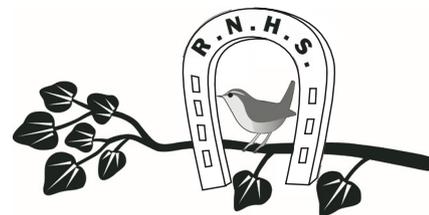


Journal of the
RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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July 2011

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Congratulations to Roy Lemmon who has had one of his Rutland records accepted by Kew as a new British record. Roy identified rust tilia on the undersides of Water Chickweed leaves in Barnsdale Lodge Wood. There is no previously published rust for this host, but Roy identified the rust as being Sweet William Rust *Puccinia arenariae*, which is found on Red Campion in this area. Confirmation of plant host was provided by Dr Andy Lear LRWT, rust identity confirmed by Dr Nigel Stringer in Wales, and Roy's record was accepted officially at Kew.

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY events

Sunday 24 July RING HAW RESERVE 2.30 pm

A walk at BCNP Ring Haw Reserve, led by Henry Stanier, RNHS. Meet at the Field Station. Directions: from the roundabout on A47 outside Wansford village, enter Wansford and drive downhill to a staggered junction. At the junction turn right and then second left towards Yarwell. At the crossroads outside Yarwell village turn right onto the Sulehay Road. On reaching a sharp bend in the road (map ref: TL 054 980), turn left off the road and drive along the right-hand track through the reserve to the Field Station (NOT the left-hand track as it is unsuitable for vehicles). There are three field gates on the access track that are only open when events are being held onsite. As the track runs through the nature reserve, all vehicles users must: keep to the speed limit of 5 mph; give way to people and wildlife; stop and look at each gateway.

Sunday 7 August BLOODY OAKS QUARRY RESERVE 2 pm

A joint walk with the LRWT Rutland Group, led by Antony and Linda Biddle (RNHS). Directions: the quarry is 0.5 km south of the A1, and best approached via the minor road which leaves the A606 Oakham-Stamford road and passes straight through Empingham village. Follow this road for about 3 km towards the A1. The reserve is east of the road at the northern edge of a large block of woodland adjoining the road. Cars should be parked on the wide roadside verge opposite the reserve entrance. Please do not park across the gateway. (Map ref: SK 970 108.)

Sunday 25 September FRAMPTON MARSH 10 am

Peter Scott (RNHS) is the leader for this walk at the Frampton Marsh RSPB Reserve. A major new extension to this coastal wetland reserve includes a reedbed, large freshwater scrapes and wet grassland. Meet at the Reserve Centre car park. The reserve is off the A16 between Boston and Kirton and is well signposted. (Map ref: TF 356 392.)

RNHS indoor meetings are held at the Oakham Church of England school, Burley Road, Oakham: there is a charge of 40p for tea/coffee/biscuits. They will start again on Tuesday October 4, with a talk by Chris O'Toole on wild bee conservation.

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WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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May 2011

Atmospheric pressure and winds A fairly stable month for pressure but curiously one of the highest readings, 1025 mb on the 25th, was followed by the lowest for the month, 1004 mb on the 26th as a depression passed over. For the first week winds were NE-SE and after this were generally S-W; and nationally it was the fourth most 'southwesterly' month in the past 139 years. Wind speeds were mostly low apart from 22nd-24th inclusive when I recorded maximum speeds of 20-22 knots at 0900 hours.

Temperature From my records this was the second warmest May overall in the last 9 years. Only 2008 was warmer, and statistically this was due to a high mean maximum of 19.53 °C rather than the mean minimum which was 7.23 °C. The lowest night-time minimum was -1.0 °C on the 2nd to 3rd and the highest day-time maximum was 24.3 °C which occurred on the 6th.

Rainfall The total was 26.1 mm (1.03 inches), which is 63% of my long-term mean (LTM). The figure nationally, averaged over England and Wales, was 49 mm (1.92 inches), which is 80% of the average for the standard reference period 1971-2000. To get a better picture one needs to look at the total I have recorded for the last 3 months, which was 32.4 mm, and compare it with the LTM for the same period - 116.08 mm, i.e. a total of 27.9% of the expected rainfall - and one can then appreciate why an official drought situation has been declared.

Sunshine Averaged over England and Wales the total was 216 hours or 107% of the mean for the standard reference period. The LTM for RAF Wittering is 194 hours.

June 2011

Atmospheric pressure and winds Pressure started high, indeed the highest pressure of the month, 1032 mb, occurred on the 3rd; and apart from a couple of short periods as depressions passed over the country, it remained generally high. Winds started NW-NE the 2nd to 6th and after that, apart from the depressions mentioned, when winds varied greatly, were generally SW-W apart from the last 3 days when they reverted to NW-N.

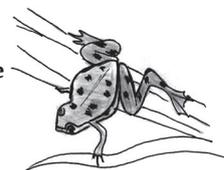
Temperature This was a cool June, the mean minimum was 9.06 °C - the coldest of the last 10 years - and the mean maximum at 21.86 °C was the 6th warmest in the same period. Averaging these out means that there were eight warmer Junes in that period. There was a short noticeable warm spell towards the end of the month, the 25th to 27th, when the highest day-time maximum of the month, 32.6 °C, was recorded; but this was followed on the 28th with a day-time maximum of 16.6 °C!

Rainfall After four months of low rainfall I measured a total this month of 39.5 mm (1.56 inches) which is 85% of my LTM. This contrasts with the average rainfall for England and Wales for this month, which was 83mm (3.27 inches) or 122% for the standard reference period.

Sunshine This, averaged over England and Wales, was 209 hours or 110% of the mean for the standard reference period. The LTM for RAF Wittering for June is 198.3 hours and is, for obvious reasons, the largest total for all the months of the year.

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

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May/June 2011

Amphibians are less obvious in these two months and the dry weather increased their elusiveness. Reptiles were more conspicuous and both snake species were well recorded.

There have only been three records of frogs, two in garden ponds in Barrowden and Langham and the third in a newish pond at Rutland Water. Toads have been seen in a garden in Wing, in

Prior's Coppice and crossing a lane between Langham and Ashwell. Numerous toadlets were observed on 15th June at Leighfield.

Examination of the ponds in Rutland Water Nature Reserve on 2nd May revealed Smooth Newts in six ponds, two of which have only been constructed in the last two or three years. Smooth newts were also seen in garden ponds in

Barrowden, Langham and Wing. Great Crested Newts were only found in two of the Rutland Water ponds, which was disappointing, but was probably due to the lateness of the survey when some ponds had suffered due to the dry weather.

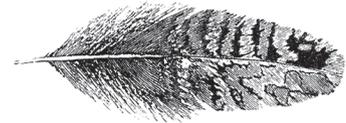
The only Viviparous Lizard record was on 5th May when two were seen at Ketton Quarry.

My thanks to the following who sent in records: T Caldicott, P Langston, M Markham, T Mitcham, P Scott and L & G Worrall

Grass Snakes were reported in May from Wing Lakes, Fort Henry and Exton Park. In June they were seen in Burley Wood, Leighfield, Exton Park and Tunneley Wood and Greetham Golf Course. Five Adders were observed at Ketton Quarry on 5th May.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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May/June 2011

Two new species were added to the Rutland list during this period – Glossy Ibis and Black Kite. Both have been visiting Britain more regularly in recent years and were not unexpected, but unfortunately neither bird lingered. Exciting news from Rutland Water were the first breeding records for Little Egret and Avocet. Little Egrets are now widespread in Britain, with an estimated population of 4,500, and records for May and June were received from several local sites. Avocets attempted to breed at Egleton in 1996 but the nest was predated by Coots. We have had to wait a long time for the first chicks and even now the first brood disappeared but a second seemed to be having better luck.

My thanks to the following for their records: T Appleton, V Arnold, R Baker, P & C Brown, T Caldicott, D Cole, J Comber, J Crosby, Dr C Gallimore, J Harris, A & V Hemsley, B Jest, T Land, R Lemmon, LROS, T Mitcham, D Needham, P Rudkin, Mrs J Stapleton, A R & M A Thorp, M Winslow, L & G Worrall.

Brent Goose One flew north at RW on 04.05.

Greylag Goose This species continues to expand with breeding near Whissendine and a pair prospecting at Barrowden in May. Note the RW count in June.

Canada Goose 40 flew over Stocken on 01.06.

Egyptian Goose The RW birds are spreading, with broods noted at Whitwell Creek on 05.05 and near Barnsdale Wood on 20.06. Birds were noted in flight over Oakham and Brooke and two were in Burley Wood on 15.06.

Mandarin Duck Now an established breeder with broods noted on the R.Gwash near Wild's Lodge on 18.05 and at Morcott in June, from a nestbox site. A pair were at FHP on 03.05.

Garganey One or two males were at RW(Egleton) to 18.05.

Red-crested Pochard Twelve were at EBR on 11.05.

Goldeneye A male was at RW(Lyndon) on 18.05.

Grey Partridge There was a pair in crops along Ingthorpe Road on 18.05.

Quail One called from barley in Exton Park between 14 and 29.05.

Little Egret Two pairs bred at RW. Singles were seen over Stamford Meadows on 29.05 and on a lake at Geeston on 05.06, with birds also over Wing and Leighfield Fishponds in June.

Glossy Ibis One at RW(Egleton) on 05.05 was a first for Rutland.

Slavonian Grebe One in breeding plumage remained at EBR to 11.05.

Black-necked Grebe One was at RW(Egleton) on 09.06.

Black Kite One was videoed over Castle Cement, Ketton on 12.05 – a first for Rutland.

Red Kite At least two pairs bred producing broods of two and three.

Marsh Harrier Singles were at RW(Egleton) on 19.05 and 04.06.

Osprey Away from RW, birds were at Horn Mill on 03.05 and Leighfield on several dates in June.

Kestrel Nestboxes were used at five sites – Exton Park (five young), Lyddington Crossing (four young), RW(Egleton), RW(Lyndon) (five young) and Beaumont Chase Farm (one young).

Hobby Three were over the Egleton lagoons on 13.05 and one at RW(Lyndon) on 18.05. June records were received from four potential breeding sites.

Peregrine One flew east at LFP on 09.05.

Moorhen A pair bred on a Wing garden pond, producing two broods by 23.06.

Oystercatcher At least six pairs bred at RW. There were 19 there in mid-May and 22 in mid-June.

- Avocet** A single at RW(Eggleton) on 08.05 was joined by others to a max of ten by 05.06. Four were in Barnsdale Creek on 07.06. The first brood, hatched on 13.06, were all predated but a second brood of three, noted on lagoon 4 on 24.06, were on lagoon 3 the next day, guarded by vigilant parents.
- Little Ringed Plover** There were 2 at EBR on 07.05. 24 were at RW in mid-May and 28 in mid-June. Breeding was successful on the Eggleton lagoons.
- Ringed Plover** Noted at EBR to 15.05 with a max of 13 on 14.05. There were 27 at RW in mid-May with 20 in mid-June. Bred at RW.
- Grey Plover** One was at EBR on 01.05, with four at RW on that date and five the next day. Two were noted on 11.05 and four on 04.06.
- Lapwing** Breeding was confirmed at both reservoirs with birds regular at Brooke, LFP and Exton Park throughout May. 36 were at RW in mid-May and 206 in mid-June. There were 280 at EBR on 26.06.
- Knot** Two were at RW(Eggleton) on 02.05.
- Sanderling** One or two were at EBR and RW to 15.05. Seven were at RW(Eggleton) on 01.06 and one on 06.06.
- Little Stint** One was at RW(Eggleton) on 04.06. This species is a scarce visitor in spring.
- Temminck's Stint** Singles were at RW(Eggleton) on 07.05, 13.05 and 25/26.05.
- Curlew Sandpiper** Singles were at EBR on 14/15/05 and at RW(Eggleton) on 06.06.
- Dunlin** Noted at RW to 13.05 (max 20) and from 15.6 onwards (max six). There were 24 at EBR on 14.05.
- Ruff** One was at RW(Eggleton) on 05.05.
- Black-tailed Godwit** Autumn passage began with five at RW(Eggleton) on 20.06. Two were at EBR on 26.06 and a large flock of 30 at RW(Eggleton) on 30.06.
- Bar-tailed Godwit** Thirteen were at RW(Eggleton) on 1.05 with 22 noted the next day, part of a large overland movement of this species. Four or five were present at RW to 07.05.
- Whimbrel** One was at RW(Eggleton) on 03.05, with three on 11.05.
- Curlew** Pairs were at Luffenham Airfield on 18.05 and Lyddington Crossing on 19.06. A pair and two well-grown young were seen near Merry's Meadows on 17.06. Singles flew over Brooke on two June dates and two flew south over Stamford on 04.06. Three were at RW in mid-June.
- Common Sandpiper** One or two were at RW and EBR to mid-May. The first autumn bird was at RW(Eggleton) on 20.06 with one at EBR on 25.06.
- Green Sandpiper** One was at RW(Eggleton) on 05.05. From 05.06 birds were noted in ones and twos at both reservoirs and LFP (27.06).
- Spotted Redshank** Two were at RW(Eggleton) on 01.05 with a single on 05/06.05.
- Greenshank** Noted at both reservoirs to 09.05 with a max of 13 at RW on 08.05.
- Wood Sandpiper** An impressive six at RW(Eggleton) on 01.05 was exceeded by seven there on the next two days. Singles were at EBR on 03 and 06.05.
- Redshank** One was at EBR on 08.05 and a pair on 26.06. Three were at RW in mid-May with 24 in mid-June. Breeding confirmed at RW.
- Turnstone** Spring birds were noted at RW to 18.05, with a max of five on 04.05. Late singles were noted on 04 and 09.06.
- Red-necked Phalarope** Two were at EBR briefly on 10.06.
- Little Gull** At EBR there were five on 08.05 and one on 11.05. Four were at RW on 09.05 and a 1st summer was there regularly from 05.06 to 19.06.
- Yellow-legged Gull** One was at RW on 18.05, with six in mid-June.
- Little Tern** Up to three were at RW between 04–06/05 and two were at Eggleton on 19.06.
- Black Tern** Present at both reservoirs on several dates from 01–10.05, with a max of 22 on 03.05 (when there were four at EBR).
- Common Tern** Good nos were at RW with 100 in mid-May and 73 in mid-June. At EBR there was breeding activity at both rafts. Pairs visited LFP and ponds at Prior's Coppice in June.
- Arctic Tern** 29 were at EBR on 01.05 and 17 the next day. Up to five passed through RW to 14.05 (max five on 08.05) and one was there on 09.06.
- Turtle Dove** Singles were at RW(Eggleton) on 17 and 23.06.
- Cuckoo** Singing birds were heard at eight sites with regular song at Northfields (Stamford), Burley Wood, Stocken, and Wing.
- Barn Owl** Hunting birds were reported from Brooke, Prior's Coppice and the Wing area, Barrowden, Bisbrooke and the Oakham bypass. Three young were ringed at an Exton Park nestbox on 28.06.
- Little Owl** Bred at RW(Eggleton). One or two were noted at Borderville, Beaumont Chase Farm, Barrowden and FHP.
- Tawny Owl** Two young were ringed at Tunneley Wood on 16.05 and young were calling in Burley Wood on 30.06. Also reported from Clipsham Park Wood on 18.05.
- Swift** Noted over Uppingham from 06.05 but in smaller nos than in previous years. Fewer were also noted over Oakham in June. The modernization of older houses excludes nesting Swifts (and House Sparrows) and new builds rarely allow access to the roof space, although birds are breeding in a converted barn in Barrowden. Parties were reported over Barrowden and Stamford with a movement of 40 over Stocken on 26.05 during inclement weather. 19 flew SSW over Brooke on 21.06.
- Kingfisher** The only records were from Brooke and LFP, with up to three noted.

Green Woodpecker Reported near Whitwell on 05.05 and Gunthorpe on 15.06, where two were feeding on ants on 15.06. Also noted at Barrowden and FHP.

Great Spotted Woodpecker An occupied nest was at Beaumont Chase Farm on 17.05. One or two visited peanut feeders at Stocken from 17.05.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker One visited an Uppingham garden on 07.06.

Raven One flew over Barrowden on 08.06 and five were over Leighfield on 15.06.

Coal Tit A successful breeding season was reported from Burley Wood with c.40 noted on 08.06.

Willow Tit Reports were received from Beaumont Chase Farm, LFP, RW(Lyndon) and Brooke.

Marsh Tit Noted at RW(Eggleton) where it bred in a nestbox, Burley Wood, Beaumont Chase Farm and Prior's Coppice.

Swallow Bred at a Barrowden house. c.50 were feeding over Stocken on 16.06.

House Martin Up to 27 fed over Stocken on 26.06. Reduced nos were reported from Northfields, Stamford this year and late nesting was reported from Barrowden.

Sand Martin Breeding activity was reported from walls at Normanton and Stoke Dry, the birds using holes in the masonry as nest-sites.

Blackcap 44 singing males were counted in Burley Wood on 29.06.

Garden Warbler Well distributed this year with song noted at Burley Wood (20 males on 04.05), Brooke, Barnsdale Wood, Leighfield, Prior's Coppice, both RW reserves and Westland Wood.

Lesser Whitethroat Singing birds were noted from Leighfield (six), Leighfield (four), Manton/Wing and Beaumont Chase Farm.

Whitethroat A common and widespread species – 20 were singing in the Leighfield area on 09.05 and seven regularly at Beaumont Chase Farm.

Grasshopper Warbler One sang in Tunneley Wood on 03.05.

Savi's Warbler One sang at RW(Eggleton) on 06.06. This is the first record there since one in April 2005.

Sedge Warbler Six held territory at LFP in May.

Reed Warbler One or two sang at LFP in both months.

Nuthatch Breeding was confirmed at Beaumont Chase Farm and Prior's Coppice. c.31 were noted around Burley Wood on 26.06, with others noted in Exton Park woodlands and Barnsdale Wood.

Ring Ouzel A female was at LFP on 05.05.

Spotted Flycatcher Noted in Burley Wood on 15.05 and throughout June. Others were seen at LFP, FHP, Lyddington, Barnsdale Wood and Prior's Coppice.

Nightingale Singing birds were reported as follows: Hambleton Wood (three), Burley Wood (one), Water Furlong, Stamford (one), Greetham Wood Far (one), RW(Lyndon) (one) and one at RW(Burley Fishponds). A total of only eight, with the last heard on 31.05.

Whinchat A male was at George Henry Wood, Stretton, on 04.05.

Wheatear Two were at Leighfield on 05.05 and one at Luffenham Airfield on 18.05.

Yellow Wagtail At least four territories were located in Exton Park on 05.06. Others were noted in breeding areas at RW(Eggleton) and Brooke.

Meadow Pipit Three were at George Henry Wood on 04.05 with one carrying food for young.

Crossbill Present in Burley Wood throughout both months with a max of 55 on 26.06. Other large flocks were 36 over LFP on 15.06 and 20 over RW(Lyndon) on 24.06. Smaller nos were noted over Brooke, Prior's Coppice and Barnsdale Avenue.

Rutland Water and Exton Wildfowl Counts – May/June 2011

	Rutland Water		Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park	
	May	June	14.05	10.06
Mute Swan	256	326	6	4
Greylag Goose	179	570	16	12
Canada Goose	98	674	4	
Barnacle Goose		1		
Egyptian Goose	31	56		
Shelduck	62	40		4
Mandarin Duck		2		
Wigeon	5	5		
Gadwall	168	203	29	41
Teal	2	11		

(continued overleaf)

	May	June	14.05	10.06
Mallard	543	851	36	79
Garganey	1			
Shoveler	17	16		
Pochard	1	5		
Tufted Duck	216	250	12	20
Goldeneye	1			
Little Grebe	4	4		
Great Crested Grebe	105	122		
Cormorant	218	252		
Little Egret	8	11		
Grey Heron	6	11	2	1
Water Rail		8		
Moorhen	48	56	6	9
Coot	277	456	35	35

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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May/June 2011

The dry winter and spring has had an effect on flowers – in many areas they are very short and, in the case of orchids, lower in numbers than in recent years. Is it just me, or is Bird's-foot Trefoil

less common than a few years back?

All flowers appear to be early – **Pyramidal Orchid** out on 11th June as an example.

Thank you to recorders for sending in sightings on seven verges – a good start but we could still do with more volunteers.

Thanks for records from: R Lemmon, J Mallett, R Archer, M Grimes, P Scott, G Worrall, L Worrall, P Simmonds, A Biddle, R Williams, J Crosby, L Biddle.

LEPIDOPTERA NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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May/June 2011

BUTTERFLIES

On June 13th I received an email from Adrian Russell, the County Recorder for VC55, to report that a **Silver Washed Fritillary** had been photographed in Ketton Quarry. This was the first County record for five years and a new species for our list. As the Society was due to meet at Clipsham Quarry the following Sunday, I alerted the group to be especially aware of anything 'unusual'. We were rewarded, as on reaching the Clay Bank, members found one resting **Dark Green Fritillary**. This follows the sighting of several in that area a year ago, when that species was also a 'first' for Rutland.

Large and **Small Skippers** have appeared in mostly small numbers during June with the

exception of Burley Wood when 14 and 10 were seen respectively. Some Large were seen nectaring on Ragged Robin in a field at Lyddington.

Grizzled Skippers were said to be numerous in Ketton Quarry in early May. Others were found in Clipsham Quarry and at Bloody Oaks Quarry where five were noted, one of which was egg laying. The **Dingy Skippers** would appear to have had an excellent season, as at Clipsham Quarry 62 were counted on the Clay Bank and a further seven on the North Bank. Other sites for this species were Clipsham Park Wood and in the new George Henry Wood at Stretton. Many of our members will know that this woodland was planted in memory of George Henry Sellars, who was such an active recorder for so many years.

Brimstones were on the wing from early May and were seen mostly in the quarries and around

Rutland Water. **Large** and **Small Whites** were recorded throughout both months in many areas. Only a few records were received for **Green Veined Whites** but the most interesting card was for 11 in Burley Wood on June 29th. Following good numbers of **Orange Tips** being reported during April, this species continued to be well recorded through to the end of May.

Green Hairstreaks were found in Clipsham Quarry in both May and June, with other sightings in Ketton Quarry and the George Henry Wood, both in the first week of May. The first **Small Copper** was seen at Stretton on May 1st and thereafter other records came from Clipsham Park Wood, Ketton Quarry, Oakham, Stocken and Thorpe by Water.

A few **Brown Argus** were recorded at Clipsham Quarry, Clipsham Park Wood and also in Ketton Quarry where a mating pair was observed. As in 2010, **Common Blue** 'topped the list' for the number of cards received. On June 1st, in Stamford Quarry, 31 were counted, and nine were recorded in both Clipsham Park Wood and Clipsham Quarry at the end of May, with another nine at Stocken on June 2nd. **Holly Blues** continued to be seen in ones and twos until May 17th. One was observed in Oakham on June 25th – was this a late flyer from a first generation or from a very early second generation?

A single **Red Admiral** was seen in Barrowden on May 21st; most of the other records came from Stocken. Singles were seen there on four dates in May and one at the end of June. A mating pair was observed on May 10th. In the last week of June, four were found in Burley Wood settled on some deer faeces! Recent records for **Small Tortoiseshells** are also mostly from Stocken. Eight were observed on June 24th and six on both 26th and 27th. A single was seen in Barrowden. During May, **Peacocks** were found in Clipsham Quarry, Ketton Quarry, Stocken and about 70 larvae were on nettles at Brooke. In June, approximately 200 larvae were found in Burley Wood.

June records for single **Commas** were limited to Barnsdale, Clipsham Quarry and Stocken whilst four were noted in Burley Wood. **Speckled Woods** were on the wing during both months and reports came from thirteen areas. During the second half of June, **Marbled Whites** were monitored at Ketton Quarry with 35+ on the 24th. Two were found at Clipsham Quarry on the 19th. Good-sized numbers of **Meadow Browns** have been observed during June. 40+ were reported from Ketton Quarry, 10+ from Stocken and ten from Clipsham Quarry. Recent records for **Small**

Heath have come from Wing, Ketton Quarry and Clipsham Quarry. Twelve were seen at the latter in both early May and again in mid-June. **Ringlets** were first seen in Clipsham Quarry in mid-June followed by c100 in Ketton Quarry on the 24th and 100 in Burley Wood on the 29th. Other sites were the Barnsdale area, Verge 8 at Great Casterton, Barrowden and Gorsefield.

It had appeared that **Painted Ladies** had not reached our area at the time of writing, but one record has just been received for a single sighting in Hambleton Woods. so hopefully the next issue will include more.

MOTHS

The results from our fortnightly visits to Eyebrook Reservoir during the last two months have really demonstrated how night-time temperatures can govern the number of species on the wing. On May 2nd, it was a cold and windy night with a minimum of 2 °C and we caught eight species. May 15th was a milder night, minimum 13 °C resulting in 29 species which included a new one for the site, i.e. **Brown Silver-Line**. By the 29th, the weather was humid and mild, minimum 14 °C, and the three main traps held 67 species. Amongst these were 140 **Heart and Darts** which have had an exceptional year and 70 **Common Swifts**! There were also three new micro species to be added to our list. June 10th was much cooler again with a minimum of 8 °C so the total fell to only 36 species. Heart and Dart numbers remained high with 138 and this time, another unusual observation was that there were 16 **Brown Rustics** which normally would be present in single figures. To complete this list, on June 27th the night temperature only dropped to 17.8 °C and we had 86 macro species plus 44 micro species. Of these two micros were new and also five macros. These were **Round Winged Muslin**, **Minor Shoulder Knot**, the **Concolorous**, **Silky Wainscot** and **Bordered Sallow**. This was indeed an excellent night's trapping!

A tripod and three box traps were operated in Prior's Coppice on May 25th and 314 moths of 51 species were caught in Orchid Ride on what was a fairly breezy evening. During June, a few species were recorded in the wood by another member and these included **Privet Hawkmoths** and **Marbled White Spot**.

On several dates in May, moths were identified during daylight hours in Burley Wood. An **Orange Footman** was found on a nettle and two **Pebble Hooktips** were seen flying around a nettle patch. During June **Chimney Sweepers** were

found there, a pair of **Buff Tips** mating and a **Scarce Silver-Lines** to name but a few.

A number of records have once again been received from Stocken. These have included a sighting of the attractive Longhorn micro-moth **Adela reaumurella**, a Puss Moth, several Yellowshells and nine other fairly common species. The Heart and Dart was said to be the commonest species on that site too this year.

Records from Leighfield Fishponds have included **Beautiful China Mark** and **Small China Mark**.

During the Society's visit to Clipsham Quarry on June 19th, members found the day-flying moth

Burnet Companion, two **Blacknecks** and several **Six-Spot Burnets**.

Hummingbird Hawk-moths have been seen nectaring on Valerian during June in gardens in Barrowden, Oakham and Uppingham. A few of these are known to over-winter but the majority seen during the summer are immigrants. On May 25th a **Lime Hawk-moth** was found in Uppingham.

Records received recently for larvae have included the **Cinnabar** on Ragwort in Bloody Oaks Quarry, the **Yellowtail** on Verge 8 and at Leighfield Fishponds. At the latter site a **Vapourer** caterpillar was also found.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the records used above: J Ansley, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, J Crosby, R Dyer, R Follows, S Ford, M Grimes, C R Jones, A L Lawrence, R Lemmon, P & E Mann, J Myers, E Northen, D & B Parker, J Roscoe, A Russell, P Scott, R Williams and G & L Worrall.

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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May/June 2011

Recently, I received a wonderful and most important document from Bjorn Beckmann, of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, in Wallingford, Oxfordshire. As you know Bjorn and Val Burton have been inputting data for the National Orthoptera Recording Scheme. The records for Rutland are all in, and up-to-date to 2010. The end of this season is the cut-off point, which will culminate with the printing of the National Atlas for Orthoptera.

I happened to mention to Bjorn if there was any possibility that he might be able to let me have the data for Rutland. Then, a day later an email arrived. Attached to this was the Data for the whole of Vice County 55 (Leics and Rutland), going back through the years. There were even some records for 1936 and 1945 (for Leicestershire). These spreadsheets contain fascinating information, and are also a scientific research document of historic value. A few of our records started to appear in 1970, during Monty Tyler's era as Entomological Recorder. Thank you very much Bjorn for this information.

Nymphs once again feature strongly in the report, but as June arrived, adults of some of the grasshoppers started up their summer songs. The dry, sunny weather had Tim Caldicott thinking that this dryness might affect the orthoptera. It will be interesting to note the Society's findings at the end of the season. So far, the situation looks promising, as you will see from the species lists.

During the Society's Field Meeting at Clipsham Quarries on 19th June, the nymph of a Speckled Bush Cricket was identified. However, on the Clay Bank, many nymphs of grasshoppers were found, but although I was reasonably happy with the identification, I will not add them in this *Fieldfare*. A return visit in July will 100% confirm the species. This location will be a new square for the records, therefore, positive ID is essential. But we have already gained a few new squares for this report.

BUSH CRICKETS

Oak Bush Cricket *Meconema thalassinum*

One, nymph found in vegetation by Gill Chiverton, on her Protected Verge 8, adjacent to the entrance of Walk Farm, Great Casterton, 12 June (TF 107 016).

Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

Nymphs, numbering 25, were observed in Burley Woods near the Eight Riding Tree, on 24 May (SK 892 098). On 8 June, 26 nymphs observed, west of the Eight Riding Tree (SK 890 097). A stronghold of this species! During the evening of a Glow-Worm survey on 30 June, the team found and identified many nymphs (females and males), in thick grasses at the junction of the first ride, near the entrance to Burley Woods (SK 892 092).

Roesel's Bush Cricket *Metriopectera roeselii*

Widespread and abundant, this coloniser since 2001 continues to impress with its numbers and

range in Rutland! So, it is rather surprising that only two records were received. Tim Caldicott found one tiny nymph in Prior's Coppice, the LRWT reserve, near Braunston, on 2 June (SK 834 052). Alistair Lawrence found one nymph in a grass verge by a hedgerow bordering farmland, between Ashwell and Cottesmore, on 3 June. Alistair took digital photographs, and supplied them for identification. New square (SK 885 134).

Speckled Bush Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*
Fabulous freckled creature! At this time of the season, nymphs are tiny. However, under an ordinary hand lens, they are a clone of their parents, and easy to identify. One nymph found on nettle leaves, in Burley Woods, on 8th May, and another nymph, observed in same area on 31 May (SK 892 098). One nymph was found on low plant leaf, in Clipsham Quarry, opposite the barn. This was during the Society's Field Meeting, on 19 June. New square (SK 981 154). 12 nymphs, seen in Burley Woods, east of the Eight Riding Tree, on 14 June (SK 890 097). Finally, there were six on bramble leaves, at Priors' Coppice, on 21 June (SK 834 052).

GROUNDHOPPERS

Slender Groundhopper *Tetrix subulata*
One on the track road near Prior's Coppice, 11 June (SK 836 052). One, next to the compost heap, at the Brooke Road allotments, Oakham, 14 June (SK 860 081). One, near the bottom pond, at Leighfield Fishponds, 15 June (SK 829 039).

GRASSHOPPERS

Common Green Grasshopper *Omocestus viridulus*
Usually the first grasshopper to be heard stridulating! One nymph, observed in grass ride in Burley Woods, southeast of the Eight Riding Tree, on 14 June (SK 896 095).
First stridulating heard on 20 June, from four adult males in long grasses, next to the Drought Garden, Barnsdale. New square (SK 907 088).
Two stridulating males in grass field, just outside Burley Woods, on the southeast edge, on 29 June (SK 896 095).

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*
Six nymphs, observed on the Brooke Road, Oakham allotments, 22 May. Followed by 17 nymphs, on the allotments, on 5 June (SK 860 081).
From Stocken: while bees were being inspected on thistles, on an extremely hot morning (20 June), the first stridulating of the season was heard from one male. On getting close to the creature, the variable colouration of reddish-brown was observed. The habitat is typical of this species – thick grasses with patches of baked, clay earth. The site was south facing, behind the greenhouse (SK 957 174).

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*
First stridulating heard from five males in long, lush grasses, in rough corner, at the bottom of Barnsdale Hill, on the western edge of Barnsdale Wood. Nymphs also observed, 20 June. New square (SK 902 087).
From Stocken, one nymph found basking in the warm sunshine, on dock leaves. This was a very striking pink-red colour, which is very attractive and often observed, 24 May. The following day in the same spot, further searching produced nine nymphs of varying colour types, ranging from brown, brown-grey, to pink-red (SK 957 174).
During the glow-worm survey on 30 June, in Burley Woods, six adults and several nymphs were observed in the grasses in the ride of Burley Woods, near the entrance (SK 892 092).

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper *Chorthippus albomarginatus*
Approx 100 nymphs observed in small plantation, near to electricity pylons, on 3 May, and present all of May. East of Brooke village (SK 860 050).
One nymph, on the Brooke Road allotments, Oakham, 22 May (SK 860 081).
Two adults on the Brooke Road allotments, 14 June. Four adults at Leighfield Fishponds, 15 June (SK 829 039). Two adults, Prior's Coppice, 25 June (SK 834 052).
Stridulating heard on 20 June, from four adult males in long grasses, near the Drought Garden, Barnsdale. New square (SK 907 088).
Finally, 4 stridulating adults in long, lush grasses, at the bottom of Barnsdale Hill, on the western edge of Barnsdale Wood, on 20 June (SK 902 087).

Many thanks to our team of: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, J Crosby, A Lawrence, P Rudkin.

Special note on Insects – an interesting record which didn't make May's Fieldfare because ID was being sought. A brightly coloured Bug *Corizus hyoscyami*, a member of the Rhopalidae family, has been found. It is recorded in sandy areas near the coast but recently a number of records have come from inland Britain and it appears to be moving up the country. Our record came from Stocken.

Gill Chiverton, Insects and others Recorder

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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May 2011

A quiet month for reports. Hambleton Wood on 5th produced mite galls on Crab Apple and Field Maple and a couple of rust galls on Dogs Mercury and Creeping Thistle, the latter smelling quite strongly of honey. Uppingham School arboretum on 15th was the site of a gall on the male flowers of Oak, a new record for Rutland. The information reached me in the form of photographs and I was able to identify the tree as the Turkey Oak and the galls as being produced by a gall wasp or Cynipid. The last record on 29th was again a new one for Rutland as far as I can tell and was caused by mites on the lower leaves of Greater Knapweed, seen on Verge 8. It is nice to see new hosts being looked at and this way of course we get a greater variety of galls.

June 2011

A much busier month with a total of 32 reports from 11 locations. The more unusual of these

included one produced by Gall Aphids on Black Poplar in Brooke on 7th, a mite gall on Walnut in Oakham Tesco carpark on 10th, midge galls on Aspen leaves at Leighfield Fishponds on 15th, a leaf gall on Oak at Stocken on 27th and two galls on Alder at Barnsdale Wood on 30th. One of the galls on Alder consisted of reddish 'tongues' of tissue protruding from the green female cones and is caused by an Ascomycete fungus and is quite startling in its appearance. The record from Stocken came in the form of a voucher specimen, in this case an Oak Leaf attached to the record card. I am always happy to receive this sort of record and I was able to identify it as being caused by a Psyllid or Jumping Plant Louse. According to the book this is a not uncommon gall but it is the first notice I have received of it in Rutland.

I would like to thank all the members who sent records in; as I said earlier in the report, it is nice to see new hosts being investigated and the resulting galls reported.

Contributors: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, J Crosby, C R Jones, R Lemmon

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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May 2011

Ephemeroptera: A large number of **Mayflies** were noted flying above the river at Thorpe by Water on May 2nd. A big Mayfly hatch on the River Welland at Harringworth was reported in the early morning on May 7th and later in the day Swifts and other hirundines were seen chasing them over Barrowden village. A Mayfly hatching was also noted on the Welland in late April.

Odonata: **White-legged Damselfly** *Platycnemis pennipes* – one female recorded at Leighfield Fishponds and six noted at Wing Fishing Lakes.

Large Red Damselfly *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* recorded at the beginning of the month at Wing, one noted at North Luffenham near the river Chater and also at Wing Fishing Lakes.

Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma najas* – 14 noted at Leighfield Fishponds.

Azure Damselfly *Coenagrion puella* – seen at Wing Lakes and later noted there as numerous.

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans* – also

noted at Wing Lakes and again later in the month as numerous.

Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea* – one recorded near Tufted Duck Hide at RW. **Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* – small numbers noted on three occasions at Leighfield Fishponds.

Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa* – a male and female noted near Brooke, one male around newly made pond at Brooke Road, Oakham and one recorded Wing Fishing Lakes. **Black-tailed Skimmer** *Orthetrum cancellatum* – one seen resting in Burley Wood.

Dermaptera: **Common Earwig** *Forficula auricularia* – found in leaves at base of Knapweed on Verge 8.

Hemiptera: a **Forest Bug** *Pentatoma rufipes* was noted on a dock plant at Wing. A **Sloe Bug** *Dolycoris baccarum* was seen in Burley Wood.

Froghoppers *Cercopsis vulnerata* were noted as numerous at Bloody Oaks Quarry. Nine **Common Backswimmers** *Notonecta glauca* were noted in a pond being drained at Stocken.

Megaloptera: an Alder Fly *Sialidae* was recorded at Stocken.

Diptera: a Crane Fly *Tipula maxima* was noted at Stocken. **Spotted Craneflies** *Nephrotoma appendiculata* – many were noted at Stocken and a female recorded on Verge 8. About 50 **Midges** *Chironomidae* were seen over stagnant water at Stocken.

A **Common Bee-fly** *Bombylius major* was seen nectaring at Thorpe by Water. A **Drone Fly** *Eristalis tenax*, a **Chequered Hoverfly** *Melanostoma scalare* and **Bumblebee Hoverflies** *Volucella bombylans* both red-tailed and white-tailed forms were all recorded at Stocken. A **Picture-winged Fly** *Urophora carduii* was also seen at Stocken.

Hymenoptera: 2 Sawfly species, *Arge cyanocrocea* and *Cladius pectinicornis* were recorded on nettles in full sunshine at RWNR.

Ichneumon *stramentarius* was noted on two occasions at Stocken. **Ichneumon** *Ophion ventricosus* – this insect, a nocturnal species, was recorded at RWNR (really interesting to learn that there are nocturnal ichneumons). Another interesting **Ichneumon** record from Lyndon churchyard – a lime tree there with red nail galls made by a gall mite on the upper side of the leaves and the larvae in the galls were in turn being parasitized by a tiny black ichneumon of the sub-family *Tryphoninae*.

Red Mason Bee *Osmia rufa* – seen burrowing into a wall at Lyndon church; also a number of sightings of the same insect over the month at Stocken. **Mining Bee** *Halictus tumulorum* – a small colony also tunnelling at Lyndon Church.

Mining Bee *Andrena chrysoseles* – one record from RWNR and one seen feeding on umbellifers at Lyndon churchyard. **Mining Bee** *Andrena flavipes* noted at Stocken.

Common Carder Bee *Bombus pascuorum* – noted at RWNR and Stocken. The following **Bumblebees** were all recorded at Stocken – many **White-tailed** *Bombus lucorum*, 9 **Red-tailed** *Bombus lapidarius* and one **Early Bumblebee** *Bombus pratorum*.

Tree Bumblebee *Bombus hypnorum* – two noted at Barleythorpe and a very active nest in a compost bin in a garden in Oakham.

Tree Wasp *Dolichovespula sylvestris* – a large nest noted at Stocken and a single insect inspecting a mug of tea also at Stocken. A **Digger Wasp** *Mellinus arvensis* was noted at Stocken. **Spider-hunting Wasp** *Pompilus cinctellus* – a single insect recorded Lyndon churchyard.

Hornet *Vespa crabro* – many hornets seen entering and emerging from a hole in a dead oak at

Hambleton. One queen **Hornet** in an exhausted condition was found at Barrowden.

Coleoptera: **Harlequin Ladybird** *Harmonia axyridis* – ten were seen on nettles at Burley Wood. **10-spot Ladybird** *Adalia 10-punctata* – one noted near Brooke. **Cream-spot Ladybird** *Calvia 14-guttata* – one recorded at Leighfield Fishponds. **Kidney-spot Ladybird** *Chilocorus renipustulatus* – one was seen at Burley Wood. **Eyed Ladybird** *Anatis ocellata* – three also noted at Burley Wood. **Soldier Beetle** *Cantharis nigricans* – recently emerged insects were prolific at RWNR. **Soldier Beetle** *Cantharis rustica* – one noted at Stocken and 4 recorded on Verge 8. **Soldier Beetle** *Rhagonycha fulva* – these were numerous at Stocken. Small **Green Leaf Beetle** *Cassida rubiginosa* – one seen at Stocken. A small **Green Leaf Beetle** *Oedemera nobilis*, with distinctive elytra, was noted at Stocken. A **Leaf Beetle** *Chrysomela aenea*, with metallic red elytra – several noted at RWNR. **Common Malachite Beetle** *Malachius bipustulatus* recorded at Ketton Quarry and Stocken. **Cardinal Beetle** *Pyrochroa coccinea* recorded at RWNR and Barrowden. A **Wasp Beetle** *Clytus arietis* was seen at Stocken. **Cockchafer Beetles** *Melolontha melolontha* – three records came from Barrowden, all of insects needing to be put the right way up after being rescued from near an outdoor light; and a total of four were found caught in moth traps at Eyebrook Reservoir. **Lesser Stag Beetle** *Dorcus parallelipedus* – sadly a road casualty on Verge 8. **Golden-bloomed Grey Longhorn Beetle** *Agapantha villosa* – found on Verge 8 – no-one could miss this one, it is so beautiful.

Terrestrial Isopoda: **Rough Woodlouse** *Porcellio scaber* – found on Verge 8.

Arachnida: **Orb Web Spider** *Araniella cucurbitana* – a spider which is representative of a number of different species – was found on more than one occasion at Stocken.

June 2011

Odonata: **Banded Demoiselle** *Colopteryx splendens* – recorded at Thorpe by Water on the last day of May and then seen again there on 3/6, also a single insect seen at Barrowden on 26/6. **Emerald Damselfly** *Lesetes sponsa* – noted at Stocken. **White-legged Damselfly** *Platycnemis pennipes* – recorded at Thorpe by Water on the last day of May and then again there as numerous on 3/6; also three insects noted at Leighfield Fish Ponds. **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* – one record from a garden at Barrowden.

Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma najas* – nine recorded Leighfield Fishponds. **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* – recorded at Thorpe by Water on last day of May and then many again noted there on 3/6; also five noted at Stocken. **Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator* – one male recorded Leighfield Fishponds. **Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* – two recorded Leighfield Fishponds, one noted at Priors Coppice and one noted at Stocken. **Black-tailed Skimmer** *Orthetrum cancellatum* – one female at Burley Wood and one male seen Leighfield Fishponds.

Hemiptera: **Hawthorn Shield Bug** *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* – one record from a moth trap at Eyebrook Reservoir. **Green Shield Bug** *Paloma prasina* – one recorded Stocken. **Parent Bug** *Elasmucha grisea* – one adult and one 5th instar at Gibbet Gorse. **Common Green Capsid** *Lygocoris pabulinus* – three recorded Stocken. **Common Water Boatman** *Corixa punctata* – noted as very numerous on garden pond at Barrowden. **Froghopper** *Cercopsis vulnerata* – one recorded at Stocken and one record from Priors Coppice.

Mecoptera: **Scorpion Fly** *Panorpa sp.* – several recorded Priors Coppice and one female noted at Clipsham Quarry.

Diptera: **Bumblebee Hoverfly** *Volucella bombylans* – both white-tailed and red-tailed varieties noted as quite common in Priors Coppice; one white-tailed seen at Stocken. **Cleg Fly** *Haematopota pluvialis* – one recorded at Stocken.

Hymenoptera: **Sawfly** *Rhogogaster viridis* and **Sawfly** *Cephus pygmaeus* – both noted at Stocken. **Ichneumon** *Stramentarius* – 2 recorded at Stocken. **Ichneumon** *Amblyteles armatorius* – one noted at Stocken. **Ruby-tailed Wasp** – *Chrysis angustula* – one seen on fence post at Stocken. **Digger Wasp** *Crabro cribrarius* – one recorded Stocken. Wasps nests seem to have been much in evidence in May and June. As well as the Tree Wasp nest at Stocken there were reports of **Median Wasp** nests (*Dolichovespula media*) from 3 sites – one 6ft up in a small tree at Manton and approx 1ft across, one nest at Wing which had to be destroyed as it was above a back door; and a very large nest 7ft above ground in a Viburnum bush at Normanton ('getting bigger all the time' said the report!).

Masonry Bees in a modern house wall were reported at Manton. A small colony >15 of

metallic green **Mining Bees** *Halictus tumulorum* was reported in a wall at Lyddington. A **Mining Bee** *Andrena cineraria* was noted at Stocken. A single specimen of a **Cuckoo Bee** *Spechodes hyalinatus* was found in the midst of the mining bee colony at Lyddington. **Tree Bumblebee** *Bombus hypnorum* – a queen was recorded at Lyddington. **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascuorum* – records from Clipsham Park Wood, RWNR Lyndon, and numerous at Stocken.

White-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus lucorum* and **Early Bumblebee** *Bombus pratorum* were noted at Stocken. **Buff-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus terrestris* – a nest was disturbed whilst strimming at the base of an oak tree at Stocken. **Red-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lapidarius* – recorded at Priors Coppice, Bloody Oaks Quarry and Hambleton Wood; and they were also noted entering a breather space in a brick wall at Stocken. **Cuckoo Bee** *Bombus rupestris* was noted at Priors Coppice. **Cuckoo Bee** *Bombus vestalis* noted at Stocken.

Coleoptera: **7-spot Ladybird** *Coccinella 7-punctata*, two recorded Priors Coppice. **Ten-spot Ladybird** *Adalia 10-punctata* – single specimens seen at Burley Wood and Leighfield Fishponds. **Cream-spot Ladybird** *Calvia 14-guttata* – single specimens were noted at Burley Wood and Stocken; also two insects in May and one insect in June were recorded in moth traps at Eyebrook Reservoir. **Eyed Ladybird** *Anatis ocellata* – 3 noted at Burley Wood. **Fourteen-spot Ladybird** *Propylea 14-punctata* – numerous at Stocken. **Violet Ground Beetle** *Carabus violaceus* – found at Stocken. **Ground Beetle** *Harpalus affinis* – one noted at Stocken. **Ground Beetle** *Harpalus rufipes* – recorded as numerous from a moth trap at Eyebrook Reservoir. **Rove Beetle, Devil's Coach Horse** *Staphylinus olens* – noted under a stone at Stocken. **Soldier Beetle** *Cantharis figurate* – an interesting record from Lyddington churchyard. **Cardinal Beetle** *Pyrochroa serraticornis* recorded at Stocken. **Flower Beetle** *Oedemera lurida* – found in good numbers on daisies in Lyddington churchyard. A **Vine Weevil** *Otiorhynchus sulcatus* was noted at Stocken, as also was a **Weevil** *Rhynchites aequatus*.

Diplopoda: a **Pill Millipede** *Glomeris marginata* – found at Barrowden.

Terrestrial Isopoda: a **Pill Woodlouse** *Armadillidium vulgare* – noted at Clipsham Quarry.

Thank you to the following people for so many interesting records and also photographs: M Branston, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, J Crosby, C Gallimore, M & G Griffin, J Harvey, R Harvey, R Lemmon, T Newton, D Perril, J Roscoe, P Rudkin, P Scott, R Williams and L & G Worrall.