight editions of the *Leicestershire Recorder*, a journal dedicated to biological recording in both Leicestershire and Rutland (Rutland was part of Leicestershire when the journal was launched) were published by Leicestershire County Council. Unfortunately the journal was axed because of budget cuts at the County Council and attempts by the Trust and

local naturalists to persuade the authority to think again failed. The Trust believes that the recording of our wildlife by local naturalists is essential, so that we have the information that we need to carry out effective nature conservation work. A journal provides a place for naturalists to publish their findings so that others can make use of them.

In recognition of the value of the journal to conservation, the Trust decided to take on the role of publishing it, on behalf of local naturalists. The journal has been renamed the *Leicestershire and Rutland Recorder*, will be published annually, and is edited by well-known local naturalist and Trust member Steve Woodward. The 2013 edition is now published, containing 52 pages with many photographs and articles on subjects such as birds, bats, flowering plants, mammals, caddis flies, fleas, local natural history societies, how to record wildlife and much more.

A free electronic sample copy of the journal is available, while paper copies can be obtained from the Trust office or the shop at Rutland Water Nature Reserve (Egleton) for £3.00. Copies can be ordered by post from the Trust office at Brocks Hill Environment Centre, Washbrook Lane, Oadby, Leics LE2 5JJ for £4.00, including postage and packing.

Michael Jeeves
mjeeves@lrwt.org.uk

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS

Full details of all these events can be found on our website at www.rnhs.org.uk.

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Sunday 13 October **WATER BIRDS AT EYEBROOK RESERVOIR** **9.30 am**

Led by Peter Scott, RNHS, this is the time when end-of-summer birds may still be around and the autumn birds will be starting to come in. Meet at the car parking area, next to the plantation below Stoke Dry. (OS Landranger 141, Grid ref: SP 853 964)

Queries: please call Peter Scott on 07535 508 932.

Tuesday 12 November **BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE** **all day**
LONDON NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see behind the glass cases of the Entomological Department at the NHM with three of the expert curators, organised by Tim Newton, RNHS. Arrive at the Museum at about 12.30, bring a packed lunch or have lunch at the Museum, tours start at 2.00 pm. Depart around 5.00 pm.

To book a place: BEFORE OCTOBER 5th, please call Dawn Whitefield on 01664 454 578 or email dawn@whitefield34.plus.com; or call Roy Edwards on 01572 757205 or email royvedwards@o2.co.uk.

16 people have already signed up, and when Dawn knows the final numbers she can then arrange travel, by coach, leaving (about) 9.00, getting back (about) 7.30. Coach cost is dependent on numbers going. If you want lunch at the museum (about £12), please tell Dawn. (Partners may be able to book the coach travel for a day in London, please ask.)

INDOOR EVENTS

The NEW venue for the RNHS indoor meetings is Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR), Lands End Way, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6RB.

Tuesday 1 October WILDLIFE IN A PHOTOGRAPHER'S GARDEN 7.30 pm

By Jeff Harrison, a brilliant photographer who gave us a fascinating presentation on Kingfishers last year.

Tuesday 5 November WILD GOOSE CHASE 7.30 pm

Nicholas Watts, farmer and well-known Fen naturalist, talks about 40 years of 'wading on the Wash'.

Tuesday 3 December DORMICE REINTRODUCTION 7.30 pm

By Jim Alexander, a retired chief wildlife ranger and now a volunteer, who has been involved from the start of the dormouse project in Bedford Purlieus. This was organised by Natural England and the People's Trust for Endangered Species in 2001, and started by releasing 21 pairs of dormice that had been reared in captivity into Bedford Purlieus woods.

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. See www.lrw.org.uk, or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, for other events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks.

Monday 21 October THE GREAT FEN 7.30 pm

Great Fen Monitoring Officer Dr Paul Tinsley-Marshall will tell us about this internationally important initiative to create a Fenland landscape in lowland England. This exciting habitat restoration project will create a 3700 hectare wetland between Peterborough and Huntingdon.

Monday 18 November OUR LIVING SEAS 7.30 pm

Trust Senior Conservation Office Neill Talbot will update us on living seas – the Wildlife Trust vision for the future of the UK seas where marine life thrives from the depth of the ocean to the coastal shallows.

Monday 9 December QUIZ NIGHT 7.30 pm

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

Friday 18 October RUTLAND OSPREY PROJECT 7.30 pm

The introduction of Ospreys to Rutland Water has been one of conservations major successes. There is now a small but important breeding population in Rutland and the birds are already beginning to colonize other areas. This is the story of the project, past, present and future as told by two of the project volunteers, Pete and Jackie Murray.

Friday 15 November COTO DOÑANA AND COSTA DE LA LUZ (SPAIN) 7.30 pm

Carole and Peter Leigh of Firecrest Photography take us on a tour of one of the jewels in the crown of Europe's nature reserves. This vast wetland is host to thousands of flamingos and wading birds.

WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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

July 2013

Atmospheric pressure and wind Pressures were generally elevated in the first three weeks and then lower for the rest of the month. The highest I recorded was 1035 mb on 8th, and the lowest 1008 mb on 29th. Winds were N-NE until 25th and then S-SW to the end.

Temperature A warm month in spite of the northerly winds referred to above. The mean maximum was 25.68 °C, the second warmest in the decade after 2006 (27.8 °C) and the mean minimum was 12.97 °C, the third warmest in the same period. This pattern was echoed nationwide and only 5 Julys in the past 100 years have been warmer. On four days the thermometer reached 30 °C or above and the highest I recorded was 33.0 °C on the 22nd.

Rainfall 2.5 mm fell on the 2nd, then nothing for 17 days; and when it looked like being a dry month there were thunderstorms and a further 53.5 mm fell in the last 12 days to make a total of 56.0 mm (2.2 inches). This is 97% of my long-term mean and is mirrored in the figures averaged over England and Wales which were 65mm or 98% of LTM.

Sunshine The sunniest July since 2006 with an aggregate of 289 hours averaged nationally, and this represents 142% of the LTM. Only one July in the past 100 years was sunnier.

August 2013

Atmospheric pressure and wind The barometer this month showed relatively little variation, being between 1008–1027 mb, but was mostly lower than this latter reading. Wind were generally SW-W and of low velocity, at least at 0900 hours daily; and on one day, 7th, there was early mist but it had cleared by 0830 hours. There was a period, 23rd to 27th, when winds were NW-NE but again of low velocity and it didn't seem to affect temperatures.

Temperature Another warm month, in fact the 1st was the warmest day with a maximum here of 32.0 °C compared with 34.1 °C at Heathrow. The month was the second warmest August in the last decade, a mean maximum of 23.94 °C compared with 27.7 °C in 2007. However nights, although quite pleasant, were only fifth warmest in the last decade, and these two facts taken together mean that August 2013 was second overall in the decade. The coolest night of the month was 7th at 8.5 °C.

Rainfall There were 16 days on which no detectable rain fell, but despite this 56.2 mm (2.21 inches) was recorded, very close to the total for July. This represents 90% of my long term mean. The total averaged for England and Wales was 2.46 inches or 87% of the LTM. There were three days of appreciable amounts of rain, the 5th, 15th and 24th, but on other occasions the amounts were small or even on four days a 'trace', which means it was so little it couldn't be measured.

Sunshine Nationally the sunniest August since 2007 with an aggregate of 189 hours, slightly below the LTM.

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

HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK

High tides for Kings Lynn. Times in GMT (BST ends 27 October). (A useful website is www.tidetimes.org.uk, which gives high *and* low tide times, sunrise and sunset, moonrise and moonset.)

October				November			
Sunday	6	06.45	19.10	Sunday	3	05.39	18.07
	13	-	13.12		10	11.30	23.34
	20	06.43	19.09		17	05.45	18.11
	27	11.41	23.54		24	10.09	22.15

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

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



July/August 2013

All four species of reptile found in Rutland have been recorded in these two months as well as both species of anuran, but there have been no newt records, which is not that unusual. Two observers have described toadlets 'in thousands' which is a very healthy sign.

Frogs were only reported from Barrowden and Wing where small individuals were seen. Single Common Toads were seen at Thorpe by Water and in Wing although one of those was dead in a garden. On 3rd July about a thousand toadlets were seen on the road at Leighfield although two days later there were only ten. Meanwhile at Exton 'thousands' of toadlets were observed at the end of July.

On 21st and 30th August single Viviparous Lizards were seen at Ketton Quarry. Slow Worms were seen again at Clipsham Quarry – an adult

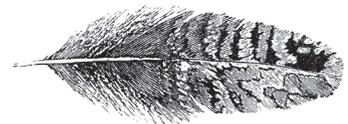
and two young on 7th July, but sadly an adult was found dead on 9th July.

Grass Snakes were well recorded in these months. A large specimen was sunning itself on 3rd July at Leighfield. In Barrowden on 13th July a Grass Snake got itself tangled in the strawberry netting of an ophidiophobic resident. Luckily Linda Worrall was on hand to remove it and cut it free from the unforgiving nylon mesh – a time-consuming process. There was a record from Martinthorpe of a Grass Snake in mid July. Not only is this the first record of this species from Martinthorpe, but it is also the first herpetological record of any species from that parish. Another snake was disturbed from a doormat in Preston in early August and a small specimen was found in Exton Park at the end of the month. Finally, on 11th July a large, probably gravid, female Adder was seen at Ketton and a smaller male was seen in the same area.

My thanks to the following who sent in records: T Caldicott, J Harris, V Hemsley, P & E Mann, T Mitcham, J Myers, B & D Parker, A Riley, N Talbot and L Worrall.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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



The attraction of Rutland Water for birds was amply demonstrated this summer by the addition of two species to the Rutland list – a Pacific Golden Plover in July and a Black Stork in August. Rain towards the end of August brought in two skua species and Black Terns, with some more regular passerine migrants also in evidence. An excellent wader passage saw over twenty species at the reservoirs and there was a good passage of Marsh Harriers – surely they will soon breed at Rutland Water? Wildfowl numbers built up steadily and with lower reservoir levels than last year and an abundance of invertebrate and plant food, we may look forward to autumn with keen anticipation.

My thanks to the following for their records: T Appleton, M Branston, T Caldicott, A & J Comber, Dr C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, M Grimes, H Harris, J Harris, A H J Harrop, A Lamb, P Langston, LROS, P & E Mann, T Mitcham, L Park, D Parker (Clipsham Survey Group), P Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, L Worrall.

Mandarin Duck. Bred at WFL – a female and four young seen on 13.07.

Gadwall. Bred at FHP, RW(Egl) and Ext Park.

Mallard. Bred FHP, RW(Egl and Lynd), Ext Park and Oak Canal.

Garganey. One or two noted at RW(Egl) from 30.07, with four on 30.08.

Tufted Duck. Bred at EBR, RW(Egl) and Chapel Farm, Burley-on-the Hill.

Common Scoter. Three were in south arm, RW, on 23.07 and 22.08.

Red-legged Partridge. An adult and five small young were at EBR on 27.07.

Grey Partridge. An agitated pair on Ryhall Heath on 12.07 probably had young nearby. There was a good record of a covey of 24 in Ext Park on 11.08.

- Quail.** Calling birds were heard just north of GtCast on 30.07 and along the Greet GC/Ext Park boundary on 20.08.
- Bittern.** Singles were seen at RW(Egl) on 30.07 and 28 and 30.08.
- Little Egret.** 84 were counted at RW on 16.07, and 20 flew east along the Chater valley at Martinsthorpe on 19.07. One flew over LFP on 21.07 and 52 were at RW on 13.08. Singles were at Banthorpe GP on 25 and 30.08. A colour-ringed bird was at RW(Egl) on 24.08 – details of its history are awaited.
- Grey Heron.** Six flew north over Woodside Farm, Normanton on 14.07. 22 were at RW on 16.07 and 11 there on 13.08.
- Black Stork.** One drifted north over north arm at RW on 22.08 – a first record for Rutland.
- Black-necked Grebe.** Noted at RW(Egl) between 18 and 28.08 with two on 22/23.08.
- Red Kite.** Seven over Martinsthorpe on 10.07 was the peak count. One was feeding on a Rabbit on the Seaton road near Bden on 26.07 and one narrowly avoided a sticky end as it investigated a dead Badger on the A6003 near Lydd on 26.08.
- Marsh Harrier.** An excellent passage from 19.07 to the end of Aug with one or two regularly at RW – four on 23 and 31.08. Singles were at EBR on 16.08 and in Ext Park on 18.08.
- Buzzard.** Well reported – the peak count was of twelve over Martinsthorpe on 31.08.
- Osprey.** The RW project had five pairs, which fledged fourteen young – a very encouraging result which bodes well for the future. A probable migrant was at Banthorpe GP on 30.08.
- Kestrel.** Few records were received with confirmed breeding only at Lydd Crossing and Ext Park.
- Hobby.** Recorded at seven well-scattered sites, with breeding likely at one.
- Spotted Crake.** A very elusive juvenile was at EBR on 30.08.
- Oystercatcher.** 16 were at RW on 16.07 and four on 13.08.
- Little Ringed Plover.** Three were at EBR on 13.07 with one on 21.07. Nine were at RW on 17.07 and three on 13.08.
- Ringed Plover.** Present at RW throughout both months with c.20 on 26.07. Heard calling over Martinsthorpe on 04.08 and Man on 18.08.
- Lapwing.** There were some good counts of incoming migrants – 902 were at RW on 16.07, 889 were at EBR on 27.07 and 200 were at Pilton the following day. c.400 flew NW over Pilt on 06.08 and there were 336 at RW on 13.08.
- Pacific Golden Plover.** An adult in breeding plumage was at RW(Egl) between 15/18.07. Inland records of this species are almost unheard of and this bird attracted much attention – a first record for Rutland.
- Knot.** Singles were at RW(Egl) on 18 and 27.08.
- Sanderling.** At RW there was one on 14, two on 27 and three on 28.08.
- Little Stint.** The only record was three at RW(Egl) on 05.08.
- Curlew Sandpiper.** Three adults were at RW(Egl) on 22.07 with one remaining to 27.07.
- Dunlin.** Present at RW from 13.07 with a max of six on 28.08. Up to three were at EBR between 30.07 and 26.08.
- Ruff.** Noted at RW from 08.07 to the end of Aug, with nine on 23.08. 22 were at EBR on 26.08, declining to three on 31.08.
- Snipe.** There was a max of 13 at RW(Egl) on 13.08. Five flew over LFP on the same day.
- Black-tailed Godwit.** Present at RW throughout both months with a max of ten on 07.07 and 21.07. A colour-ringed bird there on the latter date had been ringed in Iceland – further details awaited. Two were at EBR on 14 and 28.07.
- Whimbrel.** One called as it flew west over Stam on 17.07. Five flew west over RW on 23.07 and one was there on 02.08.
- Curlew.** Passage birds were over Martinsthorpe, Pilt and Man from 06.07. Four were at RW(Egl) on 16.07, with seven on 13.08. Five were on pasture at Martinsthorpe on 28.08 and six there on 31.08.
- Common Sandpiper.** One or two were at EBR between 14.07 and 31.08. At RW there was a max of eleven on 23.07.
- Green Sandpiper.** A very well-reported species, noted at both reservoirs throughout both months. At RW there was a max of 20+ on 04.08 and seven were at EBR on 21.07. Two were at Banthorpe GP on 28.07, with one on 03.08. Singles were at LFP on 21 and 26.07, with birds overflying Man and Martinsthorpe from 04.08.
- Spotted Redshank.** A juv was at EBR on 26.08, with three juvs on 28.08 and one at RW on the next day.
- Greenshank.** Noted at RW from 07.07, with a max of 16 on 16.07. One or two were at EBR from 16.08.
- Wood Sandpiper.** One was at EBR between 23/28.07, with up to four (07/08.08) at RW between 27.07 and 15.08.

- Redshank.** Two were at RW on 16.07 and one at EBR on 27.07.
- Turnstone.** Singles were at RW on three dates between 23.07 and 18.08. Two were present there on 21.08.
- Arctic Skua.** One was over Hambleton peninsula at RW on 25.08.
- Great Skua.** One was reported over south arm at RW on 25.08.
- Little Gull.** Present at RW during both months from 01.07 with a max of four on 11.07.
- Mediterranean Gull.** Two adults were at RW(Egl) on 26.07, with one on 13.08.
- Yellow-legged Gull.** One was at EBR on 13.07 and there were twelve at RW on 16.07 and 13.08.
- Little Tern.** Two were at EBR on 05.07, with one at RW(Egl) on 09.08.
- Black Tern.** Reported from RW on ten dates between 09.07 and 30.08, with a max of 17 on 25.08. One was at EBR on 08.07, with two on 12.07.
- Common Tern.** 61 were at RW on 16.07, with 69 counted on 13.08. Seven were at EBR on 27.07.
- Arctic Tern.** One was at RW on 26.07.
- Cuckoo.** A juv was at FH on 03/04.08.
- Barn Owl.** No broods were raised at ten monitored nestboxes away from RW – our worst ever showing and probably the result of a lack of prey during a cold winter and a late spring.
- Little Owl.** Records came from Cow Close Farm (bred), Ryll Heath, Wg Burrows, EBR, Tin, Braun and Pilt (bred).
- Tawny Owl.** Singles were at Tunn Wood on 14.07 and Ext Park on 25.07.
- Short-eared Owl.** One was flushed from a scrubby bank in Ext Park on 28.07. There had been heavy rain on the previous night and the bird was presumably taking shelter there.
- Swift.** A screaming party of c.25 was over Bden on 22.07. Greatly reduced activity over housing in the Burley Road area of Oakham was noted in July, possibly due to soffit replacement on houses which closed off nesting sites. All had departed by 01.08 but two were noted over RW on 15.08.
- Kingfisher.** An encouraging spread of records with birds noted at Banthorpe GP (two), FHP, RW, LFP (two), Martinsthorpe, Wg and Tin.
- Green Woodpecker.** Regular at FH and Ext Park and bred at KQ. A male was found dead at Kett on 16.07.
- Raven.** Noted at six sites, mainly west and south of RW. A flock of ten over RW north arm on 08.08 was a record for modern times. On 26.07 nine had passed over LFP in three groups.
- Willow Tit.** One or two were seen/heard at Martinsthorpe, LFP, and Pilt.
- Marsh Tit.** Noted at Ess on 17.07 and at Hamb and Gun on 23.08.
- Sand Martin.** Seven or eight pairs bred in masonry at Stoke Dry in July.
- Swallow.** The peak July count was c.200 at LFP on 18.07. There were 280 there on 02.08 and c.150 at Martinsthorpe on 04.08.
- Willow Warbler.** Ten noted around LFP on 05.07 and one in a Man garden on 31.07.
- Garden Warbler.** Singles were at Leigh on 02.08 and FH on 28.08.
- Lesser Whitethroat.** Four noted at Martinsthorpe on 27.07.
- Whitethroat.** Three were singing at WFL on 13.07. 16 were around Martinsthorpe on 19.07. Birds noted in oilseed rape crops in Aug at HM.
- Mistle Thrush.** Peak counts of flocks in flight at Martinsthorpe were 27 on 17.07 and 30+ on 12.08.
- Robin.** 34 were noted around Martinsthorpe on 25.08.
- Pied Flycatcher.** A female was well seen near Martinsthorpe on 25.08.
- Redstart.** Singles were on Ryll Heath on 21.08, at FH on 28.08 and Martinsthorpe on 31.08.
- Whinchat.** Singles were near Wg on 14.08, at GHW on 26.08 and RW on 28.08. Two were at EBR on 30.08, with a single the following day.
- Wheatear.** A female was at Ext Park on 03.08, with the next at RW on 15.08. Two were on Greet GC on 20.08.
- Spotted Flycatcher.** July records were from Ext Park, Manton, LFP, Pilt (four) and Lynd Wood (four) and Martinsthorpe. Two were in a Bden garden on 09.08. An adult was feeding three or four fledged young at Norm from 13.08, and probable family parties were at LFP (five), Pilt (six) and Lynd Wood (four) up to 26.08.
- Yellow Wagtail.** Regular in Ext Park throughout both months. Eight were at Martinsthorpe on 06.07, with small nos flying over this general area from late July to 22.08, when 14 were noted. c.30 were on pasture at Stoke Dry on 20.08.
- Grey Wagtail.** One was at Banthorpe GP on 25.08, with two at FHP on 28.08.
- Greenfinch.** Six were in song near Ess on 17.07.
- Goldfinch.** c.70 fed on thistles at Martinsthorpe on 12.07.

Common Crossbill. One was seen and heard in flight over Lax Hill at RW on 15.07, with singles also over Pilt, LFP and Martinsthorpe to 22.07.
Bullfinch. Fledged young were noted at Ess and CQ in July. One or two took Honeysuckle

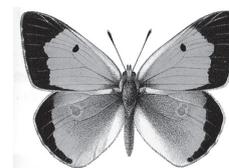
berries in a Lang garden between 14/21.08 and c.20 were noted around Wg on 29.08.
Corn Bunting. A singing male was reported near Woodside Farm, Norm, on 08.07.

BOTANY NOTES

There are no Botany notes this issue. Until we have a new Botany Recorder, please send your Record Cards and other information to Linda Biddle, marking the envelope on the outside 'Botany record'.

BUTTERFLY NOTES

compiled by Alistair Lawrence
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July/August 2013

Chalkhill Blues, lots of Fritillaries and an influx of Clouded Yellows!

The hot sunny weather of July and August has seen much frenzied activity by both butterflies and recorders alike, with some new records being established for Rutland. The discovery of Chalkhill Blues at Bloody Oaks Quarry and an upsurge in numbers of Dark Green Fritillaries in Rutland are especially notable. It is hoped that following on from this, new colonies will be firmly established.

The second brood of some butterfly species has seen numbers returning to healthier levels after the wet summer of 2012 and the poor spring of 2013. Peacocks, the Whites and Common Blue in particular appear to be doing well. A total of 30 species form the body of this report.

Small Skipper

This species has been seen regularly in good numbers all over Rutland throughout July and early August. Highest counts come from Stamford and Clipsham quarries, with 28 and 15 respectively during late July.

Essex Skipper

The only record is of 2 specimens identified at RW Lyndon on 29 July.

Large Skipper

Records have come mostly from the reserves and quarries during July and August and this butterfly has been seen in fewer numbers than the Small Skipper. Highest counts were 8 at RW Egleton on 6 July and 6 at Clipsham Quarry on 13 July.

Dingy Skipper

One very late specimen was observed at Clipsham Quarry on 9 July.

Clouded Yellow

After an absence of a few years, single specimens were recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry on 10 August, at the edge of Pickworth Wood on the 13th, then at Leighfield Fishponds on the 20th and at Exton Park on the 28th August. At about the same time up to 10 were observed in a field close to Stoke Dry Wood, near Uppingham.

Brimstone

These have been seen frequently during July and August at a variety of sites and in good numbers as the second brood emerged. Highest counts were 17 at Ketton Quarry on 14 August and 8 at Clipsham Park Wood on the 26th.

Large White

As the second brood emerged in late July, reports of large numbers of this butterfly being seen all over Rutland started arriving. Highest counts were 19 at Stamford Quarry on 27 July, 40+ at Ketton Quarry on 3 August and 20 at RW Lyndon on 4 August. One member witnessed an amazing scene in a field near Essendine when on 17 July over 20 Large Whites were clustered in a frenzied

group taking nutrients from a damp muddy patch.

Small Whites

A similar picture for this butterfly to that of the preceding species, with high numbers being reported from many locations and varying habitats. In July the biggest counts were 14 at Stamford Quarry on the 27th and 30+ at RW Lyndon on the 29th. In the first half of August in excess of 60 were recorded at Ketton Quarry. Other notable counts were 15 at Verge 16 (BOQ) on the 3rd, 12 at Langham on the 7th and 10 at Beaumont Chase Farm on 14 August.

Green Veined White

Reports of this species have come from all corners of Rutland with, again, very good numbers as the second brood arrived. They were described as abundant in an Uppingham garden during July whilst on 3 August in excess of 20 were counted at Ketton Quarry.

Purple Hairstreak

The two records received for this butterfly are both of 2 specimens, firstly at Pilton on 6 August, and then at Beaumont Chase Farm on 14 August.

White Letter Hairstreak

One was seen clearly resting on an elder leaf near Pilton on 3 August. (I have an unconfirmed report of a sighting on Lax Hill at Rutland Water.)

Small Copper

The only record for July is of a single specimen at RW Lyndon on the 29th. There were eight sightings in our area during August, and the highest count was 6 at Clipsham Park Wood on the 26th.

Brown Argus

A much improved picture compared with last summer, as reports for this species come from five sites, namely Ketton Quarry, Bloody Oaks Quarry, Pickworth and Pickworth Great Wood, and a field margin near Little Casterton. Numbers seen ranged from 1 to 3.

Common Blue

The warm weather and emerging second brood has boosted the numbers of this small butterfly, with reports of good sightings from all our reserves, woods and quarries. Highest counts were 10+ at Ketton Quarry on 4 July, which increased to 25+ a month later at the same

location. 14 were counted at Clipsham Park Wood on 26 August.

Chalkhill Blue

A first for Rutland in nearly 60 years! During the first half of August a small colony of this butterfly was identified by several members at Bloody Oaks Quarry, and with a mix of males and females it is hoped that future sightings here may be secured.

Holly Blue

The only record for this species is of a singleton in an Oakham garden on 7 August.

White Admiral

A single specimen was seen in the north glade at Ketton Quarry on 3 August.

Red Admiral

Just a handful of reports of single sightings during July and August from six locations.

Painted Lady

The first record for this species comes from a field margin near Great Casterton where a singleton was observed on 30 July. Two were seen at Bloody Oaks Quarry on 7 August. Single sightings during August also come from Manton, Leighfield Fishponds, Lyndon and Ketton Quarry.

Small Tortoiseshell

Sightings of this species have shown a marked improvement over previous seasons and come from all corners of our county. Records of 4 or more during July and August come from Clipsham Quarry, Quarry Farm, Market Overton, Clipsham Park Wood and Wing. 21 were counted on buddleia in Lyndon on 29 August. There was an amazing spectacle at Langham on 26 August, when a total of up to 50 were counted by members in gardens and other locations in the village.

Peacock

The emergence of the second brood in late July has resulted in a surge of numbers being reported. 44 were counted at Stamford Quarry on 27 July and at Wing on 3 August, whilst there were in excess of 100 at Ketton Quarry also on 3 August. Good numbers have also been recorded at Bloody Oaks and Clipsham Quarries, and the south shore of Rutland Water at Hambleton.

Comma

This species has been seen consistently during July and August from around the county. Highest counts are 10 at RW Lyndon on 29 July and 4 seen at Whitwell on 8 August.

Dark Green Fritillary

This butterfly has gone from strength to strength, appearing at 3 sites during July and August. This year 40 were counted at Clipsham Quarry on 9 July, with 3 being seen at Ketton Quarry during mid-July. It is believed to be 9 years since this species was last seen at Ketton Quarry. A single specimen was also seen at the edge of Pickworth Wood on 13 August.

Silver Washed Fritillary

This butterfly has appeared at Ketton Quarry for the third year running, with a single male first seen on 11 July, then 2 were observed at the same site on 28 July. At Bloody Oaks Quarry a male and a female were recorded on 7 August. A male specimen was again seen at Ketton Quarry on 3 August.

Speckled Wood

Regular sightings have been reported mainly from our woods, reserves and quarries during July and August. The highest count was in excess of 25 at RW Egleton on 6 July.

Marbled White

Reports come from three locations during July and August, with 58 counted at Clipsham Quarry on 9 July and in excess of a hundred at Ketton Quarry two days later. 5 were also seen at the edge of Pickworth Wood during July. The final record is of a singleton at Ketton Quarry on 7 August.

Gatekeeper

Good numbers of this species have been reported from a wide variety of locations with highest totals at the reserves and quarries. Over 30 were counted at RW Lyndon on 22 July, 20 at Ketton Quarry on 18 July, and 12 at Clipsham Quarry on 28 July. In August, 16 were seen at RW Lyndon on the 4th and 10 at Horn Mill and Bloody Oaks Quarry on 3rd and 7th respectively.

Meadow Brown

These have been abundant all over Rutland with very substantial numbers in particular at the reserves and quarries. At RW Egleton in excess of 50 were recorded on 6 July. Counts of 20 or more come from Clipsham Quarry, RW Lyndon, Thorpe-by-Water, and Tunneley Wood during July. The last reported sighting was of 6 at Stamford Quarry on 31 August.

Small Heath

This butterfly has been seen on the wing during July and August at a number of sights with 10 at Ketton Quarry and 11 at Clipsham Quarry on 4th and 9th July respectively. 10 were reported from George Henry Wood on 25 August.

Ringlet

Another species that has been seen in substantial numbers during this period. In excess of 50 were counted at Ketton Quarry in mid July and numbers exceeding 25 come from the RW reserves, Clipsham Quarry and Tunneley Wood, Exton, in the latter half of July. In early August single sightings were recorded at Ketton and Bloody Oaks Quarries, Empingham and Oakham Canal, while 10 were reported from a verge near Horn Mill and RW Lyndon on 3rd and 4th respectively.

My thanks to the following for their contributions: J Ansley, A & L Biddle, P Bennett, C Butterfield, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, C G Gallimore, M Grimes, J Harris, R & J Harvey, C Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, P & E Mann, T Mitcham, J Myers, D Needham, D & B Parker, R & J Parker, D Perril, P Rudkin, P Scott, B & J Taylor, C Thomas

MOTH NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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July/August 2013

The first six months of 2013 were noted as the worst for several years with regard to the weather and thus, this had an adverse effect on many forms of wildlife.

Very few moths were recorded until July began and then a dramatic change took place. Record catches were then taken in several parts of the County and a number of members have submitted some interesting sightings.

We have trapped at Eyebrook Reservoir fortnightly from Spring to Autumn since 2000 and on July 14th this year the total was 114 species (this included four new macros), which was the third highest since we began. When we next visited the site on July 26th imagine our amazement when a new site-trapping record was achieved with a total of 155 species using four traps overnight. The striking moth for that night was the Vestal, which is a fairly rare migrant, but one which has been recorded at the reservoir in the past. Several new micro-species were added to the site list. The previous best total here had been 130 species in June 2011 and it is interesting to note that we have only had 100+ species ten times in the past. Numbers trapped on visits in August were much lower.

A group met at Clipsham Quarry on August 8th to run a tripod MV light and several traps until midnight. The total was 125 species recorded including several which occurred in fairly large numbers, for example, the list included 100 Mother of Pearl. There were also two species which are classified as notable, i.e. 11 Square Spotted Clays and 6 Mere Wainscots. Migrant moths included 2 Dark Sword Grasses.

On the evening of August 21st, 60 species were recorded at Dawn's Paddock at Braunston, when 13 were new for that site. The most interesting seen here were 12 Yellow Barred Brindles. These are not a common moth and yet have been found in several local areas this summer.

A group ran a light at Lyndon from dusk for a few hours on five dates in July and four dates in August. Notably, over 50 species were recorded on both July 6th and 24th and the largest total in August was 45 on the 1st.

It was pleasing to receive records from a few new areas of the County this summer. For example, approx. 20 species were seen at Martinthorpe during July and a further list for August included 30 Cinnabar larvae on Ragwort and a sighting of a Humming Bird Hawk moth. This latter species was also seen on Buddleia at Manton and another was in a garden at Uppingham. A further list came from the Pilton area naming 8 species, including a Red Underwing, which are often found resting on walls at this time of year. Several species including a Mallow were recorded on Shipley Common Verge at Brooke.

There have been numerous other sightings during these two months, all of which will be included in the *Annual Report*. These have included four Elephant Hawk moth larvae found on Willowherb on an allotment in North Luffenham, a White Satin Moth found on the outside of a French door in Uppingham; and a Large Emerald was photographed resting on a leaf in Pickworth Great Wood.

I ended the last Moth Notes with 'temperatures have suddenly risen' and now as I write in early September I can honestly say 'temperatures have suddenly fallen'. Autumn is here once again but at least we have had a summer to remember!

Many thanks to the following for their contributions: V Arnold, P Bennet, C Butterfield, T Caldicott, R Follows, M Grimes, V Hemsley, C R Jones, A Lawrence, P & E Mann, J Myers, E Northen, D & B Parker, R & J Parker, D Perril, P Scott, M Tyler and D Whitefield.

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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July/August 2013

The coldest spring for 60 years – Britain's longest heat-wave in more than 30 years; and the warmest, driest and sunniest summer since 2006.

This is a very different comment to the one I made for the May/June issue of Fieldfare. The heat-wave saved the insect season, and the orthoptera certainly benefited. Some interesting behaviour was observed between a pair of Roesel's Bush Crickets, during the Beaumont Chase Farm Survey on 14th August. The female was noted carrying a sperm sac. "The males transfer an edible 'nuptial' gift while mating". (Benton, Crickets and Grasshoppers NN 2012). The male must have presented this to her just before they were observed. Although there are no new species reported in Rutland so far this year, I am pleased to say that a few new sites have been added to our records.

There is concern regarding the Short-winged Conehead status in 2013. None were found on the Rutland Water Survey at Egleton on 28th July. I visited the site outside of the reserves at North Arm 1, south shore, near Hambleton, and was surprised to see construction work going on, with wide stretches of the banks being shored up. The vegetation where the Short-winged Conehead had a large colony in recent years had been dug up. There was a 'no entry' sign, so we will probably have to wait until 2014 to find if the colony has survived. However, the Egleton population might be late in maturing, and investigations will be ongoing in Sept/October.

The Long-winged Conehead did not put in an appearance on Beaumont Chase Farm, or at the Egleton Reserve this season so far, and only two sites held this cricket. Perhaps both Coneheads will do better in Sept/October.

The meadows and verges below the Roc Block area at Whitwell are part of the Nature Reserve's recording area, and in 2006 I carried out a survey there. I made a belated return on 11th August as county recorder, and the numbers of the various orthoptera species were much the same. It was very pleasing to know that this area is unchanged and the occupants still successful.

Finally, I took part in the BioBlitz at Egleton reserve on 7th July, did a reasonable PR job for the orthoptera, and hope that it will inspire anyone interested enough to take up the challenge. A very enjoyable morning!

Phil Rudkin

Bush Crickets

Oak Bush Cricket *Meconema thalassinum*

First sighting of the season! One adult observed in Ash tree, Martinthorpe, 4 August. One found dead on road, under Oak trees, on the track between Lyndon and Pilton, 11 August. One adult, alive on same road, 14 August. New site, SK 909 038.

Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

Three, located in scrub, adjoining the verge, on the minor road between Fishpond Lodge and the A606, 5.30 pm, Rutland Water, 16 August. Two males and two females, in scrub along the woodland trail, Clipsham Park Wood, 21 August, 2.30 pm.

Roesel's Bush Cricket *Metrioptera roeselii*

One second instar nymph female, caught and identified during the Rutland Water Bioblitz, at Egleton reserve, 7 July, east of the Bird Watching

Centre. One late instar nymph, in rough herbage, in the valley area of Ketton Quarries, 13 July.

17 July: 11.0 am, hot and humid, 29 °C in the sun, three stridulating males, in rough grasses, Quarry Farm, first field, Stamford (inside Rutland).

Further along the Little Casterton Road, towards Little Casterton, two, and then four stridulating males heard in grass verges. At 1.20 pm, arriving at the bridge over the Gwash, west of Belmesthorpe, four stridulating males, in rough grasses, new site, TF 035 100. At 3.55 pm, four stridulating males in rough herbage alongside the railway track, at Pickworth Road, Essendine.

22 July: on the Lyndon reserve, Rutland Water, six males located in the cut hay field along the farm track.

28 July: at the Egleton reserve, the Rutland Water survey produced the expected large colonies, heard (and several observed), in diverse habitats, all to the south east of the Bird Watching Centre, (including Lax Hill and some of the new lagoons).

August sightings: three males heard in long grasses, in fields near Martinsthorpe, 1 August, new site, SK 868 040.

3 August: large colonies in the regular sites, found at Horn Mill/North Brook, Exton; in grass verges along the Exton Road, Empingham; on both sides of the grass verges, on Verge 16, Bloody Oaks.

8 August: massive numbers, heard (adults and nymphs observed), in both fields at Quarry Farm, Stamford.

11 August: I revisited the fields below the Roc Block area of Whitwell, Rutland Water. The last time I surveyed this plot was 5 August 2006 (before I was county recorder). I checked through the spreadsheets, and the records are included in the Rutland Orthoptera maps. The fields and grass verges at the Roc Block area were full of these crickets, and numbers are maintained.

The Beaumont Chase Farm Survey, Uppingham, was carried out on 14 August (by kind permission of Jo and Mary Nourish). This year, Dave Needham, Clive Jones, Alistair Lawrence and Phil Rudkin surveyed the area north of Kings Hill Lodge, SP 838 989. Expected large numbers of stridulating males were heard, in the usual locations. An interesting observation was of a pair together in the long grasses on the 'Rabbit Bank'. The female was noted holding the sperm sac (presented to her by the male).

Roy Frost (Derbyshire and Nott's Ornithological recorder), on his way home from the Bird Fair, heard one stridulating male in blackthorn scrub, between Teigh and Ashwell.

16 August: Martin Grimes, Gill Chiverton and Phil Rudkin visited Clipsham Park Woods/Yew Tree Avenue, on 21st August, finding five males in the rough corner next to the car park, and four males, in the woodland trail grass verges.

Tim Caldicott heard two males near Pilton, on 8th August; one, in verge at Crown Well Bridge, near Wing, on 17th August; and one, at Leighfield Fishponds, on 23rd August.

Finally, Martin Grimes stayed just inside Rutland, on Green Lane, at the edge of Stamford, giving us a new site, with one stridulating male in field margin behind hedgerow, 27th August, TF 027 086.

Long-winged Conehead *Conocephalus discolor*

At the time of writing, this cricket's numbers are low; six stridulating males in rough grasses, first field, and large colony heard in the second field, Quarry Farm, Stamford, on 8th August. One stridulating male, at a new site; Green Lane

(inside Rutland), at the edge of Stamford, in field margin, 27th August, TF 027 086. Other Rutland sites visited in August had nil results. Will be interesting to search in the following months!

Speckled Bush Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*

Bat detectors at the ready, tuned to 35 kHz, and the sounds of the Speckled Bush Crickets abound at this time of the season. However, as in June, more nymphs were being discovered during early July, one nymph observed on stinging nettle at Leighfield Fishponds on the 5th, and three nymphs seen near Martinsthorpe on the 8th. We had to wait until the 11th August for the first adults to be heard stridulating from the trees and hedgerows of Rutland – at the Roc Block lower fields at Whitwell, Rutland Water, where there were four in Lime, four in Willow, six in Ash, and ten plus in Beech. Numbers are maintained since my last visit here on 5th August 2006.

From there, 11th August, onto another stronghold, North Arm 1, south shore, Rutland Water, near Hambleton, and circa 20 adults stridulating in the Ash trees; it was hot, cloudy, sunny intervals and dry. 13th August: one adult, seen near pond on the west side of the Lodge, Leighfield Fishponds. During the Beaumont Chase Farm survey on 14th August, four stridulating males were located in hedgerow Elms. Further along, 10 were heard in hedgerow Ash trees. Also a very large colony heard in Ash trees on the 'Rabbit Bank'.

Roy Frost used his bat detector to locate one lone stridulating male in a tree, along the minor road between Fishpond Lodge and the A606, Rutland Water, on 16th August. Later, on his way home, he detected three stridulating males, in trees between Ashwell and Teigh, a very welcome new site for this species, SK 862 145.

21st August: large colonies in trees around the car park, at Clipsham/Yew Tree Avenue. And amazing numbers detected stridulating in trees, in a 50 yards stretch along the Clipsham Park Wood woodland trail.

One stridulating male, detected in trees at the edge of Rutland, in Green Lane Stamford, on 27th August, new site, TF 027 086. Finally, one adult at Leighfield Fishpond on 30th August.

Grasshoppers

Common Green Grasshopper *Omocestus viridulus*

One nymph caught and identified in meadow on the Egleton reserve, during the Rutland Water Bioblitz, on 7th July, east of the Bird Watching Centre.

First stridulating heard from 3+ adults, in the fields next to the public rights of way, near Martinsthorpe, on 22 July, new site, SK 868 041. The finder Tim Caldicott advises members not to wander off the footpath – thanks Tim!

The Rutland Water Survey on 28th July was encouraging, with numbers slightly up. Males heard stridulating in grasslands to the south east of the Bird Watching Centre (including Lax Hill and some new lagoons). Finally, on the 7th August, two stridulating males located in fields near Martinsthorpe, new site, SK 866 047

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*

The 13th July was hot, humid, dry, 30 °C in the sun, at 12.20 pm in Ketton Quarries. One adult caught, and one late instar nymph caught, both for identification, in the valley area. The adult flew very well!

On 18th July, one adult with well-developed wings observed in field, Leighfield Fishponds.

Ron Harvey reports 'several found and one photographed' in Bloody Oaks Quarry, the LRWT reserve, near Empingham, on 10th August.

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*

First stridulating heard on the morning of 7th July, during the Rutland Water Bioblitz at Eggleton. Two adults heard, adults and nymphs caught and identified, field 36, 11.30 am. 30 minutes later, more nymphs and adults caught in meadow nearby just east of the Bird Watching Centre.

13th July: large numbers in vegetation in the BBQ area, Ketton Quarries; also more good numbers in the valley area; large numbers heard and a few observed in meadow, adjacent to the LRWT entrance track to Ketton Quarries.

17th July: eight stridulating males in rough grass field, south west of the village of Essendine, new site, TF 042 120. Also, large colony of stridulating males in rough grasses, on the railway track margins, Pickworth Road, Essendine, new site, TF 044 125.

The Rutland Water survey on 28th July confirmed that numbers of this very common and widespread species were stable and healthy. The area surveyed was to the south east of the Bird Watching Centre (including Lax Hill and some of the new lagoons).

August sightings, 3rd August: large numbers heard, and some observed, in the grass verges along the Exton Road, Empingham, at 11.15 am, 23 °C in the sun. Further along the road (moving away from the edge of the village), large numbers

stridulating males in rough gateway corner, at edge of Barley crops. 200 yards further in another farm gateway, 15 males heard in grass verges. Another open entrance to Wheat crops, where a good number of stridulating males, and a few nymphs, were observed, new site, SK 938 100. The usual abundant numbers located in the verges, along the track at Horn Mill/North Brook. Large numbers in the verges, at Verge 16, Bloody Oaks.

11 August: surveying the fields below the Roc Block area (last visit on 5th August 2006), at Whitwell, confirmed the numbers were still abundant. Next location, at North Arm 1, six stridulating males in grasses. And finally, large colony in rough grasses, at the junction of Wing Road and the Manton railway track, new site, SK 882 036.

The Beaumont Chase Survey on 14th August was carried out north of Kings Hill Lodge. Large colonies very active in the grass verges, near the barn, and in rough grasses on the 'Rabbit Bank'.

Six stridulating males, in rough grass corner, at the top end of Yew Tree Avenue, Clipsham, on 21st August. Finally, another new site, Martin Grimes found one stridulating male in grasses, in Green Lane, Stamford (just inside Rutland), 27th August, TF 027 086.

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

7th July: first stridulating heard in meadow at Eggleton, during the Rutland Water Bioblitz, east of the Bird Watching Centre. Nymphs and adults caught and identified. Large numbers of stridulating males and nymphs observed in the cut hay field, adjacent to the LRWT entrance to Ketton Quarries, at 1.40 pm, 30 °C in the sun, hot and humid.

Two, observed in grasses at Leighfield Fishponds, on 16th July.

17th July: five stridulating males, in rough grass field south west of Essendine, on new site, TF 042 120. Large colony in rough grasses on railway track margins, Pickworth Road, Essendine, new square, TF 044 125. Pair in courtship mode, in rough grasses, in farm gateway, at edge of cereal crop, Ryhall Road, Great Casterton, new site, 5.10 pm, TF 001 092.

22nd July: two stridulating males in rough grasses, near Tufted Duck Hide, Field 7, Lyndon reserve. Tim Caldicott found six adults in fields along the public right of way, near Martinsthorpe, new site, SK 860 050.

The Rutland Water Survey on 28th July at Egleton reserve was carried out south east of the Bird Watching Centre (including Lax Hill and some of the new lagoons). Numbers were maintained in the usual habitats!

August sightings, 3rd August: large colony, in rough grass corner inside farm gateway, at edge of Barley crops, Exton Road, Empingham. Further along, six courting pairs in farm gateway at edge of wheat crop, new site, SK 938 100.

Eight stridulating males, and two pairs in courtship mode, in first field, and two males in wildflower meadow, second field, Quarry Farm, Stamford, on 8th August. Large colony of stridulating males in rough grasses, the Roc Block

fields at Whitwell, Rutland Water, on 11 August. Last visit here on 5th August 2006.

Five stridulating males, in grasses at the edge of the water, at North Arm 1, on 11th August.

David Perril reported finding a late instar nymph female, at Ketton Quarries, in the car park area, on 7th August (photograph supplied).

Finally, the Beaumont Farm Chase Farm survey was carried out north of Kings Hill Lodge, on 14th August. Six adults found in rough grasses around the barn, and six more along the lower ride, and four stridulating males in grasses on the 'Rabbit Bank'.

Many thanks to the following for their reports: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, R Frost, M Grimes, R Harvey, C G Jones, A Lawrence, D Needham, D Perril, P Rudkin.

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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This report covers the period May to August.



May 2013

ODONATA

Large Red Damselfly *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* - a pair in tandem noticed near garden pond in Barrowden, then a female appeared later to lay eggs, with one single insect also flying around during this time.

TRICHOPTERA

Caddis Fly larva *Lemnephilus marmoratus* - found in small pond at Ketton Quarries.

DIPTERA

St Mark's Fly *Bibio marci* - good numbers were noted on a section of Verge 8.

Hoverfly - *Criorhina asilica* - <10 were noted in sun at RWEgleton.

HYMENOPTERA

Bumble Bee sp. - a 'great many' were noted on lungwort flowers at Barrowden.

Common Carder Bee *Bombus pascuorum* - recorded at Woodhead Castle.

Spring Flower Bee *Anthophora plumipes* - several noted in a garden at Barrowden.

COLEOPTERA

Ground Beetles: *Loricera pilicornis* - noted as being 'fairly common' under stones at Lyndon Churchyard; *Leistus spinibarbis* - a striking metallic blue-coloured beetle also at Lyndon Churchyard; *Harpulus rufipes* - 4 specimens recorded in a field margin at Lyndon.

Rove Beetle *Tachinis laticollis* - a single specimen noted at RWEgleton.

Lesser Stag Beetle *Dorcus parallelipipedus* - noted sharing space with a nest of red ants under bark at RWEgleton.

Dung Beetle *Aphodius merdarius* - found in Lyndon Churchyard.

Cockchafer *Melolontha melolontha* - noted at two sites in Barrowden.

Click Beetle *Athous haemorrhoidales* - one noted in sun at Lyndon.

Soldier Beetle *Cantharis rustica* - recorded on Verge 8.

Flower Beetle *Anaspis costai* - two recorded from beating hawthorn blossom on field margin at Lyndon.

GASTROPODA

Large Black Slug *Arion ater* - several small specimens noted on Verge 8.

June 2013

ODONATA

White-legged Damselfly *Platycnemis pennipes* – one noted at Leighfield Fishpond.

Large Red Damselfly *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* – two pairs and some single specimens noted on six days over the month at Barrowden.

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans* – one recorded at Barrowden.

Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma najas* – 6 recorded at Leighfield Fishponds.

Four-spotted Chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata* – one noted at Burley Wood.

Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa* – one female recorded at Bushy Wood and one female egg-laying in garden pond at Barrowden.

HEMIPTERA

Common Backswimmer (Water Boatman)

Notonecta glauca – recorded in large numbers on garden pond in Barrowden.

HYMENOPTERA

Buff-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus terrestris* – one dead female found at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

Common Carder Bee *Bombus pascuorum* – one noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

COLEOPTERA

Rove Beetle *Creophilus maxillosus* – one specimen recorded at RWEggleton.

Cockchafer *Melolontha melolontha* – 3 specimens recorded from two sites in Barrowden.

Click Beetle *Athous haemorrhoidales* – about 10 specimens noted at RWEggleton.

Soldier Beetle *Rhagonycha limbata* – many recorded on nettles when sun came out at RWEggleton.

Cardinal Beetle *Pyrochroa serraticornis* – >24 freshly emerged specimens recorded at RWEggleton.

Malachite Beetle *Malachius bipustulatus* – approximately 10 insects noted at RWEggleton.

Wasp Beetle *Clytus arietis* – one seen on nettles at RWEggleton.

Flower Beetle *Oedemera lurida* – a small number of males noted at RWEggleton.

GASTROPODA

Leopard Slug *Limax maximus* – one very large specimen noted out at night at Barrowden.

Snail *Monacha cantiana* – several recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

July 2013

ODONATA

White-legged Damselfly *Platycnemis pennipes* – one specimen recorded 15th July at Thorpe-by-Water.

Large Red Damselfly *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* – one recorded at Burley Wood and two recorded at Oakham Canal on two occasions

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans* – five recorded at Oakham Canal on the 12th and two on the 24th.

Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma najas* – one recorded Leighfield Fishponds and 6 recorded Oakham Canal.

Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum* – 5 noted at Burley Wood, many were noted on the 12th and again on the 24th hundreds were noted, both at the Oakham Canal. On the 15th and the 25th many were seen at Thorpe-by-Water. At Thorpe-by-Water the recorder noted a great rise in river level on the 30th and on this day only a few specimens were recorded.

Azure Damselfly *Coenagrion puella* – one was recorded at Burley Wood.

Emerald Damselfly *Lestes sponsa* – one was noted at Martinthorpe and 2 were also noted there on two other occasions. 3 were recorded on 2 occasions at Leighfield Fishponds, with 9 recorded there at the month end.

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens* – at Leighfield Fishponds 3 were recorded over the month; at Wakerley Bridge, Barrowden, very large numbers were noted during hot weather on the 16th. At Thorpe-by-Water records were as follows: a fair number, mostly males on the 9th; hundreds of males and a few females on the 15th, a good number on the 25th, then on the 30th after the high water very few were noted.

Hairy Dragonfly *Brachytron pratense* – one specimen noted at RWEggleton.

Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator* – one was noted at Oakham Canal, single specimens noted on two evenings at Barrowden, and 3 males were noted at Leighfield Fishponds.

Brown Hawker *Aeshna grandis* – 2 were recorded at Thorpe-by-Water, 4 recorded at Oakham Canal, and one single specimen at Barrowden.

Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea* – one specimen recorded at Oakham Canal and 2 noted at Thorpe-by-Water.

Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum* – one female noted at Leighfield Fishponds.

4-spotted Chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata* – 3 recorded at Leighfield Fishponds with one insect also noted as egg-laying.

Ruddy Darter *Sympetrum sanguineum* – 7 specimens recorded at Leighfield Fishponds.

HEMIPTERA

Pied Shield Bug *Sehirus bicolor* – a single specimen noted at Burley Wood.

Red and Black Froghopper *Cercopsis vulnerata* – 3 noted at Burley Wood.

Common Froghopper *Philaenus spumarius* – a few specimens noted at Burley Wood.

MECOPTERA

Scorpion fly *Panorpa* sp. – a few specimens noted at Burley Wood.

DIPTERA

Cleg Fly *Haematopota pluvialis* – noted in Burley Wood.

Hoverfly *Helophilus pendulus* – recorded during verge survey at Brooke.

HYMENOPTERA

Sawflies: *Rhogogaster viridis* and *Tenthredo atra* – both noted in Burley Wood.

Garden Bumble Bee *Bombus hortorum* was recorded from Verge 7.

White-tailed Bumble Bee *Bombus lucorum* and **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascuorum* were both noted in Burley Wood.

Red-tailed Bumble Bee *Bombus lapidarius* was recorded in Burley Wood and on Verge 7.

COLEOPTERA

Rove Beetle *Tasgius morsitans* – noted in Burley Wood.

Click Beetle *Athous bicolor* – recorded at Burley Wood.

Soldier Beetles: *Cantharis nigricans*, *Rhagonycha fulva* and *Cantharis rustica* were all recorded in Burley Wood.

Malachite Beetle *Malachius bipustulatus* also noted in Burley Wood.

22-spot Ladybird *Thea 22-punctata* – one specimen recorded in Burley Wood.

Orange Ladybird *Halyzia sedecimguttata* – one specimen noted in Priors Coppice.

Longhorn Beetles: *Clytus arietus* (wasp beetle) – one specimen noted during verge survey at Brooke, *Rutpela maculata* was recorded as numerous in Burley Wood; *Alosterna tabacicolor*, *Stenocorus meridianus* and *Grammoptera ruficornis* were also recorded in Burley Wood.

Flower Beetles: *Anaspis costai* and *Anaspis rufilaberis* were recorded in Burley Wood.

Weevils: *Sitonus lineatus* and *Cionus hortulanus* were also noted in Burley Wood.

August 2013

ODONATA

White-legged Damselfly *Platycnemis pennipes* – one recorded at Leighfield Fishponds.

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans* – 2 recorded at Oakham Canal.

Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum* – one noted at Thorpe-by-Water and several noted on two occasions at Oakham Canal.

Emerald Damselfly *Lestes sponsa* – 2 noted at Martinthorpe, 16 recorded at Leighfield Fishponds and one noted at Pilton.

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens* – 4 males recorded at Thorpe-by-Water.

Brown Hawker *Aeshna grandis* – a single specimen was observed over a number of days at Barrowden, 2 were noted at Thorpe-by-Water, and 3 noted at Oakham Canal.

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta* – one recorded at Manton, a single specimen noted on two occasions at Pilton, 2 noted on two occasions at Leighfield Fishponds and one female recorded at Lyndon.

Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum* – one male noted at Leighfield Fishponds.

Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum* – 2 recorded at Thorpe-by-Water and 4 at Oakham Canal.

HEMIPTERA

Squash Bug *Chorosma schillingi* – recorded from a verge survey at Brooke.

Squash Bug *Corizus hyoscyami* – one specimen recorded at Martinthorpe.

DIPTERA

Hoverflies *Eristalis horticola* and *Eristalis pertinax* were both recorded at Yew Tree Avenue, Clipsham.

HYMENOPTERA

White-tailed Bumble Bee *Bombus lucorum* was noted as 'common' on lavender at Seaton.

Bumblebees – assorted species (*Bombus terrestris* and *Bombus lapidarius* noted) observed on marjoram flowers at Barrowden.

Wool Carder Bee *Anthidium manicatum* – one single insect was noticed all month visiting a Manton garden.

COLEOPTERA

7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* – a 'small swarm' of these insects was noted in dead hedge cuttings in a garden at Uppingham.

Water Beetle – an interesting observation was received of a water beetle in a garden at Uppingham which had no pond and with only a water trough in a dry part of the garden. The recorder mentions a stream 75 yards away and, as many species fly well, that would probably be an explanation.

Many thanks to the following contributors for four months of interesting records: P Bennett, M Branston, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, H Ellis, M Grimes, J & R Harvey, V Hemsley, Dr C R Jones, R Lemmon, T Newton, P Rudkin, L Worrall and G Worrall. Thanks also to Steve Woodward and S Houghton for their help to recorders in identifying specimens.

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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July 2013

The main source of plant gall reports this month was the Bioblitz at Rutland Water which took place on the 6th and 7th of the month. The object of this is to record as many organisms of as many different groups as possible in the given period at any of the constituent parts of the Reserve. The grand total this year was 905, of which 32 were plant galls, not 9 as on the Bioblitz website. Of these perhaps three are of special note and were all from the Lax Hill area. Two were on small-leaved lime and were new to Rutland, and this is probably due to the fact that this tree is uncommon in the County. The third was 'pocket plums' on sloe caused by an Ascomycete, and while not rare it is of interest.

A visit to Priors Coppice on the 11th produced 14 galls, mostly the usual ones with the exception of the rust on Common Hawthorn which doesn't seem to be at all common in the area, or is it under-recorded?

The final site for this month was Verge 7 between Great Casterton and Pickworth, which produced six galls on the 25th. Of these, four were caused by gall wasps, two on Oak and two on Dog Rose. One of the latter was Robin's Pincushion; and the other was a mixture of Pea and Sputnik galls which although different in shape, are caused by the same species of wasp.

August 2013

A quiet month for galls as is often the case in August, a total of 22 reports from 5 locations sent in by 4 recorders. On the 4th there was a report from the Seek of a gall on Creeping Thistle, which is caused by a gall fly and produces quite large swellings on the stem. The same gall was also reported in Pickworth Great Wood on the 22nd. Verge 5 in Essendine produced 3 galls on the 10th, one of which was a new record on Dog Rose and causes the leaves to close up so that they look superficially like peapods. A set-aside field edge off Verge 7 Great Casterton on the same date had a midge gall on perennial Sow-Thistle, and this appears as a purple blister which stands out against the green of the leaf. A striped pea gall was reported on Oak at Lyndon NR on the 11th and adds to our knowledge of Oak galls in the County. An interesting gall was noted at Pickworth on Walnut on the 12th; and in this mites caused considerable puckering of the upper surface, especially on the lower branches of the tree. Pickworth Great Wood on the 22nd produced a bumper bundle of some 15 galls including the one referred to above. Included in this were 4 galls on Oak of which three types were on one quite small leaf and one of these was a cherry gall about 15 mm in diameter!

Thanks to R Edwards, M Grimes, A Lawrence, R Lemmon

GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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June/July/August 2013

The Glow-worm website glowworms.org.uk run by Robin Scagell reports that it was a slow start to the glowing season, probably as a result of the long spell of cold weather this spring, with flora and fauna similarly affected. The first national sighting was on 6th June on the Great Orme at Llandudno, but they were still being reported elsewhere at the end of August, though by then the main season was well over. Overall it appeared that national numbers were not as high as previous years, and maybe many larvae had not reached the point where they needed to pupate, but would do so next year, taking 3 years instead of the more usual 2 for their life-cycle. Robin Scagell notes that glows can be seen sometimes in September, but males are very rare then, so females go unmated. He advises that any September glow should be looked at very closely, just in case a male is with her, as this would be a real find!

Burley Woods SK 983 098

26.6.13: The report by Phil Rudkin and the team on their magnificent record sighting of 41 glowing females and numerous males appeared in the July Fieldfare. Well worth another read!

Ketton Quarry Reserve SK 978 053

29.6: One in Geological Trail area.

5.7: 6 in same area, one being mated. Several in the Valley also noted by this date.

Clipsham Quarry SK 892 156

Not able to be visited this year.

Barrowden, Verge 3, Luffenham Road SK 948 005

10.6: Nil. Cool. Crops behind hedges – barley – very low growth after long cold spring. Verges not yet cut by RCC contractors (should have been done by start of month, possibly delayed by wet, cold weather).

By 14.6: Verges cut 1 swathe by RCC contractors.

24.6: Nil. No snails seen. Grass and plants behind cut swathe very high. Except for a few days earlier in month, weather not warm.

3.7: East verge: 2; West verge: 4. Hot, humid, dark. Two villagers fairly new to Barrowden, also looking, said it was the most they had ever seen (but we know that 20 years ago there were so many more).

9.7: East: 3, higher up road than usual, on very edge of verge. A good count now for that part of the verge (though again, so much lower than 20 years ago). Very warm weather.

26.7: Nil. Front swathe cut a few days earlier by RCC contractors (normal agreement is that they do not cut between end of May and start of

August, but see 10.6). Villagers concerned that cut had reduced numbers. Hot, recent thunderstorms.

Barrowden, Verge 17, Back Road SK 945 003

10.6: Nil. Cool. Crops in field behind North verge: barley in Drift Field, wheat in next field to west, both low growth after cold spring. Front swathes correctly cut before start of month by Parish Council cutters.

24.6: North verge: 1 on front of cut swathe halfway between Drift Close houses and entrance to Drift Field to west. Snails only to east near junction with Luffenham Road, not on Verge 17. Weather not warm.

27.6: Verges cut 1 swathe 2 days before Village Fete (a misunderstanding).

3.7: Behind North verge: 2 in Drift Field corner. No snails seen but many mating on path in village, fairly close by.

9.7: North: 2 on cut grass outside house in Drift Close, where one was seen two years ago. 1 inside entrance to Drift Field on very edge of barley crop. Damp, very warm.

26.7: Nil. Hot; thunderstorms recently. Villager reported 7 seen over glowing period on Verge 17.

Essendine Verge 5 and mainline cutting top

28.6: 3 on NE verge. Frustratingly, vegetation on the cutting top was very high and none were seen.

South Luffenham Level Crossing SK 945 003

June: Nil.

Other Sightings

None.

Along with other factors, it seems to me that the particularly late start to glowing on the more exposed sites such as the verges may have been because the soil was so cold after the bitter spring and pupation only began when the soil warmed up sufficiently. It would probably have been warmer in sheltered woodland. We are still having problems with verge cutting timings but as the glow-worms were also out of sync this time, maybe not too much trouble occurred. Unfortunately, of course, the smaller the colony, the greater any such impact is. People do really want to see glow-worms!

Reports this time with thanks to: G Chiverton, J Harris, D and B Parker, P Scott, L Worrall and Barrowden villagers S Cunningham, J Reid, N Bayliss.

MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

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Apologies from your Recorder for the absence of a report, please continue to send in your sightings.

BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

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Apologies from your Recorder for the absence of a report, please continue to send in your sightings.

