

CONTENTS

Noticeboard	1	Orthoptera report	9
RNHS and other events	2	Glow-worm notes	10
High tides in North Norfolk	2	Plant galls report	11
Weather summary	3	Insects and others	11
Amphibian and reptile report	4	Mycology notes	13
Bird report	4	Mammal report	14
Botany notes	7	Bat report	15
Lepidoptera notes	8		

NOTICEBOARD

Two firsts for Rutland! From Terry Mitcham, our bird recorder, a first Rutland sighting of a **Whiskered Tern** (and also sightings of Spoonbill, Common Crane, Honey Buzzard and Raven).



From Gill Chiverton, our 'insects and others' recorder, a new bug for Rutland, the **Treehopper** *Centrotus cornutus* – 'a very cute bug'!



And out-of-county but intriguing – Mary Nourish has been told by Richard Eckton of the Forestry Commission that a **Silver-Washed Fritillary** was seen last week (early July) at Bedford Purlieus. He thinks it might be one of the influx from last year that has over-wintered (similar to our Camberwell Beauty?) and hopes that they start breeding here again.

Can you help?

We are still hoping for a volunteer to come forward to become our Publicity Officer – as described in May *Fieldfare*. In essence, the work involves emailing items to the press and making sure our programme is publicised.

Ann Tomlinson

Birdfair at Rutland Water

The British Birdwatching Fair is on our doorstep at Egleton on August 17–19 (9.00–5.30). In fact **Birdfair** is a bit of a misnomer as it covers wildlife as well as birdlife (bats, butterflies, mammals, bugs ...). And it includes lectures, question and answer sessions, family events, a wildlife art tent (with a chance to meet the illustrators), specialist holidays all over the world, natural history books, binoculars and scopes, etc. This year and next the Birdfair is supporting Birdlife International's project on 'Preventing extinctions: saving the world's critically endangered birds'.

See www.birdfair.org.uk or phone 01572 771 079 for more details.

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RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY events

Sunday 29th July, OLD SULEHAY

10.30 am

A half day visit to this Northants reserve led by Jane Pearman of Northants Wildlife Trust. A fragment of the ancient Rockingham Forest, the reserve is 'a mosaic of limestone quarries, grassland, woodland and wetland.' A wide diversity of habitats produces a wide range of wildlife such as the Green Tiger beetle, flowers rare in Northants and many butterflies. A possible route: take the A47 to Wansford. In Wansford take minor road past church towards Fotheringhay, Nassington and Yarwell. After 1 mile turn right at crossroads in Yarwell onto Sulehay Road. Park on the wide verge near sharp bend in Sulehay Road.

Thursday August 23, EYEBROOK PLANTATION

8 pm

*A summer evening double bill. Jenny Harris, senior conservation officer for LRWT and bat expert, will start off the evening leading a walk to identify bats near the plantation. As darkness falls, the Eyebrook Moth Trapping team will have their moth traps set up near to the Fishing Lodge and we can watch what arrives. Park near the Fishing Lodge (SP852942), off the Great Easton Road, off the A6003 south of Caldecott, where we will meet Jenny. **Don't forget to bring a torch!***

Sunday September 16, LYNDON RESERVE, RW

10.30 am

Take a walk at this Rutland Water reserve with warden Martin Aspinall, where we should see many birds including some of the early winter visitors. Please note there will be small charge for this. Take the road between Manton and Edith Weston; turn into signposted track opposite the road to Lyndon village and park at the bottom of the hill near the Lyndon Centre.

Sunday September 30th, BURLEY WOOD

10.30 am

A joint meeting with the Leicestershire Fungus Study Group with Chairman of the group, Richard Iliffe, as leader. Meet at SK892093, on the A606 between Oakham and Barnsdale Hill; park on the verge near the entrance gate to the wood.

FIRST AUTUMN INDOOR MEETING

Indoor meetings are held at Burley Road School, Oakham. There is a charge of 40p for tea/coffee/biscuits.

Tuesday, October 2nd, PHARAOH'S BIRDS

7.30 pm

John Wyatt describes how the wall paintings, mummies, statues and artefacts from the tombs of Ancient Egypt from 5000 BC to 200 AD can be used to determine the bird species present 7000 years ago, and to identify some of the changes which have taken place in the avifauna from that time to the present day.

LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST

The LWRT Rutland group's outdoor events are over for the summer and their indoor lectures start again in October – see September Fieldfare for details. For other LWRT events in Leicestershire and Rutland, see www.lwrt.org.uk or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, .

HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK Nola Thurlow

High tides for Snettisham, for Titchwell add 5 minutes. All times are summer time.

August			September		
Sunday	5	11.23 00.05	Sunday	2	10.15 22.49
	12	06.47 19.28		9	05.48 18.33
	19	10.46 23.11		16	09.41 22.00
	26	05.40 18.18		23	04.08 16.59
				30	09.12 21.41



WEATHER SUMMARY John P Hollands, Wittering met.

May 2007

Surface wind May 2007 began with a mainly North Easterly light to moderate surface wind with gusts fresh to strong. This run of wind persisted until mid-morning of the 5th when it backed through North to become mainly West to South West light to moderate. This predominately Westerly run of wind persisted until early afternoon on the 25th when it veered to become mainly North Easterly light to moderate but occasionally fresh to strong with isolated gusts to gale force. From the 27th the surface wind backed to become mainly Northerly light to moderate but occasionally fresh to strong. This wind regime persisted until the end of the month.

Temperature The average daytime maximum temperature during May 2007 was 15.8 °C, exactly the same figure as the long-term average. The warmest day was the 24th with a maximum of 22.4 °C, very much cooler than the absolute maximum for May of 27.6 °C recorded in 2005.

During May 2006 the average day maximum was 16.3 °C, the average night minimum 8.3 °C, rainfall 78.8 mm (3.1 ins) and there were 153.3 hours of electronically recorded sunshine

June 2007

Surface wind June 2007 began with a mainly North Easterly light to moderate surface wind. This wind regime persisted until the 11th when it slowly veered to become mainly Westerly light. Later, in the early hours of the 14th, the surface wind veered to become mainly North Easterly light once again. This North Easterly didn't last long because by late evening of the 15th it had veered to become mainly South Westerly light to moderate. Apart from a short period of a mainly South Easterly light surface wind from the 24th to 25th, the South Westerly flow persisted until the end of the month.

Temperature June 2007 was, for a change, a relatively 'uninteresting' month with regard to temperature; no records were broken! The average day maximum temperature during June was 19.2 °C, only just above the long-term mean of 19.0 °C. The warmest day was the 3rd with a maximum of 23.3 °C, very much cooler than absolute maximum of 33.3 °C recorded in 1976. The lowest maximum was 13.4 °C recorded on the

During June 2006 the average day maximum was 21.3 °C, the average night minimum 10.9 °C, total rainfall 8.0 mm (0.32 ins) and there were 185.7 hours of bright sunshine.

The coolest day was the 27th with an afternoon maximum of only 10.0 °C. There were 112.9 hours of bright sunshine, with the 1st the sunniest day with 13.7 hours. Despite May having an average day maximum temperature, it was dull. The average figure for bright sunshine in May is 194.3 hours and the absolute maximum is 262.0 hours recorded in 1997.

The average night minimum was 7.7 °C as compared to the mean of 6.6 °C. The coldest night was 29th/30th with a minimum temperature of 1.4 °C. The absolute minimum for May is -1.3 °C recorded in 1979 and 1982. The warmest night was 23rd/24th with a 'balmy' 14.9 °C.

Rainfall May 2007 was wet with 107.4 mm (4.23 ins) of rain as compared to the long-term mean for May of 49.7 mm (1.96 ins). The wettest day was the 27th with 25.2 mm (0.99 ins), thankfully less than the wettest day on record for May, 23rd 1989, when 39.2 mm (1.54 ins) was recorded.

6th. To make June even more uninteresting it was dull. During the whole month only 135.1 hours of bright sunshine was recorded at Wittering, with the 1st being the sunniest with 14.9 hours. The long-term mean is 199.8 hours and the sunniest year on record was 1976 with 284.0 hours.

Rainfall The element that will raise some interest is the rainfall. During June 2007 97.2 mm (3.83 ins) of rain was recorded at Wittering – significantly greater (just over twice) than the long-term mean of 47.9 mm (1.89 ins). The wettest day was the 16th with 22.8 mm (0.9 ins). There were 11 days with no recordable rain and it was dry from the 2nd to the 9th. Most of the rain during June 2007 fell as showers, which can produce extremely variable accumulations, even over short distances. Cottesmore, which is approximately 11 miles from Wittering, had 131.0 mm (5.16 ins) which illustrates this point well.



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

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May/June 2007

Amphibians give way to reptiles in these two months with more records than usual of Viviparous Lizards, Grass Snakes and Adders.

Common Frog tadpoles were reported from Braunston and Oakham in both months and from Greetham in large numbers where froglets were abundant by the end of June. There were only a few records of adult frogs. Similarly there were no records of adult **Common Toads** but toad spawn was found in a pond in Braunston in late May, which is much later than in previous years. At Leighfield, however, toadlets were seen crossing the road in numbers on 17th June – the same date as last year.

There was only one sighting of **Smooth Newts** – in an ornamental garden pond in Wing on 10th June. A **Great Crested Newt** was found in a water trough in Greetham on 15th May, forty years after the last record for the species from the parish. Adults were still present in a pond in Rutland Water Nature Reserve on 14th June, as well as larvae.

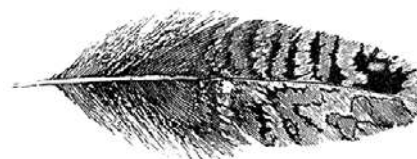
There were records of **Viviparous Lizard** on four separate dates from three different areas of Ketton Quarry. On one occasion five different individuals were involved. Some interesting behaviour was observed on 31st May when a lizard, with the tip of its tail missing, was found motionless on a slender hawthorn sapling about 15" above the ground. Despite much nettle slashing activity in the immediate vicinity it remained impassive for nearly four hours, and even when its perch was moved it remained unmoved for a further hour. The presence of an **Adder** a few yards away may have been relevant.

It has also been a good two months for **Grass Snakes**, with records from Brooke (dead on the road – not so good), Braunston and Edith Weston (two). There were possibly four different individuals at Ketton, one of which was in close proximity to an Adder. In Wing there were at least two, and possibly three, small snakes in my garden and outbuildings, one sadly dead, as well as a large adult whose sloughed skin measured 35". Another large sloughed skin was found at Rutland Water. A large snake was found resting on a raft in one of the lagoons at Rutland Water a considerable distance from the shore. A number of Grass Snakes have been seen elsewhere round the reserve. Finally, as already alluded to, two Adders were seen at Ketton Quarry at the end of May.

My thanks to all who provided records namely: T Appleton, V Arnold, M Aspinall, T Caldicott, F Chiverton, J Harris, P Langston, R Lemmon, T Mitcham and D Whitefield.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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May/June 2007

The wet and cool weather of May and June may not have helped breeding birds, busily seeking food for growing broods of young, but it did result in a number of scarce species appearing at our reservoirs. These included Spoonbill, Common Crane, Honey Buzzard and, best of all, a Whiskered Tern, a new record for the Society. A pair of Ravens was again reported from the west of the county.

The passage of waders was the best for many years with a good variety of species and some high numbers at both reservoirs. Curlews were noted at breeding sites in the north and south of the county and Woodcock roded at traditional woodlands. On the wildfowl front, Mandarins bred and Garganey made a welcome appearance at two sites. Four broods of Barn Owls were ringed, though how many will fledge will depend on the success of the adults in finding prey.

My thanks to the following for their records: J W Ansley, T Appleton, A Burdett, T Caldicott, R Edwards, M & G Griffin, J Harris, M & S Iannatuoni, J Kendrick, F & D Lee, R Lemmon, T Mackrill, T Mitcham, B & D Parker, P Rudkin, Jill Stapleton, A R & M A Thorpe, D Whitefield, D Willett, G R & L Worrall, J Wright

Mute swan. Breeding was successful at Teigh and Fort Henry Ponds in June.

Greylag Goose. Bred in Exton Park – a pair had two goslings on 13.05.

- Shelduck.** Up to four were at Fort Henry during both months, with a pair at Leighfield Fishponds on 05.05. A pair flew over Brooke on 16.05. One pair bred at Eyebrook Reservoir.
- Mandarin.** A pair were noted from 08.05 on the North Brook, north of Horn Mill, and a female was with ducklings there on 19.05. A first breeding record for the site.
- Garganey.** Pairs were present at RW (Lyndon) on 09.05 and Fort Henry Ponds on 29.05.
- Tufted Duck.** Numbers at Fort Henry fluctuated, with a max. of 30 on 24.06. Noted occasionally on Wing Fishing Lakes.
- Lesser Scaup.** The EBR male was last reported on 02.05.
- Goldeneye.** One was at RW (Eggleton) on 12.05.
- Ruddy Duck.** Two were at RW (Eggleton) on 12.05.
- Grey Partridge.** One was near Cottesmore Airfield on 12.05. A pair were on setaside in Exton Park on 20.05 and a pair were in a Teigh farmyard on 05.06, where Grey Partridge is apparently quite well represented.
- Little Grebe.** From 19.05 onwards noted at Clipsham Ford, Holywell Lake, RW (Eggleton).
- Grey Heron.** Regular at Fort Henry and EBR throughout both months, with seven at the latter site in mid-May.
- Honey Buzzard.** One flew over RW (Eggleton) on 18.06.
- Red Kite.** Now regular throughout the county, with records from many areas, including daily sightings of one over Stamford, flying low over houses and the town centre. At least two pairs bred, with broods of 2 and 3 respectively.
- Sparrowhawk.** Noted at feeding stations near Braunston and Stamford – listen for calling young on woodland walks in late July.
- Buzzard.** Present throughout the county with birds noted away from woodlands over Stamford and Lyddington.
- Osprey.** Two pairs at RW have broods of three and two young. One was regularly seen at Fort Henry throughout May and four were seen overhead near Braunston on 18.06.
- Kestrel.** Nestbox breeding was successful at Beaumont Chase (4 young), Lyddington Crossing (3), near Braunston (3) and at Normanton and RW (Eggleton). A pair also fledged 4 young in a hollow tree near Horn Mill.
- Hobby.** Not well reported during this wet spring. Odd birds were regular at RW and two were at EBR on 02.05. One was at Fort Henry on 12.05 and one over Lyddington on 22.05.
- Water Rail.** One was heard calling from Wader Scrape Hide at RW (Lyndon) on 11.06.
- Common Crane.** One flew over RW (Lyndon) on 25.05.
- Oystercatcher.** At least two pairs were on the RW (Eggleton) reserve throughout both months. Three were at EBR on 01.05 and one flew over Leighfield Fishponds on 20.05.
- Little Ringed Plover.** Present at RW (Eggleton), where a pair and three young were seen on 22.06.
- Ringed Plover.** There was a good passage at EBR during May with a max. of 25 on 26.05.
- Grey Plover.** Two were at EBR on 04.05.
- Lapwing.** Breeding birds were noted on suitable fields – bare fallow and beans – across the county from Stretton and Exton Park in the north, through RW and down to EBR and across to Glaston and Belton-in-Rutland.
- Sanderling.** Two were at EBR on 02.05 with one there on 04.05. A flock of 14 lingered briefly on Lagoon 3 at Eggleton on 25.05.
- Knot.** Two were at EBR on 12.05.
- Little Stint.** Scarce on spring passage, one was at EBR on 11.05.
- Temminck's Stint.** One was at RW between 01.05 and 05.05.
- Dunlin.** Present daily at EBR during the first half of May, with 74 present on 12.05 and 41 at RW (Eggleton) on the same date.
- Black-tailed Godwit.** One was at EBR on 26.05.
- Bar-tailed Godwit.** One was at EBR on 02.05.
- Whimbrel.** One was at EBR on 02.05 and there were three there on 04.05.
- Curlew.** From 12.05 to 21.06 birds were noted at likely breeding sites near Stretton, Merry's Meadows, Teigh and in the Welland valley near Lyddington Crossing. One flew west at Fort Henry on 03.06.
- Woodcock.** Two were roding at Clipsham Park Wood on 07.05 and one at Tunneley Wood on 12.05.
- Green Sandpiper.** The first returning bird was at RW on 11.06 with 3 or 4 more there by the end of the month.
- Common Sandpiper.** Singles were at EBR on 01.05, RW (Dam) on 12.05 and Leighfield Fishponds on 13.05. There were two at Fort Henry on 30.06.
- Turnstone.** One was at EBR on 02.05 with two there on 26.05.
- Yellow-legged Gull.** A long-staying bird was at RW (Eggleton) between 12.05 and 22.06.
- Common Tern.** During both months up to 3 were noted occasionally at Leighfield Fishponds and Fort Henry. Breeding as usual at RW (Eggleton) but not, apparently, at EBR.

- Arctic Tern.** One was at RW (Eggleton) on 12.05.
- Whiskered Tern.** Undoubtedly the bird of the year so far. An adult in breeding plumage was at EBR on the afternoon and evening of 18.06. A first record for the Society.
- Collared Dove.** The breeding activities of a suburban pair were well reported from Barrowden. In Stamford a pair nested successfully on top of a burglar alarm box.
- Turtle Dove.** RW proved to be the sole site for this species, with up to 6 noted at Lyndon and one singing on the Eggleton Reserve in June.
- Cuckoo.** In May singing birds were reported from Tunneley Wood, RW, Barrowden, Priors Coppice, Burley Wood, Cottesmore, Brooke and Leighfield Fishponds. This widespread distribution may be misleading in terms of numbers, which seem to be declining.
- Barn Owl.** A good number of nesting attempts were reported, with 3 in natural sites and 8 in nestboxes. Twelve young out of 14 were ringed from nestboxes at Exton Park, Geeston, Lyddington and Wing. The stronghold of this species still seems to be the western half of the county.
- Little Owl.** Reports of single birds came from Beaumont Chase, Preston and Teigh.
- Tawny Owl.** Bred at Beaumont Chase, Stoke Wood and Tunneley Wood. Noted also from Pickworth and Burley Woods and Lyddington.
- Swift.** One was over Barrowden on 01.05. A screaming party was noted over Cottesmore on 21.05, but the lowest numbers for over 20 years were reported from Barrowden on 01.06, with only 8 birds seen.
- Kingfisher.** Bred by the Welland at Tinwell – occupied nest found on 11.05. One was at RW (Eggleton) the following day and one was at Fort Henry on 06.06.
- Green Woodpecker.** Regularly seen at Beaumont Chase and Fort Henry, with other reports from Wing Fishing Lakes and East Wood (Pickworth).
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** Remained regular at an Oakham garden and also at Beaumont Chase, with breeding confirmed there and in Burley Wood.
- Sand Martin.** Small numbers (less than 20) were reported nesting in the reservoir bank near Normanton in May but how they have fared there as the water level has risen is not known. Good numbers were breeding in the Eggleton ‘multiple nestbox’.
- House Martin.** An increase in numbers at Lyddington in May but none were nesting at a regular site at Cottesmore in June and fewer were noted in Barrowden. House Martins are clearly having mixed fortunes this year.
- Yellow Wagtail.** Bean fields are a favoured breeding habitat for this species and one held territory at Beaumont Chase for the first time. Up to 10 pairs were using similar habitat in Exton Park and pairs were noted at Brooke and Leighfield Fishponds during May, with 3 at Merry’s Meadows on 10.06.
- Grey Wagtail.** Singles were at Leighfield Fishponds on 02.05 and RW (Manton Bridge) on 09.05. A pair nested at Tinwell Pumping Station and one was feeding 2 young on Langham Brook on 13.05, indicating local breeding.
- Nightingale.** Three were in song at (RW) Gibbet Gorse on 24.05. Up to 6 were present in Hambleton Wood in May, some returning to areas which have been coppiced under the management plan for the wood.
- Wheatear.** Single males were near Cottesmore Airfield on 12.05 and in Exton Park on 24.05.
- Grasshopper warbler.** One sang in Tunneley Wood on 08.05 and song was also noted at the Seek from early May to at least 20.06.
- Reed Warbler.** One holding territory by lower lake at Fort Henry from 13.05 and throughout June is a first breeding record for the site.
- Lesser Whitethroat.** Well reported in June from the east and west of the county in thick hedgerows – Beaumont Chase, RW (both reserves), Little Casterton, Belton-in-Rutland and Edith Weston.
- Whitethroat.** A common and widespread species, which was noted in suitable habitat across the county. Ten were counted around Brooke on 22.05.
- Garden Warbler.** Noted in woodlands and thick scrub at Hambleton, Belton-in-Rutland and Exton. Twenty were counted around the RW (Lyndon) reserve on 18.05.
- Blackcap.** Two were heard mimicking a Nightingale at RW (Lyndon) on 24.05. A family party was watched near Braunston on 17.06.
- Chiffchaff.** Two sang in Clipsham Park Wood on 22.05 and one held territory in Barrowden between 25.05 and 15.06 before settling to breed or moving on.
- Willow Warbler.** Rather low numbers reported with only singles noted at several suitable sites.
- Spotted Flycatcher.** First noted at Tunneley Wood on 19.05 with one at Lyddington on 22.05. A late arrival saw birds at Wing (nested) and Beaumont Chase Farm on 02.06 and one was in Cottesmore Wood on the next day. One was in an Edith Weston garden on 28.06.

Long-tailed Tit. This species appears to have done well, despite the weather, with several family parties moving through gardens. 25+ were at Wing on 11.06, 8 were at Barrowden on 19.06 and 6 were in a Stamford garden on 27.06.

Marsh Tit. Noted at a feeding station near Braunston on 17.06.

Willow Tit. A good spread of records with up to 3 noted at Priors Coppice (song on 05.05 and 13.05), Rutland Water (Lyndon), Leighfield Fishponds, Brooke and Braunston.

Nuthatch. Priors Coppice, Exton Park, Stamford and Oakham provided June records.

Treecreeper. Breeding was noted at Burley Wood on 26.05 and at Fort Henry in June.

Raven. A pair were reported on sheep pasture near Leighfield Fishponds on 20.05, where they

dwarfed accompanying Jackdaws 'making them look like Starlings'. Clearly a species to watch out for.

Tree Sparrow. Six were noted in bushes near Belton-in-Rutland on 06.06.

Crossbill. One flew over Priors Coppice, calling, on 21.06.

Bullfinch. There were widespread reports of pairs and single birds and a male took sunflower seed in a Stamford garden on 30.05.

Reed Bunting. Up to 5 singing males were at Fort Henry during both months, with other reports from Lyddington Meadows and Leicestershire Round.

Corn Bunting. At least 3 singing males were noted in the Mounts Lodge between 12.05 and 06.06 – our only locality during these months.

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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May/June 2007

Perhaps the most notable 'find' for May was by Philip Ennis – cycling as usual – who came across a large patch (approx. 20 m x 5 m) of **Grass Vetchling**. You would never see it from a car, buzzing along the Uppingham bypass. Within two weeks the flowering of this pretty pink Vetchling was finished, and the plants for all the world disappeared. The name Grass Vetchling is so right: the stem and leaves for all intents identical to the grasses around.

Grass Vetchling is well known on the A606 near Burley Wood, on the old road to Hambleton and on the cycle path round the Egleton Reserve on the way to Manton. It makes you wonder if the patch on the south-east side of the Uppingham bypass has been there for many years, perhaps since the road was cut in the 1970s and the seed uncovered in making the verge. The flower is so ephemeral and the position on a road unlikely to be walked, so it could have been missed for years.

June gave a good flourish of flowers, sometimes buried in long grass as a result of a month or more's good thrash down! It was perhaps surprising that our reporters did not always get wet!



It seems a good year for **Knapweed Broomrape**. Jenny Harris found four spikes in Ketton Quarry where they were dug up last year and about four years ago this small area was covered with stone chippings. This parasite is much shorter-lived than its host plant Greater Knapweed, seeming to have a life of about three years and therefore has to constantly 're-infect' the host plant.

Towards the end of the month there was an outburst on the Roadside Verge Nature Reserve from Fosters Bridge A6121 in South Luffenham, and Ann Tomlinson recorded over 300 **Pyramidal Orchids**, at least 50% more than has been seen before. This is probably as a result of the Wildlife Trust facilitating the cutting back of the hedgerow bushes and trees in 2005. The problem is that it will soon need doing again.

Two new sites for were also discovered. One Pyramidal Orchid was found by Barbara and Don Parker on Bloody Oaks RVNR. We have been looking at this verge almost since the founding of the Society and this was a first. Did the seed blow over from Blood Oaks Quarry SSSI, which is directly south-west of this Verge? The second new site was under the A1 on the Gt Casterton to Tickencote road.

Thanks to all the RVNR observers for their reports, and also to all those who are noted below for sending me other sightings: C Jones, P Tomalin, J Mallett, A Malcolm, R Lemmon, G Worrall, M Branston, J Harris, G Chiverton, B Parker, D Parker, P Mann, E Mann, P Ennis, T Caldicott.

LEPIDOPTERA NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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May/June 2007

BUTTERFLIES

May 2007 As one would expect, owing to the extremely inclement weather for the time of year butterfly numbers were few in the month of May. Although 15 species were seen, the majority of these were reported in the last week of the month only.

The first **Large Skipper** was recorded at Lyddington. Single **Dingy** and **Grizzled Skippers** were seen in Ketton Quarry, **Orange Tips** were found in five areas and **Small Coppers** were in Merry's Meadows and on the Lyndon Reserve. The last of the first generation of **Holly Blues** were noted from Edith Weston, Lyddington and Lyndon Wood Pond whilst one **Small Heath** was found at Ketton Quarry. Over 40 **Small Tortoiseshell** larvae were seen at Brooke on the 22nd.

June 2007 Despite the wet and cold weather continuing for much of June, 25 species were recorded during fairer interludes.

Small Skippers were first seen during the last week of the month and one record for **Essex Skipper** came from Verge 8 at Great Casterton. **Large Skippers** were recorded with over 30 being seen at Belton on the 27th. A few **Dingy** and **Grizzled Skippers** were found in the quarries at Bloody Oaks, Clipsham and Ketton.

All the 'whites' were seen in small numbers. One record only for several **Green Hairstreaks** came from Ketton Quarry on the 2nd, **Small Coppers** were found at Exton, at two sites in Lyddington and in Merry's Meadows on two occasions.

Brown Argus was identified at Ketton Quarry and on Verge 7 at Great Casterton. **Common Blues** were seen in a number of areas but with fairly low numbers apart from Bloody Oaks and Verges. **Red Admirals** were found throughout the county this month with larvae reported from Braunston.

This year my predecessor had his earliest record ever for **Painted Lady** on June 4th at North Luffenham. Other members have seen these migrants in Barnsdale, Belton, Clipsham Quarry, Edith Weston, Egleton, Langham, Lyddington, Oakham and Thistleton, thus it is another good year for *Vanessa cardui*. The majority of records received for **Peacocks** have been for larvae. Forty

were noted at the Lyndon Reserve and over 100 at both Braunston and Prior's Coppice.

Marbled Whites were monitored at Ketton Quarry on the 28th, the total count being 30. **Small Heath** records came from Clipsham and Ketton quarries. One of the species which appeared this month in the largest numbers was **Meadow Brown**. There were in excess of 70 at Belton, 40 at Rutland Water (Lyndon) and 35 at Ketton Quarry to name but a few. The second prolific species was **Ringlet** with in excess of 60 at Ketton Quarry, 35 at Lyndon and 30 at Belton.

MOTHS

May/June 2007 During May and June members have submitted more records of day-flying moths than for any period in the recent past. For example, large numbers of **Chimney Sweepers** were seen at the Lyndon Reserve with others at Egleton, Merry's Meadows and Braunston.

Cinnabars, easily recognizable with their brilliant colours, were seen in eight areas.

There were possible sightings of the **Four Spotted Moth** on two of our verges at Essendine and Casterton. Unfortunately these records were not forwarded at the time, in order to allow an independent expert to validate them. We now await a possible second generation in order to arrange further searching.

Other day flyers found on protected verges included **Mother Shipton** and **Burnet Companion**. **Mullein Moth** larvae were found at Edith Weston, Manton, North Luffenham and Wing. **Horse Chestnut leaf mines** were located at Edith Weston.

With regard to moth trapping at light and traps left over-night, species numbers and moth quantities have been low for the time of year in most parts of our area. In fact, totals at the Barrowden trap were down by approximately 20–30%.

The garden traps at Lyddington yielded 108 macro and 31 micro species in May. Amongst these was a new species for this garden, a **Dark Spectacle**, which is active by day and night and rests on nettles. It is usually found in Western Britain and very infrequently elsewhere. In June, 106 macro and 50 micro species were recorded here and probably the most unusual moth amongst these was a **Pinion Straked Snout**. This

is a macro easily mistaken for a pyralid or another micro and it frequents wet areas.

May totals at Eyebrook Reservoir were exceptionally low at only 16 on the 9th and 9 on the 29th but these were followed by 83 species on June 17th, and on this occasion an *Epiblema grandaevana* was identified, this being only the 3rd record for VC55 (the first may be remembered as the 'Seaton beast' several years ago!)

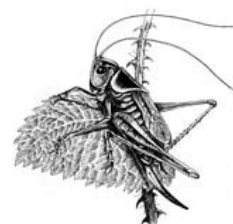
Many thanks to the following: V Arnold, T Caldicott, F Chiverton, G Chiverton, R Follows, C H Gallimore, J Harris, J Harvey, C R Jones, A L Lawrence, D & F Lee, R Lemmon, J Levisohn, P & E Mann, D & B Parker, P Rudkin, A Russell, M Tyler and D Whitefield.

Luffenham Heath Golf Course was visited by one of our regular trappers in early June and he was rewarded by having seven species of **Hawkmoths** among the total of 95 seen.

Results from other sites have included those from the garden trap at Edith Weston, one night at Barnsdale Gardens, two nights at Lyndon Wood Pond, one night at Beaumont Chase Farm and two nights at Stoke Dry Wood.

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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May/June 2007

With the vagaries of the unseasonable weather during May and June, I was not surprised to find that no adult grasshoppers have been reported by members, or found by myself. However, there have been plenty of tiny nymphs of grasshoppers in the meadows and grass rides of habitats, such as the Exton footpath area, near the Trout Hatchery, in a paddock/ meadow near Braunston, and in the rides in Ketton Quarries during the society's field meeting on 1st July.

The larger, and more easily identifiable, nymphs of the bush crickets make the news in this issue, and I have received some excellent images from Derek Lee at Lyddington, who finds these nymphs in the farm field margins behind his garden. I visited the Roesel's Bush Cricket site at Wing Fishing Lakes, on the afternoon of 28th June, and was able to immediately photograph a male Roesel's nymph.

Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoptera*.

Two nymphs found on Verge 7, adjacent to Woodhead (Pickworth Road, Great Casterton). One nymph observed, resting on low vegetation, Verge 8 (Ryhall Road, Great Casterton), 26th May.

Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Metrioptera roeselii*.

Nymphs, one male, 14th June, one female, 23rd June, located in field margin behind garden, Lyddington. Photos provided by email. One nymph, male, located at Wing Fishing Lakes (an established colony), photograph taken. 28th June.

Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus discolor*.

One nymph, 23rd June, located in field margin, behind garden, Lyddington. Photo provided by email.

Speckled Bush Cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima*.

Nymphs found in field margin, behind garden, Lyddington, 18th June. Eight nymphs found on nettles, 10th June, and two on 17th June. Both of these sightings in the area of Leighfield.

Meadow Grasshopper, *Chorthippus parallelus*.

Four nymphs observed in the area of Leighfield, 17th June.

Slender Groundhopper, *Tetrix subulata*. One

located in grasses in the river Gwash area, near Brooke, 2nd June. Two in the area of Leighfield, 17th June. Three plus, found in the gully, along the ride, Ketton Quarry, 15th June.

Books on the Orthoptera

Members will be interested to know that a useful new book on the orthoptera will be published in early August. Called *A photographic guide to the grasshoppers and crickets of Britain and Ireland*, it is by Martin Evans and Roger Edmondson. (Dr Peter Sutton in *British Wildlife*, June 2007, p. 356, 'looks forward to the publication' of the book. The title has been changed since then to the current one.) There are sections on biology, habitat, useful equipment and photography. A hardback with 183 pages and 580 photographs, it costs £21.95 including postage and packing.

The publisher, Martin Evans, tells me that the book will be advertised on his website: www.wildguideuk.com. Payment can be made by Paypal or debit card. If any member wishes to pay by cheque, then let me know and I will forward the address to which the cheque should be sent.

The standard work is *Grasshoppers and allied insects of Great Britain and Ireland*, by Marshall and Haes. But this was published in 1988, by Harley Books (a cassette was produced with the book at the time, but separately available). Much of the content is now outdated, but it is still excellent for reference. Another good book is in the Naturalists' Handbook series: *Handbook number 2, Grasshoppers*, by Val Brown. Although published in 1983, it is valuable as a guide to the species'

biology. Jean and Ron Harvey hold these books for the Society and they can be borrowed on loan.

One of the most useful books, which most of us use in the field for insects in general, but which has a good section on the orthoptera, is *Collins guide to the insects of Britain and Western Europe*, by Michael Chinery (1986). Sadly, it is out of print, but may be found in secondhand bookshops. Check out all the stands at the Birdfair (see p. 1).

Many thanks to contributors: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, F & D Lee, P Rudkin.

GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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May/June 2007

No glows in May, which is normal. June was almost totally extremely wet, but usually mild. Moon new around 18th, full on 30th (it's an old saying that glow-worms glow in response to waxing moons).

South Luffenham: 13.6: Had a phone call from one of our printers, who had remembered seeing the Glow-worm Notes in the May *Fieldfare*. He reported 2 glows on a wall near the former mill north of the level crossing, with lots of snail tracks. And he had seen 2 there last year. Fantastic. In the early 1990s we monitored them on the south side of the railway, but then the path was disturbed and there were many lights, and they have been missing. We never saw them on the north side, but maybe they crossed the line, or were there all the time? No further glows were reported, but maybe next year!

Essendine Verge 5: 10 and 17.6: nil; this verge is often late starting. Behind the east verge is a grassy area on the railway cutting top, and usually over it and the verge there are dozens by 30.6, but our usual reporter who visited nightly over many years is away.

Barrowden Verge 3, Luffenham Road (The Drift): 9.6: nil. 18.6: nil, but lots of snails on road (relocated on verge). 26.6: Cool; first dry night since last visit. 1 on west in usual place just above and opposite 'Barrowden' sign. 28.6: 4 on west, same place. 29.6: 2 at 10.40 pm in same place. A low count so far.

Barrowden Verge 17, Back Road: 9.6: 1 behind north verge, in corner of field by entrance just east of large field boundary hedge and ditch, on stony soil. 18.6: 1 on front of north verge just east of same entrance and 1 on south verge opposite. Lots of snails on road (relocated near glow-worms). 26.6: 2 inside field corner (different place from 1 on 9.6, which would be dead by now). 29.6: At 10.40 pm there were 3, but by 11.15 pm there were 8: 2 on north verge by field entrance, 2 much further east in hedge bottom and 1 on front of verge, 2 further west by entrance to next field and 1 on south verge. A good count for this RVNR/Wildlife Site. It does show how one must have patience some nights and wait for females to climb a stalk and start glowing. At last, an ecological survey for glow-worms will take place with respect to affordable housing in the field behind the north verge.

Ketton Quarry: 29.6: 12 in flat area adjacent to Geology carpark and 1 in entrance to Valley (no other areas visited). No males.

Other Areas: In contrast to no males being seen in Rutland, at Charnwood Lodge on 22.6, 3 of 5 females had males in attendance (you need to shine a torch briefly on a glow, if you can easily reach it, to check). At Barnack Hills and Holes on 17.6, no glows were found; numbers have reduced at this National Nature Reserve since the early 1990s, but it is hoped at least some will turn up! On 22.6, 1 glow at A43 end of lane from Wakerley and 1 nearby at back of A43 layby.

Many thanks indeed to everyone who reported: G and F Chiverton, A Clark, J Harris, G and L Worrall, Barrowden villagers.

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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MAY 2007

Predictably, due to the general emergence of leaves on trees and herbs there has been a considerable increase in the number of gall reports, and one group of gall causers which has now appeared is the fungi, especially the Rusts. I have been reporting these as fungi for years but now have the opportunity to report those that are also gall agents as well. They are all parasites of course, but many simply live on the host's tissue and apparently have little effect. Others do cause galling and Ketton Quarry produced three of these, on Wild Rose, Creeping Thistle and Buckthorn respectively. It is interesting that the rust on Buckthorn also occurs on grasses in a later stage of its life cycle but is not considered to gall them! One other fungus, an ascomycete, was found galling Alder leaves, on this occasion in Barnsdale Wood. This wood was also the site for three other leaf galls, on Elm, Wild Rose and Ground Ivy, the latter gall being almost perfectly round, up to 6 mm diameter and usually wine-red, quite attractive in appearance. It is caused by a gall wasp. It also occurred in Ketton Quarry on 10th May, along with a leaf gall on Sycamore which is very common wherever that tree grows. It is usually present in considerable numbers and appears as small bright red, raised, pointed spots and is caused by a gall mite.

Another gall which appeared in both Ketton and Barnsdale was one which is caused by a gall mite

Thanks to T Caldicott, G Chiverton, R Lemmon

on Hawthorn; it has to be said that the galls are very small and unless present in large numbers can be missed. The same can't be said for the rosette gall on Osier (Barnsdale 17th May) where the terminal leaves are galled into a rosette about 2 cm in diameter and which persists over winter. The culprit here is a gall midge. Other galls were reported from Brooke and Dawn's paddock.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that galling can occur on garden plants that are not native. In 2005 I noticed that some buds on a day-lily (*Hemerocallis*) in my garden were much bigger than others alongside them and subsequently failed to open. This is caused by an introduced gall midge and was first seen in this country in 1989.

JUNE 2007

Again a good number of reports starting with Robins' Pincushion in Ketton Quarry on 3rd and ending with the same on Verge 8, Tolethorpe end, on 30th. Verge 7 was the site of galls on Sycamore and Ash (8th) and Bloody Oaks Quarry had galls on Speedwell, Marjoram, Wild Thyme and Creeping Thistle, the latter a rust again, on 14th. Later in the month reports were received from the River Chater in the Leighfield area, Prior's Coppice and Lyndon Centre, most of these being due to a variety of gall mites, which being host specific makes their identification easy.

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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May 2007

It's interesting to see how the seasons are marked in all natural history records, and the insects are no exception.

Ladybirds were still well recorded. Single sightings of **10-spot**, **Orange**, **7-spot**, **Pine** and **Cream-spot** were noted. A cluster of 12+ **2-spot** were seen on a willow bush at RW Garden Centre and 2 clusters of **14-spot** were recorded – 7 on a mullein in Lyddington and 10 in the Leighfield area.

Records came in of bees, wasps and hornets. A large **Hornet** was seen in the Leighfield area

and **Hornets** were regular visitors to a moth-trap in Lyddington. Single **Hornets** were seen in Edith Weston and Burley Wood, and at Barrowden a RNHS member came to the rescue of a householder who found a large **Hornet** on the hearth (rescued, released and identified as a queen). A **Tree Wasp** was seen at Burley, a wasp was caught at Bloody Oaks Quarry and identified as a **Red Wasp**, and **German Wasps** were seen all month at Lyddington. Many bee records were received. At the beginning of the month sightings came in of **Hairy-Footed Flower Bees**, one attacking a bumble bee in an Uppingham

garden. **Tawny-Mining Bees** were busy all month on a house wall in Lyddington, and an *Andrena haemorrhoa* was seen at Brooke. **Common Carder Bees** were regularly seen in Lyddington and good numbers of *Bombus lapidarius* and *Bombus terrestris* were seen all month – probably indicating nearby nests. Two species of **Cuckoo Bumblebee** – *Bombus sylvestris* and *Bombus vestalis* – were also seen in Lyddington. A **Buff-tailed queen Bumblebee** (*Bombus terrestris*) was noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry and another Buff-tailed Bumblebee was seen at Barnsdale Wood.

Flies were much in evidence this month. Many records of hoverflies and various other flies came from Priors Coppice, including *Volucella bombylans* (also recorded from Brooke and Leighfield), **Copper Hoverfly**, **Brindled Hoverfly**, **Rot-hole Hoverfly** and also **Tapered Drone-fly** and **Elegant Drone-fly**. A **Mayfly** was seen at Leighfield and the **Down-looker Snipefly** recorded at Barnsdale and Leighfield. A parasitic fly *Tachina fera* was seen at Leighfield. **Scorpion flies** were seen at Barnsdale, Verge 7 and near Braunston. Early in the month a **Caddis Fly** was recorded at Barnsdale, and a **St Mark's Fly** and a **Cranefly** *Tipula maxima* at Lyndon Wood Pond.

Beetles recorded: **Bloody-nosed beetle** from Brooke and near Braunston as well as larvae on Verge 7 – **Cardinal beetle** *Pyrchroa serraticornis* in Edith Weston and near Braunston – **Soldier beetle** *Rhagonncha fulva* at Lyndon Reserve – **Malachite Soldier beetle** at Leighfield, Burley and Edith Weston – *Thanasimus formicarius* (a brightly coloured beetle) at Edith Weston – *Harpalus affinis* (a distinctive, often metallic green/black coloured beetle) at Edith Weston – a **Click beetle** at Edith Weston – **Cockchafers** *Melolontha melolontha* all month to moth-traps in various places and buzzing near a bedroom window in Barrowden.

Records for the distinctive red and black **Froghopper** *Cercopsis vulnerata* came in from Priors Coppice, near Braunston, Bloody Oaks Quarry and Lyddington. A *Miris striatus* bug was recorded from Leighfield and a **Birch Catkin Bug** was seen at Priors Coppice. **Sloe Shield Bugs** were seen at Lyndon Wood and Edith Weston.

An **Ichneumon Fly** – *Rhyssa persuasoria* (Michael Chinery states 'one of the largest ichneumons and ectoparasitic on horntail larvae') came to a moth trap in Stoke Dry Wood.

Lots of **Damselfly** sightings: **Azure** were seen at Leighfield Fishponds, Verge 7 and near Braunston – **Common Blue** at Lyndon Wood Pond and Lyddington – **Large Red** at Leighfield, Barnsdale Gardens and Lyddington – **Blue-**

tailed at Leighfield Fishponds – **White-legged** at Leighfield Fishponds. One **Dragonfly** was recorded at Lyddington – a **Broad-bodied Chaser** was seen at the beginning of the month.

Lastly two species of snail were recorded – *Monacha Cantiana* was seen at Ketton Quarry and the **White-lipped Snail** was seen at Ketton Quarry and Barnsdale Wood.

June 2007

An exciting month with a new record for Rutland of a **Treehopper** *Centrotus cornutus* – a small jumping bug of the family *Membracidae*, found near a moth trap in Edith Weston.

Ladybirds continued to be sighted, but in much lower numbers. **Seven-spot** and **2-spot** were seen regularly all month in a paddock near Braunston. Single sightings of **7-spots** came from Burley Wood, Ketton Quarry and Thistleton, and a **2-spot** also being seen on Verge 7. A **Cream Spot** was seen at Brooke and single **Orange ladybirds** were seen at Leighfield and Lyndon Wood Pond with two **Orange** recorded at Edith Weston.

Numbers of busy worker bees were received this month, no wasps, but I am sure they have been just as busy, and one hornet recorded. One **Hairy-footed Flower Bee** was recorded on the 22nd at Barrowden. **Common Carder Bees** were working hard at Priors Coppice and a single of the species was seen on Verge 7. **Red-tailed Bumblebees** *Bombus lapidarius* workers were recorded at Lyndon Centre and on Verge 7 they were visiting Dogwood flowers. **Garden Bumblebees** *Bombus hortorum* workers were at the Lyndon Centre as were **Buff-tailed Bumblebees** *Bombus terrestris*. A **Honey Bee** was also seen here. An interesting account came in from the Pickworth area of Verge 7 where a large dug-out hole was observed, possibly the work of badgers. The hole was surrounded by 15–20 bemused *Bombus terrestris* worker bees. A single **Hornet** record was received from Oakham, where a very large (probably a queen) hornet caused some consternation inspecting the inside of a conservatory, and making two return visits.

June has certainly been a good month for bugs and flies and hoverflies, etc. Two species of **Shield Bug** were recorded – *Eysarcoris fabricii* was seen twice at Edith Weston and 2 **Green Shield Bugs** were at Thistleton Nursery. 12+ **Water Boatmen** were seen at Wing.

Sawfly larvae were observed near Braunston and 10+ **Solomon's Seal Sawfly** larvae were seen in Edith Weston churchyard. Three records, from Leighfield, Lyndon and Clipsham Quarry, came in



of the **Lacewing** *Chrysopa perla* which is a bluish-green colour. The **Red and Black Froghopper** *Cercopsis vulnerata* was recorded near Braunston and on Verge 7, and a **Common Froghopper** at Priors Coppice. A **Leafhopper** *Eupteryx aurata* was observed at RW Lyndon and a **Planthopper** *Cixius nervosus* at Leighfield. **Mirid bugs** *Calocoris stysi* and *Liocoris tripustulatus* were seen at Leighfield and Brooke respectively, and 30+ **Nettle Ground Bugs** were counted on nettles also at Brooke. **Soldier Flies** were recorded at Leighfield, as was an **Alder Fly**. A **parasitic fly** *Tachina fera*, which is parasitic on butterfly and moth larvae, was also seen at Leighfield. **Scorpion Flies** were seen near Braunston and at Barnsdale Gardens. Many different hoverflies were recorded – *Volucella bombylans*, the **Bumblebee Hoverfly**, was seen at Priors Coppice where 10 were recorded on one occasion – six *Chrysotoxum bicincta* were at Egleton and one at RW Lyndon and one at Priors Coppice – **Pellucid hoverflies** *Volucella pellucens* were seen at RW Lyndon, Leighfield and Priors Coppice – a single **Ornate Hoverfly** was seen at Leighfield – two hoverflies *Scaeva pyrausti* were seen at Priors Coppice, as was a **Long Hoverfly**. Six **Caddis Flies** were recorded at RW Lyndon, as was a fly with mottled wings *Urophora carduii*.

Beetles too have been well-recorded. Three **Cockchafers** were seen at Lyndon Wood Pond. **Burying beetles** *Nicrophorus humato* and *Necrodes littoralis* were noted at Edith Weston and Barnsdale Gardens. A **Wasp Beetle** (a wasp mimic) was seen at North Luffenham. A **Bloody-nosed Beetle** was again recorded at Brooke (crossing the road), they were also seen

throughout the month near Braunston, and one was seen on the footpath on the LRWT outing at Merry's Meadows. **Malachite Soldier Beetles** were recorded at Burley Wood and Priors Coppice. A yellow and black **Longhorn Beetle** was seen at Priors Coppice and a **Green Leaf Beetle** was recorded at RW Lyndon.

Again many **Damselfly** sightings and also more records for **Dragonflies** this month. **Large Red Damselflies** were at Wing and RW Lyndon; **Azure** at Wing; **Blue-tailed** at Wing and Leighfield; **White-legged** at Edith Weston and Leighfield; **Common Blue** at Leighfield, Priors Coppice and near Braunston; an **Emerald** at Egleton. **Banded Demoiselles** were seen at an Empingham garden pond and at the trout hatchery near the Exton footpath. Dragonflies recorded were: **Broad-bodied Chaser** at Thistleton, Priors Coppice, Brooke and Leighfield; **Ruddy Darter** at Egleton; **Four-spotted Chaser** near Braunston; a **Brown Hawker** near the Lyndon Visitor Centre.

Slug and Snail records were as follows: a **Black Slug** *Arion ater* at Bloody Oaks Quarry and also there another slug *Deroceras laeve*. Snails were out on Verge 7 – good numbers of *Monacha cantiana* on Horseradish plants, 2 varieties of **White-lipped snail** – banded and pale yellow with no bands, and also *Cernuella virgata* snails. White-lipped snails and *Monacha cantiana* snails were also seen near the Lyndon Visitor Centre.

Lastly, although not an entomological record, I couldn't resist including the following under 'other' – a really good view of the **Red Arrows**, flying north to south, over Verge 8 on June 1st.

Thanks to the following people for records: T Caldicott, F Chiverton, G Chiverton, C H Gallimore, J Harris, C R Jones, F & D Lee, R Lemmon, B & D Parker, P Rudkin, M Tyler, D Whitefield, L & G Worrall.

MYCOLOGY NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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May/June 2007

May started dry, then it was almost continuously very wet for weeks! Slime Moulds enjoyed themselves, with pink blobs of *Lycogala terrestris* pleasing spotters too. Rusts and Mildews were in evidence, and while the rain did not seem to spur many fungi, occasional flushes amid the torrents were very welcome.

RESERVES, SSSI's

Prior's Coppice: 2.5: *Skeletocutis amorpha* in one area on pile of old pine logs, a fresh Dryad's



Saddle at base of Ash. 3.5: Still dry and no gill fungi. King Alfred's Cakes fruiting on Ash, Smut *Entyloma ficariae* badly infecting Lesser Celandine leaves throughout, Rusts *Kuehneola uredinis* on Bramble, *Melampsora populnea* on several Dog's Mercury plants mostly in SW area, *Puccinia sessilis* on Lord's-and-Ladies, *Triphragmium ulmariae* on Meadowsweet, *Uromyces ficariae* on only one area of Lesser Celandine although this is a common rust, *Uromyces muscari* on Bluebell, and Downy Mildew *Plasmopara pygmaea* on Wood Anemone. 13.5: one Pleated Inkcap in grass. 22.5: Fresh cluster of warty salmon-pink balls

of Slime Mould *Lycogala terrestris* at base of Ash. 8.6: Powdery Mildew teleomorph *Erysiphe heraclei* on Hogweed. 21.6: Powdery Mildew anamorph: *Erysiphe ulmariae* on Meadowsweet, *Microsphaera tortilis* on Dogwood and *Sphaerotheca aphanis* on Wood Avens; *Stereum rameale* on living broadleaf, a most impressive 200-300 Sulphur Tufts on fallen broadleaf log and Rusts *Phragmidium mucronatum* on Field Rose and *Triphragmium ulmariae* on Meadowsweet.

Lyndon Reserve: 18.5: A few fresh Jelly Ears, Waxy Crust on Oak branch, Witch's Butter fresh on Oak, Glue Crust cracked on Willow and four fresh Pleated Inkcaps. 1.6: Tripe Fungus on cut log, Yellow Brain fresh on old wood and Common Jellyspot on fencing. 8.6: Netted Crust. 19.6: 10 fresh Pleated Inkcaps.

Gibbet Gorse: 28.6: Turkeytails fresh on felled coniferous wood or stumps (usually on broadleaf, rarely on conifer, so an interesting observation), Common Jellyspot on conifer wood, one Stinkhorn egg but loose on substrate so may not develop further, Rust *Puccinia arenariae* on Red Campion, Downy Mildew *Peronospora digitalidis* on Foxglove and Slime Mould *Lycogala terrestris* on fallen coniferous wood.

Bloody Oaks Quarry: 10.5: Rust *Puccinia distincta* on Daisy. 14.6: Common Jellyspots on vertical edge of top board on seat, Rust *Puccinia punctiformis* on Creeping Thistle.

Ketton Quarry: 10.5: Three Gall producing Rusts, *Puccinia coronata* on Buckthorn in The Dell, *Phragmidium mucronatum* on Wild Rose stems in Valley area and *Puccinia punctiformis* on Creeping Thistle in Woodland.

Barnsdale Wood: 17.5: Powdery Mildew teleomorph *Erysiphe galii* on Cleavers stems, Asco *Taphrina sadebeckii* on Alder leaves (a gall producer), Rust *Uromyces muscari* on Bluebell (large infestations of telia on several plants), and one Hare'sfoot Inkcap.

I am most grateful to everyone who braved the weather and reported findings. Records from: T Caldicott, R Lemmon, E and P Mann, E. Northen, B and D Parker, G and L Worrall.

Pickworth Great Wood: 1.5: Old and new specimens of Hoof Fungus on Birch along with Razorstrop Fungus; new specimens of King Alfred's Cakes.

Clipsham Park Wood: Razorstrops on Birch.

GARDENS, FIELDS, VERGES

Barrowden: 9.5: A Birch smothered in Razorstrops and dead branch of another also had some.

17.5: Fresh flourish of Jelly Ears on our old tall Field Maple stump, 2 Firerugs on log pile. 26.5: 6 spots of Slime Mould *Lycogala terrestris* and a few Variable Oysterlings on log pile. 15.6: On log pile after and in heavy rain, patches of Firerug mycelium only, and further patches of mycelium without fruits seen to end of month. 17.6: One Firerug fruiting body but not on mycelium. 18.6: Small blobs of Slime Mould *Lycogala terrestris* on piece of rotting Oak, Firerug went over and two small ones erupted. 21.6: Warm and wet: On log pile Slime Moulds *Tuberifera ferruginosa* and *Stemonitis fusca* on broadleaf and Disco *Mollisia cinerea* under rotting Oak. 26.6: 3 big clumps of Pale Brittlestems in all stages under our wooden fencing on broadleaf debris. 29.6: More rain and Jelly Ears storming up tall Field Maple stump.

Verge 7, Pickworth end: 8.6: Powdery Mildew anamorph *Erysiphe heraclei* on Cow Parsley stems, Rust *Puccinia alii* on Crow Garlic, Phycomycete *Albugo tragopogonis* ('White Blister') on Goat's-beard and Downy Mildew *Plasmopara pusilla* on Meadow Cranesbill.

Verge 16, Bloody Oaks Triangle: 12.6: 3 Pale Brittlestems with Beech at back of verge.

Leighfield area: 23.6: Fresh in sheep field, 2 *Coprinus patouillardii* (that'll be the dung!), 6 Pleated Inkcaps and a Brown Mottlegill; Yellow Brain on old lying branch and Jelly Ears fresh on Elder wood.

MAMMAL REPORT

compiled by Linda Biddle

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May/June 2007

There were no **Otter** reports this month to record, but the weather has been so severe and streams and rivers in such spate, that there would be little



chance of spraint remaining on rocks as evidence. In June, 2 **Stoats** were observed jumping in and out of verges and across the road between Exton and Barnsdale Avenue, a third off the Woolfox Quarry road and another crossed Leighfield Way,

Belton in Rutland. A **Weasel** was seen in early June crossing the Eggleton road, and two were seen together near the Lyndon visitor centre, and later in the month another pursued a young **rabbit** between Wing and Lyndon.

There have been very few **Foxes** seen in May and June. On 12th May two **fox cubs** appeared out of the hedgerow towards Mounts Lodge, on the Pickworth road, ran past the observer's feet, and disappeared into the barley crop. Another on the 16th strolled through a pasture field, on the Leicestershire Round near Belton in Rutland and was mobbed by feeding rooks. Two others were seen in Burley Wood, one in mid May, and the other on June 1st. Scent markings were noticed in Burley Wood at the end of May.

Badgers have been very active in many areas, setts showing lots of digging, and many latrines observed brimming with faeces. The wet weather suits them, and ensures that there are lots of worms and snails for them to eat. Two road casualties were seen either side of Withcote, one a young small cub, and the other a larger one and at the end of June. A dead badger cub was also found on the grass verge near Cutts Close Park, Burley Road Oakham – a venture into the town that did not turn out well for the poor creature. A badger ran across the road near Tolethorpe, and another healthy full-grown badger was seen crossing the road near Empingham.

A **Mole** was found dead on the path at Lyndon Nature Reserve Rutland Water, and another in Dawn's Paddock off Braunston Road Oakham. Much mole activity was in evidence at the lower end of Gibbet Gorse at the end of June.

Hedgehogs were seen in the Worralls' garden in Barrowden on most nights up to May 21st, and evidence of visits to peanuts was found

throughout most of June. Two animals were seen within a few minutes of each other on June 5th. In mid June a hedgehog was a road casualty at Preston by the Kingfisher, and at the end of the month a single animal was observed rooting on the verge of Empingham Road Ketton. A **Common Shrew** was seen under a plastic grass-snake cover near Harrier Hide RWNr in early May, one was found dead on the path at Lyndon Nature Reserve, and on June 11th more than 4 shrews were seen rushing about and squeaking loudly in an old ivy plant at the base of an Ash tree on Verge 8 near Tolethorpe. **Bank Voles** are reported from Dr Gallimore's garden at Wing, and during May and June bank voles were using the grass-snake 'tins' at RWNr for shelter and nesting in them. In early May a **Long-tailed Field Mouse** took peanuts put out for hedgehogs in the Worralls' garden, and mid month one was seen running between tree stumps in one of the felled areas of Burley Wood near the entrance close to Oakham. **Hares** are commonly seen, and are reported from Hibbits Lodge near Brooke, Merry's Meadows, Seaton Road Barrowden, and five near Verge 7 on the Pickworth road from Great Casterton where two were watched 'boxing', observed by a third. A **Brown Rat** was eating food put down for birds at Dawn's Paddock at the end of June, and **Grey Squirrels** too were taking advantage of the easy food, helping themselves to peanuts and fat balls. Grey squirrels are also reported from Burley Woods, a total of 14 observed during May, one in June and 2 seen on the ground in Gibbets Gorse.

Muntjac Deer have been frequently observed in Burley Woods, also in Pickworth and Morkery, and **Fallow Deer** are still in very large numbers at Pickworth, Burley and Morkery woods.

Many thanks to recorders: E Booth, T Caldicott, G & F Chiverton, C Gallimore, J Harris, P Langston, R Lemmon, P J Rudkin, P Scott, R & M A Thorp, D Whitefield, L & G Worrall

BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

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May/June 2007

The weather in May seemed fairly normal, but in June it just poured, temperatures were often low, and there were some very strong winds. It seemed to rain every night, even on days that had otherwise been fair, preventing bats from feeding, mainly because flying insects were not available. This seems very likely to have had an effect on

breeding, with young being born late and some being abandoned.

Pipistrelle spp.

On 5.5, all three species were recorded in Compartment 25 of Burley Wood, south-east of Eight Riding Tree, with **soprano pipistrelles** *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* emerging (probably from a tree roost) much earlier than **common pipistrelles**



P. pipistrellus. The sopranos, after an initial bout of foraging among trees, soon dispersed, while common pips were around for much longer, being heard at Eight Riding Tree and over a new pond just to the south east in Compartment 26. A single **Nathusius pipistrelle** *P. nathusii* was heard briefly as it passed through C.25. Pipistrelles were seen foraging in a Barrowden garden, with four together on 6.5, six on 19.5 and several on 23.5, including 'following' behaviour.

In June, a pipistrelle was flying over a lawn in Wing for three to five minutes at 3.00 pm and from 1.6 to 15.6 bats were seen most evenings in a Barrowden garden, including in wet weather, and there were droppings in the car port on 16.6. On 26.6, several pipistrelles were foraging around Whissendine church, and at approximately 9.45 pm several were seen flying in and out of a hole in a window, where a piece of glass had fallen out. The hole was only about 8 cm square (three and a half inches), but the bats seemed to fly straight through without landing on the frame. In Ketton, on 29.6 soprano pipistrelles were heard foraging beside the River Chater, beneath overhanging trees in Aldgate and at the end of Mill Lane, while common pipistrelles were foraging in gardens in Aldgate and under lime trees on Edmund's Drive.

Abandoned baby bats were found at three sites during June. Seven live babies and one dead one, of ages ranging between one and two weeks old, were found in a Braunston kitchen, where no evidence of a roost could be found, on 17th to 19th. On 28.6 a baby approximately two days old was found inside Uppingham swimming pool, where bat droppings were also present. The finders were able to locate the roost exit and put the baby on the wall below, where it climbed up into the hole. At the end of the month, one live and one dead baby were found inside a house with a roost in Edith Weston, and it is thought the live baby was reunited with its Mother.

Five roosts were counted for the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP).

Location	Species	Count
Braunston	Soprano pipistrelle	Not present
Lyndon	Soprano pipistrelle	Not present
Manton	Soprano pipistrelle	Not present
Edith Weston	Pipistrelle sp.	251
Wing	Common pipistrelle	91 (11.6) 189 (29.6)

Brown Long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*

On 5.5 several passes of brown long-eared bat were recorded in C.25 at Burley Wood. On 13.6 there were fresh droppings in Ashwell church. Three roosts were counted for the NBMP, in Little Casterton, Manton and Wing. The full Manton report is not yet to hand.

Location	Date	Count
Little Casterton	7 June	7
	18 June	3
Wing	11 June	37
	29 June	26

Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*

Observers from RNHS and the Bat Group met in Ketton on 19.5 to try and pinpoint where the noctules, regularly seen in May, might be roosting. Bats were observed (and heard) foraging over the railway line, over Upper and Lower Priory Fields and Stable Field, along Station Road, and three bats were foraging in the churchyard. None emerged from tree holes in Upper Priory, and we seem no closer to finding their roost. On 9.6, four noctules emerged from woodland behind Lyndon village, flying north towards Lyndon Wood and Rutland Water.

Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*

A bat was recorded foraging at Eight Riding Tree in Burley Wood on 5.5, and on 19.5 two were foraging around the Station Road bridge over the River Chater at Ketton. On 29.6, two again foraged there, in spite of the river being very swollen and muddy.

Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri*

Two roosts were counted for the NBMP. At Whissendine church 70 bats emerged on 15.6 in spite of light rain and 69 were counted on 26.6. At Stoke Dry, a maximum of 55 bats was counted in June. On an earlier visit in May, bats were seen and heard flying in the church, but we could not tell where they were emerging from the building.

Whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*

A single count was carried out at the only known Rutland nursery roost in Seaton, when 51 bats emerged on 17.6, between 9.52 pm and 10.30 pm.

Thank you for records from: Dr C Gallimore, J Harris, Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group, A Tomlinson and L & G Worrall