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NOTICEBOARD

Winter Programme and Membership Card

This will come with this *Fieldfare*. Please sign it straight away (names of junior members should be put on adults' cards) and always carry it if you go to Eyebrook or Burley Wood, or use it for books at Uppingham Sports and Books. This card has details of events through to April 2012, so you can plan ahead.

As always, membership subscriptions are due promptly on January 1st. You can renew before that date. All who renew, by Standing Order, cheque or cash, will receive the next Membership Card (with summer programme) with March *Fieldfare*. Anyone who has only just joined, however, is not due to renew until 1.1.13.

Annual Report

Your *Annual Report* will be arriving with this *Fieldfare*.

Many thanks to the Recorders for another comprehensive report of the wildlife in our area. It is a backbreaking job to get all this information together and the Society is truly grateful for their work.

New arrangements at Oakham Primary School from October 2011

Oakham CE Primary School has been completely rebuilt and is an extremely pleasant and high-specification building. It is on the same site, but as it is a new structure, members need to be aware of different access and facilities arrangements.

Timings: There is **NO** change to the timings of the meeting. We commence at 7.30 pm and we wind up at 9.30pm. There will be access for members from around 7pm.

Access and Parking: Access to the School is now directly off Burley Road. You can walk up to the front door from the road, and at either side of this pathway are two small roads which lead off into **very small** parking areas. Eventually there will be parking for a reasonable number of cars, but at the moment parking on site is restricted to these two areas only and there is unlikely to be room for more than 15–20 cars (disabled spaces are marked, but this restriction can be ignored for meeting nights).

Fieldfare

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We recommend that until the new parking area is finished, members try parking on nearby roads, where possible.

Venue: Our meetings will be held in the Main Hall. Access to this on meeting nights will be through the side door to the Hall adjacent to the School's front door. After 7 pm there will be a Society committee member on hand to let you through.

Facilities: Heating/cooling is entirely integral and automatic. The chairs are somewhat more comfortable than the previous type! Toilets are directly outside the Main Hall internal doors. Teas/coffees will continue to be made available at the end of the meeting. The tables for these will now be located in the Main Hall itself.

The School is kindly allowing us use of their screen, digital projector and microphone system. The microphone is a lapel-mic, and this should obviate the sound problems encountered with the hand-held mic at the previous building.

FOR THE FIRST MEETING ONLY, this sound system will not be available. We will institute alternative facilities, but they will obviously not be as good as the facilities we will have use of thereafter. **PLEASE BEAR WITH US!**

A Loop hearing system is installed in the Main Hall.

We think the new School is a wonderful building and we shall very much enjoy being located there. It is a magnificent addition to education provision in the area and facilities for families generally. We are sure all members will be comfortable attending meetings in the new Hall.

Any questions about these changes, please contact me.

Ann Tomlinson

Sound Recording Competition

When we arrived home from Spain, I opened my post, and had a lovely surprise! I have just won first place in the Sounds From Nature Class, again, for the 2011 contest, and 2nd place as well. I recorded both of these in France this May. The first one has also been put forward for the forthcoming International Contest, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed for a winner in this category. The winning entry was a recording, in stereo, of Marsh Frogs, Tree Frogs, and a Midwife Toad.

Phil Rudkin

Changes to Lepidoptera Recording

Alistair Lawrence is now the Society's **Butterfly Recorder**, taking over from Ron and Jean Harvey (former Lepidoptera Recorders) who will continue as the Society's **Moth Recorders**.

Jean has sent us this about her history with the RNHS:

Ron and I joined RNHS in the mid 1980s and our interest in moths began following a visit to Dimmingsdale wood with a Trust Group, where they were operating UV traps.

We subsequently put together some homemade traps ourselves, visited Rutland Water, Prior's Coppice, Burley Wood, etc. and began collecting records for RNHS.

In the summer of 1989 Monty Tyler, the then Entomology Recorder, left for Cyprus and asked us if we could take over. We had always had an interest in Butterflies, Dragonflies, etc., so it was just getting more involved. As the years have gone by the Society has grown and the number of records have multiplied; so that Phil took on Orthoptera, Roy Lemmon took on Plant Galls and Gill took on 'Other Insects'.

The present change-over is the next stage of delegating some more of the work!

The Society is truly grateful to the Harveys for their entomological recording over such a long period, for their continuing as Moth Recorders, and to Alistair for volunteering to become Butterfly Recorder.

Ann Tomlinson

A new Honorary Member

When Mike Iannantuoni left the area last year, the Committee decided they would like to thank Mike for all his help and support to the RNHS over the years, in particular with sound engineering, photography, programmes and posters, by making him an Honorary Member. Mike sent a lovely letter in return, and here is the text of that letter, received in April.

Thank you for your recent letter and thank you and the RNHS Committee for appointing me an Honorary Member of the Society. I am delighted at becoming one of an 'honoured' select few.

I very much enjoyed my time with RNHS whilst in Rutland and will enjoy keeping up to date with news 'from a distance'.

Ann Tomlinson

IMPORTANT! National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

You will no doubt have heard about this latest document from the Government. Frankly, everything bad you have read about it is PRETTY MUCH TRUE!

The NPPF is supposed to deliver streamlined planning arrangements for the benefit of communities and the economy. It goes hand-in-hand with the government's policy on Localism, which is subject to a current Bill going through Parliament. The theory behind Localism is that it returns local governance back to local authorities and residents, rather than using bureaucratic machinery remote from the local scene.

Both documents contain fine words and sentiments, but the reality is much murkier. The way things will work is that the Localism Bill (debated in Parliament) purports to give local communities the say on what gets built where. But in fact, the planning policy they work under is to be defined by the NPPF, and if a proposed development would be permitted by this policy the presumption is that it will happen, despite what the local community might think of the proposal.

This is because the NPPF gives priority to economic growth. Although this document pays lip service to the ideas of sustainability, environmental protection and the importance of green space, wild areas and a healthy environment for us all, terms and actions are not clearly defined. By contrast there are clear directions that there should be a presumption for planning applications to be permitted and for the planning process to be speeded up. The NPPF does make reference to legislative obligations to preserving certain areas and species (via SSSIs, SPAs, EU Directives, etc.) but it contains nothing substantive about how the wider environment and biodiversity will be preserved and enhanced if development is really supposed to be 'sustainable'.

Put starkly, the NPPF really is a 'developer's charter'. It is ill-conceived, unbalanced and it is not too extreme to say its implementation could mean the end of the English countryside as we know it. Even more shockingly, as a guidance framework, which nonetheless will have great power, it is not legislation and thus is not subject to debate in Parliament. The greatest change to our countryside for centuries, and our MPs don't even get to vote on it!

Leading politicians say they are committed to

it. But there is a strong groundswell, led by our friends and colleagues in national organizations, such as the National Trust, to try to force ministers to think again. The RNHS and LRWT will make formal objections.

But the more voices, the more chance ministers will realize how wrong they are. Please, please take time to write to your MP to voice your objections to this misguided government plan.

Please, if you can, go online and register your objections on the consultation itself:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicyframework/>

You can register your protest in the National Trust's campaign here:

<https://www.planningforpeople.org.uk/?campid=NPPFOA>

or you can write direct to:

*Department for Communities and Local
Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU*

The consultation period ends on 17th October.
Please act!

Ann Tomlinson

A message from Kazakhstan

One of the great things about volunteering at, or indeed visiting, Birdfair, is that you can listen to some fascinating lectures. I managed to sit in on one this year and not only was I enthralled by the subject, but I felt it had a real message for us at RNHS.

The Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*) is listed as Critically Endangered by Birdlife International. You can read all the scientific stuff on their website. The crux though is that breeding numbers appeared to be falling ever lower and there were thought to be only a few hundred pairs in Kazakhstan, its breeding area. This was a bit difficult to verify though, as Kazakhstan is as big as Western Europe (no, I didn't know that, either). Moreover, the birds disperse through Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Egypt, to key wintering sites in Israel, Eritrea, Sudan and north-west India.

But naturalists don't let little things like geography get them down. Birdlife brought together large NGOs and smaller voluntary organisations across that huge area and they all started to pool information. The first thing they did was to gather all the historical records the various organisations had – for instance, 45 birds in the Little Rann of Kutch in November 2007 and 30 at Great Rann of Kutch in November 2008 (wouldn't you like to go birding in the Great and Little Ranns of Kutch!). In this way they targeted areas of most sightings and then sent some field teams to check out these regions. The result? More breeding grounds were discovered and more birds counted, allowing scientists to revise the population figures upwards. They discovered not only new important breeding areas not identified before, but also areas used in migration. A bit of satellite-tracking of some of these birds has also allowed them to confirm migration to Eritrea and Sudan.

Now, this increased information doesn't make the birds safer – they're still classed as Critically Endangered. But what it has done is pinpoint specific areas, stopovers and flyways for protection, and consequently identify factors, both

natural and socio-economic, that might assist or hinder the species' further recovery.

Well done them! And well done the Sociable Lapwing for hanging on in there! But why did it strike such a chord with me?

Firstly, it shows how important it is for our global wildlife, whether we're talking about migrants or residents, that those who seek to protect them have the bigger picture, and how that can be accomplished by recording societies and organisations across the world. Information and co-operation are key to protecting our environment.

Secondly, and most important – note that it was historical records that gave these scientists the first clues about where to look and how to target their research.

So never doubt when you fill out your RNHS record card for that mallard, or migrant hawk, or mustelid, that it's an important thing to do. Conservation, and our wildlife, need the records collected by societies like ours. Please keep up the good work!

Ann Tomlinson

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS

OUTDOOR EVENTS

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. (Grid ref: TF 356 392.)

Sunday 16 October FARM WALK AT HOME FARM, LAXTON 10 am–12.00 pm

Elizabeth and David Simpson welcome us at Home Farm, a stewardship farm, to see conservation working with agriculture, and planting and seeding for next summer

Directions: Home Farm Laxton is situated on the west side of the A43, at the entrance to Laxton Hall, about 1 km south of the Fineshade turn. (OS Landranger 141, grid ref SP 967 971.)

Sunday 4 December WELNEY WWT RESERVE 12 pm

A walk/talk with a warden, time to explore and watching swan feeds at 3.30 (and 6.30 pm for the hardy!) Time: meet at 12 pm in the reception area (if you would like to arrive before this, just join us there!).

Directions: Welney Wetland Centre is located 12 miles north of Ely, 26 miles north of Cambridge and 33 miles east of Peterborough. It is 2 miles south of Welney village turning off the A1101 at the New Bedford Suspension Bridge, signposted Ten Mile Bank.

Occasionally, the A1101 between Welney Village and the Suspension Bridge floods and is closed to cars. Under such circumstances, access to WWT Welney is always possible from Ely or Downham Market, off the A10. (OS Landranger 143, grid ref: TL 547 946. Postcode for sat-nav PE14 9TN.)

INDOOR EVENTS

RNHS indoor meetings are held at the Oakham Church of England school, Burley Road, Oakham,
SEE PAGE 1 FOR NEW ARRANGEMENTS.

Tuesday 4 October **WILD BEES, CONSERVATION AND MAN** **7.30 pm**

Renowned bee expert Chris O'Toole explains the importance of bees to all of us, and why they are having a difficult time.

Tuesday 1 November **THE FARNE ISLANDS** **7.30 pm**

An exploration of the Islands with well-known local photographer Steve Magennis.

Tuesday 6 December **FRIENDLY FLIES** **7.30 pm**

The secrets of Hoverflies and other fly species with Dr Duncan Sivell of Buglife.

LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST

Indoor events are held at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Eggleton; admission £1 includes tea/coffee/biscuits. See www.lrwt.org.uk, or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, for other events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks, for which it is often necessary to book.

Monday 17 October **CONSERVATION GRAZING** **7.30 pm**

An illustrated talk by Trust Senior Conservation Officer Neil Pilcher.

Monday 21 November **LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES** **7.30 pm**

An illustrated talk on this network of wildlife sites by Trust Conservation Officer Katie Field.

LROS LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY www.lros.org.uk

For more information, see website. To book a place please contact Andrew Cliff, phone: 01530 814593; e-mail: Andrew@checklandkindleysides.com

Saturday 15 October **FAIRBURN INGS** **9.30 am**

Target species: waders and wildfowl. Please contact Andrew Cliff no later than Monday 10 October 2011.

Saturday 12 November **OUSE WASHES** **9.00 am**

Target species: winter wildfowl (especially Bewick's & Whooper Swans) and waders. Please contact Andrew Cliff no later than Monday 7 November 2011.

LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

See www.lincstrust.org.uk, or phone 01507 526 677 in office hours, for details of the LWT Bourne Group's events and other Lincstrust events in Lincolnshire.

WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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

JULY 2011

Atmospheric pressure and winds Pressures were generally above 1010 mb except for 6th to 9th and 16th to 21st, and it was in the latter period that the month's lowest pressure of 986 mb occurred on the 17th. Winds were variable up to the 19th when they stabilised and were generally NW-NE, until the last two days of the month when they were SW-W.

Temperature A cool month, overall it was the coldest July in the last 10 years and this was due to the mean minimum (10.55 °C) and the mean maximum (22.3 °C) being 10th and 8th respectively in their categories. A feature of the minima was that there were three nights when the temperature fell below 8 °C, the lowest being 7.0 °C on the 1st. Interestingly the night temperature fell to -0.6 °C in Holbeach on the 24th.

Rainfall The total recorded was 84.5 mm (3.33 inches), or 152% of my long term mean, and this was the wettest since July 2007 (103.9 mm) and July 2004 (125.1 mm). The rain fell in two periods in the month and these were approximately those described in the atmospheric pressure report above. There were 18 days when no rain was recorded.

Sunshine I have no figures for this month but the LTM for RAF Wittering is 186 hours.

AUGUST 2011

Atmospheric pressure and winds A rather variable month with three periods of low pressure, the 6th to 8th, 13th and 14th and briefly on 26th. Winds in the first week were S-W, then N from 7th to 15th, followed by a period of variability to 26th, and finally were W-NW to the end of the month.

Temperature Apart from the first three days, this was a cool August, the mean minimum (11.16 °C) was the lowest in the past decade and the mean maximum (21.86 °C) was virtually the same as August 2006 and higher than 2010. The remaining 7 years in the decade were warmer.

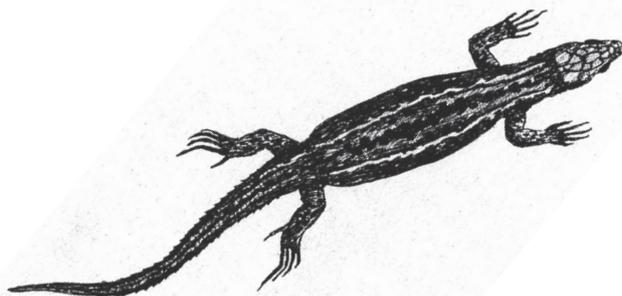
Rainfall A wetter than expected month with a total of 67.3 mm (2.65 inches) recorded, which represents 118% of my LTM. Coincidentally the average rainfall over England and Wales for this month was also 118% of the LTM for the standard reference period. At this station the rain fell in roughly three periods, 25.9 mm between 2nd and 4th, 11.1 mm between 18th and 20th and then a prolonged period, 23rd to 27th, when 27.0 mm fell.

Sunshine Averaged over England and Wales this was 146 hours or 74% of the average. Over the past 100 years 89 Augusts were sunnier and only 11 were duller. The LTM for RAF Wittering is 174.5 hours.

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

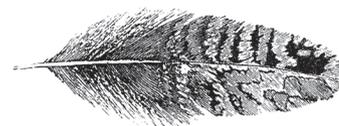
The Stone House, Reeves Lane, Wing LE15 8SD. Telephone: 01572 737343

Your Recorder is going away at the beginning of September and has not as yet received enough records to make it worth writing a report for September Fieldfare, so there will be four months' worth next time.



BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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



First of all, a big thank-you to everyone who completed timed tetrad visits for the BTO Atlas. The fieldwork has now ended and this season's forms are at BTO headquarters. I have also abstracted many 'roving' records from our regular recording on record slips, so we have achieved good coverage for much of the county. I hope you all enjoyed the experience and will continue to visit the areas you worked in – especially in the under-recorded north-west which rarely sees a pair of binoculars !

Autumn began early (what happened to summer?) with good numbers of returning waders at the reservoirs from mid-July and over twenty species recorded, including our second Spotted Sandpiper. Wildfowl numbers increased with over ten thousand at Rutland Water in August. A Cattle Egret and a Spoonbill (plus an escaped Flamingo!) dropped in, and it was a good period for raptors with Honey Buzzard, Montagu's and Marsh Harriers noted plus a very early Merlin. Hobbies were also well reported and after a slow start, Barn Owls look set to produce some large broods, with one pair still on eggs in late August.

My thanks to the following for their records: T Appleton, P Bennett, A Biddle, P & C Brown, T Caldicott, D Cole, A & J Comber, J Crosby, Dr C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, LROS, T Mitcham, G Morley, C Park, D Perril, P Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, G & L Worrall.

JULY/AUGUST 2011

Ruddy Shelduck. There was a pair at RW(Lyndon) on 21.07.

Garganey. Up to three (23 and 28.08) were at RW from 16.07 to the end of Aug. One was at EBR on 06.08.

Red-crested Pochard. Eight were at EBR on 03.08. Up to four were at RW between 03 and 27.08.

Pochard. Four were at FHP on 03.07.

Tufted Duck. Bred on a farm pond near Teigh – eight ducklings on 03.07. There were broods of nine and two at RW(Egleton) on 01.08.

Scaup. A male was at RW(Egleton) on 12 and 19.07.

Red-legged Partridge. An adult and seven young were near Lyndon on 09.08.

Grey Partridge. Two large broods were reported – fourteen with a pair near Teigh on 14.07, and a covey of sixteen near Seaton on 20.08 was also likely to be a family party.

Quail. Two sang on Ryhall Heath on 11.07 and one was at RW(Lyndon) on 15.07. Three sang at Mounts Lodge on 30/31.07.

Cattle Egret. One was at EBR on 20/21.08, moving to RW(Egleton) on 22/23.08.

Little Egret. Singles visited FHP and Banthorpe Gravel Pit in July and four flew over LFP on 13.07. 32 were on lagoon one at Egleton on 10.08, and an impressive 76 roosted in Burley Fishponds on 24.08.

Spoonbill. One was at RW on 01/02/07 and from 15 to 30.07.

Little Grebe. Bred on a farm pond near Teigh – occupied nest on 03.07.

Black-necked Grebe. Two were at RW(Egleton) on 01.07, and one in South Arm there on 07/09.08.

Honey Buzzard. One was reported over Burley Wood on 20.08.

Red Kite. Four were over Stocken on 25.07.

Marsh Harrier. A female/imm. was at RW(Egleton) from at least 19.07 to 09.08, when two were together over the lagoons – probably the first multiple sighting in the county. Singles were at EBR on 09 and 14.08, and one was again at RW on 31.08.

Montagu's Harrier. A female was over fields at Mounts Lodge on 30.07.

Sparrowhawk. Very active at Stocken during both months with Woodpigeon and House Sparrow prey noted and Pied Wagtail just escaping!

Buzzard. A family party of five was over Stocken on 25.07. Seven were over Little Haw Wood on 30.07. Calling juveniles were noted at FHP and Exton Park in Aug.

Osprey. Away from RW one or two visited LFP between 23.07 and 19.08. Three drifted on thermals over Oakham on 03.08, and singles were at FHP on 14 and 29.08.

Kestrel. 5 noted in the Leighfield area on 21.07.

Merlin. A very early imm was at Mounts Lodge on 31.07.

Hobby. One flew over Stamford on 13.07 and one was over Oakham on 27.07. One was a frequent visitor over the Egleton lagoons in Aug – perhaps attracted by the numerous Sand Martins. Birds were also noted at six other sites in Aug, with two hunting House Martins at FHP on 29.08.

- Peregrine.** An adult flew over Whissendine on 10.07 and a juv was at EBR on 06.08. One was at RW(Egletton) on 10.08.
- Avocet.** Two were at EBR on 03.07 and a pair had two chicks on lagoon three at Egletton on 05.07.
- Little Ringed Plover.** One was at EBR on 27.08.
- Ringed Plover.** 27 were at EBR on 21.08.
- Knot.** Noted at RW on five dates between 17.07 and 27.08, with two on the latter date.
- Sanderling.** Singles were at RW on five dates between 17.07 and 28.08.
- Little Stint.** Singles were at RW (two on 11.08) and EBR between 10.08 and 31.08.
- Curlew Sandpiper.** Two were at RW on 28.08, with one the next day. Three were at EBR on 31.08.
- Dunlin.** Noted at both reservoirs from 10.07 to the end of Aug, with a max. of ten at RW on 12.08 and EBR on 27.08.
- Ruff.** Present at RW from 05.07 with numbers peaking at of 48 on 27.08. At EBR birds were present from 14.08, with a max of ten on 30.08.
- Whimbrel.** One called over RW(Egletton) on 22.07. One was there on 11.08, and six flew over on 17.08, with one on 28.06. Six were at EBR on 30.08.
- Black-tailed Godwit.** Birds visited both reservoirs regularly throughout both months, with max counts of twelve at RW on 11.07, and ten at EBR on 03.08.
- Common Sandpiper.** Most records were from the reservoirs between 03.07 and 31.08, with ten at RW on 05.08 and four at EBR on 08.08. One was at FHP on 10.07 and there were two at LFP on 13.07.
- Spotted Sandpiper.** One in breeding plumage was at RW(Lyndon) between 13/20.07 This is the second county record – the first was at EBR on 08/09/05. 1998.
- Green Sandpiper.** Well reported during both months with 25 at RW on 05.08, and five at EBR on 08.08. One or two were also at Banthorpe Gravel Pit and Exton Park and three were at LFP on 24.08.
- Spotted Redshank.** Singles were at RW on 12., 28., and 30.08.
- Greenshank.** Present throughout both months at both reservoirs with 19 at RW on 16.08 and seven at EBR on 07.08. One was at Banthorpe Gravel Pit on 07.08 and two at LFP on 19.08, with one on 24.08.
- Wood Sandpiper.** One was at EBR on 03.08, with two between 04/08.08. Up to three were at RW between 16.08 and 30.08.
- Turnstone.** All records were from RW between 17.07 and 16.08, with up to three noted.
- Little Gull.** A first-summer bird was at RW from 05.07 to at least 11.08. An adult was at the Dam on 26.07.
- Mediterranean Gull.** An adult was at RW between 11/13.07, with one also on 27.08. A juv was at EBR on 19.08.
- Common Gull.** Three flew west at LFP on 05.07.
- Yellow-legged Gull.** An adult was at EBR on 06.08.
- Caspian Gull.** One was at RW (South Arm) on 19.08.
- Little Tern.** Three were at RW(North Arm) on 23.08.
- Black Tern.** 17 were at RW(North Arm) on 02.08, with ten in Manton Bay on 24/25.08. Smaller nos were at RW to the end of Aug, with one at EBR on 21.08.
- Common Tern.** Four were at LFP on 17.07.
- Arctic Tern.** Singles were at RW on four dates between 05.07 and 08.08.
- Turtle Dove.** Singing birds were at Oakham on 07.07 and RW(Egletton) on 12.07. One was at RW(Egletton) on 28.08.
- Barn Owl.** Singles were noted at Leighfield, Wing and west of Braunston. A brood of five was ringed at a nestbox on 31.08.
- Little Owl.** Reports were received from Teigh, Leighfield, Stocken (first for the site), FHP and the Barrowden area.
- Tawny Owl.** Two were at Little Haw Wood on 29.08.
- Swift.** c.50 were screaming over Barrowden on 06.07, by far the best evidence of breeding this year. The last bird was over Stamford on 31.07 and at Barrowden on 08.08. August birds were also noted at Stocken, RW (eleven on 11.08) and one over Stamford on 24.08.
- Kingfisher.** Mainly singles were noted at RW(Egletton and Lyndon), FHP, Morcott,, LFP and Braunston.
- Green Woodpecker.** Fledged young were noted at Stocken and Quarry Farm near Stamford.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** Noted in gardens in Barleythorpe and Oakham and at Stocken.
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.** A male was in Burley Wood on 18.08.
- Jackdaw.** c.200 flew south-east at Leighfield on 25.07.
- Raven.** Up to five were in the Priors Coppice / Leighfield area from 10.07, with Aug singles at FHP, RW(Egletton) and Stocken.
- Willow Tit.** One or two were noted near

Whissendine, Prior's Coppice, LFP and Ridlington.

Marsh Tit. A family party was at LFP on 19.07, with eight in both Prior's Coppice on 03.07 and Burley Wood on 09.07.

Swallow. Nos at LFP increased from c.50 on 21.07 to 130 by 02.08 and c.100 for most of the month. There were 80 at Braunston on 20.08 and 167 counted at Stocken the following day with a nest containing four eggs still being incubated on 26.08.

House Martin. c.42 at Stocken on 22.07 increased to 70 on 15.08. There were c.35 at Barrowden on 20.08 and 80 at Horn House (FHP) on 29.08.

Long-tailed Tit. Twelve were in an Oakham garden on 28.07.

Chiffchaff. Well reported from Burley Wood with 33 in song on 09.07 and 37 present on 10.08. There were 22 around Braunston on 20.08 and sixteen at Leighfield on 24.08.

Garden Warbler. Six were singing in Prior's Coppice on 03.07 with other July records from Burley Wood and Oakham. One or two were noted in Aug at RW(Egleton), Braunston and LFP(24.08).

Lesser Whitethroat. One was in Burley Wood on 22.08 with four near Braunston the following day.

Whitethroat. Sixteen were noted around Braunston on 17.08, with nine still present on 30.08.

Grasshopper Warbler. One sang from scrub at Quarry Farm on 16.07 and two were at Bushy Wood near Braunston on 27.08.

Sedge Warbler. At LFP there were eight on 27.07 and two on 31.07, with two still in song.

Reed Warbler. Two or three were at LFP to 19.08.

Nuthatch. One in a Barleythorpe garden on 29.07 was a first record for the site.

Treecreeper. Eleven were noted around Prior's Coppice on 03.07, and c.32 in Burley Wood on 12.07.

Mistle Thrush. Twelve were at Stocken on 17.07 and 26 were feeding on rowan berries at George Henry Wood, Stretton, on 14.08.

Spotted Flycatcher. Birds in breeding habitat were noted in Burley Wood, LFP, Exton Park and Oakham. Passage singles were at Normanton on 21.08 and near Braunston on 30.08.

Robin. c.42 were in the Braunston area on 27.08, with 23 in song.

Nightingale. A late bird was ringed at RW(Egleton) on 19.08.

Redstart. A male was near Braunston on 23 and 27.08, and a male was in Burley Wood on 28.08.

Whinchat. Two were at RW(Egleton) on 20.08, with one at EBR next day and three at RW on 29.08.

Wheatear. Aug singles were at RW on 04., 14., and 29.08.

House Sparrow. c.20 visited a Barleythorpe garden in July; and 39 at Stocken on 28.09 increased to c.50 by 26.08.

Tree Sparrow. One or two were near Teigh in early July and there was a family party near Cribb's Lodge on 02.07. One at FHP on 14.08 was the first there this year and there were ten near Braunston on 20.08.

Yellow Wagtail. Adults with fledged young were at Whitwell on 08.07 and near Cold Overton on 03.08. One or two were noted over or at Burley Wood, Oakham, Ridlington, LFP, Stocken and FHP to 31.08.

Pied Wagtail. A pair bred in a gang mower at Stocken.

Tree Pipit. A passage bird was in Burley Wood on 18.08.

Goldfinch. c.60 at Stocken on 20.07 increased to c.120 on 21.08. At Braunston there were 70 on 17.08 and c.100 were near LFP on 24.08.

Siskin. Two were at Burley Wood on 10.08, with three there on 31.08.

Crossbill. Present in Burley Wood throughout July and up to 18.08, with a max of c.40 on 12.07. Twenty were in Exton Park on 15.07, with eight on 30.07. One flew over RW(North Arm) on the latter date.

Bullfinch. c.16 were noted around Braunston on 17.08 and two juvs were in a Barrowden garden on the same date.



Wildfowl Counts – July and August 2011

	Rutland Water	Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park	Rutland Water 17.08.11	Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park 13.08.11
Mute Swan	475	3	464	10
Greylag Goose	535	20	756	
Canada Goose	1051		1356	
Barnacle Goose	1			
Egyptian Goose	65		90	
Ruddy Shelduck	2			
Shelduck	38		11	
Mandarin Duck	2		1	
Wigeon	16		5	
Gadwall	213	8	630	13
Teal	79		393	1
Mallard	1057	63	1577	128
Garganey			2	
Shoveler	12		146	
Red-crested Pochard	12		1	
Pochard			34	
Tufted Duck	2215	10	2971	1
Common Scoter			1	
Goldeneye	1			
Cormorant	181		223	2
Little Egret	51		40	
Grey Heron	13	3	16	2
Spoonbill	1			
Little Grebe	19	1	29	
Great Crested Grebe	240		220	
Water Rail	6			
Moorhen	62	18	68	31
Coot	1250	46	1870	52
TOTAL	7597	172	10902	240

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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JULY/AUGUST 2011

The flowering year is definitely slowly coming to a halt. July was full of the final flowering of spring and summer species such as **Greater Knapweed, Knapweed Broomrape, Wild Privet, Meadow Crane's-bill, Agrimony**. August saw **Harebells, Wild Basil** and **Bristly Ox-tongue**.

I know some recorders are still completing their observations but I have not received the reports. I have had a verbal report that the Society's joint visit to Bloody Oaks Reserve was good, flowers everywhere, but again no cards received yet.

Thanks for records from R Lemmon, M Grimes, J Mallett, C Jones and P Tomalin.

BUTTERFLY NOTES compiled by Alistair Lawrence

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I should like to begin my first report as compiler of the Butterfly Notes with a sincere personal 'Thank you' to Jean Harvey who with Ron has worked tirelessly for 20 years as the Lepidoptera Recorder. Jean will certainly be a very hard act to succeed and my intention is to try and follow in her footsteps as closely as possible.

I should also like to introduce RNHS member David Perril who has very kindly offered to assist me with the typing of the end-of-year statistics.

JULY/AUGUST 2011

Whilst July saw a lot of butterfly activity with a wide variety of species being recorded, August has been quieter, as the cooler conditions saw fewer butterflies on the wing.

Small Skippers have mostly appeared in low numbers in the reserves and quarries but seven were noted in Burley Wood on 9th July, and on 2nd July fifteen were counted near Brooke. Several were reported near Lyddington on the 13th, where a pair of **Essex Skippers** were also observed.

Reports of **Large Skippers** came from a variety of places, mostly in low numbers, but on 20th July twenty were recorded at Clipsham Quarry.

On 3 July three **Marbled Whites** were observed at George Henry Wood, while there were regular sightings throughout the month at all the quarries, with over 20 being counted at Ketton on the 1st and 50 at Clipsham Quarry on 5th July.

Large Whites were plentiful in July with reports from all the quarries and reserves, as well as members' gardens, and other parts of the county. Good numbers were seen at Lyndon Reserve, George Henry Wood, Lyddington and Cottesmore, while at Stocken over 20 were counted on 5th July.

Throughout July, **Small Whites** were seen regularly at all the reserves and quarries, with over 10 being recorded at Egleton on 30th July. They were seen regularly throughout August in Uppingham whilst other sightings in the month were at Oakham Canal, Teigh and near Ashwell on the 16th, and a pair were observed at Loves Lane, Empingham, on the 24th. Similarly sightings of the **Green-veined White** were described as frequent in Oakham, Lyddington and the Welland Valley in July, while small numbers were reported from Langham, Stocken, Cottesmore and Clipsham Quarry during August.

Records of **Brimstone** came from Egleton and Lyndon Reserves, Ketton Quarry and Stocken during July, while a single male was observed at Lyndon on 14th August, and at Ketton Quarry

on the 19th. Single **Holly Blues** were reported in gardens at Barrowden and Uppingham during July and also at Lyndon Reserve on 24th July.

Reports of **Common Blue** in July came from Ketton Quarry, Egleton Reserve and Stocken. Small numbers were observed in August, reflecting the second brood, at a variety of sites including Verges 7 and 8, Teigh, Cottesmore, Bloody Oaks Quarry and Priors Coppice.

Brown Argus were recorded at Verge 8, Great Casterton and Ketton Quarry, where five were seen on 31st July. Single specimens were seen in August at Clipsham and Ketton Quarries and Burley Wood.

It is pleasing to report that two **Dark Green Fritillaries** were seen at Clipsham Quarry on 10th July, whilst the only record for **Painted Lady** is on 28th August when one was seen resting in Burley Wood.

Sightings of **Meadow Brown** were plentiful throughout July and into August, with good numbers being recorded at our reserves, quarries and verges. Several were also seen at Lyddington, Stocken, Welland valley, Langham and Thorpe-by-Water where at the latter in excess of 10 were counted. The latest sighting was 21st August at The Seek.

Ringlets were evident throughout July in high numbers and from a variety of locations. Notable counts were 21 at Clipsham Quarry on 5th July and 46 in Burley Wood on 9th July. Similarly, records of **Gatekeepers** were abundant with several being seen in Barrowden, Lyddington Meadow, the Quarries, the Verges, Empingham, Uppingham, Teigh and Stocken. The highest counts were over 60 at Egleton Reserve on 30th July and 35 and 20 at Lyndon Reserve on 24th July and 14th August respectively.

Sightings of **Small Heath** were confined to George Henry Wood, where several were seen on 3rd July, and Ketton Quarry where two were observed at the end of July and early August. Reports of **Small Copper** came from Thorpe-by-Water where

two were seen on 2nd July, Leighfield Fishponds and Ketton Quarry. At Stocken one was seen throughout July and August.

The only record for **Purple Hairstreak** comes from Burley Wood where several were observed during July.

The decline of the **Small Tortoiseshell** is reflected in the low numbers reported. Apart from the reserves and quarries, other sites were Verge 7, Uppingham, Oakham, Normanton and Stocken, where at the latter several were seen during July and August. By contrast **Red Admirals** have been appearing in good numbers and were frequent visitors to gardens in Oakham, Uppingham, Barrowden and Stocken. At Lyndon Reserve ten were seen on 24th July and on the same day seven were observed near Ridlington. Other sites included Thorpe-by-Water, the Quarries and Burley Wood.

Single **Commas** were noted at a variety of sites during July and August, including Lyddington,

Barrowden and Thorpe-by-Water, but three were observed at Ketton Quarry on 31st July, whilst at Stocken on 3rd August three newly emerged specimens were seen on buddleia.

Good-sized numbers of **Peacocks** were evident during July as this species was frequently seen in gardens in Uppingham, Oakham and Stocken, where at the latter sixteen were counted on the 31st. On the same day, thirteen were observed at Ketton Quarry. This species continued to frequent Uppingham during August, and other sites visited were farmland near Teigh and Clipsham Park Wood.

Speckled Woods were much in evidence at our Reserves in July, with fourteen being counted at Egleton on the 17th and thirteen at Lyndon on 24th. In August several were seen in Uppingham and along a green lane near Lyddington. Other sites were near Ashwell, Priors Coppice and Clipsham Park Wood, where eight were noted on 7th August.

My thanks to the following contributors: J Ansley, P Bennett, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, J Crosby, M Grimes, J Harvey, C Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, P & E Mann, J Myers, D Needham, E Northen, B & D Parker, P Rudkin, G & L Worrall

MOTH NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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July/August 2011

My report for this issue is for MOTHS ONLY as I have 'handed over' the Butterfly recording to Alistair Lawrence. I hope that members will continue to send him the large number of records to which I have become accustomed and I sincerely thank everyone who has helped me over the years.

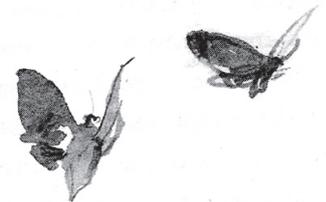
One moth which has been reported recently by several members, is the **Humming Bird Hawk Moth**. These have been observed nectaring on both Buddleia and Valerian at Stocken and Uppingham during July and at Barrowden and Oakham in August.

A number of records have come from various parts of Oakham. A **Herald** was seen in early July, a **Swallow-Tailed Moth** was found at the railway station, a **Narrow-Bordered 5-spot Burnet** was at Brooke, with other species on allotments in Brooke Road. At the latter site, there was one **Silver Y**, a usually common migrant but a species generally missing this year. At Brooke Hill Primary School several moths were found resting on a wall during the day near to a security light. These were **Dusky Sallow**, **Riband Waves** and a **Yellow shell**.

In Burley Wood, several species of micro-moths were identified during July and one **Four-dotted Footman** was found. **Six-spot Burnets** were seen in numbers along the A606 near to Burley Fish Ponds. 36 were counted on July 20th and 18 were still present a week later. Large numbers of **Cinnabar** caterpillars were seen during July on Ragwort in Burley Wood and also at Barleythorpe.

Numerous daytime sightings at Stocken have included a **Leopard Moth**, a **Buff Footman** and about 50 **Garden Grass Veneers**.

At Priors Coppice, a tripod light and three box traps were operated for several hours one evening in early August. It was a humid, damp night following thunderstorms in the district earlier and 85 species were recorded. Surprisingly, 9 macro-species were added to the list for the site but none of these were unusual for Rutland. With



infrequent trapping common species can often be missed, as was demonstrated here.

At the Barrowden Garden trap, the number of species seen this summer has been significantly lower than last year. The totals for August 2011 showed a 20% reduction against August 2010. Sessions at Eyebrook Reservoir and Rutland Water have also shown a similar decline. On

a positive note however the reedbed species at Rutland Water have produced some good numbers of moths. Eyebrook was visited twice in July, with species totals of 70 and 91 and twice in August, with only 42 and 33.

Let us hope that autumn will show an improvement and that some migrants may appear, as these have been sadly missing this year.

My thanks to: T Caldicott, J Crosby, R Follows, C R Jones, D & B Parker, D Perril, P Scott and G & L Worrall

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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JULY/AUGUST 2011

Members will remember the news (in the last Fieldfare), regarding the spread sheets received from Bjorn Beckmann, for Vice County 55 (Leicestershire and Rutland) Orthoptera data, and that the RNHS data was in the document up to season 2010. Bjorn also sent a copy to Gareth Price, the Community Support Ecologist for Leicestershire County Council. Gareth very kindly produced the Provisional Maps for the Rutland Orthoptera, and we are extremely grateful to him.

So it was with great interest that I viewed the maps. It was amazing to discover a great gap that we had not covered, mainly in the north of Rutland. With this in mind, I consulted Dr Clive Jones and Dave Needham. It was decided to make a big effort this season to cover these neglected areas, and to fill up the dots for the final maps. This is so important because this season heralds the final inputs all over the country for county orthoptera before the National Atlas is published, possibly in 2012. Therefore, on the 3rd August, Dave Needham and I investigated new areas at Langham, Whissendine, and locations around Cold Overton. On 16th August Clive Jones and I surveyed the Teigh, Market Overton, Old Oakham Canal, and Edmondthorpe Mere and the Ashwell road areas.

The final big push north was on 24th August, when I spent the day stopping off at different points around the Empingham, Cottesmore, Greetham areas, finally finishing up at 4.0pm at Clipsham Quarries, ending up on the Clay Bank at 4.45 pm. Our extra efforts produced wonderful numbers and many new squares for the Rutland orthoptera.

But of course the regular studied sites still need to

be monitored periodically, to check any alterations in their distribution. So many thanks indeed to all my contributors who keep data on the regular sites rolling in. In Oakham, Norman Gordon continues to get Oak Bush Crickets in his garden, and this season found one in a bird feeder.

We have not yet this season found Short-winged Coneheads away from the Rutland Water complex. Investigations are on-going! The records of numbers for the Field Grasshopper are very encouraging, it may be a population increase, or (I suspect), we are all looking harder, and gaining in experience in identification of this species.

BUSH CRICKETS

Oak Bush Cricket *Meconema thalassinum*

One, nymph found in bird feeder in garden, St Alban's Close, Oakham, 16th August (SK 865 087). One male in back garden, Spring Back Way, Uppingham, 'jumped out of shrubs and landed on bench' (photograph), 1st September (SP 864 996). Finally, although not in Rutland, Patricia Mitcham had a scary creature fly into the house, at 11.0 pm, Sutherland Way, Stamford. Quite large! However, Terry Mitcham indicated with his fingers that it was about 17 mm. It was a female, 19th August.

Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

Approx. 30 observed (adults and nymphs), near the 8 Riding Tree, Burley Woods, 4th July (SK 892 098). A new location at Turtle Bridge, near the Seaton Meadows nature reserve, 20th July, resulted in many new squares for several species. The Dark Bush Cricket was seen and heard during the morning session, in three locations:



small colony of adults and nymphs in verges at the top of the Turtle Bridge lane (SP 933 979). Two stridulating males in hedge near the bottom of the lane (SP 927 988). Two stridulating males in hedge bordering farm field margin (SP 927 986). 31st July, 6+ were heard in Brambles, half way down Yew Tree Avenue, Clipsham, the north side verge (SK 977 168). 24th August, 4.10 pm, a large colony was stridulating in a Bramble patch, 50 yards inside the gate at Clipsham Quarries (SK 982 155). 75 yards further, near the barn, four were heard in the surrounding vegetation (SK 981 154). At 4.50 pm, six were heard in Brambles, half way up the steps to the Clay Bank (SK 980 153). All three sightings make a new square for this species. Stridulating heard on Protected Verge 8, near the Rob Hall Farm entrance, 20th August (TF 017 106). One heard in field bordering Brooke Road, Oakham, 27th August (SK 853 078).

Roesel's Bush Cricket *Metrioptera roeselii*

Reports of eight on the 3rd and ten on the 11th July, all stridulating males in verges near Brooke (SK 857 052). A welcome surprise for the Brooke Road, Oakham allotment on 24th July was two stridulating males – the first Roesel's for the area (SK 860 081). Stridulating heard on 5th July in rough verges on the Glaston Road, edge of Wing (SK 895 024); 28 °C, 1.15 pm. Further along the road, hill leading down to Wing Burrows, c.15 heard stridulating in verges, at the bottom of the hill and up the lane (SK 890 018). Quarry Farm first field had its usual large numbers in the rank grasses, 2.30 pm, 10th July (TF 018 084). At 3.0 pm, there were 2 large colonies in farm field margins at the sides of Walk Farm entrance lane, Great Casterton, and 2 heard in the nearby Protected Verge 8 (TF 016 108). Elaine's Field near Lyddington, large colonies present in the rushes bed, 2 females caught and inspected. And in a neighbouring field (unmanaged and uncut), another large colony (SP 869 980). Lyddington Meadows, large colonies found, a female was caught. New square (SP 885 950).

More new squares at Turtle Bridge, 20th July: a large colony discovered in ditch near field margin in the lower part of the lane, a male nymph 'netted' for identification (SP 927 986). Masses of stridulating males in the rough grasses, along the farm track on the Lyndon reserve at Rutland Water, 25th July, 11.0 am, and in the grasses along the bordering fence of the cut hay fields (SK 892 053). By midday, more large numbers were in the tall vegetation outside the door of Tufted Duck Hide, and also in the rank vegetation in the front of the Hide (SK 889 055).

A rewarding seven-hour survey at the Egleton reserve, Rutland Water, 30th July (AL, DN and PR); habitats full of these attractive crickets. We covered some areas around the new lagoons, as follows: colonies in the vegetation next to the disabled car park (SK 897 072). Four in vegetation, field 30; eight in wet meadow, lagoon 5 (all in SK 879 067). Six in Field 17 (SK 881 066). Large numbers in vegetation in front of Wigeon Hide (SK 883 059). At 2.0 pm, large colonies in fields below Lax Hill (SK 885 060). At 4.40 pm, six, in rough corner (SK 888 062). More large colonies next to Gadwall Hide (SK 888 064). Finally six males in thick grasses near Lax Hill (SK 888 065). On 31st July, large numbers stridulating in verge grasses nearly all the way down Yew Tree Avenue, Clipsham (SK 977 168).

August was a busy month for the push to the north of Rutland, resulting in new squares for the following: 3rd August, Whissendine Road, outside of Langham, 10.40 am, large colonies stridulating in 2-metre grass margins (SK 836 117). Six heard stridulating in verge on the Cold Overton Road (SK 812 129). 12.10 pm, large colony in grass verges at the edge of Cold Overton (SK 812 120). 7th August, 3.45 pm, two stridulating in Mr Lamb's farm field margin, the lower end of Protected Verge 7 (SK 999 098). Also on 7th August, RNHS/LRWT group meeting, Bloody Oaks; large numbers of stridulating males were in most of the habitats, and 2 females were caught and admired (SK 971 108). 7th August, the usual large numbers in the first field, Quarry Farm, Stamford (TF 018 084); in the second field, more large numbers in the wildflower meadow (TF 015 084).

The next survey on 16th August was to Teigh Road, Market Overton, 10.15 am, all new squares. Six, stridulating in grass verges (SK 877 159). Large colony in rough grass corner (SK 875 163). Yet another large colony, along a footpath near the Teigh Road (SK 877 166). At 2.0 pm, we were at Edmondthorpe Mere, and found masses of stridulating males, in farm field 6-metre margins, one female observed (SK 849 164). By 3.10 pm, Ashwell Road, outside Langham, four males heard in grass verge (SK 856 128). Further along the road, one macropterous female caught (SK 855 126).

On 19th August, at the BirdFair green car park, Egleton, 6.0 pm, two stridulating males in grasses under the bordering fence line (SK 878 075). On the way out on the farm track, two were heard in rough herbage (SK 883 084). The usual large numbers were maintained in the Exton footpath

(SK 952 106), and the meadows (next to Horn Mill) (SK 952 109), 24th August. On 28th August, Gill Chiverton used her bat detector to good effect, many males '*many more than last year*' stridulating in the Protected Verge 8 verges (TF 017 106).

Next survey to new areas, resulting in new squares, on 24th August (by me). First stop, Exton Road, just outside Empingham, 11.0 am, 30 °C, where, along a 160-yard stretch of grass verge, amazing numbers of stridulating males (SK 948 090). Further along the road, more heard in verges (SK 946 094). Next stop, Cottesmore Road, (south of the village), large colonies in grass verges and in farm field margins (SK 911 128). Ashwell Road, (west of the village), large colony in rough grass verge (SK 896 133). Moving on, verges next to the Rutland Railway Museum and Holme Farm, Cottesmore, 1.40 pm, 33 °C – more new squares. A long stretch of verge held large numbers of stridulating males (SK 887 135). At 2.20 pm, large colonies on both sides of grass verges, Thistleton Road, Greetham (SK 935 148). Further along in a small grass clump, six stridulating males (SK 929 153). Next stop, just off the A1 roundabout, on the Greetham Road, (lunch break). Then, at 3.30 pm, Greetham Inn Lane, six stridulating males in the verge (SK 945 154). A short walk over the Greetham Road, to a large colony stridulating in the rich grass verge (SK 945 154). Short journey to Clipsham Quarries, 4.30 pm, for a welcome surprise, four stridulating males on the Clay Bank (SK 980 153). Finally, David Cole reports from the old railway cutting between Morcott and South Luffenham, the large colony discovered in 2010 is now well established and very noisy (SK 932 012).

Long-winged Conehead *Conocephalus discolor*

The first report of this species comes from Tim Caldicott, who found a nymph in grass along the southern edge of Burley Woods, Oakham, 12th July (SK 887 092). During the first Rutland Water survey, 30th July, two stridulating males in rough corner vegetation below the south west corner of Lax Hill (SK 883 060). 7th August, large colonies of stridulating males in the thick grasses of the first field, Quarry Farm, Stamford (TF 018 084). Later, close by in the second field of Quarry Farm, a new colony had spread from the wildflower meadow colonies to the thick vegetation around the pond on the hill, males and females and nymphs observed (TF 015 084).

The survey on 16th August to the north of Rutland was rewarding. Edmondthorpe Mere, a large, active colony in a 6-metre farm field margin full of tall vegetation / thistles, a normal winged

female was caught, and a male nymph. The highlight was a macropterous (extra-long winged form) which flew like a bird over the tops of the thistles. It was caught and photographed (SK 849 164), new square. 19th August, 6.0 pm. as I left the Bird Fair along the farm track, six stridulating males were heard in rough herbage (SK 883 084).

On 20th August, 6.0 pm, Elaine's Field, near Lyddington, Clive Jones observed one individual in rushes (SP 869 980). The survey on 24th August, on the Clay Bank, Clipsham Quarries, at 4.30 pm, resulted in a large colony of stridulating males, with a male and a female caught (SK 980 153), new square. Also on 24th August, usual large numbers in the Exton footpath meadow ditch (SK 952 109).

Short-winged Conehead *Conocephalus dorsalis*

30th July, first Rutland Water Survey, large colony of stridulating males, in the rough vegetation in front of Wigeon Hide (SK 883 059).

Speckled Bush Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*

RNHS / LRWT field meeting, Bloody Oaks, 7th August, one female nymph found on flowers at 3.30 pm. At 5.0 pm the bat detector picked up six stridulating males in the Hawthorn scrub next to the entrance gate (SK 971 108). 19th August, 6.0 pm, as I left the BirdFair at Eggleton reserve, along the farm track, 8 stridulating males in Ash trees (SK 883 084). Then, at the junction of the Hambleton Peninsular Road with the A606, six stridulating males heard in the small copse (SK 875 085). Nearly at the top of Barnsdale Hill, 12 stridulating males in Hawthorn (SK 902 094).

The 24th August survey had new squares for the following: Exton Road just at the edge of Empingham, 11.0 am, 30 °C, large colony in hedgerow trees, mainly in Ash (SK 948 090). Further along the road, another large colony in trees (SK 946 094). At 12.25 pm, six stridulating males in Lime tree, and 12 in Sycamore, on the Cottesmore Road (south of the village) (SK 911 128). Large colonies picked up with the bat detector at 2.20 pm, in hedgerow trees (mainly Ash), Thistleton Lane, Greetham (SK 935 148). Further along the lane, 10 heard in Ash trees (SK 929 153). At 3.30 pm, on a 100-yard stretch, large numbers heard in trees, both sides of Greetham Inn Lane, just off the A1 (SK 945 154). Finally at 4.45 pm, large colonies in Ash trees, along the entrance lane to Clipsham Quarries (SK 982 155). More stridulating near the Barn (SK 981 154).

Usual large numbers in the trees lining the Exton footpath (Horn Mill), 24th August (SK 952 106).

GRASSHOPPERS

Common Green Grasshopper *Omocestus viridulus*

First sighting for this species: four stridulating males in grass field, south east of Brooke village, 11th July (SK 850 055). At 1.30 pm, warm sun, in the Worrall's garden in Barrowden, 14th July, one on the patio (SK 948 002). The first Rutland Water survey was carried out on 20th July at Egleton, with a very welcome number of sightings: 10.30 am, two stridulating males in grass verges north of Lax Hill, near the John Tourtel seat (SK 884 066). Four males heard in grass verge near Kingfisher Hide, south west of Lax Hill, Lagoon 8 (SK 883 062). Three stridulating males in rough corner (SK 883 060). Eight, in field below Gorse Close, at 2.35 pm (SK 885 060). At 4.40 pm, two in rough vegetation corner, south east of Lax Hill (SK 888 062). Four stridulating males in thick grasses, north east of Lax Hill (SK 886 065). Finally, on 21st August, at the Egleton reserve, Tim Caldicott heard six, in long grasses, between Tern and Harrier Hides, on the southern edge of Lagoon 1 (SK 882 06).

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*

The best number of sightings for this species since our recent records began. The Field Grasshopper has often been under-recorded, due to its quiet, short stridulating, and clever camouflage. Ron Harvey observed three in grass field near the river at Thorpe by Water, next to Monckton Farm, on 2nd July (SP 892 962). The Brooke Road Oakham allotment had six on the 4th, and six on the 24th July (SK 860 081). Clive Jones and I visited a new location, at Turtle Bridge, on 20th July, and observed six adults and two nymphs, in the verge at the top end of the bridge (SP 933 979). 100 yards further down the lane, four adults and one nymph were caught with net and identified (SP 931 981), new square. Two found on mud patches between rough grass corner on 3rd August, at 12.45 pm, next to Stone House Farm, Cold Overton (SK 811 106), new square. At 4.30 pm, Dave Needham and I arrived at Protected verge 7, and found three, in Mr Lamb's farm field grass margin, Great Casterton (SK 999 098). At the RNHS/LRWT field meeting, 7th August, Bloody Oaks, four were observed near the entrance gate, and five in a muddy area at the far end of the reserve (SK 971 108). The Brooke Road, Oakham allotment is obviously well suited to this species, because 22 were counted on 6th August, mainly adults (SK 860 081). I received an email with very clear photographs of a field grasshopper from Martin Grimes, 6th August, which he had found

in patchy grassland along the 21st Anniversary Trail, west of Lax Hill (SK 881 065). Digital photographs are invaluable.

On 24th August, the push to the north of Rutland proved successful, with two caught and identified in grass verge mud patches, on the western edge of Cottesmore, Ashwell Road, 1.0 pm, 33 °C (SK 896 133), new square. At 4.45 pm, two were caught and identified on the Clay Bank, Clipsham Quarries (SK 980 153), new square. Finally, from Seaton, one observed in field north of the village, 25th August (SP 896 984), new square.

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*

New squares for this species from the following: 13th July, 2.40 pm, large numbers of stridulating adults heard and nymphs found in the wildflower meadow at Lyddington Meadow. Also, many in the verges along the bordering fence line (SP 885 950). 20th July, at another new site, Turtle Bridge, 10.45 am, large colonies of adults and nymphs in the grass verges, at the top end of the lane (SP 933 979). Further down the lane to the bottom of Turtle Bridge, more large numbers found in the verges (SP 927 987). On the 31st July, big numbers heard and observed in the north verge of Yew Tree Avenue, Clipsham (SK 977 168).

The first Rutland Water survey at Egleton reserve, 30th July, confirmed the common status of this species as follows: in meadow north of Lax Hill (SK 884 066). In meadows and rough corners, west of Lax Hill (SK 883 062). In grasses next to Gorse Close (SK 885 060). In meadows east of Lax Hill (SK 888 062). In rough grasses, next to Gadwall Hide (SK 888 064).

3rd August, 11.15 am, four stridulating males in rough field at the edge of Whissendine on the Cold Overton Road, 30 °C, humid and dry (SK 822 137). At the RNHS/LRWT meeting, Bloody Oaks, 7th August, adults and nymphs in every part of the reserve. Some of the purple variety observed (SK 971 108). From Stocken, August records: 30 plus on the 2nd, in dry sunny bank. Four, in the garden on 3rd, and large numbers on waste land on 19th (SK 957 174).

More new squares in the push to the north of Rutland, 16th August: two found in grasses bordering the edge of the Old Oakham Canal (SK 878 163). Three in grass verge Ashwell Road, outside Langham (SK 856 128). Further down the road, four in rough verge (SK 855 126). The final push on 24th August revealed new sites, very pleasing! All new squares. 11.0 am, 30 °C, large colony on grass verges on the Exton Road, just outside Empingham, adults and nymphs

observed (SK 948 090). Two small colonies in grass verges, Cottesmore Road, south of Cottesmore (SK 911 128). Six stridulating males in rough grass verges, west of the village, at 1.0 pm, 33 °C (SK 896 133). Ten heard and observed in long stretch of verge next to Rutland Railway Museum and Holme Farm, Cottesmore (SK 887 135). At 2.30 pm, three stridulating males in grass verge, Thistleton Lane, Greetham (SK 929 153). Large colony seen and heard in grass verges along the Greetham Road, just off the A1 (SK 945 154). The final north sighting was at 4.50 pm, on the Clay Bank, Clipsham Quarries, six stridulating males (SK 980 153). A check on the species at the regular location, in the Exton footpath meadows, found numbers reduced to the edges of the cut hay fields (which is normal at this stage) (SK 952 109).

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Ten observed in fields, mainly adults, near Brooke village, 3rd July (SK 860 050). Six observed at Leighfield Fish Ponds, 5th July (SK 831 039). Four caught and identified in Elaine's Field near Lyddington, and in the adjoining field (uncut and unmanaged), four observed (SP 869 980). Massive population of adults and nymphs in wildflower meadow, Lyddington Meadow, 13th July (SP 885 950), new square. Large colony of adults and nymphs in grass verges, Turtle Bridge, near Seaton Meadows nature reserve (SP 927 987), new square. The Rutland Water 1st survey at the Egleton Reserve, 30th July, confirmed the common status of this species, as follows: at 11.45 am, large numbers with many courting pairs on the verges, next to the Richardson seat (SK 881 066). Round the bend to the Tourtel Seat, more huge numbers (SK 884 066). At 1.15 pm, similar numbers below Lax Hill (SK 883 060). At 2.35 pm, 3 courting pairs in grasses below Gorse Close (SK 885 060).

The big push to the north of Rutland on 3rd August found several new squares for this species as follows: two courtship pairs in rough field near Cold Overton, 11.15 am, 31 °C (SK 822 137). Large colony in rough grass verge on the Cold Overton Road, outside Whissendine (SK 818 133). 11.40 am, large numbers in rough verges, and a few courting pairs, on the Cold Overton Road, near Northfields Farm, and more in rough herbage in

the corner of farm field (SK 812 120). At 12.45 pm, four stridulating males in small corner grass verge on the northern edge of Cold Overton (SK 811 106).

At the regular sites, 4.30 pm, 3rd August, Protected Verge 7, six stridulating males in Mr Lamb's farm field margin (SK 999 098). Many adults and nymphs observed in the wildflower meadow in the second field at Quarry Farm, 7th August (TF 015 084). Also on 7th August, at the RNHS/LRWT field meeting, Bloody Oaks, many adults and nymphs caught and identified over most of the reserve (SK 971 198). On 6th August, the Brooke Road allotments revealed four adults (SK 860 081).

The big push north, 16th August, resulted in many new squares, as follows: 10.15 am, large colony in grass strip along footpath, Teigh Road, just outside Market Overton (SK 878 157). Further along, another similar sized colony in rough grass corner (SK 875 163). Midday, large numbers found in linear grass line along the edge of the Old Oakham Canal (SK 878 163). Large colony in grass along footpath bordering the Old Canal (SK 877 166). Edmondthorpe Mere, 2.0 pm, four adults observed in 6-metre farm field margin (SK 849 164). Lastly, Ashwell Road, just outside Langham, large colony active in the rough grass verges (SK 855 126).

The final big push north on 24th August was again very satisfying; we found this grasshopper in the expected habitats and all new squares follow: 12.25 pm, five adults observed in grass verge, on the Cottesmore Road, south of the village (SK 911 128). Four, in rough grass verge, at the west of Cottesmore village on the Ashwell Road (SK 896 133). Six stridulating males and two courting pairs in grass verges next to the Rutland Railway Museum, and Holme Farm, Cottesmore (SK 887 135). At 2.20 pm, four stridulating males in grass verge, Thistleton Lane, Greetham (SK 935 148). At 4.45 pm, two stridulating males in the rich grasses on the Clay Bank, Clipsham Quarries (SK 980 153). Also on 24th August, a final check on the regular site at the Exton footpath meadows, near Horn Mill, five in the cut hayfield (SK 952 109).

Many thanks to our team for their excellent efforts during the July/August period: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, D Cole, J Crosby, N Gordon, M Grimes, R Harvey, C Jones, A Lawrence, P Mitcham, D Needham, P Rudkin, L & G Worrall.

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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JULY 2011

A quiet month for gall reports, which came from Verge 5, Woodhead Castle and Stocken.

The large gall on Creeping Thistle stems caused by the gall fly *Urophora cardui* seems to be having a bumper year and this month's occurrence was at Woodhead Castle on 21st.

The record from Stocken on Avens (*Geum*) was accompanied by a voucher specimen which meant I could identify it as a gall caused by mites. This seems to be more prevalent in cultivation than in the wild – it grows on Wood Avens in my garden!

AUGUST 2011

Rather more reports this month, from Verges 7 and 8, Bloody Oaks Quarry, Stocken, Rutland Water and Wing. Many of these are the usual ones but Verge 8 on 20th produced 21 galls on a single leaf of Sow Thistle caused by a Gall Midge. It comprises bulges on the leaf surrounded by a bright purple ring and although not rare, seems to be poorly reported. The gall on Creeping Thistle mentioned above was also reported from Stocken on the 19th, and the draw-down zone of Rutland Water at Sykes Lane on the 25th was the site of a gall on Red Goosefoot, a new record for us. The last record of the month was from Wing on the 25th and was of 50+ Knopper galls on an 11 year-old Oak. It was noted that a nearby 30 year-old tree had many more.

Thanks to G Chiverton, J Crosby, Dr C H Gallimore and R Lemmon

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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JULY 2011

Odonata

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens* – 30+ were recorded at Thorpe by Water, one noted at Lyddington Meadows NR, one male noted at Barrowden and one recorded at Leighfield Fishponds with a male and female noted there later in the month. **Emerald Damselfly** *Lesetes sponsa* – one recorded at Leighfield Fishponds.

White-legged Damselfly *Platycnemis pennipes* – a 'few' recorded on Great Burnet flowers at Lyddington Meadows NR. **Red-eyed Damselfly** *Erythromma najas* – two were recorded at Leighfield Fishponds. **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* – frequent sightings, both male and female, were noted at Lyddington Meadows NR, and 20+ recorded at Thorpe by Water.

Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea* – one noted at Leighfield Fishponds, and one recorded at Stocken. **Brown Hawker** *Aeshna grandis* – one noted on two occasions at Barrowden, one record at Thorpe by Water.

Hemiptera

Green Shield Bug *Palomena prasina* – one recorded on yarrow at Stocken. **Pond Skater**

Gerris lacustris – noted all month on pond at Stocken.

Neuroptera

Green Lacewing *Chrysopa perla* – one recorded at Stocken.

Diptera

The following were all noted at Stocken: **Soldier Fly** *Chloromyia formosa* – flies recorded all month, **Cleg Fly** *Haematopota pluvialis* – one recorded, **Hoverflies** *Eristalis tenax*, *Syrphus ribesii*, *Erisyrphus balteatus*, *Sphaerophoria scripta* and *Volucella pelluscens* were noted all month.

Hymenoptera

Sawfly *Tenthredinidae* sp. – noted feeding on Greater Knapweed at Barrowden ('strikingly coloured black with small yellow bands on abdomen and entirely yellow underneath').

Black Garden Ant *Lasius niger* – doing well at Barrowden, at end of month 2 nests with many flying ants were observed.

Common Wasp *Vespula vulgaris* – 20+ were noted at Stocken on discarded over-ripe bananas!

Leaf-cutter Bee *Megachile centuncularis* – recorded on rose leaves at Stocken. **White-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lucorum* – workers recorded all month at Stocken, and one noted on Verge 8. **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascuorum* – workers noted all month at Stocken, and one recorded on Verge 8. **Red-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lapidarius* – workers noted all month at Stocken, ‘some’ workers recorded on Verge 7, and 2 workers recorded Verge 8. **Hill Cuckoo Bee** *Bombus rupestris* – one dead insect found at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

Coleoptera

Soldier Beetle *Cantharis livida* – two insects recorded at RWEggleton. **7-spot Ladybird** *Coccinella 7-punctata* – 31 insects recorded in garden at Barleythorpe, a ‘good number’ noted on Verge 7, and 40+ noted in garden at Oakham during mid-July/early August. **Screech Beetle** *Hygrobia herrmani* – recorded on pond at Stocken.

AUGUST 2011

Odonata

Brown Hawker *Aeshna grandis* – mainly single insects seen frequently all month at Barrowden, and also a few other species seen briefly at same location. **Four-spotted Chaser** *Libellula quadrimaculata* – one noted over pond at Stocken. **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* – one male noted over pond at Stocken.

Hemiptera

Forest Bug/Red-legged Shieldbug *Pentatoma rufipes* – two found in a moth trap at Eyebrook. **Hawthorn Shieldbug** *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* – one record from moth trap at Eyebrook. **Spiked Shieldbug** *Picromerus bidens* – one recorded at Barrowden, and one recorded Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Sloe Bug/Hairy Shieldbug** *Dolycoris baccarum* – one recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Woundwort Shieldbug** *Eysarcoris fabricii* – recorded as ‘prolific’ on tansy at RWEggleton. **Flower Bug** *Anthocoris sylvestris* – recorded at RWEggleton.

Diptera

Pied Hoverfly *Scaeva pyrastris* – 4 insects noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Marmalade Hoverfly** *Episyrphus balteatus* – noted as ‘numerous’ at Bloody Oaks Quarry, and in ‘small numbers’ at Verge 8. **Long Hoverfly** *Sphaerophoria scripta* – recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Lesser Hornet**

Hoverfly

Volucella inanis – one insect noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

Hymenoptera

Ichneumon *Amblyteles armatorius* – a ‘stunning insect’ found at Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Ichneumon fly** *Campopleginae sp.* – 2 very small black insects recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Ichneumon** *Pimpla hypochondriaca* – noted at Stocken. **Wasps** (various species) – 7 insects noted at Stocken stripping flesh from a dead short-tailed field vole. **Hornet** *Vespa crabro* – large numbers of hornets were recorded in and around moth traps at Eyebrook. The recorder noted ‘one moth trap in the wood must have been near a nest. We counted over 300 in the one trap (30 moths were there as well)’. **Solitary Wasp** *Ectemnius cephalotes* – one insect recorded at RWEggleton. **Mining Bee** *Halictus rubicundus* – one insect recorded from Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Honey Bee** *Apis mellifera* – insects were plentiful on clover etc. at Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Vestal Cuckoo Bee** *Bombus vestalis* – one insect recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

Coleoptera

Violet Ground Beetle *Carabus violaceus* – one noted at Stocken. **Ground Beetle** *Trechus quadristriatus* – found under a lily leaf at RWEggleton. **Rove Beetle** *Tachyporus obtusus* – these very small beetles were noted as ‘numerous’ at RWEggleton. **Burying Beetle** *Necrophorus humator* – one insect found dead at Verge 7. **Carrion Beetle** *Ablattaria laevigata* – one insect noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Dung Beetle** *Aphodius rufipes* – one dead insect noted at Stocken. **Soldier Beetle** *Cantharis livida* – 2 insects recorded Bloody Oaks Quarry. **7-spot Ladybird** *Coccinella 7-punctata* – one insect noted Verge 8, fourteen insects recorded Bloody Oaks Quarry, and 15+ noted in garden at Oakham. **22-spot Ladybird** *Psyllobora 22-punctata* – one insect recorded Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Bloody-nosed Beetle** *Timarcha tenebricosa* – one insect recorded from Verge 7. **Flower Beetle** *Crepidodera transversa* – one insect recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Weevil** *Sitona saturnalalis* – one insect noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

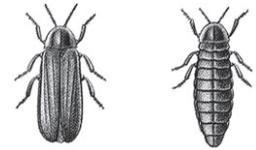
Terrestrial Gastropoda

Leopard Slug *Limax maximus* – one noted on house wall at Barrowden. **Brown-lipped Snail** *Cepaea nemoralis* – 5 recorded over month from Verge 8.

Many thanks for another interesting collection of records to: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, J Crosby, M Grimes, J & R Harvey, C R Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, T Newton, D Perril, L & G Worrall

GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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MAY/JUNE/JULY 2011

The breeding season two years ago in 2009 appeared poor in some exposed areas, and there was a possibility that glows had occurred earlier than usual with speedier mating, thanks to a warm dry May and June. Larvae from eggs laid in 2009 would be due to pupate to adulthood two years later, i.e. this year, and we have had a similar weather scenario in 2011, though this spring was longer, much warmer and dryer and there was some heavy rain in June and July. Snails, however, seemed to disappear during this spring, and if they did aestivate and close themselves in, any larvae would have had to depend for food on damaged worms, for example, but worms went deep too. Unless larvae are well fed they might have to wait another year to pupate. However, although snails remained scant, it looks as though glow-worms in Rutland have had an 'average' season.

Barrowden Verge 3 Luffenham Road SK 938005

27.5: Nil. Verge not yet cut by Highways. A one swathe cut was made by 30.5.

23.6: 10.40 pm: **West verge:** 1 just below village sign on opposite verge and 4 a few metres further up road. One squashed Snail on road but no others seen. **East verge:** Nil, but small yellow-banded Snail half way up verge bank, just below village sign; good news for any larvae.

9.7: 10.35'pm: nil. Wet after thunderstorms, mild. One Snail unfortunately squashed on road.

Barrowden Verge 17 Back Road SK 945003

27.5: Nil on north or south verge. Field with new houses has Rape; adjoining field to west has Wheat. Verge cut clean to hedge earlier in month.

23.6: 10.25pm: **North verge:** 8 glows between end of new houses and field entrance, right against hedge bottom except for one a metre towards road. Verge again cut clear to hedge within last few days. No snails seen on this usually well stocked verge. The Parish Council was changed this year, and I contacted the Chairman the following day; several Councillors had already expressed outrage over this cut, as they had again provided details of required cutting regime to Highways, but it transpired that details had not been with the contractor who cuts within village. It must be hoped that snails will return to the currently inhospitable environment. Council was

glad not all had been killed in cut, but dangers still lurk as one of the new houses has been showing a green outside light which could attract flying males, and no glows were seen in field or near large north-running hedge, which is unusual. **South verge:** 1 a few metres west of paddock entrance (opposite west end of new houses).

9.7: 10.25 pm: **North verge:** Group of 6 opposite paddock entrance, i.e.: 2 up hedgebank, 2 on join between hedgebank and verge, 2 at back of verge); mild after thunderstorms. Still none along north-running hedge in field.

15.7: North verge: Villager reported 6. He is fairly new to the village, and it was the first time he had seen a glow-worm. His first thought was that perhaps the light was coming from a discarded mobile phone! He checked the glow-worm website (www.glowworms.org.uk – highly recommended) and realised what he had found, told the local pub landlord, who told me. Jolly good!

Burley Wood SK 889095

30.6: 10.10 pm: temperature dropped, still quite light. First glow 10.30 pm deep in vegetation at side of ride, dark with overhanging trees. In all, 12 glows found between 10.30 and 11.15 pm; five were in the middle or side of the rides, the rest at the sides in deep vegetation. No males seen, and team did not wish to disturb the females in undergrowth. The last glow was seen some 170 m from the core area as the group walked back towards the entrance, which is the most distant from the core than ever seen before in these annual surveys. As always, Philip Rudkin's report was a joy to read, and thanks indeed go to Phil, Roy Lemmon, Max Winslow, David Needham, Hendrina Ellis, Val and Tony Story for their foraging skills.

Essendine Verge 5 and Mainline Cutting Top TF 043129

4.7: G and A Chiverton found 12 glows around area where farm bridge crosses railway, i.e.: 3 on SE verge among stones of field entrance; 5 on NE verge; 1 in tall vegetation north of farm bridge; 1 south of farm bridge in sparse grass plus 2 in taller grass. Quite a good group.

Ketton Quarry SK 978053 and area

Barbecue area SK977055

6.5: 1 larva crossing an open area of short grass, well spotted in May by Peter Scott when he was looking for butterflies. John Tyler's book *The Glow-worm* notes that 'From April to June the larva may abandon its strictly nocturnal way of life and start to wander about in broad daylight. It appears to do this not simply by switching its activity from night to day, but by giving up its rest and staying on the move 24 hours a day (the latest I have seen larvae out and about is midnight and the earliest 5 am, but this probably has as much to do with my activity patterns as theirs). Both male and female larvae take part in this "walkabout". Most are in their third and final year, and will soon pupate, but some second-year larvae also join in. The larva may spend a month or more on walkabout, during which time it will continue to feed and may moult at least once before it is ready to pupate. It appears to show no preference for sunny or cloudy days, but it is more likely to be seen out on dry rather than wet ones.' John speculates on the reasons why larvae may do their walkabout, suggesting they may be looking for a good place to pupate and display, or just need more food. Let's hope Peter's larva is spotted later on as a glower or flyer!

2.7: On guided walk for the Wildlife Trust, Jenny Harris reported 24 over several locations, which is good news.

9.7: Society visit with Jenny Harris in drenching rain – a quick sortie near the carpark located 9.

OUTSIDE RUTLAND

Northamptonshire: Barnack Hills and Noles NNR TF 075046

Chris Gardiner, the Warden, on a guided walk found 10 'quite easily' in a small area, then one at base of a village wall across the road from the Reserve and another on a verge outside the Reserve. Interesting – they used to be in villagers' gardens.

Northamptonshire, Castor Hanglands Reserve TF 124025 area

Warden reported that a male came to a moth trap, but despite searching no females were found.

Norfolk, Breckland

An RNHS member reports that her friend who lives here has been carefully surveying glow-worms in her garden on most nights! The garden has two lakes and a railway embankment. Sightings came from the lakeside. Briefly:

In 2010: From 14.6 to 23.7: ones or twos until 27.6, when 8, then 45 on 1.7, 74 on 2.7, 55 on 4.7 dropping to 9 on 6.7 and staying in small numbers till 14.7 when 86 were seen, followed on the next few nights by 30s and 40s, then dropping suddenly on 23.7 to 3.

In 2011: On 13.6 there were 7; from 18.6 to 26.6 numbers in 20s; 12 on 29.6 then rising steadily again until 31 on 8.7. Sightings are continuing.

It is interesting that good numbers can quite suddenly drop, then rise again as quickly, something often noted at Essendine over a number of years. In Norfolk, some 'very good' nights were recorded as warm and humid, but not all. The observer sometimes saw lights 'flashing' and wondered if larvae were doing so; of the 86 seen on 14.7.10 a considerable number flashed. Sometimes lights flash when females twist as they climb stalks or become covered by a male, but it is intriguing that they could be larvae. These recordings are a most useful resource and we look forward to hearing more.

An Old Record

Braunston-in-Rutland

I have been told that there used to be glow-worms in this village, near the church and pub. They are no more; apparently the grass was constantly overcut. Indeed.

So many thanks for records: M Allsopp, H & P Ellis, G & A Chiverton, C Gardiner, P & B Gunn, J Harris, R Lemmon, D Needham, D Oakes, P Rudkin, P Scott, V & T Story, M Winslow, G & L Worrall.

MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

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This is a bumper Mammal Report, for the months of March, April, May, June, July and August!



MARCH/APRIL 2011

The long cold winter was followed by an unusually dry spring, and March and April records are abundant, reflecting everyone's pleasure at being able to get out and about again!

On 23rd March an **Otter** was watched as it wrestled with what appeared to be a large **Pike** at Leighfield Fishponds. A **Stoat** flew into the hedge bottom at Bunkers Hill, Empingham, in March, and another was seen crossing the track into the drought garden at Barnsdale in April, while **Weasels** were reported from Manton, and hunting **Rabbits** on Greetham Golf course. A pure black rabbit was seen at Leighfield in March, and a warren reported from The Dell, Ketton quarries in April. A total of four **Foxes** were seen in Burley wood during March and April, another crossed the road at Cuckoo Farm, E of Exton in April. In early March a **Badger** was found, curled up in the hollow below the roots of a large wind-blown tree, fast asleep. It woke fairly quickly, and regarded the observer for a full minute before it shuffled away into a nearby rhododendron patch. Later in the month another observer had a close encounter with a badger at Burley Fishponds, the animal coming to within a few feet before disappearing. A total of five badger road casualties were reported, and much activity at local setts. Other live badgers are reported from Seaton road, near Barrowden.

Hedgehogs visited the Worrall's garden to eat peanuts during March, and on the 14th a small hedgehog was seen eating nuts near the nestbox at 9.00 pm, and later a medium-sized one in a similar position, followed by a noisy exit of one under the fence to an adjoining garden. Later in the month two hedgehogs were huffing and puffing at one another for at least 25 minutes, and two were seen 'courting' in the carport in early April. In mid April two smallish ones were together on the nuts, a medium-sized one walked through a water dish, with a third 'huge' one nearby. Other hedgehogs were reported from Main Street, Morcott, and in gardens at Stamford and Oakham.

The only **Bank Vole** recorded this month was in Dr Gallimore's garden wall, and a **Common Shrew** was found dead in an allotment at Wing. Molehills were evidence of active **Moles** in Manor Lane Barleythorpe, Prior's Coppice, and Burley Wood, all in early March. Two **Grey Squirrels** were seen, foraging along the verge of a track through Clipsham Park wood in March, and others reported from a Barleythorpe garden, Dawn's Paddock, Barnsdale, Burley and Armley Woods.

15 reports of **Brown hares** were received; in March a total of 12 were seen in the Pickworth and Exton Park areas, and in April they were seen regularly at Greetham golf club, seven at Exton Park, two near Lax Hill, two near Pickworth, and one at Live hill Barrowden.

At the end of March two **Roe deer** ran across from Tunnely Wood in Exton Park over arable land to Westland wood. **Fallow deer** were seen throughout March in large groups, up to 65 at Clipsham Park, 43 in Little Haw, 32 in Burley Woods. At Exton Park they were seen in twos and threes at Tunnely Wood, and a group of 25 near Pickworth at Turnpole Wood. In April a large group was again seen in the field next to Turnpole Wood, and they turned and ran slowly into the wood. Others were seen at Clipsham, Burley, Little Haw in large groups, three reported from Morkery Wood, and they were regularly seen at Greetham golf club.

Muntjac deer were regularly seen in March and April in Burley Wood in ones and twos, and one at Little Haw. Other muntjac were seen at East Wood, Normanton Park, Barnsdale, Woolfox Quarry, Wardley Wood, Pickworth village and one wandering in the churchyard at Langham. Slots were seen in Prior's Coppice and the Brickworks field Little Casterton road Stamford, and droppings found at Gorsefield, Oakham.

Thank you to recorders: A Biddle, T Caldicott, J Comber, C Gallimore, J Harris, P Langston, R Lemmon, J Levisohn, T Mitcham, D Perril, P J Rudkin, AR & MA Thorp, D Whitefield, L & G Worrall

MAY/JUNE 2011

This month we have the first **Otter** report from Ketton. Fresh spraint was found under the bridge near River house in May. A **Stoat** crossed Dr Gallimore's lawn, en route for the rabbit burrows, and a lovely family of **Weasels** was observed towards the end of June, as they ran in and out of rocks at Greetham valley Golf course, at least 4 or 5, it was difficult to count as they appeared and disappeared.

A **Fox** crossed the road at Seaton Meadows one morning in May, and another ran in front of a member as he emerged from Teal hide on a bird count in June. Foxes were reported from Burley wood in both months. At Newstead a large fox was watched on a lovely balmy summer evening (yes we have had a few!) as he pounced on a victim, and then trotted off northwards across the field. In Stamford a fox visited Waverley gardens at the end of May running from a neighbour's house to another, bypassing No 21, and in June he was seen three times in a neighbour's garden, finally having a long sleep in the bushes. I suspect the quail in our garden, and chickens in two others, are very attractive!

In May at Pickworth Wood a small **Badger** cub was disturbed under a bramble bush, but hissed loudly at the intrusion, and was left in peace. Latrines were found in Clipsham, and one was seen crossing the B672 at Coachbridge. Road casualties are reported from Seaton road Barrowden, and Barnsdale.

May was quite a month at Barrowden for **Hedgehogs!** Regularly five were visiting at once, feeding on peanuts, with others occasionally, all sizes and shades of beige to brown. After rain at the end of the month their attendance was less reliable. At Uppingham a member had seven taking peanuts at one time! In June the visits to Redland Close continued, normally five and others additionally at around 10.30 pm, needing a

second course of peanuts to be served at around midnight! Linda Worrall reports lots of droppings – it's hardly surprising with such well fed hedgehogs!

A **Bank Vole** was occasionally seen in the wall of Dr Gallimore's garden, and often in the compost heap, during May and June. **Common Shrews** were found dead on the quarry Wood track on the old brickworks at Stamford, and also on the next field towards Little Casterton. **Grey Squirrels** are reported from Barnsdale Woods. In May and June **Brown Hares** were regularly seen at Hambleton, also boxing at Whitwell, crossing roads at Barrowden, Ketton, and Walk Farm Pickworth. At Greetham Valley GC 5-6 leverets were seen frequently at the end of June, and on one occasion a female hare attacked a magpie in defence of her leverets, driving away the attacking bird!

Fallow Deer are still often seen at Little Haw, Pickworth, and Burley Woods in smaller numbers than previous months, and during June unusually no deer at all were recorded in Clipsham Wood. At the end of June a doe with 2 fawn were seen in a ride of Burley Woods and two Fallow were seen in Holywell Woods. **Muntjac** were seen regularly in Burley Wood, also reported from Little Haw, and near Lodge Farm on Hambleton peninsula. One very unfortunate animal woke us at 3.30 am one morning screeching loudly and thrashing about. It had tried to get through a wicket gate, (outside our bedroom window!) and almost succeeded. Its head and both front and back legs had passed through the narrow gap, but unfortunately its posterior was a little too wide, and it was trapped. We managed to free it by covering it with a sheet to subdue it, then gently pushing it back through the gap. At the moment of freedom it shot away, vanishing into the darkness, and must have cleared a 4 foot fence, hopefully to recover from its nasty experience in peace.

Reports received with thanks from: A Biddle, M Branston, C Gallimore, C Jones, P Langston, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, D Needham, P J Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, A Tomlinson, L & G Worrall

JULY/AUGUST 2011

Barrowden has been the site of much **hedgehog** activity over the last 2 months. Barrowden was the heart of hedgehog reporting for many years, until a mystery illness some years ago reduced their numbers drastically. This summer there have been two rescues carried out. In mid-July

workmen at Redland Farmhouse excavated a hole close to the house wall in Chapel Lane. Two very small hedgehogs were found at the bottom midmorning by Graham Worrall, who lay down and reached to the bottom putting the rescued baby hogs under a bush nearby. Linda

Worrall took them to her own garden, where they were provided with food and safe haven. Another villager reported two small hedgehogs in her garden at 3.00 am the same morning. Linda Worrall also traced one of these to a small yard close to the house. The hole was covered eventually at 5.30 pm. At 11.55 pm there was no trace of the little ones in the Worralls' garden, but in the previous half hour 7 large or medium ones had been active. For the next few days 6 or more hedgehogs visited the garden nightly.

On 19th July 2 boys found a small injured hedgehog lying in shade in their garden. It had a puncture wound on the back of its neck, possibly caused by a dog. The animal was taken to the local vet where it was anaesthetised, the wound cleaned and painkiller given, under advice from RSPCA and Tiggywinkles. It was then taken to Rutland Hedgehog rescue. The advice given was that unless spines regrew it would be inadvisable to release back to wild, but latest information is that it is growing, eating and recovering from its injuries, and may soon be returned to Barrowden. Later in the month a small one (similar to the first two rescued) visited the garden, and another villager had a visit from a white striped one, which may have been caused by the Worralls' newly painted carport gate. In August two medium sized hedgehogs were copulating outside the Worralls' door, and the garden was regularly visited by at least 8 hedgehogs, who obviously know where food and care is to be found!

Other hedgehog news – a large hedgehog wandered through a garden in Derwent Drive Oakham, and a dead one was seen outside Tinwell village on the main road.

A healthy and lively **Stoat** was seen at Greetham Valley golf course in early July, and another reported from Whitwell Creek running along the track and into scrub. On Verge 8 an adult stoat was observed for 6 minutes as it played in a large puddle under a gate. It kept darting out from the hedge and enjoying the water, jumping and rolling over, making the most of the opportunity in good weather. Five separate **Foxes** were seen on a visit to Burley Wood at the end of July, and another waited in a gap in the hedge of Quarry Farm field between Stamford and Great Casterton. A **Badger** was regularly seen during July as it crossed Seaton Road Barrowden in front of the car at around 10 pm, and latrines found at Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue and along the verge

between Pickworth and Great Casterton, marking the edge of a territory. A new sett was also found in the Pickworth area, with several entrance holes and signs of much activity. Fresh **Mole** workings were seen at the Woodhead Castle site between Pickworth and Great Casterton.

The cycle track north of Manton bay close to the A6003 is normally populated by hundreds of **Rabbits**, but on July 8th this year there were only 3, all lethargic and suffering from myxomatosis. Rabbits are also recorded on a field at Whitwell, and 2 adults and 2 young seen near the large Warren at Whitwell Creek. Four **Hares** and 3 leverets were seen at Greetham Valley golf course in early July and one in a woodland clearing by Heron Bay RW. Others were reported from pasture around Lax Hill, Seaton Road Barrowden, and next to the lower lake at Fort Henry. In an Oakham garden, backing onto the railway line near Brooke road a **Grey squirrel** was attracted by the bird feeder, and a **Brown rat** was seen in August.

A small **Short-Tailed Vole** was found dead on the grass track near Turtle Bridge on 20th July, and a **Bank Vole** was a regular visitor to Dr Gallimore's compost bin in Wing. A dead **Common Shrew** was found on the Hambleton peninsula track, and at Pickworth a dead shrew was also found, its bulbous forehead, pointed nose and small size identifying it as a **Pygmy Shrew**.

Roe Deer are still present on the Exton estate, one seen in July east of Fort Henry, running towards North Road Spinney. **Muntjac Deer** were recorded on four occasions in Burley Wood, one or two seen either together or separately. Fewer Fallow Deer were recorded during July and August, due to tree felling operations, the largest number in July was 26 with 4 fawns, August a total of 61 and 9 fawns, both in Burley Wood. Fallow and fawns were seen in Burley, Clipsham and Little Haw woods in both July and August. On 15th July a group of young fallow deer were disturbed as they sheltered behind a hedge in a field of tall rape, near Pickworth, and were given away by the sound of thudding hooves as they leapt through the crop. They were found in the same spot a few days later, this time seen leaping away, including 2 or three white animals. In an adjacent field a group of Fallow bucks browsed along the hedgerow, invisible apart from their antlers in the tall rape.

Thank you for all your reports: A J Biddle, G Chiverton, C Gallimore, P Langston, S Leach, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, P J Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, L & G Worrall

BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

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Although the summer has been such a dry one in our part of the country, it has been surprisingly cool, especially in the evenings and this may have had an impact on bat numbers and also where they have been seen, since on cool nights bats will tend to move straight from roosts to favourable feeding sites without hanging around less favourable areas. Naturalists tend to do the same, and I did not go out on a casual basis to record bats as much this year as in previous years. The records may therefore reflect lower recorder effort rather than a real decrease in bat numbers.

In May on 30th and 31st a single bat was seen at HMP Stocken, and it was noted that on the former date the bat was intent on leaving the Education garden, perhaps the lower temperature that night sending it quickly to better feeding grounds; in June too the bat, emerging around 35 minutes after sunset, also left quite sharply. In Barrowden, Linda Worrall noted that bats flying round Redland Close tended not to forage over their garden, where they were usually seen previously, and in June ones or twos were seen with occasional larger bats, which may have been pipistrelle, with occasional long-eared bats. On 1.6 seven bats were flying over the road between the edge of Barrowden and Red Hill Farm.

Pipistrelle (Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, Soprano Pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus* and unconfirmed *Pipistrellus* sp.)

Throughout May to August inclusive, common pipistrelles were recorded most evenings in a garden at Barmstedt Drive, which is close to

the northern edge of Oakham, but no soprano pipistrelles; sopranos were also infrequent visitors to my garden in Woodland View with common pips heard more often. In May, a colony of soprano pipistrelles returned to a roost in the Cricket Lawns area of Oakham, and 70 were counted (down on the count of over 200 two years ago); these bats always leave at the end of May to have their young elsewhere, but they returned in late July, and approx. 37 were present on 12.8.

Six roosts were counted for the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP, see table below) and pipistrelles were also present at other roosts that were counted: a soprano pipistrelle emerged from Whissendine church during the Natterer's count and there were soprano and common pipistrelles foraging round a long-eared roost at Barnsdale. At the latter site, the bats were foraging between a line of trees and the house and many feeding buzzes could be heard; the bats swooped near the house but it was not clear if any had emerged from the roof.

As can be seen from the table below, the roost at Rutland Watersports centre was re-occupied by the soprano pipistrelles this year, following their virtual exclusion by a wasps' nest in 2010, with the total number at the two Whitwell roosts totalling almost 500 bats. I consider that the bats belong to the same colony, but the limited space at the old conference centre means they prefer to use two roosting sites. The hotel/conference centre has now closed and been sold for private use, so I was only able to count the bats on one occasion, but this information has been sent to ecological

Roosts counted for the NBMP

Species	Location	Date	Total	Reason for stopping
Soprano	Braunston (house)	25/6	142	No further activity
Soprano	Lyndon Road, Manton	14/6	0	Not present
Common	Station Road, Morcott	15/6	53	Too dark
		25/6	53	Too dark
Soprano	Rutland Watersports, Whitwell	15/6	210	Too dark
		21/6	215	Too dark
Common	Stone House, Wing	13/6	24	Confusing behaviour
		20/6	31	Weather deteriorating
		4/7	57	Confusing behaviour
		25/7	48	Too dark
Soprano	Whitwell hotel	25/6	272	Confusing behaviour (bats were returning as more emerged)

consultants advising on how best to maintain the roost.

A roost that was discovered in the Gunthorpe area three years ago was visited again this year and counted on 17.6. An eye-watering 540 bats emerged, making this the largest roost ever counted in Rutland. The bats were identified as soprano pipistrelle, emphasising the richness of the habitats around Rutland Water, as this is the second large soprano colony to be found in the vicinity of the reservoir. A colony of common pipistrelles in Grange Lane, Seaton, first reported in 2007, still had bats on 16.6.

The only roost to be counted in July was at Stone House, Wing, when there were up to 57 common pipistrelles present on 4.7. There were still plenty of droppings under the gable end of the extension on 30.8.

Droppings confirmed the presence of pipistrelles at Manton church on 13.7. There were common and soprano pipistrelles at Clipsham Church during the summer and at an emergence survey on 28.8 one or two emerged, plus plenty of foraging behaviour around the church. Pipistrelles were recorded by the presence of droppings at Greetham Church but none was seen emerging from the church during a survey on 10.8.

Numerous soprano pipistrelles were foraging in the shelter of trees on the east bank of Fort Henry upper lake on 1.7, but only one or two were heard

along the footpath leading up to the lakes where it is quite exposed on what was quite a windy evening. Common and soprano pipistrelles were recorded on 2.7 and 9.7 in the Aldgate area of Ketton, with good views of foraging bats over Station Road. Barrow village was an area where bats had never been recorded, but a visit on 28.7 confirmed that there were plenty of common pipistrelles there.

Fourteen grounded bats were dealt with during the period, with only one of them being an infant, although several juveniles were also rescued (see table below). The infant was found inside a house in Oakham, but as the colony was still present, the baby was returned to the roost by posting it through the gable end in the attic, which allowed it to join its mother in the cavity wall. Obviously, this can only be done if the colony of breeding females is still present, and an unweaned juvenile found at Arnold Wills warehouse in Uppingham had to be retained in captivity as the location of its colony was not known. This little bat had a strange journey: it was found in a bag of paperclips that had earlier been despatched from the warehouse, which the recipients had returned, 'because the bag was moving'. There was a happier outcome at Rutland Watersports, where three of the young found in the shop were also persuaded to clamber back into the roost area and since they did not reappear later, it is assumed they were reunited with their mothers.

Grounded bats: May to August

Date	Species	Age	Sex	Problem	Location	Outcome
5.5	Common	Ad	M	Fell out of roost	Hooby Lane	Released
9.6	Pipistrelle sp.	Inf	M	In living area	Oakham	Returned to roost
15.6	Soprano	Ad	F	Inside warehouse	Uppingham	Released
19.6	Common	Ad	M	Trapped in plant pot	Oakham	Released
27.6	Pipistrelle sp.	Ad	M	Broken humerus	Cottesmore	Died (E)
1.7	Soprano	Juv	F	Inside shop, thin	Rutland Watersports	Died
1.7	Soprano	Juv	F	Inside shop	Watersports	Returned to roost
1.7	Soprano	Juv	F	Inside shop, thin	Watersports	Returned
1.7	Soprano	Juv	?	Inside shop	Watersports	Returned
11.7	Soprano	Juv	F	In bag of paperclips	Uppingham	Permanent care
15.7	Pipistrelle sp.	Juv	F	Emaciated	Clipsham	DOA
24.7	Soprano	Juv	M	Broken forearm	Egleton church	Died (E)
27.7	Common	?	M	Broken forearm	Market Overton	Died (E)
21.8	Common	Ad	M	Indoors, cat victim	Ryhall	DOA

Key: Ad – Adult; Juv – juvenile; ? – age or sex not determined; (E) – euthanased by vet; DOA – already dead when collected.

The female and the non-flying juvenile from Uppingham were both found at a warehouse on Station Road.

Brown Long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*

Two brown long-eared bat roosts were counted for the NBMP, with the colony at Stone House, Wing being counted in June and July, using a dedicated team of counters to cover the many exist points round the house and outhouses. Fifteen bats were counted on 13.6, four on 20.6, none on 4.7 and 12 on 25.7; it is good to note that the bats do now seem to be getting used to the extension and are using the gable end for access. Dr Gallimore reports that the nil count on 4.7 is likely to be because of the difficulty for counters to distinguish long-eared bats from pipistrelle.

The counts at Barnsdale were: nine bats on 11.6 and three bats on 21.6. Although brown long-eared colonies are usually much smaller than those of pipistrelles, the low number suggest that this was not a maternity roost this year.

At Greetham Church, an emergence survey using infra-red night vision equipment showed that long-eared bats are roosting in the north aisle, emerging into the church from small gaps at the interface of the north aisle and nave. Approximately nine bats were seen. At Clipsham Church bats were emerging from the south porch roof on 28.8, and I was able to confirm that re-roofing of the south aisle will not interfere with the colony. Long-eared bats are also present in Manton Church.

Only one long-eared bat was 'grounded' during the period. A juvenile male was found in a bedroom in Caldecott. It was in good condition, and was left with the householder to be released later that evening.

Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*

This species was heard and seen in torch light foraging over the River Chater in Aldgate on 2.7 when many passes were observed, and on 9.7 when fewer bats seemed to be present. The bats were also foraging under the Station Road bridge in Ketton on the same nights. There was a fair bit of Daubenton's activity on the lower lake at Fort Henry on 1.7, and the lack of activity on the

upper lake, which is larger and more sheltered was probably because the water surface was almost entirely covered with floating vegetation. Daubenton's bats were recorded in Burley Wood, late in the evening, on 6.8.

Whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*

The maternity roost in Seaton was counted once in June this year: 56 bats were counted emerging from the roost on 20.6. There were no other records.

Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*

The maternity colony in Whissendine Church was counted for the NBMP, with rather disappointing results. On 15.6, 34 bats emerged, while on 22.6 a total of 36 bats emerged. This compares with counts of in the high 60s until 2007 and a peak of 81 bats in 2003. A dead baby Natterer's was found outside the church on 27.6; it was very thin and had clearly died of starvation.

Noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula*

There were few noctule records during the period. On 11.6 a single noctule was clearly seen in relatively good light passing over just north of Barnsdale Country Club, flying towards Rutland Water, presumably from Burley Wood. However, during two visits in July and August no noctules were heard in Burley Wood. On 1.7 a noctule was heard briefly, but not seen, near the Lower Lake at Fort Henry, after dark. Brief noctule calls were heard over the Sink Bridge area of Aldgate, Ketton on 2.7 and again on 9.7. Nothing more was recorded until several noctule passes (of single bats) were heard and at least one seen during the Clipsham Church emergence survey on 28.8.

Barbastelle bat *Barbastella barbastellus*

Ecologists working in the area reported this species at several places. Calls analysed as those of barbastelle were recorded in spinneys (often quite small) in the Woolfox area where a wind farm is proposed. Ecologists working for castle Cement continue to record barbastelle in wooded areas close to the quarry and lastly at least one barbastelle has been recorded in the grounds of Tolethorpe Hall, during surveys connected with re-roofing the hall.

Firstly, my apologies to members whose records I did not acknowledge in the May issue: J Crosby, J & A Comber, Dr C H Gallimore and L & G Worrall. My thanks for records and help with emergence surveys this time to: M Branston, L & I Burger, D Cole, J Crosby, A & J Comber, Dr C H Gallimore, A Tomlinson, J Whiteford, G & L Worrall.

MYCOLOGY 2010

This is a copy of the Introduction to the Mycology Report in the 2010 Annual Report. I apologise for not having sent in Reports to recent Fieldfares, and hope members will continue to look out for fungi.

The first two and a half months of 2010 were very cold with snow and rain; the end of March was mild and wet. It was then dry for four months with April mild, May cold, June warm and July hot. August was cool and very wet. September was 'average', October fairly warm and fairly wet. In November it was hot with average rainfall till mid month, then very cold with rain and snow. December was very cold and dry. Most gill fungi and boletes were recorded in September to mid November, an 'average autumn' following wet August, after much dryness.

In 26 locations, 25 people reported 227 fungal species, a low average count relative to the 22 years of our records. Gill fungi and boletes accounted for 90 sightings, better than the 55 out of 179 in 2009 but nowhere near the 198 out of 378 in warm, wet 1999. Dry 2000 had a poor average total of 252 species, when 109 were gills and boletes. Numbers within species are generally quite low in Rutland.

The count of sightings in sites over 2010 was topped by King Alfred's Cakes Daldinia concentrica with 13, over 10 months; second was Dryad's Saddle Polyporus squamosus with 10, from April through to September and very noticeable in wet August; Turkeytail Trametes versicolor 9, over 8 months; Sulphur Tuft Hypholoma fasciculare 8, mostly in September; equal 5th with 7 were three ascomycetes: powdery mildew Erysiphe heraclei in July, September and October; discomycetes Calloria neglecta in March, April and May and Sycamore Tarspot Rhytisma acerinum in April, August, September and October. Jelly Ear Auricularia auricula-judae has been a regular top-scorer over the years, but not in 2010.

21 species were new to us in 2010, bringing our Rutland running total to 1,188. Many were microfungi, thanks to Roy Lemmon. Two Inocybe sp were at Prior's Coppice in September, together with The Humpback Cantharella umbonata and Pearly Parachute Marasmius wynnei, seemingly on its only site within Vice-county 55 (Leics and Rutland). Many thanks to Richard Iliffe, Tom Hering and the Leicestershire Fungi Study Group for these records, and for their Ketton Quarry foray in April.

A lack of Morels in the dry spring was unsurprising, but it was good to have an autumn relative, White Saddle Helvella crispa at Ketton Quarry in October and November. Russula and Lactarius species were back with us too; last year we had no sightings at all in that dry autumn. There were other treats: in an otherwise rather scant year for waxcaps, September saw over a hundred yellow Hygrocybe langei in their usual quarry bottom at Bloody Oaks Quarry, and in that same limestone region was the strange sight of Larch Bolete Suillus grevillei and Copper Spike Chroogomphus rutilus, thanks no doubt to the coniferous planting in the adjoining land – well spotted Linda Biddle.

The Society is greatly indebted to those who have regularly visited certain localities over the years, including Don and Barbara Parker, Patrick and Enid Mann, Elizabeth Northen, Jackie Myers, Brenda Lynch, Jane Ostler, Roy Lemmon and Tim Caldicott. Phyllis Cook is much missed. Members such as David Perril at Barleythorpe and Mike Norris and Raven Williams at Manton look out for fungi in their neighbourhoods, others note garden finds, sometimes with photographs, and James Crosby's sightings at Stocken have increased our records considerably.

Comments on record cards can be evocative; this October, for example, concerning Honey Fungus Armillaria mellea 'bootlaces' at Clipsham Park Wood, Barbara Parker notes: 'fat, large rhizomorphs – never seen such large and so many before' and 'nothing of fungi nature seen at all from the carpark to Addah Wood. All felled logs removed from the area. Interesting to see what appears'.

On his cards, Dr Clive Jones, as a geologist, alerted me to the relevance of Rutland soils not only to plants they may support but also to fungi. There are field edges between Ayston and Ridlington where he finds clusters of the charming and unusual Field Bird's Nest Cyathus olla, a small splash cup with tiny puffballs inside. In January and December this year the crop was winter wheat, and in September harvested beans. The bare, grey-brown sandy earth they were on is derived from a Northamptonshire Sand substrate with a very thin veneer of boulder clay. The literature notes that this fungus occurs on soil, preferentially sandy / chalky soils, and can be with crop debris. It must be very at home in its Rutland site.

Fungi are integral to the web of life. We have symbiotic mycorrhizal associations between plants, trees and fungi, decomposing fungi recycling wood and leaf litter on land and Ingoldian hyphomycetes doing the same in foam in water. Parasitic action was demonstrated in Clipsham Park Wood this October when the anamorph (Sphaerellopsis state) of the ascomycete Eudarlucia caricis was parasitic on the rust Uromyces viciae-fabae var viciae-fabae, itself parasitic on Hairy Tare Vicia hirsuta. Roy Lemmon noted: 'the plant was very heavily infected'. Fungi are all around us, strange and wonderful. It's great when they get noticed!

Linda Worrall