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SUBS ARE RISING to £12.50 (as explained in last *Fieldfare*, but only after many years – no-one has been able to verify how many!). Please can ALL members update their Standing Orders with the new subscription rates – before the subs are due on 1st January. Standing Order Forms are available on the website, or they can email me, or see me at the meeting. As well, members will need to cancel any existing standing orders.

Margaret Conner, *Treasurer/Membership*

Chairman's intro

It's halfway through September already! The all too short summer was around 50% successful – after the Oakham canal visit was washed out, Ketton Quarry proved its importance yet again, a White Letter Hairstreak performing for us on the visit in August, which was a new record for the site (see photo on page 2); and fritillaries too came out. Thank you to Alistair for leading, and to Dave (Needham) and Phil for assisting.

At Prior's Coppice a select but knowledgeable few had a fascinating and valuable time identifying around 55 species of plant galls. We are fortunate to have such knowledge among our members and friends.

The Society is looking for a new SECRETARY to join our team. If you would like to hear about what is involved, please contact me on 01780 762108.

Linda Biddle, Chairman

Bear in mind the autumn visit to Norfolk's fascinating Titchwell Marsh on Sunday October 16 – perhaps the sun will continue to shine on us. Followed in November by a visit to Belton House Park with Derick Hill, who has years of experience as a volunteer ranger there.

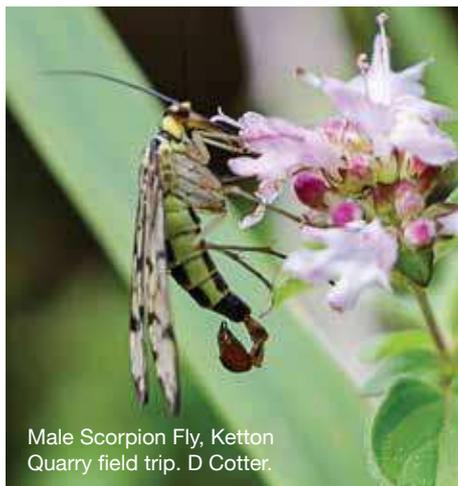
Now we look forward to the beginning of the autumn meetings, kicked off by Dave Cotter and his photographic study of animal behaviour on October 1st, so I hope that many of you will join us then at VAR in Oakham.

I have received several letters from members in favour of a digitally produced *Annual Report*, and would be happy to hear comments from anyone with strong views, so that the Committee can consider the matter fully before making a decision.

Linda Biddle, Chairman



White Letter Hairstreak, Ketton Quarry field trip, D Needham.



Male Scorpion Fly, Ketton Quarry field trip. D Cotter.



Common Lizard, Ketton Quarry field trip, D Cotter.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday October 4, 7.30 pm

Tuesday November 1, 7.30 pm

RNHS EVENING MEETINGS

Meetings are held at Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR), Lands End Way, Oakham LE15 6RB. Tea and coffee, free. Visitors are asked for a donation of £2.

Animal behaviour, observation and interpretation

David Cotter, RNHS Committee member, is starting the winter season with an illustrated talk on the behaviour of Fallow Deer, Grey Seals, Rooks and Puffins, and maybe Ants, depending on running time. He will be using his own photographs, which often feature in *Fieldfare*.

Lichens – thriving but still threatened

An illustrated talk by Ivan Pedley of the British Lichen Society, also County Coordinator for Mites and Ticks, and for Thrips, and friend of the RNHS.

Tuesday December 6, 7.30 pm **Recorders and members meeting**

Time to meet the Recorders, exchange news, celebrate. There will be Christmas drinks and mince pies and ... For full details see the website, or November *Fieldfare*, or contact Peter Scott (see back page).

RNHS FIELD TRIPS

Full details of all these events appear on our website at www.rnhs.org.uk. If the weather is bad, check the website or call the 'Queries' phone number for changes.

Sunday October 16, 10.30 am **Birds at RSPB Titchwell Marsh**

Led by RNHS's Dave Cotter. This wonderful Norfolk bird site has a variety of habitats, from wet woodlands to dunes to the sea, via lagoons of a variety of salinity, and with a number of hides. Since the storm surge in 2013, new areas have been developed and are opening up. Meet in the car park. Charge £5 per car for non-members of RSPB.

Queries: Dave Cotter, 01780 765952, mobile 07887 392308

Sunday November 6, 10.00 am **Fallow Deer at Belton Park**

Led by Derick Hill, RNHS and volunteer ranger at Belton House Park, meet at the Visitors Centre by the car park. Dave Cotter, who gave the first talk of the season on animal behaviour, will be there too. (Post code NG322LS. Free to National Trust members, otherwise £6.20 per person, or £6.90 with Gift Aid.)

Queries: Derick Hill, 01476 574445; mobile 07833162988

There is no December field trip.

LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST, RUTLAND GROUP

For events in Leicestershire and Rutland see www.lrwt.org.uk or phone 0116 262 9968. Rutland group meetings are held at the Volunteer Training Centre, Hambleton Road, LE15 8AD. Entry £1.

Monday 17 October, 7.30 pm **Shedding a light on badger behaviour**

Dr Pam Mynott, secretary of the Leicestershire and Rutland Badger Group, will show and discuss a series of video clips taken using trail cameras that reveal some unexpected facets of badgers' lives.

Monday 21 November, 7.30 pm **Black to Green Project**

Ben Devine, Community Engagement Officer from the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust Black to Green project, will talk about the project.

Monday 12 December, 7.30 pm **Rutland - Multum in parvo**

Richard Adams will talk about the natural history of Rutland.

LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST, BOURNE GROUP

For details of LWT events, see www.lincstrust.org.uk, or phone 01507 526677 in office hours. Bourne group meetings are held at the Methodist Church Hall, Bourne.

WEATHER

RECORDER Roy Lemmon

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July 2016

Atmospheric pressure and wind This was a month in which air pressures were between 1004 and 1025 mb, that is to say there were no noteworthy highs or lows. Wind direction was between SW and NW, and speeds were generally low, with exceptions at 09.00 hours on the 1st and 16th when gusts up to 19 mph were noted.

Temperature This was the fourth warmest July in the decade 2007-2016 behind 2014, 2013 and 2010 and in front of 2008. The warmest part of the month was between the 16th and 24th and during this period, on the 19th, I recorded a daytime high of 33.4 °C. It must be borne in mind that although the instruments are in a screen, it is in a sheltered part of the garden and so temperatures are only valid for comparison purposes.

Rain This was a dry July, the total of 35.1 mm (1.38 inches) is just 63% of my long-term mean of 26 years. This follows 4 months of above average rainfall, so no doubt it will have been welcome. There were 18 days on which no rain was recorded and a further 4 when it was so slight it was not possible to measure accurately. Some 55% of the total fell on the 7th to 10th inclusive.

August 2016

Atmospheric pressure and wind This was another month in which the atmospheric pressure showed neither particularly high nor low; the lowest I recorded was 1003.5 mb at 09.00 hours on the 20th and the highest was 1025.5 mb at some time on the 15th. Winds were predominantly SW-NW but there was a period of 5 days, the 15th to the 19th, when they were NE-E, and as winds in the period were of low velocity and the North Sea is relatively warm, it didn't make much difference to temperatures, although 3 nights were cooler than the rest of the month.

Temperature The overall mean temperature, 18.43 °C, was the highest in the decade 2007-2016, well ahead of August 2013 at 18.12 °C. The mean daytime maximum, 24.3 °C, was also highest in the same decade. The mean night-time minimum, 12.46 °C, was first equal with August 2008, and probably would have been higher had the easterly winds referred to above not reduced the night-time temperature.

Rain Another dry month, the total 45.7 mm (1.8 inches) was 71% of my long-term mean, and 85% of this fell in the last 2 weekends, including 20.0 mm on the 27th, the result of thundery showers. No rain was detected on 19 days and on 5 more days quantities were below 1 mm.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore

The Stone House, Reeves Lane, Wing LE15 8SD. Telephone: 01572 737343
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July/August 2016

These two months are usually quite quiet herpetologically and this year was no exception.

There was a single record of a **Frog** at Leighfield on 28th July. **Common Toads** were seen at Prior's Coppice and at the Rutland Water Nature Reserve in July and a number of toads of various sizes were in my garden in Wing in both months. The only newt record was of a female **Great Crested Newt** in a pond in my garden in Wing in early August.

There was a single sighting of a **Viviparous Lizard** at Ketton Quarry on 6th August. There were three sightings of **Grass Snakes** at Rutland Water Nature Reserve – only one under a reptile shelter – the other two being casual records by visitors to the reserve. A Grass Snake was seen at Leighfield on 31st July, and a mummified 7 inch long Grass Snake was found by the roadside in Wing after heavy rain on 12th

July. There were three other Grass Snake records in Wing in August, one large live one in my garden, and two dead ones – a road casualty and one caught in netting on the allotments.

My thanks to T Caldicott, M Grimes, A Hill and R Mackay who sent records.

BIRDS

July/August 2016



Long-tailed Duck, P Scott.

Mandarin Duck
Garganey
Red-crested Pochard
Scaup
Long-tailed Duck

Shag

Great White Egret

RECORDER Terry Mitcham

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Two remarkable months brought several unusual birds to Rutland Water – **Roseate Tern**, **Great White Egrets**, unseasonal **Long-tailed Duck** and **Redwing** and eleven juvenile **Shags** to the dam. A **Nightjar** in an Uppingham garden was totally unexpected, the first in Rutland since 2010. With the ongoing decline of the **Cuckoo**, it was good to receive a record of breeding, with Dunnock the host species. Rutland Water and Eyebrook Reservoir attracted many wader species as water levels at last began to fall, and the Rutland Water gull roost was carefully scrutinised. Passage **Redstarts** and **Whinchats** marked the onset of autumn. What delights await us as the days ahead shorten?

My thanks to the following for their records: T Appleton, R Baker, D Ball, P Bennett, T Caldicott, D Cole, A & J Comber, Dr C H Gallimore, S Houghton, H Iken, R Jeffs, LROS, T Mitcham, G Morley, B Moore, D Needham, L Park, P Rudkin, RWNR, S Woodward, L Worrall

See also Wildfowl Counts on page 8. Abbreviations and map references are given in the *Annual Report*.

One was at LFP on 03.07.

Noted at RWEg/Man Bay from 22.07 to 30.08, with four on 04.08.

Up to seven (23.08) were at RWEg from 02/31.08.

One was at RW on 25.08.

A male in full wing moult, and therefore flightless, was at RWLynd from 16.08 to the end of the month. It must have arrived prior to moulting and remained undetected until mid-Aug.

There was a remarkable arrival of juveniles at the end of Aug with six at RW dam on 30.08 and eleven there and on the tower in main water next day.

Present at RW from 15.07 to the end of Aug, with three seen regularly and four on 11 and 18.08.



Great White Egret, note the black feet. P Scott.

Red-necked Grebe	One was in RWNA from 23.08 to the end of the month, perhaps last winter's returning adult.
Red Kite	The peak count was just three at Wg on 13.07.
Marsh Harrier	Regular at RWEg from 15.07 to the end of Aug with three on 13.08. Singles were at EBR on 02, 06, and 15.08.
Sparrowhawk	Regular at RW and Barrow in both months.
Buzzard	Well reported with calling young in Ext Park and three over Wg on 10.08.
Osprey	Eight pairs fledged 15 young on the RW Project – a successful year. Away from the reservoirs there were occasional records from FHP and LFP. Two flew over KQ on 05.07.
Hobby	Regular at RWEg throughout both months. Also recorded at LFP, Ext Park and FHP with two juveniles and an adult at a likely breeding site on 28.08.
Peregrine	Singles were over Wg on 10.08 and RWEg on 16.08.
Oystercatcher	17 were at RW on 12.07.
Lapwing	There were 14 at EBR on 24.07; with 97 at RW on 12.07 and 357 on 16.08.
Little Ringed Plover	Up to nine were at EBR on four dates between 03.07 and 20.08 with the max on 12.07. Up to three were at RW between 11.07 and 13.08.
Ringed Plover	All records were from RWEg, where up to 13 were noted between 09.07 and 28.08.
Whimbrel	One or two were at RW between 15.07 and 24.08. Singles were at Leigh on 26.07 and 24.08.
Curlew	Noted at RW between 22.07 and 28.08 with eight on 12.07. Singles called over Leigh on 19.07 and 29.08, and one was at EBR on 24.07.
Black-tailed Godwit	Regular at RWEg from 02.07, when 25 flew over, to 28.08. Usually in single figures but there were 22 on 05/06.07 and 15 on 25.07. At EBR there were four on 23/24.07 and 08.08.
Turnstone	Singles were at RWEg on 02 and 16.08.
Knot	One was at RW on 16.08.
Ruff	One was at RW on 09.07, with two on 19.07. Nos increased from 17.08 (four) with 15 on 24.08 and 13 on 28.08. At EBR there were singles on 15 and 18.08 and three on 20.08.
Curlew Sandpiper	Two were at RW on 21.08.
Sanderling	One was at RWEg on 22.07.
Dunlin	Nos were low at both reservoirs with peaks of just five at RW on 12.07 and EBR on 04.08. Present from 02.07 to the end of Aug.
Little Stint	Singles were at EBR on 23–24.07 and 18.08, and at RW on 06 and 29.08.
Common Sandpiper	Up to three were at RW from 04.07 to 28.02 (but nine on 12.07). One or two were at EBR from 06.07 to 06.08, with three on 12.07. Two were at FHP on 10.07 with singles there and at Banthorpe GP on 22.08.
Green Sandpiper	Well reported from RW with birds noted from 07.07 to the end of Aug with a max. of c.20 on 19.08. One or two were at EBR from 03.07 to 20.08, and singles were at LFP on 06.08 and Banthorpe GP on 22.08.
Greenshank	Noted at RW from 24.07 to the end of Aug with a max of seven on the latter date. One was at EBR on 18.08, with four on 19/20.08. One was at Leigh on 24.08.
Wood Sandpiper	Singles were at RWEg on 12 and 16.08, with two reported on 14.08. Further singles were there on 19/20 and 23/24.08.
Redshank	Five were at RW on 12.07 with two on 16.08.
Snipe	At RW there were two on 22.07, six on 16.08, and three on 08.08. Seven were at EBR on 24.07, and one was over LFP on 26.07.
Black Tern	One was at RWSA on 20.07, with passage then from 19 to 31.08, and a max of 12 on 20.08.
Common Tern	Reservoir counts were 73 at RW on 12.07 and 70 on 16.08, with 37 at EBR on 24.07. Four were at LFP on 06.07.
Roseate Tern	One at RWEg on 12.07 was only the third Rutland record.

Arctic Tern	Singles were at RW on 12.07 and 21.08.
Mediterranean Gull	Up to three (13.07) were at RW on six dates between 13.07 and 18.08.
Yellow-legged Gull	16 were at RW on 12.07. During Aug c.130 different birds roosted at Eg Lagoon 4.
Caspian Gull	Two were at RW on 12.07, with one on 22.07. Six different birds were noted there during Aug.
Cuckoo	Following several days of incessant calling (but no bird!) a juvenile was watched being fed by its Dunnock host at Barrow on 04.08.
Barn Owl	Records of three additional breeding pairs were received (broods of four and two twos) with sightings also at Ess, FHP, Brk, Leigh, Prest and Martinsthorpe.
Little Owl	Bred at Mor.
Tawny Owl	On 29.08, three were calling at Martinsthorpe and at Leigh – adults asserting territorial rights as young birds attempt to establish their territories.
Short-eared Owl	One was at EBR between 05/08.07.
Nightjar	One was in an Upp garden on 25.08, perched on the boundary fence, remaining long enough for a photograph to be taken.
Swift	Our final record was of five over RWEg on 20.08.
Kingfisher	July records came from FHP, Ext Park and Teigh with 1 in Ext Park again on 22.08.
Green Woodpecker	Regular at FHP and Barrow throughout both months with birds heard at Eg and KQ in Aug. Breeding confirmed at QF.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Regular at Barrow throughout both months.
Jackdaw	c.900 flew SW near Pilt early on 24.07.
Raven	Nos in the Leigh area increased from c.30 on 06.07 to c.50 in Aug. Singles were noted at two breeding sites in July.
Willow Tit	One or two were at Leigh, LFP and Martinsthorpe.
Swallow	From 10.07 large nos gathered at LFP with 400 on 23.07, 750 on 26.07 and 500 on 28.07. In Aug, nos declined with 250 on 09.08 the peak count.
House Martin	The Bden colony had only four nests but second broods were being reared in Aug. It does not seem to have been a good year for this species with low nos generally.
Long-tailed Tit	Four were in an Oak garden on 29.07 and three on 31.08.
Grasshopper Warbler	One was seen at LFP on 17.08 – an uncommon passage sighting.
Lesser Whitethroat	Ten were at Martinsthorpe on 26.08.
Sedge Warbler	On 28.08, there were two at LFP and one at FHP.
Reed Warbler	One sang at LFP from mid-July and one or two were present there to 30.08.
Redwing	There was an unusual record of a moulting bird at RWEg on 10.08.
Mistle Thrush	c.30 flew over LFP on 14.07 and there were 25 near Wg on 11.08.
Spotted Flycatcher	Records of one or two came from LFP, PC, Oak and FHP with the last there on 23.08.
Whinchat	Aug singles were noted as follows: RW on 20, FHP on 28.08, GHW on 29.08 and RWEg on 30.
Redstart	One at Leigh on 09.08 marked the start of a good passage with one or two noted there between 18/30.08, when one was at RWEg.
Wheatear	Singles were at Luff Airfield on 11.08, Leigh on 14.08 and Martinsthorpe on 30.08.
Tree Sparrow	A regular visitor to the RWLynd Centre feeder in both months. The only other records were from Barrow, where two were noted in July and a juvenile in Aug.
Yellow Wagtail	Light passage was noted over Leigh from 12.07 but 15 flew over on 24.08. One or two were near Cott on 02.07 and FHP on 22.08. Only one was found on territory in Ext Park this summer.
Grey Wagtail	A good autumn passage began with four over LFP on 03.08. Singles were at FHP on 22 and 27.08, and five flew over Leigh on 30.08.
Tree Pipit	Birds were heard over Leigh on five dates between 10 and 30.08.

(continued over page)

Meadow Pipit Five at FHP on 27.08 were the first autumn birds reported.
 Siskin One was heard over Leigh on 09.08.
 Reed Bunting There was singing from conservation margins at Walk Farm on 19.07.

July/August 2016 Wildfowl Counts (no August count at Eyebrook Reservoir)

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir 12.07	Fort Henry Ponds/ Exton Park Lake		Banthorpe Gravel Pit	
	23.07	22.08		16.08	24.07	23.07	22.08
Mute Swan	453	450	88	3	4		6
Greylag Goose	928	843	230	7	1		
Canada Goose	706	953	121				
Egyptian Goose	71	90		3	1		
Shelduck	4	3					
Mandarin Duck	6				1		
Wigeon	1	19		1			
Gadwall	713	713		9	14		
Teal	39	186			28		13
Mallard	735	779	155	116	193	5	3
Pintail		2			1		
Garganey		2					
Shoveler	9	69			14		
Red-crested Pochard	4	6					
Pochard	9	60					
Tufted Duck	960	2436	16	31	14		
Common Scoter	14						
Long-tailed Duck		1					
Cormorant	208	324	16				1
Little Egret	51	70	6				2
Great White Egret		3					
Grey Heron	11	17	3	2	3	1	
Little Grebe	10	37			1		
Great Crested Grebe	197	398	46				
Water Rail		10					
Moorhen	61	99	5	14	43	2	2
Coot	494	862	37	44	51	2	
Kingfisher		1	1		1		
Total	5684	8395	724	230	370	10	27

BOTANY

RECORDER John Rodgers

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July/August 2016

Late summer is a time of floating seeds, as thistles and willowherbs release their bounty. It's also a time of yellow flowers, mostly members of the daisy family, ragworts, dandelions, sow thistles, ox-tongues and hawkbits. It is easy to dismiss them as 'Oh they are only like dandelions'; it is much more difficult to sort them into their respective species. It's something that I can't do yet, though I hope that I'm learning. There are too a number of the cow-parsley types in flower: **Wild Carrot** with its 'birds nest' flowers when ripe, **Upright Hedge Parsley**, and **Hogweed**, and **Yarrow** too which looks like the others but is a member of the daisy family – it's all a sign that autumn is almost upon us.

Records have come, as usual, from about a dozen faithful recorders, and cover a number of favourite sites. In June a number of different orchids were noted: **Common Twayblade**, **Common Spotted** and **Southern Marsh Orchids**, **Bee Orchids** and, as last year, a variant-wasp orchid. Not many **Pyramidal Orchids** were reported, mostly from Bloody Oaks Quarry and Quarry Farm near Stamford. July brought records of **Marsh Ragwort** in two sites, and **Hoary Ragwort**, in addition to the near universal **Common Ragwort**. **Greater Knapweed** was found in two sites, joining **Common Knapweed** or hardhead, which is widespread and not to be confused with **Field Scabious** which is also everywhere. The common thistles were all present: **Creeping Thistle**, **Spear Thistle**, **Woolly Thistle**, **Dwarf Thistle** and **Carline Thistle**. Along with the members of the carrot family already mentioned were reports of **Burnet Saxifrage**, **Greater Burnet Saxifrage** and **Pepper Saxifrage**, none of which have anything to do with plants of the saxifrage family. **Sanicle** too was found in Ketton Quarry.

One or two less usual flowers turned up – **Common Gromwell**, **Wild Liquorice**, **Gipsywort**, **Sulphur Clover**, **Square-Stemmed Willowherb**, **Brooklime** and the 'star' **Flixweed** which Martin Grimes reported in July *Fieldfare*.

BUTTERFLIES

RECORDER Richard Brown

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The table on the next page shows the records received for Rutland so far this year. For each species the first record is dated, and then records in subsequent months are shown as X. We are a bit behind Nottinghamshire who are past 30 species for the year so far.

RNHS Ketton outing, 6 August



Sun hats needed for the Ketton outing. P Rudkin

The Society's Ketton outing on 6 August, led by Alistair Lawrence and Dave Needham, including some very welcome guests and some new members, was an eye-opening success (see photos page 2). Not only did the sun shine, but the 19 attendees spotted 18 species between them, and among these we turned up two firsts for the RNHS records at Ketton.

The earliest find was a **White Letter Hairstreak**, probably a male, feeding on Marjoram beside the path leading down into the barbecue area. He was very persistent, feeding on the same clump for at least an hour, and allowing a very close approach. The fact that this species was first recorded at Bloody Oaks in 2015, and now we have another new site in 2016, gives hope that the species is spreading in Rutland.

The second startling finding flew past as we were watching the Hairstreak. Obviously a Fritillary by its markings, size and activity – but it was the 'wrong' colour, altogether much darker and less orange than either of the two usual Fritillaries seen at Ketton. The penny gradually dropped as the underwing was seen to show no spots, making it a **Silver Washed Fritillary**, and then the aberrant

form 'valesina' or 'Greenish Silver-Winged Fritillary' came to mind. This aberrant form is thought to comprise about 10% of the females in any one colony. Initially it appeared confined to the South Coast, but in recent years it has been spreading north, with records from Cambridgeshire. And now Rutland. The party were suitably excited, though not I suspect as carried away as the Victorian lepidopterist who named his daughter Valesina after he found a specimen.

Highlights among the July/August records were the finding of a **White Admiral** at Gorsefield Wood, counts of over 5 **Dark Green Fritillaries** at both Bloody Oaks and Ketton, single **White Letter Hairstreaks** from 3 sites, still only ones and twos of **Painted Ladys** this year, but good numbers of **Marbled Whites**, **Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns** – some records of 40 – 50+ Ringlets, and 30+ Marbled Whites.

Rutland records: by date to end August 2016

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 Small Tortoiseshell			20th	X	X	X	X	X				
2 Brimstone			20th	X	X	X	X	X				
3 Comma			31st	X	X		X					
4 Orange Tip				10th	X	X						
5 Peacock				10th	X	X	X	X				
6 Small White				13th	X	X	X	X				
7 Large White				21st	X	X	X	X				
8 Holly Blue				23rd	X	X	X					
9 Green-Veined White					1st	X	X	X				
10 Grizzled Skipper					4th	X						
11 Dingy Skipper					5th	X						
12 Speckled Wood					7th	X	X	X				
13 Green Hairstreak					7th	X						
14 Red Admiral					12th	X	X	X				
15 Large Skipper					16th	X	X	X				
16 Small Heath					16th	X	X					
17 Common Blue					20th	X	X	X				
18 Painted Lady						4th	X	X				
19 Ringlet						18th	X	X				
20 Small Skipper						18th	X	X				
21 Marbled White						21st	X	X				
22 Meadow Brown						21st	X	X				
23 Dark Green Fritillary						21st	X	X				
24 Brown Argus						30th	X	X				
25 Gatekeeper							12th	X				
26 Essex Skipper							12th					
27 White Admiral							14th					
28 Silver Washed Fritillary							24th	X				
29 White Letter Hairstreak								4th				

MOTHS

RECORDER Paul Bennett

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July/August 2016

After a spring and early summer of low moth counts, the cool weather relented in mid-July and offered better opportunities for trapping during the remainder of the reporting period. Moths like still and humid conditions when a night's catch can be more than double of that on a clear night.

There are two observations that I have been able to make from the returns from my own garden trap in Stamford, firstly that the species of moths caught has varied greatly between successive traps – in my garden usually a 10-day period – which indicates that the flight period for many species has been a short one, secondly that for those species producing more than one generation a year the later generation has been the most successful, which is not surprising in view of the weather changes.



Orange Swift moth, R Edwards. (See back page for larger image.)

Some of our members are now getting results from the new bucket traps which they have put out in their gardens, as they experience the joys and frustrations of moth identification. This is the time of year when **Setaceous Hebrew Character** (see photo back page) and **Yellow Underwings** start to appear in profusion, which is a mixed blessing. Another species regularly seen is **Orange Swift** (see left) and these have been regularly reported from an Oakham garden while the **Magpie** seen there was a welcome sighting. Three reports were received of **Hummingbird Hawkmoths** in gardens in Oakham, Lyddington and Manton respectively. A **Dusky Sallow** was seen in Pilton.

Birdfair ran its annual trap and lecture with some of the night's catch projected to the audience in the events marquee. Among these were **Dusky Thorn**, **Canary-shouldered Thorn**, **Brimstone Moth** and **Four-dotted Footman** although the faded and worn-out specimens which moth-ers are more familiar with never made it to the big screen.

Regular traps were run at Lyndon and Eyebrook. Lyndon July highlights were a **July Highflyer** on 16th July, a **Poplar Hawkmoth** and **Purple Thorn** on the 24th; with 31 moths of 17 species on the 30th, including a **Black Arches**, **Swallow Prominent** and **Knot Grass**. Eyebrook was trapped on four occasions with a very high count of 732 moths (123 species) on a humid night on 24th July. Four new moths were recorded for the site - **The Phoenix**, **Currant Pug**, **Willow Ermine** and *Ancylis badiana*.

Shaded Broad-bar is one of the most common day-flying moths in mid-summer and good numbers were reported from Ketton and Clipsham Quarries. **Six-spot Burnet** and **Cinnabar Moths** and their caterpillars were seen by various observers.

One source of records we never receive is from the Rothamsted trap run periodically next to Egleton centre. This is a good combination of habitats that may yield different species from those recorded elsewhere so I will write to their collator for information which I can pass on to Rutland Water who don't receive any feedback either!

Hopefully the settled weather we are currently experiencing can continue into late summer and early autumn which can be a good time to see many autumn specialists. **Convolvulus Hawkmoth** at dusk on Nicotiana plants is one to look out for.

Thanks to the following for submitting their records, photos and observations:
J Ansley, V Arnold, P Bennett, T Caldicott, R Edwards, M Grimes, J Harvey,
B & L Nicholls, P Tomalin

ORTHOPTERA

July/August 2016

RECORDER Phil Rudkin

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The seasons are quickly passing, and up to the end of August, there has been no new orthopteran species found in Rutland. Fewer records than usual have been received for this period, perhaps the erratic weather conditions are the cause. Only one Rutland Water survey has been carried out so far (at the Egleton Reserve) on 15 July, with the uncut hay meadows holding large numbers of the usual residents. A good turn-out attended the Society's Field Meeting at Ketton Quarries on 6 August, under the guidance of Alistair Lawrence and Dave Needham. Martin Grimes and Phil Rudkin monitored the orthopteran community, with Martin being the first to record the stridulating of **Speckled Bush Crickets** this season.

The wildflower meadows at Quarry Farm, Stamford, have been a remarkable blaze of colour this season, full marks to Natural England's protection of these habitats. Richard and Linda Brown and Phil Rudkin paid a visit to one of the two sites (adjacent to Casterton Road, Stamford) on 9 August, then moved on to Walk Farm, Great Casterton, to marvel at the very wide conservation headlands and wild bird cover, which held immense numbers of **Roesel's Bush Crickets**.

Tim Caldicott continued his important survey of the orthoptera in the west of the county, and particularly in the Leighfield area, close to Prior's Coppice, with many records reported.

As I write this, I hope members will be out and about gathering sightings for all species during September/October. With regard to the orthoptera, I think it worthwhile repeating my message (from January 2016 *Fieldfare*). In August 2015, the BBC ONE show produced a 5-minute film presented by George McGavin, featuring two crickets. A flourishing colony of the **Tree Cricket**, *Oecanthus pellucens*, was found at Dungeness (this being a first for Britain), and also a small colony of the **Sickle-bearing Bush Cricket**, *Phaneroptera falcata*. Although not a first, this was still notable. Also at that time, I received news of a naturalist (Brian Laney), who was discovering **Southern Oak Bush Crickets**, *Meconema meridionale*, in Northamptonshire. I suggested that our members should be diligent in keeping an eye (and ear) open for these three during their researches. It would be wonderful to add one of these insects to the Rutland list. Therefore, I make the same plea as last season.



Finally, as you all know, we have been waiting for years for the largest British cricket, the **Great Green Bush Cricket**, *Tettigonia viridissima*, to fly into the county, from either Cambridgeshire or Northamptonshire. It is not far away, but has not yet been found here. This stunning creature is also very common in France. My wife and I spend a week with relations each year in rural French countryside, and I always attempt to seek this giant out. The photograph on page 16 shows an adult female Great Green Bush Cricket on my watch, which gives a good indication of its size. The one alongside gives a clearer view. I was saved some hard work in catching one, when the female flew in to my sister's home, at the end of August 2016, very close to me, at 10.30 pm (French time), as it was attracted to the light.

Bush Crickets

Oak Bush Cricket, *Meconema thalassinum*

One found dead on road beneath Oak tree, near Lyndon village, 27 August, new site, SK909039.

Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoaptera*

One female nymph in stronghold area for this species: Clipsham Quarries, 31 July, photo sent for ID.

Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Metrioptera roeselii*

The First Orthoptera Survey, at Egleton reserve, was carried out on 15 July. The usual expected large numbers of stridulating males (female and nymphs also observed), in all the uncut hay meadows north east of the Bird Watching Centre, fields 36, 37, 38, 39. Uncountable numbers of stridulating males, in 15

metre wildflower conservation margins, at Walk Farm, Great Casterton, 19 July, TF015111. Further up the hill, at the new tree plantation, many more heard. Once again, many colonies located in their usual haunts, at Quarry Farm, Stamford (inside Rutland), in the first field, and in the Natural England wildflower meadow of the second field, next to the mast, on 19 July, TF014084. Masses of stridulating males, heard in Natural England's wildflower meadows, Quarry Farm, located next to Casterton Road, on 24 July, TF009084.

Large numbers heard stridulating in grass verges, along the Ryhall Road, Great Casterton, 3 August. This is a hot spot for this colourful cricket. Two stridulating males, located in grasses, Leighfield, 6 August. Also, on the 6 August, at Ketton Quarries during the RNHS Field meeting, large colonies of stridulating males in the BBQ area. Later, more impressive numbers found in 'The Cutting' area. Large colonies heard in grasses, at the Lyndon Reserve, just east of the Interpretive Centre, Field 2, SK897057, new site, 12 August.

Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus discolor*

First sighting of the year on 24 July, 2 female nymphs in the wildflower meadow, Quarry Farm, next to Casterton Road, TF009084. Two more visits to the same site produced 5 adults on 7th, and 3 small colonies on 9th August.

Speckled Bush Cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima*

The following sightings for July were nymphs, at Crown Well Bridge, near Wing, on the 1st and 13th, followed by findings near the pond, at Leighfield Fishponds, west of the Lodge, on the 10th and the 21st.

One female nymph was observed, in shrubs, at Ketton Quarries, in the grasses, at 'The Donkey Paddock', on 12th July. During the RNHS field meeting at Ketton Quarries, on August 6, we heard the first stridulations of the season for this spotted creature – the songs of 4 males heard on the bat-detector, at 35 kHz in the shrubbery on the bank, in 'The Cutting' area. Earlier in the day, the group found one adult in the grasses of the BBQ site.

One adult was also heard on the detector, low down in the grass of the wildflower meadow, at Quarry Farm, next to Casterton Road, Stamford, on 9 August. Later, the 3 members visited Walk Farm, and located 4 stridulating males, in Hawthorn, at the entrance to the footpath. Meanwhile on 12 August, at the Lyndon reserve, Rutland Water, 3 males were heard in the Hawthorn hedgerow in Field 2 east of the Interpretive Centre.

Grasshoppers

Common Green Grasshopper, *Omocestus viridulus*

First stridulating heard this season! One in meadow, south of Prior's Coppice, Leighfield, 21 July. Two days later, the observer went back to the same area of Leighfield, and heard 6 stridulating males, SK818044. Back again on 6 August, near the Top windmill area of Leighfield, 2 more were heard in grasses, SK821053.

Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus*

One nymph in field at the Donkey Paddock, Ketton Quarries, 12 July. Two adults observed in the rough vegetation, at 'The Cutting', Ketton Quarries, 6 August. One adult, in bare patch, near the pond, west side of 'The Lodge', Leighfield Fishponds, 21 July. Two adults, in bare ground, near Crown Well Bridge, Wing, 7 August, SK884037.

Meadow Grasshopper, *Chorthippus parallelus*

One nymph in grass, BBQ area, Ketton Quarries. Large colonies in rough pasture in 'The Donkey Paddock' (nymphs and adults observed), 12 July. The first survey at Egleton Reserve, Rutland Water, 15 July, had the expected large numbers in all the uncut hay meadows, north-east of the Bird Watching Centre, fields 36, 37, 38, 39. Large numbers were observed and heard stridulating in conservation wildflower meadows, Walk Farm, Great Casterton, 19 July. Circa 10 stridulating males, in Natural England's wildflower meadow, Quarry Farm, next to Casterton Road, Stamford, TF009084. During the RNHS Field Meeting on 6 August, large numbers

heard and observed in the first field and the BBQ area, plus more located in 'The Cutting', Ketton Quarries.

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

First survey at Egleton Reserve, 15 July, had expected large numbers in all the uncut hay meadows, north-east of the Bird Watching Centre, fields 36, 37, 38, 39. Plus 3 courtship pairs in 'Sharple's Meadow' near Dunlin Hide, new site, SK881077. Two courtship pairs, in rough grasses, in the first field, Quarry Farm on 17 July, TF014084. Circa 10 stridulating males, in Natural England's wildflower meadow, Quarry Farm, on 24 July, TF009084.

Twelve (mixture of adults and nymphs) in field next to the pond, west side of 'The Lodge' Leighfield, on 28 July. During the RNHS Field meeting, four, in rough vegetation, in 'The Cutting' Ketton Quarries, on 7 August.

Many thanks to our small team of reporters for their efforts and records: P Bennet, R Brown, T Caldicott, M Grimes, D Needham, P Rudkin.

OTHER INSECTS AND INVERTEBRATES **RECORDER Gill Chiverton**

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A serious computer malfunction (necessitating a new one!) means there is no report this time. I have enjoyed reading your reports and receiving your photographs, please continue sending them in.

GLOW-WORMS

RECORDER Linda Worrall

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End July/August 2016

There were a few more reports for July, each a treasure, but this is a worrying year. Thanks to everyone for their concern.

Barrowden Verge 17, Back Road SK945003

Note: Verge 17 and Verge 3 are regularly monitored by R and V Fraser.

14.7: Midnight, 2 glows just inside usual field entrance.

22.7: 1 on right hand side inside same field entrance. R Fraser collected near neighbour and 2 other villagers who had recently moved in. They were all impressed, as it was their first sighting of a glow-worm.

Ketton Quarry Reserve SK987053

5.7: 10.35pm, 1 glow in carpark; 10.45pm, 2 nearby, inside first field.

Burley Woods SK 983098

PJ Rudkin reports: '*We did not go to Burley Woods for glow-worms. The rides are awful, and unsafe. The rides have not been cut and the grasses are very high.*' We can only hope that the glow-worms are coping in this very important site, and will be re-found in due course.

Outside the County

Fineshade Top Lodge Northants SP980982

13.7: 3 glows in woodland.

17.7: SP 98042 98211, 70 m SW of Top Lodge, E side of track. 1 glow.

18.7: At same location as above, 1 glow. At SP97856 98369, 80m N of TL beside fence near veteran ash, 1. At SP 89033 98272, 40 m E of TL, N of track beside orchard, 1.

Barnack Hills and Holes Northants TF 075046

Before 24.6: Sightings of 1, 2 and 1.

Many thanks for reports: P Ellis, V and R Fraser, B Galpin, B Laney, D Needham, P J Rudkin

PLANT GALLS

July 2016



RNHS Field trip to Prior's Coppice to look for plant galls with members of BPGS, September 6, P Rudkin.

RECORDER Roy Lemmon

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A relatively quiet month, the visit to Seaton Meadows on the first produced just 2 records; and the open day at Bloody Oaks Quarry on the 3rd just one, caused by a jumping plant louse, a psyllid, on Buckthorn. Rutland Water, around lagoon 2, gave a bumper bundle of 28 galls on the 7th; many were run of the mill but 2 or 3 were new to the area. Where one can find plants that are not common in the area, then there is a chance of different galls, and this is what happened here. Neither Poplar nor, strangely, Birch are all that abundant and it was on these that the new ones were found. The last report of the month was from Verge 7 with just 3 records.

August 2016

At this time of year we begin to see quite considerable swellings appearing on stems of Creeping Thistle, caused by a fly, *Urophora cardui*. This year seems to be a good one for this fly, as it has been reported from Quarry Farm on the 11th, Rutland Water Lyndon reserve on the 12th, Clipsham Quarry on the 14th, Yew Tree Avenue Clipsham on the 18th, as well as the Park Wood on the same date. CQ also had a rivet gall on Dogwood, which seems to be the only site where it occurs. Another gall of interest is caused by an ascomycete which produces tongue-like growths in female cones of Alder. This was very rare at one time, only being known from Cornwall in the 1940s, but since 2000 it has spread considerably and is now found in many parts of the country. This month we have had reports of it from Lyndon, Ketton and the Lax Hill area.

Reports from: P Bennet, M Grimes, R Lemmon

MAMMALS

RECORDER Linda Biddle

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

BATS

RECORDER Jenny Harris

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

RIVERS

RECORDER David Roome

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



Close observation. Ketton Quarry, April. D Cotter.



Great Green Bush Cricket (France), P Rudkin 2018 .8



Orange Swift moth, R Edwards.



Left: Wasp Orchid, D Cotter. Above: Setaceous Hebrew Character, R Edwards.

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