



Belton Park, RNHS field trip November 6, D Cotter.

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Apologies to Dave Needham for failing to acknowledge his wren photo on the cover of September Fieldfare.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2017 ARE NOW DUE. The new rates are £12.50 for an individual, £25.00 for 2 adults living at the same address. A form is enclosed with this *Fieldfare* with details of how to pay; and with a form on the back that you can use to update your standing order if applicable. Many thanks.

**Margaret Conner**, *Treasurer/Membership*

VERY BEST WISHES TO CHAIRMAN LINDA BIDDLE, who is recovering from a complicated operation on her ankle. She is looking forward to being well enough to come to Society events in the New Year.

So she had to miss two memorable out-of-town events, the first at Titchwell in Norfolk. There were weather issues again, it was commendable that people drove through pouring rain to reach Titchwell (difficult to identify anyone in the car park as we were all wearing hoods) but then the rain cleared and the Norfolk coastline was revealed in all its glory. Chinese Water Deer, a Spoonbill, Marsh Harriers, Stone Chats – see the full report on the website.

The photograph above was taken at Belton Park, Lincolnshire, where we walked across the park with Derick Hill, a volunteer ranger there, and Dave Cotter, to see the herd of 700 deer spread out across the landscape – a magnificent sight, but as we stopped to admire it, the weather changed, the wind blew icily and it rained. It is so rewarding to go with people who know a place well. And the coffee shop was excellent! See the website for a full report.

## DIARY DATES

**Tuesday December 6, 7.30 pm**



Titchwell, RNHS meeting, P Scott.

**Tuesday January 3, 7.30 pm**

**Tuesday February 7, 7.30 pm**

**Sunday January 8, 10.30 am**

**Sunday February 12, 10.30 am**

## 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.*

### Recorders' and members' meeting

Time to meet the Recorders, exchange news, see what the lucky French group got up to this summer, celebrate. There will be Christmas drinks and mince pies.

The Society is always grateful to the Recorders for their work on collecting and collating the sightings and forwarding these to the appropriate local and national bodies. This meeting is a chance for them to show off some of their projects, such as that at Beaumont Chase Farm which Terry Mitcham has been doing for 25 years! Phil Rudkin (RNHS Orthoptera Recorder since 2007 and Rutland Water Orthoptera Recorder since 2001), has a display of Orthoptera photographs, tetrad maps and sound recordings. We should also have displays on Butterflies, Mammals and Reptiles plus some others yet to be formalised.

Contact Peter Scott (see back page) for more information, or if you want to bring something along.

### Biodiversity – our natural partner

By Chris Gerrard, Anglian Water's Climate Change and Biodiversity Manager, who joined the company in 2013. Prior to that he was Director of Living Landscapes for the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. He was also the Project Manager of the Great Fen Project. The author of 'The Great Fen: Artists for Nature in England', he co-wrote two local Red Data Books. Should be very interesting.

### Dragonflies

By Mick Parfitt and Henry Curry of the British Dragonfly Society. The Society is now at Wicken Fen but for many years was based at Miriam Rothschild's estate in Ashton, Northants, where several of our older members were involved in the work of the Society. See <http://www.british-dragonflies.org.uk>.

## RNHS FIELD TRIPS

*Full details of all these events appear on our website at [www.rnhs.org.uk](http://www.rnhs.org.uk). There is no meeting in December. If the weather is bad, check the website or call the 'Queries' phone number for changes.*

### New Year walk at Fineshade Wood

Fineshade Wood is an ancient mixed broadleaf and conifer woodland. It contains rich semi-natural native woodland, as well as areas of conifers which are gradually being restored to site-native broadleaf woodland under the 'Ancient Woodland Project'. The wood was coppiced for many centuries, and the remnant coppice banks can still be seen. The coppice was used in the past for charcoal making, and there is evidence of medieval and Roman iron smelting in the wood.

Led by RNHS. Meet in the Fineshade car park (£4) – suitable gear for walking in woods needed.

See [www.forestry.gov.uk/toplodge](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/toplodge) for more details.

Queries: Hendrina Ellis, 01780 482048, mobile 0751 5555 486.

### RSPB Frampton Marsh, Lincolnshire

Led by Peter Scott, RNHS. This is rapidly becoming one of the premier birding sites on the east coast. A variety of habitats supports many breeding species, together with an ever increasing list of passage birds, including many rarities.

Meet at the RSPB reception car park, Grid ref TF356 392, postcode PE20 1AY. The paths are in general very good, and there are several hides; but the reserve is very exposed so warm clothing is required.

More information about the reserve can be found on the RSPB website [www.rspb.org.uk/Frampton\\_Marsh](http://www.rspb.org.uk/Frampton_Marsh).

Queries: Peter Scott. Mobile 07535 508932.

**Sunday March 12, 10.30 am**

### **Eyebrook Reservoir - winter wildfowl**

Led by Peter Scott, RNHS. Meet in the Eyebrook Reservoir car park at the bottom of the hill at Stoke Dry and take a walk along the road to the bridge to get a good view of the wildfowl on the reservoir at this time of year. If time allows we will investigate the woods along the reservoir edge. Almost anything can turn up. In recent years there has been a long-staying Bittern, although this has proved to be elusive and in fact last year may not have been seen – but you never know.

Underfoot conditions should be reasonable although flooding can occur in very wet weather and as usual at this time of year please dress accordingly. There may be a stile to negotiate to get into the woods.

Queries: Peter Scott. Mobile 07535 508932.

## **LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST, RUTLAND GROUP**

*For events in Leicestershire and Rutland see [www.lrwt.org.uk](http://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 12 December, 7.30 pm** **Rutland – Multum in parvo**

Richard Adams will talk about the landscapes of Rutland.

**Monday 16 January, 7.30 pm** **Pipistrelles**

Matt Cook from Nottinghamshire Bat Group will talk about pipistrelles. See page 17 of this *Fieldfare* for recent news of this bat, and the new *Annual Report* for more information.

**Monday 20 February, 7.30 pm** **Hedgehogs**

Simon Thompson, Senior Hedgehog Officer from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, will talk about hedgehogs. See page 15 for local news of hedgehogs.

**Monday 20 March, 7.30 pm** **Dragonflies**

Claire Install, Senior Conservation Officer from the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, will talk about dragonflies.

## **LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST, BOURNE GROUP**

*For details of LWT events, see [www.lincstrust.org.uk](http://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

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU. Telephone 01780 762051  
E-mail: roy.lemmon@yahoo.co.uk

### September 2016

**Atmospheric pressure and wind** During the first week pressures were above the mean but for the rest of the month they were generally below. Winds were predominantly SW–W, apart from the period 13th–18th when they were NW–NE and gusty, with speeds up to 15 mph at 09.00 hours and certainly higher later on those days. 19% of the month's rain fell at this time.

**Temperature** This was a very warm September, the warmest by a considerable margin in the decade 2007–2016. Overnight minima with a mean of 11.71 °C were well above the next highest, September 2009 at 10.29 °C. The highest minimum was 17.0 °C on the night of 8–9th, and the lowest, a positively chilly 4.9 °C, occurred on the last night of the month.

The daytime maxima were also high at 21.52 °C, a little above the second year in the same decade, 2011, at 21.16°C.

**Rain** A 'normal' month with a total of 49.1 mm (1.93 in) recorded here, just 98% of my long-term mean of 26 years for September. The previous three Septembers have all had low rainfall, with just 5.4 mm in 2014.

### October 2016

**Atmospheric pressure and wind** For the first three weeks of the month our weather was dictated by a persistent high pressure over Scandinavia, which resulted in winds which were from NW–NE and generally of low velocity. There was the period, the 16–19th inclusive, when they were S–W and then in the last week of the month pressures rose and winds were SW–W and again of low velocity. The highest atmospheric pressure of the month was 1034 mb at 09.00 hr on the 29th.

**Temperature** This was a cool October, probably due to the persistent 'Easterlies' referred to above. The overall minimum, maximum and mean temperatures were all 7th in the current decade 2007–2016, and there were no air frosts although there were minima of 2.2 °C on 1–2nd and 2.4 °C on 23–24th. The highest daytime maximum I recorded was 17.7 °C on the 6th.

**Rain** This was a dry October with a total recorded here of 46.8 mm (1.84 inches), just under 75% of the long-term mean of 26 years. In October 2011 the total was 27.0 mm and in 2013 115.1 mm.

## AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

### RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore

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

### September/October 2016

There was a smattering of herpetological records as amphibians and reptiles wound down for the winter.

**Frogs** were seen in early September at Prior's Coppice and in Wing, where one was found in a kitchen just three hours after a **Grass Snake** had visited the same kitchen. Frogs were also heard croaking in Barrowden on 9th and 19th September and again on 26th October.

**Common Toads** were seen on Wing roads in September – two dead, one missing a front leg but alive, and one other live one. They were also seen at Great Casterton, under a square of roofing felt at Ketton Quarry, under a plank of wood in my vegetable garden in Wing and a number were seen in Wood Lane in Braunston.

A single very small **Great Crested Newt** was found in my cellar on 26th October.

There were also two Grass Snake records – the aforementioned kitchen snake in Wing and three were seen at Robin Hide at Rutland Water on 23rd September.

*My thanks to T Caldicott, B Folett, R Lemmon, D Morris, D Needham, L Park and L Worrall who provided records in one format or another.*



## BIRDS



Stonechat. P Scott.

### RECORDER Terry Mitcham

30 Sutherland Way, Stamford PE9 2TB. Telephone: 01780 751268.  
E-mail: joterpat@btinternet.com

These have been exciting months for local birdwatchers, with an above average number of scarce birds, good numbers of wildfowl and a variety of waders. Summer visitors slipped away to be replaced by winter thrushes, **Stonechats** and pipits. Highlights included long-staying **Great White Egrets**, **Long-tailed Duck** and scarce grebes, with a **Tundra Bean Goose** and a **Purple Sandpiper** the highlights. A **Hen Harrier** at Eyebrook was a notable record of this much persecuted raptor.

*My thanks to the following for their records: T Appleton, R Baker, D & J Ball, A J Biddle, T Caldicott, J Davis, Dr C H Gallimore, G & M Griffin, M Grimes, P Langston, LROS, S Lister, K Mather, I Misselbrook, T Mitcham, B Moore, P Rudkin, RWNR.*

(See also Wildfowl Counts on page 8.)

<b>Whooper Swan</b>	Six NE at RW on 08.10 were the first with 14 at RW and six at EBR on 20.10. Twelve flew over RWEg on 30.10.
<b>Tundra Bean Goose</b>	One was at RWNA between 20–24.10.
<b>Pink-footed Goose</b>	A small flock flew over Luff Airfield on 02.10, and 40 flew over Oak on 09.10.
<b>White-fronted Goose</b>	Two were with Greylags at Banthorpe GP on 13.10.
<b>Greylag Goose</b>	The peak FHP count was 289 on 03.09.
<b>Egyptian Goose</b>	Three were at FHP on 09.09, with ten there on 11.09.
<b>Mandarin Duck</b>	A male was in RWNA on 15.10, and a female was at LFP on 26.10.
<b>Mallard</b>	31 were on ponds at Greet GC on 15.10.
<b>Pintail</b>	Noted at FHP from 08.09 to the end of Oct, with five on 27.09.
<b>Garganey</b>	One or two were at RW from 13.09 to 07.10, with one at EBR on 26.09.
<b>Red-crested Pochard</b>	Up to three were at RW between 10.09 and 04.10.
<b>Scaup</b>	Singles were at RW on 01 and 28.10.
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>	RW's Aug bird relocated to the Dam and was present from 07.09 to the end of Oct.
<b>Common Scoter</b>	Singles were at RW on four dates between 20.09 and 28.10.
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>	A female was at RWNA from 30.09 to the end of Oct. There are apparently only around 40 at large in Britain following the nationwide cull of this introduced North American species.
<b>Red-legged Partridge</b>	Coveys of 45 and 65 were near Emp on 30.10.
<b>Gannet</b>	A juv was at RWNA on 28–29.10.
<b>Shag</b>	Present at RW to 17.09 with seven at the Dam on 07.07.
<b>Bittern</b>	A typically elusive bird was at RWEg from 05.09 to 11.10.
<b>Great White Egret</b>	Three remained at RWEg throughout both months. One flew over LFP on 30.09.
<b>Grey Heron</b>	Ten flew SW along the Welland valley at Tin on 15.09.
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>	One was at RWNA/SA from 06.09 to the end of Oct.
<b>Black-necked Grebe</b>	Two were in RWNA throughout both months from 05.09.
<b>Red Kite</b>	Five over BW on 28.10 was the peak count. A leucistic (having whitish plumage) bird was reported from Whissendine in Oct.
<b>Marsh Harrier</b>	Two were at RW to 24.09 with one to the end of Oct. One was at EBR on 08.10.
<b>Hen Harrier</b>	A ringtail was at EBR on 08, 13 and 14.10.
<b>Kestrel</b>	Noted at FHP, HM, RW and QF, where two were hunting on 17.10.
<b>Hobby</b>	Four were at RWEg on 09.09, with birds present there to at least 18.09. One flew south near Wg on 26.09.
<b>Peregrine</b>	One was regular at RWEg with two there on 02.09 and 15.10.

<b>Water Rail</b>	One was regular at LFP from 15.09 to the end of Oct.
<b>Moorhen</b>	23 were on Greet GC ponds on 15.10.
<b>Golden Plover</b>	c.150 were near Cott Lodge on 05.10. There were 54 at RW on 16.10 and 80 over Pilt on 20.10.
<b>Grey Plover</b>	21 flew over RW on 20.09 and one was heard over LFP on 06.10.
<b>Lapwing</b>	At RW there were 1010 on 18.09 and 802 on 16.10. EBR had 448 on 18.09 and 480 on 16.10.
<b>Little Ringed Plover</b>	Present at RW to 01.10, with a max of six on 03.09.
<b>Ringed Plover</b>	A good autumn passage saw birds at RW to 28.10, with 40+ on 12.09 and at least ten on 01.10. One was at EBR on 03.09, with two present on 14.09.
<b>Whimbrel</b>	A long-staying bird remained in RWNA from 10.09 to the end of Oct.
<b>Curlew</b>	At RW there were five on 18.09 and six on 16.10.
<b>Black-tailed Godwit</b>	Present at RW from at least 05.09 to 28.10 with six on 16.09 and two or three subsequently. At EBR there were nine on 02.09 and two on 18.09.
<b>Bar-tailed Godwit</b>	One was at RWEg/NA between 10 and 16.09.
<b>Turnstone</b>	At RWEg there were ten on 05.09, 11 on 14.09 and two on 22.09.
<b>Knot</b>	Noted on four dates at RW between 05 and 12.09, with 11 on 08.09. One was at EBR on 11.10.
<b>Ruff</b>	Present at both reservoirs in small numbers from 03.09 to at least 16.10. The peak count was six at RW on 12.09 and EBR on 18.09.
<b>Curlew Sandpiper</b>	One or two were at RWEg between 05 and 17.09, with three on the first date.
<b>Dunlin</b>	Regular at both reservoirs throughout both months in small numbers. Peak counts were 17 at RW on 01.10 and three at EBR on 29.10.
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>	One was at RWNA briefly on 30.10.
<b>Little Stint</b>	One was at RWNA on 17.09.
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>	One was at RWEg on 12–13.09.
<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	Singles were at RW to 16.09 with four on 18.09 and one on 02.10. One was at Banthorpe GP on 27.09 and singles were at EBR on 23 and 29.10.
<b>Green Sandpiper</b>	Present at RW throughout both months with a max of eight on 05.09 and 16.10. At EBR one or two were noted to 14.09, with singles at LFP on 05 and 17.10, and birds over Martinthorpe on 13.09 and 23.10. One was by the R.Chater near Wg on 16.10.
<b>Spotted Redshank</b>	One was at EBR on 1.09, with one at RWNA on 12.09 and three there next day. One flew over Leigh on 13.09.
<b>Greenshank</b>	Up to six (18.09) were at RW to 09.10 and one was at EBR on 02.09.
<b>Wood Sandpiper</b>	One was at RWEg between 29.09–02.10.
<b>Redshank</b>	On 16.10 one was at EBR and nine at RW.
<b>Woodcock</b>	Two were at Leigh on 26.10 with one at Westland Wood on 31.10.
<b>Jack Snipe</b>	One was at EBR on 27–28.10.
<b>Snipe</b>	At RW there were 11 on 18.09 and 17 on 16.10. EBR had three on 18.09 and ten on 16.10. 14 were over Leigh on 18.09, with eight there on 30.10; and there was one at Greet GC on 15.10.
<b>Great Skua</b>	One was at RW Dam on 30.10.
<b>Black Tern</b>	A juv was at EBR on 14 and 17.09.
<b>Common Tern</b>	One was at RW on 10.09, with eight there on 17.09.
<b>Arctic Tern</b>	One was at RWNA on 02.10.
<b>Little Gull</b>	One was at RW on 07.09, with five there on 04.10. One was at EBR on 10.10.
<b>Mediterranean Gull</b>	Single adults were at RWEg on 03 and 18.09.
<b>Yellow-legged Gull</b>	Four were at RW on 16.10, with one there on 28.10.
<b>Woodpigeon</b>	SW passage was noted with 250 over Pilt on 20.10 and c.720 over the Chater valley on 27.10.

<b>Barn Owl</b>	Records were received from Barrow, Martinsthorpe, Wg, Brk and LFP.
<b>Little Owl</b>	The only record was of a calling bird at Barrow on 27.09.
<b>Tawny Owl</b>	Calling birds were reported from Ext Park and Barrow.
<b>Swift</b>	Two at RWEg on 03.09 were our last birds.
<b>Green Woodpecker</b>	Regularly seen at FHP with other birds at QF and Barrow.
<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b>	Records were received from Barrow, FHP, QF and PC.
<b>Raven</b>	Birds were noted at FHP, Ext Park, Barns Gardens and Wg – perched atop a large Wellingtonia.
<b>Willow Tit</b>	Noted at LFP in both months.
<b>Marsh Tit</b>	Two were at PC on 04.09 and two were at TunnW feeders on 30.10.
<b>Skylark</b>	25 were near Cott on 12.10. 45 flew over Leigh on 17.10 and there were c.80 over arable land near Martinsthorpe on 24.10.
<b>Bearded Tit</b>	One was in the reedbed at RWEg on 09.10, with six noted the following day.
<b>Sand Martin</b>	Our latest record was from RWEg on 30.09.
<b>Swallow</b>	c.120 at LFP on 08 and c.160 near Wg on 25 were the Sept peak counts. There were three Oct records, with two near Pilt on 20.10 our latest birds.
<b>House Martin</b>	c.350 were noted near Wg on 25.09, with the last breeding birds at Man leaving on 29.09.
<b>Cetti's Warbler</b>	Well established at RWEg, where the 100th bird for the site was ringed in mid-Sept. The first was ringed there in 1997.
<b>Chiffchaff</b>	Birds were widespread on passage in September, with ones and twos noted at Leigh (nine on 06.10) throughout Oct to 29.10 when one was at Martinsthorpe.
<b>Willow Warbler</b>	A late bird was reported at Norm on 25.09.
<b>Yellow-browed Warbler</b>	One was calling and seen briefly in EB Plantation on 09–10.10.
<b>Blackcap</b>	Noted at FHP on several September dates. Three were at Leigh on 06.10.
<b>Lesser Whitethroat</b>	There were three September records from RW with the latest at Eg on 21.09.
<b>Whitethroat</b>	One was at Wg Burrows on 06.09, with the last at Banthorpe GP and Leigh on 15.09.
<b>Sedge Warbler</b>	One was at LFP on 11.09.
<b>Reed Warbler</b>	One was at LFP on 06.09.
<b>Nuthatch</b>	Noted at PC, FHP and Ext Park. Birds visited feeders at Barns Gardens on 02.10 and TunnW on 30.10.
<b>Starling</b>	Westerly passage was observed in the Pilt/Chater valley and LFP areas from 21.10 onwards with an impressive 6395 counted on 22.10.
<b>Ring Ouzel</b>	One was at Leigh on 03.10.
<b>Fieldfare</b>	One over RW on 11.10 was the first, followed by c.40 at FHP on 14.10. Numbers remained low until late October when there were c.280 at Pilt, c.380 over Martinsthorpe (22.10) and c.460 at Leigh on 26.10.
<b>Song Thrush</b>	14 were noted around Martinsthorpe on 05.09.
<b>Redwing</b>	147 west at Luff Airfield and seven over Leigh on 02.10 were our first birds, with four in a Barrow garden on 07.10 the next. Flocks of ten or more were noted at RWLynd, FHP and QF with the largest number, 488, over Martinsthorpe on 23.10.
<b>Mistle Thrush</b>	Ten were feeding in a paddock at Norm on 15.09.
<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>	One or two were at LFP, Brk and RW to 09.09. A late bird was at LFP on 02.10.
<b>Redstart</b>	Between 01 and 13.09 up to three (perhaps four on 11.09) were in the Leigh area.
<b>Stonechat</b>	EBR was a key site, with birds present from 26.09 to at least 25.10, usually two but five on 01.10. One was at Leigh on 02.10, and at RWEg a pair were regular from at least 15.10 to the end of the month. One was at RWLynd on 16.10.
<b>Whinchat</b>	A good passage with three at EBR up to 05.09, and six next day. One was at Martinsthorpe on 08.09. There were two in Ext Park on 11.09 and three at RWEg on 12.09. The last was at EBR on 18.09.

## September/October 2016 Wildfowl counts

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Ft Henry Ponds Exton Park Lake		Banthorpe Gravel Pit		Holywell Lake
	18.09	16.10	18.09	16.10	17.09	14.10	15.09	13.10	17.10
Mute Swan	434	364	89	88	5	6	6	5	
White-fronted Goose								2	
Greylag Goose	145	470	286	157	196			187	141
Canada Goose	149	377	10	1					65
Egyptian Goose	82	107							
Shelduck		3							
Wigeon	2902	5474	209	542	2	44			4
Gadwall	1154	1219	47	71	94	93			10
Teal	671	924	290	637	46	27	24	26	12
Mallard	748	1238	281	153	230	170	1	19	73
Pintail	67	186	41	27	1	3			
Garganey	1								
Shoveler	351	443	41	68	40	40			
Red-crested Pochard	2	1							
Pochard	43	23	13	98				1	
Tufted Duck	2924	1831	44	800	14	32		6	8
Long-tailed Duck		1							
Goldeneye	1	7		2					
Cormorant	482	443	31	19	2	1			
Bittern	1								
Little Egret	46	57	3	2			2	1	
Great White Egret	3	3							
Grey Heron	20	10	5	2	1	1		1	
Little Grebe	134	153	3	6		4			2
Great Crested Grebe	583	307	82	39					
Red-necked Grebe		1							
Black-necked Grebe	2	2							
Water Rail	8								
Moorhen	238	176	8	1	41	47	7	2	13
Coot	1843	2047	260	294	40	66			10

**Wheatear** A poor autumn with only three singles, at RWEg on 01.09, Gt Cast on 06.09 and RWDam on 08–09.10.

**House Sparrow** 20+ were reported at Barns Gardens on 20.10.

**Yellow Wagtail** On 08.09 there were 11 over Leigh and one at FHP. One over Wg on 24.09 was our final record.



<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	Regular at FHP throughout both months from 03.09, with two seen on 30.10. Passage was noted at Leigh with seven on 08.09 and eight on 18.09. Other records were from RWLynd, RW Whit, a Wg garden and Crown Well Bridge, Wg.
<b>Pied Wagtail</b>	A large roost was reported at Waitrose supermarket in Stamford but no numbers were quoted.
<b>Tree Pipit</b>	Birds were noted on five Sept dates, latest 18.09, over Leigh.
<b>Meadow Pipit</b>	Passage in the Leigh area was monitored between 11.09 and 03.10, with flocks of 100+ on five dates and a max of c.220 on 30.09.
<b>Rock Pipit</b>	Singles were at sites around RW(Dam, NA) and EBR between 04 and 29.10.
<b>Water Pipit</b>	One was at RWEg on 28 and 31.10.
<b>Chaffinch</b>	c.100 were around Leigh on 30.09.
<b>Brambling</b>	Two were at Luff Airfield on 02.10, and one at EBR on 23.10.
<b>Goldfinch</b>	Numerous flocks of up to 50 birds (eg at PGW on 16.09) have frequented teasel, thistle and wild bird mixes this autumn. 150 near Pilt on 20.10 was the largest flock reported.
<b>Siskin</b>	There were five over Leigh on 18.09 and 11 on 30.09. Six were at Greet GC on 16.10 and c.60 were on alders at RWLynd on 27.10.
<b>Linnet</b>	Southerly passage at Martinsthorpe/Chater valley produced 83 on 23.10, c.180 on 27.10 and c.120 on 29.10.
<b>Lesser Redpoll</b>	c.12 were in birches at RWEg on 15.10 and c.30 flew SE at Martinsthorpe on 23.10.
<b>Yellowhammer</b>	c.40 were around Martinsthorpe on 05.09 and c.30 were in hedgerows at QF on 17.10.

## BOTANY

### RECORDER John Rodgers

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### September/October 2016

As winter approaches the number of records received has dwindled away. Perhaps we have all been too dazzled by the beautiful autumn colours to look down at our feet for competitors to the trees.

There were only five records for September, which included **Hop** found at Horn Mill and a white flowered **Clustered Bell Flower** at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

There were four records for October – again, interesting records. One was **Greater Celandine**, a member of the poppy family and nothing to do with Lesser Celandine, except that both have yellow, four-petalled flowers. From the same site, the LRWT paddock at Aldgate in Ketton, came **Mistletoe**, not in flower at this time but an interesting record. It has been recorded only one other time in the last 15 years and that was from the same site and therefore probably the same plant. Guy Messenger in his Flora of Rutland also records it, in 1961, as in Ketton by the Chater, so that too might have been the same plant? Has it spread naturally? Greater Celandine appeared in records from 2004 until 2008 but hasn't been recorded since.

There are still flowers about. A recent walk along the Oakham bypass yielded **White** and **Red Deadnettle**, **Common Fumitory**, **Bristly Ox-tongue**, **Smooth** and **Prickly Sow-thistle**, **Dandelion**, **Common Toadflax**, **Fox and Cubs**, **Groundsel**, **Hedge Bindweed** and **Common Chickweed**. If we have another mild winter, as in recent times, it won't be long until early flowers appear, perhaps to sit alongside some of the late flowering plants?

I've read elsewhere that it isn't a good year for berries, but there do seem to be plenty around and about here, except for sloes. I hope there will be plenty of holly for Christmas, though with only one source of mistletoe we'll have to rely on the markets.

## BUTTERFLIES

### RECORDER Richard Brown

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### September/October 2016

A slowish but steady stream of record came in with the mild weather of these last two months. There have been no more species recorded new for Rutland 2016 in the last two months – the count for the year remains on 29 species. Notable records for September/October 2016 are as follows:

<b>Red Admiral</b>	Large numbers recorded in late September, with 25 at Leighfield, 22 of which were attracted by apples.
<b>White-Letter Hairstreak</b>	A singleton again at Ketton, the second record this year for this new site for the species.
<b>Brown Argus</b>	Singletons now scattered from June 1 to September 1.
<b>Small Copper</b>	4 records from 2 sites, with one pair noted and three singletons.
<b>Common Blue</b>	6 at Ketton, 4 at Walk Farm.
<b>Small White</b>	Recorded from 7 sites, maximum 14 at Rutland Water.
<b>Speckled Wood</b>	11 records from 5 sites, maximum number 6 at Ketton.
<b>Painted Lady</b>	A disappointing end to the season, just two records of singletons.

Also recorded in September/October:

**Brimstone, Comma, Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Small Tortoiseshell, Green-veined White, Large White.**

No records at all in September/October for:

**Marbled White, White Admiral, Holly Blue, any Fritillary, any Skipper, Orange Tip, Peacock, Gatekeeper, Ringlet.**

*Thanks for records received from D and J Ball, P Bennett, T Caldicott, M Grimes, R Lemmon and D Needham.*

## MOTHS

### RECORDER Paul Bennett

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Lyndon trapping finished early this year. It is hoped to continue there next year with a new type of trap which will improve the number of species caught. I will purchase a more suitable trap from Adrian Russell for next year. EBR got trapped twice in September, with the highlight being 254 Sebaceous Hebrew Character on 2nd September. I will be at the Recorders' and Members meeting on December 6 with moth books, trap information, etc.

*Thanks to: P Bennett, R Follows, J Harvey, P Rudkin*

## ORTHOPTERA

### RECORDER Phil Rudkin

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### September/October 2016

The occasional reasonable weather maintained the stridulations of the crickets, but as October approached the grasshoppers were declining as expected. Rutland Water reserves feature strongly in this period; and we carried out research on two new areas of the Egleton reserve, which now completes our annual coverage of the whole of the reserve.

The new Volunteer Training Centre (VTC) area had never been monitored, so a small team assembled outside the Centre on 11 September at 10.30 am, and covered the areas around this part of the reserve. The results (although expected) were



Dark Bush Cricket, P Rudkin,

excellent, with large numbers of crickets and a few grasshoppers logged. First, we went through gate 8, and covered the area to the west of the VTC, checking the lush grasses on the banks of Lagoon 4. Just off the banks is a fabulous old mixed hedgerow, and two bat-detectors were employed to locate hundreds of Speckled Bush Crickets. Alan Chiverton did a great job with his detector, walking along a 100-yard stretch of the hedgerow, with his arm fully entrenched in the scrub. The banks were full of Roesel's Bush Crickets and Long-winged Coneheads (their sounds were incredible!) and a few Lesser Marsh and Meadow Grasshoppers were caught and identified. At 1.15pm we relocated to the east side of the VTC, and in the tall rough vegetation (both sides of the track) Roesel's Bush Crickets were in enormous numbers. All these sightings meant new sites for the reserve.

We were privileged to survey another new site at Rutland Water on 10 October. This is a private area at this time, but we were delighted to be able to check the inhabitants of 'Skylark Meadow'.

On 14 September, three members covered another new area of Rutland, this time at Barrow, near Cottesmore, with pleasing results. Roesel's Bush Crickets and Speckled Bush crickets were in abundance. Later that day, we ventured the short distance to Market Overton, and just near the Black Bull pub found new sites for Lesser Marsh Grasshopper and Roesel's Bush Cricket.

During my Bird Watch walk at Barnsdale Gardens, on 2 October, I checked the car park for the colonies of Speckled Bush Crickets, and all were present and correct.

'Our man' at the Lyndon reserve, Martin Grimes, continued his important and regular reports from there, thanks Martin! There are very few records of Oak Bush Crickets reported, therefore I am indebted to Clive Jones, who almost every year manages to find the odd Oak Bush Cricket in his Uppingham garden. This is not surprising if you know the wonderful, large mature trees surrounding his property.

When time permits, the usual regular and well known habitats inhabited by the Rutland Orthoptera are checked out, to give us an idea of how the populations are faring. I am glad to say that all were doing well.

Finally, as regards any new species occurring in Rutland; they did not! So, we wait to see what 2017 brings.

## BUSH CRICKETS

### Oak Bush Cricket

*Meconema thalassinum*

One male found dead in Clive's kitchen, on 6 September. One male found alive in his garage, on 26 October.

### Dark Bush Cricket

*Pholidoptera griseoptera*

Only one report received for this common cricket. Eight stridulating males in hedgerow, in the first field, Quarry Farm, Little Casterton Road end, 2.15 pm, 11 Sept. A regular hot spot!

### Roesel's Bush Cricket

*Metrioptera roeselii*

Three stridulating males in meadow next to Prior's Coppice, 4 Sept, SK 832050. Large colony located in rough grasses in farm field gateway, on 14 Sept, Barrow, SK893157, new site. Four males heard in rough herbage at farm gate, on 14 Sept, Market Overton, SK 895164, new site.

In addition to the regular Rutland Water Surveys, Martin Grimes reports from the Lyndon reserve: Large colony of stridulating males, in Field 2, on 28 Sept. SK 897057. On 2 October, Martin had large numbers heard in rough grasses outside Tufted Duck Hide, SK 887053. Ten plus stridulating males in grass track along the Dunlin Hide Corridor on 10 Oct, SK 877078, new site.

The second Egleton Survey took place on 11 Sept, at the VTC. The first area was just past the Centre at the edge of Lagoon 4. The rough grass vegetation was 'teeming' with stridulating males, SK 882082, new site. Further along the bank, another large colony was discovered, SK 885082, new site. Back at the VTC, the paths by the side of the building (both sides), held large numbers, SK 892083, new site.

At the Lyndon reserve, on 9 October, circa 6 males were heard in pasture, south of the reserve centre, SK 898056. The new Skylark Meadow (private site) was visited on 10 October, with 10 plus stridulating males in the lush vegetation.

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

Several of the regular haunts were visited during the September/October period, including: Wing Burrows, Quarry Farm Stamford, Horn Mill and North Brook Exton, Leighfield, and Verge 7 Great Casterton.

On the second Egleton Survey (see above), a large colony of stridulating males were located on the rich grass banks of Lagoon 4, next to the VTC, SK 880082, new site.

From the Lyndon reserve, one male stridulating in Field 2, SK 897057, 28 Sept. Again, on the Lyndon reserve, only one male heard on 9 October, south of the Interpretive Centre, SK 898056. The numbers of these green crickets on the Egleton Reserve continues to rise; large numbers were heard, and a few observed, in the lush grasses/thistles of the Dunlin Hide corridor on 10 October, SK877079, new site.

A further visit to the Egleton Reserve was made on 5 October, and large colonies were flourishing; with sightings outside Snipe Hide, SK 881066, in front of Pintail Hide, SK 883065, and outside the 360 Hide, SK 881063.

Time allowed visits to regular sites to check if all was well; including Wing Burrows, Quarry Farm (at both ends of the wildflower meadows), Horn Mill and North Brook.

**Short-winged Conehead**  
*Conocephalus dorsalis*

The visit to the Egleton reserve on 5 October especially to monitor this enigmatic cricket was very pleasing, with colonies in good condition; 4 stridulating males in wet vegetation in the Wet Meadow scrub and small pond site, SK 882067. A thriving large colony, in the wet vegetation outside Tern Hide, SK 884066. 6+ stridulating males, near Pintail Hide, SK 883065. And 4 small colonies, outside Heron Hide, SK 883060.

**Speckled Bush Cricket**  
*Leptophyes punctatissima*



Female Speckled Bush Cricket,  
P Rudkin.

Bat-detectors are essential (at 35 kHz) for locating the stridulating of this species. Four stridulating males in hedgerow, Prior's Coppice nature reserve car park, and six in hedgerow at farm field gateway opposite the car park, on 4 Sept, SK 832050, new site. Large colony discovered in Crab Apple and Ash trees on road outside Barrow village, on 14 Sept, SK 893157, new site.

Reports from 'our man' at the Lyndon reserve, all on 28 September: 5+ stridulating males in the Interpretive Centre car park, SK 893055. 2+ in trees along the farm track, SK 894055. Two stridulating males in trees south of the cycle track, east of the Interpretive Centre, SK 899056. On the 2 October, one heard in scrub, next to Tufted Duck Hide, SK 889054.

The second Egleton survey (11 Sept) took place next to the VTC – this area had not been monitored before. It was a welcome surprise, with a massive number of stridulating males heard in a 100-yard stretch of old mixed hedgerow, next to Lagoon 4, SK 880082, new site. Finally, 2 males were heard in a South-facing hedge, near Manor Farm, Ketton, in October, SK 984047, new site.

Regular sites visited during this period: Quarry Farm, Barnsdale Gardens, Horn Mill Exton, and Protected Verge 7.

**GRASSHOPPERS**

**Field Grasshopper**  
*Chorthippus brunneus*

One observed next to Crown Well Bridge, near Wing, on 29 Sept, SK 884037, new site.

**Meadow Grasshopper**  
*Chorthippus parallelus*

Two stridulating males in meadow at the edge of the field, opposite Prior's Coppice entrance, on 4 Sept, SK 832050, new site. The second Egleton Survey (11 Sept), next to the VTC; 12+ stridulating males, and 3 observed, on the grass bank of Lagoon 4, SK 880082, new site. Martin at the Lyndon reserve (Oct 2) reported: one stridulating male in grasses outside Waderscape Hide, SK 884052, and one heard next to Shallow Water Hide, SK 881052.

Regular haunts monitored: Quarry Farm wildflower meadows (both entrances), Verge 7, Horn Mill and North Brook, Bloody Oaks Quarry.

**Lesser Marsh Grasshopper**  
*Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Four males, two females, observed in grass verge opposite the Black Bull pub, Market Overton, on 14 Sept, SK 886164, new site. Second Egleton Survey (11 Sept), next to the VTC, 4 observed in grasses on the bank of Lagoon 4, SK 882082, new site. Two males identified in the wildflower meadow of Quarry Farm (Casterton



Road end) on 30 Sept, TF 009084, new site.

Worthy of mention is a late instar nymph, found in grass in the Wet Meadow site, Egleton, Rutland Water, on 5 October.

Regular haunts monitored: Quarry Farm, Stamford; Horn Mill and North Brook, Exton.

Many thanks to: T Caldicott, A Chiverton, M Grimes, C Jones, A Lawrence, D Needham, P Rudkin

## OTHER INSECTS AND INVERTEBRATES RECORDER Gill Chiverton

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### July/August 2016

The following report is for July/August, the next two months (September/October) will appear in January, hopefully with November/December. Please continue sending in your records.

#### ODONATA Damselflies

**Banded Demoiselle**  
*Calopteryx splendens*

**August** One noted at Barrowden.

**Emerald Damselfly**  
*Lesetes sponsa*

**August** Seven recorded Leighfield Fishponds.

**White-legged Damselfly**  
*Platycnemis pennipes*

**July** One on three occasions at Crown Well Bridge; 3 seen at Leighfield Fishponds.

**August** One seen Crown Well Bridge.

**Red-eyed Damselfly**  
*Erythromma najas*

**July** Eight seen at Leighfield Fishponds.

**Common Blue Damselfly**  
*Enallagma cyathigerum*

**July** One male and a record of 'many' at Oakham Canal. Many also at Lyndon NR.

**August** Many seen at RW Egleton.

#### ODONATA Dragonflies

**Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncea*

**July** Noted at Lyndon NR.

**Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta*

**July** Noted at Oakham Canal. Single insects seen at Manton and Leighfield Fishponds.

**Southern Hawker** *Aeshna cyanea*

**July** One, unusually, caught in mothtrap at Eyebrook.

**August** Noted several times at Barrowden and at RW Egleton.

**Brown Hawker** *Aeshna grandis*

**July** Noted at Oakham Canal.

**August** Noted several times at Barrowden. 4+ recorded at Oakham Canal and one at RW Egleton.

**Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator*

**August** One seen at Oakham Canal.

**Four-spotted Chaser**  
*Libellula quadrimaculata*

**August** Two noted Leighfield Fishponds.

**Common Darter**  
*Sympetrum striolatum*

**August** One male noted on two occasions at Oakham Canal.

**Ruddy Darter**  
*Sympetrum sanguineum*

**August** One female noted at Ketton Quarry.

#### BUGS Hemiptera

**Green Shieldbug**  
*Palomena prasina*

**August** Last instar nymph on spinach leaf at Wing.

**Red-legged Shieldbug**  
*Pentatoma rufipes*

**August** One noted on doorstep at Wing.



## BEETLES Coleoptera

### Lesser Stag Beetle

*Dorcus parallelipipedus*

**August** One found indoors in Wing.

### 24-spot Ladybird

*Subcoccinella 24-punctata*

**July** One noted near Pilton.

### Black-striped Longhorn

*Stenurella melanura*

**July** One noted on bramble flower at Crown Well Bridge.

### Golden-bloomed Grey Longhorn

*Agapantha villosoviridescens*

**July** One seen near North Brook at Loves Lane, Empingham.

### Leaf Beetle *Donacia semicuprea*

**July** Three noted on reeds at Leighfield Fishponds.

## FLIES Diptera

### Kite-tailed Robberfly

*Machimus atricapillus*

**August** One noted near Pilton.

### Hoverfly *Chrosotoxum verralli*

**July** Noted on two occasions at Crown Well Bridge, and also at Pilton.

### Marmalade Hoverfly

*Episyrphus balteatus*

**July** Seen in good numbers, <130 on trackway Crown Well Bridge.

### Hoverfly *Helophilus hybridus*

**July** One noted near pond at Leighfield Fishponds.

### Hoverfly *Helophilus trivittatus*

**July** One noted at Leighfield Fishponds.

## BEES Hymenoptera

### Tree Bumble Bee

*Bombus hypnorum*

**July** One noted Crown Well Bridge; 2 seen at Leighfield, one seen Manton, two noted Pilton.

### Red-tailed Bumble Bee

*Bombus lapidarius*

**July** One noted Oakham.

**August** One noted Ketton.

### White-tailed Bumble Bee

*Bombus lucorum*

**August** Small numbers noted in Ketton Quarry.

### Common Carder Bee

*Bombus pascuorum*

**August** <20 noted in Bloody Oaks Quarry.

### Honey Bee *Apis mellifera*

**August** Good numbers noted Bloody Oaks Quarry.

## SLUGS Gastropoda

### Large Black Slug *Arion ater ater*

**August** One young slug noted at Quarry Farm.

## LAND SNAILS Gastropoda

### Brown-lipped Snail

*Cepea nemoralis*

**August** Two noted in woodland at RW.

### Kentish Snail *Monacha cantiana*

**August** One noted in woodland at RW.

### White-lipped Snail

*Cepaea hortensis*

**July** Several in hedge surrounding Seaton Meadows.

**August** <10 noted at Clipsham Quarry. One seen (yellow variety) at RW Lax Hide.

## PLANT GALLS

### RECORDER Roy Lemmon

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### September 2016

This has been a bumper month for recording plant galls, due mostly to the joint meeting with the British Plant Gall Society held at Prior's Coppice on the 5th. Attendance was low but those who did attend were impressed by the expertise of the BPGS members and had a pleasant time. The total galls recorded reached 60 species, 20 of which were on Oak and a further 7 on Willow. Several had not been

recorded in the county previously and all will add to our cover of plant galls.

There were also reports this month from Horn Mill on the 8th, some 17 species; Bloody Oak Quarry on the 17th, a further 14 species, and Rutland Water Lagoon 2 on the 22nd, 18 species.

## October 2016

It is now virtually the end of the gall season, the leaves are falling and this removes the predominant source of galls. Also observers are more reluctant to be out and about.

A visit to Ketton Quarry on the 2nd found 13 species, all of which had not been recorded there this year. Another visit to Ketton on the 6th, but this time to the LRWT's paddock in Aldgate, produced 19 records, 6 of which were on Oak which can usually be relied on to boost numbers found. There were also a fungus on Ground Elder, a nail gall on Lime, and a gall on Box, which is caused by a Psyllid. Also present is Mistletoe on old cultivated apple trees, and this causes a gall where it enters the tree. This is the only record we have for Rutland – there could be others. If so, let me know!

The last report from Wing on the 31st is of a gall on Cultivated Pear in the observer's garden. It takes the form of spiky extrusions on the leaves and is due to a rust. We have only one previous report of this gall, on Wild Pear, in Oakham, so if you spot it on any of your pears please let know – a photograph would be useful.

*Thanks are due to BPGS members I Farmer, T Higginbottom and C Leach; and to Dr C Gallimore, M Grimes and R Lemmon.*

## MAMMALS

**RECORDER** Linda Biddle

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## July–October 2016

A mammoth set of records to present this time, so thank you to all who continue to send in reports to me. I include those of you who have been trying to send reports on-line, which may not have been acknowledged – do let us know if this happens so that your efforts will not have been wasted!

The beautiful autumn weather has been appreciated by **Fallow Deer** at Pickworth and Clipsham Park Woods, the unmistakable evocative resonant sounds of rutting, clashing and roaring, clearly heard on 23rd to 28th October. At Belton House those able to visit on November 6th were able to see the fallow performing the rut at close quarters, as you will have seen on the front cover. Earlier in October six does and one buck had been observed in Pickworth Wood, a single buck seen on the 31st, and a doe at Woodhead next to the road. A single **Roe** buck was observed at Greetham Valley Golf Club in early October. On two occasions in July and again in August a **Muntjac** appeared on camera at Orchard Road Langham, and one was seen at Gibbet's Gorse RWNR. Others were recorded from Wing Tunnel top in September and October, and at RWNR Field 45. A dead muntjac fawn was found in Pickworth Wood in October, and droppings found at Ketton Quarry in July. Muntjac are extremely numerous now, and culling is being carried out in our local Forest Enterprise woodlands.

**Hedgehogs** should now be well ensconced in their nests of dry leaves, and safe enough from the approaching winter cold. Unfortunately, the warm conditions of late summer and early autumn encouraged late breeding, and as a result there have been a number of small underweight hoglets which needed to be rescued. In Barrowden one or two hedgehogs were seen most nights in July, August and September and in Orchard Road Langham the camera recorded hedgehogs emerging to feed between 10 pm and 3.00 am almost every night in the same three months. In October, 2 small hoglets were feeding, one very wobbly, in Linda Worrall's garden. They fed and ran off. The next day one was seen in nearby Chapel Lane, and a day or two afterwards a very small one was found in a Chapel Lane garden, rescued by villagers and put into a rabbit hutch to keep warm. The following day a second one was found in the adjacent garden in daylight, and both

were then put into cat-boxes and taken indoors. They were taken to Leicester Wildlife Hospital, where sadly one died the next day (both weighed exactly 12oz). Later in October another one was rescued nearby and also taken to LWH, who say that if they survive they will return them to Barrowden in the spring. On a happier note, at the end of October Linda found a nest under a hydrangea in her garden, 'quite large, made of leaves and tucked in between the trunk and the garage wall, being covered by lots more leaves as they fall. Very sensible place for a nest!' Until a few days before she had been visited regularly by a medium-sized one, hopefully the one in the nest! Linda also spotted a 'lovely plump **Bank Vole** foraging around' in her garden on a warm August afternoon, the only one reported this month.

**Fox and Squirrel** were also recorded very regularly by the trail cam in Langham, the fox appearing 6 times in July, on 20 nights in both August and September, and squirrels 10, 8 and 9 times in the same three months. Other squirrels were seen at Pickworth, Lyndon and Gibbet's Gorse. **A Fieldmouse** put in appearances on the Langham trail cam on five occasions during September. **Badgers** are busy in Ketton and Hambleton, and road casualties were recorded near Ketton, Wing and at Barnsdale. In October, following no otter evidence in July, August and September, **Otter** spraint and footprints were found at RWNR at Manton and Heron Bays, Burley Fish Ponds, and near the Egleton Centre, and a part eaten bream was left at Fort Henry Ponds near the outfall to the top lake. Also near Fort Henry, on the road from the A1, a **Stoat** crossed the track in early October, and in the same month a stoat was seen on Holygate Road Leighfield, another in a garden in Barrow and one from Shallow Water Hide RWNR. A **Weasel** was also seen on Holygate road Leighfield, and another crossed the road to Market Overton near Thistleton.

In July and August **Rabbits** were recorded at Clipsham, Quarry Farm Great Casterton, Oakham Canal and the VTC at RWNR; in September and October at Swan Hide RWNR, and a Barrow garden where molehills were also evident. A **Mole** was found dead in Pickworth Wood, and molehills seen at Manor Farm Pickworth, Verge 5 Essendine, verges at Horn Mill, at Lax Hill and near Lagoon 3 RWNR. **Brown Hares** were recorded from the Pickworth area and golf clubs locally. There were 4 reports of **Brown Rat** footprints on mink rafts at RWNR, and one was found dead by Pickworth Wood. A single **Common Shrew** was found dead in the cutting at Ketton Quarry in July.

Finally, there was some heartening news at the October survey of **Water Voles**. At RWNR water voles provided ample evidence of their presence at all sites monitored on the reserve, and happily, following their absence from both N and S stretches of Oakham Canal since last summer, they have reappeared at the S end – abundant droppings on several of the rafts near to the small weir at the S end of the open water have been found. The summer season must have been a successful one for them, and they have ventured out from the reedy area nearest to Oakham and recolonised the banks.

*Records have been received from: D & J Ball, R Bakker, P Bennett, A Biddle, T Caldicott, C Gallimore, M Grimes, W Halford, P Langston, R Lemmon, M Markham, T Mitcham, P Rudkin*

## BATS

### RECORDER Jenny Harris

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### May to October 2016

There were few records from members during the period, other than at roost counts and from various visits by the Bat Group. Ten roosts were counted for the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP), and a summary is included in these notes. A summary of grounded bats for the period is also included, showing that seven bats were found grounded this year, compared with fourteen in the same period last year.

The weather in May and June was cooler than the mean and also wetter, which

may have meant that babies were born a little later than usual, as their mothers delayed the birth until conditions were more suitable for feeding and lactating. However, this could have acted in the bats' favour as the conditions in July and August were warmer and drier, allowing females to feed well during lactation and newly flying juveniles to forage more successfully. Only one of the grounded bats was a juvenile this year compared with ten in 2015.

### **Pipistrelle species (including common and soprano pips)**

In Barrowden, pipistrelle-sized bats were observed foraging over a garden on 4.5 and 8.5, with two together on the latter date, and there were occasional sightings at dusk in June. Common pipistrelles were seen regularly throughout May with up to three on several occasions, in an Oakham garden. At least one common pipistrelle could be seen patrolling my own front garden in Oakham from July until October, and there were occasional soprano pipistrelles among the trees in the back garden from May onwards. In May common and soprano pipistrelles were foraging in Burley Wood during surveys for Nathusius' pipistrelle on the 8th. On 1 May a probable soprano pipistrelle emerged from part of the same roost as the Nathusius' and on 14 May one soprano pipistrelle was caught in the harp trap in Burley Wood. On 4 June four soprano pipistrelles were caught on the south shore of Hambleton peninsula, and several were also trapped on 1 October. Only one soprano pipistrelle was found 'grounded' (see summary of grounded bats below), but there were six common pipistrelles. Six pipistrelle roosts were counted for the NBMP (see summary of roost counts below).

Although the Wing colony has been identified as common pipistrelle in the past, Dave Cole identified the 32 bats emerging on 21 June as sopranos, with advanced echolocation technology. I was told of an important new soprano roost in Ketton in June, and the bats' emergence was observed (but not counted) during a Bats and Glow-worms walk in early July. Also at Ketton eight common pipistrelles were observed foraging under tree canopy at Ketton Quarry at 9.45pm on 5 July in The Valley. Both common and soprano were foraging in Hambleton churchyard on 22 August.

### **Nathusius' pipistrelle**

Two trapping sessions and two other surveys were carried out at the known maternity roost in Burley Wood, a deer hide alongside the main ride where six rides meet. On 1 May, nine Nathusius' pipistrelles emerged but easily evaded the harp trap at the roost. A single small male was caught at a trap set up nearby, ringed and fur samples taken. On 8 May the first bat came out silently from around the doorway at 9.00 pm, approximately 20 minutes after sunset. A little later two groups of four emerged, then a single bat, the 10th. One N.pip returned to the south side of the roost on several occasions, each time making a strange, explosive contact call. A wasp was seen, possibly prospecting round the hide just before 9.0 pm and later at dusk, which the bats seemed to react to with sharp buzzing calls, as if to shoo it away. Four bats emerged from the roost on 13 May, and on 14 May a harp trapping session caught two males, one of which had been caught and ringed on the 1st. On 18 May, Jon Russ, the national Nathusius' expert, heard a male calling from the roof of a large house in High Street, Hambleton, so the next trapping session was on south shore, Hambleton Peninsula, on 4 June, when two males were caught and ringed. No trapping was carried out during June and July when the females would be giving birth, and a planned trapping session at the end of July had to be cancelled because of bad weather, so there was no further trapping until 1 October. On that occasion four bats were caught, one of which had been ringed in 2015, and a female. From these results it is still not confirmed that the species is breeding in Rutland, since none of the bats from the Burley Wood roost have been proved to be breeding females. Bats were heard foraging at Barnsdale Wood and Hambleton Peninsula on 12 October, but the most exciting news is that at the end of October, Joelle Woolley, who checks bat boxes she has put up at Rutland Water, found five Nathusius' pips in a box next to Lagoon 3, two of which were unringed females, and a week later a male was in a box near Lagoon 4.

### Brown long-eared bat

The colony in Wing were counted, and although there were few bats during June, the number had risen in July, when the weather was warmer. Plenty of droppings were found at this roost, and numerous bats flying in August. There were no grounded Brown long-eared bats during the period this year.

### Daubenton's bat

One Daubenton's bat was caught in the harp trap at Hambleton Wood on 4 June. Bats were heard foraging over the River Chater at Sinc Bridge and the bridge in Station Road, Ketton, on 11 July during the Bats and Glow-worms walk, and at Barnsdale Creek and south shore, Hambleton Peninsula on 12 October.

### Natterer's bat

Whissendine Church was counted for the NBMP (see summary below). There were no other records.

### Whiskered bat

During a visit to the maternity roost in Seaton on 27 June, eight bats were observed emerging, but I may have been late arriving and missed the start of emergence. A female whiskered bat was caught in a harp trap at Burley Wood on 14 May. No other records.

### Noctule bat

On 8 May, at Burley Wood, the distant sound of noctule bats was heard, and at around 9.0 pm a single bat was seen flying down one of the rides. During a visit to Burley on 8 August, Joelle and I saw (and heard) noctule bats flying low along the Main Ride near the Nathusius' roost, and followed them back along the direction of flight up a ride going north eastwards from the junction. They had been emerging from the woodland, but frustratingly had just completed emergence. We went to the wood again a few days later and Joelle pinpointed the tree from which they were emerging, again just after emergence ceased. Joelle also found a roost in Barnsdale Wood, and on 12 October she and another Bat Group member found a male social-calling from a tree to attract females in the wood. He did not take kindly to being picked out in torch light.

### Summary of Grounded Bats in 2016

Date	Species	Location	Age	Sex	Outcome	Comments
5.6	Soprano Pipistrelle	Main Street, Preston SK 871024	Ad	F	Released 16.6 <sup>(1)</sup>	Pregnant, trapped in iron gate.
14.7	Common pipistrelle	Uppingham	Juv	F	Retained in care <sup>(2)</sup>	Just-flying, location unknown
26.7	Common pipistrelle	Churchill Road, Oakham SK 851085	Ad	M	Died, E. 18.8	Wrist swollen, possible head injury
1.8	Common pipistrelle	Cold Overton Road, Oakham, SK 848089	Ad	F	Died, E. 2.10	Thin, broken forearm, cat victim
14.8	Pipistrelle sp.	Wing, SK 894030	-	-	Released 14.8	Found clinging to wall at ground level.
30.8	Common pipistrelle	Grampian Way, Oakham SK 848087	Ad	F	Died, E. 30.8	Broken left forearm, membrane damage, possible cat victim.
1.9	Common pipistrelle	Newtown Road, Uppingham SP 859994	Ad	M	Died overnight	Holes in both wing membranes, exposed finger bone on right wing, probable cat victim
20.9	Common pipistrelle	King's Road, Oakham SK 854087	Ad	M	Died, E. 21.9	Thin, broken left humerus, holes in wing membranes, possible cat victim.

Key: Ad -Adult; Juv - Juvenile; M - male; F - female; E = the bat died by euthanasia, performed by the Oakham Veterinary Hospital, because of injuries or deterioration in its health and quality of life.



- (1) This bat was found trapped by one wing in a wrought iron gate. It was collected by an RSPCA inspector and brought to me for care. The skin of her forearm had been displaced, exposing the bone, but this was manipulated back into place by my vet and secured with veterinary glue. She was pregnant and gave birth to a baby on 15 June. It was then imperative that she be returned to her maternity roost as quickly as possible, before the baby became too heavy for her to carry. She was a good weight by this time, and flying well in the lounge. I released her in an area of community grassland in Preston, and she flew off in the direction of the house where she had been found.
- (2) This juvenile female pipistrelle was brought to me by a resident of Uppingham, who said that the person who found her knocked on his door and handed her over, saying 'You know about animals, I want you to care for this bat'. I do not know where the bat was found, and as she was barely of the size to be flying I sought advice from another carer, who felt that as the bat probably would not know where to find a roost or where to feed, she should not be released. During the first few weeks after beginning to fly, bats continue to be suckled by their mothers, so have a resource to fall back on if they are unable to find food, so long as they can get back to their natal roost. It is thought that they are also shown where to forage by their mothers and the maternity group. She would quite likely have starved if released without this support.

## Roost counts

Ten roosts of five species were included in the NBMP Roost Count survey, co-ordinated by The Bat Conservation Trust.

## Summary of roosts counted for NBMP

Figures shown are for the larger of two counts carried out in June, with last year's figures (where known) in brackets.

Location	Species	Count	Comments
Braunston-in-Rutland church	Soprano pipistrelle	554 (429)	Bats emerged from a different location this year. <sup>(1)</sup>
Egleton Church	Soprano pipistrelle	506 (998)	Significant reduction, reason unknown. <sup>(2)</sup>
Exton (Fox and Hounds)	Soprano pipistrelle	0 (3)	Renovation and building work carried out <sup>(3)</sup>
Morcott (house)	Common pipistrelle	74 (NC)	The number had fallen to 57 in July <sup>(4)</sup>
Rutland Watersports	Soprano pipistrelle	0 (0)	Bat not present all year.
Seaton (house)	Whiskered bat	NC (NC)	Bats were present but not counted.
Stoke Dry Church	Natterer's bat		
Whissendine church	Natterer's bat	44 (45)	
Wing (house)	Common or soprano pipistrelle	30 (NC)	The number had risen to 79 by 20 July
Wing (house)	Brown long-eared bat	2 (6)	The number had risen to 13 in July

- (1) At Braunston church it is thought the bats are roosting in the same site inside the church but most of the bats came out from a different location.
- (2) During the summer, lead was stolen off the roof of Egleton church. It is hoped repairs will take this important bat maternity roost into account.
- (3) The soprano pipistrelle colony at The Fox and Hounds, which in 2014 had a total count of nearly 800 bats, appears to have been excluded following the change of ownership and renovation work carried out without appropriate advice. This roost will now be deleted from the NBMP register.
- (4) Counts in July are usually expected to be higher, since it should include newly-flying juveniles in addition to the females. At Morcott the reduction in numbers during July to 57 on 7 July and down to four by 18 July, suggests that most of the colony had moved before the young began to fly.

## RIVERS

### RECORDER David Roome

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

Thank you, Steve and Helen, for this interesting article about bee 'firsts for Rutland' and the work that goes into insect identification – and a plea for information.

## Multum in parvo – firsts for Rutland!

Rutland's motto 'much in little' applies well to three of our recent bee and wasp finds. They are tiny insects but of great significance – first records for Rutland (as far as we know) and two are firsts for VC55.

A black bee was caught in a pan trap at Tixover, near the church, SP970997 on 22 May 2016 by SFW and HI. It is only 5.4 mm long. We recognised it as a *Lasioglossum*, but this is a large and difficult genus so we took it along to the Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society (BWARS) AGM in Cardiff for assistance, where Steven Falk identified it as *Lasioglossum minutissimum*. As the name suggests, it is the smallest in the genus. It nests in light soil. This is a first for VC55.



*Nitela lucens* nests in holes in old walls and dead wood. Steve Woodward

An even tinier black wasp (4 mm) was found by SFW and HI on a wall near Lyddington church, SP876969 on 28 May 2016. We keyed it out with little difficulty to *Nitela*, a genus with no previous VC55 records and no reference specimen in our local collection (Barrow upon Soar). Specific identification relies on a subtle difference in texture on the propodeum (at the back of the thorax), so comparison with a reference specimen was needed. SFW took it to Liverpool Museum, where it was found to match *Nitela lucens* (confirmed by Carl Clee). This is scarcely recorded nationally, with no 'dots' anywhere near Rutland (see <http://www.bwars.com/wasp/crabronidae/larrinae/nitela-lucens>).

Tiny insects like these which are hard work to identify are likely to be under-recorded so it is difficult to assess their true status.

A third small (5 mm), black wasp *Diodontus tristis* was recorded at Barrowden, SK948003 on 18 June 2015. This has been found many times in Leicestershire, but we are unaware of any Rutland records. It is a predator of aphids and it nests in dry, sandy soil. This one is not difficult to identify under the microscope.

We have made further records of bees and wasps in Rutland over the last few years. All our records are submitted to LRERC where they are validated and put onto the L&R Recorder database, which is publicly accessible. Our records also go to BWARS then, after validation, onto the NBN.

**The authors would be delighted to learn of good solitary bee and wasp sites in Rutland**, and to help any RNHS member who wishes to identify specimens (we are unlikely to be able to help with photos).

**Steve Woodward & Helen Ikin**

*Loughborough Naturalists' Club*

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