

Come to the North Norfolk weekend, October 28/29, see page 2



Brent geese, Norfolk. P Scott

**Diary dates, 2**

**Weather, 4**

**Amphibians and reptiles, 4**

**Birds, 5**

**Botany, 9**

**Butterflies, 10**

**Moths, 11**

**Plant galls, 11**

**Orthoptera, 12**

**Other insects & invertebrates, 15**

**Glow-worms, 16**

**Mammals, 17**

**Bats, 18**

**RNHS contacts, 20**

The summer seems to have flown by, and already it feels that autumn is here! The butterflies and insects are struggling in the wind and rain, many migrants have disappeared and the fields are being cultivated and drilled with overwintering crops. Luckily our summer meetings all had good weather. At Fineshade we managed to get lost in the woods in spite of being with hugely knowledgeable Barrie Galpin, had a thoroughly enjoyable meander and spotted some butterflies, and crickets, much to Phil's delight!

The joint meeting with the British Plant Gall Society at Clipsham Park Wood, led by our Plant Gall Recorder Roy Lemmon, also benefited from good weather. A fascinating time was spent looking at things which would normally have passed by most of us without a second glance, learning more in that morning about galls than we could have imagined.

Did you know for instance that the mite gall *Aceria myriadeum* grows more on the left-hand side of the leaf than the right?

So now we can look ahead to autumn meetings both indoor and out. Joe Costley of Plantlife, who many of you have met at Seaton Meadows, starts the evening season with his talk on October 3.

Planning for the two-day trip to Norfolk at the end of October is well in hand, and I look forward to seeing you there.

## Remembering George Kirk

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of our long serving auditor, former committee member and Treasurer, George Kirk. George was able to audit our accounts earlier this year, and expressed his willingness to do so again! Sadly he became unwell in the spring, and after a short stay in a residential home, died on September 7th.

George was in his nineties, and happily was able to join our 50th Anniversary celebrations and reminiscences. His work for the Society was invaluable, and always carried out cheerfully with a smile. We are grateful to him for all he did for the Society.

## Nola Thurlow's legacy

We reported the sad death of Nola Thurlow earlier this year, a member who was devoted to the Society, and loved to watch birds. In her will she remembered us and has very kindly left a legacy of £500. We are very grateful for this and your Committee has agreed that to celebrate her life and love of birds we use the money annually to fund a specialised speaker on ornithology, beginning in the autumn of 2018.

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## DIARY DATES

### RNHS FIELD TRIPS

*Full details of all these events appear on our website at [www.rnhs.org.uk](http://www.rnhs.org.uk). If the weather is bad, check the website or call the 'Queries' phone number for changes.*

**Saturday October 14, 2.00 pm**

#### **BRAUNSTON-IN-RUTLAND – Lichens in Churchyards**

Ivan Pedley follows up his November 2016 lecture. Meet first at Braunston in Rutland churchyard. Grid Ref SK 833065. Then on to Brooke churchyard.

Queries: Roy Lemmon 01780 762051

**Sat/Sun October 28/29**

#### **NORTH NORFOLK wildlife weekend**

**Saturday 28 October**

**Morston Quay** boat trip to see seals on Blakeney point. Grey seals begin pupping in mid October. Meet on the quay at 10.45 am (cost £12 per adult).

Followed by afternoon visit to **Cley Marshes** Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) Nature Reserve and Visitor Centre (free to NWT members: non-members £5 (with Gift Aid), standard price: £4.50).

**Sunday 29 October**

Meet **Titchwell RSPB Reserve** 10.00 am (£5 per car for non-members).

Followed by walk at **Holme Dunes** in the afternoon (meet at The Firs, free to NWT members: day pass for non-members £3).

The seal trip will be weather dependent, so some change to timing may be necessary – therefore it is essential that you let me know if you would like to join us.

Warm clothing and good footwear will be essential.

**If you would like to come, please contact me, Linda Biddle, ASAP (01780 762108; email: [abiddle21@talktalk.net](mailto:abiddle21@talktalk.net)). You are welcome to join the group as it suits you, either for one or both days – BUT PLEASE GIVE NOTICE OF YOUR INTENTIONS in case of changes of programme due to the weather. You need to make your own arrangements if you wish to stay overnight.**

**Friday Nov 17, 7.30–9.30 pm**

#### **SKY AT NIGHT**

With David Conner. This could be changed to the 18th, weather conditions determining. Last year the weather foiled this event, but we will try again. Meet at the Volunteer Training Centre on the Hambleton Road. Grid Ref SK 884084.

Queries: Margaret Conner 01664 454532.

## RNHS EVENING MEETINGS

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

**Tuesday October 3, 7.30 pm**

### **Plantlife**

Joe Costley from *Plantlife*, who showed us round the Seaton Meadow Reserve in June, will explain what *Plantlife* is about, and the various aspects of the reserves in the UK and across the world that *Plantlife* is responsible for.

**Tuesday November 7, 7.30 pm**

### **Photographic evening**

It is obvious from photos sent in to *Fieldfare* and our evening meetings that we have some excellent photographers among us. This evening we will present the results of the competition which will have been used to make a RNHS calendar for 2018, able to be purchased that evening (price details later) or later from Peter Scott.

This is an evening to share your nature photographs with other people. Please be prepared to bring along your photos/films this evening on a memory stick, but preferably email in advance before the end of October to Peter Scott on [peter.scott27@btopenworld.com](mailto:peter.scott27@btopenworld.com). Any queries, phone Peter on 07535 509932.

**Tuesday December 5, 7.30 pm**

### **The Allerton Project**

Jim Egan and Amelia Woodford will update us on the work of the GWCT (Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust). Although I have not been told this officially, I suspect Mince Pies etc. may be on offer as this is our last meeting before Christmas.

## LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST, RUTLAND GROUP

*For events in Leicestershire and Rutland see [www.lrwt.org.uk](http://www.lrwt.org.uk) or phone 0116 262 9968. Rutland group meetings are held at the Volunteer Training Centre (VTC), Hambleton Road, LE15 8AD. Entry £1.*

**Monday October 16, 7.30 pm**

### **Bats at the Holwell Reserve**

Jenny Harris, LRWT, will talk about the wildlife and bats of the Holwell Reserve (near Melton Mowbray).

**Monday November 20, 7.30 pm**

### **Little Owls of Leicestershire**

Richard Pegler will talk about this charming species.

## LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST, BOURNE GROUP

*For details of LWT events, see [www.lincstrust.org.uk](http://www.lincstrust.org.uk), or phone 01507 526677 in office hours. Bourne group indoor meetings are held at the Methodist Church Hall, Bourne. Refreshments available. A donation of £1.50 is requested, children free.*

**Friday October 20, 7.30 pm**

### **Otters return to the Lowlands**

Stewart West has been studying otters in Lincolnshire for the past 10 years. He has used a number of techniques to track them and his talk will include video clips from camera traps. With the Bourne Area Group.

**Friday November 17, 7.30 pm**

### **Lincolnshire Birds of Prey**

Allan Ball is our guest speaker this month. Alan is well known across the county for his work with raptors, especially Red Kites and Peregrines. He rings and studies all key species and a couple of years ago had the privilege of ringing nearly 1,200 Barn Owl chicks. With the Bourne Area Group.

## WEATHER

### RECORDER Roy Lemmon

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

#### July 2017

**Atmospheric pressure and wind** This was another low pressure month with pressures in the range 1004 mb to 1017 mb except for a short period, the 13th–18th inclusive, in which they were elevated, but then only to 1024.5 mb on the 17th. Winds were irregular in direction apart from the last 6 days of the month when they were SW–W. Winds were often gusty and on the evenings of the 6th and 27th there were thunderstorms.

**Rain** The first half of the month was dry with a total measured here of 13.4 mm or what turned out to be 21% of the month's total. The second half produced 50.8 mm to give a total of 64.2 mm, which is 114% of my long-term mean of 27 years.

**Temperature** The half-monthly pattern referred to above was repeated with the temperature, the first half being appreciably warmer than the second. Overall the mean was 18.07 °C, which places July 2017 in 5th place in the decade 2008–2017.

#### August 2017

**Atmospheric pressure and wind** This was another month in which atmospheric pressure showed neither marked highs nor lows. The lowest I recorded was 1004 mb at 09.00 on the 3rd and the highest was 1024.5 mb at the same time on the 10th, but the great majority of pressures were between 1012 and 1020 mb. Winds were predominantly S–W except for the period 8th–13th, when they were W–NE. Winds in the first 3 weeks were often gusty, and on the 18th and 19th they were gusting to 18 mph at 09.00.

**Temperature** Overall not an especially warm August, the mean minimum, 11.37 °C, and the mean maximum, 22.13 °C, were both sixth in the decade 2008–2017. The highlight of the month was the Bank Holiday weekend, which saw the two highest maxima of the whole month, 26.7 °C on the Sunday and 28.2 °C on the Monday. Combined with good sunshine levels and low wind speeds, this was quite memorable. The daytime maximum on the following Wednesday was just 14.5 °C!

**Rain** A dry August, a total of 42.8 mm (1.69 inches) was recorded here and this represents 67% of my long-term mean of 27 years. 63% of this total fell in 3 days, the 7th–9th inclusive.

## AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

### RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore

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

#### July/August 2017

I received more records than usual for these two months, including a number of records from slightly neglected parishes, namely Barrow and Uppingham, which is encouraging.

There were reports of froglets at Leighfield and Prior's Coppice in early July and they were seen elsewhere in Braunston in both months, as well as in Wing. Quite a few frogs were found in the marquees at Egleton after the Bird Fair.

Small toads were seen at Leighfield in early July and a dead one was seen near Prior's Coppice in August. Toads of various sizes were seen in my garden in Wing on many occasions in both months, and toads were also found in a swimming pool in Wing plus a road casualty. A toad has also taken up residence at Fishponds Cottage, by the Nature Reserve. A toad in a garden in Uppingham in August is the first record of this species from Uppingham for 25 years.

Smooth Newt records from Fishponds Cottage and from Uppingham are the only newt records received, the Uppingham record being the first since 2000 from there.

There were only two lizard records, both from Clipsham. The first on 16th July was a basking individual at Clipsham Quarry and the second one was climbing a tree in the Yew Tree Avenue.

In the first half of July Grass Snakes were observed at Rutland Water Nature Reserve (one), Greetham Golf Course (three) and Leighfield (two). In addition one was found in a carport in Barrow, a village with no previous records of this species. At the end of August one was seen in Lagoon 3 at Rutland Water.

*My thanks to the following who supplied records: T Appleton, D & J Ball, C Baxter, N Burrows, T Caldicott, M Grimes, P Langston, R Lemmon, D Needham and L Park.*

## BIRDS

### RECORDER Terry Mitcham

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

E-mail: [joterpat@btinternet.com](mailto:joterpat@btinternet.com)

### July/August 2017



Rutland Water was the main focus as autumn passage got underway and wildfowl numbers began to build with some exciting rarities in August – **American Wigeon**, **Shag** and **White-winged Black Tern**. Good numbers of **Red Kites** were reported, with **Marsh Harriers** at three sites and **Hobby** and **Peregrine** also noted. The LROS Annual Report for 2015 noted a marked reduction in **Kestrel** records, which I have noticed locally in recent years. Please send in all records of Kestrel with a grid reference so that we can gain a clearer idea of its current status in the county.

Scarcer waders included **Knot**, **Sanderling** and **Wood Sandpiper**, with **Green Sandpipers** away from the reservoirs. **Little Gull** and **Mediterranean Gull** were regular at Rutland Water, with **Black Tern** on several dates. Low numbers of **Redstarts** and **Whinchats** passed through.

*My thanks to the following for their records: E Ansell, T Appleton, D Ball, P Bennett, A & L Biddle, T Caldicott, D Cole, A & J Comber, Dr C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, J Harris, P Langston, LROS, T Mitcham, B Moore, D Needham, M & J Nourish, J S & J Rodgers, RWNr, P Rudkin.*

(See also Wildfowl Counts).

<b>American Wigeon</b>	One in eclipse plumage was at RWEg2 from 29.08 to 31.08.
<b>Gadwall</b>	Two pairs bred at FHP with broods of four and two on 16.07.
<b>Garganey</b>	Noted at RWEg from 14.07 to at least 18.08. Singles also at FHP on 22 and 28.08, and EBR from 25.08 to the end of the month.
<b>Red-crested Pochard</b>	One or two were at RWSA/NA from 16.07 to 25.08 with a pair at EBR between 12–14.08.
<b>Tufted Duck</b>	Breeding records came from RWEg3, a brood of 11 on 21.07, and FHP with three young on 22.08.
<b>Common Scoter</b>	In RWSA there were three on 16–17.07 and singles on 18 and 23.07.
<b>Goosander</b>	Two females were reported from RWSA on 25.07. An unusual summer record.
<b>Quail</b>	A singing bird was at Leigh on 09.07.
<b>Grey Partridge</b>	Singles were at FHP on 08.07 and Ext Park on 30.07, with a covey of 13 there on 27.08.
<b>Shag</b>	A juvenile was in RWNA on 29.08.
<b>Red Kite</b>	Peak counts were eight over the A6003 near Cal on 05.07, five over North Brook valley near HM on 22.07 and seven there on 28.07. One pair was confirmed breeding, fledging one young.
<b>Marsh Harrier</b>	A female was at RWEg throughout both months. A juvenile was at FHP on 22.07 and singles were at EBR on 11.08, 18.08 and on 25 and 26.08.
<b>Buzzard</b>	Fledged young were heard/seen at BCF, FHP, Ext Park and Barrow. Five over Wg on 14.07 was the peak count.
<b>Osprey</b>	Five of the pairs monitored by the RW Osprey Project bred in Rutland, with fishing birds noted at LFP in July and up to 25.08. Two were at EBR on 26.08 with four juveniles still at RW at the end of Aug.

<b>Bittern</b>	One was at RWEg3 from 20.08 to the end of the month.
<b>Great White Egret</b>	Present at RW throughout both months with a peak of four between 20 and 23.07.
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>	An adult returned to RWNA on 24.08.
<b>Black-necked Grebe</b>	One was in RWSA on 06.08.
<b>Oystercatcher</b>	Four were on pasture near Wg on 03.07. At RW there were 24 on 11.07 and three in NA on 30.07.
<b>Lapwing</b>	Counts produced 172 at RW on 11.07 and 773 on 15.08. At EBR there were 78 on 23.07 and 100 on 13.08.
<b>Little Ringed Plover</b>	Noted at RW on 05 and 06.07, with 14 on the second date, and with two at EBR on 09.07. Present at RWEg from 20.07 to 15.08, with five on the first date. One was at EBR on 29.08.
<b>Ringed Plover</b>	All records were from RWEg, mostly of breeding birds with up to four noted. c.10 were seen on 04.08 and eight on 15.08. Singles were over Wg on 19 and Leigh on 22.08.
<b>Whimbrel</b>	One of unknown origin and carrying a copper ring was at RWEg on several dates around 11.07. Two flew over Wg on 19.07 and singles were at/over RW on 20.07, 30.07, 06.08 and 24 and 29.08. Singles were over Man on 07 and 16.08.
<b>Curlew</b>	Six were at RWEg4 on 08.07. Two were present on 11.07 with singles on 21 and 30.07 and 15.08. One flew over Wg on 22.07.
<b>Black-tailed Godwit</b>	Regular in single figures at RWEg in both months but with 19 on 08.07 and 31 on 17.07. 15 flew over on 04.08. Up to five were at EBR between 14 and 31.08. Passage birds were noted over Wg with four on 22.07 and eight on 28.07.
<b>Ruff</b>	One or two were at RWNA/Eg between 13.07 and 29.08, with three on 15.08. Two were at EBR on 27.08.
<b>Knot</b>	Singles were at EBR on 01.07 and RWEg4 on 24.07.
<b>Sanderling</b>	Two were at RWEg4 on 24.07, with singles there on 04, 30 and 31.08.
<b>Dunlin</b>	Noted at RW from 09.07 to the end of Aug, with a max of 14 on 04.08. Reported from EBR from 12.07 to 26.08 on six dates, with three on 29.07 and 06.08.
<b>Green Sandpiper</b>	Regular at both reservoirs throughout both months with five at RW on 26.07 and two August dates, with five also at EBR on 29.08. Two were by the small lake in Ext Park on 22.07. Singles were at Banthorpe GP on 21.08, LFP 22–24.08, FHP on 26.08 and over Wg on 29.08.
<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	Reported from RW from 01.07 to at least 24.08, with a max of ten on 15.08. Up to three were at EBR between 05.07 and 28.08, and one was at Banthorpe GP on 21.08.
<b>Greenshank</b>	Up to three (15.08) were at RW from that date to the end of the month. Regular at EBR from 06.08 to the end of August, with six on 22.08. One at Banthorpe GP on 21.08 was a first record for the site.
<b>Wood Sandpiper</b>	What was possibly the same bird was in RWNA from 03.08 to the end of the month, with singles at Lynd on 14.08 and Wet Meadow on 19.08. One was at EBR on 22.08.
<b>Redshank</b>	Four were at EBR on 01.07. Three were at RW on 11.07, with a pair and three juveniles there on 08.07. One called over Leigh on 05.08 and three were at RW on 15.08.
<b>Snipe</b>	At EBR there were two on 13.08 and three on 26.08.
<b>Little Tern</b>	One was at RWEg4 on 08.07 and two were at EBR on 21.07.
<b>Black Tern</b>	Singles were at RW on 18.07, 26.07 and 17–19.08.
<b>White-winged Black Tern</b>	A bird in superb breeding plumage was at RWNA/Eg3 on 09/10.08.
<b>Common Tern</b>	At RW there were 75 on 11.07 and 95 on 15.08. Nine were at EBR on 13.08.
<b>Arctic Tern</b>	One was at RWSA on 01.08.
<b>Little Gull</b>	An adult was at RWNA/Eg from 24.07 to the end of August.
<b>Common Gull</b>	Three flew west at FHP on 30.07.
<b>Mediterranean Gull</b>	An adult roosted regularly at RWEg4 from 05.07, with a juvenile on 28.07 and three juveniles on 06.08.

<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>	145 flew SW at Wg on 29.08.
<b>Yellow-legged Gull</b>	Seven were at RW on 09 and 11.07, with two on 15.08.
<b>Turtle Dove</b>	Single birds sang at Stock on 04.07 and LFP on 23.07. We now seem to have lost this species as a breeding bird.
<b>Barn Owl</b>	Records of hunting birds were received from RWEg, Wg, near Oak and Man.
<b>Little Owl</b>	Three were near Wg on 22.07, with one calling there on 30.07. Bred near Mor and probably at Barrow, where a juvenile was in a garden on 20.08.
<b>Swift</b>	c.100 flew south at Leigh on 20.07. On 26.08 four were at EBR and over Oak.
<b>Kingfisher</b>	In addition to the records in the Wildfowl Counts, five were at Leigh on 23.07, with four noted there on 01.08, and one was at EBR on 26.08. None have yet been seen at FHP this year.
<b>Kestrel</b>	A family party of seven was near Wg on 15.07. Regularly seen at FHP in both months.
<b>Hobby</b>	Two were over HM on 02.07, and two over RWNA on 30.07. One or two were regular over RWEg in both months, with fledging Sand Martins the main attraction. Singles were noted near Wg and LFP in August.
<b>Peregrine</b>	One was around BCF in mid-July and one was over Oak on 05.07 and in mid-Aug, when one was also at RWEg.
<b>Green Woodpecker</b>	Well reported with some good nos noted – seven at Greet Valley GC on 17.07, and at Leigh eight on 14.08. Regular at FHP and also noted near Emp on 09.07 and Barrow in both months.
<b>Willow Tit</b>	Up to three were noted in July and August at LFP, with singles near Wg and at RWEg.
<b>Raven</b>	Reported from regular breeding sites, with five at one suggesting a successful outcome. Two flew over FHP on 28.07, and 12 were at Leigh on 25.07.
<b>Swallow</b>	Numbers at Leigh increased from c.90 on 19.07 to c.200 by 24.08. c.100 were near Wg on 23.08.
<b>Long-tailed Tit</b>	Six were in an Oak garden on 15.07.
<b>Chiffchaff</b>	c.60 were around Leigh on 10/11.08.
<b>Lesser Whitethroat</b>	Eight were around Leigh on 29.07 with ten noted on 14.08. One was at GHW on 24.08.
<b>Grasshopper Warbler</b>	One or two continued to sing near Leigh between 04 and 20.07.
<b>Sedge Warbler</b>	One or two remained at LFP throughout July. One sang near Wg on 17.07 and a passage bird was at FHP on 27.08.
<b>Reed Warbler</b>	Two sang at LFP to 21.07, and one was at Leigh on 29.07 and 06.08.
<b>Nuthatch</b>	Regular at FHP and Ext Park with one visiting feeders in an Oak garden on 25/26.07.
<b>Song Thrush</b>	One visited a sunflower seed feeder in an Oak garden on 24.07 – have other members noted this behaviour ?
<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>	Reports came from Wg, LFP, Leigh, Brk, Norm, BCF, RWEW, RWEg and KQ (last date 28.08). Most were singles or pairs but there were four at LFP on 18.07 and six there on 27.08. The only confirmed breeding record was near the Birdwatching Centre at Eg.
<b>Robin</b>	c.57 were noted around Leigh on 27/28.08.
<b>Pied Flycatcher</b>	One was seen in the meadows at RWEg on 20.08.
<b>Redstart</b>	Passage birds were noted between 08.07 and 31.08 at Leigh, Martinsthorpe and near Wg. Singles and pairs were involved with a Wg bird present from 14.07 to 07.08, two females at Leigh on 12.07, and two noted in two areas near Leigh on 27 and 31.08.
<b>Whinchat</b>	Three were at EBR between 25/27.08. and two were at Luff Airfield on 26.08.
<b>Stonechat</b>	A juvenile was seen near Wg on 03.08 – perhaps one of the young fledged at RW this year?
<b>Wheatear</b>	In August singles were at Martinsthorpe on 20, and Leigh on 28. Two were at Luff Airfield on 28.08.

<b>Tree Sparrow</b>	At EBR there were four on 09.07 and two on 29.07.
<b>Yellow Wagtail</b>	A juvenile was in RWNA on 30.07. Ten flew over Wg on 23.08, and 13 over Leigh on 22.08.
<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	Four were near Wg on 14.07 and two were at FHP on 22.07.
<b>Tree Pipit</b>	Passage birds were noted over Leigh on five dates between 11 and 25.08.
<b>Meadow Pipit</b>	Six flew over at Leigh on 09.07 and two were at GHW on 23.07.
<b>Bullfinch</b>	Noted at Emp on 09.07. 43 were around Leigh on 29.07, with c.40 there on 10/11.08.
<b>Linnet</b>	c.100 were near Leigh on 22.08.
<b>Common Crossbill</b>	Two flew over Leigh on 02.08.
<b>Goldfinch</b>	c.120 were on thistles near Wg on 03 and 23.08.

### July/August 2017 Wildfowl counts

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Fort Henry Ponds / Exton Park		Banthorpe Gravel Pit	
	11.07	15.08	23.07	13.08	22.07	22.08	22.07	21.08
Mute Swan	422	320	99	89	8	23	2	2
Greylag Goose	822	474	337	264	17			
Canada Goose	616	335	265	180				
Egyptian Goose	88	52						
Shelduck	5	9			5			
Mandarin Duck	2							
Wigeon	4	9						
Gadwall	1272	1597	12	24	10	38		
Teal	20	152	1	7		8		
Mallard	847	586	231	284	96	168		3
Pintail	1	2						
Garganey		1				1		
Shoveler	22	38	1			23		
Red-crested Pochard		1		2				
Pochard	13	21						
Tufted Duck	1480	3414	6	5	24	3		
Cormorant	177	277	9	17	1			
Little Egret	102	63	3	7				
Great White Egret	4	3						
Grey Heron	16	16	3	7	3	3	1	1
Little Grebe	26	100			2			
Great Crested Grebe	258	334	54	62				
Water Rail		2						
Moorhen	121	91	1	1	28	51	1	1
Coot	1238	2362	79	178	57	74		
Kingfisher	1	3		1				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7557</b>	<b>10262</b>	<b>1101</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

## September notes

Autumn is upon us. The first beech leaves are falling on my lawn, at the beginning of the month. Many plants have ceased to flower but the fruits are obvious everywhere, plenty of blackberries, lots of elderberries, hips and haws, whilst downy thistle seeds float about.

We have had records from the usual handful of faithful recorders. Amongst them are a number of flowers never recorded, or seldom recorded over the last decade, since 2000 to be exact. That's not to say that, of course, that they have only just appeared; they may have been overlooked, or they may have been too insignificant to bother with. One such flower is **Procumbent Yellow Sorrel**, which grows well in my garden (this or a very close cousin). Another, reported from Lyndon Reserve, is **Many-seeded Goosefoot**, a member of the *Chenopodium* family, as is Fat Hen, Good King Henry and indeed that now popular food, Quinoa. **Giant Bellflower**, found in Prior's Coppice, has only been reported once before, and **Arrowhead**, from the Water Plantain family, hasn't been reported since before 2000, if at all. **Vervain**, again from Lyndon, hasn't figured much in the lists. It was thought, in the Middle Ages, to protect against the Devil, and was used to cure a whole variety of diseases, presumably those sent by Him. Now it's only used for herb tea, which is supposed to be sedative and induce calm nights. It tastes all right.

I've just been reading a fascinating biography of Alexander von Humboldt, whom I knew little about except that he went to South America and has a current named after him. He collected all types of living things in his journeys, mostly in that continent, and his observations led him to realise that there were vegetation and climatic zones across the globe. The same isotherm, his word, shared the same types of vegetation no matter where this occurred. He then went on to realise that all living things are interdependent. He saw that human activity could affect the climate. In Venezuela deforestation led to barren land, torrential rains and soil erosion. Human meddling with the environment could have an unforeseeable impact on future generations. It is a pity that we haven't learnt from such theories first described over 200 years ago.

His ideas influenced many people. He corresponded with, and then met, Darwin and he knew and influenced Simon Bolivar. The author goes on to write about Thoreau, Ernst Haeckel who coined the word ecology, and John Muir who was responsible for the development of America's National Parks, all of whom owe a debt to Humboldt.

You may be interested too. The book is *The Invention of Nature* (2015) by Andrea Wulf, published by John Murray – I found it in Oakham Library.

*In the last two months, many thanks for records from: L & A Biddle, R Edwards, M Grimes, R Lemmon, J Mallet, T Mitcham, J S & J Rodgers and H Willoughby Ellis.*

# BUTTERFLIES

**RECORDER Richard Brown**

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## July/August 2017

**Annual summary to date** With the addition of Purple Emperor and of a first-of-this-year White Letter Hairstreak seen at KQ on 1 August, our annual species total so far for 2017 is now 30, the same as for the whole year of 2016.

## Noteworthy records for July/August

- Purple Emperor** The Society now has two records of Purple Emperor for 2017, both from Clipsham, on the 3rd and 9th July. One observation was of the insect settled on dog faeces, a common habit for the species, and a regrettably common feature at Clipsham.
- Other information on the internet shows that Emperors have been recently recorded from 4 sites in Rutland – three of them near Clipsham in the north-east of the county. This may well mean the species is spreading, as several of these sites have been regularly visited by naturalists over the years, with no previous recordings.
- Common Blue** A female of the blue form was seen at Ryhall Heath on 19 August. The upper wing of the female is almost completely brown in Southern England, with occasional exceptions like this. In Scotland and Ireland the female upper wing is predominantly blue.
- Fritillaries** This year has been a good one for our Fritillaries. Dark Greens have been recorded from 5 sites (only 2 in 2016), with counts of 25 plus at KQ and 37 at CQ. Silver Washed have been found at 6 sites (only 3 in 2016), with a maximum count of 15 at BOQ on 1 August.

**Noteworthy absentees for 2017** Despite regular observation at BOQ there has again been no record of Chalkhill Blue this year – the last record was in 2015. And there are no records of Clouded Yellow yet – and it is getting a bit late for an immigration to take place.

## Regular records for other species in July/August

- Small Skipper** Two records, one a remarkable count of 35 near Wing.
- Essex and Large Skipper** Single records of singletons of each.
- Brimstone** Seen regularly in small numbers.
- Large, Small and Green-veined White** Seen regularly in small numbers.
- Small Copper** Regular sightings, mostly singletons from 5 sites.
- Brown Argus** Scattered records from 4 sites.
- Common Blue** From 8 sites, maximum count 7 from KQ.
- Red Admiral** Widespread – 10 sites, in good numbers – maximum 18.
- Painted Lady** A modest year – plenty of sites, 10, but rarely more than singletons.
- Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock** Good months. Maximum 15 Small Torts and 11 Peacocks.
- Comma** Still a few about throughout the months.
- Speckled Wood** Maximum 13 on 31 August.
- Marbled White** Not as many as in June, but still 70 plus at BPQuarry on 8 July.
- Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown** Plentiful and widely distributed.
- Small Heath** Only occasional.
- Ringlet** Not a plentiful 2 months – only one count of more than 10.

*Many thanks to the following contributors: J & D Ball, P Bennett, T Caldicott, M Grimes, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, D Needham, J S & J Rodgers and A Tomlinson*

## MOTHS

**RECORDER Paul Bennett**

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**July/August 2017**

Moth trapping at Lyndon has continued on a more or less weekly basis and has been productive both in terms of numbers and of species recorded. The higher totals encountered at the end of August are normal for this time of year, as is the fact that, of the 44 species identified on 22nd August, 3 species (**Large Yellow Underwing**, **Setaceous Hebrew Character** and **Flame Shoulder**) at counts of 54, 36 and 48 respectively totalled more than the other species put together. The least common moths noted were **Dotted Clay** and **Square-spotted Clay**; the former is only thinly recorded in the region and was trapped on 2 occasions with the latter, a Nationally Scarce B category moth, seen singly in 3 traps in August. **Herald** and **Old Lady** were welcome records, neither are particularly rare but they are noted more for being attracted to sugary baits than to light sources. The Herald unfortunately was a well-worn specimen making it unsuitable for photography. **Poplar Hawkmoths** continued to be recorded well into August with fresh specimens still being seen. Occurrences of second generations of this species are becoming more common nationally and showing a northward spread even into Scotland but to my knowledge these are the first to be recorded at the Lyndon site, although it should also be mentioned that they can emerge in the middle of the night and this is the first year that a trap has been left at Lyndon overnight. One was also in the Rothamsted trap at Egleton on the 26th August. **Red Underwings** emerged quite early this year with up to 3 being regularly seen on the wall of the Visitor centre (1 was also reported on 11th July at Edith Weston). 9 **Centre-barred Sallows** were recorded on 27th August, normally one of the first of the species to usher in the autumn season. It is intended that Lyndon will continue to be trapped after the Visitor Centre closes in September.

Other trap records were regular ones of **Canary-shouldered Thorn** at Egleton Centre, where a **Swallow-tailed Moth** was also seen. Among those caught in the Birdfair trap at Egleton was a **Black Arches**.

Two garden records of note were **Hummingbird Hawkmoths** at Edithweston and regularly at Manton while a **Brimstone** was seen at Oakham.

Wider countryside reports included 2 **Dusky Sallow** at Pilton and Leighfield feeding on Knapweed and thistles respectively, an **Angle Shades** was seen resting on a gravestone in Cottesmore churchyard and a **Gold Spot** was seen near Wing. Only 3 **Silver Y's** were reported in what appears to be a thin year for the species locally. Two caterpillar records of note were 18 **Buff-tip** larvae devouring oak leaves at Leighfield and the larva of an **Elephant Hawkmoth** feeding on a Fuchsia bush at Empingham.

*With thanks to the following for submitting their records: V Arnold, P Bennett, T Caldicott, R Edwards, M Grimes, A Lambert, P Rudkin*

## PLANT GALLS

**RECORDER Roy Lemmon**

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**July/August 2017**

We are now at the peak of the plant gall season and looking back it is interesting to see how the pattern of what we see changes over the months. In the early part of the season the galls found are largely those caused either by rusts or mites, and in the latter case this is because many mites overwinter in cracks and crevices in the bark of trees and hence are ready to infest the leaves as soon as they emerge. Later in the season we find an increasing number of galls caused by the gall wasps, especially on Oak.

July has seen the only record so far this year of the mite gall on Cleavers, this is

normally more frequent but seems to be having a quiet year. A new record turned up at Egleton (RW) at the end of the month, as a mite gall on Aspen, along with the ramshorn gall on Oak.

In August, Lyndon on the 10th produced some 10 examples of wasp galls, along with several others, mostly on Oak. A report from Wing notes that Knopper galls on a young oak are less numerous this year. An RNHS visit to the churchyard in Cottesmore on the 31st produced a total of 10 galls, remarkable in that the site is mown to within an inch of its life!

The highlight of the month was the joint RNHS–British Plant Gall Society meeting at Clipsham on the 27th. The weather was arguably the best we have had this summer, warm, sunny and almost windless. A total of 16 people, attended, including 4 BPGS members, and in all some 47 species of gall were found, 14 on Oak alone of which 10 were gall wasp induced. The visiting BPGS members have commented on the friendly reception they received from Society members.

*Thanks to the following for their records: Dr C Gallimore, M Grimes, T Higginbottom BPGS, C Leach BPGS and R Lemmon*

## ORTHOPTERA

### RECORDER Phil Rudkin

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### July/August 2017

A reasonable start to the Orthoptera season! I was out of the loop with a virus for nearly a month, from 7 August, so I was delighted with the support from Tim Caldicott and Martin Grimes, who reported many sightings, and kept the 'ball rolling' for the grasshoppers and crickets in Rutland.

As always, Clive Jones managed to find an Oak Bush Cricket around his house and garden, and starts off the official list for this period; which is important, because we have few reports for this under-recorded species.

It was pleasing to find a few new sites, and one of the most significant was when I stopped off for a drink (on my way to North Brooke, Exton), at the field gateway to the Public Byway, which is the Hereward Way, on the outskirts of Empingham. The conservation margins at the edge of large wheat crops were full of Roesel's Bush Crickets, Long-winged Coneheads, and Meadow Grasshoppers. The lovely mixed hedgerows were alive with the stridulations of Speckled Bush Crickets. Tim Caldicott has reported from his regular haunts at Leighfield and Crown Well Bridge, Wing (with a few new sites), and Martin Grimes has kept up his sightings from both sides of the Lyndon Reserve.

The RNHS held their August Plant gall field meeting, led by Roy Lemmon and the BPGS, at Clipsham Park Woods/Yew Tree Avenue, on the 27th. This was a chance to monitor the fortunes of the Orthopterans, and thanks go to Ann Tomlinson and Martin Grimes for staying on for a while, and locating the good numbers of Roesel's Bush Crickets and Dark Bush crickets, in the shrubbery of the track off the Avenue, and into the edge of the woods.

At the request of Jane and Duncan Ball, who met us, a team (consisting of Roy Lemmon, Martin Grimes, Paul Bennet, David Needham and myself), arrived at Cottesmore Churchyard on the morning of 31 August, to conduct a survey of the wildlife. After a thorough search, I only recorded a small colony of Speckled Bush Crickets, high up in an Ash tree. However, the others had some success with Galls, Rusts, Butterflies and Moths. Thank you Jane and Duncan!

Ann Tomlinson reports from Aldgate, Ketton, that the regular Dark Bush Cricket numbers are good, and all around her area. Ann will be producing a map of their whereabouts for the November *Fieldfare*.

Dave Needham has taken photographs of Common Green Grasshopper, and a male Long-winged Conehead, in his favourite haunt of Ketton Quarries.

## Bush Crickets

### Oak Bush Cricket, *Meconema thalassinum*

One female, found floating in water butt, in back garden of Gower Lodge, Uppingham, 26 August. SP863997.

### Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

The only sightings for the July/August period were at the Society's Plant gall field meeting on 27 August (see introduction). CPW is a stronghold of this species, and large numbers were active in the shrubbery at the edge of YTA with the woodland trail. Thanks to Martin Grimes and Ann Tomlinson.

### Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Metrioptera roeselii*

One female, observed in porch of The Stone House, Reeves Lane, Wing, 26 July, new site, SK889032.

Regular sites visited and numbers maintained of this common and widespread cricket: Crown Well Bridge, Wing (nymphs in early July); masses of stridulating males, at Quarry Farm, 6 and 9 July. The Egleton Reserve survey on 23 July produced large numbers near Badger Hide, SK879073, and at Sharples Meadow, SK881077. Small colony observed in the rough vegetation next to the Summer Trail, SK880074.

In August, Martin Grimes reported from the Lyndon Reserve: stridulating males next to Tufted Duck Hide, SK887053, and West Meadows, SK889054; females and males observed in the East Meadows, SK897057.

During the Society's Plant gall field meeting, Ann Tomlinson and Martin Grimes reported the usual expected large numbers in the rough herbage of the woodland ride (adjacent to YTA). Large numbers heard and seen in the Natural England Wildflower Meadow, at Quarry Farm, Stamford, on 27 August.

An exciting new site for Roesel's bush cricket was found on 1 August, with masses of stridulating males in thick grasses next to hedgerows, and in 6 metre conservation margins along the edges of wheat crops; a small population found in rough corner, at the field gate, just off the A606. This new site is a Public Byway, along the Hereward Way, just outside Empingham. SK958078.

One entered the porch of Stone House, Wing, 26 July. SK889032.

Visits were made to the hotspots in Rutland, where numbers were stable, as follows: Wing Burrows, Barrow, Horn Mill meadows with the North Brook, Verge 7, and Great Casterton.

### Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus discolor*

First nymphs reported from Crown Well Bridge, near Wing: 7, 19, 28 July. The Egleton Reserve, on 23 July, had 4 adult males stridulating in Sharples Meadow, SK881077. 15+ stridulating males in rough grasses at the edge of large wheat field, along the Hereward Way, which is a Public Byway, 1 Aug, new site SK958078.

One male in the Donkey Paddock, Ketton Quarry, 10 Aug. One stridulating male, in East Meadows, Lyndon reserve, 22 Aug, SK897057. Adults reported from Crown Well Bridge, Wing, mid and late August. One stridulating male, Leighfield Fishponds, 24 Aug.

Large numbers heard in the first field (Natural England) wildflower meadow, and in the second field, Quarry Farm, Stamford, 27 Aug. Finally, 12+ stridulating males, in their regular haunt, in the North Brook meadow, Horn Mill, Exton, 31 Aug.

### Speckled Bush Cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima*

First nymphs reported at Crown Well Bridge, Wing, on 2 and 28 July. Large colony detected (35 kHz), in Blackthorn and Hawthorn mixed hedgerow (possibly Stewardship scheme), for approx. 250 yards, along the Hereward Way, Public Byway, just outside Empingham, 1 Aug, new site: SK958078. One male found in field, a short distance south of Tolethorpe Hall, Little Casterton, on 10 Aug, TF020102, new site.



Dark Bush Cricket, P Scott



Female Speckled Bush Cricket, A Tomlinson

Three stridulating males, and one observed, in the East Meadows, Lyndon Reserve, 22 Aug, SK897056. Three stridulating males in vegetation outside Tufted Duck Hide, Lyndon reserve, 22 Aug, SK887053. During the Society's Plant galls field meeting, 27 Aug, the usual expected large colonies were located in the shrubs along YTA. Also, the regular haunt at Horn Mill, Exton, large numbers detected in the abundant hedgerows in the meadows, on 31 Aug. In Barrow village, another regular site had good numbers stridulating in hedgerows, along the main street, on 31 Aug.

Finally, a new site was found as a team surveyed Cottesmore churchyard, with 6+ stridulating males, high up in Ash tree, 31 Aug, SK902136.

## Groundhoppers

### **Slender Groundhopper, *Tetrix subulata***

One observed at Crown Well Bridge, Wing, on 23 Aug, SK884037, new site.

## Grasshoppers

### **Common Green Grasshopper, *Omocestus viridulus***

Four stridulating males on 8 July, and two on 12 July, in meadow at Leighfield, track west of Priors' Coppice, SK826050, new site. One stridulating male in grasses, Leighfield, SK816050, 25 Aug, new site. One stridulating male in meadow, Leighfield, south of the Barn, SK832047, 27 Aug, new site. Finally, one in the Valley, Ketton Quarries, 27 Aug. A welcome batch of sightings of this local species!

### **Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus***

Crown Well Bridge, Wing, featured strongly with sightings of this grasshopper. One adult and one nymph, on 7 July, followed by 2 adults on 10 July. Throughout August, 5 adults observed. SK884037, new site.

### **Meadow Grasshopper, *Chorthippus parallelus***

First reports of big colonies at usual haunts: Mill Lane meadows, Empingham, and Quarry Farm, Stamford, 9 July. The Egleton Reserve survey, on 23 July, found numbers maintained in all regular spots. Ten + stridulating males in 6 metre conservation margins, at edges of wheat crops, and in the rough grasses, at the entrance gate, Hereward Way, near Empingham, on 1 Aug, SK958078, new site. Stridulating males noted, in small grassy patches, down YTA, during the Society's Plant galls field meeting, 27 August.

Regular sites visited for this species were successful, with large numbers reported: Horn Mill/North Brooke, Exton; Mill Lane meadows, Empingham; Quarry Farm, Stamford.

### **Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, *Chorthippus albomarginatus***

First reports: stridulating males and courtship pairs, Mill Lane meadows, Empingham, and Quarry Farm, Stamford, both on 9 July. The Egleton Reserve Survey, on 23 July, found large numbers in all the regular habitats. Five stridulating males in rough grasses next to the field gate, Hereward Way, near Empingham, 1 August, SK958078, new site. Finally: four males stridulating in grass patches along YTA, at the Society's Plant galls meeting, 27 Aug.

*Many thanks to: T Caldicott, C Gallimore, M Grimes, A Tomlinson, D Needham, C Jones, P Rudkin.*

## OTHER INSECTS AND INVERTEBRATES RECORDER Gill Chiverton

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### July/August 2017

#### Odonata DAMSELFLIES

- Banded Demoiselle** **July** One female seen in Manton garden; 56 recorded along river Chater near Wing on 10th.  
*Calopteryx splendens*
- Emerald damselfly** **August** One noted at Crown Well Bridge.  
*Lestes sponsa*

#### DRAGONFLIES

- Migrant Hawker** **July** One noted in a Manton garden on two occasions.  
*Aeshna mixta*
- Southern Hawker** **August** A single male noted on two occasions in a Barrowden garden. One male noted at Quarry Farm pond, and one male seen at Stretton.  
*Aeshna cyanea*
- Brown Hawker** **August** A number noted patrolling at Thorpe-by-water. One noted on RNHS Plant gall visit to Clipsham.  
*Aeshna grandis*
- Emperor** *Anax imperator* **August** One male seen on three occasions at Leighfield Fishponds.
- Common Darter** **August** One female seen on RNHS Plant gall visit to Clipsham.  
*Sympetrum striolatum*

#### Hemiptera BUGS

- Green Shieldbug** **August** One seen at Clipsham.  
*Palomena prasina*
- Red-legged Shieldbug** **July** One noted at Wing.  
*Pentatoma rufipes* **August** One noted again at Wing.
- Hairy Shieldbug** **August** One recorded at Clipsham.  
*Dolycoris baccarum*
- Woundwort Shieldbug** **August** One found in a garden at Uppingham.  
*Eysarcoris venustissimus*

#### Neuroptera LACEWINGS AND RELATIVES

- Green Lacewing** **August** One insect observed at Clipsham.  
*Chrysopidae sp.*

#### Coleoptera BEETLES

- 7-spot Ladybird** **August** 3 seen together at Quarry Farm and noted at Clipsham.  
*Coccinella 7-punctata*
- Harlequin Ladybird** **August** One noted at RWLyndon and five seen at Cottesmore churchyard.  
*Harmonia axyridis*
- Orange Ladybird** **August** One seen near river Chater at Leighfield.  
*Halyzia 16-guttata*
- Adonis Ladybird** **August** One on ragwort at Leighfield.
- 22-spot Ladybird** **August** Four noted in grassland at RWLyndon.  
*Psyllobora 22-punctata*

#### Diptera TRUE FLIES

- Hoverfly** **August** One noted at Leighfield Fishponds.  
*Chrysogaster cemiteriorum*

- Hoverfly** *Ferdinandea cuprea* **August** One seen at Crown Well Bridge
- Hoverfly** *Helophilus hybridus* **July** One seen at Crown Well Bridge
- Hoverfly** *Volucella inanis* **July** One noted on two occasions at Crown Well Bridge, one seen at Barnsdale Gardens and one seen at Manton.
- August** One noted at Crown Well Bridge, one seen at Leighfield Fishponds and single insects noted several times at Manton.

### Hymenoptera BEES, WASPS, ANTS AND RELATED INSECTS

- Yellow Meadow Ant** *Lasius flavus* **August** Good numbers of active ant hills seen in the dell, Ketton Quarry.
- Hornet** *Vespa crabro* **August** Two seen during RNHS Plant gall visit to Clipsham.
- Tree Bumble Bee** *Bombus hypnorum* **August** Noted on two occasions in a Manton garden.
- Red-tailed Bumble Bee** *Bombus lapidarius* **August** One queen bee recorded at Ketton Quarry. In August a report was received of a sighting in a garden in Barrowden in July of red-tailed bumble bees mating. What an interesting record. The observer especially mentioned the noticeable size difference between the large queen bumble bee and the much smaller male.
- Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascuorum* **August** One worker noted at RWLyndon. Several seen nectaring in Cottesmore churchyard.

### Other Arthropods

### Gastropoda SNAILS

- Kentish snail** *Monacha cantiana* **August** One adult noted at the dell, Ketton Quarry.
- White-lipped snail** *Cepaea hortensis* **August** One empty shell found on RNHS visit to Clipsham.

*Many thanks to the following recorders: T Caldicott, A Chiverton, G Chiverton, G C Gallimore, M Grimes, V Hemsley, R Lemmon and L Worrall.*

## GLOW-WORMS

**RECORDER** Linda Worrall

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### 12 July/August 2017

Here are this year's final flickers. Nothing at all from Rutland, and as my neck won't let me drive safely I've only looked in Barrowden, where the future for glow-worms looks bad for several reasons all at once. However, thanks to friends who email, there are two additions from outside the county.

#### Barrowden, Verge 3, Luffenham Road SK 948005

No sightings other than 11.6, when there was one, as recorded in July *Fieldfare*. This is the worst year I've known. I fear heavy extra verge cutting in several recent years, from an unknown source and denied by any authority consulted, may be involved. In addition, snail supply seems low. Also, the farmer has sugar beet in fields behind the verges for the first time to my knowledge, planted late, probably after his first arable crop failed and was removed. Glow-worms do not only live on verges; indeed they probably live as larvae in fields and mainly use verges to glow. They may well have been disturbed, and maybe a damaging pesticide was applied.

#### Barrowden, Verge 17, Back Road SK 945003

No sightings after 28.6, as given in July *Fieldfare*. This is a worrying situation, since earlier in the year the farmer suddenly ploughed half of Stone Close and planted sugar beet, where a professional survey connected with affordable housing in the

same field found 24 a decade ago, but the Drift Close houses were still built. Snails seem low. I also wonder if a pesticide may have been used. Verge 17 north and Verge 3 west are at the edges of the same field, sometimes known as The Drift field.

### Outside the County – Northamptonshire

**Duddington Lane, Wakerley/A43 Junction SP 97660 99700**

**20.7:** Barrie Galpin was pleased to find a glowing female on the north side, about 150 yards west from the junction, beside an informal lay-by, but nothing on the other side where the new access to the Wakerley quarry is. Barrie wrote: 'However, I kept repeating to myself "absence of proof is not proof of absence" and perhaps the one glowing over the other side of the road is quite encouraging.' He then did a circuit of several of the sites at Top Lodge where they had been glowing earlier in the year and there was nothing, 'certainly not proof of absence!' he said, considering all those he had found in Fineshade in June.

I passed this information to the member of Barrowden Parish Council who is involved with the Neighbourhood Plan for the joint parish of Wakerley and Barrowden. He found one in pouring rain at this location in 2016, before the new access road was begun. He said he would contact the contractors to see if they could put him in touch with their biodiversity team to let them know about this glow.

### Bulgaria

Two Barrowden villagers emigrated to Bulgaria several years ago, and keep in touch. On 8th August 2017 Kate Humphries emailed: 'The other night whilst walking home after a cold beer (or two) at Ivo's, I spotted a glow-worm nestled under a linden tree. Only one, but I will look out for more.' No more were spotted, however. I did wonder whether the glow was from a lesser glow-worm *Phosphaenus hemipterus* which John Tyler says in his book *The Glow-worm* (2002) remained largely unstudied. Its range stretches from the Mediterranean through central Europe to the Atlantic, but it seems pupation takes place in May. Very occasionally they occur in this country, seemingly having found their way here as stowaways on boats and imported materials.

*Thanks to G Brown, B Galpin, K Humphries*

## MAMMALS

### RECORDER Linda Biddle

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*My apologies for no report for September, please keep sending in your records, and any photographs you think will be of interest.*

Marion Markham's webcam and garden continue to provide very interesting material, including this photograph of a fox and a hedgehog!



## July and August 2017

July was quite a busy time for grounded bats, with a particular problem at Manton Hall home for the elderly (see soprano pipistrelle report below) and there were reports that people were seeing fewer bats than expected in their usual haunts. I do not know the reason for this, but the general feeling was that there was less sunshine and a number of cooler evenings in July and August, certainly less so than in June. Few records were received, other than for grounded bats. A table of grounded bats and roost counts, which was omitted from July *Fieldfare*, is included in this report.

In late July a further trapping session was arranged for the National Nathusius Pipistrelle Project (NNPP) at Rutland Water, but after setting up all the equipment at Burley Wood and Hambleton Peninsula, the session had to be abandoned when light rain turned heavy at 11.0pm.

### **Daubenton's bat** *Myotis daubentonii*

We had wonderful views of foraging Daubenton's bats over the River Chater at Sinc Bridge during the Bats and Glow-worms walk on 7 July. I was initially concerned that the removal of trees on one side of the bank would affect the bats; either that there would be fewer insects or that they would avoid the area now that the bank was less sheltered and more open for potential predators, but on the evening we were there we saw a good number of bat passes, and in the torch-light had good views of their flight and pale belly colouring.

### **Natterer's bat** *Myotis nattereri*

Natterer's bat maternity roosts were counted at Stoke Dry and Whissendine churches for the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) (see table below). There were no other records for the period.

### **Pipistrelle species** *Pipistrellus* sp.

A colony of pipistrelles was present at The Jetty, Wing; 219 bats were counted as they emerged on 9 July. In August, Charles Gallimore made a number of observations of the bats emerging from various exits around The Stone House as follows: 21st 108 from the new extension on the west end of the house between 8.28 pm and 8.55 pm (they don't hang about once they get started); 22nd 71 bats from the new extension, 27 mainly pipistrelles from other west-facing exits; 23rd eight pipistrelles from the south exited between 8.40 pm and 8.50 pm; 26th 10 pipistrelles from the northern exits between 8.20 pm and 8.56 pm. An infant pipistrelle was found inside Manton Hall on 1 July, which only weighed 1.1 g and was severely emaciated. It died before I could get it home, when I estimated that it was about five or six days old.

### **Soprano pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

During the period the soprano pipistrelle colonies at Braunston-in-Rutland and Egleton Church were counted for the NBMP (see table below). Soprano pipistrelles were observed emerging from a roost in Station Road, Ketton on 7 July and close to the river at Sinc Bridge. On 22 July, three bats were seen fairly early in the evening during the first part of the NNPP survey at Hambleton. They foraged for a time in the shelter of the edge of Hambleton Wood in the grassland area while the rain was still light, and feeding buzzes were heard so there were insects about, but when the rain became heavier they disappeared and no more bats were heard before we packed up at 11.00 pm.

Following the discovery of the infant pipistrelle at Manton Hall, a further four juveniles were found in the building which were identified as sopranos. Although

the entrance to the roost was found by staff at The Hall, we could not get to it over the roofs so the bats could not be returned directly to it. In the end only two could be rehabilitated; they were fed and given flight training until they were ready for release, a female who flew off with the emerging adults when released and a smaller male which headed back towards the roost entrance.

The maternity roost of soprano pipistrelles at Braunston-in-Rutland church has caused some friction with the congregation, and is now one of three pilot churches for a Heritage Lottery-funded project to mitigate the effect of their droppings in the church. I was invited by the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), together with a member of Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group, to attend an 'Engagement Event' which included a count of the bats after presentations by BCT and The Churches Conservation Trust. Whether or not any minds were changed, it was a most enjoyable event with plenty of tea and cakes in the churchyard.

In the July *Fieldfare* I reported that that during the bat-box check in Barnsdale Wood seven male soprano pipistrelles had been found. In fact there were nine, two males and seven females. The males were found singly, while there were two females in one of the boxes, including an older female with enlarged nipples, and five together in a box near the water's edge.

#### **Common Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Two maternity roosts were counted for the NBMP, in Morcott and Wing (see table below). In July, two common pipistrelles were found grounded (see table below). The bat from Essendine was covered in cobwebs when it was found, but although it appeared to be uninjured its behaviour was erratic, nervous and aggressive. It also appeared that it was unable to eat properly, so it was taken for euthanasia. Common pipistrelles were foraging in Aldgate, Ketton on 7 July.

#### **Brown Long-eared bat** *Plecotus auritus*

Following a count of 13 long-eared bats emerging from the Stone House, Wing in June, 18 bats were seen emerging from the new extension on 22 August. No other roosts are now counted in Rutland. Charles Gallimore found a grounded long-eared on his lawn on 6 August; he put it among ivy on a cherry tree and it had gone by the morning.

#### **Noctule bat** *Nyctalus noctula*

There have been very few records of noctule bat this year, but Phil sent a sighting of a bat flying in broad daylight at 3.15 pm at Rutland Water Egleton nature reserve that could have been a noctule. It circled several times over the summer trail and Phil picked up its echo-location at 19 kilohertz as it came close to him. We heard noctules briefly at Sinc Bridge in Aldgate, Ketton on 7 July.

### **Summary of roosts counted for the National Bat Monitoring Programme in June 2017**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Braunston-in-Rutland	22 June	Soprano pipistrelle	438	3 counters
Egleton Church	9 June	Soprano pipistrelle	895	4 counters
	16 June	Soprano pipistrelle	786	4 counters
Morcott	21 June	Common pipistrelle	7	1
	22 June		44	
	24 June		91	
Stoke Dry church	–	Natterer's bat	–	Results not received
Whissendine	–	Natterer's bat	–	Two counts. Result not received
Wing	19 June	Common pipistrelle	35	5 counters, up to 7 access points
Wing	19 June	Brown long-eared bat	13	Numerous potential access points, 5 counters.

## Summary of grounded bats, 2017

Date	Species	Location	Age	Sex	Outcome
22 May	Common pipistrelle 3.8 g	Beech Rd., Oakham	Adult	M	Injured, died
9 June	Soprano pipistrelle 4.4 g	Manton Hall	Adult	F	Pregnant, released 12/6
9 June	Soprano pipistrelle 5.2 g	Manton Hall	Adult	F	Pregnant, released 12/6
10 June	Soprano pipistrelle	Manton Hall	Adult	F	Pregnant, released 12/6
12 June	Soprano pipistrelle 4.9 g	Manton Hall	Adult	F	Pregnant, released 17/6
16 June	Pipistrelle sp. Small, no fur	Empingham	Infant	F	Died E. 16/6
24 June	Common pipistrelle 5.3 g	Beech Rd., Oakham	Adult	F lactating	Cat strike, Died E. 25/6
1 July	Pipistrelle sp. 1.1 g	Manton Hall	Infant		Dead on arrival
2 July	Soprano pipistrelle	Manton Hall	Juvenile	F	Released, approx. 9 July
2 July	Soprano pipistrelle	Manton Hall	Juvenile	M	Released 15 July
2 July	Common pipistrelle 4.7 g	Cottesmore Rd, Burley	Adult	F	Found indoors, released 2/7
29 July	Common pipistrelle 3.5 g	Essendine	Juvenile	F	Died E. 5 Aug.

**Key:** E = put down by vet. F = female; M = male

Weight relates only to the weight of the bat when it came into care.



Plant gall meeting with BPGS, at Yew Tree Avenue Clipsham. August 27. Photos, L Biddle

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